



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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March 2013

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 13th March, 2013

Indigiscapes Centre, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Presidents Report



February came and went, hot on the heels of a wet January, we had walks a plenty planned but a nasty individual named Oswald had other ideas. I have a hunch that this newsletter is going to be not only thin, it will be positively anorexic! Just about every walk was cancelled in the wake of record downpours and strong winds and the near future looks pretty grim too with most of Lamington and all of Main Range national parks closed. A stroll along Wynnum waterfront anyone? Let us hope that March will be a bit drier, although it looks pretty unlikely at the moment.



What to do if you can't do any walking? Let's party instead! This Saturday is the 10th anniversary party at Indigiscapes, I hope you have booked a ticket. There will be ample opportunity for nostalgia and ruminating over walks of yore.

The committee has not been completely idle either; we donned raincoats, gumboots and sou'westers and ploughed ahead into the wet gloom. The result is a new walk grading system, new mapping software for our laptop and a new GPS. Ted is already gearing up for a training course in how to best utilise the GPS.

If you feel that you are prepared to make a greater contribution to the running of the club, please contact the committee, there will be at least one vacancy as I am stepping down as President this April.

Mats - President



National Park Information

'Hi all, 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 status of a park you may have nominated to walk in refer to:

<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/index.php>

Ted



New Members

We had three new members join since the last newsletter, they are: Joan & Geoff Arnell & Susanne Carpenter.

Welcome, we hope you enjoy your bushwalking experiences with Redland Bushwalkers Club.



Activity Reports

Where: Paddy's Plain
When: 16 Feb 2013
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

The day did not look very promising. We had showers of rain during the night and in the early morning. Some were pessimistic about the days walk, but I had confidence that we would be ok. John and Andrea (their first walk) picked up Jean and me at 06:00 am for the drive to Rathdowney. On the way down we went through a couple of showers. At Rathdowney we met up with Ruth and Bob and Karen and continued on to Drynan's Hut. No one on this walk except me had ever been in this area. Here we put on our cros



or other footwear suitable for wading across Barney Creek 100m from the cars. The creek and adjacent banks showed the effect of the recent floods – the most severe I had ever observed for that crossing.

On the opposite bank, we replaced our wet footwear with our boots and with a leisurely pace continued on to Paddy's Plain. The walk was along a mostly flat fire- break road until a short steep rise on a narrow track onto the Plain proper. Here, after a couple of 100m, we picked up another road and continued to a spot that left the road where we walked into Paddy's Plain campground. After checking out the site we crossed a creek and headed up a small stream coming down

from Mt Maroon. This creek is basically rock slab walking. Everyone enjoyed the open space and dry solid feel underfoot. There was water running down the channels in the creek but we never needed to walk in the water. The threatening rain never fell although we did feel a couple of sprinkles, nothing to warrant putting on jackets. Morning tea was held on a rock ledge at a junction in the creek with views to Paddy's Peak.



We retraced our track to the campsite and then walked to a ~45m waterfall. This site surprised the group, as they had not expected to see a waterfall this size in this region.

After lots of oohs and aahs we sat at the top of the falls for lunch and then explored the cliff tops over the falls. The return to the cars was down the trail off the Plain and along the road. Again we put on crocs etc. to wade through Barney Ck. Everyone commented that they had enjoyed the walk and was surprised and impressed by the area. While driving home we noted that the olive farm café (Rathlogan) was open again and we drove up for a well-earned drink with scones or cake.



Where: Venman Bushland Reserve

When: Sunday 3 February 2013

Organiser: Judy Moody-Stuart

Even with many of the National Parks closed following the storms of Australia Day weekend and limited walking options I was surprised to have fourteen people keen for a short walk around the Venman Circuit at Mt Cotton. The 7.5km track was in good condition despite all the rain with only a few trees fallen across it which nobody had any problems walking around. It was lovely to see Tingalpa Creek with plenty of water flowing although this did mean we had to make use of the stepping stones to cross the creek in a couple of places.





We were back at the picnic area in a little over two hours.
Thank you to everybody for your company.



Where: Palm Falls
When: 17th February
Leader: David Rae

This walk was originally the Mystery track walk which leads down off the Coomera circuit a kilometre short of the falls lookout. Due to all the rain and wind on Australia day weekend the Coomera Circuit track was closed and thus no access to the Mystery Track. The walk was changed to be Palm Falls which is 2km upstream on the Coomera River from Gwongoorool Pool.

