

NOVEMBER 2024



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 2nd Monday

Committee Members 2023-2024

President:

Sam Rowe

pres@scbwc.com

Vice President:

June Hughes

vp@scbwc.com

Secretary:

Neralie Carr

sec@scbwc.com

Treasurer:

Karen McNamara

treas@scbwc.com

Activities Coordinator:

Kate Russo

activities@scbwc.com

New Member Officer:

Maree Bell

enquiry@scbwc.com

Grants Officer:

Peter Fowler

grants@scbwc.com

Non-Committee Positions

Hire Equipment Officer:

Garry Carr

guznez6@gmail.com

Trudge Editor:

Chris Vieraitis

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

As I am writing this yearly report, my notes on what the Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club has achieved during 2024 keeps getting longer and longer. Below are some of the highlights I would like to acknowledge.

- ❖ SCBWC Club Constitution was updated to Version 9, voted for approval in August 2024 and provided to the Office of Fair Trade.
- ❖ Successful application of the Active Club Grant for \$2,500 to allow first aid course training for members and leaders and training in use of ropes and climbing in February 2025.
- ❖ Utilising Xero for membership renewals.
- ❖ SCBWC monthly club meetings on two Sundays during the year were held at the Maroochydore Botanical Gardens with very supportive attendance. Members and guests continuing to be guest speakers at the monthly club meetings to add interest value to the meetings.
- ❖ Twenty-four new members joined the club throughout the year.
- ❖ SCBWC Risk Management Plan of which the draft commenced in 2020 for our MOU with the Sunshine Coast Council has been completed.
- ❖ Updated SCBWC Leadership Guidelines are now available for all leaders to review in the members area on the website.
- ❖ New Leaders took on the call and lead activities for us all to enjoy.
- ❖ New tracks continued to be built at the Kirby's Road Environmental Reserve, by the clubs' great group of track volunteers led by Joe Kirkpatrick.

One of the funniest events for the year was the March Club Meeting when a storm took out the electricity at the Craft Cottage. We did continue the meeting by torch light until the end and even enjoyed the supper.

I would like to thank the current SCBWC Management Committee on behalf of the club for their work during the year. Kate Russo (Activities Co-ordinator) and Maree Bell (New Members Office) our new committee members have brought ideas and energy into their roles and to the committee. Peter Fowler (Grants Officer) has continued to be successful in obtaining grants for the club to utilise. June Hughes (Vice President) has stepped up to cover at club meetings for the President role when I have been unable to attend. Karen McNamara (Treasurer) has taken the club into automated membership renewals for 2024 and maintaining different accounts. Neralie Carr (Secretary) and her work on updating and completing the club constitution, along with the general secretary duties has resulted in a big year. Neralie will be handing over to a new secretary with the knowledge that outstanding items are all complete. The committee during 2024 has worked as a supportive team which I thank them for.

Our non-management committee of Gerry Gallop (Library), Garry Carr (Equipment Officer), Chris Vieraitis (Trudge Editor) and Toni Russell (Refreshments) have all contributed to the clubs' needs. I know members and prospective members have enjoyed the supper provided at the monthly club meetings during the year.

Our leaders are the basis of our club. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank all the leaders that have taken our club members / prospective members out for a bushwalk, cycle, kayak, mountain climbing, abseiling, birdwatching and even a coffee chat. Our leaders that contribute to the Healthy Sunshine Coast activities thank you – without your efforts the club would not be receiving the Sunshine Coast Council grant money.

I will not be renominating for President or being on the management committee at the coming Annual General Meeting (4/11/24). After 2 years as President and being on the committee for the last 3 years in the second stint, (previously on the committee 2011-2019), it is time for a new member to lead the club. At the time of writing this report, I am pleased that the SCBWC is a strong club with membership of 92 members and 12 Life Members and new members and leaders taking on activities for the clubs' future.

In 2025, the SCBWC will be celebrating its 50th year with a range of activities to celebrate this milestone. It is going to be a fun year, and I encourage all members to join in the celebration when they can – just look for the “50” on our activities calendar.

