
PANDANI POST



NEWSLETTER OF THE PANDANI BUSHWALKING CLUB

P.O. Box 146 North Hobart 7002

www.pandani.org.au

January 2012

President's Report

Welcome to the summer 2012 edition of Pandani Post. I'd like to start with some thank you's. Firstly to all members of the committee for their efforts over the year to keep the club running smoothly and moving forward with some initiatives that will hopefully attract and encourage new leaders and younger members, the next generation of Pandani. Thank you also to the meetings sub-committee members and to the group working on the 20th Anniversary magazine proposal. Last but not least thank you to Robert Gardner for his excellent work as Pandani Post editor and to typist Maureen Lum for her significant role in production of the program.

From the feedback we have been getting from members and from my experiences on the trips I have been on, Spring 2011 appears to have been a very enjoyable and successful period for the club. New leaders are coming forward and we are experiencing record average attendances on walks. A lot of the credit for this goes to walks coordinator Chris Wilson and her team of leaders. In addition to very well-attended day walks, multi-day walks based around budget accommodation such as the Maria Island and St Marys trips have proved popular. However, it is also good to have some overnight pack-carrying walks on the program and we recognise the contribution made by the leaders who are prepared to run these trips.

The new summer program is a cracker with a wide range of walks from easy to quite hard to suit all tastes and no less than nine overnight trips. The program document has also been given a format refurbishment by Keith Carroll to make it easier to read and use. Thanks Keith. One of the new items particularly worth noting on the program is the Skills Training evening on Wednesday 21st March, organised by Simon

Kendrick. This is designed to help members gain confidence in essential bushwalking skills and is part one of a series of such evenings covering the full gamut of bushwalking experience. A course like this at Adult Education would cost you \$\$\$, at Pandani it's free! (for the first 20 club members).

The Club Christmas Party on 1st December, attended by about 90 club members was again a very successful evening. You can read full details of the evening elsewhere in this newsletter.

The club's Facebook page has been getting plenty of use over the last three months with many of the club's trips being reported on the page, together with some excellent photos. This is a good way to share your experiences with other club members and get inspiration to get out and do some more walking. If you want to get involved but need some help setting up just contact Gill Mosmann, Andrew Bowen or Graham Wootton.

Pandani turns 20 on 2nd April this year. Look out for some events to celebrate this anniversary in the next program. With all the walks taking place over summer don't forget the AGM on 5th February at Chauncy Vale - full details are in the current program

Looking forward to meeting you out on the track sometime this summer.

Graham Wootton

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Editor's Rucksack

Happy New Year for 2012! This year, with the help of the many contributors, I hope to continue to provide useful and informative articles in the forthcoming issues. We are working on some new ideas which may allow more information to be given about upcoming and other walks. Articles and photos on any bushwalking or club related topics are welcome.

Please send your articles for the next issue by email to pandanipost@pandani.org.au or post (typed or handwritten) to xxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx.

Robert Gardner

New Members

The club continues to attract new members and we would like to welcome to the club:

- Stephanie & Ian Byard and children Emma, Libby, Erle & Maddy
- Josephine Castillo
- Michael Donnelly
- Rosalind Harrison
- Ryan Kennedy
- Diane Lester
- Carolyn Loxton
- Peter & Janie Vonk

Membership Changes

Corrections for your membership lists:

-Ali Cummins' new address: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Home phone xxxxxxxxx;
mobile xxxxxxxxxxxx

-Keith Carroll's phone # should read xxxxxxxx

-Sam Begum's new address: xxxxxxxxxxxx

-John and Jan Counsell new address: xxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Home phone:
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Membership renewals

Membership fees for 2012 were due and payable on 1st January. If you haven't already done so, please remit your fees ASAP to ensure you receive the next program. To all those members who paid their fees in a timely manner prior to Christmas - thank you!

*"Walking is man's best medicine" (Hippocrates
5th century BC)*

*"I have two doctors, my left leg and my right leg.
When body and mind are out of gear (and these
twin parts of me live at such close quarters that
the one always catches melancholy from the
other) I know that I shall have only to call in my
two doctors and I shall be well again."*

*(George Macaulay Trevelyan, British Historian
1920)*

(Quotations supplied by Rob Hill)

For Sale

Kathmandu 75L Vardo Multi-Day Hiking Pack.
Excellent condition, only used a couple of times.

Contact Susan Vanderheiden xxxxxxxx or
xxxxxxx.

Walking boots - Womens - Keen Targhee II Mid
(colour - Slate Black/Flint Stone) Size US 10

Worn twice only - found to be wrong size prior
to walking Overland Track!

