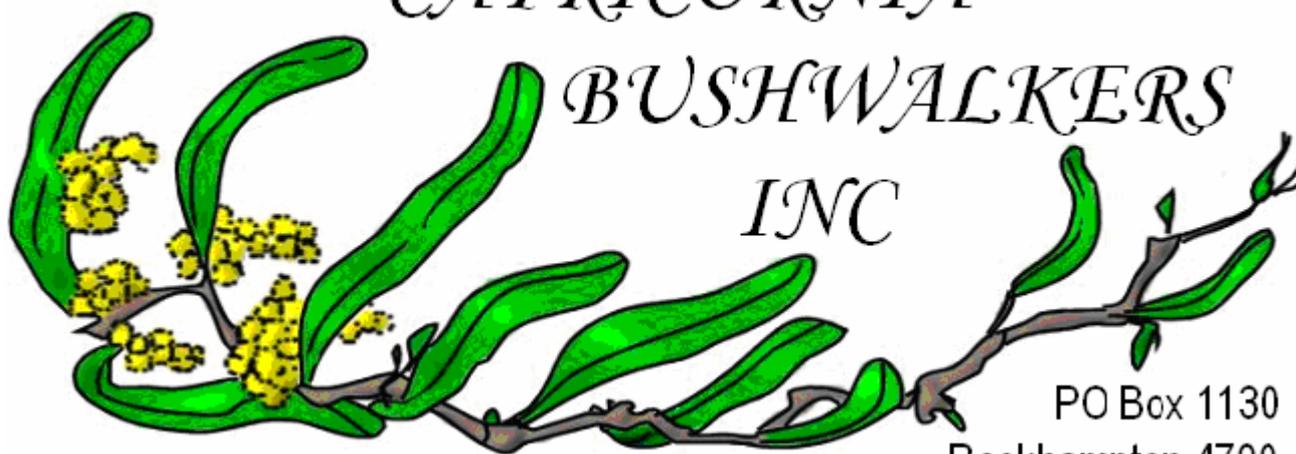


# CAPRICORNIA

## BUSHWALKERS

INC



PO Box 1130  
Rockhampton 4700

No: 114

NEWSLETTER

November 2008

Day	Dates	Nominate By	Location/Purpose	Ad
Sunday	30 November		Mt Jim Crow	
Saturday	6 December		Square Dance Hall, Christmas Break Up	
AustWeekend	24-26 January	15 November	Great Keppel Island	
Sunday	1 February		Yaamba Walk	Y
Sunday	8 February		Capricorn Coast beach walk	Y
Sunday	15 February		Upper, Upper Stoney	Y
Sunday	22 February		General Meeting	
Weekend	28 Feb-1 March	30 January	Blackdown Tablelands	Y
Sunday	8 March		Cawarral	Y
Sunday	15 March		Zamia Walk	Y
Sunday	22 March	8 March	Hedlow Ck	Y
Sunday	29 March		First Aid Training	
Saturday	4 April		Old Time Dance	Y
Sunday	5 April		Canal Creek and Caves Pub	Y
Easter	10 – 13 April	30 January	Bunya Mountains	Y
Sunday	19 April		Mt Chappel and Mt Wiseman	
Weekend	25 - 26 April		Mt Larcom	
May Day	2 – 4 May		Combined Club Campout/Mt Perry	
Sunday	28 June		General Meeting	
Sunday	23 August		Annual General Meeting	
Week	September		North Queensland or Carnavon Gorge	
Sunday	25 October		General Meeting	

**President:** Mary Howard 49387467  
**Vice President:** Cindi Birch 49344120  
**Past President** Fay McBryde 49223820  
**Secretary:** Cheryl Gargan 49387375  
**Treasurer:** Pauline Toop 49261131  
**Publicity Officer:** Margaret Graves 49388892  
**Safety & Training:** Stephen Kerr 49361748  
**Newsletter:** Darryl [capbushwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:capbushwalkers@gmail.com)

**Committee Members** Bevan Titmarsh  
Dave Larkin  
Graeme Dredge  
Darryl Wright

**Social Committee** Dot Svendsen  
Ros Nielsen  
Maxine Maunder  
June Dalliston

# **President's Report**

## **AGM 2008**

It is my privilege and pleasure to present an overview of the Club's activities and welfare during the past twelve months.

An early event in the year and one of much significance was our September week away to Dorrigo National Park in New South Wales. This is an area featuring wonderful waterfalls, many of which we visited and explored. As it was found to be colder than expected, fireplaces, hot water bottles and beanies were popular.

This year's September trip to fields afar will be to the Larapinta Trail in Central Australia – a trek of 223km with a support vehicle. It is expected to take three weeks.

Our club has participated in several interclub activities. Many members joined in the Combined Club Campout in Calliope held by the Gladstone group. Some of our members also went on two other trips with the Gladstone Club during the year. Our club organised the Easter trip – the Mackay Highlands Great Walk in the Eungella area – with participants from both our club and the Bundaberg Club.

