



The Message Stick

March 2011

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

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Future Events

Robert's Lost Falls.....	6 th March
Cattle Creek.....	13 th March
General Meeting.....	16 th March
Homevale Camp / Mike's Peak.....	19 th & 20 th March
Reliance Creek.....	27 th March
Mt Tanya.....	3 rd April
Easter Camp / Homevale.....	Easter

Note from the Editor

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to jennywooding@dodo.com.au prior to 20th March



Club Officers

President	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Contact Officer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895
Vice President	Clive Goodson	49549338	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Kathy Cant	49522269	Assist Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Treasurer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	Daphne Goodson	49549338	Publicity Officer	Colin Hoy	49999047
Walks Equipment Officer	Dan McKinlay	49534249	Social Coordinator	Dan McKinlay	49534249

From the Editor

February has proved to be an active and social month with a few different things happening. We didn't receive as much rain as we thought so conditions have been very pleasant. The Black's Beach social walk and BBQ was a very pleasant afternoon. The dinner and movie night was attended by around 12 people and the general consensus was that we were glad we didn't have any bushwalkers in our club who were quite so hyper as the one the movie portrayed.

The watercraft day held on Teemburra Dam was a spectacular success and I think it could very well become an annual event.

Next month's newsletter will be a little late coming out so don't worry if you don't get it until the first week in April – The editor is going bush with a back pack on. A walk for the 3rd of April has been included in this newsletter and I will have the next newsletter out before the following walk.

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

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks.

Robert's Lost Falls Sunday 6th March

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474
Depart: 7:00am
Journey: 200 km \$20.00
Map Ref: Mirani 643687
Grade: S64

Estimated walking time: 5 hours Total of all uphill sections: 200 metres Pace: slow to average Terrain: very uneven, some sharp steep slopes Vegetation: rainforest Expect: leeches
From the top of the Range we drive to a point towards the end of Dalrymple Road to park the cars. Here we plunge over the side and follow small creeks down to the top of the falls. A short drop assisted by rope will necessary on the way but this is relatively easy. These falls tumble more than 1000 feet on this top branch of Cattle Creek. IF YOU PHONE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CONTACT NUMBER.

Cattle Creek Sunday 13th March

Leader: Paul Eder 495 47639
Depart: 7am
Journey: 150kms \$15.00
Map Ref: Mirani 633645
Grade: M64

Estimated walking time: 5 Hours Total of all uphill sections: 100m, Pace: slow to average, Terrain: very uneven Vegetation: Rainforest Expect: some scrambling, rock hopping, lots of swimming holes, some difficult creek crossings. This will be a relaxing walk following the bottom end of Cattle Creek. There will be plenty of opportunities for swimming in this beautiful creek.

Induction/General Meeting Wednesday 16th March

Induction 6.45pm, General Meeting 7.30pm, downstairs room, Mackay Family Care and Community Support Association Centre 60 Wellington Street, Mackay.
Newcomers and visitors welcome

Homevale Camp / Mike's Peak
Sat 19th- Sun 20th March

Leader: Coral Morgan

Depart: 7am

Journey: 240kms - \$24

Map Ref: Mirani 614 288

This will be a car based camp at the popular site at Marlin Spikes.

BYO Water etc.

Day 1: Exploratory creek walk along the small creek which flows occasionally by the camp site to Bee Creek.

Day 2: Mikes Peak M65. This is a scraggy peak to the north of Mt Britton which offers 360° views of spectacular surrounds.

Leader will be away from home from Wednesday am to Friday am so please notify by Tuesday 15th March.

IF YOU PHONE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CONTACT NO. I do get messages.

There could be the option of doing only one of the walks.

Eimeo Creek to Reliance Creek and Back
Sunday 27th March

Leader: Daphne Goodson 4954 9338

Depart: 8am from Mackay, or 8.30 from Eimeo Creek car park.

Journey: 30k - \$3.00

Grade: L24

Estimated walking time: 4-5 hours **Total of all uphill:** negligible **Pace:** average **Terrain:** level beach and a few rocks **Vegetation:** Very little – mangroves at northern end **Expect:** sandflies, heat and probably rain, but also stunning scenery. The plan is to walk from the northern bank of Eimeo Creek, near the Bucasia Caravan Park, to Shoal Point picnic area, and then head on to the mouth of Reliance Creek, which is about 7 kilometres, and then to make the return journey. It

usually takes about 90 minutes from Bucasia to Shoal Point, and then another 45 minutes from Shoal Point to Reliance Creek, but don't forget to multiply all this by two. There are many beautiful spots for drink stops and lunch, and it will be a relaxed day, but incorporating a fair walk as well. This is well suited to beginners, and those wanting a shorter walk can meet us, or leave, at Shoal Point picnic area.

Mt Tanya
Sunday 3rd April

Leader: Dan McKinlay 49534249

Mob 0409057494

Depart: 7am

Journey: 140km \$14.00

Map Ref: New Mirani 058 377

Grade: S74

Estimated walking time: 5 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 220m **Pace:** medium **Terrain:** very uneven **Vegetation:** (on flat) possibly overgrown with weeds and long grass, (on slopes) grass, grasstrees, lantana, scrub and vines (on top) rocks. **Expect:** steep scrambles and panoramic views to Mackay and beyond.

