

Postcard from Jordan

and never notice. The scale of the place is so insanely huge that there is really no way to convey a fraction of the feeling. The entrance is through a 150m deep canyon, carved over millennia by an intermittent creek

eating through a sandstone up-thrust. The resultant wadi, which is a dry creek bed, was paved by the Romans 2000 years ago on top of the Nabatean paving laid 500 years earlier. The canyon is 1.5kms long and opens onto a large, cliff-surrounded area with the most mind-numbingly huge building carved into solid rock. It must be almost 5 miles high and 3 miles wide if it's inch and believe me, it's a damn site more than an inch. (Oh, all right, maybe 5 miles is a tad generous but look at it this way – I needed to rock-climb to get onto the *doorstep!*).

Beyond this building is a large valley with equally huge edifices lining both walls and many more ruins on the valley floor, including

jump in and experience the lot. Kicking back after dinner with a large hookah full of aromatic shisha and some cheap Jordanian whisky, the sun setting fiery-red behind the mountains, life felt pretty damn complete.

The next day was a repeat of the last except we started earlier, spent longer in the sun, and were completely deranged when our taxi arrived to whisk us back to the Israeli border.

Arrived at the border slightly hysterical after the ride (Diana was sure she was going to die) and started to lose it under the barrage of questions from Israeli security; the question "Is your father's name Shimon?" being the straw that broke the camel's back. Diana started giggling uncontrollably; I hissed "Shut up! This is serious!" The security woman said "You've been married a long time, haven't you?" then stamped our passports and let us back into Israel. Maybe we reminded her of her parents.

One more night in Eilat and then we're back in Tel Aviv just in time for Yom Kippur, the National Day of Atonement, when *nobody* drives a car and the citizenry reclaim the streets as their own. People drag tables and chairs onto major intersections and have dinner there with their friends; nurses don roller blades and take their wheelchair-ridden patients for long cruises on the highway; children stretch out and chalk their outlines. Unbelievable how much ambient noise comes from cars and trucks; the city was so quiet it sent shivers up my spine.

Tonight we fly out Turkish Air – tomorrow (with luck) we hit (just a figure of speech) the hill-tribe country of northern Thailand.

an amphitheatre that could seat 7000. We wandered dumbstruck under the scorching sun until life preservation dictated that we return to shade and water before we became part of the parched ruins.

That night we experienced Arab hospitality at its finest. Dinner at the Valentine Inn consisted of 1 large table groaning under the weight of at least 30 different dishes (1 Dinah – all you can eat) and we needed no prompting to



by Bob Tissot

It's 6am and we're at the Jordanian border wondering if they're really going to open it today.

There's another thirty to forty people milling around and a rumour of a terrorist threat circulates through the crowd like a pickpocket. Finally the steel gates slide aside and there is a concerted rush for the customs windows, at which point things start to go decidedly strange. For no discernable reason we find ourselves alone at one window while the rest of the crowd scuffle to get to the one right next to us. "Perhaps we're a bit on the nose", I thought, as the woman cheerfully changed my Shekels to Dinahs and pointed us in the direction of Jordan.

As we crossed the 100 metres of barbed-wire lined no-mans-land we wondered where the other people were. As we knocked on the Jordanian customs window to wake the guard up we were intrigued at our lack of companions and as we exited into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan we glanced back. Absolutely nobody. Not a bloody soul. Were we the only ones allowed through that day? Stranger and stranger. And that prickly feeling of things going on just below the surface. From there it was a cab to the bus station and then an hour and a half wait while the driver waited for the bus to fill up. They don't like to drive with any of the seats empty, something about the critical balance of the vehicle on dangerous winding mountain roads.

The trip to Petra was great; through desiccated desert country, goats and camels wandering on the road, Bedouin encampments scattered in the midst of endless stony rubble. Petra (the town) is situated quite high in the mountains and hangs off the hill like a dried-up old booger from a nose. Petra (the ruins) lies hidden in a secret valley at the bottom of the hill. We're staying at the Valentine Inn where we'd been told we could also sleep outside on the roof but the proprietor tells us that it's too cold for that now "Gets down to as low as 30C of a night," says he. (Oooh! 30C! Almost freezing.)

