



Making Tracks With Us

Bundaberg Bushwalking Club Newsletter
May 2023

Contact Us

info@bundabergbushwalkers.com

www.bundabergbushwalkers.com

**Thanks to the office of Tom Smith MP for the printing of this
newsletter**

President

Marty (0459 724 294)

Vice President

Lucinda (0421 011 181)

Secretary

Allison (0448 846 084)

Treasurer

Mary (0414 190 566)

(Vice) President's Ponderings

Camping season is upon us! I've had the joy of being two lovely club camps at Easter (Biggenden) and Anzac Day (Cania Gorge). It is surely one of the nicest things about this time of year. Sitting around the campfire with club members, old and new, is one of the best parts of being in the club.

Despite it being so close, I hadn't been to Cania Gorge for over 20 years. It really is a beautiful place, and we are so lucky to have it so close. We stayed at the Cania Gorge Tourist Retreat, which was absolutely lovely.

It was very sad to see that the Combined Camp was cancelled this year due to lack of numbers. Hopefully next year will be back to normal. The Capricornia club reached out, asking for some feedback on what we are looking for in camps in the future. We discussed this at the meeting on Tuesday and will let them know that we feel the main goal of Combined Camp is walking and comraderie, so as long as there is a communal area to gather, the entertainment and other add-ons are up to the host club but not a necessity.

There are some great walks coming up, as well as another camping weekend for Show Holiday, so I hope everyone gets the chance to get out and about!

Happy walking,

Lucinda

Interesting Phone Apps

On some recent walks people have asked me (Lucinda) about the GPS app I use, so I thought I would share this information with everyone. I have tried traditional GPS and find them very hard to use. They do have the advantage of longer battery life, but for day walks that is less of a concern. I usually carry a battery backup for my mobile anyway.

- Gaia - GPS app. Other similar apps are AllTrails (most popular in Australia, I think), Wikiloc and Avenza. They will still work without reception (although you can only see your track, not the map, if you don't have reception, unless you have downloaded the map). They are free, although the paid versions give you more features.

IF YOU USE THESE PLEASE NOTE!!!

The apps allow you to upload the walks. I strongly advise against doing this for any off-track club walks. Some of our walks require access over private property and absolutely should not be shared publicly for this reason. Even ones in National Parks that are publicly accessible are often without reception and involve difficult terrain. Some people who use these apps are not appropriately experienced with off track walking and we don't want to encourage these people to do things that end up causing the emergency services additional work.

- Red Cross First Aid - works offline, gives some basic first aid steps.
- Emergency Plus - if you have reception to make a call, this app will give you your GPS location to help emergency services find you.

World Walk Expedition



How far can you walk in a day? A week?

This is Alexander (pictured here with Marlene, one of our lovely walk leaders). Alexander left Sydney on the 12 of February to walk AROUND THE WORLD. His arrival in Biggenden coincided with our club camp there over Easter, so those of us camping got to meet him. He walked about 40km on the day of the

photo, and about 50km the day before. He is currently just north of St Lawrence, and one day last week walked 74 km. It makes all of our “day walks” look easy!

The photo on the right is a picture of his pack. That is all he is carrying! He’s currently walking the National Trail through to Cairns, then across to Darwin. You can follow his journey on his Facebook page, Instagram or his website www.worldwalkexpedition.com (which actually has a map with his current location). You can also donate to the Fred Hollows Foundation through the link on his website. Or if you’re keen, meet him on the road somewhere and buy him a drink.

Tips for New Members/Guests

Welcome! We are glad to have you.

