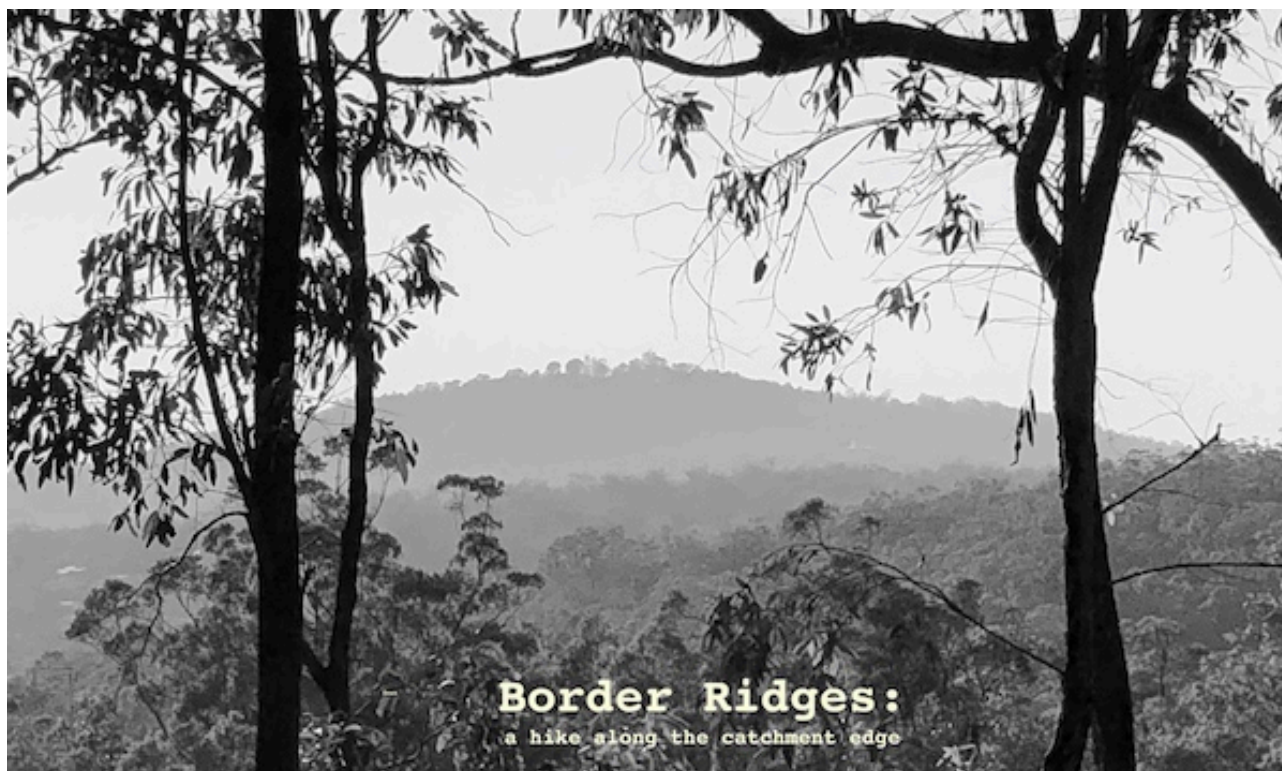




This is a 8 km hike, in four stages, across the western and southern boundaries of the Norman Creek Catchment, taking in the headwaters of Sandy and Ekibin Creeks. It is mainly in the forest and usually on well-formed tracks. And, even though it's a city walk (with great cafes at either end), you could be walking in the wilderness! You don't have to do all the stages, but can join or leave the group at three waypoints (see the starting times for each stage below). And there are toilets, water and resting spots at regular intervals.

There are some steep sections, especially the final climbs towards the summits of Mt. Gravatt and Toohey Mountain, but steps are provided in both cases. A reasonable level of fitness is required to do the whole hike. The easiest (and arguably the most interesting) section is along the Toohey Ridge track (Stage 3) which is mainly flat with good connectivity and conveniences at either end. No special equipment is needed, except for reasonable footwear (joggers are fine). It might be sunny and hot, so a hat, water and sunscreen should be taken.

This hike is an activity of the Norman Creek Catchment Committee (N4C) and is designed to promote awareness of our natural environment. The leader, Michael Ryan is a member of Ekibin Creek Bushcare and can be contacted through the N4C office.

