



THE LOGAN AND BEAUDESERT BUSHWALKERS Inc.



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July 2010

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www.bushwalkers.com

Day Walk Essentials

Make sure these are in your pack
Every Week Every Walk

- Hat
- Food
- Jumper
- Raincoat
- Sunscreen
- Torch
- Watch
- First-aid Kit
- 1-2ltr Water
- Paper & Pencil
- Map & Compass
- Insect Repellent
- Lighter Matches
- Togs if swimming
- Whistle

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday 10th August 2010
Community Centre
Wharf Street
Logan Village
7pm



Milford Sound New Zealand

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Some walks may be changed
at the last minute due to
weather or other conditions

PLEASE ensure you
contact the coordinator
before your chosen walk

ATTENTION

FRIDAY is the deadline
to notify the walk coordinator
for day walks

PLEASE NOTE

Through walks, base camps
and Saturday walks
must notify the coordinator
no later than THURSDAY

(The earlier the better)

New Zealand Trip Update

Milford Track - Feb 13-17, 2011

Okay folks, it's all happening!! We begin Sunday 13th Feb by catching 1030 boat from Te Anau Downs which will take us to Glade Point. From there it is only an hour or so to our first night, so very relaxing day to get the feel of walking with 30 kilos on your back..... just kidding, weight will be way less depending on your wants.

Second and third day (Mon 14th/Tues 15th) around 5-7 hours each but who cares about time, we have all day !!

Fourth day (Wed 16th) will be around 5 hours to catch boat at 1515 from Sandfly Point which will take us to Milford Sound "village". I was lucky enough to book late boat to give us plenty of time, but will still need to up and at it by 0830. www.doc.govt.nz and follow links to Milford Track.

I have booked accommodation at Milford Lodge; unfortunately they only have two chalets which can sleep three each and backpacker dorms. Whatever twin/double rooms they have are not available that day, bummer it all. So I have booked two chalets @ \$255 NZD ea and a five bed dorm @ \$33 each. I will keep asking if any cancellations for other rooms, we will be interested in having them. www.milfordlodge.co.nz

The next day (Thurs 17th) I have looked at a cruise of Milford Sound, which while we are there it would be almost silly not to see and do. The cruise I liked the look of is a 3 hour cruise on a smaller boat, max 95 persons, with roving nature guides to explain the sound etc, cruise includes BBQ lunch, tea and coffee etc., and entry to Milford Discovery Centre which has an underwater experience. Cost of cruise is \$109 NZD. www.southerndiscoveries.co.nz Cruise departs 1145 so a sleep in is on the cards. I have booked 1700 bus back to Te Anau Downs.

Accommodation before and after walk (12th & 17th), I have booked 6 double/twin ensuite and fully made up rooms with Fiordland National Park Lodge at Te Anau Downs (600 metres from boat departure), these are backpacker rooms which basically means we share kitchen and lounge facilities etc. Rooms are \$60-65 NZD ea. Please have a look at the site as motel rooms available if you prefer. www.teanau-milfordsound.co.nz

Money matters - which I hate the most. I have booked and paid for the walk and all transport, the accommodation has been booked to be paid later so do not feel you are locked in before and after the walk, but if you do not wish to do extra night/day with cruise etc, I will need to cancel bus back to Te Anau Downs and re book day earlier if possible so will need to know asap.

Walk and Transport	\$245.15 AUD
Te Anau Downs	\$60-65 NZD room (two nights)
Milford Lodge	\$33 NZD bed in dorm
	\$255 NZD chalet (I am being selfish and have grabbed one, the other taken by Col & Val Berry with Margo Cross)
Cruise	\$109 NZD

Walkers so far are Malcolm, Lynne, Andrew, Sue, Col, Val, Margo, Mel, Doris.

I have a **spare place booked**, so if you are interested please give me a call!!! (At time of writing (Wed 14 @1100), DOC web site indicated 9 places still available to begin walk on 13th Feb)

Think that's all for now so get on the net and look around.

Malcolm - 0421 118 686 or 32874934

Heaphy Track

Starting on the 6th Feb - four days- three nights, finish 9th Feb.

