

Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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P.O. Box 101 Cleveland 4163

June 2013

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 12th June, 2013

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Indigiscapes Centre, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba

Presidents Report



These are strange times indeed, while we have to cancel walk after walk due to rain and wet conditions, the farmers up north and out west are shooting their cattle because of drought. I suppose it is a reflection on how huge our state actually is. You could fit in France, Spain, Germany, Italy and squeeze in Slovenia just for good measure. You would wear out a lot of boots trying to walk that from end to end.

Even if you are not that ambitious with your walking, bring your hiking wish list to the walk planning session 3PM on Sunday at Aquatic Paradise Park, Queens Esplanade Birkdale. We need your good ideas in order to keep the exciting walks coming.

The club is still looking for someone to volunteer a corner of their garage for the club's equipment; it will not take up a lot of room since Ted has kindly offered to look after the abseiling paraphernalia, which was the bulkiest part of the gear.

Speaking about abseiling gear, since this activity has grown in popularity in the last few months, the committee has decided to purchase two more helmets and harnesses plus a number of Hydrobots to increase the number of complete kits to ten. If you do not know what a Hydrobot is, why not pop down to Kangaroo Point (KP to its friends) on Saturday the 15th of June and Ted will explain it all to you.

See you on a track somewhere in June.

Mats





Sign up now for an informative and fun night gear night at Paddy Pallin's (Outdoor Store) in Fortitude Valley.

An invitation has been extended to Redland Bushwalkers to an exclusive gear night on **Tuesday 23rd July**.

The evening, 6pm – 8.30pm will include some one night only deals, giveaways, brand representatives and 2.5hrs to peruse the store.

All stock will be reduced more than the normal club discounts including new season gear. The staff/customer ratio will be greatly increased to provide more personal assistance.

Reps from major companies will provide valuable information about their products. This is a great opportunity for both new and experienced bushwalkers, to ask all those silly gear questions.

There will also be light refreshments and snacks provided.

As numbers are limited we need nominations from members who will be committed to attend on the night.

Please email Hilary (hilaryriley2@hotmail.com) immediately with your nomination. If you are interested in a particular area, e.g. boots, back packs, thermals, tents etc. please let us know.

Betty and Hilary



We are looking for a new home for our club gear.

See photo of it posing on its best behaviour.



For Base Camps we own: Poles, two large tarps, bag of ropes and pegs, 8 bamboo lights. 3 first aid kits, song books, tent, and the club banner.

Also Useful: 2 large thro' walk packs, cooking tins, 2 man thro' walk tent, pair of walking poles.

Not so useful for walking: box of club records on CD, Christmas Box, projector and leads, flip chart/white board for meetings.

Some of this gear is needed monthly at our meetings – other things hardly see the light of day! But they still need a good home. If you could possibly help us with the storage of these items, please contact one of the committee (their names and emails are on the web site).



DATE SAVER - 22nd – 24th November 2013
Redland Bushwalkers 10th Christmas Camp
Mt Warning Caravan Park

This was the venue for our first three Christmas camps. Come and help make this a happy, relaxed, low key, low budget thoroughly enjoyable weekend.



There is a choice of accommodation en-suite cabins or camping – **members make their own bookings.**

So if you want a cabin please get together with your friends and make your booking soon to avoid disappointment later.

There's no need to book camping yet, when you do, we've negotiated a rate of \$12.50 per person per night, with our single tent dwellers in mind.

Though we don't have sole use of the Caravan Park, we do have use of the large undercover area. More details to follow... and check out their website <http://www.mtwarningrainforestpark.com/>



New Members

Welcome to: Jo Read; Lauren Sinclair; Beatrice & Jacob Berger, hope you enjoy your membership with us and we look forward to meeting you on the track sometime.



National Park Information

The remnants of the recent cyclone have created many problems in our National Parks.

Peaks and tracks particularly affected are Mt Mitchell and Mt Cordeaux, Shipstern Circuit, Coomera Circ. and Bellbird Circuit to name some popular walks.

Mt Cordeaux will be closed for many months, perhaps years as many sections of the tracks are gone and many gullies are now 'ravines' (quoting rangers).

