

Kevin's Wilderness Journeys

KEVIN'S WALK ON THE WILDSIDE



ISSUE 10: FEBRUARY 2005

Welcome to the tenth issue of Kevin's Walk on the Wildside, the online magazine of Kevin's Wilderness Journeys. Hopefully the magazine will continue for a further 10 issues, if not many more. I also hope the magazine will continue to improve throughout its life time.

In this issue you get to travel with me to Mt Barney National Park in the south of the Australian state of Queensland. The park is about 120km west of Brisbane. You can get to see photos of my trip to the park and learn more about the Mt Barney National Park.

I have also included some of the latest environmental and wilderness news I have come across, with further information to be found on my web site.

If you have any feedback on the site please let me know about it. All you have to do is send an email to me at the address below:

nrbcpastorkev@yahoo.com.au

Enjoy the issue.

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1. KEVIN'S WILDERNESS BLOG

If you would like to read accounts from my travel journal then please visit my wilderness blog. Here I have recorded what I write in my journal during actual journeys, as well as thoughts on planning these trips. I'm not quite comfortable with the diary-like thing at the moment, but hopefully I'll become more at ease with it and the blog will continue to improve.

Do any of my readers have an online Blog or Journal that records their trips and experiences? If you have, send me an email and let me know. I'll add a link to it on the site, as well as have a look at it myself.

Visit my Wilderness Blog at:

<http://wilderness.esmartweb.com/blog/diary.html>

2. KEVIN'S WILDERNESS JOURNEYS

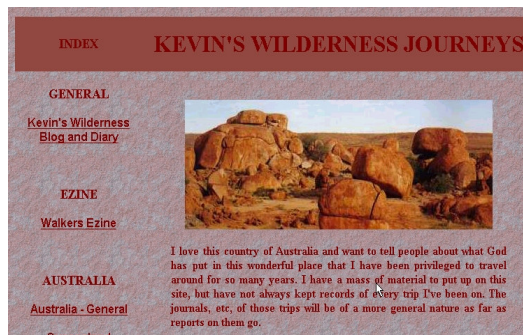
Web Site

I have added a fair bit of new content to the site recently, including more information on national parks in New South Wales, Australia. There have also been additional photos added, including those from my recent trip to the Warrumbungle National Park.

Further updates are planned in coming weeks, including further content relating to some recent trips I have taken.

Visit the web site at:

<http://wilderness.esmartweb.com/index.html>



3. WILDERNESS NEWS

One of the newest sections of my web site is the Wilderness News section. This part of the site is devoted to providing news relating to wilderness areas, wildlife, habitat loss, environmental concerns, etc. I hope to bring you news that will help to raise awareness to the issues raised, etc. Hopefully it will prove to be a useful part of the site.

The latest news piece has to do with the world's threatened Polar Bear population. Because of global warming, pollution and hunting, the Polar Bear faces an uncertain future.

For more information on the Polar Bear and further news items, visit the archive at:

<http://wilderness.esmartweb.com/News/wilderness.html>

4. AUSTRALIA: MT BARNEY NATIONAL PARK



During 2004 I was able to visit the Mt Barney National Park in Queensland's south. The park is about 120km west of Brisbane. The park protects areas included in the World Heritage Area: Central Eastern Rainforests Reserves (Australia). The park protects a rugged mountainous area with spectacular scenery and views.

I didn't have a lot of time when I visited Mt Barney National Park so I was only able to do one walk. I chose to walk the Lower Portals walk, which is a 7.4km return walk. It was extremely hot during my visit which made the walk a lot more difficult than it actually was (it is described as difficult). I would recommend taking plenty of water - which I didn't (and normally fail to do).

For further information on Mt Barney National Park and to view photos of the park go to:
<http://wilderness.esmartweb.com/Queensland/barney.html>

5. OXFAM CHALLENGE SRI LANKA: April 2005

The Oxfam Challenge Sri Lanka will be going ahead during April 2005 in spite of the Tsunami disaster. The original itinerary for the cycling challenge was to be around the coast of Sri Lanka. Now the challenge will make its way through central Sri Lanka.

