



The Message Stick

August 2017

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

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

Email: mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com

Future Events

Membership Renewal Overdue.....	31 st July
The Beak.....	Cancelled
Crediton Scrub.....	13 th August
General Meeting.....	16 th August
Mick Ready Beach.....	20 th August
Mt Catherine.....	27 th August

Please Note



Membership renewals for 2017-18 are now overdue. To participate in walks/outings you **MUST** be a financial member. Membership forms and payment details can be found on the Mackay Bushwalkers Webpage. www.mackay.bwq.org.au

Club Gear Bag

If you are a walk leader, please arrange to collect the club gear bag from Garry a day or so before undertaking the walk. It needs to be returned as soon as possible after the walk so gear can be checked and batteries recharged.



Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	4954 6108	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Bryan Marshall	4954 3209	Assist Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneur	49576028
Treasurer	Julie Vella	4955 3093	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478772418	Publicity Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478772418
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236			

From the Editor

The weather is perfect for walking at the moment and it is good to see walks of late have been enjoying larger numbers of participants.

Remember to keep sending in those trip write-ups and photos to keep the newsletter interesting.

Unfortunately I have had to cancel The Beak this month due to a knee injury. If the physio and recovery go well I will be able to reschedule for September. In the meantime will post on the Club's Facebook page if an alternative walk is on offer.

Happy walking everyone!

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 26th August**

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

Club Membership Renewals Overdue by 31st July

All club memberships became due at the end of June. To be able to participate in Club Walks you need to be a current financial member of the club. If your membership is not current, the walks leader will not be able to include you on a walk. Membership forms and payment options (\$35 for 12 months) can be found on the club's website: www.mackay.bwq.org.au

The Beak Sunday 6th August

Leader:
Wooding

Jenny

49440236,
0447091532,

jennywooding@dodo.com.au
Depart : 7:00am

*Cancelled due to leader injuring her knee
and Co- leader having stitches in his leg*

Journey: 320km \$32.00

Map Ref: Proserpine

875567

Grade: S44

Estimated Walking Time 4
hours **Pace** Average

Terrain Beach, tracks,
rocks **Vegetation**

Minor bush and scrub

Total uphill 100m **Expect**

Some scrambling, jellyfish, sand,
mangroves, stunning
scenery.

This is usually a relatively easy walk, however this area copped the full force of Cyclone Debbie so the vegetation and terrain could be more challenging this time. We start off on tracks to a coral beach and then up to a lookout. We then head off track to 5 other deserted beaches. Several Whitsunday Islands can be viewed from the beaches and lookout. There will be opportunities to swim but it may be a good idea to bring reef shoes if taking a dip. In the past this walk has had naked people, whales and dugongs so be prepared for the unexpected.

Crediton Scrub Sunday August 13th

Leader : Carole Weekes 49546108

Departure: 7am

Journey: 190 kms. \$20

Grade : M54

Estimated walking time: 6 hrs. **Total of all uphill sections:** 200 m. **Terrain:** uneven.
Vegetation : rainforest. **Expect:** gentle slopes, lantana, one creek crossing.

This is a marked trail and part of the Great Walk. The walk starts at Up River Road and takes us through a forested area to the Great White Tank on Cockie's Creek Road, where we will have lunch before retracing our steps to the cars. The day will be fairly easy and will provide plenty of variety - grassy areas, an old road, rich rain forest, scrubby sections, a creek environment and views of dairy pastures. Do not expect a clear path to follow. The trail has reportedly been tidied up since Cyclone Debbie but I have not inspected it recently. There is a creek crossing via a log but if you are like me and cannot go across in the vertical position, you can slide along on your rear end or straddle it. As

for all walks, bring water, lunch, snacks and suitable footwear.

Induction 6.30pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 16th August

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

Mick Ready Beach 20 August

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 8 am

Journey: 70 km \$7.00

Grade: M

This beach is near Grasstree Beach. We will start walking along a road for 1km to the beach, then along a 4 wheel track. We plan to get as far as Breen Creek and cross Salonika Beach tide permitting.

Our return trip will be along the Beach and Rocky Headland.

This walk is suitable for new comers.

For more information contact Coral.