To check the statuses of a park you may have nominated to walk in refer to:

WALK GRADINGS:

Distance		Terrain		Fitness	
S	Short Under 10k, per day	1-3	Graded track or open terrain, no scrub	1-3	Easy. Suitable for beginners
M	Medium 10-15k, per day	4-5	Off track, bush, minor scrub, rainforest, rock hopping, minor scrambling	4-5	Medium, reasonable fitness required
L	Long 15-20km per day	6-7	As above + thick scrub. Major rock scrambling using hands.	6-7	As above + agility required
X	Extra Long 20km+ per day	8-9	As above + rope and technical ability required	8-9	Hard strenuous, fit walkers only

AB	Abseiling	DW	Day Walk	TW	Through Walk
BC	Base Camp	SOC	Social	XT	Extended Trip
R	Bike Ride	TR	Training		

EXAMPLE:

The Albert River Circuit at O'Reilly's is 22km long all on graded track, it would be graded as: **DW X 3 5**



Activity Reports



Where: Mount Maroon Traverse.

When: 5th June, 2013

Leader: Mats Andersson

Great minds think alike! That old saying surely got proven correct when no less than three bushwalking clubs decided to climb mount Maroon on the same Sunday, two of them doing the traverse. Any illusions about a quiet moment in solitude on the summit was shattered before we left Rathdowney when the Gold Coast Bushwalkers rolled in for a rendezvous at the same time as we were leaving. When we arrived at Cotswold for the car shuffle, the car park was already almost full, before our Coast friends had even showed up. Driving around to Drynan's for the start, the place had shades of Carindale during late night shopping, cars everywhere!

My plans for being the first leader that used our brand spanking new sign on sheets were dashed by the other half of the group, as they had raced ahead and crossed the creek before we arrived, forcing us to use a little creative license and sign on and off at the same time later in the afternoon.

The walk was very pleasant as we went past the Paddy's Plain campsite, where we had morning tea and continued up the dry slabs, the creek just a trickle. The views from the upper slabs towards Paddy's Peak and Mt. May were magnificent. Nearer to the top there was plenty of tree falls from the wild weather last summer. As we scrambled through the boulder field near the top of the gorge, I realised that the summit would be totally crowded unless we slowed down. Our party was full of keen rock hoppers, so drastic action was called for, I threw myself against a rock and a swollen, bleeding leg had the desired effect. Fussed over by the ladies in the

group, I got a lot of envious looks from the other blokes. With an ice pack(water bottle) from Beatrice, antiseptic powder from Betty and bandages from Jillian topped off by a bright pink horse bandage courtesy of Betty we continued towards the top. Just shy of the peak, we bumped into a group from BBW, they were doing

the traverse in the opposite direction, hence all the cars at Drynan's. Thanks to my self-mutilation, we had the summit to ourselves!

After enjoying the splendid views from the summit, we took the normal track back down to Cotswold, where we were met by the Gold Coast Bushwalkers finishing their afternoon tea, a massive amount of delectable homemade chocolate slices and muffins were offered around, what a bonus!

The day was rounded off by a visit to the recently reopened Olive Grove Café, where we were entertained by a ferocious Jack Russel pup who tried to eat our shoes.

Walkers: Betty, Jillian, Alison, Denise Mitchell, Beatrice, Jacob, Phil, Malcolm, Pedro, Gary, Mats(Leader)



Where: Back Creek Abseils

When: 11 May 2013

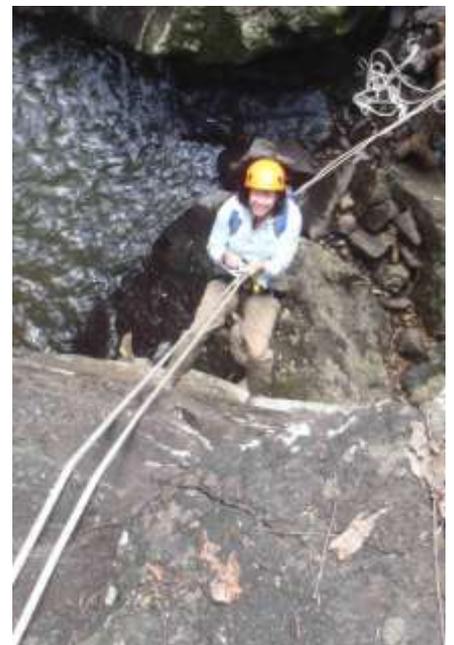
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

After several aborted attempts to do this trip due to the heavy rain earlier this year, we finally got to go. Seven of us, Heather, Betty, Judy, Alison, David, Gary and I set off on a clear sunny morning. We met at Canungra and after an early coffee headed up to Beechmont. After donning our packs and boots and sharing around the ropes and equipment for the abseils, we headed along the track to the top off Denham Falls (35m). While I set up the ropes, the others donned their harnesses and checked each other's harnesses to ensure safety.

