



FOOTNOTES

Club Newsletter of Bushwalkers of Southern Queensland Inc.

D/W Saturday 30 January 2021 Wanungara Falls

The walk was in the epic category – approx. 24 kms return and around 8hrs walking time. But what a spectacular destination.

Wanungara Falls are a hidden gem in a wildly rugged and remote area. They are located in the headwaters of East Canungra Creek and are a bit over 500m from the Main Border Track. They are definitely Wanungara Falls as the old sign at the falls says so, and not Belsons Falls as marked on some maps.

We got off to a much later start than planned because of delays at road works on the way up the mountain. Frequent showers over many days had made the track pretty slushy and slippery and I was hoping the rain didn't hadn't brought out armies of leeches.

Morning tea at Bithongabel was a stand up affair for most of us. Unfortunately, Lynne decided to turn back at this point because of a painful knee problem. We pressed on a brisk pace – big distance to cover. No point in stopping at lookouts, we were in the clouds, and wasn't the forest looking its mystical best in the mist! Spotted a large carpet snake on top of a pile of mossy logs trying to warm up, just near Wanungara Lookout.

We finally arrived in the saddle just before the climb up Mt Merino, located the old NP sign, and headed off track through sodden forest – was wet through in about 5 minutes. I felt a bit vague initially on exactly which way to go as it was about 6 years since my last visit. However, the old graded track was soon located and after that, no navigational problems and was plain sailing. Much of the track was in reasonable condition, no idea when it was closed, but there's regrowth here and there and some fallen trees to climb

through and clamber over. One fallen tree had a large carpet snake snoozing on top, so we kept one eye on it as we struggled through the tangle of branches.

The volume of water slowly increased as we headed downstream and we passed two small waterfalls, both still clearly named. We also encountered a Lamington Spiny Cray putting up a protest as we passed. Eventually one becomes aware of a huge drop not far away and the unmistakable sounds of a big waterfall. Unfortunately, there's no clear view of the falls, only part of it is visible by leaning out whilst holding a very solid tree. This spectacular setting was the perfect spot for lunch.

The journey back to the Main Border Track was a bit quicker as we were able to follow remnants of the old track almost up to the main track. A few unsettling moments for those at the tail end, when the carpet snake who had been snoozing on top of the log, started moving as they were clambering through the branches on the way out. On reaching the MBTR it was full steam ahead back to Wanungara Lookout. The cloud had now lifted revealing great views down into NSW. After a good snack of jelly snakes, it was time to hit the track again for the mostly downhill trek back to O'Reillys. The carpet snake near Wanungara Lookout was still in the same spot.

It certainly was a big day out but very memorable and great to visit a place not many know about. I think we were all pretty tired at the end of it but with a sense of achievement.

Thanks to Lynne, Nela, Anita, Kerry, and our visitors from BCBC, Michael and Karen, great company on a memorable walk.
Heather Buchanan

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

Ordinary Membership \$35.00 p.a.

Current cover for financial members – Public Liability insurance under the BA group insurance scheme is \$20 million.

Executive committee meetings for 2021:

Last Tuesday of February, April, June, August, September, November.

Membership Register: Changed your contact details? Please advise Graham Englart at grahamenglart@hotmail.com, 0458 165 558

E-Comms: To register for regular email updates on the walks program or other club news, send an email request to bushwalksq@gmail.com. Please put E-Comms in the subject line. To be removed from the group, put "Opt Out" in the subject line.

CAMPING PERMITS: You need to make your own campsite bookings with the QPWS if camping in a Queensland national park on a club activity. First confer with your leader, then contact the following to book and pay by credit card:

1. Contact the QPWS on **13 74 68**
2. Or visit the website at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/camping/bookings>
3. You can book online or check the website to find an office where over-counter bookings can be made.

IF A WALKING TRIP IS DELAYED

Occasionally trips are delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. Whom should the leader in the field contact back in Brisbane? If friends or relatives of walkers are concerned about the delayed return, whom might they contact in the club to inquire about what has happened? The contact should be with any member of the BOSQ Management Committee listed opposite. Move down the list until you find someone at home.

Before leaving on a BOSQ outing, walkers should tell a family member or friend where they are going and give them a copy of Footnotes or a copy of the phone numbers of the Committee members. Leaders should also carry a list of contact numbers with them on the walk.