Signing off

Sam Rowe, President – SCBWC

Date Claimers

Monday 4 November Club AGM – Buderim Craft Cottage
Saturday 7 December Christmas Lunch Party – Valdora Hall
Saturday 5 April 25 50th Birthday Lunch Party Celebration



SCBWC 50th Birthday Party Celebrations

1975 was a good year!!! That's when the Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club began!!

In 1975 things were very different!

- Popular cars were Holdens, Falcons and Datsuns.
- Petrol prices were reasonable.
- Car windows had to be wound up and down.
- Communication was by letter or phone.
- Camping sites on Fraser Island were not restricted.
- Backpacks were uncomfortable with aluminium frames.
- The Vietnam War ended.
- The Governor General dismissed the government.
- Popular bands included Abba, Sherbert, Skyhooks, The Carpenters, Pink Floyd, Queen and Fleetwood Mac.
- Some of us were smoking.
- Maps and compasses were used for navigating in the bush.

Fast forward nearly 50 years since then.

Members past and present have been involved in many amusing, embarrassing, scary and memorable experiences and activities. It would be fun (and interesting) to reminisce and recollect those stories from the past. These memorable experiences will be made into a book which would be an enduring record for SCBWC members. It would be fun and interesting to read a collection of activities from 1975 to the present.

All members are invited to submit their memories and they can be in written form or I can meet with you to discuss any suggestions. Contact me at junehughes76@hotmail.com or mobile 0413 911 513.

June Hughes

Vale Sheila Ward – Life Member

Recollections and summary by Michelle Freeman

Sheila Ward, a life member of the club, passed away in July 2023.

It was Sheila and her husband Geoff Ward, who encouraged me to join the Sunshine Coast Bushwalkers in 1987. This was at a time when I returned to Noosa, my home town, after about 12 years away. I explained to Sheila that I loved exploring the bush, but had no-one to walk with. She told me how it was much safer to walk with the group, and how much fun they had!

The club meetings were in Buderim once a month, and because I had no car, Geoff and Sheila picked me up and drove me. Geoff was a very fast driver, I can tell you! White knuckles for me.

I found the club walks to be invigorating and super interesting. The leaders did a lot of 'off-track' walks. In the hot weather, the club members had no hesitation in stripping off their clothes and nude swimming in waterholes. Once I got over the initial shock, I joined in, and after being in the club for a while, this seemed natural and normal.

A bit of history about Sheila and Geoff

They regularly walked with the Binna Burra Bushwalkers, up until their move to Sunshine Beach in 1978. Sheila and Geoff were the stalwarts of the Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club, through the late 1970's, the 1980's and into the 1990's. They rarely missed a walk or camp, and knew the area better than anyone else. They were active conservationists and Geoff always enjoyed a good political "discussion". He passed away in 1999. What a wonderful contribution to our club they made, and I have only positive memories of them.

Newspaper article published 11th Feb 1979

Sheila and Geoff Ward standing at Hells Gates, Noosa National Park.



October Activities

6 th	<i>Chinaman Creek Loop (Clare Staines)</i>	19 th	<i>Linda Garrett Circuit to Gheerulla Falls via Ubajee Walkers Camp (Michele Johns)</i>
11 th	<i>Mapleton Falls Birdwatching Wander (Jackie Nair)</i>	20 th	<i>Mt Eerwah (Sam Rowe)</i>
12 th	<i>Baroon Pocket Dam to Kondalilla (Carolyn Farrington)</i>	25 th -27 th	<i>Harry's Hut Kayak / Hike Base Camp (Joe Kirkpatrick)</i>
18 th	<i>Mt Tinbeerwah off-track Adventure (Michelle Freeman)</i>	26 th	<i>Harry's Hut to Wandii Waterhole Reccie (Min Haeusler)</i>
18 th	<i>Maleny to Gardners Falls (June Hughes)</i>		

Chinaman Creek Loop



The meeting point was at the Old Witta Store on the Maleny Kenilworth Road for a car shuffle to the start of the walk. We were 12 walkers. This walk is along maintenance tracks in the Witta section of Maleny Nation Park. The loop is around 10 kms through beautiful classic Australian eucalypt forest. Sections of the forest trees are dotted with native orchids.

