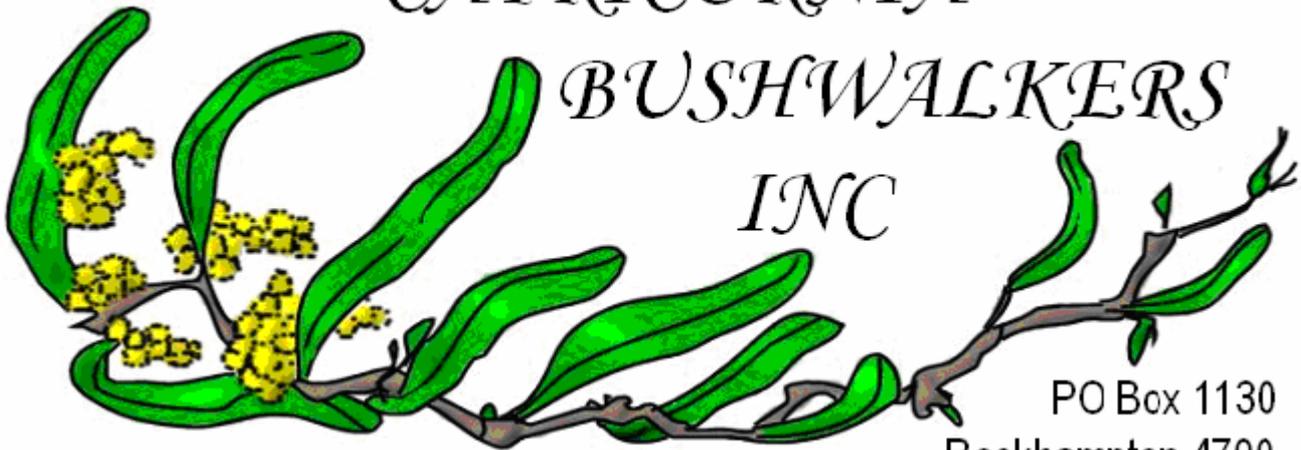


CAPRICORNIA

BUSHWALKERS

INC



PO Box 1130
Rockhampton 4700

No: 122

NEWSLETTER

July 2011

Days	Dates	Nominate By	Fitness Level	Activity	Members Only	Contact	Phone No
Sat - Sun	2 - 3 Jul		E	Archer's Plaque		Ian	4938 1818
Sun	10 Jul		H	Cabbage Tree Hill		Alan	4922 4935
Sun	17 Jul		EM	Canoona		Pauline	4926 1131
Sat	23 Jul	16 Jul	E	Gateball		Maxine	4928 3212
Sun	31 Jul		E	Beach Walk		Cheryl	0437932767
Sat	13 Aug		E	Moonlight Walk		Ros	0438287406
Sat - Sun	20 - 21 Aug	12 Aug	M	Springsure/Minerva N P		Deborah	4935 4029
Week	29Aug - 6Sep	Closed		Kangaroo Island	Y	Cheryl	4938 7375
Sun	11 Sep			Mystery Walk		Alan	4922 4935
Sun	18 Sep		M	Berserkers		Glyn	4927 5972
Sun	25 Sep		E	Woolwash/Bot. Grdns		Cheryl	4938 7375
Sat - Sun	1 - 2 Oct	26 Sep	M	Yarrowonga, Blackwater	Y	David or Robyn	0427277400
Sun	9 Oct			AGM/General Meeting		Mary	4939 2703
Sun	16 Oct		M	Caving Trip/ Mt Etna		Pauline	4926 1131
Sat - Sun	22 - 23 Oct	17 Oct	ME	Mt Larcom/Tondoon Bot. Gardens		Cheryl	4938 7375
Sun	30 Oct		HM	Byfield Walk		Darryl	4926 1160
Sun	6 Nov		M	Sisal Track		Carol	0400195405
Sat/Sun	12 - 13 Nov		M	Capricorn Coast camp		Dot	4939 7443
Sun	20 Nov		M	Gym Boy's Track		Carol	0400195405
Sun	27 Nov	25 Nov	M	Beach Walk		Deborah	4935 4029
Sat - Sun	3 - 4 Dec	1 Dec	E	Xmas Campout	Y	Deborah	0421850568

NOTE: As of 1/7/11 our insurance only covers activities authorised by the club and listed in the schedule.

