



The Message Stick

March 2013

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

Eungella Tracks	3 rd March
Navigation Training Day	10 th March
Teemdeavour Loop	17 th March
General Meeting	20 th March
The Junction	24 th March
Black's Creek Backpack Camp.....	6 th & 7 th April
O Party	19 th April
Mt Dalrymple Camp	4 th & 5 th May



Walk Leader Taking a well-earned break at

Paradise Falls

Club Officers

President	Dan McKinlay	49534249	Contact Officer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Secretary	Kathy Cant	49522269	Assist Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Treasurer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	KevinSmith	49696068	Publicity Officer	Rob Kollin	49512490
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Social Coordinator	Dan McKinlay	49534249

From the Editor

The Weather has managed to upset some walk plans but fortunately we Bushwalkers are a resourceful lot so there is usually a plan B to be implemented. Last weekend was a prime example. The proposed camp could not go ahead due to wet weather and so after a few phone calls and an email sent out on Saturday morning, 6 of us gathered for a trip to Paradise Falls on Sunday and were well rewarded by the sight of the Falls as they were really pumping. Thanks to Coral for the initial suggestion and to Garry for leading us there and back.

The Junction and Teemdeavour Loop walks have been rescheduled due to wet weather concerns. Any further changes which need to be made will have the details emailed out to all members.

At this stage no walks have been scheduled to take place over Easter. Most people who were at the meeting have made personal plans for the break. If you would like to lead a club walk or camp over Easter, please contact me and I will email the information out to all members.

Remember to keep Friday 19th April free as Dan's parties are legendary and what a great reason to celebrate this time!

Our Publicity Officer is Rob Kollin

robertskool@qld.chariot.net.au

Please email Rob any photos you think would look good in the newspaper.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to

jennywooding@dodo.com.au

prior to 25th March

Key to Walks Grading System

Distance	Terrain	Terrain
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,	4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
L = long – over 10km	Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling	8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only
	8-10 = Bush as above + thick scrub, major rock	
	Scrambling using hands, technical	

Safety Officer Segment

At the January General Meeting a motion was passed introducing a new procedure, that is, walk leaders are to appoint a back-up leader prior to commencement of the walk. This is in the event of the leader being unable to lead due to injury or evacuation.

The club gear bag contains an EPIRB, First aid kit and 2 UHF radios.

These items should be carried on day walks. If for some reason walkers are separated into 2 groups, it may be possible to keep in radio contact with each other.

If a group does split into separate groups, then the leader should appoint one of the members of the second group to be the responsible person. All members of the second group should be made aware who the responsible person is. The leader should keep track of who is in which group.

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

Please keep in mind walks may have to be cancelled this time of the year due to rain.

Map Reading and Navigation Training Course

Leader: KevinSmith 49696068

Dates

Thurs 21 Feb 2013	7:30pm – 9:15pm	Map Theory
Thurs 28 Feb 2013	7:30pm – 9:15pm	Compass Theory
Wed 6 March 2103	7:30pm – 9:15pm	G.P.S. Theory
Sun 10 March 2013	07:00 am – 5pm	Practical Day

Limited numbers

Eungella Tracks Sunday 3rd March

Leader: Cheryl Brodie 49552895
Depart: 7am
Journey: 180km \$18
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

Teemdeavour Loop Sunday 17th March

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236

Depart: 6am
Journey: 160km \$16
Map Ref: Mirani 749 517
Grade: L56
Walking Time: 7 hours **Total of uphill:** 300m
Terrain: Creek banks, rocks, long grass
Expect: Cow pads, fairly easy creek bank walking, some rock hopping, short steep scrambles, bush bashing, swimming.

Although this is a familiar area, this is a new walk, a variation/combination of Teemburra and Endeavour Creek walks covering some new sections. We will start at Captain's Crossing and head upstream towards Teemburra Dam (instead of the usual downstream). A fairly leisurely stroll up Teemburra will bring us to the junction with Endeavour Creek (3.3km). We will then divert into Endeavour Creek and follow it upstream to a small waterhole (2.2km). From here we will "scramble" (hands and knees) up a short but steep grassy gully to pick up the road (300m). Once on the road we will travel north (2.2km). Leaving the road we will bush bash on a compass bearing (106.8°) to pick up a ridge and eventually reach Teemburra Creek atop a

small waterfall leading down to the "Big Waterhole" (1.4km). There will be another "scramble" down to the waterhole. The aim is to be at the waterhole for a slightly late but extended lunch with copious swimming and frolicking. The final leg will be north up Teemburra back to the cars (2.7km). All up we will be covering around 13km's so although not overly difficult, it is a long day, hence the early 6am start, you will be glad of the swim at the big waterhole by the time you get there.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 20th March**

