



The Message Stick

May 2017

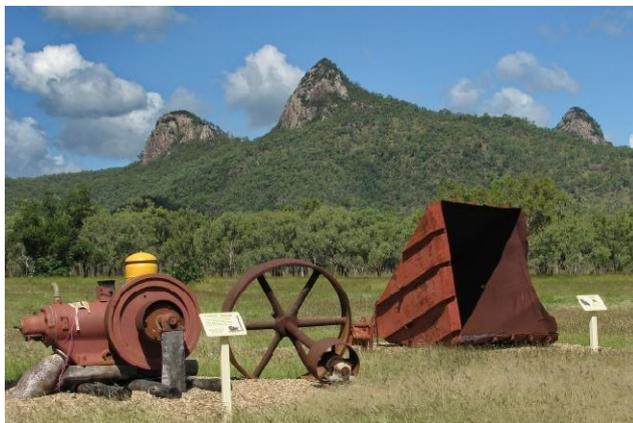
Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740

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

Email: mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com

Future Events

Castle Rock.....	7 th May
Trivia Night.....	13 th May
Hazlewood Gorge.....	14 th May
General Meeting.....	17 th May
West Hill Island.....	18 th May
Corybas Cliffs.....	21 st May
Rawson Creek.....	28 th May



Old Mt Britton township where we will camping this weekend with the Marling Spikes in the background

Trip Leaders

If you are a trip leader, the gear bag needs to be collected from Garry in the days before undertaking the walk and returned as soon as possible afterwards so gear can be checked and batteries charged for the next outing.

Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	4954 6108	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Bryan Marshall	4954 3209	Assist Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneur	49576028
Treasurer	Julie Vella	4955 3093	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478772418	Publicity Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478772418
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236			

From the Editor

Let's hope we see an end to the rain soon so our walks calendar can go ahead as planned. Dalrymple Creek had to be cancelled due to the wet conditions. A cool change is forecast for this weekend's Mt Britton camp so maybe the weather will settle into a more stable pattern for us.

Remember to keep sending in photos and write ups as it makes the newsletter far more interesting. The more people who have input the better!

Have a great month everyone.

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 25th May**

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

Castle Rock Sunday 7th May

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427383732
Depart: 7:00am
Journey: 170km \$17.00
Map Ref: Calen 620978
Grade: M85

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 260m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** open forest **Expect:** some steep slopes, steep scrambles, lantana, spear grass.

Castle Rock is an outcrop in the Cathu State Forest. Excellent views are to be had from the top. The walk will take us from the road before the forest station at Jaxut along a ridge to the dramatic drop off at the end. Along the way we will pass

some interesting rock formations and a few small boulder caves. We will return to the cars by a different route, probably the creek to the west of the ridge. Bring water and food for the day. The road in may be washed out due to the recent rains.

Bring spare cloths to change into after the walk, food and water for the day

To register for the walk please **ring** me (don't text) no later than 12.00 noon Saturday.

Trivia Night Saturday 13th May

Coordinator: Coral Morgan 49578474

Venue: North Mackay State High School

This event is run by the Rotary Club and has fantastic prizes on offer. Please phone Coral for more information regarding time, cost and table numbers.

Collectively Bushwalkers have an amazing array of knowledge so come along and put it to good use.

Hazlewood Gorge (Downstream) Sunday 14th May

Leader: Garry Hendicott 4944 0236 or Jenny 0447091532

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 200km \$20.00

Map Ref: Hillalong 516 520

Grade: M85

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven, rocky **Vegetation:** open forest **Expect:** some steep slopes, lots of rock hopping, steep scrambles (hands, knees & bums), loose rocks, swimming holes, difficult creek crossings.

This spectacular gorge with its coloured rock formations is situated outside the rain forest area about 16km from Eungella. We will access the gorge by scrambling down a rough steep gully and return the same way. There will be a lot of rock hopping and there may be opportunities for swimming. How far we manage to get downstream will depend on how much water is in the creek and the ability of those present. It is likely to be very hot with little shade so bring plenty of water for the whole day (minimum 3 litres + reserve). The water

in the creek is not suitable for drinking so please don't expect to rely on it.

Whilst spectacular, this walk does have some difficult sections.

Condition of the access gully is unknown since our friend Debbie came to town. In the event that the gully is deemed dangerous we will backtrack and make an alternative walk along Crystal Creek to "The Dam", a spectacular formation looking into the gorge.

In the event of heavy rain or possibility of thunderstorms this walk may be cancelled at the discretion of the leader.

Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 17th May

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

West Hill Island Thursday 18th May

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 6am

Car Contribution: \$18

Map Ref: Carmilla 508 840 (Edge of salt-pan)
548 847 (causeway)

We will be parking at the edge of a salt-pan. The last 1.5km of the car journey will require 4WD vehicles. The date chosen is preceded by low high tides, so if the weather has been fine it will be easy to walk across the salt-pan along a vehicular track of approx. 5kms to the mouth of the creek. Crossing the causeway involves walking through shallow water across a rocky area, so it is recommended to carry suitable footwear. On this occasion it is not planned to walk all the way around the island. We could do some exploration up a creek on the ocean side. Back on the mainland a short distance along the beach front there is an area of fascinating coloured rock formations. Please book by 12noon, Wed or earlier in the week if possible.