Staying in huts, being Perry Saddle (6th), James MacKay (7th), Heaphy (8th)

To make a booking - <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/nelson-marlborough/golden-bay/heaphy-track/places-to-stay/>

Walkers so far are Malcolm, Lynne, Jan, Rob, Lesley

Abel Tasman and Lake Tekapo Alpine Walk

We are going to do 3 day guided for both walks. The cost is approximately \$AUD550.00 per walk - all inclusive.

For the Abel Tasman we have 5 people interested - Heather, Sue, Monique and Paulette & Brian. The start date for this will be Saturday 6th Feb.

For the Lake Tekapo we have 8 people interested - Heather, Sue, Monique, Lesley, Paulette & Brian and Jan & Rob.

We might not all fly over together so no dates have been agreed on yet.

If anyone has any questions please contact by email or mobile.

Heather - 0432 197 577
heather.okeeffe@racq.com.au

Bushwalking Queensland - BLOG

BWQ have launched a blog site <http://bwq.org.au/blog/> to keep everyone up-to-date with events, walks, camps and other bushwalking news throughout the region. Rather than having to go to every club's individual site to find out what is happening, people will be able to check out this site for everything that is happening throughout the state.

BWQ's intention is to provide a general information site or online newsletter for all the clubs where they can post notices, walks programs, pictures, write-ups, etc. of recent walks. It will be a useful publicity facility for clubs to get their message out to the public and to encourage people to consider joining a club. It will complement the **BWQ** existing website where fixed information about the clubs is located.

BWQ will also link to the Australia wide bushwalkers Forum where discussions, requests for walking party participants or transport, sale of equipment, etc. can be conducted.

www.bushwalk.com

Bird Week 2010

From the 7th-12th September 2010, Mt Barney Lodge will be hosting the **2nd annual Bird Week!**

Over one exciting week, Mount Barney Lodge will be hosting bird experts who will conduct talks, tours, slideshows and workshops to extend your birding knowledge. This program is suitable for amateurs or experienced birders alike.

Bird week is held during **National Threatened Species Week**, and time is taken to reflect on and appreciate the unique local biodiversity. The threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo and endangered Eastern Bristlebird are both local inhabitants of the Mt Barney Area.

National Threatened Species Day is a time to consider the impact we can have on the natural environment. Mt Barney Lodge has an onsite conservation project for the Glossy Black Cockatoo, is a partner of the Glossy Black Conservancy, and supports Eastern Bristlebird surveys in the area.

More information on National Threatened Species day can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity>.

For more information visit http://www.mtbarneylodge.com.au/bird_week.htm

Minutes of Meeting

Logan & Beaudesert Bushwalkers **13th July 2010**

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

Sue welcomed

Visitor - Mary Cook

Members: Sue Simpson, Heather O'Keeffe, Kathy Rouse, Jenny Kemp, Peter Rice, Frank Peel, Lynne Lucas, Malcolm Hill, Betty Laird, Jim Holt, Geoff Sear, Bill Dryburgh, Carole Peel, Brian Watson, Joanne Curtin and Marie Roberts.

Apologies – Bev Scholfield, Marie McGahan and Doreen Davenport

Minutes of previous meeting:

As per June newsletter – Heather accepted the minutes as being accurate. Seconded by Lynne

Business arising from the minutes:

The club was unsuccessful with the funding from Queensland Country Credit Union.

The club received funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (\$5,552.99)

Lynne received flyers from BWQ to be used at Wildlife Expo at Beaudesert.

Treasurer's Report:

Reconciled Balances for the period to 30/6/2010		\$2277.12
<hr/>		
Balance at July Meeting		\$2277.12
Plus memberships received	\$ 195.00	

	\$ 195.00	
Balance held at end of period		\$2472.12
<hr/>		
Funds made up of		
Account Balance	\$2059.72	
Cash on Hand	\$ 412.40	

Reconciled Balances		\$2472.12

Lynne moved that the report be received. Seconded by Marie.

