



Tablelands Bushwalking Club Inc

The Tablelands Bushwalking Club

Newsletter – July August 2017

The Tablelands Bushwalking Club
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If a Walking Trip is Delayed – What Your Emergency Contact Needs to Know.

Occasionally trips are delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. Before leaving on a Tablelands Walking Club (TWC) outing you should tell your emergency contact (family member or friend) where you are going and give them a copy of the phone numbers of the Committee Members as members of the Management Committee will be the Contact Officers.

Contact should be with **any member of the Tablelands Walking Club Management Committee**. The phone numbers of the committee members are found at the beginning of the Walks Program or the Newsletter. Move down the list until you find someone at home.

If there were a situation that required a search or rescue, members of the Committee would liaise with experienced walkers within TWC and with the Police and SES. They will also hold membership details for all TWC members, including the name of a family member or friend to contact in case of delay or emergency.

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Gorrell Track

The Gorrell (storm bird) track takes you through the Downey Creek catchment. The Downey Creek area has been used by the Australian army to test the durability of military equipment in tropical conditions. King ferns, bunya pines, epiphytes and giant strangler figs are features of the forest in this area. However, not all are seen on the walk.

If you start the walk from the top end, turn off the Palmerston Highway at the K Tree Road. After 12.3km you will come to the South Johnstone camp ground. 2.1km past there, on the left, is the start of the track. The drive in is very scenic with many large king ferns lining the roadside.



From here to Downey Creek is 10km. Parts of this start of the track can become a bit wet and boggy if it has rained. It is mostly downhill with a few ups every now and then. The track is quite open and the walk is pleasant depending on the time of the year. There are some nice creek crossings along the way.



The Downey Creek campsite is past Downey Creek. From Downey Creek the track continues for 11.8km to McNamee Creek which is another great place for a swim in the crystal clear water. From Downey Creek to here has its ups and downs with one long gradual haul.

From McNamee Creek to the Mena Creek end of the Gorrell track is 3.7km with its usual ups and downs but nothing too strenuous.

Most of the track is under rainforest. Be aware of black snakes on the track sunning themselves. If you are lucky you may see a Quoll or a Cassowary.



If you are being picked up at the Mena Creek end the turnoff to the end of the track is 7.8km. It is a bit deceptive as you go through a cattle property. Follow the road until you see the sign at the end. Do not turn left into the property house which you can see beside a large dam.

Distances are approximate.

Take A Walk Adventures

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 66, Camp Hill Qld 4152

Phone 0417 611 810

www.takeawalk.com.au

Explore Greece

17 September to 14 October 2018

We'll start in Athens and spend a glorious 28 days hiking, island-hopping and discovering all that is ancient and new in classic Greece, and its largest island, Crete. We'll walk through the deepest gorge in the world; the longest gorge in Europe; along Santorini, the most beautiful of the Greek islands; up mountains and around a volcano caldera, and visit ancient sites and historical monasteries on this adventure.

Mt Olympus, Pindos Gorge, Greek islands - what more could you want!

Pacific Island Adventures

26 March to 22 April 2018

9 April to 6 May 2018

This **new** 2018 itinerary includes two of New Zealand's 'classic' walks - the Tongariro and Abel Tasman, plus several exciting and invigorating day walks where we'll get spectacular views of New Zealand's highest peak, Mt Cook; Franz Josef and Fox glaciers, and visit the remarkable geothermal areas. Then it's on to Vanuatu to explore some of its eighty-plus remote and rugged islands.

There's overnight hiking to the top of one of the archipelago's many volcanoes; deserted beaches to comb; the ancient culture of the Melanesian people to absorb, and of course snorkelling along the reefs.

This will truly be an adventure in paradise to some of the best hiking and sightseeing destinations New Zealand and Vanuatu have to offer!

Patagonia - Highlights of Chile and Argentina

12 November to 4 December 2018

Want to explore one of the world's greatest and most dramatic frontiers? One of the proposed highlights of this trip will be a hike to the top of Villarrica, Chile's most famous active volcano. There will be several other volcanoes to climb and the trip will finish with a seven-day complete circuit of Torres del Paine, one of the most spectacular hikes in the world. The hospitality in these amazing countries has to be experienced to be believed.

Our first trip to this stunning destination was 2010! We keep going back - it's on most hikers' to-do lists!

Great Walhalla Alpine Trails is one for the books

Great Walks eNews 30 June 2017

Victoria's Great Walhalla Alpine Trail follows the first 40km section of the Australian Alps Walking Track, one of the world's great Alpine walks stretching 680km from Walhalla to Canberra.

The Great Walhalla Alpine Trail is blessed

with a wide range of beautiful scenery in Baw Baw NP.

Alpine meadows with native wildflowers, twisted snow gums, towering mountain ash, pre-historic myrtle beech, stunning geological formations, fast flowing streams, fern glades, timber and gold heritage, wild rivers and native fauna and flora.

The trail can be quite testing and we require participants to undergo some fitness training prior to undertaking the walk.

For more info on the trail click [here](#)

President's Report – Bush Walking Queensland General Meeting July 2017

Since the last general meeting there are a few developments with 2017 becoming a year of changes.

Positioning

While BWQ is in good position, the changes will only bolster its reputation. Once the governance for the organisation is settled, then a lot of impacts with these changes will be minimised.

Taking the opportunity to build new a website, such things as the compatibility with platforms, authorship, timely information publishing, and connection between communication methods will all enhance this position.

