



# The Message Stick

## June 2013

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

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### Future Events

Mt Henry & Beyond Camp .....	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Wedge Island .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Bong Bong Creek .....	9 <sup>th</sup> June
Blacks Creek Gorge Camp .....	8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> June
General Meeting .....	17 <sup>th</sup> June
Crediton Scrub .....	16 <sup>th</sup> June
Crediton Hall Camp .....	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Mt Dalrymple .....	7 <sup>th</sup> July



*Looking out from  
Mt Funnel 26.5.13*

### Membership Renewal

A reminder to everyone that all club memberships fall due at the end of June. Renewal forms will be emailed out soon so keep a look out.

Membership forms must be completed and fees paid to remain active. Anyone who has not sent in forms and fees by the end of July will be removed from the email list.

### Club Officers

President	Dan McKinlay	49534249	Contact Officer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Secretary	Kathy Cant	49522269	Assist Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Treasurer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	KevinSmith	49696068	Publicity Officer	Rob Kollin	49512490
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Social Coordinator	Dan McKinlay	49534249

### *From the Editor*

Congratulations to Kate who is the illustrator of a children's book which was launched last Friday night – it's called the Bungee Jumping Caterpillars and is about the life cycle of the local zodiac moth. Well done Kate!

At this stage we have no walk scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you would like to lead a walk that weekend and I will email the details out to everyone.

I'm looking forward to the walk up Mt Dalrymple on July 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Maureen's birthday. I don't any other 80 year olds who would celebrate such a milestone that way. I just hope we can keep up with you Maureen on the day.

I hope all the adventurers heading off to the Bungle Bungles and the NT have a wonderful time although I'm certain you will. I look forward to seeing the photos when you get back.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in photos this month. I'm just sorry I couldn't use them all.

Our Publicity Officer is Rob Kollin  
[robertskool@qld.chariot.net.au](mailto:robertskool@qld.chariot.net.au)

Please email Rob 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 25th June

### *Safety Officer Segment*

#### *Some reminders:*

Our insurance cover requires that we adhere to club rules and procedures.

*Leaders.* Please ensure sign-on sheet is completed.  
Safety gear must be taken on all club walks.

*Walkers.* Don't forget to sign the walk sign-on sheet. Help leaders out in this regard.  
Please remain together with the group.

Any changes to the planned walk must be relayed clearly to all walkers and all participants must confirm they have understood these changes.

### *Key to Walks Grading System*

Distance	Terrain	Terrain
S = short – under 5km	1-3 = Graded or open terrain, no scrub	1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners
M = medium – 5-10km	4-7 = Bush, minor scrub, rainforest,	4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
L = long – over 10km	Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling	8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only
	8-10 = Bush as above + thick scrub, major rock	
	Scrambling using hands, technical	

# 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

### Wedge Island 2 June 2013

**Leader:** Kathy Cant 49522269

**Depart :** 8:00am

**Journey:** 100km \$10.00

**Grade:** S44

**Estimated walking time:** 3 hours Total of all uphill sections: 130m

**Pace:** easy **Terrain:** track, beach and island

**Expect:** a relaxing day.

This will be an easy day of walking at Cape Hillsborough. As low tide is not until 12:43 we will commence with the uphill walk to Andrew's Lookout before ambling across the causeway to Wedge Island.

### Blacks Creek Gorge Camp (Backpacking)

Sat, Sun, Mon 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> June

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 175km \$18

**Map Ref:** New Mirani 737480 to 748442

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours each day – hilly country with a steep scramble – average pace – open forest with lantana and some spear grass, rocky creeks. **Expect** some decent swimming holes.

Following the recent rain this will be an impressive area to visit **providing the weather is fine**. The start of this overnight backpacking walk is Horse Creek Cattle Yards, about 6km of rough 4WD road beyond the Teemburra Creek Crossing.

**Day 1:** We head south, crossing Native Bear Creek on the way to Rocky Dam Creek, then downstream to Station Creek.

**Day 2:** Explore Station Creek and return to camp

**Day 3:** Down to the Gorge – then scramble out of gorge and back by a different route.

PLEASE, expressions of interest, and 4WD availability ASAP with bookings no later than Wed 5<sup>th</sup> June.

