

PANDANI P ST

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANDANI BUSHWALKING CLUB

P.O. Box 146 North Hobart 7002

www.pandani.org.au

October 2011

President's Report

After a very chilly and snowy first half of winter it all became a bit mild and soggy but that didn't seem to deter Pandani walkers, with plenty of well-attended and successful walks recorded. With Spring already here and Summer not far away the next walks program is really full with a wide range of interesting trips and activities. Thanks to Chris and her team of leaders for getting this together so well. The last program ended on a high note with probably our best attended photo competition and exhibition ever on 30 September, full details of which can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. Many thanks are due to Wiebke and her team for taking over this role so capably from Sue Morgan and it augurs well for the future of the event.

On the committee horizon, there have been several recent initiatives. The club has set up a Facebook page for members and this appears to have been well received. The club has also set up a dedicated email account for trip registration and it is hoped this will simplify the process while at the same time providing more comprehensive information should an incident occur on a trip.

As most members know, Pandani is involved with Bushwalking Tasmania (formerly the Federation of Tasmanian Bushwalking Clubs) which in turn is represented on the national body Bushwalking Australia Inc. (BAI). A general meeting of delegates to BAI is scheduled for Saturday 19 November at Port Arthur and there is a general invitation for club members to meet the delegates at a barbecue afterwards at 6.00 pm on the Saturday. Terry Vince has programmed a Pandani walk on that day on the Tasman Track and there will be the opportunity to stay on at Port Arthur after the walk and socialise with the delegates and other walkers at the barbecue. This will be an excellent chance for local

walkers to get a glimpse of the national scene without having to sit through long business meetings and all Pandani members are urged to consider attending this event. A great walk followed by a great social event - what more could you want!

On the subject of top social events, don't forget the Club Christmas Party on 1 December. We are seeking new ideas to make it even more enjoyable than in previous years and if you thought the food was excellent this year at the photo competition/exhibition evening (or heard about it) then we are aiming to live up to this standard!

I look forward to meeting you out on the track or at a monthly meeting or social event this Spring.

Graham Wootton

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Editor's Rucksack

In this issue we see the results of the annual Photographic Competition with the best of so many great photographs. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to our judge Ian Robertson and everyone who participated.

Also this time, Terry Vince gives us a look at a great walking destination in Western Australia. Plenty of walks reports from members complete the reading selection. Thanks to contributors!

Articles for the next issue may be emailed to robertgardner@telstra.com or posted (typed or handwritten) to 26 Cedar St Lindisfarne 7015.

Robert Gardner

New Members

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

- Michael Armstrong
- Gregory Brown
- Melanie Connors
- Jane Davis
- Denise Flowers
- Kate Godman
- Jacqueline Grant
- Phillip Jenkins and daughter Kate
- Cornelius Kloppers
- Roy Liggins
- Dorothy McCartney
- Anna Rolf
- Jim Rushton
- Simon Talbot
- Suzanne & Andrew Terhorst and son Oliver

Change of Address

Please adjust your membership lists for the following changes:

Debbie Broom (was Satchwell)

xxxxxxxxxx

Mobile xxxxxxxx

Kaye and Trevor Sharman

xxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Program Change

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Weilangta and Sandspit River trip with Rosemary Bruce on 27th November will now be on Sunday 4th December. Please confirm by December 2nd.

For Sale

Wilderness Equipment Expedition 1 Pack

Top of the line 75-80 litre extended trip pack
Waterproof core spun canvas. Ideal for
Tasmanian conditions.

BRAND NEW (bought as spare but not needed)
\$225

Contact Graham Wootton on XXXXXXXX or email
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Open Letter

Dear Pandanis,

The spring sun shines and I enjoy for a little longer my wonderful home on Mount Nelson. I would like to let you all know how grateful I am that I could join your club on all these great, lovely, fantastic, pretty walks. It made my 3 months stay in beautiful Tasmania a golden period that I'll always remember. I'll never forget my first walk right up to Mt Wellington. You all made me feel so welcome. A special walk for me also was the climb up to Rock Cathedral. My first real climb and I loved it!

