



JILALAN

Monthly Circular of the
**BRISBANE CATHOLIC
BUSHWALKING CLUB Inc**



Under the guidance of Our Lady Of The Way

FEBRUARY 2004



**Louise Leonardi, David Hill and Michele Johns
At "Twin Falls"**

Photo taken by Carolyn Ivanac

**BRISBANE CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB INC.
PO BOX 151, BRISBANE ALBERT STREET, QLD 4002**

CONTACTS

PRESIDENT	Greg Endicott	3351 4092
VICE PRESIDENT	Phil Murray	3841 0254
TREASURER	Terry Silk	3355 9765
SECRETARY	Gabriel Romaguera	3856 3842
OUTINGS CONTACT	Iain Renton	3371 4672
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	Justin Tobin	3366 3193
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Carolyn Ivanac	3379 9486
"JILALAN" EDITOR	Louise Leonardi	3287 1372
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE	Iain Renton	3371 4672

For specific enquiries, contact the committee member (from above) concerned. For outings or socials, contact the leader shown in the calendar or article. Visitors – for general enquiries contact Susan Tobin 3366 3193.

Please have all Jilalan articles to Louise Leonardi by the 1st of the month. otherwise they cannot be included. Articles, if on disk need to be submitted in RTF (Rich Text Format) with a hard copy included, otherwise a handwritten or typed copy will do. Alternatively, you can e-mail your articles to:

leonardi@gil.com.au

GENERAL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month, at 7:30pm. The location is **St Brigid's Parish Hall, Musgrave Rd, RED HILL. VISITORS are always welcome.**

OUTINGS

- (a) Always read the Jilalan article to check the departure point, date and time.
- (b) Walk departures are usually from Red Hill Parish Hall, Musgrave Rd. Check "Jilalan" or phone the leader to determine the location.
- (c) The club will usually organise transport for each outing, but you must nominate in advance to the leader. Contacting someone else may lead to your nomination becoming "lost". Nominations should preferably be made by the Monday prior to the activity (Wednesday at the latest) so that transport etc. can be arranged. Note that nominations for some walks may close well in advance of this. Late nominations may not be accepted.
- (d) Walkers are responsible for their own transport to and from the departure point.
- (e) Walks are rarely cancelled – if they are, all nominees will be notified. Should you change your mind and decide not to come to a club event, please notify the leader as soon as possible.
- (f) **Visitors who have done more than 3 walks must sign an Assumption of Risk form for insurance.**

EMERGENCY OFFICER

If, within the hour prior to an outing's departure, you can't make it or you are running late, phone the number shown in the Jilalan for the Emergency Officer for that outing. If you have not returned from an outing by 9:00pm your family may ring the Emergency Officer – but please don't panic.

EQUIPMENT HIRE

The Club has some tents and through-walk packs to hire to visitors and newer members. Borrowers are responsible for collecting and returning equipment, as well as making good any loss or damage over and above normal wear and tear. Hire rates – Packs \$10/ weekend, Tents \$5:00 – Deposit of \$20:00 required.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

The Association requires that all walkers on all trips should carry certain minimal basic equipment. This should comprise the following – a first aid kit, a torch, a parka/raincoat, hat, shirt 30+ sunscreen and at least 2 litres of water. Leaders may require that walkers carry other equipment. Advice of this will be given in Jilalan and/or by the leader.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

All members are most welcome to attend a meeting of the Management Committee, but please contact the President beforehand. This means you can be advised of any change of date/venue. If you feel strongly about an issue, bring it along to the Committee Meeting and we'll put it on the agenda.

WARNING All persons, adult or child, member or visitor, undertake all activities of the Club at their own risk. The club is not in a position to even state that all care will be taken.

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS 2003

DATE 2004	EVENT	LEADER	CONTACT NUMBER	WALK TYPE
January				
19	Meeting	Greg Endicott	3351 4092	
24 - 26	Australia Day - Canoe - Noosa River	Gabe Romaguera	3856 3842	B/C
25	Purlingbrook Falls	Carolyn Ivanac	3379 9486	D/W
28	Coffee Night	Carolyn Ivanac	3379 9486	Social
31	Mt Warning	Barbara Eastoe	3355 3639	D/W
February				
8	Northbrook Gorge	Richard Johns	3353 2822	D/W
14	Little Kings Collection	Gabe Romaguera	3856 3842	D/W
16	AGM Meeting	Greg Endicott	3351 4092	
22	Warrie Circuit	Robyn Jones	3267 7377	D/W
25	Coffee Night	Barbara Eastoe	3355 3639	Social
28	Toooloona Circuit	Desley Pedrazzini	3369 5530	D/W
29	Obi Obi Gorge	Phil Murray	3841 0254	D/W
March				
6-7	Club Hut - Isolated	Iain Renton	3371 4672	B/C
13	Booloumba Creek	Justin Tobin	3366 3193	D/W
15	Meeting	Greg Endicott	3351 4092	
21	Coochie Mudlo	Barbara Eastoe	3355 3639	Social
28	West Canungra Creek	Maxine Brophy	3203 4699	D/W
April				
4	Training Day	Iain Renton	3371 4672	TRN
9 - 11	Mt Kaputar	Iain Renton	3371 4672	B/C
11	Easter Sunday			
12	Daisy Hill - Venmans	John Carter	3290 3621	D/W
17	Bush Dance at Morningside	Phil Murray	3841 0254	Social
19	Meeting			
23 - 24	Mt Barney - South East camp at Bigriggen	Justin Tobin	3366 3193	O/N
25	Anzac Day			
26	Riverside walk - New Farm to Southbank	Phil Murray	3841 0254	D/W
31 - May 3	Labour Day Weekend - Yuraygir National Park (Northern New South Wales)	Desley Pedrazzini	3369 5530	B/C
May				
3	Mt Hobwee	Mark Deegan	3300 0229	D/W
8	Mt Alford	Pat Lawton	3366 1956	D/W
9	Mothers Day			
15 - 16	Barrabool (Mt Barney)	Iain Renton		T/W
17	Meeting			
22 - 23	FMR Weekend			FMR
29	Annual Mass and Dinner	Phil Murray	3841 0254	Social
30	Coorooroa by train	TBA		D/W
June				
5	Kin Kin Tracks	Jean Gowans		D/W
11- 13	Swan Creek Basecamp	Iain Renton		B/C
11 - 13	Main Range	Justin Tobin		B/C
13	Sentinal Point	TBA		
19	Bushdance at Morningside			Social
21	Meeting			
27	Pat's Bluff and Luke's Bluff	Kerry Mulligan		D/W

