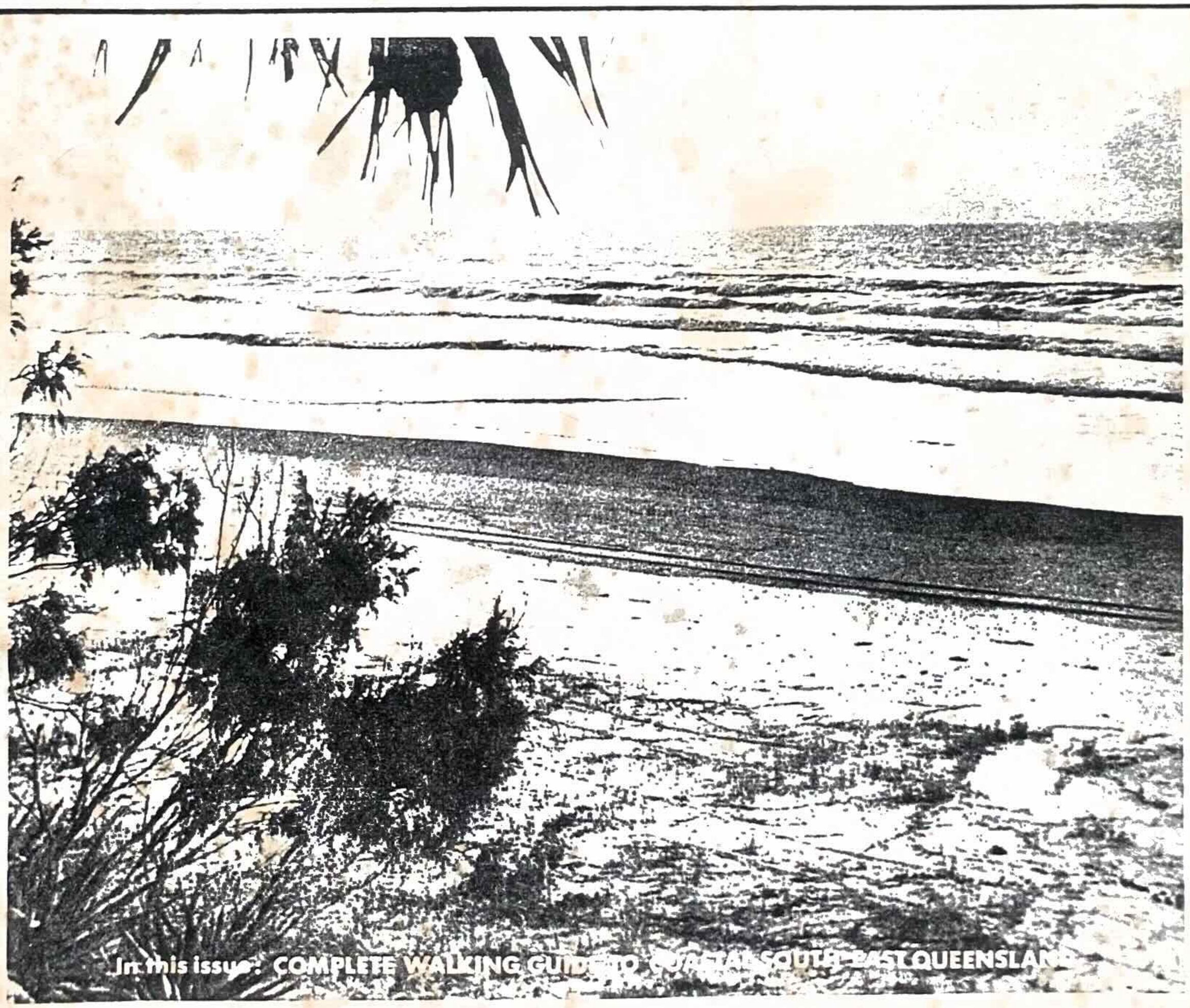
Warwick Willmott.

HEYBOB

Volume 13, 1971.



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EDITORIAL

Well, here it is at last - the 1971 edition of "Heybob". This has been a most important year in the history of U.Q.B.W.C., as it saw the club's coming of age which was celebrated by a daywalk and Bar-B-Q in the Moogerah Dam Area. Besides the usual trips in south-east Queensland, a number of areas new to the club were visited during the year. These were the Poverty Point area south-east of Tenterfield, interestingly described by Ian Reeve in his article "Timbarra", the area west of Mt. Mistake, and the area around Mt. Tallebudgera and the Cougals which Harley Smith has described in "East of Springbrook". The year also saw the instigation of the Annual Bushies' Dinner, which was held at a local restaurant - a memorable night indeed! A further innovation was the "Club Private Trip" by boat up the Noosa River. Despite the fact that it rained very heavily for almost the entire weekend, the trip was most successful, providing welcome release from the tensions of exams. Hopefully, this trip will be made a regular club function. The May Vacation trip this year was held at Hinchinbrook Island, off the North Queensland Coast. Those who undertook the trip thoroughly enjoyed themselves, even to the point of preferring Hinchinbrook to Tasmania. Only eight people went on the trip, the smallest number for a May Vacation trip for some years. Small parties seemed to be fairly typical of almost all club trips this year. This was possibly due to the increased study load caused by the new policy of continual assessment by some University departments. Another unfortunate aspect of the year's walking, was the inordinately large number of all-male trips. Hopefully, 1972 will show some improvement.

This is the 13th edition of the magazine since its inception in 1959. Since then, it has been progressively improved in style and content, while retaining its original character. An important aspect of both the 1970 and 1971 editions has been the inclusion of guides to some of the major walking areas in south-east Queensland. This serves the important function of creating a store of knowledge of these areas, for reference by new bushwalkers, people unfamiliar with the areas, and any other interested people. As such it is intended to complement, rather than compete with similar publications.

In its earlier days, "Heybob" was purely a club magazine, recording its activities and painting a vivid picture of its many and varied characters. "Heybob" is now read by many more people than in the past, and its circulation is no longer limited to members of U.Q.B.W.C. In view of this, "Heybob" and the Club must accept a new responsibility. All the major bushwalking magazines in Australia are centered around the Southern States. With support from advertisers, bushwalkers, and others interested in the

"rucksack" sports, "Heybob" could well serve the needs of these people in south-east Queensland, and northern New South Wales. If readership increases, it will be possible to improve the quality of "Heybob" still further; and/or reduce its price.

On reading "Heybob", it will be noticed that there is a strong flavour of conservation throughout the magazine. Indeed, support for the broad issues of conservation form part of Club policy. Since bushwalkers are, in general, conservation minded, "Heybob" is most likely to be read by people already interested in and sympathetic to this movement. This may seem like preaching to the converted, but since modern man is the greatest despoiler of the natural environment, the magazine may be considered to be successful if it helps to win over just a few more people to the cause.

"Conservation" and "ecology" are on the lips of so many people today, that any further discussion is often considered to be merely jumping on the bandwagon. However, this current interest indicates that the public is becoming increasingly aware of the seriousness of the situation and the enormity of the problems involved. Unfortunately, government opinion often lags public opinion, and until there are sufficient concerned people to make the present government policies politically untenable, little can be done to safeguard our environment and natural resources for present and future generations, against the ill-considered development schemes so prevalent today.

Albert Schweitzer once said, "Man has lost the capacity to foresee and forestall. He will end by destroying the earth." Let us work to prove him wrong.

BUSHWALKING OUR HIGH SAND ISLANDS

By Dr. F.W. Whitehouse
Sometime Associate Professor of Geology

One of the finest types of bushwalking country imaginable is right here on our doorstep, in the four great sand islands, or near islands, of Fraser, Cooloola, Moreton and Stradbroke - fine indeed for bushwalking alone; and finer still if you combine other disciplines on your outings - botany, zoology, geology, geomorphology, hydrology, anthropology and the like.

Newspaper reporters, with their genius for misleading, refer to these great sand masses as "dunes", which they are not. All four are thick bedded sands, peats and peaty sands which were laid down under water in near-sealevel swamps. Bores show that these bedded sands go down to at least 200 feet below sealevel on Cooloola, and at least 100 feet on Fraser; and they rise to 700 feet and more above sealevel. Every so often they abundantly contain roots and stumps of modern-type fossil trees of near-sealevel habitat - mangroves, casuarinas, tea-trees, and the like. Only at their crests are these sand masses blown out by winds into dunes.

The sands are fine to medium grained. They are now merely meagre remnants of a once vast sheet that went as far south apparently as Byron Bay and Lord knows how far east into the present Pacific. Commonly in Moreton and Hervey Bays there are relics of them planed down to below the level of bay-type wave scour, and thus are to be found as table-topped features only by skin divers and fishermen. Indeed I think it likely that our wealth of finely sanded surfing beaches here is due to the dismembering of that once great sheet. People in England often, when they go to the seaside, sit on masses of pebbles like hens' eggs and hope for the best. Our local pebble beaches are mostly crusted with these splendid sands.

If you are a geologist you will see signs of slight, recent earth movements in these strata. If you are an artist there is splendid scope in tracing those black peats on the western sides into the gaudy coloured sands on the east, with their ferric iron colours of yellow, red and brown. A poet like Judith Wright finds other inspirations in them. If you are a geographer the interest is immense, even to late, eustatic withdrawals and returns of the sea. If you are an entomologist you will surely love the mosquitoes of the occasional salt-water swamps of the western sides.

A hydrologist is fascinated by these porous sands teeming with fresh water of great purity and softness, giving it out freely, naturally filtered, on both sides of the islands. Rain falling on these porous masses seeps forever into the sands. A great storage of splendid water is maintained in these

monstrous "sponges"; and the residue, exceeding the storage, is emitted. The discharge into the 18-Mile Swamp on Stradbroke is 18 million gallons per day. Around the periphery of the island it is 2 million gallons per day per mile. The apparent discrepancy between these two figures is due to the fact that, possibly because of a recent warp, the top-end waters of the swamp go out to sea. On Fraser the peripheral discharge is greater still. Some of the rain water is retained in lakes (over 30 of them on Fraser, for instance), which are hollows, wind-blown down to some impervious, peaty floor. Lake Mackenzie on Fraser is a sheer delight, not only for its beauty but also for being right on the top of a hill, with good evidence of the seasonal rise and fall of the seepage. On Fraser, from my measurements, creek flows from the sands may be anything up to 22 million gallons per day, many being well over 100,000 gallons per day. At Cooloola there is a natural artesian spring between tide levels on the beach in front of the eastern sand cliffs; while on the western side the seepage fills the Cootharaba Lakes of the Noosa River and the lovely wallum swamps, which have our finest wild flowers. On Moreton a wide, eastern, sandy coastal plain, formed by a recent drop in sealevel, is forever wet with fresh water. And on Stradbroke which has, in addition, a seaward margin of great blowout dunes acting as a retaining wall, this has become the 18-Mile Swamp, with splendid soft, pure, filtered water in reserve for supplying Brisbane and the coastal towns with finer piped water than they ever knew. It could be pumped to the top of one of the 700 feet high sandhills, trickled through beds of dead coral if too acid, and gravitated to where it would be used.

The bedded sands, having been laid down in placid water, rarely (fortunately) have concentrations of heavy minerals; but occasionally you find them - but I must not tell you where. The dunes which have blown out from their crests, and the seaward dunes, do contain good minerals in places. Some of the high blowout dunes, stripped of their trees, are again active, as Cook and Banks noted 200 years ago.

The shapes of these islands are similar - leg of mutton shape, tapering south from a northern once-an-island headland of solid rock, which has controlled the cutting back by wave action of the big sandhills into concave frontage scarps.

Vegetation is interesting, particularly so on Fraser which carried good rain forest - a most kindly jungle that has no stinging trees or lawyer vines.

Many changes have happened since we whites first came here. For instance: the 2-mile long sandspit south of the present mouth of the Nerang River has grown in historical times, since Southport <u>was</u> a port.

You bushwalkers can get to these islands by several means - even by walking from Southport via the spit to Stradbroke; and to Fraser, in water up

to your neck at very low tides, north of Urangan. The aboriginals used to do that sometimes. I have not tried it, for it is a job for tall bushwalkers, if you have them in your Club. Remember that all the early explorers were impressed by the great tallness of the Moreton Bay blacks and their neighbours. Dr. Lang, in 1846, remarked that "far more of them were over 5'8" than under. Their height would average 5'10"." Leichhardt stated that the average height was about 6 feet. Allan Cunningham also gave 6 feet as the average - and so on.

You will find evidence of the abos on all these islands. Behind the eastern beaches, in pleasant places often close to headlands of hard rock, there are big kitchen middens - scrap heaps piled high with shells of edible molluscs (Eugery, mainly) smashed to pieces by hammer stones from the headlands for the pickings.

I conclude by saying that if, as a Club, you have not yet explored the wonders of these magnificent islands, you should do so soon.

--oOo--

"It seems to me that God made this region for all the people and all the world to see and enjoy forever. It is impossible that any individual should think that he can own any of this country for his own in fee. This great wilderness does not belong to us. It belongs to the nation. Let us make a public park of it and set it aside.....never to be changed but to be kept sacred always."

- Cornelius Hedges, American Conservationist; to Congress in 1872 pleaing for Yellowstone National Park.

THE AUTHENTIC STORY OF FRASER, COOLOOLA AND MORETON

By Sue Johnston

The Kabi tribe occupied the coastal river basins from the Burrum River to the Mooloolah River, and among its 19 sub-tribes were the natives of Fraser and Cooloola. Those on Fraser numbered over 2,000. Their main diet was fish, and the zamia nut, which they pounded and soaked in running water before eating. They also ate people killed in battle, and those who died young. The dead (presumably those not eaten) were wrapped in bark and placed in trees. The aborigines of Moreton were more gentle and more civilised. They built huts, rather than temporary shelters, and netted fish in teams. All these natives feasted on the shell-fish, eugarie, and the beaches still have great piles of shells accumulated over centuries.

Cook sailed past in five days in 1770 without noticing that he was actually observing some large islands. He named many prominent features: Cape Moreton, Double Island Point, Wide Bay, Indian Head (he saw some "indians" there), Sandy Cape, Break-Sea Spit (the scene of later shipwrecks). By 1800 there were American whalers in the area, and they are blamed for the introduction of the T.B. and V.D., which wiped out the Moreton tribe. Originally over fifty people, the last one died in 1918.

In 1799, on his first visit, Flinders discovered the South Passage between Moreton and Stradbroke Islands. In 1803 he saw the waters of Tin Can Bay and guessed that the Great Sandy Peninsula was an island. His party landed near Sandy Cape to botanize and there they met some natives. He judged them "more fleshy" than the Sydney natives, and described their scoop-nets for fishing. They did not understand the use of a woomerah.

In 1823, three convict castaways, Parsons, Pamphlett and Finnegan landed on the ocean beach south of Cape Moreton. Befriended by the natives, they reached the mainland. Before being rescued by Oxley at Bribie six months later, they walked up the beach to Noosa, and Parsons even reached Wide Bay. Brisbane was established as a convict settlement as a result of Oxley's visit, and there are records of escaped convicts living with the Cooloola tribe.

Fraser Island is named after Mrs. Mary Fraser, the wife of the captain of the "Stirling Castle" which was wrecked further north in 1836. Of the nineteen crew who came ashore, eight were rescued, three were speared, two burned alive, four drowned and two starved. It is possible some of these were eaten. But Mrs. Fraser was the star attraction of a huge corroboree at

Double Island Point, where a big ring was scooped out of the sand with a low mound enclosing it except where a path led 100 yards to her hut. She was treated as a drudge and eventually escaped, helped by a convict living with the tribe.

In 1842, Governor Gipps decreed that the Bunya Pine be preserved as food for the aboriginals. He sent Andrew Petrie to explore the Wide Bay area. Petrie discovered the Kauri Pine, and noted that the soil and timber of the Fraser-Cooloola area were better than that at Moreton. He met with native hostility because the white settlers were killing them with poisoned flour.