We will drive over Eton Range and turn off to "Hogan's Pocket", site of new Mackay City Dump. This is located at the headwaters of Black Waterhole Creek.

A short but stiff and rough climb will bring us to the rim of the range, where an elongated rocky outcrop is located. This feature, dubbed Mt Tanya, is easily visible from Mackay, as one drives South along Paradise St. Early morning is best, as the sun catches the rocks on the skyline.

Be self-sufficient with lunch and drinking water for the full day.

Easter Camp Homevale
Details to be advised

ATTENTION – TRIP LEADERS

After your walk, please return equipment to Dan ASAP so that is available and ready to be used the following week.

Previous Activities

Black's Creek Sunday, 30 January 2011

Despite the prospect of unkind weather courtesy of Tropical Cyclone Anthony, twelve walkers joined Frances at the car park by 7am, and Bev met the convoy at Mirani. Our journey to the camping ground at Black's Creek was uneventful, and we were surprised to see a few tents. The campers were probably more surprised to see their Sunday morning peace being threatened by the arrival of three vehicles.



The cloud cover and welcome breeze provided ideal bushwalking conditions for the stroll upstream, and of course there was the usual tree hugging exercise at the big fig which offered some photo opportunities. A couple of morning tea breaks were held, and variety underfoot was provided by cattle tracks, smooth rocks, clean sand, slippery climbs and a few rough descents. No snakes were spotted, but there were many bird calls escaping from the bushes, and the creek, always pretty, was flowing strongly this year.

Lunch was taken a little further upstream than we sometimes venture, and Fran, Kathy, Jenny and Pam enjoyed a dip while the rest of us provided an audience from our green and shady vantage point. A couple of walkers even managed a nap. About this time the rain started, so the trip downstream was made more interesting by wet tracks, muddy and sometimes slippery slopes, and lots of dirty, drenched apparel. Several of us frequently opted for the sitting and sliding method over the more challenging sections of terrain.

Luckily the rain eased as we approached the cars, so changing out of our wet clothes was not as difficult as we were anticipating. Thanks, Frances, for once again sharing this creek with us. We all enjoyed the peace of the bush and the company. Even though we didn't observe the abundance of wildlife sometimes experienced in this area, and even though none of the cars ended up at Eton, and even though no-one was adventurous enough to walk in the creek for the trip back, or to ride inflatable craft of various shapes, it was a good day. There were horses on the road though – beat that!

Carole Weekes

Paradise Falls 13th February



What was I thinking! Everyone knows Paradise Falls is traditionally a challenging walk and to think I could lead it so soon after getting out of the moon boot was somewhat arrogant.

We set off in rain – we are bushwalkers after all and not to be deterred by a bit of rain. The tide was too far in to make it around to the second beach so a detour up and over the track was in order. After the second beach we went up and around the cliff face before descending onto the beach, along which the creek comes out on to from Paradise Falls. Sounds easy and I seem to remember as it being not too difficult when we went that way last year. My ankle thought otherwise and soon I was stumbling along at the rear to my embarrassment. Fortunately Garry with his every trusty GPS was able to take

over the lead. When we reached the creek which comes out from the falls it was gushing out onto the beach, much faster and with more volume than I had seen before. Four of us decided not to risk crossing the creek over the wet rocks so we stayed put for a leisurely lunch. The others all went on to the falls which were spectacular. There was even an enormous swimming pool at the bottom to be taken advantage of. In the past walkers have made their way to the falls to find them dry or with just a trickle coming over - not this year. After lunch we returned back along the beach as the tide was low enough to allow this to happen. Of course there was the one point where we had to go up and over the headland and this seemed steeper than usual due to heavy rains earlier in the season changing the landscape. I think most people were tired when we got back but spirits were high and I think all had a good time.

Watercraft Day 20th February

For something different a watercraft day was planned and it turned out to be a fabulous day. The weather was perfect for taking to the water and 12 bushwalkers turned up for a day of fun on the water at Teemburra Dam. A large variety of craft ranging from lilos, through to paddle board, surf ski, white water kayak, single kayaks, a double kayak, Canadian canoe and a very impressive sail/row boat were all on offer for us to practice our skills. The white water kayak proved to be the hardest to paddle in a straight line but Eric impressed us all with his ability to Eskimo roll it. Apart from his demonstrations we all stayed upright for the day. Everyone

proved keen to try their skills in the craft on offer and had a great time doing so. Elaine came to visit mid - morning but was unable to come down to the water in her moon boot so we all went back up to have morning tea with her. We traipsed back up at lunch time for a barbeque so we did manage to get some walking in after all.

Special thanks to Clive, Daphne, Eric, Pam, Garry, Jenny and Paul for supplying their watercraft and sharing their expertise, the day would not have been possible without their help and support.

Thanks also to everyone who came along to make this a great day and everyone who attended seemed keen to make this an annual event.

