

CAPRICORNIA

BUSHWALKERS

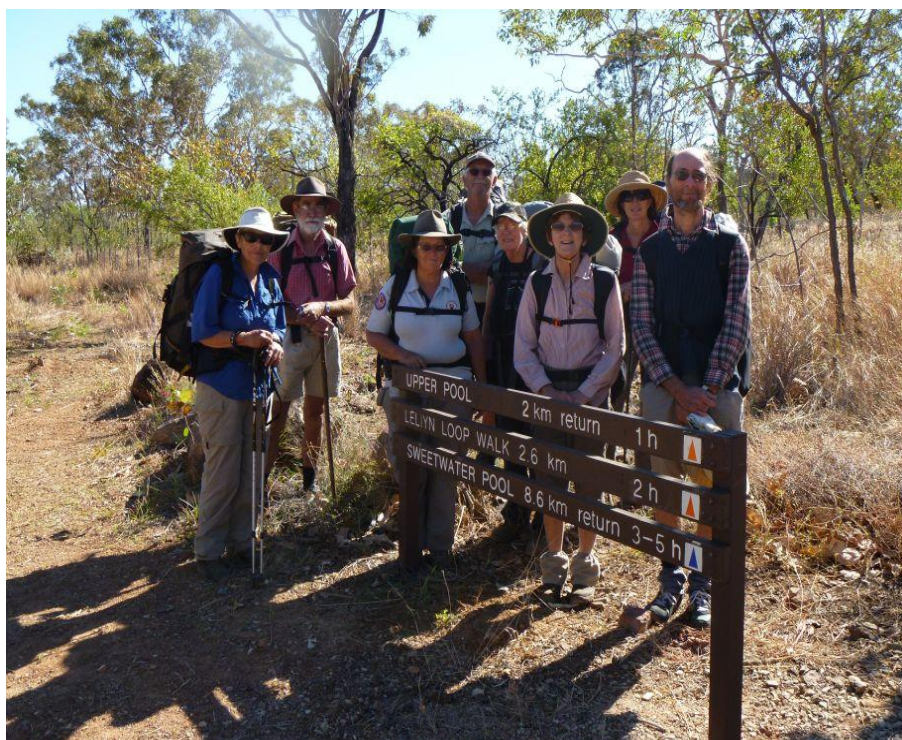
INC

PO Box 1130
Rockhampton 4700

No: 126

NEWSLETTER

October 2012



"Group of Eight" at the end of the Jatbula Trail - Leliyan (Edith Falls) June 2012

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Management Committee Members

John Rideout 4939 8576

Cheryl Gargan 4938 7375

Athol Keanalley 4934 8472

Mary Howard, Steve Kerr, Pauline Toop,
Ian Herbert, Ros Nielsen

Safety & Training

Newsletter

Social Committee

Steve Kerr

Barbara Howard

Ros Nielsen (Co-ordinator), Maxine
Maunder, Carol Campbell

See last page for Schedule of Walks at a Glance

See Page 5 for other important bushwalking/social items of note

PROGRAM DETAILS

Closing date for nominations for walks and social events is normally at least **5 days** prior to the event. If you require transport please nominate well in advance. If travelling with someone else, it is courteous to pay your share of travel costs – suggested cost 10 c/km. Some walks may have a limit on numbers.

WALK LEGEND

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	TRN	Training
B/C	Base Camp	N/F	No Facilities – no water, showers or toilets			SOC	Social

WALK GRADING

Fitness		Distance		Terrain	
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, very fit walkers only	C	10 to 15 km	3	Not pre-walked
		L	15 to 20 km	4	Minor scrub
		X	Over 20 km	5	Medium or Heavy Vegetation
Total Uphill Sections				6	Creeks/Rock Hopping
ALT	Approx change in height			7	Steep Scrambles

Date Sat 20 Oct

Type Social

Location **Pistol Club**

Contact Dot Svendsen 4939 7443

Saturday morning at the Pistol Club with Dot. Contact Dot for times and information.

Date **Sun 28 Oct**

Type H/W, E/M, B, 1

Location "The Palms" Coowonga

Contact Deborah 04 21 850 568

A pleasant walk on graded tracks with good lookout points of the coastal area and also Coorooman Creek and associated mangrove flats. Some good opportunities for viewing wetland areas and waterhole, rainforest area and associated bird life.

