



The Message Stick

August 2012

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

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Future Events

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Mt St John | 12 th August |
| General Meeting | 15 th August |
| The Bluff | 19 th August |
| Abseiling at the Leap..... | 26 th August |
| Jimmy Jacky Exploratory | 2 nd September |
| The Leap Formal Dinner..... | 27 th & 28 th October |



*Taking a well-earned
break along the
Jatbula Trail,
Northern Territory*

Club Officers

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| President | Dan McKinlay | 49534249 | Contact Officer | Cheryl Brodie | 49552895 |
| Vice President | Clive Goodson | 49549338 | Walks Coordinator | Frances Eiteneuer | 49576028 |
| Secretary | Kathy Cant | 49522269 | Assist Walks Coordinator | Coral Morgan | 49578474 |
| Treasurer | Cheryl Brodie | 49552895 | Newsletter Editor | Jenny Wooding | 49440236 |
| Safety Officer | Daphne Goodson | 49549338 | Publicity Officer | Rob Kollin | 49512490 |
| Equipment Officer | Garry Hendicott | 49440236 | Social Coordinator | Dan McKinlay | 49534249 |

From the Editor

What a busy month it has been and it's great to see the weather now doing the right thing by us bushwalkers. I have just returned from the Northern Territory where 8 of us completed the Jatbula trail over 5 days. It was truly spectacular.

It's great to see The Leap Formal Dinner happening again. What a hoot and thanks to the organisers.

Kathy has done a fantastic job of organizing a business to print our club logo onto T shirts. Details follow in the newsletter and it will be great to see people getting out and about in Club shirts, especially when we go away to walk such as the upcoming New Zealand trip.

This month's newsletter has plenty of variety. A big thank you to everyone who has sent in write ups and photos!

Our Publicity Officer is Rob Kollin

robertskool@gld.chariot.net.au

Please email Rob any photos you think would look good in the newspaper.

Items for the next Newsletter
email to

jennywooding@dodo.com.au

by August 24th

Club T Shirts

The club has arranged with Twisted Creations Embroidery for members to have our logo embroidered onto your own shirt.

The club has paid for the setting up of the logo and it is now available from Twisted Creations Embroidery for you to arrange for it to be placed onto a shirt of your choice.

Twisted Creations has a large range of shirts available at reasonable prices (you might be lucky and find your size and colour on the sale rack for just \$5) or you can take in your own shirt and they will do the embroidery. The cost of embroidery is \$7.15 per shirt.

You can view the various types of shirts available from these websites provided by Twisted Creations –

www.auspirit.com

www.beseenclothing.com.au

www.dncworkwear.com.au

www.johnnybobbin.com

Location of the shop is Shop 3 / 120 Sydney Street



Key to Walks Grading System

Distance

Terrain

Terrain

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

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

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

Mt St John Sunday 5th August

Leader: Frances Eiteneuer 49576028

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 200km \$20.00

Map Ref: Hillalong 549495

Grade: M65

Estimated walking time: 5 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 450m. **Pace:** average.

Terrain: very uneven. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** some steep slopes, steep scrambles, long grass, lantana.

Mt St John is a small prominent mountain in the Crediton area. Good views should be available from the summit, Mt Dalrymple to the north, Mt Britton and Teemburra areas to the east and the Glenden area to the west.

Be prepared for long grass and scratchy vegetation so longers are recommended. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 15th August

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

The Bluff (Homevale NP) Sunday 19th August

Leader: Garry Hendicott 4944 0236

Depart: 7am

Journey: 240kms \$24.00

Map Ref: Mirani Ed. 2 608340 / Ed. 1 607338

Grade: M54

Estimated walking time: 4 to 5 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 280m **Pace:** slow to average **Terrain:** very uneven **Vegetation:** open forest, scrub **Expect:** heat, exposure to sun, lantana, other assorted scratchy vegetation, loose rocks, magnificent views

The Bluff is the colloquial name for a rocky outcrop in Homevale NP, identified on the Mirani map as 609. It offers spectacular views over the Diamond Cliffs, Sydney Heads and the Marling Spikes, so bring your cameras.

We will start our walk from near the historic Mt Britton mine area, work our way along a small creek/gully, then head out and up over a snaking ridge leading up to the back of the Bluff itself.

There are some steep sections with loose rock underneath requiring care, especially the final ascent. Walk distance is only 5.6kms but will likely be hot and exposed in places, bring sunscreen, a hat and plenty of water for the day as none will be available.

Time permitting we may also visit an interesting fossil site on the way out.

Abseiling at The Leap Sunday 26 August.

Leader: Steven Morgan & Peter Bennett (4954 0037)

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 50km \$5

Map Ref: Mirani 635310

Grade: S86

Estimated walking time: 3 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 200m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** scrub **Expect:**

some steep slopes, some rockhopping, steep scrambles, loose rocks.

We will take the standard route up the The Leap to our abseiling site. The walk takes about an hour and half and is over rough terrain. The abseil is pitch of about 20 metres and is well set up for beginners.

