

"MAKING TRACKS WITH US"

BUNDABERG BUSHWALKING CLUB

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2025



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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>(0490330542)</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>(0414 190 566)</i>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The highlight of May was our Combined Club Camp at Gin Gin. As I've written about before, it's one of my favourite weekends of the year, and this year didn't disappoint. Well, it disappointed a little, as I tore my calf 10 days before camp which meant I had to cancel the Boolboonda Rock walk that I was supposed to lead. Thankfully, this didn't affect too many other walkers, and it meant I got to have a very enjoyable day doing the lower waterfalls at Cassilus Creek.

It was the last time that Gladstone Club attended the camp as a club, and it was sad to see the end of an era (not that anyone cried, that would be embarrassing!). The good news is that many of the Gladstone club members have either joined our club or Capricornia (or both) so we will continue to see them in the coming years.

One of the lows of the month was our first chopper rescue on a club walk. Howard has given the details in the walk report below, and I encourage everyone to read it, for the learnings that can be gained by the experience. I wasn't on the walk, but I have heard from many walkers

how well Howard and others handled the situation, so I congratulate them fully on a job well done. While we all hope that this never happens again, our hobby comes with risk every time we step out into the bush, so it pays for all of us to be as prepared as possible. Our thoughts are with the injured walker during her recovery, and we hope to see her back on the trail soon.

Finally, a reminder to everyone to keep an eye on the Facebook page for any changes to walk details. We send out the newsletter once a month, so if any changes happen to a walk after that (if it's cancelled, or the date/time changed) we will usually update the Facebook post and notify walkers who have already registered. It just isn't possible for us to send out emails to all members if walk details alter. If you register for a walk and the details (eg date/time) have changed, the leader will let you know then, and please keep in mind that our leaders are volunteers who are doing their best to provide activities for us all to enjoy.

Don't forget the planning meeting for the walks calendar for the second half of the year! Details are below.

Happy walking,
Lucinda

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership fees for July to December are now due. This is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. 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.

A reminder that we are changing the membership year to more align with the walking "season". The things you need to know are:

- This year, the renewals in July will be for July to December, and be \$10 for the 6 months *
- Then in January, your membership will be due again, and 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!

WALK REPORTS:

Sunday 11 May: Elliott River Walk. Just 4 ladies took advantage of this fine morning. After reaching the riverside and parking our 2 vehicles in the shade, we crossed a small creek and picked up the trail bike track that runs alongside the waterway, heading downstream. Fortunately the mosquitoes that had been out in force a couple of weeks earlier had mostly departed. With our two amateur botanists Angela and Leeann present, progress was slow, but myself and visitor Colleen did our best to absorb some of their expertise. After nearly two hours and approx. 3km we reached the cane railway bridge that crosses the river and stopped for a break. The nearby trees were alive with birdlife of the smaller varieties including flycatchers and some pretty little black barred honeyeaters. The return walk was much quicker and only one bike rider disturbed the peace. Regaining the cars, we sat about enjoying lunch and a chat and were just in time to miss a (fairly short lived) downpour. Thanks gals - *Mary*

Sunday 11th May - Billy Gorge Falls – Biggenden – Hard

Having had to cancel this gorge walk on 2 other occasions, due to inclement weather, it was with apprehension that I proceeded to add it to the walks calendar, but as the date drew nearer, I received a flurry of interested members, wishing to attend this popular hike. One of our favourite walks in the Mt Walsh NP, with various terrain, and difficulty, but one that Jo and I have done on numerous occasions without any issues. As the date neared, and with a total of 13 members booked in, (maybe that was an omen), including Jo and I, the BOM website was probed for a weather report. 1mm of rain possible in the afternoon, looked encouraging, and shouldn't create too many issues on our return journey, although, any precipitation on the already slippery rocky creek, made the walk more challenging. After traversing through private property, of which permission was granted prior, we parked the vehicles at the designated spot, just inside the NP boundary, and commenced the walk on a very rough path above the creek proper, and bush-bashed for approx 400mts, before entering the creek further up-stream. Now the fun began, rock-hopping from boulder to boulder, crossing the creek numerous times to navigate past waterfalls etc, it was all going well. Blue sky, with the occasional cloud to keep the sun at bay, and everyone in high spirits...unfortunately, that was not to last. As the group progressed slowly along a rocky ledge above a large waterhole, one of our group wedged her boot in between 2 rocks, twisted her knee, and went down hard on a sharp rock. We had only traversed approx 550mts from the cars, which in hindsight, was a good outcome, as we had not yet gone above the gorge itself, which is impassible, except by traversing up a steep vegetated slope, before entering the creek higher up.

