

"MAKING TRACKS WITH US"

BUNDABERG BUSHWALKING CLUB

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER - 2025



info@bundabergbushwalkers.com
www.facebook.com/BundabergBushwalkingClub
www.bundabergbushwalkers.com

Club Executives

<i>President</i>	<i>Lucinda</i>	<i>(0421 011 181)</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Allison</i>	<i>(0448 846 084)</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Paula</i>	<i>(0490 330 542)</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>(0414 190 566)</i>

President's Ponderings –Of course, summer means it's Christmas party time. Ours is only a few weeks away, and we would love to see everyone there. And if you haven't started yet, look at your photos now! Pick out your favourites as entries for the photo comp. Half the fun is just in sharing the photos, so it would be great to see heaps of entries.

As this year winds down, we turn our minds to next year. 2026 already! The planning meeting for the calendar for the first half of the year will be held on 31 January. We'd love to have as many of you as possible lead some walks, even just one. If you are happy to lead a walk or other activity, please come to the meeting with the following details to make it easier for Joy to do up the newsletter:

- Description of the walk
- Distance, details of the terrain
- Grading (see the table at the bottom of the newsletter)
- What participants need to bring.

This will also ensure that walkers get detailed information to help them make the right choice in choosing an activity to join.

Also, as you will all recall, the current memberships were for 6 months only, and end in January. We will send out more information in December about renewing your membership for the 2026 calendar year.

As this is the last newsletter for the year (I know!!! How is that possible already?) I'd like to thank everyone for their friendship and efforts with the club this year. Thank you especially to all of the committee, walk leaders and volunteers who keep the club running. I hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, and I look forward to another great year of walks in 2026. - Lucinda

WALK REPORTS:

8-11th October 2025. - : Mingo Crossing to Paradise Dam and Return Kayak Adventure.

After a peaceful night at Mingo Crossing, the four of us packed our kayaks with food, water and camping gear and heading down the dam. A steady headwind made our heavy kayaks seem even more sluggish in the water. We paddled for about 2 hours then pulled up on a tiny, grassy island in the mouth of a tributary for a welcome cuppa stop. Then back on the water, hugging the shoreline as much as possible, for another 2 hours until it was time for our lunch break. We paddled through plenty of dead trees and along the dam banks sighting plenty of different bird species and some large nests. One sea eagle nest even had the parents perched nearby but we couldn't sight any young. Pelicans and cormorants kept us company often flying ahead of us. Whistling kites frequently called to each other as they circled above us. Also saw cattle grazing on the banks at different times.

After lunch we continued towards Goodnight Scrub and once passed Kalawa Creek started looking for a favourable camp site. A mango tree about 50m up the bank turned out to be the Kalawa Hut and we hauled our gear up there and made camp for two nights. A welcome swim before cooking dinner helped revive some tired muscles.

Lots of different sounds during the night from birds and animals living in this section of the National Park. Paula recognised one specific call being that of the Barking Owl. Next morning she found it sitting in a nearby tree and showed us all.

After breakfast at camp we headed out early. Mary and Paula managed to make Paradise Dam camp ground just before the wind came up again. After morning tea at a picnic table we explored one tributary on our return journey. Once again heaps of pelicans and cormorants along with a Forest Kingfisher, some Jacana, some grebe and different varieties of ducks to name a few. Being a hot day, we returned to camp for lunch and a swim. Mary and Paula went for a short hike to the hoop pines visible from the dam. Then it was swim time again which ended after Mary sustained an injury that required some first aid.

The next morning we packed all our belongings back into the kayaks and headed back to Mingo Crossing. No head wind. Instead, a hot, calm day that made paddling seem almost as difficult as the headwind. After our cuppa stop, Mary and Paula went straight back to Mingo so they could pack up and return to Bundaberg that afternoon, while Brian and I took a more leisurely paddle, stopping for lunch before arriving back at Mingo about 2pm.

We all experienced the amazing sight of hundreds of cormorants and a large number of pelicans lifting off the water about 30m in front of us, skimming across the water then landing again. The sight and noise of them repeating this take-off and landing had us all enthralled. At one stage we also saw several dozen little bee-eaters flitting along the bank and catching insects. A great three-day kayak, paddling almost 50km. But we all agreed that any repeats need to be done at a cooler time of the year. - Bev Kane.