A recent weekend was spent with social and educational content. On the Saturday evening, a large numbers of members attended an Australiana birthday party to enjoy a camp oven dinner followed by special deserts. On Sunday, the Safety and training Officer conducted an excellent session on map reading and GPS usage. Most members stayed on to attend an SES ropes training session that afternoon.

Financial membership stands at 75, an increase on last year's number of 66. We need to thank those who were involved in publicising outings for this increase.

No doubt, the most important members of the club are our walk leaders. The expertise and the organising involved are greatly appreciated.

It remains for me to thank the Office Bearers for the time given and the skills displayed in their work for the club. Our Secretary, Treasurer and especially the Newsletter Editor have all done an outstanding job and deserve to be congratulated.

**Fay McBryde**

**Outgoing President.**

**From the editor:**

- ☉ This newsletter again has kindly been printed free of charge by the office of Kirsten Livermore MP – Capricornia. We are grateful for this service and hope her patronage will continue.
- ☉ **NOTE:** The newsletter sent by email is a condensed version of what is available on the Club's Website. It has the pictures, Membership Nomination Form, and any other information, that is available on the Club's Website removed, to keep the size of the file as small as possible. This makes it easier for members with dial-up to receive the walks schedule more quickly.
- ☉ Why not save paper and postage, and receive your newsletter sooner by having it emailed to you. Thank you to the people who have already indicated email is their preferred method of getting the newsletter. It makes things so much easier.
- ☉ Please send **trip reports**, or anything else you may have that would be interesting for the next newsletter to [capbushwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:capbushwalkers@gmail.com), as an attachment. If you don't have email access, please, either post trip reports to **The Editor, C/ Capricornia Bushwalkers INC, PO Box 1130, Rockhampton 4700**, or contact me directly to arrange a drop off or pick up. If possible, use Microsoft Word to write the articles and improve the appearance by using **Insert** to include pictures **From File**.
- ☉ Trip Reports are not to be confused with **leaders' reports** which should go to the PO Box for our Records Officer.
- ☉ Cut off date for contributions to newsletters is usually **one** week after each planning meeting.
- ☉ Remember, we have thankyou cards available for walk leaders to use as they feel appropriate-access to land or whatever. Contact the Secretary if you need one for your walk.
- ☉ We are always looking for photos to post on the club's website. They may be sent to the gmail address above.
- ☉ Reminder: The **club's website** has information for beginners, a walks calendar, photos from walks, information and forms for leaders, list of previous walks, club rules, newsletters, membership form, and other relevant information. Just follow the links.
- ☉ **Organise walks** by going to the club's website and either download "Proposed Walk Details" form or obtain one from the Secretary, complete, and either email it to the walks coordinator or take it to the next General Meeting for approval. By email is the preferred option.
- ☉ For **unofficial walks**, complete a "Proposed Walk Details" and, send it to the gmail address above for distribution by email to members who have requested to be included on the "Unofficial Walk List". This could include prewalks.
- ☉ Email me at the gmail address above if you want to be included in the **"Unofficial Walks List"**.

**WALK LEGEND**

**TYPE OF WALK**

<b>D/W</b> Day Walk	<b>T/W</b> Through Walk or Car Shuttle required	<b>O/N</b> Overnighter
<b>H/W</b> Half-day Walk	<b>4WD</b> Access by 4WD only	<b>X/T</b> Extended Trip
<b>B/C</b> Base Camp	<b>N/F</b> No Facilities-no water, showers, or toilets	<b>TRN</b> Training
		<b>SOC</b> Social

**WALK GRADING**

<b>Fitness Level</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Terrain (Select 2 or 3)</b>
<b>E</b> Easy. Suitable for beginners	<b>A</b> Less than 5 km	<b>1</b> Trail/Graded Track
<b>M</b> Moderate. Reasonable fitness required	<b>B</b> 5 to 10 km	<b>2</b> Off-track/Cross-country
<b>H</b> Hard. Fit walkers only	<b>C</b> 10 to 15 km	<b>3</b> Not pre-walked
	<b>L</b> 15 to 20 km	<b>4</b> Minor scrub
	<b>X</b> Over 20 km	<b>5</b> Medium or Heavy Vegetation
		<b>6</b> Creeks/Rock Hopping
		<b>7</b> Steep Scrambles

## PROGRAM DETAILS

Closing date for nominations is normally at least **5 days** prior to the walk or social event. If you require transport it is doubly important to nominate well in advance. If travelling with someone else, it is courteous to pay your share of travel costs. Some walks may have a limit on numbers and preference is given to members. **Organisers for Socials need advance nominations as well!**

**NOTE: Distances shown are only approximate return totals. As determined at the last General Meeting (October 2008), passengers sharing transport are asked to contribute 10cents/km towards the cost of the journey.**

**Date:** 30 November  
**Type:** H/W, M, A, 7  
**Description:** Walk up and enjoy the views around Mt Jim Crow.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 36

**Location:** Mt Jim Crow  
**Contact:** Pauline 4926 1131

**Alt/s:** 221

**Date:** 6 December  
**Type:** SOC  
**Description:** Bring a plate to share, and a gift to a value of \$5.00 to help celebrate Christmas. BYO drinks.

