



JILALAN

MONTHLY CIRCULAR OF THE BRISBANE
CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB INC.
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No. OBH 2328

JUL 1991



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

CONTACTS

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PRESIDENT	: Paul McDonald	205 1984 (H)
VICE PRESIDENT	: Matthew Palmer	366 5660 (H)
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SECRETARY	: Louise Rea	391 3045 (H)
OUTINGS SECRETARY	: Christine Harrison	378 0264 (H)
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	: Chris McCaffrey	349 5730 (H) (After 7 pm)
TRAINING OFFICER	: Cliff Harrison	378 0264 (H)
SOCIAL SECRETARY	: Bernard Ivers	865 1032 (H)
"JILALAN" EDITOR	: Justin Tobin	812 1518 (H)
	Postal Address:	15 Deacon Street, Basin Pocket 4305

For specific enquiries, contact the Committee member above concerned. For outings or socials, contact the leader shown in the calendar or magazine article. Visitors - for general enquiries contact Chris McCaffrey. Articles for "Jilalan", post to Justin Tobin, 15 Deacon Street, Basin Pocket 4305.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month, being scheduled to commence at 7.30 pm (although they usually start about 15 minutes later). The location is currently in the basement of the Catholic Centre (near St Stephen's Cathedral) with entry via Charlotte Street. The door is usually manned up to about 8.00 pm. If you arrive after this, please ring the bell and wait for someone to let you in. Parking is NOT available on site and free parking can be difficult to find nearby. Parking is available close by at \$4.

VISITORS are always welcome.

OUTINGS

- (a) Always read the Jilalan article to check the departure point, date and time.
- (b) Departure of walks is usually either from the rear of the Cathedral in Charlotte Street or at Sullivan & Nicolaides (134 Whitmore Street, Taringa - enter via the upper driveway and drive down to the upper level of the carpark). Check Jilalan or phone the leader to be certain.
- (c) The Club will usually organise transport for each outing, but you must nominate in advance to the leader. Contacting to 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 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.

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 9.00 pm, 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 required.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

The Association requires that certain minimal basic equipment should be carried by all walkers on all trips. This should comprise the following - a first aid kit, a torch, a parka/raincoat, hat, shirt, 15+ (or suitable value) sun screen 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.

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.

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KEY

D/W	Day Walk
T/W	Through Walk
O/N	Overnight
B/C	Base Camp
1/2DW	Half-day Walk
S/T	Safety & Training
FMR	Federation Mountain Rescue
Soc	Social

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CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Type</u>
JUN 5	Mt Bangalore	Russell Code	245 4803	D/W
11-13	Fraser Island	Christine Harrison	378 0264	T/W
11-13	Fraser Island	Paul McDonald	205 1984	B/C
18	Ten Pin Bowling	Bernard Ivers	865 1032	Soc
20	MEETING			
25-26	FMR Weekend - Drynan's	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	FMR
JUL 2	Training K.P. (8 am)	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	S&T
2	Colonial Ball			Soc
3	Beau Brummel	Geoffrey Egert	356 2163	D/W
9	Stretcher & 1st Aid	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	S&T
10	Mt Fraser	Trevor Kelly	357 5046	D/W
16	Christmas in July	Bernard Ivers	865 1032	Soc
17	Black Snake Ridge	Russell Nelson	378 5200	D/W
18	MEETING			
23-24	Butler's Ridge	Barry Ellerington	886 3451	T/W
23-24	Turtle Rock	Paul McDonald	205 1984	B/C
29-31	Upper Portal(Grace's Hut)	Justin Tobin	312 1518	B/C
29-31	Club Hut	Paul McDonald	205 1984	B/C
AUG 6	Buchanan Fort	Sue Herron	366 3193	D/W
13-14	New Members	Chris McCaffrey	349 5730	B/C
	& S/T Weekend	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	B/C
15	MEETING			
16-17	Annual Mass - Mezzanine	Barry Ellerington	886 3451	O/N
	- Midget	Phil Murray	841 0254	O/N
	- Peasants	Fr Ed Nally		O/N
20-21	Rogaining	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	S&T
21	Club Hut	Paul McDonald	205 1984	B/C
21	Wildflower Walk No.1	Phil Murray	841 0254	D/W
26-28	Killarney to Stanthorpe	Pat Lawton	366 1956	T/W
27	Leaders' Day - Rescue (Tamborine)	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	FMR
28	Wildflower Walk No.2	Phil Murray	841 0254	D/W
SEP 4	Back Creek	Matthew Palmer	366 5660	D/W
6	Operation Centre	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	FMR
10-12	Pilgrimage - Bigriggen			B/C
17	Progressive Dinner	Bernard Ivers	865 1032	Soc
19	MEETING			
25	Araucaria Circuit			
OCT 9	Border Loop to Lindesay	Greg Endicott	351 4092	T/W
16	Coomera Crevice	Christine Harrison	378 0264	D/W
17	MEETING			
22	Beginner's - Glasshouse Mts	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	FMR
23	Intermediate - Timberewah	Cliff Harrison	378 0264	FMR
28-30	Bookookarara Creek			T/W
28-30	Boonoo Boonoo			B/C