Eight of us headed off from the Binna Burra information centre hoping the rain would hold off. After a fairly leach free walk down to Gwongoorool Pool we then started the 2 km river walk up to the falls. The river was moderate in height with a fair amount of debris scattered along the banks.



Travelling at a relatively slow pace of 700 metres per hour we reached the falls at lunch time. These falls would have to be one of the highest in SE Queensland being approximately 150 metres high.

The journey back down the river was a little faster at 1km/hr where we struck our first bit of rain for the day. Luckily this only lasted for 0.5hr. This is what happens when you use old boots where the glue has gone hard and then you start walking in water.

Thanks to all who accompanied me on this journey.

And now for another version of the same walk:

Where: Palm Falls (Lamington area below Binna Burra)

When: Sunday 17th February 2013

Leader: David Rae

Track closures caused by ex-tropical cyclone Oswald left us few options. The walkers were Alison, Christine, David (leader), Denise M, Geoff, Jillian, Judy and Malcolm. The walk down to Gwongoorool pool was pleasantly uneventful apart from the odd leech and then it was just a simple matter of following the Coomera river upstream for a couple of hours.

Now I understand that David's mother and sometimes even his wife thinks he is a lovely boy so why he chose to keep crossing a perfectly straight river back and forth is completely beyond me!

Alison did ask Jillian to count the number of times we zig-zagged but she flatly refused so I would estimate that it was somewhere around 130 give or take 100. Fortunately the water was quite warm as it was rain-runoff. Usually the Coomera water is ice melt from the snout of some not yet discovered glacier.

Anyway, apart from waist deep wades and the sighting of a couple of pairs of frogs (possibly Giant Barred frogs – *Mixophyes iteratus*) doing what frogs do when it rains plus some very large tree falls, the walk went swimmingly until our leader decided to put on a turn!

Because he knew that this would be a "wet one", David chose to wear a pair of boots that he brought off the Ark after the last flood. Sure enough, like all really old boots, off came the soles, first one and then the other. If it hadn't been for Judy and her endless supply of silver gaffer tape from the depths of her bottomless pack we (well, David, anyway) would have been in a right pickle. I didn't care to ask Judy why she carries gaffer tape in the bush – maybe someone else can. Judy can get a bit "funny" if you ask her too many questions – try asking her to explain "random dots" if you like.



So it came to pass that after a couple of hours we turned sharp left and commenced a short climb up to the base of the falls. On the way we spotted some Spiny Crayfish out for a Sunday stroll and if anyone can explain to me the presence of 20 meters of stock, standard, green garden hose beside the path, feel free. Judy and I debated the meaning of "true right" for some time and readers may care to research that for themselves. Needless to say we climbed up one side and later came down the other so either way is OK.

The Palm Falls themselves are quite spectacular. They obviously start somewhere near the kitchen door of Binna Burra lodge and fall, pretty much straight down, for some 120 meters. To give a comparison, the State Law building in the city, otherwise known as "Gotham City" (cnr. Of Ann and George) is only a few meters higher.

Following lunch we turned for home. Considering that we had spent five hours in a river I did think it a bit odd that we sought shelter, at one point, from a passing shower, their funny lot bushwalkers.

The frequent crossings got too much for Christine and she snapped a pole in frustration but at least Geoff had stopped throwing himself into the river. The climb up from Gwongoorool Pool would have been uneventful except for Jillian's constant moaning's about food, in particular, hot pies. Alison felt the need to get a bit short with her and poor Geoff was so overcome with hunger pangs at one point a rather large scrub turkey was very much in danger for its life.

At the cars we all tore off the leeches, changed into dry clothes and made a dash for the coffee and pie shop at Canungra. A great seven hour day.

Malcolm



Where: Mt May
When: 24 Feb 2013.
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Gwyalah through walk was cancelled due to flooding of Barney Creek so we did a day walk to Mt May.

David, Judy, Tracy and I decided we had to do something and not let this wet weather and flooding keep us sitting at home, so we set off for Mt May. We met up at Rathdowney 8:00 am and all piled into my car for the drive to Mt May campground. We set off walking at 8:45 and headed up a ridge north of the gorge at the northern end of the campground. The going was relatively clear, but steep. The humidity was high and we were all soon feeling it. There were many rest stops before we crested the top of the ridge. We had morning tea at the junction of the track leading to Paddy's Peak. From here it was relatively easy going, past the normal track from the carpark, up to the base of the low peak of Mt May. The summit of Mt May still lay across a deep saddle. This was soon crossed and we reached the summit where we had lunch.