**Location:** Square Dance Hall  
**Contact:** Ros 4928 7406  
or Maxine 4928 3212

**Alt/s:**

**Date:** 24 – 26 January  
**Type:** D/W, H/W, B/C, SOC, E, B, 1,2,6  
**Description:** Enjoy a weekend of walking, swimming, snorkelling with your fellow bushwalkers on this beautiful island or just relax. Stay at the very comfortable Keppel Lodge which has room for 17 people. Contact leader for more information.

**Location:** Great Keppel Island  
**Contact:** Cheryl 4938 7375

**Alt/s:** 300

**Date:** 1 February  
**Type:** H/W, E, B, 2,3,4  
**Description:** Enjoy lunch and an easy walk along the banks of the Fitzroy River amongst the paperbark trees. Look for semi-precious stones, birds, other wildlife, and crocodile slides on the banks.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 58

**Location:** Yaamba  
**Contact:** Darryl 4926 1160

**Alt/s:** 100m

**Date:** 8 February  
**Type:** D/W, E, C, 2  
**Description:** A pleasant walk along the pristine shore-line of the Capricorn Coast.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 90

**Location:** Capricorn Coast  
**Contact:** Cheryl 4938 7375

**Alt/s:**

**Date:** 15 February  
**Type:** D/W, M, B, 2  
**Description:** Enjoy a walk through the Byfield area with a creek swim on the way downstream.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 130

**Location:** Upper, Upper Stoney  
**Contact:** Dave 4939 4916  
0407 131 089

**Alt/s:** 270

**Date:** 22 February  
**Time:** 2 pm  
**Description:** This is your opportunity to participate in an important club activity while at the same time catch up with your fellow bushwalkers. It is also the occasion when the Walks Program for the next few months is finalised. Any suggestions/proposals will be very much appreciated.

**Location:** Environment Centre  
**Contact:** Mary 4938 7467

**Alt/s:**

**Date:** 28 Feb – 1 March  
**Type:** T/W, O/N, H, L, 2, 4, 7  
 B/C, O/N, M, B, 6  
**Alt/s:** 300  
**Location:** Blackdown Tableland  
**Contact:** Alan 4922 4935  
 Glyn 4927 5972  
**Description:** This is a combination of two walk. Alan leads the through walk and Glyn leads the base camp.  
 Through-walk to Numma Falls from the radio towers, then on to Hazelmere or Mimosa Ck to camp. Walk up Rainbow Ck and the get-up next day to meet the base campers who maybe able to help with transport.  
 Base camp at the new National Park facilities and on Saturday, walk down North Mimosa Creek to the falls. On Sunday, walk down the track to Rainbow Falls for a swim.  
 Organise yourselves into groups and book early as the campsite now has only 16 sites with a maximum of 6 people per site allowed.  
 Note: Information about Blackdown Tableland campsites is on the internet.

**Approx drive dist (km):** 365

**Date:** 8 March  
**Type:** H/W, E B, 1  
**Alt/s:**  
**Location:** Cawarral  
**Contact:** Cindi 4934 4120  
**Description:** 6km walk around the byways of Cawarral.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 50

**Date:** 15 March  
**Type:** D/W, T/W M,C,1,6  
**Alt/s:** 600  
**Location:** Zamia Trail, Mt Archer  
**Contact:** Cheryl 4938 7375  
**Description:** A picturesque climb from Moore's Creek through varied types of vegetation to the picnic area on top of Mt Archer. Morning tea and lunch on the track but reward yourself with an ice-cream at the top and some wonderful views.

**Approx drive dist (km):**

**Date:** 22 March  
**Type:** H/W, SOC, E, B  
**Alt/s:**  
**Location:** Hedlow Creek  
**Contact:** Helen 4997 1775 but prefer  
 h.mackay@aapt.net.au  
**Description:** Enjoy an easy paddle on a very scenic creek. Bring your own canoe/kayak or borrow one. Nominate by 8 March if you need to borrow a canoe.

**Approx drive dist:** 54

**Date:** 29 March  
**Type:** D/W, TRN  
**Alt/s:**  
**Location:** First Aid Training Day  
**Contact:** Stephen 4936 1748  
**Description:** Come along for a day of training in First Aid tailored to meet the needs of bushwalkers. More information will be available at the February General Meeting.