Date **Sat 3 and Sun 4 Nov**

Type H/W, 4WD, N/F, O/N, E, A, 2, 6

Location Windah Crossing, Gogango

Contact Robyn & David Black 4939 2669
or 04 27 277 400

On Saturday, arrive after lunch to set up camp on the banks of the Fitzroy River then enjoy an afternoon walk along the river's edge. Good fishing spots available for those who wish to throw in a line. Also good swimming. On Sunday morning, after packing up camp, a short drive to start the walk up Round Mountain for morning tea with views north/south along the Fitzroy Catchment. Lunch can be at the Swagman's Oasis Hotel on the way home. (It is possible to drive a 2WD vehicle down to river's edge and park. A shuffle of camp gear across Windah Crossing could be organised with others, if need be.)

Date **Sun 11 Nov**

Type H/W, E, A, 1, 2, 600 m

Location **Mt Archer and Elida Loop**

Contact Carol 04 00 195 405

A bring-your-own Bacon and Egg Breakfast at 7 am on top of cool and misty Mt Archer. After breakfast, we will walk the Elida Loop (approx time 1 – 2 hours).

Date	Sun 18 Nov	Location	Mount Jim Crow
Type	H/W, N/F, M, B, 2, 4, 6	Contact	Cheryl 49387375 0477156656

We'll start the morning off with a picturesque walk around the base of Jim Crow before setting off on what is a short sharp climb through the pine trees to the top. From this vantage point, wonderful views of the surrounding volcanic plugs can be had together with the view towards Yeppoon and Keppel Bay. There is also a resident geocache to be found.

Date	Sun 25 Nov	Location	Joskeleigh
Type	D/W, N/F, E/M, B, 2	Contact	Deborah 4935 4029 0421850568

A new walk exploring the beach and surrounding area towards Thompson's Point.

Date	Sat 1 Dec	Location	Glenmore Homestead
Type	Social	Contact	Ros 4928 7606 0438287406

Our **Christmas break-up** will be held this year at **Glenmore Homestead, 46 Belmont Road, Parkhurst**. Our table is booked for **7 pm** and the **cost will be \$33.00 to be paid on the night**. This will include a baked meal with silverside, dessert of Pavlova and Ice Cream followed by Tea and Damper. **Ros must have definite numbers by Saturday 24 November.**

Date	Fri/Mon 25/28 Jan 2013	Location	Great Keppel Island
Type	X/T, M/O, E/M, C	Contact	Cheryl 4938 7375 0477156656

The Australia Day weekend trip to Great Keppel Island is on again and it gives you another opportunity to explore much of this beautiful island. Other activities could include snorkelling, kayaking and swimming. Svendsens Beach Eco Resort can provide accommodation for 12 people so get in early with your nomination. A deposit of \$50 will be required to confirm your place.

Date	Sun 3 Feb	Location	Mini Golf and Barbecue
Type	Social	Contact	Maxine 4928 3212

A social occasion at the Rockhampton Golf Driving Range and Mini Golf, 17 McMillan Street, Parkhurst. Please be at the mini golf course at **2.45 pm to start at 3 pm**. **Cost of mini golf is \$8.00. Following that there will be a barbecue – cost \$3.00 - provided by Maxine. NO BYO DRINKS.** We must be finished by 7 pm. Please tell **Maxine** if you wish to attend by **Wednesday, 30 January, 2013.**

Date	Sun 10 Feb	Location	Long Island
Type	H/W, N/F, E, B, 1, 2	Contact	Cheryl 4938 7375 0477156656

The 2010-11 floods changed much of the topography of Long Island especially close to the Fitzroy River. On this half-day walk, we will set out to explore some of these changes, witness the flora and fauna in the park, see the unbelievably high "flood water" marks on the trees and visit the banks of the mighty Fitzroy.

Date	Sun 17 Feb	Location	Vallis Park, Cap Coast Nat Park
Type	H/W, E, A, 1, 2, 4	Contact	John & Barbara 4939 8576

A morning exploration of the forested hills overlooking Yeppoon and the coast, with a bit of local history. The opportunity to stay for lunch or BBQ by the sea.

Date	Sun 24 Feb	Location	General Meeting
Type	Meeting	Contact	John 4939 8576

The General Meeting will be held at the CCC Hut. This will be an important meeting to discuss the plans for the Combined Club Campout to be held at the Mt Morgan Showgrounds next year. We will also need to plan our own walks program up to August.

Date	Sun 3 March	Location	Mt Archer Area
Type	H/W, E, A, 1, 4, Alt 300 m	Contact	Alan 4922 4935

Alan has promised us a pleasant morning walk, less than 5 km in length, with a combination of trekking on the track and in some minor scrub.

