



The Message Stick

November 2016

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

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Future Events

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lineel Falls/Pretty Creek Loop..... | 6 th November |
| Finch Hatton Falls..... | 13 th November |
| Annual General Meeting..... | 16 th November |
| Denham Range Camp..... | 19 th & 20 th November |
| Christmas Break Up Camp..... | 3 rd & 4 th December |
| Scawfell Island..... | 4 th , 5 th & 6 th March 2017 |



*AGM 16th November
Hope to see you there!*



A big wave from the top of Mt David

Club Officers

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------|
| President | Carole Weekes | 49546108 | Contact Officer | Coral Morgan | 49578474 |
| Vice President | Garry Hendicott | 49440236 | Walks Coordinator | Coral Morgan | 49578474 |
| Secretary | Coral Morgan | 49578474 | Assist Walks Coordinator | Frances Eiteneur | 49576028 |
| Treasurer | Michelle Dartnell | 0428552603 | Newsletter Editor | Jenny Wooding | 49440236 |
| Safety Officer | Vacant | | Publicity Officer | Vacant | |
| Equipment Officer | Garry Hendicott | 49440236 | | | |

From the Editor

Please keep in mind the upcoming AGM on the 16th November. All club positions will be declared vacant and we would love to see some new faces on the committee. We are a friendly bunch! Remember with no committee there will be no club and most positions only require a few hours per month to be spent on them. So come along and join in the fun.

Some interesting walks coming up. At the moment the walks calendar has a vacancy on November 27th. Please get in touch with Coral if you have any suggestions or would like to lead a walk on that day.

Have a great month everyone.

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

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

Lineel Falls/Pretty Creek Loop.

Sunday 6th November

Leader: Jenny Wooding 49440236 0447091532

Depart: 7.00am

Journey: 200km \$20

Grade: M65

Map Ref: Mirani 669 731

Estimated walking time: 5 hours **Total of all**

uphill sections: 100m **Pace:** medium

Terrain: Rainforest, rockhopping, some

scrambling, creek crossings. **Expect:** Nice

swimming holes and some off track bashing
This will be our second attempt at this walk for the
year. Earlier on it had to be abandoned half way

through due to wet weather. This walk begins on the Western trail to Mt Dalrymple before we will head off on a ridge down to the junction of Pretty Creek with another creek. We will explore a little way downstream in Pretty Creek where there are some spectacular swimming holes. We will then head back to the junction and diverge 150m or so upstream to visit Lineel Falls. From here we will travel 800m back up Pretty Creek via some small waterfalls and micro gorges to where we will rejoin the western trail to return to the cars. The creek is quite spectacular in this section.

This walk is weather dependent and will not go ahead if there has been heavy rain in the days beforehand or forecast for the actual day.

**Finch Hatton Falls
Sunday 13th November**

Leader: Tim Caddy 0417732717

Depart: 5am

Journey: 140kms \$14

Map Ref: Mirani 690722

Grade: M98

Estimated walking time: 8 hours **Uphill:** 900m:

Pace: average **Terrain:** Rainforest, steep uphill, very uneven, challenging section of creek. **Expect:** some wait-a – while and leeches, major rock hopping and scrambling. This is an awesome walk, last done about 4 years ago.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY START TIME and as always bring a torch. The falls are located on Finch Hatton Creek, just off the track to Mt Dalrymple. There is a spectacular view from the top and a cave to explore, just a short distance upstream. It is planned to negotiate the creek downstream to Dooloomai. This is serious bushwalking only suitable for experienced walkers with rock hopping and scrambling ability. A rope will be available for assistance if needed. After viewing Dooloomai Falls from the top, the track will be followed back to the Gorge car park.

**Induction 6.45pm/ Annual General Meeting
7.30pm**

Wednesday 16th October

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

**Denham Range Car Based Camp
Sat 19th and Sun 20th November**

Coordinator: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7am Saturday

Journey: Approx 250kms \$25

Map Ref: Mirani 579404

The campsite has a toilet and water tank and fireplaces. National Parks camp fees apply. The road is in good condition but 4WDs are required for clearance. There is some interest in doing only the Saturday walk. Sunday only could also be an option for someone who can find their own way to the campsite.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY IN THE WEEK AND DEFINITELY NO LATER THAN 7PM WED 16TH (Annual meeting night for transport to be arranged.

Saturday: Mt Brydon (Mirani 585388)

We will drive directly to the base of this hill near the western end of Diamond Cliffs. Presently there is no scratchy lantana along the way. The climb is easy and short and steep, so we can take it steadily if hot. Expect clear views in all directions and interesting dugouts on the top, then a short drive back to camp at Denham range.

Sunday: The Stalk (Hillalong 545427)

This spike like feature is clearly visible to the west from points along the Dray Track. We can drive closer to give us plenty of time to reach our goal, and return home early.

**Christmas Camp
3rd & 4th December**

Keep this weekend in mind for the break up camp. All details will be published in the next newsletter but it will be held at Broken River.

**Scawfell Island
4th, 5th & 6th March 2017**

This is early notice of a trip to this island with Wild Mob, an environmental organization. The cost of the trip will be \$300 which will include the boat fare, all meals and tents are provided. There will be a minimum requirement of 8 people for the trip to go ahead and a maximum of 12.

