



Making Tracks With Us

Bundaberg Bushwalking Club Newsletter
November 2020

Contact Us

info@bundabergbushwalkers.com

www.bundabergbushwalkers.com

Thanks to David Batt MP 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 is certainly warming up which means the hard walks are finished for the year. There are still a few easy/medium walks on so please get out and enjoy those before the end of the year.

Our leaders discussion is being held on Sunday, 22 November. It would be great to see as many people there as possible - please note the change of start time to 9.30am. Lunch/snacks will be provided by the club.

The Christmas party will be held at the Woodgate pub on Sunday 29 November, the details are below. The Christmas party is always a nice end to the year, so I hope to see lots of members there. Partners/children are welcome. Don't forget your entries to the photo competition - seeing as we had a short walk calendar this year, your chances of winning are high! Even if you cannot make the party, you can still give your photos to someone else to enter for you.

The November meeting was the last meeting for the year and this will be the last monthly newsletter for the year, so I hope to see you all at the Christmas party. If you cannot make it, I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year, enjoy summer and I look forward to seeing you all again at the planning meeting in January.

Marty

Reminder for Leaders

Just a reminder to please forward your walk sheets to Mary, the treasurer, following each walk. As well as needing this for accounting and insurance purposes, it is a requirement for Covid purposes as well.

You can hand the sheets in at a meeting, take a photo or scan email to Mary, or contact Mary to arrange delivery another way.

PLB order

The club is going to order some new PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons). If you would like to have your own PLB (approximately \$270) and would like to be included on the club's bulk order please contact Lucinda on 0421 011 181 to arrange payment.

If you are a walk/activity leader the club will pay for 50% of the cost of your PLB.

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

October 18, 2020 - Queens Park to Alexandra Park

7 members and 2 visitors set off from Hope St following the river to Alexander Park with the only deviation at the Base Hospital where we have to cross the road. Barry had arranged a morning tea booking for 10am at Pacific Coffee so having made good time and being too early for morning tea we continued to Riverside Parklands before returning to the zoo. At the zoo we said hello to the animals though as it was snake feeding time not to many stayed in the enclosed area for long. By then it was a quick dash to make our morning tea booking. Sitting in air conditioned comfort sipping on milkshakes or a coffee and devouring baked delights certainly is one way to enjoy bushwalking! After that respite we returned to the cars having completed nearly 6km - *Allison*

October 18, 2020 - Coongarra Rockpools

After twisting my ankle Monday morning I wasn't sure if I would recover in time to lead the walk. But after a week of R&R I felt I had recovered enough to at least participate in the walk, much to Bell's relief as she had agreed to lead the walk for me.

After meeting in Biggenden we drove out to Coongarra carpark, the track was still in reasonable condition and wasn't much of a challenge to the 4WD's. The walk started by following the old forestry track and then taking a left turn up onto the ridge. The climb up to the top of the ridge tested everyone's cardio and we had a few rests on the way up, some of these were disguised as photo opportunities by myself, as the week of inactivity hadn't done my fitness any favours.

After following the top of the ridge for a while we then followed a spur down to the creek. The going was a bit steep and scrabbly but it bought us out only a couple of hundred metres from the Rockpools. We had a short break and something to eat. We were reminded that it was snake season by a small Coastal Taipan hiding in the pool waiting to ambush frogs and tadpoles. It was only a short walk to the Rockpools, another meal break and some of us had a swim. After a break some of us climbed up to some small caves above the pools and a lookout that offered a view back over the Rockpools.

The walk back along the creek and old track was uneventful followed by a short section of rock hopping back to the cars. We all met back at Biggenden for a well earned drink and to support the local businesses. Thanks Bell and Gary for sharing the leaders job with me. Once again a great group to lead and good company – *Marty*

October 18, 2020 - Cordalba

Driving to Cordalba we passed the wallum devastated by last season's bushfires. Everything is still

very black, even with green reshooting everywhere. But it was beautiful to see all these flowering

grass trees.

10 walkers started on Sunday morning from the forestry camp trailhead to have a nice morning walk. The weather was in the beginning mostly overcast, but started to get hot towards the end. The brises promised by forecast to kick in late the morning was mostly a no show. We walked the cow bones trail, had a coffee break and came back via the barking owl trail. Sadly, neither cow bones nor barking owls made an appearance. In total, the walk was about 8 km. It is very, very dry in the forest, a lot of leaves hanging limply of the branches, or are already brown. Also not a lot of birds or birdsong around or other critters. Lizards were a few, they like it dry, and a couple of wallabies were encountered on the access road just before the turnoff into the parking area.

The sightseeing highlight of the day was the fenced off old quarry we encountered just after the morning break. A few walkers sneaked underneath the barbed wire and were rewarded by the view down a cliff into a bigish hole overgrown by black wattle. And no clue at all what may have been quarried here. Why not have a sign here to satisfy any curiosity?

