

THE TRUDGE

Newsletter of the
SUNSHINE COAST BUSHWALKERS INC.
JUNE 2010

Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of each month, however please check for any changes.

There are no meetings on holidays or long weekends.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm at the Craft Cottage behind Buderim War Memorial Hall corner Main Street and Church Street, Buderim.

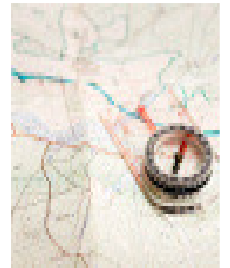
Postal Address:
PO Box 287
Buderim Q 4556

www.sunshinecoastbushwalkingclub.com



F Y I

Basic Map Reading - At the conclusion of the June meeting (Monday 7) Ian Elliott will speak on the basic knowledge required for map reading. Members are encouraged to attend to gain an insight into what Ian can pass on for this very important skill. For more information Google Geoscience Australia "Map Reading Guide".



PLANNING MEETING

A note for members' diaries – the planning meeting for the club's walks from July to December will be held on **SUNDAY 4 JULY** in the **MAROOCHY BOTANICAL GARDENS** commencing at **9.00 am**.

If you have any ideas or suggestions please send them as early as possible to the Walks Secretary Alan Winter at - ahwinter@optusnet.com.au

If you wish bring along your morning tea and/or lunch.

Committee Members

President:	Malcolm Rodley	5443 1739
Vice President:	Russell Stark	0404 235 195
Secretary:	Ann Larsen	5493 1606
Treasurer:	Norm Thursby	5476 6921
Walks Secretary:	Alan Winter	5477 1037
New Members Officer:	Linda Gregory	5478 1222
Trudge Editor:	Helen Winter	5477 1037
Refreshments:	Jenny Rodley	5443 1739
Hire Equipment:	Don Burgher	0416 014 323
FMR Representative:	Russell Knight	5443 4748
Webmaster:	John Hall	5450 1024
Librarian:	Sally Clem	5446 3078

continued WE OF THE NEVER NEVER
THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM TO THE ACROPOLIS - TASMANIA

Glenn Burns

THE FINAL CHAPTER

Sunday 7 February: The Acropolis: 6 kms:

Altitude gain: 630m

The Acropolis (aka The Porcupine) is one of the steepest, highest and most rugged mountains in the area. Sheer dolerite cliffs plunge hundreds of metres into the Cephissus and Narcissus Valleys. It takes its name from the flat-topped rocky outcrop that rises 150 metres above the city of Athens. The original Acropolis is the site of many ancient buildings, temples and statues, dating back to 5 BC, and is now a declared UNESCO world cultural heritage site.

For us, the Greek Gods of weather and walking smiled down. Blue skies, cool winds and spectacular alpine scenery made for brilliant walking. After an initial climb the track traverses an alpine plateau heading directly towards the massive southern cliffs of The Acropolis. Thankfully it veered at the last moment and sidled across rocky slopes under the towering columns. Then came a steepish but ok scramble leading up onto the massive teetering dolerite summit columns, claiming unforgettable views in every direction. Row upon row of peaks where ever you look - immediately to our north the daunting east walls of Mt Geryon with the distinctive summit of Frenchman's Cap far to the south. Lakes sparkled in the sunlight, the extensive waters of Lake St Clair to our south, while a myriad of smaller lakes shimmered way down below in the Labyrinth.

The Acropolis owes its distinctive columnar shape to outcrops of dolerite (bluestone) which is the dominant surface rock across much of highland Tasmania. This dark volcanic rock formed about 170 million years ago in the tectonic upheavals associated with

the fragmentation of Gondwanaland. Australia's major dolerite province is here in Tasmania, a sheet 300 metres thick which cooled slowly into the massive rocky columns forming the huge blocks that we stood on today. The Acropolis rates, for me, as one of the most outstanding bushwalks to be had anywhere in Australia. Just hang out for fine weather!