In an emergency, life threatening or serious injury situation, or one that requires a search and rescue, contact the Police on 000 (or 112 on extended mobile network). If the party is overdue but otherwise safe, the leader should attempt to contact BOSQ committee members who can advise family members from club records.

Escalate if necessary, to put the bushwalkers' search and rescue group FMR on standby. Their contact list is on the website: <http://fmrqld.bwq.org.au/contact.html>.

If overdue more than 24 hours, the Police should be notified. More search and rescue information at: <http://fmrqld.bwq.org.au/overdue.html>

Insurance cover

Insurance for BOSQ members is arranged through the peak body of Australian bushwalking federations, Bushwalking Australia Inc (BA). There is coverage for both Public Liability and Personal Accident. Club members and visitors are insured while participating in all activities conducted by BOSQ, including survey trips, meetings, social events and travelling to and from club activities.

The policies can be viewed and downloaded at <http://bushwalkingaustralia.org/insurance>.

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

The club owns two PLBs. Walk leaders are encouraged to take one on their walks, especially off-track walks, extended trips or survey walks.

The holders of the PLBs are Neil Douglas 3349 1949 or 0427 138 871 and Heather Buchanan 3814 2556 or 0432 123 025.

There is no charge to club walk leaders who borrow these PLBs.

BOSQ Inc. ... Walks Programme

Walk Gradings

Distance	Terrain	Fitness
S - 1 to 10 km	1 to 3 - Graded track or open terrain. No scrub	1 to 3 - Easy. Suitable for beginners
M - 10 to 15 km		
L - 15 to 20 km	4 to 7 - Off track. Minor scrub, rainforest, rock scrambling, creek rock-hopping	4 to 7 - Medium. Reasonable fitness required
	8 to 9 - Off track. Thick scrub, major rocks, scrambling using hands, technical climb	
X - Over 20 km		8 to 9 - Hard. Fit walkers only

Activity Type

Graded Track Walk GTW Day Walk DW
 Through-walk TW Base-Camp, self-sufficient BC
 Base-Camp, accommodated ACC Social SOC
 Safety & Training S&T Federation FED
 Federation Mountain Rescue FMR

Petrol Money Contribution

Current Suggested Rate when car-pooling is:
 10c per km

Walks Program March - April 2021

D/W Sunday, 14 March 2021 Little Mt Edwards

Grade: S55
 Leader: 
 Contact: 
 Meet: 
 Requirements: Water - min 2 liters,
 Sunscreen, Gloves and
 Poles (if you have them)

Little Mt Edwards is readily visible when you climb Mt Edwards as it sits several hundred meters to the east of Mt Edwards. However, Little Mt Edwards is less than half the height of its better-known neighbor.

There will be a few challenges. There is no track up Little Mt Edwards and there are lots

of basketball sized rocks to stumble and trip over. There are also a large number of spiders (along with their webs) stretched out between most of the trees on the mountain. There is also a steep descent from the top of the mountain down to Reynolds Creek.

However, the major difficulty is walking along the rock slab that is up to 30 meters high (in places) and stretches for the last kilometer and a half of the walk. The slab is notoriously slippery in wet weather and as such, the walk will be postponed if rain is forecast on the day of the walk or if rain has taken place there in the three days prior to the walk.

On the positive side, there are good views of Mt Edwards and there are several large pools which are ideal for swimming during the latter part of the walk. On the assumption that the walk is finished by 12.00 pm, there will be an optional lunch below the climbing cliffs at Mt French.

SOC - Social Dinner Tuesday 16 March 2021

Venue: Junction Hotel, Cnr. Ipswich &
 Annerley Roads, Annerley
 Organiser: Neil Douglas
 Tel: 3349 1949
 Nominate: By p.m. 15 March
 Meet: Outside 6.45 p.m.
 Parking: Generally available on-site

The club last had a dinner here about 18 months ago. Steaks \$32-36, seafood 21-30, schnitzels 20-27, pizzas 16-24, burgers 16-18, other mains 21-32 plus a \$2 surcharge for "non-members".