July				
3 - 4	Social – Xmas in July (Bunya Mountains?)			Social
11	Mt Ernst	Anthony Dolan		D/W
17	Shepherd's Walk	Terry Silk		D/W
19	Meeting			
25	Downfall Creek to Nudgee Beach	Maxine Brophy		D/W
31/Aug 1	Lizard Point	Matthew Palmer		T/W
August				
1	Bridge to Brisbane	Greg Endicott		D/W
8	Mt Beerwah & Tibro	Gabe Romaguera	3856 3842	D/W
11	Mt Barney Mass	Phil Murray		D/W
14	Colonial Ball	Greg Endicott		Social
15	Burbank Wildflowers	Phil Murray		½ D/W
16	Meeting			
22	Mt Byron			D/W
28				
29	Mt Ballow Circuit	Justin Tobin		O/N
September				
4	Fr Ed Memorial Walk – Boondall Wetlands	Maxine Brophy		D/W
5	<i>Father's Day</i>			

KEY – Walk Types

D/W	Day Walk	½ DW	Half-day Walk
T/W	Through Walk	TRN	Training
O/N	Overnighter	FMR	Federation Mountain Rescue
B/C	Base Camp	SOC	Social

KEY – Walk Gradings

The Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club uses the following Walk Grading system, which is referred to under each coming walk. If uncertain, please consult with the walk's leader.

1. Distance		2. Terrain		3. Fitness	
Short	Under 10km per day	1-3	<u>Graded</u> or open terrain. No scrub	1-3	<u>Easy</u> . Suitable for beginners
Medium	10-15 km per day	4-7	<u>Bush</u> . Minor scrub rainforest, rock creek Rock hopping, scrambling	4-7	<u>Medium</u> . Reasonable fitness required.
Long	15-20 km per day	8-10	<u>Bush</u> . As Above+ thick scrub, major rock scrambling using hands, technical	8-10	<u>Hard</u> Strenuous, fit walkers required.
EXtra Long	Over 20 km per day				

Club Web Address:

www.geocities.com/briscathbushclub/

email: briscathbushclub@yahoo.com.au

The club's calendar can be seen at this site under the heading Event Calendar. (The web site can be located through the Yahoo search engine. Also, there are links from the Federation website.)

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

It has been a while since we last saw you. We would like to see you at the February Meeting. Doors open at 7.30pm, with business starting once everyone settles. Hear about the running of the Club – what we are doing on outings, how socials are running, what everyone is up to, and how the holidays went. It is a good time to catch up with everyone. Stay for super afterwards. You can still be home earlish.

The new Outings Calendar is up and walking. Have a look at it: the full version was in the last Jilalan as a loose leaf page. The trips for the next few months are in the calendar at the front of this magazine. Most outings already have a leader, so do not be afraid, you will not be asked. Get out the hi-lighter now and mark off the 6 trips you want to do, and transfer them to the calendar on the kitchen wall, so you won't forget to nominate when the time comes.

You may have noticed the Annual Report attached to this Jilalan. As this is a quality production, and sums up the year, it is something you read, and then put aside to keep forever. In it, the various committee members tell how their portfolio went during 2003. You have the opportunity at the Feb AGM to make your comment on each separate report.

Hope to see you at St Brigid's on Monday 16th.

Greg E.

ABOUT MEMBERS

Birthday wishes to Bill Butler, Michele Endicott, Kerry Mulligan, Greg Miller, Louise McPherson, Terry Silk and Graham Walters who are celebrating a birthday in February.

New Zealand must still be having a sale as more of our members, (namely, Louise McPherson and Pat Lawton) are heading over there for a holiday.

TREASURERS REPORT

Balance 15/12/03	\$1,060.85
<u>Plus Receipts</u>	<u>\$ 567.01</u>

\$1627.86

<u>Less Payments</u>	<u>\$1001.65</u>
<u>Balance 19/01/04</u>	<u>\$ 626.21</u>

Term Deposit	\$1,681.32
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Membership Subscriptions are now due. Please renew now to avoid missing any magazines. Do not forget to sign your Membership Renewal form. Also consider ordering a club T-Shirt when renewing your membership.

Terry.

