



The Message Stick

October 2016

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

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Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mt David..... | 2 nd October |
| Eungella Tracks..... | 9 th October |
| Dooloomai Falls..... | 16 th October |
| General Meeting..... | 19 th October |
| Dalrymple Creek..... | 23 rd October |
| Baron Creek Falls..... | 30 th October |
| Lineel Falls/Pretty Creek Loop..... | 6 th November |



Spectacular Teemburra Creek

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

A busy month ahead with some good walks planned.

A few things to keep in mind and have a think about:-

Firstly - the Christmas camp takes place early in December. If you have any ideas/suggestions for the camp please let a committee member know before the next meeting so we can make a plan.

Secondly – the club AGM takes place in November and we really need to see some new faces on the committee. It can be a struggle to fill all positions but remember with no committee there is no club. Most jobs don't require a lot of time each month.

Thirdly – Please try and have correct car money when turning up for walks. Leaders do not carry a float and it can be difficult to provide change and it also makes the task difficult of splitting the money between drivers if too much change has been given out.

Enjoy the month and the walks everyone.

Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to October 26th

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

Mt David
Sunday 2nd October

Leader: Tim Caddy 0417 732717

Depart: 6am

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.

**Eungella Tracks from Crediton to Broken
River Picnic Ground return**

Sunday 9th October - 3rd Attempt for 2016

Leader: Carole Weekes 49546108

Depart : 7am

Journey.: 200 kms. \$20

Grade : M57

Estimated walking time: 5 hrs. **Total of all uphill sections:** 20 m. **Pace:** steady.

Terrain: track walking **Vegetation:** rainforest.

Expect: platypus sightings, leeches, variety of flora and fauna, a good amount of exercise, and possibly a walk to the kiosk at lunch time.

The plan is to cover the second section of the Great Walk that starts near the Chalet and finishes west of the mountains. Earlier in the year we completed the first section, so this time we will leave the cars at the Crediton end and walk back to the Broken River bridge area, and after lunch in the picnic grounds we will retrace our steps. It is all track walking, and much of it is along the river, and the length is slightly shorter than the first section, but we will be completing about 14 kms in total. It is a suitable outing for those of us who enjoy easy walks but don't mind a bit of distance. Hopefully we will not be stopped by wet weather this time.

**Dooloomai Falls
Sunday 16th October**

Leader: Charles Hamlet

Depart: 0700

Journey: \$14.00

Grade: M76

Map Ref: Lat 21.1667. Long 148.55

Est walking time: 5 hrs **Uphill sections:**

???? 300m **Pace:** Average **Vegetation:**

WOF track/rain forest/rock hopping **Expect:**

Swimming holes

This walk involves a short but steep scramble to the ridge overlooking the Wheel of Fire, then following it for a short distance before dropping down to our smoko spot at 'The Junction' (not to be confused with the Servo)

From there we rock hop to the Falls - enjoy a swim before another steep scramble up to the Dooloomai track / Dalrymple track and follow it back to the cars at the Gorge car park.

**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 Carole and Daphne

**Dalrymple Creek
Sunday 23rd October**

Leader: Peter Bennett 49543428

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 120km \$12.00

Map Ref: Mirani 773728

Grade: M75

Estimated walking time: 5 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m **Pace:** average **Terrain:**

very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest

Expect: mostly rock hopping, swimming holes, difficult creek crossings.

The starting point for this walk is on a diary farm at Mt Charlton. The creek flows through rain forest. The main waterfall should be reached by lunch time. The best spots to swim will be at morning smoko and again on the way back just before reaching the cars. Medium rock hopping is the order of the day.

**Baron Creek Falls
Sunday 30th October**

Leader: Tim Caddy 0417 732717

Depart: 6:00am

Journey: 140km's \$14

Grade: M54

Walking time: 7 hours

The walk begins from a farmhouse near the end of Baron Pocket Rd. We walk through a paddock and descend into the creek through tall grass and scrub. From here on we rock hop in and out until we reach the falls, where a stunning swimming hole awaits. Once rested and refreshed we retrace our steps back to the cars. A reasonable pace will need to be maintained to ensure we have enough time to enjoy the falls.

**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.

Previous Activities

East Funnel Creek 31 August 2016

I don't normally attend the mid - week walks but I am glad that I did because it proved to be a great walk. Only a small group of 5 of us drove up to a beautiful dairy farm up the East Funnel creek Rd, across a few paddocks and parked near the Ck which was the start of the walk along the banks of top end East Funnel Ck catchment.