Purchase price \$209 - will sell for \$175

Contact Judy Hislop - XXXXXXXX (Please leave a
message and I will return yourcall)

Cottage/Campsite

- Great Bay, Bruny Island

\$15 per person per night

Cottage sleeps up to 6 people comfortably
(1 double bed/1 double sofa bed/ single
mattresses plus ample room for tents)

BYO Linen and Sleeping bag

Cooking facilities, hot-water, electricity,
shower/bath

Easy access to Big Lagoon and the Cape Queen
Elizabeth Walking track

Contact: Caroline van Riet

M: XXXXXXXXXX

Close Off Date for Pandani Program

Submissions are needed for the next Program by
17th Feb. Send to pandani.program@gmail.com
or Walks Program Co-ordinator, Chris Wilson
XXXXX Ph XXXXXXXX

Pandani Christmas Party 2011

It was a lively, Christmas atmosphere at the
annual Christmas party this year with a revised
format and some old favourites. Approximately
90 members attended and the party was again
held in the Philip Smith Auditorium.

Many Pandani members caught up with each
other for the first time this year and some of us
didn't recognise each other without beanies and
boots! The catering crew once again did a
fantastic job with delicious finger food eaten up
in quick time. The wine flowed as Santa made
his usual guest appearance, this time singing a
bushwalking inspired version of the "Twelve
Days of Christmas". One line in particular
caused mass giggling as a bemused Andrew
McDonald turned to whisper "What is a smelly
turtle?" having misheard the line "smelly
thermals"! Santa's attempt to climb the stairs
to the stage on cross-country skis (without the
proper waxes?) nearly ended in disaster but
became all part of the fun.

The humorous awards section of the evening was
also met with much amusement with awards
going to:

- Simon Kendrick for - Walk of Eternal Suffering
(WOES) (Pelion Circuit)
- Peter Murphy - Latest Back Walk (in previous
years many)
- Kerri Walsh - Heaviest Pack (Labyrinth)
- Sam Begum - Leech Queen
- Sue Bell - Closest Encounter with a Snake
- Bruce Edwards - Most Spectacular Face Plant
(Mt Fortescue)
- Andrew Bowen - Scrubbiest Walk (Lake
Malbena)
- Raema Arnold - Try, Try and Try Again (Arm End
Circuit)
- Michelle Thompson - Best Mud Plunge
- Bev Reardon - Wettest Walk (Mt Field)
- Susan Gardner - Worst Elevenses Fixation
- Anna and Marie - Best Prepared Walkers
- Tim Jones - Gear Freak of the Year
- Peter Murphy - Worst Blisters (Federation Pk)
- Joan Duncan - Best Attended Walk (Tinderbox
Hills - 28)

Special thanks go to Raema Arnold, Lois
Webster, Maree Bongard, Susan
Vanderheiden, Noelle Rattray, Fi Muir, Wiebke
Parker, Rob Hill, Graham Flower, Cecilia
Wootton, Graham Wootton for making the night
a great success and to those wonderful

volunteers who stayed behind to help with the cleaning up.

Belinda Jefferies



Monthly Meetings Report 2011

The monthly club meetings/socials in the Retreat Room in the Philip Smith Centre on the Domain continued to be well supported throughout 2011. The meetings provide an informal venue for club members to meet and talk about walks past and forthcoming and listen to guest speakers on a wide range of topics but also a place where people considering joining the club can come and meet us and see what we are all about. Attendance ranged from a minimum of 16 to a maximum of 25 with an average attendance of 20 members and visitors.

During 2011 we sourced an increasing percentage of our speakers from within the club. While not perhaps having the attendance drawing potential of a Wolfgang Glowacki or Fred Lakin, our club guest speakers were well received and they covered some very interesting topics.

Guest speakers during 2011 included wilderness photographer Grant Dixon on special places in Tasmania and the Kimberley; club member Tim Jones as "The Gourmet Bushwalker"; club member Rob Hill on walking the Lycian Way; Kevin Doran on the Annapurna Circuit; club

member Graham Wootton on winter walking in Tasmania; John and Maria Grist on the Mt Wellington Huts; and club member Simon Kendrick on walking in the Gammon Ranges and Mawson Plateau in the northern Flinders Ranges.

Where we had no guest speaker there was a members' forum on leadership scenarios in August, a presentation by the club photo group in September and the March meeting was the annual members' summer trips slide evening. Simon Kendrick continued to provide insights into the latest in equipment with his popular 10-15 minute gear vignettes at a number of meetings alternating with some "training vignettes" on getting fit for the harder walks, bushfire safety and snow and ice conditions.

Many thanks are due to our hard working subcommittee members Lois Webster, Raema Arnold, Maree Bongard, Simon Kendrick and Urszula Stanney, with not inconsiderable assistance from Peter Murphy. After three years of stalwart service providing the suppers at the meetings, Raema and Lois have decided to take a well-earned break. We thank them for their invaluable contributions to the smooth running of the meetings. We also thank Maree Bongard and Wiebke Parker who will be taking over the role in 2012.

