



# The Message Stick

## September 2011

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

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### Future Events

Brandy Creek Great Walk.....	3 <sup>rd</sup> September
Grasstree Beach.....	4 <sup>th</sup> September
The Beak.....	11 <sup>th</sup> September
Massey Gorge.....	18 <sup>th</sup> September
General Meeting .....	21 <sup>st</sup> September
Redcliff Island.....	25 <sup>th</sup> September
Tree Fern Creek.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> October



**Look  
Frances  
With  
Wet  
Boots!**

### 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*

August has proved to be a month with plenty of variety and for once no planned walks had to be cancelled due to wet weather.

Thanks to Kathy for suggesting the movie "Red Dog." Around 14 of us went for a meal and then to see the movie which was very entertaining and funny. Dan invited us back to his house for coffee and cake afterwards and we were very impressed with his baking skills.

A huge thank you to Denis for leading us on so many great walks! He is consistently leading one or two a month and his walks offer plenty of variety. Eungella Dam walk yesterday was another spectacular one and a full write up of it will be in next month's newsletter.

Remember to keep sending me write ups and photos because they make the newsletter interesting for everyone to read.

Have a great month everyone.

### 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

##### **Brandy Creek Great Walk in 1 Day**

**Saturday 3rd September**

Leader: Jenny Wooding 4944 0236 after  
5.30pm

Depart: 6:00am

Journey: 300km \$30.00 plus share of taxi fare  
back to cars

Map Ref: Proserpine

Grade: L38

Estimated walking time: All Day. Total of all  
uphill sections: Lots.

This walk is about 28kms and all on track. We  
will start walking early in the morning and with a  
steady pace should be finished well before  
dark. There are a lot of steep up and down hills  
and it is a test of endurance. Water can be  
topped up at tanks along the way but a good  
supply of food will be needed. Walkers will

have the choice to stay on in Airlie for the night  
after the walk or return to Mackay.

##### **Grasstree Beach**

**Sunday 4th September**

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7am

From Mick Ready Beach we will walk across to  
Victor Point and back to the beach, then around  
to Grasstree and return through the bush.

##### **The Beak**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Leader: Jenny Wooding 4944 0236

Depart : 7:00am

Journey: 320km \$32.00

Map Ref: Proserpine 875567

Grade: S44

**Estimated Walking Time** 4 hours **Pace** Average **Terrain** Beach, tracks, rocks **Vegetation** Minor bush and scrub **Total uphill** 100m **Expect** Some scrambling, jellyfish, sand, mangroves, stunning scenery. This is a relatively easy walk starting off on tracks to a coral beach and then up to a lookout. We then head off track to 5 other deserted beaches. Several Whitsunday Islands can be viewed from the beaches and lookout. The tide will be in when we are at the second beach which is nice and sandy so it will be perfect for swimming. Those who don't want to swim can relax on the grass and enjoy the scenery.

In the past this walk has had naked people, whales and dugongs so be prepared for the unexpected.

### **Massey Gorge**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

**Leader:** Denis Jeffery 49583394

**Depart:** 6am

**Journey:** 200kms - \$20

**Map Ref:** Calen 593774

**Grade:** M86

**Estimated walking time:** 7 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 700m **Pace:** medium **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** open forest, lantana **Expect:** steep slopes, swimming holes, possible rock hopping

We drive 8.5kms along Snake Road (off Dalrymple Road) to the start point (4WD required) and then walk along disused forestry tracks and cattle pads to a lookout above the gorge where there are good views. We then descend to the floor of the gorge down a steep slope where hopefully we will have some spare time to explore - hence the early start. There are swimming holes for the adventurous. The return is a retrace of the outward journey back up the steep slope. There is some lantana regrowth and there are still trees down from the cyclone to negotiate but it is generally not too difficult to find a path.

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

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

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

**Induction by Cheryl and Frances**

### **Redcliff Island Social Walk**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

**Leader:** Kathy Cant 49522269

**Depart:** 10am

**Journey:** \$8

**Grade:** S33

**Estimated walking time:** 2-3 hours **Pace:** medium. **Terrain:** beach, rocks, short up hill.

This will be an easy social walk, suitable for beginners. As low tide is not until 3:15pm it will be a late start. We will have morning tea on the beach before starting our walk. We should be able to walk all the way around North Redcliff Island then have a late lunch on the peak before returning via Redcliff Island.

