



Binna Burra Mountain Lodge

Binna Burra Views

SUMMER 2005 Edition

All Natural Kid's Club

Binna Burra is the perfect family retreat to share together or relax and rejuvenate and let someone else look after the kids. Children are entertained day and night with our Echidna Club activities program, held every long weekend and school holidays.

It is a true eco-friendly programme and is designed for primary school age children. The programme has run for 13 years and is an all-natural experience. The kids explore and discover nature - they hardly notice they are learning for all the fun they are having!

There are two sessions per day, morning and evening except Tuesday which is Bush Day. This allows parents to do their own thing or go on guided walks and then have a quiet dinner together.

The Club includes Treasure Hunts, Scavenger Hunts, spotlighting and movie nights plus bush tucker walk. If it rains there are indoor activities and games in our Guest Activity Centre.

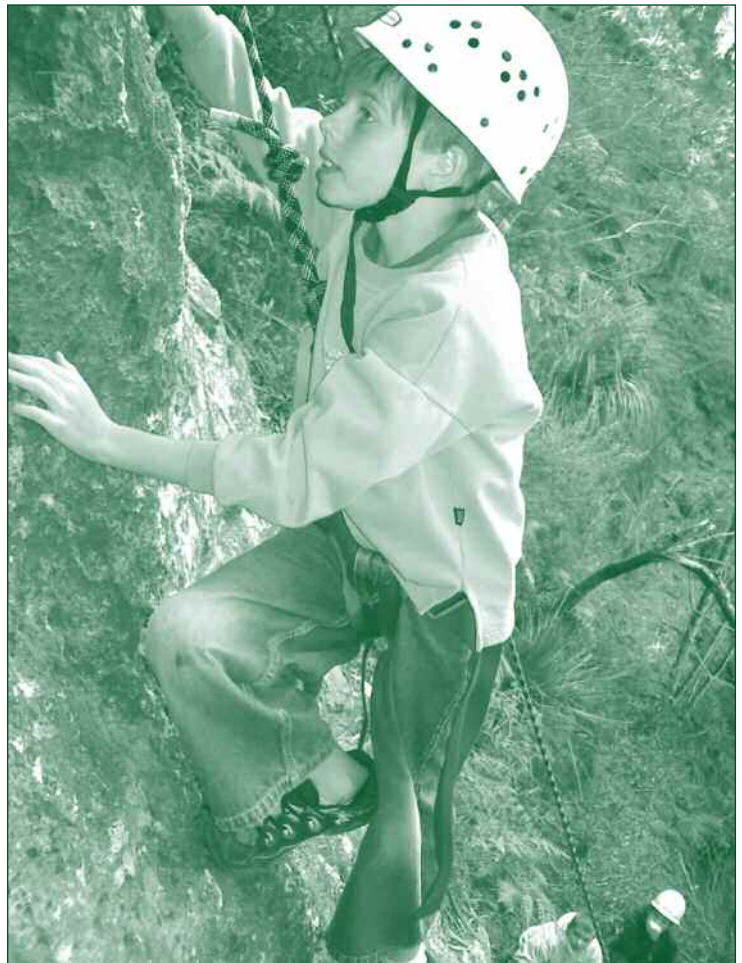
Learn how to be a gecko on our 10 metre cliff, or a tight-rope-walker on our low ropes course; fly through the trees on the flying fox.

Be reassured that the Echidna Club guides are outdoor education trained plus they have Blue Card and St John's Ambulance certification. Particular care is taken in all safety precautions for the abseiling, ropes and flying fox activities and these skills are refined all year round as guest activities officers at The Lodge and with school groups.

The 'Discovery Forest' ,an ecologically designed playground that teaches children about the wonders of nature, provides kids with the chance to learn about the environment through play.

Bookings are essential. Cost for campers and casual bookings is \$35 per day which includes all meals and activities. For guests on the Getaway rate, the programme is all inclusive. Relaxation rate guests just pay for meals.

Check the website for the full programme on www.binnaburrallodge.com.au.



Rock Climbing - The Fun and Safe Way!

www.binnaburrallodge.com.au

Make Time for the Birds

17-18 December

Those intending to visit Binna Burra with an interest in the birds of Lamington National Park should note their diary to include the weekend of 17-18 December 2005.

