



JILALAN

MONTHLY CIRCULAR OF THE BRISBANE
CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

- APR 1985

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY



JILALAN

The Club's address is PO Box 151, North Quay, Brisbane 4000 and the telephone contact number is listed in the white pages Telephone Directory under 'B'.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at the Catholic Centre, Edward Street, City, beginning at 7.30pm. To enter the Catholic Centre, use the rear entrance. This is reached by entering the grounds of St Stephen's Cathedral via Charlotte Street (entrance nearest Edward St). From Charlotte Street the door is near a white statue. If the door is locked, please ring the bell. Visitors are always welcome.

Members of the Committee are:-

CHAPLAIN

PRESIDENT	Cathy McHugh	(H)2813128	(W)2211977
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Egert	8484918	
OUTINGS SECRETARY	Mike Wood	3983018	8310128
GENERAL SECRETARY	Margaret Anderson	3982187	2263394
TREASURER	Geoff Dower	3712382	2295011
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Barney Tobin	2605065	
EDITOR	Justin Tobin	2605065	2605065
SAFETY & TRAINING OFFICER	Ken McCarron	3496046	339382
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Greg Endicott	3514092	339357
	Anne-Marie Schmitt	2052364	
	Peggy Rutter	3597517	
EQUIPMENT HIRE	Geoff Dower	3712382	2295011

EMERGENCY OFFICER: Where a trip is overdue, parents may telephone the Emergency Officer (as specified for each trip). Please do not ring before 9.00pm at the earliest.

EQUIPMENT OF EVERY TRIP: On every trip run by the Club all walkers, both members and visitors, are expected to take the following minimum equipment:-

torch; first aid kit; parka or raincoat;
and at least $\frac{1}{2}$ litre of water.

ATTENTION!

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. It is repeated that all persons undertake all activities entirely at their own risk.

13/14

ON

DW
TW
BC

4/6

DWA

 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON

TW

TV

6/7

DW

4

DW

ON

TW Throughwal
ON Overnighter

BC	Basecamp
DW	Daywalk

JILALANEDITORIAL

My Salute to 1984!

For those people in the Club who think that better years have been before and better years are still to come, and 1984 was a non-event, I would like to offer a salute to 1984.

Statistics, numbers on a page, don't tell the full story. They don't tell you that the people who went walking (not enough of us to some) did so because they enjoyed it. We all go walking for different reasons. A personal challenge, escape from the city, climbing the peak to admire that view; whatever the reason we enjoy doing it. And surely that's the main reason, because it's enjoyment that will bring us back, tell our friends and spread the word.

Visitors became members and found new friends, on and off the track. Older members were married within the Club. Surely this is no different from past years, and will be so in the future.

To those members and visitors in 1984, you have my salute. A thank you for your effort and time given to the Club. It's you, past and present, who helped the Club survive 27 years and it will survive another 27.

To the walkers in 1985, walk because you want to and enjoy it; not to be another number on a page, another mark on the wall.

PAST OUTINGS

LIGHTNING FALLS - BLACK CANYON - 15/17 March
Leader: Tony Wood

After a week of rain, I was a bit worried about the walk, but everyone was still keen so we headed off to Lost World Youth Hostel where we left the cars about 11.30pm.

We started walking up the ridge to the saddle on the left of Lost World then down to the Albert River, arriving at 12.30am where we set up camp. Next morning we were up at 5.00am and walking by 6.00. We tried to walk along the bank of the river, but it was too rough so we walked in the river, and I mean in the river, with the water up to the top of our legs because it was up a bit after the rain, so we pressed on. There was no rock hopping at all, only step by step through the water. At 10.00am we had a 10 min break for morning tea and were off again through the water. We were supposed to reach Red Rock Cutting by about 11.00am, but by 3.00pm we had not reached it so we stopped for lunch and had a 20 min break and then were off again through the water. By 5.00pm it was getting dark so we found a camp site in the rain-forest (the only flat spot around) and tried to get a fire going, but the wood was too wet and then it started raining, so everyone was in bed by 6.30pm and pretty tired after eleven hours walking.

