



The Message Stick

October 2015

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

Movie Night.....	29 th September
Brandy Creek Backpack.....	3 rd , 4 th & 5 th October
Brandy Creek Easier Option.....	3 rd , 4 th & 5 th October
Smith's Pinnacle.....	11 th October
Maud Creek Falls	18 th October
General Meeting.....	21 st October
Mt Tanya	25 th October
Denham Range Backpack	31 st October & 1 st November
Crediton Scrub	1 st November

Early notice

The AGM will be held on 18th November.
Please consider coming along to take a position to ensure the smooth running of our club.



Yarrowonga Point

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	Michelle Dartnell	0428552603	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	Vacant	-	Publicity Officer	June Bradley	49557696
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236			

From the Editor

Maureen's recovery continues to go well and hopefully she will be out of the plaster before long. It will be good to see her up and about again.

November's newsletter will have nomination forms attached for committee positions. Please consider taking up a position on the committee. We will definitely need a new secretary as Kerry is stepping down after a couple of years in the role.

October has plenty of variety on offer, starting and beginning the month with backpack hikes. Although both are on track they are good training walks. Another movie night is on offer so hopefully we will get a good roll up for it. Have a great month and happy walking.

Our Publicity Officer is June Bradley

azippa22@gmail.com

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 26th October

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

Movie Night

Tuesday 29th October

Movie: Everest

Time: 6.20 pm

Movie is being shown at Mackay City Cinema.
No need to book - Just turn up on the night if you would like to see it.

Brandy Creek Backpack Camp

Saturday 3rd October to Monday 5th October

Leader: Jenny Wooding 4944 0236
0447091532

Depart: 1pm

Journey: 300km \$30.00

Camp Fees: \$11.90 per person
Map Ref: Proserpine
Grade: L37

Day 1

Estimated walking time: 2 -3 hours (8.3km)
to Repulse Creek

Day 2

Estimated walking time: 5 - 6 hours (11.5km)
Repulse Creek to Bloodwood Camp

Day 3

Estimated walking time: 3.5 - 4.5 hours
(8.5kms plus additional side track) Bloodwood
Camp to Airlie Beach

This is a good introductory backpack hike with plenty of variety along the way. First day is fairly flat and easy walking, 2nd day gets steeper and is longer and the 3rd is quite hard with a steep up before a long descent into Airlie Beach.

There is plenty of water available on the way and toilet facilities at each camp site. All your needs for the camp (food/ tent/sleeping bag etc) have to be carried in and out.

It is essential to notify the leader by Wednesday 30th September if you intend to come on this camp as camping permits need to be purchased.

The walk has a later start on Saturday as 3 of us have a 90km charity bike ride in the morning. The first day is easy walking and we will be easily at the campsite and have time to set up before dark.

Brandy Creek easier options for Oct long weekend

Leaders : Carole Weekes (49546108) and Coral Morgan (49578474)

Depart: TBA

Journey: 300 km - \$30

There are some possibilities on offer for the 3rd, 4th, and /or 5th October, or just a day walk on either 3rd or 4th. The starting point will be the beginning of the Great Walk at Brandy Creek, and may involve a day walk to the Repulse Creek campsite and back out on the same day, or one or two nights at the campsite, with walks from the base. This section of the track is fairly flat and easy. Please phone your expressions of interest to one of the leaders as soon as you get the newsletter, as we hope to make final arrangements by the evening of

Thursday 1st Oct. Depending on the response, there may well be both a day walk and a camp.

The Pinnacle/ Cape Hillsborough Area Sunday 11th October

Leader: Paul Eder 49547639

Depart : 7am

Journey: 80km \$8.00

Grade: S44

Map Ref: Calen 074851

Estimated walking time: 4 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m **Pace:** Average
Terrain: Uneven **Vegetation:** Open forest, some thick undergrowth **Expect:** Easy at first, scrambles, steep slope to the top.

The Pinnacle (also known as Smith's Pinnacle) is the very prominent rocky outcrop not far from Cape Hillsborough. We will follow a ridge to the pinnacle base, probably stopping for morning tea along the route on a rocky area with great views. After a short distance around the base we will ascend to the top. The ascent is steep, rough & with some loose rocks, care needs to be taken in this area. Once on top we will be rewarded by views south from Belmunda, Sand Bay, Cape Hillsborough, Ball Bay up to the Newry Islands in the north. We will probably have an early lunch at the top.

