

Rosie Bruce - Life Member

Rosie met founding member Graham Wootton at a social meeting of Adult Ed tutors in 1992 and was invited to join the newly formed Pandani Bushwalking Club. Thus began what was to become an important part of her life over the next 25 years. After being welcomed on quite a few day walks, in 1993, she felt she could meet the challenge of a club weekend walk to the Julian Lakes on the Central Plateau, an area she was fairly familiar with, having walked over the plateau for many years. Later that year she led a 4 day walk from Lake Ada to the Walls of Jerusalem. The weather was fine with very frosty nights, leading to loud complaint next morning as feet were eased into frozen boots, a new experience for some. On the third day, as the party headed down the Jaffa Vale to Lake Ball, Jo McGuire sank into a bog and broke her ankle. Luckily there was an amateur radio enthusiast in the group who had brought along a radio (no mobile phone coverage in those days) and by climbing up the western slopes of Mt Jerusalem he was able to make radio contact and a rescue helicopter was sent in. Rosie comments: "Strangely enough, I was still allowed to lead club walks!"

She led many walks over the Show Day long weekends, then later walks between Christmas and New Year as well as easier 3 day walks on the March long weekends usually to lakes in the Central Plateau area.

By the late 1990s, Rosie heard Mike Kendall was leading walks into some more remote places, and asked if she could join him. He agreed with the proviso of no whinging. "I was privileged to do these walks with Mike, Mark and Anne, " she says. They included Precipitous Bluff and the Southern Ranges, the King William Range and the Vale of Rasselas. The walks culminated in a trip to New Zealand to walk the Milford and Routeburn Tracks, a vast contrast to the other Mike Kendall walks.

In 2001, Keith Hewlett started the mid week walks. These became very popular and Rosie started walking regularly on the "Thursday Walks." Keith led these walks for many years and when he was no

longer able to do this, many of the group stepped in to lead walks and have become regular leaders. This enabled the Thursday walks to continue and with new leaders and new participants the group's horizons have grown. Rosie notes, " I have had the privilege to make many friends and to enjoy the company of those I have met on those walks."

In 2010, Rosie and Keith were given the honour of life membership.

She writes: " My walking is much more on the easy/easy medium scale now, but with the support and tolerance of other walkers, I am still out there and hope to be for some time to come."