Until 1847, the Brisbane settlement was supplied by ship through the treacherous South Passage. There were many wrecks, and the wreck of the "Sovereign" in that year resulted in the re-direction of shipping around Cape Moreton. In 1857, a lighthouse was built on the Cape, and soon after, it was linked by telegraph to Brisbane. There were lighthouses at North Point, Yellow Patch, Comboyuro, Cowan Cowan, Tangalooma and South Passage.

In 1860, Fraser Island became an aboriginal reserve, and soon after, the first Kauri logs were rafted from Fraser to a sawmill up the Mary River. This sawmill was also supplied from Cooloola, which was surveyed for timber in 1869. A tramway with wooden rails from Poverty Point (on Tin Can Bay) to the Tramway Scrub enabled them to cut all the timber out of the Tramway area in 10 years. The old jetty still remains and the cutting marked on military maps near forestry Camp Milo. Tramways were also used on Fraser in the first 30 years of this century, and some of their routes are still recognizable. A forestry station was set up on Fraser in 1912 and logging has been continuous from 1860 to the present day.

About 1870 a sawmill began operations at Elanda Point, on Lake Cootharaba. It supported sixty families in addition to another mill at Tewantin which employed 120 men. Both mills closed down about 1890. The Noosa-Tewantin area continued to grow, relying on farming, fishing and the beginnings of tourism, with a boat trip to the Coloured Sands costing two shillings and sixpence. Coal measures around Lake Cootharaba were not good enough to exploit. Cooloola was declared a forestry reserve in 1881, and controlled logging has gone on in a small way ever since.

In 1885 Double Island Point lighthouse was opened. There was also a light at Inskip Point, and the remains of the telegraph line that connected them to Maryborough still exist in places. A lighthouse had been built at Sandy Cape in 1870, and Fraser had a Quarantine Station at White Cliffs for twenty years but direct immigration did not come. In 1894 a mission was set up at White Cliffs for the 300 surviving Fraser natives. There were still about 700 natives in the Noosa area but ten years later none remained. In retribution for raids made on farms in the Gympie area, the whites indulged in "black

hunts". Billy Wundumma, a Fraser man, went to Victoria in the eighties to help track the Kelly gang. In 1904 the Fraser people were transferred to Yarrabah outside Cairns.

There is a great variety of wrecks on Fraser, the biggest being the "Maheno" a luxury liner of 5,300 tons which went aground on the ocean beach in 1935 while being towed to Japan for scrap. The 1939-45 war brought renewed activity in all three areas. Moreton had an army establishment at Cowan Cowan, Coast-watchers stations were scattered up the coast, and Fraser had a commando training camp at North White Cliffs with an air strip at Sandy Cape. The "Maheno" was used for bombing and demolition practice (and it's still there!). The surveys for the current military maps were also started then.

In 1952 a whaling station was opened on Moreton Island at Tangalooma, aiming at providing work for 100 men. A Brisbane composer even wrote a special sea-shanty for the occasion. Fraser has its culture too, as Sidney Nolan painted a series of pictures in the area. The whaling station closed down after about ten years, to be replaced by a self-contained tourist resort serviced by launch from Brisbane. There is a similar, but more elaborate resort on Fraser at Orchid Beach, serviced by plane from Maryborough.

As for Cooloola, access has proved a problem for tourism. Noosa thrives as a tourist centre, and it is the base for tours up the ocean beach to Double Island and boat-trips through the lakes. A major breakthrough came in 1967, when the sand-miners, in conjunction with State and Local Government authorities, put in a bitumen road to service their activities in Wide Bay where they mine from Rainbow Beach to Inskip Point. This resulted in the development of Rainbow Beach as the beach resort for Gympie, with better access to the whole of the northern half of Cooloola.

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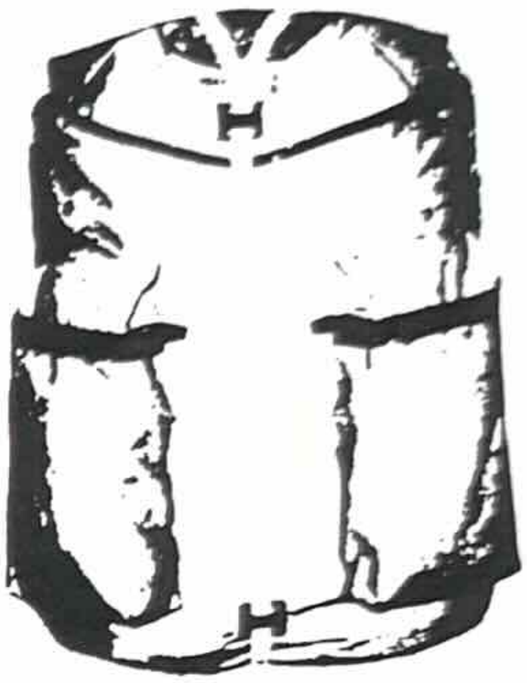

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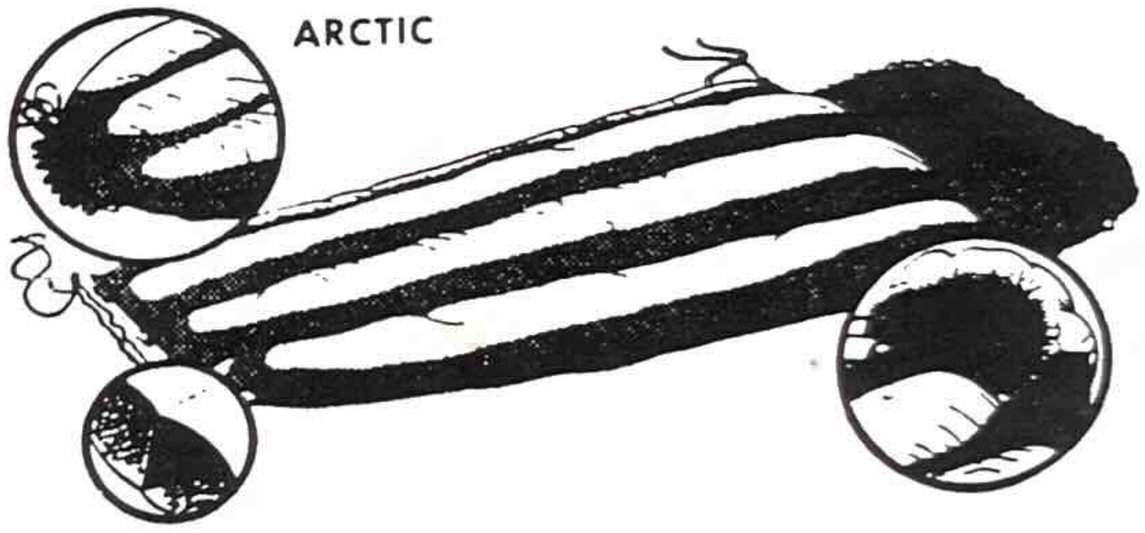

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WALKING ROUTES IN COASTAL SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

By Bill Anderson
Geoff Brownlie
Dan Johnston
Graeme Lacey
John Sinclair
Doug and Wendy Straker
Lawrie Yakimoff

IN GENERAL .. .. LAWRIE YAKIMOFF

The route guides to Fraser and Moreton Islands are self-contained, but although the following points refer mainly to Cooloola, much of the information is relevant to the entire area.

The average yearly rainfall of coastal S.E. Queensland is approximately 60 inches, with the wettest months in summer. Walking is best done in all seasons except summer, when beach walking becomes intolerable despite repeated seims in the inviting surf, because of the hot direct sunlight and strong glare reflected from the white sand. Inland, walking can be almost intolerable in summer in the open valleys because of the high humidity, strong direct sunlight, and the absence of cooling breezes. The cool, deeply shaded rainforests are a welcome change.

The beaches provide access to many points of interest, and inevitably, some beachwalking must be done. In order to save time, it is sometimes advantageous to cover some of this distance in the cool of the night, so trips should be planned to coincide with the full moon. If driving along the beaches, care must be taken not to be caught by an incoming tide, as there are only a few places where one can drive off the beach above high water mark, and these must be carefully chosen.

Navigation is difficult in all areas because of the lack of distinct features. Ridges and valleys run NW-SE and because of the thick vegetation, very little is seen from the tops of ridges. Valleys often end in rainforest-filled depressions in which it is quite easy to walk in circles. Minor tracks not marked on any map criss-cross the areas, and this further complicates matters. It is therefore most important that a reliable compass is carried. If lost, the beach is easily reached on a compass bearing east, or by following the ridge system which trends south-east.

As mentioned in Dr. Whitehouse's article, drinking water is fairly abundant in the entire coastal region. On the beaches at Cooloola, water is available

from springs on the eastern side between King's Bore and Freshwater Creek, and on the northern side between Double Island Point and Eight Mile Rocks. Creeks in the high dunes shown on the maps are generally dry, but fresh water is available from all lakes except Cooroibah, Cootharaba and Como, which are salt. Above Lake Cootharabah, the Noosa River is fresh and suitable for drinking, despite the dark tannin staining of the water.

Since Cooloola and Fraser Island are under the control of the Department of Forestry, it is advisable that entry permits be obtained from the Department, or from the District Forester, Gympie.

* * *

FRASER ISLAND FOR THE BUSHWALKER .. JOHN SINCLAIR

If there is more difficult country for cross country compass bearing bushwalking than Fraser Island, I have yet to find it. This 617 square mile island is a challenge to any bushwalker, and presents four special difficulties to cross-country walking.

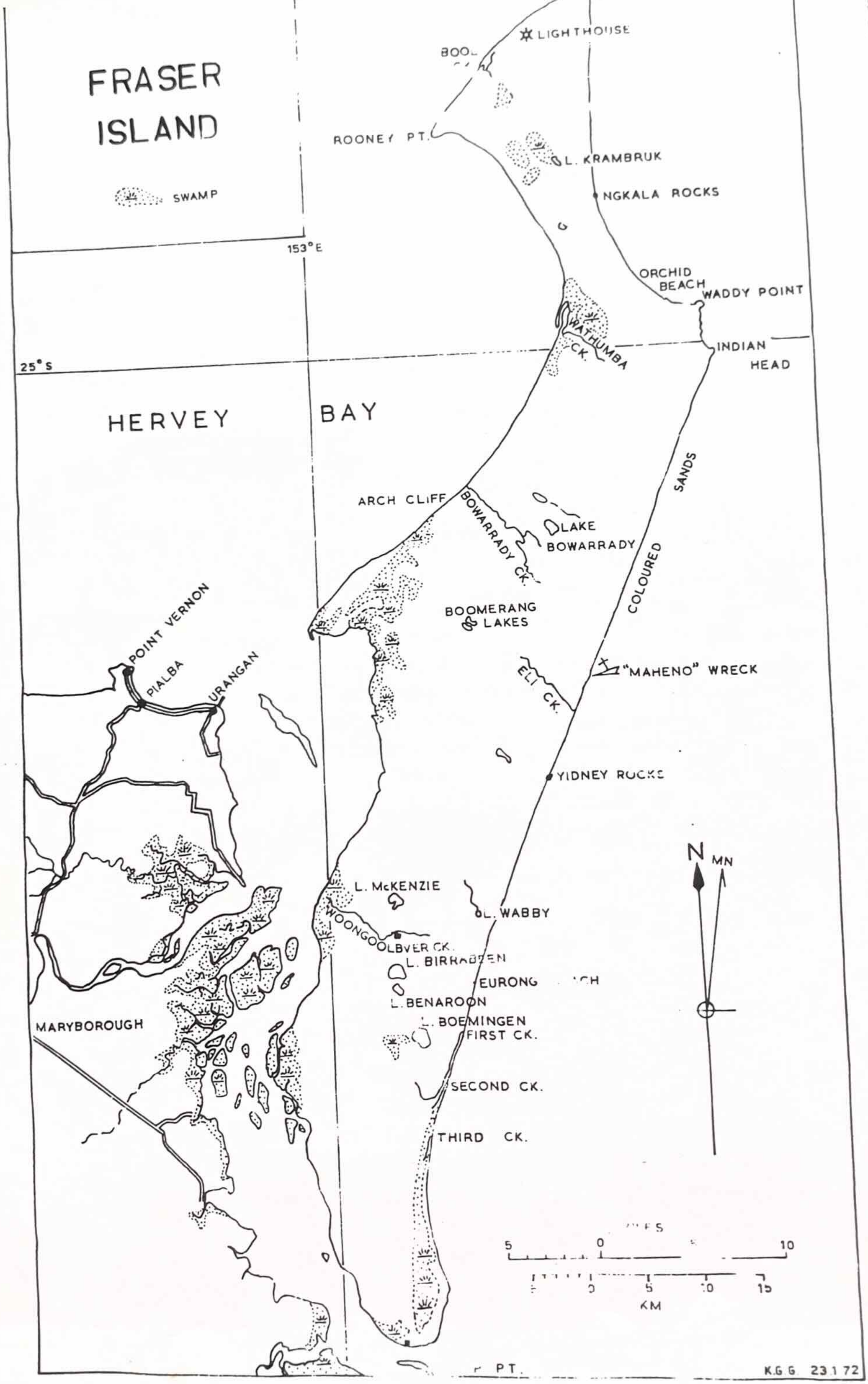
Firstly, the whole island is a complex series of razor back parabolic dunes which means that anyone walking SW - NE directions will cross just one ridge after another. It is directional travel to test the stamina of the hardest walker.

Secondly, it should be borne in mind that these parabolic ridges are not half a mile apart but often just yards. You are flat out to find any extensive level ground in the whole system above the 50 feet altitude mark (about 90% of the island).

Then there is the problem of sand. With the exception of a few acres of igneous rock (basalt) at Indian Head and Waddy Point, the whole island is pure sand - the largest sand island in the world. It is heavy going at any time with this kind of ruggedness but on Fraser Island, with a pack on, it is a challenge only for the very fit. Wet weather compacts the sand but adds to problems of traversing the peaty swamps where you can sink to your thighs.

Finally, there is the problem of the difficult vegetation. Even near the beach, the banksias and melaleucas mat almost impenetrable thickets. Only the tortuous brumby tracks permit anyone through without a mammoth clearing operation.

The open forest is less severe but even here the undergrowth provides further obstacles to rapid cross-country walking. The rain forest has some tangled undergrowth and vines to further deter the cross-country bushwalker.


FRASER ISLAND
SWAMP
153°E
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L. KRAMBRUK
NGKALA ROCKS
ORCHID BEACH
WADDY POINT
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EURONG
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Then there are the extensive deceptive wet heathlands blazing with their glory of wildflowers and pock marked with deep slushy melon holes which take five times longer to negotiate than anyone would estimate.

Finally there are the wetlands which are certainly no easier than any other areas to negotiate.

These are some of the deterrents and difficulties to deter or challenge the cross country bushwalker on Fraser Island. But there are compensations and the intricate networks of "roads" and tracks criss-crossing the island can alleviate some of the hardships of exploring for the less rugged bushwalker.

Add to this further hardships worthy of testing the endurance of Job, such as the magnetic variations which the illmenite (titanium ferous oxide) can cause, the mosquitoes in the rainforest, the March flies on the beach during summer, and the sand flies along the Western side of the island in any weather, leeches in the rain forest, and the climate vagaries and you have a real challenge.

And what do you get from all these hardships? You meet Nature face to face in the largest (relatively) unspoilt wilderness in Southern Queensland - 393,000 acres with no fences, approximately only 100 permanent residents; the growing tourist traffic focuses on the main 90 mile long surfing beaches and leaves the interior of the island almost unmolested.

Add to this the abundance of water in the creeks, over 40 huge fresh-water lakes, some magnificent wildflowers, the diversity of the landscape in which the ecosystems change significantly three times or more in less than 100 yards, and you have a compelling attraction which increases its charm and magnetism each time you explore it further. A travelogue, though, might take the edge of excitement from the personal discovery and experience so let's look at how to get there and what to see, in this 80 mile island (average width 8 miles).