### **Tree Fern Creek**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Mount Jukes 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

(Sorry – I forgot to include this in the last newsletter).

We assembled at George and Mary's place at the base of Mount Jukes and commenced our walk at about 8.00 am. There were seventeen in the group including George and Mary who were going up for the first time. The going soon became tough with lots of lantana, vines and regrowth of scrub and yours truly found himself in the lead for a while doing the scrub bashing until we reached the morning tea rocks. After this we headed off again and soon ran into more lantana and scrub with various people taking a turn at scrub bashing before reaching the rock face. After a short break the scramble up the rock face was completed with the usual loose rocks to negotiate. Once we reached the top of the rise it was decided that some would stay here for lunch, as it was getting a bit late, and that I would take a group of eight over to the "elephant's rump". This was achieved in fairly quick time, and after a hurried lunch we headed back to meet up with the other group just beginning their descent. The views from the summit were spectacular because it was such a perfect day. The pigs have been very active up at the top and have even turn up rocks on the rocky place where we usually sit for lunch. Anyway, we continued the descent, stopping at the morning tea rocks for a break and then heading down again. The track was very hard to find in places and numerous detours were undertaken to locate it. It was getting quite late and the light was fading by the time we were approaching the bottom and a few suggestions were made about having to find our torches. We finally arrived at the residence at 5.50 pm to everyone's relief after a long day. All the old hands were commenting that this used to be an easy walk with a well defined track but this is definitely not the case now. After a photo shoot in the semi darkness we all headed home. Thank you very much to Frances for leading this walk once again and to George and Mary for allowing access through their property.

Denis

### **Rawson's Creek 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

The day began with fine weather so the prospects of a dry walk were looking good. A small group of nine headed off about 8.15 am up a track and then into the creek. The rocks proved to be very slippery which made progress quite slow but we continued on. After a short period the trusty leader almost stepped on a large carpet python coiled up in the rocks. It was so fat from obviously gorging itself on some poor creature but we left it to snooze on. I noticed that some of the rocks were wet as if someone had walked up the creek earlier in the morning and later on I came across a



fresh shoe print in the soft sand. The puzzle was soon solved because when we sat down for morning tea in a sunny spot, Kate appeared from the rocks just ahead of us. She had parked in the car park, and when we didn't arrive there, she had headed off on her own. Nine had become ten and after a break we walked on, or should I say hopped on, steadily upstream. Young Corey seemed to be enjoying himself, even though he had a few slips and ended up a bit wet at times. When we reached the spot where we usually have to climb up steeply over a section to avoid getting wet, some decided that they didn't want to go on so they stopped for lunch. The rest of us stopped just over the rise and had our

lunch before descending back to the others and commencing the return journey. It must be noted that no one opted for a swim. After rock hopping downstream for a while we exited the creek and joined the main track in The Gorge and returned to the cars. When Corey was asked by his mum what rating out of ten he would give today's walk, he gave it a ten so I think we will see him in the future. Thanks to all for a great day and special thanks to Paul for organising the town end.  
Denis

### Mt Beatrice/Zillah Walk Sunday 21/08/11

A nice fresh morning and four cars made way to the hills of The Rise and Shine- Yallabaroo area. As we drove along the highway, Francis pointed out to me (as I was the newbie of the party) Mt Beatrice and Mt Zillah standing large as life in the morning sun! Our goal for the day was to walk from the property owners place, over the foot hills which lead up to the top of Mt Beatrice, then to climb Mt Zillah which is the next mountain! We would then come out on the flat paddocks near the bridge at Yallabaroo! This walk had not been done in the last three years, so we were preparing for lots of trees/branches down, lantana, and a challenging days walk!!



After doing the car drop off to Yallabaroo, fifteen keen walkers left Deb and her husbands' property at Rise and Shine, at about 8.15am. (Deb accompanied us on our walk). Francis handed the job of guide over to Peter, and we were away. It wasn't long before we were looking out and getting our first sample of the views that were to come! The food breaks were a good recharge! I think one could safely say that on this walk, when you were going up, it was a good climb up, and when you were going down, you went down! A very loose crumbly

surface, lots of thick dead grass, thin bendy trees and blackboys, were the challenge of the day leading up to and on Mt Beatrice. I was surprised at the little amount of tree damage from the cyclones. The vegetation was covered with smaller thin trees rather than big trees. I might add that those thin trees bend very well, and assisted quite a few of us to slide merrily on our way!!!