- Most importantly, if you are interested in joining an activity, PLEASE call the leader. They are the best person to answer any questions, explain what you need to do/bring.
 - You cannot register for a walk by responding on Facebook or by emailing the club. You need to communicate this with the leader directly.
 - Please read the walk description and difficulty rating carefully.
 - Our website has a copy of the Member's Handbook on it - please have a read of this. Please take the pack requirements seriously, especially for medium and hard off-track walks.
 - All activities have some limitations on numbers - either due to Covid, National Parks numbers, or the preference of the leader.
 - For hard walks, don't be fooled by the distance. A 10km walk can take 2 hours or 8 hours depending on difficulty. The walk description and the leader will give you information on what to expect. Most of our medium and hard walks are off-track, this is very different walking to formed tracks or national parks tracks. The leader will give you details, if in doubt, start with an easier walk.
-

Walk Reports

Wednesday - Thursday April 5-6, 2023 - Overnight Camp

A small group of six made their way to the Coongarra area for a full moon overnight camp. The views did not disappoint. While the sun set in the west, the moon was rising, and this was reversed in the morning. Clear skies, pleasant weather and a great group of intrepid adventurers made for an excellent hike. However, with most overnight hikes, there is an environmental impact, plants

are often trampled, and evidence of tents or tarps lingers on. This is a timely reminder to minimize overnight hikes in sensitive areas. The location will not be visited again for at least a year - *Moira*

Easter Camp - April 7 -10, 2023 - Biggenden

We had a lovely group travel to Biggenden for the Easter weekend, or at least parts of the weekend. Five of us spent Friday afternoon doing the Coulston Lakes walk. Last Easter the track was so overgrown we couldn't find our way to the second lake, but this time the track was much better and it was a very easy walk to visit both lakes.

On Saturday we were joined by Marlene for the day to walk part of the national trail in Wongi National Park. This was a bit of an exploratory walk of 17 km along some forestry tracks and country roads. The day was quite hot, and walking in the bush meant very little breeze. We were all very glad to get back to the cars and turn the air conditioning on! It was a great walk to stretch our legs and test our fitness.

During the day Marlene had been telling us about Alexander, who is walking around the world. He left Sydney in February and was in the North Burnett now, walking along the National Trail. On the drive back to Biggenden we passed him walking on the road. When we dropped Marlene at her car she bought him a few Powerades and drove back to meet him. He was very grateful for the drinks, as it was hot and he had finished his water! A few hours later he arrived at the Biggenden Caravan Park so the rest of us got the chance to meet him and chat about his plans. Moira also popped down for a visit, so we had a very social happy hour.

I went home on Sunday, although some stayed for an extra day. Thanks everyone for a lovely weekend - *Lucinda*

Saturday April 15, 2023 - Kayak - Cedars Crossing

Although it was a perfect day to be out on the water, only three of us set off, including newcomer Linda. The usual turtles and water dragons that like to sun themselves on the logs that protrude into the river were evidently on strike, and even the water birds were in short supply. One cow, munching the lush grass near the water's edge did pause to pose for a photo. Shortly before we arrived back at the cars there was an interesting incident: two white-bellied sea eagles perched on a medium high branch were squarking loudly and paying no attention to the paddlers below watching them. Above, a third sea eagle soared in circles, gradually getting higher while being pursued (harassed?) by a much smaller black kite?? Not much else to report for the day. More paddlers would be welcome - *Mary*

Sunday April 16, 2023 - Social Outing - Moore Park Beach

A social outing combined with an easy walk was held on 16th April. 17 walkers joined this day and drove to Moore Park Beach.

Even though the weather was still warm, it didn't seem too bad as a gentle sea breeze was blowing. After the walkers returned from Beach walk a very enjoyable social morning was held at Claude Dooley Park. The 17 included 3 new walkers. Oh, and a couple board riders entertained us learning to ride boards and a couple members couldn't resist the water - *Pauline*