Three distinct bushwalking zones should be defined:

(a) The National Parks Area - Access to this area towards Sandy Cape at the Northern edge of Fraser Island can be of three kinds, air, land or sea. By air you can fly by charter plane from Hervey Bay to the luxury tourist resort of Orchid Beach ($13.00 per head each way) and then start exploring in the most remote and least known area of Fraser Island North of Orchid Beach which has been proposed as a 100,000 acre National Park. By sea, you can charter a boat more economically for a large party. And by land, you can travel in vehicles up the Eastern beach at low tide in 4 wheel drive vehicles which you have to take from the Mainland, crossing over on the ferry from Inskip Point.

Although the Forestry Department does not recognize this area as containing commercial timber, it must not be considered that this area is either treeless or that it provides easy walking. On the contrary it is well timbered and just as rugged as the rest of the island but too remote for the timber to be harvested economically. Recent sandmining explorations have illegally bulldozed some tracks through this area. One track links Ngkala Rocks to Sandy Cape Lighthouse cutting diagonally across the top. Another of these tracks goes to Lake Krambruk which, from the air, is a magnificent lake for anyone to visit. The whole landscape is polka dotted with lakes and swamps but I found walking in this area really refreshing. I took the "Dillingham Highway" from Ngkala Rocks to the Lighthouse. We made the mistake of camping by the stagnant Bool Creek instead of the Lighthouse Reserve.

Water in the North of the island is a problem. There are no beach springs and the few creeks have very brackish water. The lakes offer the only water. Sandy Cape Lighthouse does have a good water supply. The fact that there are no significant or obvious aboriginal middens North of Orchid Beach suggests that the water problem may not be one only for the twentieth century bushwalker in this region.

Local knowledge can furnish you with the only real guide, to this relatively unexplored area. There is plenty to discover but when you arrive by boat or at Orchid Beach, the locals can advise you of the state of tracks and the land.

If I were planning to visit this trackless territory, I would either charter Keith Wiedan or Kev Donnelly to take me from Urangan Boat Harbour to Wathumba Creek. For more than a dozen, I would seek quotes from Wal Toy of Urangan Marine Charters.

(b) THE BOWARRADY AREA - stretches from Awinya Creek down to Lake Coomboo and the Boomerang Lakes. There is a Forestry airstrip at Lake Coomboo but it is a 14 mile walk North to Lake Bowarrady which is the most beautiful lake on the island. This is in the southern limit of the proposed National Park. I would camp at Lake Bowarrady and make excursions from there North and South. This area contains plenty of water and rainforest which can't be found in the Sandy Cape - Rooney's Point area. It also has easy access to the ocean beach where the best coloured sands on Fraser Island are located. It is well worth camping at the Cathedrals to watch the sun enrich their already magnificent colours. Bowarrady can be reached by vehicles coming in from the beach. I would prefer to travel to Arch Cliffs the coloured sand outcrops named by Matthew Flinders in 1799 at the mouth of Bowarrady Creek by boat and then walk along the track to camp at Lake Bowarrady. It is well worth walking up the beach from Arch Cliffs past Yarrol Cliffs to Awinga Creek. Wal Toy takes the "Island Queen" to Arch Cliffs every Tuesday. This could abreviate the problems of chartering the boat as the "Queen" can carry 80 passengers.

The Bowarrady Area has been left almost unexplored but this is the northern limit of the Network of Forestry Roads so the problems of "going bush" to get to anywhere can be avoided.

(c) THE SOUTHERN LAKES DISTRICT - is the best known region of the Island. The most popular and the most populated areas of Fraser Island lie within an 8 mile radius of the Central Forest Station and this is for a very good reason. It happens to be the most attractive area as well as the headquarters of Forestry operations. Naturally, there are better communications here - telephone, an airstrip at Woolgoolbver Creek - a daily boat service from the Mainland to Ungowa during the holiday periods, with a connecting bus service to Eurong village on the ocean beach. In off-season, the boats and buses still run twice weekly. Wednesdays and Sundays. More regular use is made of all the roads in this area generally. The main attractions are the creeks - First, Second and Third Creeks rising in the colourful swamps along the East Coast and picturesque Woolgoolbver flowing west throughout the rain forest. The lakes - Boemingen (the largest perched dune lake in the world - 500+ acres), Birrabeen, MacKenzie, Jennings, Basin, and Benaroon and Red Lagoon have great diversity and individuality. Even the magnificent Wabby Lakes are within easy striking distance of this focal point. It is worth doing a walk from Markwells Break into Ocean Lookout then down to Lake Boemingen, and around its shores to strike across the sand blow and then follow this down to Toby's Break to the Mouth of Second Creek. There is an ideal compsite at the beach at this point. Then go back up Toby's Break, past Red Lagoon, and follow the road and old telephone line past Lake Benaroon, Lake Birrabeen and Lake Jennings. (All good campsites.) From here go up to Campbell's Break and the main Ungowa-Eurong Road. This walk should take about three days. If time permits, strike across to Basin Lake (for lunch and swim) and then walk about 5 miles back East along the airstrip road to Central Station, (four days), camping at or near Woolgoolbver Creek. On next day, follow the road through the Ghosts Area to the Northern Road. If time permits go North of Lake MacKenzie and MacKenzie's Jetty to camp. If not, follow the Northern Road south to Pile Valley and then out towards Eurong but turning off up Bob's Gully Road, to the Eastern Break. Follow the Eastern Break up to Wabby Lakes and again Camp. From there it is an easy walk out to the Beach (2 miles) and then South along the beach for 4 miles to Eurong from where you can pick up transport to go back to Hervey Bay or to Gympie. This walk can be adjusted easily because many roads criss-cross. However, at no stage are you double tracking for very far and this does give you definitely, a good idea of the diversity of Fraser Island. Because of the sand and the idea of packs, and to allow time for making camp and looking around, I would suggest that seven to ten miles a day (every day for 6 or 7 days) is good going.

This area has all the striking beauty of Bowarrady but lacks Bowarrady's

remoteness and the proximity to the Cathedral coloured sands, but it is a good starting point to become familiar with the land yourself. Coming from Brisbane in a large party, it is probably easiest to arrange for Sid Melksham of Eurong to pick you up at Rainbow Beach and take you by "bus" to wherever you want to start.

Finally, I would suggest that before anyone sets out to walk on Fraser Island they obtain entry permits from the Forestry Department and for $1.25 the Forestry Department will supply an excellent one mile to the inch map defining most roads on Fraser Island and some broad ecological classifications. It is an indispensable guide to the Fraser Island bushwalker.

Don't be deterred. Fraser Island is challenging but it is a challenge which rewards everyone who accepts it, because Fraser Island has so much more to reveal to those who will take the effort to see, than she has to those who will take the easy way out and think they have seen it all.

Footnotes:- Military maps of the island available from Watson, Ferguson & Co., of Brisbane, provide useful information on contours. The new 1:250,000 scale sheets of the area, also available from Watson, Ferguson & Co., are useful when planning a trip.

For further information, refer to the article by D. Straker on p26 of "Heybob" 1966 V8, entitled "Fraser Island".

* * *

COOLOOLA ACCESS .. .. DAN JOHNSTON

The most commonly used maps for Cooloola are the Wide Bay and Cooloola sheets of the new 1:50,000 series. The forestry maps of the area are also useful. The area is criss-crossed with roads and tracks, many of which are not shown on the maps, and this complicates navigation. Most tracks are only suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles, or vehicles fitted with special tyres. The locations of the more important roads not shown on the maps are given below by grid references.

The new bitumen road from Gympie to Rainbow Bay is not shown. It comes onto the Cooloola map at about 190670, crosses the south east side of Mt. Bilewilam at 238670, goes onto the Wide Bay map at about 270680 and then goes fairly directly to Rainbow Beach at 295796, passing to the west of Camp Milo at 273685.

Wide Bay map : 292748 to 300732, used for entering the northern Cooloola region; and 308733 to Freshwater Lake, going down the valley marked with Freshwater Creek, and then going round the west of Freshwater Lake to

join the tracks shown, which are nearer the lake on the southern side than shown on the map.

Cooloola Map: 348677 to 357670 (approximately), used for access to Lake Freshwater from the beach; and 288663 to 300663 (approximately) which passes through Broutha Scrub.

There are four main approaches to Cooloola:

(1) From the Rainbow Bay road from Gympie described eariier.

(2) From the road through Pomona and Kin Kin.

(3) From along the ocean beach from Tewantin.

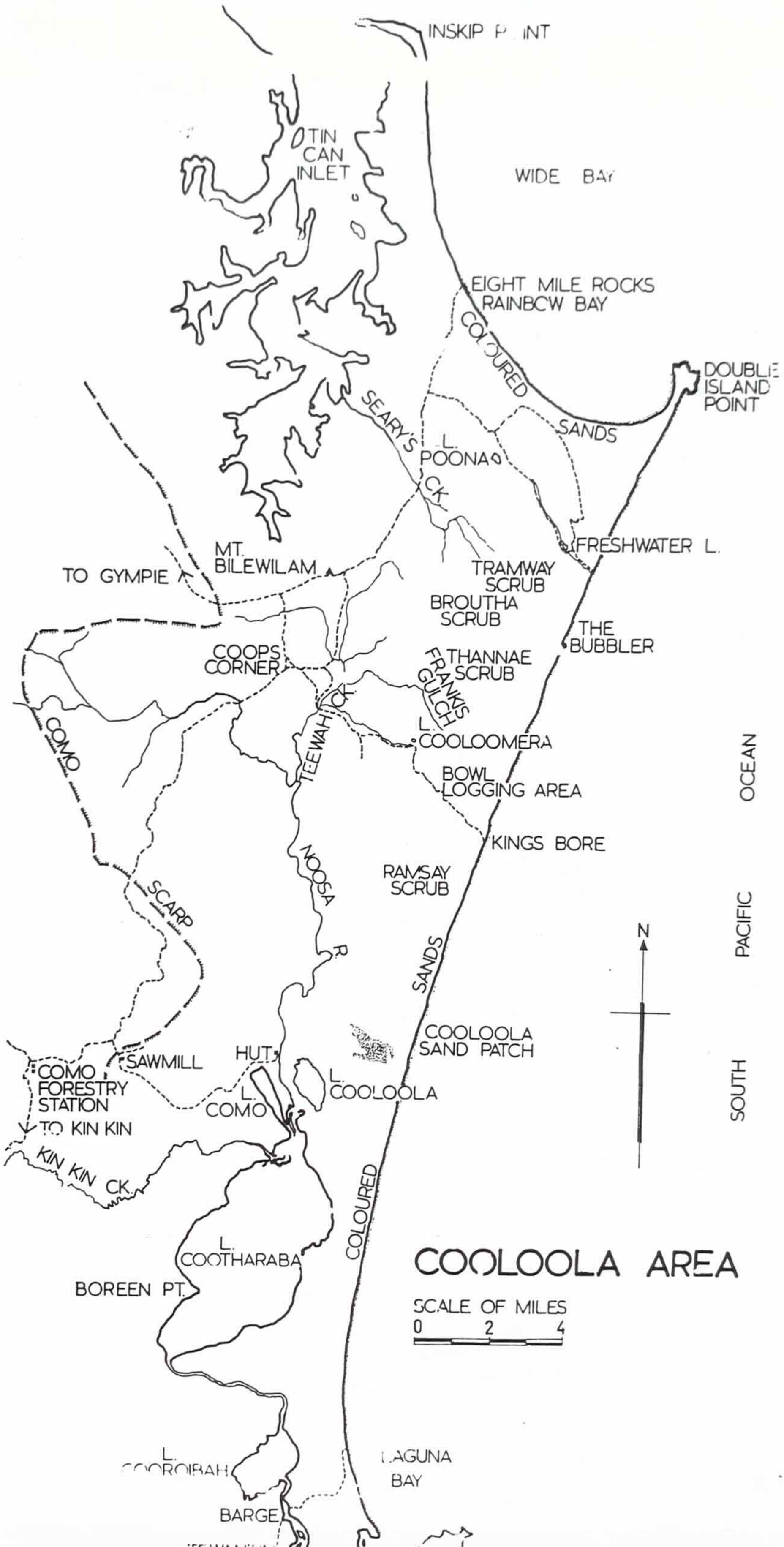
(4) From the Noosa River by boat from Tewantin, described in a subsequent sub-section.

Rainbow Bay Road

At Gympie, take the Tin Can Bay road. About 28 miles along this road, the Rainbow Bay Road branches off to the right. It is then 19 miles to Rainbow Bay and the road strikes the coast just north of Eight Mile Rocks. This road, which is all bitumen, is not shown on available maps, but is described earlier in this article.

About 8 miles from the Rainbow Bay turnoff, the track to Coop's Corner (217625), a common starting point for walks to the central portion of Cooloola, branches to the right. This is difficult to find, and it is easier to continue on to Mt. Bilewilam, turn round, and drive back towards Gympie. It is then easily found on the left, on the top of the first slight rise after Mt. Bilewilam, and about a mile from it. Coop's Corner is about 3 miles from the main Rainbow Bay road along this track. The track east from Coop's Corner forks at 225625. Both branches lead to a log bridge across Teewah Creek at 235607 where cars should be left because of the loose sand. The northern branch can be reached from the Rainbow Bay road directly. At Mt. Bilewilam, turn right (south) off the bitumen road and proceed along the main sand track. This crosses Teewah Creek at 243629, and joins the northern branch from Coop's Corner at about 242620.

About two miles past Mt. Bilewilam heading towards the bay, there are three tracks to the right in about a half mile. These lead to a forestry hut, "Camp Milo", a few hundred yards off the main road. This is another important starting point for trips. The second of the three tracks is the best and most direct. In the region east and south of Camp Milo, there is a maze of tracks, all of which are untrafficable to normal cars, at least in dry weather. Cars should be left somewhere near Camp Milo. The second of the three tracks from the main road, passes to the right (south) of the forestry hut and then forks. Taking the left branch, and keeping to the main track thereafter,


INSKIP POINT
TIN CAN INLET
WIDE BAY
EIGHT MILE ROCKS
RAINBOW BAY
COLOURED SANDS
DOUBLE ISLAND POINT
SEARY'S CK
L. POONA
FRESHWATER L.
MT. BILEWILAM
TO GYMPIE
TRAMWAY SCRUB
BROUTHA SCRUB
THE BUBBLER
COOPS CORNER
THANNAE SCRUB
FRANKS GULCH
TEEWAH CK
L. COOLOOMERA
COMO
BOWL LOGGING AREA
OCEAN
KINGS BORE
NOOSA R.
RAMSAY SCRUB
SCARP
PACIFIC
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SANDS
COOLOOLA SAND PATCH
SAWMILL
HUT
COMO FORESTRY STATION
L. COMO
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SOUTH
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COLOURED
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COOLOOLA AREA
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LAGUNA BAY
BARGE

the track travels through rain forest and open forest till eventually, if you don't get lost, Lake Freshwater is reached. The right branch leads through the Broutha Scrub. (See later.)

Continuing towards Rainbow Bay on the main road, Seary's Creek is crossed about four miles from Bilewilam and Griffin Lookout (signposted) about a mile later. After a further mile, there is a turnoff to the right at 278746. This is the best turnoff for walking in the Poona Lake and Lake Freshwater area. It is about three miles from Rainbow Bay. There are three signs on this turnoff at present, one of which has "Fire Risk" printed down the ends and "Your forest assist needs your care with fire" (sic) printed between. This track can be followed for about a mile to an intersection where cars should be left as the track then deteriorates rapidly. This intersection is the starting point for the suggested trip in the Northern Cooloola area, described later on.

At Rainbow Bay it is possible to drive onto the beach using a ramp. The beach is trafficable to Inskip Point or Double Island Point at low tide only. However, there is a considerable danger of normal vehicles getting bogged while attempting to use this ramp.

Pomona and Kin Kin

This is an alternative route to Coop's Corner, but although it is shorter than the route from the Rainbow Bay Road, it is slower, and navigation is much more difficult. This route is used, however, when visiting the southern section of Cooloola.

