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Membership Fees

\$30 per Person

Subs due 1st July

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To view the complete calendar please follow the link:
<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarofactivities.html>

A WALK ON HINCHINBROOK ISLAND

One of the largest Island National Parks in the world at around 39,900 ha in area

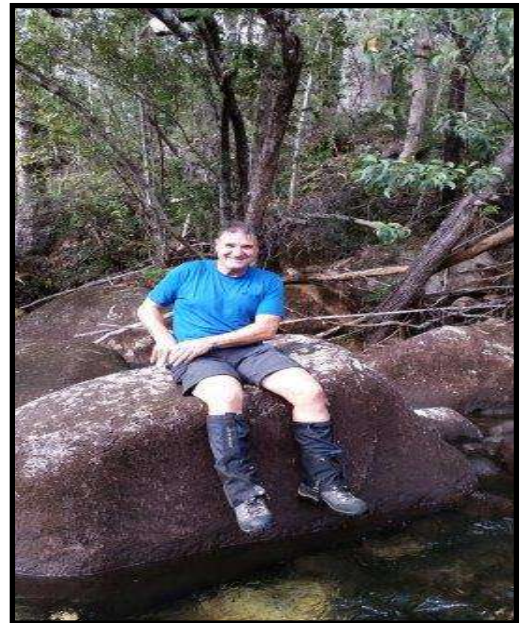


The proposal to travel halfway across Australia for a 5 day walk interested me but seemed a bit extravagant until I chose to include a visit with my brother & his wife who live at Mt Tamborine. Bill's proposal was to meet in Townsville and then travel together down to Cardwell for our boat ride to the island.

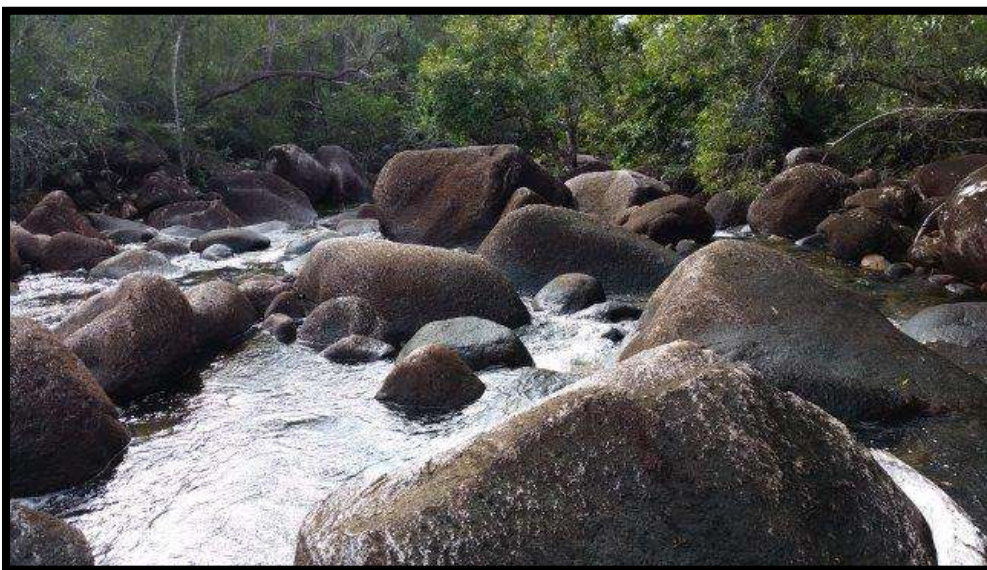
Arriving first in Townsville it was my responsibility to arrange the fuel for the trip and as I arrived late in the day it was obvious that I had to get to town ASAP before the shops shut. After a \$57 taxi ride all I was able to achieve were 3 gas cylinders but no Shellite, I also misplaced my notes on where we were staying but knew it was near the bus depot and armed with that information and the kind assistance of a motel receptionist who rang the likely accommodation and made the correct choice.



