



# The Message Stick

## May 2011

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

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### Future Events

Balmunda.....	8 <sup>th</sup> May
Mt David.....	15 <sup>th</sup> May
General Meeting.....	18 <sup>th</sup> May
Rapid Falls.....	22 <sup>nd</sup> May
Stockyard Creek.....	29 <sup>th</sup> May
Bowls and BBQ.....	3 <sup>rd</sup> June

#### *Note from the Editor*

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



**Maureen you are a Legend!!**

### 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	04135 12275.
Walks Equipment Officer	Dan McKinlay	49534249	Social Coordinator	Dan McKinlay	49534249

### *From the Editor*

Thanks Dan for a fabulous party once again. I can safely say that everyone who attended had a great time. As usual the food was a sumptuous feast – bushwalkers certainly know how to cater for a party. Not all of us were brave enough to supply a party trick but Dan had us singing along to some Irish Pub songs, Clive impressed us with some quality singing, Pam added a touch of class by reciting a poem she had written, Col told a joke, Christine tried to tie us in knots and Kate had us trying to balance a can of coke on our foreheads – she even had made prizes for those who were successful.

What a fun night!

Our next social function will be a barefoot bowls night to be held at North Mackay Bowls club on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Details follow in the newsletter but it should be a night where we can all enjoy ourselves and prove our talent or lack of it on the bowling green.

It's great to see the weather has finally cleared up to allow our walks to go ahead. Thanks to Denis for putting on the Easter Sunday walk at short notice and those of us who went on it really enjoyed ourselves. Let's hope the year can now proceed without any more weather interruptions to our walks calendar.

### 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.**

#### **Exploratory Balmunda 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**Leader:** Kathy Cant      49522269  
**Depart:** 7 am  
**Journey:** 100km \$10  
**Grade:** S34

**Estimated walking time:** 3 hours **Pace:** medium  
**Terrain:** beach, headland, gravel roads, saltpan  
**Expect:** sandflies and/or mosquitoes, some scrub  
This will be an exploratory in the Belmunda area crossing the saltpan to then stroll along the beach looking out to Cape Hillsborough. There could be some climbing on slippery rocks around the headland depending on the tide. We will also follow the fringing mangroves along Landing

Creek to access some rock outcrops where we will have excellent views across Habana Bay to Mt Jukes.

#### **Mt David Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**Leader:** Kate Brunner    49588436  
**Depart:** 6.am  
**Journey:** 200 km. \$20  
**Map Ref:** Mirani  
**Grade:** L6  
**Estimated walking time:** 7 hours **Pace:** moderate  
**Terrain:** Taped trail - Steep and very uneven

**Vegetation:** Rainforest.

The walk along the western trail to Mt David winds through the rainforest and crosses several beautiful

creeks. The views from the top are awesome (Mt David is only a few metres short of Mt Dalrymple).

In order to achieve the objectives of this walk, all participants will need to be fit and able walkers.

## Stockyard Creek Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer (49576028)

**Depart:** 7.00 am

**Journey:** 130km \$13.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 922385

**Grade:** M75

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours **Total of all uphill section:** 200m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven **Vegetation:** open forest **Expect:** some rockhopping, very steep scrambles, lantana, swimming holes.

We will begin the walk about 4km from the junction of Black Waterhole and Stockyard Creeks in the Pine Vale area. The going will be at a constant pace as we want to reach a set of waterfalls for lunch. Be prepared for long grass, lantana, sandy creek sections, rockhopping and some rock climbing. There should be places for a swim if the water is not too cold. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

### Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May

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

**Induction by Garry and Dan**

### Rapid Falls Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**Leader:** Colin Hoy 0413512275

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 200kms \$20.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 665 722

**Grade:** S74

**Estimated Walking Time:** 4 – 4 ½ hrs. **Total of all uphill sections** 200 – 250 metres. **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven. **Vegetation:** rain forest. **Expect:** Some very steep soft earth slopes, swimming holes, slippery rocks. Some strong currents if rain has been recent.

A very effective introduction to basic Bushwalking off track. We proceed along the top of a ridge which descends into a gorge. The falls area is a series of very swimmable rock pools set deep in rainforest. The current in various places may need to be checked out depending on the level of the water flowing.

### Bowls and Barbeque Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Time:** 6pm

**Where:** North Mackay Bowls Club, Malcomson Street

**Cost:** \$20

**Contact:** Jenny Wooding on 49440236/0447091532 after 5.30pm or email mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

This will be a social evening with hot nibbles, barefoot bowls and a barbeque which is fully catered for. No doubt a lot of hilarity will be involved as we all show our talent (or lack of it) on the bowling green.