Walking down the hill to the ruins, we remark on the almost total lack of vegetation so far encountered in Jordan, and wonder where their food comes from. We postulate that the constant 45C heat may have something to do with it. After shelling out 56D to gain access (1D if you're Jordanian) we enter the truly awesome.

Petra. What can I say? I know I've maybe taken the piss out of a few things in the past and possibly exaggerated a little (Diana made me say that) but Petra is definitely one of the wonders of the world. It's such an astounding place that a person could wander in a state of awe until they died from dehydration

Birthday fishing fun

by Pixie, Fishing Correspondent



The Nimbin Heads Fishing Team went out one mid-week this month with Pix, Dan, Calum Mark, Chris and Zac finding a perfect Tuesday at sea with the seas being around half a metre and a five knot breeze. We were celebrating Dan and Mark's birthday with a fishing trip. It was only going to be fun.

Starting the morning in the dark, cruising up the river, getting to the heads with just enough light to cross the bar was a great way to start the day. The sun wouldn't come up for another hour and we planned to chase pelagics or surface predator fish like mackerel, wahoo and tuna.

same gold and black colours. But with no luck. Then Pix had another strike on the same Halco Strike Pro and landed a small 5.5kg wahoo, a quality eating fish.

The 'B team' decided to change lures again to a yellowish striped Pilly but with no luck as Cal on the gold and black strike Pro had a good fight with a 6.5kg mack tuna.

It was only happening on one side of the boat and with one lure, so we decided to do a bit of bottom bouncing and we all landed a few flathead, snapper and trevally. Then Cal landed a 3.2kg mauri cod, a nice-chewing, tasty fish. The day was getting on and we were about to go in when Mark landed the last fish of the



We first pulled some lures around in close on a shallow reef without a strike but with great expectation, looking for mackerel.

So we then went out about 20 kilometres from shore on a deeper reef pulling lures around again but looking for wahoo. Pix got a strike on a gold and black Halco Strike Pro and landed a 5kg mack tuna. Then Cal had a strike on the same lure but failed to land the fish. Then Zac on the same lure and landed a 5kg yellow fin tuna. Mark, Chris and Dan were thinking that their lure wasn't trying, so they decided to go a lure with the

day. Using a butterfly net he landed a 14kg jewfish. We gather it was a birthday present from the sea gods. Good fish Mark.

Cal topped the fish count for the day with ten fish and a personal best with the mack tuna and mauri cod.

With only 41 sleeps to go, to our annual two weeks fishing on Fraser Island, the mack tuna was carved up to take with us.

Tight lines and good fishing guys.



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Bushwalkers expand their horizons

by Len Martin

I finally managed to join the club for a short sharp jaunt up Lillian Rock on a bright clear Tuesday March 17th - my first club walk for the year and the only one I managed in March – how are the mighty fallen!

Only eight intrepids – a surprisingly small group given that we had 25 when we did this walk mid-week a couple of years back. But the group contained one visitor and one new member – so despite the failure of so many members to enjoy this wonderful horizon-expanding walk, the club itself continues to prosper and expand.

As one clammers up the rocky slope, under magnificent gum-trees and through Grass Tree thickets, the view broadens, the horizons expand and lo, perched on sunlit rocks, we look down on a doll's-house Blue Knob Hall Gallery, across to the shadowed, gullied slopes of Blue Knob, and then to the expanding horizons of the north.

On the left, above the slope of Blue Knob, Wollumbin looms in all its early morning glory with the pimple of Brummies Lookout to its left. Centre-stage the spectacular cloud-tipped Border Ranges recede into the blue distance; to the right the great spur of Hanging Rock – and I've been to all those high spots with the club – wondrous times.



Always interesting vegetation on these rocky tops – and dense – so that views to the west are not as clear, or as spectacular as those from the steep east face. A short sharp descent and, courtesy of Heather Kimber – our visitor on the walk – into Blue Knob Hall Gallery to broaden our artistic horizons with the current Road to Nimbin exhibition and enjoy a scrumptious repast of hot coffee or tea with fresh-baked scones, cream and strawberry jam prepared by Heather's own fair hands.

I trust this will give some idea of the glories you missed. I'm grateful to Michael Smith (who led the walk just described) for following description of further glories and wonders such as flying cows! Thanks Michael.