Take the Pomona turnoff which is three miles past Cooroy on the Bruce Highway. Just before the railway crossing in the centre of Pomona, turn off to the right towards Kin Kin. Take the road marked "Gympie via Wolvi" on the right just before entering Kin Kin. The next turn is a sharp right turn at the group of huts on the right. This is the Como Forestry Station, and is about 7 miles from Kin Kin and about one mile from the end of the bitumen. About a mile along this rather poor road, the road forks. Take the right hand road. After two miles there is a turnoff going downhill to the right. Take this turn only if you are going to the Noosa River just north of Lakes Como and Coothaaraba, a starting point for walks in the southern section of Cooloola. If going north to Coop's Corner, continue straight ahead.

If going to the Noosa River, at the point mentioned above, take another right turn about a mile later, after which the road runs through the yard of a burnt-out sawmill. About five miles later, the Noosa River is reached. The road deteriorates in the last couple of miles, and the bridges should be checked before going over them. The Noosa River is quite deep at this point, and there is no bridge.

If continuing north, an area which has been cleared for planting with pine trees is reached. Keep to the right hand side of this for about five miles, until the road re-enters the open forest. After about another seven miles, the Noosa River is reached. Care should be taken here, particularly at night, as an old crossing has been washed out. It would be advisable to check the bridge before crossing, but at the time of writing, it was in quite good condition. About a mile and a half later, Coop's Corner (217625) is reached. As mentioned before, navigation is difficult, because the area under reafforestation is laced with many minor tracks which create much confusion. These minor tracks should be ignored.

Along the Ocean Beach from Tewantin

From Cooroy, turn left on the outskirts of Tewantin at a sign marked "Ferry". This road leads to the Noosa River which can be crossed on a vehicular ferry costing $2 per car return. The road from the ferry branches several times. At least two of these tracks are suitable for normal cars to travel the few miles to the beach. The beach is trafficable to Double Island Point (about thirty miles) for several hours around low tide. It is not practicable for vehicles without four wheel drive or special tyres to drive inland or to cross behind Double Island Point onto the Rainbow Bay side, because of the large patches of loose sand.

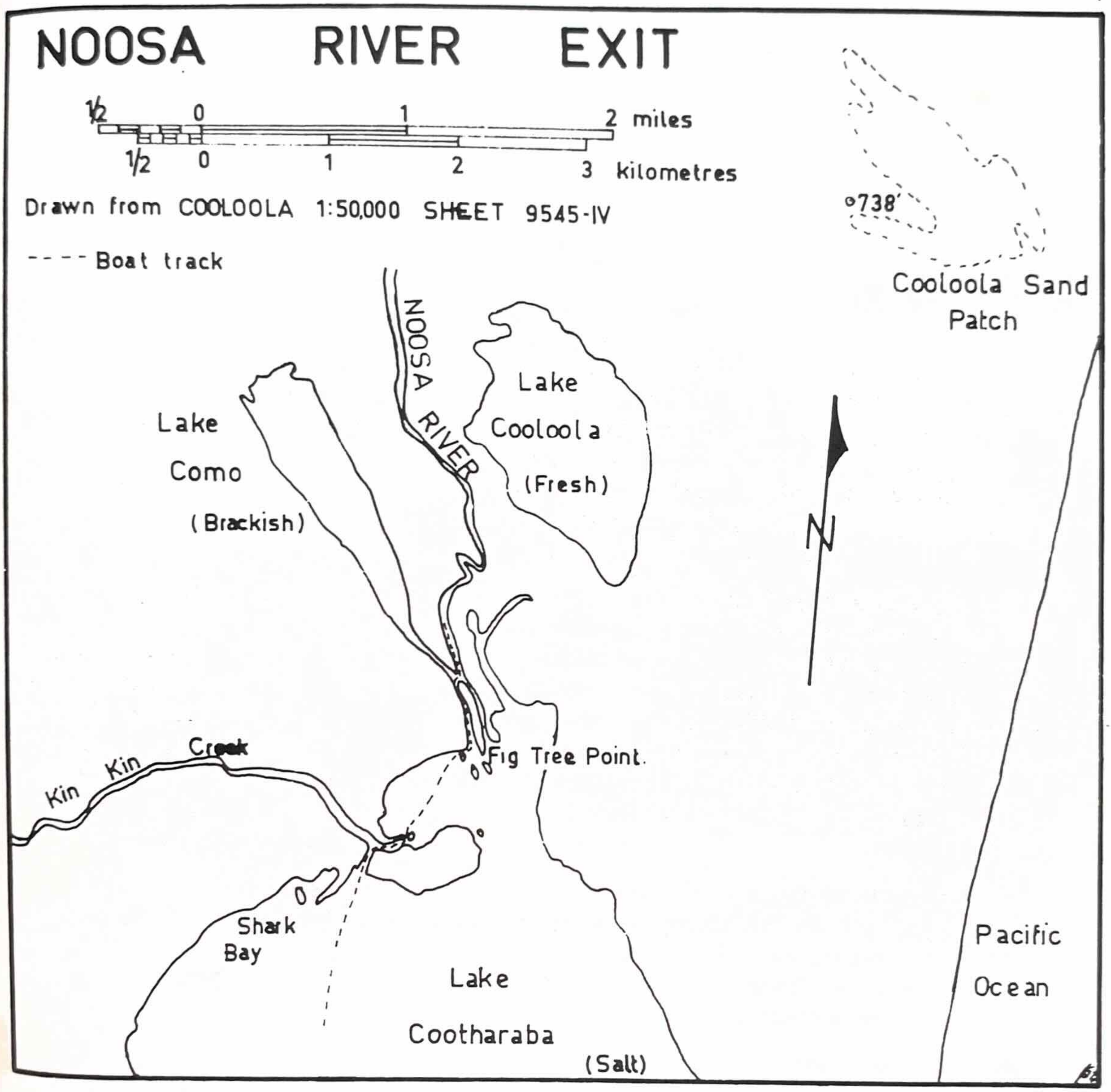
The track to the Cooloola Sand Patch, which is not visible from the beach, leaves the beach in a wide, deep valley about five miles north of the start of the high sand dunes, at grid ref. 279438. It is the only low entry valley from the dunes to the beach, being about 15 ft. above high water mark. Other valley entries are at least 40 ft. up the frontal dune. This is only a walking track. Other tracks, which are unsuitable for normal cars but ideal for walking, leave the beach at Kings Bore and Freshwater Creek. Kings Bore is about eleven miles north of the start of the high dunes. Freshwater Creek is about five miles before Double Island Point. An interesting feature is the Bubbler, a patch of fluidised sand associated with a natural freshwater spring about two miles south of the mouth of Freshwater Creek.

* * *

THE NOOSA RIVER .. DOUG AND WENDY STRAKER

The Noosa River provides something rather different for the bushwalker, as it presents a restful, lazy, sun-filled weekend, or for those keen to explore Cooloola, it provides a good starting point from almost every bend in the river. Harry Spring's hut at 219444 (Cooloola 1:50,000 sheet) and the tin shed on the eastern bank of the Noosa River at the Cooloola landing at 243490 are convenient starting points.

NOOSA RIVER EXIT



All along the banks of the river are many sorts of native plants, and whatever time of year you visit the area, there always seems to be something in flower. Early September, however, is the best time to appreciate the wild flowers which are in great abundance on the open swamps east of the river.

Boats may be hired from Parkyn's at Tewantin. It is better to book boats ahead of time by writing to the proprietor, Mr. E.T. Ibbs at Tewantin, or by phoning him at Tewantin 53, or after hours at Tewantin 262. The charge is $6 per day per boat, plus petrol, and the boats are large enough to carry comfortably six people with packs. We have always found the people running the hire service friendly and co-operative. A useful map covering the river from Tewantin to Lake Cootharaba is available from Mr. Ibbs.

It is advisable for the boats to travel in twos, as sometimes the motors cut out (usually in need of a new spark plug), and there is usually someone out of the 11 or 12 occupants of the boats who has enough mechanical knowledge to fix it. A full weekend is needed if exploring the Noosa River from Tewantin. However, the upper reaches of the river may be comfortably explored in a single day from Boreen Point in Lake Cootharaba. Four-man boats may be hired from Fred's Boat Hire by phoning Boreen Point 3. Charges are $6 per day or $10 per weekend, fuel included.

We have found that a night-time start saves time next morning. From Parkyn's you follow the beacons up the river, black on your right and red on your left, keeping to the east of the islands just north of Tewantin, and into Lake Cooroibah. This lake is very shallow, and the boats may become stuck on mud banks or in weed patches. The beacons must therefore be followed so closely, that they brush your elbows. It is fairly easy to negotiate Lake Cooroibah at night, especially if there is moonlight. A little further up the river, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs from Tewantin, the old Restdown Orchards provide a comfortable campsite, but mossies are a problem.

Next morning it is just a short run upstream to Lake Cootharaba. It is wise to rub on plenty of U.V. cream in preparation for the trip across the lake, which takes $1\frac{1}{2}$-2 hours, depending on how long you spend in the ice-cream shop at Boreen Point. Lake Cootharaba is very shallow, and on a windy day, the surface can be very choppy, so have a "bailer-billy" on hand.

Your troubles begin when you leave Boreen Point, and begin looking for the right exit into the river proper, as there is only one exit deep enough for the boats. The Cooloola Sand Patch is visible from Boreen Point, and the northern exit is best found by setting a course from Boreen Point a little to the left of the sand patch on a bearing of approximately 18°. Red beacons mark the northern exit and once again, they should be followed closely.

From here to the river mouth the channels are narrow and the mouth

well hidden by tiny mangrove covered islands and reedy shallows. The correct channel is shown on the map below. You'll know when you've entered the river, as the water is stained very dark with tannin, providing wonderful reflections on a sunny day.

From here on, the going is easy; the river widens out; the kingfishers swoop down to gather their prey, and everyone is happy.

* * *

NORTHERN COOLOOLA .. .. DAN JOHNSTON

Starting from the intersection about a mile from the main road (as described in the Access Section), take the right branch. At the top of the ridge take the left hand turn. The track to the right goes down the western side of the sandhills and the fourth obscure track at this junction leads up the ridge south west of Lake Poona.

Taking the left hand track, the rain forest is soon entered, and a half mile or so later another junction is met. The right branch is the one for returning on this trip. Keeping to the left, the track leaves the rain forest after about a mile and meets the track along the abandoned telegraph line from the Rainbow Bay settlement to Double Island Point. Keep to the right here. Within the next mile or so choose a place to head off to the left through the open forest in a direction a little east of north till the top of the sandhills is reached after about half a mile. The sandhills should be descended with care as there are some quite high cliffs in places. The beach is relatively safe for swimming but is rather protected and normally has only a small surf. Then walk along the beach to Double Island Point. Water can be obtained from the springs on the beach. Water is not available in the last mile or two before Double Island Point or after it until Freshwater Creek is reached.

It is reasonable for camping virtually anywhere on the beach on either side of Double Island Point. The point can be crossed in the low areas between the hills of Double Island Point. It is not possible to walk right round the point as there are large cliffs on the end. The eastern beach is dangerous for swimming.

From Double Island Point, it is about five miles down the eastern beach to Freshwater Creek where there is a track running inland just before the creek. There is an excellent grassy campsite on this track, behind the first sand dune. Water can be obtained from Freshwater Creek on the beach. From this point a walk can be made down the beach for another two miles to the Bubbler.

Following the track inland from Freshwater Creek, Lake Freshwater is

reached in about a mile. Just before Lake Freshwater, there is a poor track to the right up a hill which joins the track along the abandoned telegraph line mentioned earlier. The first part of Lake Freshwater reached is the best for swimming.

The track goes round the southern side of Lake Freshwater to an intersection. The left hand track from this intersection leads to a large network of roads one of which leads fairly directly to Camp Milo and others going further south. Keeping to the right at the intersection, follow the track around to the northern end of the lake. The rainforest is again entered and the track climbs steadily for about three miles. Ignore any minor side tracks.

When the track is descending again, there is a white post on the left with a piece of red plastic tied round it. This marks the start of the walking track to Lake Poona, about a half mile away. The track is indistinct but it is simply a matter of crossing the ridge and descending to the lake. The direction is approximately south west. It is advisable to return to the vehicular track in approximately the same way although once again it is not critical if the track is lost. If a north-easterly direction is maintained, the vehicular track must be met again in roughly the right area. Continuing down the vehicular track, the track used on the way in is met after about a half mile. A left turn there followed by a right turn just out of the rainforest will lead back to the start.

This is intended as a two day trip with a camp at either Double Island Point or Freshwater Creek. If some time is spent swimming and exploring Double Island Point, it would be well both while having tea at the Point, walking the five miles to Freshwater Creek during the cool of the night, and camping on the beach there. One day trips could be made to Lake Freshwater or the northern beach from the same starting point, possibly visiting Lake Poona also. A trip to Lake Poona only, would be a very easy day trip. If travelling up the eastern beach by car, a walk into Lake Freshwater and further around into the rainforest also makes an easy day trip.

* * *

CENTRAL COOLOOLA

.. .. GEOFF BROWNLIE

From Camp Milo, take the right branch in the track near the forestry hut, and then keep to the left until the top of the ridge is reached. The main track continues into Broutha Scrub, which is just over the ridge, and another track (not so well used) branches left. The latter track is the one shown on the map, but the main track is unmarked. The left branch may be followed for about half a mile to reach the Broutha Waterhole. The waterhole is not visible from the track but is easily found by walking about 20 yards east of

the track to look into the obvious gully. The track continues past here to the junction at (293672) where the main ridge between Broutha Scrub and Tramway Scrub is reached by taking the right branch. The track along this ridge meets the main track through Broutha Scrub at about (300663). (Note that the Broutha scrub on the Cooloola 1:50,000 sheet is a different area to the Broutha Logging Area shown on the Forestry map. The former map is taken as a reference here.)

Following this track in the direction of Broutha scrub, rainforest is soon encountered. Major timber-getting activities have been carried out, so side tracks are numerous near the centre of the Scrub. A major track to the left leading downhill goes to a log-loading area, and then further into the forest in a S-E direction. The main track continues S-W through the Scrub until open forest is again reached and then turns to the N-W to the junction mentioned earlier.

Returning to the main ridge between Tramway and Broutha Scrubs, good views are obtained across Tramway Scrub, which is the large rain forest-filled depression to the N.E. of the ridge. Numerous tracks lead down into the Scrub; any point along here would be a suitable point to descend into the area. As navigation is difficult due to lack of features, this is the best place as the ridge track is regained simply by heading S-W back up onto the ridge. The ridge track between Tramway and Broutha scrubs may be followed S-E to reach the coast. A junction is reached at (323638). The north branch leads eventually to the Lake Freshwater area, and the S-E track leads towards the coast and then turns back towards Thannae scrub. The latter track is taken to the bend at (332624). Here there is a good view to the south, with Noosa Heads visible in the distance. It is easiest to backtrack fifty yards before heading across-country to the beach. At the beach one has the choice of walking north to Lake Freshwater and Double Island Point, or south to Kings Bore. There are numerous places where fresh water flows out from the base of the dunes along the beach. It will also be noted that it is almost impossible to find from the beach, the bend in the road just mentioned. However, the only <u>high</u> dunes (at about 300 ft) along this stretch of beach are just to the north of the point where you should leave the beach, and picking up the highest land about half a mile from the beach will bring you to the road.

Broutha Scrub may also be reached from Teewah Creek. From the bridge at (243628) follow the easterly track leading towards the high dunes. This area is prolific with wildflowers in spring. The road from the north is met at (281644); take the next turn left heading straight to the ridge on the east. Climb the steep track to the top of the ridge, ignoring the cross road (not marked on map). Tall eucalypts and casurinas cover the ridge top. Take the left turn at about (290643) heading back towards Broutha Scrub. A small patch of rain forest is encountered, and shortly after leaving this, a vague

track leads off to the right. Follow this overgrown track to join the main road through Broutha Scrub (mentioned earlier). The return trip from Broutha Scrub is also feasible; the turn onto the overgrown track is a couple of hundred yards after leaving Broutha Scrub and on the left before reaching the junction of the Camp Milo and Broutha Waterhole tracks.

