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**Membership Fees**  
**\$30 per Person**  
**Subs due 1<sup>st</sup> July**

# Sunraysia Bushwalkers

## April 2016

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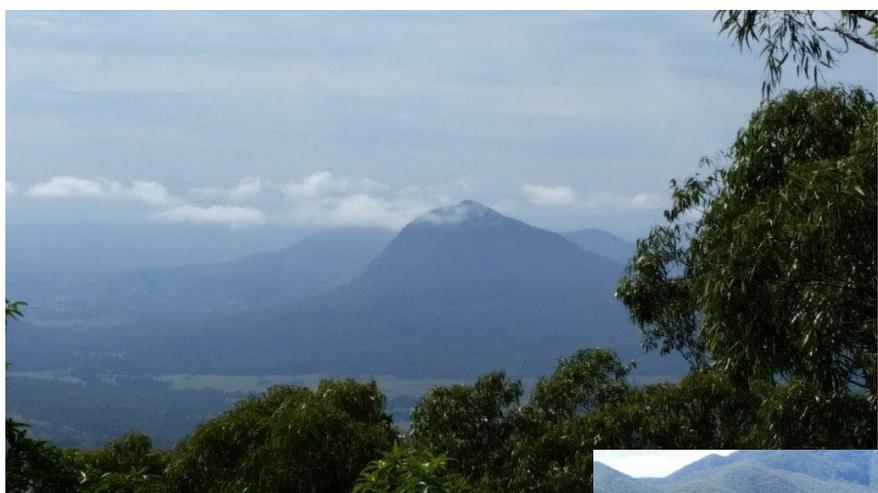


## Abbreviated Newsletter from Adelaide

### REFLECTIONS ON WALKING IN QUEENSLAND IN MARCH.

I recently drove to Queensland to visit my brother and sister in law to help erect a carport that had been waiting erection for about 2 years. The trip coincided with a reunion of participants in the walk I undertook in Patagonia so was part pleasure and part work. Included in the pleasure part was the opportunity to undertake a couple of walks.

The organisers of the reunion, Take-a-walk, also arranged a day walk on the Sunday following the luncheon and we proceeded to Mt Greville which is a rhyolite plug remnant of a 24 million year old volcano. This is near Cunningham Gap and on my return south I was able to photograph it from the Gap lookout.



We walked up a ridge between two gullies and down one of the gullies on return. It was during this walk that I noticed the temperature and especially the humidity, reminiscent of my time in TPNG in the early 1970's and my dislike of that sort of exertion at temperature – I much

prefer 14° as a walking temperature.

A nice coffee at the Artula Bakery finished the day off nicely. Thanks to John & Lyn for organising it.



The next walk was a four day walk over Easter (post carport erection) and was in the Conondale National Park, a circuit walk of 54klms which turned out to be a little over 60klm due to a missed track off one of the fire trails. Conondale National Park is 130 km north of Brisbane in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland near the town of Conondale in the south east Queensland bioregion. The start

of the walk can be accessed by crossing three creeks and a 4wd is required for this task although at the time it was easy access but of course subject to inundation with the right weather conditions. The walk we took was in reverse of the normal way people access the circuit although it was apparent that a lot only walk in from each end and then walk out again. Both ends do require a fair amount of climbing but once done you have to look forward to a downhill run on the last day.

We met a mother and daughter who were travelling in the opposite direction to us and we came across them again in the middle of the walk. They were in training for a 6 month period of walking the Appalachian Trail in the USA (2180 miles & they have previously completed 1000 miles of it) and testing out some new lightweight gear for that trip and they mentioned a building product that is strong, light weight and suitable for a ground sheet called DuPont Tyvek Home Wrap. Their tent was 2kgs and looked like it would hold 4 at a pinch.

A downside of walking in the tropics, beside the humidity, is the variety of critters out to get you. I was heading for a quiet streamside wash and had removed my shirt, as I approached the stream when a concerted attack from what I assume were European wasps had me in full retreat and nursing about 5 bites in as many seconds – a first and I sincerely hope last experience of the kind. The next three days saw the attack of the leech – actually hundreds of them. If you stopped to brush them off your boots they just seemed to multiply and attack in ever increasing numbers. They are the toughest leeches I have come across and lightning fast in attaching themselves to you or your boots. My individual bite counts exceeded 15. They obviously enjoyed the Southern Comfort form of blood coursing through my veins. We saw a Red Belly Black snake sunning itself on one of the fire trails which was fairly slow to move off to let us pass and another



unidentified snake that was at ease under a log overhang with



no intention of moving.

Due to the moist climate fungi were in abundance and with a wide range of varieties. An aside to the actual walk was the booking system and occupancy of sites. Although the booking system indicated full bookings in fact only about 1/3 of sites were occupied even though the walk was probably at one of the most popular times of the year for an extended 4 day walk. It would be interesting to know if in fact all sites had actually been paid for even though they were not occupied.

Thanks to Christian, David & Sally for the 4 day walk and all the Patagonian “Big Footers” for the day walk – I enjoyed them all.

Roger

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016







## CALENDAR

<b>2016</b>		
April 6th	Meeting	
April 10th	Merbein Common	Contact Verna 50223480
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mildura Station Homestead info on river redgum proposals by Parks plan	Two sessions at 2-4pm & 7-9pm
April 20th	Aust. Inland Botanic Gardens Riverine Section	Contact Noel 50257455
May 4th	Meeting	
May 6th - 8th	Pink Lakes - Mt Crozier Circuit	Contact Karl 50227676
May 7th	Mopoke Hut- Day Walk	Contact Noel 257455
June 1st	Meeting	
June 19th	Lake Cullulleraine	Contact Peter 50221898
June TBA	Hinchinbrook Island	Contact Bill 0408231984
July 6th	Meeting	
July 9th - 10th	Mid-winter Dinner at Walpeup Research Station	Contact Verna 50223480 Peter 50221898

**PLEASE NOTE  
NEW LOCATION FOR  
OUR MEETINGS**

**Next Meeting  
Wednesday 6th April at 8.00 pm  
at Apex Park,  
Life Saver's Club Rooms,  
Mildura**