



# JILALAN

MONTHLY CIRCULAR OF THE BRISBANE

CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY



Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a periodical

Price 10¢

December 1977



J I L L A L A N

Club Address

P.O. Box 151, Brisbane, North Quay, 4000

Monthly General meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in the Temperance Hall, Canberra Hotel (Edward St., Entrance). The next meeting will be held on Monday 21st December at 7.30p.m. Visitors welcome.

Office Bearers

CHAPLAIN	Rev. Fr. M. Keohane, O.M.I.	
PRESIDENT	Terry Panton	781646
VICE PRESIDENT	Kathleen Vingoe	486178
GENERAL SECRETARY	Denise Thompson	
OUTINGS SECRETARY	Gavin Clancy	485391
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SOCIAL SECRETARY	Chris Sweeney	974674
S. & T. OFFICER	John Graham	

Committee Members

Brian Hanvin	572488	Rita Dittman	684493
Brian McMahon	913532	Greg Gilby	487675
EQUIPMENT HIRE		Gavin Clancy	485391
EMERGENCY OFFICER		Michael Laherty	976303
FEDERATION DELEGATES		Madonna Stratford	364184
		John Graham	
EDITOR		Peter Gleeson	796097

Federation Address

The Queensland Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, G.P.O. Box 1573, Brisbane, 4001.

Emergency Officer

Where a party is overdue the onus is on parents to telephone the Emergency Officer if they are concerned over their son/daughter's safety. Please do not ring before 9p.m. at the earliest.

Club Calendar

GENERAL MEETING	21st December	Audio/Visual Simpson Desert
GUANABA GORGE	10th January	Daywalk
SOCIAL	23rd January	Casino Night
GIBRALTAR RANGE	29th Jan/1st Feb.	Basecamp/Throughwalk
CLUB RETREAT	12th/14th Feb.	Ave Maria

J I L L A NClub Calendar (Cont)

SAFETY & TRAINING	26/28th Feb.	Basecamp
BLUE KNOB	5/7th March	Basecamp/Throughwalk
PAGES FINNACLE	21st March	Daywalk
MT.GLENNIE- MT.TANA	26/28th March	Throughwalk
FRASER ISLAND	8th/12th April (Easter)	Throughwalk

COMING EVENTS IN DETAIL

## GUANABA GORGE

Sunday 10th January, 1971 - Daywalk

Leader John Ward  
Transport from North Quay (behind Trittons) at 9.a.m.sharp  
Nominations close on Wednesday 6th January, 1971.  
Fare \$2.50  
Emergency Officer Michael Laherty (97-6303)

Guanaba Gorge is situated on the eastern side of Tamborine Mountains, and with its towering rhyolitic cliffs and rain-forested top is quite spectacular.

The gorge commences near St. Bernard's Hotel, where Wirerope Falls tumble down, and there are several other minor falls in the course of the creek's progress to the Coomera River.

Near the top of the gorge are several examples of the macrozamia palm, and the countryside, which gives way to the flatter dairy farm paddocks as the mountain is left behind to the west, presents a striking contrast of mountain and river flat scenery.

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GENERAL MEETING - 21st December, 1970.

Madonna Stratford and Pat Lawton will be showing an audio/visual of their trip to the Simpson Desert which promises to be a first class show after their taking off all the prizes in the photo competition last month. Thanks go to Gerry De Wit for his work as judge of the competition and for his useful comments. A renewed interest in photography was evident on the recent Cooloola trip.

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## GIBRALTAR RAN !

National  
Park

Date 29th Jan/1st Feb.  
Fare Approx. \$5.00  
Leaders Paul Skehan - Throughwalk; John Graham - Base Camp  
TRANSPORT From North Quay (behind Trittons) at 6.30p.m.  
NOMINATIONS Close Monday 25th January.

This is a relatively new Park which was officially proposed by the National Parks Committee in 1962 and declared a National Park soon after. It is an area of approximately 38,000 acres (although it is gradually being increased) astride the Gwydir Highway about halfway between Grafton and Glen Innes. It includes the eastern scarp of the Gibraltar Range, the actual Gibraltar Range, and part of the tableland to the west. Previously the land had belonged to the Forestry Commission, and because of this many of the larger trees, particularly the cedars, have been removed. Earlier in the century the region was mined for tin and gold and many of the old shafts remain - interesting but dangerous.

Geologically the area consists of granite, capped in places with remnants of Tertiary basalt flows. This raised plateau has then been deeply dissected along the eastern scarp to give rise to sharp ridges and deep gorges. These gorges, like those along the rest of the eastern scarp of the New England Tablelands, often have large waterfalls and cascades. The Dandahra Falls are among the more spectacular - reputedly falling 800ft. down a giant granite slippery dip into a large pool. The eastern scarp is also noted for the large granitic outcrops, such as the "Pinnacles", which have been left like sentinels at the edge of the ridges. The western side of the Range drops to the level of the New England Plateau, which continues west to Glen Innes and beyond.

