

FEBRUARY 2026



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 2nd Monday

Committee Members 2025 -2026

President:

Carolyn Farrington

Vice President:

Samantha Rowe

Secretary:

Ingrid Eksteen

Treasurer:

Maree Bell

Activities Coordinator:

Melissa Sibbel

New Member Officer:

Karen Edwards

Grants Officer:

Peter Fowler

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Non-Committee Positions

Hire Equipment Officer:

Garry Carr

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Trudge Editor:

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Abseiling Coordinator

Peter Fowler

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Librarian:

Judy Rimmelzwaan

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Refreshments Officer:

Trish Davis

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.

January Activities

9 th	<i>Forest Bathing Walk – Maleny (Katherine Galligan)</i>	17 th	<i>Induction Hike Emu Mountain (Linda Gregory)</i>
11 th	<i>Maleny Loop Trail (Clare Staines)</i>	18 th	<i>Where is it? What is it? Clue Hunt (Kate Russo)</i>
11 th	<i>Obi Obi Gorge Swim Through (Peter Fowler)</i>	23 rd	<i>Mary Cairncross Nature & Bird Walk (Marilyn Shrapnel)</i>
14 th	<i>Abseil Skills Refresh for experienced abseilers (Peter Fowler)</i>	25 th	<i>Lake Weyba (Russell Stark)</i>
16 th	<i>Lake Doonella Wetlands Nature Reserve (June Hughes)</i>	31 st	<i>Obi Obi Gorge Swim Through (again) (Peter Fowler)</i>
17 th	<i>Introductory Abseil Mt Tinbeerwah (Peter Fowler)</i>		

Maleny Loop Trail



Kate, Adrian, Miles, Tony, Janet, Toni, Helen, Linda, Marilyn and myself set off on the Maleny Trail on a steamy Sunday morning. We started at the trail head at the Maleny showgrounds, and first point of interest after walking along the shaded path to the town centre was the large flying fox roost in the park at the back of the library. After admiring the bats' smart fox-red stoles and the sheer number of them hanging in lots of different trees, we headed over to the Riverside Centre's boardwalk at the back of the shops that took us to the Maleny Community Precinct.



Then up around the wetlands that are starting to look a bit overgrown, around to admire Fairhill House and its garden which is looked after by a team of dedicated volunteers. Then following the trail over the back of the golf course, past the old milking bails from when the site was a farm, to drop down to Obi Obi Creek

again. The creek was low enough for us to all hop across without getting our feet wet and after walking down to view the falls where many visitors were enjoying a dip (or a heart stopping swing out over the lower pool - a diver told me there is a large underwater rock which juts up not far from where people jump – so I worry).

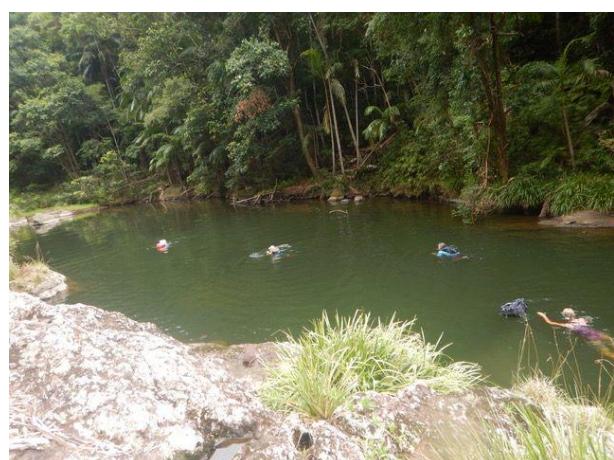


Then after morning tea we walked back along the shadier lower creek path, past the platypus pool (but no luck sighting anything) then retraced our steps back to the showgrounds. 11km or thereabouts, and a very humid walk which is only to be expected at this time of year. As always, plenty of chat and enjoyable company. Thanks all.

Clare Staines

Obi Obi Gorge Swim Through

What a day! Eleven of us met at Baroon Pocket car park ready for the days' Obi Obi challenge. Huge thanks to Peter for leading our group. So, a delayed start due to a late arrival...but mission was not impossible. In good time we headed down the path, branching off onto the track that led into Obi Obi Creek. Recent rain had filled the creek level allowing a good, reasonably swift flow of water over most rocky encounters consequently allowing its (well us), purists and travellers/sliders an easy escalation across rocks into further pools. Too easy!



Relaxing progression down the Gorge allowed us to enjoy a splash or two under the waterfall. Fun and exhilarating. Who could imagine in the midst of summer the water cascading off the rocks had a distinct breathtaking chill. What an experience to endure – loving the experience.



