

The

BRISBANE BUSHWALKER

Mar 2018-May 2018



BRISBANE BUSHWALKERS QUARTERLY NEWS



BRISBANE BUSHWALKERS CLUB INC (EST. 1948)
GPO BOX 1949, BRISBANE 4001
www.brisbanebushwalkers.org.au

The Brisbane Bushwalkers Quarterly News is a selection of articles that have been posted on the Brisbane Bushwalkers web site over the past few months. This newsletter will be published quarterly - or thereabouts - depending on the number of articles that are posted.

<p style="text-align: center;">MEETINGS</p> <p>CLUB MEETING: The Brisbane Bushwalkers Club meets every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Newmarket Memorial Hall, cnr Enoggera Rd. & Ashgrove Ave., Newmarket. Except for December when the only meeting is on the 2nd Wednesday. All welcome.</p> <p>COMMITTEE MEETING: Committee meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm at 228 Stafford Rd. Stafford. (cnr Gamelin Cres). All members are welcome to attend. (Check for December and January in case meetings are rescheduled.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EQUIPMENT HIRE</p> <p>The following equipment is available <i>for club activities</i>. The charge <i>between meetings</i> per item is:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr><td>Foam mat</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$2.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Self inflating mat</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$5.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Stove</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$5.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Tent or Pack</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$10.00</td></tr> </table> <p><i>Members can hire up to 4 items at one time for a maximum charge of \$10 per person.</i></p> <p>All equipment may be booked for hire by emailing the Equipment Officer. Pre-booking will ensure availability.</p> <p>PLB: The Club has several PLBs which Leaders may borrow, at no cost, for approved club activities only.</p>	Foam mat	\$2.00	Self inflating mat	\$5.00	Stove	\$5.00	Tent or Pack	\$10.00
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<p style="text-align: center;">MEMBERSHIP FEES</p> <p><u>Full Members:</u> Singles \$40 per annum Couples \$60 per annum</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Annual membership falls due 28th February.</p> <p><u>Probationary Members:</u> Singles \$20 per 6 month</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LIBRARY</p> <p>Free loan to members:- Books, Magazines, DVDs, CDs</p> <p>Free loan to leaders:- Maps and Rasters</p> <p>Duration of loan:- 2 weeks for Maps, 4 weeks for all other items. If unable to return items on time please put them in the mail.</p> <p>For Sale:- Snake bandages: \$10.00 Car stickers and badges: 3.00 Club T shirts, jackets, vests</p>								
<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST AID CERTIFICATES</p> <p>To encourage members to maintain a current First Aid certificate, the Club will organise courses for Full members (not Probationary members). The Club will refund 50% of cost upon completion.</p>									
<p style="text-align: center;">COVER PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Morning Tea views from Mt Greville by John Feeney, May 2018</p>									

CLUB OFFICIALS					
President	Chris Hall	0498 051 811	Social	Anna-Lena Moore	0423 779 266
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	email: photographic@brisbanebushwalkers.org.au				

PREPARING FOR AN ACTIVITY
<p>Information on the types of activities, their grading scales and the types of equipment you may need can all be found on the website at these places:</p> <p>Activities the Club Undertakes</p> <p>Brisbane Bushwalkers Club offers a wide range of activities for members' enjoyment. The main club activities are day walks, through walks and base camps. These are ...</p> <p>See full article at website: https://www.brisbanebushwalkers.org.au/club-activities</p> <p>Activity Grading System</p> <p>Brisbane Bushwalkers conducts activities over a wide range of skill levels. Consequently, we have evolved a grading and classification system which is designed to be ...</p> <p>See full article at website: https://www.brisbanebushwalkers.org.au/gradings</p> <p>Recommended Equipment</p> <p>Initially we recommend you spend little or no money until you discover which activities you enjoy. Discussion with experienced members will reveal the "pros and cons ...</p> <p>See full article at website: https://www.brisbanebushwalkers.org.au/equipment</p>

Correspondence - Newsletters/Magazines April 2018

Posted by Lucy Guzman (Secretary) on Wednesday, 29th of April, 2018

Hi all,

Correspondence received during the month of April 2018

[Those items in [italycs](#) have associated documents on the club web site. From the club web site, click on the item to view the doc.]

