



QUEENSLAND BUSHWALKERS CLUB Inc.

Newsletter

74 Kallista Rd.
Rosedale South
QLD 4123

Email qldbwc@yahoo.com
Phone No (07) 3341 7509
www.geocities.com/qldbwc

September 2009



Coming down from Mt Ernest

Club News

New QBW Committee

The AGM was held at the Club meeting on the 4th August 2009. All but one position, Secretary, was filled on the night.

Our new President is Gil Gunthorpe who has been a member of the Club for almost five years and has led several walks.

The new Vice-President is Noelene McCay and the new Outings Officer is John Brunott.

John Hinton, Traci Nudl, Stuart Mackay, Frank Garland and Richard Kolarski are staying on for another year in their current positions.

Since the AGM, Sue Ward, a relatively new member has come forward and volunteered for the position of Secretary.

A very special thanks to the outgoing members, Patricia Kolarski, Margaret Rae, Sandy Thomas and David Kenrick for their work on the committee over the last year.

Mary Sherlock has stayed on as the Supper Convenor while John Brunott has the added task of Equipment Officer.

Full details of the positions are on Page 2 of the Newsletter.

Report on Pilgrimage 2009 21 - 23 August 2009

Eighteen QBW members attended the Pilgrimage held at Lake Maroon Holiday Park. Members mostly arrived on the Friday afternoon and QBW were allocated a spot on level ground where we could camp together.

On the Friday night there was a light supper and walkers had a chance to sign up for the score or more walks on offer.

On the Saturday there was lots of coming and goings as walkers left at staggered times for walks in every direction and of various difficulty. In the evening it was time for the bush dance under the guidance of Stone the Crows, a popular band who have played at previous Pilgrimages

Sunday morning was a busy day with a Sausage Sizzle breakfast, an FMR presentation, a Presidents meeting, a Swap

and Sell and of course the Games.

At the presentation it was revealed that the Toowoomba Bushwalkers will be the main host for next year's Pilgrimage.

Ekka Day – Brisbane River Walk 12 August 2009

Eleven members of the Club didn't sleep in on Ekka day this year but chose instead to take a leisurely walk along the Brisbane River.

We started the walk down along the new bike path from Toowong (in front of the Regatta Hotel). Traci had her trusty walk guide with her and pointed out some interesting sites along the way.

A coffee stop at Eagle Street ensured we were re-charged for the walk up over the Storey Bridge and along the southern path in front of the Kangaroo Point cliffs. The climbers were out in force as were all the lycra-clad cyclists, but there were no collisions.

It was an enjoyable morning out and we finished up at South Bank in time for lunch at the Crepe Inn. The weather was great and the rain held off. Thanks to Traci for organising a great social day out. Stuart

Bike Ride Blackbutt - Linville Rail Trail

Dave Rae is organizing this bike ride on 3-4 October 2009. For more information download the [information brochure](#).

New QBW website

The Geocities website is closing down in October but will no longer be maintained by me from September.

The new website is at <http://sites.google.com/site/qldbwc/> so please mark it as your new Favorite or Bookmark in your web browser.

Any suggestions for our new website are most welcome as it is still a work in progress. Richard

General Information

Meeting Place

Club meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. There is no Club meeting in January.

Meeting are held at the Little King's Hall on the corner of Carl and O'Keefe Streets, Buranda. Entry is via the gate on Carl St. There is parking within the grounds and in Carl Street.

Tea/Coffee and cake/biscuits are provided after the meeting. A coin donation would be appreciated.

Membership

Probationary Membership

A non-member automatically becomes a Probationary Member on his/her first walk after signing the waiver form. There is no fee payable to become a Probationary Member.

However a Probationary Member must become an Ordinary Member on his/her second walk by filling out a Membership Form and paying the membership fee.

Ordinary Membership

A person may become an Ordinary Member by filling out and signing a Membership Form, having a proposer sign the form and handing the form with the membership fee to a committee member or walk leader.

