

82/69



MONTHLY CIRCULAR

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY

P.O. BOX 151, BRISBANE, NORTH QUAY, QLD. 4000

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a periodical

BRISBANE CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

Price 8c.

Page. 1

MAY, 1969.

OFFICE BEARERS.

CHAPLAIN	FR. M. KEOHANE O.M.I.	
PRESIDENT	PAUL SKEHAN	31 0201 Ex. 308
VICE PRESIDENT	MICHAEL GRIGG	
GENERAL SECRETARY	PAUL WIJNGAARDEN	56 5997
SOCIAL SECRETARY	KATH VINGOE	48 6178
OUTINGS SECRETARY	LARRY CORKRAN	36 4326
TREASURER	GAVIN CL VCY	48 5391
S & T OFFICER	(VACANCY)	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LEON BUCHANAN	49 1109	LAURIE KEARNEY
BERNICE CAFFERY	66 9544	DENISE THOMPSON

- EQUIPMENT PURCHASE: PAUL WIJNGAARDEN 31 0231 (Work)
- HUT CURATOR: PAUL TRACEY
- LIBRARIAN: MARGARET ECLE
- CLUB TELEPHONE NO. 97 6303 (MICHAEL LAHERTY)
- EMERGENCY OFFICERS: MICHAEL LAHERTY 97 6303 VINCE MAUME 4 4562
- EDITORS OF THIS EDITON: PAUL WIJNGAARDEN & LARRY CORKRAN

EDITORIAL

Larry Corkran

Firstly, the Club must extend a warm welcome to our new Chaplain, Fr. M. Keohane, O.M.I., and thank Fr. Aspinall for the interest he has shown in the Club during his time as Chaplain.

Fr. Aspinall was recently appointed Parish Priest at Upper Mt. Gravatt and this is making such extra demands on his time, that he felt he should retire. We hope that Father will be able to keep up some contact with the Club.

Fr. Keohane has been interested in the Club since his arrival in Brisbane and offered to take on the task of being Chaplain. He hopes to be able to come on trips now and then to say Mass for us - something which has, to date, been impossible.

Secondly, a word on Outings Policy. Nominations have gradually been getting later and later, making it more and more difficult to organise transport. If possible, nominate by the Monday before the trip or earlier. If you give the Outings Secretary a tentative nomination, be sure to cancel or confirm it; and please, if you decide not to go after nominating, cancel the nomination.

Trip leader or Outings Secretary will check any firm nominations who are absent when the trip is leaving, but will not check tentative nominations.

Also, if you are coming, nominate early - if there is ever insufficient transport, then the late nominees will be disappointed. Remember, we don't always have a bus and its extra room for one more. If you do not nominate you will not be informed of changes of plan, sometimes necessary.

Trip leaders in future will be required to furnish a list of attendance with the trip report. They may also have to handle the finances for the trip. Leaders should also remember that they have access to a collection of Club maps and to past trip reports. These have seen little use lately.

For those who have not been scared off by the above points, however, there is an invitation to you to offer to lead trips or to suggest trips or both. The spirit of the Club depends on leaders, so keen walkers willing to accept responsibility are the greatest asset the club could have. Cooperation between members and trip organizers cannot but lead to a successful year.

May, 1969.

MONTHLY CIRCULAR

CLUB CALENDAR:

SUNDAY 18TH. MAY 10.30 a.m.	CLUB MASS	CARMELETTA GREGORY
12.00 noon	LUNCHEON	JACARANDA HOTEL CAFE
MONDAY, 19TH. MAY 7.30 p.m.	GENERAL MEETING	TEMPERANCE HOTEL CAFE
WEEKEND 24/25TH. MAY	B.C./T.W.	CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY JUNE 1ST.	DAY WALK	MT. GREY
SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH.	DAY WALK	MT. FRANK
TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH.	SOCIAL - THEATRE PARTY	"ICE ST. CINEMA
LONG WEEKEND 14-16TH. JUNE	B.C./T.W.	CONDAMINE ACACIA PL.
TUESDAY 17TH. JUNE	GENERAL MEETING	TEMPERANCE HOTEL CAFE
WEEKEND 27-29TH. JUNE	B.C./T.W.	MT. BALLOON
SATURDAY 5TH. JULY	SOCIAL	PIRATES

TRIPS IN DETAIL:

WEEKEND 23/25TH. MAY/ CHRISTMAS CREEK/BASE CAMP/THROUGHWALK:

LEADERS: Paul Tracey (Throughwalk) Paul Wijngaarden (Base Camp)

FARE: \$4 NOMINATIONS BY MONDAY 19TH. MAY.

