



Tablelands Bushwalking Club Inc

The Tablelands Bushwalking Club

Newsletter – December 2014

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If a Walking Trip is Delayed – What Your Emergency Contact Needs to Know.

Occasionally trips are delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. Before leaving on a Tablelands Walking Club (TWC) outing you should tell your emergency contact (family member or friend) where you are going and give them a copy of the phone numbers of the Committee Members as members of the Management Committee will be the Contact Officers.

Contact should be with **any member of the Tablelands Walking Club Management Committee**. The phone numbers of the committee members are found at the beginning of the Walks Program or the Newsletter. Move down the list until you find someone at home.

If there were a situation that required a search or rescue, members of the Committee would liaise with experienced walkers within TWC and with the Police and SES. They will also hold membership details for all TWC members, including the name of a family member or friend to contact in case of delay or emergency.

The articles and information in this document are printed in good faith. The club does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions in this document or for the manner in which the information contained in this document is interpreted or implemented.

The Tablelands Bushwalking Club

Walking the Tablelands trails

FOR 25 years the Tablelands Bushwalking Club has hiked the trails of the Atherton Tablelands.

The energetic group recently celebrated their birthday with an afternoon cruise on Lake Barrine.

The club was formed in August 1989 and incorporated one year later.

Some 65 past and present members met at Lake Barrine where they enjoyed a cruise on the lake and

talked about some of the great walking trails in the area.

The club held an event at Lake Eacham in August, walking around the lake at night with torches and headlights.

A total of 93 members participate in walks around the Tablelands.

To find out more about the club or to become a member, visit www.tablelandsbushwalking.org.



RIGHT: Some of the original members of the Tablelands Bushwalking Club cut the birthday cake. From left: Activities officer Alex Lindsay, president Andrew Graham and Linda Halfpapp.

Picture: Supplied

From The Tablelander



25 Years of Walking

The Tablelands Bushwalking Club is celebrating 25 years of walking this year with two events. The club was formed in August 1989 and Incorporated on the 26th June 1990. As of today, the club proudly boasts 93 members and walks every second Wednesday and Sunday.

The events will be on Saturday, August 23 – A get together at Lake Eacham in the afternoon with a night walk around the lake with torches, head lights & glow sticks plus more.

On Saturday, September 13 – A cruise on Lake Barrine in the late afternoon. Past members are welcome and need to email secretary@tablelandsbushwalking.org if they wish to participate. For more info visit www.tablelandsbushwalking.org

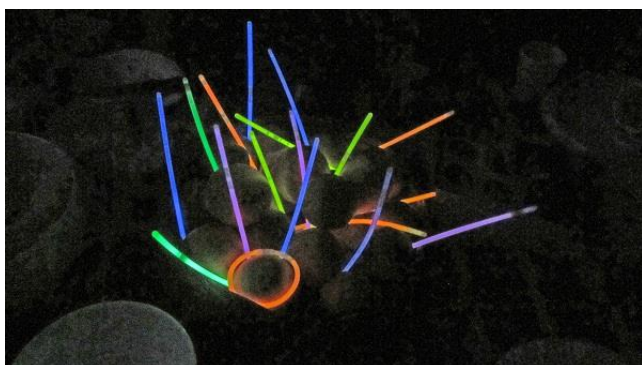
From Whats on where to go

WHERE WERE YOU?

Many thanks to the news outlets on the Tablelands for helping to promote our bushwalking club.

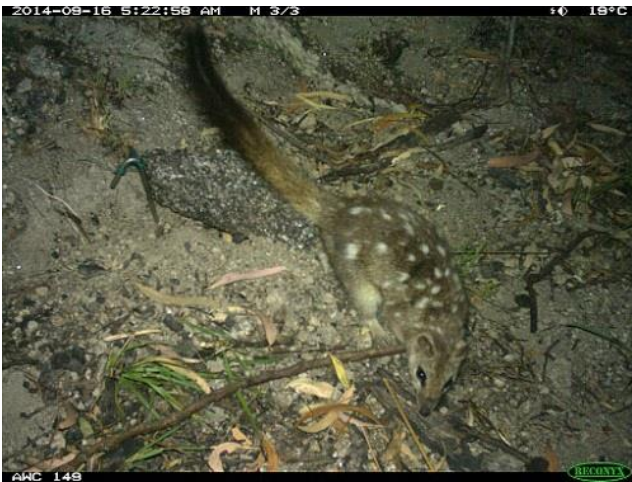


65 past & present members of Tableland Bushwalking Club celebrating 25 years on a Lake Barrine cruise



