

Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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P.O. Box 101 Cleveland 4163

September 2014

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday, 10th Sept. 2014

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Indigiscapes Centre, Runnymede Rd, Capalaba
Slide-show of Overland walk by Julie Cummins

Presidents Report



Unfortunately a number of recent walks had to be cancelled due to the unseasonal wet weather. On the upside we certainly needed the rain and things are now looking so much better for it. The forecast is for some sunny days ahead. Spring has arrived and all will be looking forward to getting outside and into the forests etc. for some excellent walks in pleasant temperatures, planned for the forthcoming weeks.

Please note that the Pilgrimage will be hosted at Moogerah Lake from 5th to 7th September. Nominations closed at the end of August. Hopefully the fine weather will hold for this event and those who attend will thoroughly enjoy their experience.

There are some extended walks being offered later this month and in the following two months that should appeal to those who are fortunate to have the time available. Some of these walks take considerable forward planning, so if you are attracted to one of these walks, please nominate as soon as possible. Please have a look at the Walks Calendar for details.

Recent news concerning a couple of lost bushwalkers in the Blue Mountain area, demonstrated how some people do in fact venture into the wildness quite underprepared. The two young hikers who became lost reportedly had no water and no jumpers. Common sense would at least tell you to take adequate water supplies. I always carry a light raincoat for protection against both the rain and the cold particularly in case of having to spend an unplanned overnight stay. I would like to draw to your attention that our website lists the requirements for packing in a backpack for both day walks and through walks. I know our members generally are well prepared, but sometimes a gentle reminder always helps. This is coming from the guy who forgot his hat on the weekend and had to endure the indignation of wearing his wife's spare tiny pixie hat. Whilst this hat protected the crown of my head, my rather generous nose was exposed to the sun. Anyway it gave the rest of the walkers something to laugh at.

Our club has recently welcomed a number of new members. I trust you are all enjoying your new found activities. Hiking is a simple pleasure not to be missed. A day's hike in the bush can help reduce the stress of modern day living. Base camps and through walks have many added benefits and are lots of fun. If any new members require advice or would like to discuss any issues, our club's committee members are on hand to assist you, as are the walk leaders and a number of experienced hikers who all gladly give their time to help others and assist the newbies as well.

On a final pleasing note, we have a special announcement... a new baby! Not that kind of baby, but a brand new baby koala with its mother spotted up in the tree in our backyard. We have been on our 1½ acre property, not far from Indigiscapes for almost 30 years now and over time have witnessed the serious decline in the koala population. This is wonderful news. Spring has indeed sprung!

See you on the track!

Peter Endacott



Photographic Competition

Please come along to the next meeting and purchase your black cards to place your photos on. At only \$1 each and maximum of \$10 it is well worth it. Reasons being, that you have fun taking the photos and then feel great when you are chosen as a winner.

- Categories for 2014 are:
 - Landscape – scenery
 - Nature – snakes, flora, birds etc
 - People – funny shots, abseiling, kayaking. Please make sure that you have the person's permission before entering them into the competition.
 - These three above must be sign on activity ones.
 - Open – this can be any trip that you have done in the last year.

All entries will need to be in at the October meeting and they will be displayed and announced at the November meeting.

The committee have kindly donated \$200 which will be used for the prizes of 1st \$30 and the 2nd and 3rd \$10 each

If you would like to know more information please do not hesitate to call Denise K on 3286 5471 dkolcze@bigpond.com or Sue R on 3822 1802.

Happy snapping
Denise and Sue





New Members

Welcome to: Roslyn Tolcher, Susan Sugden and Marilyn Steenland.

This now brings our total club membership to 107 including our three new members.

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



"Quote of the month"

Judy Moody-Stuart is in the UK visiting her sister and mother and then going to a Stewart/Stuart family reunion in Ballone castle north of Inverness this weekend, I think. (way up in the north of Scotland).

She just sent me an email which included this gem - Judy is "noted" for her Club navigational skills, much to the amusement of some. She is famous for having "random dots" on her maps!

She may also be famous for having been born on the wrong side of the tracks..but that's another story.

