



JILALAN

MONTHLY CIRCULAR OF THE BRISBANE

CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY



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CLUB ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 151, North Quay, Brisbane. 4000.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of each month starting at 7.30.p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

	<u>OFFICE BEARERS</u>	
CHAPLAIN	Fr. Leo Coote	522069
PRESIDENT	Brian McMahon	910532
VICE-PRESIDENT	Russel Nelson	702170
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SOCIAL SECTREARY	Linda Platten	981689
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Brian Hanvin		Peter Herzog	

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<u>EDITOR</u>	Anthony Elliot	
<u>EQUIPMENT HIRE</u>	Russell Nelson	702170

FEDERATION DELEGATES:

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Peter Herzog

FEDERATION ADDRESS:

The Queensland Federation of Bushwalking Clubs,
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BRISBANE. 4001.

EMRGENCY OFFICER

Where a party is overdue, the onus is on parents to telephone the emergency Officer. The Emergency Officer is listed under each trip. Please do not ring before 9p.m. at the earliest.

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- At this point of time the committee wishes to extend to its
- friends and fellow members a very merry Christmas and a happy New
- Year.

EDITORIAL

Well the club calendar for next year has been drawn up and printed. What exactly does it mean. For some it means a tough bummer of a time trying to organise these trips. For others it means a real good time, a chance to get out from the city and enjoy the bush, for others it is a chance to boost their own enlarged ego and for the not so few it is their opportunity to have a bitch and wonder why they even go bushwalking.

Now if never before the club has come to its low point. It no longer belongs to the same category as the original Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club when you think about it. The same club is no longer there because over the years people have become shallower in their personalities, narrower in mind, and generally have adopted the 'I'm alright Jack' attitude.

The biggest problem problem at the moment is that this is a bushwalking club and not an excuse to congregate in large groups with a few exceptions into the bush.

This will not make a lot of difference but it helps to make people more aware and think of just what is happening and how he or she can help, that is if he wants to lend his hand to someone else instead of culminating in his own self gains.

EDITOR.

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POSITIONS VACANT.

A vacancy exists for a delegate to Federation. The person to fill this position should be keen and willing to attend the monthly meetings and report to the club members at the monthly General Meetings.

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Speaking of General Meetings the next General Meeting, for those who missed the last will be held on the 18th December in

ROOM 3 Y.M.C.A. BUILDING

ANN STREET CITY.

OPPOSITE ST. JOHNS CATHEDRAL

IF YOU A MEMBER YOU'D BETTER COME!

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BRING YOUR OWN STEAK & PRESENT (SO.)

SNAKE!

For many just the word invokes shrinkning feelings of fear and disgust. A loathing of the so-called slimy slithery serpent exists in so many people. Yet this aversion is not inherent but simply an attitude passed down through generations.

In Australia particularly, this instant recoil might seem to be well founded, for Australia is a country well endowed with reptiles. Indeed, they occur from the humid rainforest areas of Nth Queensland to the summit of Mt. Kosciusko in the south. From cool Tasmania to the deserts of inland Australia, reptiles are occupying the widest range of ecological niches.

All reptiles belong to class Reptitia of the animal kingdom. This class is divided into four orders, only one of which will interest us here, the order Squamata. Further division of the order, into two sub-orders gives us sub-order Sauria (lizards) and sub-order Serpentes (snakes). Lizards do not generally suffer, at least to the same extent, the fate that awaits snakes when they encounter man-death. Australian lizards are harmless and because of the high number of insects, spiders and snails that they eat, they may be considered more advantageous than the reverse. Their conservation is considered deserved, if not because they are of any use to man, then by the curiosity they provoke and their lack of malevolence.

However, should snake conservation really deserve thinking about? Australia has about 140 types of snakes, falling into five families. One family, the Hydrophiidae, contains the sea snakes. All have a venom apparatus and fangs for paralysing their prey and some are highly dangerous, but as a family they are rarely encountered. Meetings with man are confined to infrequent sightings in tidal rock pools and crevices, or perhaps on the beach where they have been washed up during a storm. Their movements are extremely handicapped by being out of their natural element and invariably die unless they can make it back to the sea. Meetings in such places as coral reefs and atolls may be more frequent and care should be taken when swimming or diving in these warmer, shallower areas.

Land snakes, however, are more likely to be seen, and it is these which invariably come to mind when snakes are mentioned. Four families are represented in the terrestrial snakefauna. Least dangerous is the the family Thyphlopidae, the worm snakes, which number 10 species. They are small worm like burrowers, rarely found above ground. All are harmless and are infrequently met. Pythons are better known, and belong to the sub-family Pythoninae of the family Boidae. Ten examples live in Australia, ranging from the large scrub python (average length about 15 feet) to the tiny childrens python at than 4 feet. Pythons have no fangs and kill their prey by asphyxiation, wrapping coils around the victim and constricting to prevent respiration. Despite this grim description Australian pythons are harmless to man with the possible exception of the very large scrub python, and these inhabit only largely inaccessible far north rn rain forests.