Quoll and Rock Wallaby Survey-Brooklyn Sanctuary

by Sally McPhee



I was lucky enough to accompany one of our club members on a recent visit to Brooklyn Sanctuary to help organize equipment to photograph local wildlife. Tani is a zoologist who works for the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and is completing a study of Quoll and Rock Wallaby within the area. The Australian Wildlife Conservancy purchased the 60000 hectare Brooklyn Station in 2004. The property is a rich and diverse area with rainforest and woodlands and major rivers, including the Mitchell. Brooklyn is home to numerous mammals, frogs, reptiles, and birds including threatened species and to a range of unique flora.



We laid several tasty morsels across a wide area within the station but all within 1-2 metres of a motion camera fixed to a nearby tree. The sites are checked 10 days later when the food and cameras are removed. Data is then analysed to gauge numbers, range, and other information about the Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) and Rock Wallaby.



The accompanying photos show Tani at work, part of the Brooklyn and of a Northern Quoll. (Quoll Photograph courtesy of Australian Wildlife Conservancy)

Below is an article from Bushwalking Australia

Consider this your holiday reading.

Anyone wanting more information or wishing to contribute in some way may contact Kevin Lindeberg at:

kevinlindeberg@bigpond.com or 0401 224 013

Have an enjoyable break and we hope to see everyone on the first walk in 2015.

January Wednesday 14th – Lake Barrine Walk/Paddle

Easy walk or paddle around Lake Barrine (approximate 5 km circuit). Please bring any canoes or paddle boards. For those that don't have a water craft there will also be a walk around the Lake and the opportunity to swap onto a craft at the half way point or at the end. Be prepared to get wet. Walk and paddle commences from the Lake Barrine Car park at 8.30 am. Refreshments are available in the Tea House for those who wish to indulge after the mornings activities. **Contact Rex Hutchison 4095 8445.**

Following the activities there will be a Committee Meeting for those who wish to stay and join in.



THE CREATION OF 'THE HINKLER RING' ON MT PRATOMAGNO IN TUSCANY, ITALY

*Kevin Lindeberg

It's not every day any of us has the opportunity to retrace one's footsteps of 40 years earlier in a foreign land, but I was recently afforded this opportunity by invitation from the **Italian Alpine Club (CAI) Arezzo Branch**¹ in late July 2014.

As events have since transpired this visit and its purpose have taken on a greater national and international significance than first thought, and one which ought to interest bushwalkers everywhere, especially Australians, who possess a sense of history, camaraderie and adventure.

Its purpose was to revisit the 1933 death and crash sites of renowned Australian pioneer aviator and national hero, Squadron Leader Bert Hinkler (1892-1933), on Mt Pratomagno in Tuscany first shown to me in July 1974 by Mr Gino Tocchioni, an Italian mountain carbon collector. He was the man who first discovered Hinkler's crashed *de Havilland Puss Moth* (CF-APK) and body on 27 April 1933 after Hinkler went missing to the world for 111 days on 7 January 1933, the day he took off from London's Heathrow Airport around 3.10am in a dissipating heavy fog.



Bert with his *de Havilland Puss Moth* bought in Canada in 1931

This firsthand knowledge made me the only living Australian to have been shown these historic sites by their original 1933 discoverer thus providing an authoritative link in 2014 which spanned the passage of time going back 80 years.

In 1933 Hinkler was attempting to set another record-breaking flight from London to Australia when an incident in flight occurred causing him

to attempt an emergency landing on the spine of Mt Pratomagno while flying down Valdarno, the Valley of the famous Arno River.