DEPART 7.00 p.m. CNR. ROMA & TURBOT STREETS

Christmas Creek is one of the large number of creeks in
Barrington and flowing north. It is reached through Beaudes

CHRISTMAS CREEK (CONT'D)

The throughwalk will probably cover the stretcher trail (down which the survivors of the 1936 plane crash were carried) to the Stinson wreck and border lookouts and return down the creek, visiting Westray's grave.

The Base Campers should be able to climb Buchan's Fort, visit the top or bottom of Lamington Falls or even follow the creek up to Westray's grave.

Christmas Creek is one of the prettiest valleys in Lamington and, with recent rain, should be looking its best.

SUNDAY 1ST. JUNE / MT. GREVILLE / DAY WALK:

LEADER: Bernice Caffery.

FARE: \$2 NOMINATIONS BY MONDAY 26TH. MAY.

DEPART 9.00 a.m. Cnr. Roma and Turbot Streets

Mt. Greville is the rugged, sheer sided peak behind the Moogerah dam. Views include Lake Moogerah and the whole of the Main Range. You will see also the rain forrest in Greville Gorge. Mt. Greville was burned out by bushfires a couple of years back but has now recovered to a large extent, and should make one of the most rewarding day walks of the year.

Trip leader says that the mountain is not as hard as it looks and even claims that she strolled up one day by accident!

SUNDAY 8TH. JUNE / MT. FRAZER / DAY WALK:

LEADER: Monica Fienberg

FARE: \$2 NOMINATIONS BY MONDAY 2ND. JUNE

DEPARTS 9.00 a.m. Cnr. Roma and Turbot Streets.

Mt. Frazer lies in the (afternoon) shadow of Mt. Castle so expect a really good view of the Ramparts. Actually, Mt. Frazer is often seen on trips but few know its name. Will be a good day walk.

No, we are not getting soft having daywalks, on consecutive weekends - it's just to fit in with the long weekend.

LONG WEEKEND 13/16TH. JUNE / CONDAMINE GORGE & CANNS PLAINS /
BASE CAMP - THROUGHWALK:

LEADER:- Larry Corkran (Throughwalk) ? (Base Camp)

FARE: \$5 NOMINATIONS BY MONDAY 9TH. JUNE.

DEPARTS 7.00 p.m. Cnr. Roma & Turbot Streets

For the long weekend, we go back to the area declared taboo after a freezing night a few years back. It is on the other side of the main Range near Killarney.

Fr. Keohane, our new Chaplain, will go on this trip so there will be daily Mass at the Base Camp. It will be worth going for the experience of Mass in mountains alone.

The weekend was originally planned as a Base Camp but with the present Mass arrangements it is hoped to run a throughwalk as well. This is one of the classic bushwalking areas and June is for classic winter walks.

SOCIALS:

SUNDAY. MAY 18TH / CLUB MASS & LUNCHEON:

The celebration of the Club Mass will be the first official act of the Club's new chaplain, Fr. M. Keohane O.M.I. Mass starts at 10.30 a.m. at the Carmelite Monastery, Gregory Terrace and Father Keohane would like to meet as many members as possible.

After Mass, the four-course luncheon will be held at the Jacaranda Room, Canberra Hotel. Cost is \$2.50. Nominations can be taken till Friday 16th. May but please nominate early.

After the luncheon, there is talk of a short day walk (to Glasshouse?) so be prepared.