There are fabulous views of Mt Barney to the east. I pointed out Gwyalah peak to the others for their future reference.

After lunch we retraced our steps and descended the normal track back to the car. Back at the campground we all had a wash in the creek, some going in completely while others just paddled about. On the way back to Rathdowney we stopped for refreshments at Rathloggan Grove, which has reopened and was a favourite stop for many of our club members. Thanks all for making this a pleasant day.

Ted



Where: Cobb Valley and Kakapo Peak, NZ – Part 2; Our attempt on Mt Owen
When: 19 – 22 Nov 2012
Leader: Ted Wassenburg



Having left Rob in the loving care of Laurel, Lance and I set off from Nelson to try our luck on Mt Owen. We missed out on this peak two years ago due to a blizzard when we did the Wangapeka Track. This time the sky was clear, the Dart Ford was dry, and we were able to drive right into Courthouse Flat – the site of a gold mining village. From this site we had to ascend 1200m up a well-defined track on the crest of a ridge - a serious slog with full packs. After numerous rest stops we cleared the tree line and entered a pass, from which, once we had crossed it, we had to descend about 200m on what is called the 'Staircase' – a series

of rock ledges connected by steep slopes. Water shortage became an issue – until we found a stream coming from the limestone cliffs above us. The trail took us to the floor of the valley, past the remains of a hunter's hut, to disappear into the bed of a dry stream. Our map indicated that we were about 400m from the Granity Pass Hut, but we were hungry and stopped on the track for lunch. Not long after lunch we rounded a corner and there was our hut. Inside were two Kiwi couples and a German chap, they had all just returned from the top of Mt Owen and welcomed us with hot drinks.

After a cup of tea and unpacking our gear, Lance went to bed and I headed off up the tussock-grassed ridge beyond the hut to scout out the route to Mt Owen still 3h and 600 vertical metres away. I had set a time limit of 1h at which I would have to turn around and hoped to reach the pass from which I would have a clear view of Mt Owen (1875m) – the highest peak in the Kahurangi NP. At the designated hour, I was about 500m from the pass but could not see the top of Mt Owen as it was obscured by Sentinal Hill and turned back to the hut. That night the clouds descended.

The next morning, grey and white clouds were boiling through the passes between the mountain peaks now hidden behind a grey ceiling at about 1400m. Our Kiwi friends were leaving that morning and cautioned us about going up to the top of Mt Owen when it is in the clouds. We reassured them that we would not summit if conditions were too bad. Lance and I set off after breakfast for the mountain. We were hopeful that the clouds would lift as the day warmed. We progressed beyond the spot where I turned back yesterday and after crossing the pass saw that most of Mt Owen was hidden in the clouds. Still a kilometre from the base we continued across a valley past several clear tarns.



We advanced up onto the base of the climb, everything turned grey. Grey rock slabs, grey rock cairns marking our way and grey clouds. Progressing further up the mountain, the terrain became a maze of grey rock slabs, small cliffs, sink-holes and crevasses. Some of the holes were filled with snow. We continued for about an hour, but then the clouds descended further and visibility was reduced to about 10m. It was time to reconsider our options, we both decided to get off this maze of grey before we became trapped. Once back on green grass and a track, we waited to see if the clouds were going to lift, but after an hour of watching the clouds swirling about the mountains, we returned to the hut. As the

forecast was for rain the following days, we packed up, left the hut and walked out. We drove to Motueka and stayed there for the next day to consider our options for the rest of our time in NZ.

Ted Wassenberg





Something to make you smile

Fifty Shades ...

You appeared from nowhere and shamelessly, without any reservations, you laid on my body... you sensed my indifference, so you applied your hungry mouth to me without any guilt or humiliation, and you drove me near crazy while you drained me. Finally, I drifted off to sleep.

Today when I awoke, you were gone, I searched for you but to no avail, only the sheets bore witness to last night's events. My body still bears faint marks of your enthusiastic ravishing, making it all the more difficult to forget you.

Tonight, I will remain awake, waiting for you...

Bloody Mosquito!



Important Information

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.