½DW Saturday 20 March 2021 Bayview Conservation Area (Redland Bay)

Grade: M34
 Distance: about 12 km
 Leader: Mal Dorricott
 Contact: 0418 105 208
 Water: 2 Litres
 Meet: 7am German Church Road
 main entrance and day use
 area

This recently extended and upgraded bushland area now comprises more than 1,000 hectares of bushland with over 60 km of multi-use trails. There is ample parking and good facilities at the main entrance at 487-503 German Church Road, which is just off the roundabout where Valley Way meets German Church Road. Do not turn down German Church Road from Mt Cotton Road as it is a dead end. You must come down Valley Way. You can also access the other end of German Church Road from Cleveland-Redland Bay Road.

The area is undulating with some moderate hills, but we will be following mostly multi-use trails which are designated as Easy for the mountain bikes. The bush is quite mature with a variety of vegetation and the trails are all well shaded. We will have morning tea on the walk and lunch at the end of the walk at the day use area. Bring a chair in case all the picnic tables are occupied. I don't believe the club has ever walked this area so come along and be surprised at this beautiful bayside bushland. There are glimpses of the bay islands from the top of the highest hill. The walk will be cancelled if the forecast maximum temperature for Redland Bay is more than 32°C.

**Mini-EXT 21/25 March 2021
NSW Central Coast**

Leader: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]

Details have been in several past newsletters. There's no particular number limit so you can still nominate if you wish.

Note that this outing could be cancelled at short notice if Greater Sydney is a declared COVID hotspot at the time.

**D/W Sunday 28 March 2021
Kinnanes Falls and cascades**

Grade: M77
Leader: [REDACTED]
Contact: [REDACTED]
Meet: [REDACTED]

It has been a while since the club has visited the area, and since that time drought and fire

have ravaged the forests and now two decent wet seasons in a row have had the resultant effect on the vegetation – it has grown rampant!

This is not a walk for those accustomed to easy leisurely tracks, because there isn't one. A recent recce revealed a walking rate of around 1km/hr through the area and significant vegetation avoidance skills needed.

However, the attractions of the walk are still there – the lookout at the top of Kinnanes Falls and the unusual basalt based cascades of the upper creek. Both are flowing well at the moment, so the opportunities for a cooling splash should be there during the walk. We will try to follow the old logging roads to the top of the falls and then the creek up to the cascades for a splash and explore. Return the same way. It will be hard work.

It is a unique area and seldom visited by anybody. The walk distance and route is entirely flexible, and we will just see what we can get to during the day. If hot weather (>30° C) is predicted, the walk will not be feasible.

**D/W Wednesday 31 March 2021
Cambanoora (Condamine) Gorge**

Grade: M33
Leader: Heather Buchanan
Contact: 3814 2556 (can leave [REDACTED] message), OR mob day of walk only 0432 123025 [REDACTED]
Meet: 6:20am Goodna opp 77 Church Str. OR 7:15am Boonah (usual public toilets), diagonally opp [REDACTED] primary school OR top of Teviot Gap [REDACTED]
Water: 2L
Petrol: \$10 ex Boonah; \$20 ex Goodna

Fancy a stroll beside the headwaters of Australia's longest river system as it begins its journey westward flanked by towering cliffs? The Condamine eventually joins the Darling, and further downstream, the Murray. From our meeting point in Boonah it's roughly another 55kms drive up through Teviot Gap to where we park the cars at the top end of Cambanoora Gorge, before the first creek crossing. The final few kms are along dirt road. We'll be walking along the road for 6 or

7 kms learning about the history of the area as we go. I have a booklet which details local history and origins of some of the creek crossing names. There are some ups and downs between creek crossings, and we may get wet feet at some of them. I'd suggest not wearing your best boots. We return to the cars the same way giving us the chance to see the magnificent cliff scenery from another perspective. The reason I'm doing this walk mid-week is that the Gorge is a very popular W/E destination with 4WD enthusiasts. I'm hoping that on a weekday we'll only be sharing the road with a few vehicles. My pre-outing didn't happen on the day I'd planned, however if there's any more to add after 13th (my pre-outing), any new information will be circulated by email. Bring usual D/W stuff, lunch, snacks, water, and poles. Small binoculars may be useful. If there is heavy rain in the catchments in this area in the days before this walk, it may not go ahead. Flash flooding is a very real risk. Please indicate on nomination form where you intend to meet. Also, please nominate by Monday 29th March.