- **BVRT Trek 4 DQ in July 2018**

Early bird registrations now open for the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail trek for Diabetes Queensland. Contact Gavin Dale (Bushwalking Queensland) or Tanya Smith (Friends of BVRT)

email: bvrt.trek.4.dq@gmail.com

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/142263473085013/>

Information courtesy of Bushwalking Queensland

- **What is happening in our Club's backyard - Newmarket?**

The Brisbane Bushwalkers Club meets twice a month in Newmarket. There is a project underway in this community to having a small section of the Breakfast Creek enhanced and restored.

Here is some information about the project: <https://hlw.org.au/initiatives/davidsonstrestoration>

Information courtesy of Healthy Land and Water

- **Great Brisbane Bike Ride - Sunday 29th April 2018**

Road closure: Sir Samuel Griffiths Drive and Mt Coot-tha Rd between 5.30 and 9.30am There will still be access via J C Slaughter Falls, Simpsons Falls, the smaller Silky Oak and Hoop Pine carparks during the closure. For the rest of the route, cyclists will be sharing the road with normal traffic. See route map here: <https://qbbr.com.au/course-options/>

Information courtesy of Bicycle Queensland - bq.org.au

- **Newsletter *Footnotes*** - Bushwalkers of South Queensland - Apr 2018.
- **Newsletter *Footprint*** - Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - Apr 2018.
- **Magazine *Jilalan*** - Catholic Bushwalking Club - Apr 2018
- **eNews *Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation*** - (QORF) - Apr 2018
- **Magazine *Protected*** - National Parks Association of Queensland (NAPQ) - Apr May 2018
- **Newsletter *The Investigator*** - Glasshouse Bushwalkers Club - Apr 2018
- **Newsletter *Friends on Foot*** - Gold Coast Bushwalkers Club - May 2018
- **eNews *The Leaf*** - Greening Australia - April 2018

QUT Research study - Males btw 60-70 yo wanted

Posted by Lucy Guzman on Saturday, 21st of April, 2018

QUT is conducting a research to investigate the impact of ageing on 'anti-cancer' effects of exercise.

Dr Oliver Neubauer contacted the Club this week looking for **male** volunteers between the ages of 60 and 70 years old, with normal body mass index (BMI) and with no major health problems such as cancer.

Benefits: If you are eligible and upon completion of the study, you will receive information about your fitness status (e.g. VO2 max) and a written report with the results of your exercise test and blood analysis.

Compensation: You will be compensated for your time in the form of reimbursement of travel expenses and parking costs.

More information: Read the following flyer to understand what the research involves and decide if it is of your interest,

[QUT research study.](#)

Contact details: If you would like to participate in this study, please, contact the QUT research team:

Oliver Neubauer

Phone number: 07 313 86174

Email address: oliver.neubauer@qut.edu.au

Jonathan Peake

Phone number: 07 313 86140

Email address: jonathan.peake@qut.edu.au

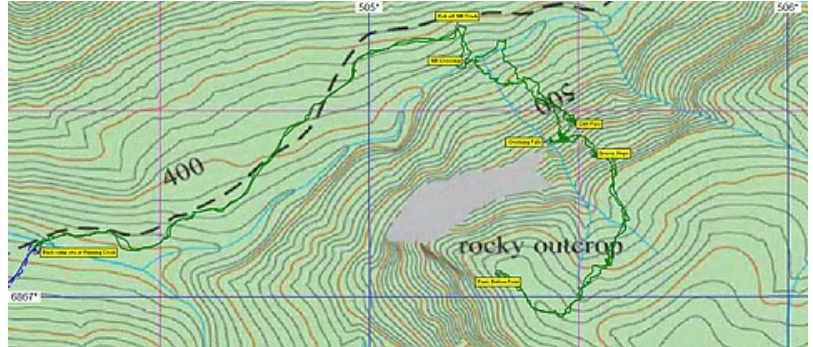
Easter Surveys - Panic Button Point and Nungulba Falls

Posted by Chris Hall on Monday, 8th of April, 2018

These walks were done over 4 days in Lamington National Park during Easter, allowing for 1 day (afternoon) to drive in through Drynans property and another day (morning) to drive back out. We (Chris Hall, Shannon Bratton and Ray Glancy) base camped at the Running Creek bush camp site just below the junction of North Branch (NB) and South Branch (SB) of Running Creek, to enjoy the Easter weekend away from the crowds. The walk to Panic Button Point was done on day 2 and the walk to Nungulba Falls was done on day 3. This was done with a party of 3 (non-club trip) as a survey and it was noted that you wouldn't want more than 6-8 people, due to steepness and potential rock falls in either of these walks.