The alternative track at (290643) may also be followed towards the coast and Thannae Scrub. Numerous tracks lead across the main ridge, as shown on the map. The road which loops toward the coast is joined at (312623), and may be followed either to the north to reach the coast, or south towards the Bowl Area and Lake Cooloomera.

Lake Cooloomera and the Bowl are best reached from the west via the second bridge on Teewah Creek at (235607). The lake is surrounded by long reeds, except on the South-West extremity, where they have been cleared. The Bowl Logging area may be reached from any convenient point on the tracks leading round it. If coming from the North, the junction at (295589) is a suitable point to descend into the centre of the Area. The depression is mainly open forest with small rain forest patches. There is much evidence of past timber-getting activities, as the name suggests. Many overgrown tracks criss-cross the area. Frankis Gulch running North-West from the last junction reference, is a handy return route to the bridges on Teewah Creek. The track leads through open forest with many casurinas. The creek flowing in the bottom of the gully is also a good supply of clear fresh water. The North-South road at the west of the high ridges is met at (268618). From here, it is possible to proceed across country to Teewah Creek. Teewah Creek is lined with trees, mainly Ti-tree and is easy to recognise when it is reached as the water is stained brown, unlike the clear water of the previous creek mentioned.

Returning again to Lake Cooloomera, the King's Bore road, which is the only main through-road to the coast in the area, may be followed through open forest to the coast. At the highest point on the track, a cross road is encountered. The left branch follows the ridge-top and skirts the Bowl Area to the west, rejoining the track shown on the map. It is possible to reach Ramsay Scrub to the south via the right hand track. Ramsay Scrub is one of the best rain forest patches in the high dunes. King's Bore is finally reached if the coast road is taken. An old hut is decaying near a good water source on the beach, and the high dunes here give way to low foreshore dunes. This makes the Bore easy to recognise for the return journey from the coast. This is also the only place along this stretch of coast where a road comes down to the beach out of the low dunes. The high foreshore sandhills immediately to the south have some fine examples of coloured sands, and a walk along the beach to see these is well worth while. Some good campsites are available, and fresh-water flows to the sea from the base of the dunes. A grassy

area in one of the gullys leading up from the beach just to the south of the bore would keep a large party well above high water mark.

Suggested Walks

Generally, walks start from the west of the high ridges. The first day is spent traversing the high areas, and camp is made on the beach, as there is a ready source of fresh water there. Greater variety would be allowed if dry camps were made or campsites at the Lakes were used. However, part of the attraction of the area lies in the relatively unspoilt coastline and the coloured sands. Walking is mostly either on the beach or on bush tracks, so quite large areas may be covered in a weekend trip. Navigation is always a problem; tracks are everywhere and it is quite often difficult to correlate the tracks walked with those appearing on the map. Scrub-bashing can be quite arduous off the track; some of the rain forest areas often have more than average undergrowth. Coastal strip scrub is quite thick in places with banksia and other low vegetation. This can be a deterrent to cross-country walking.

Some typical walks would be:

(a) Start at Camp Milo, then to Broutha Waterhole, Broutha Scrub, back to the ridge track to the coast, and down the beach to King's Bore. Second day; to Lake Cooloomera, past the Bowl area, then north towards Broutha Scrub, returning to Camp Milo.

(b) From the bridge on Teewah Creek at (243628), follow the route to Broutha Scrub described earlier, then to the coast. Camp could be made on the beach anywhere where there is water down to King's Bore. On the second day; via the King's Bore track to Lake Cooloomera, a visit to the Bowl Logging Area, then return via Frankis Gulch and across country to Teewah Creek.

(c) From the second bridge on Teewah Creek, the coast may be reached in half a day, via Lake Cooloomera. This would allow the beach to be enjoyed for a half day. By walking north, return would be possible on the second day by picking up the loop in the road at (332624) and following the tracks either via Broutha Scrub or the Thannae Scrub area. Any of these walks could be done in the reverse direction.

* * *

SOUTHERN COOLOOLA .. .. GRAEME LACEY

The area of ten square miles covered by this report is in the vicinity of the Cooloola Sandpatch. It is the region between the Noosa River in the west and Teewah Beach in the east and immediately north of Lake Cooloola.

The map used is the 1:50,000 scale Military Sheet 9545 IV - Cooloola.

The nature of wallum flats causes the terrain and therefore the walking times to vary considerably, depending on the amount of surface water present. The travel times mentioned are after heavy rain, and therefore the slowest that would be expected of an average party. Access to the area is by one of three accepted routes:

(1) From Harry Spring's hut at 219444.

(2) From the Ocean Beach.

(3) From the Cooloola Landing at 243490.

The first two are described in the section entitled "Access to Cooloola", while the third is described in "The Noosa River".

Noosa River, Spring's Hut, 219444

Swim the forty yards across the river. (Large plastic bags and lilos help to float the packs and keep their contents dry). Then head east the first few hundred yards walking is easy going. The river eucalypts and ti-trees disappear and the country opens to the wallum heath flats. Progress over the next half mile is retarded by low banksia, boronia and heath. Potholes, just the size of a walker's boot, bottom at two feet, full of water. The next zone sometimes comprises small peat islands floating in the brackish water. This section, from the river across the flats, takes about two and a half hours. From here it is easy walking up the western side of the forested dunes which range up to 700 feet. The dunes are parallel and are aligned south-east to north-west (the direction of the prevailing winds). It is advisable to head east over the high dunes rather than try to follow the ridges and valleys. Areas of thick ten foot high sloping banksia will be encountered and may slow the party. Finally the party will emerge at the top of the frontal dunes and slide or roll to the beach below. The travelling time from the river to the beach is about six hours.

Teewah Beach, 279438

Follow the valley north-west, using the track where available. After a mile, the track will widen to an area of white windblown sand. This is the lowest point of the Cooloola Sandpatch. Walk further west. The valley opens to the square mile of the sandpatch. Other than the areas of red ironstone pebbles and the green vegetation on the horizon, the view is white sand. The concretionary ironstone forms a ridge at one place up the centre of the sand. The eastern slope climbs 300 feet over one mile. Walk to the top of the sandpatch for views of the ocean to the east and the wallum flats, the lakes and the ranges to the west. The western edge of the sandpatch drops off at 30 degrees. Back through the banksia and eucalypt forest to the wallum flats.

Head towards a low hill visible at 233456. The first few hundred yards comprise the usual stunted banksia and heath, with water six inches to four feet deep, depending on the amount of rain that has fallen. Move further west and it gradually deepens until it is permanent water up to four feet deep in wet seasons. From the hill to the river is easy going through more banksia and ti-tree and a few depressions filled with more water. Allow seven hours for an easy walk from the beach to the Noosa River, allowing time out to enjoy the sandpatch.

Noosa River, Shed, 243490

The immediate area of the shed is a strip of eucalypt and banksia forest between the river and the high dunes. The ground is higher than the wallum flats to the north and south. This site affords quick access to the high sand dunes. Walk east for 200 yards, then south-east towards the sandpatch which is visible intermittently. The walk from the river to the sandpatch can be completed in about one and a half hours.

By combining any of these trips, it is quite easy to plan an enjoyable two day excursion offering a range of variable scenery and conditions in this southern region of the Cooloola-Teewah sandmass. Tracks from this area head north to meet the King's Bore road and offer access to the other walking areas in the north.

* * *

MORETON ISLAND .. .. BILL ANDERSON

Moreton Island is one coastal area very close to Brisbane which has been relatively unspoilt because of its inaccessability to the general public. This situation is rapidly changing with the proliferation of small boats and the sale of land for housing on the island. Much of the island is under sand mining leases and soon it may be too late to see this area in its natural state. Moreton Island has coloured sands and high dunes every bit as attractive and as interesting as those at Cooloola.

For the bushwalker, access to the island may be quite expensive unless some private means of transport is available. The most reliable transport is the "Tambo Lady", which services Tangalooma Tourist Resort several times a week. The cost if $8 return, and bookings may be made by phoning the resort at Tangalooma 3. It may also be possible to "hitch" a ride with private parties such as fishing clubs, and the best place to start enquiries is Hales Cruises. Private Boat Hire is expensive. Suitable maps are the Amity and Tangalooma sheets of the new 1:50,000 series, and the Moreton Island, Parish of Tiffin map published by the Department of Lands.

Yellow Patch
North Point
Cape Moreton
Five hills
Comboyuro Point
Bulwer
1
2
3
Blue Lagoon
Cowan Cowan
Mt. Tempest
Eagers Swamp
Tangalooma
The Desert
MORETON ISLAND
N
miles
1 0 1 2 3 4 5
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
Km.
Army Fortifications
Big Sandhill
Little Sandhill
L.W.M.
Reeders Point

Tangalooma, once the site of a thriving whaling industry, is now a tourist resort. Drinking water is obtainable here, (but first ask permission) and at a pump near the fishing club house at the end of the jetty (pump God permitting). Elsewhere on the island, water is available from the many soaks and streamlets flowing across the beach from the base of the sand dunes.

The road which runs behind the club house branches a little way inland. One branch heads north, then east and ends on the ocean beach about ½ mile south of Eager's Swamp at an old shack set in a grove of she-oaks. This is the only indication of the start of the road if one is going to use it to cross the island from east to west. Considerable time may be saved in this direction if, near the end of the road, the obvious track to the right is taken, as this bends onto the bayside beach about ½ hour north of the main jetty. The second branch heads south, and eventually comes back onto the beach near the Sandhills.

An interesting feature which may be visited in a one hour round trip is the Desert, an area of white sandhills and windblown formations just behind the first row of hills on the western shore. The start of the track from the beach is marked by the two lead lights ¾ mile south of the Tangalooma jetty.

A 2½ to 3 hour walk south from Tangalooma brings one to an area known as the Big Sand Hill and the Little Sand Hill. It is impossible to miss the Big Sand Hill - a bare patch of sand rising some 300 feet above sea-level at its highest point, offering panoramic views of Moreton Island and the smudge on the western horizon that is smog-bound Brisbane. Coloured sands, interesting rock formations, wood carved into grotesque and unfamilar shapes by the wind-driven sand, and an ironstone ridge, Lightning Ridge; all contribute to the ever-changing beauty of this general area. The Big Sand Hill is probably more interesting than the Little Sand Hill, but nevertheless, the area is ideal for basecamping.

An excellent campsite is found in a grove of she-oaks and cypress pines at the southern edge of the Big Sand Hill and water is obtained either by digging a well approximately 2' deep, or from a recently installed hand pump a few hundred yards south up off the beach, or from the numerous springs and soaks just inland.

If a base camp is planned, a number of daywalks are possible. One daywalk would be to cross to the Ocean beach, by either of the sandhills, exploring along the way; walking to the southern tip of the island, and then back to the camp-site after dark if necessary.

About 1½ miles north of the Big Sand Hill, on the ocean side, are found fairly extensive ruins of Army fortifications. Gun emplacements, bat-

filled air raid shelters, and pill boxes are scattered throughout the scrub, and these may be visited and explored during a day trip. Walking north on the ocean beach the first pill box is seen right on the northern edge of the sand hills in the scrub near the top of a hill. Still further north, the main installations are marked by an overturned pill box lying on the beach. A torch is needed to explore these ruins and to check them for snakes.

The northern portion of the island does not lend itself to basecamping as readily as the sandhills area, to the south. There is a fairly large distance to cover and since the "Tambo Lady" leaves for Brisbane at 3 pm on Sunday afternoon, it is advisable to do some night walking to allow plenty of time to catch the boat.

On reaching Tangalooma, a short $1\frac{1}{2}$-2 hour walk north along the beach, brings one to Cowan-Cowan Point, the one-time headquarters of army activity on the Island. This is a most convenient camp-site strewn with ruined fortifications to be explored next morning before breakfast. Harry and Gess Wadsworth, the retired lighthouse keeper and his wife, are the only permanent residents here, and are a wealth of information about the area.

Pushing north, the Bulwer wrecks are reached about 1 hr later. This was once the site of a quarantine station. From here, Cape Moreton may be reached either by following the road linking the Bulwer wrecks and the lighthouse, or by following the beach. However, Comboyuro Point is passable only during a very low tide, as the beach is a tangle of fallen trees during high tide, and the trip must be planned accordingly. In front of the Five Hills on the northern shore, are a series of lagoons providing excellent fishing for the enthusiast. Because of the steep angle the hills dip into the sea, the entire northern shore is difficult to walk along and great care should be taken. The road is probably the safest and shortest route to take, but it is hot and dry. About $\frac{3}{4}$ hr from Bulwer the road forks; the right branch is the main track, but the lesser used left branch joins the main track further on.

The only outcrop of hard rock on the entire island is Cape Moreton. Its spectacular 300 foot cliffs overlooking the ocean beach stretching for some 30 miles to the south are crowned by an historic stone lighthouse built by prison labour in 1857. This is certainly the oldest lighthouse on the Queensland Coast, and is unique in that it uses a reflector rather than the traditional lens to focus its beam of light.

It is well worth spending some time exploring the Cape and talking to the lighthouse keeper, but as Tangalooma is about 6 hrs walk from the Cape Moreton via the ocean beach, it would be advisable to have tea at the Cape and camp in the vicinity of the Blue Lagoon, approx. 2 hrs of night walking to the south. Next morning, the Blue Lagoon should be visited. It is difficult to locate, but if the feature known as "First Ridge" can be found and

climbed, Blue Lagoon will be seen to lie at its base.

Off now to the Tangalooma fishing hut 2 hrs to the south, and the start of the road across the island. All along the beach are found aboriginal middens, some containing artifacts. The largest midden is at Eager's Creek, the largest creek on the island, and about ½ north of the fishing shack. From the fishing shack it is a short 1½-2 hour jaunt to Tangalooma and the "Tambo Lady".

The highest sand mass in the world - Mt. Tempest, at 913 feet has recently been declared a National Park. It is rather small but affords magnificent panoramic views of Moreton Island and the Bay. As it is surrounded by very dense undergrowth, no easy access is known. However Mr. & Mrs. Wadsworth should be consulted as to the best route, if Mt. Tempest is to be attempted from the Bay side beach. If approaching the mountain from the ocean beach, it is probably best to follow a compass bearing from Eager's Swamp.

To be visited in the cool winter months, Moreton Island is a beautiful place with its miles of unspoilt beaches, its coloured sands, rocky headlands, and points of historical and archaeological interest. It is well worth a visit - but be quick! Already much of the island is under mining-leases, and already land has been sold under freehold title. So visit it now - tomorrow may be too late!

* * *

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An interesting new area near Tenterfield –

TIMBARRA

By I.J. Reeve

Last Easter, twenty-five pairs of U.Q.B.W.C. feet marked Timbarra Tableland's sandy granite soil where a century of summer rains had long ago erased the booted footprint of the alluvial miner and the sandalled print of the Chinese. Still surviving, though, are the crumbling remains of 65 years of mining activity. Each one of these relics, whether it be a mere hole in the ground or several miles of perfectly engineered aqueduct, remains as a monument to the hopes and endeavours of human beings. In many cases, these overgrown earthworks are one of the only records of a miner's existence, for a great many died in poverty to fill paupers' graves in Glen Innes, Deep-water, or Tenterfield.

The first gold discovery in New South Wales is well known, but not so generally appreciated is the rapid spread of enthusiastic prospectors and miners over the colony. By 1858 fields as far apart as Tumut, Orange, and Timbarra were recovering large quantities of gold --- 286,000 ounces for the year 1858. Some idea of the mushrooming of mining populations can be gained from an examination of annual escort returns of gold. In the instance of the Forbes Field -- 1861 - 4,000 ounces; 1862 - 212,000 ounces; 1863 - 7,000 ounces. Mr. Warden Dalton, mining warden to the Forbes Field described conditions during the rush.

