



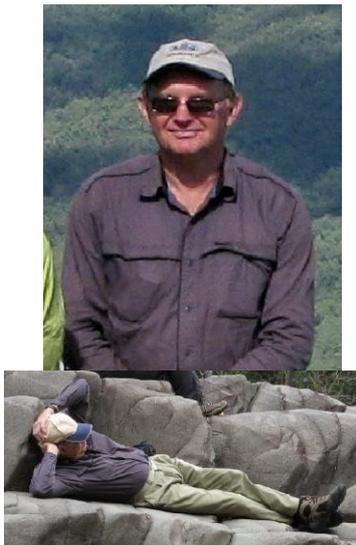
# The Message Stick

## April 2012

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740  
 Web: <http://www.mackay.bwq.org.au>  
 Email: [mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au](mailto:mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au)

### Future Events

|                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Pioneer Point .....          | 1 <sup>st</sup> April                 |
| Middle Creek .....           | 15 <sup>th</sup> April                |
| General Meeting .....        | 18 <sup>th</sup> April                |
| The Leap.....                | 22 <sup>nd</sup> April                |
| First Aid Course .....       | 28 <sup>th</sup> April                |
| Blacks Creek .....           | 29 <sup>th</sup> April                |
| South Molle Island Camp..... | 5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> May |



### We will miss you Denis

Denis is moving to Tasmania! On behalf of the club I would like to extend our thanks to Denis for being such an active member of Mackay Bushwalkers over many years. He has been a very capable and consistent leader often taking us to new places or showing us a new way to get to old places. In his quiet and patient way he has helped many of us who have struggled at times. We wish Denis and Romaine all the very best for their new life in Tassie and please come and visit us if you are ever back in Mackay.

### Club Officers

|                   |                 |          |                          |                   |          |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| President         | Dan McKinlay    | 49534249 | Contact Officer          | Cheryl Brodie     | 49552895 |
| Vice President    | Clive Goodson   | 49549338 | Walks Coordinator        | Frances Eiteneuer | 49576028 |
| Secretary         | Kathy Cant      | 49522269 | Assist Walks Coordinator | Coral Morgan      | 49578474 |
| Treasurer         | Cheryl Brodie   | 49552895 | Newsletter Editor        | Jenny Wooding     | 49440236 |
| Safety Officer    | Daphne Goodson  | 49549338 | Publicity Officer        | Rob Kollin        | 49512490 |
| Equipment Officer | Garry Hendicott | 49440236 | Social Coordinator       | Dan McKinlay      | 49534249 |

## *From the Editor*

Rain, Rain, Rain! The wet season has arrived late this year and as a result some of our scheduled creek walks have not been able to go ahead. That's life in the tropics but hopefully it will settle down soon.

Now I think we all know who the witch is who starred in last month's newsletter but Penny was correct in identifying the place – The photo was taken on 3.4.2009 at a spot named "Witch's Hat Lookout" on the Lookouts walk. Apparently the hat was lost the following week at the Gibber.

I thought for fun I would share some correspondence I have had with the said witch.

*To the Editor*

*Dear Madam, the real question is, where is that hat now....*

*Greetings, Witch.*

Dear Witch

You should learn to hang on to your hat!

Madam Editor



*Dear Madam Editor*

*You can easily say that, but I am a very old witch and have plenty of trouble with hanging on to my glasses, it's a wild world out there!*

*Sincerely, Witch.*

Dear Witch

You had better hold tight to your broomstick.

Madam Editor

*Madam Editor, I don't know if you are aware of the crappy quality of broomsticks these days they are made of very thin metal in China, and should by any chance a car roll over one they go limp! Also hard to train now, mine took off from a cliff top this very day with my camera case, containing camera, phone and all..... so the big question is ...where is my magic wand!*

*Witch ...!*

PS I believe that Kate has purchased a new camera and is extremely happy with it!

Enjoy the month everyone!

Our Publicity Officer is Rob Kollin

[robertskool@qld.chariot.net.au](mailto:robertskool@qld.chariot.net.au)

Please email Rob any photos you think would look good in the newspaper.

*Note*

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to [jennywooding@dodo.com.au](mailto:jennywooding@dodo.com.au) prior to 22<sup>nd</sup> April

### Key to Walks Grading System

| Distance              | Terrain   | Terrain                                   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| S = short – under 5km | 1-3 = Graded or open terrain, no scrub  | 1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners        |
| M = medium – 5-10km   | 4-7 = Bush, minor scrub, rainforest,<br>Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling      | 4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required |
| L = long – over 10km  | 8-10 = Bush as above + thick scrub, major rock<br>Scrambling using hands, technical | 8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only  |

## Future Events

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

### Pioneer Point Exploratory Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April (Denis's Last Walk)

**Leader:** Denis Jeffery 49583394

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 320km \$32.00

**Map Ref:** Proserpine 842616

**Grade:** L44

**Estimated Walking Time:** 5 Hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 200m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** graded tracks and uneven terrain **Vegetation:** minor bush and scrub **Expect:** pebbly beach, sand, minor rock hopping, scenery.