Below is just a small sample of the species that frequent the park and may be seen about the Lodge. Some species can only be seen by walking further into the park: Bee Eater, Regent Bowerbird, Satin Bowerbird, Grey Butcherbird. Many are extremely difficult to photograph, both because they are surrounded by and camouflaged in the foliage (*for example the green catbird*), or because they are incredibly shy (*Albert Lyrebird*).

The following activities are scheduled for the Bird Watchers weekend.

Saturday 17 December:

6.00am: A pre-breakfast stroll during the dawn chorus in the Eucalypt habitat around the Lodge.

8.30am: After breakfast take a short walk to the Lower Bellbird area and explore the forest. Return for lunch at 1pm.

1.00pm: Lunch. A time to update bird lists and discuss the morning's sightings.

The afternoon is yours for a siesta but you may like to take yourself for a stroll an hour or two before dark as the birds finish their activities for the day.

Sunday 18 December:

6.00am: Dawn chorus in the rainforest. Today, concentrate on sighting species associated with rainforest communities.

8.30am: This morning's walk is to Tullawallal and varies from sub-tropical to temperate rainforest types. A distance of just 6km there is time to return to the Lodge for lunch and a final count of the species sighted.



Noisy Pitta

Here's a birding tip for this time of the year - look out for the following while out and about during the weekend.

Bee Eater - also known as Rainbow Bird or Rainbow Bee Eater (*Merops ornatus*).

This species is migratory and appears in the Park during summer months. It nests by building burrows in open ground. The species is hated by apiarists as it is extremely predatory on honey bees and flocks of this species will sit in trees beside beehives and steadily decimate the bee colonies. It has a high pitched melodious warbling call, usually uttered in flight.

Satin Bower Bird - (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*) During mating season (*October-January*) females tour the bowers, sizing up the studs by their architectural prowess and by their talent at staging a dramatic display of feather-pulling, which includes extending the wings suddenly and running around accompanied by a loud buzzing, wheezing vocalization. The male seizes objects in his bill, adopts a trance-like pose with head low, eyes suffused lilac-pink, and he leaps sideways - all this, of course, to attract females to his bower. He then mates with females attracted.



Satin Bower Bird

An intense and aggressive display is essential for mating success. Most male Bowerbirds do not score, but the winners get multiple partners and the chance to pass their genes to the next generation. Female Satin Bowerbirds who mate with the male will then fly off and build a separate nest in which to lay her eggs. (Dr. Ellen K Rudolph 2003 ©)

The Bird Watchers Weekend is also a great time to relax in the clean, crisp, cool mountain air.

Chairmans Message

When this edition of Binna Burra Views reaches its readers, the holiday season will be well upon us, together with all the things that traditionally impact upon us as a calendar year draws to a close.

Many of you I know will be planning holidays, and of course we at Binna Burra hope that Lamington is included somewhere in your holiday itinerary.

We approach the next couple of months with some excitement and expectation, because we are entering the construction phase in respect to two projects. The first project is the conversion of some of our older style cabins to Acacia units. Eleven long months we have waited for approvals to proceed with this work. It has been very frustrating and very annoying to be confronted with such bureaucratic indifference to say nothing of the costs involved with delaying a project for that length of time. At last we seem to have obtained a green light to proceed.

The second project is the re-construction of the Lamington Tea House. This has been much easier from the point of view of regulation because it is a completely new building – but then perhaps I should not speak too soon!

On a totally different subject, we have had some mixed news in recent times, some good and some disappointing. The Federal Government through one of their many grant schemes were offering opportunities to the tourist industry to apply for specific project funding. Binna Burra made an application in June for funds to assist with the re-shingling of some of our roof structures in need of attention. Regrettably, we were not successful on this occasion but we are intending to re-apply in 2006.

An application through the same fund which will have considerable impact on Binna Burra was however, successful in obtaining \$400,000.00. That was for the implementation of the Rainforest Way Project. Linus has been very active on this committee for four years, in fact held the position of chairman for three years. He is of course delighted with the results of the grant application and has high expectations of the impact the funding is capable of having on our business. There should be considerable benefit to the Lodge.

I take this opportunity of wishing everyone all the joys and pleasures you seek for yourselves over the holiday season and may the year of 2006 be full of good health, success and prosperity, and when you visit the Lodge hopefully our paths may cross.

