



# THE TRUDGE

Newsletter of the  
**SUNSHINE COAST BUSHWALKERS INC.**  
**SEPTEMBER 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](http://www.sunshinecoastbushwalkingclub.com)



Mt Barney Gorge  
May 2010

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

At the Club's August meeting we welcomed five new members – Mike & Marilyn Farrelly, Barry Palmer, Jan Schramm and Heather Worth. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to seeing you on some of our great walks ..... Ed

**Members please note annual subscriptions are due 1<sup>st</sup> October. These should be paid at the October meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> thank you... Ed**

**Also please note in your diary the club's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Monday 1 November. All members are urged to attend ... thanks .... Ed**

The club now owns two PLBs, one of which must be carried on all walks where the walk leader expects to be outside of mobile phone range. Remember the overriding principle of PLBs is that they should only be activated when in circumstances of "grave and imminent danger" and a life threatening situation exists. Members should take time to familiarise themselves with the equipment and with AusSar's website at [beacons@amsa.gov.au](mailto:beacons@amsa.gov.au)  
Alan W, Walks Secretary

## 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 Off:	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

## GREAT WALK COOLOOLA - 14-18 July 2010 (unofficial walk)

Bushwalking Group: Lyn, Sally, Michelle, Glenn, Don, Brian, Bernhard and Ross T.

Route: From Rainbow Beach, south to Tewantin, following the new high dune track. It roughly runs parallel with the Cooloola Wilderness Trail, but more easterly and more scenic.

**Day 1** 8.30 start. Partially cloudy. With fully loaded backpacks (5 days of food and all of us with separate tents) we climbed the first kilometre uphill! We shed our packs in the middle of the Carlo Sandblow to appreciate the sweeping views of Double Island lighthouse and the colourful sand cliffs angled steeply to the beach. With no wind and sunny skies this mini desert was particularly photogenic. For a short time we followed the "Old Telegraph Track" then branched south through rainforest until arriving at Lake Poona for lunch. This perched lake sits 160m above sea level and is the largest perched lake in Cooloola. Compared to the last time I saw it the water level is quite high with the middle sand bank covered. Ross and I had a refreshing swim in the cool tannin stained water. Then it was rainforest walking until the Kauri Walker's Camp - 2.00pm arrival - 15.2 kms total.

Each camp is provided with a rainwater tank which many of us treated with tablets or steri-pens. Another walking group on their 4<sup>th</sup> day (heading north) assured us that the untreated water was safe to drink. All tanks are screened. The sky was overcast with a little sprinkling of rain which made conditions damp, but we shared some stories with the other group of 4 lively walkers. A mouthorgan was produced for the after dinner entertainment. This encouraged the "runner" of the other group to grab his tin whistle. Music, singing and laughter echoed out through the tall rainforest.

**Day 2** 8.00am start (and what a send-off!)

Imagine a song at full voice by our 4 accompanying campers. "Hit the Road Jack. Don't you come back no more no more. Hit the Road Jack..." We walked in perfect conditions for 20.5 kms today.



Rainforest terrain, with some fallen trees crossing the track, gave way to blackbutt and scribbly gum country. Just before Littoria walkers camp we passed the western side of Lake Cooloolamera.

A wide skirt of reeds fringed this small lake which made it difficult to reach the water's edge. Littoria camp has been built on a hill with the communal area on the crest next to the toilet while the tent sites are down the hill spread out from each other. An orange cloud-bursting sunset slowly yielded to the appearance of many twinkling stars.

**Day 3** 8.00am start. Clear sky. Daily distance 14.8kms. Our packs propped at the junction we ambled downhill for 600 metres to have another look at Lake Cooloolamera. This time we walked to its southern shore but the view was disappointing. However by climbing a tree trunk I could take some decent photos of the misty lake water. We trudged up and down lots of hills today in mostly blackbutt, scribbly gum and grass tree country. Beside the track is the tumbled down Ramsay's Hut a relic of the timber cutters. As we descended the high hills we had great views looking towards Tin Can Bay. The track was spongy and boggy on the low-lying wallum approaching the river but the sight of Christmas bells with their large yellow drooping bells was a surprise. (I didn't realise they celebrated Xmas in July?)