First aid skills kicked in, with a number of members offering good advice and gear, (great to see most carrying first aid kits in their packs). Unfortunately, it didn't look good for our casualty, who was in extreme pain, and unable to walk. A number of options were talked about, and tried, but, as Walk Leader, and after discussions with Bell, who was Tail End Charlie, we decided not to activate any PLB, that a few members were carrying, as it wasn't a life-threatening situation, but instead, I opted to traverse a steep 400mtr incline above the creek, to a ridge-line where I knew coverage was available, to contact, not only 000 Emergency, but also our safety contact, Moira, who new the area we were walking in, and could advise emergency personnel of the closest point of access. After scrambling up the loose, but vegetated slope, I gained the ridge and phoned Moira, who advised to contact 000. Eventually, after 3 phone calls, they were able to determine where we were parked, and could execute evacuation by

members of SES, QFD, and the wonderful QAS Paramedic, Dee. Meanwhile, Bell made the quick decision to hike (probably ran), back to the cars, and out to the highway, so as to intercept ES, and direct them to closest point of entry. While I was still situated up on the ridge, waiting for confirmation by 000 to head back to the casualty, and Bell was directing traffic, as well as Moira, who had now arrived and was assisting personnel to the scene, all the remaining members were treating the casualty as best they could, and reassuring her aid was on its way. The Biggenden QAS Paramedic, and 3 QFR members arrived on the scene with a stretcher, no mean feat considering the terrain they had to traverse. After assessing her condition, it was decided to get all hands on deck and move her down to a more favourable spot in the creek, to allow a helicopter rescue if available, or the worst case scenario, of waiting on further Emergency Services to assist in a slow, and laboriously carry, down the creek to the assembled recovery vehicles. It was now well after lunch, and the weather was not assisting our predicament. Showers were coming in, making moving the stretchered patient a challenging, and slippery exercise.

In terrains we were in, it is impossible to just carry a stretcher as you would along a track or open ground etc, this task required precision involvement by all available hands, and the stretcher was passed along to individual bearers, who would then pass to others down the line, and then move forward to take up a carrying role once again. Under the direction of Dee (QAS Paramedic), this was done with complete safety, and comradery, but very time-consuming. Eventually, we arrived at an open area, that we hoped the rescue Chopper would be able to winch Paramedics down, and secure the casualty into their rescue basket, for the winch back out. Then began the to-ing and fro-ing between onsite Emergency Personnel, and Centre Command, as to if the Chopper would be utilised, due to the unfavourable conditions. This went on for quite some time, with the option of having to do a long and labour-some stretcher carry, not our preferred choice. Most of the group were from out of town, so it was decided they should all depart, and head home, while it was still light, and I stayed behind with ES, to wait on a decision.

Thankfully the choice to use the LifeFlight Chopper from Bundy was agreed to, and it wasn't long before that welcome sound, buzzed overhead. Weather conditions were now getting worse, and light was fading, so, after many attempts to locate us in the heavy vegetated bush-land, the Chopper came back above us, and dropped flight crew down to secure the basket for the winch up. It was a great feeling to see our patient lifted into the cabin, and the Chopper disappear over the mountain. It was now getting quite dark, due to our position in the steep sided creek, so it was time to don headlamps etc, and rock-hop our way cautiously back down the 400mtrs to the vehicles, where we were met by Biggenden ES personnel, who kindly shared Pizza & drinks to all. So, what could we all learn from this thankfully, Non Life-threatening incident.

1. PLBs are not always an option (not in this case anyway)
2. Phone coverage is not always an option, and may require an extra walk to find suitable coverage
3. Always wear appropriate Hiking Boots on off track, difficult terrain conditions
4. Always carry an extensive 1st Aid Kit
5. Always carry some form of torchlight, headlamp etc
6. Always carry some form of wet-weather gear, as weather can change for the worse
7. Carry at least 2Ltrs of water & something to eat (even if only a couple of energy bars)
8. As a Walk Leader, keep numbers to a minimum to suit walk conditions etc
9. As a Walk Leader, make sure you know each members ability, and capabilities

Thanks to all participating members, for your assistance in ensuring this outcome was a success - *Howard*

Friday 16th – Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th May- Combined Camp Weekend

We ended up with about 35 walkers joining us for this year's CCC, including walkers from Capricornia and Gladstone Clubs. Due to injury (me, thanks to netball) and registrations we cancelled a couple of the walks, however there were still enough for everyone to enjoy. Our walks included both a medium and hard option at Cassilus Creek, Mount Perry, the Tirroan rail trail, the Gin Gin nature park and town walk, and a drive to Boolboonda tunnel.