The first to go over was Judy, and she ensured the ropes were untangled all the way to the bottom. Next was Alison, while our two first timers Gary and Heather looked on. Then it was time for Gary to go with Heather becoming anxious – would she do it – after a nervous start there was a sudden whoop of exhilaration from Heather as she was half way down. By now it was starting to cloud over and Betty, David and I quickly abseiled down. Betty started the group moving down stream while Judy, David and I retrieved the ropes and followed. The rocks were wet and very slippery from the light shower, progress was slow as we were all very careful moving over and around the large boulders.

We bypassed Lip Falls and were soon at Cavern Falls. By now several light showers of rain had fallen. David abseiled first this time and Gary and Heather followed. When we were all down safely and the rope retrieved, it was time for morning tea.

At this stage it rained again and brought into question the wisdom of continuing further downstream or using the exit track adjacent to these falls. The consensus reached was to walk out and leave the other falls for the future. This we did and we returned to Canungra where we enjoyed a delicious lunch. The call to leave the creek had been the correct one as it rained all the way to Canungra and on the way home.



Ted



Where: Mt Matheson Circuit

When: Sunday 12 May

Leader: Hilary Martyn, daughter of Sir Edmund (aka Petal)

Walkers: John Wayne (1), John Wayne (2), Malcolm Fraser, Jacob from the Bible, Beatrice Potter, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Princess Fiona from Shrek, Leisa Curry-Kenny, Lauren Bacall, Meryl Streep

A group of 11 did the 8.1 km Mt Matheson circuit on Mothers' Day Sunday. This walk was held as part of the 10th year anniversary celebrations, as it was a walk, also led by Hilary, held in the first year of the club's history.

The walk started at Spicers Gap picnic ground. Right at the start of the walk, on the edge of the National Park was a mango plantation, an incongruous sight in the midst of a forested area. Several of us thought it must be disguising a marijuana plantation but we found no evidence.

"She Who Must Be Obeyed" had designated it was a quiet walk, and for the first 2 hours not a peep was heard out of any of us. That meant we were serenaded by a continuous chorus of bellbirds, with the occasional whipbird cry interspersed. Lots of other LBB's (little brown birds) as well.

The start of the walk, which is slightly uphill, has been degraded by the storms over the last couple of years, but it was still safe enough. The remainder of the walk was in good condition. The first few kilometers were uphill to a lookout over the Cunningham Highway where we could view Mt Mitchell and Mt Cordeaux and the roadworks at Cunningham's Gap, then another uphill stint to a point below the top of Mt Matheson. No complaints but a few puffing.



The remainder of the walk was gradually downhill, the vegetation varying from open eucalypt forest with lots of grass trees, to rainforest, with some open areas. In one area, which Hilary remembered from the initial walk 10 years ago as an open paddock covered in a carpet of yellow paper daisies, we found many daisies on the verge of opening and lots of Monarch butterflies. Some prurient (*) walker noted that there were some double-decker butterflies, but we were cautioned not to look. (* *prurient = given to indulgence of lewd ideas*)



After about 5km the trail met an old timber track which has been preserved as a heritage trail. The remains of a jinker (a bullock drawn dray) mark the beginning of this section of the trail. There were interesting signs explaining the history along the way. At the end of this section is a picnic area at the Governor's Chair, a large outcrop of rock conveniently shaped like an armchair for a giant rather than a Governor. It had wonderful views across to Lake Moogerah and several hills including Mt Edwards, Mt French, Mt Greville and Mt Maroon. We ate our picnic lunch there, the highlight of which was Wayne assembling his collapsible chair. By the time he had put it together the rest of us were munching dessert.

The last section of the walk was along a gravel road back to the Spicers Gap picnic ground. Along this road is Moss' Well, a natural spring discovered by one of the timber getters. Hilary noted this was only the second time in 10 years that she had seen water in the well.

Back at the picnic ground, Leisa took pity on Fiona who had thought the walk was going to be around a lake – well we did see a lake from the top of the hill – and drove her off to see Lake Moogerah, whilst the remainder of us adjourned to Aratula for coffee and nourishment.

A very pleasant, relatively easy walk, and no rain and no 'bitey' insects!