Please call or email me of your attendance as soon as possible but no later than 23<sup>rd</sup> May so catering numbers can be finalised. Everyone welcome including partners.

## *Previous Activities*

Blue Water Trail,  
16th March.

In a matter of desperation, due to a series of cancelled walks, Daphne mentioned to Dan the idea of a last minute decision to do the Blue Water Trail. Dan agreed as we were all starting to act like caged Tigers, due

to the lack of walks. A last minute email was shot around and twelve walkers took up the challenge. Amongst a period of heavy rain we were lucky to have a fine day albeit it was fairly sticky. It was great checking out the Blue Water Trail again which is a wonderful asset for the community. We stopped and debated exactly where Jenny had her bike mishap but I don't think that there was an agreement in relation to the exact spot. Lunch was at the Botanic Gardens under a big tree and everyone was impressed that Clive was able to produce two chairs to sit on. Maureen made the comment how soft he was but five minutes later she had deposited herself firmly on one of the chairs.

When we finished the walk near the Blue water lagoon most walkers decided to have a Coffee or cold drink at the Cafe nearby. Gee we are spoiling ourselves.

Thanks for a great day Daphne.

Dan

## Green Point Exploratory

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April

The weather turned out to be most favourable for the day and seventeen walkers assembled for the walk. The parking area at the start of the walk had quite a few cars in it by the time we arrived but there was just



enough space for us. We set off and after a short while we turned off the Swamp Bay track and headed up to Mount Rooper. It was a steady climb up to the summit where we enjoyed morning tea at an elevated constructed lookout. Some were a little concerned at the maximum loading of the structure but it seemed to bear our combined weight okay. After the break and a look at the scenery we commenced the descent to join with the Swamp Bay track once again and headed towards the beach. Along this part of the track some moonlighter was thriving after all the rain and we met some overseas tourists who said they had seen some snakes. After

reaching the beach and a comfort stop we walked north over a rocky headland and then along a rocky beach to Green Point. Somewhere along here Natasha had a boot blowout and the always useful duct tape was used to make a running repair. As we crested the point we were treated to the sight of an enormous fish zooming in under the rocks. Now this is not a fisherman's tale – this fish was huge! There are plenty of witnesses. There was also a turtle swimming around. After an extended stop here to watch all this we crossed over the headland to the next beach where we found a shady spot for lunch. We had a good break and then it was time to leave for the return journey. It took some time to rouse Paul as he was fast asleep but we eventually got him going. The return walk was uneventful but when we reached the formed track again Cheryl made me go first because of the ever present danger of snakes. Thanks Cheryl! Anyway the two "Ds", that is Dan & Denis stuck out in front and sped towards the cars which we reached in no time. Overall it turned out to be a most enjoyable day and thanks to everyone for making it that way. Also thank you to Dan for organising the Mackay end.



Denis

**Note from the Editor:** Someone mentioned to Dan that there was a New Zealand Icecreamery in Airlie Beach and I think that had a lot to do with the sudden increase in speed at the end of the walk. The double "D"s" certainly took off at a rapid pace for the last section.

## Broken River-Diggings

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2011

As no walk was scheduled for Easter Sunday I decided to lead a walk from the Broken River car park to the Diggings with a side trip to another section of Broken River.



Eleven of us set off at about 0830 and headed up the track past Fern Flat camping area where there were a few campers in residence. Soon we crossed from National Park to State Forest and after crossing a boggy section and a few ups and downs came to a couple of small creeks that flow into Broken River. After crossing these creeks and following a fence line for a time we struck out across country to meet up with the old Diggings Road which has now become a motor bike track because of all the wash outs. This road was followed for a while until we arrived at the Diggings. Numerous campers were in the camping area where the usual Diggings walk

starts, but we avoided them as we could not cross the river due to the depth of the water. A morning tea spot was soon found, and after a break we walked upstream for a time and came across a massive freshly mown

area with a camp fire blazing but no one in attendance – A bit of a mystery. From here it was a slog back up hill and then a detour down to another section of Broken River. The final push to the river was thick with lantana and raspberry but we eventually broke through. The lunch spot I had chosen was across on the other side of the river and this required a delicate balancing act to cross on a fallen tree. Some were a little reticent but all bar one opted to cross. We enjoyed our lunch and then it was time to cross the river once more. A few found the return a little more difficult and there some good contortion acts but we all made it safely. Soon we met up with the path we had taken in the morning and retraced our tracks to the cars. After ice-creams and coffees we headed for home. Thanks to Cheryl for looking after the town end and to Kate for the delicious bananas and to everyone else for a great day.



Denis