The proposer may be a friend (who is a member of the Club) of the applicant, the leader of the walk that the applicant is on, the Membership Officer at a Club meeting or if the Membership Officer is not available, one of the committee members.

An Ordinary Member has the right to vote at an AGM or be elected to a committee position. A Probationary Member has neither of these rights.

Members of Another Bushwalking Club

Members of another bushwalking club which is affiliated with Bushwalking Queensland Inc (or an interstate Federation) and who are covered by the same Insurance do not need to become a member of our Club to go on our walks. However Club members will have priority if there is a limit on numbers.

Club Equipment

Compasses	Topo Maps	GPS's
Emergency Lights	First Aid Kits	UHF Radios

The above are for free use by members.

Contact David at 3395 1838 or david_r_uae@optusnet.com.au

PLBs with inbuilt GPS

The Club has 5 PLBs with inbuilt GPS. The PLBs will be made available at each Club meeting and will need to be returned at the following Club meeting. Contact Richard on 3341 7509.

Abseil Gear (ropes, harnesses, helmets, karabiners etc)

Ordinary Members - \$5.00 charge for use of the Club rope and another \$5.00 charge for use of harness and accessories .

Probationary Members and members of affiliated clubs - \$10.00 charge for use of the Club rope and another \$10.00 charge for use of harness and accessories.

Contact Trevor at 0411 512 202

Back Pack for Hire \$5.00 charge

Contact Trevor at 0411 512 202

T/W Tent for Hire 2 man, 2.8kg \$5.00/week

Contact Dave Haliczar 0432 901 030

Bivy Bags For Sale \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00.

These bivy bags are 2 metres by 0.9 metres and are bright orange in colour. Use as a pack liner or emergency bivy bag. Contact Patricia Kolarski on 3341 7509.

Space Blankets For Sale \$2.50 each.

Light weight and take up no room at all. A must for all walkers! Contact Patricia Kolarski on 3341 7509.

The Management Committee

President	Gil Gunthorpe	3272 4366(H)
Vice President	Noelene McCay	3889 0264(H)
Secretary	Sue Ward	3844 6389(H)
Treasurer	John Hinton	3343 3724 (H)
Outings Officer	John Brunott	3209 9598 (H)
Membership Officer	Frank Garland	3341 5207 (H)
Editor	Richard Kolarski	3341 7509 (H)
Social Secretary	Traci Nudl	3890 8196 (H)
Training Officer	Stuart Mackay	3890 8196 (H)

Other Voluntary Positions

Equipment Officer	John Brunott	3209 9598 (H)
Supper Convenor	Mary Sherlock	3209 8514 (H)
BWQ Rep	Stuart Mackay	3890 8196 (H)
BWQ Rep	Richard Kolarski	3341 7509 (H)

Campsite Monitors

John Brunott	Ballows, Paddys Knob
Kerry de Clauzel	Throakban, Barney Gorge and Lower Portals
Ann Kemp	Spicers Peak (east & west)
Richard Kolarski	Running Creek Falls
Barbara Makepeace	Rat-a-tat, Spicers/Doubletop saddle Rum Jungle
John Shera	Panorama Point
John & Julie Shera	Mt Superbus & Rabbit Fence Jct Lower Panorama
Ken Walters	Mt May saddle & Paddy's Plain

Editors Pic



Brisbane River Walk

Eleven members took the opportunity to do a walk in Brisbane on Exhibition Wednesday. Traci had a guide book and was able to show us some of the history of the buildings along the banks of the river.

New Members

Christine Harrison

As at 26/8/2009 we have 64 financial members for 2009-2010.

Leaders Hint

With the hot dry weather that South East Queensland is experiencing at the moment, check out any Park alerts at https://www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/park_alerts/index.html

Past Reports

Past President's Report

I have enjoyed my year as President, in no small way due to the competence and commitment of my fellow Committee members. The format of my Report is a review of how, in my opinion, each of the Committee members has contributed to the successful operation of our Club this year.

Vice President - Ever the voice of reason. Margie's calm and measured manner ensured no one became too excited or deviated too far from the Agenda. Presidential material?!