President: Mary Howard 49387467
Vice President: Cindi Birch 49344120
Secretary: Cheryl Gargan 49387375
Treasurer: Deborah Mylrea 49354029
Publicity Officer: Margo Martin 49337156
Safety & Training: Stephen Kerr 49361748
Newsletter: capbushwalkers@gmail.com

Committee Members Darryl Wright
 Dave Larkin
 Allan Rogers
 Athol Keanalley
Social Committee Dot Svendsen
 Ros Nielsen
 Maxine Maunder
 Carol Campbell

From the Editor:

- The Capricorn Bushwalkers Inc. newsletter has again 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.
- The Website: <http://www.cqbushwalkers.110mb.com> has Information for Beginners, walk photos, information and forms for leaders, previous walks, Club Rules, **most of the newsletters**, membership and incident (accident) forms, links to weather warnings, tide times, recent fire information, frequently asked questions, results of tests with equipment, and other clubs. Just follow the links.
- If you are a new member, or have recently changed your email address and want to be kept informed of changes to the walk schedule, email the editor at capbushwalkers@gmail.com. Sign up for a yahoo, hotmail, or gmail free email address. These are portable through any service provider anywhere in the world, & usually offer greater capacity than that of your service provider.
- Please send **walk reports** for the next newsletter to capbushwalkers@gmail.com, as an attachment. If you do not have email access, please post them to **The Editor, Capricornia Bushwalkers INC, PO Box 1130, Rockhampton 4700**, or contact the editor directly. If possible, use Microsoft Word to write the articles and improve the appearance by using **Insert** to include pictures **From File**. Compress the size of the pictures by: **Right click** on a picture in article; choose **Format Picture**; click on the **Compress** button; Select **All Pictures in Document**; and change Resolution to **Print**. Click on **OK, OK**. This makes the file smaller to Email.
- **Cut off date for articles is usually one week after the General Meeting.**
- **Leaders' Reports** should go to the PO Box for our Records Officer.
- Remember that we have **thankyou cards** available for walk leaders to use as they feel appropriate- access to land or appreciation for other assistance. Contact the Secretary if you need one for your walk.
- **Photos:** Email your photos directly to the sharing site linked to the Gmail address above. Contact the editor by E-mail if you want information on how to do it and to add subtitles to the photos.
- **Organise walks** by going to the club's website and either download "Walk Details" form or obtain one from the Secretary, complete, and either email it to the editor, or take it to the next General Meeting for approval. E-mail is the preferred option. These are usually due one week after the General Meeting.

WALK LEGEND

TYPE OF WALK

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

WALK GRADING

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

PROGRAM DETAILS

Closing date for nominations is at least **5 days** prior to the walk or social event. If you require transport it is important to nominate well in advance. If travelling with someone else, it is courteous to pay your share of travel costs (**10 cents/km**). Some walks may have a limit on numbers and preference is given to members.

NOTE: *Distances shown are only approximate return totals.*

Date: 3 July
Type: D/W E B 2
Description: This will be a walk to Archer's Plaque, which I don't think the club has been to since Donny Macdonald was alive. It will be a fairly easy walk starting from Belgamba and heading west along the Razorback Range to Archer's Plaque which was installed to commemorate the arrival of the Archer Brothers in the district when they looked out over the Fitzroy plains and decided to settle at Gracemere. There may be an opportunity to camp at Belgamba the previous evening if the ground has dried out from the rains. This would provide a chance to do a shorter walk on the Saturday afternoon.
Location: Belgamba to Archer's Plaque
Contact: Ian Herbert 4938 1818
Alt/s:
Approx drive dist (km): 70

