



THE TRUDGE

October 2022

Club meetings are on the first Monday of each month (excluding January)

7:00pm Refreshments for 7:30pm Meeting

Buderim Craft Cottage

5 Main St, Buderim

(If the first Monday falls on a holiday or long weekend the meeting is held the following Monday)

Scheduled activities are on <https://www.scbwc.com/activities>

Committee Members 2021-2022

President:	Rod Edwards	pres@scbwc.com
Vice President:	Sam Rowe	vp@scbwc.com
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Membership Officer:	Lorri Carrol	enquiry@scbwc.com
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Non Committee Positions

Hire Equipment Officer:	Garry Carr	guznez6@gmail.com
Trudge Editor:	Stephen Hunter	trudge@scbwc.com
Abseiling Coordinator	Peter Fowler	grants@scbwc.com
Librarian:	Gerard Gallop	cooroora35@gmail.com

Email enquiry@scbwc.com if you are unsure of whom to contact. They will forward your query to the appropriate individual.

Please send walk reports and photographs to trudge@scbwc.com

Members should email enquiry@scbwc.com if they are not receiving general email communications from the SCBWC.

If you are a SCBWC member, join our closed Facebook group.



Witta Country Lanes, Streets and Gardens

Sunday 25 September 2022

"I love to go a-wandering
Along the mountain track
And as I go, I love to sing
My knapsack on my back."

The words for this well-known German folk song, The Happy Wanderer, were written by Florenz Sigismund, who lived from 1788 until 1857.

Years later, in the 1880s, predominantly German pioneers arrived in the area which they named Teutoberg in memory of a forest in Germany. Here they established farms, the Good Shepherd Lutheran church, a school and a cemetery. In 1916, the name was changed to Witta.

Helen and Alf led the way, (with knapsacks on our backs) on a circuit of the area, starting at Bergann's Lane, a beautiful, meandering walk through rainforest. There is a tiny family cemetery with headstones showing different generations. The route continued through quiet, rural streets to Obi Lookout for morning tea.

Original farm houses, grazing properties and large modern acreage houses with extensive gardens line the way. The next section followed the ridge with extensive valley views over to Mapleton National Park.

On the way we saw a massive bull, camels!! and some locals trying unsuccessfully, to catch a large carpet snake.

"I wave my hat to all I meet
And they wave back to me.
And blackbirds call so loud and sweet
(well for us it was magpies!)
From every green wood tree."

Down through a gazetted road, across a creek, past the historical Witta Cemetery and back to our starting point at the Witta Recreation Reserve. This historical and scenic walk was a change from our usual bushwalks and refreshments at nearby Witta Store were a bonus.

"Oh, may I go a-wandering
Until the day I die
Oh, may I always Laugh and sing
Beneath the clear blue sky."

June Hughes

Mt Archer Adventure 1

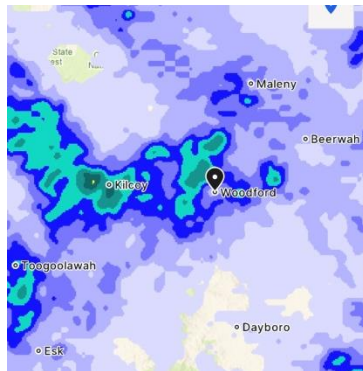
Sunday 9 October 2022

Our morning was a bit suspect with it raining but it was clear at the onset of our walk. Our walk started at the edge of Somerset dam. A walk along the road until it was undulating muddy graded road so we used the paddock on the other side of the fence. We were soon at the bottom of the creek. It was uphill all the way scrambling over the rocks, sometimes having to get into the bush to go around an inaccessible pathway.

The rocks were wet and green and slippery so I had a couple of slips ending on my bottom narrowly escaping a drench in pools of water. Peter had a big rock hit him on the shin as it made its way down the hill. First aid was applied, lucky a cold pack was brought.

