



The Message Stick

April 2015

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740
 Web: <http://www.mackay.bwq.org.au>
 Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

Slade Point Reserve	12 th April
Midge Point.....	14 th April
General Meeting.....	15 th April
Redcliff Island.....	18 th April
Hazelwood Gorge	19 th April
Banff Film Festival.....	20 th April
Sydney Spike.....	26 th April
Mid - Week Walk.....	30 th April
Bee Creek.....	3 rd May
Maud Creek Falls.....	10 th May



We will miss you Dan

You have made a huge contribution to our club and we wish you all the very best for your move.

Position Vacant

The position of Club Treasurer is now vacant due to Dan leaving the area. The role only requires a few hours per month and is essential for the running of the club. If you would be interested in helping out with this role, please contact Carole, our president.

Club Officers

President	Carole Weekes	49546108	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Kerry Morgan	49540037	Assist Walks Coordinator	Kevin Smith	49696068
Treasurer	Dan McKinlay	49534249	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer			Publicity Officer	June Bradley	49557696
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236			

From the Editor

It is important to remember to keep together as a group when walking, letting the person in front of you know if you need to slow down or stop for any reason. Those in front need to check that people behind them are not dropping too far back. It is especially important when we are walking through people's private property. If someone has been kind enough to give permission for us to traverse through their yard we should do so as quickly as possible and not come through in dribs and drabs. Another courtesy is for drivers to wait until the last vehicle has started before leaving an area. In the past we have had instances where the last car has had a flat battery or tyre and the driver may need assistance.

I'm sure all club members will join me in wishing Dan all the best for his move to Hinchinbrook council. We will miss Dan and many have a lot of happy memories of all the fantastic social occasions he has put on for all of us to enjoy. Many of us have had the privilege of joining Dan on his backpack adventures which have always been planned and organised meticulously. Dan, you have made a big difference to the club and please keep in contact and let us know what you are up to. We will miss your bushwalking fashion sense!

The Treasurer's position is now vacant as mentioned on the front page. Please have a think about taking on this role – we are a friendly committee and would welcome a new face to it.

Thank-you to everyone who has contributed photos and write ups for the newsletter!
Have a great month everyone.

Our Publicity Officer is June Bradley
zipa2@southernphone.com.au
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 April

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

Lambert's Beach and Slade Point Reserve
Sunday 12th April

Leader : Carole Weekes (49546108)
Departure : 8am !!!!!!!!!!!
Journey : N/A

Grade. : M34
Assembly. : Car park near Lambert 's
Lookout !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Estimated walking time: 6 hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 50 m **Pace** : comfortable

Terrain: Sand, made tracks, grassy sections, open forest and melaleuca scrub. **Expect :** insects, bird life, wetlands, shady and exposed areas.

This will be an easy walk, but quite a few kms will be covered. We will begin with a walk from the lookout to the Harbour, then return to Pacific Esplanade to access the Reserve tracks, including the Amphitheatre and Fern Valley. Please bring snacks, water, lunch, sunblock and insect repellent. The assembly point will be the car park at the base of Lambert's Lookout in Pacific Esplanade. Please see map 21 in the phone book or check with me when you book. Last year about half the group completed the Kommo Toera boardwalk off Keeley's Road on the way home.

Midge Mountain Tuesday 14th April

Leader: Frances Eiteneuer 4957 6028

Depart: 7:00 am

Grade: S53

Journey: 250kms \$25.00

Map Ref: Calen 787140

Estimated Walking Time: 3 hours **Total of uphill section:** 50m. **Terrain:** uneven scrubby forest going up; very uneven & very steep down.

Midge Mountain is a small, very steep mountain on the southern side of Midge Point. We have to go across Yard Creek to get to the start of the mountain walk and we can only do this at a lower tide. There will be a fair amount of water in the creek.

We will visit St Helens Beach on the way up for a quick look around.

Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 15th April

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

Red Cliff Islands Seaforth Saturday 18th April - afternoon walk

Leader: Kathy Cant 49590762 / 0423046187

Depart: 1:30pm

Journey: 90km \$9.00

Map Ref: Calen 8656

Grade: S33

Estimated walking time: 3 hours **Total uphill:** 50m **Terrain:** beach, stone causeway, rocks

After parking the cars a bit north of the Seaforth swimming enclosure we will walk along the beach to Finlaysons Point. We will take a short break here before a relatively easy walk along the causeway to South Red Cliff Island and then to the North Red Cliff Island. There is a short but steep climb on the second island well worth the effort and will be a good spot for afternoon tea. Tide permitting we can then explore over the rocks to circle the island before returning to Red Cliff Island then back along the beach to the cars. For those interested in staying on for a bbq there are facilities near the Seaforth swimming enclosure which would make a lovely spot to end the day.

Hazelwood Gorge Upstream Sunday 19th April

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236 or Jenny 0447091532

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 200km \$20.00

Map Ref: Hillalong 650863E 7650576N
AGD66

Grade: M75

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m

Pace: average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain

Vegetation: open forest

Expect: some steep slopes, some rocking, steep scrambles, loose rocks, swimming holes.

This spectacular deep gorge with its coloured rock formations is situated outside the rainforest area about 16kms from Eungella. We access the gorge by scrambling down a steep gully. There will be plenty of rock hopping as we make our way upstream and there should be opportunities for swimming. The return journey to the cars will be across open forested country.

Banff Mountain Film Festival Monday 20th April

Leader: Kevin Smith Ph 4969 6068

Location: Townsville Civic Theatre

The Banff Film Festival World Tour Australia captures the spirit of mountain adventure, featuring a collection of films from around the globe. We only have the opportunity to see this in Townsville or Brisbane in our area. Travel and accommodation arrangements will be flexible and may incorporate a walk in the Townsville area if possible. The films run from 7pm to 10pm.

Sydney Heads Bluff Sunday 26 April

Leader: Kevin Smith Ph 4969 6068

Depart: 6:30am

Journey: 260km \$26

Grade: M75

Uphill: 150m

Sydney Heads Bluff is a bluff similar to "The Bluff" near the Mt Britton historic township but is located on the foothills of Sydney Heads. This is an unexplored bluff and so will be an exploratory walk, but it should be a similar type of walk to "The Bluff" with views of Sydney Heads and Marling Spikes. The plan is to commence the walk from Mt Adder Road and return to the cars perhaps by a slightly different way. There may be some rock scrambling to summit the bluff. **Note the slightly earlier start time.**

Mid-Week Walk Thursday 30th April

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Please contact the leader for information regarding this walk.

Bee Creek Sunday 3rd May

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236 or Jenny 0447091532

Depart: 7am

Grade: M44

Journey: 160km \$16.00

Map Ref: Hillalong 650915E 7664402N AGD66

Estimated Walking Time 5 hours **Total of all uphill Sections:** 150m **Pace:** Average **Terrain:**

Easy Creek banks, a Rocky Ridge. **Expect:** Some rock, long grass, lantana, dingoes.

Under the proviso that access through private property can be obtained, the plan is to head for Bee Creek from the end of Bee Creek Road through Eungella. To my knowledge this has not been done for a very long time. (certainly not in my time).

Bee Creek meanders past Mt Tooth and eventually ends up in Broken River downstream from Eungella Dam (although we won't be going that far). Apart from a few lantana patches this is a relatively easy creek to walk along. There could also be opportunity for swimming in some rocky waterholes.

For variety we will exit the creek and climb over a small hill (663m elevation) dubbed "White Rock Hill" due to the bright white blotches visible in satellite photos. These blotches are an interesting array of boulders stretched across the hill and its ridges, ripe for exploring.

This will be followed by an easy walk back along a 4WD track (watch out for cow patties).

The day should be suitable for everyone.

If for some reason access cannot be obtained, then there will be a mystery plan B.

Black Snake Road- Maud Creek Falls Sunday 10 May 2015

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

DEPART: 6:00am

JOURNEY: 200km \$20.00

MAP REF: Mirani 607767 (all grid refs for this walk are AGD 66)

GRADE: M88

Estimated walking time: 8 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 480m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest/open forest **Expect:** much steep slopes, some rockhopping, very steep scrambles, wait-a-while, lantana, leeches, swimming holes, difficult creek crossings.