Next morning we were up at 6.00am after I let the troops sleep in, and were walking by 7.00am in the water, which was a bit cold at that time of morning. At 10.00am we reached Red Rock Cutting, 23hrs late, and had a little trouble getting up the waterfall because of the flow of water coming over, but we managed to get through and had a 10min break for morning tea. We reached the markers to show us the way up the ridge and through the cliff

(Con't)

line and had a bit of trouble getting up as it was almost vertical, but managed to put ourselves up the roots and trees. We reached the graded track at 3.00pm and headed straight off to O'Reilly's to try and catch the basecampers before they left to go back to Brisbane. We arrived at O'Reilly's with a thousand leeches on us and a couple of injured people at 4.00pm and found that the basecampers had gone, so we rang the emergency officer (Dave Mort) to pick us up in Canungra and we arranged a lift down with some people who were leaving. We waited for Dave at Canungra and he picked us up and drove us around to where we left the cars on Friday night at Lost World, and we were home by about 9.30pm safe and dry.

Thanks for those six brave bushwalkers for pushing on and making it an exciting and enjoyable trip.

Tony

O'REILLY'S - Basecamp - 15/17 March
Leader: Russ Nelson

On the way to O'Reilly's there was some light rain, but by the time we reached the camping site it had gone. We had been allocated sites 19, 20 and 21.

Next morning we all set off for the NSW-Qld border at 7.30am. Our route took us out to Bethongabel Lookout. The weather was somewhat overcast so the views were not as spectacular as they might have been. From the Lookout we travelled eastward to the turnoff for the Tooloona Creek valley. The track down this valley was relatively infrequently used and was not as wide as the Main Border Track. We were well rewarded for following this track as there were numerous waterfalls and cascades. Where Tooloona Creek became West Canungra Creek, we had lunch on Picnic Rock.

After lunch we followed West Canungra Creek to Blue Pool, which is an excellent swimming pool. From there we took the express route back to O'Reilly's and the pleasures of the shop. We finally returned to camp just before 5.00pm. A few of the walkers were asleep before 7.30pm, but those who lasted the distance were able to enjoy gourmet desserts around the campfire.

Sunday morning we were theoretically up at 6.00am and walking at 6.35am to Luke's Bluff. Unfortunately 3 walkers could not join us as they were still recovering from Saturday. After a leisurely breakfast at Luke's Bluff we set off down the Kerry Trail. Here another two walkers dropped out - the strain of Saturday was too much. This left five of us to follow the Kerry Trail to where it joined the Commando Track and Moran's Creek. We reached Moran's Creek around 10.00am and found that it was flowing well. For much of the way we had to walk through the creek which was usually ankle deep. After 12 noon we reached the Water Race which was very beautiful as there was a good flow of water. Moran's Falls came into view at around 2.00 where we had the final part of lunch.

We returned to the campsite and quickly packed up. Leaving O'Reilly's at 3.30pm, we headed down to civilisation for a well earned goodie stop at Canungra.

Those on the walk were Cathy McHugh, Mike Wood, Eugene Behan, Kathleen Doherty, Karyn Sinclair, Julie Peck, Anne-Marie Schmidt, David Nelson, Jan Nelson and Russ Nelson (leader).

Russ Nelson

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KNAPP'S PEAK - Daywalk - 31 March 1985

Leader: Tony Young

16 people left the Cathedral on Sunday morning and headed out for Knapp's Peak. We started walking at about 10.30am. We followed a creek at the base of the mountain before crossing it and heading up a gradual approach to the top of the mountain. Having stopped a few times for rests, the troops were fighting fit when we got to the top of the peak. So fit that we made a billy fire and everyone was quite chirpy, showing no signs of fatigue. Views were difficult due to rain clouds, but some of us did get to see Moogerah Dam and Mt Greville through a break in the clouds. At about 1.10pm we journeyed down the peak the same way we came up, and got to the cars at about 3.00pm. We got back to Brisbane at 4.45pm.

The weather held out well and everyone seemed to enjoy the outing. All in all it was a fun walk. Thanks to all of you who came.

