



# The Message Stick

## August 2011

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740

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### Future Events

Rawson Creek.....	7 <sup>th</sup> August
Back of The Leap.....	14 <sup>th</sup> August
General Meeting.....	17 <sup>th</sup> August
Mt Beatrice.....	21 <sup>st</sup> August
Eungella Dam .....	28 <sup>th</sup> August
St Helens Creek 4 Day Backpack.....	August (by arrangement)
Brandy Creek Great Walk.....	3 <sup>rd</sup> September
Grasstree Beach.....	4 <sup>th</sup> September



*What a good  
looking bunch!*

### Club Officers

President	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Contact Officer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895
Vice President	Clive Goodson	49549338	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Kathy Cant	49522269	Assist Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Treasurer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	Daphne Goodson	49549338	Publicity Officer	Colin Hoy	04135 12275
Walks Equipment Officer	Dan McKinlay	49534249	Social Coordinator	Dan McKinlay	49534249

### *From the Editor*

The walks seem to be getting tougher this month. I believe Mt Jukes was much harder than previous years due to the long undergrowth and lantana to contend with. The Homevale camp did not go ahead due to wet weather but Clarkes Pinnacle did and it was more challenging than in the past although it was never an easy walk. The Mt Tanya exploratory walk was successful but another long day of battling undergrowth, vines and lantana. Just think how fit we all will be! ☺

A huge thank you to Kathy and her husband John for putting on the Christmas in July cocktail party! It was a lot of fun and just the thing for a cold winter's night. I really enjoyed trying the South American cocktail – Yum.

The River To Reef Charity Bike Ride is happening on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Last year 12 members of Mackay Bushwalkers formed a team for the big bike ride and some did the 35km course while others completed the 60km distance. Sadly one club member could only cross the finish line in her wheel chair but this year I intend to be riding the full course on 2 wheels. Cycling and bushwalking are activities complimentary to each other and the money raised from this ride all stays in Mackay for two very worthwhile charities. Hope to see lots of you on your bikes.

Enjoy the month everyone!

### Key to Walks Grading System

#### Distance

S = short – under 5km  
M = medium – 5-10km  
L = long – over 10km

#### Terrain

1-3 = Graded or open terrain, no scrub  
4-7 = Bush, minor scrub, rainforest,  
Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling  
8-10 = Bush as above + thick scrub, major rock  
Scrambling using hands, technical

#### Terrain

1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners  
4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required  
8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only

### *Future Events*

#### Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

##### **Rawson's Creek Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Denis Jeffery 49583394

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 140km \$14.00

**Map Ref:** 702702

**Grade:** S75

**Estimated walking time:** 5hrs **Total of all**

**uphill sections:** 200m **Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** Very uneven terrain **Expect:** mostly  
rock hopping, wait-a-while, leeches, swimming  
holes, difficult creek crossings

This walk is in the Finch Hatton Gorge area and we will be rock hopping up a cool clear water creek, hopefully reaching a small waterfall for lunch. A swim will be an option for the adventurous. The return journey will be retracing our steps down stream. Intending walkers should expect substantial rock hopping

all day, slippery rocks and possibly wet boots. We will predominately be walking in the creek bed so boots with good grip are essential.

##### **Back of The Leap Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Philip Morgan

**Co Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

**Depart:** 7am

From Stephens place we will walk over a couple of ridges to a cave then up to the big rock at the back of The Leap (some scrambling) then along the top to lookout rock and back.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

Downstairs room, Mackay Family Care and Community Support Association Centre 60 Wellington Street, Mackay. Newcomers and visitors welcome

**Induction by Kathy and Dan**

**Mt Beatrice  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

**Leaders:** Frances Eiteneuer 4957 6028  
Peter Bennett 4954 3428

**Depart:** 6:00 am

**Journey** 150km \$15.00

**Map Ref:** Calen 722920

**Grade:** M68

**Estimated walking time:** 8 hours? **Total of all uphill sections:** 600m **Pace:** average to slow. **Terrain:** very uneven terrain. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** much steep slopes, steep scrambles, lantana, long grass, fallen branches and trees.

Mt Beatrice is a 525m above sea level in a small area of National Park, 12 kilometres north of Calen. At vantage points along the top of Mt Beatrice and Mt Zillah, good views north to Proserpine and the Whitsunday Islands and south to Cape Hillsborough are possible. We will also be able to see many mountains on the western side.

We will start in the Rise and Shine area and walk through to Yalbaroo. A car shuffle is necessary. The walk will be very steep in places. You will need water for the whole day.

**Eungella Dam  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Denis Jeffery 49583394

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 230kms \$23

**Map Ref:** Hillalong 462597

**Grade:** L77

**Estimated Walking Time:** 7 hours **Total of all uphill:** 670m **Pace:** medium **Terrain:** very uneven **Vegetation:** long grass, minor scrub, lantana **Expect:** loose rocks, a steep slope, possible difficult river crossing depending on water level, rock hopping, panoramic views of the dam.

We will commence the walk at the lookout above the dam, ascend a hill and then descend steeply to Broken River below the dam wall, cross the river and walk around the north east side of the dam, mostly following cattle pads. The aim is to reach a point in the dam opposite an island and to have lunch at a small creek. We then retrace our steps back to the cars. The ascent out of the river may be a bit challenging late in the day. Initially if the water level in the river is too high to cross then an alternative walk will be to rock hop downstream. Total walk distance is about 15kms. 4WD will be required to access the lookout.

