



# The Message Stick

## July 2012

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

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### Future Events

McBride's Point.....	1 <sup>st</sup> July
Fantail Hill to 7 Mile Creek .....	8 <sup>th</sup> July
Mick Ready to Salonika Beach.....	15 <sup>th</sup> July
General Meeting .....	18 <sup>th</sup> July
Flaggy Rock.....	22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Cape Hillsborough .....	29 <sup>th</sup> July
Mt St John.....	5 <sup>th</sup> August
Pinevale Creek .....	12 <sup>th</sup> August



*Happy  
Birthday  
Maureen.  
Can't wait til  
we celebrate  
your 80<sup>th</sup> next  
year.  
You are a  
legend!*

### 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*

The August newsletter will be very late coming out as I will be gallivanting around the Northern Territory with my backpack on along with several other club members. The first 2 walks for August have been included in this newsletter to keep you up to date with what is happening.

Registrations have opened for the River to Reef Charity Bike Ride in October. So far Garry, Kathy and myself have registered. I hope we can get some more bushwalkers involved as it is a great event and all money raised stays to help people in Mackay. Please email me if you are interested in joining our Saturday morning social rides.

Dan's 60s party proved to be a great night of feasting and dancing. Some people went to a lot of trouble with their outfits and even Elvis joined the party. Elaine looked sensational in a leather coat she had owned from the 60s, mini skirt and a wig. Most of us took a while to recognize her. Thanks to Col who came along and took some great photos. I will include some in this newsletter.

A big thank you to everyone who have sent me photos and write ups for the newsletter. Keep up the good work. 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.

### 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*

#### Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

#### Fantail Hill - Seven Mile Creek Sunday 8 July

**Leader:** Kevin Smith 4969 6068  
**Depart:** 7:00am  
**Journey:** 130km \$14.00  
**Map Ref:** Mirani 789525 (Fantail Hill)  
**Grade:** M76  
**Estimated walking time:** 5 - 6 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 150m. **Pace:** average.  
**Terrain:** uneven. **Vegetation:** mostly open forest. **Expect:** some steep slopes & scrambles, long grass, lantana.  
This will be a through walk - a first in this area for the club.

From Teemburra Creek Road we will walk to Fantail Hill (a name which was given to it by some explorers recently). From there we will make our way to the top of Seven Mile Creek Falls then follow the creek out to Septimus. If the Pinnacle -Teemburra Creek Road is closed to vehicles a couple of kilometres of extra walking will be necessary. You will need to carry water for the whole day. A car shuffle is necessary.

**Mick Ready to Salonika Beach  
Sunday 15 July**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474  
**Depart:** 8:00am  
**Journey:** 90km \$9.00  
**Map Ref:** Mackay 382380  
**Grade:** M43

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 20m. **Pace:** slow. **Terrain:** beach, some uneven terrain. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** beach walking, one short scramble.

We will walk the first kilometre along the beach. Then we will go inland along a 4WD track around the creek and try to reach Salonika Beach for lunch returning by Victor Point Lookout and back across the beach. From Victor Point we will be able to see back to Grasstree Point, view Victor Island and Hay Point.

**NOTE** the late start as this is a fairly short walk.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 18th July**

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

**Flaggy Rock  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 4954 3428  
**Depart:** 7:00am  
**Journey:** 200km \$20.00  
**Map Ref:** Carmilla 508665  
**Grade:** S55

**Estimated walking time:** 4 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** **Pace:** slow - medium **Terrain:** uneven terrain **Vegetation:** open forest, long grass **Expect:** long grass, lantana, some steep slopes.

The west side of Flaggy Rock Bluff is a cliff face up to 80 metres high. We will walk around the base of the bluff to the south end, then climb to the top where we can overlook the ocean to the east, Mt Funnel to the north and hills to the west and south. Insect repellent is a must and remember to bring enough water for the whole day.

This is a fairly easy walk for the adventurous.

