

Mini



HEYBOB

Janice Porter
5 White St,
West Launceston,
Tasmania, 7250.

SUMMER 96/97

The University of Queensland Bushwalking Club

IF UNDELIVERABLE PLEASE RETURN TO:
UQBWC
C/- CLUBS AND SOCIETIES,
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND STUDENT UNION,
ST LUCIA, QLD 4072

Trip Highlights

- The Best Kept Secret in SE Queensland
- Mt Maroon
- Central Traverse of Penang Island

Inside

- Upcoming Events
- President's Welcome
- Our Members' Creative Efforts

THE HEYBOB IS HERE!

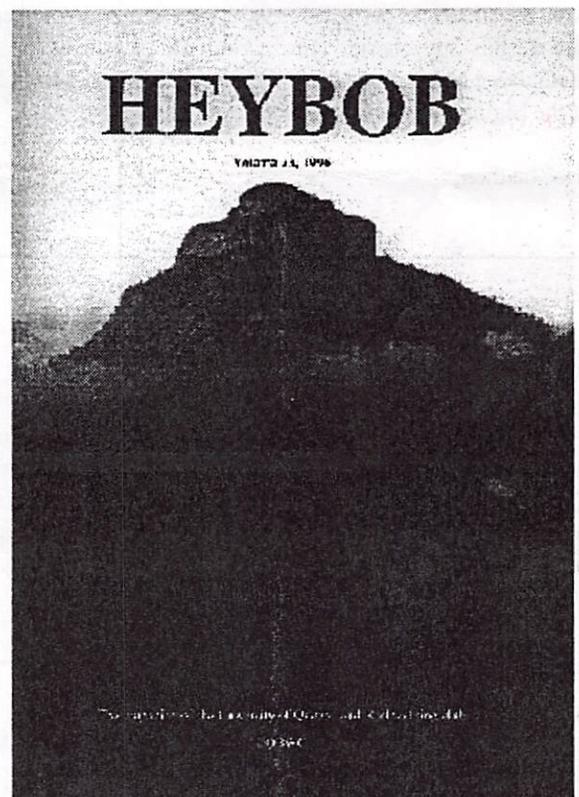
The magazine of UQBWC is reborn, complete with colour photos, articles from Australia and round the world - Hinchinbrook Is, SE Qld, New Zealand, UK, Macquarie Is and much more!

Copies are available for \$8 members (+\$1 postage in Australia) or \$10 (including Aust. postage) for non-members

Copies can be obtained by sending a cheque to:

The HEYBOB Editor,
University of Queensland Bushwalking Club,
C/- Clubs and Societies,
University of Queensland, 4072.

or by approaching executive members.



1997 President's Welcome

Greetings to all new members and welcome back all those returning from last year. 1997 looks like it will be as good or even better than last year for UQBWC. For all those new members (and old ones who were not paying attention—tsk, tsk) here is a quick run down on what our club does and how it works.

What do we do?

Well, we bushwalk. Then we bushwalk some more. Then we bushwalk after lunch. We are a bushwalking club! But just so you don't think we have a one track mind, we do socialise, hold gourmet eating nights in strange and exotic locations and generally have fun. Other outdoor activities such as rockclimbing and abseiling (for example) do occur, but usually only when needed on walks.

Meetings

Held on the first Wednesday of every month, 7pm in the Clubs and Societies room, Union Building. This is where the trip list is formulated (more on that later). We talk about previous trips, upcoming trips, club business, eat biscuits, drink caffeinated beverages and then proceed to watch slides of trips to rugged and beautiful places around the world. Basically we socialise, so it is a great time to meet people (and see which loony will be running the trip you're interested in—just kidding!)

Gear

The club has a range of gear for hire including packs, sleeping bags, tents, mats and stoves. This equipment can be hired for *club trips only* at a very cheap rate. The purpose of the equipment is to encourage our members to engage in overnight walks without having to invest a lot of money. If you wish to hire gear, contact the Gear Officer.

Anyway, that's about all I can think of at the moment. If anyone has any queries, please ring me or one of the other executive. I hope to see you at the first meeting on March 5 and at the beginners' weekend at Yellowpinch on March 8-9.

