



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

website: <http://www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au>

email: redlandbushwalkers@yahoo.com

PO Box 101 Cleveland 4163

February 2011

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 9 March 2011

7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre Runnymede Rd Capalaba

Membership renewals are due!

Club memberships are due for renewal by 31 March (the Club's financial year runs from 1 April-31 March each year, and so does every membership). Here's how to do it:

- If you do internet banking, transfer \$30 to the Club's bank account: BSB 034-070, account no 220127. Write your name and "mbrship renewal" in the relevant fields.
- If you don't do internet banking, bring cash or cheque to the next meeting on 9 March, or post it to the address on the top of this newsletter.
- Be ready to sign a waiver form required by our insurance company. It will be at the March and April meetings on the table at the front. If you don't plan to be at the meetings, please let us know at redlandbushwalkers@yahoo.com and a form will be emailed to you for downloading, signing and posting to the Club address.

If you joined the Club in the past month, please talk to the treasurer about the requirements.

We really urge everybody to renew their memberships (if they intend to at all!) as our AGM is on 13 April and only financial members will be able to vote.

Try before you buy

Your Club has tents, backpacks, stoves, and assorted other equipment for members to borrow. So if you'd like to try a through walk or base camp but don't have the gear, don't rush out and spend a fortune, borrow the Club's gear instead. All you have to pay is a \$10 deposit that you get back when you return the equipment in the same condition it went out in. Want to know more? Contact any of the committee members (details at the end of this newsletter).



Upcoming Activities

As our website is up and running, click here for our complete calendar: www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au. Keep an eye out for the signup sheets at the March meeting, or contact the leaders if you have any questions or can't make it to the meeting.

Here's a summary of upcoming activities for March:

Sat 5 March: Lota social walk. Meet Bart's café, 7am. Leader: Libby Westacott.

Sun 6 March: Mt Greville. Contact Carmel Cash (carmelcash@bigpond.com) and Steve Tolcher.

Sat 12 March: Gateway Bridge cycle. Contact Narelle Balnave, narellebalnave@dodo.com.au

Sun 13 March: Coomera Circuit. Contact Denise Mitchell, denise@professionalscleveland.com.au

Sat 19 March: Bulimba Creek social walk. Contact Marnie Thomson, 0423288014.

Sun 20 March: Box Forest Circuit, O'Reilly's. Contact Rob Santry, 0416150737.

26-27 March: FMR ropes and abseil training. Contact Ted Wassenberg, 0428753297.

Sat 26 March: Mts Coolum and Ninderry, Sunshine Coast. Contact Kerrie Necker.

Sun 27 March: TBA. Contact Hilary Martyn, 0438217801.

And most importantly: Annual General Meeting notice!

13 APRIL 2011 7:30 PM INDIGISCAPES CENTRE RUNNYMEDE ST CAPALABA

Are you interested in finding out what happens behind the scenes at your club?

If so, join the committee! All committee positions are up for re-election, and all the position descriptions are at the end of this newsletter. It's not onerous, and sometimes the meetings are even fun! If you'd like to find out more, please contact any of the committee members and they can tell you all about it.

We'd like to thank Errol Perry (safety officer), Phil Fryer (outings), Kerrie Coulter (social), Wayne Porter (treasurer) and Mats Andersson (secretary) for their time and effort during the past year. All have decided not to stand again for these positions.

A nomination form will be sent out separately if you wish to nominate yourself or one of your friends.

Each nomination must have the permission of the nominated and be seconded, and be submitted to one of the Committee by **30 March** or received at PO Box 101 Cleveland 4163 and postmarked before **30 March**. Contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Elections will be conducted at the AGM on 13 April.

Other activities

Don't forget the Pilgrimage this year at the Kenilworth Show Grounds. It will be run by combined Sunshine Coast and Glasshouse Clubs. They are apparently planning a "traditional gathering".

Dates: Friday 26 - Sunday 28 August 2011.



Photos on the website

Have you checked out our photos on our website yet? If not, click here:

<http://www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au/photos/index.php>

If you have photos of interesting Club walks, contact Hilary Riley (hilaryriley2@hotmail.com) and have a chat about putting them on the website for all to see. NB: at the risk of sounding all official, you can only put up your own photos unless you have the other photographer's permission. And if you see a photo of yourself that you don't want on our website, let Hilary know and she'll remove it.



Activity reports

Where: - Albert River Circuit (Green Mountains/O'Reilly's area)
When: - 29 January 2011
Leaders: - Tracy Ryan and Kerrie Necker

This being a popular circuit and a well documented one in the literature, it needs little additional ramblings by me. Tracy, being the bossy-boots that she is, promoted me to the much vaunted role of "token male" for the day. I was almost overcome with emotion at such an award but it made me wonder what happens on an all-girl trip?

