



# The Message Stick

## February 2014

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

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

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### Future Events

Caving Weekend .....	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Dalrymple Creek .....	9 <sup>th</sup> February
Killarney Creek .....	16 <sup>th</sup> February
General Meeting .....	19 <sup>th</sup> February
Black's Creek .....	23 <sup>rd</sup> February
Wheel of Fire.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> March

Anyone willing to lead walks in upcoming months please phone Frances or Coral, our two walks coordinators to advise them of the walk/s you would like to take.



### Don't Forget

*Dan's Party, this Friday night, 31<sup>st</sup> January  
Full details in December's Newsletter  
What a great way to kick off the year.*

### Club Officers

President	Kathy Cant	49590762	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Secretary	Kerry Morgan	49540037	Assist Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Treasurer	Dan McKinlay	49534249	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	Kevin Smith	49696068	Publicity Officer	Kevin Smith	49696068
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236			

### *From the Editor*

I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year Break. Garry, Kathy and I had a sensational time cycling around Tasmania. I look forward to catching up with everyone to hear about their adventures over the break. Feel free to send me photos or write ups so I can include them in the next newsletter.

The 2014 walks calendar has kicked off with the traditional Eungella Tracks walk which was enjoyed by all who participated. February/ March are the months where walks often have to be cancelled due to wet weather so fingers crossed most will go ahead this year. Remember if you would like to lead a walk please don't be shy about contacting Frances or Coral as it makes it much easier for them to plan the walks calendar.

Happy walking in 2014 everyone!

Our Publicity Officer is Kevin Smith

[kevnjans@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kevnjans@bigpond.net.au)

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

**Items for the next newsletter should  
be sent to  
[jennywooding@dodo.com.au](mailto:jennywooding@dodo.com.au)  
prior to 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

### *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**

**Caving week end  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

**Leader:** Steven Morgan  
(4954 0037, 0418 882 817)  
**Depart:** by arrangement Friday  
evening  
**Journey:** 600km \$60.00  
**Accommodation Fee:** depends on numbers

but allow \$30 per person per night – expect much less though.

There are a good quantity of limestone caves in the area of imaginatively named township of The Caves, about 30km north of Rockhampton. We will drive down Friday night and stay at Capricorn Caves Resort. Camping facilities are available but our preferred accommodation option is to stay at one of the cabins which

sleeps up to 11 people and share costs. The resort has a swimming pool and café on site. Saturday will be spent exploring caves in the area. Caving will be tailored to the group and may involve crawling, climbing, squeezing and even the possibility of abseiling.

On Saturday evening, we will try to book into a seasonal tour to Bat Cleft, a cave on Mt Etna to view the evening emergence flight of hundreds of thousands of little bent winged bats. This is quite a spectacle. You will see a good number of local snakes emerge from the rocks to feed on hapless bats.

On Sunday morning, we will do further caving for those who have the energy, and will head for home shortly after lunch on Sunday.

All cavers will require the following equipment: long clothes (overalls are the best), sturdy shoes, head torch that can be fitted to a helmet and gloves.

Cave environments can host elevated levels of histoplasmosis spores. Intending cavers should familiarise themselves with the risks associated with this, particularly anyone with immune systems at low levels. An excellent article can be found at <http://wasg.iinet.net.au/histo.html>.

**Bookings close Wednesday 29 January.**

### **Dalrymple Creek Sunday 9th February**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 130kms \$13.00

**Map Ref:** New Mirani 773721

**Grade:** M76

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours. **Total of uphill:** 120m **Pace:** average. **Terrain:** very uneven.

**Vegetation:** rainforest **Expect:** mainly rockhopping with creek crossings, swimming holes, moonlighters, No leeches

The Creek is located on a farm at Mt. Charlton. We commence walking at the edge of a paddock where the creek emerges from the scrub. The main waterfall should be reached by lunch time. There are various swimming holes along the way. Clothes to protect against moonlighter stingers would be a good idea.

