



The Message Stick

September 2017

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

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Future Events

Castle Rock Area Exploratory.....	3 rd September
Lost Rock Camp.....	9 th & 10 th September
Mt Martin.....	17 th September
General Meeting.....	20 th September
Gooseponds.....	24 th September
Whitsunday Great Walk.....	30 th September – 2 nd October



Balancing Act – walkers crossing the creek via a log on the Crediton Scrub walk.

Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	4954 6108	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Bryan Marshall	4954 3209	Assist Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer.	49576028
Treasurer	Julie Vella	4955 3093	Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Safety Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478772418	Publicity Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478772418
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236			

From the Editor

It is perfect weather for walking at the moment and it's good to see walks have been attracting larger numbers of participants lately.

It was great that Cape Palmerston walkers were rewarded with performing whales.

Everyone is responsible for their own first aid and the club kit is for emergencies. All walkers are reminded that each person should carry a snake bite compression bandage in their kit so in the unfortunate event of someone being bitten we can pool resources to apply adequate compression to the injured person until further help arrives.

Have a great month everyone

Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 27th September

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

Castle Rock Area Exploratory Sunday 3rd September

Clive Goodson 0749549338

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 170km \$17.00

Map Ref: Calen 620978

Grade: M85

Estimated walking time: 6 hours Total of all uphill sections: 260m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** open forest **Expect:**

some steep slopes, steep scrambles, lantana, spear grass.

Please note this walk has not been done before. We will be exploring the ridge next to Castle Rock, an outcrop in the Cathu State Forest. Bring water and food for the day. Bring spare clothes to change into after the walk, food and water for the day. To register for the walk please **ring** me (don't text) no later than 12.00 noon Saturday, or leave a message including name and phone number.

Lost Rock and Mystery Walk
Car based camp Sat/Sun 9th & 10th September

Coordinator: Coral Morgan 49578474
Depart: 7am
Journey: \$24

We will be doing 2 walks in the area N.E of Homevale, which is accessed through Crediton State Forest and camping overnight at the vehicles (4WD)

Note: All members are eligible to attend "Car based camps."

4WDs and dry weather will be necessary for the weekend. National Parks has cleared the road since the cyclone. It has been checked out recently and was in good condition. **Numbers may need to be limited due to availability of 4WD vehicles so get in early and book no later than 12 noon Wednesday 6th September.**

There will be no facilities and you will need to be self-sufficient with water etc.

Mystery Walk – Sat 9th

Leader: Coral Morgan
Map Ref: Mirani 682 372
Grade: M74

Estimated Walking Time: 6hours **Pace:** as slow as the leader. **Total uphill:** 200m **Terrain:** uneven with moderate rock hopping. **Vegetation:** Open forest. **Expect:** A surprise feature

Many years ago, seven or eight at a guess, Victor, Frances and myself discovered a feature we have been waiting to share as a club walk. This walk is awesome.

Lost Rock – Sun 10th

Leader: Garry Hendicott
Map Ref: Mirani 684 366
Grade: M87

Estimated walking time: 6 hours, **Total of uphill:** 450m **Vegetation:** Open forest – rainforest with rivers. **Expect:** loose rocks, possible moonlighter and scratchie lantana.

Not visited for several years, Lost Rock is one of our classic wilderness walks. Nestled in rainforest on the slope of the 1085 peak, "Domani" the rock must surely be over 100metres high. However we are able to access the top and enjoy the sweeping breathtaking views from Mackay to Mt St John. Ghost bats have been observed in a cavern about 6m from the ground at the base of the rock. Hopefully we can find the rock.

Mt. Martin
Sunday 17 September 2017

Leader: Darcy Matsen
Co-leader: Peter Bennett **Contact phone #.**
0427 383 732
Departure: 7.00 am
Journey: 90 km
Map Ref: FS897685
Grade: M87

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 460m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** Uneven terrain **Vegetation:** scrub and lantana long grass **Expect:** much steep slopes loose rocks

This walk has not been done for two years. We will walk up the southern ridge and onto the main ridge (the highest point). The view from this point will possibly be not much. On the way up and down the views are spectacular. On the top there are various plaques put up over the years. Bring enough food and water for the day and clean spare cloths for the trip home.

Please ring me do (not text) to register before 12.00pm on the Saturday before the walk.

Induction 6.30pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 20th September

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

Gooseponds Walk
Sunday 24 September

Leader: Edie Weiss 0412689414
Meet Time: 7.00am
Meeting Place: Carpark behind North Mackay Bowls Club
Grade: L11

This is an easy walk, all on pathways through the parklands around the branches of the Gooseponds, and following Janes Creek past the Windmill crossing, Magpies and to Glenella, and back. More of a social than a bush walk, but at 12 km it is a good Sunday morning stroll! Here is limited shade, and traditionally this walk has been wet, so be prepared for anything. The farmers and gardeners will be happy if we can bring rain. We will finish by lunchtime, so there is the opportunity

of a picnic lunch, or even to pop into the bowls club for a pub lunch...we should not be too smelly or dirty.