Tony

COMING OUTINGS

TAYLOR RANGE - DAYWALK

Date : 25 April 1985
Leader : Greg Endicott (H) 351 4092 (W) 33 9562
Cost : Nil
Area : Located to the north of Brisbane, walking along a rim of low hills to the creek at the far side
Meeting Place : Indooroopilly Station at 8.00am

This lovely walk, starting at a different place to our usual outings (as shown above) commences at Nelson Ridge and follows the high chapel track to the water tank, then ascends to the hill top for a biscuit break. Cameras out. Now the well used trail is followed around the edge, giving excellend views. A rest stop will be taken at a water point near the tower - more biscuits, especially for the leader please. Then off down the open grassy ridge to the farm below, and along the creek, through a 75 year old tunnel - o.k. Geoff Egert, see that - to the camping area. A comfort stop?, Before the party continues up the ridge of the facing hill, from where you will have a wide ranging view, about 270 degrees, with an unusual outlook over Brisbane's inner city buildings in the distance.

Thanks to the Army for providing an old road to follow, till it turns the wrong way. Down through the granite country, across the highway till the distant train line is crossed. Now almost over, just around the next bend. Across the creek and home.

BBQ lunch at the end and a train trip back to Indooroopilly Station.

MT BARNEY - Basecamp

Date : 26/28 April 1985
 Leader : Dave Mort (H) 351 6093
 Cost : \$6.00
 Meeting Time : 7.15pm Friday 26th outside Cathedral
 Emergency Officer: Jan Nelson - 378 5200

A walk of discovery.

Mt Barney, considered the mountain of mountains amongst bushwalkers. A relaxing weekend camping at Yellow Pinch. Saturday an early start climbing Peasants to the saddle, then climbing East and West Peak. Yes, for those who haven't been to West Peak, this is your chance. The two premier peaks in one day. Views unlimited. Then back down Peasants and a relaxing Saturday night around the campfire. Sunday will be spent exploring Cronan's Creek; a pleasant little water way crossed on the way to Peasants.

Nominate to me at the meeting.

Dave Mort.

MT BARNEY - Throughwalk

Date : 26/28 April 1985
 Leader : Tim Apelt (H) 343 4625 (W) 229 8318
 Cost : \$6.00
 Emergency Officer: Jan Nelson - 378 5200
 Meeting Time : 7.15pm Friday 26 April outside Cathedral

A walk not for the faint hearted.

Spending Friday night in the Club Hut at Mt Barney should allow us an early start for this difficult walk. Following Barney creek until the waterfall, we then climb short Leaning Ridge to the top of Leaning Peak. A short abseil off and we are back on familiar territory of North Peak. Saturday night will be spent at Rum Jungle. Sunday will hopefully find us descending via Rocky Creek back to the base campers at Yellow Pinch.

We will need 4 or 5 walkers on this trip to spread the weight of the rope. Despite the high level of difficulty, this will be a very rewarding walk for all participants!

Tim Apelt

WARRUMBUNGLES - Basecamp

Date : 4/6 May 1985
 Leader : Justin Tobin - ph 260 5065
 Cost : \$35.00 - Deposit \$5.00
 Emergency Officer: Anne Besgrove - ph 349 2468
 Meeting Time : 7.15pm Friday 3 May outside Cathedral

Warrumbungles - Aboriginal for crooked mountain - said to be the meeting place of the east and west because here can be found plants and animals both of the wet eastern side of the Great Divide and of the drier western plains. A range of rugged beauty. Picture yourself on top of Bluff Mountain, wind whistling through your hair; eagles soaring overhead; a view stretching out to the grazing lands of northern NSW.

Leaving Brisbane Friday night to camp late across the border. Leaving early for Coonabarabran and the Warrumbungles, arriving about lunch time. First we will have a look at the Siding

(Con't)

April 1985

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Springs Telescope on the edge of the park, then off to the Ranger and set up camp before exploring Split Rock in the afternoon. Back for a hot shower, then off to town for Mass and maybe tea before coming back to boil the billy and relax around the fire before bed.

Up early Sunday morning before heading off to cover the graded track system to Mt Exmouth - superb views here, onto Bluff Mountain and then the Grand High Top circuit with views to Belongary Spire and beyond, down and around to the Bread Knife - one of the best known features in the park. A full day's walking covering all the main features in the park with rocky outcrops, wildlife, vegetation and views stretching across the flatlands.

Sunday's walking is one of the best day walks the Club has done. I've been before, went again, and recommend it as one of the best weekend walking you can do. Easy. Totally relaxing, and a chance to see something different from our usual walking areas.

