

JULY 2025



# The Trudge

Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club  
Established 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 2024 -2025

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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.

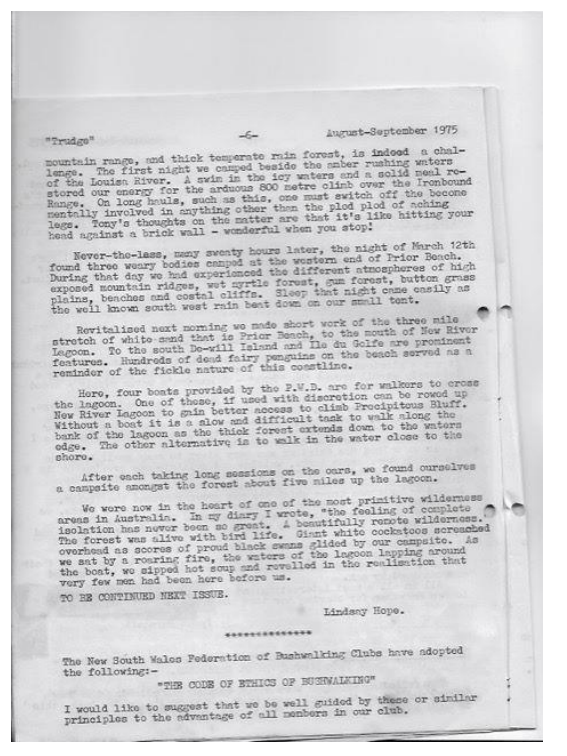
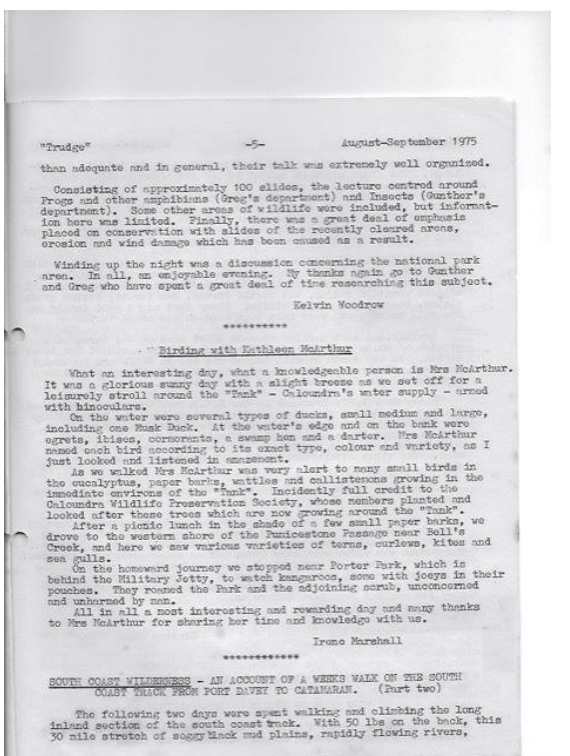
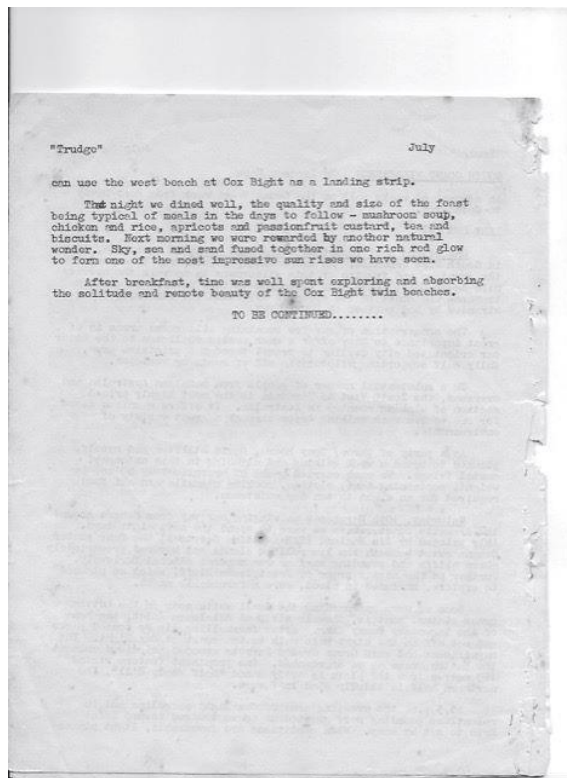
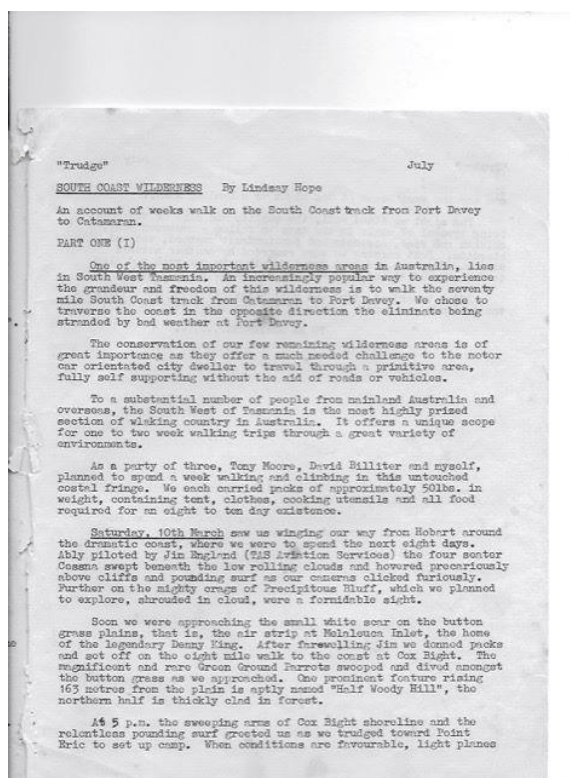
Please send walk reports and photographs to [trudge@scbwc.com](mailto:trudge@scbwc.com)