We arrived at Dutgee camp in good time and found it ideally situated next to the Noosa River. We were keen to wash off the sweat with swims/washes and plunges in the cold river. →

Just after dark, an unseen rodent climbed the table snuck into my food bag and extracted my wrapped block of tasty cheese. I found the wrapper one metre away tossed to the ground with the cheese next to it. The thief rodent had nibbled and gnawed a big chunk off the cheese. (I learnt my lesson to hide the food bag at night!) This afternoon I wrote a short poem/song about our group. (This creation had input from the others).

*Racehorse Ross strides on the flats  
Bernhard is his equal on the track  
Glenn clean and tidy gets the dapper prize  
While Brian's looking daggy like his pack.*

*Don has his gadgets and his GPS  
Lyn is the nurse if in need  
Sally with her short steps does impress  
Michelle on the hills can't help but speed.*

**Day 4** 8.00am start. The abundant purple boronia flowers brightened up the track which paralleled the Noosa River. Then we climbed up the soft sandy switchbacks to the Cooloola Sandpatch, a fascinating natural icon of Cooloola. The blue sky and south-westerly wind made the conditions easy for the one kilometre desert crossing. A dead tree trunk has become a navigational aid halfway across the expanse and soon we regrouped in the shade of the trees on the southern side. Further on we had magnificent views of the beach extending from Double Island lighthouse to Noosa. We arrived at Brahminy walkers' camp in the early afternoon very pleased to set up our wet tents in sunny locations. Distance travelled 20.3 kms. To fill in the afternoon hours we did some photography munched on snacks and watched sea eagles sweeping the sky. Don, Ross and I had lots of laughs composing and reciting limericks.

*Brian gets up earliest in the club  
His mascot is a sock from a bub  
Fascinated with camp fire  
Lantana, bogs and briar  
Coming from the scrub he yells "Where's the pub?"*

*The bearded walker of the group is Don  
Map and compass his companion,  
He teaches navigation  
About triangulation  
Students please take note, or you'll bomb!*

**Day 5** 7.45 start. Our last hill of the "Great Walk" was Mount Seawah with its amazing views. Skirting Teewah township we followed the track through tunnels of thickly vegetated foredunes with delightful bird songs and darting fantails. Such a twisty track! Tantalisingly it often led us to the beachside casuarinas above the hightide mark. At last the track led us out on the hard packed beach sand where we dodged waves and examined shells. This section was 1½ kms long. Across the wetlands we strode for 2 kilometres and this brought us to the end of the track behind the Noosa North Shore cabins. Daily distance 17.3 k. We achieved just under 100 kilometres in 5 days. Naturally, we gravitated to the pub for a well earned lunch and refreshments.

A big "thank you" to Linda for the lift to the Tewantin Ferry. We needed it since our stomachs were bloated from huge bowls of chips! In summary, we rated the walk "very interesting" because of the variety. Go see it for yourself.

Michelle F

## MT EERWAH – MT NINDERRY Sunday 1 August 2010

A very good turnout of 26 met at the Ginger Factory at 8.30am with the intention of easing into the day's climb by first scaling Mt Ninderry. However Malcolm who was leading the walks had a few concerns about the weather so we car pooled to the start of Mt Eerwah about 10kms from the Ginger Factory.

Mt Eerwah is 405m high and part of the Mt Eerwah Conservation Park. Although the rain stayed away it would have been treacherous if it had come down. Early in the walk we had to scale a steep 'mud' bank of some 40 metres or so. Fortunately someone before us had left ropes firmly secured to trees enabling us to haul ourselves to the top.



The climb was relatively steep and deserving of its medium rating. There were a number of compulsory stops - for photo opportunities of course! The vistas were very good but the view from the top was comparatively disappointing due to the growth in vegetation. At this stage morning tea was taken before travelling down. This part was not as difficult as earlier anticipated with trees and vines just at the right intervals to grab and secure one's footing.



