

NOVEMBER 2023



# The Trudge

Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club  
Est. 1975



## CLUB MEETINGS

First Monday of the month (excl Jan.)

Time:

7:00pm – walk sign on opens

7:30pm – meeting commences with refreshments following

Where:

Buderim Craft Cottage  
5 Main St, Buderim

Please note, when the first Monday falls on a public holiday the meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

### Committee Members 2022-2023

President:	Sam Rowe
Vice President:	June Hughes
Secretary:	Neralie Carr
Treasurer:	Karen McNamara
Activities Coordinator:	TBA
New Member Officer:	TBA
Grants Officer:	Peter Fowler

[pres@scbwc.com](mailto:pres@scbwc.com)  
[vp@scbwc.com](mailto:vp@scbwc.com)  
[sec@scbwc.com](mailto:sec@scbwc.com)  
[treas@scbwc.com](mailto:treas@scbwc.com)  
[activities@scbwc.com](mailto:activities@scbwc.com)  
[enquiry@scbwc.com](mailto:enquiry@scbwc.com)  
[grants@scbwc.com](mailto:grants@scbwc.com)

### Non-Committee Positions

Hire Equipment Officer:	Garry Carr
Trudge Editor:	Katherine Galligan
Abseiling Coordinator	Peter Fowler
Librarian:	Gerard Gallop

[guznez6@gmail.com](mailto:guznez6@gmail.com)  
[trudge@scbwc.com](mailto:trudge@scbwc.com)  
[grants@scbwc.com](mailto:grants@scbwc.com)  
[cooroora35@gmail.com](mailto:cooroora35@gmail.com)

Email [enquiry@scbwc.com](mailto: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](mailto:trudge@scbwc.com)

Members should email [enquiry@scbwc.com](mailto:enquiry@scbwc.com) if they are not receiving general email communications from the SCBWC.

# President Report AGM 2023

It is great to report to the SCBWC members that our 2023 year has been a successful year.

- On the track with a broad range of fun activities well attended
- Interesting speakers through the year at our monthly club meetings to encourage attendance.
- Successful completion of new tracks in the Kirby Road Nature Reserve.
- New safety equipment (Garmin) purchased for all members in the club to use for club or personal use.
- Updates to the club website and activities calendar to benefit both members and prospective members.
- Maintaining our membership base with over 120 financial members and 13 Life Members.
- Transition of our accounting system from excel to Xero software program.

The management and non management committee members have all been busy throughout the year within their respective roles. I would like to thank each of them for the work they have done throughout the year.

June Hughes as the club VP has stepped in to chair the meetings at times when I could not attend due to work commitments. Neralie Carr returned to the committee as secretary and keeps us all informed with communication into and from the club to members. Karen McNamara joined the committee as Treasurer and made some changes with software and bank accounts to set us up for the future. Linda Gregory continued as Walks Co-Ordinator and had us all out on activities with encouraging new and experienced leaders to take on walks, cycles and camping. Lorri continued as New Members Officer maintaining our membership base. Peter Fowler (Grants Officer) helped managed our grant application and spend on the various support activities we are involved with including with the Sunshine Coast Council Kirby Road Nature Reserve.

I would like to thank all those on the management committee for their support and work during the year. We are sorry to have Linda and Lorri not continue, but it does give the club members an opportunity to get involved with our committee. With 120 members, we can spread the involvement for all to have a little share.

Thanks also to our non management committee members of Gerry (Library Officer), Garry (Equipment Officer), Katherine (Trudge Editor), Cheryl (Refreshments officer), for all that they bring the club each month.

As with most clubs across Australia, there are so many opportunities and options across a huge canvas for people to participate in, that has resulted in club membership and volunteer roles within those clubs now struggling. The SCBWC is not excluded from this. Our membership remains strong with 120 members, but the club has only 10% of those offering to lead an activity. We all want to attend and enjoy the activities that are put on by those leaders but we now really need our members to take an opportunity to be the "Leader". Some of our past leaders are no longer involved with the club and it has left a void.