D/W Easter Saturday 3 April 2021 Springbrook Western Cliffs

Grade: S55
Leader: [REDACTED]
Contact: [REDACTED]
Distance: 5 km
Water: 2 litres
Meet: [REDACTED]

The western cliffs of Springbrook have a couple of good waterfalls which are visible from Lamington tracks across the valley. This is your chance to stand at these features while taking in great views back over Numinbah Valley and Lamington N.P. While a short walk it does involve a steep descent and ascent so scrambling ability will be necessary, but otherwise there is no technical difficulty. Gaiters and garden gloves may be useful as some scunge may be encountered. We will meet outside The Fudge Shop at the Lyrebird Ridge Rd corner then continue to a parking spot along Repeater Station Rd. from where a car shuttle can be set up. Allow one

and a half hours drive from southern suburbs via M1 and Nerang - Murwillumbah Rd. Coffee stop afterwards at local venue.

D/W Easter Monday 5 April 2021 Spicers Gap Road Area

Grade: M33
Leader: [REDACTED]
Contact: [REDACTED]
Meet: [REDACTED]
Water: 2 litres

We will start the walk at the Governors Chair Car Park (approx. 2 kms on from the Spicers Picnic/Camping area). The Spicers Gap road will be followed for about 2 kms until we reach the turn off to the Matherson Trail. Here we leave the road and take the Matherson Trail until we reach the jinker. Along this section there are great views of Mt. Mitchell.

Once we arrive at the jinker we go off track for a short distance down to a small waterfall (usually dry). Here we will have morning tea. After that we pick up an old overgrown track and will follow this back to the Spicers Gap road (approx. 2 kms). We continue along the Gap road until we come to a creek crossing. About 200 metres along the creek there was an old wagon wheel embedded in the creek. The purpose of this walk was to show you a piece of history. Unfortunately, when I visited this area about 6 months ago, discovered that the wheel had been removed. I made enquiries to National Parks and they were unaware of its removal. The mystery of the missing wheel – who took it! Hopefully, I can show you a photo of it on the day. After that we return of the Spicers Gap Road and head back to the Governors Chair via the old telegraph road. A pleasant walk with varied scenery. A late lunch back at the Governors Chair lookout. This is not a hard walk, but historically interesting – about 12 kms. I have chosen this walk as I don't expect hordes of people to be there, as is the case with many other areas.

As is usual on Easter Monday this walk will be a combined one with B.C.B.C. If you are

looking for something to do over Easter came and join me on this interesting walk.

**D/W Saturday 10 April 2021
Baxter Creek & Mapleton Falls**

Grade: M34
Distance: 13km
Leader: [REDACTED]
Contact: [REDACTED]
Meet: [REDACTED]

Water: 2 litres

Starting from the Sunshine Coast Great Walk entrance on Flaxton Mill Road, the walk proceeds a short distance down a path and then joins a fire trail that leads to the Flaxton Walkers Camp. There are toilet facilities here. The fire trail continues for another 400m before joining the hiking path. This path leads down the hill through a series of switchbacks and steps. The total vertical descent is about 200m.

Morning tea will be at Baxter Creek Falls; could be some mozzies. After this stop is the creek crossing. A metal suspension bridge makes the crossing easy in all conditions. No wet feet! From Baxter Creek, the track leads back up the other side and exits at Suses Pocket Road. A little over 2kms along the road is Mapleton Falls Lookout. The view down the valley is spectacular. Bring some cash for purchases of local produce en route. Note you will then have to carry it with you for the remainder of the walk.

Lunch will be in the picnic area. After lunch, we follow the Wompoo Circuit, a short 1.2km sheltered walk through dense forest and large old growth trees and fallen, moss covered logs. A short 50m detour to Peregrine Lookout provides excellent views of the Obi Obi Valley. The return walk is simply to retrace your steps, which of course means an uphill from the creek to the cars.

Afternoon tea can be at The Steaming Cup, 34 Cribb St, Landsborough (if we get there before a closing time of 2pm. Doable).