Date	Sun 10 March	Location	Girt Island
Type	H/W, E, A, 2	Contact	Cheryl 4938 7375 0477156656

A very low tide provides the rare opportunity to walk from the mainland out to Girt Island and back. This popular half-day walk leaves from the foreshores of Keppel Sands. From there we walk out along the banks of Pumpkin Creek towards the island and the receding sea. Previous walks have revealed a large variety of wading birds. The afternoon would also provide an occasion to try out your geocaching skills as there are a few caches in the local area. This walk would be a good introductory walk for family and friends.

Date	Sun 17 March	Location	Mt Etna Caves National Park
Type	Caving exploration, M, A	Contact	Pauline 4926 1131

Pauline will decide which cave to explore after checking with interested members at the next meeting. Torches will be required.

Date	Sun 24 March	Location	Mt Hedlow, Lunch, Paddle
Type	H/W, M, A, 2, 4, 7	Contact	John and Barbara 4939 8576

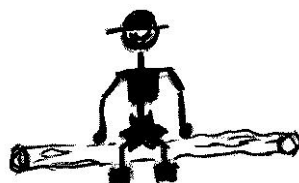
Climb Mt Hedlow in the morning, then have lunch by the creek, and an afternoon paddle if you're still energetic (BYO canoe), or just join in the eating/relaxing/paddling action whenever you like. Access is dependent on there being no heavy rain before the day.

Date	Fri 29 Mar - Mon 1 April	Location	Blackdown Tableland
Type	B/C, M, B, 2	Contact	Glyn 4927 5972

We will be doing day walks at Blackdown Tableland. Places we will be walking include Stoney Creek Falls, Spring Creek, North Mimosa Creek and Rainbow Falls. Return distance is 500 km, and nominations close Sunday, 17 March 2013. **TRIP WILL BE DEPENDENT ON BOOKING SITES FOR NEXT EASTER AT NATIONAL PARK OFFICE.**

ITEMS OF NOTE

- ❖ Please remember that the Club has purchased a **PLB (personal locator beacon)** for emergency use on any bushwalk. Walk leaders may arrange for collection of the PLB with Pauline Toop (49261131). "Don't leave home without it!"
- ❖ We are continuing a **Member's Choice Social**, nominally on the third Friday of each month. If you have a social event that you'd like to share with other bushwalkers, contact the Secretary, Cheryl, with details and she can ask who else is interested.
- ❖ Being a paid-up member of the club provides you with Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance covers. The limit of Public Liability is \$20,000,000. Personal Accident Insurance only covers members aged 18 to 84 years old, inclusive.
- ❖ The address of the Club's website is <http://capricornia.bwq.org.au/>
- ❖ Please contact the Secretary at capricornia_bushwalkers@yahoo.com.au if you –
 - **have changed any of your contact details**
 - want to submit a Leader's Report
 - wish to obtain a thank you card, if you are a Walk Leader
- ❖ For Walk Leaders, the Walk Description Form for each Newsletter is also available at <http://capricornia.bwq.org.au/>
- ❖ Please keep sending in Walk Reports for the next Newsletter to capricorn.bushwalkers@gmail.com as an attachment, if possible using Microsoft Word, as early as possible after a walk.
- ❖ Our website - <http://capricornia.bwq.org.au/> has material for beginners and Walk Leaders, previous Newsletters and other useful bushwalking information.
- ❖ Please remember the Club is **subsidising half the cost** of an **Accredited First Aid Course** this financial year. The Management Committee will need to see the **Certificate of Achievement and Receipt** for the Course.
- ❖ **We are the host club for the Combined Club Campout next year. Helpers will be required for a variety of jobs.**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AUGUST 2012

It is pleasing to be able to report that Capricornia Bushwalkers has maintained a strong membership and walk turnout in 2012. It is worth noting, I believe, that our Club continues to have a solid and dynamic membership, when other regional bushwalking clubs have reported declines.

Over the past year there have been well-attended extended walks to Great Keppel Island, the Combined Clubs Campout at Biggenden, at which our Club had a large contingent, the Jatbula Trail in the NT (fortunately sans Barry the buffalo), Isla Gorge, and shortly the Cape to Cape walk in WA. There were also over 30 day walk/socials covering a wide variety of terrains and challenges. There would have been even more, but rain has again seen some of our proposed walks postponed or cancelled.

I hope that our Club continues to provide that type and level of activity that most suits our membership, but the committee members and I would welcome suggestions from members for other activities that are within the Club's capabilities and expertise. Members will have also noticed renewal in the Club's newsletter and website, and some additional changes are required to documentation and forms associated with insurance.