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



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year – A Blast from the Past.....

An extract from an original Trudge back in 1975 – South Coast Track article.





## Bushwalking Queensland Pilgrimage

- ✓ Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August – Beaudesert Showgrounds, Tina Street, Beaudesert.
- ✓ Hosted by Gold Coast Bushwalking Club, celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- ✓ Admission - \$30.00 per person for the weekend, including non-powered campsite. Payment must be made to complete registration.
- ✓ Registrations close 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Here is the link to the Gold Coast Bushwalkers Pilgrimage 2025 page.

[https://www.goldcoastbushwalkers.org.au/index.cfm?module=event&pagemode=indiv&page\\_id=2903045](https://www.goldcoastbushwalkers.org.au/index.cfm?module=event&pagemode=indiv&page_id=2903045)

### June Activities

1 <sup>st</sup>	Thilba Thalba to Gheerulla Falls via Sam Kelly Road (Clare Staines)	14 <sup>th</sup>	Emu Mountain (Helen Bernard)
3 <sup>rd</sup> –8 <sup>th</sup>	Green Gully Track Oxley Wild Rivers NP (Peter Fowler) - POSTPONED	15 <sup>th</sup>	Frog Falls via Artist Cascades (Sam Rowe)
6 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup>	Kirby Road Base Camp (Joe Kirkpatrick)	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mount Ngungun with a Wile Horse (Jackie Nair)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Kirby Road Escarpment Track (Joe Kirkpatrick)	21 <sup>st</sup>	Healthy Sunshine Coast Kureelpa Falls (Kate Russo)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Nambour Street Art and Parks (Kate Russo)	21 <sup>st</sup>	Abseil Training (Peter Fowler)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Emu Mountain (June Hughes)	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mt Coolum & Mt Ninderry with Geologist (Rod Jenman)
	Healthy Sunshine Coast Emu	29 <sup>th</sup>	Lake Weyba (Peter Fowler)

### Thilba Thalba to Gheerulla Falls via Sam Kelly Road

After MORE rainy weather and a cool and overcast start to the day with showers forecast, it wasn't looking promising for our intended hike. But the threat of cabin fever propelled Clare, Linda, Kate, Jo, Angie and Janine to meet up at Mapleton and at least have a go.