We explore an alternate route into Maud Creek Falls via Black Snake Road. This is an exploratory walk. Four wheel drives vehicles will be required. Hopefully we will find a new and shorter route into Maud Creek Falls. If we do reach the falls, the descent to the bottom of

these falls involves the use of a hand line, but everyone normally makes it okay. Maud Creek is an area where the Eungella rainforest transitions to more open forest. Please note the early start time. You must book to attend

this walk. Bookings close Wednesday 6 May. You must book by email to steven.morgan61@gmail.com and include your phone number in the email.

Previous Activities

Jones Creek

Wednesday 4th March

Eight walkers took part in a mid-week walk. This was a half day walk downstream from the junction with Boulder Creek. We ventured as far as Ruggeri's Rd and returned with a leisurely walk along the gravel



road crossing Omega Creek along the way.

We did not see any Cassowaries (allegedly sighted in this area) and we did not see any platypus although the setting seemed suitable. In some places we were forced to negotiate



lantana and a heavy crop of hammily grass which flanked the stream; however Bryan put on his 'Bulldozer' hat and forged a welcome path for the rest of us. After lunch we inspected a derelict dwelling and went on a short but futile wild goose chase. Seems we will have to call on Graham Drury's expertise to find the goose egg.

Bushwalk at Stoney Creek

Sunday 8th March 2015

A group of eleven walkers and some swimmers led by Frances, set off for the rock hopping adventure up Stoney Creek which is a tributary to Owens Creek. Once clear of the motor cars, we decided to enter the creek by way of an orchard of Longans. *Dimocarpus longan*, commonly known as the **longan** is a tropical tree that produces edible fruit. It is one of the better-known tropical members of the [soapberry](#)



[family](#), to which the [lychee](#) also belongs. It is native to Southern Asia. Some fruit was sampled and found to be quite nice.

We proceeded up the creek once through the fence and the rock hopping was all the go and easy as, but this changed as the higher we pressed on. Rocks became covered in moss and were found to be slippery and made going a bit cautious at

times. Different smells encountered early in the progression were from some vegetation but the more pungent ones came from wild pigs which had wallowed in the creek just prior to us coming upon their tracks. Later it was mentioned that some areas must have been frequented by bats as their calling cards were noted.

The weather was quite hot and the running water and ample amount of rock pools provided comfort for those who are regular swimmers. Even Kevin had a cool off and made his entrance with an almighty belly flop, enough to startle the rest of the group who were taking a rest. Once under the rainforest canopy the temperature of the day was much more pleasant and I always welcome a day out here keeping cool rather than sweating it out at home.



Towards Lunch time, our group split up and some more adventurous walkers decided to try to reach the waterfalls on the left fork tributary at about 2 kilometres upstream from our start. However as the terrain was becoming more treacherous with moss and slippery conditions, we abandoned the idea as we still had over 400 metres to go and an immediate turnaround would have been required. So a cooling off period and lunch break was enjoyed then we proceeded downstream again. Some small wildlife was observed, small dark lizards, a

group of Sooty Grunter fish, and the ever beautiful Ulysses butterflies. Some bright coloured birds were noted by Katie with great exclamation. You had to be quick to notice them apparently.

I trust the rest of our group enjoyed their day swimming and resting from the heat, while waiting for the adventurous few to return. In all we enjoyed the day out and as usual, the company and conversation. For some the return to Mackay offers an opportunity to treat themselves with a well-earned ice cream from their favourite store in Mirani. Thanks to all and Frances for your leadership and snippets of information.

All the best, until our next adventure....

Bryan



Barren Falls Sunday 15th March

Barren falls, in Barren pocket near Calen was not a new destination for 3 of us, though it appears the club had not been there for over 15 years.

We started from Hall's farm at 7am.

Coral generously suggested to make two groups to enable some to move ahead and hopefully reach the waterfall.

On a short investigation earlier, it was decided to bypass the lower, overgrown part of the creek. So near the farm, we crossed the water and sped over the paddocks to the edge of the bush, here we crawled under the fence and scrambled downhill through a somewhat scratchy tangle.

The creek flowed at the bottom of the valley as expected, this good news was radioed to Frances, who informed us to stick to the left branch when an option arose.

As we progressed up creek, leaping and balancing from side to side, to keep our shoes dry, most eventually slipped or plonked into the water, which was so nice and cooling that a few enjoyed sloshing through it hip deep.

