



# The Message Stick

## August 2016

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

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

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### Future Events

Clarks Pinnacle .....	31 <sup>st</sup> July
Homevale Creek Walk.....	31 <sup>st</sup> July
Smalleys to Cape Hillsborough.....	7 <sup>th</sup> August
Upper Hazlewood Creek.....	14 <sup>th</sup> August
General Meeting .....	17 <sup>th</sup> August
Mt McGregor.....	21 <sup>st</sup> August
East Funnel Creek.....	24 <sup>th</sup> August
Mt St John.....	28 <sup>th</sup> August
Mt Bridgeman.....	4 <sup>th</sup> September
Quondong Weekend.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> October



Reminder  
All Club  
membership  
fees became  
due on  
30<sup>th</sup> June



*Rainbow Falls –  
Can you spot the rainbow?*

### 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*

We had a first at the July meeting. New member, Ken who had just signed up offered to lead a walk. We were very impressed by his enthusiasm and would like to thank him for his contribution.

September's Newsletter may be a few days late in coming out due to the fact I will be away for the last week of August. The first walk for September is included in this month's newsletter so all will be under control.

It's amazing to think that a walk had to be cancelled at this time of the year due to wet weather but hopefully we have seen the last of the rain for a while.

Have a great month everyone.

**Items for the next newsletter should  
be sent to  
[jennywooding@dodo.com.au](mailto:jennywooding@dodo.com.au)  
prior to August 27th**

### *Key to Walks Grading System*

<b>Distance</b>	<b>Terrain</b>	<b>Terrain</b>
S = short – under 5km	1-3 = Graded or open terrain, no scrub	1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners
M = medium – 5-10km	4-7 = Bush, minor scrub, rainforest, Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling	4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
L = long – over 10km	8-10 = Bush as above + thick scrub, major rock Scrambling using hands, technical	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**

#### **Clarke's Pinnacle Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 49440236  
0447091532

**Depart:** 6am

**Journey:** 240km \$24.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 652335

**Grade:** M87

**Estimated Walking Time:** 6hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 450m **Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** Very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** Open Forest, thick scrub **Expect:** much steep slopes, steep scrambles, loose rocks, lantana, vines, spear grass

Clarke's Pinnacle is the "dog's tooth" formation in the Diamond Cliffs area and can be seen from many places in the Pioneer Valley. The average walker could find the day tough but

rewarding, with excellent views. Water will need to be carried for the day.

#### **Homevale Creek Walk/ Camp Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

**Leader :** Coral Morgan 49578474

**Town co-ordinator:** Carole Weekes  
49546108

**Depart.:** 7am Sunday for day walk ( or make arrangements for camping by Thursday with Coral )

**Journey:** 240 kms \$24

**Map Ref.:** Mirani 617 287

**Grade:** M33

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 40 m **Pace:** steady

**Terrain** : sandy and gravelly creek bed  
**Vegetation** : grassy open forest **Expect** :  
spear grass

Camping at either Mt Britton township or Lyall's place is optional, and could be 1, 2 or 3 nights. It is essential to book for the camp and/ or day walk by Thursday 28th. Day trippers will meet campers at Mt Adder turnoff on Sunday morning at 8.30.

The walk commences at the road crossing near the Marling Spikes and continues downstream to join Oaky Creek before crossing the road. There will be an opportunity to extend this and explore further downstream before returning to the cars via a road. This should be a pleasant relaxed meander across relatively flat terrain.

### **Smalley's Beach to Cape Hillsborough Sunday 7th August**

**Leader** : Ken Fihelly 0427 718282  
**Depart** : 7am  
**Journey** : 100 kms. \$10 (includes car shuffle)  
**Grade** : M76 ( or whatever Garry said at the meeting)

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 300m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven **Vegetation:** rain forest, open woodland, long grass, grass-trees, mangroves **Expect:** taped rough trail, some steep slopes, great views, insects, gullies, hot conditions in open sections.

This will be a through walk involving a car shuffle, and will start at Smalley's Beach and follow the old track, which is now mainly just a trail, up to the top and over to the ranger's hut at Cape Hillsborough. The journey will take us through a variety of landscape and vegetation types, and the degree of difficulty varies quite a lot as well, with some fairly level sections, and plenty of steep climbs. There are some rocky sections and some easy gully crossings, but on the whole it will not be too demanding, and the last part of the day will be the easiest. Please carry water for the whole day, and remember the insect repellent and sunblock. Sunglasses or other eye protection is recommended for the grass-trees. Sunglasses or other eye protection is recommended for the grass-trees

### **Upper Hazelwood Creek Sunday 14th August**

**Leader** : Coral Morgan (49578474)  
**Depart** : 7am  
**Journey** : 200 kms \$20  
**Grade** : M 43  
**Map Ref** : Hillalong 522520 (Junction)

**Estimated walking time:** 6hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 150m **Pace:** slow **Terrain:** 4WD tracks, fairly level creek walking. **Veg:** open forest and grass **Expect:** no leeches, swimming hole.

