Welcome
Welcome to The Clarence Canoe & Kayak Trail – the longest white water trail in Australia! It covers more than 195 km of river between the Nymboida and Bellingen National Parks and the township of Copmanhurst encompassing the Nymboida, Hinterland and Clarence river systems. It offers spectacular scenery, an abundance of wildlife and some exhilarating whitewater adventures!

Degree of difficulty
The Clarence Canoe & Kayak Trail is not a beginner’s river! It is a grade 2-3 whitewater trail with some sections containing rapids of grade 4 difficulty. There are also three compulsory portages for all paddlers: one at Nymboida Weir (refer to Section 3 and 4 Trip Detail); one at Rainbow Falls and Willow Tree Falls in The Gorge (refer to Section 6 Trip Detail). The low-level bridges at Gorge (refer to Section 5 Trip Detail) and Udny Creek (refer to Section 7 Trip Detail) are also likely to be compulsory portages for all paddlers at all except very low river levels.

It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that paddlers with novice or intermediate skill levels also portage Gungumbung Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, and New Zealand Falls – all grade 4 rapids; and Demolition Derby – a technical Grade 3 rapids (refer to Section 4 Trip Detail) for safety reasons.

Trip Safety
You will need novice canoeing/kayaking skills and an average level of fitness as Section 8 may require up to five hours paddling time to complete. However, paddling time will vary with river flow, paddling effort and time required to scout and/or portage rapids. Times are calculated on a progress of 4km per hour with no allowance for rest breaks.

Care will need to be taken near the end of the Section where railway line posts are located in the river as a result of an attempt to stop riverbank erosion at this location. Stay to the river right of the posts.

Some parts of Section 6 pass through remote inaccessible country making any rescue attempt during an emergency extremely difficult. Most of the Section has no or very limited mobile phone coverage. All parties should have previous outdoor experience, and in the event of an emergency the skill to deal with the incident until help arrives.

Refer to the Safe Canoeing Checklist included in the Clarence Canoe & Kayak Trail Index Map sheet for the list of the recommended safety gear to be carried as a minimum and the steps that should be followed to ensure you and your group have a safe trip.

Deaths have occurred on the trail previously, however none associated with an experienced group. If you are in doubt about your group’s ability to complete a safe trip, consider the option to go with an experienced guide. Visit www.crownland.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 6643 0800 for a list of guides and canoe/kayak hire operators.

For further information on NSW canoe & kayak trails and paddler safety visit:
• Waterways Guide at www.waterwaysguide.org.au to get the downloadable App providing information to explore and paddle our waterways.
• PaddlePrep at www.canoe.org.au or phone (02) 6643 0800 for a list of guides and canoe/kayak hire operators.

Accommodation and meals:
• Copmanhurst Rest Point Hotel
• Copmanhurst Caravan Park

Spatial Services Topographic Maps
• Jackadgery 1:25000
• Copmanhurst 1:25000

The River
The pace of the river becomes more leisurely after the Lilydale Bridge with the journey to Copmanhurst being predominantly gentle with long pools interspersed with rocky races or riffles approaching Grade 1.

Hazards
• Steel railway line posts in water (-29°35’1.65", 152°40’7.78")
• “Bullrout” - a stringing fish that inhabits slow moving weed infested rivers and streams.

Section 8 - Trip detail
River Summary: Mainly flat water with some races. Suitable for novices wanting to experience open Canadian touring.

Experience Level:
Novice

River Grade:
1

River Distance:
20km

Paddling time:
4-5 hours

River levels
Min - 1.0 m
Clarence River at Ulladulla gague

Good Level - 1.5 m

Max - 2.2 m

Paddle
Start - Ulladulla Riverside Camping Reserve, Winsegrove Rd, Ulladulla (29°32’42.58", 152°40’17.01”), 2WD suitable

Finish - Copmanhurst Boathall, Lawrence St, Copmanhurst (-29°35’28.40", 152°47’0.72”), 2WD suitable

Car Shuttle:
15km (20 minutes) drive one way via Winsegrove Rd and the 2WD Standard Way. 2WD suitable

Camping
Start - Ulladulla Riverside Camping Reserve, Winsegrove Rd, Winsegrove (fees may apply)

Finish - a) Copmanhurst Recreation Reserve, Lawrence Street, Copmanhurst (fees apply)

b) Copmanhurst Riverside Camping Reserve, Lawrence Street, Copmanhurst (fees may apply)

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Most images within this Map Kit have been supplied courtesy of Dr Danny Parkin, Clarence Valley Council.

This map has been produced on Stone Paper. http://www.stonepaper.com.au/stonepaper.html
Stone Paper is water resistant, durable, recyclable & acid free.

CAUTION
Access to the Trail and related facilities is provided for your use and enjoyment. Members of the public using these facilities do so at their own risk. Clarence Valley Council and the Department of Industry - Lands accepts no responsibility for any injury incurred by any person when these facilities are used including if used in contravention to any information, warnings or advice provided in relation to their use. Navigating the rapids and fast flowing sections of this Canoe & Kayak Trail requires attention and care. River features and conditions change continually. Paddlers must have the appropriate skills and equipment for the section(s) they are paddling and remain alert for submerged and protruding objects, overhanging branches, and other hazards at all times.

Access to camping sites is provided for your use and enjoyment. Members of the public using camping sites do so at their own risk. It is strongly recommended that when accessing camping sites, you carry appropriate camping equipment with you at all times. Clarence Valley Council and the Department of Industry - Lands accepts no responsibility for any injury or damage arising from using the camping sites.
WARNING: 'Steel railway line posts'
GPS: -29° 35’ 31.65”, 152° 46’ 10.78"
Length: 150m
Hazards:
• steel railway line posts in main flow
• some posts submerged
Safest Passage: stay river right of posts to avoid collision with them and possible capsize.