



# The Message Stick

## November 2011

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

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### Future Events

Pinevale.....	6 <sup>th</sup> November
Blacks Beach Social Walk.....	12 <sup>th</sup> November
AGM .....	16 <sup>th</sup> November
St Helens Creek.....	20 <sup>th</sup> November
Pretty Creek.....	27 <sup>th</sup> November
Break up Camp.....	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> December

Annual General Meeting  
16<sup>th</sup> November  
All Committee Positions will become  
vacant  
Nomination form attached to newsletter

Christmas Break up  
Camp  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December

### 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*

It's that time of the year again when we all become very busy. Please keep in mind the upcoming AGM and all nominations for committee positions will be welcome. After 5 years as President, Garry feels it is time for someone fresh to take the helm.

Our Christmas camp is coming up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December at Quandong Eco Lodge. More details follow in the newsletter but it is guaranteed to be a fantastic weekend and hopefully not to be spoilt by wet weather this year. Have a great month everyone.

#### *Note*

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to [jennywooding@dodo.com.au](mailto:jennywooding@dodo.com.au) prior to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011

### 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

#### Pinevale Creek Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer 4957 6028

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 130km \$13.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 910430

**Grade:** M55

**Estimated walking time:** 5 - 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest **Expect:** some rockhopping, lantana, moonlighter, long grass, swimming holes.

This walk begins at the headwaters of the Pioneer River just below the junction of Blacks and Black Waterhole Creeks. Depending on water levels, there may be a chance for a swim at the end of the walk. We will follow Pinevale Creek (maybe along an old road) to the site of a disused copper mine, and will then rockhop further up the creek. This is a fairly easy walk,

suitable for people who don't mind rockhopping. Be suitably clothed to go through long grass. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

#### Black's Beach Social afternoon Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November

**Leaders:** Clive & Daphne Goodson 4954 9338, 0417706240

**Depart:** 4.00pm from Black's Beach picnic area.

**Grade:** M32

**Estimated walking time:** 2 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 5m **Pace:** medium **Terrain:** beach sand **Expect:** sun, mosquitoes, views of Islands, Slade Point, migratory shore birds, attractive beach scrub.

This is a social activity, being a BYO BBQ at the Blacks Beach picnic area, (Northern end of

Bourke Street) with a short walk beforehand to stimulate the appetite. We will walk south from the picnic area along the beach, through remnant beach scrub to the mouth of McReady Creek, returning along the beach.(8km) There is a lookout at the picnic area that is well worth the climb (stairs)

Partners and friends are welcome to attend. Non walkers have the option of arriving for the BBQ around 6pm, or having a relaxing afternoon at the picnic area

Please bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat & suitable footwear, BBQ food and chairs.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Induction** By Kathy and Daphne

**St Helens Creek  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

**Leader:** Paul Eder 495 47639 (6-8pm)

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 140km \$14.00

**Map Ref:** Calen 740806

**Grade** S73

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven, rocky all the way. **Expect:** mostly forest rock hopping, creek crossings, scrambles, swimming holes, beautiful scenery.

St Helens creek is a large rainforest creek which flows out of Eungella National Park in the Cameron Pocket area about 13km west of Calen. Depending on water level, we might have to cross the creek a few times –so if you don't want to do it in your boots or barefoot bring some sandals along. There will be plenty of swimming holes to plunge into so be prepared. (bring camera along as this is a magic spot – my favourite).

**Pretty Creek  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**Leader:** Denis Jeffery 49583394

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 200kms \$20.00

**Map Ref:** 658731 to 668750

**Grade:** M65

**Estimated walking time:** 5hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 400m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** uneven **Vegetation:** rainforest **Expect:** rock hopping, a short steep slope, loose rocks

The walk follows the western trail of Mt. Dalrymple to the first creek crossing which is Pretty Creek. We then walk upstream in the creek passing a small waterfall on the way. Opportunities for swimming will be limited unless we get some rain. After reaching a point where the creek becomes very narrow we will walk back downstream to a junction and climb uphill to drop into another branch of Pretty Creek which we will follow back to the main creek and then back to the cars. This is not a particularly demanding walk but we will be doing minor rock hopping for most of the day.

**Christmas Camp  
Saturday – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Contact:** Kathy Cant 49522269

**Arrive:** From 12:00pm Saturday

**Journey:** 200km \$20

**Where:** Quondong Lodge Eco Centre 1073 Dalrymple Road, Eungella

**Cost:** \$75 per head\* (to be collected on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December)

**Accommodation:** Dormitory Style – Beds supplied but you will need to bring linen, pillow and towel (You may bring your own tent if you prefer)

**Food:** All meals are supplied. Saturday – Lunch, Afternoon Tea then evening BBQ, Sunday – Breakfast and Morning Tea.

**What to bring:** BYO Drinks

Partners are most welcome.

The plan is to meet at the usual car park at 10.30 am Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> and head up to Eungella.

For anyone travelling on their own the address is 1073 Dalrymple Rd. The Gate has M Bulder on it. After going through the gate keep to the left and then go through the gate which has a Land for Wildlife sign on it.

Petrol money is \$20.

An afternoon walk down Quandong Ck after lunch is optional.

There will be a BBQ on Saturday night.

On Sunday morning we could stroll down to the creek for a swim or just kick back as the fancy take us.

**If you are coming on this camp you will need to let Kathy know whether you intend**

**to camp or stay in the dormitory and book before Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November.**

\* The cost is \$75 per person but the club will subsidize part of this for each member. The amount will be decided at the next meeting and I will email out the actual cost. Partners who are not club members will need to pay the full \$75.