More information will be provided at a later date but have a think about the weekend as only a maximum of 12 people will be able to take part. Quite a few club members have been on Wild Mob trips and I'm sure all will vouch for how good they are.

Weeding and Rubbish collection:-It is not mandatory, however it is part of the Wild Mob ethos to undertake conservation tasks when the opportunity arises and would appreciate any assistance Bushwalkers can offer to undertake rubbish collection and weed control while we are at Scawfell. The main focus of the trip is for the Bushwalkers to do some bushwalking, but some conservation activities could be worked in around this.

Previous Activities

Crediton Tracks 9th October

Third time lucky! Finally the weather was kind to us, as not only was the threat of rain absent, but we were provided with a perfect Spring day - sunny, not too hot, and even a pleasant gentle breeze at times. The only complaint was that the view down the valley from the top was not as clear as we would have liked due to a smoke haze.



We were a small group of six, including two who had not previously walked all of this section with the club. The track was accessed at the Crediton end, and the morning was spent following the twists, turns, pools and cascades of Broken River back to the picnic ground. Larry, a previous member of our club who joined us on this outing as a day member, along with his daughter Stephanie, was hoping to photograph any snakes sighted during the walk before they were chased off the track, but was out of luck for the first 8.6 kms. By this time

we had reached our lunch spot after a leisurely hike, with morning tea at the usual creek crossing about 40 minutes from the start, and lots of stops to admire orchids, epiphytes and fungi, and to search for evidence of platypus in the waterholes. Crystal Cascades was alive with flowering natives, and a break was taken here to admire the beauty of the area, although no swimming occurred.

The return journey involved a steady pace with fewer pauses, and although we did not actually identify any platypus, we convinced ourselves that we saw ripples created by the elusive creatures. However, Larry missed three photo opportunities as two tree snakes and later on a larger black snake were all in too much of a hurry to pose for him. Other wildlife spotted included a beautiful fantail on the track, followed soon by another, a couple of interesting butterflies, tortoises, goannas, and an abundance of smaller lizards. On the car trip in the morning, Dale and I noticed an unidentified bird near the road just before we stopped at Gargett to collect Deb, and saw it in much the same place on the drive home. (No, I am not talking about roadkill). It may have been a bustard. A peacock was also observed near the edge



of the road.

Most of the day we were walking on fairly dry leaf litter, so leeches were not an issue. I am only aware of 2 or 3 for the entire day, and these only bothered people standing near wet rocks at creek crossings.



I think all participants enjoyed the relaxed outing, even though we covered over 17 kms on foot. Thanks to my five companions, to Penny for her assistance, to Stephanie, the

other day member, for being a driver, and to everyone for being such pleasant company.
Carole

The Junction/Dooloomai Falls Sunday 16th October

Our would be illustrious leader Charles came a cropper the weekend before he was due to drag us all to Dooloomai for a swim. Some say he was undertaking a daring attempt to climb up Dooloomai without a rope or even a safety net, but I don't know about that.

Whatever the reason we all hope Charles makes a speedy recovery and is back out on the track soon.

What will we do? There is a spectacular series of waterfalls to visit and no leader. After spending some time trying to convince Coral that we were indeed offering to take Charles' place, it was finally agreed that Jenny and myself would do it. So we did.



Seeing little benefit in scrambling through the wait-a-while up the side of Dooloomai just to triple the walk distance back on an unmaintained track, we decided on the easy option of heading to Wheel of Fire then going bush to "The Junction" and returning the same way.

At our "secret" rock some unknown distance before Wheel of Fire, a short scramble up a steep slope got us to the ridge that would take us most of the way. Carole was heard to say on a couple of occasions that "This is the easiest way we have ever come", even

though it was the very same way we did it last time and the time before.

Just before the second "secret" rock it was time to drop down into "The Junction" in time for smoko at the first waterfall.

Plenty of water was flowing over the series of waterfalls here. The spectacular swimming holes were brimming and crystal clear, yet no one would venture in.

Unfortunately the mainly overcast sky made it a little too cold for us hardy northern tropical types.

Nonetheless quite some time was spent by many exploring further up the series of waterfalls.

I think Bryan must have gone halfway up to the Western Trail before he decided to come back judging by how long we waited for him. (I knew I should have given him that radio).



Anyway eventually it was time to head for the infamous Dooloomai Falls.

I knew it wasn't far but I surprised myself on how soon we got there. I had also forgotten how impressive it is when you first catch glimpse of it between the rocks.

Many photos were taken, I am guessing that each of us came away with at least a dozen each (that's a total of 132 piccy's), got a couple of good ones myself to add to the collection.

Still no one would jump in the waterhole at the base, little sun here today. We were content to sit and absorb the beauty of the place while having a lengthy lunch.

I searched desperately but could not find my favourite hat that I accidentally left there nearly ten years ago, could be at Flat Top by now.

What was that? A few raindrops? Time to go. On the way up and out it decides to rain properly but not for long. We are almost out just as the sun comes out.

Just before we hit the Wheel of Fire track, Bryan manages to save Carole's life with a spectacular caber toss. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I would never have believed it. Just as well Carole was oblivious to the goings on behind is all I can say. Carole, go and buy Bryan a beer!



Garry ☺