COMING WALKS

Warrie Circuit
Sunday 22nd February

Leader:	Robyn Jones (3267 7377)
Meet at:	St Brigid's Car Park, Musgrave Rd, Red Hill
Time:	6:15am
Cost:	\$15:00
Grading:	L 3 3
Emerg Off:	Pat Mackie (3398 7041)

The Warrie Circuit is the longest walk (17 kms) in Springbrook National Park on a graded track. It has several sections of steps with the track being rough and narrow in places. After the rains we have

just had this will be a spectacular walk through rainforest passing 7 different waterfalls. With luck we should hear whip birds and cat birds and see pittas. Lunch will be at the Meeting of the Waters where several creeks join.

Come and join me on this walk. It will be a long day with 6 hours of walking plus time for lunch and travelling to and from Red Hill but I'm sure it will be enjoyable and well worth it. Mark it on the calendar and come along. Robyn.

Toooloona Circuit Saturday 28th February 2004

Leader: Desley Pedrazzini
(3369 5530)
Meet at: St Brigid's Car Park,
Musgrave Rd, Red Hill
Time: 7:00am
Cost: \$15:00
Grading: L 4 4
Emerg Off: Matthew Palmer
(3876 8125)

The last time I attempted this walk in 2001, I (a) nearly drowned and (b) ended up as Club Social Secretary which led to being President in 2002. So for all those who were on that trip, if it rains I will be home reading the paper and drinking coffee. If it doesn't rain, please don't listen to any spur of the moment offers I make.

Apart from that, hopefully there will be some good rain in the weeks before this walk as there are nearly 20 waterfalls to see along the 19km graded track circuit. As well as the Antarctic beech trees there are a lot of ferns to be seen along the way.

Lunch will be at Wanungra Lookout with views to Mt Warning and Murwillumbah.

Desley.

Obi Obi The Whitewater Masters Li-Lo Trip Sunday 29th February 2004 Daywalk

Leader: Phil Murray (3841 0254)
Meet at: St Brigid's Car Park,
Musgrave Rd, Red Hill
Time: 6:30am
Cost: \$15:00
Grading: M 7 8
Emerg Off: Susan Murray (3841 0254)

We are going again. Because the water will be flowing. I can feel it my bones.

The Obi Obi Creek Lilo Trip is the best ever bushwalk you can do. Hard but fun.

This trip is the ultimate in getting immersed in nature. Mountain streams, rainforest and blue sky. Just terrific.

The walk is located up at the back of Montville on the Sunshine coast hinterland. The walk starts at the Baroon Pocket Dam. We will come out at Kenilworth Road

We will spend most of the day shooting the rapids. You need a Lilo to do the trip. No Lilo, no trip. No boogie boards. No surfmats and no blow-up canoes.

For those who are unsure, a lilo is an airbed made out of rubberised canvas. They usually cost around \$20.

Please note you must be a good swimmer and have a good sense of balance. Also, be aware that there is a major element of risk involved in the trip. Whenever you go into moving water there is a risk involved.

Bring the normal stuff you need for a day trip. Lunch, water bottle, torch & sunscreen and several garbage bags for storing your gear. Plus, if you have a

thermal shirt and pants bring these as well as they are excellent for in the water as they provide sun protection. If you have a wetsuit bring that as well.

Also have a complete change of clothes for the end of the trip.

It is invariably a long day but it is a trip of a lifetime.

Phil

**Club Hut
Fri 5th - Sun 7th March
Basecamp**

Leader: Iain Renton (3371 4672)
Meet at: St Brigid's Car Park,
Musgrave Rd, Red Hill
Time: 7:00pm
Cost: \$15:00
Grading: S 6 6
S 4 4
Emerg Off: Sam Leonardi
(3287 1372)

For those going in on Friday night there will be a full moon so it should be good night walking. Isolated Peak is a great walk along part of Eagles Ridge giving you grand close-up views of Mt Barney's rugged peaks. It is a prolonged steep climb and a fair bit of scrambling and a couple of exposed bits. We will then descend down past the falls at Barney Beautiful and then rock hop along Barney creek back to the hut.

Those wanting an easier walk will head off on the same walk but only go as far as lower Tom's Tum and then return the way they came. This is a relatively short walk (½ day walk) but it is a steep ascent with a small amount of easy scrambling. This walk also has awe inspiring views of Mt Barney.

On the week-end there will also be plenty of time to relax in the peaceful surroundings of the hut and some of us will also be giving the hut a bit of a spring clean. If you want to do either of the walks as a day walk on Sunday, ring me and I will let you know what time to meet us at the start of the walk.

Iain.

**Booloumba Creek
Saturday 13th March
Daywalk**

Leader: Justin Tobin (3366 3193)
Meet at: St Brigid's Car Park,
Musgrave Rd, Red Hill
Time: 7:00am
Cost: \$15:00
Grading: M 5 4
Emerg Off: Susan Tobin (3366 3193)

Booloumba Creek in the Conondale Ranges is a pretty rainforest creek with waterfalls, cascades and cool running water. We'll leave the cars at Campsite Three at the bottom of the road, then do a car shuffle.

We will go up to the Breadknife for a quick look before following the ridge into the creek below Frog Falls, past Artists Cascades and down the creek.

It is not too difficult if you are confident in creek walking with some wading. It's capable of most walkers. Come and join me for an enjoyable summer creek walk in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Justin

**Clean-Up Australia Day
Sat 6th March
Daywalk**



Leader: Maxine Brophy (3203 4699)

The official Clean-up Australia Day is Sunday March 7th. We will be cleaning along Ennoggera Creek in Gabe's area this year a day earlier.

If anyone is interested in joining us for this worthy cause we would welcome your help. Cool drinks and morning tea will be provided and we will be finished by lunch time. This is an unofficial club event but feel free to join us.

