

**“MAKING TRACKS WITH US.”**

## **BUNDABERG BUSHWALKING CLUB**

**NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY - 2026**

[info@bundabergbushwalkers.com](mailto:info@bundabergbushwalkers.com)

[www.facebook.com/Bundaberg Bushwalking Club](https://www.facebook.com/Bundaberg-Bushwalking-Club)

[www.bundabergbushwalkers.com](http://www.bundabergbushwalkers.com)



**Club Executives:**

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

**Presidents Ponderings** - Welcome to 2026! While it's still a bit hot to do too much just yet, it was wonderful to see so many people at the planning meeting last weekend. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to lead a walk or activity, and a special thank you to everyone who came prepared with details of their walk to make Joy's job easier. It's a great itinerary we have planned, and I can't wait to get back out there with you all.

Some of you may have seen the story recently of a rescue at Mt Walsh. I thought it was interesting and a good reminder of taking safety seriously.

A young man was walking solo at in the National Park and fell off a cliff, breaking several bones. He hadn't left good details of where he was going, and when he fell his mobile phone smashed so he couldn't make any calls. Thankfully he had a PLB with him, which he activated. Unfortunately, due to the terrain, the emergency services had trouble locating the signal, but at least they knew he was in distress. They contacted his parents (I assume they were registered on his PLB as contacts), who then called him. Even though his phone was damaged to the point he couldn't make a call, his air pods were still connected, so he could answer a call, which meant he could talk to the emergency services.

I just thought this was a great reminder that:

- PLBs can save lives, but they also shouldn't be relied on as the safety procedure.
- It is important to let someone know where you are going, and when you will be back, in case the PLB or phones cannot help you.
- While PLBs send a location, that doesn't always mean that emergency services can locate you easily out in the bush, especially from a chopper. I'm glad the young hiker is OK and is recovering.

On a related note, some iPhones now have the capacity to send and receive texts even while out of range. Mine can do this - I cannot call or access the internet, but I can text. Again, this should not be relied upon in the bush, but it is still good to know the capabilities of your own equipment while walking in case the worst happens.

I hope that all of this is just a reminder, and that none of you need rescuing in the near future. Proper planning will always lessen the risk!

I hope you all enjoy the walks and activities we have on the list this year, and I look forward to seeing you out on the track.

Happy walking, Lucinda

### **Membership Cards**

Over the last few years, the leaders have had some difficulties knowing who is actually a member when filling in the walk sheets at a walk. We know that no one is intentionally claiming to be a member when they aren't, but a lot of people can't remember if they have re-joined this year or not.

Therefore, we are trialling having membership "cards" again. Over the next few weeks, if you have paid your membership for 2026, you will receive a membership certificate either by email or text. Please keep a copy of this handy for walking - I recommend taking a photo on your phone. You can even add it to your Google Wallet or iPhone wallet so it is easy to access when asked by a leader at a walk.

If you don't have email or text, Mary will get you a physical one.

As I'm sure you can all appreciate, we need to make sure that people are recorded correctly as members or guests for insurance purposes. If you can't show your membership card to a leader on a walk, you will have to pay \$5 to join that walk as a guest.

Hopefully, this is a fairly simple solution to the problem, but we welcome feedback from leaders or walkers and will review the procedure for next year.

Thank you all for your cooperation with this.

### **Reminder About Walk Procedures**

As we start a new year and a new walking season, we welcome any new members and use this opportunity to remind everyone of the procedures for walking with the club.

- First, you must register for a walk/activity with the walk leader. Please don't email the club or message us on Facebook, as our emails and Facebook are not necessarily monitored by the leader for that activity. Same goes for asking any questions about the walk, such as difficulty or what time you'll be back - talk directly to the walk leader.

Always read the walk description carefully, and talk to the walk leader if you have any questions or concerns about the walk, especially for harder walks. If you are new to the club, the leader will need to ask you questions about your equipment and experience - don't be offended! This is just to ensure the walk is right for you.