**Cape Hillsborough  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Paul Eder 49547639 Phone between 6 – 8 pm  
**Depart:** 7am  
**Journey:** 100km \$10  
**Map Ref:** Cape Hillsborough  
**Grade:** S47

**Estimated Walking Time:** 4-6 hours **Total of all uphill:** 300m **Pace:** Medium **Terrain:** extremely uneven – loose rocks under feet. **Expect:** some steep scrambles **Vegetation:** open forest with lots of grass trees.

The walk starts in the northern section of the park with a leisurely walk along the beach past the one and only swimming hole in the cape to the foothill of our first climb. Magic views to Orchid Wedge and all the other islands are to be had from the top plus a little sweetener “morning tea.” We will then scramble down onto a ridge which takes us to the interior of the island where we encounter some caves – up again to the highest peak of the cape – more spectacular views. Then it's all downhill perhaps a stop at Cathedral cave if enough energy is left. Do bring enough water for the day and solid shoes.

Perhaps a stop at the teahouse on the way back.

**Mt St John  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer 49576028  
**Depart:** 7:00am  
**Journey:** 200km \$20.00  
**Map Ref:** Hillalong 549495  
**Grade:** M65

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 450m. **Pace:** average. **Terrain:** very uneven. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** some steep slopes, steep scrambles, long grass, lantana.

Mt St John is a small prominent mountain in the Crediton area. Good views should be available from the summit. Mt Dalrymple to the north, Mt Britton and Teemburra areas to the east and the Glenden area to the west.

Be prepared for long grass and scratchy vegetation so long gaiters are recommended. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

**Pinevale Creek  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 4954 3428  
**Depart:** 7:00am  
**Journey:** 130km \$13.00  
**Map Ref:** Mirani 910430  
**Grade:** M57

**Estimated walking time:** 6-7 hours **Total of**

**all uphill sections:** 700+m **Pace:** average

**Terrain:** very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest  
**Expect:** some rockhopping, lantana, moonlighter, spear grass, swimming holes.

This walk begins just below the place where the Pioneer River begins, at the junction of Blacks

Creek and Black Waterhole Creek. Depending on water levels, there may be a chance for a swim at the end of the walk. We will follow Pinevale Creek along a disused road to the site of a disused copper mine, and will then rockhop further up the creek to the top of Mt. Ben Mohr (all going well). We will not be going into the mine, we may look at the site on the return trip. This is a medium to hard walk, suitable for people who don't mind rockhopping up a creek. Be dressed to go through long grass lantana. You will need to carry water and food for the whole day.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Rescue Ridge Reckie**

Having committed ourselves to leading a club walk into Rescue Ridge, we decided it might be smart to do a "reckie" as it had been some time and quite a few cyclones since we had last been there.

Stumbling around in the undergrowth, trying to look like you are not really lost, does not inspire confidence in a group, who are relying on you for a good day out.

So armed with a map, our trusty GPS, copious amounts of pink tape and heaps of enthusiasm, we confidently set forth.

As we drove down Dalrymple Rd, we past a rather large dog loping along looking lost. No sooner had we stopped the car, than he bounded up to us, he looked very pleased to have been found.

As he breathed his doggy breath into my face (he was VERY large) I got a close up view of the massive chain collar secured around his throat with a huge D shackle which was heavy enough to pull a tractor out of a bog. As we did not have a vehicle that required towing, we decided to dispense with his company. National Park –large dog-not good. We proceeded to scare it away with sticks and stones and much loud shouting. Looking quite forlorn, it trotted off around the corner.

We had not long entered the rainforest when we heard something big crashing through the bushes, and it was coming our way. We froze in terror thinking pigs, we are about to be attacked by pigs!

It was Dog, huge doggy smile on his face; he had come to join us for walkies in the rainforest. Oh goodie, goodie, what fun?

Several very good wet seasons have promoted a lush crop of tangled undergrowth in the area. The snips were working overtime in the wait awhile and it was really hard to locate many of the old tapes as a lot of trees had fallen over. We bravely struggled on, leeches firmly attached in all the usual places.