COMING EVENTS

BUTLER'S RIDGE (THROUGHWALK)

Contact : Barry Ellerington (Ph: 886 3451)
Date : 22-24 July
Meeting Time : 7.00 pm, Friday 22 July
Meeting Place : Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa
Grade : Medium
Emergency Officer : Janet Ellerington (Ph: 886 3451)
Cost : \$15.00

Until the 19th June, I had no idea where Butler's Ridge was, but, thanks to Christine's information and the assistance of Ed and Anthony on the pre-outing, I can tell you all about it.

The walk will start at the Numinbah Valley Border Gate, following a rough track along the border fence until we reach a large cliff overhang known as the Bush Ranger's Cave. After a short break so as to explore the area, we continue along the cliff base past a waterfall and follow a steep track to the lookout on Mt Wagawn. The views to the south overlooking the Limpinwood Valley and Mt Warning are not to be missed -- a camera is a must.

The route from Wagawn travels along the State Border and is part of the scenic rim. Most of the ascent is now over and we follow the border track passing the Merino Lookout and Mt Merino itself. Some damage to the bush from the 1983 tornado is still evident in this area. Following the track, we pass various lookouts and cross over some major peaks such as Mt Wanungara, Tooloona, Bithongabel, Echo Pt, Mt Worendo and Mt Wupawn, all of which offer the most spectacular views located on the State Border. So endeth the longest day, our campsite for Saturday night will be at the Rat-a-tat Hut. Water will be available and the campsite is spacious.

Our Sunday walk takes us over Mt Durigan and a long climb up Mt Throakban. This will be the last ascent for the day and gives us some spectacular views to Mt Warning National Park and over to the Springbrook Range and Bald Mountain.

Butler's Ridge lies half way between Mt Throakban and Point Lookout. The ridge itself is covered in total rainforest on the upper slopes and Bracken Fern on the lower. The route down is well marked and does have some steep rocky areas to negotiate. Unfortunately there is only one vantage point on the ridge where we will get some type of view, mainly of the Night Cap Range and a brief glance of Pinnacle Rock. The Ridge is scungey in places and gaiters are recommended. The descent will take approximately two hours down into a beautiful valley where we will link up with Paul McDonald, who has kindly offered to support us with a base camp in the area.

The walk is long but offers some of the most spectacular views along the scenic rim. It should not be missed by anyone - so come along with me for a most rewarding weekend and enjoy the company of your fellow walkers.

Barry.