- Register early - if there is a lot of interest for a walk, the leader will cut off registrations to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment.
- Check the Member's Handbook on our website for details of what you should bring with you on a walk (including a first aid kit), details on convoy procedures for driving, expectations for monetary contributions for car pooling and other matters.
- Remember that the leaders, committee and all club workers are volunteers. We love bushwalking and want you to love it too.

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## **WALK REPORTS: -**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Gorman Park Social** – Burnett Heads was the last social outing for the 2025. A group of 9 spent a pleasant time discussing many subjects from TV advertising to motor cars to how to get a sewing machine mended. We discussed the joys of past walks and the interest to include new venues for the social outings – Barry would like suggestions, kayaking – local bird life – easy walk tracks, and how to encourage interest in other activities within the club.

Some members decided to take a short walk to the Lighthouse and back and then we shared some lovely food and chatted a little more before wishing each other seasons greetings and thanking Barry for organising another good outing. Thank you, Verlie, for the report.

**December Turtle Walks.** - A beautiful evening early December saw three keen walkers brace the Woongarra coastline to scout for loggerhead turtles. Walking over the sand was hard yakka. Sadly despite frequenting the most popular site for mums (outside of Mon Repos), none were sighted. Sitting down, looking into the ocean however was quite relaxing. - Paula

## **FUTURE WALKS AND OUTINGS:**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Russo N/P: - s2b** – Meet at Thabeban S/S **8am**. To drive to Russo Park. We walk along the creek and uphill to the lookout. Please remember the mosquito repellent. Contact Allison (**0448 846 084**) to register.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Meadowvale – (easy)** Evening walk at **4pm** Meet at Meadowvale reserve. Please text only to Angela (**0447 226 854**)

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Social with Mary and Willy-** Meet at North Primary S/S to leave at **9.00am** for the farm and enjoy a Swiss Sausage sizzle. Bring chair and tea/coffee and a plate to share for sweets. Please phone or txt Barry (**0403 736 420**).

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Kayak – Cedars Crossing** – Meet at North S/S **7.30am**. or at the crossing **8am**. We will paddle up or downstream for approx. 5klm each way. Bring morning tea and water. To register and more information phone Mary (**0414 190 566**)

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Riverview – (easy)** Walk along the beachfront. Meet at Thabeban S/S **8am**. Please txt only to Angela (**0447 226 854**)

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – Meeting at Bundaberg High School **5.30PM**. Meet at the gates in Maryborough St. All members and visitors welcome.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Coalstoun Lakes circuit -** Bird watching. Followed by lunch at Home Grown café. Meet at Biggendon Lions Park **8.30am**. To register phone Moira (**0458 365 051**)

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Social – Innes Park** – Meet at Thabeban S/S at **9am**. Bring chair and morning tea and any interesting items you wish to share. Phone Barry (**0403 736 420**).

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Kayak – Burnett River Wallaville.** Meet at North State School at **7.30am** or outside the Wallaville pub at **8.15am**. Entry to the river will be at the end of Drinans Rd on the south side of the river. We will paddle upstream for approx 2 km then enter Currajong Creek for as long as it's navigable enjoying vegetation and (hopefully) plenty of birds

along the way. Bring morning tea. There may be option for lunch at the Wallaville pub afterwards. Contact Mary **(0414 190 566)** for more information.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Casellis Creek. – (2 walks) – CASSILIS CREEK**

Depart: **7am** Bundaberg North State School (Convoy)

Meet: **8am** Gin Gin Rest Area, approx. 400m on right, north of Mt Perry Rd T/Off

Travel: Approx 1hr Drive (4X4 required) to reach Car Park

Walk Rating: **Hard S4D** - This is a hard walk about 10km. Rock hopping and scrambling over rocky ground. Up slippery creek, past waterfalls/rockpools.

High clearance vehicles 4x4. Limit of 10 (members get preference)

There will also be a **Medium Rated Walk**, following the same route to Twin Falls/Rockpool, led by Mary, but as a shorter day.

Contact (text or ring) Howard **(0438 722 301)** to book for both walks.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Elliott Heads – Easy walk and wheelie walkers welcome to join this walk. - Meet at Thabeban S/S 8am. Text only to Angela **(0447 226 854)****

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Meeting at Bundaberg High School (before school holidays) 5.30pm.**  
Meet at the gates in Maryborough St. All members and visitors welcome.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April. Easter Camping - Ubobo -** Join us for a weekend of camping and walking in the Boyne Valley. Walks to be determined, but a variety of easy and hard walks will be available depending on attendees.