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

**The Junction
Sunday 24th March**

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7am

Journey: 140km \$14

Map Ref: Mirani 695708

Grade: M87

Walking Time: 6 hours **Total of uphill:** 550m
Terrain: Rugged Rainforest **Expect:** Steep climbs and scrambles, serious rockhopping and creek crossings, wait-a-while, leeches and good swimming holes.

We refer to the spot above the Wheel of Fire on Finch Hatton Creek where the "left hand branch" comes in as "the Junction". A steep climb up the hill off track is necessary to access this impressive spot. After some rockhopping and another steep climb we can make it to the

top of Doolamai then back to the cars by way of overgrown track. There will be great opportunities for swimming. You will need to be prepared to complete the entire walk as this is a round trip.

THE BIG O PARTY

Question-What do Cheryl Brodie, Kathy Cant, Christine Carlisle, Fran Balmer, Maureen Thompson, Kevin Smith and Clive Goodson all have in common?????????

Answer-Believe it or not these long term, popular bushwalkers all have had, or are having a birthday this year with an age that ends with an 0.

How can we miss a party to celebrate these members achieving such a milestone?

When: Friday 19th April

Where: Dan's place: Unit 1/8 Jubilee Street.

Time- commencing 6pm-6.30 pm.

Please bring a main or a desert and your own drinks. This party will have an O theme. Some ideas (Cheryl has given me hints also) -Old, Ostrich Feathers, Outlaw, Orange, Oriental, Oktoberfest, Old Mother Hubbard, Olive Oyl, Olympic, Wizard of OZ character, Orange, Opera, Outlandish, Officer, Ogre, Odd....., the possibilities are endless.

Contact me either email

dan.mckinlay@mackay.qld.gov.au or phone

0409057494 or home 49534249 re your

attendance and confirming what food you are

bringing. If you have not attended one of these

parties before they are very, very enjoyable.

Newcomers are very welcome.

Bungle Bungle and Kakadu 2013

Dates Approx 22 June 2013 8 July 2013.

Part 1 Bungle Bungle Range. Dates :- 23 June to 28 June

Spend 6 days at Bungle Bungles,

2 days of day walks and tourist camping. Explore the Domes, Cathedral Gorge, Echidna Chasm, Mini Palms Gorge and hopefully Whipsnake Gorge.

4 day 3 night walk in Piccaninny Gorge.

Part 2 Kakadu Arnhem Land Plateau Dates :- 1 July to 7 July

7 day 6 night 72 km through-walk from Twin Falls, up Twin Falls Creek and back down Jim Jim Creek to exit at Jim Jim Falls. This is a somewhat exploratory through walk off track. Limited to experienced multi-day walkers though pace will be easy with not much elevation change.

Travel details yet to be finalised. Some walkers may choose to only do the Kakadu section. Limited to 8 walkers.

Those interested contact Kevin Smith 4969 6068.

Previous Activities

Upper Finch Hatton Falls 16 December, 2012



6am was the allocated departure time, but the group from Mackay (Coral, Frances, Kevin and I), decided we needed a head start on the others so we set off at 5am. The track was generally good, but a bit of wait-a-while was beginning to encroach upon it and some of the sections requiring negotiating around fallen trees were a bit "tricky". We wondered how far we would get before the 10 in the "other" later group caught up with us - Coral put a note on the signpost where the "formed" track ends and the taped trail begins, to let Steven know that we had passed that juncture. We were not

too far off Kate's Kitchen when we knew that they were catching up to us – we heard Celestine's voice some time before we saw them.

We all enjoyed morning tea at Kate's Kitchen before continuing up along the taped trail until we reached the small rock cairn. At the cairn, we then headed down towards the creek – a very steep descent. Upon reaching the creek, we headed a short distance upstream towards a cave in the creek bed. As the water was very low, we could easily enter the cave. It really surprised and impressed me – over the centuries water had eroded soil from around huge boulders forming the cave and leaving some huge cream coloured boulders suspended like giant eggs from the ceiling. We spent some time in there taking photographs and exploring the other small passages. We then headed downstream a little to near the top of a waterfall for lunch.