Date: 10 July
Type: D/W H C 2 3 4 7
Description: We start from New Zealand Gully and follow the ridges around to Cabbage Tree Hill and return via a different route. There are good views from the top of the hill and, as the name suggests, you see many palm trees.
Location: Cabbage Tree Hill
Contact: Alan 4922 4935
Alt/s:
Approx drive dist (km): 54

Date: 17 July
Type: D/W E A 2 4
Description: A walk through the (hopefully) flowering wattle. The walk does a circuit up a series of small peaks, then along a dry creek bed, and back to the starting point.
Location: Canoona
Contact: Pauline 4926 1131
Alt/s:
Approx drive dist (km): 90

Date: 23 July
Type: SOC
Description: Bring your friends along and enjoy a game of Gateball at the Croquet Club in Ward Street. Tea, coffee, softdrink is available for sale or BYO. Cost is approximately \$10:00/person.
Location: Croquet Club
Contact: Maxine 4928 3212
Alt/s:

Date: 31 July
Type: H/W T/W E C 2.
Description: This afternoon walk will start from Capricorn Rydges and see us walk up to Sandy Point where the very low tide will allow us to explore Fishing Creek and its immediate surrounds.
Location: Farnborough to Fishing Creek.
Contact: Cheryl 49387375 or 0437932767
Alt/s:
Approx drive dist (km): 100

Date: 5 - 8 August
Type: B/C M B 2 7
Description: Drive up Friday lunch time (or evening for workers). Camp at QPWS campsite. Some exploration near the campsite Friday afternoon. Two separate trips into the gorge Sat & Sun. Explore the creeks, cliffs, tunnels, aboriginal art, and wildflowers along the way. It's beautiful sandstone country. Drive home Monday, (or Sunday night if you have to).
Location: Isla Gorge
Contact: Pauline 4926 1131
Alt/s: 400m
Approx drive dist (km): 500

Date: 13 August
Type: H/W,E,A,1,2 SOC
Description: Take advantage of a Full Moon and join us at the Bluff National Park for an afternoon walk up and around the Bluff from where you will get some magnificent panoramic views of the Capricorn Coast and the Keppel Islands. This will be followed by a BYO at the picnic area. We will finish off the day with a moonlight walk along Kemp Beach.
Location: Bluff National Park, Kemp Beach
Contact: Ros 0438287406
Alt/s: 100m
Approx drive dist (km): 100

Membership fees due 1 January.

3 of 10

Membership ends 2 March the following year.

Date: 20 - 21 August
Type: 4W/D prefer. O/N M B 2 **Alt/s:**
Description: Saturday - Leave 7am sharp from Information Spire for drive to Springsure district. Set up camp on a Cattle property -quick lunch - then a short drive to the start of walk to a historic site.
Sunday – Pull up camp and continue to outskirts of Springsure to Minerva Hills National Park. Explore the National Park, home of some unusual wildlife (pebble-mound mouse, Fawn footed melomys, kangaroos, wallabies and may even spot a koala). On the drive Home return via Koala Creek and try to spot a koala.
Approx return drive dist (km): 700

Date: 29 August – 6 September
Type: X/T **Alt/s:**
Description: This year's September trip away is to Kangaroo Island. The group will stay in Lighthouse Keepers' accommodation at both Cape de Couedic and Cape Willoughby whilst they explore the surrounding areas.

Date: 11 September
Type: **Alt/s:**
Description: Contact Alan for details on this walk.
Approx drive dist (km):

Date: 18 September
Type: H/W T/W M A 2 **Alt/s:** 350 m
Description: We will be doing a walk from Cooper Street to the saddle on Pilbeam Drive. We meet at the saddle at 7:30. Please provide your home contact and mobile numbers along with your name for message bank if I am not home to receive your call.

Date: 25 September
Type: D/W,T/W,E,B,1. **Alt/s:**
Description: This walk will take us along the picturesque shores of the Woolwash Lagoon. Hopefully, there will be abundant birdlife to see. From there we will head up to the Rockhampton Botanical Gardens for a picnic lunch and some flora and fauna spotting.

