



The Message Stick

April 2013

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

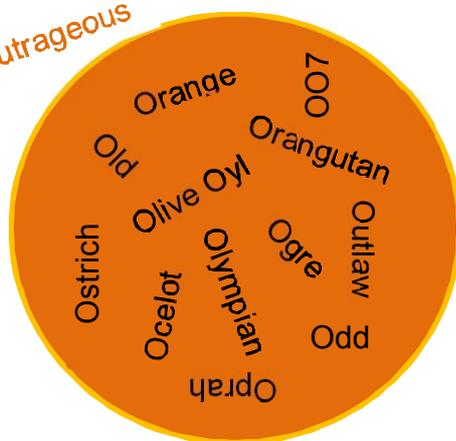
Web: <http://www.mackay.bwq.org.au>

Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

Blacks Creek Gorge Camp	6 th & 7 th April
Eimeo to Reliance Creek	7 th April
Mt Hector	9 th April
Maud Creek Falls	14 th April
General Meeting	17 th April
The Big O Party.....	19 th April
Teemdeavour Loop.....	21 st April
Diamond Cliffs Camp	25 th – 28 th April
Blacks Beach, Dolphin Heads & Eimeo Beach.....	5 th May
Mt Henry & Beyond Camp	1 st & 2 nd June

It's Outrageous



Oh Dear

The Possibilities are endless

Come along to the **Big O** party at Dan's house to help those with an "O" birthday this year to celebrate.

**It's guaranteed to be a whole lot of fun.
Everyone welcome**

Club Officers

President	Dan McKinlay	49534249	Contact Officer	Cheryl Brodie	49552895
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	49440236	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	KevinSmith	49696068	Publicity Officer	Rob Kollin	49512490
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236	Social Coordinator	Dan McKinlay	49534249

From the Editor

Again the weather has played havoc with our walks calendar! Teemdeavour had to be postponed once more due to the road being closed. Fingers crossed it will be able to go ahead in April.

Quite a few club members this month have been involved with helping Professor Roger Kitching and his team with the climate change project up at Eungella and Mt Dalrymple. I think all those who have been involved have enjoyed the experience and felt they were taking part in something extremely worthwhile. The evening session held at CQU was very interesting and informative. It is very special to have such important study and research being conducted in our area and we were privileged to be involved. I thoroughly enjoyed the day I spent up there emptying insect traps, hugging and measuring trees. Even though all of us up there that day came back battered and bleeding from wrestling with the undergrowth, we felt we had achieved something. I for one will be putting my hand up to help again when the team returns to our area.

Although we haven't had many bushwalks this year due to the weather, it is pleasing to see the enthusiasm for the next few months. There is a lot of variety in what is being offered so let's hope we can all get out there and enjoy ourselves in the bush!

Thanks Dan for once again giving us the opportunity to dress up in silly costumes to have a night of outrageous fun.

Our Publicity Officer is Rob Kollin

robertskool@gld.chariot.net.au

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

Items for the next newsletter

should be sent to

jennywooding@dodo.com.au

prior to 26th April

Key to Walks Grading System

Distance

Terrain

Terrain

S = short – under 5km

M = medium – 5-10km

L = long – over 10km

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

1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners

4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required

8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only

Safety Officer Segment

A reminder on keeping walkers together as a group!
Keep tabs on walkers behind and in front of you. If one or more walkers are slower than the front of the group, or are held up for any reason, walkers along the "chain" need to pass along knowledge of the hold-up otherwise the leaders do not know some are left behind and can continue on obliviously.

Library and Club Memorabilia

As the club's 40th anniversary is approaching next year, it would be great to compile a photographic history of walks and other activities enjoyed by members over the years. If you have old photos, newspaper cuttings or newsletters which you would like to share, please contact me on 49522269 or 0423 046187. I will scan and return or alternatively they can be added to our small library.

The club presently has three books available for loan to members. You can borrow simply for a good read or to help you in planning your next trip away. If you have any bushwalking, travel or camping books that you think others might enjoy and are happy to provide, these can be listed for borrowing as well.

Books available -

Ramblers Guide to Lord Howe Island

Lord Howe Island, 600kms off the coast of New South Wales is a wonderful place for the walker to visit. It has many natural features of interest and is quite safe as there are no snakes. All of the trails are clearly marked except for Mount Gower. The lagoon is also great for swimming, paddling and snorkeling.

