



# Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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## November 2013

### Next Club Meeting

Wednesday, 13th November, 2013

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Indigiscapes Centre, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba

Results of the photo competition - come and see all the entries and cast your vote for the Members Choice winner.

### Presidents Report



How to waste time on the internet!

As I sat down to write this, I remembered that I was going to look for a particular brand of flexible water bottle which has a thread that fit my squeeze filter. I had seen it when I was chasing reviews of the filter last year but I had forgotten the brand. So off into outdoor blog land I went! What a fantastic place, full of self-appointed experts busy posting YouTube clips on any topic under the sun.

There are rock climbing blogs, ultra-light hiking blogs, knife blogs, survivalist blogs, blogs solely dedicated to axes and hatchets and outdoor gear blogs in general. After two hours, I finally found what I had been looking for but not before having watched a number of clips about an eclectic array of topics; How to make a spirit stove out of beer cans or cat food tins, how to sharpen a Swedish axe, the benefits of barefoot hiking and most bizarre – how to make fire tinder out of a tampon..... If any of these topics piqued your interest, please let me know and I'll be your guide to the weird and wonderful outdoor blog world.

Having thus educated myself, I can now start writing what I intended in the first place. Even this late in the year exciting things are happening in our bushwalking club. There is a through walk to Lower Portals 16-17 of Nov and it is "tent optional". Yes you read correctly, you can sleep in a hut! This also means that you are running out of excuses. –Call Dave or Tracy right now and sign up!

We also have the Christmas party to look forward to, this year again at Mt. Warning as a 10 year celebration. Our intrepid organisers Hilary M, Hilary R, Laurel and Betty even managed to get the track workers to finish off early so that the Mt. Warning track would be open in time for us. If you are doing the walk to the top, do not forget hat, sunscreen and plenty of water. The numerous tree falls have changed the character of the walk, now you are exposed to the sun much more than previous years.

And last but definitely not least, please bring lots of good ideas for walks as we will have a planning session for next year's calendar.

MATS





**JINGLE** 🎵 🎵 ..... **JINGLE** 🎵 ..... **JINGLE** 🎵

**LAST CHANCE TO SIGN-UP AND PAY  
AT 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER MEETING**

**🎵 CHRISTMAS CAMP 🎵  
FRIDAY 22 NOV TO SUNDAY 24 NOV 2013**



**At Mt Warning Rainforest Park**

**For more info contact  
Hilary Martyn  
Phone: 3821 7801  
Email: [westovermartyn@bigpond.com](mailto:westovermartyn@bigpond.com)**



## **New Members**

Welcome to: Ann Byron and Jane Reasbeck

We hope you enjoy your membership with us and we look forward to meeting you on the track sometime.



### **WALK GRADINGS:**

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

<b>AB</b>	Abseiling	<b>DW</b>	Day Walk	<b>TW</b>	Through Walk
<b>BC</b>	Base Camp	<b>SOC</b>	Social	<b>XT</b>	Extended Trip
<b>R</b>	Bike Ride	<b>TR</b>	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:** Albert River  
**Date:** 22 September, 2013  
**Leader:** Denise Mitchell

With the walk being 21.8km it was always going to be an early morning start for the 18 of us who did the walk, and it was surprisingly nippy when we got up to O'Reilly's at 7.45am. After what I am told was a brisk start to the walk everyone soon warmed up and the extra clothing started to come off. (So they had nothing to complain about). There had been reports of possible storms the day before but this proved unfounded and it was a great day for walking and enjoying the beautiful Albert River Circuit. We followed the track down past Jimgolonggerri Falls, then Lightening Falls which tumble into the Black Canyon and a short side trip to Echo Falls. Following the Albert River we continued past another six waterfalls and onto the Echo Lookout for lunch. There were great views of Mt Warning and the Tweed Valley and other views from Cominan Lookout. After another brisk walk back along the Border Track we got back to O'Reilly's at about 3:30pm, just in time to get back down the long mountain road for the much deserved refreshments at the Outpost before it closes at 5pm.



Thanks you all for your great company and sharing a lovely day.

Report by Denise Mitchell.