TURTLE ROCK (BASE CAMP)

Leader : Paul McDonald (Ph: 205 1984)
Date : 22-24 July
Meeting Time : 7.00 pm, Friday 22 July
Meeting Place : Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa
Grade : Easy
Emergency Officer : Janet Ellerington (Ph: 886 3451)
Cost : \$15.00

This base camp is a recent addition to the calendar. It's primary purpose is to provide assistance to the Butler's Ridge through walkers. Friday night, we will transport the throughwalkers to the Numinbah Border Gate and then continue to our camp for the weekend.

Unfortunately, I have not yet finalised our proposed program for the weekend, but we will either camp on the Queensland side near Turtle Rock and walk in that area or, alternatively, our camp will be in NSW with walks in the area of our camp. I may even aim for a flexible weekend and let those present decide on which alternatives they would prefer. However, Sunday afternoon will require a trip to the start of Butler's Ridge to pick up the throughwalkers.

Remember that it is winter and warm clothes are essential. I will bring the usual big tent and cooking equipment. If you would like to come, but don't feel that you have the necessary equipment, please let me know and I will see what I can arrange. Further details will be available at the meeting.

Paul.

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UPPER PORTALS (GRACE'S HUT) (WALK-IN BASE CAMP)

Leader : Justin Tobin (Ph: 812 1518)
Date : 29-31 July
Meeting Time : 7.00 pm, Friday 29 July
Meeting Place : Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa
Grade : Medium
Emergency Officer : Bernadette Dolan (Ph: 899 1785)
Cost : \$12.00

A visit to the Ballow-Barney area is well worthwhile. We will leave Friday night to drive down to the Mt May Water Reserve and either start our walk from there or we may be able to drive to the top of Grace's Hut Road to save ourselves a road bash. From there, we walk into the Upper Portals campsite - our base for two days.

Saturday's walk will be up Monseratt Lookout, a rocky knoll affording great views of Mt Barney, then to Focal Peak, Cedar Pass, Durrumlea Peak and Mowburra Peak and down to Grace's Hut - the mini Ballow Circuit. An enjoyable day's walking indeed. Saturday night, the usual yarn-telling and reflection on the day's walk.

Sunday, a visit to the Upper Portals and down Barney Creek and up Barrabool Creek to the second waterfall. A relaxing half-day walk before packing up to head home.

Please note - this is a walk-in base camp. All gear will have to be carried in. Nominate for a great two days of relaxation in the Barney-Ballow area.

Justin.

CLUB HUT (OVERNIGHTER)

Contact : Paul McDonald (Ph: 205 1984)
Date : 30-31 July
Meeting Time : 2.00 pm, Saturday 30 July
Meeting Place : Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa
Grade : Easy
Emergency Officer : Bernadette Dolan (Ph: 899 1785)
Cost : \$10.00

The major purpose (excuse) for this visit to the Club Hut is to determine a list of repairs and what materials, tools etc will be required. While there are no known major repairs necessary, there are undoubtedly many minor repairs that could be done.

The second reason for the visit will be to carry out a basic clean up of the hut and its surrounds. Undoubtedly, the grass will require a trim and the hut can always do with a sweep and a wash. Perhaps there will even be time available for further reduction of the lantana.

The third reason (the real one?) is simply to provide the opportunity for anyone who hasn't yet been there, or would like to go again, to pay the hut a visit.

Time will also be found for a walk to the Lower Portals, and a swim for those adventurous enough.

Paul.

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BUCHANAN FORT (DAY WALK)

Contact : Susan Herron (Ph: 366 3193)
Date : Saturday, 6 August
Meeting Time : 7.00 am
Meeting Place : Charlotte Street (behind Cathedral)
Grade : Easy/Medium (off track)
Emergency Officer : Desley Pedrazzini (Ph: 369 5530)
Cost : \$12.00

Although I haven't done the pre-outing as yet, I have been assured by those in the know that this is a very enjoyable walk capable of most walkers. If it wasn't, I wouldn't be leading it! Nothing too strenuous for me!!

Buchanan Fort sits in between the Lost World Valley and Christmas Creek. We will be going up from the end of Widgee Creek Road in the Lost World Valley and traverse to the cliff-line for great views of Lost World, Mt Widgee and more.