Correspondence In:

Brisbane and Gold Coast Newsletters (June & July)

The Club has received funding from Community Benefit fund - \$5,552.99

Queensland Country Credit Union – application for funding was unsuccessful.

BWQ - Has a new Blog - A publicity facility for clubs. (Lesley will put some information in the newsletter.)

BWQ - The 2011 Pilgrimage will be held in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland in conjunction with the festival of walks.

BWQ - Regarding Fraser Island Great Walk: BWQ is looking for volunteers experienced Cultural Heritage assessments.

Peter Rice – Funding application ideas.

Mt. Barney Lodge Country Retreat “Bird week” 7-12 September 2010
www.mtbarneylodge.com.au/bird.htm

Correspondence Out:

Our newsletters

Thank you to Peter Rice.

Marie moved that the correspondence be approved. Seconded by Betty.

General Business:

Carole to make stickers containing contact details, for the promotional flyers.

Sue stated that club membership fees are now due.

Heather to try to delete old newsletters from web site and add the new ones. Lesley's son may be able to assist.

Lesley volunteered (via email) to add upcoming walks to the new Blog.

Heather booked cabins at Crow's Nest for the Pilgrimage and Cania Gorge for next Easter.

Christmas celebrations discussed – nothing definite was decided. A BBQ prior to December meeting was mentioned.

Joanne Curtin and Bruce Gore were accepted into the Club.

Walks updated.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Annual General Meeting **of Logan and Beaudesert Bushwalkers Inc.** **13th July 2010**

The AGM opened at 7.40pm.

The minutes of the previous AGM were read. Sue moved that the minutes were accurate. Heather seconded the motion.

Sue gave a "President's Report" – reporting on the events of the last 12 months.

The president declared all positions vacant.

Peter Rice took the chair as the Chairman.

Election of new Committee:

President: Sue Simpson nominated by Marie Roberts, seconded by Heather O'Keeffe - Carried

Vice President: Malcolm Hill nominated by Lynne Lucas, seconded by Betty Laird - Carried

Treasurer: Lynne Lucas nominated by Heather O'Keeffe, seconded by Jenny Kemp - Carried

Secretary: Heather O'Keeffe nominated by Sue Simpson, seconded by Marie Roberts - Carried

Editor: - Lesley Shaddock nominated by Heather O'Keeffe, Seconded by Malcolm Hill - Carried

Equipment Officer: - Robin Watt nominated by Peter Rice, seconded by Malcolm Hill - Carried

Website Man: Heather O'Keefe nominated by Lynne Lucas, seconded by Brian Watson - Carried

AGM closed at 7.50pm

Walk Gradings

Distance

- S** Short - Under 10km
M Medium - 10 – 15 km
L Long - 15 – 20 km
X Extra Long - 20+ km

Fitness

- 1 – 3** Easy - suitable for beginners
4 – 6 Medium - reasonable level of fitness required
7 – 9 Hard - Strenuous, fit walkers only

Terrain

- 1 – 3** Graded or open terrain, no scrub on track
4 – 6 Minor scrub, rainforest, rock hopping, scrambling, off track or part-track
7 – 9 Thick scrub, rock scrambling, using hands or ropes, off track

Activity

- D.W.** Day Walk
B.C. Base Camp
T.W. Through Walk
SOC Social Activity
S&T Safety and Training
Bush Qld Bush Walking Qld
FMR Federation Mountain Rescue

Future Walks

<h1>July 2010</h1>					
When	Outing	Type	Grade	Coordinator	Phone
Saturday 24 th	Ipswich Walk	D.W.		Marie Mac	3297 5527
Sunday 25 th					
Saturday 31 st	City Walk Approx 10km Meet in the car park at the Powerhouse Centre for Arts, Laminton Street, New Farm	D.W.		Lynne	3272 8239
<h1>August 2010</h1>					
When	Outing	Type	Grade	Coordinator	Phone
Sunday 1 st	Little Liverpool Range Beau Brummel, grass Tree and Kangaroo Mountain?	D.W.	M-5-5	Malcolm 6am Jubilee Park Beaudesert	0421 118 686
Saturday 7 th	Lower Bellbird Track The track leads to Binna Burra road 500mtrs from the Information Centre. We will return to Binna Burra car park via the road or Caves Track	D.W.	M-3-3	Lesley 8am Top Car Park	5537 1773 0417 704 145
Sunday 8 th					