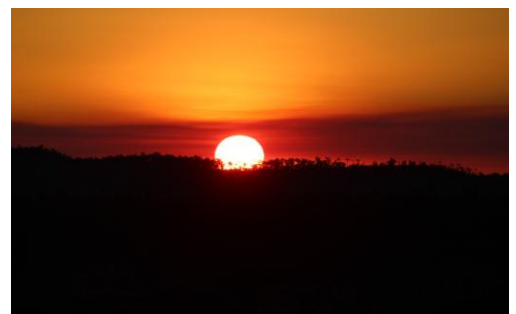
As many of you will be aware, in 2013 it will again be our Club's turn to host the local Combined Clubs Campout. This event will require a dedicated effort from many people to provide the walks and activities that we have enjoyed at past campouts, and I invite all of you to share in not only the tasks involved in delivering the weekend's activities, but also the rewards that sharing the joys of the bush with like-minded people provides.

As usual, a big thank you to the walk and social leaders for their skills and dedication in providing the settings for another year of activities, and thanks also to all those who joined in, since without your enjoyable companionship, we would not have a bushwalking club. My thanks also to the other management committee members for their contributions during the year, and to the safety and training, newsletter editor and social committee members for their continuing efforts.

John Rideout



Isla Gorge in blossom – Photo - Margo



Sunset at Isla Gorge – Photo - Margo

WALK REPORTS

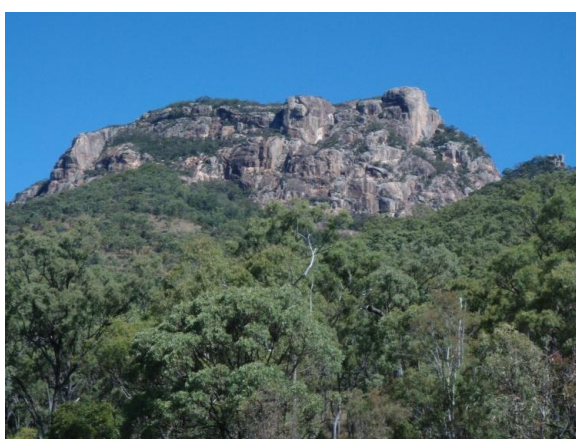
COMBINED CLUBS CAMP - Fri 4 – Mon 8 May, 2012 – BIGGENDEN

May Day weekends have always been reserved for the Combined Clubs campout rotated between (in recent times) Bundaberg, Gladstone and Capricornia clubs. And until this year, there was always something else that I was committed to going to. So when the 2012 Camp was announced as being at Biggenden – a town I had driven through many times admiring the mountains but never getting a chance to stop – it was too good to pass up.

As a first-time attendee, I had a bit of learning to do. Firstly, the number of attendees was a surprise – over 100 which makes this easily the largest bushwalking event I have ever been to. Then there was their requirement to decide what walks you wanted to do from a menu of options. And there were so many options. The Capricornia Club had more members in attendance than any other club but there were so many walk options that we weren't bumping into each other all that often.

For me as a first-time walker around Biggenden, the 'must dos' were Mt Walsh and Mt Woowoonga ... which only left one other walking slot for me which I allocated to the Monday morning bird watching session. Mt Woowoonga is part of a group of mountains just north of Biggenden dominated by the local television transmission towers. After driving through some local roads, you arrive at a small picnic area with a well constructed track to the summit. It might be well constructed but it was still quite steep and got the pulse going nicely. The terrain is mostly vine scrub to rainforest breaking to a more open brush box vegetation at the summit feeling not unlike the Berserkers. And like Berserker peaks, the views from the top were a little restricted by the timber but in the clear air, Hervey Bay was comfortably visible.

Sunday was set down for Mt Walsh – the large bluff of a mountain dominating the view to the south of Biggenden. While only the lower sections of the climb are constructed, there is more than enough traffic up the mountain to make the path very obvious. While the air was a little less clear, the views from the top were breathtaking – both of the surrounding countryside and the Wedge Tailed Eagle and Peregrine Falcon circling us around the summit. It's quite a different world up there with heath-like vegetation hanging on in the gaps in the rock with lots of flowers and orchids. One of the guides brought along details of the geo-cache on the summit and it was quickly located and the log book signed.



