
Mt Wilson Mt Irvine Bushwalking Group

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May 2018

JELLYBEAN POOL AND RED HANDS CAVE

TOPIC

OUR APRIL WALK

JELLYBEAN POOL, RED
HANDS CAVE and CAMP
FIRE CREEK CIRCUIT at
GLENBROOK

Friday 20th April 2018

Once again Barbara Harry has volunteered to be “scribe of the month”; here is her story of the April walk.

In the April newsletter, I said with John’s shoulder injury, he and Helen would miss the next few walks. Well not so, Helen led our April walk in Libby’s absence. Our new leader addressed the twelve walkers in the car park at Glenbrook Visitors Centre.

Helen pointed out that this was indeed an historic walk as in the twenty-eight year history of the group, this was the first time in which neither Libby, Mary or John had been present. (Libby unfortunately is not well and requires more treatment; John hopes to be fit enough for the May walk.)

Two first time walkers were welcomed, Sally Sutherland-Fraser from Sydney introduced by Jenni Wilkins and John Maule from Wentworth Falls introduced by Kim Gow. Both became members at the end of the walk, clearly pleased and impressed with what had been offered.

The Glenbrook Visitors’ Centre has a large area for parking and well-maintained, rather



Autumn in the Bush

new facilities. However, maybe it is a little too far for Mt Wilson people as I was the only representative on this walk.

Helen led us, with Des again taking the whip position, down many steps to a lower car park at the start of the Jellybean Pool path. This was fine in the morning as we were all spritely, but on our return, rather hot and weary, I think a few, including me, would have welcomed a car at this spot.

We continued down many uneven steps to the pool, not surprisingly, in the shape of a jellybean, with a wide sandy surround and many large boulders around the perimeter. As we circled one side of the pool it was necessary to scramble over quite large rocks. Ray pointed out some Water Gums (*Tristania nerifolia*), which he said made excellent bonsai specimens and produce yellow flowers in season.

On the way down to the pool, Jenni Wilkins began picking up discarded pink lolly wrappers, which like the breadcrumbs in Hansel and Gretel, led all the way to the pool. But that was not all, once started she continued her bush clean up adding tissues, tins, a vitamin bottle and various flotsam. In fact enough for Anne to produce a plastic bag to house the rubbish collection. The littering did diminish the further we ventured.

After the rock scramble, we crossed the causeway that Helen said last time was a shoe

removal affair, but this time, no such problem. The path led upwards to a track winding along the high side of quite a steep drop away on the right hand side, somewhere, a way down there, was a creek or watercourse not really visible, hidden by undergrowth and many Banksias. As we continued, more and more Grass Trees (*Xanthorrhoea sp*) provided a different bright green textured landscape.

At one point an enormous tree trunk had fallen across the small ravine with a drop of maybe fifteen metres. I had requested at the start of the walk that a dramatic incident or two would help with the notes, as I do not possess John's botanical knowledge. Ray, being so nimble, was encouraged to try running across, but only made a pathetic attempt by walking a metre or two in safety, turning back to run and jump off in slow motion, while Simon captured this "brave" manoeuvre on camera.

This track was reasonably easy going, but with lots of ups and downs, at times where longer legs were a distinct advantage in negotiating some of the higher rises; walking poles provided useful assistance in these circumstances.

At almost halfway around the circuit we arrived at Red Hands Cave. The cave has a strong wire mesh shield right across the broad entrance, with several small "windows" to allow a camera shot of the Aboriginal art work on the face of the sandstone. The art consists mainly of numerous stencilled hand shapes at various angles with colour variance depending on the pigment used and the colour of the underlying sandstone; most are in shades of red.

Not far above this cave, Helen declared it was our lunch location. People scattered about choosing shady spots, as the day was quite hot. As we were all settling and choosing our spots, Simon decided to leap quite a gap from one large rock to another. He landed unsteadily, leapt backwards to where he started and then propelled himself forward again, this time just making it and continuing in a forward projection up the face of the rock. This entire manoeuvre took only a few frantic

seconds in what appeared as a strangely fast slow motion. (No animal or person was harmed in its execution.)

Lunch was enjoyed in our various possies with lots of chatter; I did notice most of the gents congregated together, secret men's business no doubt. The one ritual sadly missing was Libby's famous bush walking cake.

Our leader soon had us up and on our way as now we were heading back on the circular track. Again the path was far from flat with many inclines and declines involving uneven steps. People with dicey hips and/or knees are very aware of such terrain. The route though is most attractive with massive Smooth-barked Apples (*Angophora costata*), their trunks pinpricked with tiny indents where bark was once attached. Some of these trees required the head to be bent way back to view their full height. The other prevalent trees were Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), identified by their rough, textured bark and small rounded nuts scattered about their bases. On our high side were many wind-worn rippled sandstone caves and outcrops in marvellous textured colour combinations.

We had completed the circular section of the walk and now linked up with the original path which led back to the causeway. Here, Helen gave us the choice of following the road back up to the cars or returning on our original route by scrambling over the rocks near Jellybean Pool; everyone chose the scramble.

This time Jellybean Pool was being enjoyed especially by quite a few young teenagers, mostly girls, sporting skimpy bikinis on fine young bodies as they shrieked and played on the rocks and in the water. Two women, possibly their mothers, were sitting on a rug on the sand enjoying a bottle of bubbly.

