



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated
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November 2011

Next Club Meeting

11 January 2012

7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre Runnymede Rd Capalaba

President's report

I will start off with the exciting news that our Club is going to host the 2012 Pilgrimage. Hilary Riley and Betty Murray have volunteered to be coordinators. They will be looking for every member to get behind them and if you think that you could help in any small way at all please do not hesitate to get in touch with them. Many hands make light work.

John Marshall, President of BWQ (Bushwalking Queensland), will be coming to the January Club meeting to pass over the boot and also explain the history of the pilgrimage so that would be a meeting not to be missed.

2011 has almost come to a close with the Christmas camp held last weekend. It was a success attended by just over 50 people. The venue at Spring Gully Stays was excellent and the rain held off until Saturday night but certainly didn't dampen the enthusiasm of all members. The food was a spit roast and proved to be a great success as everybody was able to sit down together and eat and the cleaning up was done for us. Thank you to Narelle, Sue, Denise 1 and Denise 2 for being on the committee in organising the fun Christmas party with party games, good walks, great music, very enjoyable swimming hole and now all the memories.

2011 was again a busy year for the RBW.

- *There were new committee members to give their points of view.
 - *The website was changed – looking excellent and continually updated
 - *Lots of new members joining the already established membership through our enthusiastic membership committee member, Carmel.
 - *First aid and CPR course run in February.
 - *Abseiling seemed to gain a new lease and was more popular than ever. Ted was encouraging members with abseiling to encourage their FMR membership.
 - *Members were challenging themselves in abseiling and also navigation and achieving their goals through the guidance of Ken our Safety and Training officer.
 - *The database was updated regularly by Secretary Sue and membership Carmel.
 - *All members were given a bandana as a club gift to use while bushwalking.
 - *Redland Bushwalkers accepted the Australian Walking Track grading system, which thrilled BWQ.
 - *Kerrie and Mike's bus trips were a huge success and there are more planned for 2012.
 - *FMR had a new surge of members with a lot coming from our club.
- The kid's camps always proved to be very successful, more planned for 2012.
- *The Photographic competition was again a huge success and a new one planned for 2012.
 - *Our tea lady Heather has been a wonderful asset to the club meetings with a welcoming drink and a nibble throughout the meeting.

- * Steve has kept the calendar with walks and leaders interesting throughout the year.
- * Newsletter is always an enjoyable media for us all and Tracy has always created an informative one.
- * A club is hard to manage when there is money involved if you do not have a good treasurer and RBW have always been fortunate with the Treasurers that is has had and this year is no exception with Narelle.

I would like to thank the wonderful committee who always created healthy discussions. Tracy, Sue, Narelle, Ken, Carmel and Steve. Thank you to all the leaders who without you there would not have been the walks/activities on the calendar. Thank you to all the members who fill these walks/activities up. Thank you to the teams for the website, Photographic competition, Christmas camp, FMR, contributions for the calendar, database, for the monthly club meeting talks/slide shows. Thank you to the leaders/walkers for their photos and reports for the newsletter. Thank you to the members who constantly help with chairs/tables at club meetings. Every little bit helps a lot. You are all beautiful people and it has been a great pleasure for me to be your President for 2011.

Have a very enjoyable and safe Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in 2012.

Happy walking
Denise – President

Upcoming Activities

We took advantage of having a diverse group of members at the Christmas camp to plan our calendar for the first half of 2012, and we managed to come up with some excellent suggestions. Click here for our complete calendar: www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au. Keep an eye out for the signup sheets at the club meeting, or contact the leaders if you have any questions or can't make it to the meeting.

And if you have ideas for other walks, don't despair as it is never too late to include them. The procedure is to contact our outings officer Steve Tolcher, who will bring it to the next committee meeting. Every activity has to be approved by the committee for safety (and liability) reasons. Alternatively, just email one of the committee members and they will talk to Steve. All contact details are at the end of this newsletter.



Reciprocal rights with other clubs

Lots of bushwalking clubs offer each other's members reciprocal rights, meaning members can go on the other club's walks without having to pay membership fees or visitors' fees. Not every club in Qld offers this but your committee has confirmed that Redland Bushwalkers is one of the nice inclusive clubs. Generally preference is given to the host club's members over members from other clubs, and this will be the case for us. In other words, other club members can put their names down for our walks, but if there are limited places, our club members have preference. And of course it is entirely up to the leader of the walk to accept or not accept somebody, just as it is now.

The flip side of this is that if any Redland Bushwalkers want to go on a walk with another club, you can do so.



Activity reports

NB: as the editor was too slack to produce a newsletter in October, below are reports of activities that happened so long ago the participants have probably forgotten all about them. Think of it as a nice little trip down memory lane.