Thank you again to all the leaders and volunteers who made the weekend such a success, and I look forward to next year's camp – *Lucinda*

Saturday 24th May. - Social – Riverview. Another of Barry's popular social days was well attended when 12 people arrived at Riverview on a beautiful Autumn morning. We had 2 new visitors and it was good to see a previous club member, Ailsa join us for the morning activities. After we had morning 'smoko' 7 people went on the walk while 5 sat and chatted. It was a lovely day and great company, we all stayed on for lunch, relaxing in the afternoon sunshine. Murray had 2 more bird books with wonderful photos of many species of birds and some crocodiles. Many thanks to Glynn helping everyone find places to set up tables and chairs. Thank you Barry for a lovely morning, - *Joy*

Cooloola Great Walk: - 2nd - 3rd - 6th June

Due to sickness and family commitments only two trekkers met at Rainbow Beach for shuttling to Noosa North Shore Caravan park on Monday the 2nd. Hot showers, right beside the beach with a camp kitchen made for a wonderful start to the trek.

Day 1: 7hrs included side trips to both Teewah Landing and Mt Seawah. There was too much water to get onto the boardwalk at the Landing (Shame) but the views from Mt Seawah were outstanding. Ocean on the left, Lake Cootharaba on the right, Teewah below us and Noosa Heads in the distance. Camp was high among the gum trees after walking thru heath land containing flowering bottle brush bushes (in winter). We had taken a side trip and ended up on top of the sand cliff with the 4WD beach directly below up - had to ensure we didn't drop a phone! Every camp site on the trek came with long drop toilet, water tank, wooden platforms and metal storage box for food and leather boots.

Day 2: 8hrs included views of the ocean before entering the scribbly gums forest, Cooloola Sandpatch was full of international tourists who had come up from the Noosa River, we missed the marker on the sandpatch but used the compass and the app to take us straight to the exit. The day ended on flat ground level with the River, track was dry and camp was lovely, no mozzies.

Day 3: 6.5hrs lovely easy day once we had transversed the boggy section thru the marsh. We came across the areas where the reduction burns had happened, they had finished on the 31st May. Another great camp site.

Day 4: 8hrs today so we were up at 5am, met a man coming from the North with a huge pack that only weighed 10kilo (ultralight gear) I tried to convince Jenny that together we could mugg him and take his pack. We crossed a dirt track and when I spun to read the back of the sign the pack took me down. It was the only incident on the entire trip and as I landed in the soft sand no damage was done. Tonights camp is in the Kauri forest. The trees today were big and the camp was dark, again no mozzies.

Day 5: 6hrs through the forest. There were HUGE fig trees that had recently come down, right across the track, no detours as yet so it was scrub bashing all the way. Vines trying to

pull the pack off your back was fun. Passed Poona Lake (stunning) then struck a group of tourists coming from Bymien day use area on their way to the Lake. Carlo Sandblow marked the end of a very varied, mozzie free, cool breezes, no rain with well catered camp sites trek. Had a free shower at the service station while waiting for Hubby to come pick me up. Thanks Jenny for the great company, much appreciated - *Glenda*

Saturday 7th June - Boulder Mountain circuit. - Hard

A small group of 6 enthusiastic ladies hiked the Boulder Mountain Circuit near Gympie on Saturday. The hike commenced at Mothar Mountain rockpools day use area and it wasn't long before we started our steep ascent up Boulder Mountain. We had perfect weather and were rewarded with lovely views once we reached the summit for our smoko break. After having a look around the telephone towers at the top, we headed down the access road and followed the fire break tracks through Woondum National Park back to our starting point, approximately 12kms in total. But, we weren't finished yet. Everyone was keen to complete the 500 mtr circuit back at the rockpools and we were rewarded with some lovely fungi and also found an orchid in flower. Some of the group enjoyed the icy waters of the rockpools for a refreshing dip before, we concluded with afternoon tea. The group also picked up a total of 24 cans and bottles from the fire trail, on the road back to the carpark, so a great effort there, cleaning up as we went. Great effort everyone – *Helen*

15 June – Camp Creek

5 walkers joined me on a very chilly June morning to walk up Camp Creek. There was a lot of water in the creek, which affected us a little at the beginning, but then it dried out. It was lovely day and a lovely walk, which included seeing lots of massive staghorns and birds nest ferns. We made it to the Sheep Dip for lunch, but the water was too cold for anyone to jump in. Thanks everyone for a really lovely day – *Lucinda*

FUTURE WALKS AND OUTINGS:

Friday 20th June – Monday 23rd June - Mingo Crossing Camp weekend. - Kayaking.