This is not a very long walk, so there is the option of going home early, but some walkers may like to fill in the afternoon with a short walk either in the Cape Hillsborough or Ball Bay area.

Black Snake Road – Maud Creek Falls Sunday 18 October 2015

Leader Steven Morgan (4954 0037, 0418 882 817)

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 200km \$20.00

Map Ref: Mirani 607767 (all grid refs for this walk are AGD 66)

Grade M88

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 480m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest/open forest **Expect:** much steep slopes, some rockhopping, very steep scrambles, wait-

a-while, lantana, leeches, swimming holes, difficult creek crossings.

With recent exploration in this area we now have a route into Maud Creek Falls via Black Snake Road. The route follows a gentle ridge from the end of Black Snake Road to Maud Creek just above the main falls. The vegetation is quite thick at ground level but with recent trips we now have a path through the vegetation. Once in Maud Creek it will be a short walk to the top of Maud Creek Falls, and time permitting we will also be able to get to the bottom of the falls. Snake Road and Black Snake Road are both a bit rough for conventional vehicles and are only suitable for high clearance vehicles. **You must book to attend this walk.** Bookings close Wednesday 14 October. The preferred booking method is by email to steven.morgan61@gmail.com and include your phone number in the email.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 21st October**

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

**Mt Tanya
Sunday 25 October**

Leader: Peter Bennett : 0427 383 732

Depart: 7am

Journey: 60km \$6.00

Map Ref: Mirani 058377

Grade: M87

Estimated Walking Time: 6hrs , **Pace:**

Average, **Terrain:** Very uneven terrain,

Vegetation: Thick Scrub, **Expect:** much steep slopes, lantana, vines

This will be a challenging walk, leaving from Oakenden and following a small creek onto a ridge and then to the top of Mt Tanya. Expect a lot of lantana. Be prepared to get lost and scratched. This walk is for fit walkers only and is not suited to beginners.

**Denham Range Backpack Camp
Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st
November**

Leader: Jenny Wooding 49440236
0447091532

Depart: to be decided

Journey: 200km \$20

Map Ref: Mirani 579 406

Grade: L47

Camp Fees: \$5.75

Expected Walking Time 5 hours each day

Pace Steady

This backpack hike is part of the Mackay Hinterlands Great Walk. It is a longer walk, around 19.5km each way and will all be on track. There are some long steep sections, mainly going up on the first day and the track will take us through some farming country and along a rainforest ridge. There are some great open views over Homevale National Park from the top. On the following day we will return to Crediton hall via the same track and hopefully meet up with the day walkers. It could be quite hot on this walk so plenty of water will need to be carried. There is a tank about 1/2 way along where supplies can be replenished. Denham Range Campground also has a tank.

If there is enough interest we may head up Friday evening to camp at Crediton Hall so we can have an early start on the Saturday morning.

Please book for this camp by 27th October so camping permits can be booked.

**Crediton Scrub Walk
Sunday 1st Nov**

Leader : Carole Weekes (49546108)

Depart : 7am

Journey : 190 kms - \$20

Grade : M54

Estimated walking time: 6 hrs **Total of all**

uphill sections: 400 m **Terrain:**

uneven **Vegetation:**

rainforest **Expect:** gentle slopes, some lantana

This is being offered as an alternative activity for those who are not doing the weekend backpacking adventure. It is a marked trail and part of the Great Walk, starting in the Crediton area and ending at the Great White Tank on Cockies Creek Road, where we will have lunch before retracing our steps to the cars. The day will be fairly easy and we will enjoy plenty of variety - grassy areas, an old road, rich rain forest, scrubby areas , a creek environment, and pass close to cleared paddocks.

Previous Activities

Cathu Car Camp

Kevin, Fran L, Peter Howard and I explored, discovered, and enjoyed awesome displays of orchids and a number of unidentified flowering plants. The Loop Road has been up and we walked up the road to Mt McCartney for the first time ever. There is much more which could be done in this area. The photos will give you an idea of what's in the area.