The first walk in March (Saturday 7th) was cryptically described as Terania Creek Basin. It is an area that the National Parks allows people to walk in, but prefers they don't. The rainforest here is bulging with history (The Terania Protest), a cave big enough for 200 people to stand up in (where Buddhists like to meditate), and



the blissful Circle Pool where hippy mothers swim naked with their children. Some locals, not prepared to share with others, wish we would leave the place to just themselves. So, is this a place we should avoid, or a place every bush-lover should go?

Twenty one grown-ups, and 2 children (but only 45 legs), turned up for what was to be 5 hours of the best that the Northern Rivers has to offer. The weather was perfect, almost no leeches and the water temperature superb. Waterfalls, huge buttressed trees, figs, a magnificence of Bangalow Palms, red jewels of Walking Stick Palms, birds, fallen fruit and glorious creek-scapes. In the best of company we walked softly, and swam under a waterfall in a rainforest pool. It's why we live here.

The last walk in March saw 18 walkers (half of them visitors), turn up for 3 separate walks on the beaches

around Brunswick Heads. First we visited Arakwal National Park (Tallow Beach), where turtles lay their eggs on dark nights. Being Autumn, only a token few wildflowers were on display. We wandered down the beach like a string of camels, all the time deciding whether to put on raincoats or just get wet in the sham showers. It was all bluff, the sun shone for the rest of the day.

After visiting Tallow Creek we moved on to Tyagrah Nature Reserve near the Brunswick Heads Surf Club. Here thousands of people were flying kites, trying to break a world record. One kite, in the shape of a huge jelly-fish, as large as a bus, was tethered to the ground with a 500 kg breaking strain rope. There were flying cows, crabs, birds, fish and all the imagination of mankind in fun mode.

We knocked off our planned walk which took us through the shuddering strings and swirling colours down on the sand. Moving further north, we saw the same spectacle from the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve. Shoes full of sand, all were satisfied. We returned home to make kites.

Nimbin Garden Club Notes



by Gil Schilling

The Nimbin garden club recently visited Robyn Francis' permaculture institute, aka Djanbung Gardens. Robyn's passion for every aspect of sustainable living (building architecture, permaculture practice and teaching) was clear to all and really made an impact those attending. Basic principles such as understanding soils types, plant species growing requirements and the practice of companion planting, when combined with an intimate understanding of weather patterns and seasonal change drawn from observation appear to be the key to Djanbung's success.

Highlights included learning about the exclusive use of a small flock of ducks to ensure consistent high productive levels in the fruit orchard, as well as the role of chooks in controlled weed eradication in other parts of the garden. The integrated use of livestock also featured two very clean and cute pigs that sat to be hand-fed by Robyn. However, the roaming, and somewhat over-friendly, male turkey caused a degree of mild concern to some members.

Many thanks are due to Robyn and her team for looking after us with afternoon tea and excellent local coffee, and for taking the time to show us what Djanbung is all about – it is an institution all Nimbin should be proud of.

April Meeting

Our next meeting on Saturday 18th April, will see the garden club meeting at Jan and Lloyd Collar's property, 188 Stony Chute Road. Club member, Rob Fleetwood has agreed to be our guest speaker for the afternoon. Rob, who has a background in rainforest regeneration, will talk about, and demonstrate, how to lay-out a sub-tropical rainforest with appropriate plantings dependant site conditions.

Factors Rob will address using examples of suitable plants include site aspect, soils, drainage, frost hardiness and existing vegetation. As usual the meeting will begin at 2pm and a swap table will be operating – donations welcome.

Please don't forget to bring chairs, cups and a plate to share at afternoon tea. Visitors and guest are of course welcome to come along. Anyone seeking more information should phone either Gil on 6689-0581 or Jan, 6689-0393.



April Walks Program

Flaggy Creek, Sat-Sun April 4-5th

Leader Don Durrant (6633 3138 at night). Grade 3, five hour off track but easy grades, some rock hopping, 5 waterfalls and swimming. Camping weekend, travel to campsite on 4th, do walk on 5th. Meet Sat 12.30pm Nimbin car-park, 1.30pm Charcoal Inn turn-off, Casino for leader. Convoy 90 min to campsite on Bowerbird Rd just past Drake. Drive to walk start at 9.30am on Sunday. Bring camping gear, food, drink and swimmers.