**Sun 11 April 2021 S&T First Aid (part A)
and
Sun 18 April 2021 S&T First Aid (part B)**

Leader: [REDACTED]

Details to follow

**Tuesday 13 April 2021
Meeting at 7.30pm**

**Little Kings Hall, Cnr O'Keefe & Carl
streets, Buranda**

CovidSafe supper will be provided

**D/W Saturday 17 April 2021
Mount Gannon**

Grade: M 4 5
Leader: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]
Meet: [REDACTED]

Water: about 1½ litres

Mt. Gannon is a small mountain between Bally Mountain and Springbrook, and as far as I know the Club hasn't been there before. There are no real views from the actual summit, but I'm told that 400 m west of the summit there's a rock outcrop with good views.

The walk will start from the end of the public part of Bonogin Road (same place as Bally Mountain). From there we'll head into the Bonogin Conservation Park and soon leave the closed part of Bonogin Road to head up a steep fire trail to meet another one on the top of the range. This is followed south along the undulating crest to eventually reach the foot of Mt. Gannon. From here a foot pad heads up mainly through rainforest to the summit. On the recce it looked as if the pad continued to the rock outcrop.

The return will initially be the same way but then we'll head down a different fire trail into what used to be an old horse-riding resort, then down the valley back to the cars. For

those interested there can be a stop at a quaint little café a short drive back along the road.

Further trip reports

Sunday, 7 February 2021

17 Mile Rocks to Mt Ommaney Brisbane River Walk

Sunday morning dawned bright, sunny and very humid. However, this didn't deter four BOSQ walkers from having a brisk walk alongside the Brisbane river. We met at the Rocks Riverside Park at 7.30 am and decided on our course of action.

Before the walk commenced, a car swap was undertaken so that the walk could take place in a westerly direction so that we didn't have to do the walk looking into the sun. We shared the path with a lot of other walkers, joggers, cyclists and the occasional dog. It didn't take long until we were walking under the Centenary bridge and power walking through the Jindalee stretch of the river. In quick succession, we went past the Scout Hut, the boat ramp and the Jindalee Boat Ramp park.

The humidity was starting to ramp up, so we had a welcome water break and a quick conversation about the origins of the local suburb names. Sinnamon Park had been named after Hercules Sinnamon (who had been one the first people to settle in the area) and Mt Ommaney had been named after his nephew.

As we came towards the middle part of Mt Ommaney Drive, the road became very steep and our brisk walk became a little more pedestrian. A little-known park enabled us to head down to the river level and we walked for a kilometre along the southern bank of the river and could see across to the University of Queensland Pinjarra Hills facility on the other side. About twenty minutes later we reached the end of our walk near the bottom end of the McCloud Country Golf course.

We congratulated ourselves on the eight kilometre walk which had taken around two and a half hours to complete and drove to the Jindalee shopping centre and had morning tea at the coffee shop. It was a great morning's walk and there was lots of interesting conversation. I would like to thank Alison H, Judy W and Daphne S for their great company on the walk and for Di E meeting us at the coffee shop.



D/W Saturday 13 February 2021 Wanungara (Belsons) Falls (mark 2)