Secretary - Overworked in her paid employment yet still carried out her role in a professional manner, even if it meant skipping dinner to make it to a Committee Meeting. A hard act to follow. Thanks, Sandy.

Treasurer - Just what we needed in a Treasurer, John is careful and delves into the small details of the Club's financial matters. He has mastered Depreciation! He is also able to use a complicated commercial accounting software package.

Outings Secretary - Well, where would we be without Dave's Walks Planning BBQs. The calendar always looks very healthy after one of these. Great job, Dave! Hope to see you out on the track again some time soon.

Membership Officer - Our "welcoming Committee of one" for visitors and new members, Frank's has been the smiling face most newcomers see on arrival at our Club Meetings. He has sorted out the preparation of Membership cards, streamlined the stressful task of receipting Membership renewals, and co-ordinated with the Treasurer and Editor the confusing task of processing new Membership forms.

Social Secretary - Traci has perfected the "Bob and Danuta" walk with a social activity at the end. Mt Coot-tha is a regular stamping ground of hers, a great spot for a BBQ lunch. Our Tenth Anniversary dinner and BBQ were very enjoyable items on the Club Calendar.

Training Officer - Stuart has shown much enthusiasm in this position. Abseiling training (ably assisted by several other members), navigation training, and First Aid training have been planned and provided this year. He has many more good ideas yet!

Editor - I can certainly confirm that many hours are spent preparing the Newsletter each month. Just as well he doesn't have another day job. Congratulations on an excellent publication month after month, Richard.

Other roles performed by Richard are Club webmaster and email account manager. Our new website, to be fully operational by October, has been a recent priority of his and is shaping up well.

Equipment Officer - While not a voting Committee role, this is a very important position. John Brunott has a few members assisting him in this role, that is, each taking responsibility for different types of equipment. Trevor D. - abseiling (gear shared with John), Richard - PLBs, Dave R. - maps.

Supper Convenor - Fruitcake master chef!!! Who else but Mary. And her cooking skills don't stop there: slices, biscuits, and more. A hard act to follow. Patricia Kolarski

Training Officers Report

The training year started in November 2008 with an abseiling exercise organised by Trevor Davern and ably assisted by John Brunott and Dave Kenrick. The training day was conducted on the nursery cliffs at Kangaroo Point as a refresher for some of the more experienced abseilers who were off to do a three-pitch abseil down Kinnane Falls, an event also organised by Trevor, and one that received rave reports from everyone who participated. I'll look at trying to put on another abseil training day later this year.

2009 started with our first club talk in March where Patricia and Richard Kolarski brought along their packs to talk about what kit should be packed for a through walk.

A talk such as this proved popular with club members by the number of questions being asked and was a good eye-opener for anyone interested in taking up through walks for the first time. We might do this one again next year. Any volunteers?



Kinnanes Falls Abseil

March saw me running a basic navigation and compass training day out at the Daisy Hill Koala Reserve. A great day for those who could attend and nobody got lost even if I did lay out a couple of check point in the wrong place! Some who couldn't make it have asked me to run another training day like that, so I'm thinking of doing this event twice a year. The next one is planned for October/ November.

Our May monthly meeting saw our first club visitor where we had representatives from Globe Trekker giving us a talk on a lot of equipment. It was a good night I think because there were some little handouts and goodies and a couple of very good prizes.

They'd like to come back again and the feedback I got was to concentrate on themes like "the latest trend in tents" or summer/winter clothing etc. Hopefully, I can work something out and I am hoping to get Globe Trekker back in October.

The new concept of having club talks seems to be catching on because Evelyn Campbell, our club photographic expert, asked if she could present a talk on taking better photos with a digital camera as a lead up to the Club's photographic completion later this year. And what a wonderful and stimulating talk that was from Evelyn. I think we all came away inspired and hopefully we'll see that result in the photo completion later this year. I also think that the club would love to hear from Evelyn again on a similar topic again next year.