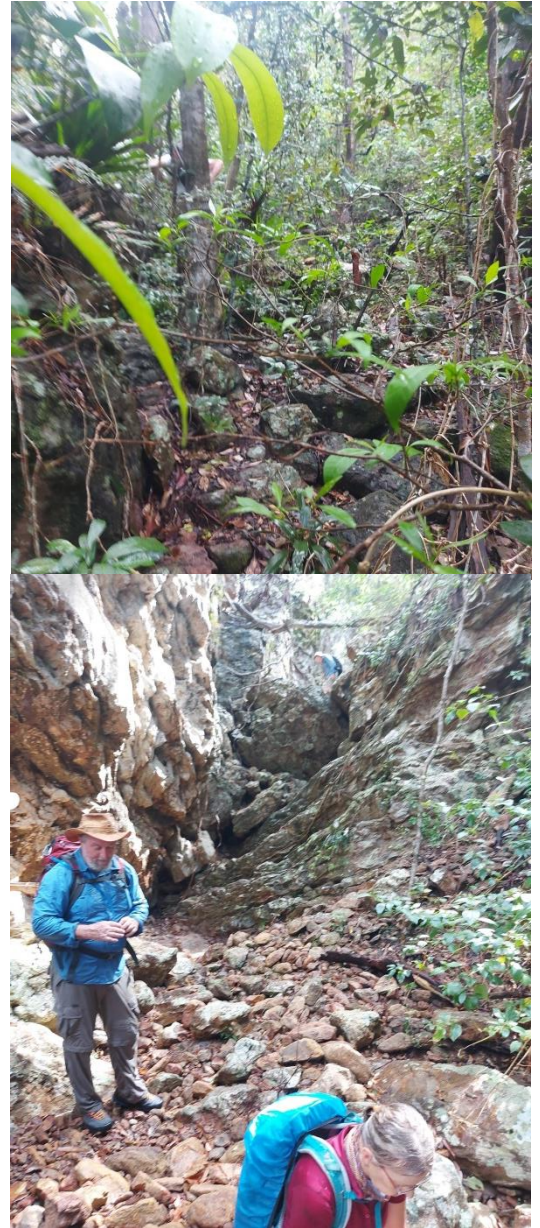
Lots of amazing flowers and plants along the way, a photographer's paradise. Morning tea at the top of the mountain with a beautiful vista to enjoy. A further scramble uphill and then the steep descent on a fire trail back to the road.

My first walk with Jon and definitely an adventure! With our good weather Rainman did not live up to his name. Here is the radar on the morning of our walk. Peter asks: would you start a walk looking at this map?



Diana Korving

PS - Forgot to mention we were all pretty dirty and covered in mud, especially Jon's brand new boots. Paw paw ointment was liberally applied at home for all the scratches, bites and bruises. But we lived to tell the tale.



Cooloola Great Walk (North to South)

Tuesday 11 October to Saturday 15 October 2022

Day 1 – Rainbow Beach to Kauri Walkers Camp



We were picked up by the hired mini bus at 7am. With Judy & Janine already on board, Rod, Taylor and I joined them at Yandina. We were dropped off a bit before 9am and after eating some left over supper yummys from the meeting the night before (thanks Toni), we were off and taking our first steps on our adventure.

We were so lucky that the rain from the day before had disappeared, and we had perfect walking weather with a slight breeze and a bit of cloud cover. The walk from the north starts at the entrance to the Carlo Sandblow which we walk across while enjoying great views of Double Island Point on the east and Tin Can Bay on the west.

On the southern side of the sandblow the track enters a forest canopy and we continued in beautiful rainforest for most of the 15.2km on this first day. The giant strangler figs were a prominent feature throughout our walk.

We had a lovely lunch stop at Poona Lake, the highest perched lake in Cooloola at 160m above sea level. The lake was very full and there was no sandy beach at this time.

After lunch our walk was largely downhill ...until it wasn't. The last 1 to 2 kms was a steady uphill until we reached the campsite which we were very grateful for. After setting up camp, we met for happy hour and Rod taught us the card game of Euchre which we all got the hang of pretty quickly. It was an early night all round to refresh for day 2.

Karen

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Day 2 – to Litoria Walkers Camp

Early Wednesday morning real rain fell, but it kindly petered out by dawn.

That day we had a mix of moderate up and down through patches of Eucalypt forest and patches of rainforest. In wetter areas Kauri branches laden with cones and water had crashed onto the track in a few places – we kept moving!

Late in the afternoon we came to Lake Cooloomera, a reedy vision just off the track, one of the few places where the endangered Cooloola Sedgefrog lives. We gladly dumped our packs and explored a little towards the shore. And then pushed up the short hill to a light and airy campsite “Litoria”.



Janine

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Day 3 – to Dutgee Walkers Camp

After pack up & breakfast, we welcomed a quick yoga stretch session led by Rod.

We were on our way by 8:20am following the track through towering timber and vibrant open forests of Blackbut and wattle. With some pretty steep sections that had us huffing and puffing up.

Then finding that ideal spot for morning tea or lunch, a log or two some shade & no mosquitos.

We passed by a relic of an old timber cutters hut that was abandoned before the area became a national park in 1975.



After nearly 15 km a smaller day of the trek, we arrived at Dutgee walkers camp about mid-afternoon on the banks of the upper Noosa River.

It didn't take long for us to strip off and dip in to cool our aches and blisters that I was starting to feel, also wash a bit of dust off.