Saturday 22 April, Conglomerate Ruins

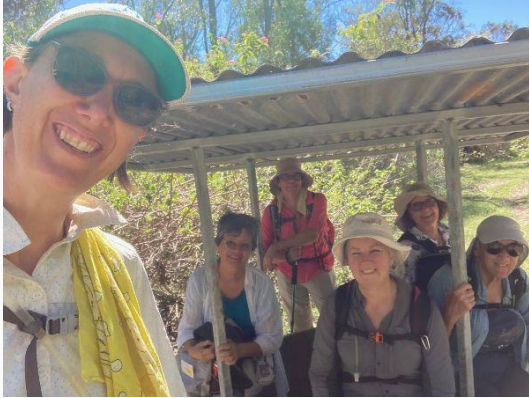
A small group of eight completed the 4.6kms return hike to Conglomerate Rocks. Following an old firebreak track to a rocky creek, the group then ventured up a narrow side creek, which was essentially an eroded lava flow. Dense regrowth of wattle and grevilleas after a recent fire bordered both sides of the creek. Eventually the group moved out of the creek into wallum-like vegetation to a rocky point where a beautiful view of the western hills could be seen. We then ventured back down to the area where all the conglomerate rocks were situated. Some are like pyramids about 2 metres high, others have formed retaining walls. The rocks are bound by a natural cement of silica or calcite, and without a pick are very difficult to dislodge. A fascinating place for those "into rocks". Lunch at Biggenden cafe concluded the walk - *Maira*

April 22 - 25, 2023 - Cania Gorge Camp

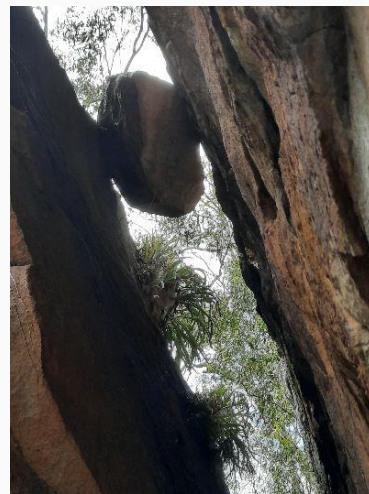
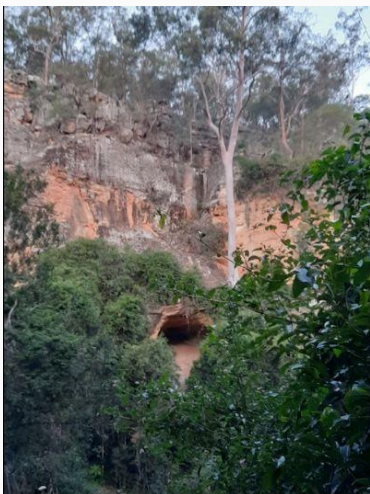
A total of 11 current members attended all or part of the long weekend. Two visitors also decided to take up memberships and an additional two spouses brought our gathering up to 15. In general, smaller groups formed to do the various walks as and when they choose. With 7 walks to choose from, ranging from 200 metres to 22 km return, there were plenty of options. The "Dripping Rock-Overhang" walk seemed to have been voted the most attractive, although a lack of any meaningful rain over the last few months has left it rather dry. In fact the whole park was rather dry! On Sunday seven hearty souls set out for the 11km slog up the mountain (hill?) and along the ridge to Castle Mountain Lookout.

Although there were several seats along the way, upon finally reaching the lookout seats were notably absent requiring one to sit on the concrete to partake of lunch. Being a pleasant day there was a good view across the gorge and Lake Cania, a dam which apparently has not been full for 10 years. This walk was generally deemed to be an endurance test with few items of interest. No snakes: but several remarkable caterpillar chains up to at least two metres long were found crossing the track. Each day at around 5pm we got together for "happy hour" and exchanged details of the days' adventures. Thanks to Paul

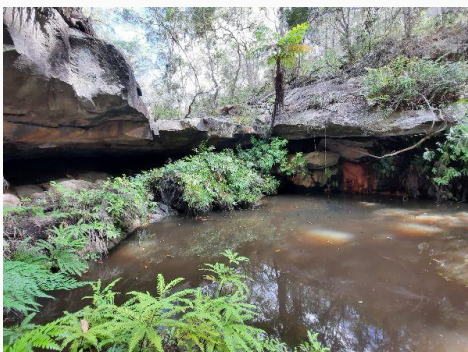
for providing a fire for the last two evenings. On the final day after dusk, Paula led a small group on a spotlighting excursion in hopes of finding some interesting wildlife such as gliders or owls. Although I'm told some small critters were seen (not having been present myself), nothing major was spotted. Thanks to all who attended (a lot of whom met for the first time), and helped prove what a fun time a bushwalk camp can be - *Mary*