Making good time, our group slipped along like Platypus from pool to pool using the 'Otter technique' grasping packs – using quiet underwater swift water kicking technique to forward propel. Admittedly there were short bursts where a scramble through the alongside creek scrub was needed but – no ticks!

The water temperature was just perfect for a summer slide. Floating on our backs where possible enabled us to





see people up very high trekking back. Who doesn't enjoy a good wave from the water to those high above? Morning tea was excellent timing. Peter pulled the group up at a very quiet spot of the creek. Taking advantage of the surrounds, we all tucked into refreshments and spent a short time enjoying natures songs.

Peter indicated time was up. Off we clamoured across a bank and then a swift crocodile slide back into the remaining pool (which incredibly seemed cooler than the previous and the previous and the previous pool). A most casual and peaceful float down this 'so called' gorge ended all too soon. Time was up! Peter directed us to the track – engaging leg muscles to pull out of the Obi Obi onto the track was gravity hitting hard but onward we marched back to the carpark.

Dry clothes, grassy spot, lunch, baking in the warm sun was such a warm ending to a wonderful day on the Obi Obi Adventure. Thanks, Peter, for leading. An experience not to be missed!!

Di Silverberg

Where is it? What is it? Clue Hunt

With the weather still so ridiculously hot and humid for outdoor activities, this Social Clue Hunt at the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens was the perfect option. Leader Kate Russo gathered 17 participants and divided us into 5 random groups of 3 and one of 2. The groups received their briefing on what to do and then were sent off on their Clue Hunt at the same time but with 6 different starting points. There were some blank faces at the briefing but once on the ground and hunting, the cogs fell into place!



Each team was given a list of challenges which involved observations and reading, as well as practical activities such as crossing rope bridges, taking photos and water color painting with Kate's offsider Min. These challenges covered 9 areas of the Gardens. A deadline of 2 hours was given, at which time the teams had to return to the start point regardless of whether they had finished all the challenges or not.

On return to the start point they had 2 last challenges to finish off - a photo and a word challenge using the letters they had found at Checkpoints through the Garden.

The winners of the Inaugural SCBWC Clue Hunt trophy were Joe and Toni Kirkpatrick with their team being the first to return, and a combination of a few incorrect or missed challenges and a good

number of words created. Mind you... there were 2 teams nipping very closely at their heels so they cannot be complacent if it comes to a repeat another year!



The teams enjoyed a shared morning tea with lots of chatter and laughter. The consensus...? Great fun! Let's do it again! (Kate would like to acknowledge Sam Rowe for taking the time to help out with working out a circuit and inspiring some of the challenges).

Kate Russo

Mary Cairncross Nature and Bird Walk



The rainforest was dark and the dense mist turned to rain at times. However, we put up our brollies and went in search of the local birdlife with great results. We saw pittas, a white headed pigeon, log runners, white browed scrub wrens, yellow throated scrub wrens, Eastern yellow robins, pale yellow robins and whipbirds, (seen and heard). We heard wompoo fruit doves, rose crowned pigeons, a rifle bird, black faced monarchs, fantail cuckoo, brown cuckoo doves, catbirds, Lewin honey eaters.



As a bonus we heard the tusked frog and sighted pademelons, an echidna, horse hair fungus and a giant climbing orchid. We rounded off our morning together sharing morning



tea at the Mountain View Cafe. Many thanks to Marilyn for sharing her extensive knowledge of the local birdlife and also for the sharp eyes of some of our group, who could spot said birdlife in fairly dark conditions.

Linda Gregory

Lake Weyba



Some had a challenge to locate Russell's chosen starting point but once we'd all gathered he led a group of eleven which morphed into twelve with June sliding in part way into the outward walk. Along the edge of Lake Weyba, going anticlockwise from Lake Weyba Drive, and around to Murdering Creek, June explained the history behind the name and some insight into local politics about altering it.

Despite Russell's warning about thigh deep wading across creeks, initially the Council path was enhanced by multiple rigid spans over minor

inlets, along with an impressive small suspension bridge, but it did then deteriorate into narrow tracks through straggly grass and undergrowth. By staying close to the lake shore we always recovered the next section of more established path. As a result we never had to get shoes wet, let alone wade thigh deep.



Much discussion along the way, about this and that, and admiring the access points carved from the bush by the local house holders (some of these have distinctive seating arrangements and watercraft dispersed at intervals).

Probably about 8 km, in just under four hours, including a relaxed morning tea break on the edge of Murdering Creek.

Thank you Russell for leading us, and also to both Russell and Linda for recceing beforehand.

Richard Palmer



HAPPY HIKING!