



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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PO Box 101 Cleveland 4163

September 2011

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 12 October 2011

7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre Runnymede Rd Capalaba

President's report

The September meeting was an excellent one and well attended. Thank you to all of you who came along to help support the photographic competition.

All of the photos were excellent and congratulations to the winners and thanks to everybody for participating. Thanks also to the committee of Leah, Betty and Laurel who pulled it all together. Also to the judges who were our own club members.

The weather is beautiful lately and this makes you feel like walking and that's what we all love to do.

Tracy is liaising with Gavin Dale who is the secretary of BWQ and they are creating questions and answers regarding insurance for you members. These are to give you a better understanding of what our insurance covers.

The Christmas party is just around the corner and is always a fun way to almost finish our year of bushwalking. Hope that you are all coming along.

2012 is getting closer and we need to start thinking about our walks calendar for the first 6 months of the year. If you would like to challenge yourself and lead a walk we can organise a mentor to help you so please do not feel that you are on your own, because you are not. More leaders in 2012 will equate to more walks which is what we are all wanting.

Happy walking
Denise – President

Here's a thought:

As we all hear every year, if the Club is to provide a variety of activities for its members, members must be prepared to step up and organize them. We call it leading. For well signed popular track walks this mainly involves organizing car pools and paperwork. What do we all think about making it a condition of membership that every member has to "lead" one activity of their choosing every year?

Photo comp winner

The August club meeting was a colourful and fun night with everyone picking their favourite photo from the quality selection in the Photo Competition.

Members enjoyed seeing photos of the walks and events that they themselves have taken part in and being tempted by the beautiful ones that others had photographed. Special accolades to the camera persons with quick reflexes for catching those difficult on the move shots.

Congratulations to David Rae the overall winner of the competition with his classic photo titled "Watching the Kettle Boil". He will be soon enjoying his prize of one nights accommodation at Binna Burra Lodge (lucky duck).

This prize was generously donated by Binna Burra Lodge

Winning photos in all categories will be on the website very soon.



Upcoming Activities

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.

Here's a summary of upcoming activities for the next month.

Sun 9 Oct: Warrie Circuit, Springbrook. Contact Steve Tolcher, 3207 6732.

Sun 9 Oct: Middle Kobble Creek, Brisbane Forest Park. Contact Tracy Ryan, prestonhome@inet.net.au.

W/E 14-16 Oct: Kitchener Cave, Girraween. Contact David Rae, david.r.rae@gmail.com

W/E 15-16 Oct: Mt Ernest. Contact Ted Wassenberg, 3286 2817.

W/E 14-16 Oct: Cressbrook Dam base camp. See below.

Sun 16 Oct: Mt Barney area training weekend. Contact Ken Walters, 3344 1927.

Sun 16 Oct: Upper Ballanjui Falls, Binna Burra. Contact Sue and Dudley Reid, 3822 1802.

Sun 23 Oct: Stradbroke Island. Contact Steve Tolcher, 3207 6732.

Sun 30 Oct: Coomera Gorge. Contact Mats Andersson, 0438 984090.

Base camp

Don Baxter is organizing a base camp at Cressbrook Dam 14-16 Oct where there are very good camping facilities, toilets and showers. Large amounts of wild life in the immediate area. There are local walks in Ravensbourne and Crows Nest National Parks. National Park camping fees apply.

Because of the large number of red deer in the area, poaching is a problem and cameras are positioned over the entry boom gate which requires coins (\$2.50) to operate with no change given, so take sufficient for 2 or 3 entries.

Contact Don for more information: donb35@bigpond.net.au.



Sex and mountains

Having got your attention, this is a reminder that as many walkers as possible are needed at Mt Barney on 16 October for a show of support. Tracey Larkin of Mt Barney Lodge (one of our Club's favourite camping areas) sent us the following:

As you are possibly aware, the Scenic Rim's namesake iconic landscapes are in danger of being trashed by the coal and coal seam gas industry and similar scenarios are playing out in other rural communities across Australia.

In less than three weeks - on October 16 - landholders and concerned Australians across the country will unite to say NO. **You can be part of this action in the Scenic Rim by joining Protesters on Peaks. Be one of hundreds of people to climb (or drive to!) our peaks, with their yellow triangles and huge white banners carrying anti-CSG and coal mining messages.**

Protesters on Peaks is designed as a truly different, visual, media event, which includes an aerial flyover at around 11am to capture footage for national TV news bulletins covering protests across the country.