Saturday 14th	Tooloona Circuit - O'Reillys This is a walk of many waterfalls and cascades.	D.W.	L-4-3	Marie R 8am O'Reillys car park	3297 5204
Sunday 15th	Mt Castle Camp?	TBA	TBA	Malcolm 6am Jubilee Park Beaudesert	0421 118 686
Friday 21st Saturday 22nd Sunday 23rd	Pilgrimage Toowoomba Bushwalkers will be hosting the Pilgrimage at Crows Nest Show Grounds, as yet the registration form and walk list is not on the web.	Details on BWQ website www.bushwalkingqueensland.org.au/			
Sunday 22nd					
Saturday 28th	Plunket Reserve This walk winds through strands of eucalyptus and a variety of heath. An easy walk in the local area.	D.W.	S-2-2	Sue	5546 8781
Sunday 29th	Teviot Gap To Lizard Point via here and there?	D.W.	L-5-5	Malcolm 7am Jubilee Park Beaudesert	0421 118 686

September 2010

When	Outing	Type	Grade	Coordinator	Phone
Saturday 4th	Warrie Circuit Springbrook A beautiful with many waterfalls but be prepared for the uphill stint on the way out.	D.W.	L-3-4	Lesley 8am Tallanbana Car Park	5537 1773 0417 704 145
Sunday 5th					
Saturday 11th	Python Rock, Pat's Bluff and Luke's Bluff Starting at Python Rock we will visit the three lookouts, returning to our cars via the road	D.W.	M-3-3	Marie R 8am Python Rock Car Park	3297 5204
Sunday 12th	Mt May 2 peaks for the price of one	D.W.	M-5-5	Lynne 7am Jubilee Park Beaudesert	0407 643 375
Saturday 18th	Mt Cordeaux and Bare Rock The graded track zigzags up the slope of Mt Cordeaux passing through rainforest with some superb brush box trees. Hopefully the Giant Spear Lilly will be in bloom.	D.W.	M-3-3	Heather	3208 6420
Sunday 19th					
Saturday 25th	Westrays Grave, Christmas Creek After crossing Christmas Creek we will follow the south branch to the gravesite. Be prepared to get your feet wet.	D.W.	M-3-5	Marie R 8am Stinson Park, Christmas Creek	3297 5204
Sunday 26th	Emu Creek Camp Various walks	B.C.	M/L-5-5	Malcolm TBA Jubilee Park Beaudesert	0421 118 686

October 2010

When	Outing	Type	Grade	Coordinator	Phone
Saturday 2nd		D.W.			

Sunday 3rd	Brisbane Forest		M/L-5-5	TBA	TBA
Saturday 9th		D.W.			
Sunday					
Saturday 16th					
Sunday					
Saturday 23rd					
Sunday					
Saturday 30th Sunday 31st	Walk and sleepover Rob and Jan's - Gympie The walk will be in rainforest plus a trip to Poona Lake.				

Walk Reports

BERRINBA WETLANDS

5 June 10

8.30am start, after a nice sleep in, nine eager walkers turned up with an extra one arriving for a cuppa and a chat a bit later on.

It's an easy walk around with about 8klms of paths to choose from, so we just meandered around looking at all the wetlands, and spotting the pelicans and different other species of birds. The growth has thickened up since our last time here, and plenty of water in every tributary and under the three bridges we crossed. We even walked through part of the housing estate there, and found the street where Peter Rice's nephew lived. Some houses are lucky to have a frontage overlooking the lakes and parks with playgrounds. It's a good little area for young people to get a start in the housing market.

We came across many people walking their dogs or riding bikes, so it's a very family oriented park, the perfect place to meet up on a gorgeous sunny winter day. It came time to cook our BBQ which are free, just push the button, and throw on the steaks, sausages and hamburgers, eggs & tomatoes, with thermos coffee, fresh bread and jam, then a pumpkin fruit cake arrived with Marie Mc.

