



The Message Stick

October 2011

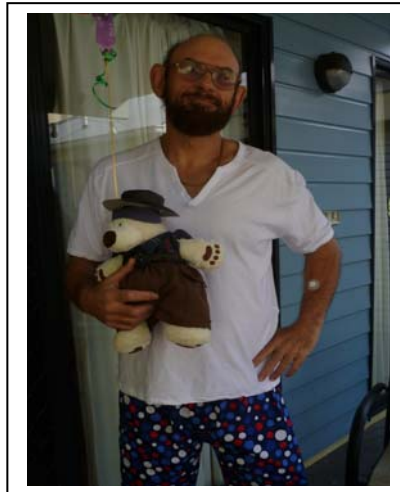
Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740

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Future Events

Tree Fern Creek.....	2 nd October
Mt William.....	9 th October
Mt Toby.....	16 th October
General Meeting.....	19 th October
Hazelwood Gorge	23 rd October
Cattle Creek.....	30 th October



Look who is on the mend!

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

*I am pleased to report Dan is home from hospital and recovering well from his surgery. He loves his teddy bear which is complete with a biff, shady hat and mini backpack. On behalf of everyone in Mackay Bushwalkers, I would like to send Dan our good wishes and we look forward to seeing him back in the bush with us as soon as possible. A date for everyone to put in their diaries is the weekend of 3rd and 4th December which will be our Christmas camp. It is booked in for Quandong Lodge once again. Hopefully this year we will make it as last year had to be cancelled due to wet weather.
Happy reading and thanks to everyone who has sent in write-ups and photos.*

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

Tree Fern Creek Sunday 2nd October

Leader: Denis Jeffery 49583394

Depart: 7am

Journey: 140km \$14.00

Map Ref: Mirani 705686

Grade: S77

Estimated Walking Time: 5Hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 150m **Pace:** average

Terrain: Very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rainforest **Expect:** mostly rock hopping, wait-a-while, leeches, swimming holes

This walk is up a very picturesque creek in the Finch Hatton Gorge area and we will be rock hopping most of the day. How far we get up the creek will be determined by the group of walkers on the day. This walk is normally done in summer and it is usually raining so we will hope for a fine day.

Mt William Sunday 9th October.

Leader: Kate Brunner 4958 8436

Depart: 7am

Journey: 200kms \$20

Map Ref: Mirani 657728 to 664752

Grade: S74

Estimated walking time: 4 Hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 300m, **Pace:** slow, **Terrain:** uneven **Vegetation:** rainforest, **Expect:** some steep slopes, leeches

Mt William, at the end of Dalrymple Road, gives good views back towards Cathu, to the coast, to the Eungella area, the Pioneer Valley and Mt David and Mt Dalrymple. The walk is through a dairy farm and up a taped trail. This is a good walk for the nearly fit!

Mt Toby
Sunday 16th October

Leader: Peter Bennett

Depart: 7am

Journey: 80km \$8.00

Map Ref: Mirani

Grade: S55

Estimated walking time: 5 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** TBA. **Pace:** moderate
Terrain: uneven **Vegetation:** some rainforest, open forest, some thick scrub **Expect:** steep slopes, lantana, spear grass, rockhopping, moonlighter

Mt Toby is just off Devereux Creek Road in the Mirani area. This walk will be somewhat exploratory but we should still get to visit a horizontal coal mine shaft which is an interesting feature of Mt Toby. You will need your usual backpack as well as snacks and plenty of water for this walk. We would advise long pants or shorts with gaitors as there is some moonlighter in this area. Distance covered on the day will depend on walking conditions but hopefully we will get to the summit where we will have a good view of the Pioneer Valley.

Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 19th October

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

Induction by

Hazelwood Gorge Upstream
Sunday 23rd October

Leader: Denis Jeffery 49583394

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 200km \$20.00

Map Ref: Hillalong 521524

Grade: M85

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m

Pace: average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain

Vegetation: open forest

Expect: some steep slopes, some rocking, steep scrambles, loose rocks, swimming holes.

This spectacular deep gorge with its coloured rock formations is situated outside the rainforest area about 16kms from Eungella. We access the gorge by scrambling down a steep gully. There will be plenty of rock hopping as we make our way upstream and there should be opportunities for swimming. The return journey to the cars will be across open forested country.

Cattle Creek
Sunday 30th October

Leader: Paul Eder 495 47639 (After 6.30pm)

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.

Previous Activities

Cape Hillsborough
31 July 2011

The main group from town were met by several keen walkers already waiting at Cape Hillsborough. It promised to be a lovely day as we set out down to the northern end of the beach to walk around the headland. It wasn't long before we were climbing over rocks as we made our way up the creek to access the hilltop. Our newest member Margie found some of the manoeuvres a bit of a challenge with



shorter legs. (I know the feeling!) After one last effort we were up on the first outcrop with wonderful views over the bay and across Wedge Island. Unfortunately this effort saw Margie's souls part company from the rest of her boots as had been predicted. Luckily Cheryl and Paul came to the rescue with plenty of tape.