Mt Walsh near Biggenden

We were back down to Biggenden shortly after lunch so with an afternoon to spare, I went for a drive out to Coalstoun Lakes National Park – another location that walkers were going to but I couldn't fit in my menu. The Falcon was not the best vehicle to take in there as it was a bit lacking in clearance so I ended up doing a bit more walking than most. Coalstoun Lakes are volcanic craters from comparatively recent eruptions – only 600,000 years old. See a brochure on the mountains at - <http://qld.gsa.org.au/BBCoalst.pdf>. The main lake had quite a bit of water in it which I understand is

historically very unusual but to be expected given recent weather. The outside of the volcano has been cleared for farming but the inside is heavily covered in vine scrub and is National Park.

Sunday night saw the walkers descend on the Commercial Hotel for a combined evening meal – I don't think they really knew what hit them to be honest. Once back to the camping ground at the Showgrounds, we gathered for some formal presentations including an inspiring talk by Moira Thompson about engaging local teenagers and bringing the local community into contact with Mt Walsh and all it has to offer. Forest Mountain Rescue (FMR) gave an excellent background on the role they play in bushwalker safety in southeast Queensland. And then an inordinate amount of loot was handed out with much of it heading back to the Rockhampton region.

Monday morning was a more sedate affair with a drive around some of the local birding spots just to the northeast of town. Quite country roads and lagoons nicely full had plenty of birds with some particularly cooperative Scarlet Honeyeaters feeding on mistletoe blossoms probably being the highlight. And I was made to promise that there would be a birding option at the Combined Camp 2013.

Steve

A WALK AT BELGAMBA, STRUCK OIL 20 May, 2012

There were two things that made this such an enjoyable walk. Firstly, the pace at which we walked and secondly, the terrain through which we walked.

Walking at a more sedate pace than we might usually, we could really appreciate the terrain and the flora and as Ian promised, there was "no lantana" - well, just a few bushes that were easily pulled out. Ian also took the group in the reverse direction from that which most of us had completed the circuit before. It provided such a different perspective that the whole experience felt different and new.

Having been shown a map by Ian outlining our route for the day, I was hoping that the descent into Gavial Creek would not prove to be too challenging but even this followed a fairly gentle approach with little of our time spent in the creek and having to veer off the flat.

There were a few vertical challenges as we walked along the firebreak but we were so distracted by the views out to Port Alma and beyond to Balaclava and Curtis Islands that we hardly noticed them. The visual after-effects of a recent fire that had just nudged Belgama's borders were quite obvious.

As we had two members of our local SCAP group with us – Shirley Hopkins and Karen Carvell – not to mention the combined knowledge of our hosts, Ian and Cathy Herbert, our queries re the flora were expertly answered.

Having lunched and rested in the shade of a stand of Cabbage Palms, we found our way across the ridges to Donny's Lookout, which, of course brought forth many reminiscences of founding member, Donny MacDonald after whom this lookout was named.

A short picturesque walk back down to the campsite saw another very enjoyable day's walking come to an end. Thank you Ian and Cathy.

Cheryl

4 PEAKS AND 20 KILOMETRES IN ONE DAY!

On **Sunday 27 May**, 13 keen walkers went on an adventure with the fearless Alan Rogers into the depths of the Mt Archer National Park. It was to be a through-walk, so we did the usual car shuttle drop off at Sunset Drive at 7.30 in the morning and then headed up to the top of Mt Archer to begin the walk. It was incredibly cool and windy as we started off, and many of us made comparisons with trips in Tasmania or NZ in terms of the freshness of the morning.

We started down the graded track till we got to the first lookout. It was a particularly beautiful day, perfect for walking, clear and cool. Once out of the wind we were all happy. We took a turn off the graded track and headed down the hill to the bottom of the valley, to a lovely spot along Moore's Creek. It was sunny and warm and the creek was crystal clear, so we stopped for some smoko at this point.

Off again, this time up and straight up we went (ugh!!) up and over two pretend peaks, (almost) to the top of Mt Risien (**Peak 1**). Again, lovely views along the way in all directions back to Mt Archer, out to Lake Mary in the west and southern views as well, the Byfield ranges and our favourite, Mt Ganter, clearly in view.

With this altitude and with most of the hard climb done through thick bush, we then headed across and up to the ridge at an angle seeking the peak of Mt Nicholson (**Peak 2**), which was not much of a peak really. Kind of flat on top. We seemed to be making really slow time in comparison to the kilometre rate, a reflection of the steep and rugged nature of the climb that we were doing. We needed numerous "breathers" along the way. By this time we were all ready for a good break anyway. It was after midday when we stopped at the top of Mt Nicholson for lunch for a half hour in a spot with little view.



