



The Message Stick

September 2018

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

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

Email: mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com

Future Events

Crediton Loop.....	2 nd September
Bluff Hill.....	9 th September
Mt Beatrice.....	16 th September
General Meeting.....	19 th September
Mt Tanya.....	23 rd September
Conway Backpack.....	29 th September – 1 st October
Christmas Rocks.....	7 th October



A new craze sweeping the club – Selfie Stick Mania

Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	4954 6108	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Donna Burges	0488 787953	Assis Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Treasurer	Ian Burgess	0428 875 991	Equipment Officer	Julie Vella	0448076983
Publicity Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478 772 418	Safety Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478 772 418
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

From the Editor

A reminder to all leaders that the gear bag must be collected from Julie before each walk and returned as soon as possible after each walk.

Also all intending walkers are to phone the leader by midday the day prior to the walk taking place to register unless otherwise stated in the newsletter.

Of late most walks are attracting good numbers and it is great to see a wide variety of walks on offer. Thanks to everyone who makes a contribution. Sundays spent on a bushwalk are always a lot of fun.

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to**

jennywooding@dodo.com.au

prior to 25th 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

Difficulty

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 Julie before undertaking your walk.

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

Crediton Loop Walk

Sunday 2 September 2018

Leader: Donna Burgess - 0488 787 953

Depart: 7am

Journey: 180km \$18.00

Map Ref: Mirani 562584

Grade: L38

Estimated Walking Time: 6 Hrs Total of all

uphill sections: 460m Pace: Medium Terrain:

Graded rainforest track, unsealed & sealed road

Vegetation: Rainforest Expect: Leeches, hot sun

The first half of this walk is part of the Mackay

Highlands Great Walk. Our walk will start at

Broken River car park and heads to the Crediton Hall via the rainforest walking track, a distance of about 12km. There is a reasonable uphill climb after Crediton Hall and as we'll be walking along the road the sun may be hot with little shade so ensure you have a hat and lots of water. This is not a typical bushwalk with lots of road walking however a good level of fitness is required due to the distance. The walk along the Loop Road has excellent scenery of our local rural landscape. The total distance is about 22km.

Bluff Hill
Sunday 9th September

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 8am

Journey: approx. 100km \$10

Map Ref: New Mirani 837717

Grade: S54

Estimated Walking time: 4 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 250m **Pace** steady **Terrain:** along farm tracks and up a small steep stony scrubby hill

This site has not been previously visited as a club walk. It is located in State Forest between Mt Charlton and Mount Martin and accessed via Mirani and along Kungurri Range Road. We will be walking through private property. The owners are generous and charitable with the promise of afternoon tea after and early finish.

As this will be a short day note the starting time of 8am.

Mt Beatrice/Mt Zillah
Sunday 16th September

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718282

Depart: 6:30 am

Journey: 150km \$15.00

Map Ref: Calen UTM 55K 672426E 7692146N GDA94

Grade: M78

Estimated walking time: 8 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 600m **Pace:** average. **Terrain:** very uneven underfoot. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** many steep slopes, steep scrambles, lantana, long grass, fallen branches and trees.

Mt Beatrice (528m) and Mt Zillah (502m) are situated on an undulating narrow ridge in a small area of National Park between Rise and Shine Road and Yalboroo. We will be crossing the summits of these two mountains plus a third unnamed peak on the way to them. At vantage points along the top of Mt Beatrice and Mt Zillah, good views north to Proserpine and the Whitsunday Islands and south to Cape Hillsborough are possible. The walk will commence in the Rise and Shine area, traverse the mountainous ridge and exit at Yalboroo. It is likely to be difficult under foot with fallen branches and trees in our path. For similar reasons shade may be limited. This walk will be very steep in places and is expected to be reasonably difficult.

Once committed to the ridge there are no easy options out. It is your responsibility to carry water

sufficient to last the whole day (with reserve) whilst undertaking a strenuous walk with little shade. There is no water available on this walk. This walk is not suitable for children. A car shuffle will be necessary hence the early 6.30 am start.

Induction 6.30pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 19th September

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

Mt Tanya
23rd September

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7am

Journey: 90kms \$9

Map Ref: New Mirani 057376

Grade: M74

Estimated walking time 5 to 6 hours **Pace** slow and rough descent. **Terrain** very uneven. Grassy slope and some vine scrub **Expect:** Long grass, lantana, steep stony slope in scrub for descent.