(Come for a day, overnight or all weekend.)

Leaders: Brian Vennard 0472 514 210 & Bev Kane 0419 568 479 Please confirm attendance by Wed 18th June.

Camping available at Mingo Crossing Caravan Park & Recreation Area (ph 07 4161 6200)

Powered Sites: \$37.00 per night for 2 people Unpowered Sites: \$25.00 per night for 2 people (\$15.00 per night for single) Glamping Tents: Standard \$110 per night (sleeps 2) Deluxe \$140 per night (sleeps 4) Family \$190 per night (sleeps 6) Facilities: Hot & cold showers, large covered area, bbqs, boat ramp, grassy unpowered sites, car parking, very limited/sporadic mobile coverage. Location: Mingo Crossing can be accessed via Mt Perry, or Biggenden and is on the Gayndah - Mt Perry Rd. Mostly sealed but does have 10km of gravel road. Distance approx. 85km from Gin Gin.

Activities: (wind/weather dependant for direction taken each day) Sunset kayaks approx. 2km upstream around island and into small inlet. Lots of bird life plus setting sun. All Day paddles upstream and downstream. Departing approx. 9am and returning mid afternoon. Morning & afternoon cuppas plus lunch.

Evening Happy Hour and After Dinner chats under the stars. Sorry, no campfires permitted. Early morning bird watching walks along banks of the dam watching the sun rise.

Safety Requirements while kayaking: life jackets, food and water. Please make your own bookings with Mingo Crossing Caravan Park resident caretakers. Day visitors, no fees.

<https://www.queensland.com/.../p-56b261fad5f1565045da5ab8...>

Saturday 22 June Meadowvale Nature Reserve – Social Outing

Meet at North State School at 9am. Bring a chair and morning tea. Text (preferred) or phone Barry (0403 736 420) to register.

Saturday 28th June. - Walk Planning Meeting

Meet at the Bush Chapel, outside Café 1928, at the Bundaberg Botanic Gardens at 10am. Bring a chair and your ideas! As a reminder, if you are willing to lead a walk in the second half of the year, please come ready with details of the walk for the newsletter (distance, venue, meeting time) and proposed dates. If you haven't lead a walk before and are willing to give it a try, please don't be scared! It's not too onerous. If you would like to talk to someone about what leading a walk entails, please give Lucinda a call (0421 011 181).

Tuesday, 1st July – Monthly Meeting

Bundaberg State High School, 5.30 pm.

Tuesday, 5th August – Monthly Meeting

Bundaberg State High School, 5.30 pm.

8th - 10th August 2025. - Gold Coast Bushwalk Club Pilgrimage.

Gold Coast Bushwalkers Club will be hosting the 2025 Pilgrimage at the Beaudesert Showgrounds 8-10 August 2025. The program will follow the usual format participants arriving Friday 8 Aug

22 July to 5 August – Kayak/Walk trip in central north Qld

Expressions of interest for a kayak and walk trip of approx 2 weeks duration. Proposed itinerary:

22 July camp at Clairview Caravan Park and maybe spot a dugong.

23-25 July camp at Mirani Caravan park. There is access to the Pioneer River nearby at Platypus Beach and easy drive to kayak on Lake Teemburra and walk Finch Hatton Gorge

26-28 July. Travel over the range to Eungella Dam stopping along the way for a walk along the Broken River. Kayak on the dam and explore the surrounding countryside. A small camp fee is payable to Sunwater

29-30 July. Free camp at natural Lake Elphinstone.

31 July - 2 August . Free camp at Mt Britton Moonlight Dam camping area. Explore this old gold mining area "surrounded by magnificent mountains". Hike up the mountain!

3-5 August Blackdown Tableland. Hopefully in time for wildflowers Need to book campsite ASAP with National Parks as the park is closed for roadworks until end of July.

If interested in all or part of this trip please contact Mary on 0414190566

<https://www.queensland.com/.../p-56b25ecbaeeeaaf773cf126b...>

13th September – Mt Widgee – Medium

This is a half day walk to Mt Widgee. Mt Widgee is 40km west of Gympie, it is 710m. The walk is approximately 10km with 700m of climbing. The walk follows a 4WD road with a reasonable amount of ups and downs, before coming to the hanglider launch site. The road continues before ending on an open ridge, which we follow to the summit. The last section is

steep and overgrown. It is a moderate walk. There are good views towards Widgee and the ranges to the east.

2025 ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION

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 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

2025 Fees: 6 months July – December

- (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**

Newsletters are available from Bundaberg Library.

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 aren't a member you will be able to access the newsletter via our website.

The newsletter is also available at the Bundaberg Library.