This walk is partly new to the club and semi-exploratory. The plan is to leave Cockie's Creek Road in the Crediton State Forest and head along a 4WD track on foot. After crossing Hazelwood Creek we will head south up and down over some hills and come to St John Creek. Skirting beside this small creek going downstream through open forest will lead us back to Hazelwood at a point where the GPS will tell us that this was the site of the ORIGINAL ' Lizzy Creek Road'. Here there is a substantial waterhole and large freshwater tortoises have been sighted. Following upstream will complete a circuit back to the original crossing and close to the cars.

### **Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 17th August**

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

### **Mt MacGregor Sunday 21st August**

**Leader:** Chris Laidlow 49591782 0438591782  
**Depart:** 7:00am  
**Journey:** 80km \$8.00  
**Map Ref:** Mirani 958623  
**Grade:** S73

**Estimated walking time:** 5-6 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 240m. **Pace:** average. **Terrain:** very uneven. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** some steep slopes, long grass, moonlighter, lantana.  
From MacGregor Creek we will be climbing Mount MacGregor which is 272m above sea level in the Devereux Creek area. It is a little

rough under foot but we will be taking the climb at a leisurely pace to get to the different vantage points at the top. Views of the valley can be seen and on a clear day the views extend to the sea. The views are well worth the effort.

It would be best to wear longs and/or gaitors to guard against scratches from scrub. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

Beginners (and veterans) are most welcome.

### **East Funnel Creek Wed 24th August**

**Leader** : Coral Morgan ( 49578474)  
**Depart** : 7 am  
**Journey** : 110 kms \$11  
**Grade** : M64  
**Map Ref** : Carmilla 265169 (The Falls)  
Carmilla 272178 (Lookout)

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 250m **Pace:** average  
**Terrain:** mixed- mostly easy but some serious rock hopping **Veg:** open pastures and rainforest. **Expect:** swimming hole, waterfalls, no leeches.

This midweek walk is just over Sarina Range on a property adjacent to Jordan Creek. Most of the walk is along farm tracks and across open pastures. However, some serious rock hopping is involved and a rope assisted ascent of a waterfall is optional.

We reach a vantage point looking down on Yukan Siding. This site offers splendid views to the coast, including Mt Funnel. Following a farm track back to where the cars are parked we will pass a picturesque stand of palms which has been preserved by the owners.

### **Mt St John Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 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:** slow uphill,

average down. **Terrain:** very uneven. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** some steep slopes, steep scrambles, long grass, spear 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 longs are recommended. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

### **Mt Bridgeman Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 49440236  
0447091532  
**Depart:** 7am  
**Journey:** 80km \$8  
**Map Ref:** Mirani 037 405

**Estimated walking time:** 6-7 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 500m **Pace:** average  
**Terrain:** rocky creek bed, large boulders, rock faces, long grass some steep scrambles.

We will commence our walk at the bottom of the Eton Range and follow the creek for just over a kilometre. The creek has interesting rock formations and terraces. We will leave the creek to take a ridge up to Mt Bridgeman. The final part of the walk will be exploratory as I have not been to the top before but I have a plan which should get us there. This is lovely country to walk through and there are a lot of large boulders along the way to explore.

### **Quondong Weekend Alert 2nd October**

There is a window of opportunity to access Quondong Creek on Sunday 2nd October for an exploratory day walk to the falls. (This is a long weekend).

Expressions of interest are required urgently from those who may wish to take the opportunity to use the bunk accommodation at the Lodge which will be available on Saturday and Sunday nights in conjunction with Birdlife Mackay and SGAP. Camping will be available as a cheaper option only if the Lodge is full. Please advise Coral ( 49578474) ASAP of your potential interest.

# Previous Activities

## Cape Hillsborough Sunday 3rd July

Two carloads departed from town and met Dale at the start of the boardwalk. The day was not one of those perfectly clear winter days, but it was great for walking apart from some cool breezes. The Cape Hillsborough panorama is always stunning even when the features are not picked out really crisply, so we were quite satisfied with the conditions.



Along the boardwalk we were accompanied by musical bird sounds, but there were no unusual sightings. Penny found an example of the inspiration for one of the sculptures along Sandfly Creek, and we were able to recognise the resemblance to a mangrove seed. The walk was peaceful and cool in the early morning time slot, and the abrupt changes in vegetation were noticed and appreciated.

