



Making Tracks With Us

Bundaberg Bushwalking Club Newsletter
March 2021

Contact Us

info@bundabergbushwalkers.com

www.bundabergbushwalkers.com

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

President

Marty (0459 724 294)

Vice President

Darryl (0409 796 723)

Secretary

Allison (0448 846 084)

Treasurer

Mary (0414 190 566)

President's Ponderings

Well, the weather hasn't really cooled off yet, but that hasn't stopped our members getting back out and about. There have been a few great activities already in February, with more planned for March.

At this stage we are still using paper sheets for walk registrations, however we are investigating moving to QR Codes to comply with Department of Health requirements. Look out for more updates in future newsletters.

On the fun side, don't forget about the Easter Camp at Gaeta. Let Lucinda know if you intend to join in. Also, the Combined Camp, hosted by the Gladstone Club, is going ahead this year after having to be postponed last year. It is always a great weekend, so go if you can. Some details are in the upcoming events section of the newsletter, and further details will be sent to members when they arrive.

Happy walking,

Marty

Bushwalking vs Hiking

Ever wondered why we are called a bushwalking club and not a hiking club?

This [article](#) gives an excellent summary of the history of bushwalking in Australia. But the details around the words used are the most interesting:

"Myles and his mates Herb Gallop and Roy Rudder believed that their particular manly craft of 'trailing' and 'tracking', through trackless and tough terrain, self reliant (including hunting with shotgun), was an altogether new sport.

To them, their experiences couldn't be more different than what the tourist walkers were enjoying in the mountain resorts. Theirs was active work, as opposed to the tourist's leisurely stroll."

"But a war of words emerged in 1930s NSW where, in certain circles, to be called a 'hiker', or to say that you went, 'hiking' had negative connotations.

The Sydney Bush Walkers club took a stand against the rising use of the term 'hikers' or 'hiking' to describe what their club did and who they were. They saw that hikers were not 'real' bushwalkers, but some sort of frivolous, inexperienced creation, forged at the smelter of mass market tourism and hysteria that the Mystery Hikes had created.

"The efficient recreational walker, who knows how to camp as well as walk, is with us a 'bushwalker' not a 'hiker'. It is hikers who go out and get lost; it is bushwalkers who rescue them. It is hikers who leave their fires alight often causing bushfires, or despoil the landscape by leaving papers, tins and orange peels about – The hiker is the muddling inefficient; the bushwalker is the expert."

Sydney Bush Walker Magazine, January 1937

Excerpts like this from their club magazine, point to an arrogance and elitism of the time, sadly than recognising that there are many different and equally valid ways to walk in nature.

Today, we use both "bushwalking" and "hiking".

Members may also like this quote from the legendary Dot Butler:

Bushwalking clubs are "notable for having more eccentrics to the acre than any other body of people in Sydney."

Source: <https://lotsafreshair.com/2019/08/09/history-of-bushwalking-2/>

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.
-

Covid-19 Plan

- Leaders will include Covid safety information in their pre-walk briefing
- If a participant is unwell or is showing flu-like symptoms, they cannot participate in the activity
- Club radios will not be used on walks
- During the activity participants are required to maintain 1.5m distance
- No carpooling will be organised by the club, however if you wish to arrange your own you can do so.
- The leader will complete the paperwork (sign-in sheet) for each walk and ensure a copy is kept.
- Maximum group size of 20 people.
- No contact while on the activity.
- Participants are not to share equipment, waterbottles, food etc.
- Participants should maintain good hygiene at all times, including regularly washing/sanitising their hands.
- With kayaking, if participants assist each other getting their kayaks in or out of the water, they should wash their hands before and after doing so.
- Please ensure that any photos you post are appropriate given the current conditions.

The rules are additional rules for club purposes. They do not replace any laws or guidelines set by the government or Queensland Health, so members and participants are reminded that they still need to be aware of their individual obligations at all times.

Walk Reports

February 7, 2021 - Riverview walk

A short and easy walk, perfect for starting the walking season and testing the process of my recovering heel. Luckily we had planned to start 7.30 for the forecast was for a hot day. After a little wait at the Riverview boat ramp and BBQ area for Michelle, who was waiting in Elliot Heads, us 9 walkers got started. It was getting warmer pretty soon, some breeze in the beginning and sadly not a lot of shade in the Riverview Reserve.