We decided that after 60mm of recent rain, not to try to walk up Gheerulla Creek, but to stick to drier country by doing a return along the Thilba Thalba ridgeline and down to Sam Kelly Road. We car pooled to the entry of Thilba Thalba camp then set off with layers on, and with the anticipation of walking in cold drizzle. However within half an hour the clouds rolled away, the sun peeped out, and the layers peeled off. Glorious sunshine shone through the trees while green and grey moss and lichens sat plumped up on all the rocky outcrops.

The views out to distant peaks over the green valleys from Kenilworth Bluff around to Mount Cooroora were stunning. The bloodwoods were showing exactly why they got their name with a couple of trees dripped copious amounts of bright red resin. Which, after a short discussion about whether it would be sweet I can personally attest that it is *very* astringent. Bleh! Morning tea was had at one lookout and a second break down by Gheerulla Creek where the creek was flowing well, but not flooding. Although the lower tracks were quite muddy with water ponding here and there it might have been possible to have done the walk up the creek after all. Then back up with a steep climb, in the now warm weather, with plenty of stops to catch our breath. But rewarded by Linda and Kate spotting white helmet orchids in full flower cunningly camouflaged right next to the path.



We will definitely try to do the walk again with the creek section. But given the weather it was just great to get out in nature with great company and still get in 13-14km with 476m of elevation to test those calves out!

*Clare Staines*

## Kirby Road Base Camp

It was such a big treat to camp out at Kirby's Rd Environmental Reserve for 2 nights. A wonderfully quiet and pretty spot, really quite a short trip from 'town', and glorious weather. We had sun for our amblings about during the day, and - between the big bright moon and clouds - we got beautiful starry upwards vistas at night. Joe and helpers had set up shelter and cooking facilities by Friday arvo, which made everything from brewing a cuppa to washing the dishes a breeze. And a real bonus was being permit-ed to have a fire each night. Gary stepped into the role of fire-master with such skill and vision that the stars could have seen us, while roast potatoes and numerous gourmet yums turned out perfectly non-black in their own special coal bed.



A few strolls and an organised club walk were much enjoyed (see separate report). We were joined by a trio of council staff who provide a raft of insights and energies to all things bushy, and did well keeping up with the walking and talking.



The informal tour of the proposed Dark Sky Park areas was a bit exciting – it seems we'll have another short-walk-in campsite in our hinterland soon-ish, with views of Clancy's endless glory undiluted by town lights available any weekend. Soooo goood : )

Thanks to Joe and helpers for making a lovely little escape so easy. Very much appreciated!!

*Janine Conway*

## Kirby's Road Reserve Escarpment Explore



As part of the weekend base camp at the Kirby's Road Reserve in the Obi Obi Valley on the Sunday morning we had a walk on the track completed late 2024 up to the escarpment in the Maleny National Park. Eight walkers from the base camp walked up and over on the second track from the SCBWC club shed area (and our camping spot) to the new carpark at the new front gate of the Kirby's Road. Here we met a further 8 club members who had come out for the morning activity.

Once boots were all cleaned to try and minimise the spread of Phytophthora our group of 16 started off on our explore. The tracks have now been sign posted at the car park by the Sunshine Coast Council to assist anyone who wants to enjoy the area (it is open for the public). The track lead us through wet rainforest areas before ascending to the large rocky outcrops and boulders scattered throughout areas of the sclerophyll and vine forests located on the southern and western slopes and gullies. We took the opportunity to discuss the endangered Scrub Turpentine tree that is found in the reserve. The SCBWC had built the track from the carpark to the base of the rocky escarpment. The Sunshine Coast Council organised contractors to build the amazing staircase that leads up through the escarpment to the Maleny National Park. As a task we all counted the number of stairs we walked. Interestingly the number counted ranged from 77-82 stairs.