Walking was mostly on the bike tracks where we walked single file. Most of cow bones and a bit of barking owl is close to the Gregory River thus we could see some big gum trees in the gully and a few water holes. Away from the river, Cordalba state forest consists of mostly smallish to few medium trees and undergrowth, and now and then a left over stump of a very big tree, logged a long time ago. We did cross the Gregory twice, both crossing absolutely dry. This time nobody got wet feet. - *Angela*

November 1, 2020 - Melaleuca Track, Woodgate

It was hot.

6 walkers (3 for the whole circuit, 3 for a shorter walk) met at the trailhead at Walker Point. We decided to walk to the bird hide first, the bird hide return being about 6 km which was suitable as a shorter walk. On the way forest boronia was flowering (thank you Nene for showing us) and everything was much greener than the week ago when we did the pre-walk. In the bird hide (shade, cool, what a relief) we watched a mangrove honeyeater for a while, doing bird things just in front of us.

Then it was time to resume the circuit. We had left the circuit for the bird hide, but instead of going back we walked an old management track along the mangrove wetlands to the car track which leads to the camp site. We followed car track until we picked up the melaleuca

circuit again where it crosses the car track. Arriving at the camp we opted to for morning tea at the sea and went to Russel's rest where a picnic table is provided. It was hot. But it was peaceful sitting there near the pristine sand, looking out to the sparkling blue sea and distant coastlines until, with the tide going out, 4WDs started to arrive and shatter the peace.

The rest of the walk it just got hotter. There also seemed to have been high winds recently, for quite a few trees had fallen over the track, we needed to step over or walk around. Finally, we finished the circuit and just needed to walk the access track back to the carpark, where we arrived exactly at noon and just wanted to get into the cars and air con on. It was so very hot. Two of us opted to finish with a dip in the waves off Woodgate, finally cool. - *Angela*

October 25, 2020 - Kayak, Cedars Crossing

5 paddlers turned up at Cedars Crossing for this 16km paddle. It was a beautiful day, and a beautiful location, and great company. We had a new paddler, Paula, join us and she proved herself a worth paddle buddy very quickly. Well, all were great paddle buddies, actually!

We paddled up to the old railway bridge, where Angela, our bird expert, pointed out the interactions amongst numerous species sharing the microhabitat created by flood timber on the old bridge. A world of animal and birdlife was happening there. We saw lizards, python skins, and in the water, turtles and many lungfish. Awesome!

We also had a bit of sporty adventure. Peter found a polo ball on the riverbank, which we borrowed for a while. Gary and I, in our plastic fantastic Barracudas played canoe polo up and down the river! Let your competitive streak emerge!

Gary resolved to buy a polo ball of our own, so the games can continue on future paddles. All in all, a delightful part of our beautiful region - *Michelle*

October 31 - Night Walk, Mt Woowoonga

A walk with a difference, change of location and not the usual start time! Originally the three participants (Mary, Tracey and myself) were going to climb Mt Walsh and catch the sunset however weather changed our path and with the lightning we saw towards Mt Walsh from our cosy place on Mt Woowoonga we were grateful.

What an interesting, exciting walk - storms moving around us, the rumble of thunder, flashes of lightning and wind blowing through the valleys, the sting of hail on bare skin as dusk settled on the saddle, a pleasant glow of sunset a beautiful full moon, a hike down in the dark with wildlife, drop bear trees (or was it the T-rex from Palm Valley), funny commentary on

cane toads with Tracey, and a near snake skin shoe incident which was a pleasant surprise to end the track with!

At the bottom, we finished with a feast fit for kings and queens and a gorgeous fire. A totally enjoyable afternoon/night - *Bell*

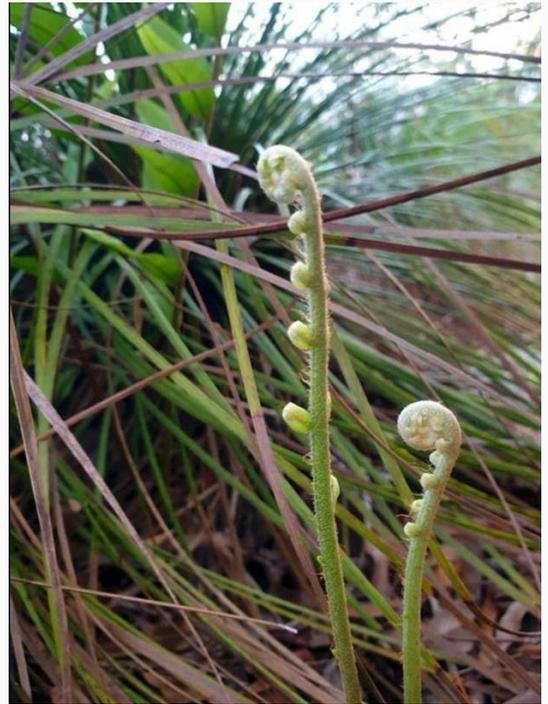
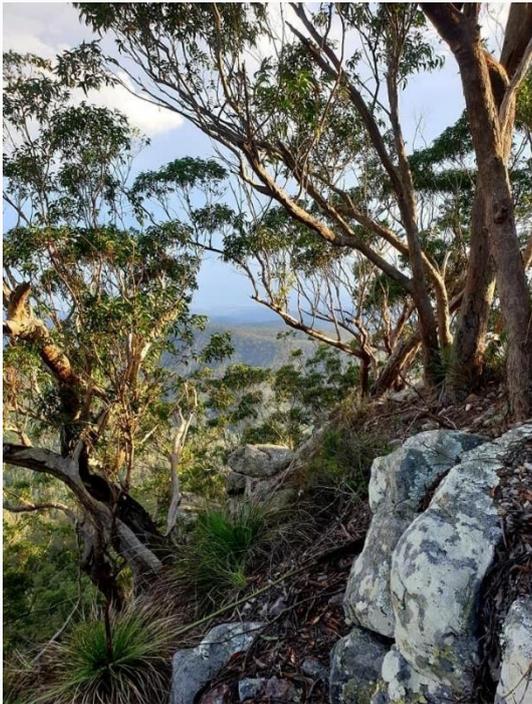
November 1, 2020 - Easy walk