Many thanks. Maxine.

**Coochiemudlo Island
Sun 21st March
Social/Walk/Swim**

Leader: Barbara Eastoe
(3355 3639 or
0431 921 641)
Meet at: Ferry Terminal
Victoria Point
Time: 9:30am
Cost: Ferry fare (less than \$5
return)

This is planned to be a nice relaxed day so I'm planning a nice relaxed start. We'll meet at Victoria Point but if you want to know who's going so as to see if you can carpool, please contact me. I'm happy to pick up some people at Red Hill or some other convenient place if you wish.

Coochie (as it's affectionately known) is only 4km around and flat so you can see that the walking is not going to be too

taxing. We'll start with a quick walk around some of the streets and I'll fill you in on the history of the island. We'll then walk halfway around the island to a sheltered beach where we'll have a leisurely lunch (it would be nice to bring something to share). After that we'll walk back to the ferry side where we can have a cup of tea and visit the pottery place before catching the boat back.

If you're looking for a leisurely Sunday with good friends this will be for you. Give me a ring to let me know you're coming.

Barbara

COMING SOCIALS



**Coffee night
Wednesday 25th February**

Meet at: Fuschia Pizza Parlour
Cnr Wardell and Audrey Sts
Enoggera (in the complex at
the cnr of Samford Rd and
Wardell St near
Bellpeppers)
Time: 7pm (from 6pm for dinner)
Contact: Barbara Eastoe (3355 3639)

Come along and join fellow members at Fuschia (easily recognised by the Fuschia coloured neon sign on the roof. It has good coffee and cake. It also has an extensive menu of pizzas, pastas and other Mediterranean dishes at reasonable prices so you might consider having dinner there. It's a nice, laid back venue, which should suit our hot February nights. See you there!

PAST SOCIALS

Brisbane Or Bust Bike Bash Nudgee Beach to Brighton 17th August 2003

What a toddle. A late meeting time at Nudgee to start our epic. A few late arrivals. One lost rider even before the start – poor Carolyn couldn't get the door open on the train at Nudgee Train Station so was last seen heading north touring the Queensland Railways track system. The rest of us regrouped. A few dusty bikes pulled out from under houses and a few dusty bodies also but we were looking for lots of fun.

We broke up into 2 groups – walkers (Elizabeth R and Terry) and riders (Ray, Trevor, Justin and 2 nephews, June, Louise R and Bernard. The walkers were off in their cars to walk from Shorncliffe to Brighton while the rest of us would ride there through the Boondall Wetlands. A great track system and flat all the way. Some deceptive corners resulted in Bernard going in a magnificent slide and ending up bruised and battered. Past the Boondall wetlands Justin navigated us across the bayside suburbia and Deagon Wetlands to Brighton to join the walkers. We enjoyed a magnificent morning tea spread put on by Carol under her back patio. Thanks Carolyn. It was a great treat for some weary riders and lovely to catch up with you.

This was our halfway point. Now we would head back along the coast. Lovely views of the bay and many people out enjoying it all. The weather was inclement but good for riding i.e not hot!! Along the beachside tracks of Sandgate and Shorncliffe, past mangroves and Ray's old stamping ground, along Cabbage Tree

Creek, and back into Boondall wetlands to reach Nudgee Beach again for a picnic lunch.

No sign of Carolyn, and the heavens opened up right near the end. We set up comfortably under a covered table and had a wonderful lunch together.

I hope all enjoyed it as much as I did. If so, start preparing for our next adventure – Everton Park to Boondall in November. There is a new section of track just opened for this ride and it is a pleasure to ride on – you'll think you're in the country!!!

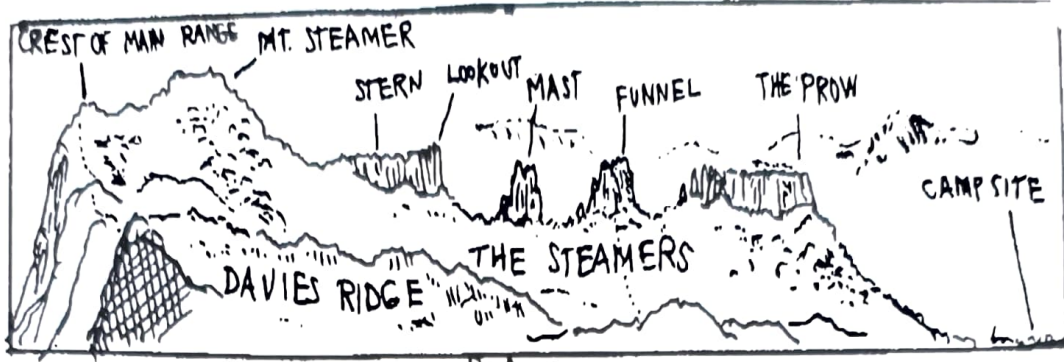
Gabe

Games Night Saturday January 17th 2004

What a relaxing way to spend a warm summer's night. The company was friendly and by all accounts the night was enjoyed by all. Susan Tobin did a magnificent job keeping score as a card game progressed. Out on the verandah another game was in progress with 6 people pairing up to play Pictionary. It would seem that Liz Little and Graham Walters had psychic powers or maybe they just had the ability to draw well!

It was overheard as the night progressed, that Majella's chocolate cake was superb as everyone tucked into supper goodies whilst still, mind you, greatly absorbed in the card game. By this time the pictionary group had finished their game. I understand the night owls of the group departed at 1.00 am or there about.