Morning tea was enjoyed at the seats at the top of the escarpment and the group then headed further along into the national park to the "waterfall" which was perfect for rock hopping. A quick trip to the "lookout" at the Power Lines and we were then retracing our steps back to camp for lunch before packing up and heading home.

Thanks to Joe Kirkpatrick for organising the Sunday morning walk and the wonderful base camp. Perfect sunny weather to enjoy being out and about close to home.

*Sam Rowe*



## Nambour Street Art and Parks



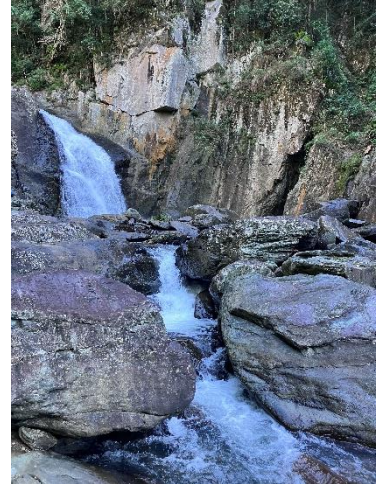
## Frog Falls via Artist Cascades

Our group of 4 set off on a chilly Sunday morning (4 degs) in the Conondale National Park to walk along the Great Walk to Artist Cascades (on track), Frog Falls (off track) and then along the Booloumba Creek (off track) back to the Great Walk. The sky was blue and the sun was out and we basically had this track to ourselves.

There had not been any rain for a fortnight, yet the creeks were still up and a little challenging to cross at times but the walk down the creek was on mostly dry rock hopping boulders. This is one of the prettiest short creek walks in our area Thanks to Judy, Kate and Peter for joining me on our 13km (11km on track) and 439m elevation gain walk.

*Sam Rowe*





## Mt Ngungun and a Wild Horse



The 5 of us began the day with a hike up Mount Ngungun. From the summit we were rewarded with spectacular views of The Glasshouse Mountains.

After morning tea at the local bakery

we drove to Glass House Mountains lookout before walking up Wildhorse mountain. We certainly had seen The beautiful Glasshouse Mountains from multiple perspectives that day.

*Jackie Nair*



## Healthy Sunshine Coast Kureelpa Falls

This hike was the 4th and final hike for our Healthy Sunshine Coast commitment for 2025. With a total of 11 hikers we had just over half registered from the Healthy Sunshine Coast program. We were fortunate that there had been very little rain over the past few weeks so the tracks were quite dry. Of course on the actual day of the hike showers were forecast! We did have a couple of short misty showers but the group were well prepared and the showers did not dampen spirits.



This is quite a hilly hike so we all tackled the ups and downs at our own pace. The heavy rain over the past few months had scoured the management trails so they were quite rough in spots. The group all appreciated the magnificent trees, the lone Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo flying overhead, and a couple of stunning stands of flowering banksia.

Most of the group took a short scrub track that took us alongside the creek - a sample

of "bushwalking" for the Healthy Sunshine Coast participants which involved ducking under a fallen tree, over creek bank rocks, over fallen tree trunks and up a slightly overgrown dirt track. The group enjoyed this bit of variety.

Back on the main track we went down to the top of Kureelpa Falls where we enjoyed morning tea. The more adventurous of the group explored around the rock pools and creek at the top of the falls.

On the return hike to the car park most of us were feeling the hills! And so it was with a sigh of relief that we spotted the gate to the carpark road. Some lovely feedback from the public participants and some potential new members.



*Kate Russo*

## Mt Coolum and Mt Ninderry with Geologist

### THE STORY OF MAROOCHY

As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> club anniversary, we were hugely privileged to have local First Nations Kabi Kabi man Dan Neill and long-time friend of the club exploration geologist Ferg Fitzgerald. Dan delivered a rich oral narrative offering deep insight into the cultural and spiritual significance of Mount Coolum and the surrounding area on the Sunshine Coast, while also enriching listeners' understanding of Kabi Kabi perspectives.