We still had "the climb" up as our cars were at the higher car park. This was undertaken fairly quietly, as we were rather hot and tired. The bag of collected rubbish, quite a size, was deposited in a bin and as a result the bush was left more aesthetically pleasing. The cuppa and biscuits at a table in the car park was a

most welcome conclusion to another great walk, led so ably by Helen. Thank you.

(I hope you all took great care walking in the car park, I attest they can be quite hazardous places! John C)

The various devices registered around 14 kilometres and 20,000 steps and 39 floors. (I did say there were lots of ups and downs.)

PS. On Saturday morning about 7.30, I was up the hill a bit from my place at Mt Wilson chasing some phone reception, when Libby walked past on her morning walk with Peter's two dogs. I joined her and told her a little of the walk and how we missed her company (and cake) but that Helen had not lost anyone, gone the wrong way nor led us astray, while setting quite a pace.

Barbara Harry

Many thanks Barbara for that captivating story of the Jellybean Pool, Red Hands Cave, Camp Fire Creek walk. And yes Barbara my shoulder has improved to such an extent that I can again employ two finger typing at almost stenographic speed. (John C)

A few little snippets relating to this walk

Jellybean Pool: It is said that the name derives from a young girl, when standing high above the creek, remarked to her father that the pool looked liked a giant jellybean; the name has been in use since the 1930s.

The Causeway: A creek crossing has been in use in this area since the 1820s, the concrete causeway was constructed in the 1930s.

Glenbrook Creek: Originally named Glen Brook by Sir John Jamison on the assumption that the watercourse rose in Prince Regents Glen in the Jamison Valley below Wentworth Falls; its source is actually much further east near Woodford. The name eventually became Glenbrook Creek and the village was subsequently named after the creek.

Camp Fire Creek: Bushwalkers once used caves on this creek to set their camp fires. There is a magnificent example of grinding grooves on a rock platform in Camp Fire Creek quite close to the track. The site

includes broad axe grinding grooves, narrow spear sharpening grooves and channels worn into the platform to direct water from rock pool to rock pool; a wonderful example of this type of site.

Red Hands Cave: It is said this gallery of Aboriginal art by the Darug people was first sighted by Europeans in 1913 by teams searching for a young girl who became lost after wandering from her home to collect wildflowers. No firm dating has been attached to the rock art comprised of more than seventy hand stencils, a narrow elongated elliptical figure and four balloon shaped loops; these are possibly fertility symbols.

A local legend states this cave was the abode of the Blackfellows' ghost and that the hands represented the children left there by the Great Spirit. If the hand of a living youth corresponded to one of the stencilled hands he was believed to be reincarnated and was, in time, to become the local chief.

The Link Track: Along this track, where it leaves the picnic area above Red Hands Cave and runs along the ridge, an interesting small tree can be seen; the Woody Pear (*Xylomelum pyriforme*). As both the common and botanical names imply, Xylon = wood; melum = fruit; pyriforme = pear-shaped, the tree carries pear-shaped seed capsules up to 9 centimetres long. The group did not manage to sight any of these interesting seed capsules on this occasion.

John Cardy

OUR MAY WALK

Friday 18th May 2018

A Gentle Rill, Charming Cascades, Dramatic Waterfalls, Stunning Views and Afternoon Tea at Freda Moxom's place.

Darwins Walk, Rocket Point, Mulherans Cliff Edge Track on Kings Tableland at Wentworth Falls.

The group last traversed Darwins Walk in April 2015; Mulherans Track will be a first for this group. Charles Darwin last walked here in 1836 and described the view of the falls as

“extremely magnificent”; who am I to argue with that? The view from Te Willa Lookout on the Cliff Edge Track is arguably one of the finest in the mountains. This is rated as a medium walk of about 10 kilometres with just a little bit of up and down in the vicinity of Rocket Point and a descent and ascent of about 70 metres along the gentle walk beside Jamison Creek.

Meet at Wilson Park in Falls Road just off the Great Western Highway at Wentworth Falls, (near the Bowling Club) at 9.00am or at Merry Garth for an 8.10am departure.

Bring morning tea and lunch only. Freda Moxom has kindly invited us back to her place, just a stones throw from our meeting and finishing point, for afternoon tea.

Remember to bring plenty of water.

Contact Libby Raines on 4756 2121 (after 7pm) or Helen and John Cardy on 9871 3661 or on mobile 0400 444 966.

FUTURE WALKS (Tentative schedule)

Friday 15th June 2018 – Asgard Swamp and Thor Head north of Mt Victoria

Friday 20th July 2018 – Blackfellows Hand Rock and Temple of Doom near Wolgan Gap

BUSH CARE

Bush Care is held on the second Friday of each month from 9am to Noon. Any help, even for a short time, would be appreciated.

During the April Bush Care, 30 Coachwood were planted in the lower area of Sloan Reserve; at the May session more Coachwood, Sassafras and Tree Ferns will be planted in an endeavour to regenerate rainforest in that area.

Friday 11th May at Hay Lane (Sloan Reserve)

Friday 8th June at Hay Lane (Sloan Reserve)

Contact Libby Raines on 4756 2121 for details