My last big event was organising the Senior First Aide course for club members. This was completed in July where 8 club members attend the training day out at St John Ambulance HQ in Fortitude Valley. One of the lessons learnt I've taken away from this is to see if we can try to have some form of basic "brush up" first aid practice session ourselves before we send people off on that course. I'll investigate some options here.

I enjoyed my year as training officer and my thanks must go out to members who organised activities with a training focus. A special thanks must go to: Trevor Davern, John Brunott, Dave Kenrick, Richard and Patricia Kolarski, and Evelyn Campbell for helping me make the role worth while. And lastly I should thank all of the club members for making my first term as Training Officer a stimulating and enjoyable one. Stuart Mackay

Insurance Report

QBW has both Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance cover for its members. This insurance is obtained through Bushwalking Australia (BA) which each year arranges the cover through an insurance broker.

The Insurance officer for BA has issued a report for the 2008-09 year and below is an abridged version.

Intro

The Insurance Policies provide Liability and/or Personal Accident cover to 192 clubs Australia wide with a combined membership of 20,995 members (21,308 -2007). Generally most clubs affiliated with the State Federations are insured under the Liability Policy (97%) whereas 88% of clubs provide Personal Accident insurance for their members.

Renewal Terms

Liability Insurance – the Sum Insured Limit is maintained at \$20,000,000. The policy has been extended to include rescue training activities. The premium is the same as last year.

Personal Accident - the same underwriter has held this policy for a number of years and has provided an excellent claims handling service. Unfortunately claims have continued at a high frequency level over the last twelve months, including a large loss on average every second year. Despite this, the insurer has offered renewal at the same rate per member as last year. Limited cover for members aged 85-95 years continues.

Renewal Premium

The cost for Queensland members is as follows:

Liability	\$4.01 per member (\$4.05 – 2008)
Personal Accident	\$5.25 per member (\$5.30 – 2008)

Claims Experience

In the past four years there have been a number of claims reported under the Personal Accident Policy as a result of falls, slips etc. In the year to 30 June 2005 there were 18 claims at total cost of \$26,714. In the year to 30 June 2006 there were a further 9 claims reported totalling \$4,350. In the year to 30 June 2007 there were 16 claims reported totalling \$91,554*. This year (as at 6 May 2009) there has been 6 claims reported.

There have been no claims reported under the Liability policy.

Claim Notification

In the event of an incident which will or may give rise to a claim, it is necessary that the incident be reported to our Insurance Brokers, Marsh Pty Ltd, by telephone or email – wherever practical within 24 hours of the incident to ensure the correct conduct of the claim. Contact Information
Telephone Fred Grima 02 8864 7328
Email fred.grima@marsh.com

Activities Covered by Public Liability

Bushwalking, Recreational Walking, Walking, Track/Hut Construction and Maintenance, Caving, Canyoning, Liloing, Abseiling, Alpine Walking (summer & winter), Snow Skiing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Boating, Rafting, Swimming, Cycling, Rock Scurrying and use of hand held ropes as part of a Bushwalk, Orienteering, Rogaining, Rescue and Leader Training and other related instructions where no fee is charged other than to recoup expenses (Errors & Omissions), Voluntary Work for various Charities and not for profit organisations.

It is important that member clubs understand that Liability cover for any club activities which include Abseiling, Snow Skiing and Caving are subject to the member club arranging for members participating in the activity to sign a Waiver or Acknowledgement of Risk in relation to that activity.

Activities Not Covered by Public Liability

Rock climbing, mountaineering, water skiing, and animal riding.

Activities Covered by Personal Accident Insurance

Cover for members of Insured Clubs who sustain injury whilst engaged in an authorised activity of the club or in direct travel to or from that activity.

What Makes a Good Photo?

Last month we looked at some of the different shooting modes available on most digital cameras such as portrait, landscape and sports. We now continue.

To show movement as a blur, the camera needs to choose a slower shutter speed. Two options are possible:



**Night Mode
(without a flash)**



Landscape Mode

The use of either depends on light levels.