TUESDAY 10TH. JUNE / THEATRE NIGHT:

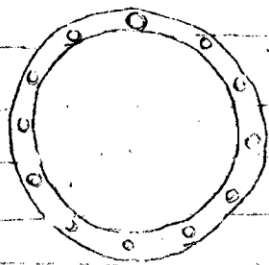
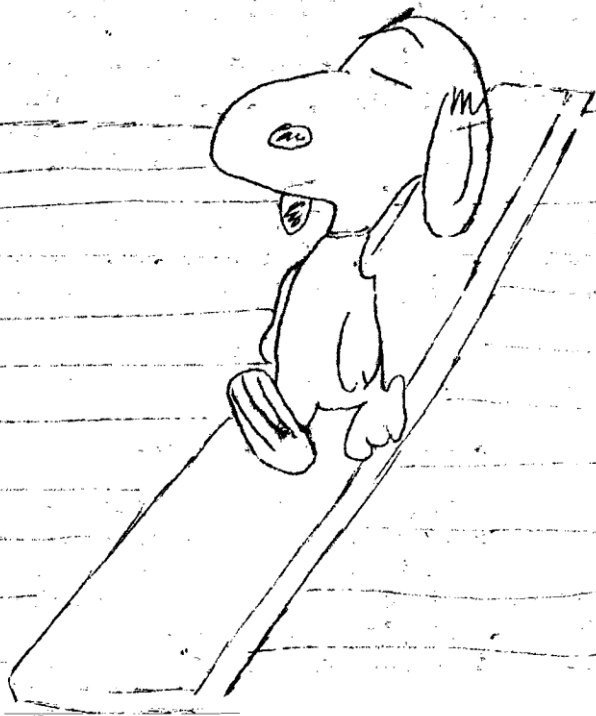
Another wild night at the pictures - this time to ICE STATION ZEBRA at the Cinema George. Cost will be about \$1.60. Tony Crowley will be taking nominations while regular Social Secretary is on holidays. Nominations must be in by Friday, 30th. May so that block booking can be made. Tony's telephone number is 7 3806. A small gambling venture might be run on where we have coffee afterwards!

SATURDAY 5TH. JULY / PIRATE NIGHT:

Further details will be announced in the June circular but, if you have been regretting all these years that you were born two hundred years too late, then dig out all your pirate gear and rally up!

Attractions will include cutlass duels, singing, cannon firing and dancing, so costume must be worn. That's the June social.

Those not in costume are likely to be walking the plank.



ARMIDALE TO DORRIGO

Part 1

This article is meant as a guide for anyone sight-seeing or bushwalking in this area. Some of the ground was covered on the Easter trip but even those on that trip should find something of interest in the following pages.

Read in conjunction with N.R.M.A. map "Mid North Coast".

The first detour of interest on the main road east, out of Armidale is the Gara Gorge. The turn-off to Gara is about six miles out of Armidale and is signposted. The road is all fair gravel.

About three miles from the turn-off there is a low bare hill with a well constructed cairn on the south side of the road. The short walk to the top is well rewarded by a wide view of the rolling New England countryside. To the east is the Guyra River, to the south is Power Creek - a tributary, and further away to the S.E. are the rock faces of the Gara Gorge.

Gara is in fact, a property and one of the most impressive looking in the region. Here the road crosses the Guyra River (which rises near the town of that name) by way of a high concrete floodway. In dry seasons the river is dammed up behind the floodway, and Gara Falls a short distance downstream, runs dry. Thus there is usually water in the River, if not over the Falls. The flow of Power Creek may be stopped similarly.

Note that the more southerly route to Gara as is shown on the map, does not exist. About a mile past Gara there is a T-junction - the road to the right ends at a property on the ridge between the Gara and Cooney Creek Gorges, while the road to the left comes out on the main road where it crosses Cooney Creek on two small bridges.

Gara Falls is a series of small falls, steps and rapids stretching for more than a mile. The gorge is fairly gentle but does have one deep sheer-sided section. There are some interesting water-worn rocks in the gorge, known locally as

the Wallaby Rocks. There is one large boulder with a hole through the centre so it resembles a giant bead. The hole was developed as a deep pot hole when the boulder was part of the creek bed.

Scattered down the gorge are the remains of the first hydroelectric power station in the Southern Hemisphere. In 1894 this station was delivering power to the mines on 2,200 volt lines. Many of the mines were many miles away, and with the early cables, by the time the power reached them it was sufficient to light the bulbs only dimly.

The water was piped some two miles from the Reservoir to the turbines and the generator rode in a huge oil bath, the only regular maintenance for which was to top up the level every few months. The station was built on a high rock ledge but was eventually washed away in a great flood.

Cooney Creek develops a similar gorge and joins the Guyra River about five miles and 1,500 feet below the end of the road. The two creeks should make a good two-day walk.

The shortest way back to the main road is the road to the Cooney Creek bridge. There is a good camp-spot where the main road crosses the Guyra River, a couple of miles back towards Armidale.

