

PANDANI POST



NEWSLETTER OF THE PANDANI BUSHWALKING CLUB

P.O. Box 146 North Hobart 7002

www.pandani.org.au

July 2012

President's Report

Time really does seem to be flying this year, we have just received another excellent new program and now it's time for the winter Pandani Post.

As you may have heard on the grapevine, I have gone over to the dark side (well at least temporarily) and am writing this report from a cruise ship in the Adriatic Sea. Well in my defence I did do some good walks in the Drakensberg Mountains in South Africa before we surrendered to the pleasures of shipboard life. The Drakensberg Mountains are not unlike the dolerite mountains of Tasmania and the veldt grassland plateaus are very reminiscent of button grass plains. However, the vertical scale is much greater, with climbs of on average 2500 metres required to reach most of the summits from the plains, quite a sobering experience the first time you have to do it.

I have been following the club walks when I could via the club's Facebook page and the first month of winter seems to have provided some excellent trips and the snow season is off to a good start.

As most of you will by now have seen, the club has an excellent new website. Many thanks are due to Terry Vince for his initiative and efforts in bringing this to fruition, ably assisted by Robert Gardner and Chris Wilson. Have a good look at the website and if you would like to put a short album of your photos on there that will help enhance the site. The idea is not to duplicate or replace the Facebook function for showing photos of recent trips but to display the full range of club activities with a selection of members' best photographs. Contact Robert for help in uploading your photos to the site.

On the subject of photography, don't forget the upcoming annual club photo competition and exhibition being organised by Wiebke Parker. Full details are contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope to see you out on the track this winter, either in boots or on snowshoes!

Graham Wootton

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Editor's Rucksack

This edition of the Pandani Post is somewhat smaller than usual so I am appealing for more submissions for the next issue. Not only Trip reports but articles on any subject of general interest are welcome. You may submit photos without an article too.

As mentioned by our President, in this issue you will find details of the Club's Photo Competition coming up in September. Instructions on how to enter and entry forms are included. Note the

special category for a home page banner photo of pandani for our new website.

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

Robert Gardner

New Members

We wish to welcome:

- Jill Bennett
- Barry Best
- Geoff Buckman
- Jennifer Burbury
- Kate Crowley, Jerry de Gryse
and Alouisa
- Anne Elston
- Carolyn Forbes (Returning)
- Grace & Gary Heathcote
- Lesley Holst
- Colin Howell
- Dianne Jenkins
- Kelvin Jones
- Karen Kruimink (Returning)
- Rebecca Lunnon
- Helen McGuinness
- Beth Nunn
- John Regan
- Oren Shoham
- Prathiba Subramaniam
- Mendelt & Josie Tillema (Returning)
- Jenny Warren
- Steve Wilks
- Helen Yeoland

Working Bee August 3

Another working bee has been arranged for Friday August 3 for the Pandani club to work with Forestry Tasmania on Platform Peak. The track to the cairn on top was cleared in 2010 and we would like volunteers to help clear the rest of the circuit.

You would only need to bring hand tools such as pruning secateurs, loppers, or small hand saws, plus of course sturdy gloves.

If you can come along to help please phone Rosemary Bruce on xxxxxxxx

Raptor Refuge Assistance

Following the very interesting visit to the Raptor Refuge, Craig Webb who established the refuge is willing for Pandani to help out around the grounds on a semi-regular basis. The intent would be basically a "working bee", not to go to look at the birds. Craig is very insistent that it is to be small groups only, a maximum of 4 people at any one time, so the birds are not disturbed by our presence. If you would like to help out in this way please let Pam Scott know on xxxxxxxx or xxxxxxxx



Trip Reports

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Woody Is and Recherche January ?? and 26 - Doug Beer and Simon Kendrick

There were two sea-kayaking trips on the program in January, and Jan and I were lucky enough to be able to go on both.

The first was Doug's half-day trip to Woody Island, on a beautiful sunny sea sparkling morning. Eight of us launched from the boat ramp at Lewisham and headed across the channel to the dunes of Seven Mile, leaving the middle to the motor boats. The channel is very clear, with a sandy bottom and not too deep, so we could easily see stingrays gliding along below and beside us. After crossing the channel we turned towards Sorell and Woody Island.

