



The Message Stick

August 2019

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

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Future Events

Mt Funnel.....	4 th August
Mt Britton.....	11 th August
Mt Dalrymple.....	18 th August
General meeting.....	21 st August
Creek to Creek.....	25 th August



Donna leading her first ever walk solo without her trusty sidekick.

The rocks in the background are the destination for the day.

*Think she only did it for the pie!
☺*

Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Donna Burgess	0488 787 953
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	4944 0236	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	4957 8474
Secretary	Donna Burgess	0488 787 953	Assis Walks Coordinator	Peter Bennett	0427383732
Treasurer	Ian Burgess	0428 875 991	Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	4944 0236
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

From the Editor

It was a shame that yet another walk had to be cancelled due to wet weather – almost unheard of for July. Hopefully we will have settled into a consistent winter weather pattern now. August has some great walks on offer so hopefully lots of us will be out enjoying the bush.

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

Key to Walks Grading System

Distance	Terrain	Difficulty
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 before undertaking your walk.

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks before 12.00pm the day **before the walk unless otherwise stated.**

Mt Funnel East Sunday 4th August

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718282
Depart: 6:00am
Journey: 180kms \$18.00
Map Ref: Carmila 8754, 747019E 7606840N
GDA94
Grade: L77

Estimated walking time: 6 to 7 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 480m **Pace:** Steady **Terrain:** ridges, rough under foot, a climb **Vegetation:** coastal, long grass and dense grasstrees. **Expect:** no natural water, little shade, great views from the Funnel.

Following Garry's gps track from 2013, I plan to reach Mt Funnel via the National Park from the

eastern side. The walk itself is a 12km return journey completely off track through varying vegetation along a series of ridges. We will encounter long grass and closely packed knee high grasstrees making difficult going at times with many hidden obstacles underfoot. Gaiters are probably a good idea. The walk is more about the destination than the journey, therefore we will need to be able to maintain a steady pace through rough terrain to maximise our time and enjoyment at Mt Funnel.

The views from Mt Funnel over Cape Palmerston are spectacular. We will circumnavigate the base obtaining views in all directions. An assessment will be made on the day as to whether we ascend to the top section. I haven't done this walk before, and will be following Garry's gps track. Conditions may have changed since 2013. It will be a long day,

Please note the early 6am start.

Mt Britton Sunday 11th August

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718282

Depart: 7:00 am

Journey: 240km \$24.00

Map Ref: UTM 55K 663583E 762510N GDA94

Grade: M85

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 400m **Pace:** average. **Terrain:** very uneven underfoot. **Vegetation:** scrub.

Expect: steep and very steep loose dirt, grass and rocky slopes, steep scrambles, exposed sections, scratchy scrub, long grass, fallen branches and trees.

Mt Britton (727m) is a distinctive mountain close to the old Mt Britton township in Homevale. 4WDs are required to access the starting point of the walk. The 4WD track is easy, but there may be long grass on the track. We walk up to The Arch which is a great spot for morning tea and photos.

We then head up a very steep grass and dirt slope to the base of the cliffs, and around them to a steep scramble up a loose rocky slope. This brings us to a ridge and we follow that up to the top. There are a couple of steep rock scrambles and one or two exposed sections on the ridge, so a head for heights is required. We are rewarded with spectacular views from the top, including the Marling Spikes and Sydney Heads, as well as views to Mt Fort Cooper, and the west. We then

head down a different ridge, which is open and easy, cross a dry creek, and make our way back to the cars, to complete a circuit. It can be hot and open, so carry at least 2 litres of water. If anyone wants to camp at the Mt Britton township campsite, we can meet out there. Contact me for details.

Mt Dalrymple Sunday 18th August

Leader: Jenny Wooding 0447091532

Co Leader: Deb Wilson

Depart: 6am

Journey: 200km \$20.00

Grade: L78

Map Ref: Mirani 704738

Estimated walking time: 8 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 500m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest **Expect:** much steep slopes, steep scrambles, some rock hopping, leeches.

Mt Dalrymple is the highest mountain in the Mackay district and on a good day offers the best views in the area. The area from Proserpine to Sarina and the Whitsunday Islands and the Pioneer Valley are all visible.

This is a long walk, with plenty of steep ups and downs and although there is no need to rush, walkers need to be able to walk at a steady pace for the whole day.

Please note the early start time.

Induction 6.30pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 21st August

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

Eimeo Creek to Reliance Creek return Sunday 25th August

Leader : Daphne Goodson 0417 706240
4954 9338

Depart : 8 am (from Eimeo Ck - Bucasia side)

Journey : N/A - We are meeting at the start of the walk.

