

Aboard Sengo

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February 2021

Back to Binna Burra

The only exciting activity
of the first third of
February

6

High and dry

On purpose!

10



A short month and ...
... a haul-out

1st – 8th February 2021

Broadwater: Gold Coast: Queensland

From Tiger Mullet Channel to the Coomera River

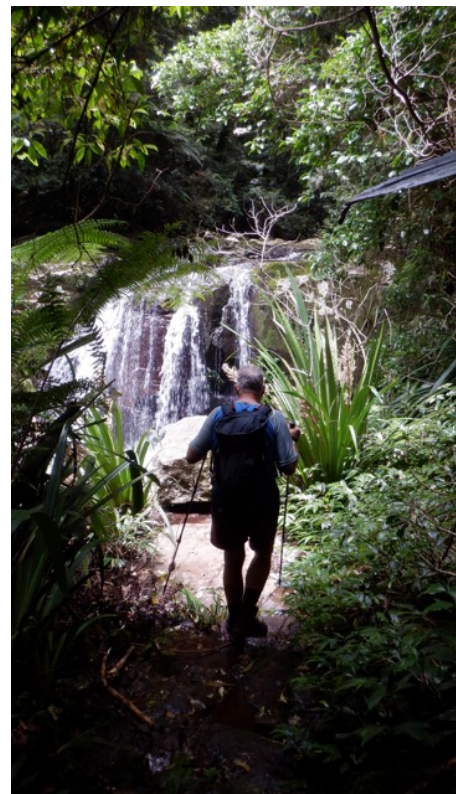
We didn't move far in February; making our way from our location near the north of South Stradbroke Island, our all familiar Tiger Mullet Channel, to The Boat Works slip yard in Coomera.

We didn't spend much time 'aboard' Sengo in February either (seven and one half days), and what time we did spend was predominantly dotting the 'I's and crossing the 'T's for our planned off-boat trip. Having been doing this for some time it got beyond routine and, I at least, was getting impatient. We'd been looking forward to this 'Plan C' for a while (Plan A was Canada, and Plan B New Zealand) and we didn't want to lose it. So much so, that up until the last couple of days before we left, we weren't telling anyone specifically where we were going. Or what we were doing!

There was only one excursion of note in the first 8 days of February – on the 6th February we went back to Binna Burra and Lamington National Park for a day walk – and the one we chose (the Coomera Circuit) was delightful; so much so that so far I think it is my favourite of the walks we have completed in the area.

The 8th February was haul-out day and the day we said a temporary farewell to our floating home...

Apart from our day tip to Binna Burra, very few photos were taken during this time.





Tiger Mullet Channel

1st February 2021. 'A quiet day. We continued planning for our holiday, now dubbed a 'land-change' by Andrew – booking extras and accommodation where we needed to. We also packed some extra clothes and gear, although anything that was 'hike' related got vetted very carefully – every gram of extra weight was seriously considered. To relax we did a bit of reading. And of course at the end of the day, the obligatory bit of tidying up.

The major job of the day was to concoct a made-up yoga session that we can do every day to help keep us supple and our muscles warmed up. In the end the sequence we chose was a mixture of yoga poses we knew and bastardised poses from the Internet.

Moving to Crab Island

2nd February 2021. We moved south today, initially planning to head into Paradise Point but with the impending thunderstorm and easterly change due we thought it more prudent to anchor off Crab Island instead. We are very tentative about anchoring here after our collision of late March last year. Fortunately there were no other boats in the anchorage.



We had anchored in the rain. By the time we worked out the rain had stopped (we'd been absorbed in packing for our trip next week) it was around 1530 and too late to head to shore to do the admin/shopping we needed to do *and* to go for a walk. Despite the fact we knew a Southerly change was coming in (it gets a bit rough with wind over tide in a southerly in this anchorage), we stayed put



Paradise Point

3rd February 2021. At 0500 when I got up the southerly wind had arrived but the wind against tide seemed negligible - it was however getting much more noticeable fifteen minutes later. We were close to low tide, and still on a dropping tide, but made our way tentatively around to the Paradise Point anchorage anyway - we noted 0.0 on the gauges at one point. We anchored south of a green trimaran, which on reflection seemed a bit close, but he'd done the same thing to us last year! Measuring with the golf range finder we however noted we were actually 40 metres away. And we thought we were holding. A few strong wind gusts a couple of hours later however, and a check of the gauges, suggested we might, ever so slowly be dragging. We had to move.