Every time it was a surprise as to where the walk will lead me and who will be there. It was because I could join the Pandanis I really felt at home.

I'll take home all the memories and tell my family and friends stories about hidden huts and sandstone caves, about creek crossings and spectacular views of Hobart and the Derwent River.

It was really fabulous to be with you. I hope I can come back to Tasmania (I'm sure I will: does anyone want a house-swap or need a house-sitter? I love dogs and other pets!).

Western Australia's Bibbulmun Track

Of course, I do love my own country and if you make plans to visit Europe do know my home is your home. I'll gladly guide you in the North-Eastern part of Holland. I live nearby Groningen, the beautiful city of my birth. By train you are in Amsterdam within 2 hrs!

While walking here I nearly forgot what great opportunities there are in my province and not only for walking. My area is especially liked by people for biking-tours on our 'fietspaden' = paved biking tracks right through bossen en over heide (through forests and heaths).

Once more; thank you all very much for your hospitality. I wish you all the best and many healthy, great walks...

Anna Rolf (1st September)

(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

PS I take not only my memories home. As a souvenir I sewed the Pandani patch on my backpack.

PS What about my membership card. Do you think I can get discount with it back home?



Anna is third from the left in the front row (next to Tim, who is standing up)

- Photo Robyn Colman

The Bibbulmun Track is the longest walk trail in Western Australia, approximately 961 km in length. The actual distance does vary marginally as the track is subject to frequent re-alignment (both temporary and permanent). The Track's northern trailhead is Kalamunda, a hills suburb of Perth and the southern trail head is at Albany, on the southern coast of Western Australia. The Track leaves Kalamunda, travelling through jarrah/marri forests, before entering the karri forests and then the tingle forests as it snakes south.



Eventually the Track emerges on the southern ocean for the final coastal run into Albany, hence it is often referred to as the forest to the coast track.



Along the way there are 48 campsites (three-sided shelter, bush toilet, water tank, picnic tables, and fire ring), the Track passes through the towns of Dwellingup, Collie, Balingup, Pemberton, Walpole and Denmark. An average

days walk is approximately 18 km (based on a 54 day walk). The track is very accessible, allowing for short family walks, to day walks to overnights, to going end to end.



The Bibbulmun Track is managed by the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and The Bibbulmun Track Foundation - an incorporated not-for-profit community-based organisation established to provide support for the DEC in the management, maintenance and marketing of the track to ensure that it remains a "long distance walk trail of international significance and quality". The foundation sells maps and guide books, offers trip planning advice, offers equipment hire and runs courses on camp cooking and navigation. The Bibbulmun Track is "divided" into 58 sections. While the Track is divided into sections, its is not uncommon for end to end enders or section walkers to walk more than one section in a day. Most people choose to walk sections of the Track for one or a few days at a time. Hardy walkers who walk the Track from beginning to end typically do so in 6 to 8 weeks. The most popular time to walk the Track is during the wildflower season of spring (September - November), going from north to south as the wildflower season starts later in the southern areas.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation runs two all inclusive and accommodated 8 day guided walks during the year, the 1st is in May - "Bibbulmun & Beyond Tour", the other tour is in September - "Bibbulmun Highlights Tour" and is perfectly timed for the wild flower season.



As a participant of their September 'Bibbulmun Highlights Tour' I can highly recommend these tours, the guides are very caring and knowledgeable, the overnight motel accommodation is the best available as are the on track meals and evening restaurant meals, easily surpassing the standard of other commercial Australian Walking tour companies that I have travelled with.

Contact details for The Bibbulmun Track Foundation are;

Telephone : 08 9481 0551

Email : events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Website :

<http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au>

Terry Vince

Snakes Alive!

Anecdotal and direct experience indicates that our snake population is already out and about and quite active, at least when almost stepped on! Tiger snakes on both the East coast (Orford) and at Ridgeway were encountered on sunny tracks recently and both quickly retreated into the undergrowth.