I spent most of the day with my face almost in that damn dogs backside. It decided to help me by placing itself very firmly between Eric and me. Every time it stopped I ran into its rear end.

We thought we had located the right spot to make the final descent down into the creek so consulted the GPS just to make certain. The GPS told us that we were within 10 metres of the right ridge.

This taught me a valuable lesson in navigation. Ten metres might not seem much in the overall scheme of things, but when it is the difference between the right ridge and the wrong ridge, ten metres can add up to be a veeeeeeery long way indeed.

At this point Dog managed to get himself hung up. One vine wrapped around its neck another around its back leg."Help me Eric!" I called, to no avail. He was engaged in an out of control slide down the muddy bank and of no help to me whatsoever. Clinging to a slope by your fingernails, whilst trying to

untangle a big yelping dog, is not my idea of the perfect Sunday bushwalk. Dog was by this time looking quite woebegone. He was seriously regretting his rash decision to come walking with a couple of nut cases with not even a whiff of a pig to make it worth his while.

We slid and slipped our way further down the tangled slope only to come to the top of a cliff. Yep there was the creek alright, right there at the bottom of a cliff.

There was nothing for it but to scramble all the way back up again. We were bruised and muddy when we finally made it down into the creek. We sat there in that beautiful spot amongst the water falls, blissfully eating our lunch.

Dog was by now salivating excessively and very much in our personal space. Eric started to throw bits of his lunch to the dog. He gave me a sideways glance and whispered (there was not a soul for miles, why was he whispering?) "You don't think he has followed us in here to eat us do you?" Up until that point the idea had not crossed my mind. Then I realised that we were in a very isolated spot with this massive, slobbering, hungry dog that had clearly been trained to hunt and catch wild boars! Would we make it out alive?" Nice doggy, would you like some cake?" Please stop licking my leech bites; you might acquire a liking for the taste.

On the way back to the car, Dog became very cheerful. He happily trotted along in front showing us the way. Back at the car he flopped down on the ground in an exhausted heap like he owned the vehicle. Just then one of the locals drove past and gave us a very dirty look. Try explaining that one to a ranger.

"No, no Mr Ranger Sir, he is NOT our dog!"

"Looks like he knows you pretty well"

"But he just followed us!"

"Yeah, right!"

It took us days to recuperate. I don't know how the dog went but we were stuffed.

Two weeks later it rained and we cancelled the Rescue Ridge walk. Any time you want some rain at Dalrymple Heights, just ask us to put on a walk. It has worked three out of the last three times.

Although not an official club walk write-up, this is in preparation for one which we will reschedule for the coming spring. Before you ask, Dog will **not** be coming!

Pam

### **Mikes Peak Ridges Loop Walk Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Will we or won't we? - The question being asked late in the week before the walk. The previous week's walk to Rescue Ridge had to be cancelled due to wet weather – surely it couldn't happen again at this time of year and I was climbing the walls for a good walk. Fortunately the weather report for Sunday looked good so 8 of us set out in two 4WDs.



Three of the walkers hadn't been out that way before so we assured them of the fantastic views they would be seeing on the drive. Unfortunately the mist and fog had closed in and we could only point out where the Marling Spikes should be and as we were driving past Mikes Peak we did our best to assure them it was lurking just out there in the gloom.

With the help of the ever trusty GPS we found the road where we intended to begin the walk and once we were booted up the clouds lifted and the sun broke through. There indeed was Mike's Peak off in the distance. The grass was long with lots of hidden holes and obstacles. I was following Kathy which proved to be fortuitous. Each time she found an obstacle or dip, her squeals alerted me to the impending danger.

We made good progress and after a steady climb we found ourselves on top of Mike's Peak for morning tea. Yes the views were sensational and the spikes could easily be seen in all their glory. We

took our time over smoko, enjoying the views and Maureen told us about her upcoming trip to Canada and the Artic. We were all jealous.

