



Rat Tales

December 2007

Web: www.ballarat.com/bushwalking

E-Mail : ballaratbwc@yahoo.com (General correspondence)
rat_tales@hotmail.com (Newsletter articles)

Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

FRASER ISLAND

On 29th September, 7 adventurous walkers (Stephen, Debbie, Alan, Karena, Rhonda, John M, George) set out with great expectations to explore Fraser Island. Carrying large packs we walked a total of 100 km. during the 7 days, enjoyed perfect weather and were treated to a beautiful environment still unspoilt by human presence.

Our ferry crossing from Hervey Bay was overcast and windy on the first day, however, once we got to the island, we were treated to beautiful days and mild nights with no trace of rain. Our camp sites were fully fenced, and metal food boxes were provided at each camp site to keep the dingoes and other wildlife out (bush rats, mice snakes crows etc)

Each day provided a new experience from vast sand dunes to tropical rain forests with towering 40 metre giants. Magnificent fresh water lakes provided a welcome relief on most days and it was here that we gathered our drinking water, washed our clothes and went swimming.(in that order) Most of the time we had the 'the

track' to ourselves, however on occasions we did meet up with the occasional walker or small group. The constant rustling in the bush reminded us of the wildlife lurking not far from us. Lots of birds, lizards, goannas, turtles, snakes, scorpions and dingoes were about, however we did not encounter the last two on the island.

On the final day we reached the east coast resort of Happy Valley, only to be brought back to reality with the bustling traffic buzzing up and down on the beach and across the sandy tracks criss crossing the island. Our peace and serenity had been shattered as we prepared to head back home.

My thanks must go to Stephen and Debbie Peters for organising such an enjoyable trip and the generous hospitality of their in laws in Hervey Bay who 'put us up for several nights.'

Stay tuned for the slide show to be presented at a future Club night.