



The Message Stick

November 2015

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

Crediton Scrub	1st November
Finch Hatton Creek	8th November
Roberts Lost Falls	15th November
Annual General Meeting	18th November
Cathu Car Camp	19th, 20th & 21st November
To Be Advised.....	22nd November
Maud Creek Falls Camp	28th & 29th November
Christmas Camp	5th & 6th December

AGM 18th November

It's that time of the year again when we declare all positions vacant and elect a new committee to oversee the running of the club.

Nomination forms will be attached to this newsletter.

Please have a think about taking on a committee position to ensure the smooth running of Mackay Bushwalkers.

Come along to support our Club



Orchid seen on Mt Catherine Walk

Club Officers

President	Carole Weekes	49546108
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	49440236
Secretary	Kerry Morgan	49540037
Treasurer	Michelle Dartnell	0428552603
Safety Officer	Vacant	-
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236

Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Assist Walks Coordinator	Kevin Smith	49696068
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Publicity Officer	June Bradley	49557696

From the Editor

The movie night to see "Everest" last month was well attended. If anyone knows of a good movie anytime, let me know and I will send out a group email.

It's AGM time again. We hope to see a lot of club members at the meeting to choose our new committee.

The end of year is fast approaching. We were hoping to hold the Christmas camp at the same venue as last year but due to the leaseholders leaving in November we are unsure as to whether we will be able to camp there. I will keep you informed via email as to what is happening.

Have a great month everyone.

Our Publicity Officer is June Bradley

azippa22@gmail.com

Please email June 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 24th November

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

Crediton Scrub Walk Sunday 1st November

Leader : Carole Weekes (49546108)

Depart : 7am

Journey : 190 kms - \$20

Grade : M54

Estimated walking time: 6 hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 400 m **Terrain:**

uneven **Vegetation:**

rainforest **Expect:** gentle slopes, some lantana

This is being offered as an alternative activity for those who are not doing the weekend backpacking adventure. It is a marked trail and part of the Great Walk, starting in the Crediton

area and ending at the Great White Tank on Cockies Creek Road, where we will have lunch before retracing our steps to the cars. The day will be fairly easy and we will enjoy plenty of variety - grassy areas, an old road, rich rain forest, scrubby areas, a creek environment, and pass close to cleared paddocks.

Across the Creeks, Finch Hatton Gorge Sunday 8th November

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 6am

Journey: 140 km \$14

Grade: S53

As a follow up to the mystery walk a year ago we will do this walk in the opposite direction

and come back along the track from Araluen Falls. It is expected we will do an easier crossing from creek to creek. Expect good swimming holes and a grove of spectacular bird's nest ferns. There will be some creek hopping and creek crossings but we will not be in a hurry.

**Roberts Lost Falls
15th November**

Leader: Kevin Smith 4969 6068 0417
326634

Depart: 6am

Please contact the leader for more information regarding this walk.

**Induction 6.45pm/ Annual General Meeting
7.30pm**

Wednesday 18th November

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

**Cathu Camp
Thursday 19th November**

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

There is more I want to do at Cathu so I am planning to do a car based camp leaving Thursday 19th and staying one or two nights depending on availability of participants. This time I will give priority to doing Kangaroo Creek Falls. If interested please phone me early but no later than Monday 16th.

**Maud Creek Falls Camp
Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November**

Leader: Steven Morgan
(4954 0037, 0418 882 817)

Depart: 1:00pm

Journey: 200km \$20.00

Camp Fee: \$5.75 per person.

Map Ref: Mirani 607767 (all grid refs for this walk are AGD 66)

Day 1:

Estimated walking time: 2 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 0m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** uneven terrain **Vegetation:** open forest with dense understory **Expect:** some lantana.

GRADE: S44

Day 2:

Estimated walking time: 5 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 280m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** open forest with dense understory **Expect:** lantana, difficult creek sections (optional).

GRADE:S44

What to bring: Adequate backpack, water proof sleeping shelter, sleeping bag, wet weather gear, food for 2 days, cooking stove (NO OPEN FIRES ARE ALLOWED) and cooking and eating equipment, reliable torch, personal first aid equipment.