Our other special friend of The SCBWC is geologist and avid bushwalker Fergus. Fergus delivered to us very interesting details of the Mt Coolum and Mt Ninderry history and landscape from a modern geology perspective.

Following Dan's talk, we trekked up to the cliff face with Geologist Ferg and from there followed the named but unofficial "Mt Coolum Caves Track" to the summit of Mt Coolum

Dan's summary of that traditional Perspective and Ferg's summary of the geological perspective are both included here.



### Highlights of Dan's Kabi Kabi talk:

- 🌍 The preference to use the phrase “welcome to traditional homelands” over “welcome to country”. The country is Australia and it's not welcoming you to that – that would be wrong. It's “Traditional Homelands” you are being welcomed to.
- 👨👩 The importance of family and clan connections, shared through personal genealogical stories. Kinship is one foundation of connection.
- 📖 “Dreamtime Stories” would be more clearly labelled as “Creation stories” and are as real and relevant for Indigenous people as religious texts like the Bible. The “Dreamtime Stories” description fails to convey this relevance. Equating Creation Stories with biblical passages elevates their status beyond myths or folklore.

These narratives function as foundational knowledge that shapes worldview, ethics, relationships with the land, and social conduct. This perspective contrasts with many Western interpretations that view “Dreamtime stories” as mere legend or metaphor.

- ❤️ Themes of sharing, love, grief, and respect are deeply embedded in local creation stories.
- ⬆️ Mount Coolum and nearby landmarks have profound spiritual and cultural significance.
- ❤️ The presence of an evil in stories illustrates moral teachings against deceit and violence. An example is the Story of Coolum, Ninderry and Maroochy. The transformation of the antagonist Ninderry into a forbidding mountain symbolically enforces these lessons across generations, embedding ethical guidance within the landscape itself.
- 🏞️ Encouragement to treat the land respectfully when accessing cultural sites like Mount Coolum. Dan's own elders have never said you can't climb these mountains. Go anywhere just treat it with respect



#### **Here is the story of Coolum and Ninderry as told to us by Kubi Kubi man Dan Neill:**

*Back in the day, there was a really, really strong man. His name was Coolum. He was one of the leaders of the clan and he was very famous all around the land. He was known for every time he went out to hunt kangaroos or emus he'd always get many and he would always share. Aboriginal people were very much sharing people. He was known very well for sharing.*

*And then there was also a beautiful lady. Her name was Maroochy. She was really well known to Kubi Kubi people, Wakka Wakka people, Turrbal people and all the surrounding peoples.*

*She wasn't just known because she was beautiful. She was also known because she cared. Like that one friend that you can ring up all the time and you can just tell them a story and then they make you feel better? That's what Maroochy did for a lot of the mobs around.*

*They were walking, they were talking along there..and then Coolum said to Maroochy “oh, you know what, I think you're really beautiful, I'm really handsome...I reckon we should get married”*

*And Maroochy said, “no, no, no, no, mate, that's not how you do things. You've got to go ask our old people. You've got to ask for their blessings”. So Coolum went up to the old people and said “hey, I really like this lady here. I think we'd be a really good match. We're both really well known.*

*We're both really strong she's good at caring, I'm good at sharing I think it's a good match". But the elders, they said "no". They said "no you can't get married straight away you've got to take some time. You've got to do some dating and all that kind of stuff you've got to do some courting"*

*So they went out and they did some dates They started to actually really nurture each other and fall in love. But then there was an old man as well and he was an evil sorcery man. And that's Ninderry over there.*

*I don't go there to Mt Ninderry very much because I get a funny feeling because Ninderyi has got like an angry sort of spirit, a sort of evil sort of spirit around there.*

*And then I know people who live in that area too, and they often get heaps of snakes on their property through the back there. And if you can link, you know, our story to biblical stories, the snake is a representation of evil or deceit or something like that, which is very similar to us in this story here. So he was an evil man. He was a sorcerer and he really liked Maroochy.*