Scrub Turkey Walk and Big Scrub Loop, near Rocky Creek Dam Weds April 15th

Leader Don Schell (6689 1980). Grade 2, 4.5 km easy walking suitable for the decrepit: 1.5km loop through Big Scrub lowland subtropical rainforest, then short drive up Gibbergunyah Range Road for

3km walk through regrowth Flooded Gum/Tallowood, old growth Eucalypt forest, Big Scrub rain-forest, ending at Rocky Creek Dam picnic area for lunch. Meet 9am Nimbin car park or 9.45am at picnic area to arrange car shuttle to start of walk. Bring water and lunch.

Minyon Grass to the bottom of Minyon Falls, Sat April 25

Leader Don Schell (6689 1980). Grade 3, 2hr 4km shaded walk along graded track through rainforest, some rock hopping at bottom and steep climb back. Meet Nimbin car park 10am for car-pooling, or 11am at Minyon Grass. Bring day-pack, food and water.

Rockface Road to Clarrie Hall Dam Wall, Sat May 9

Leaders Neil Biggar (6679 3140 a/h), David Holston (6672 5071 a/h). Grade 3, 7km. From Rockface Rd via fire trails to Dam wall. Starting 270m above sea

level along Gilwah Rd to the Dam Wall Trail to the carpark at 70m above SL. Meet 8.30am Nimbin car park, 9am Clarrie Hall Dam Wall carpark. Car shuffle to Rockface Rd for 9.45am start. Bring lunch and water.

We are always looking for new walks and new leaders!

Crossword Solution

See page 25.



WALLERS BUS COMPANY



Leaving Lismore through to Murwillumbah

Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
8:00	2:35	3:20	Lismore Transit	8:00	2:35
8:10	2:45	4:00	Goolmangar	8:10	2:45
8:20	3:00	4:15	Coffee Camp	8:20	2:55
8:45	3:20	4:30	Nimbin Ave	8:35	3:10
9:30	3:30		Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
9:40	3:40		Blue Knob	9:10	3:40
9:50	3:55		Twin Bridges	9:15	3:45
9:53	4:00		Mt Burrell	9:20	3:50
10:10	4:20		Uki	9:40	4:10
10:15	4:25		Mt Warning turn	9:45	4:15
10:30	4:40		Murwillumbah	10:00	4:25

Leaving Murwillumbah through to Lismore

Normal Depart Times			School Holiday Times		
7:10	1:50		Murwillumbah	7:30	2:15
7:20	2:03		Mt Warning turn	7:42	2:28
7:30	2:08		Uki	7:55	2:33
7:55	2:30		Mt Burrell	8:10	2:55
8:00	2:35		Twin Bridges	8:20	3:00
8:32	2:40		Blue Knob	8:30	3:05
8:45	2:50		Nimbin arrive	8:40	3:15
7:50	9:00	3:30	Nimbin depart	9:00	3:30
8:05	9:10	3:45	Coffee Camp	9:10	3:40
8:15	9:20	3:55	Goolmangar	9:20	3:50
8:50	9:35	4:10	Lismore Transit	9:35	4:00
8:55	9:40	4:15	Lismore Depot		

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BARKERS VALE \$335,000



Be at one with the natural environment on this very pretty 8.8 acres in tranquil Barkers Vale.

A comfortable 10m x 10m Timber cabin with surrounding verandahs provides shelter and a light and airy open plan living set-up with superb views to the Border ranges. The rustic charm of this private dwelling is back-dropped with some beautiful forest, with trails providing a first-hand look at the amazing array of flora and fauna in this part of paradise.

Grow your own veggies, with room for a couple of animals, and be self-sufficient. Schools are close by, as are most of your day-to-day needs at Wadeville store, with both Lismore and Kyogle in easy driving distance.

Complete with 2 caravans, great rainwater storage, combustion heater and gas cooking. Escape the rat-race today!
Ref. 1203

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NIMBIN \$310,000

See for yourself!

Set on half an acre in a great strata-titled community, sits this lovingly maintained generous timber home of 1 bedroom with open plan living.

More rain water storage than you will ever need, with lots of fruit trees planted throughout, huge colorbond shed, town facilities being just a walk from the colour of Nimbin village, yet private and peaceful.

Pictures don't do it justice. Come and see for yourself. A great start into the property market.
Inspect Today!!
Ref. 1198




Mt. BURRELL \$469,000

Start your tree-change here.