Top left - Wongi NP walk at Easter Camp
Top right - Cedars Crossing kayak



Top left and right - Cania Gorge



Fern Pool, Cania Gorge



Cania Dam



Top left - caterpillar chains, Cania
Top right - the view over Cania Gorge
Bottom - birdlife at the Cania Tourist Retreat

Future Walks & Outings

Friday/Saturday 5/6 May - overnight FULL MOON Hike to Lake

McKenzie, Fraser Island (K'Gari); Leaving from River Heads, Hervey Bay 9am, we will take the barge to Kingfisher Bay walk 15 kms to Lake McKenzie, lots of sand and hills; camp, swim and explore; then walk back the next day to Kingfisher Bay, enjoy the pool and spa etc and take the 2pm ferry back to River

Heads. Moira will book **10 NP camp sites**. (\$50 for Ferry if walk on). Contact Moira (0458 365 051) to register.

Sunday May 7, 2023 - Boolboonda Rock - Hard s4d

This is a 6 hour off track walk. We start by walking along a creek, and then there is a steep climb up to a ridgeline. There is then a steep descent into the saddle before another very steep climb to the first lookout. We then make our way across a rough, rocky ridge to the top of the rock. There will be limited numbers for this walk, and preference will be given to walkers who have already done hard walks with the club. Meet at North State School at 7 am. Contact Lucinda (0421 011 181) to register.

Sunday May 7, 2023 - Coonaar Creek - Easy/Medium s3b

A walk along Coonaar Creek. Depart Thabeban State School at 8 am. Contact Peter (0447 134 211).

Sunday May 14, 2023 - Cordalba National Park Circuit - Medium/Hard s2b/c

Walk along forestry tracks; washed out and rutted in places. Several ups and downs with a possible steep up/down detour to get good views. Hiking poles recommended, 8-9 km in total. Bring morning tea and lunch. Meet at Coles Kensington at 7.30am or phone walk leader to arrange alternative. Contact Mary (0414 190 566) to register.

Saturday May 20, 2023 - Easy/social - Double Sloping Hummock

A walk along a forestry road, then we will drive to the top and have lunch. Leave North State School 8am. Contact Pauline (0438 186 559) to register.

Sunday May 21, 2023 - Coongarra Waterfall to Coongarra Rock - Hard m4d

Walk from Coongarra Waterfall along Coongarra Creek, around Coongarra Rockpools, around the base of the Rock to the carpark. This walk requires a car shuffle and 4wd to access. Meet at Lions Park, Biggenden at 8am. Contact Marty (0459 724 294) to register.

Sunday May 21, 2023 - Double Sloping Hummock - Medium m3c

A walk next to the road to climb Double Sloping Hummock near Rosedale. Leave North State School 7 am. Contact Angela (0447 226 854) by text only to register.

Sunday, May 28 2023 - Colliery Circuit Historical Walk - Easy s1a

This walk is near Torbanlea. 6.5 km, allow 2.5 hours walking.

We will walk 1km of the Mary2Bay rail trail then depart the trail and explore the relics of a few coal mines and learn the history of the area. Bring a day pack.

Depart Thabeban State School at 7am. Contact Marlene (0424 711 098).

June 1 - 4, 2023 - Show Holiday Weekend Camp - Amamoor State Forest

Camp for the weekend at Cedar Grove, near Amamoor. If you don't want to camp you could stay in a motel in Gympie. The campgrounds are National Parks so you will need to book your campsite through them. There are toilets but no showers. Contact Allison (0448 846 084) to register.

Tuesday June 6, 2023 - Monthly Meeting

Meet at Bundaberg State High School (F Block) beside the Administration Building at 6.00pm. Park on Maryborough Street and enter through the gate beside the Administration Building.

Saturday June 10, Billy Canyon - Hard s4d

A new hike for the club. This hard hike (5kms) follows a creek system, then heads up the narrow gorge with some rock scrambling to a spectacular canyon. We will then leave the canyon via a steep vegetated slope to the source of the canyon, a gentle creek with steep drop-offs and great pools when there is water. Meet Beier's Park Biggenden 8am. Carpool 4WD as the road is very rough. Contact Moira (0458 365 051) to register.