Beautiful views looking out to the ocean let us see all the things that make rural living special. Lunch was on top of Mt Beatrice, where we just managed to find enough shade for a well deserved break. Our next challenge was climbing Mt Zillah. The decent down Beatrice was tricky with the crumbly grassy terrain! The ridge line over to Zillah was narrow and windy in parts before reaching her top! Views back to Beatrice certainly gave a sense of achievement. At this stage we had made really good time with only the decent of Zillah ahead of us.



ONLY! All I remember being said was 'keep left and you pick up the ridge- trust me!' Well I couldn't help feel that we'd veered right! By this time Zillah's steep descent had us all scrambling, and Francis and Garry steered us back left to the familiar ridge down! Thanks Mr GPS, as you couldn't even see that there was a ridge to the left! Zillah had an abundance of cycads on it, and the lantana was more prevalent and thickening as we neared the bottom. You could see on both the mountains that the sudden dryness of late was having an effect on the vegetation! Lots of pig rooting was evident, more so on Zillah. We finally came out on the flats, and waited to regroup. Edie scored the best torn pants for the day! A few cow paddocks and a couple of barbed wire fences brought us out at the house where we were greeted by the owners and their doggies. After a quick chat, and a drink of water, we then made our way to the cars to do the car shuffle. I think Maureen summed it up in one, when she

said 'this is a real bush walk! That's what I thought of the day as well! Thanks to our fearless leaders Francis and Peter and to the rest of the group for your good company!

Di Rutland

PS Thanks very much to the property owners at either end of the walk who gave us permission to walk through their properties. Without their support this walk would not have been able to take place. Deb, the owner of the property at the beginning of the walk, took out a day membership and walked with us. She enjoyed it so much she is considering becoming a full member. Great to see we didn't put her off. Jenny

### Back of the Leap Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August



### Fantastic opportunity for bushwalkers

Your members might like to know about a wonderful opportunity to trek in Nepal. Below is some information about our upcoming volunTOURing adventure. Please pass this on to any of your members who might be interested. For more information you can email [info@accf.org.au](mailto:info@accf.org.au) or ring me on 3177 1099. The trip notes are available on our website [www.accf.org.au](http://www.accf.org.au) and there is a youtube video with lots of great images at <http://youtu.be/EUkW4C1dCBc> The Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation's trip to Nepal was so amazing in March/April that we are planning ACCF our next adventure of a lifetime in November 2011. We are leaving for Nepal on November 3, 2011 to continue the work we did in March on our women's clinic in Banepa (near Kathmandu) - and we would love you to join us. It's hard to describe just how wonderful this opportunity is. The work we are doing in Nepal is so important. You can come and see firsthand how our clinic is progressing. The March/April trekkers were so enthusiastic that many of them are still fundraising to finish the project. We have some spaces available, so if you've been thinking about coming along now is the time to register your interest! women's screening clinic at Banepa. We will explore the vast range of Nepal's cultural variety, from the bustling and vibrant capital of Kathmandu, trekking through villages in the Himalayas, camping, sleeping in traditional guesthouses and experiencing the ancient city of Bhaktapur. We will have a chance to get our hands dirty by helping to put the finishing touches on a You can come on your own, bring a friend or band together with some work colleagues for a team adventure. Currently ACCF is working in Nepal to bring the HPV vaccine to girls who otherwise would not have access to it. We also facilitate cervical cancer screening clinics for women. Cervical cancer is a preventable disease, but often the treatments and vaccines are unavailable in developing countries. The trip will result in upgrading and finishing off our existing clinic building to allow additional clinic facilities for women who would otherwise have no access to medical treatment. On completion of the project work, you will enjoy a fully supported camping based trek into the Annapurna region to beautiful Gurung villages and will experience some of the most stunning mountain scenery on earth. The trip will last for 15 days including 3 days volunteer work and 6 days trekking (plus flights to/from Kathmandu).

The cost of \$5,490 (approx) covers air travel, accommodation, most meals, and includes a \$1000 contribution towards the vital work ACCF is doing for the women of Nepal. Each participant can choose to fundraise the \$1000 contribution or make a tax deductible donation. ACCF can support your fundraising efforts.