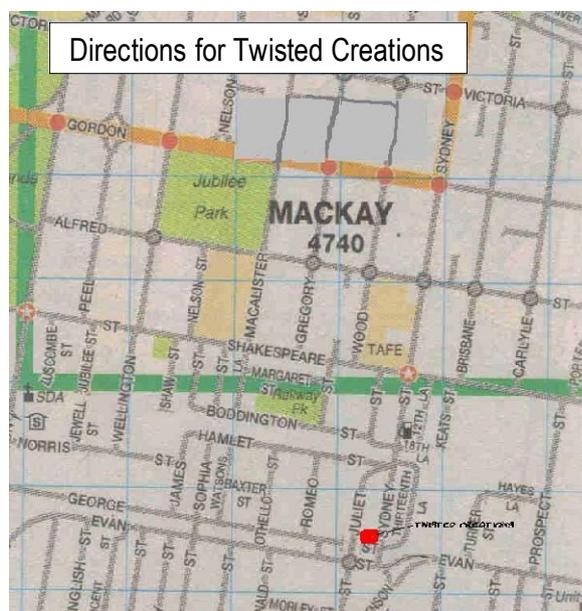
Birds of Lord Howe Island

Lord Howe Island is a haven for birdlife and this was one factor in recognizing the island for World Heritage Listing in 19982. A total of 202 different birds have been recorded on the island. This guide provides notes for all breeding species plus the regular visitors.

Walks of Flinders Island

As part of the spectacular Furneaux group of islands in Eastern Bass Strait, Flinders Island offers walkers rugged and challenging mountain peaks, lazy and isolated beaches and seemingly endless coastline. Descriptions, maps and colour photos of 51 walks on Flinders Island.

Kathy, Club Secretary



Reminder of option for club logo on shirts

I would like to remind all club members that you can have our club logo embroidered onto your choice of shirt by dropping into Twisted Creations at the southern end of Sydney Street.

The lovely ladies at Twisted Creations have set up the club logo and you just need to drop off your shirt or purchase a shirt there for embroidering. The cost is very minimal and it looks great especially against orange or a dark olive. It is a shame to see that only a few members have taken up this option especially after the discussions held over several meetings.

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

Blacks Creek Gorge Camp Saturday/Sunday 6th & 7th April

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474
Depart: 7am
Journey: 175km \$18
Map Ref: New Mirani 737480 to 748442

Estimated Walking Time: 6 hours each day – hilly country with a steep scramble – average pace – open forest with some heavy grass and rocky creeks – expect some decent swimming holes.

Hooray there will be water in the creek. Now all we need is for the road to be open.

The start of this overnight backpacking walk is at Horse Creek Cattle Yards, about 6km of rough 4WD road, approx.. 6km from Teemburra Creek.

Day 1: We head south, crossing Native Bear Creek on the way to Rocky Dam Creek, then downstream to camp in Black's Creek before the gorge.

Day 2: Down to the gorge – then steep scramble out of gorge and back by a different route.

Please, expressions of interest and 4WD availability ASAP. Booking no later than Tuesday 2nd April.

Eimeo Creek to Reliance Creek Sunday 7th April

Leader: Carole Weekes 49546108
Depart: 8am
Journey: \$2.50 if applicable *
Grade: L23

Estimated walking time: 5 hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 20 metres **Pace:** average
Vegetation: very little – mangroves, melaleuca forest, grassy tracks **Expect:** sand, some rocks, insects, and either rain or sunshine, so come prepared for both.

This is being offered as an easy outing for those who are not going backpacking at Black's Creek Gorge, but we will be doing the return trip as well on foot, so over the day we will be covering about 14 kms. I am expecting only a few participants, so we will probably meet at the Bucasia Boat Ramp leading into Eimeo Creek, near the Bucasia Caravan Park. However, details will be finalised when members phone to book for the walk.

As we will have quite a high tide early in the day, we will start off in parkland and then follow a sandy track through scrub to Ko Huna where we will gain access to the beach. The aim will be to relax for a while at Shoal Pt and proceed to Reliance Creek. As there is a very low tide at 15.24, the group will be able to stay on the beach all the way back.

Mt Hector Exploratory Tuesday 9th April

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474
Depart: 8.30am
Journey: 80km \$8.
Map Ref: Mackay 351 462
Grade: M33

To gain access to this area we plan to cross a tidal creek at Louisa Creek. We have one blow up dinghy available to ferry us across. If you have anything else available please contact leader pronto. Once across we will be able to view attractive coloured rocks and scramble up small hill, "Mt Hector." Then there is a pleasant 4km stroll along Ballykeel Beach.

REMEMBER – NO COVER – OPEN SUN-
COULD BE A THIRSTY DAY.