The area around the waterfall was too steep & we needed to go inland to cut around it. We mostly rock hopped down the creek, when it became too steep or the rocks too slippery, Steven and Philip went ahead to find the best route down or around a difficult section. The creek was impressive with its huge boulders and the rainforest was beautiful. As well as Christmas orchids, several unknown (to us) species of small orchids were encountered along the way.

After some time we reached the area where Sean Russell had perished in August, a plaque in his memory has been attached to a rock just a short distance up from the creek, near a huge overhanging boulder. A beautiful area for such an unfortunate disaster.

We continued rock hopping down the creek until we reached the Doolamai Falls area and from there followed the track back to the cars. We reached them just on 6.40pm just as it was beginning to get dark.

Thank you Steven for leading this walk, it is one of the best/challenging/beautiful walks I have done for some time and I believe we all greatly enjoyed it.

Penny McMahon



Kaikoura Coast Track, New Zealand January 2013

After having completed the Heaphy Track walk 3 days previously, 10 of us were all ready to tackle the Kaikoura Coast Track. This time it was a little easier as we only had to carry our daypacks and there was electricity, hot showers every night, and sometimes ice creams ...what luxury! This walk is on private property belonging to members of the Conway Coastal Landcare Group and included walking through farmland, bush and along the beach. Our backpacks were transported daily from/to our accommodation.

We caught the bus in Nelson and travelled east through a mountainous area with deep gorges, to Blenheim. Here the bus stopped with enough time for us to have lunch and a look around. We were in time to catch the markets...they sold a lot of junk, but they also sold good fruit and vegetables. Back on the bus, we travelled down the east coast, with the impressive Seaward Kaikoura Ranges on one side and the ocean on the other. As we approached Kaikoura, we were excited and delighted to see many seals swimming or basking on rocks.



A brief stop at Kaikoura afforded us time to check out the beach and take photos of the snow on the ranges. About 40 km south of Kaikoura we were let off the bus beside the road in the middle of....well nowhere really....but there was a signpost to The Staging Post, so we trudged about 1 km in the heat to our first night's accommodation. The Staging Post accommodation and surrounding grounds were originally a stop for the coaches en route from Christchurch to Nelson, and have an interesting history. The current owner, Mike, took us on a tour of the area after dinner. His father, he said, had been an eccentric

gentleman with many and varied interests, who had accumulated, amongst many other things, vintage machinery and horse drawn vehicles and had built an outdoor stage in the middle of a forest area – a perfect amphitheatre. Margaret and Clive entertained us with some songs and the acoustics were excellent. Mike said it was the best performance he had heard in a long time.

DAY ONE – THE STAGING POST TO NGAROMA (12.3km)

At 9am, Linda drove us 10km down the highway to the start of our walk. While we waited on a small hill with a good view across to the Conway River, for the second group to arrive, Clive and Margaret tried to teach us to sing, alas, we were a great disappointment; we just did not have their talent. Once we were all assembled, we headed off uphill through a planted pine forest. We had morning tea down at the Buntings stream, before the quite steep climb up through

regenerating native bush, beech forest and eventually to open ground to The Saddle. Once at The saddle we had our first view of the coastline and the beautiful blue Pacific Ocean. We followed the skyline track along the summit with great views in all directions to Skull Peak Shelter for lunch. As we were enjoying the view so much, we took quite a long lunch break, but eventually it was time to head off down Telegraph Spur, through sheep paddocks, through more coastal bush preservation sections and up the last hill to our accommodation at Ngaroma. It had been



quite a hot day and we welcomed the lemon drink waiting for us (unfortunately some people did miss out). After sorting ourselves out 6 of us checked out the orchard/garden area (Paul did know they were walnut trees). We then continued walking down to the black sand beach where we encountered a seal lying on the beach. We got up fairly close to him to take photographs before he gave us a warning growl and we backed off. We walked a distance along the beach enjoying the roar of the surf and the wind in our hair.

DAY TWO – NGAROMA TO MEDINA (12km)

In almost no time, we were on the black sand beach, and what a fascinating area this is, especially to a committed beachcomber. The beach - at first we encountered the Buried Forest tree trunks –said to be 8,000 years old, and buried by sediment after fault line movement dropped them below sea level, now they are gradually being uncovered. The cliffs – erosion has revealed various patterns and layers of different sediments including trace fossils and sections with small marine shells embedded in them, which appeared to be soft and more susceptible to erosion.