See you then,

Tom Willmott

Disclaimer

All information contained in this newsletter is given in good faith, with the understanding that no action may be taken against the University of Queensland Bushwalking Club, or any person connected directly or indirectly with the University of Queensland Bushwalking Club, or any other organisation mentioned, if any mishap or misadventure occurs as a result of use or misuse of this information.

Executive List

Please feel free to contact any of the people listed below if you are interested in information about the club.

Position	Name	Home	Work
President	Tom Willmott	3379-6485	
Secretary	???????????????		
Treasurer	Annette Luke	3878-5998	3365-7313
Outings Officer	Darren Osmond	3397-3796	
Gear Officer	David Shrimpton	3372-4273	3365-1539
Safety Gear Officer	Peter Forder	3379-5905	3831-3194
Librarian	Jane O'Sullivan	3878-9076	3365-4811
Safety and Training Officer	Brett Watson	3300-1270	3365-3573
Conservation Officer	Anthony Smith	3286-4288	
Heybob Editor	Louise Colthorpe	3286-4288	3365-1405
Mini-Heybob Editor	David Harris	3878-9114	3365-1361
Federation Rep	Bob Hoey	3818-3171	3227-7796
Federation Rep	Paul Hill	3876-6601	

Editorial

Welcome new members to the UQ Bushwalking Clubs' regular newsletter the Mini-Heybob. This is a forum for you to tell us about your walking experiences as well as a place to find out about what's going on in the club. We want to hear about your first walk with the club so drop us a note, as short or as long as you like.

If you past members have been wondering what's happened to the Mini-Heybob—well, we decided that we really didn't want our new members missing out on the tales of adventure that old (I mean experienced) members have to tell about their summer trips so this issue is appearing in time for O'Week '97.

Plenty has happened during the past few months but we don't have room to tell you all about it here so come along to the first meeting (March 5) to hear all the stories and see the pictures.

Keep in mind the beginners' weekend if you are new to the club. It will be a great place to meet people who will be leading trips, find out how we operate and have a lot of fun. To get all the details come along to the March meeting.

I'm off to the UK for a while and during that time, Loretta Davis (last year's ed) has agreed to publish the Mini-Heybob. Make sure you send your articles to her as I won't be around to read my mail. (Thanks for helping out, Retta!)

As always, we are keen for your contributions, email them to lorettad@mincom.com, post them to the address on the front cover or give them to one of the executive at a monthly meeting.

David Harris
Mini-Heybob Editor



Attention: New Members!! Social Day & BBQ - Feb 22

The club is having its first social day/walk/BBQ at Mt Glorious, February 22. UQBWC will supply food so come along and meet the 'regulars' on some easier walks. We will meet at 8am at the 'Dustbowl'—the first dirt carpark on the left as you head in to Uni along Sir Fred Schonell Drive.

UQBWC Meeting - March 5

The first of our monthly meetings for 1997 will be held in the Clubs and Societies room in the Union Building starting at 7pm. Find out about the club, our upcoming walks (be there to have some input into the trip list), see the slides of members' summer adventures, eat, drink and be merry!

Beginners' Weekend - March 8-9

Spend a fun weekend with the club easing into the walking side of things and leaping into the deep end of the social life! We will be camping at Yellowpinch below Mt Barney. Join in some easy walks and meet the members of the club.

If you want to come along, turn up to the meeting on March 5 to find out all the details.

Gear Hire

The club has a range of gear for hire including packs, sleeping bags, tents, mats, and stoves. This equipment can be hired for club trips at a very cheap rate. The purpose of the equipment is to encourage our members to engage in overnight walks without having to invest a lot of money. If you wish to hire gear, contact the gear officer, David Shrimpton.

UQBWC Email List

If you have email access and want to keep your finger to the pulse of the UQBWC, put your name on our electronic mailing list. Send an email to factotum@mincom.oz.au with the following as the body of the message: *subscribe UQBWC*.

The automated server will send you details about the workings of the list and send you all the latest about new trips, gear for sale and other club information.