**Where:** Dave's Creek Circuit  
**When:** 6 October 2013  
**Leader:** Lynn Endacott



Eight eager explorers set off on Sunday 6 October from Binna Burra central on a beautiful clear day to discover the Dave's Creek Circuit, including lovely leader Lynn, tail-end tulip Betty M, Jennifer, Karen, Jean, Ann, Lynda and Celia. Lynn, who was leading her first walk after some gentle and covert persuasion from Betty, did a splendid job and everyone had "one perfect day". We all had a wee chuckle at the first sign when deliberating whether to turn left or right, as it seemed that all roads led to our destination! A quick compass and map orientation followed and we all skipped happily onwards.

A magnificent massive tree buttress was a perfect spot for a group photo. While concentrating on careful footwork, avoiding rocks, tree roots and snakes, there were sightings of bush turkeys, "was that a lyrebird", birds too adept for identification, many strange sounds emanating from the forest,

possible Yowies, or perhaps the rare yellow-spotted-eastern-spangled-whatnot bird? It wouldn't be a true leader baptism if there had not been at least one snake sighting. An unsuspecting Lynn rounded a corner to confront the dreaded, deaf green tree snake, who after a short sharp scream slowly slithered on its way wondering "what the .... was that"?

Passing along the ridge, we stopped at Woggunba Valley lookout, took a wee break at Molongolee Cave, and took in spectacular views of the Numinbah valley and remnant blooming wildflowers. At the Numinbah Lookout we came upon an unsuspecting lizard munching on leftover apple. Lunch at Surprise Rock included two surprised butterflies and another lurching lizard. Lynn, Jean, Betty and Celia scrambled up to the top of Surprise Rock with another bushwalker to take in 360 degree views of Mts Merino and Hobwee, Springbrook, Numinbah and the Gold Coast. One visitor scrambled to the top after a gravity-defying sheer tree and cliff climb. We then headed back, had a group tree hug, and returned to the starting point where everyone enjoyed a well-earned revival stop at the Binna Burra café. The circuit takes in an interesting mixture of caves, creeks, volcanic rock dyke, rainforests, Antarctic beech stands, eucalypt/casuarina, picabeen palms, mallee woodland and heath. A good time had by all in great company.

Report by Celia Chalk



**Where:** East Barney Falls  
**When:** 13th October  
**Leader:** Ted Wassenberg

Seven of us headed up from Yellow Pinch onto the Logans Ridge track to participate in a 6 waterfall abseil down the east side of Mt Barney. The colours on Barney were now a motley shade due to the recent fires where most of the gullies were spared and the ridges and side slopes being the areas burnt out.

After a 45-minute hot sweaty climb we reached our first drop with just a hint of water flowing down the gully. Ted setup the ropes and slings and it was Judy who descended first only to find a large tree had recently crashed into the gully causing some minor inconvenience with the abseil rope tangled amongst the branches.



Despite the hot 30 degree day in Brisbane the conditions on the slope were quiet comfortable, with a slight breeze coming up the gully and also being on an east facing slope. The views were also spectacular with glimpses over to the fingerlime farm located north of Mt Tanner on the border fence.

On drop 4 or 5 (I can't remember which) Ted got Betty and Judy to do the setup. This was good practice for our new prospective abseil leaders. They will just have to sharpen their skills on throwing the rope down the slope. Pedro did have a video of this but somehow it got deleted (Hmm I wonder how that happened?)

Thanks to Ted for leading this adventure.

Report: David Rae



**Where:** Toolona Circuit, O'Reillys

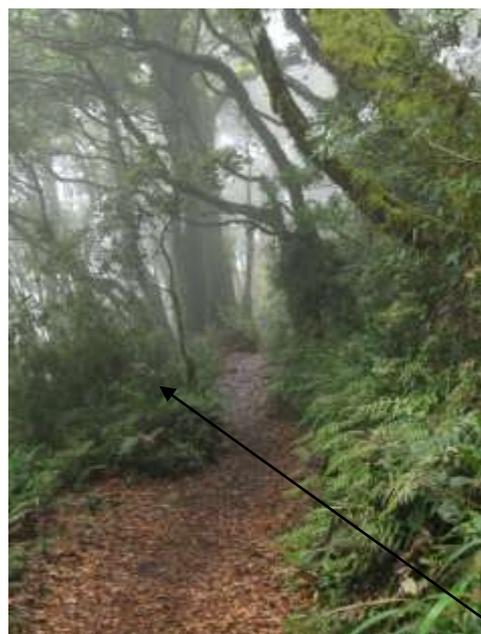
**When:** 20 October

**Leader:** Denise Mitchell

**Walkers:** 13

13 walkers, including 5 men, had a great walk on a perfect day along the Toolona Circuit. Because the walk was 17.5km long we started early, meeting at 7.45am at O'Reillys carpark. A few sleepy grumbles, and some people had to eat breakfast in the car on the way up, but no worries. On the drive up from Canungra there were heaps of small wallabies grazing unconcernedly by the side of the road, ignoring the few passing cars (everybody but us was still in bed).