Date: 1-2 October
Type: 2xH/D N/F B/C M B. **Alt/s:**
Description: "Yarrowonga" is on the old Blackwater-Rolleston Road. On arriving, we will set up camp and then walk along the old mail track through gorges (Wafer Way). On Sunday, it is planned to explore Stony Creek.
Approx drive dist (km): 400

Date: 9 October
Type: Annual General and General Meetings
Description: Come along and have your say on club issues and events. Planning for the next walks calendar will be finalised so your proposals and leadership will be welcome. Starts 2:00pm

Date: 16 Oct
Type: D/W M A 1 2 7 **Alt/s:** 100m
Description: After walking firstly up a marked track and then traversing the rough limestone karst, we spend a few hours exploring one of the caves on Mt Etna.
Approx drive dist (km): 50

Date: 22-23 October **Location:** Gladstone W'end: Mt Larcom & Tondoon Botanical Gardens
Type: O/N E B 1 M B 1 **Alt/s:** 600m approx **Contact:** Cheryl Gargan 49387375 or 0437932767

Description: A weekend trip to Gladstone will provide the opportunity to explore the Tondoon Botanical Gardens together with the Gladstone Trail on the Saturday. We will then climb Mt Larcom on the Sunday. On reaching the summit of Mt Larcom, you will have a 360 degree view of the surrounding areas and beyond.

Approx drive dist (km): 250

Date: 30 October **Location:** Byfield
Type: D/W H&M C 2 4 6 7 **Alt/s:** 550m **Contact:** Darryl 4926 1160

Description: Early start for a walk up one of the tributaries of Stoney Creek to a ridge that offers excellent views of the Stoney Creek valley, Byfield Range, and partial views of the Shannon Creek Plateau. We return by the same route, and this makes it possible to split the group and leave some to enjoy some of the pleasant spots along the creek.

Approx drive dist (km): 135

Date: 6 November **Location:** Sisal Track
Type: H/W M B 2 4 7 **Alt/s:** 300m **Contact:** Carol 04001 95405
Description: A circuit walk commencing at the corner of Frenchville Road and Pilbeam Drive. Heading up along the Sisal Track and then following the ridge line to The Saddle. Return via Pilbeam Drive to the cars. Some unmarked track. Suit new club members

Date: 12 and/or 13 November **Location:** Capricorn Coast
Type: O/N H/W SOC M A 2 4 **Alt/s:** **Contact:** Dot 4939 7443
Description: You can camp overnight at Dot's place and/or go on the walk Sunday to investigate some small caves, vegetation and enjoy the scenery of the Capricorn Coast

Approx drive dist (km): 120

Date: 20 November **Location:** Gym Boy's Track
Type: H/W M B 2 4 7 **Alt/s:** 350m **Contact:** Carol 04001 95405
Description: The walk commencing at The Saddle. We head up the Gym Boy's Track to the summit of Mt Archer. We then explore the area beneath the Elida Street houses before returning to the cars via Pilbeam Drive. Some unmarked track. Suit new club members

Approx drive dist (km): 7

Date: 27 November **Location:** Mystery Beach Walk
Type: H/W T/W M B 2 **Alt/s:** **Contact:** Deborah 4935 4029
Description: New walk – possibility of tidal creek crossing – start time depending on tide times – will confirm on registering for walk. Car shuttle required

Approx return drive dist (km): 90

Date: 3 and 4 December **Location:** The Palms, 2400 Emu Park Road, Coowonga
Type: SOC O/N E A 2 **Alt/s:** **Contact:** Deborah 0421 850 568
Description: Christmas break-up – Camping sites on property. Arrive when you can after 10am to set-up your camp site or a place under cover for a swag. Short walk planned approx 4pm around the property (off-track) or fish/swim or just relax for the afternoon.
Approx 6.30pm Buffet Tea on patio (bring a plate to share) DVD available for Walk Photos

Approx return drive dist (km): 70

WALK REPORTS

MT DOVECOTT AND RACK RAILWAY LINE - Sunday 10th April 2011

Aaah... what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than scrub-bashing through eight foot high lantana ...bliss!