Mt Catherine Sunday 27th August

Leader: Deb Wilson 0400 319078

Depart: 7am

Journey: 140km \$14.00

Grade: M55

Map Ref: Calen 745920

Total Ascent: 450m

Estimated Walking Time 6 hours

Mt Catherine is a 485m high peak close to Mt Beatrice just north of Calen.

The walk commences from Deb's property and then immediately into the National Park along a ridgeline. The climb is relatively gradual with a number of smaller peaks along the way with some steeper sections. There are beautiful views provided from some vantage points including over the valley to the south with Deb's property in the foreground. There are great views of the jagged peak of Mt Beatrice and the vegetation is forest with cycads, elk horn ferns, tall grass trees, orchids and some moonlighter. Bring water for the whole day.

The walk may be more challenging this time due to the effects of Cyclone Debbie

Previous Activities

Mike's Peak Sunday 2nd July



6 of the 9 people who fronted for this walk had not done it before. I assured them it would be worth slogging through long spear grass for most of the day as the reward would be expansive views in all directions.

So much for assurances! We saw very little long spear grass as the area had been recently burnt. Consequently we made very quick time getting to the steep ridge which would take us up the Peak. The views however weren't quite as clear and expansive

as promised due to overcast, misty conditions. The wind was howling and most of us donned spray jackets for the meal breaks.



We were on the top of Mike's Peak at 9.20 for an early morning tea – much to Michelle's relief. We made quick time along the ridges to our point of descent. Unfortunately the descent was as steep and tangly as ever but once down it wasn't long before we found the correct ridge to take us to the Arch.

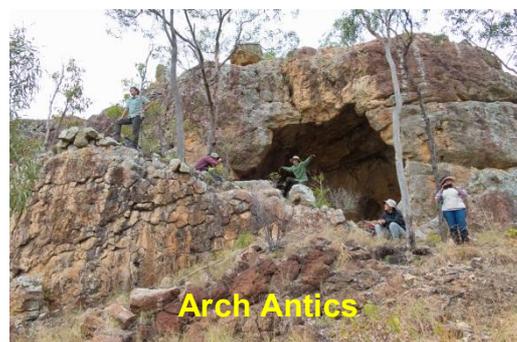
We settled down for lunch after many photos were taken but the wind really funnelled through the rock arch so most of us sat a little lower to avoid the chill. Tim tried sitting on a large rock but dislodged it, revealing a large colony of enormous and extremely angry ants. Another great photo opportunity!



After lunch we headed cross country to pick up the freshly graded road which would take us back to the cars. We zoomed along this road, covering the few kilometres easily and were back at the cars before 2.30.

I think I can safely say that all nine of us enjoyed the day's walk and of course great company.

Jenny



Mt David Sunday 9th July

Nine people enjoyed this walk very ably led by Kate. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed spectacular views from the top. The company was excellent and we were all intrigued and impressed by Bruce who had a never ending supply of corned beef sandwiches. Everytime we stopped for a breather out would come another. He assured us the best one of all was the one he consumed back at the cars!



Bluewater Trail Sunday 23rd July



This proved to be an all girls outing, with thirteen ladies participating, although only nine of us completed the entire circuit, with one leaving after the section from the Botanical Gardens to the Pioneer Promenade, another one joining us just before this, two leaving at Iluka Park, and another leaving for another appointment after lunch in Queen's Park. However, this is the beauty of the Bluewater Trail and the other urban walks that we occasionally do - people have the flexibility to arrive and depart as it suits them.

As well as covering over 15kms between 8 am and 2 pm, there was plenty of time to explore some of the attractions along the way, including the Community

Garden, the artworks along the River Street section, the birds appearing in the Sandfly Creek environmental reserve, the Orchid House in Queen's Park and the beauty of the lawns and gardens along the old railway corridor.

Our group included two members on their first outing with us, three more on their second walk, and seven longstanding club supporters, as well as Carol Daniel who has become a regular since joining the club fairly recently. However, we were unanimous in thinking as we arrived back at the cars that the expedition had been a good workout. The dark clouds of the early morning did not offer a threat, and by the middle of the day most participants had removed any warm clothing.

Thanks to all those who accompanied me and especially to Daphne for her co-leadership. It may not have been the bush, but we did have mobile coverage, the luxury of convenient toilets, rubbish bins and the ability to decide how much of the walk to complete.

Carole

