



# The Message Stick

## April 2016

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

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### Future Events

Reliance Creek .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> April
Kangaroo Creek .....	10 <sup>th</sup> April
St Lawrence Camp.....	8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> April
Lineel Falls/ Pretty Creek Loop.....	17 <sup>th</sup> April
General Meeting.....	20 <sup>th</sup> April
Sth Molle Camp .....	30 <sup>th</sup> April, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> May



*Looking back at the campsite on South Molle Island*

### Club Officers

President	Carole Weekes	49546108	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Coral Morgan	49578474	Assist Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneur	49576028
Treasurer	Michelle Dartnell	0428552603	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	Vacant		Publicity Officer	Vacant	
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236			

### *From the Editor*

Unfortunately 3 walks last month had to be cancelled due to rain or too much water being in the creeks because of the volume of rain we had received. Thanks to Coral who led half day walks on two of the days scheduled walks did not go ahead. Fingers crossed all walks will go ahead in April.

We have 2 long weekends coming up in the next month. The May Day weekend will see a return of the South Molle camp – we haven't been there for four years so it will be great to go back. A walk or camp for the ANZAC weekend is still being decided upon so I will email that out when a decision has been made.

Happy Easter everyone and enjoy the break whatever you get up to.

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

### *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*

**All trip leaders please ensure you collect the club gear bag from Garry before undertaking your walk.**

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

#### **Eimeo Creek To Reliance Creek And Back Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Leader:** Daphne Goodson 0417 706 240

**Depart:** 7am from Mackay, or 7.30 from Eimeo Creek car park.

**Journey:** 30k - \$3.00

**Grade:** L24

**Estimated walking time:** 4-5 hours **Total of all uphill:** negligible **Pace:** average **Terrain:** level beach and a few rocks **Vegetation:** Very little – mangroves at northern end. Some of the walk will be on a sealed track through coastal vegetation. **Expect:** sandflies, heat and possibly rain, but also stunning scenery.

The plan is to walk from the northern bank of Eimeo Creek, near the Bucasia Caravan Park, to Shoal Point picnic area, and then head on to the mouth of Reliance Creek, which is about 7 kilometres, and then to make the return journey. It usually takes about 90 minutes from Bucasia to Shoal Point, and then another 45 minutes from Shoal Point to Reliance Creek, but don't forget to multiply all this by two. There are many beautiful spots for drink stops and lunch, and it will be a relaxed day, but incorporating a fair walk as well.

This is well suited to beginners, and those wanting a shorter walk can meet us, or leave, at Shoal Point picnic area.

**Kangaroo Creek –Cathu  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 0427 283 732 /  
49543428  
**Depart:** 7:00am  
**Journey:** 180kms \$18.00  
**Map Ref:** Calen 603947  
**Grade:** S83

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours **Terrain:** uneven, rock hopping, scrambling. **Vegetation:** rain forest **Expect:** swimming holes

The last time Wendy and I went to Kangaroo Creek it was overgrown and interesting walking. I have heard some people have been to the creek since and have enjoyed the walk, so we will do it too. Kangaroo creek flows west from the top of Cathu state forest, it descends from the loop road and eventually joins Urannah creek. The top section of the creek has some pretty waterfalls and pools.

Although the distance to the main feature is not long, the walk involves constant rock hopping and scrambling. Bring food and water for the day, clothes to swim in and spare clothes for the ride home. It should be a good day.

**St Lawrence Camp  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

This camp is to coincide with the St Lawrence Wetlands weekend being put on by the Isaac Regional Council.

Camping will be at the Recreational Grounds and will involve a \$10 fee per campsite.

Activities for the weekend include evening markets on the Friday, an outdoor cinema, wetlands tours, birdwatching and a Bushman's dinner on the Saturday night. More information regarding the activities can be found at <http://www.isaac.qld.gov.au/wetlands-weekend>

**Lineel Falls/Pretty Creek Loop.  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
Leader:** Jenny Wooding 49440236  
0447091532  
**Depart:** 7.00am  
**Journey:** 200km \$20  
**Grade:** M65  
**Map Ref:** Mirani 669 731

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 100m **Pace:** medium  
**Terrain:** Rainforest, rockhopping, some scrambling, creek crossings.  
**Expect:** Nice swimming holes and some off track bashing