The walk to **Panic Button Point** isn't often done. From my research the last known visit was by Lance Rutherford on Sunday 31 May 1998. I don't have a trip report from that activity so we don't know the outcome. Lance indicated in his walk description that this walk was first done on 21st June 1969 and they named it after they realised that they couldn't get off – well, they must have eventually. I would be keen to hear from any members who have done this walk in the past.

Our plan was to go up a gully that branches SE off the NB of Running Creek, to 'top out' close to the rocky outcrop near Panic Button Point (PBP). Recent rains had swollen the creeks so our boots were wet from the moment we crossed the NB of Running Creek at our campsite. We then had to cross NB at E505233 N6867635, a site where a body was found some years ago during a search and rescue. This crossing has a large flat slab area and proved easier than the first crossing.



Panic Button Point map

We then had to cross NB at E505233 N6867635, a site where a body was found some years ago during a search and rescue. This crossing has a large flat slab area and proved easier than the first crossing.

At that point we decided to pick the easiest piece of jungle to forge our way upwards. We crossed eastwards over our intended gully, encountering minimal wait-a-while but bypassing large clumps of lantana and stinging trees, to reach a cliff line at about 570m. The cliffs were sheer and about 20-25m high, they were hidden beneath the tree tops and therefore not on our topographic maps. We decided to probe the base of this cliff line to the right (where our gully was meant to be), finding a cliff break (of sorts) hidden in thorn and lantana. After 2 climbs onto ledges (requiring tape on our way down later) we came out onto a steep grassy sclerophyll ridge at 640m.



Cliff line at 570m

After a rest we decided that we needed to survey tape our route upwards (the last 100+m of up), to ensure that we found this cliff break again. From there it was a matter of steep scrambling and then back into the jungle, bearing SW until we hit the ridge/spur that forms PBP. This final ridge is open sclerophyll with lovely tall grass trees and sparse grass (as a result of fire bombing by the Rangers in recent years). You get intermittent views between the treetops down toward the Drynans pastures, out to the Stretcher Track ridge and also across to Black Snake Ridge. We had hoped to look down into Running Creek (either NB or SB) and SW towards Nungulba Falls, but the flatter nature of this Point prevented that vista. A small group could camp up on this Point but you would need to bring all your water with you and check your sanity in at the campsite.

We had an early lunch and then headed back towards our exit point downwards, knowing that the top of Running Creek Falls and other walk objectives were only just over 1 km away, but fraught with unknowns (to wait another day). We found our survey tape and headed back downwards. Ray was leading at the time and

walked through some ferocious jumping ants, amusing to us now, but wasn't at the time, when Shannon and I also had to travel the same route (but very quickly). We had to use safety tape to get back down our cliff break but with the scunge pruned back, it was easier despite a bit of crumbling. We explored further west along the base of the cliff line and found our gully was a sheer cliff overhang with some water trickling down after recent rains, but would be dry at other times. Next trip we recommend exploring further east to see if there is an easier cliff break suitable for a bigger party.