The ropes again proved invaluable scaling down the mud bank and then we were out at the car park.

Onto Mt Ninderry just a few kms from the Ginger Factory. I'm sure a head count would have been done at Mt Eerwah but only 19 turned up for this second climb! Ninderry was a relative breeze compared with Mt Eerwah. The views from the top were marvellous. Lunch was taken on precarious rock formations with views out to the coast and hinterlands the other way. We pondered over two headstone inscriptions on the top of Ninderry as to what may have happened to the two young men who lost their lives many years ago. A dilapidated jumping platform lay nearby.



It did not take long to reach our vehicles and we were off a little after 1pm. It was a good day out.

Lynda S

## KIN KIN - Sunday 8 August 2010

You could not have got a better day and the views from the start of the walk were superb. The 36 walkers left Camphor Road car park at 8.30am heading north towards Kin Kin. Along the ridge we passed through a selection of farms and rural properties.

A later morning tea was at the Lake Cootharaba lookout where everyone had opportunity to chat as they took in the view out to the Sand Blow.

At Sheppersons Park the large group divided and Malcolm took 7 walkers back to Kin Kin completing a 15 kms outing.

The remaining enthusiasts continued on with me to Wahpunga Park for lunch and back through Gradys Lane to cool refreshments at the Kin Kin Hotel.

Finishing the day at 3pm and completing 25 kilometres, everyone should feel mighty proud of their achievements.

We car shuffled back to Camphor Road where we dispersed for home. Many thanks to all those who participated.

Jenni and Malcolm R

## CLUB ACTIVITIES – MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER – MONDAY 4 OCTOBER 2010

SEPTEMBER 2010	
Mon 6	MONTHLY MEETING
Wed 8	Noosa Trail No. 7 – DW – E – Clive Browne 5445 2513
Sun 12	Moreton Bay Islands via ferry – DW – E – Vicki Knight 5443 4748
Sun 19	Gheerulla Circuit Blackall Range – DW – M – Russell Stark 0404 235 195
Wed 22	Sunshine Coast Beach Walk – DW – E - Caloundra to Mooloolaba (16 kms) - Norm Thursby 5476 6921
Sun 26	Kin Kin No. 2 – DW – M – John Balderson 5448 0016
Sun 26	Kayak – Mooloolah River – Phil Pratt 5493 8503
<b>EXTRA</b> <i>Kokoda Track – 10 days - mid-late September 2010 – queries to Bernhard Weitkuhn 5442 2006</i>	
School Term 3 break: Saturday 18 September - Sunday 3 October	
OCTOBER 2010	
Sun 3	Mt Seawah – DW – M – Ann Larsen 5493 1606
Mon 4	MONTHLY MEETING

### MESSAGE FROM BERNHARD

Bernhard is planning to do a through walk from Rainbow Beach to Freshwater campsite and back - on the 9th and 10th October.

Anyone who hasn't done one before or wants to do a refresher is most welcome to come along. This is an ideal first overnight walk. It is easy, very scenic, with swimming and even a hot shower at the end of the day.

***Please contact Bernhard on 5442 2006 if interested.***



## MT BOULDER – Sunday 15 August 2010

The morning dawned crisp with fog floating in every valley making it a perfect day for a social walk. Today was my "graduation" day, my third walk now I can apply for membership! At the last minute there was a change in walk leader. John had to go walkabout so that left the 13 of us on foot.

Our newly assigned leader (sorry I am not familiar with names yet) I think was Allan, had no idea where to go, so we all democratically decided to walk aimlessly through the cool forest for about an hour or so until in order to gain some orientation we found ourselves on top of a mountain, we voted again. Mt Boulder was elected with Gympie also elected to be the town we could see way down there.



*Group democratically walking aimlessly ???*

After creeping through the bushes to see what we could see (more views) we went down the other side of the mountain, just like the bear. It was a steep descent all of us clinging to the trees like koalas. By the time we got to the bottom it was lunch time and so hot that we all went for a dip in the cool rock pools while the rest of us sat on the warm rocks and had lunch.