BYO Lock The Gate [signs](#), giant banners (we suggest 2.4 x 7m to be visible from the air with black painted letters, you can use old sheets for this) and a camera/phone to take part in sending a clear message to the State Government that the people of Queensland are opposed to wrecking agriculture, tourism, and the natural assets in the Scenic Rim.

For full information, and to register for this event to allow for smooth coordination of what we hope to be a very large turnout - go to www.keepthescenicrimscenic.com or 07 5544 3233.

Christmas party coming soon

When: 25th - 27th November

Where: Spring Gully Stays, Canungra

Leaders: Narelle, Denise M, Sue and Denise K

We are looking forward to seeing everybody at the Christmas Party.

The catering will be slightly different this year; instead of the Club providing salads and nibbles, it is providing a spit roast from Queensland Spit Roast. This will include nibbles as well therefore all you will need to bring is breakfasts, lunches and your drinks.

The cost will be the same as last year at \$20 per person.

The camping is still \$10 a site per night and to stay in the safari tents it is \$20 per person per night. If you haven't been to a Christmas camp before then you are in for a fun time! There will be a program for the weekend. This will be in the next newsletter.

If you would like to lead a walk on the Saturday please have a chat to Denise M.

You may start to pay at the next Club meeting if you would like. Narelle our trusty treasurer will be there to take your money. You will also be able to pay by EFT.

Thanking you and looking forward to seeing you all at the party.
Christmas Committee

Activity reports

Where: Lower to Upper Portals through walk, Mt Barney

When: 3-4 Sept

Leader: Ted Wassenberg



This classic and scenic walk is always popular and usually has some minor dramas to play out, and so it proved again for this trip. Two cars, containing Pedro, Teresa, Betty and Mats in one and Tracy, Judy, Karla and me in the other arrived at Rathdowney at 0730h where we met up with Brett. After purchasing some iced coffees, we set off in convoy for the lower portals car park.

At the Lower Portals

Karla set the pace for us to walk into the lower portals and we were soon at the crossing of Barney Ck. The water was a bit higher than it was two weeks earlier and some managed to get across unscathed while others slipped or just waded into the water, or took off their boots. It soon became apparent that everyone was going to get wet to some degree at some stage during the day. We were not to be disappointed. We scrambled through the boulders to get good views of the lower portals and the large pool and then returned to the track over the ridge to bypass the portals. From here the fun began. We had morning tea, sitting on a large ledge opposite Barney Falls.

The trip up to the upper portals requires a lot of rock-hopping, slab walking and scrambling over large boulders or clambering around the walls of minor portals. One such scramble involved hauling up packs and then climbing up several metres to descend back to the creek a little bit further on. Pedro using his rope, helped most people past this point. Before we reached Barney Gorge campsite for lunch, one of our party fell into a deep pool of swirling water and was quickly pulled out by Mats. Pedro and I spent a little time retrieving a water bottle that had been released from the swimmer's pack when she fell in. Luckily the day was relatively warm and our dripping companion was soon back walking. The contents of her pack came off relatively unscathed due to use of dry bags and pack liner.



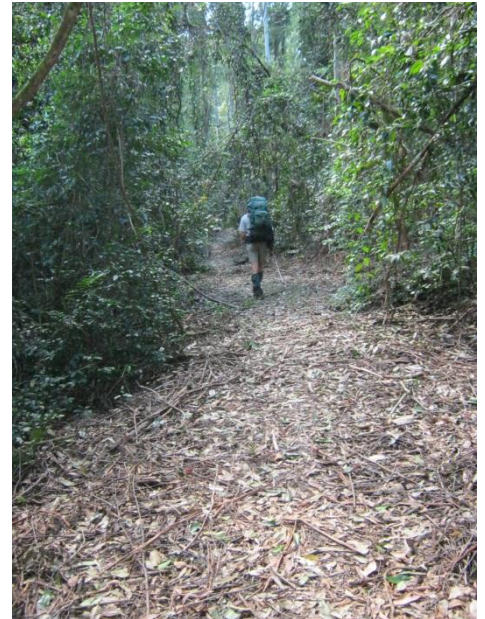
By mid afternoon, we were all walking with wet boots or more due to the slippery nature of the rocks and the water being deeper than on previous trips. Eventually we arrived at a point where there was no option but to wade through some of the pools to advance our way. Karla was the first to report a tick attack and was soon rescued. Tracy followed suit and I ended up with a couple a little later. The upper portals were bypassed by a steep scramble up a gully on the true LHS, across the ridge and down a steep track to the other side. Here we had great views looking down into the portals. A short while later we were at Yamahra Ck campsite. The evening was spent relaxing, drying boots, socks and clothing and with discussions about Brett's hammock. After dinner, most were in bed by 2000h.