*So what Ninderry did was he went out into the bush and then he started singing out in a magical spell. He started singing out for "Coolum. Coolum". He was singing out in Maroochy's voice. So it sounded exactly like that. So then Coolum went to investigate what the sound was. And then the big battle broke out. They started fighting with each other and they fought for three days. They fought all over the place over here. It was a real big long battle.*

*Coolum ended up losing the battle. Ninderry grabbed a Boomerang and Nulla Nulla and hit Coolum really hard in the head. Coolum's head actually came right off and got separated from his body. It started to roll really away.*

*And then the old people got involved. They saw what happened and they said, "no, this is no good". So what they did is they turned Ninderry into the big mountain over there. There's always representation for the rest of the people to say, you know, "you can't be violent, you can't be any of that kind of stuff, you can't be deceitful". Turned him into a mountain. But then Coolum's body was turned into this mountain here. And then his head rolled out into the drink out there and is now Old Woman Island or Mudjimba Island*

*Maroochy, she was so sad - as when you're going through grief quite a bit, you get pretty sad. So she went up into the mountains for a bit of an alone time, and then she started crying really, really heavily at the back of Nambour, Wapa dam area around there... started crying really, really heavily, and then her saltwater tears, fresh, and then started turning into salt, ended up carving the way for the Maroochy River here and there as well.*

*But the old people there, they saw how much grief she was going through and they felt really sorry for her and they wanted to set her free. So they turned her into a black swan. And then the black swan then flew off. So when us as people, we have these things here to remind us about, you know, being deceitful and all that kind of stuff over there with Ninderry. You know, we've got about being strong and proud here at Mount Coolum and that.*

*That's the story of Coolum, Ninderry and Maroochy and Ninderry as told to us by Kubi Kubi man and Friend of our Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club: Dan Neill*





***Here is the story of Mount Coolum & Mount Ninderry: a geological perspective as told to us by Ferg Fitzgerald***

*As with virtually everywhere one travels, there's a story to be told when you look around at the landscape and consider what is under your feet. Mount Coolum and Mount Ninderry on the Sunshine Coast offer a wonderful example of this.*

*Mount Coolum is a very distinct topographic feature on the coast - its dome shaped top and steep to over-hanging lower slopes forms a 'text book' example of a "laccolith". It looks a bit like a headless torso – but that's another story. There is a narrow cylinder of rock beneath Mount Coolum, similar in shape to Mt Coonowrin (the Crookneck) in the Glasshouse Mountains. This mushroom shaped geological feature is the result of molten magma that intruded (pushed) into the upper levels of the Earth's crust until it stopped and formed a bulge, pushing the overlying sedimentary strata into a dome. There it cooled relatively quickly, as demonstrated by the fine-grained nature of the hard, dense rock (its geological composition is called "rhyolite").*

*As the Mount Coolum laccolith cooled and contracted the rock cracked, forming hexagonal columnar shapes that lie in a horizontal aspect. Hexagonal shapes are very common in nature. The columnar dolerite that forms Cradle Mountain, the organ pipes on Mount Wellington (kunyani) behind Hobart and the spectacular sea cliffs along the Three Capes coast of the Tasman Peninsular; along with the Giant's Causeway formed by basalt lava flows in Northern Island, are well-known geological examples. The same shape occurs in the desiccation cracks in mud when farm dams dry up. The shape of bee's wax is another example. The reason for this shape is directly related to geometry. It turns out that the minimum perimeter for a given area is a hexagon, not any other shape!*

