

## Clohesy River to Davies Ck

A pleasant little journey may be taken from the Clohesy Valley through some scenic countryside to the Bridle Creek and Davies Creek valleys. It's quite possible to join together a number of trails in this area to create quite a decent long walk from Speewah to Emerald Creek without having to walk along many roads. I'm still patching a few missing bits together. But here are some notes on a fairly significant segment.

My never-ending curiosity for following every road and trail I come across coupled with the wonder of Google Earth turned up an interesting road/track that didn't appear on any of the available topo maps. Also, it's usually a dead give-away when there's a sign that warns of no vehicular access permitted. It has to go somewhere interesting (well, sometimes). Google showed a vague trail traversing high ridges and permanent streams. Here's the story.

Starting from the Clohesy and just after the 2<sup>nd</sup> main crossing a fairly obvious road leads off from the right, to the south, and is marked by one of those vehicular access restriction signs. Being a rule abiding citizen I'll describe this journey on foot.

It's about 300m along a readily drivable road to the Clohesy crossing and a good spot to enjoy the riverine scenery and a potential campsite for a long distance trail. The crossing could be quite tricky in the wet season if a log bridge can't be found. The gradual ascent begins immediately after the crossing and the road/track rises through pleasant open eucalypt woodland with views increasing with altitude. At about 1.7km you come to a particularly steep section that stops most vehicles anyway. Not far to the top now, reached at about 3km and an altitude of 644m from the river at 433m so you will have expended a bit of energy but the scenery is excellent with alternating rainforest patches, tall eucalypt forest and views over your shoulder. Apart from one short steep drop into Wallaroo Ck the descent to Bridle Creek is more gradual and again I found the scenery and forest types interesting all the way. In particular a very nice grove of grass trees near Bridle Ck and an unusual understory of Cardwell Lillies in the descent to Wallaroo. All up it's about 7km from the Clohesy Rd to the Bridle Ck Rd and between 3 to 4 hours walking. Bridle Ck presents nice scenery typical of the larger watercourses of the area and another logical campsite if undertaking this as part of a more ambitious walk. Good vehicle access is available up to where the track joins the Bridle Ck road, 3.2 km from its junction with the Davies Ck Rd. Ideally, I would like to find a track over to Davies from the upper Bridle Ck Valley so you don't have to walk along the roads too much. Something in the vicinity of Bare Hill would be ideal so watch this space!