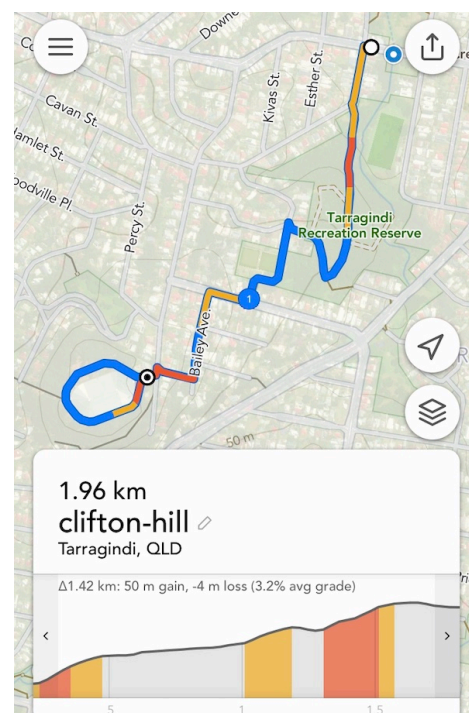
Stage 1: Clifton Hill (Tarragindi Recreation Reserve to Clifton Hill)

Time 7:30 to 8:00 am (Sunday 6 October, 2019)

Distance: 2km

Elevation: 50m

Highlights: We start next to a giant ironbark beside Bruno's Cafe. Our walk goes up Laura Street then through a well managed bushcare site with a much-used scrub turkey nest. Next, we pass the ruins of the Tarragindi Bowls Club. Near the top of the hill we pass through some quiet Tarragindi residences that afford a fleeting glimpse of our destination, Mt. Gravatt, far to the east. We finish at the historic reservoir on Clifton Hill to appreciate its Tallowood forest, city and mountain views.



Stage 2: Toohey Mountain

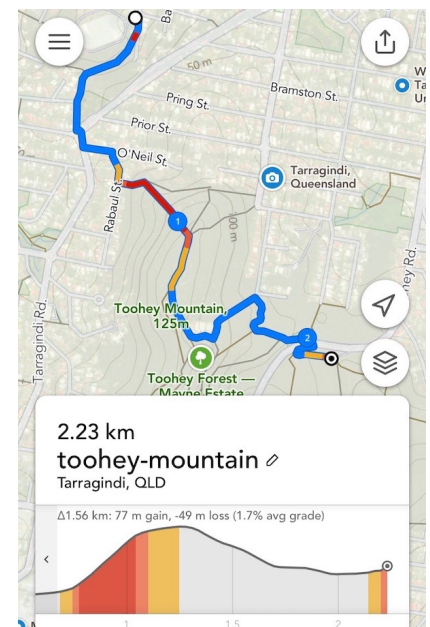
(Clifton Hill to Toohey Forest Picnic Area)

Time: 8:15 to 9:15 am

Distance: 2.25 km

Elevation: 77m

Highlights: Our next stage takes down the hill along the watershed between Norman and Oxley Creek catchments. The climb to Toohey Mountain is steep (but with a longer, gentler option). At the top there are spectacular mountain views, a mature eucalyptus woodland and the source of Sandy Creek. After we cross the road, the Toohey Forest Picnic Area has seats, shade, a toilet and lots of paths.



Stage 3: Toohey Ridge Track

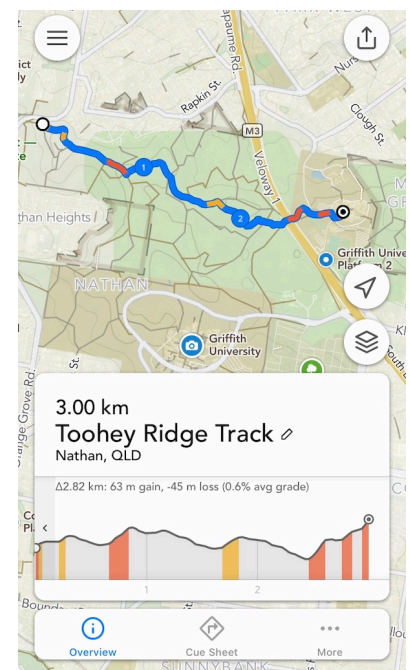
(Toohey Forest Picnic Area to Mt. Gravatt Campus of Griffith University)

Time: 9:30 to 10:30 am

Distance: 3 km

Elevation: 63m

Highlights: After a rest at the picnic area and a look at the native bee hive, we'll take the well-formed tracks to the east. Around the first spur lies the start of the catchment for Ekibin Creek. And at the top of the ridge we arrive at a "tri-shed" where Bulimba, Norman and Oxley Creek basins briefly co-exist. A little further along we'll pass some ancient grass trees and veteran old-growth eucalypts which are probably the oldest plants in the catchment (growing long before European settlement). We'll just slip briefly over into the Bulimba Creek catchment to see some vine forest along Mimosa Creek before heading up to the university campus through a pedestrian tunnel under the freeway. The campus has water, toilets, shade, and even a bus stop.



Stage 4: Mt. Gravatt

(Mt. Gravatt Campus of Griffith University to Mt. Gravatt summit)

Time: 10:45 to 11:30 am

Distance: 1 km

Elevation: 78m

Highlights: As we climb the steepest section of the walk, we'll pass by a gully that is the source of Ekibin Creek. From the cafe at the top there are great views to the Scenic Rim including Cunningham's Gap, Mt. Glorious and Moreton Island. You can arrange to be picked up here or join some intrepid folk on a walk back along Ekibin creek to Tarragindi.