We will stay at the Discovery Centre (<https://boynevalley.org.au/>) at Ubobo, a terrific campground with excellent showers and toilets and camp kitchen. There is also dorm accommodation onsite, however if you want that you should book early.

Unpowered sites - \$10 pp per night

Powered sites - \$10 per site per night + \$10 pp

Contact Lucinda **(0421 011 181)** to register

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Social – Meadowvale. –** Meet at North S/S to leave at **9am**. Bring chair and morning tea. Please phone Barry **(0403 736 420)**.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Kayak – Blackwater Creek –** Meet North S/S **8am**. or elsewhere by arrangement. This pretty paperbark lined creek is about 1 hour drive north of Bundy on the way to Deepwater National park. The creek is navigable fresh tannin stained water for about 4km before it hits a causeway where we can alight for a break. There is option to have lunch at the Flatwater Picnic ground on Baffle Creek afterwards and even another paddle wind and weather permitting. For more information phone Mary **(0414 190 566)**

**Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> – PALM VALLEY**

Depart: **7am** Coles Carpark Kensington (Convoy), to meet Lions Park Biggenden **8am**.

4X4/High Clearance required to access starting point off Coongarra Rd. Creek walk rock-hopping through beautiful Palm Forest to small waterfall. Limit of 12 (members get preference). Contact (text or ring) Howard **(0438 722 301)** to book.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Coastal Challenge Walk. – Allison** -Details next newsletter.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May – Eel Creek (overnight) – hard s4d** - This is an easy introduction to overnight hiking. We will leave around midday and walk up Eel Creek to a campsite. Camp

overnight, and the next morning we will walk a little further up the creek (this time without our packs) to the large waterhole, walk back to camp to pack up and collect our gear and then walk back to the cars. We should be back in Bundaberg early to mid afternoon. Total walk - 10km, about 2km of that will be without packs. The walk is not easy - the creek is overgrown in parts, and rocky. This is not on a formed path.

Walkers will need to have all of their own equipment - large hiking backpack, tent, sleeping bag and mat, food. I do have some items I can lend if you don't have everything.

Contact Lucinda **(0421 011 181)** to register.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – Meeting at Bundaberg High School **5.30pm**. Meet at the gates in Maryborough Street. All members and visitors welcome.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Social – Gorman Park – Burnett Heads** – Meet at Riverside Carpark **9am**. Bring chair and morning tea. Phone Barry **(0403 736 420)**.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May – North Botanical Gardens** – Meet at the Chapple at **3.30pm** for a walk around the lake and new section of the Gardens. Please text only to Angela **(0447 226 854)**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Giant Staircase- Mt Walsh – Hard**. Meet at Lions Park Biggendon **8am**. Numbers limited to 10. (Members preferred). For more information and register phone Howard **(0438 722 301)**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May – Combined Camp Weekend – Rockhampton**. To be held at the *Bouldercombe Sport and Recreation Complex, 52496 Burnett Highway, Bouldercombe QLD 4702*. – More details and registration form at end of Newsletter.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May Barolin Reserve – easy/medium** Meet at Bargara S/S **8am**. Please text only to Angela **(0447 226 854)**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Meeting at Bundaberg High School **5.30pm**. Meet at the gates in Maryborough Street. All members and visitors welcome.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Social – Smith Crossing**. – Meet at North S/S **9am**. We drive to Smith's Crossing. Bring chair and morning tea. Please phone Barry **(0403 736 420)**.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Stripey Boulder – Allison** – Details to come.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Kalina Creek – easy** Meet at **3.30pm** at Woongarra S/S. Klein's St. Easy walk on pathway. We can walk along beach front. Text only to Angela **(0447 226 854)**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Walk Plan Meeting**. – Meet at The Chapple, Botanical Gardens **10am**. Bring chair and morning tea and ideas for walks, kayaking and socials for the last 6 months of the year. Please think about leading walks you would like to do.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Barambah Creek** - Meet **8am** Lions Park. Travel to Ban Ban Springs, then 4klm along gravel road to creek. Easy to medium stroll along creek, for smoko and/or swim. Lunch at Homegrown Café @ Coalstoun Lakes. Phone Howard to register **(0438 722 301)**

## **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](mailto: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!