Thankyou to all who came along, Jean Gowans, Justin, Susan and Mary Tobin, Mark and Majella Deegan, Graham Walters, Liz Little, Jie Chen, Terry Silk,

*Sketch by Iain Renton*

Richard and Michele Johns and to Gabe Romaguera for hosting an enjoyable night.

Michele Johns

PAST OUTINGS

Toowong to Sherwood May 10 2003

We attracted a few second glances as we met at Auchenflower train station. A happy noisy group of bushwalkers ready for a good walk.

It was already a very warm May morning as we climbed up the first hill giving us extensive views over the city. Many old style, well cared for homes and gardens to admire along the way, with much chatter and bantering amongst the group.

Endless streams of cars as we tried to cross the busiest streets in the area. Eventually all safely across to make our way through Toowong Cemetery. Many interesting heritage headstones to read along with a large number of famous families and state dignitaries of days gone by.

Another busy crossing over the Western Freeway with a drink and lolly stop at beautiful ANZAC Park. After picking up the bush track hugging the freeway, we

stopped for morning tea beside a small water hole with rock slabs to sit on. A few steepish hills took us through the bush section back to suburban streets at Taringa.

Gabe and Don detoured to check out Don and Robyns house and garden, while we were all thinking they had slipped down to brew the coffee pot and put their feet up!!

Quite a hot section crossing from Taringa to Moggill Rd along the bikeway with a rest and drink halfway. We were soon over Moggill Rd and turned the corner to cross a few parks and smart streets to come out beside the Brisbane River and a welcome cool breeze. We were all happy to have Indooroopilly Bridge in our sight.

A photo stop on the bridge before catching the train to Sherwood. A few short streets and we were all rolled down the hill and collapsed on the cool grass to enjoy a very welcome food and cuppa's. Whilst eating we watched the local school doing it hard in the heat on their cross country run.

Feeling revived we climbed back up the grassy slope to catch the train back to Auchenflower after a great mornings walk and having seen many interesting sites normally missed from cars.

Many thanks to a fun and adventurous group making the day so enjoyable.
Maxine

Little Kings Collection Sunday 14th February 2003

Yes folks that is right – this is the trip report for 2003, not 2004. Sorry for the delay – I think I lost 12 months somewhere. A good crowd this year formed an effective battalion. Stalwarts included Jean, Terry, Maxine, Jan and Mrs Van Der Ham, Susan T, Barbara, Greg, Steven and Lucy (my very special personal companion), Yvonne and son, Greg Miller, Iain, and Michelle Johns. This was a record number of collectors and a record collection - \$1,220 including collection at our meeting. Wow!!!

The faces of the collection organizers at Buranda always brighten up when they see us return with funds collected as they know we always try our best and achieve a good result. These funds facilitated lots of meals, entertainment, companionship, pastoral support, and education for the LKM visitors in 2003.

After our successful collection, we headed off for a lovely lunch at a Corinda café for a “debriefing session”. I think we all enjoy this day more and more each year. Hopefully it continues its popularity. The clubs support for this charity has been rock solid for years and on behalf of LKM I sincerely thank the club, contributors, and especially the collectors.

Gabe

Springbrook Basecamp 7th – 9th March 2003

Springbrook was washed with moisture for our basecamp in 2003 so was at its finest. Lazy dragonflies hovering amorously over rockpools above waterfalls, fat pademelons wandering around the edge of the campsite, ancient gnarled trees with soft new shoots to look their best for tired

walkers, toadstools and mushrooms of every form imaginable sprouting from any piece of sustaining rotten vegetation. Seeds sprouting out roots on the forest floor, ferns reincarnated, lawyer vines laden with nuts, moss a rich green, deep and soft. Wow this was a visual treat and the way to visit the rainforest world. Thank goodness for the recent rains we had which would continue over the weekend.

We arrived Friday evening to camp at the Gwongorella Picnic area. There were several rowdy campers at the site so we wondered what the weekend would hold for us. Our group enjoyed some drunken revellers doing dog howl imitations into the night.

Saturday arrived with grey skies, cloudy and showers. Unperturbed, we headed off to do the Warrie Circuit. Jean was unwell so stayed behind. Some tricky creek crossings, but an excellent time to go with heaps of falls and water cascading across the track. The walk would have been hard to manage if more water was running. The mushrooms and toadstools were the highlight – thin, tall delicate ones, red, orange, cream, white, yellow and grey. Some had wagon wheel buttons or razor thin corrugated white tops. Some had warty lumpy textured tops. Some on the ground, others in the trees. Morning tea along the track. Lots of stunning trees. Lunch at a beautiful cascade on Mundora Creek. Not too many leaches!!

On the way back some of us detoured quickly 100m to Poondahra Falls. Back at the junction, we waited patiently for Barb and Desley who had dropped back well behind. However we did not realize they had passed by and were ahead of us (silly me had ignored the golden rule of leaving someone at a junction if the group breaks up). There followed a fair deal of confusion while the group split up to try to find them and some of us ending up on the Twin Falls circuit (Mary has never heard

such language in all her years of teaching as when she told me where we were due to the missed turn under Blackfellow Falls). We were spread all over the place on different tracks (confusion reigned supreme) but after some tense moments we were all reunited above the escarpment.

We were joined by the Tobins that evening and had fun with Mary exploring the wildlife around the rock pools near the camp site. After dinner we headed off to Natural Arch to go glow worm spotting. We dodged in between the tour buses to try to enjoy the cave on our own. It was a lovely display by the worms but unfortunately due to the drought their population was a fraction of its normal size as many lay dormant.

