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Byron Trails guidebook launches in the Secret Garden

Byron Bay, NSW, July 1: Byron Trails, the long awaited guidebook of walking trails accessible from Byron Bay launched last Thursday night at the Secret Garden in Byron Bay. The book contains 50 coastal and hinterland walks from Tweed River to Richmond River and inland to the national parks accessible from Byron Bay.

Mayor Simon Richardson and Greens MP Tamara Smith attended the launch. In his speech Mayor Richardson said, "this book is something that unites our visitors with our natural environment. It's something that's long overdue. It's something that celebrates who we are. Well done to everybody here who crowdfunded to make it happen. You've helped create something that's truly an impressive addition to the literature of this shire."

Mairéad Cleary, the book's author successfully crowdfunded the book seven months ago thanks to sponsors like blk superwater, Crystal Castle, The Bay Retreats and Santos Organics, as well as the wider community who generously supported.

The book came about through her desire to give people an experience of nature they will want to repeat again and again. "Walking in nature is extremely good for us mentally as well as physically, and we need it more than we realize," she said.

Having moved to the area eight years ago Mairéad had difficulty finding information about walks in the area and so decided to research and compile what's out there herself. She would like to see the guidebook being the first step of a longer-term project that would see an expansion on the current network of walking trails in the area. She believes that the demand is there but the infrastructure has yet to meet it. "Walking is emerging as the most popular of all outdoor activities and these walks will attract people out of the main tourist hubs and into the surrounding rural hamlets" she said.

The book will be available in bookshops, visitor centres and selected retail outlets in Byron, Ballina, Tweed, Lismore as well as via the Byron Trails website.

For further information visit www.byrontrails.com