First we went thru the park along the Elliot River to the Reserve, in the reserve straight to the end of the path and the dune. The mangrove loop and the bloodwood loop we walked on the way back. It was a nice leisurely walk, plenty of time to appreciate and discuss the nature around us, plants, trees, birds and all the other critters. Some of the trees in the reserve are have a nice little sign listing their name, always welcome to learn to recognise a few new trees. Some white turpentine pines and beautiful old twisted bloodwoods were also admired. A fat black beetle held fast on my fingers for a while and did not want to let go, even when offered a nice branch of a bush. A groundcover of some sort of lily was growing vigorously and already in flower (beautiful!) at one spot, but sadly it is a garden escapee not an Australian native.

On the way back Michelle explored to walk at the bottom of the cliff, at low tide it could be actually an alternative way back at a future walk.

Back at the boat ramp it was time to have morning tea with 2 stoves providing hot water, plenty of food and relaxed conversations.

February 21, 2021 - Baldwin Swamp

Baldwin Swamp was looking it's best for 10 members and 3 visitors from Childers. We started our walk from the carpark, then crossed the road to the Harry Frauca section. We walked through a gravelled pathway and over timber bridges until tall grasses and shrubs blocked our way. We returned to the Swamp where we heard and saw many birds, and looked at the paperbarks and flowering shrubs. It was a very pleasant morning strolling through the park to the Chapel Area, onto Lake Ellen and across the drain to a set of swings. The entertainment was fun to see when they were soon sat upon and pushed high into the air with legs and arms pumping in all directions.

We continued on past the flowering Lillypilly trees to watch the swans and birds swimming in the Lakes on both sides of the walkways. We arrived at the shelter shed and relaxed with our morning tea. We had a surprise visit from Ian who joined us for the remainder of the morning.

Thank you Verlie for a pleasant morning walking and talking. - Joy

February 27, 2021 - Moonlight Walk

Doing an internet search for the time of the moon rise, times from 18:19 – 19:17 could be found, depending on website. The whole time frame would be covered by the walk. More of a concern was the weather – big lumps of clouds everywhere. Would the moon find a spot to shine through for us?

Sixteen bushwalkers met at Elliot Heads Kiosk for the moon light walk at 6 pm. Two walkers advised they may not do the whole walk but only a part and would wait until we would pick them up on the way back. We walked the Bill Murray coastal walkway along the coast to the north and return. The path is concrete the whole way, perfect for a night walk, nothing to trip you up but cane toads. During the first quarter we were treated to a gorgeous sun set with red and orange colours. And around 6.30 pm a silvery shine between clouds in the east over

the sea hinted at the presence of the moon. It did us the favour to be visible just above the horizon in its whole pumpkin colour round glory, but only a short time and afterwards it was mostly behind or streaked by clouds again. But we saw it!

After a short rest at the north end of walkway we headed back to our cars, picking up our resting cowalkers along the way. We had planned for a rest at the submarine lookout on the way back, but people preferred to get home so we missed it. The view of the sea from the lookout: breaking waves and spray of a high incoming tide, with the moon mirroring on the water - *Angela*

February 28, 2021 - Burrum River Kayak

Eight kayakers readied their boats at Buxton boat ramp. This was the first club paddle of the year, and enthusiasm was running high.

So was the tide! The water was ripping past the boat ramp. It was so fast, our first paddler in the water got a little surprised, and was flipped into the water! A beautiful rescue was demonstrated by Greg. Ah! She didn't really need rescuing, but it was an impressive display of quick thinking and action by Greg.

The tide must have been travelling at close to 10 km per hour. Once we got under way, Gary logged his speed at 13 km per hour, without even paddling! So you can imagine – it was a fast trip. So fast that I managed a little surf in the wake of a mooring buoy!

We roared up the river, chatting, enjoying the weather, watching the sea eagles. In no time at all, we were at Pacific Haven. The trouble was, I'd allowed extra time for the variety of craft we were in, and we were quicker than expected. We arrived over an hour and a half before the turn of the tide. With such a strong current, paddling against it was out of the question.

Maybe it would turn during morning tea, we hoped.

No, it didn't. But hey, we're walkers, first and foremost. So we took a wander "uptown" to check out Pacific Haven. It's a peaceful rural residential area. Most acreage had large dams in their yards and beautiful gardens, with much native vegetation remaining – beautiful old gum trees ruled. Unfortunately, the drought has its stranglehold there, as well as Bundy, and the dams were bone dry. But it was inspiring to see how well the native plants were doing.

While the garden plants wilted and died, the eucalypts soared to the sky.

We meandered back to the boat ramp, only to find the tide still rushing in. I tried to swim against the current, just to see if it was possible. Swimming my hardest, I went nowhere. No hope of paddling 8 km back to Buxton against that!

Luckily, we had a volleyball with us, so we played a little water polo while swimming in the protected still water of the boat ramp mangrove pool.