A big thank you to the club members that have taken fellow members and prospective members out on activities through the year.

The other item of concern with Bushwalking is that since 2020 the participation and numbers of people we see out on bushwalking tracks is high, but the preference is Meet Up group style activities at the moment with the younger groups tending to feel “Bushwalking Clubs” are out of date. Our club does need to ensure we don’t become dated and are considered worthwhile to join by various generations. It is those coming through who are in the 40 year old bracket that will continue to have the club prosper into the future just as those of us who joined in our 40’s are still leading activities and on the committee today.

I wish you all a lovely and safe Christmas shared with family and friends and look forward to sharing more adventures out in our lovely bush in 2024.

*Sam Rowe  
President*



## October Activities conducted

- |                                   |   |                  |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                   | <i>Parklands Ups &amp; Downs (Kate Russo)</i>       | 15 <sup>th</sup> | <i>Elanda to Kinaba via Mill Point Return (Christine Casken)</i> |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> | <i>Moreton Is Middle Section (Michelle Freeman)</i> | 20 <sup>th</sup> | <i>Ferny Forest Loop (Helen Bernard)</i>                         |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>                   | <i>Club Meeting</i>                                 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Noosa National Park Coastal Loop (Rod Edwards)</i>            |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>                  | <i>Track Maintenance Group (Joe Kirkpatrick)</i>    | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Buderim Secret Trails (Peter Fowler)</i>                      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup>                  | <i>Introduction to Abseiling (Peter Fowler)</i>     | 29 <sup>th</sup> | <i>Eumundi Conservation Park (Michelle Freeman)</i>              |
|                                   |   | 29 <sup>th</sup> | <i>Branch Creek (Jon Lee)</i>                                    |

## Thank you!

Thank you to Kathmandu Kawana for opening your store for a special event for the club. Those that came scored some great bargains and learnt about shoe selection and care.

# Moreton Island (Middle Section) Through Walk

Friday 6 October 2023.

It started with an afternoon ferry trip from the Port of Brisbane. On our arrival on Moreton Island, we were delayed an hour because of a misunderstanding with the taxi pick-up service. However the driver made up for it by taking us to a good camp site just south of Eagers Creek where we dumped our packs. He then drove us back up the sandy track to the Mount Tempest car park. Mount Tempest is the highest point on the island and is thought to be the highest coastal sand dune in the world, approximately 285 metres high. We were fresh for a hike, so sprinted, in 25 minutes, up to the summit with its fabulous 360 degree view. Not wanting to linger because the day was running out, we settled for a quick snack and a few group photos before we made our way back down to set up camp before dark. We'd picked a nice open space surrounded by casuarinas, above the clear running creek where we could collect drinking water. Our tents were pitched on short grass, the ground was quite flat, and we had the whole place to ourselves. Lovely.....



Saturday 7 October 2023

Eagers Beach to Rous Battery, 12 km to the south. Awful weather! The wind buffeted us from the SSE, at 35 km per hour, and increased in the afternoon to 48 km per hour. Gusts of 83 km/h were recorded at Cape Moreton (Data from BOM). We leaned forward into the wind and used grit and determination to advance. One consolation was the low tide. The pelting squalls arrived suddenly, and had us scrambling to put our packs down, don our raincoats and push on. Raincoats went on and off, on and off. At the water's fringe, we came across a half-dead sea snake about six foot long. While we stood around inspecting it and trying to determine if it was a threat, he lifted his head to ward us off, so we rapidly moved on. Around