## *Previous Activities*

Tree Fern Creek  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011

The walk began at about 8.20am on a beautiful fine day. The first part of the walk was up a road and then down into the creek. The water level was quite low and the rocks were dry so this made the rock hopping relatively easy. We gradually made our way upstream and reached a small waterfall where we had morning tea. After the break we set off again, and then it was decided that we would split into two groups. The fast group would go up the creek as far as they could in a determined time while the other group would continue on at a more moderate pace. This seemed to work out quite well.



The second group continued walking up the creek as the others soon disappeared from site. We spotted the Eungella Day frog and tadpoles in some of the pools so the condition of the creek must be okay. Once we reached a small cave it was time for lunch. We were serenaded by a Wompoo Fruit Dove in the tall trees above us as we ate our lunch. It was very peaceful listening to the sounds of the forest. The return journey took us back downstream at a steady pace. As we made our way, Frances was nearly taken out by a rather large dead tree that was accidentally dislodged, but thankfully it just missed her. After a couple of hours we reached a junction where we waited for the other group to join us. We had not been waiting long, when they appeared, and, after swapping stories we continued on back to the cars. We all enjoyed a cuppa and cake and then everyone headed off home. Thank you to Frances for organising the town end, to Kate for providing the bananas, and to everyone else for a most enjoyable day.

Denis

### **Further Up Tree Fern Creek**

After Denis suggested that those who wanted to go up the creek further at a faster pace could do so, 6 of us over optimistic types decided to see if we could get to the top of the creek. The rocks were dry and the water low so we made good progress. We were fortunate to have the beautiful rainforest canopy almost all the way so we didn't have the sun beating on us but a surprise we got when we came across a recent spectacular landslip on one side of the creek. The rock had slipped leaving a vertical cliff face and large rocks had fallen down across the creek, leaving us to pick our way through big boulders and fallen vegetation. We wondered what the sight of it happening and the noise that it must have made would have been like! Later Paul climbed part way up on some of the boulders and said



that he could see Finch Hatton township in the distance. Not to be deterred yet, we continued up the creek which was getting steeper and narrower. By this time the creek bed was mostly dry but we could at times hear water gurgling underneath the ground. By 12.30pm my legs were getting wobbly and I needed to eat, so Paul and I found a good lunch spot beside a cliff face with water sliding down over it. The other 4 went on further, after 15 minutes Kate and Di came back to join us for lunch, they also needed food and said that the creek bed just kept going up and up with no end in sight. Twenty minutes after that as we were just getting ready to go back and check out the landslip more thoroughly Vaughan and Ken rejoined us with the same story, it just kept going up and up and getting narrower and narrower but with no end in sight. Reaching the top was not to be but we were

so pleased with having got so far up the creek. We moved at a fast pace trying to find the best way down, it really was rock hopping and the rocks were hard. Vaughan made a miscalculation on a large boulder, from which, once committed, the only way was a long way down. Unfortunately his landing was not graceful and he managed to cut his leg quite deeply. Ken administered first aid and we stopped for them to catch up on lunch. Lower down Kate just had to have a dip, not really enough water for a swim, she said it was "refreshing", but I was not tempted to be that refreshed. A beautiful Ulysses butterfly came to check her out. Paul spurred us on by saying that the others would already be back and on their second cup of coffee by now (and to me a cup of coffee and relax sounded heavenly). However we did catch up with them just a short while before we exited the creek. As usual, Romaine had anticipated that we would just love coffee and cake back on the verandah and had baked us a delicious carrot and ginger cake. It was just the thing to finish off a great day's walking. I do admit that I certainly had muscular soreness during the week to remind me of those hard, unforgiving rocks. A pity we did not reach the top, but I figure that we made a gallant attempt at doing so. So there is a challenge in there somewhere, to somebody, at sometime in the future . A really good day. Penny



## Hazelwood Gorge Upstream

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011



The day started with drizzly rain but once we had driven over the range and reached the dam road, the weather was fine as it usually is out in this area. We had a large group of nineteen, including Lucinda on her first walk, and began walking at about 8.45am. There was another vehicle parked at the starting point so we expected that we might meet up with some other walkers somewhere along the track. Sure enough, when we were some distance along the old road we came across two fellows having a rest. They had been to the top of the gorge but

could not find a way down. After informing them that they could follow us if they wanted to, but they would be walking at their own risk, they decided to do just that. We carried on and soon reached the top

of the gorge, and, after a short stop for photos, we descended to the base of the gorge and stopped for morning tea. We soon headed off rock hopping upstream with our extras in tow. The going was fairly easy as the rocks were dry and the water height was at a reasonable level. The lunch spot was reached in quick time and we decided on an early lunch.

Some of the ladies opted for a swim and from all reports the water temperature was quite acceptable. It was here that the other two walkers decided to leave us and forge on ahead after we gave them instructions on how to get back to the cars. I guess we were too slow for them! After



a good hour for lunch we continued upstream and reached the place where we were to leave the creek.

Fran was the only one to have a last swim while the rest of us had afternoon tea. We exited the creek and after a short uphill section we walked the last couple of kilometres across country to the cars. Our extra walkers car was gone when we arrived back so they must have made it okay. Someone who shall remain nameless had left their lights on and ended up with a flat battery, but luckily there was a second battery installed and we soon got going. It was a great day, so thanks to all, and thanks also to Garry and Jenny for organising the town end.



Denis

## Red Cliff Island Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September