Botanically, the area ranges from Dry Sclerophyll Forest through Wet Sclerophyll to Subtropical Rainforest, with patches of marsh, swamp, heath and bog. The Rainforest is restricted to the eastern scarp, the gorges, and the basalt flows at the top of the Range. Here Lianas, Stinging Trees, Native Ash, Cedar, Rosewood, Corkwood, various palms, Lilly Pilly, Lawyer Vines, Strangling figs, Coachwood, and countless ferns, orchids, fungi etc. can be seen. In the Wet Sclerophyll Forest, which covers most of the granite regions, Turpentine trees, Apples (*Angophora* spp), Forest Oak, Black She Oak, Green and Silver Wattles and many other Acacias as well as Eucalyptus such as the Flooded Gum are found. In the Dry Sclerophyll Forest in the western margin of the park are the

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great forest Eucalypts such as Mountain Ash, Manna Gum, Bloodwood, Grey, Blue, and Yellow Box and Red Gum, with an undergrowth of Blady, Kangaroo and Wallaby Grasses. There are also small but interesting patches of Heath (dominated by Banksias), swamp and marsh (with the usual range of sedges and rushes) and Sphagnum bog. The heath is found on the sandier windswept hills on the western margin of the Park, but the swamps, marshes and bogs are found on the relatively flat tableland at the foot of the actual Gibraltar Range.

This is a Zoologist's paradise, as well as a Botanist's, for the wide range of habitats gives rise to an equally wide range of fauna. There are, of course, the usual Grey Kangaroos, Wallaroos, Black Cockatoos, Carpet and Brown Snakes, Possums etc as well as Wombats, Scrub Turkeys, Skinks, Bellbirds, Wedge Tailed Eagles, Frogs and very large (and hungry) leeches and mosquitoes.

From the tourist's point of view, this Park does not have all that much to offer, there are as yet few good trails to lookouts, etc. This gives the bushwalkers an advantage, for, with a little extra effort, they can see spectacular scenery unmarred by beer cans and broken glass. However, senseless scrub-bashing through the undergrowth should be avoided. An unmade trail is not an invitation to make an expressway!

Raspberry Lookout, Dandahra Falls, and the Pinnacles are just a few of the more accessible sights to be seen. Except for Mulligan's hut, the picnic spot on the Dandahra River 6 miles from the Ranger's place and a mile or so from Dandahra Falls and the edge of the scarp, there are no huts, nor are there any cabins or caravans, but the camping facilities are quite good. There is some rockclimbing potential, for example Dandahra Falls and the Pinnacles, but this has not been investigated as yet.

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MEMBERS' PAGELOST BATTLE ON MT. POPOCATEPETLPeter Herzog

This story does not sound like Mexico. Who would think of snow and mountain climbing where there is sun and beaches.

But a bushwalker finds something to climb in the most unusual places in the world.

The Indian legend tells about the two majestic volcanoes the following. Popocatepetl a great warrior of the Aztec was in love with the beautiful princess Ittaccihuatl (what names). When he went off to war his rivals told the princess that he was killed. In sorrow she passed away. When Popocatepetl returned home and found his beloved dead he built her a big pyramid to hold her



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memory and placed himself in another pyramid nearby to guard her in eternity.

What a sad love story. But it inspired me to pay Popocatepetl a visit. It is located about 60 miles south of Mexico City. First you have to reach a place called Amecamecaan at the foot of the mountain range. From there it is still 18 miles to the mountain lodge where the climbing starts. The weather was rainy and I played with thoughts to return to Mexico City. The knowledge that Cortez, in 1525 or so already climbed the mountain in search of sulphur to make gunpowder, did not permit me to turn back.

The cloud lifted for a while and I could see my target. The volcano is covered with snow and it looked more like a mountain in the Swiss Alps. I soon made camp in the forest. I was on my usual Swiss diet of cheese and bread since I didn't like the Mexican food. Also it is hard to light a fire. The entire place is stripped of any firewood by the natives. That night the tent had to go through the rain test and I'm glad it was waterproof O.K.

In the morning, I was able to get a ride with two Americans from North Carolina. They intended to climb Mt. Popoalio. They were equipped good enough for the climb in the Himalayas. The same day we had a test run up to 14500 ft. I soon noticed that the Americans werenot as fit as their gear. In the evening we were sitting around the fire and exchanged previous experiences. It was quite an international round and I could practise my Spanish. I wonder if Angelino would have been of any help since Spanish is similar to his native Italiano! Everyone seemed keen to have a go the following day.

