

Map Notes – Cotswold Bluff 1:10000

Cotswold Bluff is a remap of earlier versions of the Cotswold map first mapped in 1982, when the Simson family were resident at the Maroon Outdoor Education Centre. Family members, Rob, Arnold and Neil, and both a visiting Swedish orienteer, Per-arn Hoog, and the British orienteering star Martin 'Bilbo' Bagness, contributed to the field mapping with the hand-drawn cartography done by Rob.

The area was selected because of its imposing sandstone cliffs and boulders and because, but for a cultivated flat beside Burnett Creek, it was a grazed forest with the cattle restricting the forest undergrowth and the prolific grass and weed growth occurring in wet summers. Another advantage was that there was only one owner with whom we had to negotiate. Mapping was a little tricky because of the poor base material and the complexity of the contour detail on some of the slopes and terraces.

The first major event on the map was the two-day Queensland Championships hosted by Toohey Forest Orienteers in 1994. The event was notable in that participants included a party from Japan. Since then there have been various updates of the map which has been used every two or three years and twice during Queensland Junior Squad training camps. The map has been embargoed since the beginning of 2015, with a new version produced by Geoff Peck for this ASOC 2016 event. The new version makes use of GPS technology and aims to remove quite a bit of distortion in the earlier contour plots and the positioning of features.

The current owner, Keith Worboys who lives on the Gold Coast, was a bushwalking and scouting enthusiast in his younger days and fortunately for us retains the property as a family retreat for camping and adventures. His support over the last twenty years has been most appreciated. Keith has been unable to find an interested grazier to run cattle on the property for most of this century and as a result the dreaded lantana has spread prolifically in some sections of the map. In places there is also some debris on the forest floor as a result of selective logging operations in recent years.

The area has a variety of contrasting features with flat or gently sloping areas above the sandstone escarpments and the narrow incised creek gorges where there is an abundance smaller cliffs and sandstone boulders. There are also near-flat terraces interrupting some slopes. Termite mounds, close to or over a metre high, have been mapped as additional point features. The running varies from very fast to slow, plus very slow in the mapped 'walk' areas. Runners are advised to take care around the high cliffs and steep rocky slopes. There are also some eroded holes, 10 to 60 cm across so much too small to map, where tunnel erosion is occurring in the sub-soil. Some old internal fences, mapped as broken fences, may trip you up if you are not careful. The courses have been set to avoid the worst lantana groves.

Rob Simson