Suffice to say that the seven of us (Tracy R, Kerrie N, Kerrie C, Leah S, Ann S, Denise M and Malcolm T) completed the trip in about 6.5 hours in perfect walking conditions – no rain and cool. Walking order changed throughout the day but it generally comprised Kerrie N up front trying to break some land speed record and Tracy the terrorist whipping us up from behind.

We checked out all of the impossibly named waterfalls (*Jimbolongerry, Gurrgunngulli, Joolbahla, Gwahlahla and Bithongabel*) to name but a few. Water was running well and the crossings proved a challenge for those tempted to ignore Tracy's dire warnings about "better to get a wet boot than a broken ankle". Ann made a great show of how to sit down in a creek and still maintain her natural charm. Leah must have done ballet in her youth and put us all to shame.

Lunch was had at the Echo Point lookout – we ate ours and the leeches ate us but at least the march flies were absent! Denise's custom-made anti-leech puttees merely served to make the vermin bite her higher up.

Things seen on the outing: A mouse, a red-bellied black snake, lots of spiny mountain crayfish, a cat bird, a pre-fledged baby bird (infant Noisy Pitta, I think), one Lewin's honeyeater and crimson rosellas with a love for dairy cream.

Topics discussed on the outing: New boots with GT stripes that add 21% to your foot speed, haggis and lambs fry and where best to get it in Brisbane, politics and religion, catholic girls schools and presbyterian boys schools, gynaecological issues*, grandchildren and orphans, how to get lost on graded tracks, death marches, bushwalks from hell and lots, lots more.

The only other point of interest was that we saw not another soul on the track until we reached the Box Forest turnoff on the run home – where were all the walkers, I wonder?

Most important piece of information gleaned from the day: Tracy said that she was reliably informed by some bike rider** she met that one's metabolism is at its most active for the hour or so immediately following brisk exercise. Wow, you should have seen the snouts in the trough back at the cafe!

Footnotes:

* the "token male" offered to contribute here but was told not to bother.

** I personally am a bit wary of people who wear tight, brightly coloured lycra with graffiti all over it and spend the day riding furiously from coffee shop to coffee shop.

Malcolm



Where: - Cronan's Creek Cascades, Mt Barney area
When: - 19 February 2011
Leader: - Ted Wassenberg

Ted's Invitation:

"This is a good easy walk following a forest road. There are a couple of small hills to cross and about 6 creek crossings. The water will be about knee deep for a couple of these crossings so sneakers or sand shoes are sufficient if you do not want boots to get wet. Gaiters or long pants will be good for the upper reaches of the walk as the grass is getting tall after all this wet weather. Bring swimming gear for a dip in the cascades. There is a nice waterfall above the cascades that could attract the more adventurous. You will be in the shade for most of this walk. Bring the usual day walk equipment as per the list in your member's kit."



Mike's report:

My first walk in Mt Barney National Park. How will it be? "An easy walk" says Ted, but I'm sure that some challenges will be in store. Yes, Ted did arrange this walk in the hope that more Club members like me will become a little more adventurous beyond just pure on-track bush walking, and I did expect a few surprises during the day.

The day commenced with a 6am departure from Cleveland with Kevin, Betty, Hilary, me and a very pleasant two-hour drive to Yellow Pinch car park at the end of the road just past Mt Barney Lodge. Ted, Judy, Ken, Barb and Frank were there waiting for us. They were all spending the weekend in the area and had other walks planned for Sunday.

My first surprise; where were all the other rookies? Today's crew are enthusiastic and experienced Mt Barney and off-track walkers....except me! "None signed up," said Ted.

Well off we went. The day was warm and pleasant and enough cover to keep the heat down. We walked along a forestry fire trail, quite wide and easy. The recent wheel tracks of a large front end loader were evident. The first creek crossing was across Logan River, and then we crossed several more over Cronan's Creek I believe. None were more than knee deep and easily forded. After about 4km we passed the "Pheasants Track" which goes to the south peak of Mt Barney. "A fairly straightforward track until a final

rock scramble to the peak". I was told. After another kilometre or so we rock hopped and waded up to the Cascades on Cronan's Creek.

Here we settled in for a couple of hours. Most of us had a swim in the plunge pool below the falls while Ted and Ken set up the abseil ropes. Abseiling; I've never done this! I was a bit concerned here. Will Ted come up and say "It's your turn Mike"? I really don't like heights! While most took their turns once or twice going over the cliff face next to the Cascade falls, I learned a little about how the gear works, the fail safe features and all that. I was soon hoping that I would be summonsed to "Have a go" Unfortunately no. A thorough training course must be done before that can happen. Club members can attend courses and the Club does have abseiling equipment for members' use, I was told.