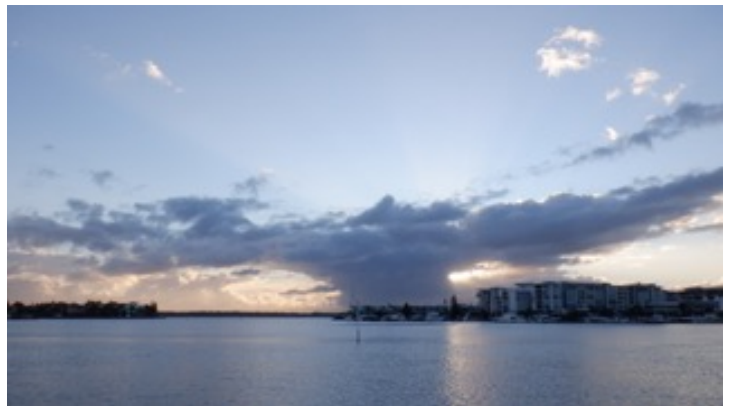
Of course to add to matters, at this point it started to rain. I had had the starboard front hatch open to try to dry the stuff that got wet when we anchored yesterday - but of course it all got wet again; the hatch has to be open for me to manipulate the anchor chain into its locker. We didn't move much further south but this time we got a strong take on the bottom.

A short while after this the wind picked up to a higher constant speed and despite no further rain we didn't get off boat - so no walk today either. My back was getting desperate for some good exercise and I was worried about losing condition.

We spent the day consolidating track notes



for the upcoming trip, sorting out more clothes, and discovering we have another leak in our hot water system (we thought we had fixed that a couple of years ago - 'really annoying to find you spend money on repairs and they don't work). I also clove-oiled a bit more of the floor in cabin 2 - and I still can't find on to what surface our January visitor's deodorant was sprayed - whilst it no longer gives me a strong headache it is still affecting me. I got around 30 minutes of recreational reading done late evening



Up the Coomera to The Boat Works

4th February 2021. We managed an early morning walk around the point at Paradise Point, and back again, probably giving us a six-kilometre walk today. Finally! After some admin at the Post Office it was back to boat to lift the anchor, fill up with fuel at Runaway Bay marina, and motor up the Coomera River to The Boat Works. We had been given an end berth so docking was relatively easy, thankfully. We grabbed a free car to pick up the hire car and headed down to Burleigh Heads for a final piece

of outdoor equipment, and came back to boat via Anaconda, and then MacPac at Harbours town.

Back at the slip yard Andrew had a chat to the shipwrights we will be using when we come back, and we gathered together the food stocks for our trip; (we are taking it all with us from here) and found the extra freeze-dried food (the not so healthy stuff) we had got as back up, we didn't need). I also managed a last load of washing. There was more sorting, and a final check of clothes.

The afternoon task was sorting out all our food!

Our land-based adventure was predominantly going to be hiking. And as a result freeze-dried meals were going to be the most practical. Many years ago, in Victoria, I made my own hiking food and dehydrated main meals that were healthy and wholesome. Having not had the time, or inclination, to cook and dehydrate our meals for this upcoming holiday (and not knowing if we would get them across the border) we chose to rely on commercial products for our main meals. There is not much choice when it comes to freeze-dried hiking food in the major Australian retailers. Whilst 'Back County' has its place for its market, it is not healthy – it is full of wheat and sugar and a whole heap of allergens that I prefer to avoid; the main ones, apart from wheat, being corn, capsicum and potatoes. I have however found a couple of other brands that I am temporarily happy with (I will be picky next time, or hope that they change a couple of their fillers), although some of their products have ingredients that are not healthy for the population at large. One is 'Radix Nutrition', a fellow New Zealand company (Back County is from New Zealand) and the other is 'Wild Zora' – which is a company promoting paleo based freeze-dried meals. Whilst the concept of paleo was not of concern to me, the fact they have no wheat or sugar and no nightshades in them made them an ideal candidate for our main meals. The only issue

was that Wild Zora is in the US. Shipping to Aus (and NZ apparently) takes about 10 working days. When I put the order in I had technically 3 weeks until we needed the order to arrive but there was a public holiday in the middle of that. I was very happy to have turned up to The Boat Works to see my food orders had arrived.

Dinner was in the early evening. I had been up for two hours between 0200 and 0400 so went to bed early.