Soon after crossing Cooney Creek (12 miles from Armidale) there is a signposted turn-off to Metz - 3 1/2 miles of gravel. At the small village of Metz, turn left at the Hillgrove signpost and a couple of hundred yards down this road there is a signpost to "Metz Gorge". Note that Metz is not a dead end as shown on the map - the road continues several miles to properties. It is of little scenic interest but could come in handy for transport on a walk.

The track to the gorge is on private property and is a little rough in parts. After half a mile it opens into a picnic area on the edge of the gorge. This is a first-class lunch spot, with good shade but no water.

From here there is a magnificent view down the Baker's Creek (or Metz) Gorge, with about 1,500 feet between creek bed and hill top. Directly below are the buildings of the now abandoned Bakers Creek Mine, still in fairly good order and a high scree slope of mine tailings on the downstream side. Further upstream is the Danfino Mine with a flying-fox to the top of the Hillgrove side. The village of Hillgrove is visible across the gorge. This lookout also gives a full length view of the cable railway to the Bakers Creek Mine - an impressive piece of engineering, it is built down a straight ridge with a drop of nearly 1000ft.

Half-way up above the Danfino Mine, a large platform has recently been cut out of the gorge-side and an access road comes in from the north. From this platform a drive will run under Hillgrove (hundreds of feet below it) to work a rich gold reef. It is planned to extend the road across the cable railway, turn it on another platform and bring it back down to the Danfino Mine. This will give road access to working mines on the creek but will scar the landscape.

It is possible to descend into the Gorge on the Metz side via the "large gully" just south of the picnic area. There is a rough track. There are old mines scattered around Metz and down the side of the gorge - the track passes one about half-way down.

The Hillgrove road joins the road to Bakers Creek Falls just before it crosses Bakers Creek. Turning East, it is a short distance to the turnstyle that marks the short track to the Bakers Creek Falls Lookout.

The falls at the head of the gorge consist of a series of drops with rock-pools between them. With a backdrop of sheep-fields, the falls are very beautiful with a good flow of water. An interesting feature is that the lookout side of the gorge is granite and the other is slate.

The bottom is reached via the "large gully" just north of the lookout and some rough rock-hopping takes one downstream to the mines. The whole area makes a good day trip and the rock faces of the falls are popular climbs.

From the Falls it is only two miles to Hillgrove, one of the earliest settlements in the area. Some of the buildings are very old, dating back to the gold rush period - the Post Office is notable. Hillgrove was once a busy mining town with a population of 3000 and something like twenty hotels! It also boasted one of the best football teams in Australia - trained on the hillsides in the early morning.

The main street ends at a gate just out of town. There is a "no trespasses" sign but locals say not to worry about it. It is about five minutes walk to the edge of the gorge and another cable railway to the south Bakers Creek Mine (long disused) on the creek below. A couple of hundred yards away is the top of the cable railway, visible from Motz, complete with boilers for the steam power that hauled the cable cars. There are some good views from around the gorge top, but the trees are thick in parts. East of this area of deserted buildings is a working mine. The area west of the town is also worth exploring.

The road to Long Point is the first turn east after the Post Office. The road is all gravel for 19 miles along the high ground between the Bakers Creek and Chandlers Gorges. There are numerous gates to slow progress.

About ten miles from Hillgrove, the road goes through a new sheep station owned by a Sydney group. Huge tracts of land have been cleared and fences and buildings are new and modern.

A short distance on, the road comes to the "Narrows" where the ground drops away to the gorges on either side. Views are blocked by the trees but occasional glimpses may be had.

The road emerges from the trees below Long Point proper. It is a bare hill on the right of the road with a cairn (marked "Long Point") on top and a house with a large pine tree on the road side. The view from the top is not spectacular like Point Lookout but more like an

erial view. It is vast - there are mountains and gorges all around, in a great panorama that can be taken in only slowly.

The road continues on for several miles before ending in a paddock on the side of a hill. The farm house is deserted. Two thousand four hundred feet below the hill, the Chandlers River and the Muddy River (formed from the Guyra and Bakers Creek etc.) meet to form the Macleay River. Both rivers can be seen from vantage points but the junction is hidden. The junction can be visited in a day but the area is worth two-days at least.

