

Goomburra Section of Main Range National Park

MARCH 17th 8am Weroona Park Stanthorpe

I was scheduled by the Club to do an outing in The Main Range National Park. As I was not present at the meeting when the 2019 walks were organised my contribution came as a complete surprise. I had no idea where Goomburra was...though I had passed the turnoff many many times on my way to Brisbane.

I researched the area and set off to explore. [Please see the map provided]. I set off on 18th January at 7.30am. The reason for the early start was because the Stanthorpe/Warwick area had been experiencing very hot and dry conditions for some time and an early start made sense in temps of 30degrees C plus forecast for that day.

To get to the Goomburra Main Range National Park takes approx 1 & a half hours from Stanthorpe. I chose the road past Warwick towards Maryvale then took a left turn onto Goomburra Rd. This Rd then joined the Inveramsay Rd. This then led to the Forestry Reserve. A straight forward drive with no surprises except for the length of time it took to get there.

As you can observe from the map there are various parking sites. I chose the Kurrajong picnic area. There were a number of campers present as at the time I visited was during the school holidays. Various walks can be selected once parked and I chose the Cascades Circuit.....just because it sounded like "Indiana Jones Territory"! Besides it was hot and I wondered if there was any water in the Dalrymple Creek.

The walk was enchanting. A class 4 walk with a well defined walking track which suited me fine as left to my own devices I can get lost in my own back yard! There was plenty of upper story shade to keep me cool and indeed water in the Dalrymple creek. I counted 16 crossings of the creek all easily traversed. "The Cascades" did not live up to the name but cooling teardrops of water were making their way into rock-pools at the bottom of the falls. I made that my pleasant lunch spot. Despite the heat I was as comfortable and wished I could transport the scenery to my backyard.....such a dreamer!

I spotted few birds along the walk but did see a White Headed Dove and eyeballed 4 whip snakes along the Creek edges. I assumed they were whip snakes but my "Green Guide to Snakes and other Reptiles" by Gerry Swan is very limited with information. Anyway I didn't bother the snakes and more importantly.....they didn't bother me!

I made the trip in January which means the above information is a tad out of date. However it was fortuitous that I went at that time [despite the heat] because 2 weeks ago I "busted" my knee quite severely and am at present unable to drive let alone walk up stairs as yet.

I have been persuaded by the club to still lead the walk as I could probably manage the "Dalrymple Circuit"[geared for School children]... whilst others do the "Cascades" section. I am quite happy to wait at the Kurrajong picnic area as the "Cascades " section takes approx 3 hrs to complete. I will take plenty of reading material to wile away the time on my own....plus do my exercises!!!! If you decide to go on the walkyou will not be disappointed only delighted with the scenery.

Lesley Saunders