Coomera River morning.. Note the swallows!

5th February 2021. The morning walk wasn't exciting but at least we got one – all of 40 minutes just to get the legs going. We didn't even carry packs so there was no weight on our backs, and we totted up towards the Gold Coast City Marina, just to turn around again and return. I had a massage appointment at 1100 and Andrew did some shopping. After lunch – we sorted out some more of our bags and clothes for the trip, and pickled the water maker. Dinner was with **Anui** at a local Indian restaurant



Coomera Circuit



Coomera Circuit



Coomera Circuit

Back to Binna Burra Lamington National Park

Walking the Coomera Circuit: We left the Coomera River to visit the Coomera River – and this meant that in two days we'd been at both extremities of the waterway!

6th February 2021. I was hoping for a quieter, less populated track but we got passed by a few people – a runner, a family of three, a couple of couples, a group of retirees and a single individual going the other way. One couple had done the walk before said this was the right direction in which to traverse it. 'Nice to know.'

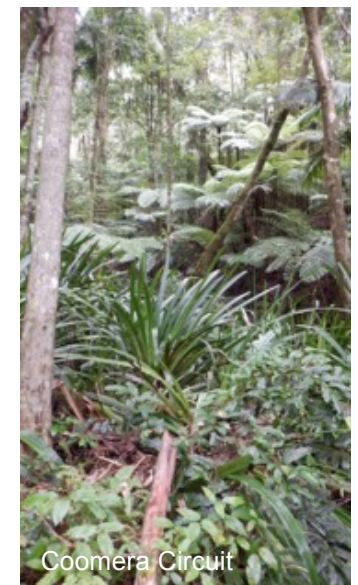
There were a couple of mishaps on today's walk (apart from wet boots); the most notable of which was that I slipped whilst crossing the waterway and went down on my behind, landing on a very hard rock (is there any other kind?), and the right walking pole flicked up and hit me in the face, smashing into my spectacles before whacking my forehead. Ironically my first thought had nothing to do with how painful the situation was, or even that I was likely to get a bruise above the eye, it was just that I hoped I hadn't broken my glasses as I didn't have time to get a new pair before we left. Of course this was witnessed; although the witness's comment was 'you weren't the first and you won't be the last', admitting he had dropped his sunglasses into the river further upstream (he had managed to retrieve them).



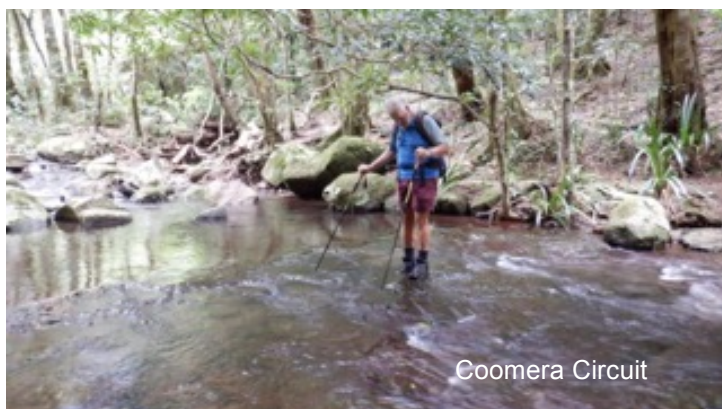
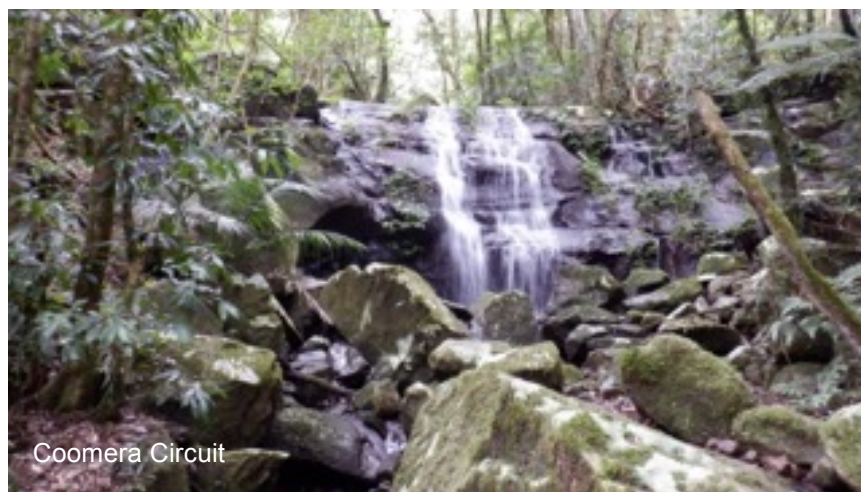
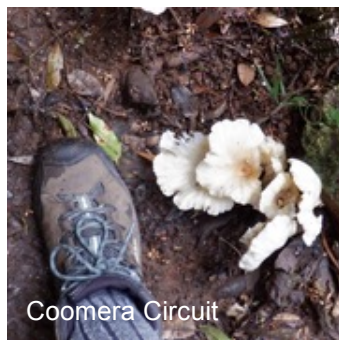
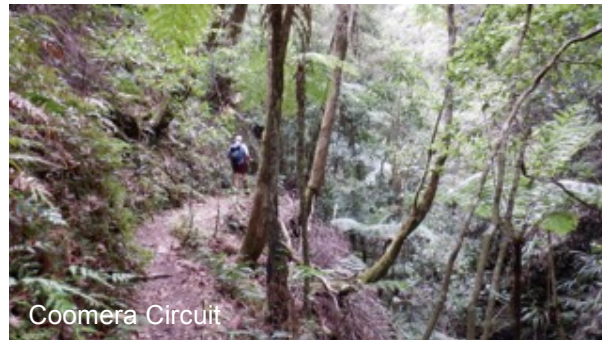
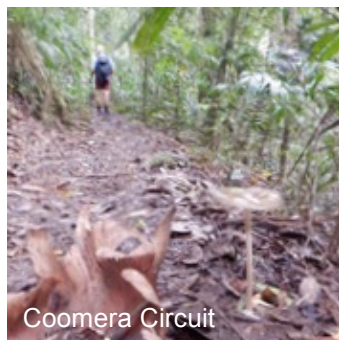
Coomera Circuit