Nominate to me at the meeting with a five dollar deposit. All gear to be restricted to one pack or bag please.

Justin

BEAU BRUMMEL - Daywalks

Date : 19 May 1985
 Leader : Peggy Rutter - ph 359 7517
 Cost : \$5.00
 Emergency Officer : Tim Apelt
 Meeting Time : 7.45am outside Cathedral in Charlotte St

Beau Brummel, situated at the beginning of the Little Liverpool Range, affords us good views across Kangaroo Mountain to Mt Castle and out to Cunningham's Gap, across the valley to Mt Mistake and Mt Zahel. A medium walk following the ridge from the farm house, onto the airstrip and up to the range then onto Beau Brummel and those views. Don't forget two litres of water and your hat.

Peggy

PAST SAFETY & TRAINING

Nine of the faithful turned out on top of Mt Coot-tha to study the layout. Rain kept us in a picnic shelter, so I showed the party various types of maps and various features on them. All of us now know everything there is to know about Obum Obum Hill. Once this basic map reading was completed, it stopped raining, and off we went towards "TVO" to do some terrain to map compass work. After an hour of this, ie locating visible quarries, reservoirs and golf courses on the maps, they all successfully passed the test by calculating the bearing - corrected for magnetic variation - to the second window on the right of Stuartholme. There are now eight new competent leaders ready for trips.

Greg Enalcott

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(Con't)

COMING SAFETY & TRAINING

There will be an abseiling/rockclimbing night on 17 April. It is a must for those people who are thinking of going on the Mount Barney TW to attend this training. We will meet at Kangaroo Point cliffs at 6.00pm for a BBQ and start the training at 7.30pm. Nominate to me at the next meeting. BYOE to BBQ.

Ken McCarron
S & T Officer

PAST FMR SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING DAY
24 March 1985 - Tibrogargan

At 8.00am Sunday about 25 people from different Clubs met at Flinder Park and then proceeded to the search base site. The situation was given out that one lone bushwalker was overdue 24hrs and that he was in the rocky outcrop of Tibrogargan. An object of this exercise was to put new people as leaders of search parties as well as base.

I volunteered for base and met up with three other people who I didn't know. We organised three parties to go out to look for the missing person and one party to remain to carry out any hardware that might be needed later.

Romeo 1, 2 and 3 set out on the various search routes they had to take. I found out base is not as easy as thought to be as a high level of concentration needs to be kept at all times. A log of all communication through the radio is kept, all parties had to be co-ordinated with decisions being made every minute.

The injured person was found and the stretcher party was sent up. All parties came together to carry the injured party out. All parties were back at base by 12.30, and after a short de-briefing, the exercise was finished. I felt that everybody who attended got a lot out of it. It would be good to see a few more BCBC members turn up to these training days. As the old saying goes 'more hands make light work' really applies to these days.

Ken McCarron

COMING FMR TRAINING - Saturday 12 May - Springbrook

The next FMR training day is at Purlingbrook Falls on the Saturday night. The purpose of the exercise is to familiarize ourselves with using the gear we have at night. Also, the Westpac rescue helicopter could be there and we will be working in conjunction with it as it probably would be involved in any rescue we do.

We will be meeting at the Cathedral at 3.00pm Saturday afternoon and travelling down for a BBQ tea. We will camp the night down there and return home Sunday morning. Nominate to me at the April meeting.

Ken McCarron
S & T Officer

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SUMMARY OF GENERAL BUSINESS FROM MARCH MEETING

- The question was raised as to whether Long Creek and Knapps Peak walks should be the same cost.
- the ten collectors, for Little Kings Movement, from BCBC raised \$611.59.
- Reminder that a limited amount of equipment is available for hire.
- A suggestion was put forward to review the current reimbursement rates. The suggestion will be taken to the next monthly meeting.

Margaret Anderson

TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently there are 23 financial members in the Club. Don't forget that those of you who have not yet paid your subs, they are now due and payable and are as follows:

\$15.00 single

\$22.50 double

Please pay your subs at the April monthly meeting.