The challenge will take place from the 2nd of April through to the 13th of April 2005. To enter you need to pay a \$300.00 registration fee and also raise \$5000.00 to cover trip costs and to assist Oxfam Community Aid Abroad.

A second Oxfam Challenge Sri Lanka on the original route is planned for February 2006.

For more info visit:

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/challenge/srilanka.html>

There are also upcoming Oxfam Challenges in Nepal during May 2005, China in October and November 2005, and Vietnam/Cambodia during November and December 2005.

For more info visit:

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/challenge/>

6. KEVIN' S WILDERNESS WALKERS MAIL GROUP

Associated with Kevin' s Wilderness Journeys web site is the ' Kevin' s Wilderness Walkers Mail Group.' The mail group currently only has a few members and very little in the way of activity. One of the members (other than myself) has posted some photos in the photo album of her visits to the Colo and Wollemi wilderness area west of Sydney. Hopefully as more people join the group there will be an increase in activity.

Why join the mail group? A good question. The group gives an opportunity for those who love wilderness and the bush, especially in Australia, to share their experiences and perhaps pass on information about destinations, track conditions, etc, to other group members. By doing so there is an opportunity to assist others who are planning trips to the same area, etc. When you think about it, the opportunities for the sharing of information are limitless.

Visit the group at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kevins_wildwalkers/

7. AUSTRALIAN BUSH HERITAGE FUND

The Australian Bush Heritage Fund is a non-profit organisation devoted to protecting Australian bush and wilderness areas. It seeks to raise funds so that it can buy tracts of land to preserve important habitat and protect endangered species.

One area recently purchased by the fund now protects an area of over 200 000 hectares. Clearly the Australian Bush Heritage Fund is no small concern, but is seriously committed to the task at hand. The fund now preserves over 340 000 hectares of land in over 15 reserves.

Find out how you can help Australian Bush Heritage Fund at:
<http://www1.bushheritage.asn.au/>

8. WORLD HERITAGE NEWS

The World Heritage Area: Tropical Rainforests of Sumatra has suffered some damage to infrastructure, but no significant damage to the wilderness area itself as a result of the recent Tsunami disaster. Sadly some staff members of the Gunung Leuser National Park were killed during the disaster. Offices in Banda Aceh were destroyed.

For more information on the effect of the Tsunami disaster on the world heritage area visit:
http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=82&id_news=103

9. OTHER INTERESTING WEB SITES

Are you interested in wilderness and other related issues? Listed below are a number of web sites that you might be interested in having a look at:

Asia's National Parks - <http://www.world-national-parks.net/as/as.htm>

Europe's National Parks - <http://www.world-national-parks.net/eu/eu.htm>

Ireland: Killarney National Park - <http://homepage.tinet.ie/~knp/intro/>

Ireland: Wicklow Mountains National Park - <http://homepage.tinet.ie/~knp/wicklow/index.htm>

Fiji Hiking Guide - <http://www.fiji-travel.com/hiking.html>

10. ECO-CHALLENGE

I remember watching the amazing 1997 Eco-Challenge Australia on television - what an amazing race. Sadly these appear to be no more. I have managed to track down the Eco-challenge site, but there is no information on any future eco-challenges. I'm disappointed I have to admit - what an incredibly gruelling race.

Visit the site at:

<http://www.ecochallenge.com/>

The concept of adventure racing is certainly not over as the following sites show:

<http://www.raidthenorth.com/>

<http://www.sleepmonsters.com/>

<http://www.southerntraverse.com/>

11. SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

If you would like to subscribe to 'Kevin's Walk on the Wild Side,' simply send an email to Kevin at **nrbcpastorkev@yahoo.com.au** and let me know. If you want to unsubscribe, simply send me an email and let me know. Members of the mail group automatically get a copy of the ezine as part of the group.