"Ashtead, where Mum lives, changes very little and I went for a run on the common a couple of days after arriving stopping frequently to eat blackberries. As I walked down to the common I had noticed that the old station building had been renovated but nobody told me they had completely rerouted the railway - well either that or, goodness knows how with my navigation skills, but I ended up on the wrong side of it in an unexpected place."

Malcolm





♪ JINGLE ♪JINGLE ♪JINGLE ♪

It's
♪ CHRISTMAS CAMP ♪

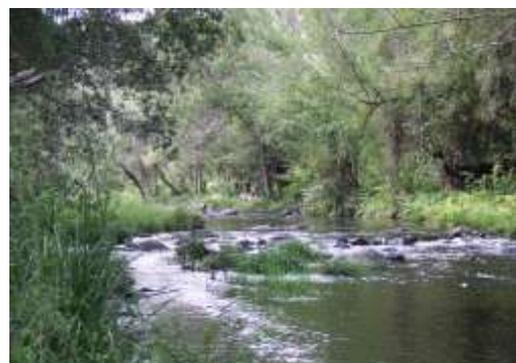
♪ TIME AGAIN! ♪

IT'S TIME TO BOOK IN!

**FRIDAY 28 TO SUNDAY 30
NOVEMBER 2014**

Fun laughter Walking playing games **SINGING** a bit more walking
dancing **eating**
and more walking **AND**

Christmas competition
Best Christmas outfit
Best Christmas decorating of tent



Christmas Camp venue this year.....back to our good old faithful venue that manages to meet all our needs....

Spring Gully Stays

located in the Canungra Valley, midway between O'Reillys resort and the township of Canungra.

<http://springgullystays.com.au/>

Choose your level of comfort!.....

1. Book your own SAFARI TENT Adults \$25.00 per night
2. Book your own UNPOWERED CAMPSITES Adults \$12.50 per night.

Small cost for all those little extras.....

Pay \$10 per person.....BBQ meats, Sunday breakfast, welcome drinks and those little extras. Please pay the Christmas camp treasurer (or through the RBC website, more detail later).

Food for thought.....

- Bring an International theme plate to share
- Don't forget your happy hour food on Saturday!

\$10 discount for earlybird payment!.....

paid by October club meeting.

Stay tuned for the list of walks!.....

To be confirmed shortly

More info to come soon.....from the Christmas Camp Committee (Rhonda, Beatrice, Laurel and Marika).



Activity Reports



Where: Point Lookout - Whale Watch Walk
When: Sunday 10 August 2014
Leaders: Geoff and Joan

Saturday was a cloudy, showery day, with the same weather predicted for Sunday. What a pleasant surprise it was to wake up to clear blue skies!

As planned, we caught the Water Taxi to Straddie, then the bus to Point Lookout. After viewing the historic cattle dip, we broke up into two groups – thirteen in Geoff's group and eleven in mine. It was very pleasant strolling along the beaches. The air was fresh, the sun shining and the water sparkling.

A further surprise awaited us at our morning tea stop at Cylinder Beach – a Coffee Van! Kerry, Geoff and others were quick to join the queue. From Cylinder, Geoff's group headed off to scramble over the headlands, continue along the beaches, and climb the 220 steps up to the road. We took the easier route along the pathways, stopping at lookouts to admire the views. We waited at the top of the steps, and greeted the others with cheers as they arrived. (We were not fooled by their quick burst of speed at the end to try to impress us.) Actually most of our group went part-way down the stairs and back, with Mike making it almost to the bottom.



which we did!

Geoff and I thank everyone who joined us on the walk. It is such a pleasure to be in your company.
Joan Arnell

What can I say about the Gorge Walk? Such a perfect day, and Yes - we did see whales in the distance. We had plenty of time to take photos and enjoy the view, however I did feel like a Mother Hen, trying to move everyone on. I think Steve, Ros, Sharon, Kerry and Suzie, would still be there gazing at the water, if I hadn't been able to tempt them with the promise of lunch.