The creek really had a lot of personality. There had been just the right amount of rain to create the perfect flow and we enjoyed criss crossing it until it became more of a climb then the abrupt materialisation of a very pretty waterfall which turned out to be more of a series of small cascades with different directional facings, each with its own pool. We had a rope if needed but we decided to opt out of the face climb and scramble up loose rocks to the side where we caught glimpses of hidden cascades until we were able to drop back into the creek at yet again another series of drops. These were climbed and climbed. Every turn was unique with slight changes in vegetation changing with every angle and elevation. One particular cascade was of a very dark rock formation which was very contrasting creating a black waterfall in the grey surrounds which fell into a perfect swimming hole if it had been warmer. Notably deep! The camera was busy with each so different from the last. Then abruptly we found ourselves in open pasture. A steep climb brought us onto rolling mountain top pastures.

A couple of fences later we were looking over toward the coast line at the distinctive shape of Mt Funnel and down to the toy of cars on the Highway as it passed the Rail yards of Yukan. GPS's were out to measure distances and it was confirmed that even though we had driven many miles to reach the dairy we were in fact only 7.8 KM from My place. "Another walk!" The return walk was less dramatic down farm tracks eating wild raspberries but our drive out was halted by a small detail - A newborn calf , still wet. It had decided to stake claim on the gateway with mum glaring at us with the evil eye. It was a brave Chris who ventured from the safety of the car to move Bub out of the way and open the gate and we escaped from our wild cow safari unscathed. After grateful thanks to the property owners we departed with handfuls of Coffee bean tree seedlings. Fresh Coffee may turn up in the future meetings.

Thank you to Kevin for leading us I think since I saw more of him behind with the camera and thank you to the fellow explorers for another great day.

Celestine Lambert

Mt Bridgeman Sunday 4th September

We did it – This time we made it to the top of Mt Bridgeman.

We started off in Cut Creek but we didn't stay there for too long. After climbing up and over the waterfall we left the creek to pick up the ridge which we would follow for most of the way. On leaving the creek, the vegetation was dense and tangly and I was beginning to wonder if this indeed would be a quicker option for getting to the top. However it wasn't too long before the growth thinned to make our progress a lot easier.



At the beginning the ridge was fairly steep and with the lack of breeze, it was quite hot working our way up. We made good progress though. I had a goal – some rocks to reach for smoko but it wasn't to be. Michelle was soon asking about morning tea and before long Di and some others were pointing out they were hungry and at risk of wasting away. To avoid a mutiny I promised we would stop at the next set of rocks we came to for something to eat and by 9.30 we had found a suitable place. It turned out to be only 10 minutes for the spot I was aiming for but it was all good.



Once we were fortified with food we continued our progress up and it wasn't long before we could see what we called B2. This was a peak we had to go up and over on our way to Mt Bridgeman and it was almost the same height as our destination. The ridge which led us to B2 was quite easy to follow and it wasn't long before we were on the top but due to trees and scrub we didn't have any views. However just over the top was an impressive pile of large rocks which we named the cairn. We took time to scale these rocks and they provided us with spectacular views down the valley and out to sea.

After soaking up the views we headed off to our main destination. It didn't look too far but the undergrowth and a few steep drops to negotiate made it a little tricky. Once we were on the saddle between the 2 and looking up at Mt Bridgeman it looked to be quite a steep climb but we covered the distance in a short time and were soon on the top. We had stunning views out to Blue Mountain and the ranges behind it as well as in the opposite direction. Therese impressed us with her very grubby face and clothing – she really looked as if she had battled extremely hard with the vegetation on the way up. We took our time over lunch before heading back the way we had come.

Our return trip to B2 was much easier than the way we had come. On our way back from B2 I was out in front and talking and soon led everyone down the wrong ridge. I had just stopped to look at my GPS and realised my mistake as Ken pointed out from the back I was off course. The problem was soon rectified. The return trip went well. We did leave the ridge a little earlier to drop back into the creek and that worked well as we avoided the really dense undergrowth by doing so. It meant we had a little further to walk in the creek but it is a spectacular creek to walk in and provided a nice finish to the day.



