

East Cougals - V1.0

Phil Shepherd – Aug 2017

MAP: Springbrook 9541-13

Grid Ref Zone: MGRS 56JNP..

Award Scheme

Red Cord Hike

Hike – Garden of Eden Road to East Cougals Peak

An interesting 8km hike to the summit of East Cougals with limited navigational challenges, but significant danger on the final summit ascent. Magnificent views from the summit. Approximately 400m of ascent/descent.

Reconnaissance of the route is ESSENTIAL before taking youth members. The summit ascent requires scrambling over steep, loose ground, with some danger of falling. The summit is surrounded by cliffs. Risk can be minimized using handlines, and plenty of adults guarding the steep sections.

There is NO water on route.

- The route follows the NSW/QLD border fence
- The hike starts at the parking area at the end of the Garden Of Eden road (3487 7520).
- Squeeze past the locked gate and head West, steeply uphill, keeping to the fence line.
- After about 350m the steepness lessens and you start to wind through tall banna grass.
- After another 350m pass Lone Tree Camp Site on the right 3413 7519
- Continue to follow the border fence up/down along the ridge line
- There's a tree with survey benchmarks (80 E) cut into it at 3293 7521). The tree is in the middle of the path so hard to miss.
- The start of the National Park is signposted at the saddle at 3280 7536.
- From 3245 7615 the path starts to climb steeply, across mud and tree routes next to the barbed wire border fence.
- At 3238 7646 the path widens below a cliff face. There is a cave hidden at the base of the cliff. The cave is an interesting adventure, but make sure no youth members attempt to squeeze all the way through. The cave ends in a cliff face, with a large drop below.
- To continue to the summit, traverse North Eastwards round the base of the cliff. After about 100m tape heading up the cliff, marks the final ascent to the summit. The start of ascent is the hardest part after that it is scrambling up a steep, loose slope. A handline, and well placed adults is recommended to reduce risk.
- After about 50m of scrambling the summit ridge is reached. Follow the obvious path to the summit. Take great care as the summit is surrounded by cliffs and steep drops.

Car Directions to start of hike (Parking on Garden of Eden road)

- Head North from Murwillumbah on Queensland Road - sign posted Currumbin) past Taylor's Corner Service Station and showground).
- Continue onto Tomewin Road.
- After about 10km, towards the top of the climb, take sharp left on to the Garden Of Eden road.
- The parking area is about 2.5km along the Garden Of Eden road
(<https://goo.gl/maps/ZfY8hkaofyv> – 3487 7520))