This topped off another great day hiking.

The water was so calm the surface reflection was a perfect mirror image of the surrounding landscape.



Judy

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Day 4 – to Brahminy Walkers Camp

Pitter patter, pitter patter...

Day four begins with the musical drumming of drizzle. It sounds so lovely but I secretly wish it would go away.

By the time I eventually peak outside my tent my wish has been granted –the morning is now foggy and still. I stroll up the track, make a cuppa and sit on the bank of the river.

The bank is soft, damp and peat-like underfoot and the river is so blackly tea-stained it perfectly mirrors everything around it. Just before I leave a light breeze moves the water ever so slightly that the mirrored images shimmer like a mirage for a moment then settle back to glass.

We do some morning yoga stretches before heading off from Dutgee Walker's Camp on the Noosa River and begin rather adventurously searching for a short cut nearby to a jetty at Camp Site 3 (at Harrys Hut) – supposedly a great swim spot ... but couldn't quite locate it as it required more backtracking than we cared to gamble on so decided to leave it for "next time" as we had about 20 kilometres ahead of us and the next hour or more was straight up ... on a soft sandy track just to add to the degree of difficulty.

It was hot and humid and although we had a fair bit of cloud cover the sun would burst through and give us a brief scorching every now and then just to remind us how taxing it could be.

As we were nearing the top of that first big UP Janine was squealing something about a butterfly – she was wearing a turquoise-coloured shirt and apparently a blue winged butterfly was determined to mate with that lovely shirt ... sadly I missed the event as I was too consumed with the effort of putting one foot in front of the other.

We pressed on to the top and took a much earned break right at the edge of the Cooloola Sand Patch under some wonderfully shady trees and lay on the cold wet sand to cool off. The Sand Patch was WOW ... a spectacular vast custard yellow mass ... and Judy instigated shoes off and a play in the dunes before heading off across it.

Rod spotted the first of two inconspicuous markers so knew we were on track. There were drifts of charcoal from a burnt tree scattered across the sand like a bitumen path.

Karen led us across to the track into the forest where the second marker was too well camouflaged, set back amongst the trees while Rod was stalking some small bird that had a nest in the debris out on the sand and was putting on a performance to distract us away from its nest.



The sandy track here was densely covered in she-oak leaves and the deeper we went down the track (yes another down!) it became covered in soft thick leaf fall under a dense canopy with lots of large fallen trees.

We chose a cool spot on some logs around here for our lunch break and a rest before tackling yet another strenuous UP. We seemed to be going up 50 metres and down 50 metres all day long.

The reward at the top of one UP was our first view of Lake Cootharaba. WOW.

This section had so many WOW moments with the roar of the ocean in our ears at times and breathtaking views of the coastline all the way down to the Maroochy River on our left and the Lake on our right, dotted everywhere with the towering spears of the grass trees in full flower abuzz with bees.



On and on with still some Ks to go we trudged along closer to the coastline with thoughts of “are we there yet?” when we came down the track into a stunning arbour of massive smooth creamy white gum trees arching up and over us ever so gracefully with their long wind-blown tips reaching out like long fingers.

Another WOW moment to savour. Then up again ... for a long while... until we came to another fabulous vista of the coastline in all its glory ... and had to sit and take it in and thankfully as Karen spotted a whale splashing about just to make the moment even more memorable.

We marched down the track enthusiastically certain our camp was just around the corner when a marker stating Brahminy Camp 2.3km was spotted.

Damn. Up and over more sandy tracks.

We made it to Brahminy Walkers Camp by late afternoon still WOWed by its awesome remote setting with views of the wild ocean to the east and the lake with its backdrop of mountains to the west.

It made for a glorious sunset (without a hint of rain although some very unwelcome mozzies). Definitely the most challenging day's hike yet the most spectacular.

Taylor

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Day 5 – to Noosa North Shore

Most of us were up early to catch the early morning views over Lake Cootharaba to Elanda Point & beyond before heading off for our final leg. It was not long before we came to the junction that led us up to Mt Seawah where we were able to absorb the stunning coastal views over the small village of Teewah, down towards Noosa with Mt Coolum and Mt Ninderry in the background. You'll see a beautiful flowering Grass Tree in the forefront of the panoramic photo.



The walk from Teewah to where we entered the beach further south was predominantly behind the sand dunes with no sea breeze and full sun which made for a hot exhausting couple of hours. It was bliss when we finally arrived on the beach where we had a much-needed lunch break and some had a swim in the ocean.

We then walked delightfully barefooted along the beach for a couple of kms before leaving the beach again to enter a new world of shaded forests and the low coastal heath plains of "Arthur Harrold Nature Refuge" where wildflowers were still on display for us to enjoy along the way.