Coral Morgan



The Beak Sunday 30th August

What a motley, disgruntled gaggle of Bushwalkers I had for this walk. ☺ I gave them a day of perfect weather, crystal clear, sparkly blue water for swimming in, deserted beaches and stunning scenery with a bit of bush bashing and rock hopping thrown in. We even saw turtles, a goanna, a small snake along with some fish large and small, **and** a cranky crab with nippers up ready to attack. Were these walkers satisfied – no way! They wanted (and expected) whales and naked people! Kate assured me turtles as a rule were good to watch but they just didn't cut the mustard on this walk. I tried to please them by performing broaches and some "elegant" dugong tail slaps whilst in the water but they were still not satisfied. All I can say is lucky for the icecream shop on the way home – it didn't disappoint.



Seriously though we had a great day! The views were spectacular, the water perfect for swimming in and some of us managed a dip at 3 different beaches. It felt like we were on a deserted island when in fact we only a very short distance from the busy hub of Shute Harbour.

Thanks for coming everyone. It was an enjoyable day in this beautiful part of the world. Next time I will remember the remote so I can summon the whales to perform at the appointed time and place.
Jenny



Mt Britton Weekend 5th and 6th September

Unfortunately Coral was unable to participate in the weekend which she had organised, so it was only Penny, John, Isaac, Peter and I who departed from town at about 9.30 am on Saturday, to be joined by Kate and Bryan at Eton, and Lyall who was already installed at his place at Mt Britton by the time we arrived. The first bushwalking activity involved negotiating a steep track up to the source of the town's water at Spring Creek, where Lyall made a few adjustments to the flow in the pipes, and everyone enjoyed lunch in a shady spot on the banks of the creek where an interesting variety of vegetation thrived despite the dry conditions. We were astonished to see a huge mango tree, quite atypical in its growth pattern because of the need to grow tall and straight to catch enough sun. The trip back involved an exploratory venture down the creek, and we had plenty of rockhopping, a bit of climbing down large boulders, and some interesting water crossings.

Lyall attacked the lantana in many places to create an easier path for the followers, and although we had hoped to meet the junction of our creek and Oakey Creek, it was not to be on this occasion, as we all agreed to exit up an embankment to the road before we ran out of daylight, not being sure about how much more lantana we were likely to meet if we stayed in the creek. Back at the ranch, we were reunited with John who had not been able to join us due to an injury. He assured us, however, that he had spent an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon reading and napping.

The usual campfire was started, as well as the donkey to provide hot showers, and some prepared their evening meal outdoors, while others took the easier option of lighting up the gas. The evening entertainment included an IQ test followed by Boggle, and then Lyall, John, Bryan and Isaac retired to the house, Peter to his camper, and the ladies to the donga.

Sunday morning saw us all heading up the hill at the back of the dwelling and returning to the road to take in some Mt Britton history, with John joining us for this short walk. After morning tea, all of us except Peter climbed into two vehicles for a drive up the ridge to take in the views, and to do some more exploring on foot. Peter had a leisurely time around the house, John relaxed at the vehicles on top of the ridge, and I covered a lot less distance than Penny, Lyall, Kate, Bryan and Isaac. We all agreed that the bushland was beautiful with its new growth, despite the drought conditions. Before

returning to Lyall's to prepare for the trip home, an interesting time was had as we poked around in Mt Britton's fascinating past, made all the more exciting by our host's anecdotes.

Many thanks to Lyall for his generosity once again in sharing with us his knowledge and his quarters, and I know that everyone had a very pleasant weekend of walking, driving, socialising and recharging the batteries surrounded by the incredible beauty of this very special area.

The actual climbing of Mt Britton will have to wait until Coral is able to lead us up it - third time lucky!
Carole

Mt Martin Sunday 13th September



Six adventurous bushwalkers met to climb Mt Martin. We left the vehicles at 8:10am. The walk from the cars to the top of the first hill was steep and hard going. At the top of the first hill we had smoko and a well-earned rest. There was some lantana on the way up and on the way to the saddle. After we left the lantana it was much better walking. We ascended the second hill and arrived at the plaque at 11:45am. The climb up the second hill was not as steep but was rocky and 'scrambly'. At the top we had lunch, a photo shoot and rest. At 12:30 we decided to make the return trip.

Coming down the first hill it was slip sliding for most of the way. We all enjoyed the day's walk and now can cross that walk of our bucket list. Well done all who accompanied me on the walk.

Peter Bennett