The way back was an easy steady ascent - 300m we were told by someone who seemed to know. It was along here that conversation came up about John had planned this walk in reverse order.

What? easy walk down and then up koala mountain? No way! We all agreed that John was lucky he didn't turn up or he would have got the democratic treatment that Julia gave Kevin.

At the end of the 25 Km walk that seemed more like just 15 we all had beer at the pub, all except Jet our youngest guest member who still had enough energy to go and have a surf.

Stephen C



What **ARE** you doing ???

## HUSSEY CREEK – Sunday 22 August 2010

Bernhard, Jenny, Richard, Louise and I reckon it is one of the prettiest creeks around.  
We struck a perfect day, light wind and cool temperature with the right tide.

We launched at the end of Roy's Road, found the entrance to Hussey Creek and went up as far as we could until a log blocked our way, much to the relief of some. (We were within a few hundred metres of the end of navigable water) As it was we covered 20 kms.



On the return journey the tide was dropping and our keels were getting closer to the bottom in places so we decided to delay lunch until we got back which was about 2.00pm.

We tried to slip away quietly before Bernhard lifted his heavy craft (one with fancy foot pedals) onto his roof but he was onto our scheme.

What other little undiscovered gems are under our noses?

*Phil*

## It's all down hill from here and other "lies" told by Bush Walkers ..... the other 10 of the 20 most common lies

- 11 There should be water in the stream / there should be no water in the stream.
- 12 There should be a track up here somewhere.
- 13 We should be able to drop off the ridge and pick up another track soon.
- 14 There won't be many people around.
- 15 It levels off just around the corner.
- 16 The hard part's over.
- 17 The water's not very cold.
- 18 If you stick with the leader you never get lost.
- 19 There are no hills, it's all level.
- 20 There won't be any Lantana. (From Brian. *A Brianism*)

Methinks - nobody  
in their right mind  
would go there !

Please forward any news for the Trudge  
to the Editor Helen Winter at –  
[ahwinter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ahwinter@optusnet.com.au)



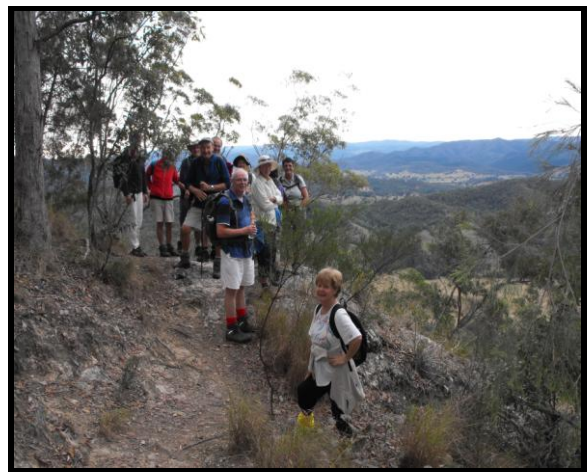
## SPIKES HUT – PLAN A, B, C, D - Wednesday 25 August 2010

Fine, cool and overcast as 12 of us met at the Kenilworth bakery for one of Norm Thursby's Wednesday walks. Kenilworth as usual was doing its best to attract tourists by hosting a "Scarecrow Festival". Many of the locals had to "keep moving" so as not to be mistaken for entries in the competition (just joking!).



PLAN A Spike's Hut, an easy day walk. What more could you wish to be doing whilst "mere mortals" bustled about their daily business. Norm warned us that we had a few creeks to cross and might get wet and sure enough within the first km we were deciding how best to tackle the first creek crossing. Methods varied from wading straight in to stripping off (?) shoes and socks in an attempt to remain dry for the rest of the walk. One maiden accepted a "fireman's lift" to accomplish the crossing in an untidy

but dry fashion. Within a few hundred metres of the creek we came to a very well barricaded section of the track. With stern warnings of legal action and given that we could hear chainsaws we decided not to make the club liable for prosecution and returned to the Charlie Moreland starting point. The creek had to be crossed again of course and the same methods were adopted. This time two maidens were seen to accept piggybacks. (Surely there's something in the club's constitution that says this is "not on"). Oh well - plan B.