It's a great place for lunch, a chance to relax and escape from Brisbane. More details at the meeting.

Please note it is a Saturday walk. I need Sunday to recover and rest my weary body!

Susan.

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NEW MEMBERS AND S & T WEEKEND (BASE CAMP)

Contact : Chris McCaffrey (Ph: 349 5730)
 Date : 13-14 August
 Meeting Time : 7.30 pm, Friday 12 August
 Meeting Place : Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa
 Emergency Officer : Greg Endicott (Ph: 351 4092)
 Cost : \$12.00

For those of you in the Club wanting to know a bit more about equipment for bushwalking and camping and also learn about S/T, then this weekend is for you. It is designed for all Club members - not just new members. Our location for the weekend will be Mt May Water Reserve - we will depart from Sullivan & Nicolaides on Friday night and make our way to Mt May Water Reserve.

On Saturday we will be organising a day walk, so bring equipment - this includes the following: boots and/or sandshoes, day pack, lunch, water, sunscreen, hat, torch, first aid kit, and a raincoat if the weather looks threatening.

Most importantly, you will have the opportunity to learn about the Club and see and learn about bushwalking equipment. The organisation and rules of the Club will be explained. These are designed so that everybody enjoys their bushwalking whilst at the same time ensuring safety.

A good cross section of equipment will be on display - equipment that is essential without being extravagant - walking boots, rucksacks, travel packs, sleeping bags, tents, suitable clothing and first aid gear all will be shown.

Talks on training, safety and first aid will be given so that everybody will get the maximum benefit from this stimulating weekend.

Nominate now for what I hope will be a very enjoyable and interesting weekend for members and also visitors of the Club.

Chris.

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MT BARNEY MASS

16-17 August (Exhibition Wednesday)

This is a reminder that the Tuesday night and Wednesday after the August meeting is our annual trip to Mt Barney for our Annual Mass.

Father Ed is saying mass once again and the easier of the three routes up is South Ridge. Barry Ellerington is leading Mezzanine and Phil Murray is leading Midgets Ridge on the west side.

Put it in your diary now. It is a great day and a Club tradition having mass in his own Domain. All details on the next page. Nominations taken at the July and August meetings.

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MT BARNEY MASS - VIA MIDGETS (OVERNIGHT)

Contact : Phil Murray (Ph: 841 0254)
Date : 16-17 August
Meeting Time : 7.30 pm, Tuesday 16 August
Meeting Place : Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa
Grade :
Emergency Officer : *SUE MURRAY - 8410254*
Cost : *12.00*

The club is very fortunate in having its own club hut. The hut as most members would know is situated on the northern foothills of Mt Barney. Each year the club has a wonderful tradition of making a pilgrimage to the top of Mt Barney to celebrate the Barney mass. However, over the last ten years the club has not used the hut on a Barney Mass.

The apparent reason for this is that to do a trip from the Hut makes the day a bit longer and harder. That may well be true but it is a long time since we put that theory to the test. Besides even if it a bit harder I think it would be worth the effort. I made some vague suggestions over the last 2 years about doing the Barney Mass from the club hut but the response was less than enthusiastic and I bowed to the conventional wisdom.

However, the time has come to challenge the preconceived notions and find out how things really are.

The idea this year was to use the club hut on the Barney Mass. The only problem was which route to do it by. Eagles and Leanings are regarded as hard and tricky routes. That left the Barney Gorge or Midgets ridge. The choice was then simple. Take the easiest route. And the winner is Midgets. According to Ross Buchanan's book "Bushwalking in South east Queensland" at page 180 he commented "Before the discovery of South Ridge, Midget Ridge was apparently the "easy" ascent route for Mt Barney." Also, there should be lots of wildflowers on the ridge whereas the Gorge will be cool, damp and green.