In the morning I awoke by the noise of pecking of a few early birds. The weather was still not too good, but mountain fever had grabbed me. Not even the fact that the two Americans would not come could hold me back. I was one of the first ones to leave the hut. At first there is a trail going up to 15000 feet which was no problem. Like the great P.T. I tried to make a good time by a fast pace, but the altitude and the loose surface make walking different from Qld. Despite this, I was the first to reach the three crosses where the real climbing starts. A few others had taken the other route which requires climbing experience. The weather had worsened when I started to tackle the mountain side. Roughly you follow one of the old lava flows. The ground is covered with a thin layer of snow, enough to give you cold feet. Soon I had to stop every 10-20 steps to keep up with breathing. It was the pace of two steps up and one down. The lava sand is very loose. The fog was getting heavy and the sight was limited to 50-100 feet. At least the steepness started to flatten out which indicated that I was near the peak. The surface changed to rock and finally I reached the snowfield stretching up to the peak, but the snow was 10 feet deep, so that I sank in up to my hips. The sight was zero now, and this all made me decide to go back short of the peak by only a few hundred feet. But this distance could have meant hours in those conditions beside the danger of a snow slide.

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The way down was always one of my favourites, and soon I was sitting by a cup of hot coffee **back** in the hut (tea is too expensive in Mexico). One after the other the parties came back with the same disappointment, and I did not meet anyone who had reached the peak. This gave me the satisfaction that I had made the right decision to turn back.

During the night I could not find sleep. I was suffering from snowblindness. I had swollen eyes for days after. It is something I don't wish to anyone.

On my way home to Mexico City, I had some bad things to take. First I was held up in a village and made to pay 10 pesos (1 dollar). There was not much I could do. I would give no one the advice to start a fight in some remote Mexican village. 10 pesos poorer I boarded the bus. This turned out to be the most adventurous ride I ever had. The bus was jammed with people, animals, baggage and an air which nearly flattened me. The road was a dried out creek and I feared we would turn up side down. But the people were calm and one even sold ice cream. Every time he was sold out he climbed to the roof to get more supplies out of his kart, and during all this the bus was moving. But what can you expect for 25 cents for 60 miles.

So I hope I will be able to lead a throughwalk to Popocatepetl volcano pretty soon. The preouting I have done. What I forgot to mention is that Popocatepetl is 17778 ft. high. I can assure you clean air up there.

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FROM COMMITTEE

It has been decided that the January social will take the form of a house party - casino night. It is hoped to make a profit on this night which will go towards the Gibraltar Range trip which is a total distance of 540 miles. In order to run this trip at a reasonable price a full bus (40 people) will be essential.

Congratulations to the following who have been declared Ordinary Members - Rosalie Hennessy, Mary Elich, Bob Murdoch.

Committee recommends that as the subscription for the year will not cover the cost of general administration, circulars as well as the cost of hire of the hall and supper at General meetings, a charge of 10 cents per person per meeting be made in future. It was decided to put this recommendation to the vote at the December General Meeting.

The Club Hut has recently been inspected and reported to be clean and tidy. However, a number of repairs need to be carried out and a working bee will be arranged in the near future.



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Committee feels that the present Constitution is hindering the running of the club rather than helping it and that a simplified Constitution would be far better. A new Constitution is being drafted and will be made available to members at the December General meeting and voted on in January. Members views on the proposed changes will be appreciated.

If there is any member who would be able to assist with the typing of circulars and/or envelopes would you please let the Secretary know.

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BUSHWALKERS CASEBOOK

Welcome home to Denis Laherty who has returned from National Service in New Guinea.

Paul Wijngaarden recently returned from his overseas trip. After only a week in Brisbane, Paul was transferred to Sydney. We wish you every success, Paul and hope to see you from time to time.

Pat and Madonna made a clean sweep of the slide competition last month. The meeting feature this month will be Pat and Madonna's recent trip to the Simpson Desert which promises to be top class.

Engagement congratulations to Thea Sanders and Laurie Kearney and to Noela Gilby and John Cross who recently announced their engagements.

The Shell Roadhouse at Nambour can be recommended for hamburgers. Just ask any one of the 40 hungry Cooloola walkers.

Did you know that one passenger missed the bus on the recent Cooloola trip. Who is going to be late for the next trip.

Marnie Conway sustained a torn ligament in her foot on the Cooloola trip but it didn't stop her from leading a rousing sing-song on the way home.

Bernice Caffery who leaves for the United States after Christmas was given a send off dinner at Peppers recently. A presentation was made under the Christmas tree in King George Square.

Do you believe it takes 1½ hours to climb Mt. Edwards and 3½ hours to come down. There are seven rain soaked bushwalkers to prove it.

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