To find out more about the automated server, send the message: *help to factotum@mincom.oz.au*

News Flashes

Congratulations to Larissa and Simon who just couldn't get enough of each other and have announced their engagement.

Also congrats to Geoff Seawright who has just added a little bushwalker to his family. Born January 15, 10:41am, 7 lb 8 oz, Jack has been named in honour of Geoff's boss' friend's old dog.

The Bushwalking Federation is holding its annual bushdance on March 15 at Wynnum Hall, corner of Bay Tce and Cedar St, Wynnum, 7pm. Entry fee \$10.

Wanted: Mountaineer

Loretta has had her first taste of mountaineering and is addicted! She is looking for someone to do a technical mountaineering course with her. The course she is looking at is introductory crevasse rescue, glacier travel, ice/snow climbing, etc.

She would like to do the course with another similarly-abled female but is also interested if there are any guys out there looking at doing the same course.

If you are interested, email Loretta at lorettad@mincom.com or call her at work (3303 3028) or at home (3217 1774).

The UQBWC Web Page

The club's web page is at
<http://www.elec.uq.edu.au/~watson/uqbwc.html>

Trip Snippet

Glasshouse Mountains Triple Challenge (Oct 5, 1996)

Loretta never believed anyone would want to do this trip so she felt quite safe offering it. Unfortunately for her, a handful of idiots took her up on the offer and decided to join her in climbing Crookneck, Tibrogargan and Beerwah.

Those of us who hadn't climbed Crookneck before were stunned to find the route went straight up but had a great time on the scramble and loved the view. Tibrogargan was hot with the recent burnoff leaving very little shade from the midday sun. I managed to convince myself and the others that I was suffering heatstroke (in reality, an oncoming flu) and spent the rest of the afternoon drinking pineapple crush in the shade of Beerwah as the others completed the challenge, one I will have to go back and repeat another time.

David Harris



Mt Maroon (1 Feb, 1997) - Tom Willmott

Mt Maroon is situated approximately one and a half hours south west of Brisbane, near Rathdowney. The mountain is just slightly north of the much more famous Mt Barney. However, it is quite an impressive mountain with cliffs and escarpments visible all the way, towering over you on the last section of the walk.

The track starts at the end of a narrow road, near some farm dams (so overgrown you could probably walk on the surface of them). It climbs one of the northern ridges through open forest, which allows for impressive views to the cliffs of the mountain. At a point where the ridge starts to involve large boulders, the track contours right into a gully, from which a steep but very scenic climb starts through thick forest to the top.

The top of the mountain is actually a large plateau, covered in tall trees in places, making a nice place to eat lunch. In other places, rock slabs (reminiscent of Girraween) poke above the tree line. The actual peak is one of these domes of rock, so good views are available from the top.

The mountain also supports some interesting wildlife, including a spider that decided it wanted to be orange, blue, yellow, black and white—all at once (It was one psychedelic spider)!

For those of you going to the beginners' weekend at Yellowpinch (at the base of Mt Barney), this will probably be included as one of the walks.

The Best Kept Secret in South-East Queensland - Peter Zund

Amongst parched farmland, where every inch has been trampled or ploughed into oblivion, there lies a seemingly small collection of non-descript hills. The highest peak barely reaches 700m.

Non-descript except for the bluffs which are revealed on its northern edge, this mountain range is very rugged, soils are poor, and timber scarce. Early settlers found it too rugged to be of interest. This range met all of the criteria necessary to be granted National Park status in a bygone era.

This park was not a former sheep station, nor was it a logged-out state forest. 9000ha remain completely free of any human influence including livestock and tracks. The park is a wilderness area in the true sense of the word.

I have made many forays into the park since moving to Bundaberg and each time I am amazed by the diversity of its attractions. The park is a collection of small, very steep sided granite peaks. These peaks are join together by a complex web of narrow ridges. Many of these ridges abound in granite formations and bare rock faces. Draining these peaks is a series of boulder strewn creeks, some of which squeeze through narrow gorges. All the creeks rise rapidly to their respective headwaters.

I have come across some large deep waterholes surrounded by cliffs. In the lower reaches of some creeks I have seen waterholes with perfect rock slides, set in country reminiscent of Girraween. Most creeks rarely flow, remaining dry most of the year, yet waterholes can be found along most of the bigger creeks all year.