"Adventurous prospecting parties crossed the stream, and scattering over the scrubs and plains, extended their operations to within a few miles of Forbes; they were followed by hundreds of shepherds, who occupied long lines of imaginary leads in anticipation of the 'red flag'. Land speculators followed like sharks in their wake, and suddenly discovered that a waterless country that had been permitted to lie unoccupied by permanent settlers up to the present time was the only place where they could select homesteads." (A red flag was hoisted by a party when gold was discovered.)

Unfortunately, there is no similar record for the Timbarra field as the mining warden to the Tenterfield district did not have the descriptive ability of Mr. Dalton, but was given to prosaic moralising upon the mining industry in general in the area. The gold escort figures for New South Wales show no return from Timbarra field until 1859, so one can only assume that the field was discovered sometime between 1851 and 1858 and that conditions on the field were somewhat similar to those recorded on the Forbes Field. Maximum recorded production was 18,000 ounces on the gold escort in 1859 and this tailed off until by 1867 the escort was no longer required. A total of 71,000 ounces of gold was taken out by the gold escort coach between 1859 and 1866.

These dry statistics, together with overgrown and forgotten diggings are all that remain of the romantic heyday of the field. The tall forests of Timbarra, now so silent, echoed with sounds quite unknown to us today. Drays creaked out to Poverty Point boosted by obscenity over the steep grades; laden with a miscellany of possessions. Periodically, the confident clip-clop of the gold coach and armed, mounted police escort echoed through the trees, slowing with tense vulnerability on the steeper parts of the track, the troopers alert and watchful in fear of the sudden "Bail up" which their presence was intended to discourage. The creeks and gullies were transformed into a mass of channels, dams, and diversions occupied by universally bearded, mud-spattered men, not to mention the ubiquitious pig-tailed Chinese who towards the closing of the gold field outnumbered the whites. In the late 1860's and early 1870's the sounds of the alluvial miners -- the chonk and clink of pick and shovel, the trickle and gurgle of sluice boxes -- slowly died out with the exhaustion of alluvial gold to be replaced by a new sound -- the roar of the giant nozzle and the methodical incessant crunch of stamper batteries.

In the 1870's the Surface Hill Sluicing Company was floated to attempt to mine economically the large amounts of auriferous granite in the area. Under the supervision of Mr. Ambrose Johnston, the Managing Director, eight miles of water race was constructed by the company's work force of 15 men. The object of the water race was to overcome the chronic shortage of water by gathering the resources of some of the smaller streams in the area. For the most part the race took the form of contoured channel around the hillsides, reinforced with stonework, but in several places it crossed valleys on a wooden trestle bridge as high as 100ft. In addition, $5\frac{1}{2}$ chains of tunnel was constructed at great expense through a solid granite ridge. Although difficult to find, much of the race still remains, completely overgrown like some forgotten Incan ruin. The race provided sufficient water to successfully ground sluice many acres of decomposed auriferous granite. The areas are still easily recognisable to the east and north of what is marked as the Poverty Point Gold Mine on the Tenterfield one mile series.

Unfortunately, the acreage that could be sluiced successfully did not justify the relatively large amount of money spent in constructing the tunnel on the water race, so by 1880 the company had slid into economic decline until in 1884, the interest in the company was transferred to Messrs. Batt and Purves of Sydney. In 1885 under the new name Surface Hill Gold Mining Company and under the new management of Mr. Kenneth Hutchinson several thousand pounds were spent on installing a ten head stamper battery so that harder ground that was impossible to sluice could be crushed. 1885-1887 saw the company functioning economically with further installations such as a self acting tramway being constructed. However in late 1887 the tunnel on the

water race collapsed, thus depriving the area of its vital water supply. In 1888, after fruitless attempts to re-open the tunnel, the company made no profit. In 1889 an attempt was made to re-float the company but by 1890, it had lapsed into anonymous insolvency.

A less despondent undertaking amongst the list of company failures was that of Mr. Thomas Horton, an experienced miner who pioneered the development of the Boorook Silver Mines. In 1884 and 1885 he profitably mined out a small but rich auriferous dyke several miles south of Poverty Point, employing a ten head stamper battery and an eight horsepower steam engine. A tributary of the Rocky River now bears his name.

After 1891, the field was left to a small number of miners, about 25 in all, who fossicked and scratched amid the old alluvial workings and the ruins of the Surface Hill Gold Mining Company. Probably many of these were men who had come to the field in its heyday and then, with the exhaustion of payable alluvial gold, had found company employment. Now with the failure of the company, the general depression in the surrounding drought affected areas, they were forced to turn again to alluvial gold as a means of existence. And exist was all they could hope for -- a good weekly return being £2 and the average 30 to 35 shillings. In 1899, with a rise in the price of tin, many left for Stanthorpe in the hope of better earnings, to find the only profitable ventures were the big tin dredges, alluvial mining by hand being scarcely remunerative.

In 1907 the Surface Hill Gold Mining Syndicate was floated to work an 11 acre claim held by Messrs. Blackert and Hurn of Newcastle. Between 1907 and 1912 three shafts were sunk, and a ten head stamper battery and cyanid-ing plant to the value of £2,500 were installed. Unfortunately, the 3500 tons treated over five years of operation yielded only 598 ounces of gold worth £1,605 which could have scarce supported the workforce of 17 men let alone cover the capital outlay of the syndicate.

So in 1913, the Surface Hill Gold Mining Syndicate was taken over by the Mascotte Gold Mining Company which attempted to run operations on a smaller scale using only a three head crushing mill and plant to the value of £700 and employing ten men. Sad to relate, its fate was that of its predec-essor -- in 1914 only 400 tons were treated to yield a mere 105 ounces of gold worth £350.

With the failure of the Mascotte Gold Mining Company and the onset of World War I the number of alluvial miners on the field rapidly dwindled so that in 1916 the total yield for the area was 14 ounces of gold. By the 1920's, Timbarra could no longer be classed as a gold field. A few old prospectors lingered on to the 1930's when a small timber industry was established at Surface Hill.

The timber industry has unfortunately persisted to the present day, resulting in the removal of hundreds of beautiful tall straight eucalypts.

A few tales of the men who worked for the gold mining companies have been passed on by word of mouth and these often provide a rare insight into the character of the men who saw the last days of the gold fields. One such tale concerns a crotchetty old prospector whose poor fortunes in his own ventures forced him to find employment with one of the gold mining companies. Wishing to assert his remaining independence, he spurned modern wheeled and engined contrivances, preferring to walk the 30 miles into Tenterfield to purchase supplies and return to Surface Hill the next day. On his weekend days off he took his fishing lines down to the Rocky River, 2500 ft below, on Saturday afternoon, fished through Saturday night and climbed back up to Surface Hill on Sunday, no doubt to awaken fresh for Monday's labours. Such a degree of self inflicted physical activity must surely make him the forefather of bushwalking on Timbarra.

I first became aware of the existence of Timbarra Tableland in mid 1967 when I purchased a Tenterfield 1 mile series map for no other reason than idle curiosity to see what lay to the south of the Drake Sheet. The strange name "Poverty Point" lay enticingly at the end of 25 miles of C class road. Fifty brown contour lines below, flowed the Rocky River, paralleled by an equally attractive C class road. So with the naivete of one who had never been on a bushwalk in his life before, a suitable route for a five day walk was chosen and at 2 am on the first day of the Christmas break in 1967, Andrew Graham (now U.Q.S.S.) and I, with virginal and near virginal equipment, donned a brown Mini and scuttled off across the dark countryside in the direction of Tenterfield. Our first view, in the grey dawn, of Timbarra Tableland ridden over by thick grey clouds and mist that spilled off into Demon Creek, filled us with awed anticipation. The track in was then but two dim lines of white sand snaking through the timber and deteriorating into eroded gullies on the steep hills. The fords were quiet, clear, sandy bottomed pools, which it seemed shameful to disturb by driving a car through. The Surface Hill clearing was then just that, adorned only by one tumbled down house. Instead of the present single causeway, there were then two beautiful fords, the second of which proved quite un-Mini-able. So packs were left and the Mini was taken back to where Smith's Track joins the Poverty Point track. The eight mile walk back to Surface Hill in clearing weather revealed the variety of flora and fauna -- mosses, orchids, 'roos and pythons, which had been strangely invisible while striving to avoid imminent disembowelment of Mini by threatening twigs and pebbles. We joined the flies for lunch at Surface Hill and set off, nose-to-map for Poverty Point. That night we camped perplexed and ignorant of the whereabouts of Poverty Point and of ourselves after hours of trying to separate the track that was marked on the map from the maze of tracks that weren't.

Late in the afternoon, with a drizzle turning to rain, we found ourselves in thick rainforest following a track whose antiquity was borne out by the thirty foot saplings growing on it. In the gloomy gullies were long forgotten bridges of logs and rough hewn planks encased in a mat of moss and orchids. As the rain increased with the onset of night, we blundered out into open forest country, crossed a delightful creek on an equally delightful old log bridge, and were amazed to see in the distance a small two room and fireplace hut, with an unmistakable "at last you've come" atmosphere about it. We approached feeling somewhat like Hansel and Gretel, to find it had been uninhabited for many years. Fortunately the last user, whoever he was, had left firewood under the floor and a mattress full of mice in the second room. So, with the rain pouring down and the wind lashing the tree tops, I spent my first night on a bushwalk, warm and comfortable on a mouse infested mattress by a cheery fire. The rain stopped sometime in the night, and the morning came blue and clear, with mist rising from rain-cleaned tree stumps and bracken in the patches of sunlight. The rest of the trip was uneventful: a day long scunge bash down Horton's Creek to the Rocky River and a day along the Rocky River and thence back to the car by thumb.

On the June long weekend 1968 we returned to the hut for a five quite days gold panning to find that the logging company, with their usual finesse in historical preservation, had decided to use the hut as a base for operations, so a track had been bulldozed over the top of the old one and two of the old bridges destroyed. With the aid of Andrew's brand new trail bike we were able to locate the Poverty Point gold mine. The trail bike, a diminutive 70cc's was run in on the trip to Tenterfield. The cold (24°F, at Wallangarra) and 6'2" of over-wrapped-coffee-filled rider proved quite an effort for the poor little thing as the journey of 180 miles took 14 hours to complete, an average speed of 13 mph.

In early December 1968, we spent another weekend on Timbarra Tableland -- this time to find a way into the big area of boulders that looked so much like tall ruined ramparts when viewed from near the Poverty Point Gold Mine. In a good theoretical manner we set a course from the nearest point on the road and marched off geometrically upon our straight line course. After disregarding a number of likely forestry tracks, we became hopelessly caught up in a scungy gully, and when we emerged from this, we took the first forestry track we came upon and ended up quite close to our objective. Visibility was only a few hundred yards, due to several bush fires and thick haze, and as we climbed upwards, larger and more grotesque boulders loomed out of the haze. Their extent seemed endless -- when we reached the second highest point, we were surrounded by granite boulders fading into the mist. According to the map the deep gorge of Nelson Creek should have been to the East, but there was only a hazy void. As we made our way back to camp under the over-

hang of a boulder, the thick evening mist came down, further reducing visibility and muffling and distorting our voices. It was a strange night -- the mist seemed to soak up the warmth of the fire as it swirled in under the rock, and all about were the indistinct mist-modified outlines of boulders that leaned closer to hear every word spoken. The next day we followed the listed forestry tracks back in the general direction of the car, to emerge on the road in clearing weather -- the vision of mist shrouded giants still haunting our minds.

Christmas 1968 saw us back in the area again, determined to explore "The Boulders" thoroughly. We approached from the opposite direction by continuing along the eastern slopes of Nelson Creek -- climbing on one heap of boulders and setting course to the next and so on, till we stumbled upon the Balancing Boulder, which afforded a fine view across to The Boulders on the other side and down to the Rocky River. We dropped down into Nelson Creek and finally arrived at The Boulders right on sunset. We found the only way onto the highest point was the aesthetically pleasing route through fissures to the centre and thence to the summit. The view at sunset was magnificent. To the east lay the deep shadow of Nelson Creek and beyond it the forested ranges of Billilimbera and Ewingar State Forests. Sunwards in the south west were the blue peaks of Capoompeta and Jondol, and between the peaks and us was a sea of yellow-green sun-reflecting eucalyptus tops. To our surprise, Mount Barney and Lindsay were clearly visible to the north. In their vicinity was a single large thunderhead which flickered and grumbled to itself through the night. On the following day we walked north as far as the survey cairn on Mt. Bloxsome before returning to Surface Hill.

The next bushwalk in the area was on the May long weekend 1970. Eight U.Q.B.W.C's:- Chris Swarbrick, Doug Crossman, Mal Robb, Andrew Speirs, Geoff Morsby, Libbie Howe, Marion Speirs and I walked from Dinner Creek to the Boulders, down to Nelson Creek and thence up the creek to Surface Hill. Packs were taken into the foot of The Boulders in Minis Deluxe and Moke. Then followed general navigational embarassment as the Robb Moke got lost on the way out and had to resort to the trial and error method of maze solution, while Andrew Speirs, leading the remainder of the party on foot, got lost on the way in and was forced to resort to Euclidian methods to reach his objective. The first night was spent at The Boulders, where acquaintance was made with a fearless spotted native cat. The next night saw the party crammed on a small sandbank, several inches above the waterlevel of the Nelson Creek, whence a pleasant morning's rockhopping brought us up to Surface Hill.

There still remain many square miles of Timbarra yet to be explored and bushwalked, for example the areas to the south west of Surface Hill and the western edge of the tableland. It is fortunate that, although the majority

of the area is private property, the owners are conservation-minded, in particular Mr. and Mrs. Martin who have had their property gazetted as a flora and fauna reserve, (and whose permission should always be sought when walking in the area).

Provided the timber industry can be excluded from the area in future, it is hoped an era of conservation and appreciation of the natural beauty of Timbarra Tableland will follow the age of despoilation and squandering of natural resources, that typified the mining days.

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EAST OF SPRINGBROOK

By Harley Smith

The suggestion was made that I write this article as a permanent record f suitable bushwalking routes emanating from the Upper Tallebudgera region. his is some ten to fourteen miles by road from Burleigh Heads on the Gold oast, and lies east of Lamington National Park and Springbrook.

The region must have had an elusive quality. It is little known among ushwalking clubs, yet they persisted with exploratory forays from year to ear. Prior to mid 1970, these were often marred by an unintentional surfeit f attempted diagonal traverses of lantana areas. On the other hand, day ippers from the Gold Coast usually confine their activities to bogging their ars in the creek crossings or to stealing palm trees along the roadside if they ave the opportunity. Most of the region is a flora and fauna sanctuary, in- luding some national parks. Even local farmers are unaware of quite a few of he features and routes described in this article. Hence the need for a relat- vely detailed account.

There is scope for at least three distinct and contrasting weekend trips. he relevant map is the Burleigh Military map scale 1:50,000 and shows the ccess road to the region from the Gold Coast via West Burleigh.

The sections of this article are not necessarily arranged in order of reatest interest. Rather, the suggested routes tend, where possible, toward climax. The many viewpoints and the details and variety of the scenery make inoculars an asset.

MT. TALLEBUDGERA:

This is only recommended from May to August. Access is up any ridge eading from the Tallebudgera Dam toward the prominant crag. Taking full vaterbottles, this climb is preferably made at night so as to camp on the soft rass on the plateau below the crag. This is well above the frost level and ne awakens to the sound of kookaburras in the trees overhead.

In the morning, east across the plateau, then west up the ridge avoids rickly vines. A view over Petsches Creek and out to the ocean at the mouth f Tallebudgera Creek is soon obtained. On reaching the top of the prominant rag, the viewpoint is at the north eastern tip. One looks out over the Talle- udgera Dam with pine trees near its eastern shore, and across to Springbrook, Mt. Tamborine, and Mt. Bally. The ocean view includes Stradbroke Island nd the northern half of the Gold Coast.

Continuing south over a peak and along the ridge, it is pleasant walk-

ing over soft grass through open timber and numerous macrozamias. The first abrupt rocky outcrop has a view from a few yards below the top on its south-eastern side. The next rocky outcrop is much larger; the base of the cliffs on the right hand side is followed, heading up where they terminate.