Other - live seals and dried-up dead seals; lots of driftwood; shark egg cases and dried up starfish; many small rounded rocks – some beautifully coloured. Although there were very few shells, I did manage to find a lovely paua shell, which I brought back to Australia. We had morning tea on a large driftwood log. I will admit that it was hot and hard going on the sand and I think everyone except me was pleased when we came to the end of our beach walk and turned inland to the Circle Shelter for lunch.



An added bonus here was being able to boil the billy, using driftwood collected from the beach, for a lovely cuppa. After lunch we headed up to the cliff top where there was a great lookout, and we could get an idea of how far we had walked along the beach. We still had quite a way to go, through some paddocks, then more native bushland into a gully beside a small stream and through some narrow canyons. It was quite steep in places and we were happy to finally reach our accommodation at Medina. 8 of us squeezed into The Whare while the two bachelors, Dan and

Paul shared the comfort of The Cottage. We all took a break from cooking and thoroughly enjoyed a delicious home cooked roast lamb dinner (and dessert) cooked by our host. While everyone else went up to The Cottage for coffee, I stayed back and went to bed.

DAY THREE – MEDINA TO THE STAGING POST (13km)

We had very strong wind all night, which continued for most of the day. Coral opted not to walk to-day, instead catching a lift back to The Staging Post with the farmer. 9 of us continued the walk, the first section being over farmland, later following a sheep track around a knob. The track then became very steep, still affording great coastal views until we reached Mt Wilson saddle and turned inland with the views changing to mountain ranges. The wind was so strong on the saddle that we huddled a while just below it taking in some of our last coastal views. Some climbed to the top of Mt Wilson where they reported there were panoramic 360-degree views, while others bypassed it and headed straight for the Mt Wilson Shelter and morning tea. The next section was mainly a long downhill track through gorse-covered hills with a final short, steep, killer of a climb. We were so pleased to reach The Staging Post at 1.45pm, and especially pleased to enjoy the lemon drink waiting for us. After a shower, clean clothes, and lunch we waited for the bus to pick us up and take us to Christchurch. Once there our party split again, Garry & Jenny to go home the next day, Clive and Daphne to hire a vehicle and go touring, the remaining 6 to go to the Jailhouse Backpackers (the original Addington jail) and spend another day in Christchurch.



CHRISTCHURCH

Jeanette opted for some time to go exploring the city by foot. The remaining 5 of us went out to the airport where Dan collected his hire car. Our first visit was to the nearby International Antarctic Centre – an attraction jam packed with information, displays, wind chill experience, theatre, penguins etc, etc, etc. I found being a navigator around a post-earthquake Christchurch a challenge – I would tell Dan to turn at the next intersection only to find it was blocked off, and I don't know how many times we circled around the Botanic Gardens trying to find a particular street and a car park. Eventually it all came

together and we spent a pleasant 2 hours checking out the gardens, fabulous old trees, water gardens and birds and the beautiful rose garden. As Dan was driving Paul, Jeanette and I to the airport before dawn the next day we thought it prudent to check out the route beforehand, just as well, as the directions given to us got us lost in the daylight! We said our good-byes, Jeanette, Paul and I came home to Mackay, Coral flew to the North Island to meet her great-granddaughter, Margaret stayed a little longer and Dan stayed to do some more adventuring. Even though the blister on his heel had given him trouble all through the walks I believe he was still intending to do some more walking – what a beggar for punishment!

Thanks to everyone for their company and companionship throughout both the Heaphy Track and Kaikoura Coast Track walks, I had such an enjoyable and memorable time.

Our sincere thanks to Dan for organizing this trip, I know it was not an easy exercise, and it is amazing how he was able to keep so calm and focused in spite of all the challenges and idiosyncrasies of us all. Well done Dan.

Penny McMahon



Mt Blackwood Sunday 3rd February

Those who read 'Mount Blackwood' and thought, 'boring bitumen road, hot, uninteresting' and decided not to walk that Sunday, they missed out on a Mount Blackwood have not been used to.

A group of eight (Paul the lone male) parked at the usual spot on a hot and steamy day, and for the first couple of km trudged up the hill. Then at a predetermined spot Penny and Francis led us left into the bush. Past the nodding orchids we headed for a creek bed, appreciably cooler under the shade of dense bush. There was only an occasional trickle in the creek, sometimes arising out of a crack in a huge slab of rock as if from nowhere.