Once ready to walk again we headed off down a long, easily followed ridge. It's approximately 2km in length and it took us close to the Arch. A large rock formation looked an interesting place to explore so



we headed for it. Along the way we stopped to take in the views and to make pictures. At one stage I was so engrossed in conversation I didn't notice I was standing on top of a hill containing thousands of large and angry ants. Several people pointed out to me that I should move but undeterred I kept yapping. The ants upset at the imposter on their home took action. Soon I was hopping about flapping at my legs. My pants were zipped off at the knees and many hands came to help me swat and

remove the buggers. Ouch!

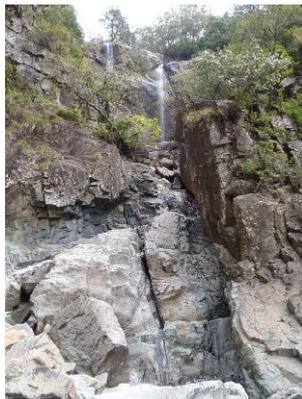
Down we came off the ridge with a very steep descent and from there we headed to the rocks. Lunch was had at the base of them but they proved difficult to explore from the side we had approached from – never mind it gives us an excuse to go back and try from the other side. We enjoyed good views of the arch and after lunch we headed across country to find the old road which would take us back to the cars.

It was a great day. We arrived back at the cars by 3.30, complete with very muddy boots and big smiles. Thanks Garry for leading the walk.

Jenny

### Denison Creek Camp 9th,10th & 11th June

Taking advantage of the long weekend (Queen's Jubilee holiday was on Monday) a dozen of us enjoyed a car based camp on Denison Creek.



With two of the 4WD vehicles labelled with "L" plates (Talina and Phillip) we found our way through the maze of roads to the campsite.

After setting up camp it was nearly lunch time when we headed off on our first walk. We had no trouble locating Jubilee Falls which we had discovered two years ago but were too short of time to venture further.

That evening, newcomer Jenny excelled herself demonstrating her fire-lighting skills NOT USING PAPER. Campfire treats included potatoes in foil and bananas in pyjamas stuffed with chocolate. Cheryl obliged by cleaning someone's burnt saucepan with sand.

Sunday morning we set out on a serious walk to a magnificent set of

falls called Kilimanjaro located on a side branch of Denison Creek. The gorge has changed over the last two years due to floods and with a good flow of water the going was

rugged. Celestine and Talina and Philip and myself managed to make it close to the



falls with a good view of the two main falls and another lower fall going across the creek behind a rock wall. The falls were impressive with the good flow of water.

I think it would be good to do another trip to see the cascading falls on North Denison and also explore Scrubby Creek.

We stayed another night and packed up and left by nine the



next morning taking time to enjoy the abundant early morning bird-life. We even spotted a white-necked heron on the way out.

Thanks to Frances for obtaining permission from the property owners.

Coral

### **Mt Tanya Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

Now which way to the dump Dan? Has it been moved?

13 crazy people turned up to join Dan for a walk to Mt Tanya. It was wet, cold and with long grass and lantana a plenty to battle through, it was a day that had most of us questioning our sanity for even being there.



The day began with us all following the leader's car as he drove right on past the turn off into the dump where we were to begin the walk. Dan must know another way in was the general consensus in the car I was travelling in. Better still he may have called the day off and we are headed to the Retreat Hotel for the day. Soon Dan realised his mistake and we all spun around and headed back to where we were to begin.

In no time we were up on the first ridge and opted for morning tea despite the heavy drizzle. The rain and drizzle kept up for the entire day although several optimistic people thought the sun was about to break through at a few times through the day. Needless to say it didn't and no views were to be had from the top but we made it down in quick time.

I must be crazy but I actually enjoyed the day and I think everyone else did as well. Thanks Dan.

Jenny





One Cool Dude Host



# SIXTIES PARTY

