



Brisbane Bushwalkers Newsletter

May 2024



Mark Houghton – New Life Member

Our Club meeting on Wednesday was a General Meeting to confer Life Membership of BBW on our long-standing member and leader, Mark Houghton. This is an honour bestowed only on a few and he joins 5 other life members.

Mark has been a member since about 1967 and became a leader about two years later. He took a break from the Club while raising his family, restarting his bushwalking in 2003, and has been a constant walker and leader since.

Mark was one of the first leaders to lead day walks, back in the time when most activities were basecamps and through walks.

He has supported and welcomed new members not only by conducting New Member Inductions, but also by leading many beginners' walk such as Jollys Lookout and Morelia Track, Mt Arum and McAfees to Enoggera Reservoir. He is always there to help them develop their skills and is generous in the sharing of his knowledge and tips on walking.

He has been very consistent in listing numerous walks on a very regular basis. Every year, he has led several walks down Northbrook Gorge, which must surely be his signature walk. Many of us would have visited this place for the first time as a nominee on one of Mark's walks.

He has led repeated trips to places further afield: "expeditions" to Hinchinbrook Island, 7 times, Far North Qld, Wilpena Pound, Flinders Ranges are legendary. Again, he has repeated some of these year after year, giving many members the opportunity to visit these places.

Mark, again, has passed the baton to other leaders and last year took along several leaders to Hinchinbrook to learn the route and pass on his knowledge.

He has generously supported and mentored new leaders. When I was Safety & Training Secretary, Mark contacted me to say that if any new leaders wanted to learn any of his walks, he was happy to mentor them. I have seen new leaders take advantage of his kind offer.

Members supporting his nomination mentioned that he is gentleman that has given countless hours of enjoyment and care to BBW members; that he is relaxed and easy-going, yet well-organised and considerate, and highly supportive of all his group members.

Congratulations, Mark. As an experienced and dedicated member and leader of BBW, this honour is well-deserved and supported.

Gerry Burton. President.



Life Members: Mary Comer, Mark Houghton and Ron Farmer

New Leaders

Please welcome and support our latest leaders who completed their training in March:

Sally-Anne Clarke, Jo Sargeant, Elena Shirley, Justin Powell, Tracey Walker, Sasha Seli, Jenny Staib, Roland Kalda, Aaron Fielder, Graham Kramer, and Arend Stoffberg.

New Abseil Leaders

Congratulations to Ben Sielaff and Roland Kalda who have recently completed the demanding five-day Vertical Rescue Training with an external provider. They have had their application to become Abseil Leaders approved by the Management Committee and we are grateful that they have generously given up their time to undertake the course and give back to the Club. We look forward to more abseil activities being offered to members.



A steep climb around Joonbeelba & Foutain Falls, Green Mountain – Darren Hepe

Get Ready for the BBW Photographic Competition

The BBW annual photographic competition has been held from at least 1949. Entries will open 14th August and close on Wednesday 11th September. Submission guidelines, digital format requirements for resolution/file size, and information on how to enter will be given closer to that time. The categories, with focus on what it means to be a member of Brisbane Bushwalkers Club, are:

- A. ACTION-ADVENTURE NOVICE – PURE PHOTOGRAPHY
- B. ACTION-ADVENTURE CREATIVE – OPEN PHOTOGRAPHY

- C. NATURE'S BEST IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- D. LANDSCAPES AND SCENERY
- E. THE HIKER'S SPIRIT
- F. SMARTPHONE HAPPY SNAPS
- G. SOCIAL MEMBERS AND CAMPING

There is also a new video category this year.

For full information on the Photo competition read [here](#)

Keen to view previous editions of this newsletter? Click [here](#)

View the Activities Calendar [here](#)

Meeting Calendar

22 May

Club Business Meeting & New Member Information Night

12 June

Waldheim Base Camp - Day Walks in Cradle Mountain National Park by Katie Lee

26 June

Club Business Meeting & New Member Information Night

10 July

A Novice in Wonderland - NZ South Island by Neil Thorpe

24 July

Club Business Meeting & New Member Information Night

If you have recently been on a walk and would like to share your photos and the experience at a Club meeting, please contact Vice-President Rob vicepresident@brisbanebushwalkers.org.au



Waldheim Base Camp walk- Katie Lee

Events + Safety and Training

New Member Induction - Mt Coot-tha - 25 May

[Nominate here](#)

Mt Glorious Barracks Let's Eat! 17-19 May (Full)

A weekend for old (meaning long-term members of BBW, not OLD!!) and new members. See the Club calendar for walks on Saturday, and maybe a couple on Sunday as well. We plan to have a social, friendly weekend - on Friday night, please bring nibbles (not too many!!) to share. On Saturday night, dinner (nibbles, lasagne, salad and dessert) will be provided, cost is \$12 per head. BYO drinks.