Where: Abseil training Kangaroo Point cliffs

When: 1 October 2011

Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Betty, Hilary and Judy set up the ropes at 0630 h ready for the arrival of our students. We were aided by the arrival of Trevor Davern, a member of QBW and an experienced abseiler, whom I had invited to assist as I was short of experienced help. Trevor and I inspected the set-up of each system prior to the arrival of our students.

We soon had Malcolm, Nikki, Graham, Karla, Pedro, Teresa and Don eager to be shown the ropes. After a safety brief and signing of necessary documents, we set to the training. The girls put the students into their harnesses and we went through the rudiments of abseiling on flat ground on a rope tied to a tree branch. This process demonstrated how the system worked before exposing our students to the 10m cliffs.

Initially, Trevor and I belayed each student on separate ropes, while the girls began abseiling on separate sets of ropes. Once the students' confidence grew, we had Malcolm doing the belaying and Judy, Betty and Hilary supervising the abseils. We dispensed with top belays and soon everyone was abseiling on one of the four ropes that we had set up. Everyone had had enough by 1100 h and we retrieved our equipment and headed for a coffee and food at the Cliffs café. Everyone learned something that morning and went home with a feeling of achievement. Thanks everyone for making it a safe and satisfying morning.



Where: Protestors on peaks: Mt Ernest, Mt May, Mt Barney and Mt every other one

When: 15 Oct

Leaders: various

On 15 October Tracey and Innis of Barney Lodge organized a protestors on peaks event to highlight the huge environmental issues surrounding the coal seam gas industry and its proposals to set up infrastructure in some of our most fertile food producing areas and also pristine bushland. Tracey and Innis organized for walkers to be on the top of most of the peaks around the scenic rim, and many Redland Bushwalkers took part. Members from our Club went up at least three peaks (Mt Ernest, Mt May and Mt Barney) with signs and banners all ready to wave when the moment arrived. A news helicopter took footage that then appeared on the evening news, and it can still be seen if you google protestors on peaks (the editor would have put a link in this newsletter if her internet was working, but it isn't so she didn't).

Even though the helicopter didn't make it to all the peaks, and many of us didn't get our 15 minutes of fame by appearing on telly, our presence added weight to this important event, and Tracey and Innis were very grateful. And it would be nice to think that we were personally responsible for several candidates in the various elections next year putting coal seam gas firmly on the agenda as an election issue.



Malcolm T penned the verse below after following Ted up Mt Ernest that day:

By sylvan pastures
and Logan's water,
I felt just like
a lamb to the slaughter

The day dawned bright and Mount Ernest beckoned
We packed Ted's brush work and Betty's hemming
We climbed and climbed, a mile up, I reckoned
We followed blindly, just like the lemming.

Carmel C wrote the following report of her group's activities that weekend, which included some other activities as well as the Sunday's protestors on peaks event:

Saturday morning, 5.00am. Mother Nature was up early and in full swing with a storm and heavy rain. 6.30am Very heavy rain, 7.20am, departed from Runcorn. We followed heavy rain through to Rathdowney. Everywhere we looked there were flooded paddock and waterways. After setting up camp, two keen members were given lessons and practice on the use of the sling and rope techniques. After lunch, practice turned into reality! Seeking out a rock, (not just any Rock, a Huge, Sloping Craggy rock) to put into practice our new skills.



Sounded like a good idea back at camp. The four letter word, FEAR, (false expectations appearing real) came to mind as I approached my first descent on this massive rock formation. **Easy Peasy**, with great instruction from above. So much fun was had descending, climbing and repeating four times. Aware that Mother Nature was preparing another scene we started to return to camp. What a storm she had for us. Next adventure was about to unfold as we were blown, pushed along with the wind, and stung by the rain as we scurried back to camp to find our camp flattened. No Worries!! As soon as possible our camp rebuilt with no major problems. One mission completed.



Sunday as the light of day entered the camp ground, four keen trainees under the guidance of Ken. Mission two was about to commence. Conquer Mt Barney, the 2nd highest mountain in South-East Queensland. Each had their own set of personal goals for the day. Regardless of what was to unfold during the following hours, climbing, scrambling struggling, helping, intermixed with laughter, blood sweat, no tears, quiet minutes to soak in the scenic outlooks as we wend our way to the summit. Rum Jungle was a welcoming sight as it indicated that we were within reach of the summit. A few enjoyable minutes spent beside Barney creek while replenishing our water supplies. Then we forged our way through the thick vegetation to reach our Goal!!!

Third Goal unfolded as we arrived on the East Peak of the Summit. With time on our side we settled down to lunch, relaxed while waiting for the Helicopter to arrive to witness our protest as we held up a large banner for **No Coal Gas Seam. Keep Scenic Rim Scenic**. What a Buzz! Banners held high. Helicopters buzzing, Standing at 1300mtrs on top of Mt. Barney, with 360degrees views. Helping to make members of the public aware what is proposed for this beautiful piece of our country.