PLAN B "No worries" said Norm "We'll go up to Mt Allen" – well we didn't even get to leave the Charlie Moreland camp as Parks & Wildlife have closed the track to Mt Allen. Seems they are encouraging walkers to utilise the new Conondale Great Walk. Oh well - plan C. PLAN C Good old John Balderson – "What about part of the Gheerulla circuit" said John. Why not we chorused. Back to Kenilworth and then to Gheerulla Recreation Area car park for morning tea before tackling the climb to Thilba Thalba camp. In Kenilworth however the lure of the bakery was too strong. "Hang on. I just want to get a takeaway cappuccino" said one walker. Soon joined by several others craving a caffeine fix, we resorted to plan D. PLAN D Coffees in hand we met at the Gheerulla Recreation area where we hastily fuelled our internal combustion engines for the climb. "It zig-zags up the hill so it's not too bad" John told us. "It's a little bit steep coming down the short cut though"! Well plan D worked a treat.



We zig-zagged to the Thilba Thalba Walkers camp enjoying the views out over the Mary River valley in the process. The crest was reached and displays of yellow boronia, golden hakea and blue and purple wildflowers made the climb worthwhile. Lunch was at the camp during which time we all agreed the temperature had dropped to around 15-16 degrees. Unmarked on the Great Walk map, a shortcut exists a kilometre or so to the east of the campsite.



This runs from the ridge down to Gheerulla Creek. Progress slowed as we each picked our way down the steep track, carefully placing feet in between loose rocks to avoid a more rapid descent than was desirable. We all made it with a few minor abrasions. Highlight of the descent was the promised (by me) sighting of the “rare and endangered Ironbark orchid”. This rare bloom blossoms for 48 hours once every 5 years - nah, just kidding again. They did look fabulous though and we were lucky enough to find a couple of ironbarks with orchid blooms low enough to get a good look.



The remainder of the trip along Gheerulla Creek back to the cars was uneventful, save for the fact we noticed that the creek, which was flowing well until we reached the proximity of the camp ground, suddenly dried out. Either there's a significant natural sump or someone in the camp ground had dug one heck of a latrine because the creek crossing we had to use near the parking area was bone dry. Thanks Norm and John for an unexpected but most enjoyable Wednesday walk. Alan W

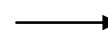
## **TRAVEL STORY FROM OUR MEMBERS JOE AND SHARON** **(travelling Australia for past 5 months)**

We're still "Happy Campers"!!! After Darwin and the Asian influenced Mingil Beach Sunset Markets (great for food), we headed into Lakefield National Park, which we were disappointed with and even only stayed one night. Maybe it was too soon after Kakadu – which is a National Park in a league of its own. Our next National Park stop however was a little stunner – Keep River (via Pine Creek and Victoria River Roadhouse). Really enjoyed a few days there, very quiet, good walks, great scenery.

A few kms after leaving Keep River we entered WA and this time we were ready for the 'time-zone thing'. We went forward again by another 1½ hours which felt all wrong especially getting up at 5.30-6.00am when our bodies were saying 4.00-4.30. Next it was off to Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve just out of Wyndham to check out Marglu Wetlands which was really good for birds despite so much water every-where else. It was then onto the Kimberley via Gibb River Road. On our 4<sup>th</sup> night we arrived at Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary owned by Australian Wildlife Conservancy and covers almost 1 million acres!

On our second day there however it started to rain, not much only 17mm, but it doesn't take much to turn the road tracks into mud tracks and so the road out of Mornington, 87km's back to Gibb River Rd, was closed and remained so for 2 days. Didn't bother us too much as we still went out walking and bird-watching but most just sat around getting bored – it was an interesting study in human behaviour when things don't go to plan. Sadly though the day we left Mornington two National Parks we wanted to go to were closed and so we headed for Broome, via a fishmongers in Derby (a tip from a fellow traveller) for Threadfin Salmon – yum...mee.