The vegetation is the most diverse for this region, the peaks and some saddles are clothed in low heath, which is easy to get

through. The rest of the ridges are covered in a Blackbutt-dominated open woodland. Near the base of some of the ridges on the edge of the mountains, a Hoop Pine-dominated vine scrub (Dry Rainforest) grows on sedimentary rocks. These scrubs are to be admired from the edge, but traversing them should be avoided.

Last weekend I came across a alpine-like moorland in full blossom—the place was ablaze with carpets of flowers. There I wished I had more film on hand. Figs, Hoops and a few other shady trees colonise some of the creeks, heath can also dominant creek sides. The place is truly diverse and there are no hard and fast rules on vegetation or terrain in these mountains.

There is a general perception that access is difficult. I have found three 2WD access points as well as a number of 4WD access points. Mt Walsh seems to be the best kept secret in South East Queensland, and I hope it will remain so. Best time to visit is May through to September. The creeks, gorges, waterfalls and waterholes are at their best from May to July (as well as Summer). The wildflowers are in bloom during August and September and this is the time to head for the hills. The crisp and clear winter air lasts from June through to the start of the bushfire season in September, although due to cane firing in the Childers area from June onwards this can change daily. (Cane fires can only be lit after 4pm, therefore mornings are usually clear.) It is too hot during October to April to be there.

This place has something special to offer the keen bushwalker. Daywalking is the most efficient means of travel, overnight walks are hard due to the ruggedness of the area. Creeks offer the best routes into the heart of the mountains. This place is for those of us who love to explore new places. It offers many surprises.



Into the Deep
Wollemi canyon memories
Blue Mountains

Slowly we move down the dark passage, almost a tunnel, an air of anticipation amongst us. Scalloped sandstone towers about us. So smooth, water worn. Cool air, sheets of moss, graceful fern fronds high above us illuminated by stray rays of light. Here and there in clear, cold pools, bright orange-red crayfish just sitting or foraging or fighting. With a flick of a tail they are gone. Standing too long among the crayfish my ankles begin to numb.

We come to a constriction. Logs and sticks messily jammed at peculiar angles. They'll travel further with the next forceful flow. A drop. We wrap our rope around partly rotted timber and without grace but much care, descend. Deeper into the deep. It is black now and the water cold. Above and around us small points of light come into focus. A night sky. Up close the stars ooze along a delicate web and freeze.

Out into the light and sunken leaves of red and brown decorate a sandy path. Dense clumps of fern line walls and trees appear, stretching up aged cliffs. Lichen is plentiful. Big boulders block our progress; we find a way around. Every muscle is flexed.

*A cliff break
 and we leave this other world.
 Up and away to where it is drier and warmer and bright.*

Larissa Fitzsimmons

The Mangrove

**Arching over the glistening mud the mangrove's roots hold sway.
 Sunlight dapples their green leaves and flowers hang suspended.**

**While down below peering from the mud, pneumatophores gasp for an airway.
 The tidal force returns, waters rise about and roots become submerged.**

**Fish dart through the water in search of food carried by the deluge.
 A world of green swirling water, a richness to be had.
 Leaves dangle in the waters, while down below larger predator fish lunge.
 A moment, hangs suspended before the tidal race begins anew.**

**Sediments are swept along outward with the flow.
 Arching leaves and black roots glisten in the sun.
 An intricate structure is revealed holding fast against the flow.
 A submerged city, inhabited by small denizens is once more brilliant in the sun.**

**Small crabs open their protective hatches and scurry by.
 Mudskippers languish in the sun.
 Negotiating the mangroves, birds stealthily search for prey,
 A once secret world revealed to the sun.**

Reg Pollitt

Central Traverse of Penang Island - Reg Pollitt

When I first visited this area in the mid seventies you could stroll down to the water's edge in the evening from the thatched huts of the kampung and sit and discuss existentialism while you watched the sun setting over the Malacca Strait. Today, the sun still sets and the topic could easily be dialectical materialism, although the meaning of it all still escapes me. The location for this navel gazing is Pulau Pinang or Penang Island.