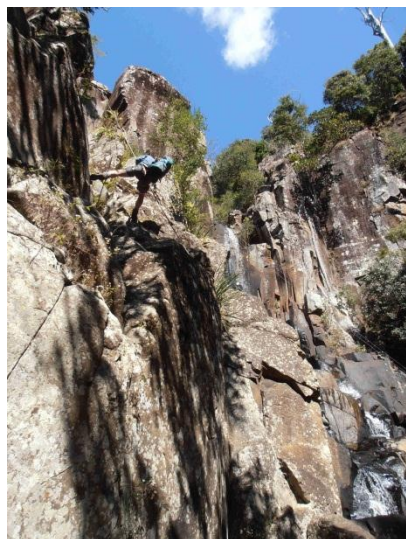
Two hours quicker on our return, our descent wasn't as difficult as we were on a "High" with our accomplishments. Magic moments during the day were seeing the full moon hanging to the side of Mt Barney Peak as the sun washed the mountain with a golden glow. Climbing, scrambling up the staircase. Easy! Good belly laugh, while a small person attempted to swing her leg over a fallen log. Enjoying the shade and coolness of Rum Jungle. The crystal clear day to take in the surrounding views from the summit of Mt, Barney. Returning to camp, Happy, Tired, with the knowledge that we have Bagged, Tagged and Conquered Mt. Barney. A Great day was had by all. Completed three missions for the weekend! Fantastic Memories!!!! Thanks Ken, Brett, Adam, Sue "D" and Carmel

Where: Back Creek abseils and walk

When: 2 October 2011

Leader: Ted Wassenberg

We met at Canungra for an early coffee before heading up in convoy to Back Ck. At Killarney Glen entrance we saw a group of about 20 wet suit clad people who, we discovered, were going to abseil the same falls as us. This concerned me, as there could be competition for space on the abseil anchors. As it eventuated, we used separate anchors as they all went down the wettest part of the waterfalls and



we used the dry sections. In fact when one of our ropes became stuck, they loosened the tangle for us, saving me a return climb. The first falls is Denham Falls ~30m and we were soon all down this after having our rope untangled. We scrambled around massive boulders towards Lip Falls which we skirted as it is only 7m. The next falls are Cavern Falls which has an overhang, then came Rainbow Falls where we avoided the large pool at the bottom. This was also where Alison and Jillian left us to survey the track that parallels this part of Back Ck. The rest of us (Judy, Betty, Hilary, David, Pedro, Teresa and I) continued on via some deviations around boulders as big as houses and



through rainforest to the majestic horseshoe-shaped falls, where one of our party gave me a start and confirmed the value of the autobloc while abseiling. We had lunch at the base of these falls while watching the wetsuit-clad people abseil down the wettest part of the falls into the rock pool.

From here we went down well-defined trails to the Emerald Pool and a swim through some portals to the end of our walk and back to our cars. The rocks were dry and the rain held off, we were too late for the customary coffee-stop at Canungra.

(Photos by Hilary or David)

Where: Middle Kobbler creek

When: 9 October 2011

Leader: Tracy (with Mats assisting)

Just take the leisurely drive to the Mt Nebo area by going through either Ashgrove or Dayboro to the Brisbane Forest Park. The starting point for this walk is the Leptospermum Track just over 5km from Maijala. It goes off to the right and for quite some distance we followed a freshly graded fire trail. It was a bit gluggy underfoot following the previous day's downpour but we plodded on. The temperature was just perfect and there was not one blade of scunge to be seen.

Mats was nattering to someone, Tracy was talking to the fairies, Malcolm was talking to Marika and Jillian and Laurel had only time for each other. So much so that we all completely missed the sharp right hand turnoff about an hour north and we had to do a bit of retracing. It is hard to see a two lane side road when you are walking in the bush on a four lane highway.



From there it is mostly downhill until a rough footpad is taken up a couple of knolls to a suitable morning tea spot.



We then followed more downhill steps to the creek. They were mostly aimless compass wanderings, dictated by Tracy [how rude! - ed]. We went due East, due South, due West and due North before finally settling on due Eastish again until we stumbled across an old timber snig track.

This took us down into the creek itself. Any attempt at a short cut here would end up with an abrupt plunge to one's death – the banks are quite steep.

Following all of the rain this year the creek bed was almost spotless and it was truly a pleasure to follow it upstream to our lunch spot and the ascent of a couple (3 really) of waterfalls. Marika constantly assured us that the largest one “was not as hard as it looks”.

Jillian was silly enough to believe Marika and ended up with the bruises to prove it. She made me promise not to use the word “haematoma”, so I won't.