After lunch at the bakery and fish shop, about half of our walkers decided to take advantage of the opportunity to get home an hour earlier, and jumped on the bus that had arrived. The remainder of us decided it was an even better opportunity to buy an ice cream, sit in the sun on the embankment, and spot more whales –



Where: Sundown NP Base camp
When: 8-11 August 2014
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

My annual August expedition to the Stanthorpe region took us to the southern end of Sundown NP. Most of us left during daytime to avoid the potential carnage of hitting the dozens of kangaroos that frequent the Stanthorpe-Texas road. Kevin, David and Greg left early and Betty and I at midday while Beatrice, Jacob and Mats left late in the afternoon. We had the Broadwater campsites to ourselves for the night. Betty remarked on the unusual composition of the group – there were more males on this trip than women. Hmmm, maybe the cold had something to do with that.



Saturday morning we walked up the Severn R to a large waterhole where we photographed the reflections on the still water and then headed up Ooline Ck. Kevin had decided to try his luck with fishing the lagoons while the rest of us, after some gentle rock-hopping, soon arrived at the first obstacle – a rock pool that had to be



carefully scrambled around. After that we were in the gorge proper walking on rock slabs and over small cascades. The water in the pools was generally dark or murky. I had been warned by the ranger that water levels were low so we were prepared and carried our own. After scrambling out of the creek, over a bluff and back into the creek to pass a particularly difficult gorge, the going was less steep. Morning tea was at the junction of a side creek which we took to lead us to the park boundary. The boundary was a 2m high fence with several electrified wires on both sides near its base. Our party's techs verified the wires were active with the aid of a trekking pole. We returned to the main creek and after lunch returned to camp the way we had come, arriving with plenty of time to have a wash and prepare for the evening. We had our nibblies and supper while sitting around the campfire.

Sunday had us walking across the dry river bed and up to the track leading into Mc Alisters Ck while Kevin decided to do some bird watching. After about 2h of rock-hopping and slab walking we arrived at Splitrock Falls. As the rock was dry we scrambled up the side and into the deep gorge right up to the base of the falls.

After some photo opportunities, we retreated and then scrambled high up on the true LHS and descended back into the creek but above the falls. A half hour later we arrived at the base of the large Twin Falls. Here we lazed around had lunch and waited for the sun to shine into the gorge. Instead a large cloud covered the sky and reduced the light contrast in the gorge allowing us to take some good photos. We returned to camp at about 2 pm. That night we again socialised around a fire.

Monday morning, we started to break down our camp. Several of us, Betty, Beatrice, Jacob, Mats and I walked a short 4.5km circuit that lead to a hill overlooking the park.

After returning to the campsite, we completed packing and we all departed for Stanthorpe and coffee. A late lunch was had for some at Aratula where we bid each other farewell.



THE GREAT EXPLORATION OF MT. MONGREL

Where: Mt Cotton
When: 2nd - 3rd August 2014
Leader: Malcolm Thompson
Party: Malcolm, Karen, Rod, Mike, Wayne, Leah, Lynn + Peter, Fiona, Leisa, Judith, Stephen and Bev.

Mt Mongrel ridge runs in a north south direction for about five kilometres rising out of the coastal flats north of the Logan River. Captain Malcolm Mongrel assembled a party of thirteen avid bushwalkers to explore this region on the 2nd August 1814.

Equipped with heavy backpacks crammed with tents and supplies the enthusiastic party quickly ascended the mount in a westerly direction in search of the peak at the southern end of the ridgeline. On reaching the crest our leader, Captain Malcolm demanded this to be a very exhaustive and thorough survey of the region. He ordered his troops to march all the way down the other side to ensure that the summit had been achieved. At the foot the western side of the ridge we discovered a track heading northward. Without any hesitation our leader proclaimed this track West Mt Mogrel track. He then ordered his troops to march northward to the highest point on this track. As the morning march dragged on his troops began to weary.



An outpost with outstanding views to the northwest had been established at the crest. The troops were permitted to down packs and rest. A lady shouted I'm late, I'm late for a very important date. She hastily served thirteen quiches and coffees before hurriedly departing.