Next morning we enjoyed Purlingbrook Falls including Waringa Pool where Jean donated her sunglasses to nature. Morning Devonshire teas for all at a coffee shop spent spotting man-made frogs and live lorikeets in the nearby trees. The group split up then. Barbara, Mary and Desley returned home, while Iain, Jean, the Tobins and I had lunch at the Goomoolahra picnic area with a quick exploration of the nearby area for views and up a track to private property. Checked out the Bilbrough Lookout track – straight up and overgrown with weed – the views overgrown by trees. Try the Best of All Lookout – a total whiteout during the middle of the day. We had our fill by then and headed off after a marvellous weekend enjoying our amazing rainforests. Thanks to all who came for making it a great weekend.

Cheers, Gabriel

Washpool/Gibraltar Range National Park – Easter Weekend Fri 18th – Mon 21st April 2003

Off we headed early Friday morning for another fun packed bushwalking weekend – this time a little further afield into NSW. Two cars filled with Jie, Eva and myself in one, and Desley, Jean and Iain sharing another. The drive is about 450k down the Pacific Highway, travelling via Grafton. We stopped for a coffee break at Bangalow – a beautiful country town in the hills now overtaken by the glitterati. It was a long trip through beautiful countryside so we kept amused playing “I spy” along the way.

We finally reached Coombadja campground in Washpool National Park around lunchtime. This is where we would be based for the weekend. It was a treat to have Con Vink there waiting for us with the billy boiling for all. He was travelling from Sydney to Brisbane to be with family for the weekend and had arranged to rendezvous with us here. Elizabeth R, Pat M and Ray had arrived earlier. The ladies showed off their huge new tents while the late arrivals erected their homes for the weekend and had lunch.

We headed off to do the Washpool walk in the afternoon (an 8.5km circuit). It was a battle to get done before dark, despite our brisk pace as the uphill gradient took its toll on some. It probably would have been better to walk in an anti-clockwise direction. Good views of Summit Falls and red cedars. We walked through open eucalypt and rainforest but extensively burnt out right into the rainforest. Regrowth was slowly emerging.

We returned for a quick dinner. The cold was settling in quickly so the tired troops turned in early. Next morning we bade farewell to Con who was continuing his trip, but welcomed Sam and Dave Corey.

Next on the agenda was Granite Lookout and Waratah Trig in the same park – we needed our cars to drive to the Granite Picnic area to access the tracks here. Excellent views east out over the forested countryside with jutting mounds of boulders. Lots of photos, breathing fresh air, and taking in extensive views while enjoying morning tea.

We drove on to Gibraltar National Park just a few kilometres down the Gwydir Highway and then about 5km into the park along dirt roads, we left our cars again to head for Anvil Rock for lunch. We passed lots of grass trees and granite boulders – very flat until we reach the base of Anvil Rock. This is where we stopped for lunch and scrambled up for amazing views of Gibraltar NP – totally different feel to Washpool – much drier and different vegetation. Whereas Washpool is on the east side of the Great Dividing Range buffeted by incoming clouds, Gibraltar is on the other side of the range so the climate is fairly different.

After lunch we headed off to Dandahra Crag skirting around the Surveyors Creek swamp. Good views again. Past Mistake and Cardinals Cap – large rock outcrops and along Little Dandahra Creek to our starting point. Drive on to Mulligans Hut where shower facilities await us. We freshen up and change to race 80km into Glen Innes for a fast dinner. The group splits into 2 – one group of singles going to a Chinese restaurant, while the 2 families went to Big Rooster. I wonder why Jie and Eva avoided the Chinese restaurant – the food seemed good to me. Then into church to celebrate the Easter Vigil. The church was filled with parishioners!! A big thanks to Dave for driving into Glen Innes on top of a full days walking and a huge drive from Ipswich to Washpool in the early hours of the morning. I don't know how he kept awake!!

A case of sliding doors on this walk – we bid farewell this morning to Sam and Dave, Liz, Ray and Pat. For the rest, back to Gibraltar Range NP today. Unfortunately the Dandahra Falls track was closed due to a landslide so we looked at the Murrumbooe Cascades instead. An easy walk dropping down through fascinating forest down to the creek to reach them. Lots of lovely fungi growing. This was the site of Bill Mulligan's second weir to measure water flow for a proposed hydro-electric scheme. Thank goodness it never went ahead!! We did a bit of rockhopping and exploring down here admiring all the boulders and rock slabs, cascades and pools. Had lunch in this lovely spot.

In the afternoon we did the Tree Fern Forest – fairly nondescript countryside. However, we did appreciate the Sydney Blue Gums and several varieties of tree fern!! Lots of birds in the tea tree scrub to observe.

A quiet night at camp that night – Iain and I chatting until late as all the girls turned in early – was it something we said?? Final day to do The Needles – again at Gibraltar. Although the commute from our campsite to Gibraltar over 3 days became tedious, it was fantastic to have a campsite largely to ourselves in a beautiful setting next to a cascading creek. Today's walk was only 6km return. Lots of banksias today. 6 granite columns that rise 300m above the edge of the escarpment give this walk its name. They jut out of the valley surrounded by forest. A fitting panoramic view for the end of our trip.