Monday 8 February: Pine Valley to Narcissus Bay: 8 kms

Up early for our final walk out in warm sunny conditions. Phil the Probationer faced another challenge, track leadership, which I must say was much better than his camp cooking. Though he lost some friends when he let that Bernard blighter sneak into the lead, an energizer bunny on steroids. The pace picked up and we quickly closed in on our ultimate destination, Narcissus Bay, bounded by The Traveller Range and The Mountains of Jupiter to the east and Mt Olympus and The Seven Apostles to the west. Narcissus Bay was named by surveyor George Frankland in the 1830s. Frankland, the first European to climb Mt Olympus (1447 m), was keen on Greek mythology; hence Olympus was named after the home of the Greek gods; other explorers and bushwalkers have since carried on the tradition of Greek nomenclature. We pulled into Narcissus just in time for lunch, but the inn was full...occupied by raucous backpackery types. So we settled into a shady grove on the banks of the Narcissus River and enjoyed a quiet contemplative lunch.

This trip was over, no more monkeys to shoulder for a few days. An outstanding trip: mainly fine weather, spectacular scenery and agreeable walking companions. Who could ask for more?

Postscript: Being slackers we had opted for the shortcut to Park HQ, via the 3.30 pm ferry which appeared sometime south of 4 o'clock. Our tardy Ferryman, a prize goose, tried to foist some hokey touristy stuff on his captive audience of grumpy old men and bored backpackers. Sample: *"What are you all going to have for dinner tonight?"* Phil, clearly ticked off: *"I'm really looking forward to a nice green lettuce salad..."*

That we were on the deepest freshwater lake in Australia or that Sir John Franklin who died seeking the North West Passage had visited the lake in 1842 as Governor of Tasmania, or that we were surrounded by a glaciated landscape with names like Mt Olympus or Mt Ida all mattered nought to this Ferryman. No informative commentary, just cornball about favourite songs and what's for dinner? I'll be taking the lakeside track next time.

What a wonderful adventure for all of you – I reread it many times and wished I could have been there - (I think). It sounds like everyone had a great time – perhaps all except for the time Brian was sucked into the thick black ooze up to his unmentionables thanks for a great read Glenn Ed

CONONDALE RANGE GREAT WALK WILL OPEN IN JUNE

The much anticipated Great Walk will be officially opened by DERM this June. The Conondale Range Committee would like to congratulate Mark Cody, Norm Taylor, Kieran and the crew who worked very hard in difficult terrain and adverse weather conditions to complete the track in record time. Camp sites in this area are "Carpet Snake", "Tallow Wood" and "Summer Falls".

The track does require ongoing maintenance and the CRC are looking for volunteers to help with this task. Anyone who can find some time to help please contact either Don Burgher (0416 014 323 or Joe Kirkpatrick (5453 7672 – 0412 754 333) (SCBWC members).

For more info – Google "Conondale Great Walk"

CLUB PROGRAM – 7 June–5 July 2010

JUNE			
Monday 7	MONTHLY MEETING		
Sat 12)	Queen's Birthday Long Weekend – Jack's	BC – M	Don Burgher 0416 014 323
Sun 13)	Place – Mt Greville – Mt Barney – Mt Maroon		
Mon 14)			
Sunday 20	Elanda Point – Fig Tree	DW – M	Russell Stark 0404 235 195
Sat 26	Moon Walk		Phil Pratt 5493 8503
Sunday 27	Kayak		Phil Pratt 5493 8503
JULY			
Sunday 4	Planning Meeting for Aug 2010 – Jan 2011 –		
	Maroochy Botanical Gardens 9.00 am		
Monday 5	MONTHLY MEETING		Alan Winter 5477 1037

ANZAC WEEKEND 24 to 26 April 2010

Three cars carrying eight walkers gathered at Sharp Park near Canungra on Friday. Ross, Linda and Sally had left the Sunshine Coast early and visited The Springbrook Plateau before coming on to Sharp Park. They walked the 17 Kilometre Warrie Circuit, including a short diversion out to The Pinnacle. At a more leisurely start to the weekend Malcolm, Jenni and Louise had an easy run straight to Canungra and enjoyed a sunny afternoon in camp. The final two Russell and Ann arrived early evening. We were informed departure time was 0715 hours. I suspected Russell had a little more than just 17 kilometres on the Coomera Circuit planned for Saturday.

