



The Message Stick

February 2019

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

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

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Future Events

Blacks Beach Social Walk and BBQ.....	3 rd February
Maud Creek.....	10 th February
Owens Creek.....	17 th February
AGM.....	20 th February
Bee Creek.....	24 th February



We would like to wish Coral a speedy recovery from injuries she sustained in a car crash.

Hopefully it won't be too long before we see her back in the bush with us sharing her extensive knowledge and keeping us all on our toes.

AGM

The planned AGM could not be held in November due to a lack of numbers. It was rescheduled to take place at the Christmas camp but unfortunately that had to be cancelled twice due to the weather.

The club must have an AGM to elect office bearers or we will not be able to continue to operate. The meeting will now take place on Wednesday 20th February at 7.30 pm. Please come along to this meeting to support your club. Tea, coffee and nibbles will be on offer. We have always had a friendly committee and positions are not too arduous.

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

Happy New Year to all club members and I'm sure many of you will have had some adventures over the break. Garry and I went on a cycling holiday through Western Victoria carrying all our gear. We camped for 5 nights in the Grampians and had fun exploring and hiking there.

The first walk of the year was well attended with 22 participants who all seemed to enjoy themselves. It was sad though to see the severe patches of fire damage in the rainforest.

Keep an eye on the club Facebook page as that is where notices will be posted if any walks have to be cancelled due to the weather.

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 22nd 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

Difficulty

1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners
4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only

Future Events

Please Note: Most of the walks scheduled for February are creek walks. Most of us love to have a swim in the hot weather. However these walks may need to be cancelled at short notice if we receive a lot of rain, making the creeks unsafe to traverse. If a leader deems the walk shouldn't go ahead he/she will contact people who have already nominated for the walk and notification will be placed on the club Facebook page advising of the cancellation.

All trip leaders please ensure you collect the club gear bag before undertaking your walk.

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

Black's Beach Social afternoon Sunday 3rd February

Leaders: Clive & Daphne Goodson

0417706240, 4954 9338,

Depart: 3.00pm from Black's Beach picnic Area,
Bourke St.

Grade: M32

Estimated walking time: 2 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 5m **Pace:** medium **Terrain:** beach sand **Expect:** sun, mosquitoes, views of Islands & Slade Point, migratory shore birds, attractive coastal scrub.

This is a social activity, being a BYO BBQ at the Blacks Beach picnic area, (Northern end of Bourke Street) with a short walk beforehand to stimulate the appetite. We will walk south from the picnic area along the beach, through remnant beach scrub to the mouth of McReady Creek, returning along the beach.(8km) There is a lookout at the picnic area that is well worth the climb (stairs).

Partners and friends are welcome to attend. Non walkers have the option of arriving for the BBQ around 5pm, or having a relaxing afternoon at the picnic area.

Please bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat & suitable footwear, BBQ food and chairs.

Maud Ck – "Big Bend" and "Tributaries" Sunday 10th February

Leader: Jenny 0447091532 / 49440236

Depart: 6am

Journey: 200km \$20

Map Ref: 662292E 7675045N GDA94

Grade: M77

Walking Time: 6 hours **Total of uphill:** 200m

Terrain: Difficult Creek Banks, Steep Slope, Dense Jungle, lots of water. **Expect:** Bush Bashing off track, Not being able to see your feet, Scrambling through thick vegetation, Vines and prickly things.

Despite a leisurely 45 minute warm up along an easy forest track to Maud Creek, this walk becomes difficult immediately upon entering the creek.

Our aim will be to follow Maud Creek downstream to "Big Bend". This is only about half a kilometer but is made difficult by the very dense rainforest jungle on the creek banks and will take some time. Vegetation may have changed since our last visit due to bushfires in the area so the walk will be somewhat exploratory.

We will get to Big Bend well before lunch and be prepared for a lengthy and leisurely swim at Big Bend in the magnificent deep fern fringed pool.

Bring your watershoes if you wish to participate in exploring further downstream from here as it is easier to swim than walk the impenetrable banks.

The water is crystal clear and not too cold.

A reasonably lengthy stay will be had in the environs of Big Bend to allow exploration and frolicking. Those who do not wish to explore downstream via the water have the option of relaxing here until the explorers return.

We will make our return via a small but pretty tributary entering just upstream of Big Bend. This tributary has some difficult sections eventually becoming impassable at a little gorge rising abruptly with multiple levels of small waterfalls. At that point we will go bush up a steep slope through dense vegetation making a bee line for the top of a ridge and subsequently picking up the track we came in on. A reasonable climb is involved.

It is highly recommended to wear long sleeves, gaiters, gloves etc due to the dense vegetation. You will come back with some scratches and the odd leach. You may also likely encounter other assorted jungle nasties. I think you will be amply rewarded for your effort.

This walk will be dependent on the weather.

Owens Creek

Sunday 17 February

Leader: Frances Eiteneuer 49576028

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 135km \$14

Map Ref: Mirani 760682

Grade: M87

Estimated walking time: 5-6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 250m **Pace:**

average **Terrain:** very uneven **Vegetation:** rain forest some wait-awhile **Expect:** mostly rockhopping, scrambles, swimming holes.

Owens Creek is about 14km northwest of Gargett. It is a most interesting creek meandering through rain forest.

Although this is a reasonably easy walk, it is only suitable for walkers who are confident rock hoppers. We are sure to encounter some wait-awhile, so come prepared.

If numbers permit, we may split into two groups, a fast group and a slow group.

**Induction 6.30pm/ Annual General Meeting
7.30pm
Wednesday 20th February**

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

**Bee Creek
Sunday 24th February**

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.

The plan is to head through Eungella and on to the end of Bee Creek Road. From there we will access Bee Creek. It's about three years since we were there last.

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.

Previous Activities

