



The Message Stick

March 2015

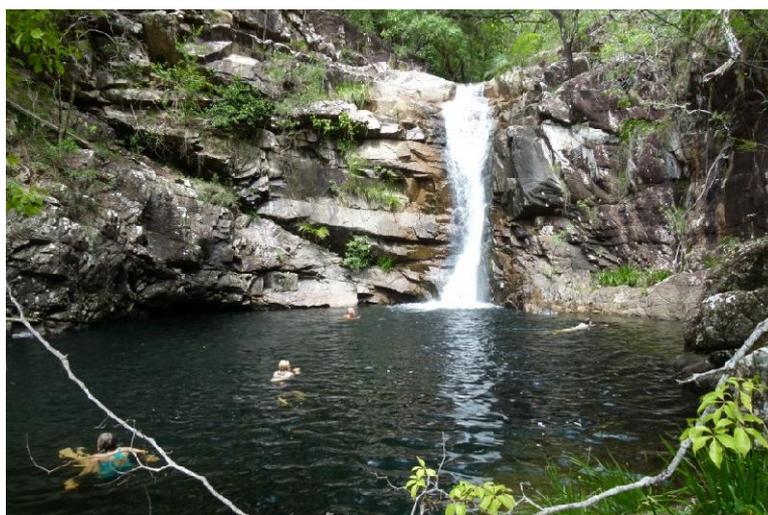
Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740

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

Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

Creek to Creek	1 st March
Jones Creek	4 th March
Stoney Creek.....	8 th March
Barron Creek.....	15 th March
General Meeting.....	18 th March
Mt William/Pretty Creek.....	22 nd March
Rescue Ridge Reccy	29 th March
McLeans Creek.....	29 th March
Lord Table Mountain Camp.....	Easter



One of the waterfalls on Boulder Creek
The perfect place to be on a very hot Sunday!

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

Just a reminder that this time of the year, the weather can be very unpredictable and makes walks planning very difficult. Often walks have to be cancelled or changed due to wet weather, sometimes with only short notice and I will always email out the changes. It is a good idea to check emails the evening before a walk.

It was great to see that all of February's walks have been able to take place and fingers crossed March will be the same. The walks calendar for the upcoming month is mainly creek walks and that enables walkers to be able to escape the heat and cool off in the water.

Our next movie night will probably be to see "The Second Best Marigold Hotel". I will email out when it is on for anyone who would like to attend.

Happy walking 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 25th March

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

Eimeo Creek To Reliance Creek and Back Sunday 1st March

Leader: Daphne Goodson 0417 706 240

Depart: 7am from Mackay, or 7.30 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. Some of the walk will be on a sealed track through coastal

vegetation. **Expect:** sandflies, heat and possibly 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.

**Jones Creek
Wednesday 4th March**

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 8am

Journey: 130kms \$13

Grade: S32

Boulder Creek flows into Jones Creek (just near the free camping area) forming a sandy swimming hole. It is a short half-day walk, following the creek down to the next road crossing and then walking back along the road to the cars at the camp site. Some undergrowth and long grass may be encountered along the creek. Opportunity for a swim awaits us at the end of the return road walk.

An optional extra would be participating in a short reconnoiter of the approach to "Barron Creek which is listed as a future walk. This could be done in the afternoon or alternatively after camping overnight. Please discuss any interest in this option when you ring up to book for the walk.

**Stoney Creek
Sunday 8th March**

Leader: Frances Eiteneuer (4957 6028)

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 135k \$13.50

Map Ref: Mirani 764861

Grade: M76

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 150m

Pace: average **Terrain:** very uneven
Vegetation: rain forest, scrub, moonlighter, wait-a-while. **Expect:** mostly rock hopping, scrambles, swimming holes.

We will commence the walk where Stoney Creek flows into Owens Creek. This walk is fairly long, although not hard, it is only suitable for those with rockhopping experience. We will follow the creek upstream, stopping somewhere at suitable place for smoko and maybe a swim. After about three hours we should reach a large waterfall, where we will have lunch. Some may like to explore above the falls while others have a swim or you might like to do both.

You will need to carry water for the whole day.

**Barron Creek Falls (Exploratory)
Sunday 15th March**

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7am

Journey: 150kms \$15

Grade: M54

It is quite sometime since we have done this walk so it will be semi-exploratory. We could encounter long grass walking across a paddock to the creek and in the owner's words it could be a bit overgrown. Let's find out!