Our energies recharged we marched northward down the track to a creek where it was reported that gold had been found in the region. A short diversion up the creek in search of gold led to nothing.

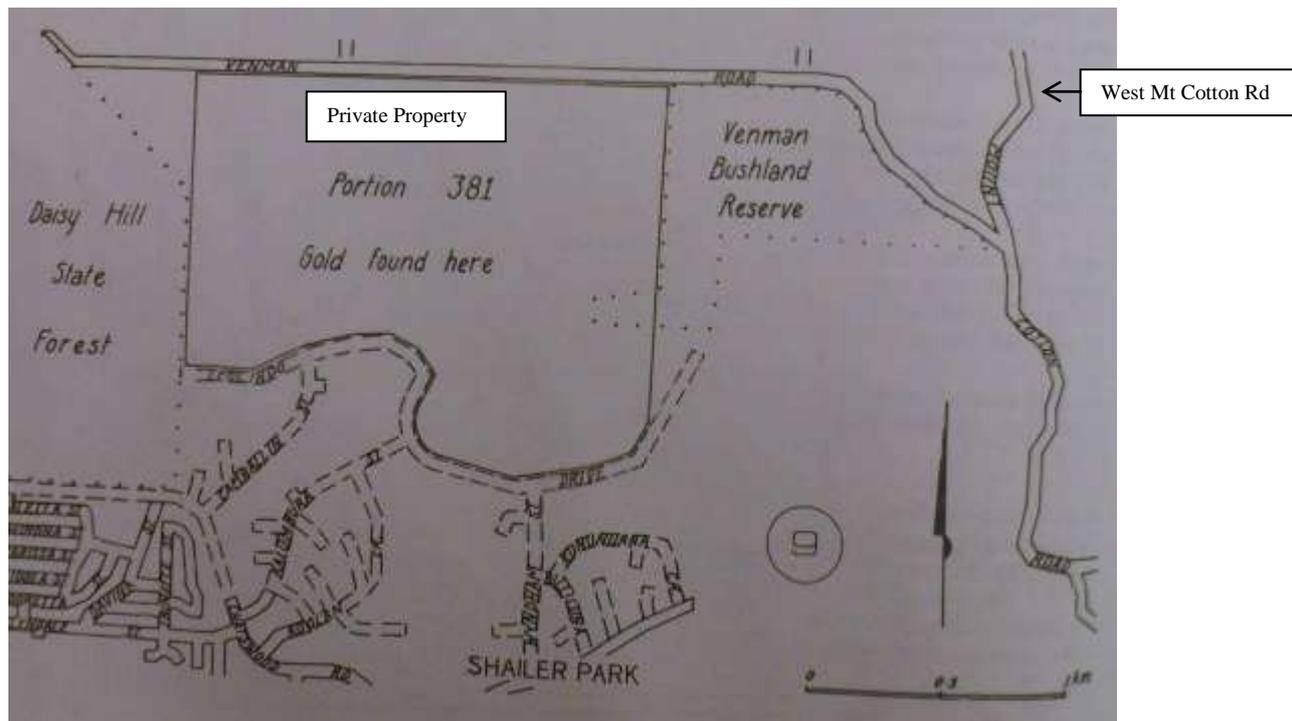
Heading further north along the aptly named track we came across a gaping hole on the west side of the track. At this point our leader chose to head east and upward. At the summit

we discovered tables and seats. Our leader proclaimed this area Mt Mongrel.

After a short rest we trod on to the south along Mt Mongrel ridgeline passing several tall metal totem poles interspersed with a number of brick humpies all erected by the local inhabitants. We were careful not to disturb the natives lest they block our progress.

Not far from where we first ascended the ridgeline earlier in the morning, we established camp for the night. As the sun set a large camp fire sent sparks flying in a strong south easterly breeze that raced up the sharp incline. After dinner three hearty cheers were given to our inspirational leader and guide for organising this special event and coaching the local natives (Col and Robyn) into allowing us to camp on their property.

Mount Cotton- 1932. Rumours were rife in Brisbane that parties of prospectors were combing the Mt. Cotton area. Reports of gold from dollying and panning, with yields of 10.8 grams per tonne, although other samples were barren.