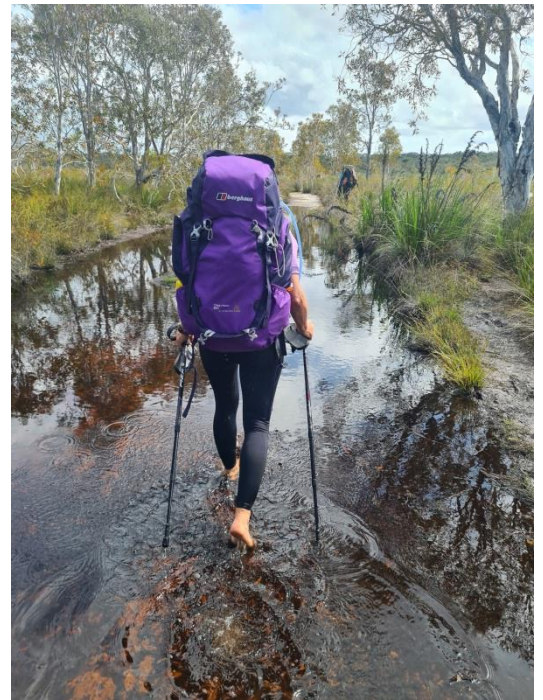
This area was very waterlogged under foot as you will notice in the photo with no choice but wet feet with or without shoes. There were no complaints.

We then popped out the tail end of the walk and headed straight to the retreat for some storytelling and well-deserved refreshments. Judy's husband Bill was very kind to come across on the ferry to pick us all up and take us home. So very very grateful and a perfect end to our 5-day adventure less a couple of lost toenails & a nasty blister or two. All definitely worth it.

Me being an avid birdwatcher, I can't go past mentioning that the birdlife was prevalent but very shy and elusive on this walk i.e. they were very vocal but difficult to see in what was often thick foliage.

In saying that my highlights for the trip were the Emerald Dove, Rufous Fantail, Red-capped Dotterel, Brahminy Kite & Rainbow Bea-Eater. Regular vocal companions were Cuckoos, Pardalotes, Whipbirds, Honeyeaters, Wrens, Thornbills, Butcherbirds, Scrub wrens, Doves, Whistlers & Cockatoos.

The walk was enjoyed by all and highly recommended for anyone looking for a local multiday adventure with much to see along the way.



Rod



Leafy Lane Orchid Spotting

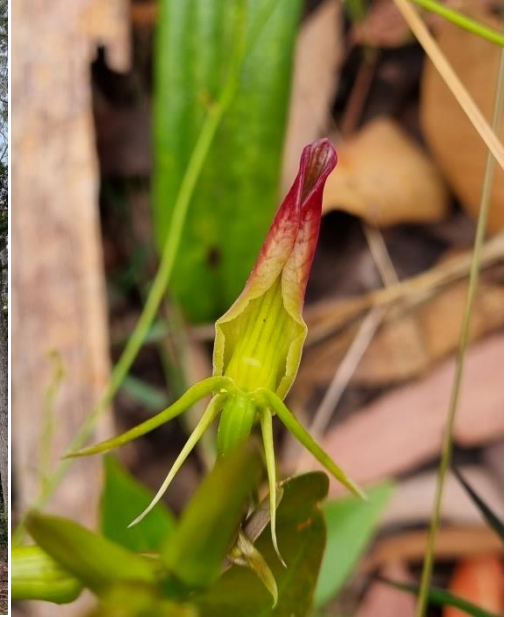
Sunday 16 October 2022

Thank you to Helen and Alf for leading this lovely 11km Orchid Hunting hike at Mapleton NP . 15 hikers - a large number of those prospective members.

A change of starting/finishing point to the M4 Linda Garrett Carpark to avoid any Blackall 100 stragglers or support crews.

What a diversity of scenery - rainforest through to open sclerophyll forest on the fire management break.

Unfortunately the much anticipated orchids were a bit scarce.



There looks to be promise of many more in a few weeks time. But... We did get quite excited by the Large Tongue Orchids (*Cryptostylis subulata*) we did come across (great spotting Joe and Alf!).

Many other wildflowers still around including Rice Flowers, different Pea flowers , Goodenias, Native Violets (edible), Matchsticks, Apple Berries, Black Eyed Susan's (*Tetradlea* spp), Native Iris, *Prostanthera* spp, and possibly *Callicoma* spp (Black Wattle)

Kate Russo



~*~

The weather gods interfered once more this month but there were still some great reports and photos.

Cheers,

Stephen

HAPPY TRAILS