If you haven't yet been along to one of our monthly meetings don't miss the opportunity to participate in this significant and enjoyable part of club activity.

See you at a club meeting soon!

Graham Wootton

Congratulations!

Well known and long standing Pandani member Doug Beer was seen beaming at the Christmas party accompanied by his new fiancé Deni Flowers. He proposed on November 26th on Mt Wellington whilst they watched the sunrise. Best wishes go to both from all their Pandani friends.



Walks Reports

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Abseiling at Rocky Tom - December 10 Graham Wootton

Our location was meant to be Rocky Tom, but weather concerns meant we went to Waverly Flora Park. I've never abseiled before and I was genuinely excited. Most of us had not abseiled before, so we were all in it together. Bike helmet - check, lunch - check, sense of adventure intact - check (and for some in the group: brown pants - check).

At the first descent, I decided not to look over the edge. With the rope anchored to a tree and 2 harnesses to share amongst the group, 1 would finish the descent and the next could be ready and waiting to start. A few brave people were queuing up to get going; I wasn't so confident at that point but seeing others do it helped to build my confidence. I watched the way they handled the rope and where they placed their feet, mapping the territory in my mind. Eventually the harness was handed to me - it's my turn! Secured the harness, secured the rope and over I went: with more excitement than panic!

The next drop, at the same spot, was slightly longer and slightly trickier as well. We had to negotiate around a tree and a slight overhang, which we all managed ok. Then we moved to another location for a bit of lunch and the last drop, which was bigger again at around 25 metres.



Catherine

At the last drop I felt what I would describe as a 'controlled panic' - but I was determined to go all the way. I ended up going down quite early and boy was it exciting! I tried to keep my nerves intact and started to enjoy the feeling of being suspended safely. I had a bit of a look around on the way down and enjoyed being so close to the rock and up in the trees, which is a vantage point that you can only get while abseiling.

The group was good-humoured and encouraging of each other, while Graham did a great job of getting us over and down without any panic and fuss. I felt super excited at the end of the day and keen to go again with a bigger challenge.

The group totalled 11 people and 3 dogs in all, ranging in age from 6 to ... noticeably older than 6. This must've been a good turnout, as someone had commented numbers were dropping off in the last few years...

Catherine Forman



John



Roy



Simon



Dogmatix



Numbers have been dropping off.....

photos by Keith Carroll

ST MARYS - OCTOBER 20-23 GRAHAM WOOTTON

Thursday

We all duly arrived in St Marys at around midday, 22 people in a cavalcade of 11 cars. After settling in to our various accommodation (at three separate venues) we walked up St Patrick's Head just outside the township in the afternoon. It was a short but very steep climb with some rock scrambling near the top and a howling wind greeted us on the actual summit. However, the views, over quite a large area of northeastern Tasmania, were wonderful.

That evening we all congregated for a barbecue at Seaview Farm Hostel, off Germantown Road

St Marys, where most of the party were staying. The elevated location is surrounded by grazing farmland with an extensive beautiful garden around the hostel and host's home. The stonework entrance was very impressive. All enjoyed their choice of barbecued meats, salads etc. Poppy seed and fruitcakes finished off a lovely evening thanks to Cecilia and Den.

Those staying at Mariton House bed-and-breakfast were also very happy with the facilities and the hospitality shown by their host.

Friday

As the weather was misty with constant showers we abandoned any attempt at peak bagging that day and did a "cooks tour" visiting a number of locations. The bric-a-brac shop a few kilometres north of St Helens; St Columba Falls on the South George River with a lovely walk through old growth forest to the falls; Ralph Falls in Mt Victoria Forest Reserve - a short walk through myrtle forest to a streaming ribbon of water following the folds in the rock with sweeping views across picturesque farmland. We continued on to Cash's Gorge loop and lookout before heading back to the cars for lunch.

Then stops at the Pub-In-the-Paddock and at the Pyengana Cheese Factory to quench our thirst and restock. All this tourist activity prompted us to make one last effort at a walk - to the Anchor Stammers Battery on the Hall's Falls road, but recent rain had washed away a huge chunk of the track and made the walk impractical that late in the day. This day was a test of Graham's patience as keeping track of 22 walkers and seven vehicles was difficult but he managed though with great aplomb.

Everyone went along to the St Marys Hotel for dinner and it was very congenial and enjoyable.



Margaret Trenow

Saturday - a tale of two walks

Mt Victoria

After a frustrating day on Friday due to poor weather, washed out tracks, and a large number of stops along the way... a "rebel alliance" group formed to give Graham a smaller group to manage on his adventure to the Blue Tier.