Geoff Sharp

Fireside Chat with Linus

I can't let this newsletter go by without mention of the passing of Win Bristow. Win made it to the age of 99 and the many people who spoke at her funeral service was testimony to the high esteem in which she was held in many parts of the community.

From our point of view, Binna Burra was blessed by the many hours of work she undertook landscaping the gardens around the lodge and cabins. Tony Groom told the story of her involvement in the gardens and how much this work was appreciated by all at Binna Burra.

Over the last 10 years I have received many letters of encouragement from Win and the song books she donated to the lodge are often used for good old sing songs around the piano.

Win will be sadly missed by all who knew her up here on the mountain.

Well, as the weather warms up and spring has sprung we are seeing all the signs of a very active rainforest.

Isn't Mother Nature wonderful?

The rains we have received over the last two months and the recent two inches that fell last week have made a complete mockery of Chris Duncan's efforts to maintain his beloved gardens during the previous dry spell. There is something about a good shower of rain that can't be matched by any human efforts to sustain plant life. Not only does it instantly revive plants that could easily be pronounced dead, but a good shower of rain seems to leave a feeling of cleanliness and freshness in its wake. You only need to walk any of the trails following the rain to experience the fresh forest mountain air and experience the results of spring in all aspects of the fauna and flora of the park.

Many trees will show signs of profuse growth and the forest canopy seems to close in with new leaf and revived epiphytes and vines.

There is a cacophony of sound as you enter the forest made up of bird calls, cicadas humming, and the many sounds of frogs, bees and insects. The Koalas usually mate at this time of the year and you will regularly see baby paddymelons venturing out of the pouch to get some green pick and baby bush turkeys and many other fledglings finding their way throughout their new forest habitats.

Living at Binna Burra in summer often involves sharing our living space with creatures that can't resist exploiting the various resources we unwittingly provide. Small mammals such as the Yellow footed Antechinus will often make their way inside our buildings to forage for food take shelter and more often then not defecate. The large resident Goanna will make his way into my office or into the staff smoko room if he thinks he might pick up some of Hazel's left over scones. The possums and carpet snakes are also prone to call in for the occasional Hello! The carpet snake will promptly be relocated to the stationery room as they do an excellent job in keeping this area free of *Rattus fuscipes* or even *Rattus rattus*.

All in all this is just part of the many experiences we can have during the wonderful summer months.

Come up and visit this summer as it is shaping up to be one of the best we have had for many years. The water falls are spectacular, flowers bedeck the branches of many trees and the perfumes of the forest are there to enjoy. Binna Burra is a perfect place to cool off, slow down and relax. Book in and join us for a well earned break this summer

Cheers

Linus Bagley

Events Calendar

2005 / 2006

DECEMBER 2005

17th - 18th
Summer Birding Weekend

FEBRUARY 2006

6th - 10th
Rejuvenation Break

MARCH 2006

17th - 19th
Autumn Birding Weekend
21st - 24th
Photography Week

APRIL 2006

3rd - 6th
Wild Walk Escape

MAY 2006

14th
Mothers Day Lunch
22nd - 26th
Rejuvenation Break

JUNE 2006

5th - 9th
Wild Walk Escape
16th - 18th
Winter Birding Weekend



Cool Summer Rates Available ONLINE!

Binna Burra now has an online booking system where you can check availability, book and pay in one go! Low season rates apply up to 22nd December and then from 15th January to 31st March 2006. Just click on the **Cool Summer Specials** on the website home page and you'll go straight to the on line system. Simply check availability, get a quote and book! There is a three night minimum on the special and rates start from only \$255 for Relaxation rate in the most beautiful National Park in Queensland and only 90 minutes from Brisbane. Join us in summer and come up to cool down.

Friends of Binna Burra - (FOBBS)

Illinbah & Kemp Seat Completed

The Illinbah seat project was started in May 2005 with FOBBS working weekends, preparing the ground with the help of a bobcat, building the shelter and seat. FOBBS worked their August weekend on it, and a number of members did a lot of work in between. The professional paving of the area is supported by a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund of Queensland. The wood of the retaining wall was salvaged from the remains of the Teahouse!

Thelma & Edgar Kemp are long time supporters of Binna Burra and were FOBB Members since the beginning and the family sent a donation of money and a plaque for the memorial seat located across from the First camp area.



Mac & Barry taking time out on the completed Illinbah & Kemp Seat



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