Andrew Bowen was a speed blur in the distance as he put his new kayak through its paces, but for the rest of us it was a lovely leisurely paddle to the island. We circumnavigated the island, not quite as grand as it sounds taking about 15 minutes all up, seeing a sea eagle and finding its nest on the way. Then we put ashore at the tiny beach, just enough room for all of us. Sitting in the sun eating cherries, having a drink and a swim in the lovely clear water, all with views of mountains and sandy shores, well it doesn't get much better than that. You have to pick the moment though. Looking to the south west, we could see the expected weather change creeping up on us, so we headed home. We'd landed and were just finishing loading the kayaks when the southerly hit with a vengeance. It gave us the last laugh on the power boaters, racing back to fight for positions at the boat ramp. Impeccable timing Doug! Thanks for a great morning.

Australia Day, saw us at Recherche Bay, on Simon Kendrick's trip. We put in at a pretty spot oddly called The Pigsties, paddled north and up the D'Entrecasteaux River as far as we could. En route we passed the remains of a sawmill and wharf, and saw a few old boilers and bits and pieces rusting away on the shore, which probably belonged to a coal pit that operated in the area. Our trip upriver ended when we literally ran out of water, or more correctly, when the water ran out on us. The leaders paddled over a submerged log, but when the last of the party came to do this, the water had gone! We could see the level dropping before our eyes, so we hightailed it back to the bay before the tide went out entirely.

We then paddled along the far shore of the bay, pulling out to have lunch in the lee of Bennetts Point, named Observatory Point by the French. Simon's information revealed the French ships *Esperance* and *Recherche* pulled ashore here in 1792. Their log recorded they carried out boat repairs, made charcoal, restocked and did their washing. They also built a forge and an observatory for taking astronomical readings. Their botanist planted seeds of European plants nearby hoping they would flourish so future expeditions could use them to restock.

Having eaten, we wandered into the bush and stumbled across the stone ruins of the observatory. It was an amazing moment, finding such early Australian history lying quietly in the bush.

After lunch, we decided to go around the point into the Southern Ocean, to see if there was an

entrance to Blackswan Lagoon from the shore, which there wasn't. The sea was picking up so we avoided going in too close in case we got caught in the beach break. Instead we paddled around some rocky 'islands' called The Images, and had a rest in their shelter before tackling the big swell between us and home. It was an exhilarating trip back, riding the waves with the wind and spray in our faces. Almost an anti-climax to reach the calmer waters of the bay, but a nice slow paddle back to the cars to end a lovely day paddling in the Recherche Bay area, and touching history on Australia Day. Well done, Simon, and thank you.



Joan Lang

20th Anniversary Camp April - Graham Wootton

Towards the end of April, 20 Pandani members gathered together to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Club. We all met at Cheryl and Phil Colbeck's property on the edge of a beautiful forest at Koonya. Some of us put up tents and a few others had the luxury of a huge shed to put their stretcher beds in.

On the Saturday, after erecting tents, etc, we drove to the start of the weekend's first walk, which was Tatnell's Hill via Balt Spur. This followed an old, rough 4-wheel drive track which was quite wet from recent rain. There were lots of lichen and fungi to admire as well as an army of leeches hoping to hitch a ride. Unfortunately, due to the overcast weather we didn't get the usual spectacular view from Tatnell's Hill.



After making our way back to camp we readied ourselves for the huge campfire which Phil had set up as well as a BBQ to cook our meal on. In the meantime some of us were fortunate to watch Piggles the (wildlife rescue) wombat being fed.



After a convivial evening meal, with some club founding members sharing their stories, the fun began.

We all gathered around the huge campfire (as close as we could get! - Ed), and after a couple of drinks to dull the senses, we slowly broke into song, and what a great sing we had! There were little groups forming around the circle and breaking into melodious tunes along with some great percussion by Cecilia. A good night was had by all.



The next morning Phil led a walk on his property and up onto 'his' hill with great views across the lower Derwent.



I decided to stay behind and admire the beautiful forest, read, relax, listen to the 'bird chorus' and enjoy the sunshine.



After lunch, we packed to return home. A special thank you goes to our great hosts, Phil and Cheryl, for sharing their little piece of paradise and to some of the original Pandani members who shared some of their earlier memories of past walks.

Lastly, thanks go to Graham and Cecilia for their contribution towards making this a great 20th Anniversary celebration. Phil has suggested it may become an annual event.

Lyn Massie

3 Falls on the Mountain April 12 - Robyn Colman

A lovely warm autumn morning presented itself for Robyn's first walk as a leader and I must say,

she was very organised, so much so a few other "leaders" on the walk commented on just how high she had set the bar!! 18 keen walkers set off on our way to the first of the three falls, Silver Falls . From here we toiled up Reid's track (whew!!), turning right down Radford's track to Radford's monument. From here we trudged up Woods track, left onto Betts Vale track, making our way to O'Grady's Falls where 11s were enjoyed.