If you have never tried abseiling before, this is a great spot for your first abseil. Peter with his SES background and Steven with his caving background will keep a thorough and close eye on you to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable experience. All equipment will be provided with the exception of gloves. Each person should bring their own pair of leather rigging style gloves. Abseilers will be expected to assist with carrying equipment so bring a larger than usual pack. Abseilers will also be asked to make a contribution of \$20 per person towards the cost of equipment used. You must book in advance for this activity with Steven on 4954 0037 or mobile 0418 882 817.

Mt Jimmy Jacky Sunday 2nd September

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7 am

Journey: 120km \$12.00

Map Ref: New Mirani 819468

Grade: L66

Estimated walking time: 5-6 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 250m. **Pace:** slow - medium. **Terrain:** very uneven.

Vegetation: mostly open forest. **Expect:** spear grass and lantana.

Please note that this walk is of an EXPLORATORY nature. We will set off from a cane farm in the Septimus area. Looking at the map, Mt Jimmy Jacky is about 5k to the south. (Surely we can find it?)

Due to the experimental nature of this walk we cannot guarantee to return via the same route. No drinking water will be available. It would be a good idea to wear sock covers or gaiters in case of spear grass.

The Leap Formal Dinner Saturday/Sunday October 27/28

Leader: Steven Morgan (4954 0037)

Depart: 2:00pm

Journey: 50km \$5

Map Ref: Mirani 635310

Grade: S86

Estimated walking time: 4 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 200m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** scrub **Expect:** some steep slopes, some rockhopping, steep scrambles, loose rocks.

It has been a l-o-n-g time since we have done this formal dinner on The Leap. Let your imagination run wild. We take up a light weight table in pieces which we assemble on site, a delicious meal, and our best formal clothes. For guys, this means a three piece suit. We head up The Leap on Saturday afternoon, prepare ourselves for the meal and then enjoy an evening of wining and dining with a view like no other. Bed down for the night on top of the mountain, and for breakfast clean up the leftovers before packing up and heading down the mountain. This is an opportunity to let our imagination and creativity run wild as we think of ways to create to make our dinner as extravagant as possible given that we have to carry everything. How to pack a suit in your pack without crushing it? Could I manage real crystal glasses rather than plastic? How can I make a bottle of the finest wine lightweight? Join us as a diner, or as part of the kitchen crew (any chefs out there). No admission to anyone not dressed to standard. As the meal will be provided, there will be a cost to cover this. Usual National Park camping fees also apply. Due to the nature of the site, there is a limit of 12 diners. Be part of the fun and book now with Steven on 4954 0037 or 0418 882 817. Anyone who would like to be part of the planning team to assist with the menu and food preparation should also make themselves known
ASAP

Previous Activities

Scenes from Mount MacGregor: 20th May, 2012
(Photos by Therese, Peter, Wendy)



Fantail Hill to Seven Mile Creek Through Walk Sunday 8th July 2012

This was the first through walk for the Mackay Bushwalkers' Club in this area.

12 keen walkers gambled with the weather of the day and commenced the walk from the start of the Teemburra Creek Road. It was a 2km slog uphill along the road with trail bikers passing in very noisy groups.



Leaving the road we walked up a ridge to the top (335metre) of the newly named "Fantail Hill" for morning cuppa. And the grey fantails were there in quite a number to show how the hill got its name.

Down the ridge on the other side of Fantail Hill was a bit rough and rocky underfoot, but Kevin wanted to go this way rather than battle the wet lantana in the upper reaches of Seven Mile Creek.

When we reached the creek the group were given the option of either following the creek closely over rocks and through lantana, or a quick easy dash along an old track. The group voted for the whimperish option. We headed along the track for a short distance and Paul decided to head bush for the creek. After some whistles of various types and volumes he came back. We then had a quick walk along the track and met up with the creek just above the big waterfall. Coral decided to explore the track a little further past the creek hoping the track would eventually lead to Jimmy Jackie.



We all got to the top of the big waterfall and with much effort and some cliff edge nerves, a group timer photo was achieved. Kevin saw a small rock wallaby at the top of the falls.



Then came the steep scramble down around to the bottom of the waterfall. Coral had a slight slip and cut the palm of her hand on a rock. After some first aid bandaging of Coral's hand we all enjoyed luncheon at the beautiful location at the bottom of the falls.

The rocks in the creek were quite slippery due to a couple of very light misty showers. Rock hopping and climbing among these cascades is so much more fun when the rocks are dry. The dampness added character to the mosses and ferns and some spectacular fungi caused photographic fervour.

Afternoon tea at the old dam wall on the lower part of the creek was pleasant. Telina was startled at one stage by a rock falling into the water not far from her. Evidently the rock was accidentally dislodged by a person or persons unknown.