Too slow a shutter speed while the camera is hand-held will cause "camera shake". This will be made worse with the use of a telephoto (longer) lens. Use a tripod if necessary to steady the camera.



Examples

Wide Angle vs Telephoto

Apart from the obvious of bringing a scene from further away closer, how does lens choice affect the image?

The lens focal length changes the angle of view and how perspective is recorded in the scene.



Taken with a wide angle lens from closer up



Taken with a telephoto lens (longer lens) from further back

Wide angle lens

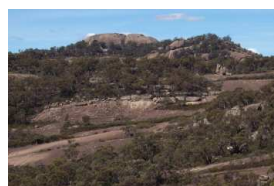
- Exaggerates perspective
- Makes objects nearer the camera look larger
- Image appears to have great depth



Wide Angle Examples

Telephoto (long) lens

- Flattens perspective
- Makes objects look closer together
- Image appears to have less depth



Telephoto Example

To be continued next month.

Evelyn Campbell

Notices

Cape to Cape (WA) 22 September to 2 October 2009

8 days of walking between these dates to allow for a day or two at Margaret River and a stop over in Perth. Actual walking dates should be 23rd September and finishing on 1st of October with room for a rest day in between.

Contact David Haliczzer for further details on 0432 901 030.

QBW Christmas Party 4 - 6 December 2009

The QBW Christmas Party will be held at Mt Nimmel Lodge at Mudgeeraba on the 4-6th December 2009. Mt Nimmel Lodge is a privately owned, family operated camp-ground on 67 acres of Gold Coast Hinterland. It has bunkhouses with 52 beds, a separate shower/toilet block with hot water plus a kitchen and campfire area.

Cost will be \$20 for one night stay and \$30 for 2 nights.

South West Cape Circuit (Tassie) 9 to 15 January 2010

This will mark the third year in a row that I will have walked this circuit of the South West corner of Tasmania.

A maximum of 4 - 5 people on these trips is possible as some camping sites may be a bit cramped with any more than 4 tents.

Contact David Haliczzer for further details on 0432 901 030.

Nepal, Annapurna Circuit 1 April 3 May 2010

I am leading a trip to Nepal in April 2010 which includes 17 days trekking, 5 days mountain biking, 2 days white water rafting, all for approx \$3658.00. Includes return air fares, budget accommodation, and meals while on the adventures, and equipment. Contact Julie Urquhart Ph. 3314 2776.

Café Capers

In January I had a pleasant walk with the Club to Egg Rock. Richard, the leader, had intended to cross Nixon Creek and to pursue some rock hopping and other fun activities, which may have taken me out of my comfort zone. Unfortunately, it had rained in the preceding weeks and the creek was still too high. I was thoroughly disappointed. So to turn a bad outcome into a better outcome, Richard took us down past Egg Rock and the prison farm to the Numinbah-Murwillumbah Road.

It was here that Richard remarked that there was a great coffee place about 3 km down the road. Great, I thought. This is a good opportunity to have a nice coffee halfway through a walk. Alas, Richard had other ideas and set off in the opposite direction.

Recently Kerry led a walk to the Bushranger's Cave and beyond to Wagawn. Now that is a story to be told. However this story is about a great café, not a great walk. This was the first time I have travelled the Numinbah Road in years and found it was one of the most picturesque areas I have visited. There are lovely picnic spots, creeks to explore and the Scenic Rim to admire.

When Kerry asked as to where we should have coffee, there was only one spot. The Valley View Café, the same café which Richard had spoken about. This delightful café is run by Jodie Turner and she has developed a pleasant atmosphere for her customers to enjoy their afternoon teas. A nice selection of lapidary, paintings and other local products add to country setting.

Richard had been right, the coffee was magnificent. However the food that was exquisite. Kerry and Trevor had hamburgers. Not your ordinary affair. There was fresh lettuce, tomato which added to everybody wishing they had ordered the same. Gayle had a strawberry tartlet whilst John (Brunott) had the piece de resistance, apple strudel. The serving would have fed four.

This café is highly recommended for those hikers who after a strenuous off track walk are after a place to refuel their body.