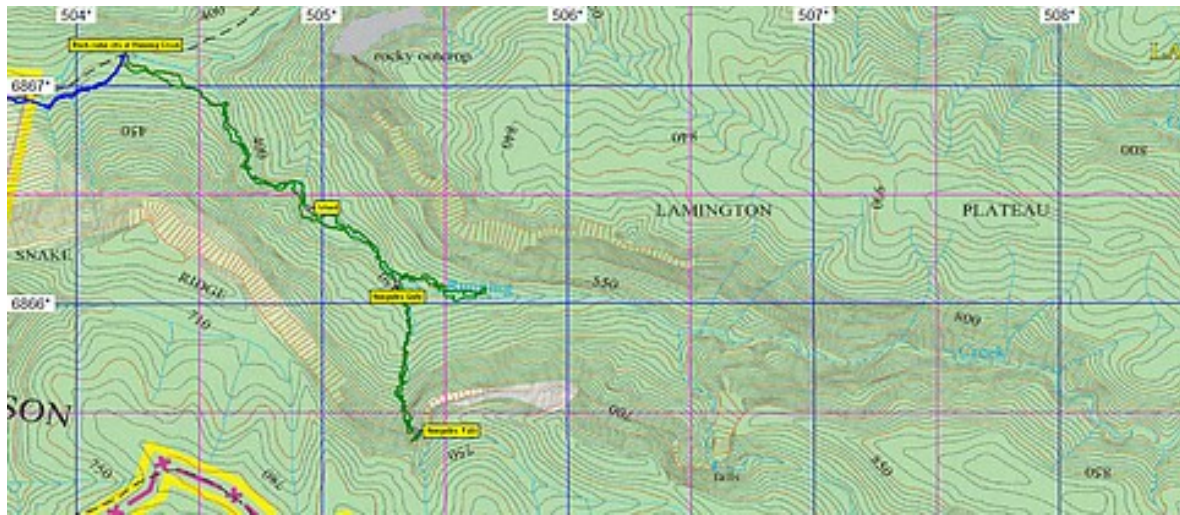
If you don't mind a bit of scunge, thorns, stinging trees, rock scrambling/climbing, loose terrain and strained muscles, then you will be rewarded with a walk that few people accomplish. The option of base camping makes this walk easier to accomplish in 1 day. Previous (20 years earlier) leader Lance Rutherford had guessed this walk rating at MDW7D and we rate it as MDW6D (7.8 Km with 505m ascent. Left camp 7:20AM, summiting at 11:40AM, returning to camp at 3:40PM).



Panic Button Point

The walk to **Nungulba Falls** on day 3 and it is noted that you could expand this to 8-10 people, but be mindful to allow time due to lots of creek rock hopping, steepness near the falls and potential rock falls.

This walk isn't often done mainly due to logistics of getting to the creek in the first place but also because the Running Creek Falls are more accessible. However if you are tired of Running Creek Falls, then these falls are worth the walk as they are of a cascade type and, exposed to the sun they are beautiful, as is the South Branch of Running Creek.