He survived the crash. Photographic evidence suggested that he later succumbed to his injuries and exposure to the severe 1933 winter elements some 80 metres further down the mountainside. His body was found in a composed lying position behind the erstwhile protection of a couple of smallish bushes. Unhappily, it had been interfered with by wolves when found.

On 1 May 1933, Hinkler was accorded a State Funeral with full military honours by order of Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini. He greatly admired Hinkler being a WWI pilot himself.

This special honour saw his flag-draped coffin in an ornate hearse drawn by plumaged black horses through the famous cobbled streets of ancient Florence. Thousands of Italians lined the streets to pay their last respects to the achievements and passing of this great pioneer aviator, commonly known to the world as "*The Boy from Bundaberg*", "*Hustling Hinkler*" and "*The Australian Lone Eagle*".

Hinkler is buried in a modest grave in the cemetery on the outskirts of this beautiful renaissance city. It now falls under the care and protection of the Commonwealth of Australia War Graves Authority.

Hinkler first flew in a 1911 home-made glider on **Mon Repos Beach** at Bundaberg in 1912 – a now famous tourist attraction as the world-renowned turtle rookery with its shore-lined sea-smoothed majestic basalt boulders standing like soldiers on parade.²

Amongst other great record-breaking flights, Hinkler was the first man to fly solo from Sydney to Bundaberg in 1921 in his *Avro Baby*, London to Darwin in 1928 in his *Avro Avian* and across the South Atlantic from Brazil South America to West Africa in 1931 in his *de Havilland Puss Moth*, a flight commencing in Canada - via New York and Jamaica - and ending in London.

He fought in WWI with the Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Air Force, seeing action over Belgium, France and northern Italy and was awarded the DSM.



Photo taken while Bert was serving in the RAF Squadron 28 in WWI

The esteemed aviation magazine, *Flight*, ranked Hinkler as one of the world's ten greatest pioneer aviators.

Bundaberg now has the impressive **Hinkler Hall of Aviation**³ in north Bundaberg which also has standing alongside it **Hinkler's Southampton home**⁴ (in which he planned his famous flights) which, on being under threat of imminent demolition despite my four-year campaign for a stay of execution, was saved by being dismantled brick by brick, board on board, relocated and faithfully restored in 1983 by an enterprising group of Bundaberg citizens as part of our nation's 1988 Bicentennial Celebrations.

Earlier in June 1974, on behalf of the **Royal Queensland Aero Club**⁵ and **Queensland Museum**,⁶ I organised the unveiling of a plaque on Hinkler's Southampton home - called *Mon Repos*. I had been requested to do so by my friend, noted pioneer aviation historian and Queensland Museum librarian, (the late) Mr Ted Wixted⁷ when I went to England.

As a young Australian abroad for the first time in my life and in a new city, I was very fortunate to be assisted in the task by the **University of Southampton's** famous aviation-connected **Sound and Vibration Institute**.⁸ After completing this undertaking, I journeyed to Italy to visit Hinkler's crash and deaths sites.

In July 1974, as a welcomed house guest of the President of the **Arezzo Aero Club**, Prince Amedeo di Savoia, Duke of Aosta, I was taken to

these Italian sites along the bumpy spine of the mountain range in a jeep driven by the Duke with our very special passenger, an elderly Tocchioni who guided us directly to them like a homing pigeon.



Prince Amedeo di Savoia

I returned to these sites on several more occasions, including doing some long-shot but ultimately fruitless searches in the immediate region for the *Puss Moth's* missing propeller blade.

In August 1974, the Duke organised a special ceremony on his Il Borro estate - at the foothills of Mt Pratomagno - to present specially struck bronze medallions to the Italians who found and removed Hinkler's body in 1933.

The Australian Ambassador to Italy, the Hon John Ryan, attended the ceremony from Rome and presented each person with an engraved medallion including to the delighted and humble mountain man, Tocchioni.

This was a long overdue tribute by a grateful nation being Australia's first ever official recognition of their recovery work back in April/May 1933 for our national hero.

On our last visit around September 1974, the Duke and I placed specially prepared markers on these two spots, planting one in the ground at the death site, and securely lashing the other to a tree at the crash site. The markers were long wooden poles with a bright orange coloured tin-cone top to stand out against the seasonal green-leafed or snow white background on the side of Mt Pratomagno.