Present balances of the Club's bank accounts are:

Westpac A/c \$655.49

SGIO A/c \$1051.92

Remember that cloth badges (\$3 each) and car stickers (\$0.80 each) are available for sale. If you are proud to be a member of the Club, then why not show it by buying a badge or a sticker. See me at the next monthly meeting.

Geoff Dower

PAST SOCIALS

BUSH DANCE

Saturday 23 March saw 30 members and visitors join with other clubs in the annual Federation bush dance at Rosewood Show Hall. The band was, like last year, The Bunyip Bush Band who did an excellent job of providing the music for the dancing. All people took the opportunity to dance at some stage of the night. A great night was had by all, and thanks to all the people who took the chance to join us on this night.

Barney Tobin

SQUASH NIGHT

Eleven people turned up at Bardon squash courts on Friday 22 March to play against each other in squash and also to play with and against the Bardon court players in indoor volleyball, which is played 6 a side on a squash court. It was a great night, enjoyed by all. Coffee was had afterwards at a local coffee shop. All those who came had a great time, so thanks to all who came.

Barney

COMING SOCIAL - Annual Mass & Dinner - 20 April

As you all know either from last month's meeting or magazine, the Club will once again be hosting the Annual Mass and dinner. The Mass will be held at St Cecilia's Church at Hamilton. The address is corner of College and Hants Streets Hamilton. The Mass will be celebrated by Father Grice at 7.05pm following the regular Saturday Mass, so if people would like to meet in Hants Street at 6.50pm, we will all go in together.

After Mass we will be heading down to the Hamilton Hotel for dinner, consisting of an entree, smorgasbord dinner, and dessert and coffee. Drinks are to be purchased separately.

Nominations are still being accepted up till the April meeting on 15th April, so either see me at the meeting or ring me on 260 5065. I hope to see you all there to join your fellow members and visitors in celebrating the start of the official walking year.

For those who wish to, after the Mass and Dinner we will be climbing Mt Beerwah at night, so for those who think they want to climb Beerwah at night, drop your gear into the car with a torch and see me either at the meeting or on the night. Then we will head up the Coast on Sunday.

Barney

QUIZ ANSWERS (from February magazine)

- A1 Bottom left hand corner - the reliability diagramme
- A2 First: Bottom
Second: Side
Third: There is no third axis
- A3 308 degrees
- A4 All the points along the top edge
- A5 Less area covered on Enoggera 1:25000
More detail shown on " "
- A6 Ten degrees
- A7 The Army hall is in the way
- A8 Work out the direction, then send someone on course and when you can no longer see them, stop them, follow and recommence
- A9 Do back bearings where they meet is where you are standing
- A10 It's small, it has 5 peaks and is outside Harrisville.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES

- 1. Three minutes it takes each rat three minutes to kill each rat.
- 2. Although the letter E is the most used letter in the alphabet, the paragraph is without a single "E".
- 3. (a) Thirteen (b) Fulfil
- 4. If the first man was black, he would have lied and answered "I'm white". If he was white, he would have said so. In either case the words blown away by the wind were "I'm white", so the second man is white, because he told the truth about what the first man said. Since the first two men are both white, the third man is obviously black.

JILALAN

M.B.S.

Bruno, we told you you shouldn't have let Anne catch that bouquet. Congratulations on your engagement.

What was the embarrassing moment at a recent sub-committee meeting when a certain person was heard to ask: "Who was Outings Secretary that year?"

Who was heard to say on a recent Throughwalk, "I should have brought my scuba gear"?

Who was the male getting dressed on the run for a recent bush dance - a pair of pants here, a shirt there, and where the rest came from God only knows!

Congratulations to Jim Besgrove who married Julie Murphy in Townsville on Saturday 30 March. The club was represented by Tony, Mike, Therese, J.C.. Good on you WACK!

What was the attraction of Rosslyn's car that took Tim's attention at the bush dance.

STOP PRESS

Wanted urgently, driver and companion to spend a relaxing three day weekend (Friday night to Monday) in Guy Fawkes area in Nth New South Wales. Needed to drop Justin and J.C. off at the start of the Sara River and pick up Monday at the Old Grafton Rd. A beautiful area for a basecamp. Petrol reimbursed by the Club. See Justin to arrange dates, but please hurry. The foot's itchy and time's running out.