SNAKE (cont'd.)

inhabit only largely inaccessible far northern rain forests.

Family Calubridae contains some dozen species, belonging to four sub-families. Such bizzare reptiles as the aquatic file snakes and slender tree-snakes belong to this grouping. It is in this family too that we see the first appearance of fangs and associated venoms on land. A few freshwater snakes and the brown tree snake have fangs in the back of the jaw. They kill for food with the aid of venom injected by these fangs but are harmless to man as the venom is of a mild toxicity and injected in such small quantities. Once again, most frequent specific niches where man is not often met. If only for this reason, their preservation continues.

It is the family Elapidae which deserves a healthy respect. Such diverse members as the Cobras and Coral snakes are found in this family but it is only in Australia that they have reached such diversification. Over seventy representatives occur here and all have venom glands and fangs, the latter located at the tips of the top jaw. Rapid death to their prey is inevitable due to the venom injected from a bite. Surely it would be to our advantage to eradicate these potential killers.

Let's take a quick look at the nature of our enemy. Members of the family Elapidae constitute 63% of all Australian land snakes. If the venomous back fanged snakes and snakes are included, 70% of snakes are technically venomous. Should the sub-terranean, rarely seen snake-worms be discounted, then the figure approaches 80%. The bush is riddled with death.

Of course this is not so. Only a small percentage of the Elapidae are dangerous to man. For example, deaths have been recorded from bites by the tiger snake, death adder, brown snake, and rough-scaled snake. A few others such as the broad headed snake and Stephen's branded snake warrant treating with caution but are usually only found in total sanctuaries. Nearly all other technically venomous snakes are small innocuous creatures with only venom of sufficient strength to kill their prey- small lizards, frogs and insects. This vast majority is harmless to man.

This fact is becoming increasingly well known and backyard snake-running has a small but growing number of devotees. The resultant booming pet shop trade in harmless snakes is regrettable. Snakes are highly nervous, delicate creatures with special appetites. They need special care in order to survive in captivity and this is invariably not possible within the confines of a noisy, crowded pet shop. The captured snakes emaciate and die, either while in the pet shop cage or shortly afterwards in the purchaser's cages. For people with an interest in snakes it is far better to learn about them by observations at zoos and reptile parks where they are better cared for. It will be for a more rewarding and usefull study as it is the best way to discover the natural behaviour of snakes.

Interrupting the delicate balance of our environment can have a disastrous result. The deadly snakes previously mentioned can never hope for protection, this would never work in reality anyhow. But all the other snakes are needed to help play a role in this natural

SNAKE (cont'd)

environment. The blossoming of rodent populations, for example would be controlled if their predators weren't wantonly killed. Many snakes eat mice and rats.

At the moment there is a depressing lack of acknowledgement of snakes as such in the various State Fauna Acts and Ordinances. Fauna conservation is the prerogative of the State Governments and there is a lack of uniformity resulting from the various criteria on which conservation laws were introduced in the respective States. Snakes are regarded as vermin in most States and as such can be killed without a permit. Proposed new Acts and amendments in some States may be more selective and here some hope may be. Theoretical protection in a Fauna Act is not the only remedy. Public opinion needs to be altered and education at an early age is desirable as conservation as a whole is a concept, a way of life, not legal jargon on a piece of paper.

With education, comes the knowledge to properly protect our snakes - so important to have at hand. With education comes the knowledge of potential medical uses of snake venom and its components; the knowledge that not only cuddly little Koalas need protection; the knowledge that conservation as a whole warrants no qualifications.

The next time you find a serpent in a settled area, have it collected by an expert if you can; at least see that it is carefully and humanely destroyed. The next time you come across a serpent out in its own domain, either crossing a road or just sunning itself near a log think of all the undesirable environmental changes we are witnessing, consider its part in the ecological format of the area.

If suggestions come to kill it, first spare a thought.
It is one of man's less dangerous enemies.

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NEW YEAR

Yes, there will be one this year!

O'Rielly's swings at New Year and we'll be there to help things along. Contact Tom Plunkett.... 598646, if you need some paying passengers for your car or if you need transport. There will be a do-as - you - like basecamp but remember to bring both walking boots and dancing boots for the NEW YEAR ACTION!

BRING YOUR OWN STEAK
AND 50c PRESENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOW LONG WILL THIS CLUB LAST?