It was a very enjoyable morning, and great to catch up with you all, thanks for your company, Marie R. Betty, Doreen, Bev, Peter R. Bruce, Jim, Marie Mc. Cathy

C U SOMEWHERE IN THE GR8 OUTDOORS

Robin Smith

Delicious Winter Pumpkin Soup:

Ingredients

- 1 kg pumpkin, peeled and seeded
- Olive oil
- 4 sprigs of fresh lemon thyme
- Salt pepper
- 1 red onion
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 knob of ginger, peeled & grated
- 1/2 orange zested & juiced
- 4 cups vegetable stock

Method

- Preheat oven to 200
- Dice pumpkin into 1cm cubes
- Coat with olive oil, lemon thyme, salt & pepper.
- Place on a baking tray & roast for 30 minutes.
- While pumpkin is roasting sauté onion, ginger & garlic in olive oil.
- Add the orange zest & juice.
- Add pumpkin cubes & stock & simmer gently 30 minutes.
- Cool slightly, then puree.
- Serve with a piece of grain bread.

Hawaiian Pie

Ingredients

- Can crushed pineapple
- 300mls Sour Cream
- 1 packet Vanilla instant pudding
- 2 bought tart shells

Method

- Combine undrained pineapple with sour cream and vanilla instant pudding,
- Divide mixture into the 2 tart shells and chill for at least 2 hours.

Topping

- Decorate with pineapple slices, maraschino cherries & shredded coconut if desired.

Hope you like these recipes

Robin Smith

LOWER PORTALS

3 July 10

Doreen, Heather, Jim, Lesley and 3 guests – Geoff and Robert and his daughter Tayla met at Jubilee Park at 7am while Marie R, Betty Kathy and Bev drove straight to the start of the walk at the Lower Portals car park. It was a very wet morning on the Gold Coast when I got up so I was dubious as to whether the walk would go ahead or not but by the time I got to Canungra the rain was easing and by Beaudesert it had stopped although I must admit it was a very brisk morning.

After organising our carpooling at Jubilee Park, we set off to meet the others and hit the track. As this walk was only a half day one, we had arranged to have a BBQ lunch to make more of a day of it and Heather kindly did some ringing around through the week and found a nice little park at Rathdowny that had an electric BBQ in it.

The walk into the Lower Portals is 3.7kms one way, returning via the same track. After leaving the car park we followed the track up to the top of the first ridge which certainly got the heart pumping. After this ridge, we had four more to tackle before arriving at Mt Barney Creek.

The water was very high and flowing very quickly which made the usual rock hop quite

difficult. A couple of us got over here but others opted to go up stream a little where it was not quite as deep, take socks and shoes off, roll up trousers and walk across. Heather, Betty and Marie decided not to cross and to stay put and have their morning tea by the river bank.

The rocky slab on the other side of the river was extremely slippery so we all tentatively made our way across that and continued on towards the Portals. We arrived at a closed campsite near the Portals and had our morning tea by the banks of the river. As the river was up, we were unable to continue walking around the rock face up into the Portals and unfortunately none of us were aware that you could climb through a hole in a rock at the rivers edge and continue upstream.

By the time we had all made it back to our cars, we had been on the track for 3 ½ hours. A short walk but we now were heading off to Rathdowny for our BBQ lunch. It was cold and windy there so we didn't stay that long, just long enough to cook and eat our lunch and enjoy a lovely chocolate cake that Heather had made for us. Thanks everyone for another great day out.

Lesley

MT BARNEY VIA BARNEY GORGE TO RUM JUNGLE

5-6 June 10

Lynne, Malcolm and Andrew met at my place at Cedar Grove at 5am Saturday. We all went in the Prado to the Lower Portals where we left the vehicle. As we sorted packs and put boots on, another vehicle arrived and parked and pleasantries were exchanged with the driver. Little did we know at the time we would see this gentleman later in the day in Barney Gorge.