At this stage the plan is to go up and back via Midgets so you don't have to carry your sleeping gear up and down the mountain. Those who enjoy a good sleep-in of a morning will be disappointed to know that the morning departure time will be 6.15 a.m. so we will hve time to get to the top of West Peak and back down to the saddle in time for the Mass at 1pm. The optimum upper number for this trip would be about 12 so see me soon to beat the crowd.

I'm already looking forward to enjoying a hot cup of tea and eating some chocolate beside the fire down at the hut on the night before the walk.

I hope you feel up to a challenge and join me on the Barney Mass 1994 via Midgets ridge.

Phil

P.S. I wonder why it was called "Midgets Ridge". I'm sure there is someone out there who knows the reason.

MT BARNEY MASS - MEZZANINE RIDGE (OVERNIGHT)

Contact : Barry Ellerington (Ph: 886 3451)
 Date : 16-17 August
 Meeting Time : 7.30 pm, Tuesday 16 August
 Meeting Place : Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa
 Grade :
 Emergency Officer : JANEY ELLERINGTON 8863451
 Cost : \$12.00

At the time of writing, the pre-outing has not been completed and I will be unable to supply finer details of this route until the July meeting. Mezzanine Ridge lies between the South Ridge and the South East Ridge, and is said to be harder than both. There is some rock scrambling and a razorback to be negotiated, which can be awkward. The walk will start from the Yellow Pinch camping ground and follow the track leading to the South Ridge. The track eventually divides - where the right hand fork begins the ascent of Mezzanine Ridge. The ridge is suggested for ascents only and could take up to five hours to reach the saddle. The return route will be either the South (Peasants Ridge) or the South East Ridge. There will be more to tell at the next meeting. See you there.

Barry.

Stop Press: Our newest member Clare Therese Denkes
 born 6-7-94. Congratulations to Marie Gordon and
 Patrick.

Reflections

SOMEHOW THINGS COME RIGHT

A mountain loomed before me - too steep for me to scale - and suddenly I saw It: that pathway through the vale - where cliffs of rock rose steeply to block the forward view - but somehow I was guided. Somehow I got through.

A problem like a mountain I saw confronting me: a trouble overwhelming. No hope there seemed to be - of finding a solution. But someone must have prayed - for help to me was given. The right decision made.

It seems that unseen forces are rushed to meet our need. God send a guardian angel to strengthen and to lead - when stricken in the darkness and lost without a light. I know not how it happens, but somehow things come right.

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WILDFLOWER WALKS 1 & 2 (DAY WALK)

Contact : Phil Murray (Ph: 841 0254)
Date : 21 August and 28 August
Meeting Time : 8.30 am
Meeting Place :
Grade :

Last year we only had the one wildflower walk and that was up at Bribie Island. The walk was extremely popular and hence to cater for demand for easier trips we have put on two this year.

In the June magazine you may have noticed that were two Wildflower walks programmed. The first walk was on Sunday 21st august and the second was on Sunday 28th August.

As we have two trips I thought it would be appropriate to have one in Brisbane and handy to public transport and hence I selected Karawatha . For the second trip I thought it might be good to have a trip to a new area for the club and I selected Quinzech Rocks which is halfway between Logan Village and Plunkett.

Karawatha is the last major bushland area on the southside that lies in the Brisbane City Council area. The reason for going back there is to see the bushland before the proposed freeway gets final approval. Last time we were there the wildflowers were very good and I have heard from reliable sources that this will be one of the best years ever.

Quinzech rocks is the name that the Qld Orienteering Association have given to the rocky outcrop just to the north of Plunkett. The area is just wonderful. There is a profusion of wildflowers here: wattles, teatrees, peaflowers, heaths, orchids and of course the very rare Plunkett Mallee which only grows naturally in this small area. There are also great views.

I highly recommend these trips. they are easy, educational and sociable trips. Please remember to bring lots of goodies.

Both trips will be a daywalk not a half day. I hope to start at 8.30 am and finish by 3.30 p.m.