11.30 with heads down and soldiering on through the harsh conditions, the track to Rous Battery camp site came into view. We inspected a couple of camp sites and settled on the higher ground at the end of a side-track, with a good view over the ocean. As soon as the tents were up, the rain came down again, having us all diving for cover. This pattern persisted throughout the afternoon with intermittent clearings, when we'd go exploring the WW2 relics and bunkers in the area. A procession of boof-head 4-

wheel- drivers, encroached on our camp-site to turn around, spreading fumes as they manoeuvred their vehicles within a metre of our tents! In exasperation, we dragged a thick Banksia branch across the track as a barricade. Peace at last! For a refreshing thrill, we stripped off (skinny-dipped) in the cold ocean water, amongst thrashing surf like a foaming washing machine. Then chilled to the bone, we decided to make a fire, but only had wet wood. Amazingly, we got it started, which warmed us up and dried stuff out. We cooked dinner on our fuel stoves, prepared for bed and put out the fire with wet sand, calling it quits after a long, tough day.

## 8 October 2023

Wind speed was 43 km/h this morning (data from Cape Moreton) and still cloudy. The evening before, we'd made a back-up plan to bail out early on the next available ferry, if conditions hadn't improved. We shouldered our packs and headed inland along the Rous Battery walking trail - sheltered from the wind and we were relieved that the rain held off. Walking was pleasant under the stately scribbly gums and banksia woodland. We spotted a beautiful 2 metre carpet python lazing in the sun along the edge of the track. We also saw some pig tracks and two pig trap structures. A left hand track brought us to the "The Desert" where youngsters were tobogganing down the dunes. Naturally, the rippled sandy crossing gave us many photo opportunities. We navigated our way up to the tree line, over a hill, then descended hundreds of steps onto the western beach, fringed by calm turquoise waters. Within 10 minutes we had ditched our packs and were enjoying ice creams at Tangalooma Resort (posing as guests). We later pitched our tents at The Wrecks camp-site further up the beach, then relished in all the comforts of the area. We had a dip in the ocean then elected to have a meal at one of the alfresco restaurants along the beachfront of the resort, instead of our final night's dehydrated meal. Excellent choice! We dined watching the sun set behind silhouetted palm trees and frolicking holidaymakers, then strolled up to the jetty, to watch the famous wild dolphin feeding. Quite impressive.



## 9 October 2023

This morning we packed up camp and had a final swim in front of the wrecks before boarding the ferry for the 90 minute trip back to Brisbane, leaving us all with a desire to return!

*Walkers:* Susan Taylor, Christine Casken, Ian Vinen and Michelle Freeman (leader).  
This story was collaboratively



## Elanda to Kinaba via Mill Point return

By coincidence we had an all women crew today, 12 of us, for an easy walk 1st to KinKin creek, to check out the broken bridge. Michelle and Taylor swam across to see if it would be possible for a future walk on the Cooloola wilderness trail, with packs in large plastic bags. We concluded it is possible, though a bit tricky with full packs.



Then we retraced our steps and took the Kinaba turn off, for a late morning tea sitting on the steps of the visitor centre, and a second swim in the lake. It was beautiful and calm, no wind. Then we walked back to Elanda for a nice lunch at Habitat cafe. Distance overall: 16 kms. Very pleasant.

*Christine Casken*



## Ferny Forest Loop

15 Members and Perspective Members left Ewan Maddock Dam Carpark around the Ferny Forest Bike Trail. The first 2 kms had a controlled burn which is starting to regenerate. From then on the walk was through a ferny grove which was really stunning. We walk along the edge of the Dam and was able to see Mt Tibrogargan and Mt Coonowrin (Crookneck) across the dam in the distance. Half way along the walk we stopped for morning tea near water edge. After morning tea the walk was through eucalyptus forest until we again reached the controlled burn part of the forest. This walk was an easy 11ks. We only encountered 4 bike riders along the way. Congratulations to the 8 perspective members who completed the walk with ease.



*Helen Bernard*

## Noosa National Park Coast Loop



Rod & I have led this walk a number of times and it never disappoints. We had a group of 13 members and 1 prospective member join the walk. Starting from the western park entrance on Parkedge Road, we followed the internal park tracks to the top of Noosa Hill which is the highest point in the park. Once on top of the hill we had lovely sea breezes that continued for the rest of the walk and helped to cool us down. From the top you get great views to the north of Noosa, right up to Double Island Point.