Bruce Stephens

Past Walks

Qld/NSW Border to Yellowpinch

13 June 2009

Twelve people met up in Rathdowney for this walk which was to start in NSW near the Mt Lindesay border gate and finish at Yellowpinch in Queensland. We all arrived early and left before the designated time which turned out well as it would be a long day ahead. We all drove down to Yellowpinch and left two cars there and then drove to the Mt Lindesay highway and into NSW where we parked our cars near the now disused Bellbird Park.

After crossing the rabbit proof fence we walked uphill along an old forestry road back towards the Qld/NSW border. It was quite steep but we made steady progress. Upon reaching the border proper we followed it west. Initially it was a forestry road but on reaching the rainforest it petered out to just a walking track along a fence. Soon even the fence disappeared and we were left with just the rainforest and a hill to climb up.

At the top of the hill we sat down for a well earned rest and morning tea. We would now follow some ridges east to Mt Ernest. There was no track to speak of and we made slow progress though the virgin rainforest. As we approached Mt Ernest we entered open sclerophyll forest as we made the last uphill section to the escarpment. The area on Mt Ernest was very overgrown and John B was surprised to see a previous open campsite was now overgrown with shrubs. No possibility of lunch here so we decided to continue.

We found the ridge leading down and heading north which would take us to Yellowpinch. The ridge was fairly open and we could see the Organ Pipes of Mt Ernest to our left. On finding a relatively flat area on the ridge we stopped and had lunch.

As we continued downhill we came across some old forestry roads and the navigation became trickier. On a couple of occasions we had to back track and get onto the correct ridge again. Finally we could see Cronans Cascades Road below and it was just a matter of bashing our way through a lantana barrier to get to the road. It was now all straight forward back to Yellowpinch.

Many thanks to Dave for this interesting walk and for John for helping with the navigation. Richard

Northbrook Mt and Eagle's Nest

25 June 2009

Four retirees and Sandy with an RDO did battle with the morning traffic ending up at peaceful Mt Glorious. This is a walk half on firetrails and half on rough tracks through the bush. A few hundred metres of height is gained and lost but nothing too strenuous.

Mist in the valleys and birds singing in the trees: another perfect day in paradise, that is, until Richard decided to take a shortcut down to the road from the top of the mountain (who's leading this walk?!!). It wasn't toooo steep until the last little bit onto the road but that's what bums are for, is it not?



On Northbrook Mountain

Lunch on Eagle's Nest then John H. and I returned to the cars via the road while the other three followed a very faint trail north-west off the Nest, heading towards Northbrook Creek below the Gorge (hopefully!).

Not so, unfortunately. They finally reached the creek just above the second gorge and choose to go up and around rather than wade through the cold water. Bad choice! Up, up, and up they went steeper and steeper as it was too cliffy to just contour around.

Luckily both John and Sandy had phone reception so they could let us know at what point they arrived at the Mt Glorious Road. Dave K. was not smiling when we met up with them, he was flat on his back beside the road, so it must have been quite an off-track adventure.

To finish off the day nicely we headed to Olley's coffee shop only to find it closed so we settled for the bikie cafe near Camp Constable: nice coffee but pricey.

Thanks to Dave, John, Sandy and Richard for sharing this lovely day.
Patricia

Flinders Peak

27 June 2009

A night of fairly heavy rain had caused some doubt about this walk, but the weather was fine and sunny when eight of us met at Yamanto on a Saturday morning for the short drive to the start of the walk at Flinders Plum picnic area near Peak Crossing.

The drive itself posed some challenges as the rain had resulted in much higher than usual levels of water in the creeks we had to cross. However, the picnic area is right at the foot of the mountain, so we began the ascent within a few metres of leaving the cars and left the soggy plain behind.

The first part of the walk follows a well worn trail with steep sections interspersed with flatter sections, but after a while the way to the top follows a rocky ridge with a bit of scrambling.

Our morning tea stop towards the end of this ridge section provided us with some views to the east and to the top of the mountain, but the cold breeze had us finding sheltered spots to eat our snacks.