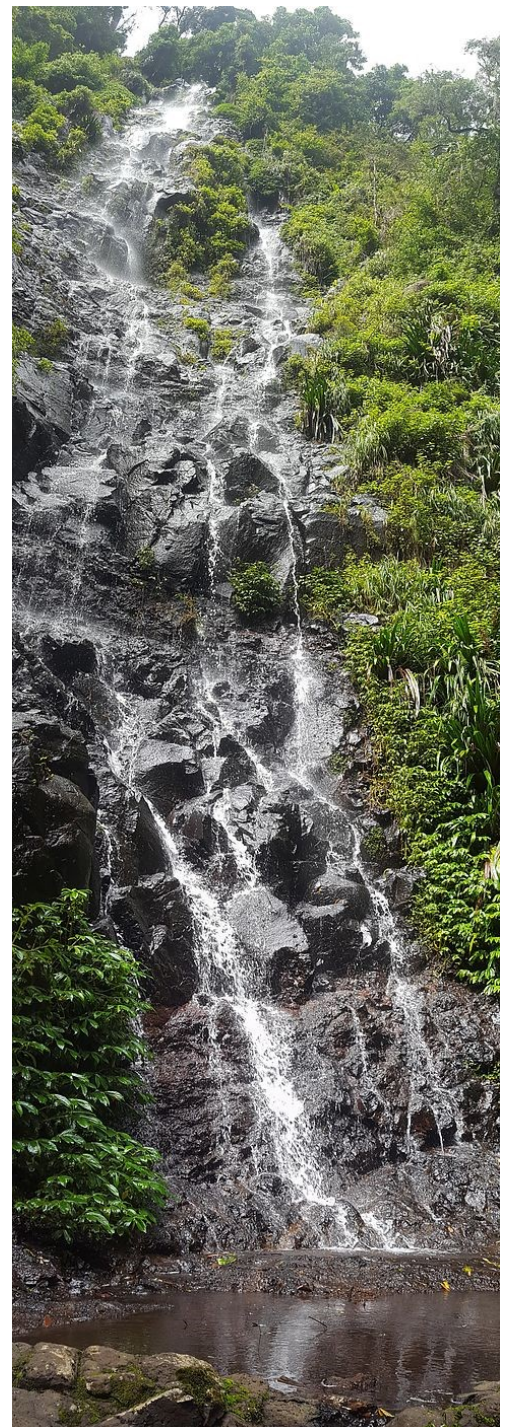
Nungulba Falls map

Starting from the bush camp at Running Creek, you need to bear SE to cut the corner or junction of NB and SB. The creek banks can be steep closer to the junction, making it difficult to access. However this area is full of barbed wire vine (mostly waist to knee level) and large lantana patches. This makes going very slow until you reach SB of Running Creek, after which you are treated to some great creek walking and rock hopping. There is some great rocky slabs, bed rock and water chutes that make this end of the creek a worthwhile visit and tempting to stop and spend the day. As you progress up the creek you'll notice where the creek has created bypass gullies which can be walked to cut corners. One of these actually splits the creek in two, making an Island at about N6866440 and giving the initial illusion that there is another tributary.

The entrance to Nungulba Gully/Creek is on the right side of SB of Running Creek heading upstream and is now very well hidden by overhanging vegetation. The topo map also shows it being about 70m upstream of where it actually runs. We bypassed it initially and then returned to find it by hugging that side of SB. Once in Nungulba Gully you are met by large rocks and about 200m of ascent before you reach the falls. There are many stinging trees along this gully so be careful as you climb. About halfway you are met by cascades/small waterfalls covered in mist weed and lilies. Finally you are met with the Nungulba Falls. There is a lower set of falls which Ray scrambled up but Shannon and I opted to create a less exposed side route to the right, so that descent later could be more guaranteed. This proved exceedingly difficult with loose dirt, rock and a thick patch of thorns and lantana. However we managed to carve a tunnel to traverse this section – don't mind the blood trail.

The bottom of these falls are at 645m which happens to be the same elevation as the top of Running Creek Falls about 2.5 kms away. The height of the Nungulba falls is estimated at about 40m + or -, probably 10-20m shorter than RC Falls.

The rock hopping and chance for cooling off are numerous on this walk. Skills at rock hopping and scrambling up rock are necessary as is the ability to cope with height on the last section. The option of base camping makes this walk easier to accomplish in 1 day. We rate the walk as MDW5D (8.6 Km with 330m ascent. Left camp 7:30AM, falls at 12:05PM, returning to camp at 4:15PM).



Nungulba Falls

Correspondence - Newsletters/Magazines March 2018

Posted by Lucy Guzman (Secretary) on 31st of March, 2018

Hi all,

Correspondence received during the month of March 2018

[Those items in *italy*cs have associated documents on the club web site. From the club web site, click on the item to view the doc.]

- **Park alert - Upgrade works in Glass House Mountains National Park.**

Information courtesy of BWQ.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is undertaking a major capital works program in Glass House Mountains National Park from 2018 to 2020. This work will include tracks and facilities upgrades in the Tibrogargan, Beerburum, Ngungun and Beerwah Sections. The majority of facilities will remain open for the duration of the works. However, while every effort will be made to maintain open access, visitors should expect to see works in progress and temporary closures of walking tracks and other facilities may occur. For your safety, please observe all signage, barriers and directions from rangers, and do not enter closed areas.

To keep up to date with any closures, check Park Alerts at: <https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/>

- **Mountain Designs - In case you are wondering what is happening with the brand.**

Retailer Mountain Designs started closing stores since the beginning of the year. Then, announced that they were moving to an on-line only model and lately it was announced that Spotlight Group Holdings (owners of Spotlight and Anaconda) announced that had acquired the brand.

More information (Information courtesy of BWQ): [Letter from the Group Managing Director - Spotlight Retail Group.](#)

- Dr Andrew Lothian has written to us asking for assistance completing a survey on the visual impact of wind farms in Australia. Dr Andrew Lothian obtained his PHD in measuring and mapping the landscape of South Australia and has written a book called The science of scenery. The following is an extract of Dr Lothian's email.

"SURVEY OF THE VISUAL IMPACT OF WIND FARMS

Wind farms have become a feature of some areas of the Australian rural landscape and their numbers are likely to increase in the future. A key issue of wind farms is their likely impact on the landscape – their visual impact. This has been the basis of many of the objections to wind farm proposals.

This project aims to identify factors which affect the perception of the visual impact of wind farms and see if it is possible to predict their likely visual impact. This is a personal project being done out of interest in the subject. There is no client involved.