As we enjoyed an early morning tea we were rewarded with the sight of a pair of eagles circling overhead. Their graceful flight made us envious, why can't we float in the air like that. Underway again we crossed the ridge top heading north. Looking back we were intrigued by a large ledge and overhang on the north eastern side of the cape that certainly begs an exploratory in the future. Shortly after Paul, Denis and Rone were seen heading down a steep ridge. Where are they going was the question. Not to be left out Cheryl, Kathy, Celestine, Telina and Jasmine quickly followed to discover a fantastic look out with a sheer drop towards the lower cliffs and further down to the ocean. Walks around Cape Hillsborough are always with surprises.

Once back up with the main group Paul led us onto a ridge which took us to the interior of the cape in search of some caves he had discovered on an earlier trip. As we crossed a small gully Edie had a nasty encounter with a protruding stick. The stick made quite an impression on Edie's forehead producing lots of blood. It all sounded much worse than it was. Luckily Cheryl was to the rescue again to help wipe the blood off Edie's face but the bed side manner needs improving. I think the word you were wanting is wrinkles.



Once that excitement was over we rounded the corner to come onto Paul's cave. Not really a cave but an overhang with interesting rock formations. Well done Paul! After an inspection and pause to take in the views we were away again heading to the highest point for lunch.

After lunch it was downhill with just a slight detour to check out the Cathedral cave. Once past the abseil cliff we were back on formed track to the delight of some less hardened walkers and back to the cars in very quick time.

Another wonderful day in Cape Hillsborough with new delights. Thank you Paul for a great walk.

Kathy

Eungella Dam Sunday 28th August

Who said it was cool in August at Eungella....we just proved them wrong! We left a fog ridden Mackay



for over the hills and far away and great views of Eungella dam from the lookout where we left the cars (thank goodness all four wheel drive for the last bit!) Denis pointed out that we had to climb the hill and then descend the other side to a difficult river crossing. Walking up the hill got the heart pumping early, and a very long descent brought us to the rocky river bed for morning tea. Little did we realise it was the overflow from the dam....just as well they did not decide to release water or we would have been body surfing to

fields unknown. The dreaded difficult river crossing turned out to be about twenty centimetres of still water!

Up past the dam wall and we followed cattle tracks around the far side of the dam, avoiding the fresh deposits from our predecessors. The scenery was breathtaking, the reflections in the dam perfect on the calm water. It was pretty easy going most of the way, the only problem being the heat and lack of even a hint of breeze.



We had a long lunch perched on a log with lovely views across the water and hoping for a rise in the wind earlier than 4pm as predicted by Garry. We retraced our steps, discussing various plans on how to avoid the big hill... 'borrowing' the boat, swimming the dam, climbing the fence, sending Garry to come back with canoes.....all just dreams to put off the evil hour! When we got there we just plodded on up and up to a few false tops, and a detour around a horned inhabitant who kept a watchful eye on his property. Before we knew it we were at the summit, and followed the track back down to the beginning. On the way we were lucky to see a very well camouflaged tawny frogmouth, lorikeets squawking as they fed on the paperbark blossoms, and rock wallabies making easy work of the dam wall.

We had a lovely day, thanks to the good company and to the great leadership by Denis.

Eddie

Whitsunday Great Walk Saturday 3rd September

Doing the Whitsunday Great Walk in 1 day is somewhat a test of endurance – after all it is designed to be completed over 3 days. I was only expecting a handful of walkers for the event but we ended up being a group of 12. It didn't quite seem the same without Dan as he loves this walk but we were a jovial bunch as we booted up at the car park. Clive fortified us all with some home grown bananas and we were off.



I said at the start that we would do the first 10km before stopping for smoko with just a pit stop at the Repulse Creek camp ground. I mentioned that it would be a good idea to get these 10km out of the way reasonably quickly so we had plenty of time for when the hills began in earnest. Speedie Eddie heard the word 'quickly' and sped off ahead with the rest of us following in her wake. Whilst walkers were making use of the facilities at Repulse Creek Eddie pulled out her secret weapon– a bag of coloured snakes. Thus recharged we

sped on for the next 2kms where we stopped for morning tea.

From here Eddie assured us that she would be slowing down as the hills were beginning. The first serious hill greeted us and we followed Eddie up it puffing and panting and it was 14 km before anyone could overtake her. Garry and Di then took the lead up to the Shute Harbour Lookout where we stopped to admire the view and a second smoko.



We then headed up to the Bloodwood Camp for a leisurely lunch. Here knees were bandaged and blisters attended to. Several walkers chose to lie on the ground with their legs up on logs to give feet a well- earned rest. Some very unflattering photos were taken here which shall not be printed.