Saturday dawned fine with temperatures in the mid 20's expected, a great day for walking. We met Linda's daughter Sarah at Binna Burra and 9 walkers headed out to the Coomera Circuit before 0800 hours. An easy walk out to the first lookout where a platform cantilevers out above the valley and waterfalls below. From there the track drops into the valley and the next hour or so is spent crossing the Coomera River on numerous occasions. After recent rain the river was flowing well. Some managed to keep both feet dry and some didn't. The leeches made their presence felt although the itching didn't really start until the next day.

Where the Coomera track heads back towards Binna Burra at the junction of the Border track our party turned and walked out to the edge of the escarpment. From here we followed another track around Mt Hobwee and out to our lunch spot at the Garragoolba Lookout - views from here at 180 degrees - east to the Gold Coast and south to Mt Warning. We encountered a couple of black snakes, not moving out of our way so we gave them their space. The final walk back to Binna Burra at an easy pace allowing time for refreshments at the café before driving back to Sharp Park. Much discussion as to how far we had walked. A final consensus of around 22 kilometres.



Sunday departure, again at 0715, again up the road to Binna Burra. Eight takers as Sarah had returned home.

This day we started walking from the grassy area at the entrance to the lodge. Once a horse paddock in the days before Binna Burra became part of the National Park. Four tracks start from this point. The Bellbird Lookout path is a self guided walk with numbers indicating points of interest.

One tree known as 'Bigfoot' is a huge Tallowwood several hundred years old. About an hour into the walk Ann and Louise veered left to follow the Lower Bellbird track leaving the other six to follow the third option – Ships Stern Circuit. 21 kms. The Great Walk, Binna Burra to Numinbah Valley section commences from here too.

A moment of thought as to the significance of **Anzac Day** as we paused to watch the mist disappear and another beautiful day begin.

The Ships Stern Circuit traverses a varied landscape of ever changing forest types. We started in dense rainforest and when deep in the valley floor we walked beneath very tall palms. Climbing out of the valley we came into more open She-Oak and Eucalypt terrain. The views from Charraboomba Rock down to Egg Rock (Kurraragin) were quite spectacular. Later we had lunch at Kooloobano Point also with very good views, which is halfway around the circuit.

On the eastern escarpment there are several look-out points overlooking Numinbah Valley. The Cascades carried plenty of water due to recent rain which gave an excellent display. Sighted also were two Blue Claw Lobsters enjoying the fresh cool water. Soon we were back on the border track looking forward to the usual round of refreshments.

Ann and Louise followed the Lower Bellbird track. Morning tea at a large grassy expanse with the chorus of Bellbirds. We called into the Ranger Office/Information Centre before returning to our starting point by following a section of the Caves circuit. Good views this time to the west as we descended into the valley. A slow and steady climb back up and time to visit the lodge and café before the others reappeared. Our walk, probably 14 kilometres.

Refreshment at Canungra, nibbles back at camp. Dinner. Rain!!!! As it gets dark so early we weren't aware of an approaching storm. First a few drops of rain. Warning enough to close up tents and then down it came. We huddled under Malcolm's tarp but when the rain finally passed we were all a little damp as were our chairs. An early night all round.

Monday - a more leisurely start to the day. All three cars left at the same time and headed up Mount Tamborine. We regrouped at the National Park on Main Western Road, Mt Tamborine. A short walk along a formed track to stretch out before yet another coffee break and the journey home to the Sunshine Coast.

All agreed the weekend was fun. Thanks Russell.

Louise, with the help of Malcolm & Jenni

Please forward any Trudge news to the Editor Helen Winter at: ahwinter@optusnet.com.au

HIRE GEAR

The club has some bushwalking gear for hire as follows:

2 through walk packs – 2 tents – 1 sleeping mat

Cost is \$10-00 per usage for a day or week

For more information please contact Don Burgher 0416 014 323

Any suggestions from the club membership are appreciated.

KIN KIN WALK - 2 May 2010

In cloudy conditions twenty-four people, fourteen club members and ten visitors met at the Kin Kin Hotel ready for our 23 kilometre one way trek along the Western Branch Road connecting Cooran to Kin Kin in the Noosa Hinterland. After a car ferry to the start at Cooran we set off up the first of many uphill stretches following our trusty leader John. Brian volunteered to be the tail end accompanying the ever changing slower person. Our first stop was at James McKane Memorial lookout for a pit stop and morning tea. Did you know that James McKane was a local councillor in the 1920's and after he married Pansy Napier a daughter of a well-known pioneering family in the area built their family home very near the lookout's present position? What a place to build a home with commanding views north of Lake Cootharaba to Noosa and south to Maroochydore. The beautiful cool breeze was definitely an added attraction.