We started walking at 6:15am with head lamps now turned off. We arrived at the Lower Portals at 7:25am after the boring walk along that hard track. The best thing about that time of the morning is the crisp air and the look the bush and the mountains take on.

We elected to take a more direct route? To the big camp ground near Barney Gorge having negotiated our first crossing of Barney Creek at the Portals which was flowing quite well. We followed the track out from the creek and through the Lower Portals camp ground which then involved a long long pull up a ridge. Malcolm was well out in front scouting the way whilst the rest of us were struggling with this constant steepish climb. The heavy packs and the very warm sun on our backs added to our discomfort. I realised myself eventually we were climbing too high and when we met up with Malcolm at the end of the ridge climb he confirmed my thoughts.

We followed the track along the top of the range for quite a while with the track non-existent in many places. Eventually Malcolm decided we had to drop down towards the creek after consulting the map once again. As it was we were heading further away from the creek. We took a compass bearing and started for the creek on the first ridge we saw.

It wasn't long and we came across a track which we followed and it brought us out at the "BIG" camp ground not far downstream from the start of Barney Gorge at 9:30am. We were all relieved to finally be at this point but a bit upset about all the lost energy and some wasted and important time. A well earned snack and rest here with walking resuming at 9:55am.

In five minutes we were starting our long, long pull up Barney Gorge which is not very conspicuous from the main creek. There was lots of toing and froing as we went climbing over large boulders trying to find the best route. The gorge was quite wide at the beginning, its width hidden will by the large trees and scrubs when viewed from the creek.

Our first real treat was a vast area of slabby rock with water down one side with the sun shining full on and a lovely rock pool at the base with crystal clear water. We were to see lots more slabby rock on the way the lots of waterfalls of all shapes and sizes and water volumes. The terrain dictated the route you had to take in many places as the gorge got deeper and the walls of rock steeper.

At 12 midday we had lunch on slabby rock which was near wall to wall. We were all feeling pretty good at this point and even better as we had a Wedge Tailed Eagle come along and ride the thermals for a short time. At 12:40 we resumed waling, dodging the water as it weaved its way over the slabby rock. Around mid arvo we heard voices coming the other way and it turned out there were five blokes coming down the gorge. Lynne spoke to one of the chaps who said they had come up Barney via Logan's Ridge and they were headed for the Lower Portals to their vehicle which was the one left by the chap we had spoken to in the Lower Portals car park who of course was a member of their party.

The gorge started to get more over grown from around this point with lots of fallen trees and debris. The gorge also became narrower with the rain forest moving closer in. We started to worry about the time now as we realised we would be finishing our walk in the dark. In places we would have to leave the gorge and go around waterfalls or scunge and this would become a nightmare as vines, shrubs, rocks, logs, long vegetation were all out to scratch you or unbalance you or sit you on your bum.

Most of the way Andrew and I would get ahead of Lynne and Malcolm and then wait for them to catch us which was good as we would get lots of rests. Around 4pm we all came to the agreement Andrew and I would now keep going on to the camp ground at Rum Jungle as there was no point us all being out in the dark. These last couple of hours into the camp were the hardest as we were all so very weary with every muscle and joint aching if I was anything to go by.

Andrew and I luckily got to Rum Jungle at 4:50-pm in semi-darkness. Lynne and Malcolm rolled up 25 minutes later in total darkness after a bit of "Hey Bobing" on the final leg for guidance. As Andrew and I approached Rum Jungle I could see flames through the trees at the camp ground and thought this can't be as fires are banned at the camp grounds but sure enough there was a campfire. Turns out 2 guys and a girl had their 3 tents erected and they were keeping

warm around the fire. We did the formalities and concentrated on getting tents up and cooking a feed. Needless to say the best tents sites were taken so we all had to settle for slightly sloping sites. The fire might have been illegal but the warmth felt good on my bare legs as we all chatted around the fire after or whilst consuming dinner. I was in bed by 7pm snug as a bug in a rug in my sleeping bag but spent most of the night getting to the top of my tent after gradually sliding back down again.