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 18th March**

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

**Mt William/Pretty Creek
Sunday 22nd March**

Leader: Jenny Wooding 49440236
0447091532

Depart: 6am

Journey: 200kms \$20

Map Ref: Mirani 657728

Grade: S74

Estimated Walking Time: 6 hours, **Total of uphill sections:** 300m **Pace:** Average **Terrain** uneven **Expect** some steep and tangly slopes, leeches. The day will begin by walking through a section of the dairy farm at the end of

Dalrymple Rd before entering the bush and tackling Mt William. This section could be quite overgrown and tangly due to cyclonic activity in the area in previous years. Once over Mt William we will descend into Pretty Creek which we will follow until we meet up with the Western Trail. This walk will be semi exploratory as I have only been there once before and navigation could be tricky finding the right creek. Be prepared for a long day.

Note the early 6am start.

Rescue Ridge "Reccy"

Sunday 29th March

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236
0447091532

Depart: 6am

Grade: S77

Journey: 180km \$18.00

Map Ref: Mirani 666018E 7671157N
GDA94

Estimated Walking Time 4 to 6 hours **Total of all uphill Sections:** 360m **Pace:** exploratory mode **Terrain:** very steep slopes, dense rainforest, wait-a-while, obstacles. **Expect:** An adventure.

As the club has not done this walk since 2008 it will be treated as a "reccy". There have been a number of cyclones through this area since then so we are not sure what we will encounter. Although a short walk of around 3.8kms it could prove difficult and testing at times. Throw in the fact that the leader has only been there once nearly 7 years ago, "exploratory" will be the order of the day.

If successful, the reward will be one of the prettiest parts of Cattle Creek with many splendid waterfalls and spectacular swimming holes.

A smallish group is preferred for this initial reccy. Participants will need to be a little adventurous and be prepared to accept whatever comes on the day. If that sounds like you then please register your interest with the leader by Friday 27th.

Note the early 6am start to give us time to explore and frolic to our hearts content.

McLean Creek Sunday 29th March

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7am

Journey: 140kms \$14

Grade: M64

Estimated Walking Time 6 hours **Total of uphill sections** 150m **Terrain** open forest and grass, rock hopping with some rough scrambling **Expect** No leeches, swimming spots. We access the creek about 3kms by 4WD along the forestry road to Teemburra. We will follow this small creek downstream and encounter a waterfall before the junction with Teemburra creek. There is a pool at the bottom of the falls and another opportunity for a dip in Teemburra Creek. There is an alternative route back to the road along an old logging track.

Easter Camp

Friday 3rd April to Monday 6th April

Leader: Jenny Wooding 49440236
0447091532 jennywooding@dodo.com.au

Arrangements for this camp are flexible but the plan is to drive out and bush camp close to Lord Table Mountain near Clermont on the first day. On the way out there we will stop and explore Wolfgang Peak. This is a volcanic plug, similar to a Marling Spike. We can't go all the way to the top as it is quite crumbly but exploring the lower sections is well worth doing and offers some magnificent views.

Day 2 we will climb Lord Table Mountain by following a creek for a large part of the way. We should have plenty of time to explore the large flat top of this mountain.

Day 3 will be a morning walk to the saddle in the middle of the mountain. Although not a great distance this is quite challenging with steep sections and long grass but well worth doing. The afternoon will be for relaxing or maybe a drive into Clermont.

Day 4 we will head towards home stopping on the way at the Gemini Peaks and climbing Mt Pollux.

This will be a car based camp and all water will need to be carried.

Please phone or email with expressions of interest for this camp.

Previous Activities

McBride's Point and surrounds Sunday 1st February



The morning was cloudless, and Therese, Paul, Bryan and I, who had experienced the extreme heat the previous week at Cape Hillsborough, were wondering if we were letting ourselves in for another dose of the same sweltering conditions. June, Dale and Hayden completed our small group, and the day's walking began with a stroll along the beach at Halliday Bay to access the track leading to the rocks north of the

swimming enclosure. After admiring the stunning views, and capturing them and various members of the group atop interesting rock formations on camera, we moved towards the other end of the bay to begin our climb up the track to the summit.

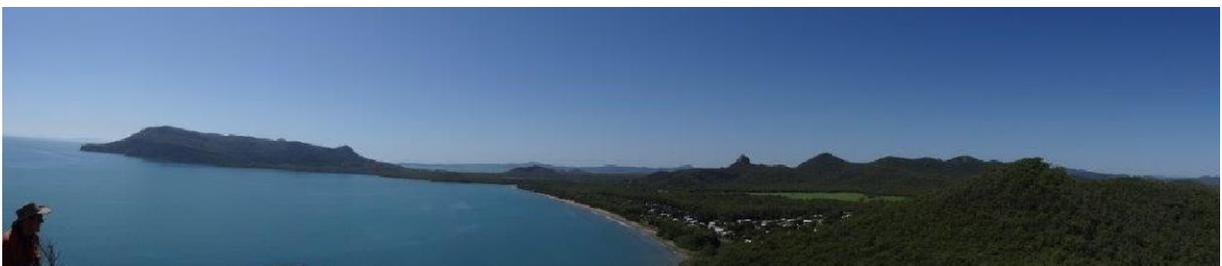
Let me tell you at this point about all the things that had gone wrong for me as leader so far. Organisation and punctuality are important aspects of my life, but for some reason I decided not to prepare for Bushwalking on Saturday night as I usually do, and set my alarm for 4.50 to allow time to pack my bags, organise change, fill out the top of the sign on sheet etc. I ignored the little voice that suggested I may have set the alarm for PM instead of AM, as I couldn't be bothered getting back out of bed. When I woke up the next morning and realised the sun had been up for a lot longer than it should have been, there was a great panic to do all the things I needed to do in order to be fully prepared and at the car park by 6.45, but I did make it. Then we ended up at Halliday Bay instead of Ball Bay, as we couldn't catch Paul's attention, so just followed him instead. Thanks Paul, because even though it was a mistake, the tide would have been too high to start at Ball Bay anyway.