PUZZLES

1. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister.
2. A signalman noticed that a train travelling at 30 miles per hour took six seconds to pass him. How long was the train.
3. A little indian and big indian are walking down the path. The little Indian is the big indian's son. The big indian is not the little indian's father. Who is it?
4. Present were a Politician, a broker, a lawyer and a doctor. Their names (not in the same order) were Alfred, Alexander, Albert and Aloysius. Alfred and the broker were on bad terms with Albert, but Alexander was on the best of terms with the doctor. Albert was related to the lawyer and the politician was a good friend of Aloysius and the doctor. Can you pair up the professions with the names?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

TRIALS OF AN EMPIRE BUILDER

(Extract from Sunday Mail 11/6/78)

by George Blaikie

Philosophers like to say that the occasion always produces the man to handle it. When they make such a pronouncement they are undoubtedly thinking of someone like Colonel George Barney of the Royal Engineers who, in the last century, made a specialty of saving the Empire from falling apart. George could turn his hand to anything from stemming a rebellion of natives to making a fine harbour from a mudflat so that warships could sail in and blast the tar out of England's enemies.

It is not surprising that the cry was forever going up: "Send for George Barney". The warves at Plymouth began to collapse in 1839 and who should rush forward to make them whole again but Colonel Barney. And hardly had he set the last pile into place than an emergency call came from distant Australia. Governor Bourke was desperately worried. Sydney, the very heart of the new colony he was trying to administer, had developed into a tangle of muddy roads which wiggled all over the place. The wharves in the lovely harbour were worse than they had been back home at Plymouth before Barney went to work on them. And the fortification necessary to repulse an invasion by French or Russians really didn't exist. So ... Help!

Out to the Antipodes came Barney at the double. He quickly summed up the situation. New roads, new wharves and new buildings were needed. He started building the lot without bothering about the significant fact that no one outside England had the authority to authorise the tremendous expense involved. One thing about Sydney interested the engineer in particular and that was a little island right in the middle of the Harbour. The spot was called "Pinchgut" and was used as a repository for extra difficult convicts. The unhappy souls dumped there lived on the thinnest rations. The worst of them were kept in chains. Those left unfettered were welcome to have a go at swimming across the harbour through the patrolling sharks to try their luck among the savages in the bush. Colonel Barney declared "Pinchgut" to be the perfect situation for a fort which would be able to blow up any strange ship coming into the harbour. Without further ado, he drew up plans and told Bourke the job would cost only £5000. That figure was quite enormous in those days and Governor Bourke ordered Barney to lay off "Pinchgut" until the authorities in England were consulted on the matter. England sent back a very definite answer which was in short "No. No. No!" Irritated, Colonel George Barney predicted that one fine morning Sydney would wake up to find its harbour full of enemy ships and then it would be too late to think of building a fort.

His warning had hardly stopped ringing round the Sydney waterfront when, one morning, the colony woke to find two American frigates and five other strange ships lying anchor in the harbour. Those seven ships had slipped in unchallenged during the hours of darkness. What if they had been French or Russian warships! That question scared people all the way back to England. Orders came out from the Old Country instructing Barney to start building his fort forthwith. With admirable zest the engineer got to work. The convicts were kicked off the island and lots of stone transported there. In time the prettiest little stone fort began to rise. There was just one cloud in the sky. Barney had been given a budget of £5000 to complete the job. He ignored that normally important fact and raced ahead until the cost had reached the astounding sum of over £16,500. Anyhow Colonel Barney built his fort and in all the years that have since passed it has never fired a shot in attack or defence. By the time the Japanese midget submarines came into the harbour in World War II, the fort was toothless.

(Con't)

The one thing Barney couldn't clean up in Sydney was its crazy maze of streets which to this very day have defied all attempts to straighten them out. He returned to England in 1844 leaving among his monuments the pretty stone fort in the harbour, Victoria Barracks and Circular Quay. A year or so passed by and a curious social problem arose in Sydney. The free citizens living there felt there were just too many convicts living among them and they wanted something done about it. The simplest solution suggested was the establishment of a new colony somewhere up to the north of the continent, well away from Sydney. But who was the man to undertake such a difficult job in an area known to be extra rugged? The answer of course was "Colonel George Barney, R.E.!" Barney answered the call like a good trooper and was briefed to establish a new colony to be called North Australia and consisting of what is now that part of Queensland north of Maryborough. As a reward the engineer was to receive the title of Lieut.-Governor of North Australia. Exactly where he set up his colony was up to him.