After packing up camp we headed off to home, choosing the inland route today along the New England highway. Terrible error of judgement. We reached a traffic jam curled around a winding hill road – 2 semi trailers loaded with cattle had a head on collision. We could not see the collision but we saw thick black smoke

floating up to the heavens. The highway was closed indefinitely as there was a fatality, so we had to work out a detour. Luckily Desley worked out a route along rough dirt roads through the Bolivia State Forest. Very scenic but we lost a couple of hours here. Needless to say it was a long trip home relieved by dinner at the Warwick roadhouse. And of course there was the lightning flash at Mudtapilly which resulted in that lovely photo of my car being mailed to me by the government – but of course you've all heard that story many times by now.

Many thanks to all who came for a full and enjoyable weekend.

Gabriel

Mt. Cordeaux Saturday 10th January 2004

Wow, what a top bunch of walkers I had on this walk. Most of us gathered at Red Hill at the organised time where Carolyn and Michele had time to check out the wedding which was being celebrated at St. Brigid's. The sky to the west was very black and threatening on a very hot afternoon. We drove through some rain on our way to Cunningham's Gap. Surprisingly, we all arrived at the car park at about the same time. There was a slight delay before we set off up the mountain because I discovered that my brake lights had just become stuck on when a plastic stopper disintegrated. Thanks to Richard, this small problem was soon fixed. (Please note that this was not my Trusty 1200 but my "good" car.)

Well, we eventually started our climb in good spirits in the hope that we would not get wet. At the first lookout which is still closed after being burnt out late last year we had some views. We noticed that there was still a great deal of cloud around and,

unfortunately, it looked as though it was closing in on us. At least it was a lot cooler than when we left Brisbane. As we climbed our views disappeared into the mist and Greg was heard to wittingly comment "we had missed the views". After about an hour of climbing the rain joined us for the night, thus ensuring that we would not see the full moon which we had counted on. But the spirits of the troop were still relatively high until after 2½ hours of climbing Bare Rock was reached where we had a rather water logged tea.

It was at this point that the leader heard mutterings of "who had chosen this walk?" and "let's throw the leader over the cliff". Still the rain persisted being joined by thunder and lightning as we commenced our slow descent. In three places the track was blocked by fallen trees. Naturally, without the moon and under the heavy cloud it was very dark. Numerous low branches and rocks on the track had to be negotiated. By far the highlight of the night was seeing the glow worms. Some of their lights appeared to be a very brilliant blue in colour. After 2½ hours we arrived at the car park to find that the rain was easing.

Only a few of the group had the luxury of dry spare clothes. It was decided to have a brief coffee stop at Aratula where it had not been raining. 11:15pm saw the troops still at Aratula with their spirits rising after being fortified by hot drinks.

Thank you to David Cory who took the lead both up and down the mountain whilst I took it easy and led from the rear. Unfortunately, the unforeseen weather conditions did make the walk harder than it should have been but I feel that the entire group coped quite well and can look forward to new challenges. Also, a big thank you to Barbara and her passengers who made a huge detour to drop Louise home because of the late hour. (This kindness embodies the true spirit of our club.)

My fellow waterlogged walkers were:- Michele and Richard Johns, Barbara, Peta, Carolyn, Louise Leonardi, Greg, Michele and Lucy Endicott and David Cory and his son, Sam. Thank you one and all, you did well. I have now done two club night walks at Cunningham's Gap and I have yet to see any views. Better luck next time....

Terry.

P.S. There is no truth in the rumour that I am looking to steal Matthew's title of walk rain maker.

Mt Warning 31 January 2003

Have you ever had a premonition that you really shouldn't go on a bushwalk? That happened to me last week. I put it down to a combination of an exhausting weekend canoeing up the Noosa River combined with starting work that week and decided it would be all right on the day. Maybe I should have taken more notice of the name of the walk, Mt **WARNING**.

Things started out OK. We met at Red Hill and decided to regroup at Murwillumbah. We had a short wait there as one car decided to take "the scenic route" (translated "we took the wrong turn"). However we were still on time as we set off to Mt Warning. This is where things really started to go wrong. The intrepid leader (myself) and her two passengers happened to miss the huge sign saying Mt Warning and kept barrelling along towards Kyogle for some time until we realised that Mt Warning was receding not getting closer and turned around.

Arriving at the carpark we found that they were about to send out a search party. Additionally, one of the cars was overheating. Because of all this we didn't

get away until 10am (Queensland time). As I walked up the first hundred or so of the hundreds of steps up the mountain it became more and more apparent that I wouldn't be able to keep up with even the slowest walkers. I tried to convince myself that it was the heat and the previous weekend's exertions. It's probably more likely that I have been kidding myself about how fit I am for a long time and should start doing something about it rather than thinking about it. Anyway, I decided to leave the walk in the capable hands of Richard and Desley and go back down.

When the ten walkers got down about 3.30pm they all said they'd had a great (although strenuous) walk, the views from the top were really good and did I know how many hundreds of steps there were up the mountain. After another look at the overheating car we decided to take it slowly and to go and have coffee first. Unfortunately the coffee shop (with its much anticipated mango smoothies) was closed (it might have only been 3.45pm Queensland time but it was an hour later NSW time). We then decided to proceed to Murwillumbah then see how the overheating car was going.

Unfortunately, we didn't say where to meet and I sailed on through Murwillumbah not seeing the others and headed for Brisbane. This, however, was short lived. A loud clunk (later found to be the fan belt breaking) preceded the radiator boiling and we quickly took the exit to a tiny place called Barney's Point where we called the NRMA. A flurry of phone calls between Richard and Louise, accompanied by some wrong directions finally had the other two cars join us. It was now about 6.30pm and strangely everyone seemed in good spirits, smiling and saying what a good day they'd had. They didn't seem at all worried that they should have been back in Brisbane by now and had at least an hour and a half's drive ahead of them.