Phil

KILLARNEY TO COTTONVALE (THROUGHWALK)

Contact : Pat Lawton (Ph: 366 1956)
 Date : 26-28 August
 Meeting Time : 7.30 pm, Friday 26 August
 Meeting Place : Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa
 Grade : Medium (distance long)
 Emergency Officer : Bernadette Dolan (Ph: 899 1785)
 Cost : \$20.00 (approx.)

If you wish to complete another section of the Queensland/NSW border, come along on this trip. It is not difficult, a few minor ups and downs, no scunge, easy walking. However it is a l-o-n-g w-a-y. Total distance is approx. 58 klms.

We will start at Killarney Border Gate and follow the fence through to Cottonvale (north of Stanthorpe). Friday night's camp will be at the Killarney Border Gate (water available). Saturday night's camp will be at the Cullendore Border Gate (water available). Transport arrangements will depend on numbers, however, we will probably use our own transport to Warwick and I have tentatively booked a bus to take us to the start of the walk and pick us up at 3 pm at Cottonvale on Sunday. This will save time and a huge car shuffle.

There is also a possibility that we may have a support vehicle - that means we carry NO packs!! (which makes the two long days much easier!) Cullendore, Saturday night's camp, is on a good dirt road from Warwick.

If you are interested in coming, let me know as soon as possible so that transport can be arranged.

Pat.

* * * * *

I would like to share my poem with you - in reference to mind and body expressed in Jilalan June 1994 - Who was it that said on a recent base camp: "I think my mind wants to go where the body should not be capable of!".

HAPPY FEET

My mind is going fast
 but my body is going slow,
 if only I could combine the two
 I'd be all get up and go.

Now having said this the problem is
 how to go about it,
 I know! I'll put my feet in my head
 and leave them all to rout it.

Joyce Smith.

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PAST OUTINGS

MT BANGALORE (5 June)

Fourteen walkers accompanied me to Mt Bangalore. After an early departure from Brisbane and a brief stop at Boonah, we reached our departure point about 9.30. The group didn't seem to appreciate my explanation of how the mountain got its name, so we scrambled under the fence and set off for an eastern ridge line. We had to cross a cleared paddock first but under another fence took us into National Park. Two "calyptorhynchus lathamii" were spotted feasting on the nuts of nearby casuarinas. The route to the peak of Mt Bangalore follows a grassy, rocky ridge line that becomes steeper and steeper. However, with frequent rest-stops, the top was reached in very good time. Along the way we spotted some fine specimens of grass tree and banksia. On the peak, we crossed to the western side of the mountain to sit, have our lunch and enjoy the spectacle of the Main Range. Many peaks were identified and admired, notably Wilson Peak and Lizard Point. On our return across the peak, we encountered Justin John and Mark who were on the final leg of their throughwalk (never did find out why Justin and Mark were wet and John bone dry!). They accompanied us down Mt Bangalore.

Our descent proved eventful with lots of slipping sliding and calls of ROCK!! Terry tried to get down even quicker than everyone else! We reached the cars around 3 o'clock. Unfortunately for Matthew, he encountered car problems which delayed our return to Brisbane. I think all walkers should recognise the importance of our drivers to the Club. Without them - no walks! Thanks to all who climbed Mt Bangalore with me. I trust you enjoyed your day.

Russell.

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FRASER ISLAND BASE CAMP (11-13 June)

Friday night saw us depart from S&N, bound for River Heads. Most of us regrouped in Gympie for a coffee and a bite. Camp was quickly set up at the barge departure point, although the tent erection abilities of some may have been questionable. Next morning was a fairly early rise to pack the Jeep (with what could go in) for the barge across. Once there, the base-campers and throughwalkers set off, while their gear was driven in to Central Station.