Bill & Jeff



Don



Our trip out to the island the next morning was at high speed with two other passengers who were going to a different disembarkation location. Our landing was up a mangrove lined channel and as the island is home to crocodiles we kept a keen eye out for a first sighting. The landing was sufficiently robust that there was little danger as we got off the boat and started the walk which took us to the east side of the island and we commenced our 32 kilometre walk south

along the Thorsborne Trail. In making the booking for the walk we had a problem arranging sufficient days on the island, as there is a limit of 43 people per day and the middle day was fully booked. A little lateral thinking on Bill's part had us booked to climb Mount Bowen through another system which took us out of

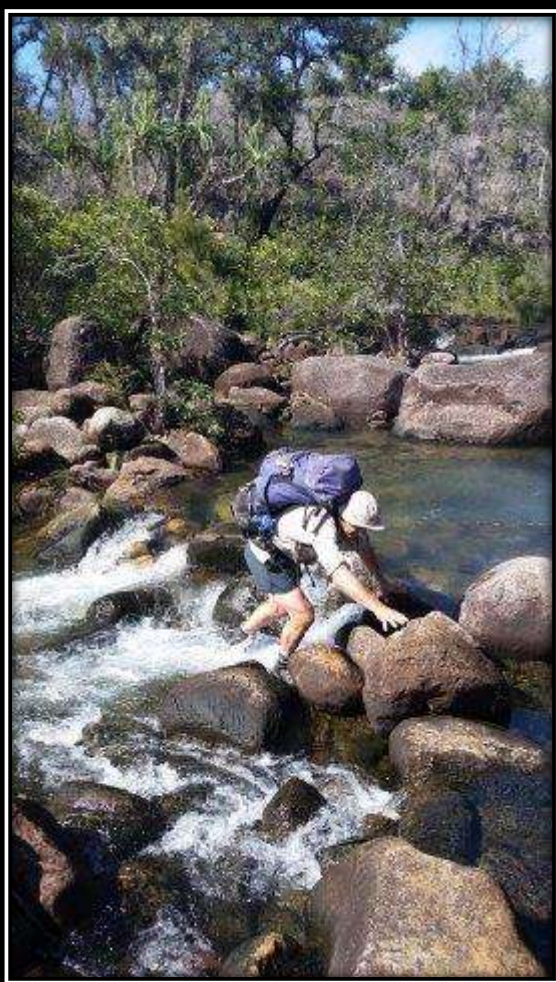
the walk system for that vital day. The boat driver gave us a heads up on climbing Mount Bowen (1121 metres) and the limited number of successful climbs undertaken each year. Although we had arranged to do the walk in what would normally be the driest period of the year we just happened to strike a period of exceptional wet weather. On the allotted day Don & I made the attempt, but due to the rain we found that negotiating the rocks of the creek, which were like greased marbles, made for slow progress and when we found a creek coming in from the right we decided to call it a day and retreat. This decision turned out to be the correct one as the rain came in and made the rocks slippery again slowing our return journey.

When Don & I got back to our overnight camp, Bill & Jeff had moved on to another campsite and we

followed them leaving behind the largest number of walkers we saw on the trip. The walking was not particularly arduous although some of the creek crossings were a challenge due to fast



flowing water and the option of rock hopping or wading through the water. In part we walked along beaches, over hills, through swamp areas and in forest. Some of the damage from recent cyclones was evident but did not detract from the enjoyment of the walk.



Campsites included large metal containers for food storage so as to protect our food from rats(?) and goannas and were a very appreciated addition to our camping experience. The

usual pit toilets were also present and they appeared to be fairly recently installed. We did avail ourselves of one campsite that was normally accessed by canoeists and there we found that these additional facilities were not present.

Near the end of the fourth day we came to view an extremely long jetty that went way out to sea and was obviously a loading system and we conjectured as to what purpose it was put to. No awaiting ships were observed and our thoughts were that it may have been for Clive Palmers failed nickel mine but we were wrong as we were later informed that its sole purpose was for the export of sugar. The jetty is over 5 kilometres long.

