

Tales from the Trail - Brisbane South Chinese Adventurer Hike



For 3 days, 6 scouts from Brisbane South Chinese Scout group completed a 34km hike at the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk, starting from The Settlement Campsite, camped at the Woonoongoora Walkers' campsite, hiked a further 16km and finally commenced at the Settlement Campsite once again. With the support from our troop, leaders (Possum & Wombat), parents and caregivers, each scout showed courage, resilience, and most of all a bright spirit even through the toughest parts of the hike.

On the first day, the weather was wet, rainy and windy which tested us as we ventured further and further into the rich and beautiful tracks of the Great Walk, it demonstrated resilience as we as a patrol helped to lift each other's spirits by sharing experiences, making jokes, and encouraging each other to keep on going.

Another challenge that we faced was the numerous overflowing creeks that we had to cross, as it was raining the water level was a lot higher than anticipated, this required us to trust each other as we were looking out for each other's every step preventing anyone from slipping. After a few kilometres of hiking, we reached a stunning waterfall called Purling Brook Falls and we stayed there admiring this natural landmark, took many pictures so we could show our leaders and parents. Once arriving at the campsite, everyone sat down, and we all had dinner together and talked about what we could improve on the following days.

The second and third days challenged everyone more than the first, though it was not raining, we all found that our bodies ached, and we did not want to continue the hike, however we all reminded each other how this is a way for us challenge our minds and to build a connection within our patrol. Throughout most of the hike, we saw beautiful scenery and lookouts that made all the hiking worth it. Overall, I would like to congratulate my patrol and it was a great success!

**Elise T
Scout**



This 30km hike which was part of the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk has been a memorable experience for me and my patrol members as we had to overcome many emotional barriers and physical challenges, like the wet rainy weather. Although one of our members had to unfortunately quit on the first day, this did not stop us to persist through the hike.

One of my favourite moments was on the second day when there was a series of upward steep hills that leads to the campsite. On the first hill, everybody was hopeful, excited to complete the hike for the day but as we slowly made

our way up, another hill that was even more steep showed up in the distance. We joked that another steep hill would be ahead of us and to our dismay, we ended up slowly climbing another two hills, with our motivation slowly dying out. However, throughout the whole trail, we encouraged each other to not give up while I kept making promises that we were on our last hill.

Funny to say, we were only certain that we have finally reached the campsite when we smelled a heavy stinky scent that was immediately recognisable. We have never been so grateful to smell the stink of toilets in our life. We had a good laugh when we rested at the campsite and prepared for tomorrow, feeling better and finding more confidence in ourselves to finish the last 9km of the tough hike. I am truly thankful for my patrol members who joined me on this hike as although we were complaining the whole time, I believe that we would not be able to make it up as quickly if it weren't for the support and the little conversations throughout the hike. What I have learnt is that when believing in yourself is getting difficult, your friends will always be there to cheer you up with jokes to help you persist through difficulties.

**Elaine C
Scout**

This past weekend, a group of Venturers from Brisbane South Chinese Scout Group embarked on an expedition along the Gold Coast for their maroon tape. We all gathered at The Settlement Day Use Area in the morning for a briefing. I could feel my members excitement to finally be out amongst nature and to see the beautiful scenery that we have been deprived of this past year. The cold atmosphere from the rain proved to be a small challenge for us as we shivered along the trail.

Despite this, it also created a mystical atmosphere as the gentle fog surrounded each tree and gave a new look to the usual luscious and green rainforest. We enjoyed our lunch at Apple Tree Park, where we sat beneath a shelter to shield ourselves from the rain.

As we ate, we talked about what we had been up to on the holidays whilst immersing ourselves in the quiet songs that the birds sang in the background. It was during this time when one of my members kept pulling food out from their bag. I was more surprised at the fact that he could fit so much food in his bag and still have room for his other belonging than the whole picnic that kept piling up in front of our eyes.

As we began our descent down to our campsite, it was very encouraging to be able to feel the warmth of the Sun again as it began to peep through the clouds. The area around us lit up as the gentle rays of the Sun reflected off the rain drops on the leaves. We spent a few minutes staring at the environment around us to fully bask in the beauty of our surroundings.

As we set up our tents, the Sun started to slowly descend behind the mountains and a gentle mist sat atop of the trees in the valley below. We could feel the cold whisper of the wind blow past our cheeks as we gathered under the blanket of stars that shined brightly above us.

The morning of the next day felt refreshing as we stepped outside of our warm tents into the chilling morning breeze. As we began to ascend back up to Apple Tree Park, we heard some members of the community debating how to spell and pronounce Woonoongoora Campground. We giggled under our breaths as it brought a flashback of my patrol and I the day before, standing in front of the sign and debating about all the different ways to pronounce this unique name.

Along our trail we were able to witness the beauty of the Purling Brook Waterfalls. There was a small rainbow in the middle that left all of us in awe and we ended up taking a 10-minute break there to fully appreciate our surroundings and the fact that we were able to attend this hike.

As we approached the day use area again, we were filled with mixed emotions of gratitude and sadness that we had to leave. We collapsed on the soft green grass for a while to take a break from the soreness that our packs gave us and stared up at the vast sky above.



I am so grateful that we could take time out of our holidays to attend this hike and to enjoy the diversity of our Australian rainforests. I am also thankful for the support of my leaders and proud of my members, especially because this hike was the first for some of them.

J Suen S
Venturer Scout