Next we drove down to the start of the Hidden Valley circuit, and for a couple of participants, this was a new experience. In the shade it was still quite cool, and there wasn't too much delayering happening. Once again the vegetation came under scrutiny as tall forest specimens were admired, and changes from palms to vines to open forest were observed. Near the fish trap there was a search for a sunny spot in which to enjoy morning tea, and then it was time to return to the resort area for the start of some more energetic activity, carrying our backpacks and heading to the commencement of the climb up the hill to the three main lookouts. We soon warmed up and all nine of us appreciated the views from Turtle Rock and Andrew's Point, as well as the lookout above the main beach further to the north. Yes, we did see turtles, and Bromine Kites were visible surveying the water for possible lunch items.



At this stage in the day, four walkers settled in to start their lunch break in the shade adjacent to the Turtle Rock lookout, and the other five made a quick trip down the track to Wedge Island lookout and the beach. We were always going to be rejoining the others for lunch, though, as the tide was too high to allow us access around the beach.

It was time to make our descent and then cross the parkland in order to complete the day with the track walk at the northern end, a visit to the swimming hole, and a leisurely stroll along the beach back to the cars before purchasing ice creams or drinks and setting off for Mackay.



Thanks to all those who joined me for this relaxed day in a beautiful area, and we all hope Mick enjoyed his first walk with us. It was also great to see some comparative strangers back in harness boosting our numbers.

Carole

## Carnarvon Gorge, Consuelo Tablelands Walk 4<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> July

Garry and I set off for another backpacking adventure and enroute to Canarvon we stopped off at Blackwater for a couple of nights – it's quite a town!!!! However we did spend a full day exploring Blacktown Tablelands National Park and it is sensational. We were amazed at the waterfalls, lava tubes and huge limestone cliffs which were just some of the features we saw. This National Park has real "Wow" factor and it is definitely somewhere we would like to return to for camping and a lot more exploration.



We arrived at Carnarvon Gorge National park and set up our tent before gorging ourselves on canned food. We were in bed early and almost as soon as we were in the tent it began to rain. Great! ☺. The rain continued for most of the night and at times it seemed quite heavy. We discussed various options – one being to remain put for another day. However in the morning the rain had gone although the sky was still overcast. We were feeling optimistic and decided to continue with our original plans.

It turned out to be the right decision as we did not see any more rain for the duration of the walk. The first day was only 10.7kms in distance although we did all the side tracks so we probably walked around 15kms. Carnarvon Gorge is awesome and truly spectacular. The Moss Garden and Amphitheatre were my favourite features but the imposing cliffs of the gorge made the whole day remarkable. We made 20 crossings of Canarvon Creek before arriving at Big Bend which was to be our first campsite.

Here we met a couple of characters from the Bendigo Bushwalking Club who were only doing this first night of the walk and a couple from Sydney who were doing the entire walk. The towering and curved cliff walls made Big Bend a unique camp site. It was cold and thermals and beanies came out of the packs but it was nothing to what we were to experience up the top.

The next morning we continued the walk through the very narrow and rocky Boowinda Gorge with its tall cliffs rising on both sides of us. We came to the spot where we were to leave the gorge and I gulped upon looking at it. It was a scramble straight up the side via a gully. There was nothing for it and I clawed and crawled my way up on all fours cursing and complaining the whole way. I am sure Garry's ears were burning behind me (yes they were). I arrived at the top, hauled myself and pack to standing to look directly at a sign which said in large letters. STOP, the next section is difficult and now is the time to turn back if you don't think you are up to it. I stared at it in disbelief. Wasn't that the difficult part I had just completed? I must admit that sign made me uneasy for the rest of the day but the walk although very steep in places was quite doable and enjoyable.



We could soon see Battleship Spur in the distance but it did take us quite a while to get there due to the steep but impressive climbs we had to make. Wow – it was awesome and you could see the entire gorge snaking off in the distance and well worth the effort. We had lunch and discovered we had another 10.1 kms to reach the campsite but this turned out to be pleasant walking through nice forest.

We arrived at our campsite when some real live cowboys rode in on their horses looking for stray cattle. We chatted for a while before erecting our tent. This was our first night where the temperature dropped below freezing and there was frost on the grass the next morning but it certainly wasn't to be our coldest night.

Day 3 was 15.8kms and had another steep climb up onto the plateau and the Great Dividing Range although fortunately the steepness did not continue on for too long. We descended to West Branch camp which is actually on the West branch of the Maranoa River. Once the sun dropped, the temperature plummeted. Even with several layers of thermals, jumpers, jackets, beanies, gloves it was still cold. At night we would try to read in bed but we both found it just too cold to have an arm out of the sleeping bag to turn the pages and so by 7pm each night it was lights out.



