



The Message Stick

October 2018

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

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Future Events

Christmas Rocks.....	7 th October
Mt Catherine.....	14 th October
General Meeting.....	17 th October
McBrides Point.....	21 st October
Cathu Loop and Creek.....	28 th October
West Hill Island.....	20 th November
AGM.....	21 st November
Christmas Break up camp.....	8 th & 9 th December

Early notice

A reminder that the club AGM will be held in November where all club committee positions will be declared vacant and new people elected to the roles.

Please have a think about putting your hand up for a position. We are a friendly committee and new faces are always welcome.

Clive has announced that after 2 years he will not be re-nominating for the President's role. We would like to thank Clive for the great job he has done and we would welcome someone new nominating for the position.



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

Another great month coming up with lots of variety on offer.

Hope to see lots of you out in the bush enjoying the walks and don't forget to keep sending me those write-ups and photos to keep the newsletter interesting.

Enjoy the month everyone

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

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

Christmas Rocks Sunday 7th October

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236 or Jenny
0447 091 532

Depart: 6:00am

Journey: 190km \$19.00

Map Ref: UTM 55K 667834E 7673403N (GDA94)

Grade: M77

Estimated walking time: 7 hours **Pace:** average

Terrain: very uneven terrain **Expect:** Off track walking in dense Rainforest, Steep Slopes, Creek Crossings, Trips, Falls, Wait-a-while, Ticks, Leeches.

Our destination is Christmas Rocks, an interesting collection of large boulders in a difficult to reach section of Eungella National Park (Dalrymple Area).

Traditionally we would climb up and over Lineel falls to reach the rocks but this time I am going to skip that in favour of a semi-exploratory traverse of a large southern facing ridge off the Western Trail. This section is unknown (hence no promises other than surprises), off track and likely to be steep in places but it has been calling my name for quite a while so it is time to tackle it. This should bring us out just upstream of Lineel Falls in a very nice pristine creek area.

Following the creek will eventually bring us to another ridge that will take us all the way to Christmas Rocks for lunch.

The return may offer different options depending on remaining time and the ability of walkers.

One is to return up a gully to the third crossing on the Western Trail which is short but difficult or another is a steep but do-able climb back up to where we left the Western Trail on the way in.

This will be a fairly lengthy walk with some unknowns and a lot of off track walking. There are no easy shortcuts out, so walkers must be prepared and kitted up for an entire demanding day in the bush including some reserve supplies and warm clothing in case of emergency.

By necessity numbers may need to be limited.

Note the early 6am start.

Mt Catherine Sunday 14th October

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.

Induction 6.30pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 17th October

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

Halliday Bay/ Ball Bay/ Cape Hillsborough Sunday 21 October 2018

Leader: Carole Weekes 49546108

Depart: 9am (due to tide)

Grade : M35

Journey: approx. 100kms \$10

Estimated walking time: 5 hrs **Total of all uphill:** 150 m **Pace:** comfortable **Terrain:** beach, rocks, graded track, taped trail, old roads **Vegetation:** grass, open bushland **Expect:** sun and shade, good views, maybe insects, easy fairly shorts walks.

The late start will ensure that by the time we start walking, the tide will not interfere with any of our activities. We will start walking at Halliday Bay, then walk to Ball Bay, and if participants wish it, we will drive to Cape Hillsborough and finish off with a short walk there.

The walks will include the track to the rocks near the enclosure at Halliday Bay, McBride's Lookout, the track through to Ball Bay, along the beach at Ball Bay to the creek, then the buffer zone at Ball Bay, and then if more walking is wanted, a short walk at Cape Hillsborough - maybe the boardwalk, or Hidden Valley or the walk that starts near the Rangers hut.

The car pool will leave from the usual place, but if you wish to meet us at Halliday Bay, please advise at time of booking.

