

## FOR those in the know the Boonah region is a bushwalking mecca.

Keen bushwalkers come from near and far to test themselves in some of the most challenging and diverse terrain imaginable.

With a number of national parks on either side of the Queensland - New South Wales border the choice of potential bushwalks is huge.

But without local knowledge it isn't as easy as planning a walk from a map of the area or just seeing a mountain and climbing it.

That is where Teresa Cause from Horizon Guides comes in.

A Boonah local since 1995, for the past four years Teresa has taken small groups of bushwalkers on a wide range of guided walks throughout the region.

Given that the vast majority of walks are unmarked and as such are potentially dangerous for the uninitiated, Teresa takes the guesswork out of the bushwalking equation.

Basically she is there to make the whole experience enjoyable, ensure that her guests are fully informed about the area they are walking through, know what they are seeing and most importantly come back safely.

By far the most popular of the walk options offered by Horizon Guides is the Scenic Rim Walk Series.

The walk series each year features eight different walks graded from easy to challenging that are completed from early May through to August.

Bushwalkers can sign up for just one or all of the walks, with many building up their fitness from walk to walk until the grand finale trek up to the summit of Mt Barney.



Bushwalkers enjoy the views from Echo Point on the climb to the top of Mt Greville.

## Guided tour of Mt Greville

The 2011 walk series sees Teresa's guests go to Paddy's Waterfall within the Mt Barney National Park; Waterfall Gorge at Mt Greville; Lizard Point within Main Ridge National Park; Cleared Ridge on the Upper Portals circuit within Mt Barney National Park; Hole in the Wall at Main Ridge National Park; the First Pyramid and Aztec Temple in Girraween National Park; Mt May in Mt Barney National Park and finally the summit of Mt Barney to finish it all off.

The walks are of varying length and difficulty, but one thing is always constant -

Teresa's obvious passion for bushwalking, the region and the national parks where she takes her guests.

This was clearly illustrated to me recently when I accompanied Teresa and eight other walkers on a trek to

the summit of Mt Greville within Moogerah Peaks National Park.

Teresa's bubbling enthusiasm for everything that we saw and did on the 769

metre climb to the peak was infectious.

No matter whether it was exploring Waterfall Gorge - a fascinating gorge that features towering cliffs, a jumbled array of rocks and ancient piccabeen palms and White Beech trees - marvelling at the views from any number of vantage points or traversing some of the more difficult sections of the climb, Teresa was full of energy and an endless stream of information and advice.

From the parking area at the base of the mountain we followed a rough bush trail up through open forest to Waterfall Gorge, with Echo Point our first chance to marvel at the magnificent views of the Fassifern Valley and Lake Moogerah below us.

From Echo Point it was a case of more and more climbing until after about four hours we finally reached the summit before making our descent via Mt Greville's south east ridge.

In a word the views from the top of the mountain on a perfect Autumn day were stunning, with everyone in the group unanimously agreeing that the views made

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# Mt Greville Walking Tour

the climb well worth the effort. At the peak of the mountain there is a sizeable pile of rocks, with climbers over the decades adding to the pile in recognition of a successful ascent - as climbers worldwide do.

In the scheme of things Teresa rates the Mt Greville walk as moderate/challenging, given that the terrain is littered with loose rocks, huge boulders and at times fairly thick scrub.

She claims that from experience gained over the past few years, most people prefer to climb with a guide and in a group.

"Even walks where people could take themselves they seem to enjoy having a guide," she said.

"They actually get a greater depth of experience of the walk and of the place by going with somebody who knows where they are going and at the same time they get to learn something along the way.

"Personally I believe it is a good match - I enjoy taking people on walks and they enjoy the experience.

"It is also about sharing where we live for everyone to enjoy."

Personally after completing the Mt Greville climb this was the case for me.

I now certainly have a much better appreciation of the geography, flora and fauna of the area and am eagerly waiting to discover even more of this fascinating region.



*Bushwalkers check their maps from a vantage point at the top of Mt Greville.*



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