You might think I would get tired of this area. Never! We recently nailed the walk from the end of Black Snake Road to Maud Creek Falls in a comfortable day walk. Only 2 hours walking time from the cars to the creek. There is a lovely camping spot right there when you first hit the creek. So our plan for this camp is to walk in to campsite the camp site. Sunday morning will be spent exploring the creek downstream. Definitely a chance for a swim. The descent of the main falls does require a handline on one section. We'll return to the campsite by lunch time and walk back to the cars in the afternoon.

There will be plenty of water where we camp, *but....* a few people had gastric after the last camp. Not sure if it was the water or a coincidence but you may want to consider treating the water for drinking.

The access road (Black Snake Road) is not suitable for conventional vehicles. This walk is for 4WD vehicles only.

You must book to attend this walk with the preferred booking method being email steven.morgan61@gmail.com and including your phone number in the email.

Bookings close Wednesday 25 November.

**Christmas Break up Camp
Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December
Venue to be decided**

Coordinator: Carole Weekes 49546108

Previous Activities

Yarrowonga Point Sunday 20th September



The road in was dry & dusty – no bog holes to worry us to-day. Being the first day of the school holidays, many campers had already settled in for fun & fishing, but they all seemed content to hang around the Yarrowonga Point area.

Walking over the first small hill afforded us fabulous views south to West Hill Island, the island that had given several groups of us memorable adventures last year. Being low tide we searched the rock pools at the point, but we saw no turtles basking in the pools to-day. We made our way north along the

long sandy beach. Close to Notch Point we found a shady tree/ sunny spot (the sun was hot, the wind was cool), for morning tea.

I had never walked around the rocks below Notch Point headland before, but as the tide was still low, we decided to “give it a go”. As it happened it was a “piece of cake”. Some of the rocks were quite impressive & colourful. Rounding the headland we were delighted with the view of another long sandy beach (name unknown) and Mt Funnel in the distance. We needed to cross what appeared to be a small creek to get to the beach, but the tide had turned & was coming in quickly, so it was decided not to cross but to stay on the south side & see how far we could follow it inland. That proved to be not very far as we met uninviting mangroves & mud. We returned to near the creek crossing & saw that it had been a good decision not to cross it as the incoming tide was filling it up very quickly. We had lunch there under a shady tree.



There was no going back the way we had come around the rocks, so we headed up along a fence line. The views from the top were fabulous, from West Hill Island in the south to Mt Funnel in the north. Back along the beach, Kate & I were the only ones who opted for a surf at the beach end near Yarrowonga Point. The surf was so beautiful & refreshing, we could have spent ages there. We had the obligatory stop at the Ilbilbie Roadhouse on the way home for refreshments (mostly ice-creams). Thanks to all 12 who joined me for the walk. I believe everyone enjoyed themselves.

Penny

Mt Catherine Sunday 27th September

Six hardy bushwalker souls turned up to tackle Mt Catherine very ably led by Deb and husband Kerry. Four of us had not been up this mountain and we were in for a very pleasant surprise.

We set off at a cracking pace from the Wilson’s property with Mt Catherine looming in the distance. We soon found the ridge which would take us around and then up the mountain. It was nice bush to walk

through and we often caught lovely views down and across the valley. We were all very impressed with a lovely orchid out in flower. The flowers were very delicate in white and purple. Early morning tea was taken on a nice rocky outcrop. We looked at the top of Mt Catherine and planned on having lunch there. We set off traversing a couple of saddles before the final and steep ascent to the top. We huffed and puffed our way up and although the lantana was problematic in a few places it really wasn't too bad.



We made it to the top but alas no views to be had as we were surrounded by the trees and bush. However we were soon led off to a nearby lookout. We all checked out the views and then sat down on the rocks to open lunch boxes. Garry then spoilt the fun by pointing out it was only 10.25 and way too early for lunch. We dutifully stashed them back in our packs and then decided to explore some more and maybe find the large rock we had seen on the drive in. No sooner was that decision made when Garry stood up and said I can see a large rock. Off we set in it's direction but although it was close the undergrowth was formidable and almost beat us. It was a case of so close but yet so far. Instead of heading straight to it we went back up where we could descend onto it with a slightly clearer path.