Situated off the north-western coast of Malaysia, Penang Island measures 18km from north to south and 20km from east to west at its widest point and is inhabited by 650,000 people. It may not be most people's idea of a bushwalking venue, but once you leave the bustle of George Town and take the bus to Batu Ferringhi on the north coast and spend the night in one of the Kampung (traditional Malay villages), you are in another world.

I found myself up and about early, probably due to several cups of the strongest *kopi* coffee I have ever tasted. The pink tinges of dawn are glorious in this part of the world and are appreciated even after a sleepless night. There was something very satisfying about walking back to the kampung after a swim as the village came alive.

After a breakfast of rice and *ikan* fish, I was on my way upstream before the humidity hit me. I passed a waterfall which had been crowded the day before with smiling Malay children and young adults enjoying the cooling water away from the boring modernity of the coastal tourist hotels.

The central traverse of Penang Island affords an opportunity to savour some of its natural features while still enjoying the advantages of the rich cultural diversity of the peoples of the island. The walk offers the best of both worlds and has the advantage of not taking too much precious time.

Walking here is rather like walking in the rainforest enclaves on Mt Tamborine only on a larger scale. While you can immerse yourself in the wonderful luxuriance of the forest you are easily reminded of just how close you are to the coast as you catch glimpses of the distinctive blue of the tropical seas further out in the Malacca Strait.

Like Australia, but even more so, few people walk off the beaten track. Marvellous strangler fig trees and other interesting species surround you. Certain trees exude a hard resin or *Damar*, which I was told is still used in some parts of Malaysia as a filler for holes in fishing boats. Apparently, the resin is melted and is regarded as being superior to synthetic resins.

On the hill slopes grow remnants of dipterocarp forests which seem to be the dominant trees. They have fruit consisting of

seeds with two wings which cover the ground. Like our rainforests, Malaysian rainforests have an enormous botanical diversity.

Other botanical oddities to be found include the purplish-black flowers of the Black Lily *Tacca chantrieri* which grows on the densely shaded forest floor. Due to the humidity it is like walking in the dome at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, only here the flora is natural and the variety is fantastic. The beautiful orange and green looped layers of the wild forest ginger *Zingiber spectabile* dots the moist forest floor. Another species of wild ginger is the *Kaempferia pulchra* with its purple flowers and textured leaves which are commonly used medicinally by villagers.

The striking, yellow-orange, Atlas moths *Attacus atlas* with their distinctive triangular markings are also found here and make an interesting contrast with orange wild forest ginger. Many other species of moth and butterflies abound and make walking delightful.

High in the trees you hear the chattering of the very sociable Long-tailed Macaques *Macaca fascicularis*. It is quite common to look up and see twenty or thirty of these beautiful monkeys looking down at the human zoo—a poignant reminder that you are in the tropics.

Upon reaching the top of Western Hill, you have a spectacular view out over Muka Head to the north-west and the straits of Malacca. From here there are numerous walking paths. Some lead to Bukit Bendera or Penang Hill (830m) and its funicular railway and old colonial bungalows.

Balik Pulau is a peaceful rural town, regarded by some as the durian capital of Penang. Durian *Durio zibethinus* is the spiky football shaped fruit which has an obnoxious smell. The key to eating them is to concentrate on their creamy, rich fruity pulp and to think of something else or alternatively close your nose while eating.

The surrounding kampungs are idyllic with their wooden selang houses perched on stilts. The name *selang* refers to the covered walkway which connects the kitchen to the rest of the house. This is presumably to isolate any fires much in the same way that early Australian cottages had a separate kitchen area. The clear ground around these villages is scrupulously maintained by sweeping. Pink bougainvilleas trailing over latticed verandahs and large ceramic water containers add to the village atmosphere.

To the south is the airport and the reminder that as much as we might like to wish otherwise this is the Twentieth Century and not the era of the naturalist Wallace and his plant collecting. Ah well, we can but dream.