Coomera Circuit

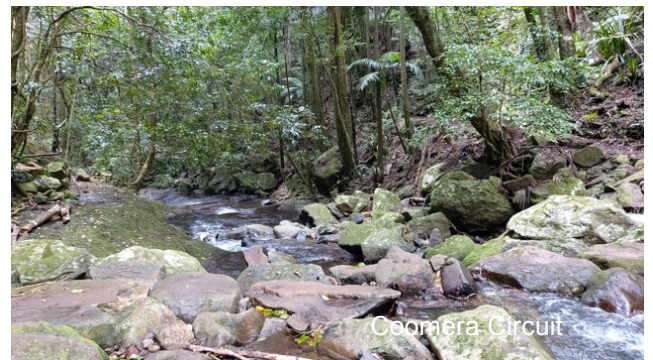


Coomera Circuit

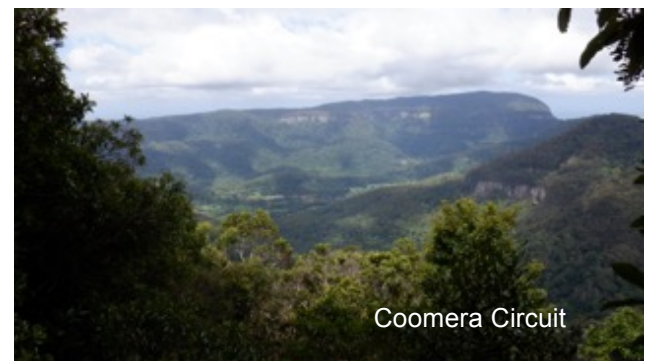




The start of the walk as you came off the main Border Track was lovely - and it just got better, making your way up the ever-decreasing width of the track along the side of the valley to the lookout at Coomera Falls. After this the waterway leads you up a small gorge before a series of river crossings and a section of the walk where you couldn't hear the birds because the water from the next waterfall was too loud. 'Wow' was a word I used often on this stretch.