**Date:** 4 April  
**Type:** SOC  
**Alt/s:**  
**Location:** Parkhurst Hall  
**Contact:** Ros 4928 7406  
**Description:** Kick your heel up while enjoying old time dancing. Supper provided.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 5

**Date:** 5 April **Location:** Canal Creek & Cave Pub  
**Type:** SOC, E, B **Alt/s:** **Contact:** Sharyn 0408267530  
**Description:** Morning swim/walk at Canal Creek followed by lunch at the Caves Pub  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 60

**Date:** 10 – 13 April **Location:** Bunya Mountains  
**Type:** B/C, E, M, B, C, 3 **Alt/s:** Yes **Contact:** Bevan 4922 7482  
**Description:** There are numerous National Park walks to choose from and for something different, Wineries and Historical Sites. More information to follow at the next General Meeting but you should nominate ASAP.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 1120

**Date:** 19 April **Location:** Mt Chappel, Mt Wiseman  
**Type:** H/W, M, A, 2, 7 **Alt/s:** 400m **Contact:** Alan 4922 4935  
**Description:** A short walk from First Turkey with views over the city.  
**Approx drive dist (km):**6

**Date:** 25 - 26 April **Location:** Mt Larcom  
**Type:** D/W, O/N, M, B, 1, 7 **Alt/s:** Yes **Contact:** Cheryl 4938 7375  
**Description:** A steady ascent with a short but steep scramble at the peak is rewarded by magnificent rural/sea views from the top. Possibility for a camp-over at the Calliope River Crossing where it is ideal for canoeing.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 200

**Date:** 2 – 4 May **Location:** Combined Club Campout  
**Type:** **Alt/s:** **Contact:**  
**Description:** **For bushwalking members only.** Join in with the other clubs for a long weekend of well planed walks and activities run by the Bundaberg Bushwalkers. More information to follow once it becomes available.  
**Approx drive dist (km):** 650

**Date:** 28 June **Location:** Environment Centre  
**Time** 2 pm **Alt/s:** **Contact:** Mary 4938 7467  
**Description:** This is your opportunity to participate in an important club activity while at the same time catch up with your fellow bushwalkers. It is also the occasion when the Walks Program for the next few months is finalised. Any suggestions/proposals will be very much appreciated.

**Date:** 23 August **Location:** Environment Centre  
**Time** 2 pm **Alt/s:** **Contact:** Mary 4938 7467  
**Description:** AGM. More information to follow.

**Date:** September **Location:** Week Walk  
**Time** **Alt/s:** **Contact:**  
**Description:** Two suggestions were raised at the October General Meeting and a decision will be made next year. Either camping and walking at Carnarvon Gorge or travelling around North Queensland doing a variety of walks including climbing Bartle Frere.

# WALK REPORTS

## CANOONA 13/7/08



As we left Rockhampton, the sprinkling of rain hitting the windscreen slowly intensified the closer we approached our destination. Just before the Canoona monument the dark clouds that engulfed us slowly moved on to leave us cloaked in high level mist with complete cloud cover. Undaunted by the possibility of rain, we stopped to view the monument, erected to commemorate the discovery of gold by W C Chapple in 1858, by those who pioneered Rockhampton.

By the time we returned to the vehicles and drove off, the misty sprinkles lifted to leave us with full cloud cover, occasional mist and surrounding light

showers for the rest of the day. Unfortunately, these made it difficult to fully appreciate the expansive scenery throughout the walk.

On leaving the cars, Pauline led us along the yellow-flowering wattle lined gravel road to admire the view overlooking one of the gates at Canoona Park Station. We retraced our steps a short distance, and entered the scrub for the start of the first hill. While climbing this rocky outcrop, Stephen announced that the rock formations were serpentine. When asked to explain, he informed us that it was formed close to the earth's mantle, and has minerals such as cobalt, nickel, chromium, and may contain blue asbestos. On hearing this, I quickly discarded the silvery coloured rock I picked up earlier. On many



of the exposed rocks, twisted veins of mineral were visible on the surfaces and fractured rocks exposed the multi-coloured bright facets of the crystalline structure which gave it its name. The soils adjacent to serpentine rocks are usually toxic due to the presence of high levels of those minerals, and are usually low in potassium, phosphorus and calcium. The flora is generally distinctive with slow-growing, specialised species.