Where: Kobble Creek explore

When: 30 August 2014

Leader: Tracy

Kobble Creek in the Brisbane Forest Park (D'Aguilar Range) has become something of a mission for the leader. Some years ago she decided she was going to know Kobble, and a series of attempts were made, some of which could perhaps be described as slightly less than successful, but she pushed on, cajoling and possibly even bullying a number of the club stalwarts to help. But the stalwarts suddenly became very busy on exactly the weekends the leader tentatively suggested yet another go, and so a few years lapsed.

Come 2014 and counting on dimmed memories, the leader put the walk on again. This led to a flurry of activity: two of the stalwarts hastily booked a trip to Fraser Island, one decided he had to go to work that day despite it being a Saturday, and one even fled overseas. As a result there ended up being only three sign-ons for this walk (two if you don't count the leader), and despite a plaintive and very eloquent plea by our Chief Communicator Malcolm at the last minute, nobody else rethought their weekend plans and signed up.

And did they miss out? Yes! This time we cracked Kobble, and in the process solved the mystery of a side track. On the way out to the landmark log, from which Heartbreak Ridge and the Piper Comanche lead, there is a disused logging road heading off to the left. On many an occasion our members have paused at this track and pondered “I wonder where that goes?” Well wonder no more: the three of us (Mats, David R and Tracy) headed off into the unknown with great determination and lo and behold, we landed in Kobble Creek, and even better, at a spot none of us had ever been to before. The rest was plain sailing: from there we headed down this lovely, picturesque and only slightly challenging creek, until we exited left up to the Lepidozamia Track.

And no more needs to be said. Except that we wonder what it would be like to head UP Heartbreak Ridge . . . who’s free in October??



Where: Ormiston Social Walk

When: 31 August 2014

Leader: Denise

The last day of August proved to be a beautiful day for a social walk around Ormiston. There were 16 participants with 4 newcomers. It was a great group with 15 very lovely ladies and one very game male.

We met at McDonalds and the headed off and walked behind the College, then behind the softball fields doing a little bushwalking, down to where the canal meets the bay then back up to McDonalds. Everybody met somebody new as they walked around. A few of the people had to leave early but the rest of us stayed and had a cuppa and a chat and a few laughs. All in all a great start to a Sunday morning.



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**





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.



RBI Walk Leaders Guidelines

Just Before the Walk Starts:

- Arrange cars and passengers before the walk starts. Make sure everyone knows what is happening and can put changes of clothing etc into the appropriate cars.
- Check that people have sufficient water and appropriate clothing for the trip.
- Make absolutely sure you know how many people are on the walk, count people and check against names on the list. Call out names and tick the boxes. This sounds trivial, but mistakes have occurred.
- Make sure all members of the party are fully aware of what is planned. The leader using a map could show the planned route.
- Explain the significance of the route (e.g. "We go up this steep hill shown here.") to any inexperienced walkers.
- Make sure everyone meets each other. Normal tradition is to stand in a circle and introduce yourself in turn. This is a good chance to count heads and make sure everyone is ready to go.
- Nominate a 'tail-end-Charlie' to be at the rear of the group. This is even more important on walks off-track where there may be thick vegetation with poor visibility. Explain the role of 't.e. Charlie' to keep stragglers with the group and note if anyone needs to duck off for a moment.
- Explain any rules you would like group to adhere to e.g.: toilet stops, keep person behind you in sight, people in the lead to stop every 15-30 minutes for tail to catch up, and stop at any track junctions to regroup, Do not separate the party.
- Do not start until everyone is ready to leave, and check soon after leaving that everyone is there. It is a good idea to call for a stop soon after the start of the day's walking (about 5-10 mins) to provide an opportunity to adjust shoelaces, remove pullovers, adjust packs.
- At the end of the walk, before leaving the carpark, have everyone sign off on the walk nomination sheet to ensure everyone is accounted for.
- Return completed trip sheets to the outings officer.
- And last but not least; Enjoy your walk

Ted Wassenberg