We arrived at the Neilson property for car shuffle and delightful fresh home-made pumpkin scones. What a treat. And we had the option of taking a pumpkin or two home to make our own scones. A great day with only slight dampness. The day ended with a dirty "backside of the bushwalking pants" competition won by Coral. (Not sure what the prize was)



Flaggy Rock Sunday 22nd July

What was that blue in the sky? An illusion brought about by wishful thinking, group illusion or had the cloud finally cleared. The amazement was in the clear dry exploring had by all eleven who turned up to what evolved into an enjoyable if not challenging day to the rock face known as Flaggy rock. The plan was we walk up the track until a certain point where we drop down to the base of the cliff and follow along. Sounds a simple enough plan Yes? No... We missed the certain point and found ourselves gazing out over a rather steep cliff and it was a loooong way down. Not to worry. We had smoko gazing out over fantastic views of the valley and coastline with distant sighting of the Funnel before we continued along the top sighting a large Kangaroo before Peter, our trusted leader found the way down at the other end of the rock. With plenty of butt sliding and tenuous grips on small trees we found ourselves at the bottom looking up at huge boulders and cliff faces. We were awe struck by the fantastic curves and waves looming above and over us. There were plenty of snaps and flashes as we preserved our memories as each step revealed something new. We finally had a welcome lunch in the cool shadow of a curving overhang. The strange thing about doing a walk in reverse is it as if it is a new exploratory walk and even though some of had been there before it was different and some of us were quite confused about the right way to travel so there was speculation and bush detours but we found the cave. Who was worried? >From then it was follow our noses and leader until the climb back up and out. Coral was again the casualty this week when looking at a tree she decided to head butt a rock testing its resistance. It was the declared winner as she fell backwards. No worries though. Just an egg. Our new Guy Mark who was expecting a gentle stroll soon learned about the sitting to be done and the thrill of the challenge and claimed he will return. I am yet undecided on the highlight of the day however with a follow up visit to the homemade ice cream shop. Yummmmm. Maurine couldn't decide what flavour so started a trend as she walked out with four flavours piled atop one another. Couldn't resist. Some of us got caught up in the museum/ souvenir shop well worth a visit. Finally sweet tooth satisfied we went for a drive for , you guessed it. More photos of the rock we proudly conquered.... Thanks to Peter for leading us on an adventure and thanks to everyone else for their company.. Great day had...

Celestine.

Northern Territory Trip July 21st – August 3rd

6 of us flew to Darwin on July 21st to begin our Northern Territory Jaunt. We arrived in the wee hours of the morning and tried to get some shut eye at a Backpackers Hostel before heading out the next morning. We hired a mini bus and drove to Kakadu where we camped the next 2 nights. We saw some amazing aboriginal artwork and really enjoyed the exploring we did there. It's a very impressive National Park and the vastness of it made us all want to return for a more in depth look in the future.



We then drove on to Katherine Gorge where we met up with Clive and Daphne to begin the Jatbula Trail. A quick boat trip across the river and we were ready to begin. Fortunately the first day was only 9km as the heat threatened to wipe us all out. Lunch was had at a very impressive water hole complete with waterfall. The rest of the walk was spectacular. Each of the 5 nights we camped at unique and spectacular gorges, rivers and waterholes. There is no road access to any of these places and the only way in is to walk- the trail actually follows the traditional route travelled by the Jawoyn people. We saw more artwork along the way and the scenery was ever changing and always spectacular. Apart from one night we saw no other people along the track and that made it even more special.

Once we arrived at Edith Falls we said good-bye to Clive and Daphne who were commencing a slow trip back to Mackay. The rest of us continued on to Litchfield National Park where we camped for another 2 nights and did some more exploring. On the way we spent a night at a small town called Bachelor where we used the washing machine with great glee and headed to the local pub for a well- deserved home cooked meal – nothing dehydrated that night.



Back to Darwin we headed. Our last evening was spent enjoying ourselves at the Mindil Markets and sitting on the beach to watch the sun go down along with half of Darwin. It was a lovely way to round off the trip. A huge thank you to Kathy who did a magnificent job of organising everything for the rest of us and it all went off without a hitch.

Daphne has sent along some useful camping tips which I will now include – they were all devised along the way.

Collective wisdom of hardened hikers

1. If you pitch your tent under a flowering tree your tent may well end up with bat poo on it next morning.
2. If hiking in NT, take a fly veil.
3. Eat your chocolate early in the day so it is not melted.
4. A solar powered battery charger, draped on the back of the pack while walking, will charge up AAA / AA batteries.
5. The toilet is invariably at the top of a steep rocky path, so it is a good idea to make sure you have toilet paper with you before getting there. And it is even a better idea to do a recce in the daylight so you have some idea of where you are going.
6. Porridge lovers can be saved the hassle of cleaning pots by using instant oats (available from supermarkets) – just like a cup of soup, empty sachet into mug, add hot water, wait 5 – 10 minutes, and you have porridge.
7. Dried egg powder (found near the flour in the supermarket) makes up an acceptable scrambled egg.

8. A waterproof dressing is handy.
9. Before locking your vehicle up for several days while you are walking, make sure none of the local wildlife has stowed away.
10. If you drop your water bottle into the river, make sure there is a good looking young man available ready to strip off before diving in to save it.



Happy Birthday Kathy

