



The Message Stick

June 2011

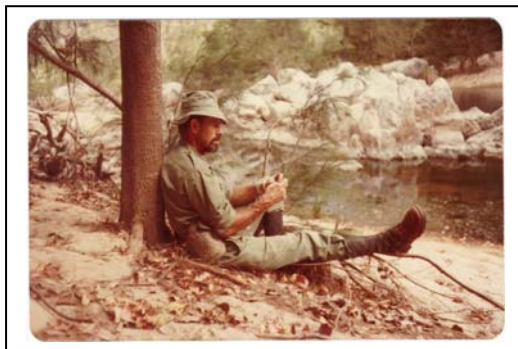
Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740

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Future Events

The Bluff.....	5 th June
Whitsunday Great Walk hike/camp.....	11 th -13 th June
General Meeting.....	15 th June
Crediton Loop.....	19 th June
Freshwater Point.....	26 th June
Up River Road to Burroughs Creek.....	3 rd July



Les Pyke
09/01/1930-07/05/2011

In Memory of Les Pyke

Les Pyke was a founding member of Mackay Bushwalkers back in the early 70's. Les was one of a handful who started the club and played an important leadership role for many years. Mackay Bushwalkers offer their sincere condolences to Les's wife and family and would like to express their appreciation for the important contribution Les made to our club.

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

June should be a great month of activities starting off with our Bowls and Barbeque night to be held on the 3rd. We have some good walks coming up which are suited to the cooler weather.

Recently I attended an information session on Myrtle Rust which is a very serious threat to our native bush and rainforest. As of yet it has not been detected in our area but has been discovered in S.E. Queensland. It seems inevitable that it will arrive here and we need to be on the lookout for it. I have attached to the newsletter an information sheet which has a web link on it, so take some time to read it to know what to look out for. If anyone sees what they think is myrtle rust, they should take GPS coordinates and call Bio Security Queensland as soon as possible. Do not touch the affected plant or try and take a sample.

Next month's newsletter will be a little late coming out – probably the first week in July due to the Editor going bush once again with her backpack on with some fellow club members.

Remember to send in photos and write ups to keep the newsletter interesting.

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.

The Bluff (Homevale NP)

Sunday 5th June

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.

Whitsunday Great Walk Hike/ Camp

Saturday 11th to Monday 13th June

Leader: Clive Goodson phone 49549338

Depart: 11.30am Saturday

Journey: 300km \$30.00 (plus share of taxi fare to return drivers from Airlie Beach to Brandy Ck)

Camp Fees: \$10.30 per person

Map Ref: Proserpine

Grade: L37

Day 1

Estimated walking time: 3 hours (8.3km) Brandy Creek to Repulse Creek

Leave Mackay at 11.30 am, drive to Brandy Creek, stopping for lunch at Proserpine – approx 2 ½ hours. The walk is relatively easy and fairly flat.

Day 2

Estimated walking time: 5 - 6 hours (11.5km)
Repulse Creek to Bloodwood Camp. Hardest day, with some steep climbing.

Day 3: Estimated walking time: 3.5 - 4.5 hours (8.5kms plus additional side track)
Bloodwood Camp to Airlie Beach. Some steep climbs and descents this day.

This is a full backpack hike which will require a good level of fitness as there are some reasonably steep climbs. The two camp sites at Repulse Creek and Bloodwood have toilet facilities and water. You will need to carry water for the day. All your needs for the camp (food/ tent/sleeping bag etc) has to be carried in and out. This walk is a good introduction to backpacking.

It is essential that prospective walkers notify Clive on their intended participation as we will to have final numbers to book with NWPS by Wednesday 1st June. If you have any questions phone Clive or check out the DERM web site for the walk details.

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

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

Induction by Clive and Daphne

Crediton Loop Walk Option 1 & 2 Sunday 19th June

Leader: Denis Jeffery 49583394

Depart: 7am

Journey: 180km \$18.00

Map Ref: Mirani 562584

Grade: L15/L17

Estimated Walking Time: 3.5/6.5 Hrs **Total of**

all uphill sections: 120/460m **Pace:** Medium

Terrain: Graded rainforest track, unsealed &

sealed road **Vegetation:** Rainforest **Expect:**

Leeches

The walk starts at Broken River car park and heads to the Crediton Loop Road on the Crediton Creek Trail which follows Broken River. From here it is on unsealed road to Crediton Hall where option 1 finishes at a distance of 11km. A car shuffle will need to be arranged. Option 2 carries on from here on the southern section of the Loop

Road back to Broken River. There is a reasonable climb after Crediton Hall. Although this is not a typical bushwalk, it may be enjoyable for those who would like a longer walk. It is quite pleasant walking along the Loop Road and the scenery is excellent. The distance for Option 2 is about 22km.

Freshwater Point Sunday 26th June

Leader: Penny McMahon 49514287

Depart: 8am

Journey: 100km \$10

Map Ref: Mackay 419279

Grade: S44

Estimated walking time: 4 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** Not much. **Pace:** average. **Terrain:** some beach, some tracks, some rocks. **Vegetation:** Could be long grass. **Expect:** Sandflies.