The State Government has recently announced changes to the availability of anti-venom in regional areas, which could mean longer delays when treatment is required. For those with First Aid training especially, but everyone else as well, now would be a good time to review your knowledge of the treatment for snake bite.



Walks Reports

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Inaugural Snowshoeing Trip - July 16 Graham Wootton



Snowshoeing is great! It is much easier to learn than skiing, the gear is considerably less expensive and the absence of the thrill of the downhill run that you get with skiing is more than compensated for by the ability to tackle almost any slope with ease. So it was that we finally got around to formally programming a snowshoe trip this year.

After nearly ten days of the most prolonged and intense outbreak of winter weather I can remember for many years, the wind dropped, the cloud dispersed and the sun shone brilliantly for us on Saturday 16. Our party of eight set out from the Lake Dobson car park in high spirits with nearly a metre of fresh dry snow around the parking area and the lake well and truly frozen. For Peta, Con, Stuart and Sam it was their first time on snowshoes. Andrew and I had some previous experience on our MSR's while Michael settled for cross-country skis and Gail for boot chains, hoping the snow would not be too soft. In fact, the snow was very firm and icy and remaining vertical without the grip of boot chains or snowshoe crampons would have been very difficult.

The trail we took was along a fairly well established route; around the lake via Pandani Grove; up the jeep track to the now abandoned Sitzmark Lodge; over the shoulder to Lake Seal Lookout; across to the top of the Rodway Tow and then up along the Rodway Range. However,

none of the views that day could be described as ordinary. Near Lake Dobson the many Pandani with their little caps of snow kept the photographers busy. Higher up the views from the Lookout over frozen Lake Seal, along Tarn Shelf from near the Rodway Tow shelter and out to Field West from the top of the ski tow were quite exquisite. Nevertheless, all this scenic splendour did not deter some members of the group from indulging in a little unrelated sporting activity with a game of cricket breaking out at one stage with snowballs and trekking poles used as bats. No wickets and a lot of lost balls. Stuart also found out how nasty falling over on the ice without mittens can be when he emerged from a minor spill with both his hands covered in blood.

After stopping for some stunning views of Florentine Peak from the crest of the range, we dropped into the Lions Den for lunch. Then it was time to bite the bullet and drop off the side of the range down to Johnstons Tarn. I think initially some members of the party thought the proposed route bordered on insanity. However, after Andrew and Gail demonstrated that you could slide on your backside most of the way and it was really quite safe, everyone joined in the fun. Once down on the Shelf we found that the tarns were frozen rock solid and they provided a picturesque and quick return path to Mt Mawson.



We were very lucky. This day arguably provided the best snow and weather conditions during the whole of the winter, indeed it was probably amongst the best winter's days for many years. The rest of the winter was rather a disappointment snow wise and we didn't get out again as a group. However, I think the memory

of that day will live long in our memories and there's always next year. Make sure you drop suitable hints that snowshoes would be a great Christmas or birthday present for you this year!

Graham Wootton

Merton and Knight's Creek Dam - August 14 Rosie Bruce

This was another of Rosie's historical rambles. We met at Tolosa Park at 10, to discover that the gates didn't open till 10.30am. Large men in orange jackets wandering around in a discombobulated fashion were plainly uninterested in opening the gates half an hour early for a Pandani group.

Undeterred, we wandered up the road and walked up a fire trail to the site of Merton, a community of about 600 people in the early part of last century. All that was left were some ruins and a number of blossoming snowflake bulbs, although there were other hardy garden plants that had managed to survive the ravages of fire. Rosie took us quite a long way up a series of fire trails and we came across a number of foundations of reasonably large houses, probably built of weatherboards on foundations of local stone. One had outbuildings, presumably stables, to judge from the rusting relics of bits and bridles that lay around.

Further up the trail, Rosie told us, were remnants of terraces with rock walls and some post and rail fences. She had managed to find quite a number of references to Merton and had brought them along. Apparently the community survived by growing small fruits and cutting timber. At one stage in the 1920s there was teahouse famous for its scones, jam and cream. The local children attended Glenorchy primary school and were known as 'bushrats.' Merton clearly wasn't wealthy.