Although signs warning of potential crocodile attack were ever present we did not actually see a crocodile until we were in the

boat returning to Cardwell at the end of the walk and it was pointed out to us by the boat driver. Whilst waiting to be picked up our boat driver came close to shore and asked that we all get ready to board with our packs at the ready as he was anxious to be in the water for the shortest possible time due to the presence of a crocodile.

The downside of the walk included a severe midge attack where legs looked like something a child would delight in, if they were a pair of polka dotted tights, but as a natural skin adornment less than pleasant with the itching lasting long after the walk was over. The other “nasty” was the lawyer vine (well named) as once it got its hook into you was reluctant to let go. I walked into several strands of the thin ‘razor wire’ like vine at speed and tore flesh from my leg, a bit of a bloody mess. If I do the walk again I will prepare with a heavy dose of vitamin B to ward off the midges.



Thanks Bill for organising the walk, Jeff and Don for yet another excellent walk and conversations. Great to share a part of our life walk together again.

Report by Roger

Our Trip to Mt Remarkable

Neil, Alison, Scott & Kate

Location, according to Google - Fly to Whyalla and then a short stroll across the Gulf will have you at the Mt Remarkable National Park.

We booked our site in the Mambray Creek camping ground. For the purists among you, yes it does have hot showers. We felt this would be a good move in wet weather, ensuring at least one proper roof if the weather was extreme.

We stopped at Burra to do our vegetable shopping, which was a good decision, as the town closer to the park, Port Germein was “interesting” rather than “beachy,” with the paper/Post Office located in a back shed, with a very visible guard dog.

There are 40 sites in the camping ground which gave the emus plenty of BBQ’s and tables to check for food during their early morning strolls. Kangaroos were happy to eat the grass in between the campsites and the rocky stream.

This was a really enjoyable place to walk, it was much greener than we had expected with varied vegetation, plenty of wildlife and flora, River Red gums with huge open trunks, native pine and moss. The walks we did often followed the rocky creek so we enjoyed many creek crossings. The Hidden Gorge track, a walk following the creek



Hidden Gorge

into the gorge and views on the way back, had a Hidden sign, so we returned along the fire track, which was slightly further than intended. The gorge was impressive with the red rock contrasting starkly with the green of the grasses and banks of garland lily leaves.

The next day we drove around to Alligator Gorge with the intention of walking the Gorge circuit track, but we did not listen to the youngest walker, being only just 21 and therefore young and irresponsible, so for our penance, we walked the much longer Alligator Gorge ring route. This mistake reinforced the need to carry water and supplies, just in case, and perhaps a map, or better signage along the paths, so we could acknowledge the intelligence of the younger one sooner, so once again the last stage of the walk was along a road, with less chance of deviations.

Report by Alison



Rocket Lake Ramble - August 21



Fifteen bushwalkers (or perhaps "Rockers" or "Rockets") can now claim they have circumnavigated Rocket Lake in the Mallee Sunset NP.

Sunday, August 21 was mostly sunny, but cool and calm when Bill, Anna (an Intern from Germany working at Bill's practice), Meryl, Karl, Geoff, Marion, Judy, Wally, Tony, Alison, Neil, Noel, Collette (a Rotary Exchange student from Canada) and Peter travelled to Rocket Lake via the Merrinee South Track. Christiana met the Mildura group at the Rocket Lake Camp area.

Rocket Lake was in good health and



surrounded by plenty of green grass, wattles about to flower and carpets of white and yellow daisies. Some ground water was still evident from the 15 mls of rain that fell a couple of days earlier.

The origin of the name 'Rocket Lake' is unclear but at least two theories exist. One is that the army tested artillery in this area during WW2. The other is that a rocket announced 'smoko' and lunch breaks during the construction of the railway line from Nowingi. Neither is probably correct and some research is needed.



The Lake is about 9-10 km in circumference but with some detours the group walked 11.8km. The walk took about 4 hours including a gourmet lunch overlooking the lake. (Some participants even had roast beef sandwiches!).