After lunch, Ted suggested a stroll further up the fire trail and then a walk up a creek for a while. Sounded good to me. Frank had some photo prospects that he wanted to capture and decided to wait. The rest of us headed up the fire trail for a kilometre or so until we came to a running stream. "We'll walk up here for half an hour" said Ted. "Looked a bit rough" I thought, and took a note of the time.

Off we went, in single file, up the creek, rock hopping all the way. "Ah, the real thing!" I thought. My only previous attempt at rock hopping was canyoning down Obi Obi Creek after heavy rain, with hardly an exposed rock in sight!



Right now another learning experience. Slippery rock slopes and boulders and limited hand holds with consequential stumbles, slips and falls. I recovered quickly from each one, and received various tips and techniques from everyone for safer, easier and more enjoyable rock hopping. Ted did call a halt after half an hour, which was somewhat of a relief, and after a short rest, we headed back down, but mostly alongside the creek rather than in it. We came across a carpet python sunning itself on a rock. Kevin gently encouraged it away with his walking pole. Soon we were back on the fire trail where Frank was waiting.

After a short stop we strolled the 6km toward Yellow Pinch, chatting along the way, stopping briefly at the junction with the Peasants Track. A group of six young walkers, in their early 20s, filed past and up the Pheasants Track towards Mt Barney. They appeared pretty well equipped for camping on the mountain overnight. It was good to see. We had chatted between us during the day about how we can encourage more young walkers into our club.

Soon we were back at Yellow Pinch, changing out of our walking gear and saying our farewells.

I will admit that I nearly dozed off on the way back to Cleveland. I was knackered! I was the only rookie on the day, but what a great day it was. The almost continuous and varying sounds of running water, the changing beauty of the bush as we walked through it, the experience of being somewhere new, doing something new, and learning something new was fantastic.

I was surprised that no other "on-track walkers" had signed up for the day. Especially when there is a feeling that there are too few newer walks being scheduled and many on-track walks are being repeated too often. A communication issue I suppose.

Mike Vose



Where: Tingalpa Creek kayak
When: 12 February
Leaders: Don Baxter and Kevin Blain

Tracy and Nigel fronted up on Saturday morning to join Don and Kevin in a kayak expedition up Tingalpa Creek, starting from Ferry Rd in Thorneside. This was the first time T and N had been up the creek, and they loved it. It was a completely different view than the one you get from roads and bridges, and well worth it. We also saw lots of birds, including Brahminy kites.

Don is thinking of planning another trip later in the year, perhaps with one group paddling all the way to the bridge at Capalaba, which is just past the site of the first bridge across Tingalpa Creek, built at the Rocks c.1874. A second group could then take over for the paddle back.

We'd certainly recommend it as it is flat water, interesting, and – close to home!

Thanks to Kevin and Don for organizing a great outing.

Where: Ships Stern Circuit
When: 27 Feb 2011
Leader: Denise Mitchell

Eight enthusiastic members got off to a good start at 7.45am with two eager members loaded down with full through walk packs in training for harder things to come. After a fairly brisk walk down to the Lower Ballunju Falls and morning tea break we continued on our way enjoying the beautiful surrounds. The Ships Stern is really a lovely walk and after not having done it myself in at least a year it almost seemed like a new walk. We had an early lunch with spectacular views overlooking the Numinbah Valley and Egg Rock and as we continued along the track had great views of Mt Warning. Once back onto the Border Track the track got very muddy and the boots became really clogged with mud and after 19 km I think those heavy through walk packs were starting to take their toll. After de-leeching ourselves we finished off with the usual treats at the coffee shop. I want to thank Alison, Narelle, Bob and Ruth, Kerrie, Malcolm and Wayne for making it such an enjoyable day.

Denise Mitchell



For sale

Got any unused, unwanted walking gear to sell? If so, send information including contact details and a small photo to the editor at redlandbushwalkers@yahoo.com.



Park alerts, road closures etc

Given all the weather issues we've been having, before heading off into the wilderness, it's well worth checking official websites for alerts about closed parks, roads etc. Here are a few:

If you want to know if a park is open, closed, safe or full of crocodiles:

http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/park_alerts/index.php

If you want to check whether roads are open or closed:

http://www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps_and_Directions/road_conditions

If you want to know what the weather is going to be like: <http://www.bom.gov.au/>

Leader news

Plans are afoot to hold our annual leaders' get together in March, before our season really takes off. We'll keep everybody posted.