Sunday June 18, 2023 - Camp Creek - Hard s4d

This is a one way walk and will require a car shuffle. This walk starts with a steep descent through scrub, and then we will walk along the creek which includes rock-hopping. Depart North State School at 7am. Contact Angela (0447 226 854) by text only to register.

Sunday June 18, 2023 - Easy Walk TBC

Details to come.

Sunday, June 11 2023 - Planning Meeting

This meeting will be to plan the walk calendar for the second half of 2021. If you cannot make the meeting, we are still happy to receive ideas beforehand, especially if you are interested in leading the walk. Meet at the bush chapel area (next to Cafe 1928) at the Botanic Gardens at 10am. We will have lunch and a catch-up after the meeting. BYO chair, food and ideas!

Sunday, June 18, 2023 - Camp Creek - Medium s3c

Circuit walk commencing along Wonbah Road then into the state forest, descend to Takilberan Creek, cross to Camp Creek and return along creek bed to cars. Bring your own morning tea and lunch. Leave North State School at 7am. Contact Mary (0414 190 566) to register.

Tuesday July 4, 2023 - Monthly Meeting

Meet at Bundaberg State High School (F Block) beside the Administration Building at 6.00pm. Park on Maryborough Street and enter through the gate beside the Administration Building.

Saturday 30 July - Mt Perry sunrise; meet at Mt Perry Summit walk car park 4.30am (full moon and sunrise 6.28am) Return to Mt Perry for breakfast. 4.30am meet at Mt Perry Summit Walk shelter. As sunrise is 6.29am, allow 1.5 hours for the climb. Why not plan a weekend at Mt Perry at the caravan park? Car pooling recommended. Contact Moira (0458 365 051) to register.

Tuesday August 1, 2023 - Monthly Meeting

Meet at Bundaberg State High School (F Block) beside the Administration Building at 6.00pm. Park on Maryborough Street and enter through the gate beside the Administration Building.

Saturday 26 August, 2023 - Heart Rock Ridge - Hard s4d

This 6km hike requires permission from property owners. The hard walk begins in cattle paddocks, crosses a dry creek and then climbs a narrow ridge with some regrowth vegetation, then open country, to about 550m. Huge boulder formations will interest everyone and give you time to explore. You may even see the "Armless woman" and the "Rooster" and find the musical rocks. Meet 8am at Beier's Park or 8.15am at Swindle Ck road if coming from Maryborough. Contact Moira (0458 365 051) to register.

Saturday, September 2, 2023 - AGM

Save the date for the AGM. We are trying something different this year, and rather than hold the AGM on a Tuesday night which is difficult for many people to attend, it will be held on the weekend and will include lunch/walk. This activity will be from 10.30 am - 1.30 pm. Please BYO lunch (BBQs available) and chair, and if you feel inclined a plate of nibbles/sweets to share.

September 8 - 10, 2023 - Cooloola Wilderness Trail Overnight walk

A short 3 day walk along the Cooloola Wilderness Trail starting from Mullins carpark on Rainbow Beach Road and finishing at Harry's Hut campground on the upper Noosa River. Total distance 30.7 km.

Day 1 - drive to Harry's Hut campground and set up permanent camp

Day 2 - car shuffle back to Mullins Carpark and begin walk to Neeps Waterhole - 8.8 km

Day 3 - Neeps Waterhole to Wandi Waterhole - 12.4 km

Day 4 - Wandi Waterhole to Harry's Hut campground - 9.5 km

This walk will require several support vehicles.

You will require your own backpack, hiking tent, sleeping mat, cooking gear etc.

After the walk stay on for a few days at beautiful Harry's Hut and enjoy some kayaking along the Noosa Everglades or just relax in the campground.

Contact Jill (0404 695 644) or Paula (0490 330 542) to register or discuss.



2023 Annual Photo Competition Rules

Photos must be taken during the current year and on club walks or outings.

Categories: Landscape, Wildlife, Flora, Macro, Funny and People (one or more persons).