We continued our uphill journey through Woondum Forest Reserve where we enjoyed a section of rain-forest, I had to remind myself to stop and breathe in the many moments of beauty. The lead position changed many times throughout the day and when I ventured ahead happily tackling yet another hill, I was whistled back. I had misinterpreted an arrow pointing up as to mean go straight ahead when in fact an arrow on the reverse side of the post was at an angle indicating to go right. As a penalty I was nominated to pen this report. One moral of this story could be there are always two sides to every post!

That's odd, I always thought there were 4 .. Ed



Lunch stop was at Johnston's Lookout. And another piece of local knowledge is that the Johnston family have owned all the land we looked over while we dined since the pioneering days extending over at least three generations. Variety was the central theme of the day with creek crossings, mud sections, mowed paths, grooved dirt tracks, gravel roads, bitumen roads and even some well defined bush tracks as we meandered up and down the bush and across fields. There were numerous gates with a few catchy catches, a couple of horse riding groups, a 4WD group, motorbikes and a few cows watching us nonchalantly. The sun broke out from behind the clouds as we cleared the bush and started to make our way homeward. The full sun made this stretch even more warming. My legs were getting heavier, my small toes were feeling cramped from the many side-angled downhill sections, but all was forgotten when a few of us stood on the last hill overlooking Kin Kin. And who do you think led the way to the end? Yes, it was our tail Brian marching quickly to the hotel with the taste of cool liquid refreshments in his mouth. We were like brown's or was it Johnston's cows heading into town eager to quench our thirst.



Thanks John for his area experience and knowledge as this added to an enjoyable yet challenging at times walk.



Jan Fedley

BARNEY GORGE – 15 May 2010

Barney Gorge is a wonderful day out... it has everything for those who want to expend a lot of energy.

Our accommodation was at Jack's Place at the base of Mount Maroon and from there Don and Roland took us in their 4x4's to Cleared Ridge - Russell and Vicky came in their camper. From Cleared Ridge the eleven of us walked the 4x4 trail to a drop-off, which is marked by a large log and another log wedged between two trees, or look left after the third knoll. This is the point we dropped down to Barney Creek and a quite distinct camping area.

Marginally right of this camp site is Barney Gorge, and the co-ordinates were checked on the map and with a GPS. At this point it was "up-hill all the way".



There are some magnificent boulders, rock faces, and numerous crystal clear water holes. Our instructions were to keep right on the first waterfall and left on the second, which seemed to work out okay.

There was one minor incident when Chris slipped on a rock slab and couldn't get a hand or foot hold to go up and down, she was helped out of the situation by Ross with a climbing tape, but if anyone finds a sun visor up there please return it to its rightful owner.

After four hours we heard voices from above and a group of gents were getting set to spend the night at the old hut site. From this point a very definite track showed us the way to Rum Jungle... where we meet a group of Brisbane Bush Walkers who were staying at Barney Lodge.

Our descent was down via South Ridge, and after more than two hours we were at the car park just as Don drove in to collect us... Roland arrived shortly afterwards and a hot shower and cold refreshments were most welcome back at Jack's Place... no one needed any rocking that night.

Thanks to Ross for leading the outing and thanks also to all those involved, it was a good weekend.

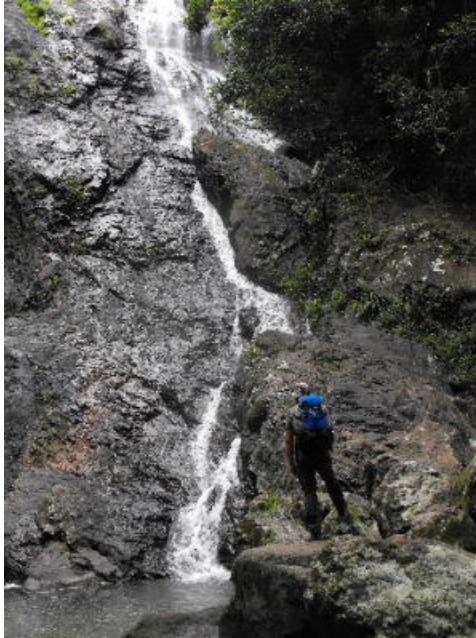
On the way home Jenni and myself went to Mt Greville, up Waterfall Gorge and down Palm Gorge... but that's another story.