It is convenient to leave packs in the bushes just as a track is reached. To reach the southern end of the mountain from here and return takes at least two-and-a-half hours; the return is necessary as sheer cliffs surround the mountain from here on. Views over the southern Gold Coast are available from the clearing on the next plateau. A machete, used minimally, is handy for traversing a small patch of second growth rainforest which extends from the eastern cliffs to the western cliffs; long trousers or slacks and a long sleeved shirt avoid scratches.

The peak of Tallebudgera Mountain (2075ft.) is flat and abounds in grass trees and other non-prickly vegetation, the machete no longer being required. There are several view points along the top of the cliffs on the Currumbin side. By far the best view is at the extreme southern tip of the mountain, where Springbrook, Mt. Cougal, Mt. Warning, the lower Tweed Valley, Murwillumbah, and the coast from Fingal Lighthouse to Byron Bay lighthouse are visible. Returning along the top of the cliffs on the Tallebudgera side, there is a good view over Cougal Creek and Upper Tallebudgera Creek.

From the packs, the track leads down to a lower plateau. From here is a road straight down to Cougal Creek. Alternatively, a tortuous but interesting track leads due south from the plateau and ultimately to Cougal Creek.

Mt. Tallebudgera takes a fit party most of a day. After this effort an excuse to boil the billy is easily found at the twin rock pools at map reference (334793). A summer camp site is found a short distance upstream from here. It frosts in winter and if the Cougals trip is planned for the same weekend, it is advisable to proceed to the camp site mentioned in the next section by the end of the first day.

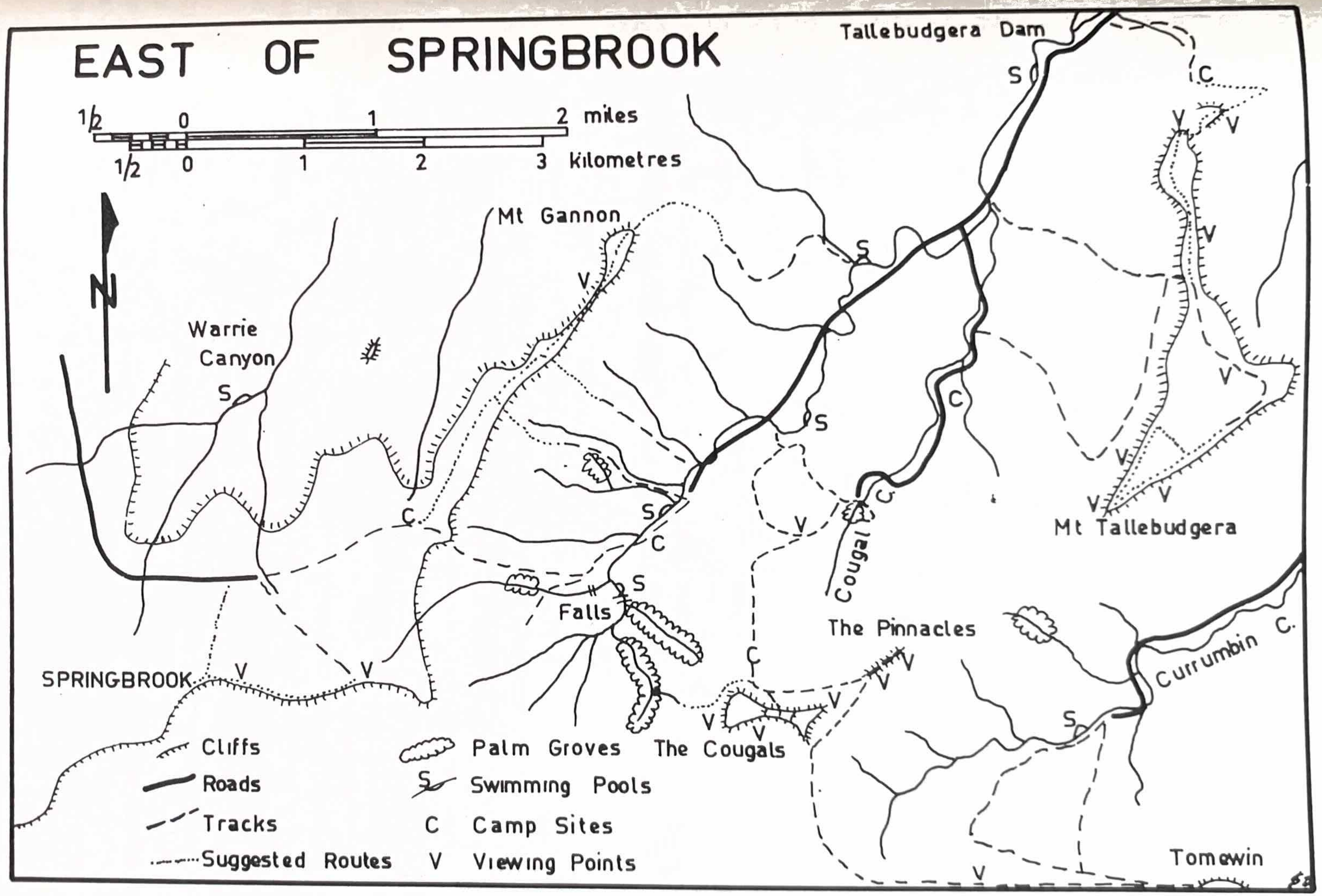
A small but easily accessible palm grove is situated in Cougal Creek near (329783). Walk along the creek bank on the northern side, then rockhop, walk along the southern creek bank, and then do the small circuit in the road.

THE COUGALS AND THE PINNACLES:

Inexperienced bushwalkers need to be safety conscious in much of this section.

Waterbottles are filled before leaving Tallebudgera Creek or Cougal Creek. It is pleasant, open walking along firebreaks through timber until the plateau below the Cougals is reached. A view is obtained by climbing the footholds onto the top of either of two large stumps at (324780).

EAST OF SPRINGBROOK



A suitable camp site is at approximately (319769). It is on a layer of oak needles under large trees just before an old logging site; it is above the frost level in winter, has abundant campfire wood, avoids a steep climb immediately after breakfast, but has no handy water.

A few hundred yards past here it is advisable to leave the packs on entering the rainforest. Taking a torch, binoculars, small waterbottles and sustaining foods, prepare to be away from the packs for at least six-and-a half hours. Head east across the plateau through pure rainforest. Long trousers or slacks and long sleeved shirts are advisable. A machete may be used sparingly if confined to wait-a-while vines.

The Pinnacles (1825ft.), referred to on some maps by the uneuphonious name of Boyd's Butte, are interesting and well worth a visit. Rising from the rainforest plateau in the shape of three teeth, they are open on top with their upper sections covered in red spear lillies; these are in flower at the last weekend of June and the first weeks of July. The south-west pinnacle is climbed directly up the razorback; the centre pinnacle is approached from its southern side; and the eastern pinnacle is too steep and crumbly even for rockclimbers. Numerous epiphytes grow near the base of the Pinnacles. 360 degree views are available: across to the Cougals, Springbrook, Mt. Gannon, and Mt. Warning; over Tallebudgera Creek, Cougal Creek, Currumbin Creek and the lower Tweed River and the coast from Coolangatta airport to Byron Bay.

From here head south-west across the rainforest plateau to reach the Tomewin border fence just south-east of Mt. Cougal. Follow the fence uphill until it terminates. Above here is a cave leading into Cougal's East Peak; unfortunately, it becomes slightly too narrow just as daylight appears at the other end. A few yards south of the cave entrance is a view over the Tweed Valley.

The top of the East Peak is tree covered; however just before the top, a ridge leads down toward the north-east a short distance; one emerges at the top of a rocky outcrop with a view to the north and east.

From the top of the East Peak, the razorback saddle is followed towards the West Peak. If one feels too exposed two-thirds of the way along, retrace one's steps a short distance and contour around the northern side of the razorback. The base of this exposed outcrop is the turn off point for the "Lily Path" referred to later.

The West Peak (2347 ft.) is dangerous for inexperienced bushwalkers. Follow the razorback saddle; slightly to the right of the verticle rock, zig zag up a short exposed rock slope. A rope is of benefit to anyone who lacks confidence in his footing. Please don't uproot the little balancing tree here. This is the only route onto the West Peak which has almost never been climbed before. After this one small difficult part, progress is easy.

Soon one crosses a threshold of oak needles inches deep into a minia-
e "Lost World", the flat summit of Cougal's West Peak - cool and tree-
aded after the hot climb, not rainforest but as yet never touched by a bush-
e. One sinks deep into the spongy growth of tall rushes which cover the
t top. At the south-western tip of the peak, an excellent view is obtainable
m the other side of a large isolated spear lily: to the west are visible the
ee bluffs of Springbrook, and past these, in a great arc, are all the border
aks of Lamington National Park, the top of Wiangaree and the whole Tweed
nge; while far below, along the streams and glistening in the sunlight, are
fronds of the main palm groves referred to later in this article. A short
tance north of here and a few feet lower, another slightly different view is
ained. At the south-eastern tip of the West Peak, a natural stone parapet
tects one from the five hundred feet southern precipice; it is like a balcony
h on an ancient stone castle; here is a gap through the trees the size and
pe of an arched window, and framed through the "window" is the view of
. Warning. From this point, before descending, head east even further,
l at the highest level: out past an oak branch and easily missed unless you
familiar with it is Mt. Cougal's finest view, the climax of all the many
ws before on this trip. While sitting and looking, the only sounds to be
rd are the distant calls of pied currawongs and whipbirds coming from the
nforest far below.

The "Lily Path" is the only feasible route on Cougal's north, south or
st faces. Via this route it is only about fifty minutes down to the packs.
blaze marks are possible through the masses of spear lillies. It is advis-
e to have in the party someone who has been there before. Alternatively
rs may be spent lurking amid the huge lillies looking for a way. The clues
go west along the base of the cliffs much further than you would expect,
dually losing altitude then a short climb, zig zag down a short distance west
in, then a final zig zag east brings one onto the rainforest clad scree slopes,
ence down to the plateau.

Energy or time (over three hours) still permitting, it is possible to des-
d via the palm groves and waterfalls. Head south-west below the West
k, preferably into the second watershed. Otherwise, a quick descent is
the firebreaks to Tallebudgera Creek.

The Cougals can also be approached from Currumbin Creek, heading up
ridge from the end of the road at (348765) to the Border fence. A longer but
e interesting route is to follow the track along the creekbank, heading up a
e at the ruins of a sawmill. Alternatively, the drive along the Tomewin
ge is rather picturesque. Once in New South Wales, take the signposted
off to "Garden of Eden" farm. This farm is some three miles along the road
on the Queensland side of the locked border gate. The border fence is
owed toward the Cougals. This is easy, open walking and brings one to

Cougal's East Peak after several miles of walking. The first part of the track is clear on both sides and the views are reminiscent of the closing scene in the film "Sound of Music". The remainder of this track is through pure rain forest.

THE WATERFALLS, SWIMMING POOLS and PALM GROVES:

January to April is probably the best season to visit these. Palm groves refer to pure stands of piccabeen palms. Only the better palm groves are referred to in this article; there are a number of smaller ones.

The rough road along Tallebudgera Creek is followed to just past (311780). A good camp site is on the flat beside the creek near some rose gums and palms, except when logging has recently been carried on.

Where the road next crosses the creek, rock-hop upstream. When the creek forks about half an hour later, go right to a large waterfall six to ten minutes upstream. Back to the fork and then rock-hop along the left branch of the creek. Ten minutes later, one reaches the Gorge Falls. The military map is wrong: the falls are at (308774). Here, swimming is a must in the deep pool. To reach the largest palm groves from here, wear long trousers or slacks plus a long sleeved shirt to avoid scratches in the area below the palm groves which are themselves very open once inside. A hundred yards below the Gorge Falls, head straight up the eastern bank, then contour right above the gorge. The view from the top of the falls is rather spectacular as two more waterfalls are now revealed which meet in a chasm to form the falls visible from the swimming pool.

There is a good palm grove further up the stream flowing from the east. However, follow up the stream flowing from the south-west, taking the left branch when it forks. Lantana is avoided by wading through the creek. This really beautiful pure palm grove is about half a mile long, starting at (307771) and extending along the watercourse almost to the state border at (309764).

Another worthwhile palm grove is at (302775). Follow the timber road then rock-hop up the creek for the last hundred yards wearing swimming togs. Elephant grass at the other end of the palm grove marks the end of interesting walking.

There is a good quality palm grove upstream from (306785). There is at least one scrub turkey mound here. Huge eucalypt logs lie down the western slope dating from pioneer timber cutters. Within the palm grove, their trunks are completely covered with moss above the limits of the palm grove, they are quite dry. On reaching lantana at the top end of this grove, head up the slope to the east onto a track.

At Upper Currumbin, a palm grove occurs on the southerly aspect

around (342774). This has not yet been explored but it appears to be of substantial size. It is probably inaccessible from Currumbin Creek, the best approach being over the ridge from Cougal Creek.

An excellent large swimming pool is located at (344817), a third of a mile upstream from the lake formed by the Tallebudgera Dam. Other swimming pools are at (328803), (324789), (313782), and in Currumbin Creek at (346764).

Cougal Creek, Upper Currumbin Creek and especially Upper Tallebudgera Creek abound in Quandong trees; when these flower in March or April, lorikeets are present in thousands.

THE EASTERN SIDE OF SPRINGBROOK

To reach Springbrook from Upper Tallebudgera, a track leaves the timber road inconspicuously at (305775). This has a reasonable slope for walking and is characterized by a variety of vegetation types.

Incidentally, the eastern cliffs of Springbrook are rather spectacular for a few days after every heavy rainfall as six very high waterfalls are then visible even from several miles down Tallebudgera Creek.

The track referred to emerges at the Mountain Pool Cafe. From here a mile walk brings one to the trig. point at Bilbrough's Lookout (3125ft). This is up above and better than the private lookout to which the tourist cars go. From here one can see Blue Knob (in the Nightcap Range), Mt. Warning, Mt. Cougal, Mt. Tallebudgera and the uninterrupted coast from south of Byron Bay to Moreton Island; whereas the view from Mt. Barney's East Peak is particularly good for 360 degrees, this view has more detail and variety.

Head west from here. The initial wall of raspberry vines only lasts a few yards. After that it is relatively easy walking through trees draped with moss and vines. The trig. point at Reid's Lookout is overgrown and little view is obtainable at present. However, from the top of the grassy slope on the north-west side of the hill at (275767), the view includes much of Brisbane, the two chimneys of the Darra Cement Works, Mt. Cootha and its T.V. towers, the D'Aguilar Ranges north of Brisbane and the southern portion of Bribie Island as well as Moreton Island.

There is a nine mile circuit graded track in Warrie Canyon with a good swimming pool near its furthest extremity; tourists very rarely get further than ten minutes walk from the cafe.

A bushwalking route to descend from Springbrook to Tallebudgera is along the range to Mt. Gannon (2125ft) fromtthe "Mountain Pool". Rocky outcrops jutting out of the bush at several places along this route afford good views.

There are so many scrub turkeys on the plateaux east of Springbrook and Mt. Gannon and south of Springbrook and the Cougals that there should be some large turkey mounds there. Fortunately these are within national parks.

CONCLUSION

Should any clubs or private groups plan trips to any features listed in this article, they may wish to contact, or invite on the trip, the author by writing to "Beechwoods", West Burleigh, 4219, or telephoning Ingleside 43. He claims to know where to avoid lantana, shortcuts, and how to contact relevant landowners for permission to cross their properties in visiting such features as are outside the limits of the national parks.

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HINCHINBROOK ISLAND

By Jan and Jane

One of the major May vacation trips of 1971 was to Hinchinbrook Island, east of Ingham. Six days were spent on the beach walking from Georges Point to Ramsey Bay and then four days in the mountains. This is a report on the "mountainous" part of the trip.