The Iron Bark orchids were not flowering but some others still are. We were also greeted by a pair of king parrots in the section approaching the creek, which is a treat for us bird enthusiasts.



The track is mostly shaded making it a pleasant walk. The only section that is in and out of sun is the final 1.5 to 2 km, so a good walk for this time of year

as the season heats up. When reaching Chinaman Creek we walked about 100 meters along the creek bed to the escarpment at Chinaman Creek falls. There is a wide rocky area to sit with a magnificent view. Perfect morning tea spot. The walk along the creek is lined with lush flowering native lomandra and near the escarpment were some large native orchids still in flower. A really lovely creek walk.

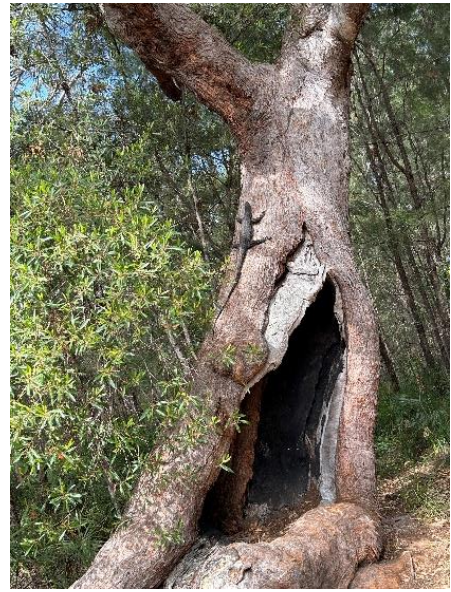
The last 2 km is the only uphill section. We were back at the cars after three and a half hours walking (total distance just under 10 km) and headed back to the café at the Old Witta Store for lunch. Great morning out. Thanks to Clare for offering this walk.

Carolyn Farrington

Mt Timberwah off-track adventure



A group of 9 of us met up for a hike up Mt Timberwah, the first couple of kms was on a fairly wide track and pretty flat, which gave us all a chance to catch up with a bit of banter going on. After a brief walk on the bitumen road, we headed off track entering the bush to scrambling through tall grass where we crossed 3 gutters, the first being Cooroibah



Creek. We then encountered some steep rock slabs - lucky for us they weren't slippery.

From brown rock, aptly named by Michelle Freeman, we had some lovely views over Lake Cooroibah, Lake Weyba and surrounds of Noosa. We then sidled down the Nth West side of the mountain past some school kids abseiling, onto the car park and amenities where we had morning tea.



After our break we followed a fairly easy goat track before we went off track into the bush again to ascend a steep ridge with 3 knolls with more excellent views of surrounding lakes. We looped around to get back onto the goat track, then looked for a nice shady spot with a breeze to have lunch as it was a hot day. After a rest and lunch we branched off into forest trails that led us back to our cars.

Thanks for the great company and Michelle Freeman for leading an interesting and a good workout hike on a Friday.

Judy Rimmelzwaan

Linda Garrett Circuit to Gheerulla Falls via Ubajee Walkers Camp



The meeting point was the car park at the Lilly Ponds on Delicia Road Mapleton. There were just 4 of us for this walk. It required a short car shuffle along Delicia Road to leave one car at the start point and one at the end. At the starting point we discovered the track was being used this day for the Blackall100 track run.

Over the course of the walk we would have seen 150 or 200 runners coming at us from behind and in front. What an extraordinary run! These participants were attempting to run either 50 or 100 kilometres in 24 hours.