The morning of day 4, there was so much ice on the tent, we could not roll up the sides. Brrr! We enjoyed the cold though as it is something quite different for us and the days were perfect for walking. We would start each morning with our coats on but by 9am, we would shed them. The next 2 days we walked to Consuelo camping zone and then on to Cabbage Tree. These days were really nice walking with the bush and trees changing considerably over this time. I was hoping to see wild horses along the way and although we saw plenty of signs of where they had been we were not lucky enough to spot any.



The final day of walking was again spectacular. Early in the morning we could see Boolimba Bluff off in the distance. This is where we were heading before a steep descent back into the gorge. This day's walking had plenty on offer – a few steep ups, some narrow ridges, some very steep downs and always incredible vistas. I really enjoyed this day until we reached the Bluff and encountered quite a few day trippers. They all looked and smelt clean which meant we obviously didn't. A long shower at the end solved that problem though. As we finished

the walk it was with a little sadness that another fantastic backpack was coming to an end. We have talked about doing this walk for years and I'm glad we had the chance.

One more thing which needs to be mentioned - On arriving back at Carnarvon Gorge campground we found the tent site we had paid for and sat down on it to make a cuppa before having showers or erecting the tent. The lady at the site behind ours came over and pointed out there was a large and vacant site opposite us and suggested we set up there. We shook our heads and pointed out that people were still coming in, we didn't need much room and this was the site that we had actually booked and paid for. She said "Well it's too close to us" to which we just replied with shrugs and "Oh well that's the way it is". The lady muttered that they would have to move then and that's just what they did. She and her partner packed up and moved their large tent to another site away from us. We were gobsmacked and spent the night pondering what was so offensive about us or maybe it was just our smell! Impressive really!

Jenny

### **Gooseponds and beyond Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Despite the perfect day, only 3 walkers fronted up for the walk from the Gooseponds along Jane's creek to the end of the walk and return, and then around the Gooseponds. Frances had decided when we reached the highway underpass that her sneakers were not up to scratch, so we deviated to Northpoint Retail where she was able to buy some new joggers, and Daphne indulged in a bread and sausage.

We shared the pavement with many walkers and dogs, with Carol meeting some friends, but towards the end of the path we were able to walk along the creek through the natural vegetation, so we were “bushwalkers” after all.

Penny met us on our return walk, having cycled over from town. She continued to the end and returned to join us for lunch. Coral also joined us at lunchtime, and after lunch Frances opted to go home so we had 4 of us to do the Gooseponds circuit

It was a good outing, with walking options, from the 2

½ k circuit to the extended 13k walk. Of course we saw many birds, mostly ducks and geese, but we did watch a sea eagle displaying its russet gold plumage. We even had the aww factor, with a family of ducklings determinately following mum

Daphne



### **Back of Finch Hatton Sunday, 24th July**

Nine people crowded into two vehicles on a foggy morning, but with a promise of a beautiful day emerging later. Soon we were ten when the convoy collected Di at Marian, and when we arrived at Finch Hatton at 8am, Deb was waiting. Our group included two new members and another three who had not completed this particular walk before. One of the new members was the only male in the party.



Full of enthusiasm about stretching our legs after so many cloudy and rainy Sundays of late, we were pleased to notice that in the lower sections the track was clearly defined, but as the walk continued and the gradient increased, many of us were feeling the heat. Morning tea was enjoyed at the usual rocky outcrop, and time was taken to admire and photograph the views of the valley below.

At the top of the ridge we were very surprised to observe that a clearing had been cut, revealing stark emptiness instead of the open forest and grass trees, and a new barbed wire fence had been erected. The good thing about all this was the uninterrupted view of Teemburra. We were soon at the rocks, and lunch was taken in various shady spots, until when 1.30 was approaching, it was time to begin our descent, which was accomplished in a much shorter time than our climb.

The green of our immediate surroundings was broken frequently by the vibrant colour of the delicate flowers of the native sarsaparilla vine, and also by flowering banksias. A number of orchids were doing well growing out of dead trees, but no flowers were noticed.

A few small reptiles, but not of the dangerous variety, shared our space, as did a large ground spider, and a couple of wallabies. On the way down the ridge, Daphne identified the raucous call of a black cockatoo, and sure enough it was soon noticed flying close by. Butterflies were out and about as well.



Eleven exhausted walkers arrived back at the vehicles towards 4 pm, after a pleasant day in the bush. Thanks to all of the participants, and to Frances for her help with navigation, and Frances and Penny for driving through the fog.

Carole