Walking in 5

Then off again, slightly down hill to find the old campsite occupied by someone, with a pretty well equipped kitchen! We then followed the brumby horse trail and pig trails (and we saw some brumbies too) up to the ridge heading towards 554 (**Peak 3**). We encountered wonderful views in all directions, views up to Byfield, down across to the mine site at Mt Chalmers, Mt Wheeler, Pine Mountain, all the volcanic plug mountains and with this altitude, back across to Rockhampton and Stanwell. We also had sea views of the coast and the islands. It was just stunning really, in amongst the lemon scented gums, blackboys and cabbage gums in the bright clear sunshine.

On we walked, with much flat walking being done on top of the ridge at the stage. This allowed for the usual conversations along the way as we walked. There were small rises and falls in gradient but the walking was generally flat till we got to Mt Elida (**Peak 4**), then, straight up we went again to the top. We were all quite relieved to find that while the climb was steep the distance was not too far to the top.

As we stopped and looked around behind and to the west you could see that we were effectively walking around to the other side of Mt Archer on the ridges of the mountains closest to it in a semi circular fashion. It was mid afternoon.



A Bush Residence

From the top of Mt Elida we then started our descent. Now that sounds easier than it actually was. It was very steep, very hard to see underfoot, with hidden boulders and rubble, many holes in the ground, tripping vines, big logs, slippery bits, head high long grass, yucky thick, speargrass and lantana all the way. It was also very long and we seemed to be walking downhill forever.

In case you haven't got the idea, it was horrible! By this time, we were all getting a little footsore and joint sore - many of us suffering from the onslaughts of speargrass in our boots, clothing, skin and so on. We kept soldiering on with the promise of a graded road below us (in your dreams I was thinking by this time). Cheryl brightly reminded me, "Yes, there is a road down there". Finally, it was true and we all celebrated. We found the road! It was 4.00 in the afternoon and the shadows were looming in, so we were all relieved to be off this ridge. We had walked around 12 kilometres in 8 and a half hours!

Now we thought our walk was nearly over, but not quite. We then had at least another 7 kilometres to walk along the road following the creek all the way, to join the track that comes down from the Mt Archer National Park walk. This we did in 1 and a half hours! By this time Gary had discarded his joggers, full of speargrass spikes. Funnily enough, this time of day on a walk is sometimes the most enjoyable. The hardest part of the day is over, the humour sets in, the light is beautiful and we are all relieved to be going home.

So on we walked, easy ground to cover, but by this stage, we were all feeling pretty tired. We all walked on, fantasizing about hot baths, massages, wine, what food to have for dinner and so on as we trudged the last few kilometres.

We finally walked out of the park wondering if we might need our torches, to meet the cars at 5.30 pm just before dark. What a big day out we had, a good endurance test walk actually. A walk, accident free, with some definite challenges, with great weather, great views, and great company. Another experience to remember...

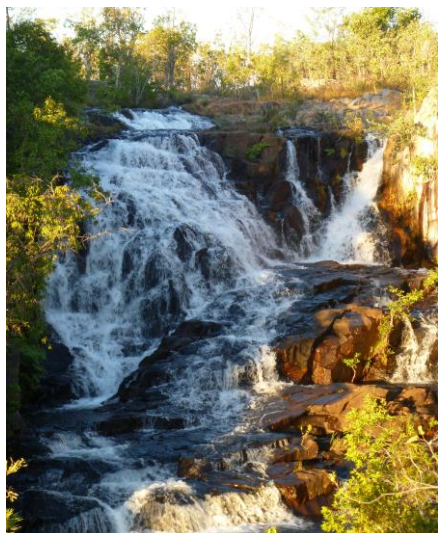
Merridy

THE JATBULA TRAIL

20 – 26 June 2012

Excitement rippled through each one of us as we settled into the boat which ferried us over the Katherine River in the NT - the long-anticipated Jatbula Trek was about to begin. And yes what played out over the next six days fully justified our initial sentiments. It was indeed a rich and rewarding experience for us all.

Who could not relish pitching a tent at places whose magical names were Biddlecombe Cascades, Crystal Falls, Seventeen Mile Falls, Sandy Camp Pool and Sweetwater Pool?