Sunday 12th October – Burnett Downs – Easy. – We started the walk at the Nature Reserve walking towards the river. We walked between the houses admiring the gardens and looked at many trees and birds along the way to the boat ramp where we stopped for morning tea. We saw the boats and people enjoying the water skiing. We returned the same way walking approx. 6klm. Thank you Angela for a pleasant morning. – JOY

Wednesday 15th-19th October - Conondale walk. -Three intrepid walkers met in Kenilworth and undertook the Conondale Great Walk, 56k over four days. We enjoyed crystal clear running water, rainforest, timber country and wet sclerophyll forest. The orchids weren't flowering, which was disappointing. Campsites had platforms, toilets and water tanks. While traversing a logging track, with a lot of rubbish pushed up the side, we missed a turn off on the second day resulting in us coming out onto Sunday Creek Road. A passing fellow bush walker from the Sunshine Coast, Julie, kindly stopped and gave us a lift to where the Great Walk crossed the road before sending us on our way with some double bagged white wine. I am still gobsmacked at Nev getting three extra people plus three full packs into his fully loaded Challenger, who knew Jenny was so flexible and thank God both Brigitte and I are rather small. Their kindness allowed us to make camp at Tallowood creek before dark. The wine went down a treat. Next day we arrived at Sumer Falls with time to wash and dry our clothes (discovered the hiking pants Jenny had on her pack drying had fallen off, they had a hole in them so now she won't need to mend them). We had a heavenly wallow in the spa pools above the falls. When the big storm hit on Saturday night we were actually IN it, being high on the mountain meant the thunder rolled around us and the lightening crashed directly overhead. We ate tea in our tents. Walking out the next day there was lots of timber down and during our lunchbreak; while sitting on a log in the sun (no trees overhead), we heard the mighty crack then the crashing as a huge limb detached and smashed onto the track we had just been walking on. Meeting Ed in the afternoon at the Day area we then joined the locals in the beautiful Booloumba creek for a refreshing swim, enjoyed the hot coffee Ed had brought, then headed back to Kenilworth where we finished our adventure with fish and chips at the Bowls Club, after a hot shower at the showgrounds. This walk is NOT well marked (no triangle trail makers and the fire trails have changed) but we made it through. Many thanks to Jenny and Brigitte, we made some great memories and endured the ticks and leeches with good humour. Where to next - any suggestions? – Glenda

Saturday 18th October – Social – Burnett Downs. It was a lovely morning at Burnett Downs. We had smoko as we watched the boats towing the water skiers. The noisy jet skis were screaming up and down the water, weaving in and out the other boats. We enjoyed more of Murray's bird books, he also read out a couple of poems. Just as we started walking, the sky suddenly filled with hundreds of Cormorants flying up the river. Some were skimming along the water, expertly diving for fish. Many were in smaller groups, we estimated about 200-250 birds intent on heading to their destination. Thank you to everyone for an enjoyable morning. We are always looking forward to the next social meeting. – JOY

Saturday 25-26th October – Dam Crazy Camp -

A boiling hot weekend (reached 36? one day) saw us swimming and kayaking in the lovely dam for a lot of the time. The 4 acre dam had lots of water lillies and a tree lined creek for exploring by kayak. Water was a pleasant temp. 6 people stayed for 2 nights and a family of 3 arrived on Sunday to join us. Many water birds including azure and forest kingfishers were viewed. An unusual littoral native plant called a Woolly Frogmouth (with a pretty yellow flower) was also present. Drinks on the pontoon at sunset when it had cooled down. Hot over night, but a very pleasant quiet camping ground. A short 4 km walk (limited walks there, and too

hot!!) through the open eucalypt woodlands led us to a nice billabong and cool creek bed. A good quiet, slow weekend. - Paula.

FUTURE WALKS AND OUTINGS:

Saturday 8th November – Hidden Rock pool - Coongarra Area. - Meet Lions Park 8am to carpool, as the road needs high clearance. More details to follow. This walk is now FULL. Please message for information. Moira (0458 365 051)

Sunday 16th November – Easy Walk. Kalina Creek easy S1a. - A lot has happened at Kalina creek since the last year I lead a walk there. All the plants have grown, land care did plant a lot more and a beautifully smooth concrete path was put in North direction about 700 m long. Now it is a pleasure and easy to walk there. That walk and back we will do first, then we may walk to the ocean and along the beach front as we like. Meet **16:00pm** at Woongarra state school parking place at Klein's St. Contact Angela by txt only (0447 226 854)

Saturday 29th November – Xmas Break up Party. – To be held at the **Baldwin Swamp Shelter Shed**. All Members and visitors welcome to join us for a relaxing end of year celebration. Please BYO cutlery, plates, drinks, chair and a plate to share. Hot water will be provided for tea/coffee. **Please RSVP Allison (0448 846 084) before 22nd November** as we require numbers attending.

Angela will be leading an early walk at **8.30am** around Baldwin Swamp before the Brunch is served at **9.30am**. Please text only to **Angela (0447 226 854)**.

The annual photo competition will take place at the Christmas BBQ Breakfast.

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

Categories: Landscape, Wildlife, Funny, Flora, Macro and People (one or more persons) along with a photo of any subject featuring 'circles'.

There is also an additional category of Free Choice. This may be a photo of any subject taken in any year. One 6 x 4 photo per person per category. Cash prizes for the winners in each category.