Up Sunday morning at 6:30am after countless W, S-Westerly winds coming in like freight trains all night long. Luckily our tents weren't buffeted hardly at all as we were protected by the rainforest. After breakfast of hot soup and a hot cuppa and with packs repacked we were ready to go again at 8:15am. Our three fellow campers were up and about but still had tents up. They were going to the top of East peak and then down and weren't in any big hurry.

Lynne and Andrew had wisely decided on an easier passage down Barney via South Ridge whilst Malcolm and I had to go and retrieve the Prado from the Lower Portals car park. Malcolm and I started up East Peak losing and regaining the track on several occasions. As we went up we traversed hard to the left then worked our way around just above the big tree line to end up at Rocky Creek Saddle at 9:05am. Great views from here with the sun warming us up nicely. Up North Peak we went being on the summit at 9:30am. Very cold blustery wind up here so we found a sheltered spot and had a snack from 9:40 – 9:50am. We were hurrying as we knew Andrew and Lynne would beat us down by 2 hours.

Down towards Leaning Peak Saddle then a right turn down a ridge on to slabby and scary rock then down to Isolated Peak Saddle where we dropped down to start of creek and had early lunch from 11:15 – 11:35am. Followed creek down until the ridge beside us flattened out then we got out of the creek and took a compass bearing from the map which would allow us to hit the road which would take us on to the Lower Portals track.

We hit the road at 1:25pm and after a short walk hit the Portals track at 1:37pm. As we had a very short break here to catch our breath a couple of fathers with their kids passed by all full of energy and we were quite the opposite as we had been motoring. We got to the Prado at 1:55pm which we considered a top effort. We met up with Lynne and Andrew along the dirt road just passed the bitumen at "Lillydale" Farm Stay. Turned out they had gotten down to Yellow Pinch in 4 hours. We stopped at Beauy for refreshments after a hard but enjoyable weekend. I must comment on Lynne's fortitude for the big day on Saturday – it really was a top effort.

Cheers – Robin Watt

MT MAROON 26 June 10

Firstly, we would all like to thank Kit, Dave and Johnno. They were a tremendous help in following the track and helping us up and down the chimney and without their help I doubt that we would have been able to complete the walk.

This was our second attempt to go to Mt Maroon after our previous attempt was washed out a few weeks previous. Most of us didn't get further than MacDonald's at Beaudesert on that occasion.

We met at Beaudesert at 7am. Quite a large group – Heather, Jenny, David, Kit, Johnno, Marie R and Marie Mc, Bev, Kathy, Betty, Frank and Jim. We also had a guest walker for the Day – Geoff. After making our way to the car park we set off to the start of the walk. The weather was cool and a bit overcast and there was quite a strong breeze blowing.

We stopped at the top of the hill before going across to the chimney. At this point Betty and Marie R decided to return to the car park. One group took the high track and a few others took the low track, both very rough tracks which met up just before the chimney. We saw some rock climbers on the north peak and quite a few other walkers, including a man with his two young daughters.

With help from Kit, Dave and Johnno, everyone made it to the top of the chimney. Because we had already rested at the top of the hill we decided to continue straight to the top.



Jim, Kit, Dave, Marie Mac, Kathy, Johnno, Heather, Frank, Jenny and Bev on top of Mt Maroon

It was very windy on top but despite a bit of cloud on the horizon the views were stunning especially of Mt Barney. We had lunch, enjoyed the views, took some photos and headed back down. Once again, Kit, Dave and Johnno assisted everyone using ropes to come down the chimney. Once down we all took the same track back to the car park.

Our one drama for the day was when we were almost back to the car park and Marie Mc went over on her ankle and struggled back to the car park.

It was a very long day taking us 8 hours to do the walk. Marie R and Betty had waited very patiently in the car park for us to come back. Betty took Marie Mc to the doctor, but unfortunately she was unable to her ankle x-rayed until the next day, when she found out she had broken a bone in her ankle.

It was a long hard day but we were all happy with ourselves that we did it. As a group there was a lot of co-operation and lots of varied and interesting conversations.

Heather O’Keeffe