When a smooth rock face lead into the bush, it looked to some like the fast lane though it turned into a "scenic" loop. The group reunited under dappling branches that whispered "morning tea time..." .. and It would have been nice to sit and watch dragon flies all day but we were on a mission!

So, up and on, - steeper now, impressive rapids splashed into deep pools. As something bigger called, - we saved the swim for later.

As midday approached, denser tree-cover blocked heat and glare. Around each bend new rumbling and gurgling promised a waterfall - but we started to wonder if perhaps we had mistaken "it" for a rapid...? The radio didn't yield a crackle of information, we had lost contact.

Hours away!- said one GPS- apparently. We compromised for another 20 min.... then,- another 5! Waterfall hungry, Deb blasted ahead like a bat out of hell, Tim, Kerry and me close on her heels.

At 3min past midday, two thundering streaks gleamed through the green! Whoopee Hooray the waterfall!!! - jump into emerald bliss- Shoes and all!! Above, more pools to swim in and more falls to float under. Through glittering drops the whole fern encrusted beauty filled eyes and soul - but not the belly! - Also we noticed, we now were only 4...!?

After quickly gobbled lunch and short break we went for the missing two, Maureen and Brian lunched and leisured a couple of bends down creek.

The way home was quicker, one extremely dainty hopper climbed out of the creek bed dry footed (we took his word for it). Soon we spotted the leaders and Edie and Therese heading for a gate we caught up with them for gateing - and fence crawling convenience. Apparently they had enjoyed a laid-back day at the rapids. Thanks Coral for organizing, and all for a great day!

Kate

Footnote:

The 4 of us who followed the advance party, probably led by Tim were Frances, Therese, Edie and myself. We were most appreciative of "Bulldozer" and others who forged a track from the cow paddock into creek making access for us relatively easy.

Coral

Mt William to Pretty Creek Sunday 22nd March

This walk was really enjoyable walk through some lovely forest.

We had a 6am start with 7 people leaving from town, we collected another 3 along the way through the valley and then met up with Ian and Donna at Eungella. As usual the drive along Dalrymple Rd seemed to take for ever and visibility was poor due to the morning fog. However it soon cleared to a lovely day.



We began the day walking through what we still call the dairy farm although the cattle definitely have a more "beefy" look to them these days. Several seemed delighted to see us and came rushing up but soon turned away disappointed when they realised we weren't bringing food.

We headed up the ridge of Mt William and this proved to be surprisingly easy and not the tangly mess I had warned people about. We reached the first site for the climate study and decided to stop here for morning tea. Along the way and

during morning tea, the leeches were busy attacking and feasting on our group but for once did not seem to be interested in me. The general consensus was that as I was out in front, I was waking them up and then they would pounce on those following.

Once back on our feet we soon reached the trig station and everyone jostled for positions to look out at the stunning views. From here down to the saddle we entered into a serious battle with the vegetation. However we all made it through relatively unscathed.

We made a right angle turn and clambered down the side of the mountain dropping into the start of the gully which we would follow for a while. Although steepish in places the descent wasn't too bad but a crop of wild raspberries proved prickly to negotiate and I had my snippers out for this part.



I was looking for a junction in the creek/gulley with another which would lead us over to Pretty Creek. Just before the junction, I decided to lead the group off down a long ridge to where I suspected we would find Pretty Creek meeting up with the Gulley. This proved to be a good decision as the ridge led us straight to where I hoped it would and the

descent was easy and the forest lovely in this section with very tall trees.

Once at the junction with Pretty Creek we stopped and enjoyed lunch.

From this point onwards the leeches discovered my presence and made up for ignoring me all morning.



After eating we posed for a group photo with camera timers being set and then headed down Pretty Creek for around 500mts until we met up with the Western Trail. Sadly we saw a large black pig in the creek. It was then an easy walk out following the pink ribbons and we were back at the cars a little after 3pm. The leeches were somewhat ferocious on the way out and I found I was constantly picking them out of my shirt as they kept dropping from the trees on to us. Back at the car I found an enormous one on my leg which we all agreed was probably the biggest for the day and Aggie kindly took it's photo. As usual Garry

proved to be a tick magnet and spent the next couple of days picking them off.

Thanks everyone for a great day of bushwalking.

Jenny.

Dan's Farewell Party Friday 27th March



Can you pick the real Dan?