The Hinkler Ring

As the Duke wasn't contactable in Italy, Mr Carlo Palazzini, of the CAI Arezzo Branch, unexpectedly contacted me in early 2014 via email seeking assistance and directions to find these two sites, which had become, with the passage of 40 years, now vital missing links.

They had the timely idea to create a CAI registered mountain trekking track to be called "the Hinkler Ring" to honour Hinkler's pioneering achievements and attract walkers from around the world for years to come to enjoy this beautiful Tuscan environment and its magnificent sweeping vistas.



The Layout of 'the Hinkler Ring' - The Red Circled "H" is where the 1933 crash and death sites are located

After supplying directions via the internet and with the winter snows delaying the search for about 3 months, on 24 April 2014 I received an email with an attachment. They had rediscovered the now-weather-beaten, somewhat camouflaged colour-faded marker high up in the tree which had an additional 40 years of growth since 1974.

It was a truly Eureka moment!



The other death site marker was long gone. Because accuracy was vital, I was very generously granted a free return flight from Brisbane to Italy by **Virgin Airlines Australia** in late July to relocate the site if I still could.

On 24 July 2014 with my new CAI companions, I was taken to retrace the footsteps of my youth on Mt Pratomagno. It was all very moving. As I looked up at the weather-beaten marker, after enduring 40 winters and summers and faithfully watching over the crash site until I returned to relieve it of its duty, I unashamedly hugged the tree and said a grateful thank you.

Then, after walking down from the crash site a distance of some 80 metres and, against recalling other topography in the surrounding area, I recalled the spot where Tocchioni said Hinkler's body was found on 27 April 1933.

My return mission was achieved with all the relevant sites on "the Hinkler Ring" sealed, spanning 80 years. But then, on 26 July, we returned with a specially constructed 'interim' wooden cross to secure its location. We temporarily draped it with an



Kevin Lindeberg (fourth from L to R) with his CIA Arezzo Branch friends, (L to R) Andrea, Carlo, Franco, Gianfranco and Davide

Australian flag out of respect to a fallen Australian followed by my short speech thanking the CAI Arezzo Branch members for what they were planning to do in creating “**the Hinkler Ring**” in the sure knowledge that this historic place would attract hundreds of like-minded bushwalkers and other interested parties from around the world for years and years to come.

A ceremony was held at chalet *Da Giocondo*⁹ on 27 July 2014 announcing the creation of “**the Hinkler Ring**”. It was attended by Australia’s new Ambassador to Italy, the Hon Mike Rann. About 60 Italian dignitaries and interested persons also attended. Our Ambassador presented the CAI Arezzo Branch with an Australian flag and promised to return for the official opening on 26 July 2015.

The Construction of the Hinkler Memorial Monument at the 1933 death site

Plans are now afoot between Italy and Australia to construct an appropriate rock memorial monument to last for the next 200 years and beyond. Its proposed unveiling by an appropriate Australian and Italian public official on behalf of both nations is under active consideration.

The proprietors of *Da Giocondo*, who are also long standing stone monument experts, have offered to construct the monument. Gracious and accepted as this offer is, Australian contributors to cover costs are being actively sought by me

because Hinkler is “our” national hero and we should pay our way.

So far, the **Bundaberg Regional Council**, **Hinkler Hall of Aviation**, **Royal Queensland Aero Club**, **Dick Smith** and the **WWI Anzac Centenary Commemorative Fund**¹⁰ (due to Hinkler’s WWI active service) are interested in playing active roles in some form or other.

Bushwalkers Australia seems to be a natural fit with this exciting venture. For example, it would be most fitting if a large contingent of its members could arrange to attend the unveiling from Australia. They could then walk the general Tuscany region, perhaps including a visit to the famous monastery of St Francis of Assisi across Valdarno on Mt La Verna, especially given its association to the Croce on Mt Pratomagno’s summit which is high altitude mark of “**the Hinkler Ring**”.

When no clouds cover the mountains, these historic sites in their magnificent pristine environment can see each other across Valdarno.