*The volcanic activity that gave rise to Mt Coolum, and many of the other prominent geological peaks in the Sunshine Coast area, such as the Glasshouse Mountains, Mt Cooroy, Mt Cooroora etc are all related to a "hot-spot" in the upper mantle (the layer of the Earth beneath the crust. The Hawaiian Islands are sitting over such a hot spot in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Sometimes the molten magma from this hot spot breaks through to the surface and flows down the valleys progressively filling them up with basalt. The flat-topped Blackall Range is formed by multiple lava flows generally moving downslope to the north and east, much like the modern-day lava flows move slowly across the land and into the ocean in Hawaii. The Buderim ridge is related to the same volcanic eruptions. The plugs, cones and domes formed by the prominent peaks are the remnants of sub-surface feeder pipes for these lava flows.*

*Mantle hot spots do not move, whereas the surface plates forming the Earth's crust are moving around and colliding with one another. The collision zones are areas of major tectonic activity: earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, such as the "volcanic rim of fire" around the margins of the Pacific Ocean. The Australian tectonic plate is moving northwards at the rate of about 7cm per annum, the fastest moving plate on Earth at present. As Australia moves northwards, the line of volcanoes over the hot spot get younger further south, ranging from the oldest around the Atherton Tableland behind Cairns, through the Sunshine Coast volcanoes to the Warrumbungles in central western NSW to the Ararat region in western Victoria, where the remnant volcanic cones have only just 'cooled down' - in geological terms. The hot spot is currently somewhere under western Bass Strait. All of this movement from northern Australia to Bass strait has happened in the last 25-30 million years - the blink of an eye geologically!*

*Mount Ninderry is the odd one out amongst the peaks near Mount Coolum. It was formed from different volcanic rocks in a very different process about 230 million years ago. At that time the*

*eastern margin of the Australian continental plate was in collision with an ocean plate to the east, just like the current rim of fire. The associated volcanic eruptions were much more explosive, very like the violent eruption of Mount St Helens in north-western USA in 1980, Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in the early 90's or more recently, White Island in New Zealand. Instead of lava flowing 'gently' down the valleys, the very hot "pyroclastic flows" from these eruptions swept across the countryside at high-speed destroying everything in their path. These flows were full of glass shards, rock fragments and hot gases and when they slowly cooled down the rocks actually 'welded' together. Mount Niderry is a textbook example of a welded "ignimbrite"!*

*Mudjimba (or "old Woman") Island just off the coast has a geological connection to both Mounts Coolum and Ninderry. It is primarily composed of bedded sandstone and conglomerate that was deposited about 200 -175 million years in braided rivers and lakes, known as the Landsborough Sandstone. It occurs widely across the Sunshine Coast. The sedimentary rocks were deposited from the rapid erosion of mountain ranges to the west associated with the continental collision and formation of the North Arm Volcanics. The Mount Coolum rhyolite intruded (or is "hosted by" in geological speak) the Landsborough Sandstone. In fact, there is a little bit of basalt (a much darker volcanic rock) sitting on the top of Mudjimba Island, a remnant of the lava flow from the young (hot spot) volcanic activity.*

*What is fascinating is the connection between the "deep time" geological story of these three prominent features of the landscape and the "Creation stories" of the Kabi Kabi people, as shared by Dan Neill. Mount Coolum was the result of a relatively gentle volcanic event, and is hosted in the Landsborough Sandstone, whereas Mount Ninderry was formed from very violent volcanic activity and sits apart, geologically, from the surrounding rock formations. This connection might be more than just from my poetic licence – it's something to contemplate!*

*Fergus FitzGerald*

Overall, the consensus is that this was a very interesting, educational and hugely enjoyable day. We extend our thanks to the Kubi Kubi nation's Dan for sharing culture and to Ferg for the geological story. Fascinating. The Kubi Kubi perspective and the western geological perspective are astonishingly compatible.

*Rod Jenman*

## Lake Weyba





A slight change of plans. We were supposed to be doing a creek walk above Gheerulla Falls. However, as fate would have it, the weather gods intervened yet again and the forecast of rain had us deciding that this trip would be best saved for a fine day.



Enter Plan B – a totally different trip – a flat walk around Lake Weyba. This shallow tidal salt lake is part of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve. The name Weyba is derived from an aboriginal word meaning stingray. The lake is surrounded by a variety of vegetation including mangroves and open forest. Melaleuca wetlands dominate the shoreline.