Biddlecombe Cascades



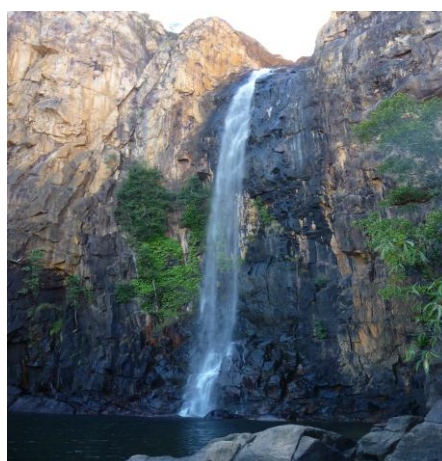
Eucalyptus miniata

Who could not but bask in the picture-perfect weather during those six days of walking with sunny days, cosy nights and crisp mornings? And what picturesque scenery greeted us around many corners - the clear running creeks (ideal too for the swimmers amongst us), the magnificent waterfalls (brought about by a good earlier wet season), painted finches, masses of eucalypts dropping orange blossoms at the side of the track, and fields of deep pink flowering grevilleas.

In stark contrast, the areas which had been controlled-burnt along the track hinted at a harsher environment in the heat and dryness of the pre-wet season.



Burnt countryside



Northern Rockhole

A visit to the Amphitheatre on the Jatbula Trail is a must for those walkers interested in aboriginal art.

And lastly, but most importantly, what wonderful company. Over the six days of walking, the "group of eight" teamed together well in all aspects of the trip –supporting one another and sharing stories and songs.

A big thank you from Robyn, Deborah, Cindi, Rod, Ron, John and Barbara to our leader, Cheryl for organising the trip so smoothly.

This comfortable walk is an ideal way for a beginner like myself to start "through walking". It has certainly spurred me on to try another in the not-so-distant future.

Barbara

And here is another report of the Jatbula Track from a fellow walker – Rod O'Mara from the Gladstone Bushwalkers.

JATBULA TRACK

When I go walking, I don't look for highlights. Just being out in the bush is enough to make it all worthwhile. However, if I were to choose, the best parts of the Jatbula they would be Sandy Camp Pool and the Amphitheatre.

The country we walked through was mainly dry; not desert, but dry. And a lot of it had been burnt, probably only a month or so before we were there. We walked mainly on the plateau, in the first 4 days, at least, and came down to the creeks in the evenings. So any waterholes were particularly significant, as it is in all of arid Australia.

Sandy Camp Pool, where we had our rest day (so we stayed 2 nights) was the biggest pool on the walk. And, as the name suggests, it had a large sandy area where the campsite was. The area had been washed clean of debris (or so it appeared) in the last wet season floods, so we had a large area to choose from to camp on. And the pool was big enough to invite us to walk right round it, which took over an hour, allowing time to find a way across the creek further down. It was a very restful place.

The Amphitheatre was a gorge we entered from above, so again we came down off the dry plateau into an area with water, cool and protected from the hot sun above. We had lunch there, in the shade by the running creek.

There was more rock art than I had ever seen in one place. And it was of much greater variety, too. The people who did it must have travelled widely, because there were large fish portrayed that I would expect to be sea fish, not freshwater fish from the fairly small creeks in the area. And turtles. There were full size human portraits, and smaller ones, some very explicit. I gather their beliefs were that this encourages fertility in the food plants and animals.

Thank you, Cheryl, for the organisation, and Ian, for the transport, and everyone else for your company. I really enjoyed the walk.

Rod O'Mara

THE PEAKS – 22 July 2012

Having climbed Mt Atherton at Byfield a number of times now, I was seriously starting to doubt Alan Rogers' stories about extending that walk to include the adjacent summit of The Peaks in a single days walk – obviously they were much fitter in the past ... or the vegetation was much thinner. So I had for some time resolved to lead a walk to visit the western half of that chain of mountains as a separate dedicated walk. Eight other hardy souls fronted for a walk billed as 'not pre-walked and likely to be a bit of an adventure'.

Well, it was a bit of an adventure with some on-the-run changes of proposed path but things turned out pretty well in the end. Starting from the same bend in the road to Stockyard Point as has been the case for Mt Atherton climbs, the aim was to walk to a point in the ridge between the two mountains, run west along the ridge to The Peaks summit and return down a southern ridge and back to the cars. OK, we didn't get the southern ridge I intended and there were more deep creeks in the area than are marked on the maps, but generally the plan worked.



Who's that climbing The Peaks?

The creeks were running nicely but not so deep as to be hard to cross – the challenge was getting up and down the banks. The delightful junction of three creeks coming together that is a feature of the Mt Atherton walk made for a very pleasant morning and afternoon tea spot. The final climb up the east face of The Peaks is quite exposed and rocky and needed some careful route choices. Once at the top, the summit is actually an extremely narrow north-south running ridge so there were great views all around even though the air wasn't that clear on the day. Our arrival there was timed just right for lunch though the lack of trees that made the views so good meant that there wasn't as much shade as you might like.