The Abyss (Dec 14, 1996) - Loretta Davis

Canyons: Glenn Sharrock, Loretta Davis, Eric Young, Kelly Southee

Abyss, n.: any deep or immeasurable space

Arms outstretched I touch both sides of the slot. Its sheer walls rising far above me, and falling far below me. A soft breeze blows gently as water trickles slowly down the mossy rocks.

The world is silent—save for our voices. No sound penetrates into the chasm.

We stand on steep scree-filled ledges—perching precariously on chockstones. Each movement displacing stones under our feet. More often than not they roll over the edge and plunge into the abyss below. Large rocks freefall for many seconds before exploding below. The sharp smell of cracked rock cuts the air.

Only a few have been here before us—traces of their presence only barely discernible. The descent necessitates caution. The margin for error is small. As the last member I dismantle the anchors, and trust my life to a 50m abseil from a tree fern. Slowly. Smoothly. Taking care not to weight the anchor unexpectedly lest it should break free and I am consumed by the abyss.

Drop after drop we descend—the sheer walls our constant companion.

There is little life here. No grass. No plants. No vines. Lone treeferns climb skyward seeking the sun's nourishment. Moss grows beneath the chockstones. A small frog leads a solitary existence.

Down. Down. Down. The chasm begins to widen. We reach sunlight again. The abyss has been challenged—and has delivered us safely. Only by venturing into the abyss can one appreciate and respect its stark and dangerous beauty.

Trip Notes

More trips are run than appear in the trip list. Contact Darren Osmond (3397 3796) if you are interested in running any extra trips or are interested in what trips are running.

If you are interested in going on a walk please let the trip leader know as soon as possible. This helps with organisation of transport, etc. If you have booked on a trip and can't make it for some reason, please let the trip leader know so they aren't kept waiting for you at the start of the walk!

Trips by the Bundaberg Members

Feb 23: Mt Bania/Takilberan daywalk, contact Jane on 071 59 1274

Mar 27: Meeting at Peter's place, 7pm, next triplist for March-May to be determined. Bring ideas and slides. Contact Peter on 52 1237

Trips by the Brisbane Members

Feb 22: BBQ and social day at Mt Glorious. Meet 8am at the dustbowl.

Mar 5: Meeting at Clubs & Societies room, 7pm. New trip list to be developed. Slide shows, drinks and nibbles provided.

Mar 8-9: Beginners' Weekend. Camping at Yellowpinch. Details at Mar 5 meeting.

Membership renewal

1997 Membership fee: \$7

Join up during O'Week, at one of the club meetings or by sending this form to:

The Treasurer
UQ Bushwalking Club
c/o Clubs and Societies
University of Queensland 4072

Make cheques payable to: UQ Bushwalking Club

Name: _____

Student Number (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address (campus address if you have one):

email (if applicable): _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

U.Q.B.W.C. O'week Barbecue.

Saturday the 22nd of February.

This year's BBQ will be held at the picnic grounds of Maiala National Park at Mt. Glorius. It will be a chance for all new members to meet the executive on an informal basis, and for returning members to reunite after the summer break. There are a few short walks in the surrounding area. Most follow a track, however two walks follow no track or a rough footpad, so you can decide how energetic you wish to be. There are falls nearby, so if the weather is hot an icy cold creek awaits! We will be providing food, so please tell us if you will be coming by Friday the 21st, or at the O'week stall so that we can arrange food.

If any member, new or old, can help with transport please contact Tom Willmott or Annette Luke, or see us at the O'week stall. Those not able to drive, please bring along a small amount of petrol money for the person whose car you will be sharing.

We will be meeting at the dirt car park at the University, opposite the multi storey visitor car parks (see map below). Please be there at 8:00 am. The day will be split into walking in the morning, a BBQ lunch and then walking, swimming or whatever you want to do in the afternoon. I hope to be back at the Uni around 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

WHAT TO BRING: Hat, sunscreen, walking footwear (sneakers will do), water bottle, swimming gear if you so desire, plus a small day pack (don't worry if you don't have one).

I hope to see all new members there and I am looking forward to meeting you all. Any further enquires or offers to help transport, please ring myself (Tom Willmott) on 3379 6485, Annette Luke on 38785998 or Darren Osmond on 3397 3796. See you there!