Once all had arrived and camp set up, it was time to walk to Lake McKenzie. As usual, the forest was spectacular and the lakes magnificent. Only two people, however, decided that the lakes were nice enough for a swim (it wasn't that cold!). After a pleasant lunch on the shore, it was time to return to camp and tea. Mass was celebrated (thanks again to Father Edwin) and a fire organised, which continued into the late hours. Next day saw a walk to Eurong, with Barry and the two Eds continuing on to Lake Wabby. Once again dinner and a fire till well into the night. Monday saw some of the party decide a rest was in order, while most walked Pile Valley. Time to pack up for our return barge and thence back to Brisbane.

Thanks to all who came, especially the drivers, to Father Ed for Mass and to Christine for organising the permits, etc.

Paul.

FRASER ISLAND THROUGHWALK (11-13 June)

Having camped overnight at River Heads, 8 of us with 19 Basecampers took the 7 am barge over to Wanggoolba Creek on Fraser Island. We walked about 5 kms, then collected our packs from the 4WD vehicle to begin our trip. Who said Fraser is FLAT? Over the next 2½ days, it was undulating through vast, dense and varied vegetation. Lake Jennings was our morning tea stop, then on to Lake Birrabeen to use the new toilets before walking along the lake shore and down a little-used track to Lake Benaroon for lunch, with perfect clear blue sunny skies. Cathy could not resist the crystal clear waters and went for a quick dip. From here the track gave an absolutely wonderful feeling of pristine - wet sclerophyll forest covered in moss with birds everywhere. Upon reaching Lake Boomoonjin at 3.15 pm, we enjoyed a pleasant camp and evening looking at the stars twinkling upon the darkened tannin waters. Along the shores we noticed, with June's information, were growing tiny purple orchids with many old and varied Malaleuca lining the banks.

Early to bed and early to rise, with the temperature only at 6°C. Jumpers off once up the first hill within the half hour! Matthew, John and Cliff ran up the sandhill to catch sight of the lake, sea and Dilli. Passing through the Banksia, Scribbly Gum, Rusty Gum and Blackbutt, we completed the 6.5 kms to Dilli Village. All hopes of buying a milkshake were dashed - NO SHOP! We managed to persuade a camper to open the ladies locked toilets. What a disappointment! Anyway, we began our walk along the eastern beach, with a now receding high tide, at 9 am and luck may be with us, our taxi (yes there is one!) came earlier than booked, trusting the tide had gone down more than expected. So we all reached Wabby Car Park by 10 am. You are warned NOT to swim in the sea because of sharks and tidal rips, and we were happy to leave the beach with its highway of 4WD vehicles and brilliant, glaring sunshine, to go to Lake Wabby for a swim with the huge catfish and fresh cool waters. Very pleasant break, a pity we couldn't stay longer, but we wanted to reach our destination in the early afternoon.

Up and over the sandhills, which are caused by the wind gradually filling in the lake. Again, up another hill to Lake Wabby Lookout and down a track from the old logging days. The signpost said 4.5 hours to Lake McKenzie - I found that hard to believe. This track passed through the best rainforest you would ever see - zambia, piccabeen palms and moss very noticeable, as were many red pools along the damp ground.

Reaching Lake McKenzie, we decided to walk the foreshores as the last bit of road walking is not enjoyable. Bill wouldn't take his shoes off, so ventured to find a dry way around whilst the rest took shoes and socks off to wade, in some parts thigh deep, through the refreshing crystal clear water's edge. However, we made it to the Hikers' Camp and had a quick cold shower and dinner before being rudely disturbed by a bunch of Poms - 4-wheelers - with drunkenness and foul language. With a few words to politely ask them to keep quiet, they evidently left after a couple of hours. But they broke down a tree, took it down to the lake to make a bonfire to continue boozing and they were still there when we left the next morning. Only one large dingo was spotted, who quietly devoured Matthew & Kerry's lollies and tried to take Bill's boots for a walk.