Rosie's source material was unclear on how and why Merton had disappeared, but various causes were suggested. There was a major flood down Humphrey's Rivulet in the 1880s that severely damaged O'Briens' bridge and killed a number of locals. Traces of this flood can still be seen in a landslip area near the top of Mt Wellington. A number of homes in Merton were wiped out. However, she explained that in the twentieth century, the Glenorchy Council decided that they didn't want a community in the catchment area and set about acquiring houses and then

demolishing them. The 1967 bushfires destroyed what was left. Now only the bulbs and crumbling stone foundations remain.

We followed a trail out to Knight's Creek Dam, first viewed from the top of the quarry that was created when the council dug out stone to form the dam wall. This is a picturesque place, hidden in an area of densely forested foothills that I'd never visited before. Flocks of kelp gulls were busy bathing in the dam's fresh water and drying themselves atop the dam wall. We had lunch in the quarry, an event enlivened by Andrew exploring some of the pools at the foot of the quarry face and falling in. The dam is fairly small and prone to silting up.

After lunch, we wandered down another trail, which took us over the remains of cobbled roads, still in pretty good condition. We visited Tom Obbley's Pool, a water hole on Humphrey's Rivulet, which was once, pre Glenorchy pool, a popular swimming hole. Terry could remember swimming in it, and Rosie had photos of demurely clad girls in one-piece bathing suits and rubber swimming caps cavorting on the banks.

This was the end of the walk and we returned to Tolosa Park, now throbbing with people hosting BBQs and children's parties. A very pleasant historical ramble over 5 hours, thank you, Rosie.

Chris Wilson

Lewisham/Dodges Ferry Foreshore Walk - August 18 Viv Evans

It was a bit of a miserable day that greeted us at Sorell where we gathered for a car shuttle to Lewisham and the start of our walk, however off we went, not being put off by a bit of rain. We started from the boat ramp at Lewisham at about 10.30, walking along the Pitt Water track which meanders for quite a way past beach houses large and small, boat sheds (one even sporting what looked like a home made pizza oven!!) and barking dogs. The view to our right was over to 5-Mile beach and the sand hills at the end of 7-Mile beach, with lots of yachts and motor cruisers bobbing away in the river. Down onto Okines beach and along to an area where the shacks were very close to the foreshore and

because the tide was in, we had to do some "vertical planking" along a fence line to get to the next track which took us slightly inland.

Onward we pressed until we came to a large shed next to the Primary School where we enjoyed 11s out of the light rain which had persisted. After a brief respite and refill, we headed along Tiger Head beach, up and around another headland track, past more wonderful houses to the left and beautiful views to the right. Lunch was undertaken tucked away between the boatsheds on Red Ochre beach where the fine but annoying rain finally stopped for the half an hour or so we took for our lunch break. However, back the drizzle came so we packed up and made our way back to the cars following the same route, all in all about a 10km walk.

Thanks Viv, not the best of days weather-wise, but we all enjoyed the walk as not only was it a new one on the walks list, it was very picturesque and a pleasant respite from climbing hills and/or mountains.

Judy Hislop

Knights Creek Trail - August 27 Greg Robertson

Feeling the need to do something strenuous and blow away the winter cobwebs, I thought I'd add to my skimpy knowledge of walks from Tolosa Park and signed up to do Greg's Knight's Creek walk. I did notice the information about a climb of 700m but decided to ignore it.