Grade : L 25

Estimated walking time: 5 hrs. **Total of all uphill sections:** 60 m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** beach and parkland **Vegetation:** some scrub and mangroves **Expect:** sunny open sections, sand flies.

PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT STARTING TIME AND DEPARTURE POINT.

We will assemble in the car park near the Bucasia Caravan Park for an 8am departure. The walk is

approximately 14 km in length, and the conditions on the day will determine how much of the walk is on the beach itself, and how much takes place on the pathway near the beach. We may move between the two via sandy tracks and steps. Toilets are available at both Bucasia and Shoal Point. Please carry water, snacks, lunch, sunscreen and insect spray. Hopefully we will all enjoy a relaxed and flexible day.

Previous Activities

Red Cliff Island Sunday 30th June



We all enjoyed the late start due to tide times as it gave us a chance for a Sunday morning sleep-in prior to setting off for our Red Cliff Islands walk.

On arrival at the Seaforth beach enclosure we could see our goal in the distance, Red Cliff North and South islands with the adjoining causeway coming into view as the tide moved out.

Our first obstacle was a small creek running across the beach, but it proved easy to cross as the tide was well out thanks to our planned later start. At the end of the beach we could see that the causeway was out of the water allowing access to South Red Cliff island. It wasn't long before we made the crossing to the island

where we trekked around past 'Totem Rock', grabbing plenty of photos on our way.

We stopped on a beach with a great view across the bay for a well-deserved lunch before heading on around the island to the 2nd causeway and across to North Red Cliff island.

A steep track to the top of the island led to a World War 2 bunker which apparently once had a machine gun mounted on the visible steel bolt in case of attack. Great views over to Newry and Rabbit islands and the surrounding mainland meant many photos were taken before heading back down and around the side of the island through a natural arch to explore the caves and rock-pools.

It was now time to head back so we crossed back over the causeway to South Red Cliff island where the group split into those who wished to do a short trek up and over the island and those who continued back along the beach



After an easy slog up and over the island enjoying the wild flowers and views, the first group

were soon back onto the beach and hot on the heels of the second group of walkers who were well onto Seaforth beach heading back to the cars.

The long walk back along the beach was a great end to the day. Thanks to all who joined us and helped make the Red Cliff islands walk an enjoyable one.



Ian & Donna.

Mt Catherine Sunday 14th July

Walkers arrived with Donna and Ian leading the car's from Mackay, collecting Di from Rise And Shine Road along the way. In total there were eighteen eager walkers, ready to tackle Mt Catherine, several of whom were second time walkers. It was great to see Sue, Marie and Gerry return for their second walk, also joining us were four new walkers. Trish, Gerry, Kade and Clay were welcomed to our group for their first club walk.



The day started with an slow stroll along a section of Catherine creek, then returning back to the causeway by retracing our steps. While waiting to begin the long climb to the top of Mt Catherine, Charles decided to have a turn at crossing the creek by way of the flyingfox, which is invaluable to us in times of flood. . Seeming to glide effortlessly across the creek, skimming through a very tall bottlebrush tree and stopping to pick a bottlebrush flower for his hat, it was a good photo opportunity. We commenced walking towards the Mountain, along a small section of creek, then through very tall guinea grass with Kerry leading the way and heading for the ridge, which would take us to the top.



We arrived at smoko rocks at about 9.30 am, which was early for morning tea but decided to have an early rest and smoko. After a nice break in the warm morning sun we were really to continue onwards and upwards. Along the climb we had good views of Mt Zillah and Mt Beatrice. Arriving at the top of Mt Catherine, it took a bit of searching to find the path to lunch destination of Jenny's Rock. Thankfully Ian spotted the rock through the overgrowth and everyone found a place to sit, some lucky people found a shaded spot. Weather conditions were perfect for views towards the coastline, with beautiful clear blue skies. While having lunch Ken disturbed a small brown snake and it started to head straight towards him, but thankfully it soon disappeared into the scrub. There were lots of stick bashing going on by other walkers, just to make sure it kept on going in the opposite direction. After all that and a nice lunch break we began the walk down following the same track. Arriving back at smoko rocks we had a short rest and water break. Then onwards again being led by Kerry who spotted a large nasty looking brown snake, which was given plenty of space, and a very wide track was made well away from it. We arrived back at Catherine Creek then on to the cars. Happy tired faces, all around, told me it was a great day walking in the bush.



Deb