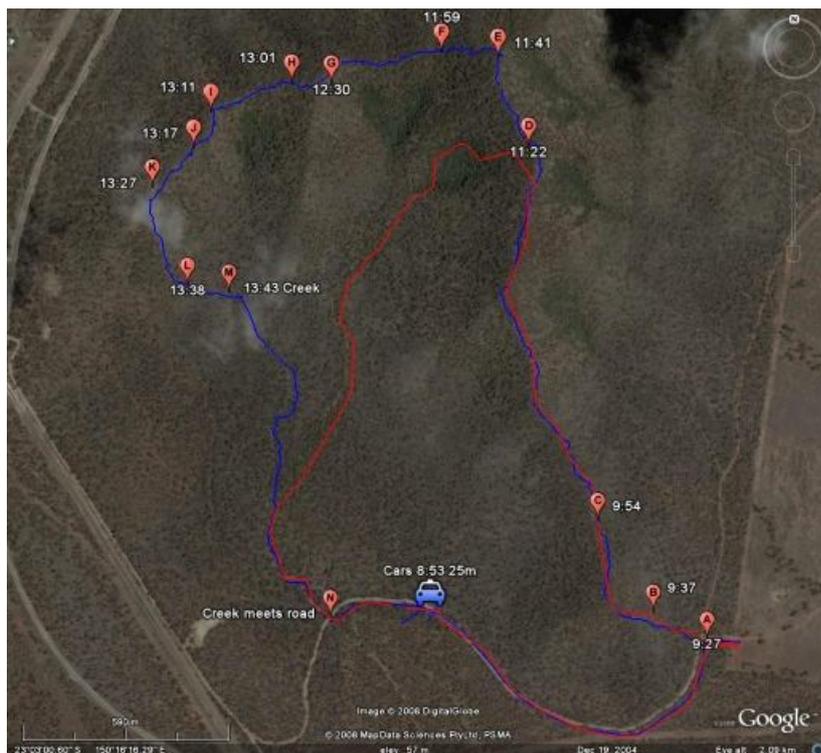
The first hill was quickly conquered, and after a short break to catch our breaths, we followed the ridge to a rocky outcrop where we stopped to have morning tea.



Pressing on, we followed the ridges to the next peak where, while we rested, Stephen read out a story on the short-lived (66 days) Canoona gold rush which, though considered a disaster in its time, helped establish Rockhampton.

At one vantage point, we stopped to look at what remains of the hill which was once a nickel mine. On Pauline's topographic image map, it is shown as a red blotch but now, with the revegetation, and from our vantage point, it was light brown as the established grasses and dead brush take on their

winter colours. A few trees were visible and a large paddock of yellow-flowering wattle was prominent in the foreground.



Before cooling off, we headed for the next peak where we had lunch overlooking the Bruce Highway and railway line. After lunch, we continued along the ridges to then follow a spur down into one of the creeks that drain the valley partly surrounded by the 5 peaks we had just walked. The lower portion of this spur had a mixture of live and dead wattle surrounded by a patchwork of hardy grasses amongst the ironbarks. Once in the creek, we rock hopped down it to stop occasionally to look closer at the veins and mineral faces in the rocks exposed and smoothed by the action of the water. We followed the creek through its twists and turns until it met the track we drove on earlier and returned to the cars.

The picture above shows this year's walk (blue), and the one from the previous year (red), plotted onto Google Earth.

Read the articles below to learn about the gold rush and serpentine rocks of the area.

<http://www.aussieheritage.com.au/listings/qld/Marlborough/CapricorniaSerpentineLandscape/300>

[www.library.cqu.edu.au/visit/regional/manuscripts/canoona.pdf](http://www.library.cqu.edu.au/visit/regional/manuscripts/canoona.pdf)

Darryl

### MOUNT ATHERTON 27/8/08

Quick introductions were made at Waterpark Ck, and after climbing back into the 4WDs to escape the cold, 19 of us headed off along the gravel and dirt road for the start of the walk. Just after 8:00, we parked the vehicles off the road and after a talk from Alan, headed north through the well



timbered scrub for the first spur. About 30 minutes into the walk, we were offered our first views of the wilderness around us between the foliage of the many varieties of trees. Several white sandy tracks forced through the scrub by 4WD-ers leading to Five Rocks and Nine Mile beach were always prominent against the dark green backdrop of trees and bushes. It wasn't long before the one at the front of the party began to expend considerable energy forcing a way, for the rest to follow, through the intertwined fonds of the densely growing, hip-high, grasstrees.

Animal pads, which usually provide an easy path for the feet to follow, were rare and difficult to distinguish. In this type of vegetation, it is necessary to share the burden of being the one in front and it was good to see volunteers rise to the occasion.

Well before 10:00 the cries from those conditioned to partake in morning tea, reminded Alan that it was approaching that hour, and we took a break near a patch of wild raspberries on the second hill. After the break, we turned north east to find the saddle that led to the next rise. From there, we continued to force our way along the ridges, and wasn't long before we had a clear view of the rocky summit of Mount Atherton about an hour away. We soon picked up speed, as the vegetation opened making it easier to force a path around the varieties of shrubs that cover the higher ridges, to reach the rocky outcrop below the summit, and, after a brief rest, to admire the stunning view. We continued on to the summit to arrive around 11:30. Here we remained to take pictures, rest, and admire the unspoilt scenery.

It did not take long for the map of the proposed coal terminal to be presented, and discussion quickly turned to the facility being located in the headwaters of Waterpark Creek, which is the water supply for Yeppoon, and the rail line passing through such a well-preserved area.