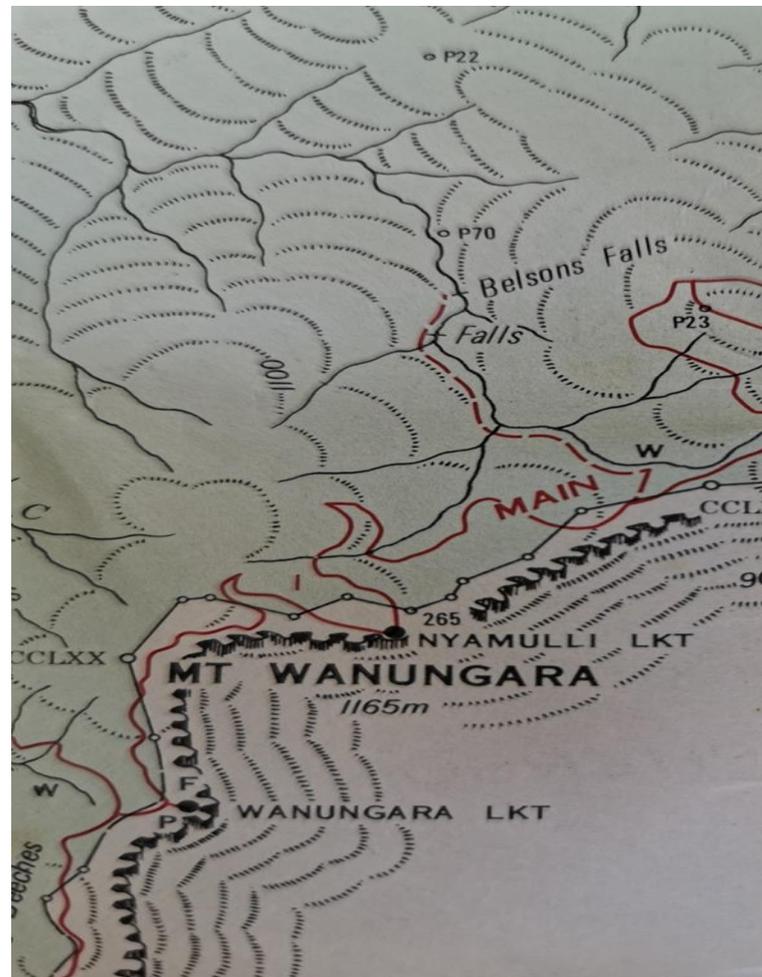
Some people who had very much wanted to go on the original walk to this rarely-visited destination in Lamington weren't able to do so on the original date (30 January), so Heather very generously offered to lead a second, identical walk just two weeks later.

What was the weather like the second time round? Well, it took place at the end of a dry spell lasting a week or more, so the tracks had dried out a fair bit, although there were still muddy patches along the border from Mt. Bithongabel to Wanungara Lookout. A couple of leeches were spotted at Bithongabel, but as far as I know nobody was bitten. There was cloud down on the tops when we started out, but it had lifted before we reached the border. The cloud had made the leaves drip with moisture and, when a breeze sprang up later in the morning, the evaporating water made things very much cooler than Brisbane was that day.

We started walking at 8 o'clock, a little earlier than the first walk. We met two couples heading for Binna Burra – one on the return leg of a throughwalk and the other doing a daywalk with a pickup at the far end. Later we came on four men who had started from Binna Burra early that morning and were walking to O'Reillys and back in one day: a distance of 42 km!

It took 3 hours to reach the turnoff to the falls, with a morning tea stop at Bithongabel and a view stop at Wanungara. There were other short stops when Teresa explained some of the botanical features of the rainforest. A point of interest was numerous brush pepperbush shrubs *Tasmannia insipida* growing along the border escarpment. Many of these had immature white berries, but in some cases the berries had ripened to purple or almost black. Teresa invited us to taste the leaves and berries. The leaves and the flesh of the berries have an attractive peppery taste which doesn't develop immediately. The seeds have a particularly intense flavour. Both the leaves and berries can be dried and ground to use as a pepper substitute. It was ironic that I had been introduced to the more potent Tasmanian pepperbush *T. lanceolata* just a few months previously.

Those who were on the earlier walk were easily able to find the old square post which used to have a sign on it marking the track turnoff. It's now overgrown with other vegetation and very easily missed. The start of the old track is now completely invisible, but by heading off the main track at an angle it wasn't long before what appeared to be a very faint track was found. We followed this and soon started to see the old toestones on the ground – these did a zig-zag down to a small creek, which was crossed. From here the track turned downstream and became more obvious. It proved very useful that the original Lamington tracks were all constructed with toestones (stones lining the downhill side of the track).



It took 40 minutes to get from the turnoff to the top of the falls – only about 600 m, but there were tree falls and scratchy vegetation to negotiate. On the way we passed old signs marking two waterfalls (really only cascades) – Chajoom and Wollongala. There was also a sign at the falls saying Wanungara, not Belsons Falls. There's only a partial view of the falls from the sign, but I found that the toestones continued on around the nose of a small ridge. However, the route soon became too scungy to negotiate. According to some accounts, there used to be a lookout further on which was damaged in a landslide – maybe this was the cause of the track closure decades ago.

We had lunch at the falls then retraced our steps all the way to O'Reillys, arriving a bit before 4 p.m. Near Wanungara Lookout we passed the 4 on their way back to O'Reillys. Then, right at the Elebana Falls turnoff not far from O'Reillys, we met a Catholic Bushwalkers party returning from Stairway Falls. Some people in each group knew each other and we exchanged news of track conditions.