### Bong Bong Creek Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 49543428

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 120km \$12.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 901457

**Grade:** M55

The Bong Bong area is on the north western corner of Mt Ben Mohr. This will be an easy to moderate walk consisting of following a disused track and then some rock hopping on dry rocks. There may be an opportunity to inspect some of the old mining history of the area as we should pass some old mine sites during our day. Long clothing is recommended. Bring plenty of water as there will be none available throughout the walk.

### Crediton Scrub 16<sup>th</sup> June

**Leader Dan Mckinlay:** 49534249 or 0409057494 or email dmckinlay@bigpond.com

**Journey:** 190km \$20.00

**Depart:** 7am

**Map Ref:** Mirani 609509 to 598470

**Grade:** M54

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 300m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rainforest **Expect:** gentle slopes and some lantana

This walk is a partly marked trail through the scrub from the Crediton area emerging at the GREAT WHITE TANK on the Cockies Creek Road, and retracing our steps back to the start. This section is part of the Highland Great Walk. This is a suitable walk for beginners with reasonable fitness.

You will need to carry sufficient water for the whole day.

### **General Meeting 6.30pm**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

Dan's Office –Mackay Regional Council

### **Crediton Hall**

#### **Car Based Camp and Night Walk**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

**Depart:** 2pm

**Journey:** 200km \$20

**Camp Fee:** \$5.45

Before joining the Sunday Walk to Mt St John, we will camp at the Crediton Hall camp ground, on Saturday night.

A short evening walk along part of the Eungella walking tracks will give us the opportunity to experience the bush in a different light, with torches. We will see fluorescent sticks and leaf litter and listen to the sounds of the night life and hopefully spot some platypus and nocturnal animals. Please book by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Mt St John**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer 49576028

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 200km \$20.00

**Map Ref:** Hillalong 549495

**Grade:**M65

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 450m. **Pace:** average.

**Terrain:** very uneven. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** some steep slopes, steep scrambles, narrow ridges, long grass, lantana.

Mt St John is a small prominent mountain in the Crediton area. Good views should be available from the summit. Mt Dalrymple to the north, Mt Britton and Teemburra areas to the east and the Glenden to the west.

Be prepared for long grass including spear grass and scratchy vegetation so longs are recommended. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

### **Mt Dalrymple**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding

**Depart:** 5am (yawn)

**Journey:** 200km \$20

**Grade:** L77

This walk is being held in honour of Maureen's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday – what a legend. It has a very early start to ensure we make it to the top in plenty of time for lunch.

Mt Dalrymple is the highest mountain in our area and it involves a full day of walking with lots of ups.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Blacks Beach Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

We were allowed a sleep in (but who manages to do that?) as there was a short travel time and the tides had to be right on a clear blue sky Sunday morning. Thirteen of us met up at the picnic ground at Blacks Beach, and realising the tide was still a bit high, started our walk on the road. As always we felt a bit overdressed in boots and backpack! We soon hit the sand and headed south on the almost deserted beach, enjoying the breeze, views, company and a leisurely walk. We won't mention the person who searched the scrub for a ringing 'lost' mobile phone, only to find it was in her own back pack.

As the tide receded we made our way to the end of Blacks Beach Spit, disturbing a couple of graceful pelicans resting on the sand. They waddled off and swam with apparent ease to the safety of a sandbank in McReady's Creek, while we had a leisurely morning tea break looking over to Slade Point,



identifying various landmarks and watching the soaring birds of prey above.



The return journey was made along the tracks of the spit, much warmer without the sea breeze. Since the track has been closed to traffic in recent times it is becoming more overgrown, and less rubbish evident with the clean ups that have been happening. There were also some interesting flowers along the way, which were popular with the photographers.

At the end of the protected area we once again joined the beach and made our way back to our starting point at the picnic area, where we enjoyed lunch sitting at a real table, and eating chocolate that Jan still had left over from Easter!