Across the Chandlers Gorge can be seen the open-cut silver mine at Hall's Peak and to the North is a huge rock face resembling Page's Pinnacle on a larger scale. The view is similar to that from Long Point.

The copper mine on the N.R.M.A. map is in fact on the western side of the road but there is a deserted hut and machinery of some sort on the eastern side.

Returning the the main Armidale - Dorrigo road and turning East, it is seven miles to the Wallomombi Falls turn-off. There is a good camping area here.

Edgars Lookout commands a fine view of the lower parts of the gorge where it is similar to the Metz Gorge at Metz. It is most impressive on a moonlit night when you can see the silver stream in wide bends between the dark slopes.

The ridge to the left of the lookout can be followed to the bottom. A waterfall makes it impossible to go upstream to the main falls but it is useful if it is wished to go downstream.

At the head of the gorge is a 1,000ft. bare cliff, so sheer that the sun shines on it only at mid-day in summer. Where it flows over this, the Wallomombi has cut a hanging valley, so that the falls drop only about 500ft. It is possible to follow the creek down and stand on the brink of the falls. The Wallomombi is only a short river and can be expected to be low or dry in dry periods.

Chandlers Falls come in from the far side in three big drops down a sheer sided gorge. Water in these falls is more permanent. Between the streams, where they join is a real razorback - a thin ridge with sheer rock sides plunging hundreds of feet each side into huge pools and boulders. The razor-back can be used as a way out of the gorge. In the wet season these falls are awe-inspiring.

Part 2 will contain a route guide to the bottom of the gorge; New England National Park; Point Lookout; Round Mountain; Ebor Falls; Marengo Falls; Silent Pool and other attractions.



RE M I N D E R: -

PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AT
THE NEXT MEETING OR POST IT IN.

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP - \$2.00

MARRIED COUPLES - \$2.50

Next Track Clearing Weekend is this coming weekend 17/18th. May. Base Camp will be at O'Reillys Guest House meeting at 8.30 a.m. Saturday. It is proposed to work on the old track from Stairway to the Junction of the East and West Canungra Creeks and up to Mountain Falls.

Although we have a function listed for the Sunday, the Club should be represented and anyone interested in doing a solid day's work on the Saturday should contact Paul Wijngaarden.

Ordinary membership has been granted to Father Arthur O.D.C. (John Power)

Ordinary Membership has been granted to Thea Sanders, Margaret Boyle and Greg Gilby.

This year's Club Retreat will be held at the Ave Maria Retreat House on the weekend 17/18th. May.

Towards the end of the year, the Club Photographic Competition will be held. This time in a different format from that of past years. Entries will have to take the form of a series of five slides on any topic of the entrant's choosing. e.g. The subject may be a particular trip, a feature on a trip, a particular area, nature, candid, etc.

The judges will be the members present at the meeting who will vote for the selection which they liked the best.

Further particulars will be advised at a later date.

At present receiving Committee consideration are proposals (1) for the purchase of a new semi-automatic slide projector and (2) whether the format of the Club Periodical should be altered to quarto size.

Margaret Boyle has agreed to be the Club's friendly librarian.

GENERAL:

This month's circular contains the first of what is hoped to be a series of articles on topics of interest to bushwalkers. This month it is a giant sized trip report. The editors would be pleased if Club members became interested enough to write articles themselves. These first articles are a challenge to members to try their own talent.

Would the holder of the Club Tent hired for the Easter trip please return it to the Outings Secretary in case of further demand.

CLUB NEWS & VIEWS:

Paul Skehan & Michael Grigg have been elected Chairman & Deputy Chairman of the Club.

The following were elected to form the Social Sub-Committee.

Lady Cushing, Christine Graham, Margaret O'Mahoney and Jan Weston. John Twedell, Mike Laherty, Peter McMahon and Tony Crowley.

The following people have been appointed to form the members of the Outings Sub-Committee.

Pat Lawton, Paul Tracey, Doug Anderson, Bernice Caffery, Pat Ebert, Madonna Stratford & Leon Buchanan.

Suggestions for trips should be lodged with Larry Corkran or any member of the Outings Sub-Committee.

Curator of the Club Hut "Yallburru" for the year is Paul Tracey. Jerry de Wit and Pat Ebert have accepted appointment to the maintenance Sub-Committee to assist in the maintenance work.