Many thanks to Heather for putting on this second walk. Those who went with Heather this time were Nela M, Kerry N, Anita F, visitor Teresa C and myself.

Neil Douglas

**Saturday 13 February 2021
D/W Spicer's Gap Area**

Grade: S33
Distance: 8.2 kilometres
Leader: John Hegarty

This walk was to go ahead on Sunday, 10 January, however a COVID lockdown prevented that. My offer for the above date was accepted so it did happen, albeit a month later.

As there were only three it was easy to organise and I had proper supervision. We met at the Goodna Station carpark as this was suitable to us all (this could be used for other meets as it has security cameras and quite a lot of space) and travelled to the usual stop at Aratula before going on to the Pioneer Picnic area, off the Spicer's Gap Road, where again there was room a-plenty.

Off we set along the Mathieson Trail, named after a Railway Commissioner of the late 19th and early 20th centuries (photo). It was not long before the track became very overgrown with weeds and other plantlife (some were quite interesting with one having indented stalks and a green fruit – our knowledge base was sadly lacking as far as identification was concerned). After 1.7 kilometres we reached an information sign and lookouts with great views down a valley in the general direction of Ipswich. These views included the Cunningham Highway snaking along, Mounts Mitchell and Cordeaux, and the beauty of the Main Range. Due to the growth it was necessary to pick one's way along as the track was easy to lose. It was also easy to trip (I didn't let the side down)! An early morning tea was declared for a successful rehabilitation session.

The area was once a very large volcano (possibly Ipswich to Warwick east-west and an equivalent distance north-south) so the next part was along a razor-back ridge climbing around (and over) great rock formations (photo of example) thrown out of

the crater millions of years ago. The leader hadn't been there for some years so was relieved when a marker appeared! With new enthusiasm we got to the remains of a timber jinker used to remove logs in times past. Another photo opportunity and a chance to identify where it was made (Marshall & Sons, Gainsborough, was on the wheel-hubs). Cooling rainforest and wildflowers (another photo) in an open area kept our interest until we reached the end of the Mathieson Trail.

The next section is about 1.6 kilometres and is what is left of road-building techniques used in the 19th century. This was part of the first traffic-able road for wagon teams through the Range as it was less onerous than the one through Cunningham's Gap. It was still steep causing logs to be towed behind for braking purposes and wagons to tip over causing serious injury and death. In one part known as Mother Collins Pinch (steep grade), a teamster's wife named Collins and their young child were killed and are supposedly buried in the Pioneer Graves.

The walk was finished by admiring the magical mountain views from Governor's Chair Lookout in the same way as NSW Colonial Governor Fitzroy did in the 1850s before returning to the car, having coffee at Pedro's Cafe in Aratula, and returning to Goodna to farwell a good day.

Thank you to Alison and Helen who came with me on this mini-adventure. Your assistance was much appreciated.



Volcanic rock section beside the track



Log carrier called a Jinker

D/W Sunday 21 February 2021 Bare Rock (via Box Forest & Mt Cordeaux Tracks)

This walk was a substitute for a proposed weekend camp/walks at Springbrook which was cancelled due to heavy rain in the preceding week and forecast to continue over the weekend. As is often the case, whilst 300mm fell during the week there was no rain at Springbrook at the weekend.

The rain was very coastal, and little had fallen at Cunninghams Gap leaving tracks firm and mud free.

The correct decision was made to commence the walk from western carpark as we were the only vehicles to park there and summit carpark was full very early. Despite the warm day, walking conditions were pleasant with a breeze accompanying us for most of the journey. The track was busy with walkers and by the time we reached Mt Cordeaux summit lookout we shared our morning tea stop with many others. However, we early lunched alone at Bare Rock which gave us time to take in the views and inspect fire damage to vegetation and subsequent regeneration since 2019 devastating fires. Sadly, weeds over 2 metres high have infested the fire damaged forest adjacent to Cordeaux summit zig-zag tracks. A short detour to Morgans Lookout was made - since the fires, views can be had from this vantage point. A carpet python had taken up residence across the track near the junction and took some coaxing to move on. 2 other snakes (species indetermined) hasten across

the track as we returned from Bare Rock to continue our descent proving somewhat disconcerting to a couple in our party. Whilst not tough, we all felt we had a good and enjoyable workout on the approx. 18km walk. My thanks to John H, Gary M, Karen B, Margaret K, Heather B, Gail C, Lyn H & Clive Da S for supporting the walk at short notice. Lynne Skaines