Thirteen of us met opposite the spire in Gladstone road at 7:00 am and headed out to Moonmera, where Mt Dovecott silently awaited us, standing tall against the morning sky. It was a lovely morning, not too warm, but sunny and fresh.



The vegetation was quite reasonable as we climbed the neighbouring slope, edged our way around to Mt Dovecott itself, and scrambled our way up to the summit. It was a very pleasant ascent, with caves creating interest along the way. We had smoko at the top.

The view from the summit was quite breathtaking. We could identify Mt Sleipner, Mt Badger, Mt Dick, and many of the smaller peaks in the area. Wide expanses of landscape stretched out before us towards the coast.

After smoko we descended the steep slope (mostly on our backsides) down

to the old deviation rail line, which we followed to the junction with the old rack railway line. Three of our party left us there to return to commitments in Rocky, while the remaining ten soldiered on.

I recalled the rack railway line as bare clay and maybe a bit of gravel and a few clumps of grass. Somewhere along the way since we were last there, six foot high grass and eight foot high lantana had sprung up to block our way. Undeterred, we took on those green and pink soldiers of the lantana army with gusto, thrashing and stomping them into submission.

Bevan demonstrated a method I had never witnessed before, but seemed to be very effective. It involved hurling himself bodily onto the offending bushes in a sort of forward fall, then standing up and trampling them down. It proved to be an exhausting process, but we won the battle. Eventually we struggled through a kilometre or so of this wicked enemy, emerging victorious on the other side.

Then it was just a pleasant stroll up the Razorback road to the little park opposite Tucker's gate for lunch. Everyone agreed that we'd had a good day, in spite of the lantana's efforts to dampen it.

Many thanks to Bevan for leading us safely up and home again.

Mary Howard

BLACKDOWN TABLELANDS 23 – 25 April

After contacting the Ranger, we parked our vehicles near the campground and headed off around 9:15 along the walking track to Officer's Pocket. Here we admired the view and surveyed the task ahead of us before continuing along the edge of the escarpment for a few hundred metres then dropped down to South Mimosa Creek.

Membership fees due 1 January.

6 of 10

Membership ends 2 March the following year.

Progress down the creek was hampered by the recent heavy rainfalls that forced us to pick a course



beside the creek over large boulders and tangled debris. To speed up our progress, Philip used his athleticism to bound ahead to pick the best side of the creek for the rest of us to follow, and Matthew used his strength to help the height challenged to climb over, around, and down from the larger rocks. After numerous creek crossings, some hip high, we arrived around 4:00 at the junction of North and South Mimosa Creeks tired, wet, and feeling the worse for wear and set up camp. From the camp, we could see the creek downstream seemed to be free of the large boulders we had previously encountered and more like last years Numma Creek walk.

The GPS showed we had travelled only 5.3 km at an average speed of 0.8km/hr.

As we sat around the fire trying to keep warm, realising our progress was slowed by the swollen creek, Glyn wisely decided not to camp here for the two nights and instead leave the next morning around 10:00 to camp the second night at the top of the large waterfall on North Mimosa Creek. Feeling the effects of the day's exertion we all went to bed early after noticing the flashes of lightning, above the high cliffs that surrounded us, from a storm that passed between Mount Morgan and Emerald.

In the morning, we took our time preparing for the days walk, and set off on time to find the start of the "up point" on North Mimosa Creek. Glyn found it on the Cabbage Tree Palm on the left hand side of the creek and after dropping off our packs, headed on upstream to the main waterfall. On reaching it, some of us climbed up a rise on the right hand side to take photos of this beautiful 120m waterfall, pool, surrounding sandstone and vegetation.