Identifying our actual position, or the “why we are here”, will play a great part in a lot of the business of BWQ. It will assist in our direction, decision-making, and make grey areas as “black and white” as possible. We can then look at “how” we get there and then “what” we do to achieve it. Having been involved in fundraising and the relationship of BWQ with Diabetes Qld has given the realisation of the value putting on paper the frameworks, strategies, and the like so that the world know what we are here for, and where we are going.

I attached the objects of BWQ with actions under each object with the view to review the objects and reflect other actions that could be incorporated.

Protected areas

Recently, the Minister for National Parks, Sport and Recreation announced the State

Government's new Special Wildlife Reserves will enable donors from around the world to fund safe havens for Queensland's native wildlife. The Bill to create the new category of protected area was introduced to the Queensland Parliament recently by Environment Minister Steven Miles. Speaking in Parliament, Mr Miles said Queensland would become one of the first places in the world to allow private funds to be used to safeguard habitat on privately owned land.

“A Special Wildlife Reserve will essentially let private landholders and conservation groups manage their land like a national park, with an equivalent level of protection,” Mr Miles said. “And just like our immensely popular national parks, these new reserves could become great tourist attractions. “Whether it's koalas or wombats, platypus or birds or even entire ecosystems – this new class of protected area will protect them and their habitat into the future from incompatible activities including mining.”

“It's also an excellent incentive for people to invest in Queensland's protected areas because a Special Wildlife Reserve provides a level of private land protection which doesn't exist anywhere else in Australia. This is on top of the \$40 million over two years earmarked for National Park upgrades. “This Budget funding will support the recovery of national parks affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie with priority funding for parks in the Whitsunday Islands and Mackay,” Mr Miles said.

“People from all over the world come to Queensland to camp, climb and hike through some of our beautiful Great Walks. “Plenty more come to just relax and enjoy the pristine white sands of Whitehaven Beach, which reopened in record time after a massive post-cyclone clean-up operation “While our rangers have worked tirelessly to get areas up and running, there is more work to be done to restore tracks and other infrastructure, and to provide an enhanced visitor experience at our national parks.

“This year's Budget investment is critical to protecting our natural and cultural landmarks and values, and improving the quality of those visitor experiences.” This opportunity needs to be embraced by BWQ by firstly reviewing the objects to reflect that we don't just walk in

national parks, but on any land that allows bushwalking.

AAAS

The AAAS submissions have been received are being reviewed. Qld gave its position to Bushwalking Australia which parallels some States but others are still reluctant to progress it.

SOC

Work is being done to get the SOC going. 4WD Qld. has been contacted with no reply to date. Inroads have been made with QPWS.

25/50/100km Walk

The 25/50/100 km BVRT walk went exceedingly well. Ipswich City Council donated \$1575 towards operating costs, which was gratefully received. This money allowed hire of a mini-bus which proved a great aid in transporting participants and providing a support vehicle to tow "Blue" the trailer toilet. Starting at Toogoolawah, the Coachhouse Cafe opened early allowing the 13 100km walkers a chance to have breakfast right before being set off by Ron Grant. The Ottaba Llamas met the walkers at Ottaba, Nash Horse Trekkers met the group at Mount Hallen. The Red Deer Cafe provided lunches that day which finally finished in the dark at Coominya.

Next day the 100km walkers started at Coominya and after visiting the Lockyer Creek Bridge which has now been repaired moved on to Gerbers Holstein Dairy Farm at Clarendon for morning tea and cheese and crackers. Here the 4 50km walkers joined. Peter Bevan met the walkers at Lowood to talk about his native garden planted along the rail trail coming into Lowood. Lunch was at Fernvale before finishing at Borallon Station Road. Next day the 17 25km walkers joined with the Ipswich City Council setting up a gazebo at the start with tea and coffee. This gave the chance for walkers to take their cars to Ipswich and get back to the start.

Finishing at Riverheart Parkland in Ipswich the group was met by the A/Mayor Paul Tully, 3 ICC Councillors, the State MP for Ipswich and the General Manager of Membership for Diabetes Qld.

While walking, I fielded questions about bushwalking, bushwalking clubs and other matters involving BWQ. BWQ needs a public footprint, representing all bushwalkers, development of bushwalking opportunities in the State, with its base being protection of the clubs.

Club developments

BWQ continues to receive questions from groups on becoming affiliates. Such groups such as the Roma RSL, a group from Monto, a group from Biloela, OutTrekkers in Brisbane, QUT Bushwalkers, and others show the need for formation of these clubs, but the stigma associated with incorporation is the stumbling block. The rules of BWQ also need reviewing to ensure it can better encapsulate affiliation.

Other developments

Other items of note around the State are:

- Plans for the Burnett River Rail Trail from Gayndah towards Monto.
- The Toogoolawah to Yimbun Tunnel section of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is getting close to opening with \$1.8 million earmarked to open the Toogoolawah to Moore section.
- South Burnett Rail Trail official opening later this year. Might see BWQ attend.
- O'Reilly's has purchased the campground at Green Mountains, and hope to be fully functional with glamping available for Christmas.
- Repair work resulting cyclone Debbie and previous years' flooding is occurring around the State with QPWS closures from time-to-time. I retweet updates which post to the BWQ group.

That is about it in a nutshell. A lot is happening and BWQ needs to grasp these opportunities, and a recruitment drive to get more people involved directly with BWQ would be a bonus.

Once again, I thank the committee and clubs and their members for the work done this far and look forward to the evolution and building of BWQ.

Gavin Dale
President.

Perfect Pizzas at Petford

