



Making Tracks With Us

Bundaberg Bushwalking Club Newsletter
November 2019

Contact Us

info@bundabergbushwalkers.com

www.bundabergbushwalkers.com

Thanks to David Batt MP for the printing of this newsletter

President

Darryl (0409 796 723)

Vice President

Marty (0459 724 294)

Secretary

Joy (4152 7281)

Treasurer

Dee (0407 805 125)

President's Ponderings

Well here we are almost at the end of 2019 with only three more activities scheduled. I would very much like to thank everyone involved with supporting the club particularly those who hold office of some description, you are the backbone of our club.

We look forward to another year which starts with the planning meeting set down for 19 January 2020 where your ideas for walks and activities can be presented.

The Xmas party is at Young Australian Hotel, North Bundaberg this year and we look forward to celebrating our year in a festive spirit. It is a good time to review and prepare your photos for the annual competition. To all I wish a Merry Christmas for 2019 and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Happy Walking

Darryl

Changes in 2020

As we've mentioned before, the club has grown a lot in the last 2 years. In particular, we are getting a lot of interest in the harder walks. We expect this may necessitate some changes next year.

Large groups are difficult to manage on hard walks. They are slower and it is harder for the leader to keep track of large numbers.

Because of this, there may be some walks next year where we will need to limit numbers. As we don't want members to miss out on walks, we need to offer more walks. The extra walks may be on the same day (so there may be 2 hard walks on the same Sunday), or perhaps more walks on other days (for example the alternate Sundays).

To offer more walks, we need leaders. Leading isn't as scary as it sounds - it's basically just being the organiser. You pick a walk you'd like to do and a day you'd like to do it, then instead of calling a few friends, it's advertised in the club newsletter.

You don't even have to be at the front of group on the walk - you can "lead from the back"!

We will be holding a leaders "training session" in early 2020 (the date will be decided at the planning meeting). This is really just an informal discussion of what it means to lead a walk. All members are encouraged to attend. If you've ever thought about leading a walk, this is a great place to start. If you never want to lead a walk, it is still interesting to understand the leader's role so you can assist as a participant.

Christmas Party

Time: 11am for a 12 noon meal

Venue: Young Australian Hotel, North Bundaberg

Cost: \$20 members, \$30 non members

The committee for the Bundaberg Bushwalking Club invites all members and their families to our annual Christmas Party at the Young Aussie Hotel. It will be a lunch, with your choice of 2 roast meats, vegetables, choice of 2 desserts, tea and coffee.

Our little club has grown so much in the last few years that there are a lot of members who haven't met, so we would really like to as many members as possible join the party for our end of year celebration.

The party includes the photo competition - details are at the end of the newsletter. Bring along your printed photo for each 0 0

category and vote on your favourite entry. And feel free to wear a Christmas shirt to get in the festive spirit.

RSVP by 21st November. Please pay by 21st November by EFT using "X surname" as the reference (eg "X Smith").

BSB: 064 - 403

Account: 00915879

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

If you have any questions, please give Darryl a call on 0409 796 723.

Vera Scarth Johnson Exhibition

Look out for the exhibition 'Finding Vera' opening at the Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery in February 2020, a retrospective of the life and art of noted botanical artist Vera Scarth Johnson during her time in Bundaberg. If anyone has memorabilia or any of her paintings that they are willing to have documented or possibly loan for the exhibition please phone Annette Tyson on 0411476260 or email annettetyson@westnet.com.au.

Photos



Top Left - the old copper smelter at Glassford/Many Peaks (4wd track)

Top Right - "the sheep dip" at Camp Creek

Bottom Left - the view from the lookout at Kroombit Tops

Bottom Right - fungi on the Goodnight Scrub walk

Walk Reports

October 5 - 7, 2019 - Weekend Camp at Ubobo

The camping at Ubobo was very popular for the comfort of the showers, power for those who needed it, and the open space in the huge shed for our meals and "Happy Hours" with kitchen and everything provided. The 4 people staying in the house reported it to be very comfortable.

The 4 wheel driving over rough terrain to get to our destinations each day to start the walking and explore the many places visited on the 3 days of camping was very enjoyable. The Sunday trek to the Kroombit Tops was led by Darryl. We dropped off 12 walkers at the Rangers station to begin their 13 km walk. At the Lookout the rest of us walked to meet up with them after admiring the views from the Lookout. Barry stayed behind to keep a table free as there were many people exploring the region during the long weekend. After lunch we drove to the "Beautiful Betsy" site and walked through the crash area. The story of the men and the plane is explained as we walked the pathway. The place was not found for 30 years after it crashed.