Knowing time was short, we headed back to the "up point" to have lunch, a quick cold swim, and pushed on to the top of the waterfall. Considering Glyn had not been there for 15 years, he managed to follow the arrows concealed by the thick vegetation as we climbed almost vertically to the base of the escarpment. Here we checked both ways looking for more painted arrows, and eventually found three more to the left up higher that directed us to the right around a rock-face to an even scarier climb. I must admit this section worried me as the length of our fingernails determined how far we would slide downwards on the weathered sandstone mixed with weeds, sand and the occasional brush if we lost our grip. With Matthew helping others with their packs up the difficult sections, and Philip skipping around like a rock wallaby looking for the best way up, we all made it to the top of the spur that separated North and South Mimosa Creeks.

We initially tried to contour around but after about a hundred metres we quickly realised we had to climb to the uppermost level before attempting to make our way around to the waterfall. The only way we could find to do it was by a gap between a large boulder and the main escarpment that Phillip and I had found earlier. After helping each other up, the best way from there was to follow close to the edge of the escarpment until being forced up by the sloping base of a prominent hill, and then walking down to the top of the waterfall weary, very relieved and around 4:15. GPS showed we only had walked 3.5km at an average speed of 0.5km/hr but had climbed up over 200m to finish about 180m above where we had started from, earlier that morning.

We set up camp just out of the creek on sloping uneven ground, and prepared and ate our meals on dry spots on the creek bed. surrounded by small streams flowing over the eroded sandstone rock face. Later

we talked about what we had achieved in the past couple of days, and again discussed the possibility of including another level of difficulty. You know a walk is **Tough** when:

- some admit they were looking for places for rescue helicopters to land or winch them out;
- walkers decide they can do without their titanium knife and fork to decrease the weight they carry;
- Phillip's Dunlop Volleys develop a hole in the side - walked about twice as far as most of us;
- my KT26 get wet;
- Pauline, Carol and Cheryl unanimously agree that it should be a "men's only" walk.

We had another early night and at 8:00 next morning, headed off for the final leg back to the vehicles.



The creek above the main falls of North Mimosa had less flow, but we still had sections of rock scrambling and vegetation bashing to slow our progress. All of the little gullies which are usually dry, were now flowing, and one of the creeks flowing in from the right, joined Mimosa Creek at a waterfall, (the photo to the left). A link to more photos of the walk can be found on the website

On reaching the second waterfall, we had lunch, recharged our weary bodies, and left the creek to head cross country back to the vehicles. There were only a couple of slight rises on this leg and we

were back at the cars around 12:45. GPS showed we had covered 4.2km at our fastest average speed of 0.9km/hr.

On leaving Blackdown, we regrouped at Dingo to fill up on junk food before returning to Rocky.

For those of you familiar with the Numma Creek walk that Glyn led the previous year, this walk was far more challenging and spectacular in all ways mainly due to the high rainfall that most of Australia experienced recently and, on reflection, I am sure we are all pleased we did it. Thanks Glyn for another great 'medium level' walk and getting us all safely back. Darryl

Limestone Ridge – May 2011

It's pitch black. No shred of light softens the darkness. There is no way your eyes will adjust to allow you to see a little. The darkness is complete. A twinge of fear grips your throat

Narelle giggles, and the primordial moment of terror is over. Thank goodness there are 14 of us, and we are not here alone in this cave, with a failed torch, as we were each imagining.

We are instead here with Pauline, who is guiding us through Johannsen's Cave. Who knew that Pauline is an expert caver and speleologist, who has spent years traipsing around these ridges and holes in the ground with her friends? Her comfort in these dark places is obvious, as she brightly suggests that we scale the 45 degree cliff to our left "because I thought you might enjoy a little climb!" Surprisingly, it was easy and really fun! As was the winding cave corridor which we navigated on our haunches because the roof was so low.

I am absolutely awestruck! What a beautiful and mysterious place! I would love to spend more time in the cave, but of course, you need to be very fit, and to gain experience under the guidance of multiple experts like Pauline. And of course, access to the caves is limited to 4 months a year – February through May. We do want to keep these caves safe for the bats and for future generations, and unfortunately, even careful people like bushwalkers do damage to magical places just by being there. Nevertheless, I'm adding caving to my "to do" list for next year.