Malcolm & Jenni

KONDALILLA FALLS TO BAROON POCKET DAM - 16 May 2010

Twenty-five turned up for this walk, that's a fair number considering there was also a Jack's Place weekend. The majority being prospective members, it was good to see new faces interested in walking with our club.



The walk is classed as "easy". This walk classification would give new walkers an idea what to expect. Alan decided to split the party into two groups for easier handling but it wasn't long before both groups turned into one. This turned out okay anyway.

It was a rare grey, gloomy and cooler day but did not rain - a good day for walking. We started walking from the Kondalilla Falls car park. We had morning tea, after about an hour, at the flat rock beside the Obi Obi Creek with lunch at the second lookout a couple of kilometres before reaching Baroon Lake.

The walk was completed without any major problems except we nearly had to call in the rescue helicopter when one of the younger ladies was set upon by a leech. I was the brave one who held her delicate ankle and with great courage removed the offending creature. My hand was shaking so much that this took rather longer than it should have.



Most of the party regrouped at the Palmwoods Hotel for refreshments. Not a bad little spot - I don't know why we don't meet there more often.

This is always an enjoyable walk. Thanks Alan for organising the day.

Phil

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Welcome to ANDREA HOOK a new member from the May meeting. We hope you enjoy your time with the club and look forward to seeing you on many of our walks ... happy walking SCBWC

BRANCH CREEK - BELLTHORPE STATE FOREST

Stony Creek Road- 23 May 2010

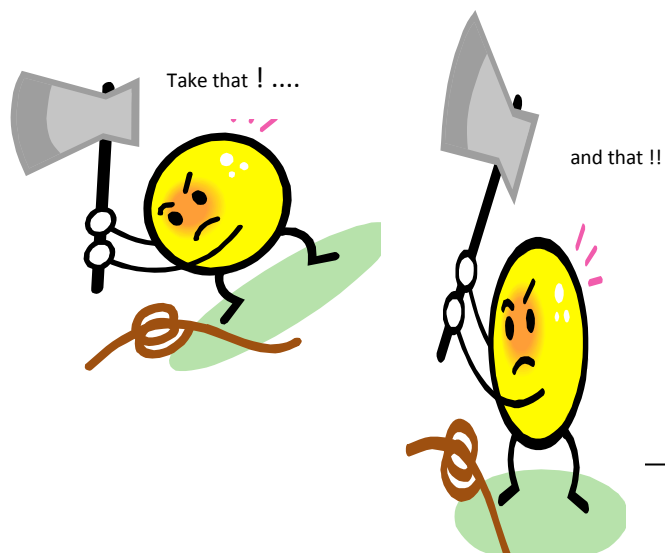
Five of us – Russell (Walk Leader), Alan, Leanda, Mike and myself (guest) met at the Rustic Cabin and car pooled (thanks Alan) to the recreational area car park at Branch Creek in the Bellthorpe State Forest. Branch Creek flowed just metres from the car park meaning a wrong foot crossing it meant wet boots from the start of the walk. That all managed to keep dry boots we took as a good omen for the start.



Once on the other side we began a long upwards haul through light regrowth (a fire had swept through the area some ago) up to a ridge line where we rested for 45 seconds (seemed like that) before hauling ourselves up a shorter 'hill' and onto a forestry road. The ground up to this point was grassy with loose rocks underneath - we all restrained from touching the burnt tree trunks and started our 'road walk' puffed but clean and so presentable.

After a lovely walk along the forestry road we turned off onto a well marked track leading down to Branch Creek which had a good flow of water making swimming a 50% activity of the day if we hadn't decided to bushbash around obstacles in the creek. Wherever we did leave the creek line and bushbashed there seemed to be the favourite growing place of lantana, lush and thriving, along the steep sides of the creek. The soil here was usually very crumbly and loose with loose rocks mixed through it and often someone would shout 'rock' and one would tumble crashing down through the lantana.