Thanks everyone for coming along.
Jenny

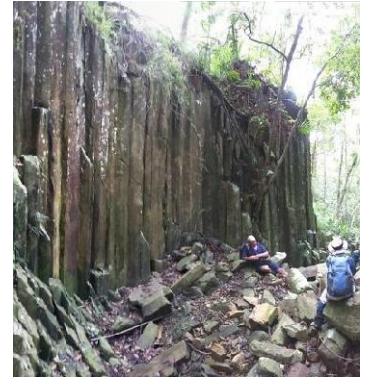
The Leap Sunday 11th September



The Leap is one of the famous landmarks around Mackay. It is named after an event described by the Mackay Historical Society as follows: Early in 1867, John Greenwood Barnes was speared in the arm after an aboriginal attack. Barnes resided at Cremorne, which was a ceremonial ground for the Juipera, and it appears he was harassed on many occasions not surprisingly for trespassing on sacred ground. Due to the attack on Barnes, a contingent of Native Mounted Police (NMP) were active in the 'dispersal' of many aborigines on the North Side of the Pioneer

River. According to folklore a local aboriginal woman with her baby in her arms leapt from the western escarpment of Mt. Mandurana to her death, trying to escape the pursuing NMP, however the baby survived. There are conflicting versions of the story in that the woman was thrown over the cliff by the NMP, or she committed suicide as the child was a half-caste child and she was a victim of domestic violence. We may however never know the real story.

The geology of The Leap consists of thick flows of columnar trachyte (fine grained igneous volcanic rock) capping extremely altered sedimentary rocks, which are intruded by thick trachyte sills (layers). Also, some dykes (angled intrusive layers) of olivine green, glassy, semi-perlitic pitchstone. The columns are formed when the molten rock cools slowly and evenly, and shrinks. The forces of contraction are circular, but hexagons are formed, as circles, or polygons with more than 6 sides, would form spaces between themselves. Hexagons can be stacked with no spaces between them.



The Leap also makes an excellent walk, close to Mackay, and with great views in many directions. The scramble up the creek is rewarded with rainforest views, slabs, boulders, and waterfalls (dry in our walk). Morning tea was at the base of an impressive wall of hexagonal columns. Then we retraced our steps to the main track, which we followed to the top, for views of Cape Hillsborough, towards Mackay, and in most directions. Thanks, Kevin, for leading this great walk.

Ken.

Repulse Creek Backpacking Camp 18th 19th & 20th September

Part A - The Anecdotes

One of the geriatric divisions of the club (apologies to Fran) decided to go ahead with the three day camp, despite slightly unpleasant weather forecasts and the lack of interest from day walkers. I collected Fran at about 8.15 on Sunday morning and we set off to rendezvous with Coral and Peter at Kuttabul. Much to our surprise, they arrived a few minutes after us. Now why would we have been surprised?

Coral's mode of transport, because of her uncomfortable knee, was a bike towing a box attached via a J arm, cleverly put together by Peter. At the entrance to the walk, after one carload had taken a wrong turn(not Fran and I), I came upon C and P deciding that they would have to unload the little trailer containing Coral's camping gear plus various other bits and pieces such as bike repair kits, and lift the whole thing, bike and trailer, over the gate. This was because the whole thing could not be manoeuvred around the curved opening in the barrier. I could not believe that they had not worked out that if they unhitched the box, they would be able to wheel the bike and the trailer separately through the curved opening. As I am not usually known for coming up with practical solutions, C and P were a bit sheepish about it all.

There were many opportunities over the three days to practice snake charming skills. The place was alive with huge red belly blacks, and an equally large brown was also spotted on the way out. I spotted the first black snake sunning itself on the bush camp clearing just above our camp site, and Fran saw the next one at the helipad further up towards the lookout before Bloodwood. Many snaps and videos were taken of them by Fran. However, the one

curled up along the creek nearly missed out on becoming a star as Fran's immediate reaction was to flee, but she then stopped panicking and went back for more photos. On the way out, Coral noticed another red belly black at the side of the track, but this one turned around after initially retreating slightly, and had the potential to become aggressive, so this held us up for a while until it finally decided to retreat and allow us safe passage. A couple of cyclists we encountered on the 'black diamond' classified part of the track reported that they had seen some black snakes right at the start of the trail on Monday. Apart from very large snakes there were other more friendly reptiles - quite a few well fed looking goannas around the campsite and in the forest further up, as well as a multitude of assorted small lizards.

The only time it rained was early Tuesday morning, and a couple of hours later as we were commencing our return journey, but no one bothered to don any heavy wet weather gear, as it was very short lived.



We had the campsite to ourselves for the duration, and only saw 2 other walkers on Monday, a lot of cyclists on Sunday and a couple more on Monday, but we did encounter a tourist group making their way to and from Impulse Creek on segways when we were walking(or riding) out on Tuesday.

The creek was a popular spot for washing, enjoying a spa, rock hopping and generally exploring, in the mornings for me, but late afternoon for the others. It was a bit murky everywhere except right at the cascades, but very beautiful

despite this.

By Tuesday morning after breakfast, Fran was the only one who had not used up her full supply of gas (hexamine in my case) so we were all at her mercy for that final dose of tea or coffee. Thanks, Fran.