Merryl Peterson



Where: Abseil Training
When: Saturday 18th May
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Saturday 18th May, early in the morning and freezing cold, 13 keen club members assembled at the top of Kangaroo Point Cliffs, near the rotunda, ready to spend the morning abseiling on the 'nursery' cliffs. Abseiling was something I'd often thought I'd like to try and finally managed to get myself along to one of these sessions. There were a number of first-timers beside myself (Jo, Glenda, Sylvia, Geoff) as well as a few second-timers (Lynn & Peter, Beatrice & Jacob) and old-hands Ted, Judy, Norm and Alison as instructors.



Covering some safety points first (make sure your ropes are attached before you go over the edge... yup, got it!), we got ourselves strapped tightly into the harnesses, had a practice run on the horizontal rope off a nearby tree first, and then lined up for a turn over the cliffs. What a buzz... walking over the edge and straight down the wall to the bottom!!

I found the trickiest bit was trying to get figure 8 descender onto the rope via the carabiner on the harness without twisting the attachments... I swear it's like one of those logic puzzles... get the whatsit off the thingummy while keeping the dooverlackey attached... my instructor would inevitably take a look at my mess

and say 'what the...? how did you do that...?! umm... ok... let's sort this out...'

We had about 5 runs each, using figure 8 descenders, Hydrobot - the blue ones? descenders, belayers from the top, and also using autoblocks to control one's own descent. Then came the written test (what?? I thought we were just here to admire the view!!)... and wrapped up the session about midday.

A great time was had by all, and I for one am keen to have another go next time (and try and figure out all those whatsits and thingummy's!!)



Leah Stephens



Where: Mezzanine Ridge, Mt Barney

When: 25 May 2013

Leader: Ted Wassenberg

At approx. 8:15 am a group of 7 left the vehicles at Yellowpinch for Mezzanine Ridge. Mezzanine Ridge lies between SE Ridge and Peasant's Ridge. We took an old road to the right off the Peasant's Ridge track which was so overgrown, I didn't detect it was even a track let alone a road, then veered left onto a more visible track to the start of the ridge.

At first glance you couldn't see too much of the razorback and once it came into view, it just went up, up and up. It is fair to say there was a significant amount of really exposed scrambling to be



undertaken and we were careful to keep a 3 point hold at all times as advised by our fearless leader. At times the ridge was quite narrow - 300mm in some parts with huge drops on either side. After at least an hour on the razorback it came to a sudden halt a sheer knife edge in fact after which we used a rope on a chimney like chute to land us within reach to abseil down through a steep grassy drop and a second over a smooth rock drop in between two large rocks.



After the couple of fun abseils, we headed down to Garves Gorge for lunch looking at a sheer rock side covered with moss and other plant life. Continuing on down the creek, we made our way by dropping off ledges onto rocks below, slipping, sliding, rock-hopping, chatting, laughing and wincing until we finally got ourselves out of the creek onto the Peasants Ridge track making our way to the vehicles after 7 hours of action. Of course we called into Maccas at Beaudesert for the usual refreshments. Many thanks go to Ted for making the trip possible, and to those carrying the ropes and doing the set-ups.

Thanks to Ted, Philip, Dave, Betty, Judy, Trevor for your company and a great day out.

Alison



Where: Mt Fyffe, New Zealand

When: 2 -3 April 2013

Ted and I have been lucky enough to share the beauty of the South Island walks during the last couple of years. What we have shared is not easily put into words as New Zealand and its mountains have such a quality and tranquillity that is hard to convey. We have our Dutch heritage in common and complement each other well. I do a lot of the logistics and Ted has the navigation and survival skills that I rely on. It's wonderful to see how he lights up when he sees another mountain and plans his route to the top and points it out to you!

I give him 9 out of 10 for navigation. I told him if I give a 10 he might slack off :)



In April this year we decided to tackle Mt Fyfe (1602m) close to Kaikoura, north of Christchurch. After some negotiating, we decided to go along the Kowhai, a river with many bends and water crossing. Ted carefully checked the depth of the water each time we had to cross. After a couple of hours we came to the sign that would lead us up to Mt Fyffe hut. This is called the Spaniard Spur and not one to be messed with. We were warned by the ranger at the beginning of the tramp. Good luck to you both! Steep and relentless it was! Zigzagging up a steep ridge with about 850meters height to gain, stopping for regular breaks. I don't think I had ever sat down so much! At the hut we met three trampers from Nelson who we shared the hut with for the night and who told us

about their more challenging adventures on the surrounding mountains. Two hours before dawn we decided to go to the top of Mt Fyfe and watch the sun rise and believe me we were rewarded! The dawn view of the peninsula looking towards Kaikoura and all the mountains around us was well worth the 400m climb. After observing the sunrise and many photos later we returned to the hut and then all the way down a four wheel drive track to the bottom.