Coming round Hillock Point after another of our late lunches, we were greeted by a tremendous sight of mountains rising out of the clouds. This was our first view of the Bowen "massif", seeing it then as a single block silhouetted in clouds and shadow against the setting sun, but then the clouds lifted accompanied by many "ooh"s and "ah"s and "Hell, we don't have to go up THERE?!". Thus revealed, we saw the mass we had to conquer as separate projections - Bowen Peak, the Thumb, the Fingers and many other ridges and minor peaks. The next day, as we walked along Zoe Bay, there was no cloud and the mountains looked really great, but it wasn't 'till the day after that, that we finally reached the "hut" at Ramsey Bay.

Early next morning, the sight of pink-and-yellow-tinged clouds enhanced our desire for the climb that lay ahead. The weather had been perfect for the last few days and remained so for the rest of the trip. Behind us, the cliffs rose 800 feet to Bowen and the Thumb, bathed in the sunlight.

Leaving three members to the delights of fishing, coconuting and sunbaking on the beach, the remaining five (Robert Rankin, Peter Hanley, John Webb, Jan Ohlsson, Jane Bourne) made an "early" start at 8 a.m. and took off for the ascent.

Our first obstacle was met 10 yards out of camp - crossing the creek mouth. For 4/5 of the party, it was thigh deep, while the remaining 1/5, under the weight of a large pack, was seen to submerge to the creek bed, passing out a few air bubbles as she went. Eventually the other side was reached. As boots were being put on, one "slack" member of the beach party stumbled out of bag to wish us speedy return as by this time, the trip had been cut back to 4 days.

Rather than follow the coastround, we headed straight up over saddles and ridges to the saddle (gr.ref. 321983) west of Nina Peak. From here, Nina Bay looked prettier than Ramsey - with coconuts too. Although hot, the ridge was pleasant walking with not many vegetation problems. We reached Pineapple Peak (305971) late that afternoon. All the way up, and especially on top of Pineapple, good views were had of mangrove swamps and estuaries to the north; the channel and the mainland; and to the south, Bowen, the

Thumb, North Peak with the Prophet standing out alone, and beneath them, the blocky "Peak below North" and the Fingers formation.

From here we dropped into a saddle and camped a little distance up the next ridge. Water was about ¼ hour away in a valley on the eastern side. The ridge, here, was very narrow, almost razorback and covered in banksia and she-oak. A comfortable campsite just large enough for 5 people, and sheltered from the wind was made on a bed of pine needles. About 10 feet below our camp a track was found, along with sufficient space for another dozen people.

Next morning, we back-tracked about 20 yards to a rocky outcrop where, with a whistling wind and Iced-Vo-Vos, we watched the sunrise. From this high vantage point, many worthwhile and time-consuming "loos with views" were discovered.

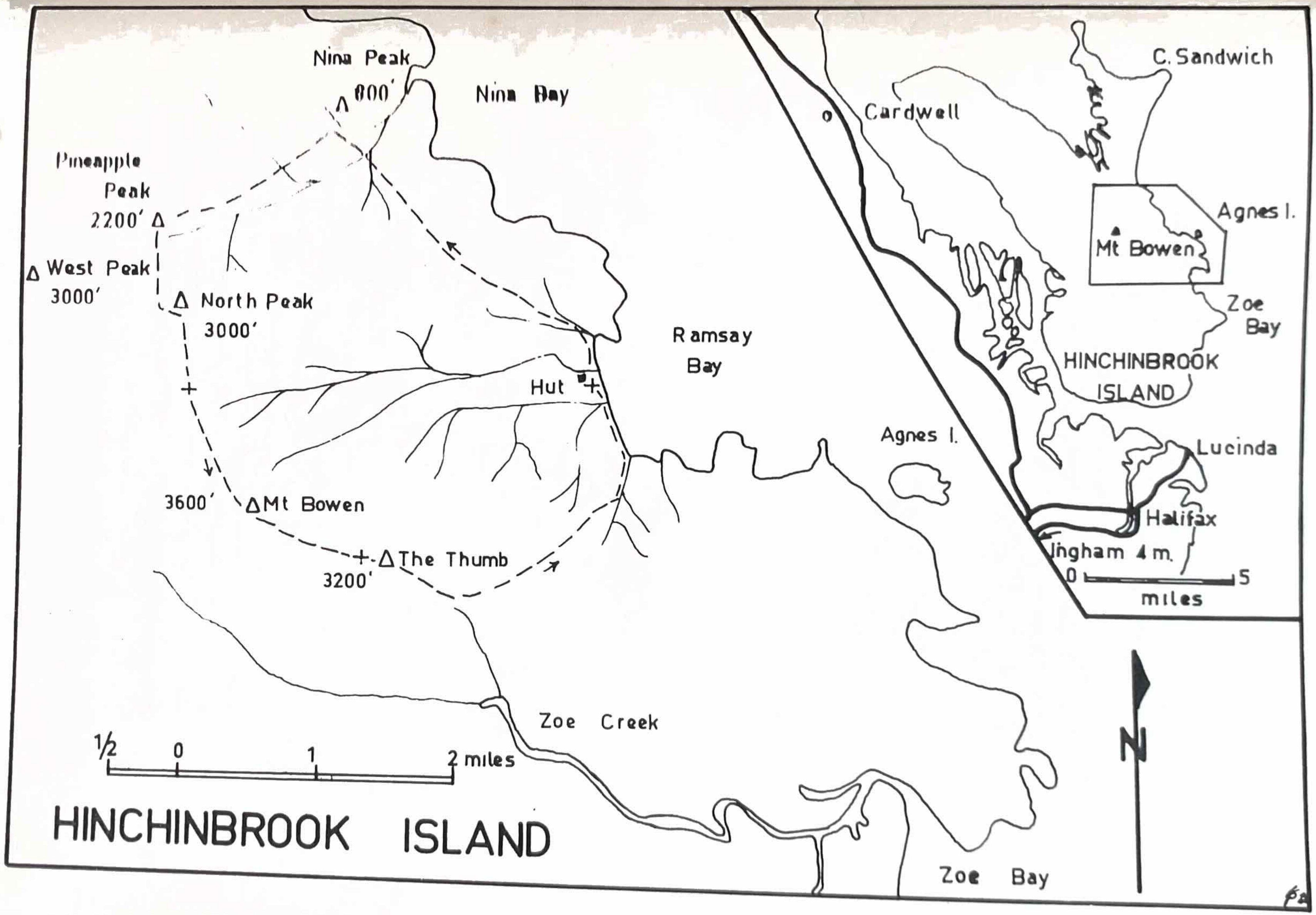
Shouldering our packs and with cries of "lunch on Bowen", we charged up the ridge, but instead of going to the saddle below North Peak (305963), we decided to go up over a rocky outcrop west of this saddle. After unsuccessfully trying to climb it directly, we went round the rock base on the western side. Here a rope was used to haul packs. From here we went across to the saddle between North and the ridge up to Bowen, nearly losing one member on the way who seemed to have an affinity for bottomless pits.

A quick dash from here was made to the base of the Prophet and regrettably time was short so we couldn't ascend North Peak itself.

Then straight up the ridge (traversing on the western side most of the time through rain forest and later Banksia and blackboys) to camp at the top (304956). Many portable hand holds were found and snacks of scunge were had, on the way. We had to drop for water to a saddle to the south-east at least ½ hour away. The scunge on the way was something to be felt with bracken about 20 feet high and banksia thrown in as well.

We woke up next morning to find ourselves enshrouded in mist with a hazy sunrise. The main peak of Bowen was a couple of humps away and so we set forth hoping for good views but the only one was of the Channel and the Tully Range behind. The scunge on the top here was possibly the worst of the trip - a solid wall of bracken that reached over our heads; blackboys that poked painfully into eyes, ears, noses and mouths, and banksia that reduced our pace (in some places) to that of crawling.

We finally reached Bowen, the highest peak on the island, and signed the book. Here, there were vague, claggy views of Diamantina, Zoe Bay and the Thumb. Lunch was had further down the ridge on an outcrop of rock. From here it was a quick trip down to a large slab of rock, directly opposite the Thumb and about 100 feet above the Thumb saddle. Clag spoiled views


Nina Peak
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Pineapple
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North Peak
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The Thumb
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of distant mountains, but the Thumb looked good with the spiral-shaped route to the top.

A steep descent to the left finally brought us into the rain-forested saddle. Here we dropped packs, and placing water-bottles under a cliff 20 yards away in order to collect the drips of water for tea, we stropped up the Thumb. We found a well-defined track and followed it up. This went quite far to the right providing exposed drops to the white blanket below, and then on to the top (only ½ hour in all). For an hour we waited for a view but saw nothing but swirling clag below, above and around us. With a few last cries of "Wahma, Wahma" and feelings of disgust, we ran back down to where the packs were left and camped there.

We left early (7 a.m.) the next morning with no breakfast and cloud still everywhere. A quick traverse "diagonally" up the side of the next ridge brought us to the abseil point from which we obtained fleeting views of Ramsey and Zoe Bays. The first abseil was 40 feet down a gully then about 20 feet later a 60 feet one down an open slab in the mist. Further down the ridge a big open rock was found where we had brunch. Here, we were beneath the clag and marvellous views were had of the Bays, Agnes Island, the Fingers Ridge and North Peak, and the East Face of the Thumb.

The males seemed to be attracted to light packs and, also lacking our housewifely virtues, didn't plan well enough for lunches, so they ended up eating cold, dry pog for their brunch.

Instead of going right to the end of this ridge and then dropping towards the beach, we dropped to the left of a ridge too soon. Consequently, the going was quite steep. One of us decided the pace was too slow and thought by 'riding' a boulder over the edge of the cliff, she would get to the beach much sooner. However, this was not a very practical move as she found out. Further on, a 60 feet abseil down to the last rocky face was required to bring us out onto reasonably level ground. The scunge was still quite thick, prickly and scratchy. After about ½ mile the country became more open. However, instead of heading straight for the creek, we bashed along the edges through vegetation consisting of tall, slim gum saplings, very close together. About 5 p.m., we came into the creek. Then darkness descended, and after rock-hopping for an hour came within hearing of the surf. After 4 days of hot sweaty walking and thinking of the fish and coconuts waiting for us on the beach, we were nearly there. However, this was not so, as by some trick in which the surf did not seem to be getting any closer, due to the fact that we appeared to be walking around in circles in the mangroves, we were another 30 minutes before reaching the beach.

Here we were greeted with the sight of a roaring fire and barramundi steaks, 2 inches thick, just waiting to be eaten. Also had a fizzy (we had

been without it for 4 days) and some dried pears, plus a beaut dessert, all cooked by the beach party.

Tinned apricots and cream, fish, pog and egg powder constituted breakfast and then the sight of our boat coming into the bay made us pack feverishly.

One of the highlights of the trip was this boat-ride to the mainland. Our last views of Bowen and the Thumb were that of the top covered in clag, as per usual. However, the views of the rock on Diamantina and the waterfalls on Stralock were good.

Passing each little bay brought back memories of the beaut days spent on our coast traverse.

General Information:

1. Transport from Ingham to Dungeness (boat harbour) was provided by Mr. C. Pelleri, general carrier.
2. Mr. B. Whalley, Townsville Road, Ingham, provided the boat for the trip to the island. In making arrangements, contact him about boat and carrier.
3. Map: Cardwell 1" military series.

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"Quotable Quotes from Hinchinbrook"

Jan: "We'll still get to Bowen, Jane" - heard at least forty-nine times before Ramsey.

Jane: "Wart!" - lost count.

J.S.: "?!!?C".*

John W.: "Bloody Fizzy!"

Rob: "We're running out of fizzy."

Irene: "Anyone for a cup of tea?"

J.C.: "Like some curry powder in your....."

Peter H.: Song "When Serge and I Were Young".

LEVIATHAN – NORTH FACE OF MT. BEERWAH

By Sid Tanner and Andrew Speirs

Sid started climbing the already-bolted first pitch a little after dawn, and reached the bivi ledge about ten in the morning. The ledge was less than ideal, being six feet long, two feet wide, and sloping about 5° with an overhanging roof that just allowed sitting up. I prussucked up, executing wild pendulums every time I removed one of his runners on this traversing, gently overhanging pitch, and together we had an early lunch on the bivi ledge.

I placed a large angle piton in the crack that had formed over the years at the back of the ledge Sid was to sleep on, and clipped in my etriers. The act of swinging out onto my etriers from the security of the ledge to brave the erratic swinging of thin nylon tape, had quite an effect on me, and it wasn't until a few moves later that I began to enjoy myself. The overhangs were now being attacked in earnest. We weren't going to be repelled as on our first attempt. Every move was confident, and I found that faith in myself made the climb seem less overwhelmingly big. I passed the highest point of our first attempt, and sat out a terrific electrical storm with thirty alloy karabiners next to my head to act as a lightning conductor, while my hammock slowly filled with water. Although my position during the storm was precarious, to say the least, that night was one of the most beautiful that I have ever experienced. The sky was lit up with sheet lightning, and torn apart by violent thunder while a bushfire, almost one thousand feet below me, softly illuminated the huge amphitheatre of the overhangs with a warm orange light.

I continued on past the uppermost limit of my previous attempt, and moved onto the second overhang which was separated from the first by four feet of doubtful looking rock. The rock of this overhang deteriorated rapidly, but after placing two studs I managed to use a bathook. After this bathook move, I placed another stud which promptly fell out and dropped me into the air. I climbed back onto the face with Sid muttering something about the principals of climbing. A portly tourist gentleman with a battery of cameras shouted up a few comments about my slow progress. I stopped the stranger's criticism with a rude sign and then climbed down a move or so and hung my hammock from the same bolts as I did during my first attempt. That night was cold and very windy, and sleep was hard to come by. I had dined on a pound and a half of salami and a litre of Coke. The Coke, although in the ideal

position for advertising purposes, caused much discomfort later on in the night when I found that I had to go for a "walk-type" walk. The performance of one's bodily functions from a hammock swinging freely from the rock in a gusty wind, proved to be a feat which required much skill. Dawn was slow in coming and I was reluctant to start climbing.

The second overhang was completed rather early on the second day, and I began to "bathook!" my way up a gently overhanging slab of rather weathered rock. The weathering of the Rhyolite had caused the silica to move to the outside, to form a silica-rich crust about $\frac{1}{4}$" thick, leaving the rock below the surface quite soft and powder-like. This slab provided quite a problem, because it was not strong enough to hold runners, and involved a runout of thirty feet. My third bathook hole crumbled and the bathook failed, but I caught myself by seizing hold of my etriers on the bathook below me as I fell past them. Unfortunately this bathook also began to come out, but a quick tap with my hammer solved this problem. The wind was blowing quite strongly, and a few minutes passed before I could place my feet in the flapping etriers. I worked my way off the slab and at last placed a runner in sound rock. Darkness was fast approaching, so I hung my hammock from bolts and gratefully lowered myself into bed. The overhangs were now conquered, and Sid would be able to climb up the wall above me, allowing us (hopefully) to be off the face at the end of the third day.

I awoke in the middle of the night to hear a rather alarming rubbing sound which I couldn't trace for a while, but finally found that the tapes at the foot of my hammock were about to be sawn through by a sharp projection of rock. "Sid, old chap," I shouted, trying to sound casual, "my hammock is about to fall to bits. For Chrissakebelayme!" Sid belayed me as I very carefully stood up in my hammock. By leaning forward I could just reach the foot tape that was causing so much concern, and I very carefully wrapped my belay glove around the offending tape. The buffeting wind and the dark, dark air all around me made me secretly want to believe in a life after death. Although a hammock is rather frail protection, I was glad to return to it.

The next morning, Sid prussucked up from the bivi ledge, his home for the past two nights and days, and attacked the third pitch with an amazing amount of energy for someone who had lazed in the sun for two days. When he was prussucking up, he would pendulum out about thirty to forty feet on letting go of a runner. I didn't envy him having to second the overhangs, as flying through the air over a thousand feet above the ground, free from the face, doesn't appeal to me. Sid pegged and bolted and cursed his way up a crack which deteriorated in quality as rapidly as did his language. He experienced frequent peg failure, and one such failure dropped him into the sky.

For me, little happened on the third day. I sat in my belay seat six