The long rough drive back to the Ubobo campsite ended the day and we got back to find there was a problem with the gas hot water system, so it was cold showers on our last night. The 'Happy Hour' was very welcome to talk about the walks and the driving. Many thanks to Barry, Darryl and the 19 members who attended the camp - *Joy*

Second report from Lucinda:

I hadn't been to Ubobo before, and was very impressed with the campground. I only got up there on Saturday, and after we set up camp, most of the club attendees went for a drive to the old Glassford mine and smelter. This was a fantastic expedition - a manageable 4WD track through beautiful country.

We reached the mine and I was surprised at the amount of infrastructure there. There was also a waterproof plastic tub there with a map and information about the history of the site. We walked around the site for close to an hour, checking out the actual mine tunnel and the remnants of buildings before returning to the cars for the trip home.

On Sunday, we drove up to Kroombit Tops. The hard walkers were dropped off near the ranger's hut and walked the 13km Escarpment Track to the lookout. Well, National Parks says it's 13km, our own GPSs varied but all agreed it was further than that. It is a walk on solid fire trails - in this dry weather, the ground was so hard it was almost concrete, which was tough on our legs by about half way. But we made it to the lookout to join the others for

lunch. The lookout is by far the best part of that walk, so you definitely get the best bit by driving. Thanks to all of the others for picking us up so we didn't need to do a car shuffle.

We then headed down to Beautiful Betsy, which was fantastic. An incredible story, and quite moving being there. Five of us in two cars then completed the 4WD loop, which was a lot of fun. Very dry at the moment, would be more difficult after some rain. We met up with the others near the lookout, quickly did the rainforest walk and by that time it was late afternoon and we still had the drive back to camp. We headed off down the mountain on the Monto road and soon caught up with the others. It was a great drive - quite rough in places, and we had some fun chatting on the radios on the way down. We made it back to camp (and our cold showers) in time for a late happy hour - *Lucinda*

October 13, 2019 - Kayak at Buxton

In spite of near perfect weather only three paddlers managed to show up for this event- it didn't help that the date clashed with the Bathurst 1000!

Setting out from Buxton at 9am we proceeded upstream on the calm waters of the Burrum River for approx. seven kilometres to the Pacific Haven boatramp, sighting a variety of boats and houses along the way from shacks and old dinghys to much more upmarket vessels and dwellings. After a stopover for morning tea we headed back on the outgoing tide and followed the shore line around into another stream that I mistakenly thought was the Isis but was later identified as the Cherwell River. After passing more impressive housing and a large white yacht (later learned it is stuck fast) we turned around so as to make it back to Buxton before the tide receded too far, leaving large areas of sandbank.

By now the wind had got up and was blowing in our faces and the water had become choppy. We arrived back at about 1.30 for a welcome lunch before heading home, having clocked up 17 kilometres. A very rewarding day and the Isis awaits to be explored on another day - *Mary*

October 20, 2019 - History in the Goodnight

OMG, the drought!

I had my doubts about bringing a group out to the Goodnight Scrub in the middle of this awful drought. The bush seems to be worse affected here than other places. However, we did have a bit of rain the week before, so it was slightly improved by the time we got to do the walk. And anyway, we were looking at history rather than bush...

When people think "history" in the Goodnight, they think of runaway cows and Kalliwa Hut. The runaway cows gave the scrub it's name (if they got in there, you could "kiss your cows goodnight" because you'd never see them again!) But Kalliwa Hut did not even originate in

the scrub, having been transported there for tourism purposes.

What many people don't know is that there was a permanently stationed Ranger family in the Goodnight for many decades. So this walk focused on looking at some of the remains of the Ranger's occupation, and the activities of forestry workers nearby. We walked through the area where the Ranger's house used to be. There's still a power pole and signs of sheds and water tank stands. We checked out old bits of wood stove and model T fords at the timber workers camp. In between, we saw some more recent historical evidence, in the form of markers and a water supply system for our local dope growers. Yes, they have been very active in the Goodnight in the last couple of decades.

Some of us veered off the fire trails to follow a delightful creek where we saw evidence of non-human habitation (dead critters and bones). Later, others veered off to walk up another creek to visit the last of the ancient grass trees. Sadly, many have died in the last 10 years – not a good sign, when you consider that their age is guestimated to be at least 100 years.