Our leisurely walk commenced through lovely piccabeen forest on a section that was not being used by the runners. Then we joined the Great Walk Trail (and the runners) through subtropical rain forest full of bird song, that later opens out into tall eucalypt forest. The terrain was easy and the track wide until we reached the Ubajee camp. The Ubajee Lookout is nearby and is the perfect spot for morning tea.

After a break, the track narrows and switches back and forth downhill for about 2 kilometres to meet the creek. We turned upstream for 100 meters to the base of Gheerulla Falls which are still flowing, but not enough for the pool to look inviting for a swim. After the falls it is about 1.5 kms steadily uphill on a wide track to the car on Delicia Road.

This walk is 10 kilometres long and almost always in the shade. A particularly beautiful walk that took us 3.5 hours. We were back in Mapleton around midday for a cuppa and a snack at the Mapleton Bakery. A great morning out, thank you to Michelle for leading this lovely walk.

Carolyn Farrington

Mt Eerwah

Our group of seven met at Eumundi Post Office early Sunday morning. Judy, Jon, Rob and David had not had the pleasure of the Mt Eerwah climb, whilst Ian was returning for a 2nd climb and Chris and I had climb it on numerous occasions.



Mt Eerwah is the funny shaped mountain behind Eumundi. From one angle it looks like it is a conical peak, yet it has a long spine at the top that can be seen from the Eumundi Kenilworth Road. The climb up Mt Eerwah is on land owned by the Sunshine Coast Council which means Red Dog, (who lives across the road from the entrance) can do the climb up. In the past Red Dog has climbed up both peaks with us, but on today's climb he only joined us to the base of the steep bit.

The first and highest peak of Mt Eerwah is at 422 metres, and it really is a solid steep climb up the majority of this. Ropes have been on the track for years, but more ropes have been included in "new" tricky spots which were useful for us at various stages. After reaching the first peak, we headed down into the saddle and up to the second peak and our lookout rock area to enjoy a well deserved morning tea.



The walk back to the starting point and cars is along the same track, and the steepness on the descent brings new challenges. The other challenges were some ticks in the area that liked David. After successfully finishing the climb by midday, we headed into Eumundi for lunch in the park then headed home. Thanks all for joining us on the morning climb.

Sam Rowe

Harry's Hut Basecamp

Harry's Hut in the Cooloola section of Great Sandy National Park was the venue for a 3-day weekend of camping, kayaking and hiking. Most of us camped in an idyllic group area right on the banks of the upper Noosa River surrounded by paperbark trees and eucalypt woodlands. It was easy camping with reasonable amounts of shade, shared picnic tables and marquees, all patrolled by a couple of bush turkeys, a duck and a lace monitor.

Mist on the river on the Sunday morning enticed a few of us for an early morning paddle downstream before breakfast. Silky water, beautiful reflections, white cockatoos drinking from the river and a kingfisher in flight all stimulated our senses enhancing our appreciation of the beauty and peace of the river.

We headed back to camp for breakfast and packed up before the heat of the day set in. A coffee and a bite to eat in Pomona was a great way to finish the weekend as we eased ourselves back into civilisation. Thanks to Joe and Min for their work in organising and leading this trip.

Neralie Carr

Harry's Hut Kayak – Noosa Everglades



Our SCBWC life member Joe K led our group of 13 paddlers through the unique Australian aquatic landscape of the Noosa Everglades of the Upper Noosa River. Paddling were Joe, Min, Don, Pam and Lutz, Carolyn, Neralie and Garry, Lauren, Gerry, Rod and Mimie and Michelle. Only one of us had an involuntary swim (fell in while getting off the kayak – oh no!).

The weather was perfect: warm and calm with blue skies. The famous river reflections were amazing. The main paddle upstream from Harry's hut was Saturday. A leisurely 7 km paddle up to the beach landing of camp-site 4 for lunch and snacks.

Shorter paddles Fri and Sunday before packing up camp.

Thanks, Joe, for organising this activity and for transporting a trailer load of club gear.

Rod Jenman



UNTIL NEXT MONTH..... HAPPY TRAILS