

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