**Maud Creek Falls
Sunday April 14th**

Leader: Steven Morgan
(4954 0037, 0418 882 817)
Depart: 6:00am
Journey: 200km \$20.00
Map Ref: Mirani 631733 to 610767
Grade: M87

Estimated walking time: 8 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 160m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest **Expect:** some steep slopes, some rockhopping, scrambles, wait-a-while, swimming holes, difficult creek crossings.

This walk is off the end of Chelmans Road. It is likely that the last section of Chelmans Road will only be suitable for 4WD's. Our walk takes us past an impressive stand of Flooded Gums down a ridge to Maud Creek and then along Maud Creek. With the extra time from the earlier start, Maud Creek Falls should be comfortably reached by lunch time. A rope handline will be available to assist with descent of the falls for those who wish to go to the bottom. Enjoy sitting under the water of these majestic falls before retracing our steps home. This will be a full day so don't plan on an early return home. Maud Creek Falls are in an isolated location, and there are excellent swimming holes in the area.

Please book for this walk by Friday 12 April.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 17th April**

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

THE BIG O PARTY THEME

Question-What do Cheryl Brodie, Kathy Cant, Christine Carlisle, Fran Balmer, Maureen Thompson, Kevin Smith and Clive Goodson all have in common??????????

Answer-Believe it or not these long term, popular bushwalkers all have had or are having a birthday this year with an age that ends with an 0.

How can we miss a party to celebrate these members achieving such a milestone?

When: Friday 19th April

Where: Dan's place: Unit 1/8 Jubilee Street.

Time- commencing 6pm-6.30 pm.

Please bring a main or a desert and your own drinks. This party will have an O theme. Some ideas (Cheryl has given me hints also) -Old, Ostrich Feathers, Outlaw, Orange, Oriental, Oktoberfest, Old Mother Hubbard, Olive Oyl, Olympic, Wizard of OZ character, Orange, Opera, Outlandish, Officer, Ogre, Odd....., the possibilities are endless.

Contact me either email

dan.mckinlay@mackay.qld.gov.au or phone

0409057494 or home 49534249 re your

attendance and confirming what food you are

bringing. If you have not attended one of these parties before they are very, very enjoyable.

Newcomers are very welcome.

**Teemdeavour Loop (Take 3)
Sunday 21st April**

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236

Depart: 6am

Journey: 160km \$16

Map Ref: Mirani 749 517

Grade: L56

Walking Time: 7 hours **Total of uphill:** 300m

Terrain: Creek banks, rocks, long grass

Expect: Cow pads, fairly easy creek bank walking, some rock hopping, short steep scrambles, bush bashing, swimming.

Although this is a familiar area, this is a new walk, a variation/combination of Teemburra and Endeavour Creek walks covering some new sections. We will start at Captain's Crossing and head upstream towards Teemburra Dam (instead of the usual downstream). A fairly leisurely stroll up Teemburra will bring us to the junction with Endeavour Creek (3.3km). We will then divert into Endeavour Creek and follow it upstream to a small waterhole (2.2km). From here we will "scramble" (hands and knees) up a short but steep grassy gully to pick up the road (300m). Once on the road we will travel north

(2.2km). Leaving the road we will bush bash on a compass bearing (106.8°) to pick up a ridge and eventually reach Teemburra Creek atop a small waterfall leading down to the "Big Waterhole" (1.4km). There will be another "scramble" down to the waterhole. The aim is to be at the waterhole for a slightly late but extended lunch with copious swimming and frolicking. The final leg will be north up Teemburra back to the cars (2.7km). All up we will be covering around 13km's so although not overly difficult, it is a long day, hence the early 6am start, you will be glad of the swim at the big waterhole by the time you get there.

**Backpacking Camp to Eastern End of
Diamond Cliffs
25th to 28th April**

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474
Map Ref: New Mirani 642 357

The sheltered overhang (cave) is situated behind the bump at the Eastern end of Diamond Cliffs. Camping space is limited. Tents are not necessary. Water will be available nearby. To reach this point we can expect some scrub bashing through lantana and prickly vines.

From the Cave Base Camp we can do a day walk over the ridge to the East and down to Lost Rock. Another possibility is exploring behind the cliffs on the next day. Hopefully by scrambling to the top on Saturday at dusk we will be able to catch a great moonrise.

It would be worth taking leave on Friday, to do the full four days. Depending on Victor's availability a two day (Sat/Sun) option may be on offer. DUE TO CAMPING SPACE numbers will be limited. PLEASE INFORM LEADER PROMPTLY IF INTERESTED IN EITHER OPTION. Final arrangements will be made at the next monthly meeting.