Expect an easy day with some beach walking (sand and rocks), some tracks, some rockhopping and probably some long grass. If there has been plenty of rain beforehand the tracks could be sloshy underfoot. If the weather is hot bring plenty of water and do the Slip, Slop, Slap. There is a very short but steep climb up to a lookout and this is well worth the effort. We will look for some controversial archaeological sites listed on an information brochure attributed to ancient Phoenician visitors. Bring your imagination & sufficient drinking water for the day. This walk is suitable for beginners.

Up River Road to Burroughs Creek Sunday 3rd July

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7am

Journey: 190km \$19

Map Ref: Mirani 609 514, 258 465

Grade: L55

Estimated walking time: 7 hours **Total uphill**

350mtrs Walk distance 15km **Terrain** uneven

Vegetation rainforest, lantana, open forest.

First section through Crediton scrub to "Great White tank" on Cockies Creek Road is part of Highlands Great Walk. Could be overgrown and poorly marked. Will then head westward along road for couple kms then turn off down a track to junction of Burroughs and Hazlewood Creeks. Here will have lunch and retrace steps to cars.

Previous Activities

South Molle Camp 30th April – 2nd May



What a perfect weekend for a camp on a tropical island. Garry and I almost had a disastrous start. We were rudely awoken at the appointed time by the alarm to discover we had a black out. Of course headlamps and torches were in the packs in the car. I grabbed a solar light from the garden so we could at least have a cuppa before we set off.

The very early start was worth it as we found ourselves deposited on South Molle before 8am. The camp site was gorgeous and the 10 of us spread ourselves out and quickly set up camp. After a cuppa we decided it was too blowy and choppy for snorkelling off our beach and so set off with fins and masks dangling from our packs to Paddle Bay on the northern end of the island. I had the brilliant idea of going off track and just zipping over the headlands to get there. Sounded good in theory but it turned out to be quite a hard slog. The slopes were heavily covered with grass trees and the undergrowth was extremely long and difficult to battle through. We battled on to cover maybe half the distance before going back to the track. However we did see parts of the island and spectacular views that we would not otherwise have seen and so we all thought it was worth it. After a trip through the old resort we arrived at Paddle Bay where we had lunch. All 10 of us went snorkelling and although visibility was not perfect we enjoyed it.

As the tide had dropped enough to expose the causeway we headed over to Mid Molle Island. We had a quick look around and Kevin climbed a tree to get some even better photos. We headed back along the track to our campsite making a detour along the way to see Balancing Rock. We cooked a leisurely dinner and went off to bed around 8 pm – we had been up since 3.30am after all.



Day 2 and Ann and 3 Irish backpackers arrived on the early morning boat. Ann quickly set up her campsite while the rest of us had breakfast, a swim and generally dithered around. The 11 of us set off on track for Spion Kopp – the highest point on the island. We made it in time for smoko even with lots of photo stops along the way. Edie produced Easter eggs for us all.

I had next planned to head down to Oyster Bay for lunch. However the track was no longer mentioned on the maps and when we arrived at where it used to be we discovered it was completely overgrown. Not to be deterred we set off anyway. Garry with his ever trusty GPS was out in front and we worked our way down mostly following where the track had once been. After exploring the rocky beach we sat down for lunch as a



fly over of the Rouelettes took place. **Once again I had timed it to perfection!** Daphne then set off with her piece of flint from the old Aboriginal Quarry to see if Oyster Bay was aptly named and was pleased to have success.

The track back was quite hot walking and when we reached the turn off to Mt Jeffery only Daphne, Clive and Kevin decided to take it. A swim was calling the rest of us so we went back to camp. From

here Garry, myself and Kathy went off around the southern headland as the tide was low enough to check out a couple of other beaches. Kathy and I had fun beach combing through the drift wood and debris which had washed up on the beaches. We found several treasures. Garry now has a new pair of thongs – the fact they are different colours and sizes is irrelevant. The others went snorkelling from the beach and were very impressed with the quality of coral and the fish they saw.

After dinner we sat around and told stories – some being taller than others. Again Edie produced a stash of Easter Eggs.

The next morning the boat arrived at 10am to sadly take us back to the mainland. After collecting the cars we headed into Airlie to enjoy lunch together before going home. Thanks to everyone who came along. It was a fabulous weekend of great company, bushwalking, snorkelling and lots of laughs. Let's do it again sometime.



Jenny

Mt David 15th May



Bio Security threat - Myrtle Rust in Qld. National Parks



A serious new threat to our native vegetation may impact on bushwalking club activities.

Myrtle Rust affects the Myrtaceae family of plants which dominates most Australian forests and woodlands, and is the second largest plant family in Queensland with 601 native species. This family includes eucalypts, bloodwoods, bottlebrushes, paperparks, tea trees, lilly pillies and water gums.

Myrtle Rust has already been discovered in Lamington and Kondalilla National Parks.

Bushwalkers are asked to clean all their equipment, clothing and particularly hats before venturing into the bush. If a site is discovered, don't touch it but photograph the affected plants and report the location.

Report all suspect plants immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.

For more information please visit:

http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/myrtle-rust.html