As fast as the tide had been, suddenly it calmed as the tide turned. Usually, the tide slows an hour before and after turning, but not up the Burrum on this HIGH high tide. One minute it was roaring upstream, the next minute, it was still.

We leapt into our boats, and took a leisurely hour or so to paddle back, with the tide as it gained speed again, going out. Lovely chats, more birds and boats and of course, the lovely water. What a beautiful paddle!

And afterwards, you'll be pleased to know, our intrepid explorer, Mary, led Gary and I to explore a potential new paddle up the Isis River. We found a great morning tea spot – so stay tuned – that paddle will, no doubt, be on offer later in the year - *Michelle*

Photos



Top - Moonrise at Elliott Heads

Bottom Left - kayaks at Pacific Haven

Bottom Right - morning tea, waiting for the tide to turn at Pacific Haven

Future Walks & Outings

March 7, 2021 - Kaliwa Hut - Easy/Med M1b

Approximately 10km return along forestry roads. There is an option to drive closer to the hut to make is a shorter walk. Meet at North Bundaberg State School at 7.30am. Contact Michelle (0428 957 326) for times and to register.

March 14, 2021 - Kayak - Baffle Creek

Paddle along Baffle Creek. Meet at North State School at 7.30am. Contact Mary (0414 190 566) to register.

March 14, 2021 - Stoney Creek, Mt Walsh - Very Hard, M4d

A hard walk starting from the Mt Walsh car park, heading out to Stoney Creek, then up to Razorback and Bluff Mt and return. Approximately 8 hours, 10 - 11km. Bring AT LEAST 3 litres of water, morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Due to the difficulty, this walk is for members who have already done some hard walks with the club. Meet at 7am at Biggenden. Contact Marty (0459 724 294) to register.

March 20, 2021 (Saturday) - Mt Walsh, Mt Walsh National Park – Hard S3c

This hard walk will leave from the Mt Walsh picnic area. Mt Walsh is 703 metres above sea level and a reasonable level of fitness is required for this walk. Excellent views from the top. Requirements - 3 litres of water, food, hat, sunscreen and a personal first-aid kit. Leave from Brothers Club car park at 7.00am. Contact Bell (0447 826 149) to register.

March 21, 2021 - Coonarr Beach - Easy S1a

Approximately 2.5km one way (5km return), just along the beach. No track, compacted or loose sand to walk on. Same way back. Beautiful in the morning or evening. Meet at Thabeban State School at 7am. Contact Angela (0447 226 854) by text only.

April 2 - 5, 2021 - Easter Camp at Gaeta

We will camp at Gaeta reserve. The campground has unpowered sites, a BBQ, tank water, a BBQ shelter with table, toilets but no showers. We will do a variety of walks over the weekend, depending on the interests of those in attendance. Please contact Lucinda (0421 011 181) to register. If you are interested in joining us just for a day walk, you are welcome, but please contact Lucinda BEFORE Good Friday (as there is no phone reception at Gaeta) to discuss so that we can try to plan a walk to suit. Cost is \$5 per person per night (donation to the Gaeta Rural Fire Brigade).

April 4, 2021 - Easter Sunday easy walk - Moore Park, Easy s1a

Details to be confirmed. Contact Verlie (4152 8885) to register.

April 6, 2021 - 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.

April 17, 2021 - Kayak - Elliott River

Enjoy a lovely paddle on the Elliot River. Contact Michelle (0428 957 326) for times and to register. You are welcome to stay after the paddle for a BBQ/lunch at Elliott Heads, and if you would like to join us only for the BBQ not the paddle you are also welcome!

April 18, 2021 - Utopia Falls - Hard s3c

The beautiful walk will start at Utopia Falls at walk upstream to a waterfall, and return the same way. Depending on the flow of the creek and the vegetation, this walk will involve a lot of rock hopping and walking through/around the scrub. There are a couple of tricky sections where you need to walk along small rock ledges. Approximately 7km return, 5 - 6 hours. Bring morning tea and lunch. Contact Bell (0447 826 149) to register.

April 18, 2021 - Cordalba State Forrest Hoo Koo e Koo trail - M2b

A circuit of approximately 11 - 12 km using the mountain bike tracks in the Cordalba state forest for walking. Be aware of mountain bikers to share the track with. Meet at Thabeban State School at 7am. Contact Angela (0447 226 854) by text only.

April 21 - 22, 2021 - Mid week trip to Gympie Rattler

Travel to Gympie and take a trip on the Gympie Rattler on Wednesday. On Thursday visit the markets at Maryborough. We will look at staying at Gympie. Contact Mary Buchmann (4157 8159/0497 759 688) to register.