With their expert sense of direction, and using the occasional view of Mt Jukes 'in the right place' we were lead up the mountain past the ancient giants with their roots coiled around huge boulders, stands of native gingers, and of course the occasional tangle of lantana. Penny had us all looking out for an elusive green spotted butterfly...plenty of butterflys but not the right one! At one time the front runners disturbed an unidentified black and red bird so we all stopped for ten minutes hoping it would return...but no luck. Had this bird ever even seen humans before intruding into its serene home?

After lunch we headed down again a different way, always knowing that the road was somewhere to the right, but never quite sure how far away. Following a dry creek bed down, we eventually emerged from the bush just a few meters from the planned spot...great navigation! There was also a refreshing stream to wet our washers in to drape over our heads in a new fashionable evaporative cooling system on one of the hottest days of the year.

Pigeon Creek 10th Feb 2013

7am Sunday morning. It is raining .We huddle under an assortment of dripping umbrellas in the car park whilst the pros and cons of doing the Pigeon Ck walk are discussed.

Some mention is made of a plan B, which would be to change the walk to Cape Hillsborough. Between mouth full's of porridge, Coral makes a phone call. We are assured by the owner of the Pigeon Creek property that it is not raining there.



In view of the fact that Therese and Kate are by now probably already at their designated waiting points, it is decided to go ahead and tackle Pigeon Creek.



Therese and Kate are duly collected and added to the convoy. Eventually, after a bit of negotiation and a few tricky 3 point turns, exactly the right spot to park the vehicles is selected. We abandon the cars and eighteen of us are ready to set off. Now let's just double check 1, 2, 3... yes eighteen now what are your names?

Some members of the group become slightly alarmed when Coral produces a large rope bag and requests that a volunteer step forward to carry it. "A rope! A rope! What do we need with

a rope?" Coral replied "I thought it might come in handy to help us scale the waterfall" This response did not seem to bring the level of calm that Coral was hoping to achieve.

The grass is so long, that it is hard to see any sign of the vehicle track leading down to the Dalrymple Ck crossing that Coral is seeking.

We reach the creek. It is not the crossing that Coral is looking for. We decide to throw caution to the wind and cross regardless. The "keep your boots dry at any cost brigade" do some serious engineering with rocks in an attempt to construct a better crossing.

We then trudge through some country that looked a little as though it might very well conceal hungry lions, towards the tributary of Dalrymple creek that Coral thought should be Pigeon Ck. The trusty GPS was consulted and confirmed that we were indeed where we were supposed to be.

Thus reassured, we head off up the creek, lured on by the promise of swimming holes and high, lacy waterfalls.

Due to the absence of any sort of real wet season, the water level in the creek was quite low. Undaunted, the die hards managed to find a few pools to bob up and down in to cool off. To call it swimming would be to exaggerate.

We walked on telling each other "There will be a much better swimming hole up ahead, just you wait and see"



By lunch time, our hopes of finding bigger and better swimming holes, had started to dwindle somewhat. We chanced upon a pretty spot that had some nice violets and crow's nest ferns and a small (none rope requiring) waterfall. Some of the group opted to stay here whilst the rest of us walked on in search of the "real" waterfall. Kevin very chivalrously offered to stay with the ladies. His services were declined as some wished to indulge in a ladies only nudie swim.

Girlish screams pierced the peace of the forest as we set off, caused no doubt by the unexpected shock of the cold water?

As we scrambled further up the creek, the sky became overcast and a few drops of rain started to fall. It was decided to call a halt as we were running out of time and the long promised lacy waterfall still eluded us. We had frittered away the morning dallying about and had therefore not made sufficient progress to achieve our goal.

At one point the creek bank was observed to be littered with a carpet of pink flowers. Kate, our resident flora expert, proclaimed them to be the flowers of a *Brachychiton discolor*. The only wildlife sightings reported were of a couple of water dragons, not quite in the same category as lions perhaps, but interesting none the less.

Somewhat reluctantly, we made our way back down the creek and rejoined the now rejuvenated girls only party.

Much to Coral's delight, we did stumble upon the vehicular creek crossing on our return journey. Thanks Coral for leading us up a pretty little, totally rope free, creek.

By Pam