Please note the 9AM start from town

Cathu Loop and Creek Sunday 28th October

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578479

Depart: 7am

Journey: 200km \$20

Map Ref: Calen 604 957

Grade: M54

Estimated walking time 5 hours **Pace:** steady **Terrain:** very uneven **Expect:** 4WD track, rock hopping, hoop pine plantation, rain forest, overgrown old loop road, swimming holes

We will need 4WD vehicles as we drive up Cathu Range and past the lookout. The road is currently in good repair. Our track will be a loop walk

covering new and unknown territory. I assure you we will head to the old bridge on Kangaroo Creek. We will not go in the opposite direction (See not Mt Tanya). The more energetic participants will be given the opportunity to venture further downstream to enjoy waterfalls and delightful rainforest creek scenery dripping with epiphytes.

Please book early by Thursday as we need 4WD vehicles.

Is anyone interested in staying for a car based camp Sunday night with an extra adventure on Monday? Please advise when booking.

Previous Activities

Bluff Hill Sunday 9th September



Twelve members were attracted by the later starting time and the chance to visit an area not before offered as an official club walk. We were not disappointed, as the owners of the block in the Mt Charlton area were very hospitable and generous people, extending a warm welcome, making sure the cows were in the right paddock, grading some of the track, and even providing afternoon tea and taking a group photo before we set off.

Bluff Hill itself is in State Forest, but access was gained through private property and the cars were parked there as well. We thought we were in for an easy day as we started off along farm tracks and made good progress, but when once we entered the forest, we followed a gully which soon presented difficulties, and then began a hard slog up to the top of the ridge. It was difficult to find a good route due to fallen trees, sharp drop offs and the spread of lantana, not to mention prickly vines. So progress was slow!

In August 2015 several club members had explored the bluff at a time when the Mackay Cedars were flowering - a very rare event. This time we saw Scrub Fowl nests and the rocky outcrops as before, but the enormous epiphytes seen last trip seemed to have suffered from the dry spell.



We eventually arrived at our destination and enjoyed lunch with a view. Despite the



difficulties the group was light hearted and enjoyed the day in the bush. The plan was to find an easier route down, but if there was one, it was hiding from us. We arrived back at the farmhouse at 4pm after taking a short cut back on a newer road which ran along the foot of the hill. Despite a misunderstanding about one of the meeting places, several falls and a painful tick incident, it was a good day, thanks to Coral and Ken for the organisation and Carmel who took the prize for the most graceful fall and to everyone for their pleasant company.

Carole

Not Mt Tanya Sunday 23rd September

I obtained permission and gate key. Ten walkers arrived at Hogan's Pocket and set out for Mt Tanya at 8.30am. So far so good!



We headed easterly and after beating our way through lantana and negotiating deep gully crossings for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour we came across a nicely graded road, but it didn't keep going in the right direction. I must admit I led the group astray. Two hours later we had ascended a high ridge from which we obtained excellent views including Mt Tanya, clad in picturesque hoop pines and interesting rock formations. We tracked along the top to the east to a high point overlooking the ridge we needed to be on to get to Mt Tanya (obviously at this point in time that wasn't going to happen).

Some of us wanted to venture further in that direction, so it was decided to split the group and keep in radio contact. Those who returned the way we had come from varied their route successfully to inspect a special fig tree in the creek which is the source of Black Waterhole Creek.

My group under Ken's guidance went down a steep slope through short grass, tall bush grasstrees and big trees – then walked along a narrow ridge through thick vine scrub. After lunch, surrounded by hoyia vines, we decided to descend steeply to the west, luckily dodging the worst of the lantana. We found a dry creek bed to follow and it was great walking.



Eventually we came across the fantastic, complicated, intriguing fig

tree just after the other group had left. We could have lingered longer but the others were waiting. We were all back at the cars by 3pm. I will conclude with some comments provided by other members of the party.



Therese: "I liked the top – the views were amazing."

Wendy: "We could see Mt Blackwood, Mt Jukes, Cape Hillsborough, the Leap and Mt Funnel in the distance – also farms, sugar mill, islands in the ocean. Visible in the west was Sidney Heads, Temburra Dam – smoke from 3 major fires which was being fanned

by the strong winds. Blue, Blue skies".

Kevin: "We were looking down on Mt Tanya and the rocks looked great. (looked like a good place for a bushwalk)".

Carole: "I am now seeing Mt Tanya from an entirely different perspective".

Coral