To finish the walk off with a cooling down, a few intrepid walkers went for a swim at Booyal Crossing. Seems like that's a new tradition for ending walks in the Goodnight Scrub. - *Michelle*

October 20, 2019 - Camp Creek

We think this is the biggest group we've ever had on a walk - 25 people including myself! Over half were visitors, but everyone, new and old, handled the large group with positivity.

We drove out to Camp Creek and started our walk up the creek. I hadn't done the walk in a couple of years and I missed the turn, so we ended up walking quite a bit further than necessary before turning back. We finally found the right stretch of creek, much to everyone's relief (I think some were getting a bit concerned that my promised creek walk with waterholes was actually a bush walk on an overgrown creek bed!).

Not long after we joined the creek one of the walkers decided it was best if she stopped there and waited for us on the way back, so we left her a radio and continued on. On the way back we found that there was a dingo hanging around, thankfully it didn't cause her any trouble.

There had been rain at Mt Perry the night before, but thankfully the rocks were dry. We started to see some small pools of water, and eventually made it the "lap pool" (otherwise known as the "sheep dip"), our goal for the day. The water was clean, but not clear - there hadn't been enough rain to flush it out. We stopped here for lunch, plenty of us took our boots off to paddle in the water, and a few even jumped in for a swim.

The trip back to the car was a little slower, with the heat and distance getting to a couple of walkers, but we all made it back to the cars safely. Thanks to everyone for being such great company, especially Marty, Belinda and Brad for their help finding the track and keeping the group together!

- Lucinda

Future Walks & Outings

Our insurance requires that walkers must be financial members of the club, unless you are a visitor (up to two walks before you need to join as a member). Please study the backpack requirements on our website before participating in a walk.

November 17, 2019 - Baldwin Swamp - Easy S1a

An easy walk through Baldwin Wetlands. Meet at the BBQ shed on Que Hee Street. Contact Crystal on 0422 171 704 to register.

November 24, 2019 – Kayak, Deepwater Creek

There is an option to camp 1-2 nights at Wreck Rock. On Sunday, meet at 8.30am at Wartburg State School, corner of Coast Road and Fernfield Road. Morning paddle along Deepwater Creek downstream from the weir. After lunch, enjoy a refreshing swim in the fresh water section of the creek. If camping, book online at the Queensland Parks site or phone 137 468. Mary on 0414190566 to register. Free for members or \$5 for visitors.

December 1, 2019 - Christmas Party

Venue to be confirmed. Don't forget to bring your photo competition entries!

December 22, 2019 - Social Outing, Paragon Theatre

That's right, we aren't finishing with the Christmas Party this year! The historic Paragon Theatre in Childers will be showing the classic Christmas movie Miracle on 34th Street on Sunday, 22nd December at 10am. Cost is \$10 per person. Depart Thabeban State School at 8.45am. It is up to each attendee to buy their own ticket (from the Paragon website or at the theatre). Contact Allison to RSVP and to organise car pooling. For anyone interested, we will go out for lunch after the movie.

January 19, 2020 – Planning Meeting

Join us for the planning meeting to plan the walks schedule for the first half of the year. All members are welcome. Please bring any ideas you have for walks or activities, and if you can't make it, feel free to let another member know your ideas. Particularly if you are happy to lead a walk. Meet at 10am at Bundaberg Tennis Club, Drinan Park (Power Street, West Bundaberg - NOT the courts in south Bundaberg). BYO food and ideas.

February 4, 2020 – Monthly Meeting

Meet at Bundaberg State High School (F Block) beside the Administration Building at 7.00pm. Park on Maryborough Street and enter through the gate beside the Administration Building.

March 5, 2020 – Monthly Meeting

Meet at Bundaberg State High School (F Block) beside the Administration Building at

7.00pm. Park on Maryborough Street and enter through the gate beside the Administration Building.

June or July 2020 - Thorsborne Trail, Hinchinbrook Is

If anyone is interested in joining Mary and Michelle in walking this trail over 5 nights they would love some company. Sites are already heavily booked from 19th June through to the end of July so bookings need to be made soon. Their preference is to do the walk before the 18th June rather than wait until August. After the walk the plan is to camp at various sites in the wet tropics and Atherton tableland and incorporate as many walks as possible plus some paddling but the plan at this stage is pretty vague. If interested in doing the Trail please contact Mary on 0414 190 566 or Michelle on 0428 957 326 by 17th November.

2019 Annual Photo Competition Rules

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

Categories: Landscape, Wildlife, Macro and People (on or more persons) along with a photo of any subject featuring the colour **BLUE**. We are also adding a new category this year - "Funny"!

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 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.