There are four factors which keep this club alive:

Firstly, this is mainly a Brisbane club, that is, the vast majority of the members live in Brisbane and there seems to be little possibility of any change coming about in this respect.

The Catholic element of the club is another vital factor. This is rigidly enforced by membership rules. Over the years there has been discussion on changing the rules but the only result of this has been that we allow a member's non-catholic spouse to join the club. At present our activity as a club in the field of religion is not good at all. This can be seen by the attendance at the annual religious functions.

The other two factors are that we are bushwalkers and that we do things together as a club. At present both these aspects are in a very poor state.

Of all the four factors, I consider that bushwalking is the one which keeps the club together. This is certainly not to devalue the Catholic nature of the club but if this club is to survive, people are going to have to do some real bushwalking, which means weekend walks and, if possible, through-walks. Day walks and base camps often turn out to be bush picnics. In the heyday of the club this was not the case. Basecampers tried to walk more miles than throughwalkers.

So far this year the club has had only one hard throughwalk, Mt. Barney. All the other throughwalks should be within the capacity of each club member. Some training may be necessary for a member's first throughwalk but after that the walks should not present any problems.

Lest there be any doubt about the value and benefits of the club, I would refer you to the many worthwhile and lasting friendships which have grown through active membership. Our club is unique in that it is the only purely bushwalking club which owns its own hut at Barney Creek. This hut, used by our own members as well as other bushwalking clubs and private people, is worth a great deal to us both in terms of money value and for our pleasure. It is worth keeping our club active in order to maintain the hut in good repair.

Some people might blame the present low point of club activity on to poor management but as a member of the present Committee and the previous Committee I feel that I must point out that this is not the case if the present apathy of some members has rubbed

How Long Will The Club Last? (cont'd)

off on to the Committee it would only be recent. The Committee has continually tried to stir members into taking part in the club's activities but has usually met with apathy and it is impossible to arrange brilliant trips and socials if members do not take part in the usual weekend trips.

The immediate problem facing the club is the filling of vacancies for General Committee work occurring at the end of March 1973. A significant number of the present Committee, for various reasons, will not be standing again, and one reason is that people do not wish to work for a bushwalking that does go bushwalking. At present there is nothing more disheartening than to have to cancel a trip for lack of nominations and lately this has been the cause of Committee not putting on some trips.

From my own experience, I would say that it would be a novelty to hear of anyone approaching the club to put on a walk in a particular area, and I believe this applies to all Committee members on all topics. At our monthly meetings it has been a long time since I heard someone interested enough to criticize the Committee in a constructive way.

Finally, if this club is to survive, I urge all members both young and old to go bushwalking with their club and to take a greater interest.

The decision is yours. Do you care about your club?
Russel Nelson.

IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT...

It was Friday night, the 17th of November when we left Brisbane, Tony Elliot, Brian McMahon, Russel Nelson and I, for a weekend throughwalking in the Emu Creek area.

We arrived at the Caltex garage near Warwick between 9 and 9.30 P.M. After a well deserved cup of coffee, etc., we choofed off to Yangan which is on the road to Emu Creek where we stopped at the school house to drop off my wife Rita and Margaret our babb who were spending the weekend with Rita's father, the local school teacher. Here we also received up to date information on the condition of the Emu Creek road from Lyle McGoist whose father owns land along the creek.

About 11P.M. we arrived at Emu Vale where we met John McCann, the Forestry Ranger from Urbanville and subsequently the "originator", opps "discoverer" of the "Missing Link". More of that hereafter.

After fording five creek crossings and covering several more miles of "bush track" we camped just short of a sixth crossing beside a tumbled down shed, where the grass grew thick and soft.

Next morning we were awakened by the thunder of passing wheels as two huge logging trucks swept past within inches of our parked cars. We breakfasted relatively quickly and then, having shifted our cars a discrete distance from the road and into the dubious shade of some trees, we started walking.

The Lincoln wreck was our first objective and finding it was relatively easy. We followed the forestry tracks taking each right fork as we went until we reached a branch road marked with red tape wrapped around a vine. Along this road on the left we found a marker red triangle on white triangle, thus red
This marked the end of a gully or creek bed which white
we followed up to the wreck.

After a short survey of the wreck, John, Russ and I climbed onto the knoll above while Brian and Tony took photos of the wreck. There we had a fizzy, lolly, biscuit break.

It was then that the strange apparition burst upon us. There was a loud shriek of maniacal laughter and then we saw a dirty, dishevelled man with flying boots and a grey balaclava that almost hid his long shaggy beard. He had on an old tattered flying jacket with what might have been a RAAF symbol on it. He was clasping several rough models of the Lincoln wreck which he offered to us as sovereigners. Upon close questioning he revealed that he was the "Missing Lincoln Wreck Tail-gunner" who had survived the crash and had wandered the hills ever since. When we refused to buy any models he laughed again and disappeared.