This should be a relatively easy walk in the Shute Harbour area. We will commence the walk at the Swamp Bay car park and walk along a track to the beach at Swamp Bay. From here we will walk north along pebbly beaches and across rocky headlands to Pioneer Point. This is an extension of the Green Point walk that was done last year. We then retrace our steps back to the cars. This walk is on track or beach so it should be suitable for most walkers. The total distance should be about 13km.

### Middle Creek Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 4954 3428

Please phone the leader for more information on this walk.

### Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April

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

### The Leap Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**Leader:** Paul Eder 49547639 between 6 and 8pm

**Journey:** 50km \$5

**Map Ref:** Mackay 102687

**Grade:** S74

Please contact the leader for more information on this walk

### First Aid Course Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Contact:** Daphne Goodson 4954 9338

The course will be conducted in the First Aid Building, Casey Ave, South Mackay.

If you have nominated to do the course, please pay Daphne by 18<sup>th</sup> April.

### Blacks Creek Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer 49576028

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 130kms \$13.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 901423

**Grade:** M55

**Estimated walking time:** 5 -6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 10 m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** uneven, rocky and soft sand creek bed **Vegetation:** some open rain forest, scratchy vines **Expect:** walking along creek bank through scrub, some walking in soft sand, some minor scrambling, limited shade, a relaxed day This will be a relatively easy walk along the banks of the picturesque Blacks Creek. There should be plenty of opportunities for swimming so don't forget your swimmer. You will need to bring sunscreen and water for the whole day.

### South Molle Island Camp Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 49440236, 0447091532 after 5pm.

**Depart:** 4.30am

**Journey:** 320kms \$32.00

**Return Boat Trip:** \$65

**Camp Fees:** \$10.30

This will be a 2 night camp on South Molle Island. Saturday has a very early start as the boat trip needs to coincide with the high tide and we will need to return mid-morning on the Monday. The boat trip fee includes snorkel equipment and drinking water. This will be a casual camp where we will be able to walk all the tracks on the island and they provide stunning views over the Whitsundays. An evening walk up the cliff will provide lovely views of the sun setting over the mainland if the

weather permits. We will also have time to snorkel off the beach where we will be camped and it has some really nice corals. Those who don't wish to snorkel can enjoy their time exploring the rocks around the beach. Campers will also need to share the cost of carpark fees

with the drivers which should only be a few dollars each.

**PLEASE NOTIFY ME BY APRIL 28TH IF YOU INTEND ON COMING TO THE CAMP SO I CAN BOOK THE BOAT AND CAMP SITES.**

## *Previous Activities*

### **Black's Creek walk 16th February.**

We woke up to steady rain, and it had rained all night, but still 5 optimistic walkers turned up for the walk to Black's Creek.

However, as there had been a decent amount of rain up the valley overnight, we had to go to plan B – and where else but the Bluewater Trail.

Ten of the more sensible walkers had already cancelled early, Penny decided she had better things to do with a wet Sunday, so then there were just 4 – Francis, Daphne, Anne and Paul, who were not about to let a bit of rain deter them.

Despite the rain we had an enjoyable stroll along the Blue Water trail by the river, stopping in at the community gardens for smoko.

As we could not continue past the hospital as the red stop light on the trail was flashing – Francis led us to a bike path off Holland Street that took us almost back to the cars.

Fully kitted out with backpacks, ponchos and umbrellas, we may have attracted a few grins from the serious joggers in their light running gear and not even a water bottle, but we had an enjoyable 3 hour walk, and found the community gardens quite interesting.

Thanks, Francis, for a well spent morning.

Daphne



*Bushwalking in the City*

### **Freshwater Point Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March**



20 walkers (including 4 new club walkers) enjoyed the Freshwater Point walk. Paul's good thinking had us parked at the bitumen boat ramp car park on the south side of Freshwater Point. The plan had been to walk anti-clockwise around the point, and have morning tea on the hill, with a lovely view south across the bay to Mt Funnel. However the weather dictated that we commence walking in the rain, so once up the hill the

ground was wet and the view below average - not at all an ideal spot for enjoying morning tea. The tracks were muddy, slushy and at times slippery. However it was not long before the rain stopped and the rest of the day was lovely and fine. Some of us consumed ripe guavas growing alongside the tracks to make up for lost morning tea. At the pandanus palms we dropped down onto the rocky foreshore and followed around the small headlands to our usual lovely shady "lunch tree" spot. It was

only 11am but some of us were hungry, so we took a rest there and had a combined morning tea/lunch break whilst admiring the view. Amongst all the beach debris we found some empty shark egg cases.



After the break we walked up to Turtle Lookout for good views up and down the coast. Then down to the sandy strip before heading back to the tracks. Around this northern section some of the track had turned into small lakes at times and we had to manoeuvre around them. Once back onto the bitumen road it was easy going through the built up area to the car park. In spite of the big expansive bitumen car park, some vehicles had actually parked with their rear wheels on the dirt/mud. One vehicle had to be pushed out & Caz did some serious revving before she got her vehicle free. We were on the road home early afternoon.