Keen to push on, Alan led us west south-west to follow the ridges to The Peaks.

During a break, while waiting for the tail to catch up, Alan wisely decided to avoid the longer walk to The Peaks and turned south to



find a spur that led down to the western side of the range, which we followed until we met a fork in the creek. The old track leading down from the steep bank into the creek was now under a large log and a few audacious ones opted for a scramble down the log, while the remainder followed Alan as he slowly forced his way through the thick vegetation along the narrow spur to the creeks.

We then crossed the creek to the right hand bank to walk parallel with the creek by forcing our way through the tightly packed grasses, vines, and shrubs. The thin but strong vines growing underfoot made it difficult for those in front by snaring ankles and causing a few tumbles. An encroaching ridge forced us back into the creek, which we followed for a while before climbing the steep bank on the other side where Stephen used his GPS to provide us with updated bearings, relative to the shadows, to the cars. The walk through this long and almost flat section was painful to me as I was wearing shorts, and the wild raspberries and lantana tore through fresh scratches on my legs. In reality, it looked worse than it felt. I wasn't the only one suffering from the thorns as spots of blood were visible on the outer surface of long pants of others.

It took about an hour to walk from the creek and we arrived at the cars just before 4:00.

What I will remember of this walk is being stabbed in the eye by one of the grasstree fronds, the exceptionally thick, hip high vegetation we had to force our way through, the ticks we removed from our clothing during the walk, and the one that Chris removed from my scalp the following night using a bi-carb soda paste, but most of all, the beautiful views this mountain offers of the mostly unspoilt Byfield area. Thanks again Alan, for another of your great walks. Darryl

## Mt Dick –Pilbeam Drive Circuit Walk July 27

17 of us assembled at the first lookout on Pilbeam Drive on a cool overcast morning. Our walk was to be from here up to Birkbeck and along the ridgeline to Mt Dick, down into Black Creek valley, turn up the valley and walk back towards our start point. Simple – about 8 km.

Our own Mary H and 4 of our guest walkers were all in training for the Kokoda Trail - soon to



happen. With Mt Ganter behind them, our guests were confidently ready for Mt Dick as the Berserkers have a more bushwalker- friendly reputation than Byfield.

Our modest hills (no, there are no mountains in Australia- ask any Kiwi) fall far short of the Owen Stanley's although any topography will make us battle gravity- which we are told, does us good.

Despite the high cloud the visibility was great and rarely better - the Keppel Islands seemed so close to the mainland. I was looking at a map and features with Keith and Steve when I realised the

group had lost patience and deserted us. It was such a great cool day for walking so I don't blame them. We had to hurry a bit to catch up-certainly no slouches on this walk.

Toward Berserker we got to a rocky bluff which has been Lantana infested for a long time. We now have a wide, comfortable route thanks to other walkers who, for some time, have been cutting back the Lantana regrowth on their visits.

Morning tea on Mt Dick then down, down, down. "Head toward Mt Sleipner and then veer left a bit" I told a few of the party to help instil confidence and keep morale up.

Some small outcrops caused us to skirt about and into Lantana patches- a bit fiddly. There were some proper touch downs, i.e. bottoms, and hand only saves.

We followed pig tracks mostly and later zigzagged through Lantana on to the road. Maybe not in the true spirit of bushwalking, but the dirt road gave us a break after the long rough descent.

Half an hour later we had run out of road and were in the creek bed itself where recent rains had provided a fair bit of water. Having kicked the habit of creek walking because of joint problems, I

immediately got onto a horse and pig trail (yes, it is a National Park) and headed upstream. It has been an exceptional year for Lantana growth, but thanks to a familiarization prewalk with Darryl I was able to confidently follow a reasonable trail by the creek.

Lunch was at a delightful pool in the creek- really good to see so much water this time of the year. "Not much further now" I said to belay some suspected doubters, though I think most people's ears are deaf to those words by now. After lunch we set off to reach the bottom of the "hill of a 1000 steps" as this is the only spur that leads to the



saddle where our cars were waiting. Other spurs go up to Mt Birkbeck or Mt Archer which only makes it harder.

Eventually we got to the spot and - "ok team, the cars are above us". The group strung out as we zigzagged our way up the ever-steepening spur, but it was OK as it was the last hill of the day. Al

### The New Zealand Gully Walk 28 September 08

Alan and I turned onto the New Zealand Gully Road to find Mary parked on the side of the road and, after quick greetings, we continued along the road to park our vehicles beside an intersection.



Around 7:40, the three of us loaded up our equipment, and headed up the driveway to then follow another track, which led off to the left past some tanks to an earthen dam. We skirted the dam and walked up a spur for the first part of the climb up Badger Mountain. The pig tracks we followed soon dispersed into large clumps of lantana, where we either forced our way through, or took the indirect, (but less damaging), route by walking around them.