The group returned home a little tired but better for the walk via the Nowingi Track, Henscke Track and the Meridian Road. This route provided the opportunity to inspect the ochre pit adjacent to Henscke Track on the Raak Plain.

Rocket Lake is a great spot for bushwalking and camping and easy to access. The Sunset NP will always be an annual fixture on our Club walks calendar. Our next walk will be in the Koorlong State Forest and it should be terrific as well.

Report by Peter

Meryl's 'ear worm' going through her head during the walk.....

And we know that it's been a long, long time
Since Rocket Lake formed upon this earth
Who knows how it came to be
Oh no, no, no, it's Rocket Lake
Rocket Lake, burning out there in the Sunset Park.

sung to the tune of Elton John's "Rocket Man" Well done Meryl!



News from our Bibbulman Track Walker ≈ Barb McDougal

Day 18 of The Long Walk and am going really well.

Arrived Collie this afternoon and have a rest day tomorrow. Head out to the track again on Thursday. What an incredible experience! Loving every minute.

Some days we pack up by torch light so that we can be on the track at first light. An awesome time in our Australian bush. The rain keeps following us but can't dampen our spirits. The bush actually seems to come alive in the early morning after the rain.

Am a third of the way through the walk and have walked about 330 klms according to the track maps. But the long diversions around the swollen rivers has added about another thirty klms, so we are certainly doing well.

The wild flowers are just beginning to bloom so we are enjoying more and more different plants each day.

Thanks for all your encouraging support. Am loving this walk.

1/09/2016

Federation Walks Weekend

This year the Wimmera Bushwalkers are hosting and organizing the event, being held in our most favourite of walking spots, the Grampians.

Dated: Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th October.

Our own Karl & Meryl will be leading a walk to the Fortress Views on both days.

Roger & Alan (Wimmera Club) will be leading a walk to the Chimney Pots on the Saturday.

Roger & Barb will be leading a walk up Mt Thackeray on the Sunday



Trip & Trek News - latest news on trips and treks

More information on these items can be obtained from the SBW Secretary

PGL Adventure Camps provide venues and accommodation at Campaspe Downs (Kyneton/Macedon Ranges area) and Camp Rumbug (Wilsons Prom area)

Take a Walk Adventures are now promoting and providing information on their Andalusian Coast to Coast Walk.

Southcoast First National have information on their Inverloch holiday homes

OYAT (NZ) are now promoting and providing information on their many trips and treks including Milford, Routeburn and Stewart Island.

Murray River Walk - Riverland South Australia now has information on a designated walk that is now included in the Great Walks of Australia.

Willis's Walkabouts has information on their next Kakadu Highlights Trek (Oct 24 - Nov 6)



CALENDAR

2016		
Sept 7th	Meeting	
10th	Koorlong State Forest Day Walk	Contact Noel 0438456335 Peter 50221898
18th - 24th	West Coast of Tassie 7 Day mystery tour	Contact Noel 0438 456 335
	Bibbulman Track WA	Contact Barb McDougal 0419 438 396
Oct 5th	Meeting	
8th - 9th	Federation Weekend Grampians	Contact Roger 50257325
9th	Kings Billabong - Day walk	Contact Peter 50221898
16th	Remote First Aid Training Club Rooms 9.00am - 5.00pm	Contact Peter 50221898 0458 935 239
23rd	Remote First Aid Training Club Rooms 9.00am - 5.00pm	Contact Peter 50221898 0458 935 239
Nov 2nd	Meeting	
12th	Canoe Trip - Darling Annabranh	Contact Noel 0438 456 335
19th - 27th	Croajingalong - Pack walking	Contact Karl or Meryl 50227676
Dec 7th	Meeting	
11th	Christmas Break-up	Contact Neil

NEW LOCATION FOR OUR MEETINGS

**Next Meeting
Wednesday September 7th at 8.00 pm
at Apex Park,
Life Saver's Club Rooms,
Mildura**