We continued on in good spirits and the final dreaded up didn't seem nearly as bad as some of us remembered it to be. From there it was all downhill to Airlie Beach and we were there by 4.30. Well done to everyone who came along and thanks to all for making it a great day's walk.

Jenny

PS I heard on the news this week that the winning time for the fun run competitors was 1 hour 55 minutes over this track – WOW that hardly seems possible

Grasstree Beach Trip Report Sunday 4th September 2011

The club walk in the Grasstree- Mick Ready Beach area is always a pleasant Sunday outing, and even though only five of us gathered at the car park, and it was windy and rain was a possibility, we were all anticipating an easy, relaxing day. The cars were left beside a wreck in Mick Ready Beach Road, and we did wonder fleetingly if this was the fate of all vehicles parked there. A short walk down the dirt road had us at the beach, and we headed for Victor Point, walking north (I think)! Morning tea was taken atop the point, much to John's relief, as he had been mentioning it for ages. Victor Island and the Dalrymple Bay development and off-shore coal carriers provided the backdrop.

Coral insisted on acquiring a few prickly pear prickles, so later in the day it was necessary to delve into the club first aid kit for some tweezers.(How desperate am I for items to put in the write-up?) Anyway, after dropping down from Victor Point, we headed south towards Grasstree, when someone in a hot pink sun shirt appeared above us, waving. It turned out to be Penny, so now we were six. Soon after this, we thought we had discovered an interesting marine creature on the rocks, but it was only a very large spread of candle wax left over from a beach party.

Lunch was enjoyed in a civilized way making use of tables in a park just near Grasstree Point, and we then exited to the road near where Penny had left her car. That was the end of our pleasant beach stroll- from now on it was to be bitumen road, an ascent to the water tower, and a lot of up and down, and the use of a compass, as we trusted our leader to find the cars, which she did easily. After a great day of over twelve kilometres worth of exercise, we decided to be really decadent and drive to the Grasstree shop for an ice-cream each. As Penny was enjoying her Magnum, she realised that she had won another one in a promotion, so the second one was cut into six pieces. After a great day, Penny was driven back to her car, and Coral was thanked for yet another very enjoyable walk.

Carole Weekes

The Beak Sunday 11th September

I was greeted early in the morning by Kate who informed me she expected to see whales doing interesting things. The pressure was really on now. However as it was the day turned out with no whales to be sighted and no naked people (must have left the remote at home). What a let down! Leader hang your head in shame – disappointing all the walkers like that!

Although hopes were dashed as to the expectation of whale sightings



we did have a very enjoyable day. After leaving the cars we stayed on track until we reached the lookout where we had smoko. From here we headed off along a ridge (which the leader managed to fall off for a time) and we scrambled through the tangly undergrowth until we reached Cane Cocks Beach. We did encounter some fully clad people here who had come ashore in their boat. At this beach several of us took advantage of the sandy beach to have a swim while others lounged on the grassy shore. Once the tide had dropped enough we headed off around the point to several other beaches. This involved some rock hopping and scrambling but offered spectacular views of the Whitsundays. Lunch was had on a rocky cliff and then most of us



left our packs to explore another beach around the headland. We returned to collect our packs and headed back up the ridge to the lookout. Before reaching Coral Beach most of us opted to leave the track and we made our way back through the mangroves where some serious fossicking of washed up treasure was to take place. When we reached the creek we climbed back up the rocks to rejoin the track for the short distance back to the cars.

Thanks to everyone who came along to make this such a pleasant walk. Coral made my day when she described it as being idyllic.

Massey Gorge 18th September 2011



After an early start of 6am we arrived at the start point of the walk in Gamma State Forest. The drive in along Snake Road was not too bad except for one slightly boggy section and a few rocky parts. Eleven of us were doing the walk including some who had not been to Massey Gorge before. We set off walking at 8.40am, and after following an old forestry road and cattle pads we reached the lookout close to 1000 where we had morning tea and enjoyed the panoramic views of the Gorge. After the break we commenced the descent into the

Gorge. The going was rough in places due to the lantana which had obviously flourished after the last wet season. After battling over, under and through the lantana we reached Massey Creek just after midday and settled down for lunch. Some opted to rest and snooze while the remainder explored upstream for a short distance before we had to call a halt and think about heading back. Kathy and Kate were just getting ready to jump in for a swim but we really had to start the return trip. The water would have been too cold anyway!! The climb up the sharp slope was at a slow pace and we were all thankful for the breeze that was blowing at the time. We had afternoon tea on the flat area above the lookout on the return trip and reached the cars at about 4.30pm. It was a shame that we did not have more time to explore the Gorge but this destination is more suitable for a camp situation. I am sure everyone enjoyed the day anyway. It was good to welcome back Charles from his recent layoff with injury and I think he survived the day okay. Thank you to Garry and Jenny for organising the town end and to everyone else for a great day.



Denis