Well, it really was strenuous. Up and up and up we went, led ably by Mike Kendall in his beautifully polished boots. On either side, the forest stretched away with the occasional view of cliffs and crags emerging from the trees. Just as I thought we were about to reach the Lost World, we suddenly reached the blessedly level East West Fire Trail and a pleasant place for lunch on the banks of Knights Creek, with its little waterfalls. The weather decided to crack up at this point though and we had to sit in gently falling rain. After lunch, we followed the Mt Hull Fire Trail, also blessedly level. The forest on the slopes of Mt Hull is especially lovely with enormous stringy barks and an understory of ferns and low pink mountain berry bushes. In fact there was a maze of trails here, some well used and muddy, some grassy and obviously only travelled by the occasional

walker. Some of our party, engaged in animated conversation, walked faster and faster, no doubt stimulated by ideas, and left the rest of us puffing in their wake. Greg had to run up and down like Bob the kelpie and try to prevent them heading off down some distant track that led to Collinsvale, or possibly White Timber Mountain. I was very impressed by his stamina, especially as by this stage we had reached the rocky Montrose Trail that descended as steeply as the Knights Creek Trail rose. He had to rush back up to the dawdlers to prevent them from absent-mindedly wandering off as well.

Greg's impressive herding work brought us all back to Tolosa Park about five hours after we started out. I felt a little weary to say the least. I was also grateful for my trekking poles and that the winter cobwebs had vanished in streams of sweat. Thanks Greg: an interesting walk in an area that the club doesn't visit all that often.

Chris Wilson

Unfinished business : Mt Raoul - September 17 Rob Hill

{where spectacles were lost and found and hearing aids-twice-lost and found}

Sometimes a walk needs to be finished!

Back in June 2004 Toni, Rosie and past member Guillar joined me on a walk to Mt Raoul. The proposed route was innovative - up a roughly marked pad to the summit, then a compass march of some 800 metres to the lookout on the Cape Raoul track. Unfortunately by 3pm the winter light was failing and we were faced with seemingly impenetrable cutting grass metres high. The weather looked grim too so I pulled the plug and we returned the way we came in.

Since then two Hobart Walking Club members, Marcia and David marked a less challenging route to the summit from the track on the Cape side of the lookout. This year we had plenty of time. The walk clashed with a HWC trip to the Cape so we stole a march and started earlier. Rosie and Toni again joined me along with stalwarts Marie and Anna {who had earlier helped me with unfinished business on Wylds Craig} Margaret, Erica and Rebecca. Yes again I was the token male!

A slow climb, for me, up to the lookout for morning tea. Here we were soon joined by HWC

with none other than Marcia in attendance. Discussion of our route gleaned more information. The controversial 3 Capes Track markings could confuse us - blue and yellow tape as opposed to Marcia's green and orange {Irish connection?}.

I was worried we'd get to the summit too early for lunch - no worries there though. The going was well marked but rough. After inspecting the archaeology we climbed up to the semaphore station. Here the first loss, my hearing aid into the rocks. Each time I reached down it fell further. Luckily someone with smaller hands got it. However the excavations made some of the rocks unstable - be careful when you go there.

The view is magnificent; Tasman Island, Brown Mt and across the water to Mt Arthur - the venue for the next day's walk. Now off on the last off track leg. Compass set, GPS's programmed, gloves on. 800 metres to go. Down,down,down and the on the flat where we encountered the dreaded grass. Pushing through we took turns leading. Remembering how I'd heard troops flinging themselves on barbed wire I tried this on the bush - however not wanting the group to run over me. The first time went well. My second attempt resulted in lost specs and lost hearing aid and a difficult search and extraction. All went well but the group had found an easier passage round leaving me floundering. Finally after an hour and a half we got to the track; half a kilometre an hour. The rest was easy. A little rain sped us back to the cars and on to afternoon tea at Nubeena. Good advice from Rosie to Rebecca who 'd got cut arms on the way; have a G&T before your shower - another one after! A tough but manageable walk.

Rob Hill

Arthurs Peak - Sept 18 Chris Wilson

I decided to run a return walk to Arthurs Peak and as the track notes in Peninsula Tracks mentioned the wild flowers, I thought I'd do it in spring. I was relieved to meet everyone at the Fortesque Bay car park (having lost various unlucky walkers the week before) and we set off up the Cape Pillar track, the wild flowers already in evidence with wonderful displays of Prickly Moses, normally a little prickly wattle,

now covered with fluffy yellow blossom. This part of the track leads through open eucalypt forest, and was quite overgrown, nothing however to what we encountered once we set off on the route to Arthurs Peak.