Mt Tanya is located atop the ridge to the N.E. of Hogan's Pocket just over Eton Range. It can be viewed from town when driving south along Paradise Street (in the morning is best). Good views and unique rock formations are a feature of this area. Coming down is quite rugged but we will cope by moving steadily.

Please do leave your number if you leave a message when phoning before 12noon Saturday

Brandy Creek Backpack Camp
Saturday 29 September to Monday 1 October

Leader: Donna Burgess - 0488 487 953

Depart: 1pm

Journey: 300km \$30.00

Camp Fees: \$13.10 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 multi day 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 26 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 a number of us will be riding in the River 2 Reef Charity Ride in the morning so if you would like to extend your long weekend experience, please join us by nominating for this iconic Mackay cycling event (only the 35km for me). The first day is easy walking so we will definitely be at the campsite and set up before dark.

Previous Activities

Homevale camp and Clarks Pinnacle Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th July

10 happy campers made their way out to the Mt Britton township camping area. Quite a few others were also camped out there but we were lucky to have the top section to ourselves and were able to spread out.



After a leisurely erection of an assortment of tents and swags and eating lunch we set off to tackle the hill on the Western side of the town. We scampered up the first hill behind it and the next couple as well. It was worth the effort and the sweat as we were rewarded with clear views in all directions. For some it was their first time camping in this area so us old hands were able to point out many of the features. We were all a little shocked at how much smoke and dust was generated by a mine blasting although it took a fair amount of time until the sound reached us. The boom when it finally came was incredibly loud.

We strolled back on the road, taking some time to study the graves at the old cemetery. We were all enthusiastic wood gatherers and so we had a huge pile for our evening fire.

Sunday morning everyone was up breakfasted and packed ready to roll by 8am as requested – very impressive.

We left some cars at the Mt Adder turn off before heading down the road to tackle Clarks Pinnacle. **Now if I ever suggest a walk to Clarks Pinnacle ever again will someone please silence me.** This has always been a strenuous walk but this time it really challenged us all.



My GPS had died so Garry gallantly stepped up to lead the walk. The 10 of us all scampered up the first ridge laughing and joking as we went. Yes it was steep but we were tough. Then the vegetation began to challenge us in earnest. Dense bushes knee to waist deep had

to be negotiated and at times we were walking and tripping over deep bracken tangles – not to mention the hidden holes and trip hazards.

This time the ridges seemed to be endless but fortunately Bruce and Tony stepped up to help Garry battle a path through the vegetation. Views along the way were spectacular though. We collapsed in a heap at the base of the pinnacle at 12.30 and we all decided to eat before making our way to the top. We all made it to the top to soak up the impressive views before beginning the descent.



The afternoon will be much easier I had assured everyone – not sure they will ever believe a word I say again.

Off we went down the deep chasm between the big rocks and it was very, very shaley on the scree slopes. We slipped and slithered before the lantana struck in earnest. Poor Garry in the front had his exposed skin shredded as he used his snippers to try and clear a path for us. Once we were through the worst of the lantana there was again dense undergrowth with all its hidden obstacles to slow us up. Bruce came to the rescue again helping Garry to

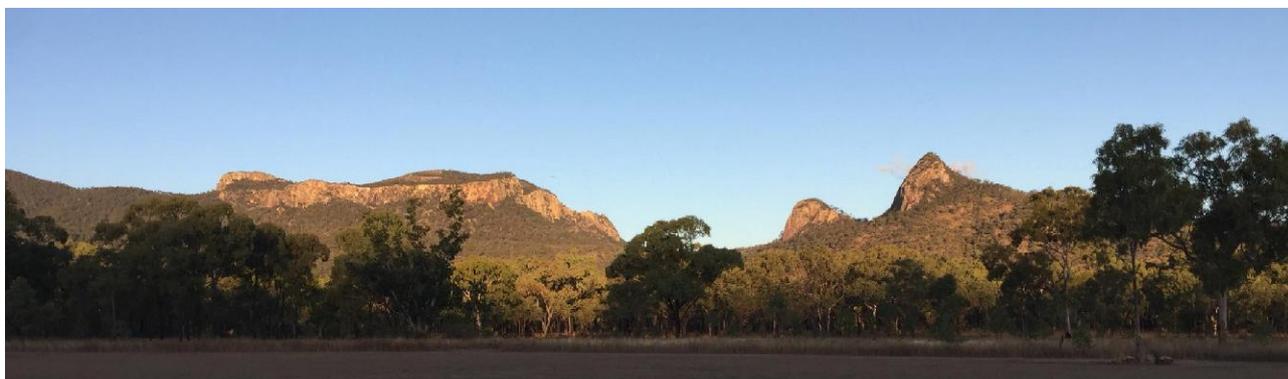
forge a path for the rest of us.