D/W Saturday 27 February 2021 Mt Hobwee Circuit

How lucky we are to have Lamington NP to escape to during our long hot summers. The Hobwee Circuit was only re-opened a couple of weeks ago and there was a cautionary note in the park alerts about numerous treefalls on the circuit. I was expecting our walk to take longer than usual. Our first obstacle was just before Joalah Lkt where a huge section of a very old Antarctic Beech had fallen bringing other trees with it. This was the most awkward detour of the whole walk. Two points of interest just beyond the lookout, a small black snake and the exquisite red and cream flowers of the Fairy's Paintbrush freshly fallen on the track – a tiny brush complete with little handle. We encountered many more treefalls as we wound our way up the slopes of Mt Hobwee along the partly overgrown track. Very slippery and muddy underfoot as well. Winding our way round to the other side of Mt Hobwee eventually brought us to Darrayabroo Lkt giving us great views down into NSW and the steep southern slopes of LNP. There are only limited views from the 1164 metre high summit of Mt Hobwee these days.

Next point of interest was our lunch spot at Dacelo Lkt. More great views of Tweed Valley and Mt Warning. A male King Parrot paid us a visit here, looking immaculate in vivid red and green. From our lunch spot it wasn't far down to the Main Border Track. The forest out along the higher border areas looks magnificent cloaked in deep emerald green mosses – it's wall to wall green. We encountered a giant earthworm on the track and safely relocated it out of harm's way. Once back on the MB Track, there were no more treefalls and our rate of travel was

much faster. It was surprising seeing the volume of water in Dragoon Bird and Hobwee Creeks – haven't seen that much water in them for years.

Joalah Lkt was the perfect spot for a jelly snake and freddo frog snack while enjoying the view on the journey back to BB. We spotted 2 waterfalls on the western cliffs of Springbrook, but generally the views were much hazier than the morning. We arrived back at BB around 3:00pm – a 7 hour walk. All the latest track maps give the distance of the Hobwee circuit as 18.2klms, but when we did it in the “old days”, it was just over 20klms. Guess new technology is more accurate. Joining me on this beautiful walk were Lynne, Gina, Kerry, and Mal.

Welcome to new members

The Management Committee at meeting February 23, 2021 approved membership applications from:

Teresa C, Danny C, Amy C and Matthew C.

We welcome your interest in our club and look forward to sharing what enjoyment the outdoors has to offer.

FROM THE OUTINGS SECRETARY

New task for leaders – continued

As a follow-up to what was in the last newsletter, Graham Englart is working on the electronic system for recording attendances on walks. As soon as possible after returning home, could walk leaders please email the list of names (or a scan of the nomination form) to BOSQ, or else phone the details through to Graham. Just the names are sufficient except in the case of visitors, where addresses and phone numbers are also required. Please still retain the paper nomination forms for giving to the Outings Secretary for filing when convenient, as is currently done.

Car pooling

The Management Committee has asked me to remind leaders that carpooling is OK again, at their discretion. Meeting points can be at the traditional suburban locations and/or part way to the walk venues. Of course, members who may be concerned about ride sharing can go direct to the walk if they choose.

Pilgrimage off again

Because of uncertainties regarding COVID, yet again there will be no Pilgrimage this year. However, for those who might be interested, Gladstone Bushwalkers will be hosting a get-together in the Gladstone area on the Labour Day weekend in May. Although this is primarily for Central Queensland clubs, members of all bushwalking clubs are welcome to attend. Further details will be advised later.

Mount Warning closure

The track up Mt. Warning, and also the access road, are closed until at least May, with heavy fines for entry. The chain leading to the summit has been secretly removed. There is speculation that the mountain may be permanently closed to the general public above the 600 m contour.

Neil Douglas





FOOTNOTES
Bushwalkers of Southern Queensland
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