From this point on, things fell into place, with a girocopter flying low over the summit just as we reached the top of the rocks. By the time we had walked back down and completed the walk through the scrub to Ball Bay, the tide was out just enough to allow us to sneak through to the camping ground. As we were looking for the street that contained the entrance to the nature strip and wetland area at the back of the Ball Bay houses, John Cant appeared and pointed us in the right direction.

After lunch in the shelter at the camping ground, we headed back along the track that would return us to the cars at Halliday Bay, and we were all home in the early afternoon. Thanks to the participants for being accepting of the flexible arrangements and for the help with navigation.

Carole



Back of Finch Hatton Sunday 15th February

Hard Data: Two cars left the meeting place at 7 am and collected Kathy at Marian and Therese at Mirani, bringing the number of participants to eight, with 75 percent of them female. The walk began at 8.25 am, the rocky lunch spot was attained just after midday, and 4pm saw us back at the cars. Conditions were overcast in the morning, a little sunnier in the afternoon, a strong breeze for most of the walk, and no rain at all despite some ominous dark clouds. Orchids, lilies, fungi in a variety of browns and oranges, and a pair of red-backed wrens were the most interesting botanical and zoological sightings. Views of Mt Pinnacle, Teemburra Dam, Mt Dalrymple, Robert's Lost Falls, Dollar Falls, Finch Hatton, the ranges and valleys of the area, and the ridges and rocks in the immediate vicinity were available to the walkers most of the day.



Soft Data: As always, Frances was an organised and knowledgeable leader, and on this occasion she even desisted from jogging up the ridge out of consideration for her followers. The trip back down was taken at a relaxed pace as well, so everyone had time to smell the roses, and we were all very aware of the ambience of our surroundings because we had plenty of time to take it all in. Kevin was the only member of the group who hadn't been up the ridge before, so of course he had to climb onto the rock via the tree, which is looking a bit the worse for wear. A couple of

others spent some time aloft with him. I can't remember exactly but I think Edie may have been one of them, and Maureen certainly was. Paul had the job of tying pink ribbons around the old and young gum trees on the way up, and Kathy's position of co-leader still allowed her plenty of opportunities to use her camera. Therese, Kevin and Kathy must have quite a few photos of lacy orange fungi to sort through, and it must be pointed out that by the end of the day, Edie had not managed to damage any bones or soft tissue. Kevin kept us entertained with his funny remarks, including the labelling of Edie and Therese as the "Bushtalkers".



On a more serious note, I strongly recommend this walk to any members who have not yet taken the opportunity to climb the ridge at the back of Finch Hatton. It is fairly easy and the views are quite spectacular. Thanks, Frances, for a very enjoyable day in the bush - we all had a great day.

Carole

Boulder Creek Sunday 22nd February

Despite the uncertain weather, twenty intrepid walkers decided to tackle the bold and beautiful aptly named Boulder Creek. From the farmhouse we opted to walk the overgrown track to the edge of the scrub. At this point we divided into two groups. My slower group kept mainly to the bush. Along the way we observed an enormous yellow footed scrub fowl mound and also a large termite mound. We pulled up shortly after entering the creek and enjoyed an extended relaxing break.

Garry's advance party was challenged by the hot, oppressive conditions, strong flows in the creek and some tricky sections before the falls. However a majority persevered and made it to their destination taking in the impressive double waterfall separated by a large seemingly bottomless pool.

We regrouped on the way back and around 2pm we all decided to go bush as a storm was upon us. We walked despite thunder and lightning and rain for an hour and half to emerge unscathed, not even any moonlighter encounters. Then it was back through the long, wet grass to the cars.

Deb's husband Kerry joined us for this walk, also newcomers Laurence and John with boys Isaac and Darby.

It was great to share the walk with to very keen and capable youngsters and we look forward to seeing them with us again.

Coral

