



# The Message Stick

## December 2020

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

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### Future Events

St Helens Creek.....	6 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Break up Camp.....	12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> December
General meeting.....	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Eungella Tracks.....	24 <sup>th</sup> January



*Walkers enjoying the shade of a large fig tree on the Blacks Creek walk*



### Club Officers

President	Bruce Pownall	0417 759 032	Contact Officer	
Vice President	Clive Goodson			
Secretary	Daphne Goodson	0417 706 240		
Treasurer	Mari Simmonds	0459 835 551		
Equipment Officer	Clive Goodson	0417 706 240		
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532	Membership Secretary	Mari Simmonds 0459 835 551

## *From the Editor*

It has been a crazy year with Covid 19 causing a lot of disruptions not only to our club but to life in general. However it's great to see things getting back to normal and we have had a busy walks calendar of late with plenty of variety on offer. Many thanks to those who have put their hands up to lead walks.

On behalf of everyone in the club I would like to wish all the best to Steve Morgan for a speedy recovery. Steve, we are all thinking of you and your family at this very difficult time.

Wishing all club members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to catching up with you all in the bush in 2021. Hope the jolly gentleman in the red suit is kind to all.

Many thanks to Daphne for once again organising the Christmas camp and BBQ dinner. It's a lot of work to put it all together and Daphne does it very well.

Items for the next newsletter should  
be sent to  
[mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com)  
prior to 22<sup>nd</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,  
8-10 = Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling,  
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 before undertaking your walk and return it as soon as possible afterwards**

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks before 12.00pm the day before the walk unless otherwise stated.

## **St Helens Creek Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Leader:** Kate Brunner 49588436,  
[katcalen@hotmail.com](mailto:katcalen@hotmail.com)

**Journey:** 140km \$14

**Depart:** 7am

**Terrain:** Uneven creek bed and edges, Rock hopping and walking in water

The water level is fairly low at the moment but it can change quickly at this time of year. We will adapt to either. How far we go will also depend on the group and the weather.

We could easily form two groups as some may just want to swim and linger in the shade. I would like to start the walk from our place, 1190 Mt Charlton Rd if some would like to start from Hunter's water hole, they could organise their own permission or go without. We can meet up at the waterhole. I would allow about half an hour walking time from my place to Hunter's waterhole plus a bit more for getting ready.

For creek walks in general I like to wear shoes that can get wet, so we can walk in the water.

## **Christmas Camp 12th & 13th December**

**Coordinator:** Daphne Goodson 0417706240

The Christmas Camp this year will take place at Neem Hall, 4948 Mackay Eungella Road, Finch Hatton.

Located on the banks of Cattle Creek, the 5 acre block has B.B.Q and picnic areas, with parking available for camping vehicles or tents. The air-conditioned house is freshly renovated, with 4 huge bedrooms (sleeps 12, 10 beds,) 2 bathrooms, 4 toilets, 2 dining areas, a large lounge area and great modern kitchen. Linen is provided for the house guests.

No smoking, pets allowed.

You can arrive at the camp anytime from early afternoon on Saturday.

For the weekend, the club will pay all costs for camping, staying in the House or being a day visitor.

A BBQ dinner at night will also be provided at no cost. We do ask all participants to bring a

plate of nibbles / dessert to share and to provide their own breakfast.

Partners and friends are also welcome to attend.

The activities are flexible, swimmers and flotation devices might be useful, or we might decide to do a walk and swim at the Gorge.

[Please notify Daphne by 8th December if you intend coming along](#)

## **Induction 6.30pm General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

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

Induction by Clive and Daphne

## **Eungella Tracks 24th January 2021**

**Leaders:** Clive and Daphne Goodson 0417 706 240 / 0749 549 338

Traditionally the first walk of each calendar year is the Eungella Tracks and Clive and Daphne will be keeping the tradition alive in 2021.

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 180km \$20.00

**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 is a return walk commencing at Eungella Township, along the graded walking track to Broken River. The track takes us past several lookouts, eventually crossing Broken River where we should be able to enjoy lunch and a swim.

The walk is suitable for beginners and is entirely on graded walking track, and you have the option of doing the full walk (approx 20km) or stopping, either at the Broken River picnic area, or Sky Window on the way back.

You will need to bring plenty of water, swimmers and insect repellent

## *Previous Activities*

### **Blacks Creek 1st November**



A total of 16 walkers in all, including new first time walker Peter Bailey. Welcome Peter. The local cattle found us interesting and gathered around curiously as we prepared to commence our walk. We divided into 2 groups, with Daphne, Coral, Edie and Carole being led by Frances for a day of relaxed, leisurely paced walking and exploring. The rest of the walkers headed off with destination lunchtime and swimming hole in mind.

After reaching the big tree, we continued on and found a shady spot for a morning tea rest. Some people went swimming to cool down. After our welcomed rest we continued on with scrambling, lantana and scrubby vines. We reached our lunch spot at 11:30am and decided on a long break. Some continued up river searching for a better swimming and lunch spot, soon to return looking hot and tired. Along relaxing lunch with shaded swimming holes was enjoyed. Some stayed in the water for most of the lunch break.



On the return walk back down the creek we decided to cross to avoid the tangly banks. In deciding going this way we had to endure walking on extremely hot sand and rocks which were reflecting the heat. We headed for the shade, unfortunately we had to endure some more lantana but managed to stay shaded most of the time.

Almost back to the cars, some people had a last swim, the water level was low in the creek, making the water temperature warmer than usual. We continued on to the cars where the other group of walkers waited in the shade. A lot of birdlife was sighted along the creek including dollar birds. Julie being our bird spotting and identifying expert pointed out birds to the group throughout the day.



Thank you Jenny and Garry for your support. Thank you Frances for helping to organize and getting permission for entry to the area.

Deb

## Owens Creek 15<sup>th</sup> November



We were seven walkers in total and we divided into two groups. Daphne and Carole were led by Frances for a more relaxed day of walking, rockhopping and exploring.

Peter, Julie, Mari and I headed upstream rockhopping and being a hot day we were dry and safe. We reached the rope bridge which hangs from bank to bank across the creek where we stopped for morning tea.

After a good rest we continued on walking along the rainforest creek banks, back into the creek, rockhopping until almost 12 o'clock. Reaching a shady water hole it was decided on lunch and swimming. Peter continued on

for some more exploring. We had a lovely relaxing lunch break, cooling down with a swim.



After lunch we turned around and headed back down the creek to the cars, eventually meeting up with the other group sitting on the creek bank relaxing. All of us continued onwards towards the cars. It seemed everyone enjoyed their day in Owen's creek, a picturesque creek with palms, orchids and elkhorns.

Thankyou Peter for co-leading and your support. Thank you Frances for helping to organise and receiving permission from the land owners to enter into the creek.

Deb



**Mackay Bushwalkers were well represented by these 3 ladies at a recent breakfast put on by CQ Rescue to thank donors. Fortunately we don't need to use the services of this valuable organisation too often.**