Eight of us enjoyed this delightful 10km meander along the shores of the lake. Most of us had not seen the bridges that the council has installed to save us getting wet feet including a seemingly over

engineered suspension bridge. Mind you part of the charm of the original walk was having to walk into the lake to get around one of the creeks that flow into the lake. Nevertheless, we did appreciate the fairly straight forward path, a bit muddy in sections although it was fairly easy to avoid the worst of the bogs. The day was extremely tranquil with virtually no wind, no bugs and no sun beating down. We saw a few rays in the water and a few birds close to the lake's edge. We managed to spin the walk out over 4 hrs – lots of stops and talking. Some of us had lunch back at the cars before the dropping temperature had us heading back home. Thanks Peter for a good alternative on a not so sunny day.



*Neralie Carr*

## Flinders Ranges Adventure (Part 2)

**Rawnsley Bluff Walk and Wilpena Pound Lookout – 11.3kms return**



This is a spectacular hike that starts at Rawnsley Park Station and climbs the Wilpena Pound escarpment, providing views into the Pound from the Wilpena Pound Lookout and views south and east to Chace Range. It's a further 1.5km further along to reach Rawnsley Bluff.

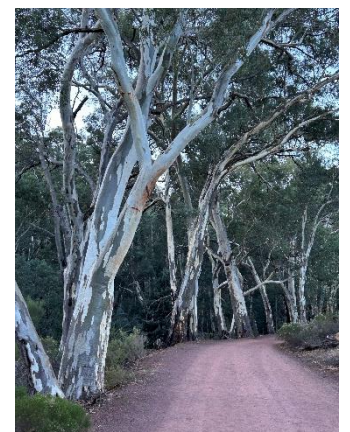
Rawnsley Bluff was named after H.C. Rawnsley who falsely presented himself as a surveyor to the Governor of South Australia in 1850. Within 3 months he was found to be incompetent and discharged.





### Tanderra Saddle Walk and St Mary's Peak – 21.5km circuit

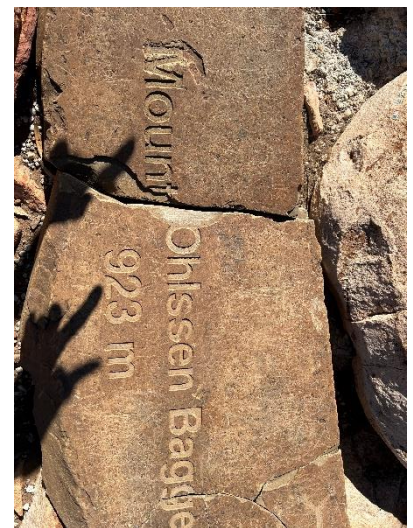
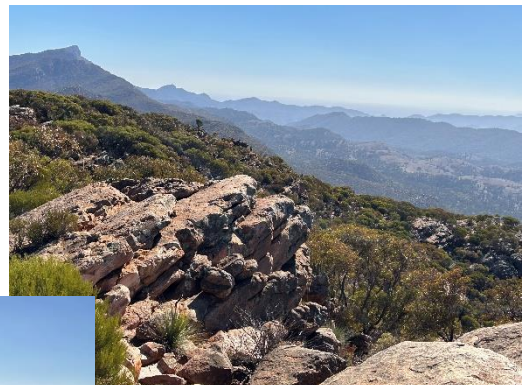
This was a challenging hike to the summit of the Flinders Ranges highest peak at 1,171m. We were rewarded with panoramic views of the Flinders Ranges, Aroona Valley and the salt plains to the left. Climbing to the summit was one of our favourite hikes of the trip.





**Mount Ohlssen Bagge Walk – 5.6km return – summit 923m.**

This was a steep rocky climb to the summit of Mount Ohlssen with rewarding views both inside and outside the Pound.



**UNTIL NEXT MONTH ..... HAPPY TRAILS**