**Whitsunday Great Walk
Saturday 30th Sep to Monday 2nd Oct**

Leader: Daphne Goodson 0749549338

More information will be supplied in the next newsletter or Facebook regarding this backpack walk.

The first day of this walk is an easy stroll of approx. 8km into Repulse creek campground. Day 2 is almost 12kms and involves some steep ups and the 3rd day begins with a steep up and then is downhill all the way into Airlie Beach. Water can be obtained along the walk from tanks but all other gear and food needs to be carried for the 3 days.

Previous Activities

Cape Palmerston Sunday 30th July

A glorious day for a beach walk! There were 16 walkers all up making the road trip down to Cape Palmy. Striking out at a leisurely pace we enjoyed the coastal views, our friends the whales popped up to say hello quite early on in the day, much to the delight of everyone! We counted at least two whales having a good old time just off the coast and they seemed to be making their way along the coast with us for quite some time.



We got a bit enthusiastic (must be all that open space) and overshot the planned morning tea spot. We said farewell to Francis and Coral after our morning tea stop. The rocky point proved a geologists field day with amazing and colourful patterns to be found among the rocks. A spot of beach combing showed some interesting finds, plenty of the usual plastic rubbish, driftwood and the like, but also the bleached skeleton of an unfortunate small green turtle.

Distracted by the whales and wonderful scenery we didn't quite make it to the planned lookout point at the cape tip but never-the-less, we were rewarded with a lovely view and a lunchtime show from the whales at Windmill Bay. None of us got tired of watching the whales, although capturing them in a photo proved to be a challenge for some. Thanks to Penny who got some good shots of the whales (and pretty rocks). We opted to take the 4wd track back from Windmill Bay to the main beach.



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The return trip along the beach saw us all stretched out at our own pace enjoying the beach. Thanks to Therese whom offered her 4WD to use on the beach if anyone needed a lift back, however no rescue missions were required today, but it was a nice added security knowing the offer was there. Statistics for the day was a total of 25km walked (12.5km for Coral and Francis). Our day at Cape Palmerston was completed with a piece of delicious fruit cake thanks to Kim. Thank you Daphne for hosting such a lovely walk.



Hannah

Crediton Scrub 13th August



Sixteen members, including our three Life Members and one recent inductee negotiated a section of the Great Highlands Walk in near perfect weather conditions, setting out from the cars in Up River Road, Crediton at about 9.15 am. The marked trail was in excellent condition with the tapes and orange triangles clearly visible, bearing witness to the fact that it had all been tidied up well after the advent of Cyclone Debbie.

The creek crossings at the start of the walk provided the usual challenges to some participants, but we all managed to negotiate one log or the other, with help from our friends in some cases. Wildlife sightings were few, but the birdsong and the flora made up for it. Many examples of flowering King Orchids were noticed, and some of these were perched very high up in trees, the yellow providing a contrast to the greenery everywhere. Pencil orchids and large brown fungi as well as a more delicate cream variety had the cameras working overtime.

We spent a lot of time in the middle section of the trail stepping over logs, and the abundant vines provided tripping opportunities. A few walkers collected leeches and ticks, but they were fairly rare. Morning tea was enjoyed in rain forest surroundings, but lunch was eaten on the roadside near the great white tank. The return journey was completed in a shorter time ready for the long car trip home.



Carole

Mt Catherine Sunday 27th August.



We had perfect walking weather. The town walkers arrived at Kuttabul under Clives guidance, then Bryan took over for the rest of the journey leading to Rise and Shine. Walkers left the cars at 8. 20am, with 18 walkers in total. A steep climb upwards, morning tea was a welcomed break, with no other place to sit, but in the bush, on the ground. Walkers continued on upwards to Jenny's Rock, to enjoy a lunch break with fantastic views of the surrounding countryside and beautiful clear views out to the ocean and of surrounding islands. On the way up, walkers had to navigate, steep climbs, a couple of moonlight plants, tangles of vines, lantana, downed trees and branches, left from the wrath of cyclone Debbie. An hour and 10 minutes for lunch, with photo opportunities, and it was back down the same trail. A goanna was spotted on last stretch back, more photos. Some group photos with Mt Catherine, majestically sitting in the background.

A great day out walking, enjoyed by everyone who participated.

Thankyou to Coral for organising, thankyou to Clive and Bryan for leading out the cars. Thankyou to everyone who travelled out.

Deb

