

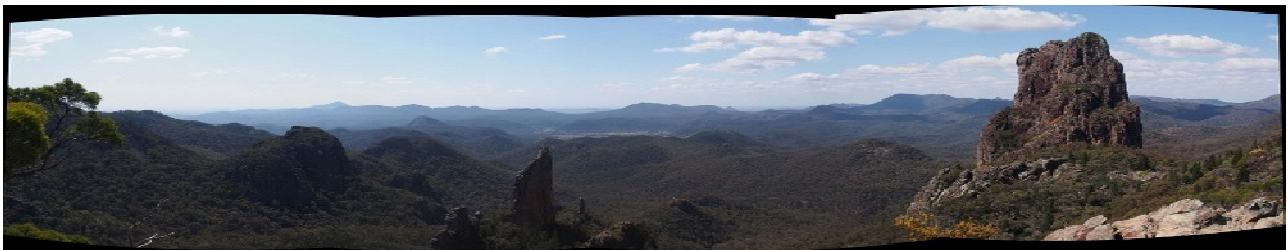
Another Bungle

The Grand High Tops Walk is described as steep and this suggests that only serious bush walkers should apply. Having spent the best part of eighty bucks on a pair of premium hiking boots, "guaranteed to make Sir Ernest Shackleton look like a boy scout", I figured I was qualified. Jen walks a thousand kilometers or so a week at home so she was pre-qualified.

The Grand High Tops Walk runs about sixteen kilometers plus side trips, and includes over a thousand steps, though it is unclear if that's coming or going or both. It's also unclear if they are manmade or "almost" strategically placed rocks. Turns out it's the later.

The walk, despite the pain involved in achieving the summit is, in short, spectacular. The views are world class. If you like views and are a bit of a masochist this is your nirvana. A memorable part of the walk, for me, occurred on the way back. I had stopped to wait for Jen to take a picture of the extremely rare Yellow Breasted Sap Sucker or some such thing and while sitting under a shady tree, dreading the last four kilometers of rock, I hoped a Ranger would drive up in an electric golf cart and rescue me. When he turned up he looked remarkably like Tony Curtis in the *Great Race* and when he smiled I swear his teeth shone like diamonds.

He offered me a cool drink from his esky and a ride back to the trail head. Being a little dehydrated I accepted. Just then Jen caught up and the image dissolved.....terrible thing that dehydration. Just another bungle in the Warrumbungles.



Grand High Tops view



Some hill climbing required



Some rock climbing required



The Bread Knife



Some local critters