Thankyou everyone who came for making it a good day.

Penny

### **Cattle Creek 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012**



When I was young and wanted to be taller my dad used to say 'so long as your legs reach the ground you are tall enough'. When crossing Cattle Creek I again wished that I was taller as it would have meant I would be further out of the water! But even those more vertically endowed got wet above the knees that day!

We started the walk with a creek crossing, some choosing to go bare foot, some smart enough to have brought water friendly shoes, and others just going in boots and all, realising that there would likely be more wet feet ahead. Soon we were like pioneers bashing our way through overgrowth of lantana and long grass, thanks to Dan up front with his trusty secateurs and great sense of direction we eventually slithered under the fence and down to the river...exactly opposite the farm buildings on the opposite side. We continued along the bank, rock hopping and clambering to the sound of rushing water drowning out fluttering of butterflies, sometimes in the bush and sometimes hanging on to the edge of the water.



Eventually we had to cross to the other bank. However the water level was higher than ever before, so the rocks we would normally have hopped across on were submerged, so into the water once again. I was glad I had brought my stick for extra support, and took each step carefully making sure it was secure before lifting the other. Most of us were more concerned about our cameras going under than ourselves! The water in the middle was quite fast flowing and the rocks slippery but everyone kept a look out for each other. Lucky Garry was close by when one of our newer members lost her

footing and went floating down stream...Garry did a swift water rescue and managed to hold on while she struggled to get her balance again and make it to the other side. Not sure if the camera survived that dunking! After a rest and a replacing of boots we were off again upstream.

By lunch time some of the group decided they had gone far enough and it was time for a refreshing swim, while others ventured a bit further on. After we regrouped we retraced our steps and ventured across the river again, with no more incidents. The passage through the overgrowth was much easier on the way home as the hard work had been done, then one final creek crossing. We even had a

'dressing shed' to change out of our wet clothes, and afterwards Kate shared her bountiful supply of avocados.

Just as well we did Cattle Creek when we did, as the following week it was in heavy flood after days of endless rainfall. Even the bravest of us would not have made the crossing.

Thank you to Francis for leading another successful walk into a part of our own back yard which the normal Valley traveller never gets the chance to see from the comfort of their car. They don't know what they are missing!

Eddie.

### **Cape Hillsborough Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

It was a small group of four bushwalkers who gathered at the car park on a cloudy Sunday morning for the trip north to rendez-vous with Kathy and Paul at the start of the walk. Jaime's presence lowered the mean age considerably, and one third of the participating members were men.



The day's activities got underway with a 1.2km boardwalk, moving through several different ecosystems fairly quickly, and the cultural highlight of the walk was a large midden. A fig tree well laden with fruit and some flowering grass trees also drew our interest.

The cars were then driven to the start of the Hillsborough walking track at the northern end of the picnic area, and we set off up the hill feeling optimistic about the weather as before long the sun was shining brightly. The well maintained track took us to a lookout and then through to the beach, and we set off along the sand to find the

path up a gully to the swimming hole, which was overflowing but not terribly inviting because of its muddy colour. However, we made ourselves very comfortable in the shade and morning tea was enjoyed as we listened to the cascading water.



It was now time to head south along the grey sand of Cape Hillsborough to climb the stairs up to the two highest lookouts, and even though the sky was now threatening rain, the rugged scenery to the south and the west, and the rocky islands to the east looked spectacular. Butterflies were out and about, cassia trees were flowering abundantly, and at least one healthy skink was observed.

The group headed down in light rain to the remaining two lookouts over less well used tracks, and as high tide prevented us from walking back along the

beach, the day became more challenging as we undertook some off-track work in misty rain. However, we all enjoyed going bush after our leisurely morning, and we were soon strolling across the resort parkland towards our waiting cars. As it was cloudy and wet, we all decided taking our lunches home to eat in comfort was the best idea, but not without admiring once again the grandeur of the rocky scenery to our north.



Thank you Peter for a great morning of walking, and for providing a suitable alternative to the aborted Dalrymple Creek walk, which hopefully will occur when the weather is finer.

Carole

# *Social Activities for March*



*Petula Clark Concert*

Enjoying dinner before heading off to the Petula Clark concert. There was a mix up with the name of the restaurant and most others declined to attend as they were under the impression Hungry Jack's instead of Outback Jack's was the venue. 11 of us enjoyed the concert and were all in awe of Petula's talent, especially considering her age.

*The Games Night*

Once again Dan proved to be a fabulous host and it was a great night of friendly competition. Some games had a few different interpretations on the rules but a lot of laughs were had along the way. Most people brought along a game or two but Edie arrived with a real treasure trove, many taking us back to our childhoods. I was impressed watching a group of women trying to see who would be the first to assemble their bug. Poor Cheryl seemed doomed to only have a head. It must be 30 years since I have played 500 but after a rusty start the memory soon came back. Thanks Dan and it was great to see some new faces at a social gathering and thanks to Penny for providing the photos.