The success of the survey depends on having as many people as possible participate.

I invite you to participate by rating the scenic quality of the scenes. I believe you will find it very interesting.

No qualifications or experience are required and the responses will be anonymous.

You can indicate at the end of the survey if you would like to see the results.

To participate simply click on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9ZSLCLQ>

If you have any questions about the project you can contact me by email: lothian.andrew@gmail.com

Thank you for your assistance in this important project.

Dr Andrew Lothian"

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Andrew_Lothian

- **Newsletter Footnotes** - Bushwalkers of South Queensland - Mar 2018.
- **Newsletter Footprint** - Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - Mar 2018.
- **eNews Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation** (QORF) - Feb 2018
- **eNews Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation** (QORF) - Mar 2018
- **Newsletter Friends on Foot** - Gold Coast Bushwalkers Club - Apr 2018
- **eNews The Leaf** - Greening Australia - Mar 2018

Trip Report: Mount Gannon via the Ballys

Posted by Shaun Johnston on 30th April, 2018

Note: To the writer's knowledge, the last Mount Gannon survey undertaken by Brisbane Bushwalkers was by Jon Beer in 2008, and the Bally Mountains to the South-West of Bonogin have not been the subject of a Brisbane Bushwalkers walk post-2005, when the club's electronic records begin.

The intention of this survey was to link up the Bally Mountains - Little Bally Mountain and Bally Mountain - to Mount Gannon, via an attractive looking ridge line extending South-West off Bally Mountain.

After some enquiries with Gold Coast City Council about the status of land allotment 1107 Austinville Road, Austinville (RPD ID L2 RP 102595), on the border of which much of the ridge line lies, it was established that bushwalking is permitted on the land, so preparations were made and the survey was put on the calendar.

After an early arrival at Fairfield Gardens Shopping Centre, our group left for the Gold Coast at a little before 0530. We met another member of our group at Mudgeeraba, before continuing to Bonogin. We arrived at the trailhead - the entrance to [Bally Mountain Conservation Area](#) on Bonogin Road - at around 0645.

Our starting point was at about 75 metres altitude. After passing through the gate into Bally Mountain Conservation Area and passing a shed and a house to the right, the road split off to a 4WD track to the left. We took the track to the left which headed South-East toward and through a clearing, through Bonogin Creek, and then curved East around to North while steeply ascending a short spur up to a ridge. After hitting the ridge, the track joined another less defined track which in turn led almost directly South-East up, gradually turning into a footpad on the way, to the summit of Little Bally Mountain, at 372 metres. On the way up the ridge we passed a dilapidated shack (-28.168970, 153.344728) which was of some interest.

After a short break we proceeded South-West down a well-defined track, scrambling down a short section before meeting the most exciting and exhilarating section of the walk, the razorback between Little Bally Mountain and Bally Mountain. The razorback involves some short, well-protected but possibly off-putting scrambles, and walking very close to some very high cliffs, but is well worth it. The views toward Springbrook, Tallebudgera Mountain, The Cougals, Boyds Butte, and back toward the Gold Coast and Surfers Paradise, were spectacular.

After passing the razorback, we hit a short, very steep spur up to the East-to-West ridge of Bally Mountain. This was perhaps the most off-putting section of the walk, due to some erosion on the pad, a very steep gradient, and a lack of anchors for support while slogging up, or stopping a fall in the event of a slip / trip. However, we were up in short order and traversing a knoll / short razorback at the top of Bally Mountain before we knew it. Midway along the structure is a small cave (-28.173899, 153.340164) which is of interest, and could provide rudimentary shelter in the event of inclement weather should it occur. Past the cave was a short scramble up to the top of the knoll and across to the summit (489m), which is open with expansive views in all directions.

From the summit of Bally Mountain we could see Mount Gannon rising behind some hills we had yet to traverse, so we continued along the pad ESE from the summit, quickly coming to a short gentle scramble down to the ridge line, which was the subject of our survey.



Spear Lillies, Bally Mountain



Conservation Park

The Bally Mountain "Tourist Track" quickly makes a right turn and starts heading down a ridge to the NW, and we mistakenly followed this for a short distance before bush bashing (in reality a pretty gentle off-track) back to the ridge line we wanted, which, pleasantly enough, was topped with a quite disused 4WD track, which continued along the entire ridge line, over some undulating hills, only punctuated by a couple of junctions and two gates.

