



# The Message Stick

## December 2021

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

### Future Events

Owens Creek.....	28 <sup>th</sup> November
St Helens Creek.....	5 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Break up camp.....	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> December
General Meeting.....	19 <sup>th</sup> January
Eungella Tracks.....	23 <sup>rd</sup> January



Traversing the boulders in  
Rawsons Creek



*Have a Safe and Happy  
Holiday Season  
Everyone*

### Club Officers

President	Bruce Pownall	0417 759 032	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	4957 8474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	0455872207	Digital Officer	Garry Hendicott	4846 1490
Secretary	Daphne Goodson	0417 706 240	Membership Secretary	Mari Simmonds	0429190168
Treasurer	Mari Simmonds	0429 190 168			
Equipment Officer	Bruce Pownall	0417 759 032			
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

### *From the Editor*

Many, many thanks to Bruce, Daphne and Mari for continuing in their roles as President, Secretary and Treasurer of our club. They do an amazing job of keeping things running smoothly so we can all get out and enjoy our time in the bush together. Also thanks to Carole for stepping up to take on the Vice President role.

Over the next few months a big wet season is forecast which can wreak havoc with our walks calendar. Leaders may need to cancel walks at short notice if they feel it is not safe to go ahead due to rainfall. All cancellations will be posted on the Message Stick Facebook page.

This is the last newsletter for 2021 so I will take this opportunity to wish everyone on behalf of the club a safe and happy festive season. I hope the jolly red giant manages to find everyone and it will be great to catch up in the new year.

**Items for the next newsletter should  
be sent to  
[mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com)  
by 25<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,  
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 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Leader:** Kate Brunner (0467976955) and/or Deb Wilson (0400319078) or messenger, either of us

**Journey:** 140km, cost \$14.00

**Depart:** 7am from town

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

Deb may lead this walk since I might have some work.

We have no set destination. How far we go will 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.

The walk starts from 1190 Mt. Charlton road.

There has been some good rain here to freshen the water in the creek, there will be creek crossings, please consider to wear shoes that can get wet.

**Christmas Camp  
11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**Coordinator:** Daphne Goodson 0417706240, Bruce Pownall

The Christmas Camp this year will take place once again 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 has 4 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 4th December if you intend coming along

**Induction 6.30pm & General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Eungella Tracks  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**

**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 2022.

**Depart:** 7am Mackay

**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*



### **Netherdale Gorge walk**

A heavy downpour the previous day revived all mosses and ferns. Fungi popped out of leaf litter and wood. The gully is home to some of the tallest tree ferns of our region.

We descended the waterfall and sloshed along the squelchy watercourse downhill, then increasingly over rocks and boulders. Till unanimously it was decided to call it lunch and turn around time. Surprisingly the leeches were not too bad but by the time we reached the cars, most of us were muddy up to knees and beyond. Thanks for great company all!

Kate.

### **Circumnavigation of Slade Point and Lamberts Beach, Sunday 14 November 2021**

With the average age of more than half of the group well over the biblical life span of three score years and ten, this walk was never going to be at a record-breaking speed. But we did manage to clock up over 10km, averaging less than 2km/hour!



We took our time, stopping frequently to take in the views from several vantage points, which of course meant some uphill trudges! We could see in the distance the peaks we had previously climbed, Mt Jukes, Mt Blackwood, Black Mountain, The Leap, Smith's Pinnacle, Smalley's Peak, and over to Cape Hillsborough. We remembered the days when we would not hesitate to sign on for one of those, and encouraged the 'youngsters' amongst us to take them on. Or a

stop to do some bird watching, including a tawny frogmouth nesting, oystercatchers on the foreshore, a Brahminy kite soaring overhead and of course plovers letting us know we were not welcome. Or to collect a spare set of teeth from a long dead small shark, or inspect a decaying turtle. Or a stop to chat to the natives who were happy to pass the time of day with us and discuss the changing shape of the shoreline. We even made time to stop and smell the frangapani.



Some might say that you cannot call Slade Point as a bushwalk.....but we proved that there is a lot of 'bush' in the area and we managed to traverse a variety of different ecosystems including ancient

melaluca forest, sand dunes, rocky shore, mangroves, saltpan, beach and back yards. Everyone in the group went places they had never been before, despite having lived in the area for most of their lifespan.



We philosophised about life, forgot our aches and pains and all the worries of the world, and staved off our dementia with exercise and socialising. Between us we have travelled to many corners of the world, but agreed that this is equal to the best in the world, right on our doorstep.

In Ireland I would say this was 'a bully wee dander with quare craic'. (I will translate for Carole 😊)

Eddie