This beautiful parcel of land near Mount Burrell is surrounded by National Parks and has direct access to the Tweed River with an irrigation license to 2010.

Solid, older style 2 bedroom house with lots of shedding and water infrastructure currently in place. Great views to Mount Warning and ready access to Nimbin, Kyogle and Murbah.

Price slashed! Inspect today!

- 23 ACRES FLAT USEABLE LAND WITH TWEED RIVER FRONTAGE
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- 20 MINUTES TO NIMBIN
- 35 MINUTES TO MUR'BAH
- HUGE SCOPE TO IMPROVE WITH ADDED CAPITAL GROWTH

Ref. 1193






Mt. BURRELL \$599,900

What an amazing, rare 87-acre parcel of land, with awesome views from several vantage points to Sphinx Rock, Mount Burrell and the Border Ranges, a permanent creek running through the property and a perfect mix of native forest and cleared areas, this is one where you can turn any dream into reality.

Would suit eco-tourist type set-ups, or the perfect getaway from the hustle and bustle of city life.




Just minutes to the service centre of Mount Burrell, where all your daily needs are catered for, and only 30 minutes to Murwillumbah and under an hour to the Gold Coast and the Tweed Coast's famous beaches.
Ref. 1201

UKI \$229,000

1724m² of village residential land in the centre of Uki, with possibilities for commercial usage (STCA). Walk to all that the beautiful village of Uki has to offer and gain the capital rewards whilst living in this sought after location!

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Ref. #1173

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LIFESTYLE ACREAGE UNDER \$400,000


ROCK SOLID 1.7 acres \$300,000

NEW LISTING



This sturdily constructed home is situated in one of the most desirable streets on the outskirts of Nimbin Village. The home is set back from the street on a huge 1.5 acre rural residential block. The property also has a large shed out the back, complete with mechanics pit. This indestructible home would make an excellent rental investment. Nimbin has a real rental housing shortage and full occupancy would be assured, with a return of around \$250 - \$265 per week... why not put your superannuation into bricks and mortar?


FAMILY HAVEN 1.2 acres \$320,000



A lovely tree lined driveway leads up to this family home nestled on 1.2 acres. This fantastic home has more than enough room for the whole family with a large, clean kitchen; 4 bedrooms, a huge light and airy living room and a studio attached to the garage. Set on a sealed road only minutes to town with a rural outlook this property ensures peace and tranquility with all of the conveniences of village living. The land is rich and level with amazing views of the ranges, guaranteeing many happy hours of gardening and loads of space for the kids to run around. This is great buying on today's market!


SUPREME SANCTUARY 8.8 acres \$335,000

NEW LISTING




Placed at the end of a lovely country road is this 8.8 acres of private acreage. The property is ideal for orchards and gardens with north facing open land, excellent fertile soil and a water easement to Hanging Rock Creek. The open plan home is beautifully positioned to take in the inspiring views of distant National parks and stands of elegant gums and natural bush land provide a home for numerous species of native wildlife.

SOAK IT UP 5.1 acres \$385,000



Soak up the sun and the mazing views from the verandah of this two bedroom two storey home. The home has a massive upstairs lounge/living/retreat area opening onto a large 'entertainers' deck. Downstairs is where the action is; with another bedroom, open plan kitchen, dining, lounge room opening onto another good sized deck. All of this plus a piece of history, with the original bakery for the area established in one of the sheds on the property.


WALK RIGHT IN 19 acres \$385,000



This beautiful secluded property of 19 acres has a timber cottage nestled in a very private position. Placed in one of Nimbin's best valleys the property has a creek and a dam and is surrounded by wonderful tall gums and fig trees. There are great views of the caldera from the character filled cottage. As a bonus this property comes with a load of extras needed for a rural property; a tractor, a 4wd car, a chainsaw and a ride on mower. This is great value and as pretty as a picture!

ARTISTIC RETREAT 1.6 acres \$375,000

OPEN HOUSE SAT 4th, 11 am



Set at the end of a long leafy driveway is this tranquil two bedroom cottage. If it is privacy you are looking, this property is for you. Mature gardens, meditation paths and water features surround the house creating a truly serene experience. For the home handyman there is a double lock up garage with loads of storage space. Surrounded by your own park like gardens there is loads of room for expansion. This is a rare opportunity to obtain such a manageable piece of acreage within close proximity to the village.