Part two of the walk was to be north around Dolphin Heads, but with the tide still too high we climbed the steps and followed the road over the hill to the shoreline near the resort. The rounded rocks were more difficult than the sand to walk on, but not too bad. Soon we were at the Eimeo Creek, which we crossed in various ways...some rock-hopping, some removing boots, some just going in boots and all, but Coral won the prize for invention with her two large black garbage bags to keep her boots dry.



We had another short rest around the corner at Eimeo, and choose to hit the road again back to the beach in order to avoid some oyster and barnacle covered rocks, and so to Dolphin Heads. By now the tide was low enough to get around Dolphin Heads, and we looked up at the homes on the top of the cliff and marvelled at the work involved in building a garden and steps down to the beach...wondering why they did not work together to make one set of steps to share.

Soon we were back at the picnic area again and the cars, and said our good-byes, and thanked Carol for organizing a lovely day out. Could not have asked for better weather!

Edie

### **Diamond Cliffs Cave Thurs 25 April - Sun 28 April 2013**

#### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

5 walkers set out for Mount Britton area and left the vehicle not far from the township.

This meant a long uphill walk with full packs up the car track past the lagoon to the end of the track, and a nice lunch spot. Then it was off-track heading further uphill towards the much anticipated cave overhang on the Eastern end of Diamond Cliffs.



After lots of uphill and zig-zagging around lantana etc, we got close to "The Natural Stone Wall" that we were to then follow up to the cave. At this point the going was quite steep and we were traversing a steep ravine covered in the thickest lantana possible. We could not see what was underfoot and at one point I was in the lead and I stepped onto nothing but air, being suspended by lantana only. Not good!!! I agitated for a retreat and re-route to a safer option. I was becoming quite concerned we may be spending the night in space blankets on the side of a steep hill. But Coral decided we were to turn 90 degrees to the right and head up the steep scree slope. Deb stepped up to the plate and lead by cutting a track up-hill through the thick lantana. We got to the base of the stone wall and Coral was confident we were home and hosed. There was even water in the creek beside the

wall. Then it was more lantana to cut through, even on top of the stone wall, which Coral was quite surprised at.

By now it was raining lightly with very loud, threatening and close claps of thunder with heavy rain closing in.



Coral informed us the overhang is just around the corner to the right. But when some of us arrived there we were sorely disappointed. Surely this is not our long sought after campsite!!!! Thankfully when Coral arrived she said it must be around the next rocky bit. and Yeah! A nice dry campsite at 5:30 pm in the rain just before dark. Just a pity we got a bit damp in the last 20 minutes.

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April

We got up and the plan was to walk to Lost Rock as a day walk. Coral took us back along the wall to the east and then up a creek and up to the top of a ridge. (Incidentally, this creek is the very upper headwaters of Rocky Dam Creek which flows into Blacks Creek.) On this ridge there were some giant trees. Most of them were dead and had their insides burnt out to make them into giant hollow chimneys.

By this time it was lunch so we headed back to camp by the same route.

We got back to camp and climbed to the top of Cave Hill to watch the sunset and moonrise while having our evening meal. On the way up there were loads of banksias out in flower. What a picture they were. We also had views of Mt Dalrymple, The Pinnacle and Swampy Ridge among other notable hills and ranges.

When we got to the top of Cave Hill ----- WOW --- WHAT A VIEW ----- were the exclamations from all. The spot was nice and flat with a rocky cliff giving beautiful views of Sydney Heads, the Bluff, Marling Spikes and Mount Britton. Also if one looked directly over the edge it gave a view of looking directly down onto rainforest with beaut big tree-ferns visible above the canopy.



Just to top it off, we were treated to a beautifully colourful sunset while having a nice meal and cuppa.

We only had to wait about 35 minutes for the moon to rise over the hills to the East with the moon peaking through the giant trees on top of the ridge.

Then it was back down the hill by torchlight to, in my case, a very hard bed.

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

I had heard mention of Lost Rock so many times I wanted to get to see it.



So the plan was to go cross-country on almost a bee line to Lost Rock. The going was so beautiful and so easy we kept pinching ourselves and asking what are we doing wrong? The hill was not as steep as we had anticipated and the vegetation was surprisingly rainforest like. At one point we came to a beautiful valley of palms. Lots and lots of palm trees. We also came across a different type of palm. There were a few tree-ferns as well as lots of mosses, lichens and vines and hanging moss. We were surprised that there was so much rainforest type vegetation in the Mount Britton area.