Persons willing to provide free transport for maintenance outings should contact Paul Tracey or the Secretary.

Larry Corkran and Madonna Stratford have been appointed the Club's delegates to the Queensland Federation of Bushwalking Clubs.

Federation proposes to conduct a combined Clubs social later in the year in aid of the Rescue Equipment Fund. The proposal has the full support of Committee. Full details will be provided at a later date.

BUSHWALKERS CASE BOOK:

Bernie O'Shea now has a permanent address in Sydney - 31 Prince Edward St., Carlton N.S.W. 2218. Telephone 58 5748.

He has extended an invitation to Club Members passing through Sydney to contact him.

Denise Thompson out "on the road" up North.

Madonna Stratford relieving in Roma.

1734458 Sig. John Elliot currently stationed in Victoria at 25/69 Tech. Wing. School of Singles, Mil. P.O. Balcombe. Vic.

No more private trips to Wallangarra after 31st. May - by order John Graham and Kathy ---

Some little boys are cute! Aren't they?

Jan Weston and Marnie Conway recently visited Mt. Isa. An improvement and rehabilitation scheme to cost several million dollars has now been announced by Mt. Isa Mines Ltd., the controlling influence in the City

"Band-aids" to be included in Paul W's car repairs outfit as a result of recent trip to New England.

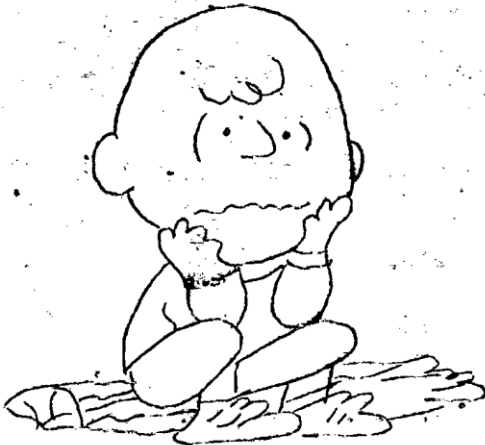
One member has been training to join a crew, for the next big motor racing event at Lakeside, by changing 4 (yes four) flat tyres on recent trip. Help V.W's stamp out Minis!

Equipment is already being collected for the next Auction Sale. If the current trend continues it will be equal to the best at Christies

Lyn McGrath, Margart and Denise O'Mahoney and Danny have recently returned from a cruise through the Whitsunday Passage.

WARNING: Do not speak to Mike Laherty about the beauty of Poplars in Autumn tones.

Minis run better on Coco Cola



FRUSTRATION IS:-

- A LOCKED TOOTH
- NOT KNOWING WHETHER THE SIGN SAYS "MADAM" OR "ADAM"

FOLK MUSEUM AT ARMIDALE A REAL "HIT". SOME MEMBERS RETURNED ON THE MAY DAY WEEKEND. - THE THIRD VISIT TO NEW ENGLAND IN FIVE WEEKS.

DOUG A., THE MATADOR, GAVE A GREAT PERFORMANCE AT MULLUMBUMBY SHOWGROUND. OLE! OLE!

- SURVEY PARTY HAS RETURNED WITH NEWS FOR PAUL SKEHAN. HE HAS ALTERED HIS TRIP.

WHO WAS PICKED UP BY THE EARS IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

MIKE! MIKE! LOOK! POPLARS!

MIKE L. & PAUL S. TRIED TO VISIT BARRINGTON TOPS IN PAUL'S CORTINA. THE MUD, HOWEVER, WON THE DAY.

AFTER HAVING TO BATTLE AND PUSH FOR THE LAST THREE WEEKS TO GET HIS CAR STARTED, PAUL W. FINALLY REPLACED THE BATTERY - THIS SEEMS TO HAVE RECTIFIED THE PROBLEM. (GEE PAUL! NOW YOU'LL HAVE A SPARE FOR YOUR TORCH)

RECENT VISITORS TO BRISBANE - TERRY & ELIZABETH SHEEHAN

LENNOX HEAD REST STOP GAVE ONE MEMBER OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE INITIATIVE TO HAVE "DEVONSHIRE TEA" IN STYLE

IT HAS NOW BEEN PROVEN, BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT, THAT CORTINAS ARE MORE RELIABLE THAN V.W.'S. 2 OUT OF EVERY 139 BUSHWALKERS