The next part of the walk was all downhill until we reached our morning tea spot at Tea Tree Bay. We chose to stay off the busy tourist path at the bottom of the hill and follow the bush track all the way to this point. Tea Tree Bay is the perfect spot for a break as we are right on the beach, with shade and toilets close by. Rod had to leave us at this point, so I took over the sole leader role and lead from the front, and I assigned Clive to tail end Charlie.

From here it was about a 40 minute walk on the tourist path out to Hells Gate lookout. Unfortunately we weren't lucky enough to see any whales on the day. It was very choppy out in the ocean, which made whale spotting quite difficult. But the views along this walk are just spectacular, we are so lucky to have this walk on our doorstep.



Our walk along Alexandra Bay was uneventful. Some of us took our shoes off and walked along the waters edge, which was very cooling and Philippa took the opportunity for a quick swim. Up and over the headland and down the many steps and we were on Sunshine Beach, where we sat under the shade of the Pandanus Trees for our lunch break. Philippa was the only one who went in for a swim here as well.

As the day was heating up, we wanted to get back to our cars as quickly as possible. I think we walked the track out in about 40 minutes, and we were back to our cars by 12.20pm. All up the walk was about 12km and we were on the track for about 4 ½ hours. Thanks to everyone who joined us on the day and special thanks to Clive for looking out for the tail end.

*Karen Edwards*

## **Branch Creek**

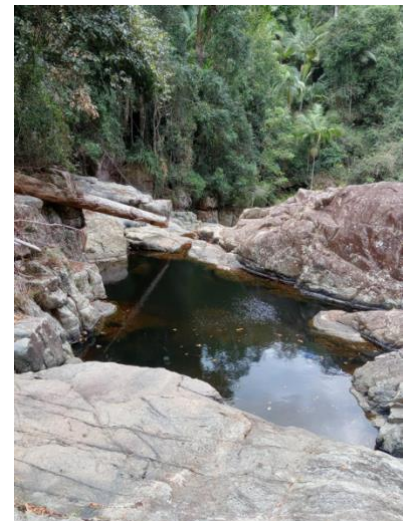
A reduced group of seven met at Jon's favourite, CJ's bakery in Woodford, and car pooled to our start point in the Bellthorpe NP at Sandy Creek day use area. Leaving one car there for a later return we took two cars up to the top of Branch Creek and descended into the creek bed.

The initial couple of kilometres were rubbly with some fallen undergrowth to push through, but the creek slowly opened out and we had about five kilometres of exceptionally dry bed with ample large boulders to scramble over or around. There was barely a trickle of water until we reached the lower end, but this made it possible to descend directly down some of the waterfalls, although we still had to bush bash around one or two as the direct descent would have been too challenging.

We won't mention Jon's refusal to point out the rather splendid overhang cave - because he magnanimously relented when it came to the time.

Strenuous but well worth the effort, and thank you to Jon Lee for his leadership.

*Richard Palmer*





## Eumundi Conservation Park from Verridale Forest Road

The trail map for this area mentions a creek crossing, which sometimes can't be crossed due to the water flow. The map also indicates a swampy area where swamp paperbarks grow .....

BUT not on Sunday October 29!!

A combination of low rainfall and days of windy weather had dried the boggy areas and reduced the creek to tiny isolated pools.

Michelle led 13 walkers on a leisurely 10km circuit, pointing out different species of trees and a well camouflaged goanna.

There were several new, prospective members on this walk so it was a good opportunity to get acquainted. Some NZ born walkers were relieved there were no snakes, ticks or leeches!



We hope to see them participating in club activities in future...the people, not the leeches!

*June Hugh*

**Christmas Party**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December @ Valdora Hall

Please contact June Hughes ASAP if you haven't RSVPed already

UNTIL NEXT MONTH..... HAPPY TRAILS