On reaching the steeper section of the spur, the lantana thinned out and we clambered our way over rocky outcrops and stumpy vegetation

that concealed rocks to reach the 525m summit of the Badger Mountain, arriving just after 9:00 where we stopped for morning tea.

The larger and denser foliage of trees on the western side thinned out the undergrowth and lantana, and we were often rewarded with good views of the Stanwell area through the slight haze. We

continued around to the North West, and a short distance from Mount Risien (554m) we discovered about half a hectare of exposed black soil on a slope, upturned by foraging pigs. On passing Mt Risien, we took a quick break near abandoned holding yards before continuing on to the unnamed peak (558m) where we stopped for lunch around midday. After lunch, we headed along the spacious rim for Mount Standish. It was not long before we were provided with good views of the regions of Cawarral and Mount Chalmers and the abandoned open cut mine, which is partly full of water.



A large number of Cabbage Palms, which were in bloom at the end of July, now, with black, ripe, fruit stood out amongst the other trees on Mount Standish and I was delighted to see a number of Topknot Pigeons in the trees close by. Unfortunately though, the discarded fruit rolled like marbles when we stood on them resulting in us falling backwards during the descent of the spur from Mount Standish to the car.

NOTE: H W Risien was a bookkeeper for the Archers and W H Standish the Roads Superintendent. All up, the walk was about 9 km, and took us around 6 ½ hours. Darryl

## Canoe Trip-Dawson River Theodore

### .. or perhaps *In search Of Mulberry Island.*

The local pub was a good meeting place on Friday night for paddlers arriving at various times during the evening. Eat, drink and plan the weekend's paddling. That done, time for some sleep. Free camping with hot showers at The Junction camp and picnic area provided a grassy campsite at the junction of Castle Creek and Dawson River.

Saturday morning saw some of us have an early paddle up Castle to see how far we could get as water levels were higher than previously seen. Plenty of wildlife- both birds and reptiles.

Then back to meet with the rest of the group to set off in search of Mulberry island. It seems a legend among Theodore canoe folk who all write of an overnight paddle and camp there as part of

the qualifications renewal process. But no-one seems to have actually been there. So off we went, armed with a Google Earth map showing an island mass about 5 km upstream from the junction. Eventually several islands midstream but none with the legendary picnic table and boat ramp that distinguish Mulberry Island from every other island. Having trusted Google Earth and a piece of string to determine that the island was only 5kms away, we'd decided to just take smoko as *we were such adept paddlers we'd be back before lunch*. Several separate parties set off to explore various islands - all to no avail. Well, plenty of islands but none with the characteristic boat ramp or picnic table or even good access. Before mutiny set in from the hungry paddlers, we decided to find any suitable access to the bank for smoko. Then it was decided to head back as the wind would be against us downstream back to camp. Along the way a local fisherman told us (of Mulberry Island) *it's just up there, just past many smaller islands. Can't miss it!*

But hunger was the guiding force so lunch back at camp was our goal. Why was it that one paddler (see attached photo) thought it time for a swim as we approached the boat ramp? Or why was the water so



much deeper where she stepped out of the canoe than where the rest of us did? Or perhaps just Brian needed a bit extra help with the paddling? After lunch and a rest, it was time for a downstream paddle to firstly the smaller weir then the larger one. The smaller one saw us follow a meandering creek off the main river. Smaller creeks allow for much more variety of wildlife. Around each bend were water dragons and various birds- pelicans, shags, spoonbills and more. Then back to the main weir- the one visible from the highway and back to camp as it was surely time for happy hour.

Next morning, it was time for another trip up Castle Creek- first time for some and just a good

paddle for others. Quite a bit of rubbish to collect en route. Guess Gerry now knows the point of no return for his canoe while trying to retrieve rubbish. A good wake up swim.

Back for a late bacon & eggs breakfast before heading off in various directions.

A return trip to find the elusive Mulberry Island is on the agenda soon but next time must make a note to take lunch as distances may not be what they appear on Google Earth. The Dawson provides many good paddling trips - in Theodore, Moura and various other places.

A good weekend paddling with good company.

Helen



## LIMESTONE RIDGE, MT ETNA CAVES NATIONAL PARK.

Saturday was spent on the Limestone Ridge section of the Mount Etna Caves National Park.



First we enjoyed the walk up the track to Ballroom Cave and as three of us had not seen that cave before, we spent some time exploring it.

Then, because there were only five of us, (Darryl, Glyn, Gerry, Alex from Gladstone, and Pauline), we decided to undertake some reconnaissance and exploration. We headed to Canyon Cave. Entry was by a wire ladder that we put down so we could enter the cave. That proved to be a steep learning curve for those who were not accustomed to wire ladders as they somewhat have a mind of

their own. However, it wasn't long before the wily obstacle was tamed and we were inside. We made our way down through the cave exploring its depths with the help of a few short lengths of rope.

On to the next cave and we viewed a fabulous piece of biological science looking at fossils.