**Black's Beach, Dolphin Heads and Eimeo
Beach**

Sunday, 5th May

Leader: Carole Weekes 49546108
Depart: 8am
Journey: \$3
Grade: M23

Estimated walking time: 4 hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 30 metres **Pace:** average **Vegetation:** not much **Expect:** sand, some

rocks, tracks, sun, insects, possibly some road walking {depending on tide}, a regatta on Eimeo Beach.

The plan is to park the cars at the Black's Beach picnic area near Dolphin Heads, to walk along bush tracks to McCreedy's Creek while the tide is high, and then return via the beach before following the shoreline around the rocks from Dolphin Heads to Eimeo Beach. As the tide is only 0.74 m at 14.12, this should allow us to have lunch at Eimeo Creek (Eimeo side) and return back around the rocks to the cars. If the tide comes in too quickly for this, we will follow plan B and explore the residential areas of Dolphin Heads before reaching the car park via the scenic staircase.

This walk has been undertaken once before in recent memory, and will be a day of varied walking with exposure to much spectacular coastal scenery.

**North of Mt Henry Camp
Saturday/Sunday 1st & 2nd June**

Leader: Steven Morgan
(4954 0037, 0418 882 817)
Depart: 7:00am
Journey: 200km \$20.00
Camp Fees: \$5.45
Map Ref: Mirani

Day 1

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 360m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest **Expect:** some rockhopping, leeches, **Grade:** M77.

Day 2

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 360m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest **Expect:** some rockhopping, leeches, **Grade:** M77.

The plan is to walk along the Western Trail to the top of the ridge between the first and second creeks, and then to follow this ridge northwards across Mt Henry then further north and to the west and drop into the creek system. We will make camp somewhere in the creek system, possible in the area of 674766. The return walk will depend on where we end up for

the night, but the preferred option is to climb back up a different tributary and reach the saddle area at the very head of Cattle Creek on the region of 685765 and then follow the creek down to the Western Trail (third crossing) and then via the Western Trail back to the cars.

Much of the route proposed for this walk is exploratory, and participants need to be capable of going with the flow as the walk unfolds.

Intending campers must book with the leader by no later than Wednesday 29 May

Previous Activities

Smalleys Beach to Cape Hillsborough Sunday 24 Feb 2013

This walk was done as a substitute for the Junction walk which was postponed due to unsuitable weather.

The walk commenced from Smalleys Beach Campground where the leader Coral was camped with the Church group. There were complaints about the wet weather during the night.

We walked along Smalleys Beach and then up the track clearly tagging it along the way. This section of track was fairly steep through wet vegetation after the light rain. There were lots and lots of beautiful and extraordinary fungi to marvel at and photograph along the way. At the top we had a late smoko on top of a big rock with fantastic views of Smalleys Beach and Smiths Pinnacle.

We continued along the track to the top of Top Lookout hill. This is the best vantage point in this area providing 360 degree views taking in Cape Hillsborough, Wedge Island and many islands off the coast including the Whitsundays to the north. This was a top spot for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30.

The weather had cleared up and became hot and sunny. We continued along track down to the "Blop Blop" Pool but it wasn't making noise today. (explanation – a couple of us were here a month earlier and the pool would intermittently make "blop blop gurgling sounds")

Further down the track a clear view of Wedge Island causeway gave a good indication of a favourable tide for a beach walk back to cars. A huge stick insect in a bush near the track here caused many photographic delays.

We continued to the top of bitumen track seat and had arvo tea.

We then walked down the bitumen track to the north for a very refreshing swim in the popular swimming hole. The creek had a nice flow. As a result, the pool had a waterfall, a spa and a shower built in. Very nice!

We then had a pleasant walk back along the beach past a beach cricket match to perform part 2 of the car shuffle.

Some had an ice cream at the Cape Hillsborough Kiosk. Some even had two ice creams!!!!

Kevin

Navigation Practical Training Day Sunday 10th March



This was the day we got to put into practice the skills we had been learning over the 3 nights of theory. It was a great day and one that I found to be very worthwhile. I was very impressed with the patience Kevin



displayed and I think all who attended gained a lot from the experience. I will let the pictures speak for themselves. Thanks Therese for the photos



I would like to say a huge thank you to Kevin for all the time and effort that went into planning and running the two navigation courses this year. Also to Garry for teaching the GPS component of the courses. An enormous amount of time went in behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the program, so well done to both Kevin and Garry. Thanks Guys!

😊



Climate Change Study



Malaise Trap



Emptying an insect light trap