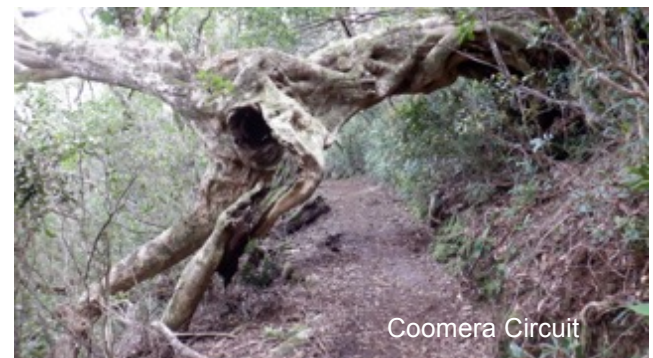


Once we got back on the Border Track we headed straight back to the Trail Head. It was a pity I hadn't studied the map a bit more, we could have taken a different, as yet unexplored by us, path back to the car. At least this leaves some tracks to explore next time.



Birds seen today: imperial pigeon (surprise), brown pigeon, yellow robin, scrub wren White eared honeyeater?

Birds heard today; cat birds, whip birds, king parrots, pittas

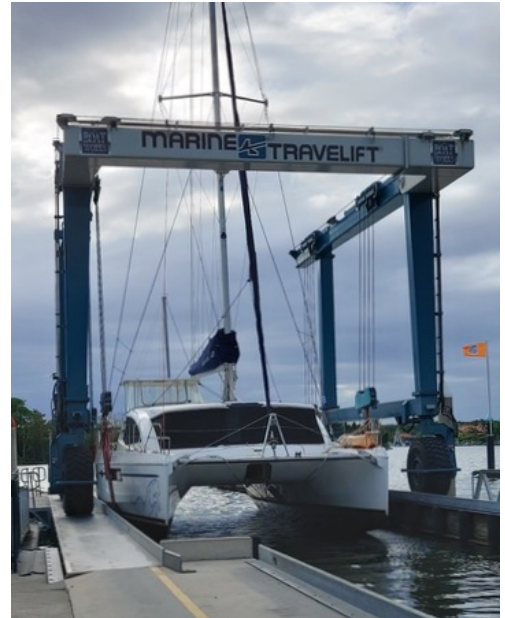


7th February 2021.

The 7th February was a mad final rush and clean up. Time was getting extremely short and we were running out of it; to the extent I was not being social and sent Andrew out to chat to the crew of **S***, a boat we hadn't seen for two years. The paddle boards were wiped down for mould and deflated, final packing and checks were made, soft plastics were dropped at the super market for recycling, we did an op shop drop off, the car was returned, and everything that we could get inside the boat was – every surface inside the boat was covered: the beds had clothes, some of the cockpit cushions, books, decorative cushions, and large plastic containers on them; the living room table had the reflective paper we'd used to seal up the hatches, and odds and sods from decorative shelves; underneath the table were the paddle boards (folded in thirds), the navigation battery and other items that were loose and normally stored outside. The showers in the heads were full too; more cockpit cushions, storage boxes, cleaning equipment. Putting it bluntly: the boat was a brothel!



Always a tight squeeze for us!



All the way up there!

Haul out and Farewell

8th February 2021. We were up early. We were due to be close to first out of the water and were booked in for a 0700 haul out. For some reason, probably Covid related, there were a lot of boats being stored at The Boat Works at this time and as a result there was no room in the usual storage paddock. We were put in the sales yard, smack bang in the middle, facing down the avenue toward the haul out facilities. There was no For Sale sign put on the boat..... but for the right price....No only joking!

However, this wasn't just a dump and run and we had a couple of small jobs to do before we could leave the boat to its own devices. The first was to plug in the dehumidifier. Having previously had a dehumidifier on for 6 months non-stop we had learnt our lesson; that it is perhaps not a great idea to suck all of the moisture out of the air! Last time a round wooden plaque dried out that much that the internal piece of plastic fell out! The dehumidifier this time went on for a level of 51%. The next job was to clean the green slime from below the boot stripe – a task made easier by the 'white rubber' cleaner pads. In this process we discovered a couple of recalcitrant barnacles and a divot in the fiberglass that was probably anchor chain related – when it happened was anyone's guess. The other main job was to flush the engines with fresh water (when we finally found the water and power, which was accessible, but some distance from where we were parked). When we were finally ready to leave we pulled down all the internal blinds. Our estimation was that we would be away for just over six weeks. After a quick lunch at the café we met our driver and headed toward Brisbane.

Apart from a six-month road trip in 2017 we haven't spent more than one night off Sengo in seven and a half years, so it was a strange feeling leaving her behind.



Relaxing on the balcony of our Hamilton hotel room mid afternoon 8th February 2021. We tried to secure a room at the hotel at the airport but all rooms were booked.