Eventually we were down to the relative flat creek bed with some easy rock hopping for a while. I managed to take an impressive but not graceful swan dive onto the rocks. Fortunately I had so many points of impact to spread the load I did no real damage but gained plenty of bruises all over to arouse sympathy.



It was a relief to exit the creek for what was an easy stroll back to the cars and a nice end to a strenuous day. All 10 walkers handled the walk extremely well and I think we were all happy with the day. Thanks to everyone who came on the camp – it was a fun weekend.

Jenny



Late afternoon view of Sydney Heads and the Marling Spikes taken from the campground. Photo by Donna

Mt St John walk Sunday 12/8/18

A normal start saw 12 adventurers enjoy a drive up the valley to Eungella where, after a pit-stop at Broken River we continued on to our destination Mt St John which sits just off the Cockies Creek Rd on the road to Eungella Dam.



On arrival at the old cattle yards we were greeted by a chorus of birds and the fresh crisp smell of the gums. It's definitely part of the reason we all enjoy bushwalking. This was our starting point for the day and through the trees we were able to see our destination, Mt St John with its two prominent peaks.

Following a quick check-in and debrief we set off across Hazlewood Creek and up to the fence line where it was decided, with help from Frances and her extensive experience to take the track up the first spur to our smoko spot for the morning.



After the early smoko we headed up to the foot of Mt St John where Frances decided not to take on the steep ascent but to wait while the rest of the group struggled up the loose and steep slope to the ridgeline.

A fire had cleared the low vegetation which helped our progress as we made our way to the first rock cairn on the top of the first peak. From here we pushed on across the narrow ridgeback to the main peak. Although the vegetation had been burnt and we were all covered in black soot the 360-degree views of the surrounding countryside were enjoyed by all. Jenny's selfie stick proved popular and captured some unusual angles.



As there wasn't enough shade on the peak due to the fire we made our way back to an unusual rock formation halfway across the ridge where we had lunch.

Following our lunch, we took one last look at the views and headed downwards to meet up with Frances. After swapping stories of our adventure it was back down the track to the fence line, on the way passing the double-trunk gum which had been seen on the previous walks.

Thanks to everyone for an enjoyable day and especially to Garry and Jenny for their maps and GPS direction and to Frances for her ever-reliable experience.



Ian

The Beak Sunday 19th August

"I'm sure we will see whales today" I assured the group at the carpark circle chat. We had some new people on the walk so I was keen to make a good impression. The weather was arranged to perfection with clear, blue skies, crystal clear water and was just the right temperature.

Off we set at a good pace along the track to coral beach. Along the way we passed people returning dressed in skimpy clothes and only shod in thongs – such a contrast to us in big boots, our sensible clothing and backpacks.



On arriving at the beach we enjoyed the views before heading off up the hill to the lookout to take in some more scenery. After being fortified with morning tea off down the ridge we went to Cane Cockies beach battling the undergrowth as we went. Of course the undergrowth tried to get the upper hand and pushed the leader off the ridge for a while but we battled back to a point where we could clamber down to the beach. Whilst enjoying the views we were rewarded by the spectacular sight of dozens of brightly coloured spinnakers sailing straight towards us. These were some of the many

yachts taking part in Hamilton Island race week.

From here we set off around several headlands mostly by traversing the rocks but a scree slope had to be negotiated as well. We went by several smaller beaches before climbing over a large rocky headland to our lunch beach. Here we all relaxed whilst eating and soaking up the scenery looking out towards the Molle Group of islands. However some were getting impatient for the "promised whales" when Deb shouted "whales" and pointed out to sea. That made us all sit up and take notice and sure enough we were rewarded. We all ended up seeing quite a few whales and then to top things off nicely a couple of dolphins cruised past. We headed back over the rocky headland and most of us observed a couple of turtles at play.



Back at the next beach we had to sadly leave the water behind us and scale the tangly ridges to get back to the lookout. The scrub was a force to be battled with, cyclone Debbie making it even messier. However all 18 arrived back at the top some like me with very scratched up legs. From here it was an easy stroll back to Coral Beach where we spotted even more whales.

This was an enjoyable day and the abundance of marine life along with the island views made the drive worthwhile. An icecream in Airlie topped the day off nicely. Thanks to everyone who came along and making it such a happy day.



Jenny