At the start of the walk the bird-watching volunteers were out and about and pointed out to us a family of 3 lyre birds, very close to the track. No singing or dancing but it was early. Some of us also saw a Regents bower bird – spectacular colours.

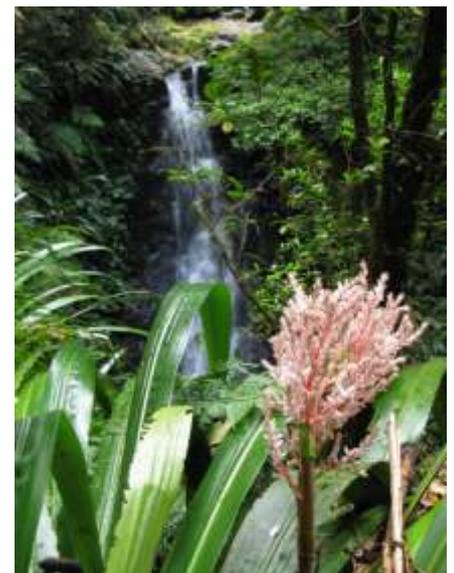


On the first half of the walk there were 5 creek crossings, but as we have had so little rain there wasn't much water in the creeks and all crossings were negotiated successfully. The rocks were quite slippery and we had to be careful. Rod played the gallant gentleman and helped the needy where scrambles were necessary. We made several detours off the main track to see waterfalls, including Elabana Falls, Chalahn Falls and Toolona Falls and had morning tea at Elabana waterfall. The Helmholtzia lilies were in flower and looked spectacular. There were lots of birds calling, whip birds, catbirds, pigeons and many other unidentified ones. Also some magnificent box trees along the path.

Just before lunch we arrived at the Border Track, and we made a detour back towards Binna Burra to have lunch at Wanungara Lookout. Unfortunately Denise forgot to contact the weather gods and we had no view as the valley below was covered in

mist. A pleasant spot nevertheless, and John had remembered to bring snakes (the edible kind). A few leeches tried to attack us here but were fought off before they drew blood.

After lunch we set off back along the Border Track which was eerily covered in mist, making the Antarctic beeches seem straight out of the Hobbit (and we saw one!) The last 7km along the Border Track was covered at a cracking pace, and the whole walk was completed in just over 6 hours, including morning tea and lunch breaks.



We had coffee back in Canungra at the Outpost, as Denise wanted to chat up the bikies. We didn't succeed, they probably didn't appreciate our somewhat scruffy dress. It was a very pleasant walk on a lovely day in convivial company!

Report by Merryl Peterson



**Where:** Girraween Base Camp

**When:** 26-28 October 2013

**Leader:** Cheryle and Brian Leggett

Geoff and Joan, Marnie and Heather as well as Celia drove out to Girraween in preparation for the week-end base camp. Cheryle and Brian stayed in Tenterfield and met the group each morning before our walks.



First morning we all walked down to the Junction, after our morning tea break Geoff, Celia, Brian and Cheryle decided to tackle the Pyramid and the rest of the group went on a smaller walk. This walk is a challenge for anybody who has not tackled it before, it was the first time for Celia, we all managed to reach the top and enjoy the wonderful views and lunch stop. We then enjoyed the descent at a leisurely pace, meeting the rest of our group back at camp for a cup of tea and chit chat.

Next day Geoff, Celia, Brian and Cheryle set off to tackle Turtle Rock, The Sphinx and Castle Rock. Marnie and Heather went to Castle Rock, we went back to camp and enjoyed our well-earned lunch and a relaxed afternoon with

good company.

Joan had a busy time visiting a friend at Wallangara and also had visitors from Stanthorpe.

Thank-you all again for making this a pleasant outing.

Cheryle Leggett

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## 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.