Next morning, after breakfast, packing our gear and some banter about departure time with a recalcitrant tea drinker [you said we'd leave at 8.30 Ted, not 8! signed recalcitrant tea drinker], we set off up the steep hill behind the camp to where the long downhill track descends to the lower portals campground. This ridge had been burned out and there were a lot of trees across the trail. Morning tea was at the campsite and after crossing Barney Ck for the last time we were back at the cars by midday. A celebratory stop for drinks was made at Rathdowney and we said our goodbyes and headed home. Thanks everyone for making this a good adventure for all and particularly our two new members, Karla and Brett, who promised to be back for more.



Where: Conondale Range great walk (56km)
When: 30 Aug – 2 Sept
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Rob and I had been keen to do this walk once we heard about it. We set off early on Tuesday for the two-hour trip to the Booloumba day visitor area to the start of the walk. As Rob had worked the previous night, we stopped for coffee at Malany. The road into Booloumba involved two creek crossings and the track into the day use area required a 4WD as the track is rough and also had two deeper creek crossings.



We started walking at 1100h and followed a track parallel with Booloumba Ck, heading upstream to Artists Falls and then crossing Booloumba Ck and heading steeply up, past Booloumba Falls on to Wongai campsite. Half an hour out from the campsite, the promised thunderstorm started and we were wet and muddy when we arrived at camp. Tents were set up in the rain on muddy campsites and we made shelter as best we could. My tarp gave a bit of reprieve, but as the campsites are so small only one tent can be accommodated at each patch. Each campsite has a toilet, rainwater tank and a raised wooden platforms that can be used to sit and cook on, keeping you out of the mud. The rain relented for a couple of hours, so we could cook and clean up. It then started again while we were in bed, raining for most of the night.



Next morning, the sky was clear and the day was cool, perfect for the 17 km walk to Tallowood campsite. This is the longest and highest section of the walk. It is also the intersection of the Mary and Brisbane River catchments. The trail was a mix of off track trail, fire trails and old logging tracks. We needed to keep a close eye out for the track-markers as it would be easy to continue along a false trail.

There was no water available along this section, but sufficient at each campsite. Tallowood is set amongst tall Eucalypts, where we arrived at about 1430h and dried off our tarps and tents. The night was clear and cool with only leeches and a mouse raiding our camps.

The third day, was clear and the day more humid, and was the most scenic as we crossed Peter's Ck and then followed Summer Ck down to Summer Falls and the close by campsite. Much of the 15 km walk is through rainforests, then into open woodland. After three days of walking, it was refreshing to strip off and sit in the icy waters in rock pools above majestic Summer Ck Falls. This was the prettiest of the campsites.

For the final day, we departed early 0700h for the climb past Mt Allen and the long steep descent down to Booloumba day use area. From the campsite, the track was through open forest, with glimpses down to the campsite, over the top of long ridges, into dense rainforest at Mt Allen and down through open forest and

back into rainforest at the end of the walk. We arrived back at the car at 1100h and after cleaning ourselves drove back to Malany for coffee and scones and then home.

Throughout the walk, Rob amazed me with his knowledge of the variety of trees we passed. We encountered numerous trees and branches fallen across the track and in a number of places, particularly Peter's Ck, there was evidence of pigs digging up roots of wild ginger. At one steep section out of Peter's Ck the pigs had destroyed the track, completely moving the stone steps. This was a fantastic walk, and we both enjoyed the isolation (not seeing another person), the variety of landscapes, forest types and birdlife. The Summer Ck section is worth visiting as a day walk.

Where: Springbrook
When: 18 Sept
Leader: Jillian Wilson

On Sunday 18 September, 11 of us walked out from Apple Tree Park, Springbrook, on the last section of the Great Walk from O'Reillys to Springbrook via Binna Burra. We crossed the road and headed out along a fire trail, then down, down through open forest to cross Little Nerang Creek. The trail continues above the gorge and follows the creek to the Waringa Pool; here we crossed the creek again, and continued on to the base of Purlingbrook Falls.

After a look and a short rest we headed out behind the falls and up the zig-zag graded track to the top of the falls and the lookout. We side-tracked to Settlement Campground for a restful morning tea at the undercover area. Then after walking over to the main Springbrook park, we headed out past the lookouts with smoke-haze views and down the steps to the base of the falls; from here we retraced our steps, stopping beside 'Cleopatra's Pool' for a leisurely lunch. Then off again to follow the gorge, cross the creek, and walk up, up to return to Apple Tree Park by 1.30pm.

