

Barramundi Gorge, 27 – 28 June

First time back for a walk in quite a while and maybe as a fine I have ended up with the job of a trip report!

The weekend crew consisted of Eric, Pam, Two Kens, Sophia, Alan, Luke, Leslie, Yvette and myself Ole.

We headed out to the Gorge car park Friday night and besides my car battery giving up the ghost and needing a jump start for the rest of the weekend, the trip was uneventful. We traveled via Arnhem Hwy, turning right onto Jim Jim Rd and right onto Kakadu Hwy. We pitched our tents at the camp area before the Barramundi Gorge car park where Ken, Yvette and myself quickly slipped into old habits with a good night chat before bed time. The mozzies greeted us with great enthusiasm.

Saturday morning and we were on our way after parking the vehicles around 0900hr. We proceeded to make our way along the right side of the creek for a short distance before crossing over, finding our first stop with a swimming hole approximately 59.7 minutes later.

The water was fairly shallow but clear, refreshing and very welcome. It was also going to be a longer stretch before the opportunity for another dip. After a refresh and look around we crossed to the opposite side once again. Our total distance to the camp area was approximately 8 km and we had some 5.5 to go for the next stop, and maybe another 1.5km to our camp after that.

The walking I found easy to moderate with the main challenge being a couple of steep climbs that sorted my legs out. My sign of not enough exercise/tired legs was to lose my balance or sure footedness, and amongst others, I was one to take an uncontrolled closer look at the ground, now not under my feet.

It did not appear to take very long for us to arrive at a most beautiful water hole (photo below) surrounded by rocky ground on three sides. Water was cascading down one corner, just to the right a medium sized tree reaching towards the sunlight from a small cave and a little further around a little ledge in the side of the rock, allowing you to get in or out of the water. The water felt sooo good after the previous dry breaks and a number of people reflected how easy it would be to stay right here!

None the less, we continued on up the escarpment to our right and once on top were greeted by the next beautiful view of a waterfall narrow and tall, with two rock pools at the top. We found our way to the top just beyond the pools and set up camp a couple of hundred metres upstream. And guess what, another fantastic spot including great swimming hole and shady camp areas.

All bar three of us continued upstream for a look around after a break. I came along for a little bit but my legs were a bit tired. This was the perfect excuse to turn around, put the feet up and just enjoy the surroundings.

In the morning another expedition was carried out. Alan, Yvette and I sat this one out. Instead, Yvette and I continued our favorite past time of relaxing and went for a quick look at the two pools at the top of the waterfall.

By late morning we were heading back towards Barramundi Gorge covering fairly similar ground to the previous day. There was talk of another expedition on the walk back, but when the time and place arrived, the not keen outnumbered the keen. A quick think and a moment later the keens decided to leave it for another time.

We made it back to the car park by approximately 1600 hrs, changed into something a little fresher, and headed to the Bark Hut for a feed and chat. The chat and company were good, the food not too bad (the grilled fish a little battered perhaps), surroundings very smoky from burning off in progress and the mozzies remaining ever so friendly. Just ask Sophia. Come to think of it, the green ants took a special liking to her as well!

Another fantastic walk and our thanks to Pam and Eric's time in organising it. My personal thanks to Pam and Eric for the four jump starts.

Happy walking.....

Ole Oelckers



2nd swimming hole



Gorge before campsite



Campsite