How many times did Coral stack the bike on the way in? I can't share that with you, as what happens on Conway stays on Conway.

Part B - The Straight Report

It was great having the campsite to ourselves, as we were each able to claim a table and food box for ourselves, and we found what we wanted - peace and quiet punctuated only by the sounds of the bush, including birdsong, tumbling water, and once a giant tree or branch crashing down in the distance.

Sunday was taken up with the journey to Proserpine where coffee was enjoyed, the drive to the start of the walk, the slow walk or ride to the campsite, setting up our shelters, fighting off the mossies at dusk, the evening meal, and an early night after seeing the moon rise.

Monday's activities included a walk further up the track almost to the 15km signpost for some, exploring creeks, lazing around the camp, investigating the bush camps above and below our own campsite, observing and listening to birds, identifying botanical species, exchanging stories, sharing the ambience, and wondering why, being the school holidays, the track wasn't more popular. The collective opinion was that all the kids were at home on their devices, or at Disneyworld with their parents. How sad!

The trip out on Tuesday began with Coral on the bike and the rest of us on our feet, but Peter took over the bike for the uphill sections after the pretty creek crossing about half way out, and he had the box loaded with his backpack and Coral's, and Coral was able to progress slowly on foot with the aid of Peter's hiking pole. We all desisted from doing the two short walks near the start of the Great Walk on this occasion. At the end of the walk we all noticed that Coral had had the helmet on, not Peter. The wonderful three day break concluded with a welcome drink and snack at the coffee plantation.

Thank you to Coral for keeping at me about trying a backpacking camp again after about 50 years, to Peter for assistance with gup ropes, to Fran for her company in the car, and to everyone for sharing this wonderful experience. I'm in from now on, especially if there is a toilet.

Carole

Teemdeavour Loop Sunday 25th September

It was one of those typical crystal clear September mornings, the kind where you wished you were going up Mt Dalrymple but weren't. Teemburra and Endeavour Creeks were calling us instead, the promise of a swim in "The Big Waterhole" being the main attraction (Well for me anyway).



Di said, "Oh, I know some people who drove in there four months ago and the road was terrible".

Nah, piece of cake I thought, been in there lots of times, no worries.

At the first decent rut, and after two valiant attempts complete with spinning wheels, the poor little white car was abandoned at the side of the track. Fortunately those passengers were given a lift over the lion's share of the track by Michelle and Bryan (I had to walk.....no just kidding). This turned out to be the right thing to do in the circumstances.

Finally at Captains Crossing Michelle says, "Tony told me to tell you that he got this causeway put in". Great stuff I thought to myself, if only he had put it closer to the bitumen.

Anyway we were off for a leisurely stroll upstream in Teemburra Creek along wide flat creek banks freshly mown by me in preparation the day before.

The creek was crystal clear with a nice steady flow, lots of little fishes and nine happy walkers all in a row, what more could you wish.

Quite a bit of bird life was seen. Impressing everyone with my avian knowledge, I was able to positively identify by call and locate sitting on a branch the rare Brown Tree Creeper. A pair of Sea Eagles was also spotted by the eagle eyed Ken.

Soon we were at the junction with Endeavour Creek, smoko was promised here where we could all sit on a large log just like last time. That must have been a long time ago because the log was so rotten that it had to be abandoned in favour of some soft rocks.

Off again fighting the vegetation over some little rocky sections where on previous occasions I have seen many a green snake sunning themselves. Of course being the leader I went first shooing them away fearlessly. I was so effective at this that no one else saw any.



Endeavour Creek is a pretty little thing, a few scattered Callistemon's were still flowering amongst the other greenery adding to the effect.

Because we were dawdling a bit (and because by now I wanted my swim) a shortcut was taken up out of Endeavour Creek to a road which we followed then left in favour of a ridge that would get us to the swimming hole in Teemburra by lunch.

Right on que we emerged at the little waterfall on Horse Creek looking down upon "The Big Waterhole". A little bit of scratching around got us down without any drama and before long we were in and splashing around. The water was crystal clear and perfect temperature, what a bonus. I swam up a little gully to a waterfall escorted by a dozen prize winning sooty grunTERS. Mission accomplished.

All that remained was to negotiate the rocky sections of Teemburra back to the cars. It was hot with the sun blasting down on the rocks but compensated for by the impressive scenery.

On the way back we were challenged by a very fast cow with big horns, which prompted Michelle to teach us some new words and me to climb halfway up the nearest tree.

All in all a pretty good day, I hope everyone else had as good a day as I did.

Garry