All up, it was a solid eight hours of walking for the day meaning that we could not spend too much time in any one spot. By the end, we all had had enough of walking and nobody seemed much interested in the idea of combining the Peaks with a Mt Atherton walk again ... at least not until there are some very widespread fires in the area.

Steve

Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc. – Membership Application	
I wish to apply for / renew my membership (new memberships will be provisional, until approved by the next general meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New (Tick one box)
Type of membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 Adults + children)
Membership fee (for calendar year or part thereof)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 single <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 family
Personal Information By law, the club is required to maintain a register of members and their residential addresses. The information collected here is retained by the club secretary for the purposes of club business; it is otherwise confidential. The postal or email address you provide here will be used to send your newsletter, and any other club correspondence. The phone numbers will be used in emergencies.	Given Name(s)
	Family Name
	Residential Address (not PO Box) Postcode
	Mailing Address (if different) Postcode
Family membership: Please list below the names of all other people to be covered by this membership:	Phone: Home Work
	Email Address

I agree to observe the Club's Rules and By-laws laid down for members.

The Club has Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance covers. The limit of Public Liability is \$20,000,000. Personal Accident Insurance only covers members aged 18 to 84 years old, inclusive. The cost of insurance is included in the membership fee.

Acknowledgement of Risk

I acknowledge that when I am participating in any activity of the Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc. I am doing so as a volunteer in all aspects and as such I accept all responsibility for loss of property or bodily injury to me, however it may occur.

I acknowledge that my participation in this activity may expose me to hazards and risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. In particular when participating in abseiling or above the snowline activities I am aware that I may be exposed to additional hazards and risks.

I will make all reasonable effort to avoid or minimise these risks by;

- only participating in activities within my capabilities,
- carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity, and
- advising the leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity.

I acknowledge that the payment of my membership fee will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above.

Signature(s): Single OR 1 st Adult Family member	Date: 2 nd Adult Family member/...../.....
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Please post your completed membership form, with membership fee, to:

Treasurer, Capricornia Bushwalkers Inc., PO Box 1130, Rockhampton, Qld 4700.



SCHEDULE TO END MARCH 2013 AT A GLANCE

Days	Dates	Activity	MO	Contact	Phone	Type
Sat	20 Oct	Saturday Morning at the Pistol Club	√	Dot	4939 7443	Social
Sun	28 Oct	"The Palms" Circuit, Coowonga		Deborah	4935 4029	H/W, E/M, B, 1
Sat/Sun	3 - 4 Nov	Windah Crossing, Gogango	√	Robyn & David Black	4939 2669 04 27 277 400	H/W, 4WD, N/F, O/N, E, A, 2, 6
Sun	11 Nov	Breakfast – top Mt Archer and then walk the Elida Loop		Carol	04 00 195 405	H/W, E, A, 1, 2
Sun	18 Nov	Mt Jim Crow	√	Cheryl	4938 7375 or 04 77 156 656	H/W, N/F, M, B, 2, 4, 6
Sun	25 Nov	Joskeleigh Beach Walk		Deborah	4935 4029	D/W, N/F, E/M, B, 2
Sat	1 Dec	Christmas Break-up – Glenmore Homestead	√	Ros	04 38 287 406	Social
Fri-Mon	25 – 28 Jan 2013	Great Keppel Island	√	Cheryl	4938 7375 or 04 77 156 656	X/T, E/M, C
Sun	3 Feb	Mini Golf, Parkhurst Driving Range and Barbecue	√	Maxine	4928 3212	Social
Sun	10 Feb	Long Island	√	Cheryl	4938 7375 or 04 77 156 656	H/W, N/F, E, B, 1, 2
Sun	17 Feb	Vallis Park, Cap Coast National Park		John & Barbara	4939 8576	H/W, E, A, 1, 2, 4
Sun	24 Feb	General Meeting	√	John	4939 8576	Meeting
Sun	3 March	Mt Archer Area morning walk	√	Alan	4922 4935	H/W, E, A, 1, 4
Sun	10 March	Girt Island		Cheryl	4938 7375 04 77 156 656	H/W, E, A, 2
Sun	17 March	Mt Etna Caves National Park	√	Pauline	4926 1131	Caving exploration, M, A
Sun	24 March	Mt Hedlow morning climb, lunch and paddle Hedlow Creek afternoon		John & Barbara	4939 8576	H/W, M, A, 2, 4, 7
Fri-Mon	29 Mar - 1 April	Easter – Blackdown Tableland	√	Glynn	4927 5972	B/C, M, B, 2

MO - Members Only