The quiet, well-behaved group of walkers were a pleasure to walk with - we enjoyed a social coffee on the way back, and arrived home at a respectable hour.



Where: Mt Cordeau and Bare Rock
When: Sunday 18 September
Leader: Hilary Martyn

A small group of five headed out to Cunningham's Gap for this walk, with the expectation of seeing the spear lilies. At exactly this time last year they were flowering profusely and were a spectacular sight. Unfortunately this year there was not one to be seen. The other thing missing were the views from the top, due to smoke haze. However, this didn't stop us enjoying the walk and admiring the orchids and other spring flowers.

Thanks to Kevin, Heather, Helen and David for joining me on the walk.

Where: Mapleton Falls to Sam Kelly Road
When: 25 September
Leaders: Kerrie C and Mike V

Another bus trip and walk was enjoyed by 24 walkers, four of them on their first walk with the club. The weather was fine and not too hot, the organisation proved to be faultless and the day ended on schedule without even minor mishaps of any kind! (Sorry, Anne did lose the sole on a boot! Lucky only a few hundred metres to go and the collective binding team secured it for the remaining distance).

At the waterfall where we stopped for lunch a few of us enjoyed an extra visitor slithering through the rocks. A big lizard was spotted climbing a tree further on and two little creatures were also seen at the front of the pack. The birds kept us company along the way too. Kerrie and Malcolm braved the track with loaded "Through Walk" packs, training for future through walks.



Overall our walkers made the day, and the day was enjoyable to all, although a few very weary legs were evident when Sam Kelly Road was reached. Thanks go to Narelle for being "Tail-End Charlie" & Dudley, Sue & Carmel for a little extra entertainment on the bus, Dave for getting us to and from the walk safely and comfortably in the bus and to all who participated for making it such an enjoyable day for us all.

Keep a look out for the next planned bus trip/walk.

Bits and pieces

Insurance may be a pretty boring topic but it's important nevertheless: fairly regularly members ask about the Club's insurance and what it covers, and now we have a chance to find out the details.

The Club has insurance through our peak body BWQ so basically we are covered during Club activities. We are compiling a list of questions to send to BWQ, so if you have any questions, could you please send them to Tracy at prestonhome@iinet.net.au and she will send them on. The replies will appear in subsequent newsletters.

Meanwhile, here are the first questions from our members:

Question: What does our insurance actually cover?

Answer: the cover provided by the Combined General and Product Liability Insurance is club administration and activities associated with bushwalking, and items sold by the club, as well as property owned by the club.

By club administration, this means decisions made and other activities involved in the proper administration of the club.

This cover is an extension of public liability insurance which only covers third parties from actions of clubs, and not parties affected by direct actions of the club as covered in our insurance. The limit is \$20 million for the general liability and \$5 million for the product liability.

The personal accident covers all out-of-expenses up to \$50,000 incurred as a result of injury sustained while on a club sanctioned activity. The out-of-pocket expenses are expenses after medicare, medical insurance, etc., and include loss of wages.

Question: Some farmers are a bit nervous about walkers because they believe that they **may** be sued, not by the insured walker but by the insurance company at a later date. Eg, if I fall over a

farmer's fence which I may/may not have known was there and my insurer pays me for my oncoming quadriplegia, will the farmer later be sued by the insurance company for, say, not warning me of the fence (or whatever)?

Answer: It is highly unlikely that the insurance company once paying out for injury will take litigation action against the cause of the injury, unless they can determine that the landowner is at fault. The history of the claims has shown that this has not occurred.

But to ensure this does not occur...

This is where risk management is essential. As part of a club's planning process in putting a walk together, an assessment needs to be done to identify the hazards, determine the chance of encountering the hazard (the likelihood), and determine the severity of the consequence of that hazard occurring (the consequence). For example in the case of a fence, you recognise the fence is there, so you assess the hazard likelihood as possible, and the consequence being based upon the characteristics of the fence. ie. a barbed wire fence has more chance of doing damage to a person than a wooden fence. With a risk assessment done the club decides if it is going to accept the risk, avoid the risk, transfer the risk, or reduce the risk.

By documenting how you have identified, assessed, and treat the risks, any further action by the insurance company will be based upon your club's assessments. If falling over the fence was not identified as a risk, because the grass was too high to notice it, or the walk was not going anywhere near it, it would be seen as an unforeseen risk and no person is at fault as all reasonable precaution has been taken. The Civil Liability Act also limits how far litigation can extend.

This response immediately raises another question: our Club does quite a few unsurveyed walks, which means no risk assessment has been done except in a very general sense. Therefore, are we still covered?



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