On the way we spotted a flowering vine that none of us knew – It turned out to be a native Wisteria – *Callerya megasperma*.

We were constantly preceded by a pair of chestnut teals who flew on ahead to the next puddle hoping we would just go away. They ended up having to bolt over our heads at the base of the last waterfall as ducks, unlike quail, are not equipped to fly vertically. Nor were we so we skirted this one to the right and surprised a small serpent in the process.

Up to this point the walk had been really pleasant. Now came the hard part – the L O N G grind home – constant uphill all the way! To keep our spirits up we discussed the usual things like politics, children, spangled drongos, singing and someone was even silly enough to question what one would record as “*The sounds of bushwalking*”. I did think Mats overstepped the mark here by suggesting it would be “...yackety-yack, yada yada yada etc.”

Exhausted after six hours of plodding, we fell into our two cars and retreated to the Elm Haus cafe for coffee and tea. It was generally agreed that this establishment is superior to the Rainforest cafe.

Malcolm

PS: Check out the detail in this photo.

Laurel is obviously in desperate need of more water before she drops off her perch yet Jillian is stomping off in disgust, Marika is pretending not to hear and Tracy, with arms akimbo, just like a fishwife, is about to turn around and give her a rocket for being a big sook!

The photographer was really feeling for you, Laurel, but he was too busy capturing this poignant moment.

The other man in the group had gone off on his own to phone an ambulance.



Photographic competition

Hot on the heels of the successful 2011 photographic competition, plans are now under way for the 2012 photographic competition. The competition committee, comprising Wayne Porter, Mike Vose and Leah Stephens held their first meeting on 15th November. The challenge is set with some exciting new categories...

1. **FLORA AND FAUNA** - plants and animals
2. **LANDSCAPE** - general scenery, may be as diverse as forest, panorama, waterfall, marine, etc.
3. **CHARACTER** - eg. club member in action or at rest, social, funny moment
4. **MINISCULE** - eg. close-up / macro shot of insect, flower detail, texture etc
5. **AFTER DARK** - night time shot eg. campfire, after sunset, moon/stars
6. **OPEN** - photo by a club member on an activity not directly associated with the club. This may include interstate or overseas trips, FMR walks or perhaps a walk with several club members which is not an official 'sign on' activity.

The competition will run from the close of the previous competition, August 2011 (yes, that means it has already started!!) and will close at the Club meeting of October 2012. We will aim to display photos and present prizes at the Club meeting of November 2012. Some basic guidelines will be available on a flyer at Club meetings (or from members of the competition committee), but remain similar to the previous years' competitions.

Sponsors for the competition are being sought - if anyone knows a business that may be interested, please contact a member of the competition committee.

We wish to emphasise that the competition is open to any Club member of any photographic ability. Your equipment need not be highly technical or expensive - it's the composition and content of the photo that will be most important. We look forward to seeing a great variety of interesting photos from all the beautiful places we visit on our Club walks and activities.



The leech

*Larry the leech is a wondrous fellow
His body is black and his teeth are yellow
He lurks and he latches in the bushes of Lamington
Biding his time for fresh pickings from Wellington (Point or NZ)
A party of walkers, from down Redlands way
Just chanced to come by one nice rainy day
Their headbands all sweaty and their bodies all hot
Larry sprang into action to sample this lot.*

*Poor chap had been waiting for years and years
But what happened next near moved him to tears
He proved to have allergies to types "A", "B" and "O"
He could not believe he had not been warned so
He found that like wines, blood has red and white bits
After just a wee slurp it gave him the sh.ts
We now see Larry has made life less risky
He finds his best tippie is a nip of Scotch whisky.*

Anon (disguised as Malcolm)

PS: as leeches are hermaphrodites you could substitute "her" for "him", "Larissa" for "Larry" and "sheila" for "chap". The editor chose not to exercise this option, being perfectly happy with Larry remaining male.

The tick

While on the subject of bitey insects, Malcolm our resident entomologist found the following about ticks:

I have just read the "Moggill Creek Catchment Group - Summer 2011" newsletter.

In it there is a short article expounding the virtues of using a spray to "kill" a tick. It was originally suggested by some medico at one of our hospitals and the author of the article swears by it.

The product is called.....wait for it..... [AEROSTART](#) >

It is designed to help start recalcitrant two-stroke engines etc. !!!!!

It appears that the petroleum/whatever base instantly dissolves/penetrates the waxy cover on ticks and kills them dead without any fuss or bother. I usually have to wait for hours before my wife gets to take them off by which time the little sods have given me enough whatever to make me itch for months.

Buy it at auto shops.

Malcolm

PS: the Magazine editor, when I phoned him for OK to use the story, suggested that you do not light a cigarette when using it.

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