This walk begins on the Western trail to Mt Dalrymple before we will head off on a ridge down to the junction of Pretty Creek with another creek. We will explore a little way downstream in Pretty Creek where there are some spectacular swimming holes. We will then head back to the junction and diverge 150m or so upstream to visit Lineel Falls. From here we will travel 800m back up Pretty Creek via some small waterfalls and micro gorges to where we will rejoin the western trail to return to the cars. The creek is quite spectacular in this section.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

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

**South Molle Island Camp  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April– Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 49440236,  
0447091532  
**Depart:** 4.30am  
**Journey:** 320kms \$32.00  
**Return Boat Trip:** \$65  
**Camp Fees:** \$12

A camp in Paradise -This will be a 2 night camp on South Molle Island. Saturday has a very early start as the boat trip needs to coincide with the high tide and we will return to the mainland mid-morning on the Monday. The boat trip fee includes snorkel equipment and drinking water for all. This will be a casual camp and will include walks both on and off track and it will provide stunning views of the Whitsundays. An evening walk up the cliff track for spectacular views of the sun setting over the mainland is an option. We will have time to snorkel off the beach where we will be camped and it has some really nice corals. Those who don't wish to snorkel can enjoy their time exploring the rocks around the beach. Campers

will also need to share the cost of carpark fees with the drivers.

**PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THIS CAMP BY NO LATER THAN 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL SO I CAN BOOK THE BOAT AND CAMP SITES.**

## *Previous Activities*

### **Two half day walks Sunday 13th and Sunday 20th March**

We had been counting on Pretty Creek and Robert's Lost Falls but the best laid plans of mice and men.....

Five of us, including one comparatively new member assembled at 6am to walk along the beach to the mouth of Baker's Creek, the tide having decreed such an early start. We cheated a bit by starting at the creek rather than at Quota Park, and the usual ritual of changing into beach sandals was performed. I am pleased to report that everyone crossed the creek and continued with the walk, as opposed to last time when all except Coral and myself chickened out and headed for home. We had the beach to ourselves, apart from hundreds of soldier crabs and a couple of trainers and their horses, but the wilderness was destroyed by the sight of all the coal carriers and the infrastructure at Dalrymple Bay.

There were plenty of photo opportunities, including a lofty nest belonging to an eagle of some sort, a sad young turtle that didn't make it very far in life, and an abundance of butterflies and rainbow bee eaters, as well as the previously mentioned soldier crabs in abundance. We were at Baker's Creek in no time at all, ready for morning tea. Just as well we had Frances with her Fitbit to tell us that we had in fact covered a very respectable number of kilometres. The return trip saw us following a track through the reserve until the fence decreed that we return to the beach. We did walk back to the cars the long way via Far Beach and some road walking, with Coral and Sian doing a detour to the memorial. I was home at Bucasia by 11.30, and it wasn't Pretty Creek but it was a pretty easy outing involving a decent amount of exercise.

A week later with a more popular 7am start and a slightly more challenging half day walk planned, the number increased to eleven, including one new member on her very first outing with us. We were all keen to make an assault on a local mountain, and after assembling at several different meeting places, and some even starting from the usual car park in town, we all gathered at the foot of the landform and quickly settled into our own comfortable pace with two groups falling into place.

It was humid but the cloud cover protected us from the worst of the sun, and we were distracted by bird calls, an interesting variety of flora including epiphytes and fungi, vines, ferns, palms and emergent trees, and views of nearby mountains, valleys and the coast, and by occasional very welcome breezes. Seven of us reached the top but retraced our steps to find some shade for morning tea, and were soon joined by the others who passed us on the way up, but soon came back down to our spot for the shade.

The trip down was fast but quite sunny and the half day concluded with an informal discussion about Easter camp venues before we left. Dale didn't get too far before experiencing a flat tyre, but help was available from strangers and from some of our own group. Some of us had noticed a very well fed goanna up a tree, and a very dead snake, but apart from these reptiles, the fauna was in short supply or in hiding.

This time I was back home by 1.30, with plenty of the day still available. Half day walks are a useful substitute for the real thing, but I am sure everyone is now hanging out to get back to business, and hopefully this will happen on Sunday 3rd April. Many thanks to Coral for organising both of these replacement activities for us.

Carole