Barney sailed out of Sydney Harbour in October 1846 in a small tub called the Cornubia (94 tonnes) and headed north. Poking his vessel into Moreton Bay he did not like much what he saw and sailed on until he reached Port Curtis. Here he found things that attracted him as an engineer - shells for lime making, clay for bricks and timber for building. Having found a site for his capital he returned to Sydney, speedily gathered an advance party and went north once more with 72 soldiers in a big supply ship, the Lord Auckland. Storms battered the craft and she ended up on a sandbank near Port Curtis. Barney was no man to sit around on sandbanks wasting time. He told the skipper to get the Lord Auckland off as best he could and then took a party ashore to get the new colony cracking. The ship was eventually refloated but most of the stores in her hold were ruined by sea water leaving the troops to survive on salt pork and hard biscuit. While Colonel Barney was happy enough on the limited diet, his troops were not enamoured with it nor with the climate which seemed to be forever wet, causing tents and clothing to rot. Another cause for complaint by the soldiers was the fact that the local savages did not like strange intruders and stressed the point by throwing spears through the tents at night, thus causing a lot of sleeplessness among the nervously inclined.

Barney himself took comfort from the fact that a convoy of ships from the south was likely to arrive at any time with lots of supplies and settlers. Also, a land party well laden with stores would be arriving soon according to carefully made plans. Happy days were in sight. At least that was the picture in theory. In practice things were unhappily different. The expected convoy of ships from Sydney didn't make Port Curtis. As for the land party, it got trapped by floods en route, ate all its precious stores, and then returned to Sydney to report its mission had been a failure. Even then the indomitable Colonel Barney kept his upper lip stiff in best British fashion and held his troops together ever promising that something was sure to turn up. What did turn up was a ship with a message advising that the powers back in England had rethought about the proposition for a new colony in the north and decided it wasn't a good idea at all. So the settlement of North Australia collapsed and Barney and his boys returned to Sydney. In spite of his disappointment, Colonel Barney elected to stay in Australia and was given the appointment first of Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands and later Surveyor-General of N.S.W. Later, people came to realise that he had picked a good site for a settlement at Port Curtis and the town of Gladstone was eventually established there.

Colonel Barney died in Sydney in 1862, aged 70, and honoured for his part in developing the colony.

FOOTNOTE (BARNEY NOTE) : Mt Barney, named after George Barney 1859, is being visited by the Club this month. Details on page 6.

THINKING CATHOLIC

PLACE FOR CHRIST

It can be so easy for us to crowd Christ out of our lives. The same thing happened 2,000 years ago when Christ was born and "there was no room for them in the inn". We do not know whether the inn keeper was inhospitable or was simply unable to accommodate the travellers from Nazareth. However, we do know that the inn keeper deprived himself of the privilege of having Jesus born on his premises.

When we don't accommodate Christ in our lives we are like the inn keeper and say, in effect "Sorry, but there's no room for you in my plans". Even worse than that, we can fail to acknowledge his existence at all.

We need to be always on our guard to ensure that Christ is not relegated to the footnotes of our life's history.

Workaholism, desire to climb too high on the social ladder, over-indulgence in various activities, and unfortunately unprayerful absorption in many Church activities, are just a few of the things that can make us push Christ aside. In many ways we are like the fool mentioned in the Gospel, and devote our talents to building bigger and better barns to store the myriad of worthless stuff and distractions, and thus leave no room for the most important of all - Christ.

We frequently find ourselves busy about all sorts of things and offer plausible excuses - yes, we are very similar to the people mentioned in Luke's Gospel who declined places of honour at the feast.

We know we cannot be like Jesus, who spent long and silent time in prayer, however we must stop and look at our lives and just see where we make room for Christ.

We must endeavour to become more aware of the presence of God in our busy lives. Have we ever stopped to think that the God we seek in prayer, missioned men to his service while they were at work!

Our job will only be complete when we can say as Paul did "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me".

Pat Lawton