The gates (-28.186157, 153.320888 and -28.192535, 153.319579 respectively), which indicate private property beyond, are along the border of private land (to the South / South-East) and Gold Coast City Council owned conservation land (to the North and North-West). As long as the reader follows the track along the ridge and does not stray South / South-East, they may traverse all the way to the end, where a gently inclining ridge leads one to what initially looks to be a confusing array of scrub, clearings, pads, tags and unconventional land border markings (painted stones, an upturned bottle on a stake inscribed with a permanent marker), which indicates an off-track, occasionally

padding, ascent to the summit of Mount Gannon. Upon entry, watch out for wait-a-while and be careful not to trample the fragile flora. Along the way is a gentle rocky scramble, and a short walk through a thicket of waist-high ferns. Look for a well-compacted pad for easy travel through them.

The summit of Mount Gannon (633m), marked by a striped pole, is nothing special - but it was satisfying to know that we had achieved the subject of our survey, and our way back was (mostly) downhill!

Our group descended back the way we had come, back to the 4WD track and past the second and first gates (involving a bit of an ascent). After the first gate, a 4WD track at a junction leads off to the NNW, so we followed this track, intending to continue along the ridge and follow one of the breaks (North Break or South Break) down to Bonogin Road and back to the cars. Along the way at a junction, we turned right instead of continuing straight, and started steeply descending into Bonogin Valley. While unintended, this detour worked very well, and led us right to Bonogin Road and a gently undulating path back to our vehicles. Along the road to the right, Bonogin Creek tempted our group to engage in some rock hopping and creek exploration, but our aspirations were conflicting, and the desire for coffee won out. Another time!

Upon leaving, the original plan was to adjourn to [Zaraffa's Robina](#) for coffee. However, as we sped up Bonogin Road, we passed by a quaint looking cafe - [GrowCa](#) - and the leader made an executive decision to u-turn and adjourn there instead. This turned out to be a wonderful choice, as GrowCa is a lovely little cafe with a variety of freshly prepared beverage and snack choices. The sweet potato chips were especially appreciated.

Given that Bally Mountain extends into Springbrook National Park, there is scope to extend the walk from a circuit to a car shuffle or crossover, either via the Cream Track to Tallebudgera Creek, or via the Cream Track and in turn via The Cougals and Boyds Butte to Currumbin Rock Pools. The latter of these options would be a significant, but achievable, undertaking, however both options would also involve a very long and possibly undesirable car shuffle. A crossover would probably be the better option for both of these suggestions.

There is also scope to link Mount Gannon up to The Pinnacle and Warrie Circuit via an off-track traverse of Mudgeeraba Valley, however this would involve an even longer car shuffle.

To conclude, the Bally Mountain(s) / Mount Gannon circuit we surveyed is an excellent candidate for a day walk. Our total distance was 14.7 km, and total elevation gain was in the vicinity of 1150 metres. Due to some of the technical requirements and exposure on the razorback between Little Bally and Bally mountains, we settled on a recommended terrain grading of 6. Due to the length of the walk and elevation gained, we recommend a physical / endurance grading of D.



Popping down off Little Bally



Break at the top of Little Bally



Boyds Butte, Cougals, Thillinmam, Gannon (and Lesley)

Web page: [GPX Trace: Mount Gannon via the Ballys](#)

Trip Report: More on Fraser Island

(Fraser Island Great Walk South, 20-25 April 2018)

Posted by Greg Kuss on 28th April, 2018

I want more on Fraser Island. I need more. 8 people. 5 days. 60k's. Dingoes, storms, lakes, sunrises, sunsets, 3 nights in our tents, 2 nights in a beach house. Resort meals, café meals, bakery meals, through walk meals. Ground bean coffee, beer, wine, cocktails. I want more.

We drove up in drizzle from Brisbane to Gympie on Friday night. At 10pm we congregated on the beach in front of Inskip Point campground. The cool breeze caressed our faces as we listened to the surf crash gently on to shore. We watched lightning in large storm cells over double Island Point in the Cooloolo National Park. Fortunately, they did not come over us. Day 1 we stood in a rain shower under the information shelter at Lake Boomanjin. We set up our tents in a rainshower at Lake Benaroon. 11 hours in our tents that night. Waking up to blue skies and sunshine at Lake Benaroon. Luckily the remaining 4 days were beautiful, dry, mild Autumn weather conditions. Although we were snapped awake by thunder and lightning from large sea storms out to sea when camping at Lake Mc Kenzie on night 3. Luckily, they stayed out to sea.