## **2026 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)

There is also an additional category of Free Choice. This may be a photo of any subject taken in any year. The new category for 2026 will be the colour "**PINK**". One 6 x 4 photo per person per category. Cash prizes for the winners in each category.

## **Walk Gradings**

<b>Max Kilometres per day</b>	<b>Terrain</b>	<b>Fitness</b>
<b>S.</b> up to 10 kilometres	<b>1.</b> Graded track	<b>a.</b> Unfit beginners
<b>M.</b> 10-15 kilometres	<b>2.</b> Tracks, steeper sections, open terrain	<b>b.</b> Fit beginners
<b>L.</b> 15-20 kilometres	<b>3.</b> Off track, minor scrub, creek/rock hopping, minimal navigation	<b>c.</b> Fitness and/or agility required
<b>X.</b> Over 20 kilometres	<b>4.</b> Scrambling, thick rainforest, hard navigation	<b>d.</b> Good fitness and agility a must
	<b>5.</b> Technical rock ability, abseil	<b>e.</b> Strenuous. Experienced, very fit walkers only

## 2026 Fees:

**(1) Membership fees – \$25 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**

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**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](mailto:joyham@westnet.com.au)

The club email address is [info@bundabergbushwalkers.com](mailto:info@bundabergbushwalkers.com)

## Contact Code   A few reminders for all walkers

- Please contact walk leaders **at 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.

## Combined Club Campout - May 22 – 24<sup>th</sup> for walking friendship and fun.

### “GET YOUR CAMPING FIX IN 2026”

Venue – Bouldercombe Sport and Recreation Complex.

Date From 09.00 am Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to 18.00pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.  
(The complex is available to campers until 09.00 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May)

Cost \$10.00 per person per night

Site power is available but very limited (No specific site allocations taken)

Facility: Kitchen is open to attendees.

Endless tea/ coffee and biscuits.

Shower and toilet Block adjacent to complex.

- Full program of walks and other activities:
- Friday afternoon – Bouldercombe Gorge Wander
- Saturday Multiple full day walks or combination of ½ day walks
- Park run at the Rockhampton Botanical Gardens can be part of the ½ day combination.
- Sunday Multiple full day walks or a combination of ½ day walks.
- Happy Hour on Friday and Saturday from 5-6pm (BYO drinks and nibbles)
- Second hand shop with items pre-marked with cost and name of seller
- Raffle and Walks Stick handover on Saturday night.
- Ensure you bring cash for the raffle and second hand shop.
- Bushwalking quiz on Saturday night.
- Complete the registration form attached and email to [capbushwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:capbushwalkers@gmail.com) with payment being made via bank debit as per the details on the camp registration form. Registrations for CCC 2026 is preferred by 15<sup>th</sup> May. Late camp registration will be accepted on arrival.

Registration form for the Combined Camp at Bouldacombe Rockhampton.

<b>Completed forms to be emailed to:</b> <a href="mailto:capbushwalkers@gmail.com">capbushwalkers@gmail.com</a>			
<b>Your Name:</b>			
<b>Contact #:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Bushwalking Club:</b>			
<b>Names of other people included on this registration (if any):</b>	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
<b>Total number of people included on the registration:</b>			
<b>Circle nights you plan to camp:</b>	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Fees:</b>	<b>Registration:</b>		No charge
	<b>Camping:</b> \$10.00 pp per night		\$
	<b>Dinner:</b>		NA – Self-catered.
	<b>Total:</b>		\$
<b>Direct Debit Details:</b>	<b>Bank Name:</b>		Westpac Bank
	<b>Account Name:</b>		Capricornia Bushwalkers Club Inc
	<b>BSB #:</b>		034-636
	<b>Account #:</b>		388 472
	<b>Reference (Family Name):</b>		