We started to search for another cave that I had explored three decades ago but as time was getting on and the weather closing in, we decided to leave it for another day. It's a wonderful feeling to have something unexplored enticing you back again.

Pauline.

# RISK WAIVER

**This waiver is incorporated in the Club's Membership Application & MUST be signed. New members should sign this when joining the Club. Existing members should sign when next renewing membership.**

## MEMBERSHIP RISK WAIVER

In voluntarily participating in any activity of the Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc, I am aware that this activity has inherent risks that may expose me to injury, illness, death or loss of, or damage to property. I accept that Walk Leaders are untrained volunteers who organise activities commensurate with my being self-reliant. I accept full responsibility for ensuring my own well-being, and will cooperate with others to ensure that I do not put anyone else at increased risk.

Inherent risks may include, but are not limited to, slippery, loose and/or uneven surfaces, rocks being dislodged, falling at edges of cliffs or drops or elsewhere, risks associated with crossing creeks, hypothermia, heat exhaustion, bites, vehicle failures, poor or no communications and being lost. I am aware of, and accept that there may be no first aid available on Club trips.

To minimise these risks, I will try to ensure that any activity in which I participate, is within my capabilities, and that I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity. I agree to advise the Walk Leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical, or other limitations, that might affect my participation in any section, or part, of the activity.

I will make every effort to remain with the group during the activity, and accept a consensus of the group, or instruction from the leader of the activity if, and when, required.

I am also aware that it is a condition of admission to membership of Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc that the Land Owner, Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc, its committee, officeholders, Walk Leader, members, and other participants are absolved from all liability howsoever arising from injury or damage howsoever caused, (whether fatal or otherwise), arising out of:

- a) Membership of Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc;
- b) Participation in social activities organised by Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc;
- c) Participation in, observing participation, or training for, activities organised by Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc;
- d) The use of any equipment or resources whether it be the club's property, or otherwise;
- e) In any way whatsoever due to any negligent act, breach of duty, default and/or omission on the part of the Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc, its committee, officeholders or members.

I am also aware that any person participating in, observing or training for any activity carried on, or organised by Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc, including any social activity is only allowed to do so on the distinct understanding that they do so at their own risk.

**NOTE: If less than 18 years old, have one of your parents, or your usual guardian, sign the 'Membership less than 18 years old' section on the next page.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read or heard and understand the requirements**, I have considered the inherent risks before choosing to sign this Waiver, and I still wish to participate in the activities of the Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc. I agree by signing this form to waive any claim for damages arising from this activity that I may have against the club, land owner, Walk Leader or other participants in tort or contract.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ at (Place) \_\_\_\_\_ on (Date) \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT NAME  
AND ADDRESS) \_\_\_\_\_

In the presence of:

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Witness \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print full Name of Witness)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLUS, FOR MEMBERSHIP LESS THAN 18 YEARS OLD.  
A parent, otherwise the usual guardian(s), must sign below.**

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child)

whose birth date is \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read** or all the above and consent to above-named child participating in the activities of the Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc, and I will ensure trips are within their capability, they attend appropriately prepared, and will obey the directions given by the Walk Leader. I will advise the Walk Leader if the child is taking any medication or has any physical or other limitation that might affect their participation in the activity.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (PARENT/GUARDIAN)

at \_\_\_\_\_ (Place) on \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE)

(PRINT NAME) \_\_\_\_\_  
(ADDRESS  
& PHONE  
CONTACT) \_\_\_\_\_

**CAPRICORNIA BUSHWALKERS INC**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

Membership will be provisional, until approved at the next General Meeting.

NOTE: Membership fees are due on the 1st of January each year.

- New Member
- Renewal (Please Print .....neatly)

NAME(S): .....

.....

POSTAL ADDRESS: .....

.....

Number of members included in this application form: .....

In which format would you prefer to receive your newsletter?

- Email  Snail Mail (post)

E-mail: .....

Phone: (Home) ..... (Work): .....

Mobile: .....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**FEES – (membership until 31 Dec)**

either	Single (ordinary)	\$25.00
or	Family (2 adults and children under 18 years)	\$35.00
or	Student/Pensioner	\$15.00

Amount Included \$.....

**(Compulsory insurance and affiliation fees are included in above.)**

Tick and sign beside the box below if you do not want your Name and Phone Number distributed to other members.

.....

Please attach a signed Risk Waver for everyone on this form and forward to:

**The Treasurer  
Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc  
PO Box 1130  
ROCKHAMPTON 4700**

**Note: You are advised to retain a copy of the Risk Waver for future reference.**

Our Internet page: [www.geocities.com/capbushwalkers](http://www.geocities.com/capbushwalkers)  
Contact the Club by e-mail at: [capricornia\\_bushwalkers@yahoo.com.au](mailto:capricornia_bushwalkers@yahoo.com.au)  
The Secretary's address: **The Secretary  
PO Box 1130,  
ROCKHAMPTON 4700**