I often caught glimpses of either Russell or Alan, partially hidden, crashing through welding secateurs as the overgrowth around them moved and wobbled before surrendering to their stomping feet and then we'd be back in the creek again (till the next detour) with slippery rock to ward and dry boot to fend.



Branch Creek is worth every effort and with the right light offers promise of stunning photography, it's a beautiful place. Unfortunately I'm a lousy photographer, I feel the memories of the day after the walk especially when I lay in bed that night I go over the walk again like running a film in my own mental drive-in.

Branch Creek on the day had such water as to provide falls both small and large, cascade and rock pool deep wide and long. It was full of gurgle, burble splash and bubble.

It was a long walk though and I found an irritant as paced past delightful spots and wondered about time and change and light and shadow and many things to small to note.



Each of us succumbed to the very slippery rocks in the creek at some time (the amazing absolute slipperiness of a wet mossy rock) and all badged home numerous scratches and abrasions but otherwise unhurt. Funny how with blood trickling somewhere we always note first if the seat of our pants is dirty. We each sported a black backside... sure sign of a great walk!

Ron

GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS - 30 May 2010

Wild Horse Mountain ... Mt Tibberoowuccum ... Mt Tunbududla West
(Appetiser ... Entrée ... and Main Course)

After a bleak Saturday we awoke to a perfect day for bush walking. The sky was clear, the wind was brisk but pleasant and the temperature was in the low 20's. Just the day to tackle mountain peaks.

Twenty-two walkers met Russell at the Ettamogah Pub and after consolidating our transport we went in convoy to Wild Horse Mountain, the first of our three peaks – the appetiser. Here the easy ascent was on a sealed track and provided us with a perfect warm-up for the peaks ahead. From the lookout at the top of this peak we were rewarded with a 360 degree panorama. On this day the clear sky and lack of haze enhanced the views. The high-rise buildings in Brisbane stood out clearly in the distance. We lingered here for a short while and then returned to the vehicles and drove to our second peak.

Mount Tibberoowuccum (the entrée) was a little more challenging. The track up was evident but a little overgrown in places. There were quite a few hidden rocks along the track and at times conditions were a little slippery. For the most part, though, this was an enjoyable climb that culminated in a few metres of near-vertical rock scrambling to reach the summit. The summit was rather cramped with the 20 or so who climbed up but we all managed to find a spot to have morning tea and enjoy the scenic views of the farmland below us. The descent from this peak was via the same route as the climb up and all too soon we were off to our third and final peak.





Tunbududla West was the most challenging of the three. At this stage we were given the opportunity to finish our walk or continue on and most of the group decided to climb the peak. This time our walk started on a very muddy road. After the recent rain the recreation vehicles had churned large sections into bog holes and, given the conditions, we had to go through the muddy sections. Our mud-laden boots felt heavy on our feet before beginning the climb.

Due to the growth following a wet Autumn, we were unable to locate the marked route so Russell led us through the bush and the climb soon became a scramble. At first the thick grass underfoot felt like walking on an innerspring mattress and it didn't take us long to rid ourselves of the mud caked in our boots. After crossing the grassed area we scrambled our way up to the peak, where we took our lunch break.

Whilst not a difficult climb some sections were steep and at times it was slippery on the loose rocks. Louise slipped and hurt her leg and she and Phil decided it would be best for them to wait whilst the rest of us made our way to the summit for a welcome lunch break and a further opportunity to view the hinterland from up high.

On the way down we were able to follow the pink ribbons marking the route and Russell returned to catch up with Phil and Louise. After making it to the muddy track again we were all a little disoriented and unsure of just where we had exited but after some discussion and some reconnaissance we set off through the mud and were quite relieved when we found the cars.



Three peaks, road trips between and varying numbers of participants kept Russell busy. Thanks, Russell, for keeping our large group under control.

The drinks and chat back at the Ettamogah Pub at the end of the day rounded out a very pleasant day of walking.

Jenny Baker

SUGGESTED READING

Emergency Services Queensland – Helicopter Recovery website.

Google EMQ Helicopter Rescue which will lead to government homepage with lots of useful information.

Advisable reading – not only for walk leaders but all club members.

Alan Winter