### **Killarney Creek**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

**Leader:** Kerry Morgan 49540037

Please phone the leader for more information regarding this walk

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

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

### **Blacks Creek**

**Sunday 23 February**

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer 4957 6028

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 130kms \$13.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 901423

**Grade:** M65

**Estimated walking time:** 6-7 hours Total of all **uphill sections:** 10 m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** rather uneven in places, **Vegetation:** some open rain forest, scratchy vines **Expect:** walking along creek bank through scrub, some walking in soft sand, some minor scrambling, limited shade, a relaxing day.

This will be a relatively easy walk along the banks of the picturesque Blacks Creek. There should be plenty of opportunities for swimming so don't forget your swimmers. You will need to bring sunscreen and water for the whole day.

### **Wheel of Fire Falls, Finch Hatton Gorge. Sunday 2nd March**

**Leader:** Daphne Goodson 0417706240, 49549338

**Depart:** 7.00am

**Journey:** 140km \$14.00

**Grade:** M56

**Terrain:** Mostly formed tracks, but includes a creek crossing. Track may be slippery, and have exposed tree roots and rocks. **Walking Time** 2 – 3 hours **Distance** 5 km approx. From the Finch Hatton Gorge picnic area, a moderate circuit with uphill sections takes us through lush rainforest and between granite

boulders to the lookout above Araluen Cascades, where we can stop for a swim and smoko.

We will then back track to the turn off from Araluen Cascades track for a moderate walk to a large rock pool at the base of the Wheel of Fire falls. This track has uphill sections with

more than 300 steps, and Callistemon Crossing may have slippery rocks requiring care.

**What to expect:** Lush rainforest, magnificent cascades and waterfalls, probably leeches and mosquitoes.

This should be a relatively easy walk and a relaxing day, with time to swim and loiter. Suitable for beginners.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Cycling Tasmania**

**December 29<sup>th</sup> – January 21<sup>st</sup>**

After years of being talked about and some serious planning our cycling adventure in Tassie finally got to happen! Only 3 of us decided to actually go through with it but the others just don't know what an experience they missed out on.

Tasmania's weather certainly proved versatile. At times we were extremely cold, we had wet weather and we had heat – at one stage it got to 43°C and was so hot the road surface was melting and sticking to our tyres. We also had gale force winds to contend with and one afternoon they proved so strong we were literally being blown off the road.

However we had some exhilarating times and for every arduous and seemingly never ending up, there was the corresponding down. After making it to the top of the Weldborough Pass we had 7 or 8kms winding downhill where we didn't once have to pedal. We had to stop half way to loosen up our hands and fingers which were in danger of freezing into position from holding the brakes on. Kathy broke the speed limit by taking a 45kmph corner at 58kmph. I don't think Garry and I were far behind her.

Reaching Hobart, riding over the Abel Tasman Bridge and then around Constitution Dock was a real buzz. We stayed that night in a motel and enjoyed real beds and fluffy towels. That night we shook off our least dirty clothes and headed to the Casino for dinner. We had earned it!

Next day we headed off over 2 mountains to visit Denis who lives down near Huonville. It was our hottest day of riding to date but we arrived in the afternoon to a very warm welcome from Denis and Romaine. We stayed with them for 3 days.



Denis treated us to some amazing bushwalks. First day he took us on an alpine walk in Mt Field National Park, which involved walking around several small lakes. Day 2 we walked up Mt Wellington. At first we were aghast and assured Denis there was a perfectly good road to the top. He insisted and we are so glad he did. We saw parts of Mt Wellington that most tourists probably don't get to see and we loved the walk. Day 3 and our legs were wilting so Denis took us on a tourist drive around the

Tasman Peninsula and we just did some short walks. Thanks Denis and Romaine for being amazing hosts.

To finish off, some mind blowing statistics. We rode a total of 767 km and walked over 100. Garry has been busy calculating the heights we rode from the GPS. The total ascent was 11023m (which is 1.25 times the height of Mt Everest). No wonder we slept so well.