The route was really overwhelmed with shrubs. The abundant rain of the last year had led to an absolutely wonderful display of flowers but also a great deal of growth. The track, or rather pad led through areas of blooming coastal heath, with some quite unusual plants, a button grass plain and a patch of open forest, the trees growing amongst large boulders. We passed a little echidna busily burrowing away and several large wombat burrows, but wild life was sparse. Underfoot, the ground was very wet and even though the track was obviously very seldom used and pretty hard to follow, much of it had become pools and puddles. Elsewhere on the button grass plain there were small ponds full of frogs. It was impossible to keep your feet dry. Once we passed the forested slopes of Crescent Mountain we could see Arthurs Peak ahead of us with the pad faintly visible on its flanks. Once the path left the plain it was easier to follow on the stony slopes and it led, via a bit of a scrub bash, to the lookout at the top: a small open area of rock above a precipitous drop.

The views were fantastic. We could see Crescent Bay with its great dunes, Brown Mountain, and beyond it, Cape Raoul. We could even see the strip of guano marking the seal haul-out at the base of the Cape. Off in the distance lay South Bruny and the Friars. On the other side of the inlet, cliffs extended down to Tasman Island. The day would have been perfect had we spotted a whale but we were not quite that lucky. Perched above the ocean, it quickly grew breezy and cold and we didn't linger long. We scrambled back through the scrub following blue tapes and hurried back across the plain.

Once back at the main track, we agreed that the views were worth the challenge of getting out there. Rosie was able to cross Arthurs Peak off her 'Gunna List'. I enjoyed the walk: I always like going somewhere that feels remote and wild and relatively unvisited. I hope other people did too. We finished the walk with coffee and biscuits at the Waterfront Café at Dunalley.

Chris Wilson

Lakes and Tarns, Mt Field National Park - Sept 29 Bev Reardon

Bev Reardon was the leader of this walk which had been eagerly looked forward to by many of us. However, the weather did not behave itself going from 24 degrees earlier in the week down to a miserable cold wet day for us. However this did not put 18 people off who gathered at Granton Train Park for the car shuttle to National Park. We had heard that the road to Lake Dobson was in a poor state and had been closed to 2-wheel drive cars the week before, however on enquiring at the Ranger Station we were told it was muddy but okay for us to proceed up to Lake Dobson. A very cold, windy start was made with a walk around the Pandani Grove, past Eagle Tarn and onto the track out to the turn-off to Platypus Tarn.

A very wet, overgrown, muddy (you name it, it was there) track was negotiated down to Platypus Tarn where we had late 11s, all looking rather bedraggled and wet, but pleased we made it down to the tarn. Back up the track we trudged, out on to the main track and made our way to the turn off to Lake Seal. Well, if we thought the track to Platypus was muddy, this one was more so. We made it down to the Lake but it was so muddy and wet, we couldn't find a way in to the edge of the lake let alone find Fairy Tarn. A vote was taken and we agreed to return back up the track to the turn-off sign where there was an area where we could sit and have our lunch.

As it had been drizzling with rain off and on the whole time we had been walking, naturally we were all very damp and the cold was starting to get to us. Hence lunch was over very quickly and the walk back to the cars commenced. We all made it out safe and sound although the last part of the walk down the road beside Lake Dobson to our cars was negotiated in quite a heavy downpour. As we were all quite cold and damp, we decided to stop at the National Park Cafe for coffee or hot chocolate as we knew they had a nice fire going and boy was it appreciated. We were all nicely warmed up inside and out by the time we hit the road for the homeward trip. Our thanks to Bev for the fireside entertainment, whooo hooo!!!

Thanks Bev, the weather wasn't the best, and I know some people think we bushwalkers are quite mad when we say we enjoy these walks,

but we really do. With bushwalking we all know we have to take the good with the not so good.

