



The Message Stick

February 2012

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

Web: <http://www.mackay.bwq.org.au>

Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

Crediton Trail	29 th January
Cape Hillsborough	5 th February
Hazlewood Gorge	12 th February
General Meeting	15 th February
Shoal Point Social Walk	19 th February
Black's Creek	26 th February

Games Night

Dan our illustrious Social coordinator is planning a games night for our next social gathering to be held on Friday 24th February with the venue to be announced.

Dan would love to hear from you if you have any favourite board or card games you would be happy to bring along to share.

Full details will be sent out later but this is definitely a date to keep in mind.



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

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year Break. Garry and I spent a fantastic 2 weeks touring the south island of New Zealand in a "Juicy Van". We did lots of walking and saw and experienced some wonderful places. Our aim was to keep away from the more populated areas and we managed to do so most of the time. If anyone has photos or stories of their holiday they think would be of interest to Club members send them to me and I will include them in next month's newsletter.

Thanks Dan for a fantastic New Year's Eve Party. Everyone one who attended had a thoroughly enjoyable time and Dan was surprised at how many stayed on to midnight to see the New Year in. Garry has been putting together some photos which I will include in the newsletter. He took the colours theme seriously and dyed his hair a fluorescent yellow for the night but unfortunately it only showed up in photos and couldn't be seen with the naked eye. To quote Dan "Bizarre!"

Let's hope 2012 proves to be a great one for bushwalking. Please don't be shy in coming forward if you would like to lead a walk. I look forward to catching up with you all on walks and hearing about your adventures over the break.

Jenny

Wet Weather

Yes it's the rainy season again!

If any walks need to be cancelled late in the week due to wet weather, I will email out a message saying the walk is off and letting people know if there is an alternative one happening. I will phone people who don't have email.

Our Publicity Officer is Rob Kollim

robertskool@qld.chariot.net.au

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

Note

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to jennywooding@dodo.com.au prior to 22nd February

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

Crediton Trail
29th January

Leader Dan Mckinlay: 49534249 or
0409057494 or email dmckinlay@bigpond.com

Journey: 190km \$20.00

Depart: 7am

Map Ref: Mirani 609509 to 598470

Grade: M54

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 300m **Pace:** average

Terrain: uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rainforest

Expect: gentle slopes and some lantana

This walk is a partly marked trail through the scrub from the Crediton area emerging at the GREAT WHITE TANK on the Cockies Creek

Road, and retracing our steps back to the start. This section is part of the Highland Great Walk. This is a suitable walk for beginners with reasonable fitness. You will need to carry sufficient water for the whole day.

Cape Hillsborough 5th February

Leader: Kathy Cant 49522269 / 0423 046187

Depart: 7am

Journey: 100km \$10

Grade: S45

Estimated walking time: 3-4 hours. **Total uphill:** 250m. **Pace:** medium.

Terrain: mostly on track with some steep scrambles, rock hopping.

Vegetation: open forest, rain forest, beach.

The walk will commence from the carpark near the resort and follow the track along the beachfront then up numerous steps through remnant rainforest before reaching Andrew's Point and Turtle lookout. Good views across the bay to Mackay will be the reward for all the uphill. We will then retrace our steps for a distance before leaving the track to work our way down to Hidden Valley. Tide permitting we can investigate some small caves amongst the rocky headland. We will return to the cars via the Hidden Valley road.

Hazlewood Gorge (Downstream) Sunday 12th February

Leader: Garry Hendicott 4944 0236

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 200km \$20.00

Map Ref: Hillalong 516 520

Grade: M85

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven, rocky **Vegetation:** open forest **Expect:** some steep slopes, lots of rock hopping, steep scrambles (hands, knees & bums), loose rocks, swimming holes, difficult creek crossings.

This spectacular gorge with its coloured rock formations is situated outside the rain forest area about 16km from Eungella. We will access the gorge by scrambling down a rough steep gully and return the same way. There will be a lot of rock hopping and there may be

opportunities for swimming. How far we manage to get downstream will depend on how much water is in the creek. It is likely to be very hot with little shade so bring plenty of water for the whole day (minimum 3 litres + reserve). The water in the creek is not suitable for drinking so please don't expect to rely on it. In the event of heavy rain or possibility of severe thunderstorms this walk may be cancelled at the discretion of the leader.

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

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

Induction by Garry and Jenny

Shoal Point To Reliance Creek social walk & BBQ Sunday 19th February

Leader: Daphne Goodson 49549338, 0417706240

Depart: 2pm

Journey: 36 km \$3.50

Grade: M23

Estimated walking time: 2 – 3 hours

Total of all uphill sections: 5 metres

Pace: average

Terrain: fairly even, beach sand.

Vegetation: mangroves

Expect, sand, sun, scenery, insects

We will leave the cars at Shoal Point Park and make our way to the mouth of Reliance Creek, with Cape Hillsborough, Mt Jukes, Mt Mandurana and Little Green Island all creating a backdrop. After returning to Shoal Point, we can do a bit more walking in the other direction around the rocky point if the group is so inclined.