Again our plans were changed as the Bird Observatory in Broome where we intended to stay was also closed and so ended up in a caravan park just out of Broome where we joined the squadrons of caravaners which were parked up waiting for the weather to improve. Joe came up with a nickname for the 'caravan people' – HINETs – high impact non-environmental travellers. Just our opinion of course. We have absolutely no bloody idea why people rave about Broome, we didn't like it at all – overrated, overpriced, overtouristy, except Matso's Brewery where we sampled 6 beers brewed on site. And as for the famous Cable Beach (supposedly the best white beach in the country), it was hideously spoilt by the allowance



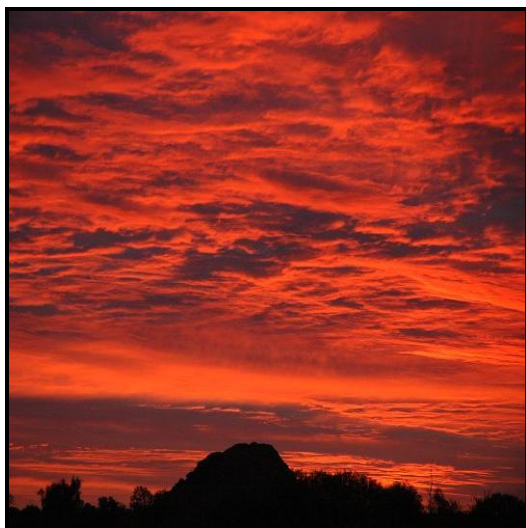
of 4WD vehicles (easily 100) to park on the beach, parking-lot style, where the human contents watched the sunset from inside. Best part about Broome – viewing it through the rearvision mirror as we left.

We then travelled back through the Kimberley region via the Great Northern Highway heading to Purnululu National Park. The scenery from Fitzroy Crossing all the way to Purnululu was fabulous. We never tire of the rich tapestry of the reds, oranges and greens of 'escarpment, Spinifex country'; it is gorgeous and hard to resist photographing every metre of it.

Purnululu – definite WOW factor. The beehive shaped formations of the Bungle Bungle Ranges are stunning, and so much more extensive than what we were expecting.



We spent a few days here and lapped up every minute. The walks available took you to great scenery and the 53km (1 ½ hours) rough road into the Park was worth the effort. *(Have been there – agree it is fabulous ! .. Ed)*



After Purnululu we headed down the Tanami Crossing through the Tanami Desert to Alice Springs. 1,000kms of a heavily corrugated rough road – and really enjoyed 4 great days on it. The 1<sup>st</sup> night was at Wolfe's Crater National Park – it was magical. The fully intact crater is 800m wide and 50m high and rises from fairly flat country so you can't miss it. 360° views from the top. The sunset and sunrise were lovely. We found our own bush camps for the next 3 nights and really enjoyed total solitude in 'big sky' country. The only thing harsher than the road was the nightly temperature, which probably was around 4-5°.

Next it was Alice Springs for a couple of days to clean up and stock up before we headed out to the MacDonnell Ranges. We spent one night at Trephina Gorge Nature Park in the East and then 7 nights in the West MacDonnell's, which is all National Park, where we hiked bits of the Larrapinta Trail from 4 different camp spots. Despite the cold and very windy conditions we had an enjoyable week – some stunning scenery with great panoramas and surprisingly few people. The wildflowers were fantastic, seemingly endless varieties and colours. All the rain had caused an explosion of growth in both flora and fauna – very fortunate to be experiencing the Red Centre at a time of such abundance.

We were beginning to think we were getting "gorge'd out" - similar to seeing too many churches in Europe – when we next headed to Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon) - how wrong we were. The Rim Walk around the top of the 'canyon' was fabulous, walking amongst the domeshaped rock formations and yes the canyon (gorge) was very dramatic from the top. After a couple of nights there we finally made our way to what must be the most recognised icon of Australia – tune in next time..... love Sharon and Joe *(Brouht back some memories ... Ed)*