Monday 1st December - Turtle Walks Bargara **MEDIUM** - The walk will involve tramping over the beach at night and will include Kellys, Bargara, Neilson, and Archies Beach. Meet at Archies Beach carpark (opposite Dooley St) at **10.15 pm**. 2.5 hours of walking. Bring warm clothes, water. No torches permitted on the beaches. Limit of 6 participants per walk. Phone Paula to register (0490 330 542)

Saturday 13th December – Social – Burnett Heads. – The final Social for the year will be held at **Gorman Park - Burnett Heads**. Bring chair and lunch and drinks. Wear your Xmas shirt. Share your ideas for places to meet next year. Please meet at **Riverside carpark Quay St** to leave at **9am**. Please phone or text Barry (0403 736 420)

Monday 15th December - Turtle Walks Bargara **MEDIUM** - The walk will involve tramping over the beach at night and will include Kellys, Bargara, Neilson, and Archies Beach. Meet at Archies Beach carpark (opposite Dooley St) at **10 pm**. 2.5 hours of walking. Bring warm clothes, water. No torches permitted on the beaches. Limit of 6 participants per walk. Phone Paula to register. (0490 330 542)



January 3rd 2026 – Moore Park Moonlight Walk. Easy – Meet at Nth S/S at 5PM. Bring dinner or have fish and chips . Walk as far as you want to see the Moon rise. Please contact Allison (0448 846 084) for more information and to register.

Walk Planning Meeting – January 31st 2026 - The Chapple – Botanical Gardens : We start the New Year Meeting at **10am**. Bring chair and morning tea and any ideas of places you would like to walk in 2026

Tuesday 3rd February 2026 – Meeting at Bundaberg High School **5.30PM**. Meet at the gates in Maryborough St. All members and visitors welcome.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - 2026

Membership fees for **January – December**. You need to complete a registration form, otherwise your registration is not complete. The link to register is below, and is also available on our website and Facebook page. Link - <https://forms.gle/fj2cSo55pgvUSsFc6>

If you don't want to register online, we still need you to complete a registration form, otherwise your registration is not complete. You can fill in a physical registration form by:

- Printing one off our website
- Contacting Lucinda or Mary to have one emailed to you
- Contacting Lucinda to find a time to meet her at her office in the CBD to fill in a form.

You can return a form by:

- Posting it to PO Box 696, Bundaberg QLD 4670
- Scanning/photographing it and emailing it to info@bundabergbushwalkers.com
- Bringing it to a monthly meeting
- Dropping it into Lucinda's office at 7/53 Woongarra Street, Bundaberg, at any time.
- In **January**, your membership will be \$25 for January to December. This is a small increase – the membership fees haven't risen in over a decade, so this is just to help offset our increased costs.
- Even if you have been a member for years, you will need to fill in a membership application form **EVERY YEAR**. This can either be done online (the link will be sent in June), or in paper form (available from Mary, Lucinda, or our website). Note this includes your date of birth – this is required for insurance purposes, it isn't an optional field!

2025 ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION

The annual photo competition will take place at the Christmas breakup party.

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

Categories: Landscape, Wildlife, Funny, Flora, Macro and People (one or more persons) along with a photo of any subject featuring the colour 'circles' – interpret that how you will!

There is also an additional category of Free Choice. This may be a photo of any subject taken in any year. One 6 x 4 photo per person per category. Cash prizes for the winners in each category.

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

2026 Fees: 6 months - January - June

(1) Membership fees – \$10 per adult. \$5 if under 18 (for one or more children from the same family)

Please do not send cash through the mail. You can pay your membership fees at the Monthly meeting, or by **EFT BSB 645 646**, Account Number **107969998** quoting your surname as the reference.

Please note that in 2026, the membership fees will be \$25 for January to December.

(2) Walk fees – \$5.00 per visitor. Free for Members.

(3) Postal Address - P.O. Box 696 Bundaberg. Qld. 4670

General:

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 the third walk.

Tips for Members/Guests:

- Most importantly, if you are interested in joining in an activity PLEASE call the Leader. They are best person to answer any questions, explain what you need to do/bring.
- You cannot register for a walk by responding to 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 National Park numbers or the preference of the leader.
- For hard walks, don't be fooled by the distance. A 10 klm 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.
- 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.

Car Pooling Arrangements:

On day walks, car loads are generally arranged at the nominated departure point with passengers contributing to petrol costs etc. Suggested basic contributions for passengers are:- **10-20kms \$5/person, 20-50kms \$8/person, 50-100kms \$10/person**

100-200kms \$15/person, 200-250kms \$20/person, 250-300kms \$25/person

It would be appreciated if any contributions to the newsletter (*and they are always welcome*) could be received by the editor several days before the meeting.

Email address for newsletter items is: joyham@westnet.com.au

The club email address is info@bundabergbushwalkers.com

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 In an attempt to encourage more members to become First Aid proficient, the Club will pay a 50% fee subsidy to those members who attend and complete a recognised First Aid or CPR course.

From now on, only members will be emailed a copy of the newsletter. If you are not a member you will be able to access the newsletter via our website.

The newsletter is also available at the Bundaberg Library.