Judy Hislop

**Public Transport Walk:
Kingston to Tarooma
October 3
Rob Hill**

(in association with Seniors Week)

Sixteen walkers arrived at Kingston on a sunny cool day. Toni, Rob, Richard and Dot were Pandani members, the rest Senior Visitors enjoying their week. Some ex-members of walking clubs; some regular walkers; some not.

Our first stop for morning tea was at lovely Boronia Beach. The cliffs sheltered us from a cool southerly and Richard described the geology to an attentive group. Then along the cliff track and onto Kingston Beach. Interesting historical information was volunteered by local walkers - a children's home on the cliff. More history was discovered as we traversed the newly opened Brickfields Track.

The more energetic amongst us walked to the end of the Allum Cliffs track and back, catching us up before the return bus stop.

Conversations with local walkers revealed a level of community involvement in conservation which was admirable.

Some of us split the bus trip back to town with a stop at the Shot Tower, climbing the tower countered the extra calories gained in the scrumptious Devonshire Tea consumed on the patio.

Rumours of a planned extension of the Allum Cliffs track to Bonnet Hill and the Shot Tower will hopefully prove justified (though don't hold your breath!) The completion of the coastal walking track between Tarooma and Kingston has been delayed too long.

Rob Hill

**Sixpence Cave, Ridgeway
Park - October 8 Colin
Cody**



Meeting at Ridgeway on a sunny but cool morning at 10 am we were greeted by a man in shorts, white shirt and bowtie.

Colin was co-ordinating his inaugural Pandani walk and we knew it would be something different. Thirteen walkers proceeded to introduce themselves and we set off uphill from the carpark with Colin (wearing something more practical) in the lead, map in hand (where it stayed for the rest of the day). Following sections of road, firetrail, partly formed track and a little bush bashing we arrived at the communications tower on Chimney Pot hill. Magnificent displays of wildflowers were everywhere.

Following more firetrails and access roads we reached Hall's saddle just on 11 am where the opportunity was taken to stop for morning tea in the sun (Susan says Good timing Colin!) We then headed for the Waterworks but not by the usual path. Colin had us over the side of the hill under the power lines. Eventually we reached Gentle Annie Falls and headed down to the picnic area. After a quick look at the Pumphouse Museum, Colin took us uphill again to find the little known Sixpence Cave, a substantial overhanging rock, where we had lunch.



By this time clouds were heading our way with the predicted showers. However Colin had more in store for us. Past a concrete reservoir then downhill we went following water distribution clearings and little used tracks. Making our way back towards Ridgeway via a circuitous route we found ourselves scrambling up a very steep track off Ridgeway Road, standing at the foot of the Ridgeway Reservoir wall, passing an abandoned worm farm near Ham Common and descending a small cliff beside the Southern Outlet before heading uphill again (Colin: "I forgot about that one") and finally coming out opposite the cars by 3.30. And we beat the rain too!



Quite a workout on and off some lesser known tracks to definitely achieve the Medium + rating. Fortunately it was well within the capabilities of everyone participating. An interesting walk, and close to home too. Well done Colin.

Robert Gardner

Dog's Head Lake Sorell - various dates Susan Gardner

On Saturday I got up at sparrow's fart, it looked like it was going to be a beaut day. Fifteen blokes and sheilas were gunna come on the walk but one rang on the dog and bone to say he was crook and couldn't make it.

We had to get a wriggle on to get to the starting place. We loaded into four cars that looked in good nick. Ours was choc a block.

There were no dunnies there so we took a leak behind a tree and then headed off. Although none of us were spring chickens, our ham and eggs were in good shape and we made fast work of the walk to the lake.

Here we had a gander at some ruins and we were gobsmacked by the size of the sea eagle's nest in a tree, it was bonza!

It was a bit nippy near the lake and we felt like we were right off the beaten track.

We found a good possie for lunch and quickly got our laughing gear around our sangas.

After a bit of tucker we walked up a hill and blow me down we found an interesting corroboree site. I told a yarn about the place.

At the end of the day we were happy little vegemites but we thought we had better make tracks, so we hit the frog and toad for home.

Written by Susan Gardner

for presentation to a school class studying Australia and Australian slang.