Stargazing over Lake McKenzie with the quarter moon casting its light over the lake and into small puffy white clouds. Warm evening breezes left us feeling soothed and pleasant.

Cathy walked off in the wrong direction up the track at Central Station for 20 minutes before realising and turning around to be met by Phil who went in search of her. Fortunately, I was skinny dipping in Basin Lake at the time, and a group of tattooed young French backpackers in bikinis came along for a swim. This helped pass the time while we waited for Cathy to catch up. My favourite tattoo was a pistol in a garter on the shapely thigh of a German backpacker.

We walked past 5 lakes. Boomanjin. Benaroon. Birrabeen. Basin Lake, and McKenzie.

At a rest point on the trail 4 km before Eurong, Maureen was coming up the tail. A dingo was following her. Greg said, "Maureen there is a dingo behind you."

Maureen shook her head in disbelief, "Sure Greg."

Phil said, "He's not joking Maureen, there really is a dingo behind you."

"Christ! Save me!" squealed Maureen upon her realisation.

Later that evening Anthony saw tourists stopping to photograph the same ear-tagged dingo on the beach in front of Eurong. It was a playful young pup about a year old. They would make a cute pet. If the dingo becomes habituated it will be shot by rangers.

On return from our 17 km day walk on day 4, where we needed light day packs only, Greg noticed something protruding from his pack. On investigation he noticed he had carried his tent all day. Fortunately, it was his new ultra-light 900g Moment DW tarp tent, so no weight was felt.

Bob was in a bad way after day 3 with a swollen saw ankle and couldn't walk our Markwell's Break circuit day walk. My record was broken. I wasn't the heaviest drinker on this trip. Bob overtook me. Fat Yak, Bottle of wine with the meal and a 6 pack of Bundy. Bob said "I don't care!" Big Bad Bob we called him.

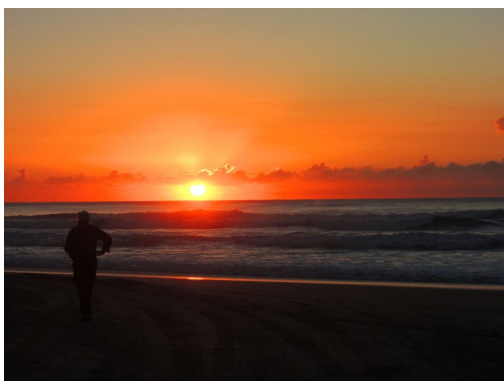
Roast of the day or Lamb chops and mashed veges at the Gympie Roadhouse on Friday. Salmon and salad ciabatta rolls and strong coffee from the Eurong bakery for lunch on Monday and Tuesday. Buffet all you can eat meals at the Eurong Resort 2 nights. Dry white wine and a cocktail. Hot bacon and egg, rocket and avocado bruschetta breakfast at a Rainbow Beach café on our way home. With Anthony's driving it only took us 2 hours 50 to drive back to Bardon Brisbane.

Rambling conversations during happy hour on the veranda of the "Taxi beach house" with Anthony and Bob about technology and the use of drones in the mining industry. Rambling conversations during happy hour at Peter Hunts base camp "My Island Home beach house" about vegan pizzas for dinner. Later back at our "Taxi beach house" we had a private conversation about the benefit of the live cattle export market to the Australian economy and the Rural Industry.

Every afternoon when we got into camp Phil had a "nana nap". On the second day of the trip his second grandchild was born. We had Telstra reception the whole way.

Peter carried a 25 kg pack complete with a 750g glass jar of coffee. He knew he had shoulders! My ultra-light pack for 5 days was 15kg with 4L of water.

I finally cracked it with my shoes. I didn't get sore feet or blisters after a 60k through hike. With my new \$200 Merrell synthetic extra wide boots bought online, \$30 toe socks and \$30 hiking socks. Even though Maureen, Cathy, and Julie had badly blistered feet, and Bob did his ankle. Anthony, Phil and I got out unscathed.



Lake_Boomanjin