10 people drove to Woodgate and commenced walking on the boardwalk.

3 people returned to the cars at the junction of the circuit walk and the remaining 7 proceeded to walk the track into the forest. The day turned out to be very hot but we were lucky to have shade and some breezes. We saw how the regrowth is coming back on some of the younger trees but the older banksia trees still looked very burnt out. Many of the bracken ferns were a brilliant green carpet over the sandy ground. There was some excitement when we came across 2 large Goannas making whoopee in the middle of the track. They raced off into the bush to a more private place.

We drove to the seaside for lunch. Some of us had a very windy walk along the shore as the tide was making it's way out. It was a lovely day, talking (solving the problems of the world) and walking. Thank you Verlie - *Joy*

Photos

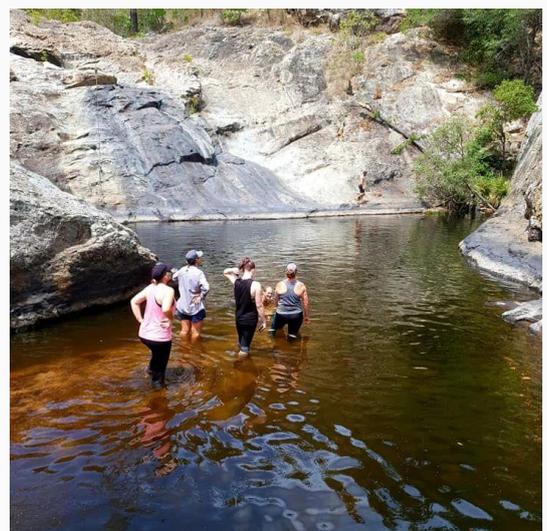


Top left - glimpses from Mt Woowoonga

Top right - interesting plantlife

Bottom Left - the view of the storm clouds, Mt Woowoonga

Bottom Right - hail! Mt Woowoonga



Top - looking back towards Coongarra Rock. Can you see the cave?

Bottom Left - the burning climb up the ridge on the Coongarra Rockpools walk

Bottom Right - cooling off at Coongarra Rockpools

Future Walks & Outings

November 15, 2020 - Stripey Boulder, Mt Walsh NP - Medium S2b

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.

November 15, 2020 - Easy S1a - Moore Park Beach

A lovely evening walk along the beach at Moore Park. You can stay after the walk to have drinks/nibbles/dinner at the beach. BYO food and drinks. Meet at North State School at 5pm. Contact Verlie (4152 8885) to register.

November 22, 2020 - Leaders Discussion - note new time

ALL members/interested people welcome. This is a discussion about how to lead a walk and tips to make it easier. This discussion is a great idea for all leaders, anyone considering leading a walk and even members who are not interested in leading but just want to understand how to help a leader. Please don't be scared, just by attending doesn't mean you will be pushed into leading a walk! Please RSVP to Lucinda (0421 011 181). Baldwin Swamp shed (off Que Hee St), 9.30am. Thanks to some kind donations, lunch will be provided by the club to all attendees, so please let Lucinda know if you are coming so we can arrange enough food.

November 29, 2020 - Christmas Party

Meet at 12 noon at the Woodgate Beach Hotel. All members and guests are welcome to come to celebrate the end of an unusual year.

This year there will be no set menu, everyone can purchase their own drinks and food and the club will subsidise each member's meal by \$10 (paid up members only). Don't forget your photos for the photo competition! You can also stay after the party for a walk or swim. Please RSVP by Monday 23 November to Allison (0448 846 084) for planning purposes.

January 31, 2021 - Planning Meeting

Details to come

November 2, 2020 - Monthly Meeting

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



2020 Annual Photo Competition Rules

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

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

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