(continued next page)

Monday - a late start, but having completed 45 kms walking, in parts on soft fine sand, and only 13 klms to go, we had plenty of time to sightseer. We stopped at Basin Lake for a last swim and for John to spruce up himself for his wife at Base Camp. The mist hung low over the water and it was relaxing sitting in the morning sunshine enjoying nature in its beauty. Nearly to Cental Station and we past for the first time a couple of walkers. Once at Central, we visited Pile Valley to see the Satinay and Brush Box trees and took a few photos before leaving to walk to our 2.30 pm barge.

I'm sure Matthew and Kerry, John, Bill, June, Cathy, Cliff and I, having had the best company, weather and surroundings, will be back to re-visit the amazing peaceful FRASER ISLAND. Thank you for joining me.

Christine Harrison.

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ABSEIL TECHNIQUES - KANGAROO POINT (2 July)

Thank you all for turning up to make this day a success. This informal morning was made enjoyable by the enthusiasm of this small group.

I was impressed by the exchange of ideas between those who had abseiled before and those who had achieved considerable skills prior to this day. Congratulations must go to Carolyn who overcame those (first time in 15 years) nerves to successfully complete several abseils.

Special thanks to Glen Morley for his assistance with supervising the abseil.

During the morning, there was an emphasis on safety with: (i) checking each other's setting up; (ii) safety belays; and (iii) the importance of looking after your equipment - among other practices.

As Chris and I were driving home, the reality of how important safety is came when we heard over the radio about the unfortunate accident at Mt French where a climber reportedly fell 15 metres, receiving serious injuries ACCIDENTS TO HAPPEN.

Cheers and happy abseiling to all who attended - Glen, Christine, Carolyn, Gerry and Bill.

Cliff.

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PAST SOCIAL

O'REILLY'S WEEKEND (14-15 May)

The 14 & 15 May saw our annual trek to O'Reilly's.

Ten members enjoyed a pleasant trip up to the camping site on Saturday afternoon (a little late in arriving due to someone, who shall remain nameless, forgetting the camping permit!!).

After setting up camp, we made our way to the dining room where a superb three course meal was enjoyed by all. A bush dance followed and all members were encouraged to join in by O'Reilly's staff. The night was great.

Sunday morning saw a bleary-eyed group set off for the day's bushwalk. Late afternoon saw us return to our starting point at Sullivan & Nicolaides, Taringa.

It was a most enjoyable weekend. Thanks to all who came along. I hope to see you all at our next social.

Bernard.

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THE BAD OLD DAYS

The rule of thumb for the old backing was that the weight of your pack should equal the weight of yourself and the kitchen range combined. Just a casual glance at a full pack sitting on the floor could give you a double hernia and fuse four vertebrae. After carrying the pack all day, you had to remember to tie one leg to a tree before you dropped it. Otherwise, you would float off into space. The pack eliminated the need for any special kind of ground-gripping shoes, because your feet would sink a foot and a half into hard packed earth, two inches into solid rock. Some of the new breed of backpackers occasionally wonder what caused a swarth of fallen trees on the side of a mountain. This is where one of the old backpackers slipped off the trail with a full pack.

My sleeping bag looked like a rolled up mattress salvaged from a fire in a skid row hotel. Its filling was sawdust, horsehair and No.6 bird shot. Some of today's backpackers tell me their sleeping bags are so light they scarcely know they're there. The only time I scarcely knew my sleeping bag was there was when I was in it at 2.00 am on a cold night. It was freckled from one end to the other with spark holes, a result of my efforts to stay close enough to the fire to keep warm. The only time I was halfway comfortable was when it was ablaze. It was the only sleeping bag I ever heard of which you could climb into in the evening with scarcely a mark on you and wake up in the morning bruised from head to toe. That was because two or three times a night my companions would take it upon themselves to jump up and stomp out my sleeping bag fires -- in their haste neglecting to first evacuate the occupant. Since I was the camp cook, I never knew whether they were attempting to save me from immolation or getting in a few last licks for what they thought might be terminal indigestion.

From "A Fine and Pleasant Misery" by Pat McManus.