The rebel alliance headed to Mt Victoria, where we encountered picture-perfect weather and a fantastic, if slightly muddy and overgrown in parts, track to the summit of Mt Victoria. There were amazing views from every vantage point and so many interesting rock formations to take photos of, including a gorgeous rock overhang, that many of us took photos of that should find their way to the humorous section of the photo competition!

A bush-bash through the overgrown "moor" and then up on to the boulder fields. A challenging climb handled well by everyone - although we never did find Meredith's thermos - lost down one of the many nooks and crannies! The summit itself was a sheer rock climb, and a few did not have the nerve to climb it after the challenges of the boulder field - until we saw Shirley Fish tackle it like it was the easiest climb in the world - then there was pride on the line!

A hugely satisfying day out in a spectacular part of Tasmania.

Belinda Jefferies

Nine into the Blue Tier

Three cars driven by Graham, Jeff and Theresa carried us (Dot, Cecilia, Summa, Melissa, Eleanor, Melanie) into the magical Blue Tier. The winter rains and storms had left their mark on our route. *Road closed* signs at the foot of the climb up to Poimena were overlooked and our fearless leader proceeded intrepidly across the badly washed out sections of road. More cautious drivers were guided over most of the washouts until we reached the worst of them, where Theresa and Jeff manoeuvred (in sixteen point turns) their cars to point homewards and we walked up to the Blue Tiers car park.

The weather conditions certainly compensated for the road conditions. We enjoyed some gorgeous sunshine and gentle breezes as we explored the area around Mt Poimena. Reminders of the former settlement included signs marked *school* and *George Street*. An

initial jaunt into the Australia Hill circuit - with more very badly washed out tracks, led to a change of plan and we backtracked to the car park before ascending Mt Poimena on the Moon Valley Rim walk.

This part of the track was dry and climbs gently to the summit. Here we enjoyed a clear panoramic view of the North East and coastline. Lunching in the shelter of the boulders we looked across to Mt Victoria. The Moon Valley Walk is 3.5 km long, tracing through a unique landscape of tea tree and beech groves in granular quartzite soils. A dense carpet of lichens and mosses grows below the canopy. In cleared lower lying areas sphagnum bog was prevalent and required careful footwork. The path descends to a gully and the ruins of a tin mine battery which housed ore crushing machinery. The Goblin Walk - a short, shady forest walk is well marked with historic interpretation of tin mining in the Poimena area. We then proceeded back down the road towards Halls Falls.

The short walk into Halls Falls took us from dry eucalypt myrtle and blackwood forest into some deep cool shady fern gullies on the Groom River. The river was still quite full and fast flowing and the Falls from the lookout sprayed impressively. When we reached the ponds below, Melanie and Jeff managed a quick dip and others photographed the magnificent tree ferns and rapids. Cecilia vanished in search of the elusive platypus and was sure she heard a few likely plops. On this occasion the platypus or pi remained elusive, however. Singing and walking our way back enlivened the peaceful bush and no doubt entertained the local kookaburras and we drove back to St Mary's arriving shortly before dinner at Seaview Cottage.

Kerri had pre-arranged to do the catering for the final dinner for those staying at the hostel and it was a splendid spaghetti bolognese dish with dessert to follow - many thanks Kerri!

Melissa Findlay

Sunday

On our return to Hobart we stopped at the Douglas Apsley National Park and did the walk to the Apsley River Waterhole. We then walked over a ridge through dry open forest to the top of the gorge and part way down the gorge and

back again. It was a lovely walk on another beautiful day with some dipping of toes in the Apsley River or in Melanie's case going for a complete swim.

Belinda, Stuart and some others returned earlier via the Midland Highway and visited Meadstone Falls in Mt Puzzler Forest Reserve on the way. They reported a spectacular and worthwhile fall to visit but the access road was a little rugged.

Thank you Graham for a lovely long weekend and thank you Belinda for leading the Mt Victoria walk. I am sure that we enjoyed it all.

Margaret Trenow



Lope, Listen and Learn
27th October 2011
- Don Knowler

The second of this series of short walks with a theme.

Members may remember the first one (Walk Talk and Gawk) at New Norfolk when Richard Wright talked about the geology and Tony Rayner the history of the area.

This time bird expert Don Knowler, of the Saturday Mercury's "On the Wing" fame, gave twenty of us some of the little known ornithological knowledge of the birds in the Waterworks reserve; the homing methods used by racing pigeons; the cover given to a grey goshawk (?) by its hanging out with sulphur crested cockatoos; the efforts of a tiger snake to (unsuccessfully) obtain pardelote chicks from the dam wall - and many more anecdotes.

Birds and bird calls were identified and questions answered.

A very enjoyable and informative morning. Don was in good spirits as he was retiring the next day. Never fear though, his Saturday column will still continue.

Rob Hill