



# The Message Stick

## December 2017

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

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### Future Events

Christmas Camp.....	25th & 26th November
General Meeting .....	17th January
Eungella Tracks.....	21st January



Memories of 2017



Merry Christmas and Happy New Everyone

### Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	4954 6108	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Ian Brooks	0408 071 965	Assis Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Treasurer	Ian Burgess	0428 875 991	Equipment Officer	Julie Vella	0403 230 545
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

### *From the Editor*

It's break up time already - 2017 has flown by but it has been another successful year for the club with lots of interesting walks on offer.

At the AGM a new committee was voted in and a big thankyou to everyone who put their hand up to take on a position. We especially welcome the 2 Ian's who are both new to the committee.

It's that time of the year again when we wind up for the Christmas and New Year break. On behalf of the club I would like to wish all members and their families a safe and happy Christmas. Lots of people will be heading off for some adventures over the break so it will be good to catch up and swap stories in the New Year. Garry and I are heading off to the North Island of New Zealand and we will finish with a backpack walk on Great Barrier Island.

Merry Christmas everyone and I hope the jolly man in the red suit finds you all.

**Items for the next newsletter should  
be sent to  
[jennywooding@dodo.com.au](mailto:jennywooding@dodo.com.au)  
prior to 24<sup>th</sup> January**

### *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**

**Induction 6.30pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Eungella tracks  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2018**

**Leader:** Daphne Goodson 0417 706240, 4954  
9338  
**Depart:** 7am  
**Journey:** 180km \$18

**Map Ref:** Mirani

**Grade:** L15

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours **Total of all**

**uphill sections:** 100m **Pace:** average **Terrain:**

Graded walking tracks **Vegetation:**

rainforest, **Expect,** leeches and swimming holes.

This year instead of doing a through walk, cars will

be left at the Crediton end of the walk. We will walk

to Broken River and maybe beyond depending on

the mood of the day. Walkers will then return to the cars via the same track.

We could have the option of having lunch at the kiosk, and those who do not want to walk back to the cars could stay for a relaxed afternoon at the kiosk/broken river swim area. The walk is suitable for beginners, and is entirely on graded tracks. You will need to bring plenty of drinking water, hat, swimmers and insecticide.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Western Trail and Pretty Creek**

**5th November**

Sixteen of our members alighted from the cars with enthusiasm in Dalrymple Road at about 9am ready to walk the first section of the Western Trail. Although Clive, Peter, Charles and Bryan were strongly outnumbered by the ladies, there was a pleasing mix of regular walkers, new members and faces we had been missing recently.



Ideal conditions allowed us to cover the taped trail at a good pace, and in under an hour we were surprised to find ourselves negotiating the descent into Pretty Creek. As always we were confronted by logs to climb over or to crawl underneath, but conditions were fairly dry so we were not walking down slippery surfaces as we sometimes have had to do. However, it was not too dry to be leech free, so most people picked quite a few off, and bloody patches were visible on some garments and limbs.

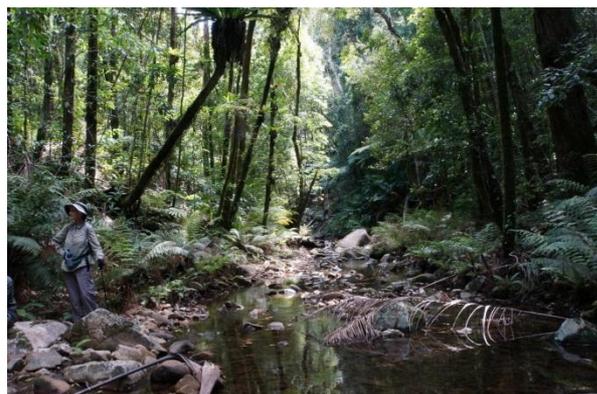
Our arrival at the delightful creek prompted a morning tea stop, and we enjoyed birdsong and the calming sounds of the water bubbling over pebbles and rocks. A discussion about the next section of our walk led to the decision to explore upstream of Pretty Creek with a view to reaching the waterfall. We underwent a few easy creek crossings, some bush bashing and in some cases balancing along logs and soon we had the gentle cascades in sight. There were no inviting swimming holes but one

water bottle and one lens cover found the water enticing. Both were retrieved before sailing away downstream. Most of the group set off to the top of the waterfall, with five choosing to stay put in the creek bed.



After lunch it was time to retrace our steps to the cars. Wildlife sightings

were not a feature of this trip, but some very photogenic fungi, lots of grand old trees supporting a variety of epiphytes, ferns and palms reminded us of why we were in the rainforest. Thanks to all those who contributed to the pleasant day, especially to Clive for his leading the way.



Carole

## Mick Ready Beach Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Nine members braved the wind and rain at the time of meeting in town, and drove to the start of the walk where we were joined by newcomer Carmel from Sarina.

Several of the ladies donned colourful water proof pack covers. It worked a charm. There was no more rain for the rest of the day.

Mick Ready beach was named after an early pioneer. As we negotiated the rugged access road on foot, Ian (Hamilton) commented that he would be interested in trying to drive in, but only in someone else's car – not his own.



In the early stages of the day we saw and heard quite a few birds including the distinctive call of the orange footed scrub fowl.



Walking inland around the creek we found a track less travelled and then deviated along a fence line back to the beach for a smoko stop. When we reached Breens Creek the outgoing tide was only ankle deep. We thought about getting our



feet wet and then turned back towards the Victor Point headland. Here we took in sweeping views of Hay Point with Mackay in the background around to Mt Haydon and Grasstree point. Directly out to sea was Victor Island with queuing coal ships in the background. After some photo shooting we made our way back to the beach for a lunch break out of the blustery wind. By this time Mick Ready Creek was well out for the beach crossing which presented no problem.

As there is a maze of tracks in the area we took a slightly different route back to the cars and saw different mud puddles. It was estimated that we had covered approx. 12kms with a significant head wind on the way back.

Some of us finished off the day with a quick trip to Grasstree Point and the water tank and you guessed it – a stop at the ice-cream shop.

Coral