Wow this rock was really worth the effort. It was a large platform and offered us uninterrupted views down to the highway and then across to the coast. Spectacular! Kerry slipped a little too close to the edge for comfort and was chastised by Deb but it didn't stop him from exploring a little more around the base of the rock. It was still too early for lunch (although my stomach was starting to argue about that) so we headed back to the top so we could perhaps have a look around over the opposite side to which we had come from. However the undergrowth really did beat us on this side so we headed back to our large rock for lunch with a view.

After eating we returned via the way we had come, making very good time going back down the hill. It wasn't long before we had made it back to the saddle looking over our shoulders at where we had been. The trip back was enjoyable with a light breeze blowing so it was perfect walking conditions. We made it back to the cars by 2pm and here we had a very pleasant surprise.



Kerry had set up a table and chairs for us all. A cooker and kettle soon appeared to make cuppas. Here we were joined by Deb's sister and granddaughter. It was a nice way to end the day – a cuppa, some bikkies and great company.

Thanks very much to Deb for putting on this walk.
Jenny

Brandy Creek Backpack 3rd, 4th and 5th October



6 of us left town at 1pm on Saturday afternoon, we collected Kate at Calen and then there were 7. Three of us were a little worse for wear after a 90km bike battle, I mean ride in horrendously windy conditions. Some people were actually blown from their bikes during the charity event.

We began walking around 3pm and easily made it to the first campsite and set up before dark. After eating most of us disappeared straight into our tents – June was amazed the next morning to discover she had slept for 12 hours straight. Must have been that bike ride!

Day 2 we set off in good spirits and headed off with several stops for Kate to teach us about a lot of the trees, plants and bush tucker along the way. We did try the Quandong fruit although Hayden was convinced they were condoms – it sounded good. We found a pendulum bird's nest, complete with 2 eggs which was a great photo shoot opportunity. Lunch was had at the lookout with views over Shute Harbour. Here Kate stunned us by producing a bag of dehydrated fishes to munch on. She offered them around and we all dutifully tried one.



After arriving at Bloodwood campsite we checked out the lookout before setting up and relaxing before getting together for a communal dinner. The next morning we noticed a cruise ship anchored off Airlie and boats ferrying people ashore. We surged off up the final ascents before dropping our packs to take the optional extra walk to Honeyeater lookout. From there we had the final descent into Airlie Beach where most of us were planning on a burger for lunch. However the town was crowded with all the tourists from the cruise ship and our usual Burger establishment was booked out. After checking out the options most of us ended up at Beaches in true Backpacker style although Hayden was not going to be deterred from Macdonalds.

It was a nice weekend of great company and a good training workout.

Jenny

Cape Hillsborough 11th October

Seven walkers left the car park for a very relaxed day at Cape Hillsborough. We met Therese at the boardwalk and enjoyed a leisurely stroll through the mangroves and into more open forest. Next stop was Cape Hillsborough carpark where Paul made a quick dash to purchase his first paddlepop for the day. We then enjoyed another stroll following the track through the hidden valley bush and along the beach front, stopping at the 'fish trap' for a morning tea snack, gazing out across the ocean and contemplating the serenity.



Then it was back to base where Paul grabbed the opportunity for another paddlepop. From there we proceeded to the northern end of the bay, paused to admire the beautiful golden orchids dangling from the trees and then set off along the track to take us to the top to admire the ocean view. After catching our breath we headed down along Cascades creek to check out the 'waterhole', and discovered that we could sit right at the bottom of it because it was now completely dry.

After a leisurely lunch at the 'waterhole', we made our way along Beachcomber's cove, rounded the rocks with barely a toe in the water and back to the cars for another sit down and paddlepop treat for Paul. All in all, we think we might have clocked up about 7 kms., enjoyed a picturesque location, perfect weather and good company. Thanks Paul for putting together a relaxed day of walking.



Fran