After replenishment, it was up, up and up Betts Vale track (whew again - I must say all these 'whews' belonged to me), on to the Circle track taking us to Shoobridge track and the Octopus tree. From here it was down, down, down the Lower Sawmill track to the top of Strickland falls where lunch was well and truly enjoyed.

After lunch it was down to Strickland falls. I myself slid most of the way down this very steep incline on my BTM, saving my fellow walkers from the sight of my going headlong and out of control down the track and into the creek at the bottom. Forging the creek was also exciting and wet, especially for me who managed to wipe most of the rocks dry for the following walkers by getting over most of them once again on my BTM!! Once we were all safely across the creek, our wonderful Bev was there to greet us with pick-me-up lollies to help us on our continuing journey. A short walk up Strickland Avenue saw us on to the Rivulet track and from there on to O'Grady's Falls track, Bracken Lane Fire Trail then Radfords Track, returning once again to Radford's monument (last big whew from me). Turning left down Fern Glade track had us back at the cars, completing an almost figure 8 of walk over the mountain.

A wonderful walk, Robyn, well thought out with good company, nice weather, an excellent cascade of water over each of the falls (good of you to arrange this for our keen photographers!:) and a very welcome coffee to finish with. Thank you from all of us.

Judy Hislop

Lope, Listen and Learn #6 Darwin in Sandy Bay. April 13 Rob Hill

Eight of us came to be enlightened by geologist David Leaman, along with Gloria (the dog) who was only interested in the smells! David explained Darwin's fascination with rocks and some of the conclusions he drew, wary of publishing them to a doubting scientific community - "What, icebergs in the Derwent? Rubbish!"

We followed the coast to the newly named Darwin's Cliff where David explained the layers of lava and ash. Tony Raynor also had a tale to tell of almost falling from the heights in his youth, while at a party above. A lemon tree would give you a clue to what he was doing there.

We then backtracked along Long Beach for some more geology and discussion.

We don't often share a venue with the Hobart Club walkers but this time we did. Some were confused, thinking it was a HWC walk as David and some dual members were there. One commented on the presence of Gloria as they do not allow dogs. We soon put him right!

Rob Hill

Public Transport Walk: Blackmans Bay to Tarroona, May 16 - Rob Hill

Lovely weather after a cold spell and four of us enjoyed the stroll along Blackmans Bay Beach and on past the Blowhole. Morning tea at the delightful Boronia Beach and lunch on the Alum Cliffs.

The newly opened Brickfields track now has interpretation boards which give more understanding of its convict past (maybe a venue for a future Lope, Listen and Learn?) The only downer was the Devonshire Teas at the Shot Tower were off (the menu) - the lady goes walking on Wednesdays. Who can blame her!

Rob Hill

Oatlands to Paratta June 12 - Rob Hill

Another Lope, Listen and Learn saw 16 walkers brave the winter weather to walk the old discontinued branch line the 7km between the townships. Lake Dulverston showed lovely reflections as we sat in sunshine for morning tea at the Lairmairanepair (Big River tribe) aboriginal site. Then on to Parattah Station where historian Vera Fisher and helpers Graeme Raphael and Leigh Blake had opened up the office for our lunch. Not only that but heating, hot tea and fruit cake (Graeme's) were provided.

Vera gave us insights into the history of this vital former communications link between North and South of the state and answered our questions. The dedicated volunteers who keep this heritage for us all deserve our gratitude. Vera tells me that our gold coin contributions of \$35 will go towards the purchase of a step ladder for the station.

Afterwards a pleasant cuppa in Oatlands completed a great social and informative walk.

Rob Hill

Public Transport Walk: Ferntree to Tolosa Park June 15 - Rob Hill

Only three of us, Toni, Yvonne and myself did this one. An early start was worthwhile as we did not get back to the CBD until dark. With a grunt up from the bus to The Springs we had morning tea in front of the fire in the shelter.

No fire at Junction hut for lunch but light rain made it welcome. Then along the new part of the North-South cycle/walking path until we reached known territory - the track up to Victor's Garden. Thence down the zig-zag path - much better for cyclists than us. Next time down the much improved 4WD track to Tolosa Park and a bus back to town.

A pleasant walk with improving weather.

Rob Hill

Trip Photo Gallery

Some photos from our Facebook page as submitted by members:



Part of Mt Anne circuit - Simon Kendrick



Lunka Lake - Lois Webster