The trouble with tramping is that you always want to do more! I better not use the word addiction!

Having done so many tramps on the South Island, Ted asked me where to go next. I recommended that he should go down South, where I had done so many tramps already. The Humpridge track has a very interesting logging history and has one of the longest viaducts. The Rees Dart has the glaciers and the spectacular views from Cascade Saddle. The Milford Track, although a popular tourist attraction, still has the most spectacular scenery I have witnessed and it's guaranteed to rain!

Please ask me about tramping on the South Island when you see me at meetings or give me a ring if you are thinking of going - you might get addicted too! (07) 3393 4006.

Arif Mathee



Great Photo Arif





"Gaiters are out, Puttees are in!"



Acknowledgements:

Photograph supplied by Gorse Graphics

White bandage compliments of Apple blossom nursing homes

Pink bandage fitted by Tulip the Horse Doctor

Model provided by Oleander Agencies



Important Information

Club Equipment for hire:

- Oz Trail 3 man dome tent
- Outer Limits Backpacker Tent (2 man)
- Kovea Mini gas stove
- Rocket Billy 16cm
- Rocket Billy 12cm
- Black Wolf Bag 700 Hiking Pack
- Black Wolf Mountain Ash 65 Hiking Pack
- 2 walking poles.

Guidelines for Club ethics:

- When nominating for a walk, members and visitors have an obligation to write legibly on the nomination form.
- Please contact walk leaders at least early in the week before a walk. If you leave it till Thursday or Friday night you may be disappointed to find that the walk has been cancelled, due to apparent lack of interest. Also dates, details etc. can & do change. Leaders give their time to organise walks and need to know if they are committed to lead a walk. The leader may assign you to a car for the trip.
- Read the walk description and note the rating. If you are unsure of your abilities, please discuss this with the leader before nominating. Neither you nor other walkers will have a good day if your fitness is not of a suitable standard.
- The leader of a walk has the final say on whether a person can come on a walk. Members and newcomers should be aware of this and accept it.
- Do you have a health problem that may affect your performance on a walk? It is important that you inform the leader of this and discuss the matter.
- If you have commitments after a walk please discuss this with the leader before commencing a walk. Leaders cannot guarantee the time of return, due to weather, terrain & the expertise of walkers.
- Arrive at the agreed meeting point before the set time. We try to be punctual. Late walkers can be left behind!
- It is a normal practise to share the costs of transport to and from a walk. This may vary between car owners and may be as simple as sharing the cost of the fuel among the passengers or a fixed amount for example: (10-20kms \$5/person, 20-50kms \$8/person, 50-100kms \$10/person 100-200kms \$15/person, 200-250kms \$20/person, 250-300kms \$25/person) Discuss this with your driver.
- Please have a change of clothes and shoes available in the car for the return journey as a courtesy to your companions and the car owner.

DAY WALK CHECKLIST:

Please ensure you have the following items so you are prepared for any eventuality whilst on a day walk.

ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS:

- Boots (must be fully enclosed – no sandals. Boots are preferable although joggers are suitable for most social walks).
- Gaiters or long pants (unless otherwise specified).
- Daypack of sufficient capacity to carry all your needs.
- Water – Minimum of 2 litres – (bladder or two separate containers).
- Torch/headlamp with spare batteries. (Lithium batteries are lighter and last longer than alkaline batteries).
- Raincoat or Poncho.
- First-aid kit
- Whistle
- Lunch and snacks.

RECOMMENDED:

- Light fleece or Thermal top.
- Pack liner and pack cover. (protects pack contents in case of rain)
- Sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Rubbish bag (we take out what we take in; also for wet muddy gear).
- Map and compass (ideally the leader is not the only one with these items).
- Toilet paper and trowel.
- Spare change of clothes in a bag to be left in the car for the return journey – be considerate of fellow passengers and those who provide the transport.

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Camera or binoculars.
- Walking poles.
- Gardening gloves or similar for off track walks.

IMPORTANT:

1. Trip leaders can choose to leave you behind if you are not properly equipped.
2. Keep to walks within the bounds of the walk grading as shown on the walk calendar.