**St Helen's Creek through Walk 4 Day Back  
Pack**

**Date:** By Arrangement (August)

**Leaders**

Kate Brunner, Eric Minger, Pam Faulkner  
49533796

**Map Ref.** Mirani 704741

**Grade** X88

**Estimated walking time.** 4 Days approx

**Total of all uphill.** Unknown **Pace** moderate

**Terrain** Steep and very uneven **Vegetation.** Rainforest, rocky steep creek bed

We are intending to walk to Mt Dalrymple via the Western trail and join St Helen's Ck at its source – the last water just to the south of Mt Dalrymple. We then plan to follow the creek to Kate's place at Cameron's pocket near Calen.

This will be a demanding walk. Any intending participants need to be very competent walkers/backpackers who can cope with rough conditions for four days.

There are no easy get outs. Please indicate your interest in this walk ASAP so that we can arrange dates, times car pools, permits etc. Participants need to be aware that it will be an exploratory trip.

**Brandy Creek Great Walk in 1 Day  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 4944 0236 after 5.30pm

**Depart:** 6:00am

**Journey:** 300km \$30.00 plus share of taxi fare back to cars

**Map Ref:** Proserpine

**Grade:** L38

**Estimated walking time:** All Day. **Total of all uphill sections:** Lots.

This walk is about 28kms and all on track. We will start walking early in the morning and with a steady pace should be finished well before dark. There are a lot of steep up and down hills and it is a test of endurance. Water can be topped up at tanks along the way but a good supply of food will be needed. Walkers will

have the choice to stay on in Airlie for the night after the walk or return to Mackay.

**Grasstree Beach  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

**Depart:** 7am

From Mick Ready Beach we will walk across to Victor Point and back to the beach, then around to Grasstree and return through the bush.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Freshwater Point**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June**



At 7 am it was still raining and looking very unpromising, but fortunately we had an 8am start & by then the sun was beginning to smile on us & the day just got better & better for the 8 of us who ventured down to Freshwater Point. This time the tracks were dry and easy to navigate but the grass was longer which made it harder once we left the tracks.

Morning tea was had on the beach at the "Broad Sound Islands National Park Red Clay Island" sign, which I am now convinced is a hoax as this island is off the coast from Carmilla, but as to how the sign got there & who erected it I have no idea. We wandered fairly leisurely along the small sandy beaches and over the rocky areas taking in the views, and this time Mt Funnel was easily discernible. There were various discussions & views on what the rocks we were looking at actually were - geologically speaking that is - but as none of us had a great deal of geological expertise we are still wondering, but in spite of my search for tourmalines, I came away empty handed. A short but steep climb took us to the top of the hill for lunch - no real trees up there so it was difficult to find shade, so it became a choice of sitting in the shade with no views or in the sun with views.



Signs of "progress" met us with a large once bush area now levelled to make way for a car park and boat ramp.

Once back at the cars we dropped our backpacks and headed along the beach to check out the "Phoenician quarry chip road" and also the hydrothermal rocky area with its strikingly different coloured and interestingly shaped rocks.

After a short stop at Armstrong's Beach on the way home, we were back in Mackay by 4pm. Thanks to all for the good company.

Penny

## Clarkes Pinnacle 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011

The day dawned with the hint of rain around, and, as we drove out to the Homevale area we encountered a few showers, but thankfully it didn't rain for the rest of the day. Seven of us began the walk under overcast skies and we were soon wet from brushing against the moist foliage. Undeterred we soldiered on up the long ridge heading for the summit. As there were only a few of us we made good time and when we reached the spot where Clarkes Pinnacle is usually visible, it was nowhere to be seen in the cloud and mist. It was here I made a slight boo boo with the navigation and we walked a couple of hundred unnecessary metres. It was because I had no landmarks to go by – That's my excuse anyway. We soon got back on track and after morning tea, as we were climbing up the ridge, the weather



started to clear and we were treated to great views. Upon reaching the place where we have used a rope in the past to descend a tricky little spot we opted to try without the rope and it was quite okay. After a scramble we reached the first pinnacle and stopped for a few minutes before heading off for



Clarkes Pinnacle proper. Once we reached the base of Clarkes Pinnacle some of us had lunch, some of us went to the top, and one of us had a snooze. It was still quite early when lunch was finished and we began the steep descent. The plan was to look for Dan's glasses which were lost in a lantana thicket last year. Unfortunately the search proved fruitless so we suspect that some kangaroo or pig is making use of them. When we came to where a gully runs down to the main creek the lantana had had a field day and was very thick in places and made progress

very slow. We usually walk down the gully but the rocks were wet and slippery so we had to walk beside it and this was not easy. I think most of us disappeared into a hole at some stage, although I am sure I found most of them. Anyway once the main creek was reached it was a matter of rock hopping downstream, then battling more lantana, and eventually leaving the creek and walking back to the cars. I have never seen a bunch of more "disheveled" people. We were all extremely dirty except Eric, who didn't seem to have a mark on him – I don't know how he does it. Even though it was a tough day battling the scrub it was most enjoyable also. Thanks to all who took part and special thanks to Dan for organising the town end.

Denis

*Note from the Editor:* Sorry Denis but to say we were a disheveled group of people is a huge understatement. We were downright filthy and ragged. Several of us (leader included) had torn clothing and Dan's pants were so tattered I think they were only fit for the rubbish bin. It was a great walk though.