Committee contact details:

President:	DENISE KOLCZE	dkolcze@bigpond.com
Secretary:	Oh no! We still don't have one!	
New members:	CARMEL CASH	carmelcash@bigpond.com
Social:	KERRIE COULTER	coulterk@netspace.net.au
Walks calendar:	PHILIP FRYER	philipfryer2@hotmail.com
Equipment:	DENISE MITCHELL	denise@professionalscleveland.com.au
Treasurer:	WAYNE PORTER	wayne.porter@brisbane.qld.gov.au
VP, leader liaison:	TRACY RYAN	prestonhome@iinet.net.au
Newsletter:	SUE REID	suz_reid@hotmail.com
Safety:	ERROL PERRY	eiperry005@optusnet.com.au

This is not the end: please keep reading

Committee roles in brief

None of the roles are particularly difficult, and most positions don't even require extensive bushwalking experience, as there are plenty of very experienced walkers out there to help.

PRESIDENT

Run the monthly general meetings at Indigiscapes (this can be delegated) and chair the monthly committee meetings.

- Liaise with external organisations as required eg FMR, BWQ.
- Ensure the relevant records and accounts are maintained (this is also delegated).

In other words, ensure the smooth and efficient running of the Club.

Would suit: anyone who has a vision of what they would like their Club to be. And is happy to chair meetings, although this can be delegated.

VICE PRESIDENT

- Help the president with the duties above.
- Stand in for the president when they are not available.
- Ensure leaders have the information and resources they need to provide safe and successful activities. The Veep doesn't have to know everything, they just need to be able to find somebody who does.

Would suit: anyone who thinks the activity leaders are the Club's most important assets.

TREASURER

This is an important job as it involves money! However, a treasurer who acts in good faith and with due care handling Redlands Bushwalkers Inc funds will not be held personally liable, so really there's nothing to worry about.

- Receive, record, deposit and account for all funds collected by the Club, and pay expenses (the treasurer co-signs cheques with the president or secretary).
- Prepare and present a balance sheet of income and expenditure at the monthly committee meeting, and prepare a balance sheet, obligatory reports and cash reconciliation at the close of the financial period ending 31 March.
- Maintain a register of financial/non-financial members.
- Help ensure the Club complies with general laws and government regulations.
- Maintain a register including valuations of all assets/equipment owned by the Club.

Would suit: anybody who loves doing sums.

SECRETARY

This is one of the biggest jobs, but the beauty is you have the power to delegate, so find your slackest fellow committee members and give some jobs to them!

- Prepare the agendas and the minutes for the monthly committee meetings. Keep copies of correspondence and other documents relating to the Club.
- Organise and send out notice of AGM, prepare agenda, take minutes, circulate.
- Make sure minutes, agendas, attendance registers, correspondence relating to club business are kept and filed so that when you do a runner your successor can find them. Keeping these records is one of the legal obligations of the secretary.
- General admin, eg insurance, capitation fees etc are also the secretary's responsibility, but you can delegate to the treasurer.

Would suit: anybody who thinks that today's records are tomorrow's history. And indeed they are.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

- Maintain an up-to-date email address list of current financial members.
- Pass on information to members as required, usually by email.
- Prepare and publish the monthly club newsletter.

Would suit: anybody who has ever been annoyed at being left out of the loop.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

The only requirement is that you use the internet and especially email.

- Answer general inquiries about joining the Club. Most come via email.
- Greet visitors at each monthly meeting and tell them about the Club. Answer any questions and encourage them to sign up for a first walk.

Prepare new member booklets and name tags and present them at relevant meetings.

Would suit: anyone who thinks our Club is worth joining.

EQUIPMENT OFFICER

- Store the Club's equipment in a safe and acceptable manner.
- Keep a record of who is using the equipment and ensure it is returned in good condition.

Would suit: anybody with a big cupboard.

SAFETY & TRAINING OFFICER

This is the only position on the committee that requires some expertise.

- Participate in the twice-yearly meetings where we plan the upcoming activities calendar.
- Advise walkers and walk leaders about gear and the walks they intend doing.
- Organise safety and training days or weekends.
- Prepared and maintain safety and training documents for distribution at meetings and placement on our web site eg the Contact Officer system.
 - Organise or oversee the purchase of club safety equipment. Ensure safety procedures are followed by giving advice, casual interviews or scrutiny of trip documents. Provide updates on technology or procedures as they become available.

Would suit: anyone with some outdoor safety and training expertise.

SOCIAL CO-ORDINATOR

- Organise the Christmas party with the help of the committee.
- Ensure there are social walks on the calendar.
- Organise guest speakers at the monthly meetings. Usually every second month, so six/year.
- Organise any other social events you like.

Would suit: anyone who loves the social side of the Club.

OUTINGS OFFICER

- Organise the twice-yearly get-together to plan the next six months' activities calendar.
- Talk to new leaders about their proposed walks if required, to ensure they meet safety and other requirements.
- Help new leaders with paperwork at the monthly meetings.
- Collect changes to the calendar as required, and ensure the website is updated.

Would suit: a person who thinks the activities the Club provides are what make it worth joining.



This is the real end of this newsletter