Robert Rankin has enmeshed his professional life in his adventures, much in SE Qld, and recording them in books and photographs. His 'Secrets of the Scenic Rim' is excellent in descriptions and history of the exploration of the Scenic Rim, especially of Mt Barney, with superb photos. From the 1950s for 20 years or more, a few of the local bushwalker-climbers did some amazing feats of walking around the Rim, then turning those feats into a race. Rankin describes our early All-Peaks walk as of the same ilk as a run around the Scenic Rim; in my view that is not true, but perhaps I am biased; it was never a race but a test of yourself. In the early days I did not know the mountain and was never attracted to climbing with a torch, though Easter and Logan's Ridge night climbs were fun. The easy track from the Gorge to the Portals now makes the exit from the creek easier in the dark, which was often our lot.

The third climb of the All-Peaks was solo after the successful effort that ended in the long, horrid, rock-hop in the dark. We at least had shown the circuit could be achieved in daylight and thus escape the mountain rigor before dark. For the solo day I could easily have taken an hour or more off my time, indicating that a fit young lad could do the circuit in around 6h. A few weeks later a climber, Barry Collier, friend of a person in our lab, apparently did it in about 6h30; I did not know him to confirm this, though I do not doubt it. Robert Rankin describes in his book doing the circuit in Oct 1982 as a race against time; by this stage in his career, time was his fetish, and the circuit took him 6h5min. Although this time is amazing it is difficult to equate it to our meanderings and times as he did not climb all of Eagles ridge. Robert Rankin and Roger Bourne in their hey-day would surely have done our circuit in under 6h.

Barney is a big mountain and it is best to be off the steep rocks before dark. After I retired it seems I was reasonably fit but never with the endurance of my youth. Our times were comfortable for a group, and I could still cope. But the last two were much harder