Walking ‘the Hinkler Ring’ could become an annual group event and a wonderful opportunity to meet your CAI comrades and to establish new and lasting friendships, along with inviting them to visit Australia and to enjoy our registered national walks.

An Inspirational Touch

The trustee of the **Hinkler Hall of Aviation**, Mr Lex Rowland, suggested that a suitably-sized basalt boulder from Mon Repos Beach ought to be found and transported to Mt Pratomagno to be imbedded in the memorial monument with its Italian rocks.

The monument will symbolise the beginning and end of Hinkler's magnificent flying career with the Bundaberg Mon Repos Beach boulder having witnessed its 1912 beginning – the "Alpha" – and the Italian Mt Pratomagno rocks having witnessed its 1933 end – the "Omega" – with those universal symbols carved into them.

Many have said that this is a perfect-fit idea which grips the imagination and tugs at the heart strings because it creates an even more perfect ring. It does so for me.

It is also planned that a time capsule with several representative messages be entombed into the monument's base at its unveiling on 26 July 2015 for opening, 100 years hence, at a time, particularly regarding the development of Aviation, when none of us now will scant imagine how changed, fast and fantastic it is likely to be.

"**The Hinkler Ring**" will consist of:

- Beginning at ***Da Giocondo*** with its Hinkler memorabilia and guide book
- Walk up to the summit of Mt Pratomagno and "the Cross/Croce"
- Circle back to the 1968 Hinkler Memorial Monument [*Cippo Hinkler*] located near the summit (but which does not provide any accuracy regarding the 1933 crash/death sites for visitors)
- Progress back down and West along Mt Pratomagno's spine to another of its high points [*Poggio Varco di Castelfranco*] to the remains of the original 1933 Hinkler Memorial Monument (blown up by Italian partisans during WWII as a

protest against its apparent association with the Mussolini regime)

- Progress further along the spine and down the mountainside to the track which leads East into the 1933 Hinkler crash and death sites, and the new 2014/15 Hinkler Death Site Memorial Monument
- Progress East further along the mountainside track and come out from the mountainside to ***Da Giocondo***



It would also be a golden opportunity to visit Hinkler's grave in Florence while at the same time see some of the world's greatest art works in Florence's famous museums, as well as those located in equally ancient Arezzo.

This is a project which plainly has worthwhile lasting local, national and international dimensions. It has already generated considerable national and international interest in the media, general community and government.¹¹

At its core, this exciting venture finally secures into history the two missing links in this on-going Hinkler story. The story about the Australian who

was there at the foundation of Aviation and who, through his vision, enterprise, skills, genius and courage (together with other like-minded men and women pioneer aviators), brought Aviation to new capabilities and capacities which changed our world for the better, and forever.

Come and join us!

Anyone wanting more information or wishing to contribute in some way may contact him at: kevinlindeberg@bigpond.com or 0401 224 013

**Queenslander and political cartoonist/illustrator Kevin Lindeberg is the author of this article and co-ordinator of this project.*

FOOTNOTES

¹ <http://www.caiarezzo.it/>

² <http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/mon-repos/about.html>

³ <http://hinklerhallofaviation.com/>

⁴ <http://www.hinklerresearch.org.au/>

⁵ <http://www.rqac.com.au/>

⁶ <http://www.qm.qld.gov.au/>

⁷ Amongst his other books on pioneer aviators, Ted Wixted wrote "*The Last Flight of Bert Hinkler*" in 1992 which provides an authoritative insight into the events leading up to and surrounding Hinkler's 1933 flight.

⁸ <http://www.isvr50.soton.ac.uk/>

⁹ <http://www.dagiocondo.it/>

¹⁰ <http://www.anzaccentenary.gov.au/>

¹¹ Listen to **2GB Alan Jones** <http://www.2gb.com/article/alan-jones-kevin-linderberg>

See **WinNews** – Wide Bay

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=669428819792865&set=vb.155386977863721&type=2&theater>

See *The Brisbane Times*

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/dick-smith-backs-bold-plan-to-recognise-queensland-aviation-pioneer-20140820-106gw6.html>