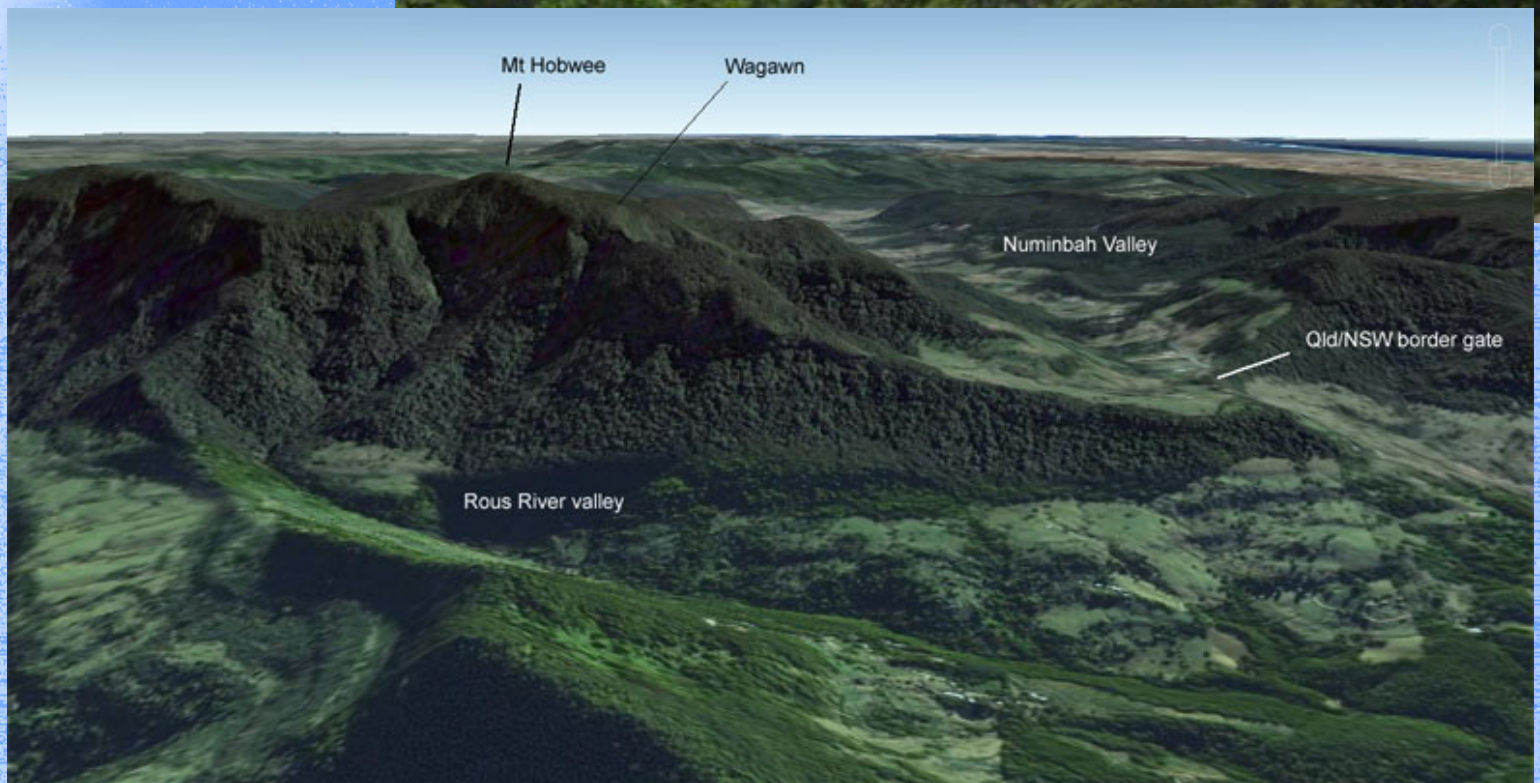


EXPLORING THE UPPER ROUS RIVER

right: high in the Rous River valley, on Hopkins Creek Road, looking across the river to Wagawn and Mt Hobwee, (mid photo)



The Rous River begins under the Tweed Rim of Lamington National Park. The river is on privately owned land, and is unapproachable, until Hopkins Creek Road crosses it 2 kilometres west of Chillingham.



*left: shallow and rocky
right: boulder choked*

Eventually the Rous River will join the Tweed River at the tiny town of Tumbulgum, after becoming tidal at Boat Harbour, and flowing through flat sugarcane growing land. But at the Hopkins Creek Road bridge, the river is still bouncing down rocky bars and gravel banks, and winding through green tree lined avenues. Some rainforest remnants still cling to its banks.



above: looking upstream from Hopkins Creek Road bridge over the Rous. Note the cow in the water and remember not to drink from the river.



below: the Hopkins Creek Road bridge is 300 metres south of Numinbah Road, 2 kms west of Chillingham



left: downstream from the Hopkins Creek Road bridge

The Rous River is a seasonal paddle for river sections above Boat Harbour, which is tidal.

The water level at Boat Harbour according to the BOM Rainfall and River Data pages was 1.3m on the day the upper section was paddled. In the previous week there had been over 140mm of rain in the headwaters.

Flood debris in the trees was over 2 metres above the water.

Possible river sections are from the Hopkins Creek Road bridge to the causeway on Chilcotts Road (total 6.0 km), and from the Chilcotts causeway to the next access point at Kynnumboon Bridge, 17.5 kilometres.

The river is grade two. There are a few portages where fallen trees block the river, or shallows where the paddler has to walk. The river is not suitable for fibreglass boats.

There are places where the current swings into the bank through a fallen tree or vines that forms a strainer. These water hazards can be extremely dangerous to the inexperienced paddler. The boat and paddler get pushed by the current into the branches, the boat capsizes, and the force of the water going through the sunken tree holds the two under water.



left: about one kilometre below the Hopkins Creek Road bridge is a rocky bar and rapid, one of many

By river it is 2.8km from the Hopkins Creek Road bridge down to Chillingham. There is a concrete road causeway over the river a few hundred metres upstream of the village, which may have to be portaged. A further 3.0 kilometres downriver from Chillingham is Chilcotts Road causeway. Be careful if portaging on the causeway that you don't get run over.



left: the causeway on Chillcott Road. Water depth on the causeway in this photograph, was about 40cm.

Below the Chillcott Causeway the river runs 4.3km down to Korns Bridge on the Numinbah Road between Murwillumbah and Chillingham. The Korns Crossing bridge is a Dare type timber truss bridge, was completed in 1916, and is heritage listed. Just downstream from Korns Bridge, Crystal Creek joins the Rous River. The name comes from the semi precious stones found in the creek, not the clearness of the waters.



above: the road over Korns Bridge going towards Chillingham. Springbrook mountain range to the west.



above: Rous River from Korns Bridge



left: stones picked up on gravel banks in the Rous River. Pretty but of no value, these are chalcedony (chall sydney). The area near Chillingham is reported to have finds of amethyst.

below left: tree strainer about half an hours paddle above Boat Harbour

below right: the more mature river slows down as it reaches Boat harbour

Hopkins Creek Road bridge to Chillingham 2.8 km
Chillingham to Chilcotts Road Bridge 3.0km
Chilcotts Road Bridge to Korns Bridge 4.3km
Korns Bridge to Boat Harbour 6.2km
Boat Harbour to Kynnumboon 7.0km



Rous River