From the knoll we followed a wide ridge to the top of Superbus where we had lunch. After lunch we followed the rabbit fence down from the summit until it took a right hand turn. (On this section we were entertained by Peter Crook and Dudley who appeared and disappeared at regular intervals). Where the fence turned right we turned left onto a ridge that leads to Mt. Roberts.

There were several good vantage points along this ridge which affords us excellent views of Mts Barney, Ballow & adjoining Mountains, also Mts Greville & Moon and all areas adjoining Moogerah Dam.

Mt. Roberts proved to be a very unspectacular peak, consisting mainly of a narrow ridge with plenty of thick scrub and a small cairn with an iron bolt to distinguish the highest point from the other "bumps".

Dropping down from Mt. Robert's and heading off along the ridge towards Lizard Point, where we intended to camp the night, we struck low cliffs on the inland side which we easily negotiated and passed close by several huge hoop pines which were very impressive.

We arrived at Lizard Point toward dusk and were once again impressed by the panoramic views that can be had from this point.

There is an excellent camp-site a short distance from the cliffs which lacks only water, in fact the whole trip is very dry and

at least a gallon of water should be carried.

We all ate a hearty supper and retired early. The only incident of the night was when the "missing Linc" made a brief appearance and tried to steal a pack but we thwarted his efforts and he slunk off into the bush to his usual meal of wild raspberries and giant snails, the empty shells of which can be seen along the trail.

Sunday saw us rise bright and early in expectation of the beautiful views we would see. However the valley was shrouded in mist which rose almost as high as the peaks of the main range and obscured from view the mountains we had seen the previous day.

After breakfast we followed another ridge which led up to Mt. Steamer. This ridge afforded good views of the very way we had travelled on Saturday including the whole ridge line of Mt. Superbus and the curve of the ridge leading to Mt. Roberts and Lizard Point. However the mist persisted in the low lands and blanketed the whole of the country on our right in a sea of moving cloud picturesque in itself but annoying in its persistency.

We descended from Mt. Steamer and ascended the "Stern" (hanging on by our teeth to the rock face in one place). After traversing the length of the Stern we were rewarded with spectacular views of the Steamer Formation spread out before us, Mast, Funnel and Prow in that order as depicted on the cover of "Guide to the Scenic Rim".

After retracing our steps about halfway along the Stern we descended on the coastal side and followed the cliff line along until we reached the saddle between the Mast and Funnel and then we descended into Emu Creek.

We had a brief swim in the creek and followed the road back to the cars and we were back in Yangan by 3 P.M., except, of course, John, who had to go to Urbanville.

Tony and I attended Mass at Ipswich at 5 P.M. and were back in Brisbane by 7.30. As for the "missing Linc" he was left to roam the hills as before until a walking party crosses his path to relieve his boredom or perhaps a lone walker may chance upon and add variety to his diet.

By a Special Correspondent.

Bring Your Own CO. present and STEAK!

OUTINGS IN RETROSPECT

Hellhole Gorge 8th -- 10th DEC. 1972

With odds like seven females to 3 males it was no wonder the two throughwalkers decided to join the basecampers. Despite rain from Aratula onwards the intrepid group set up camp on the Swan Creek road and awoke to a wet Saturday where upon the three cars shot off to the next bog patch. After a pleasant trudge up to the old bushmans hut where he shouted us morning tea, The group penetrated into Hellhole Gorge and had lunch within sight of Doubletop. After a semi-motorised trip back to the cars the party moved off to Emu Creek only to be rained upon heavily - making the road impossible. The campsite that night was at the State School at Yangan. Sunday morning was fine and lazy so after raiding the local four square shop the twelve walkers drove to Cunninghams Gap and climbed Mt. Mitchell - fantastic views after the rain.

N.B. More beaut scandal

Pot Neiland has joined the army.

Peter and Estrella left on Saturday 9th December for Mt. Isa to work for about six months.

Bill Conway leaving on 22nd January, 1973 to work in Rabaul for two years.

Sorry to hear Marg Boyle had a quick visit to hospital. Appendix who needs it.

Brian McMahon awarded "Scunge" of the Year !!, Logie Congrats.

Too-Rah Too-Rah we now have a club flag and it will be on display at the next General Meeting.

Some members of our Club will be staging a one Act - Act at the F.M.R. Christmas Party.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Bring your own steak. All other food supplied. Saturday 16th December at 6 o'clock Mardi Clifford's place.

BRING YOUR OWN 50c PRESENT