May 1-3, 2021 - Combined Camp - Members only

The Gladstone District Bushwalkers are busy preparing a fun weekend at Camp Akuna, Pikes Crossing for 1-3 May 2021. <https://www.hipcamp.com/discover/queensland/camp-akuna-pikes-crossing-inc>

Note: there are no cabins or powered sites at Camp Akuna. For alternative accommodation try:

<https://lakeawoongacaravanpark.com.au/> and <https://greenacresvanpark.com.au/> as the closest alternatives.

Full details will follow soon including online registration.

May 2, 2021 - Mon Repos to Burnett Heads - Easy/Med m1b

This scenic walk will be on the formed (mainly concrete) track along the waterfront. Meet at Mon Repos at 8am. Contact Ann (0418 793 848) to register.

May 4 - 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.

May 16, 2021 - Giant's Staircase (Mt Walsh NP) - Very Hard M4e

This is one of the hardest walks on our calendar. We start by rock hopping (and if the vegetation is thick, bush bashing) along the creek. The creek then starts to ascend, and we have some steep "stairs" to climb, before ascending to the top of the ridge. We will then walk across the saddle to the "Devil's Playground", an interesting rock formation, before heading back down a ridge to rejoin the creek and return to the cars. We will likely return to Bundaberg close to/after dark. This is a very strenuous walk and is usually very popular, so this walk will ONLY be open to members (no visitors) who have done at least one hard walk with the club beforehand. Meet at Coles Kensington at 7am. Contact Lucinda (0421 011 181) to register.

May 16, 2021 - Cordalba State Forest - easy S1a

At easy walk on forestry tracks. Meet at Coles Kensington at 8am. Contact Verlie (4152 8885) to register.

May 30, 2021 - Coongarra Waterfall to Coongarra Rock - Hard s3d

We start this walk at the waterfall and walk one-way through to Coongarra Rockpools and Coongarra Rock. Most of this walk is relatively flat along the creek, with some rock hopping. However there are some sections that are quite steep. It will take approximately 6 hours, although only about 8km. Bring morning tea, lunch and at least 3 litres of water. Meet at Coles Kensington at 8am. Contact Lucinda (0421 011 181) to register.

May 30, 2021 - Nielsen Park to Mon Repos - easy s1a

A lovely scenic walk along formed paths. Meet at 8am at Quay Street Parklands. Contact Verlie (4152 8885) to register.

June 1 - 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.

June 13, 2021 - Coongarra Rockpools from Coulston Lakes - Medium s3b

Approximately 45 minute walk each way mainly along the creek to the lovely Coongarra Rockpools. If this walk is after rain, it will involve some creek crossings. Meet at Coles Kensington at 7am. Contact Crystal (0422 171 704) to register.

June 13, 2021 - Coongarra Rock - Hard s4d

We will start at the car park at the base of the rock, walk down along the creek and climb to the top. Coongarra Rock has fantastic 360 degree views from the top. The walk is only about 3 hours return, but this does include some steep rock scrambling and chimney section. Appropriate shoes are essential. Meet at Coles Kensington at 8am. Contact Lucinda (0421 011 181) to register.

June - Mt Bartle Frere, Babinda Boulders - Expressions of Interest

Michelle is looking at doing a trip to NQ to do Mt Bartle Frere and other walks in the area. Mt Bartle Frere, the highest mountain in Queensland, is an overnight walk. Contact Michelle (0428 957 326) to discuss if you are interested.

June 20, 2021 - Planning Meeting

Details to come.

June 27, 2021 - Coongarra Rock to Coongarra Cave - Hard m4d

Details to be finalised closer to the date, but we will likely climb Coongarra Rock then walk down the other side, climbing back up to Coongarra Cave, a huge cave facing west. We will then return to the cars. 4wd/high clearance required to access this area of Mt Walsh NP. Contact Marty (0459 724 294) to register. Meet at Coles Kensington at 7am, or Lions Park Biggenden at 8am.

June 27, 2021 - Stripey Boulder (Mt Walsh NP) - Medium s3b

This is a 3.7km walk in Mt Walsh NP. We start at the car park with the hard walkers, but veer off before it gets too steep to see the striped boulder. This is an off track walk. Meet at Kensington Coles at 7am. Contact Allison (0448 846 084) to register.

June 27, 2021 - Easy Walk TBA

Details to come.

July 6 - 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.



2021 Annual Photo Competition Rules

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

Categories: Landscape, Wildlife, Macro, Flora, Funny and People (on or more persons) along with a photo of any subject featuring the yearly colour (to be decided).

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 send 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.

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	d. Good fitness and agility a must
	5. Technical rock ability, abseil	e. Strenuous. Experienced, very fit walkers only