



The Message Stick

December 2018

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

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

Email: mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com

Future Events

Finch Hatton Creek Walk.....	2nd December
AGM.....	8th December
Christmas Break up camp.....	8th & 9th December
General Meeting.....	16th January
Eungella Tracks.....	20th January
3 Day Camp.....	26th, 27th & 28th January

AGM

The planned AGM could not be held in November due to a lack of numbers.

It will now take place at the Christmas Camp on Saturday 8th December at 5.30pm. At this meeting all committee positions are declared vacant and we will elect a new committee for the upcoming year. Please have a think about taking on a committee position.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New year
to all our club members*



Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	4954 6108	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Donna Burges	0488 787953	Assis Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Treasurer	Ian Burgess	0428 875 991	Equipment Officer	Julie Vella	0448076983
Publicity Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478 772 418	Safety Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478 772 418
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

From the Editor

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Festive Season. I hope the jolly man in the red suit manages to find you all. I know many of you will be off travelling and having some adventures over the break so safe travels everyone and I look forward to catching up with you in 2019 and swapping stories. Garry and I are off to Victoria on a cycling holiday and will get some bushwalks in when we make it to the Grampians. Hope to catch up with many of you at the Christmas camp.

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 25th January**

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

Difficulty

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 Julie before undertaking your walk.

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

Finch Hatton Creek Walk Sunday 2nd December

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474 0407164856

Depart: 7am

Journey: 140km \$14

Grade: S54

This is an off track walk which we did about 3 years ago. It will involve crossing Finch Hatton Creek – going upstream past inviting swimming holes and visiting an impressive grove of tree ferns, before an easy cross country traverse to a second creek, where we will find “Victor Falls”. On the return to Finch Hatton Creek we can expect to

encounter some wait –a while. Be prepared for some rock hopping and creek crossings but we will not be in a hurry. There will be opportunities for swimming and an early finish is anticipated.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General meeting could not be held in November as planned due to a lack of numbers. It will now be held at 5.30 pm, just before the BBQ dinner at the Christmas Camp.

**Christmas Camp
8th and 9th December**

Coordinator: Daphne Goodson 4954 9338,
0417706240

The Christmas Camp this year will take place at Rowallan Park. The Park has great facilities and walkers may choose whether to stay in the bunk houses, put up their tent or visit daily. If choosing to stay in the bunk house mattresses are provided but you will need to bring your own pillow and bedding.

Walkers can arrive at the camp anytime from early afternoon on Saturday. The park has several walking tracks so we will organise an afternoon walk.

For the weekend, the club will pay all costs for camping, staying in the bunkhouse or coming out just for the day. A BBQ dinner will also be provided at no cost. We do ask all participants to bring a plate of nibblies to share and to provide their own breakfast.

Partners and friends are also welcome to attend.

Please notify Daphne by 1st December if you intend coming along

**Induction 6.30pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 16th January**

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

**Eungella Tracks
Sunday 20th January**

Leaders: Daphne & Clive Goodson 0417706240

Depart: 7am **Journey:** 180km \$20.00

Map Ref: Mirani

Grade: L15

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all**

uphill sections: 100m **Pace:** average

Terrain: Graded walking tracks **Vegetation:** rainforest, **Expect,** leeches and swimming holes.

This is a through walk commencing at the Crediton end of the graded walking tracks and ending at the Eungella Chalet. The tracks take us along the banks of Broken River for several kilometres and then past several lookouts. The walk is suitable for beginners and is entirely on graded tracks. You will need to bring plenty of drinking water, hat, swimmers and insecticide.

Previous Activities

**Black's Beach Social afternoon
Sunday 4th November**

We had 10 walkers for the 8km social walk along the bush tracks to the mouth of McReady Creek, then back along the beach to our starting point at the Burke Street park. Carole and Marylin did just the walk, while Clive, Daphne, Michelle and her sister Donna, Garry, Jenny, Ian Brooks, Aggie and her niece Ava, who did not walk, stayed on for the BBQ. No one opted to do the steps - The tide was very low, and it was a pleasant walk both along the beach and through the bush.

Daphne



**Gamma Forest Walk (& Dalrymple Track)
Saturday 10th November**



Stuart, a botanist from Cairns, was keen to investigate the flora at Mt Dalrymple and was accompanied by Aaron, a local who is passionate about plants and birds. I left town early at 5am to ferry them to the start of the Western Trail. A big thank you to Deb and Kerry Wilson who accompanied them on the venture. Another big thank you goes to Frances who brought our group of club day walkers out from town to meet me at the end of Chelmans Rd.

Six of us followed a pleasant shaded rainforest track through the forest and took

the left hand branch down to Maud Creek. A few light showers did not bother us – the Dalrymple party were not so fortunate. The walking was easy except for the very steep section just before the creek. Maud Creek was pretty as always and fringed by ferns despite the drought. Back along the track we had lunch with the sun shining while the Dalrymple group experienced a white out on top. They were a leach bitten, bedraggled group when I met them later, but happy with their findings.



Coral

**West Hill Island
Sunday 18th November**

Ten of us set out from town in three 4WD vehicles and parked at the edge of the salt pan. The walk across the salt pan was easy to negotiate as the day had been chosen because of the suitable tides but as predicted it was hot – possibly too hot to enjoy a brisk walk around the island. On arriving at the mouth of the creek we had to wait some time for the tide to recede before the group going around the island set off. Frances and I waited a bit longer and enjoyed a relatively easy crossing only about knee deep but we did have to pick our way slowly through some oyster rocks.



On the island we started and dawdled along studying gnarled, weathered dead trees, animal tracks and the mangroves. We picked out the site where we had previously camped inadvertently. A lone dead tree standing out on the sand has deteriorated considerably and is now rather hollow. Back on the mainland we went along the front beach to visit the coloured rocks. Peter's group returned with plenty of margin as they had followed the tide out. We straggled back to the cars in the mid-afternoon heat. I gained relief from the conditions by pouring water over my long sleeves and feeling much cooler.

Coral