We usually have an extra category of a photo featuring a colour, but we have decided to change it up a bit this year. Instead of a colour, the extra category will be photos featuring "SPOTS" - interpret that how you will!

There is an additional category of Free Choice, where photo entries may be a photo of any subject taken in any year, on club activities or not.

One 6x4 photo per person per category. \$10 prize and bragging rights for the winner of each category.

General Information

Current Fees (membership fees due 1 July each year):

- Membership fees - Adult - \$20 per adult
- Membership fees - Child (under 18) - \$10 (for one or more children from the same family)
- Walk Fees - free for members, \$5 per visitor

Visitors attending a walk are temporary members for the walk, upon signing the acknowledgement of risk and obligations until the walk outing is completed. We recommend a minimum of one walk be completed before you apply for membership. Membership application is mandatory before participation in your third walk.

Please do not sent cash through the mail. You can pay your membership fees at the monthly meeting, or by EFT BSB064-403, account no 00915879 quoting your surname as reference. A receipt will be emailed to you by the Treasurer.

All persons take part in outings on the understanding that they do so entirely at their own risk. They agree that the responsibility which they take for their own safety, is the same that they would apply if they were on their own organised outing.

Those intending to participate on outings are asked to contact the nominated walk leader prior to the walk. This particularly applies to newcomers to club outings. Comfortable walking shoes/boots and suitable clothing should be worn on all outings. A suitable day pack should also be carried (see our website for suggested pack contents).

On day walks, car loads are generally arranged at the nominated departure point with passengers contributing to fuel costs. Suggested basic contributions for passengers are:

**10-20 kms \$5/person, 20-50km \$8/person, 50/100km \$10/person
100-200km \$15/person, 200-250km \$20/person, 250-300km \$25/person**

Contact Code: A few reminders for all walkers

- Please contact walk leaders a least one week before a walk. If you leave it till Thursday or Friday night you may be disappointed to find that the walk has been cancelled, due to apparent lack of interest. Also dates, details etc can & do change. Leaders give their time to organise walks and need to know if they are committed to lead a walk.
- Arrive at the meeting point 10 minutes before the set time. Our times are departure times and we try to be punctual. Late walkers can be left behind!
- Read the walk description and note the rating. If you are unsure of your abilities, please discuss this with the leader before nominating. Neither you nor other walkers will have a good day if your fitness is not of a suitable standard.
- Do you have a health problem that may affect your performance on a walk? It is important that you inform the leader of this and discuss the matter.
- If you have commitments after a walk please discuss this with the leader before commencing a walk. Leaders cannot guarantee the time of return, due to weather, terrain & the expertise of walkers.

Walk Recce Costs - just a reminder to anyone carrying out recce's for walks. Funds are available to cover expenses (fuel etc). Please submit a claim (mileage travelled) to the treasurer.

First Aid - to encourage more members to become First Aid proficient, the Club will pa a 50% fee subsidy to those members who attend and complete a recognised First Aid or CPR course.

Acknowledgement of Risk - by participating in a club activity, all participants understand that:

- They have advised the Trip Leader if they are taking any medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect their participation in the activity. They will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party and accept reasonable instructions of the Leader.
- They are aware that the activity may expose them to risks that could lead to injury, death or loss or damage to my property.
- To minimise these risks, they have endeavoured to ensure that this activity is within their capabilities and that they are carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity.
- The Trip Leader reserves the right to refuse any person from participating if that person is deemed to be inappropriately equipped.

Walk Gradings

Max Kilometres per day	Terrain	Fitness
S. up to 10 kilometres	1. Graded track	a. Unfit beginners
M. 10-15 kilometres	2. Tracks, steeper sections, open terrain	b. Fit beginners
L. 15-20 kilometres	3. Off track, minor scrub, creek/rock hopping, minimal navigation	c. Fitness and/or agility required
X. Over 20 kilometres	4. Scrambling, thick rainforest, hard navigation 5. Technical rock ability, abseil	d. Good fitness and agility a must e. Strenuous. Experienced, very fit walkers only