By 10:15 am we had a view of Lost Rock only 300metres away. But the downhill going towards it got far too steep so we doubled back around and up, to be rewarded with a magnificent view of Lost Rock. We considered going either East or West to gain access to Lost Rock and climb to it's summit, but apathy set in, and we decided the view of it was sufficient.

Our nice leisurely walk back was just as beautiful, with more time to stop and take photos of the wonderful vegetation and wide variety of fungi including some vivid red fungi.

Back at camp we each did our own thing to relax,

After going to bed the moon rose and some started singing (or was it howling) at the moon.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

We broke camp and headed back towards the car.



This time we decided to go down to the creek the same way as yesterday and then up the creek until it reaches the wall. From there we headed downhill the way Coral said we should have come up on Thursday. This section is steep loose scree. We hadn't gone far and we came across our track from Thursday where we had cut our way into the lantana. Obviously we realised that all we had to do at that time was head uphill through the bush and we would reach the wall instead of trying to tackle

the lantana.

It is a crying shame that the introduced lantana has destroyed so much beautiful bush and made it an impenetrable mass of weed. As soon as there is a bit of open bush with sunshine and fertile valley soil, the lantana takes over

We backtracked basically the same track we had used to come in on Thursday. Back to the Nissan and then called in for our very much savoured ice-cream on the way home.

A wonderful weekend walk in a beautiful area.

Kevin.

### **Mike's Peak Ridges**

#### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

This was to be the first walk I led completely on my own, relying on my sense of direction, trusty GPS, map and compass of course. Gulp!!

At just after 8am, 10 of us were booted up and ready to begin walking – Garry was sent to be Tail End Charlie and ordered to let me bumble my way through this and to keep quiet even if I did become directionally challenged. We had been walking for no more than 10 minutes when he came on the radio telling me I needed to go more to the left. Now at that point I threatened to turn the radio off for the day. I knew perfectly well where I had to go and was just detouring around a gully which he couldn't see. (which I pointed out to him in no uncertain terms).



From there we had a fairly uneventful trip to the top of Mikes Peak where we had morning tea. I had forgotten though just how steep it was.

After soaking up the views and some sustenance we headed off down the ridges. This part was easy and as we were going well for time we decided to



head over to the Arch. I announced that we would be there in half an hour and in plenty of time for lunch. Famous last words! Probably an hour later we dined at some rocks near the arch. We were so close but I had led us all to a spot where we just couldn't quite attain the arch although we were frustratingly near. Time did not permit us to backtrack to a point where we could actually make it. After getting back and studying the map, I realised



my mistake and have a plan for next time. We set off back to the cars and I was quite chuffed to lead us comfortably to the old road for us to follow back to the cars which we reached by 3.30. Along the way we stopped to admire several ant hills which were complete with turrets – very upmarket. We enjoyed the usual icecream and coffee at the Junction on the way home and it was a nice day of walking. Thanks to everyone who came along.

Jenny

### Mt Funnel Exploratory Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June



This walk was a true exploratory, tackling the Mountain from the National Park. We parked the cars on the road to cape Palmerston to begin the walk. Garry had planned a route to take following a ridge all the way to the base of the funnel. He had spent time studying the map and looking at Google Earth to check the vegetation.

The walk went off without a hitch. We didn't need to vary from the path he planned and it was straight forward to reach the base of the funnel. The first part of the walk was quite easy but as we got closer the dense grass trees made progress a little more difficult. There was only a small patch of lantana to contend with and we found a lovely grove of palm trees in a saddle area where we had morning tea.

We reached the base easily for lunch and we spent quite a bit of time soaking up the view and snapping lots of photos before circumnavigating the funnel. We did see where a rope had been placed for climbing the rock face but we chose to ignore it. The object of the day had been to make it to the funnel and so it was a huge success. We retraced our route back to the cars and found a servo on the way home for coffee and icecream.

Thanks Garry for the great walk.

Jenny



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*Well Done Kate*