Bring BBQ tea, water, sunscreen and insect repellent, and enjoy the luxury of proper toilets, BBQs and picnic tables. This is a popular spot, so chairs might be handy.

Suitable for beginners, non walking partners welcome.

Blacks Creek
Sunday 29th February

Leader: Frances Eiteneuer 49576028
Depart: 7:00am
Journey: 130kms \$13.00
Map Ref: Mirani 901423
Grade: M55
Estimated walking time: 5 -6 hours Total of all
uphill sections: 10 m **Pace:** average **Terrain:**
uneven, rocky and soft sand creek bed
Vegetation: some open rain forest, scratchy

vines **Expect:** walking along creek bank through scrub, some walking in soft sand, some minor scrambling, limited shade, a relaxed day. This will be a relatively easy walk along the banks of the picturesque Blacks Creek. There should be plenty of opportunities for swimming so don't forget your swimmer. You will need to bring sunscreen and water for the whole day.

Previous Activities

Ball Bay/Moon Eclipse/Christmas Camp **10th – 11th December 2011**

The weather looked decidedly uncertain, but as I had made all the preparations for the camp, I decided to go regardless of weather, but hedged my bets by deciding that I could sleep in the car or come home if it poured rain. There were only 3 others there when I arrived and there was discussion as to who else would turn up, or should we go home. However gradually others arrived and we decided to pitch our tents. We enjoyed the company of 5 Plumed Whistling ducks, who quickly made it obvious that they were very interested in sharing any food we may have.



Late afternoon saw us leisurely walking the beach towards Smalleys Beach and Cape Hillsborough. The tide was out leaving lovely ripples in the sand. There were some attempts at frisby throwing...there was plenty of throwing but not much catching. Christine found an interesting white sea creature, but unfortunately none of us knew what it was. We could hear copious amounts of thunder and see plenty of lightening in the south towards Mackay, but fortunately it stayed to the south and we had no more rain. Kate

had erected her gazebo which came in handy in any case

After an excellent BBQ dinner, including fish caught during the week by John especially for the night, we took our chairs down onto the sand to wait for the total eclipse of the moon. There was discussion as to whether this would begin to occur at 10.45pm or later, and as there were many clouds, it didn't look all that promising that we would see anything. In the end only Daphne, Kate and I stayed on the beach to wait for the eclipse. Thinking that we were the only people on the beach we were surprised to see fireworks being let off further down the beach, so we also enjoyed their display. At first we were not sure if we were watching the beginning of the eclipse or if what we were seeing was just clouds obscuring part of the moon. However, as more and more of the moon disappeared it became obvious that it really was the eclipse. I went back to the camp ground to get Coral, who then came and watched with us. When the eclipse was "total", the sky became very dark. By then we were quite tired and decided not to stay up to see the moon re-emerge again, although I believe Coral did check it out later.



Breakfast was leisurely with bacon and eggs cooked by Edie and toast by Ken. Ken made the mistake of giving some toast to the ducks, who rewarded him by nipping his heels when they wanted

more. Coral had gone off for a walk up to McBride's Lookout and had very rubbery eggs when she returned. We lingered after breakfast having a good chat, and then Paul arrived. He hadn't come up for the camp as the weather was so bad in Mackay that he didn't think that we would have stayed the night



By 10.30am all except Kate, Paul and I had gone back to Mackay. We decided to walk around the headland towards McBride's Point. The scenery was beautiful with great views back towards Smith's Pinnacle. We encountered beautiful mangrove flowers, bright orange pandanus fruit, lovely patterned beetles and turtles swimming lazily in the bay. It was quite humid after the previous day's rain, and the water looked so inviting, we just had to dive in for a dip. The water was delightful and we swam around a couple of the small rocky bays. We didn't know it until we got out, but we had been swimming with a turtle (I expect it didn't know we were there either). Although the weather hadn't looked promising for a camp in the beginning, it turned out to be a really enjoyable camp. Many thanks to all the organizers. It was a shame that Cathy was so ill and could only join us for short periods.
Penny

Eungella Tracks. Sunday 22nd January

Well there was a great turnout for the first walk of the year with 24 soles. There were also two new walkers, Jeanette and Margaret to welcome to the group. This is one of the longer walks of the year at close to 17 km and is a good workout after the Christmas excesses and everyone acquitted themselves very well. We were very lucky with the weather and enjoyed a fine day, in fact there were some heavy rain showers just after the walk had finished, Daphne you could not have organized it any better. I am pleased to say there were very few Leaches.

My hat also goes off to Daphne for her great organization. She knew exactly how many cars needed to travel, how many in each car, what car had to stay at the bottom to then transport all the drivers back to the top at the end of the day to collect their cars. It all sounds easy but it is not, particularly where there is car hopping at the end of the day. With a big group you need to have people with radios at the front, in the middle and at the back and thanks to Garry who lead at the front, Daphne in the middle and Christine who was in the lonely spot of tail end Charlie.

A great day with the reward of a drink and a little bite at the end at the chalet.

Cheers
Dan

New Year 2011-2012