Caving was only the beginning of this amazing bushwalk. After going through the underground tunnels, we climbed the limestone karst above the caves. These razor sharp spikes of rock grip your shoes and pants like Velcro, and were amazingly stable for such hostile looking rocks. We rock hopped like the wallabies from “Joeys” to the QPWS interpretive centre along Limestone Ridge. Luckily for us, Pauline’s sense of responsibility had made her do the walk the weekend before, and she had been through the small patches of lantana and slashed a track almost all the way through. We did the ridge walk in 3 lovely hours of hopping and clambering, “oohing” and “aahing” at the scenery, the vine thicket vegetation, the cave shafts (all gated by QPWS) and the karst. I

wouldn’t miss this trip for the world. Sadly, the caves are now shut for the year. Maybe we’ll be lucky and Pauline will take us caving and karsting again next year, when they re-open. I’ll be there.

Michelle

Mt Ganter 29/05/2011.

Early morning start for a big day out. Darryl there to meet us for the pre requisite 0645 start. We drove to Upper Stoney Creek to start the walk. A short stroll along the road and a sharp turn right into the pine



forest. Shortly, at our first rest stop, we saw Mt Ganter in the mist. It looked far away, but did not lose anything in SIZE.

We followed ridge lines through a variety of vegetation types. We clamoured boulders and impressive rock outcrops that harboured ferns and orchids. We followed our fearless leader at a ‘crackin’ pace. Our ‘crackin’ pace quickly eradicated the morning chill.

As Darryl anticipated, we summited at 1200 just in

time for lunch. Despite the size of the mountain there was not a lot of space for us to 'perch'. Indeed, we felt like 'birds' as we took in the 360 degree views. While 'dining' on the summit, the birds put on a display for us – darting and diving. Unlike the birds however we had to walk down again.

1300 saw us on the way down. Surprisingly our track to the summit had all but disappeared. With excellent navigators to guide us we found the same spur that had led us up the mountain. Then, it was another sharp right! This little detour took us abruptly down into a creek. The creek detour gave us the opportunity to absorb another aspect of the Byfield area. All the 'locals' were there underfoot. The distinct Byfield Fern was everywhere, and even some Ginger plants.

Again, as Darryl anticipated we popped out of the wilderness onto the road at 1645. It was a big day out, but well worth the aching legs. Pauline, Robyn, Dot, Phillip, Jake, Jerry and Kevin, I am sure will agree!

Carol

Mount Hedlow

Having just moved to the beautiful region of Capricorn Coast, I was keen to try out a walk within a nearby distance of my home in Yeppoon. After seeing the trip in the newsletter, I decided to give Mt Hedlow a go as it is nearby and seemed to be within my limited fitness level. I rang Dot and what a wonderful helpful soul she is! Salt of the earth and very encouraging, she offered to collect me from a meeting point at Cooberee Park.

So early Sunday I set off, and waited till Dot rattled up in her 4WD ute, and the days adventures unfolded from there. Being picture perfect weather and bolstered by the fact it was only an hour to the top, we set off in a group of 15 a jolly bunch. Everyone was extremely friendly and much bush related banter followed as we tackled the steep and scrubby ascent to Mt Hedlow. Encountering a brown snake was an education, and of course it was just at my spot in the line it chose to appear!! Give way being the magic rule here, which I did, and no worries at all. The views just got better and better the higher we went, till at the top it was just magnificent, looking down on Lake Mary and up to Byfield and back to all the plugs that dot the landscape. Smoko was announced and much sharing of home baking and tea taking was had. Further exploration over the other side on limestone ridges, was challenging but doable, and after a meander over the other side, we retraced our steps and descended at a leisurely pace.

More tea and lunch was had, before a bit of banter with the ground crew, then off home after a very satisfying day. Totally enjoyable and I'll be back. Thanks Dot!!

Julie Bickley