Cathy and I decided to wait with the car and sent the others off home. We confidently expected to be heading back home shortly after the NRMA man arrived in about 30 minutes. I should have known better!!!!!!!!!!!!!! When he arrived, he said the car had to be towed and looked at to check for other damage. So I rang some friends in Brisbane and organised for them to come down and pick us up at Tweed Heads where the car was being towed. Cathy and I perched on a couple of air conditioners outside the repair shop and waited. And waited. And waited. Finally, our lift arrived and we headed off, stopping for dinner at Coolangatta as none of us had eaten. I was finally dropped off at 12.15am. When I thanked my friends profusely they said not to worry, they'd had a great evening and they'd only be watching TV anyway. Thank heavens for good friends.

What have I learnt from this experience?

1. It's not what happens to you in life that's important, it's what you do with it.
2. It's easy to make the best of things when they go wrong when you're surrounded by helpful, caring and tolerant people
3. Good friends are worth their weight in gold (or diamonds, whichever is more valuable)
4. Never lead a bushwalk again (especially if it has a suspicious name like Warning)

Thanks to all those who went on the trip, Patricia Funnell, David Hill, Desley, Richard and Michelle Johns, Dennis Hoey, Louise and our visitors, Cathy, Raylene and Phillip (please come again, most bushwalks aren't as disastrous as this one). A special thanks to Cathy who kept me company through the long wait to get home. Also to my very good friends, Mary and David, who when asked if they could

drop what they were doing and drive to Tweed Heads replied "of course, we'll get there as soon as we can". One thing that this day has done for me is to reinforce how nice most people are

Barbara Eastoe

Queensland Federation of Bushwalking Clubs

Federation meetings are held at 7:30pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Little Kings Movement. 33 O'Keefe St, Buranda.

Federation web site address is:

<http://www.geocities.com/qfbwc/index.htm>

The email address is

qfbwc@yahoo.com.au

FEDERATION MOUNTAIN RESCUE

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*** A THOUGHT TO PONDER.....***

“Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looing outward together in the same direction”.

– Antoine de Saint Exupery
French aviator, writer

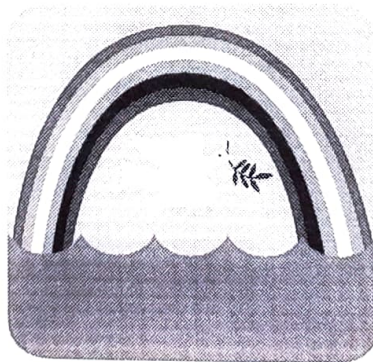
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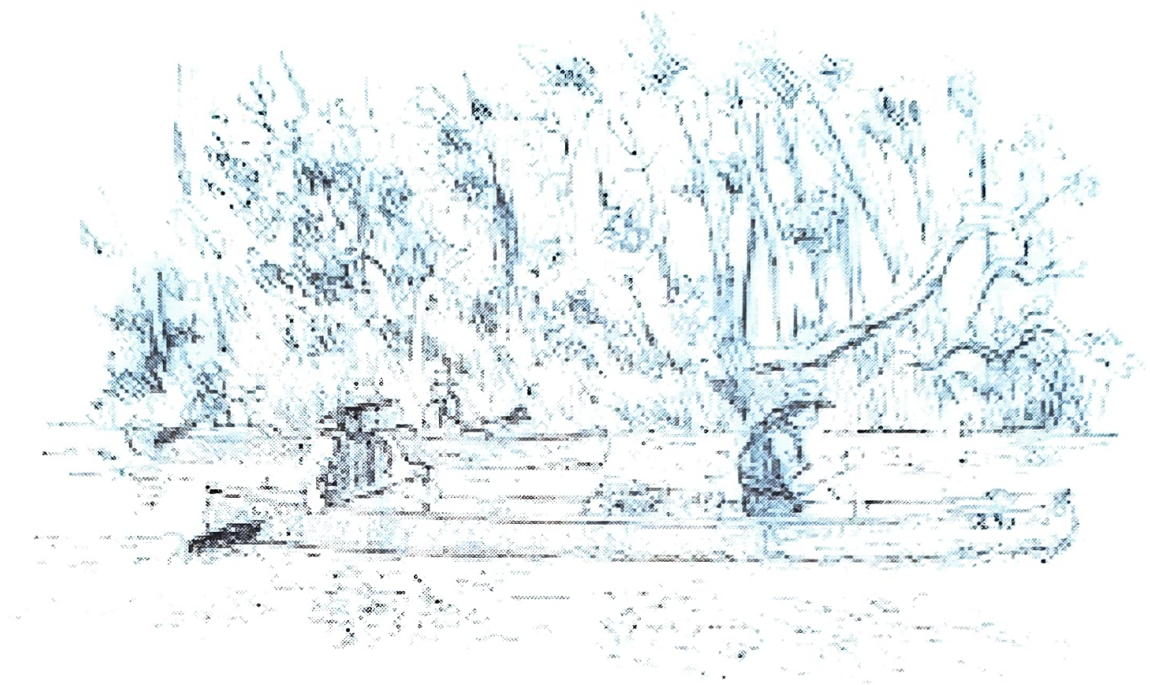
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“Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
yes, our God is compassionate.”
Psalms 116:5

Yours in Christ Louise





Sketch by Iain Renton

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