[Nominate here](#)

Mt Glorious Barracks Working Bee Base Camp 31 May- 2 June

BBW is fortunate to have use of the QPWS Barracks. In return, we have a couple of working bees each year. The intent is to do some maintenance work on tracks, at the Barracks and other projects on the Saturday. The base camp is open to day trippers who would prefer to arrive on Saturday morning and leave after completing the working bee that afternoon. Others may wish to stay overnight on either or both Friday and Saturday nights which should be quite social. Sunday will offer opportunities for members who are still feeling energetic to lead or go on a walk. [Nominate here](#)

Beginner's Abseil Training 8 June

All of the required equipment is provided by the Club. We only have 8 sets of gear, therefore please advise if you have your own gear from another source. Of course, there's even more, ... while you wait under the tree, we learn all kinds fascinating knots, hopefully without driving you nuts. This is an entry to the intermediate training ("self-rescue") which leads on to more interesting abseils and for which you would need to buy some equipment. Please read the BBW Abseil Policy document which is under "Resources / Rules & Forms / Schedule 12" on the website. Particularly the ABCDE table. [Nominate here](#)

Track Closures

Conondale National Park

Conondale Range Great Walk

- Booloumba Creek 1 camping area now open with new sites to 14 September
- Planned works for Conondale NP Roads to 28 June

Lamington National Park

- Due to significant fallen trees and landslides the West Canungra Creek circuit remains partially closed until declared safe.
- Traffic Alert - Lamington National Park Road Works between Kidston Street, Canungra and Cainbale Mountain Lodge to mid-2024. Delays of up to 5 minutes are expected.
- Safety Advisory Notice Coomera Circuit - Due to several compounding severe weather events and ongoing wet conditions the Coomera Falls circuit has sustained significant damage in parts, particularly in the southern section between the Coomera Falls Lookout and the Border track junction.

The section between the Coomera Falls lookout and the junction with the Border track has significant damage to the track surface in parts, including a number of large fallen trees or obstructions, which can be challenging to negotiate, particularly in wet conditions, requiring a high level of experience and care.

Main Range National Park

- Mt Mitchell Track - temporarily realigned due to roadworks at Cunningham's Gap to 31 July

Springbrook National Park

- The following tracks will be closed until 28 June:
- Partial closure of the eastern side of the Purling Brook Falls circuit – from the Purling Brook Falls causeway at the top of the canyon to the John Stacey suspension bridge below.
- Partial closure of the Twin Falls circuit – northwards from Canyon lookout at the top of the canyon to the junction of the Warrie Circuit below.
- The entire Warringa Pool track (including the corresponding section of the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk).

During the closure the below walking tracks will remain open:

- Western side of the Purling Brook Falls circuit, including the John Stacey suspension bridge and the base of the waterfall, including the eastern and western lookouts and Tanninaba lookout.
- Southern section of the Twin Falls circuit (from northern junction of Warrie Circuit to southern junction of Warrie Circuit, including access to/from Tallanbana).

Leaders should check the NP website for alerts.

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/park-alerts>

<https://www.seqwater.com.au/recreation-and-safety-notice>

Waterproof mobile phone cases for sale

The Library has a limited number of waterproof mobile phone cases for sale at \$6.00 each. These cases will hold most current phone models. Each case comes with an ear jack, arm band and sling. The cases have been tested by members and would be suitable for swim throughs and other water activities. Payment is by bank transfer.

Also available from the library at meetings, at or just below cost price and cheaper than major outlets, are snake bandages \$8, snake bite kits \$20, space blankets \$5.





The climb up Cradle Mountain- Mark Balmanno

BBW wants your old gas canisters & batteries

The Club is now collecting fully empty(mandatory!) gas canisters and old batteries. On Club nights you will find two labelled milk crates located between the equipment hire desk and the library for members to dispose of used items.

Recycle your old gear.

Paddy Palin has introduced Upparel recycling bins in the Brisbane store. Bins are available to deposit your old gear for when it reaches the end of its life. To find out more about Upparel click [here](#).

They have partnered with a company call Recycled Recreation. This company repairs damaged and aged goods to be upcycled or recycled to new owners. To find out more about click [here](#)



Looking into Dove Canyon, Cradle Mountain NP – Katie Lee

Your Club, your newsletter

Let us know so we can let our community know

If you would like to share photos, walking news or any other appropriate content please email newsletters@brisbanebushwalkers.org.au

Brisbane Bushwalkers recognises the Turrbal Traditional Owners and Elders past, present, and emerging of the land on which we are based, as well as the Traditional Owners and Elders past, present, and emerging of other lands on which we conduct our activities.

<https://www.brisbanebushwalkers.org.au/>

Brisbane Bushwalkers Club Inc.

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