Closer to the top, a section of the old route had been roped off and a warning sign erected, to keep walkers away from a sink hole that had formed through subsidence at some stage. It was only a metre or two across but we couldn't see the bottom without getting too close for safety.

The top of the mountain affords 360 degree views, but even though it was sunny where we were, there was still quite a bit of cloud in a few directions, so we didn't get the clear views back to the city that can often be enjoyed here.

The recent rain had made the rocks more slippery than usual, so there were a couple of slips and slides on the way down, but no injuries. Everyone was safely back at the cars by early afternoon, and ready to tackle the creek crossings again on our way home.
Helen McAllister

Neglected Mountain

28 June 2009

The usual early morning excitement and anticipation prevailed as nine hardy souls gathered at 8.00am in Beaudesert to convoy down to Stinson Park at Christmas Creek.

Leaving the cars along Gap Creek Road, we set out for the saddle between the Stretcher Track and Neglected Mountain then turning right along the ridge towards Neglected Mountain.

Being a classic clear winter's day we enjoyed excellent views east beyond Buchanans Fort, Mt Widgee and Lost World to Lamington Plateau and west towards Mt Lindesay, Mt Barney and Main Range as we moved along the ridge. Only minor scrambling was needed to negotiate the small outcrops along the way.

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the summit and scouted around for a suitable descent route. I had spoken to the land owner and had permission to drop down the very steep east face from the summit.

We arrived at the base of the mountain thankfully about 500 meters from the cars despite the leader's temporary disorientation with the map earlier in the day. The direct descent proved I think very successful creating an interesting alternative to retracing our steps back to the start.

Thanks to Helen, Bob, Gil, Muriel, David, Allison, Michelle and Joe for a thoroughly enjoyable day and putting up with pretty average but ethical coffee on the way home.
Anne

Great Ocean Walk

29 June - 7 July 2009

The walk was completed solo. It was a walk I was determined to do solo or not and as it turned out there was no one else using the campsites when I went through.

The weather was wild and it only got fine on the last day. The campsites were pristine except for Aire River and Johanna which I suspect are too close to where morons can get to and make a bit of a mess. The coastal views were terrific and the beaches needed to be well timed to be able to do all of the low tide routes.



On the Great Ocean Walk

I would do this walk again but probably not alone. I saw an overpopulation of koalas at Blanket Bay and Cape Otway campsites and the Manna Gums in these areas were distinctly damaged by the overforaging by the bears. The rock formations were quite special and the views were stunning.

I would recommend this walk for anyone - it is easy, well marked and well set up for hikers. The low tide routes are often along wave break platforms so not recommended unless the seas are calm and the tide isn't high.
Dave Haliczar

Gap Creek Falls

4 July 2009

Four of us met at Aratula at 8.00am and headed up the range to be met by a freezing, gusty wind at the top of Cunningham's Gap. Once we had donned extra jackets, gloves and beanies (and left the car park) we headed off along the leaf and branch strewn track. The Main Range booklet indicated a time of 6 hours was required to complete the 9.8km return journey on the graded track.

Our first stop was the viewing platform (Fassifern Valley Lookout) just a few hundred metres up the track. From there it was all downhill!



Gap Creek Falls

The track leads mostly through open eucalypt forests and zig zags its descent along the ridge below Mount Cordeaux with several viewing areas along the escarpment of the Main Range and views out towards Flinders Peak, Mt Greville, Mt Maroon and other identifiable peaks.

Our journey had several detours "off track" to skirt around fallen trees and it was suggested there should be an extra rating on walks for "cleanliness" as Gerry's pants were soon more charcoal than beige.

Due to the recent rains we discovered a normally dry waterhole and were rewarded with a good flow over the 100m drop at the falls. We sat in the warm sunshine, well back from the edge and enjoyed a leisurely morning tea by the creek.

The return journey required a little more huff n puff as it was all uphill, but we were pleased to complete the trip in well under the estimated time. Thanks to John, Gerry and Gail for their company.
Sandy Thomas