Corybas Cliffs – Cape Hillsborough Sunday 21st May

Leader: Penny McMahon 49514287 or penny_mackay@msn.com
Depart: 7am
Journey: 100 kms \$10
Map Ref: Cumberland Islands 117857
Grade: M55

Estimated walking time: 4.5 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 200m. **Pace:** Average. **Terrain:** Very uneven. **Vegetation:** Open forest – could be some timber down due to Cyclone Debbie. **Expect:** Some steep slopes, scrambles, great views, hopefully some Corybas orchids.

From the Cape Hillsborough parking area we will walk back along the road a short distance before heading up a reasonably steep slope to the base of the cliffs. It is hoped that we may find some of the small Corybas orchids that flower in this area mid-year. We then head left around the base of the cliff before reaching the Fern Overhang before continuing on to the Cathedral Cave. We will continue around the cliff base up to the track before reaching the main lookout. Depending on our progress we may have lunch here. The plan is to then walk back along the old taped trail to Cape Hillsborough. As a result of Cyclone Debbie we

may encounter some obstacles and some of the tapes may be difficult to find.

Rawson's Creek Sunday 28th May

Leader: Kate Brunner, katcalen@hotmail.com or 49588436

Depart: 7am

Journey: 140Km \$14

Time: 6 hours approximately **Total Uphill:** the creek is not exactly steep but has a good fall, we will not set a definitive destination how far we go will depend on group and conditions. If it is wet we might avoid the rocks and perhaps access the creek to the east by crossing the ridge.

Terrain: very uneven, rocky all the way. **Expect:** Mostly rock hopping (the rocks may be slippery after rain) & creek crossings, expect wet boots. There is no track, we either walk in water, on rocks or scramble through tangle.

Rawson's creek is a wild rainforest creek which flows out of Eungella National Park. We access it from the Finch Hatton Gorge walking track and then follow it up, crossing repeatedly. There will be plenty of swimming holes and spa pools along the way, don't forget to bring the swimmers.

Previous Activities

Wildmob and Mackay Bushwalkers Club Trip

Wildmob had an extraordinary trip with MBC in March that Penny wrote about in your April Newsletter. What an amazing trip! What an amazing group of people! Steve and I had an absolute blast.

We walked a gully out of the beach scrub that could only be described botanically as dry vine forest but was much more than that. Towering *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop pine) were interspersed with *Paraserianthles toona* (Mackay cedar) over a scree slope interspersed with multitude ferns in all shapes and sizes. Bottle trees (*Bracychiton australis*) surprised us here and there between the rocks and in small pockets amongst the trees.

We traversed the ridge top which dried out a bit and we saw Eucalypts such as poplar gums and Moreton Bay ash and some *Xanthorrhoea latifolia*. Then descended another scree gully to the beach.

Just to elaborate on Penny's snorkelling experience. It's a **very** rare opportunity to snorkel the 'windward' side of Scawfell; it's very rare that anyone gets to anchor here due to its position directly within the 'trade winds'. It's a 'green' zone so you can't fish and it's so isolated that tourist boats never go there.

The coral structure and diversity absolutely floored me. Having been a marine parks Ranger in Airlie for nearly 10 years and growing up on the coast I've done my fair share of snorkelling but this was just astounding, mesmerising and spectacular. I cannot begin to describe the marine life.

If you're up for some adventure, join us on this trip: <https://wildmob.org/event/cumberland-islands-expedition-july-24-29-2017/>

Cumberland Islands
24th-29th July 2017

Lambert's Beach and Slade Point Reserve Sunday 9th April

Nine female club members assembled at the car park at the foot of Lambert's Lookout, and although it was a pleasant morning weather-wise, we were uncertain about how much cyclone damage would reveal itself on the beach and in the reserve itself.

The Lookout is currently a construction site, pending the addition of a whale viewing platform, so that required some rethinking. We set off along the park area to access the beach at the rocky section further to the south, and made it about half way to the harbour before the 5.4 m high tide at about 10am forced us up into the scrub, providing us with more adventure than we had perhaps been expecting.

We were able to continue along the beach for the last 10 minutes prior to enjoying morning tea in the shady grass outside the official harbour buildings.

The return trip along the beach was comfortable as by this time the waves had receded, and 6 of us undertook the amphitheatre and reserve circuits after farewelling Coral, Wendy and Therese.

Slade Point Reserve can stun visitors with its diversity, its wildlife and its colourful botanical species, but this was not the case for us. The leaf litter was parched, the cyclone damage ugly, Fern Valley was alive with mosquitoes, its water was stagnant, and the vegetation in the area had been badly knocked around. The wetland area further along was beautiful with three times the water it usually holds, and the reflections were begging to be photographed, but the biting insects at Fern Valley discouraged walkers from venturing very far from the track.

As we approached the beach circuit track, a suitable lunch spot was found, providing soft ground, shade and most importantly a breeze. Tales of past bush walks and plans for future camps provided topics of conversation as we ate, and then a pleasant stroll through the park took us back to the cars. Surprise, surprise! After at least 12 kms of exercise, the heat, the insects and bush bashing in the morning, participants found going home to a cup of coffee and a shower a bigger attraction than walking along the boardwalk off Keeley's Road.

Thanks to all those who accompanied me, especially Hannah on her first outing and Carol on her second.

Carole