



The Message Stick

July 2019

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

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

Email: mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com

Future Events

Redcliff Island.....	30th June
Mt Britton.....	7th July
Mt Catherine.....	21st July
General meeting.....	17th July
Back of Finch Hatton.....	21st July
Sydney Heads.....	28th July



Reminder

All club memberships are now due for renewal. All details can be found on the club website.



Hazlewood Gorge
Spectacular as ever

Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Donna Burgess	0488 787 953
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	4944 0236	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	4957 8474
Secretary	Donna Burgess	0488 787 953	Assis Walks Coordinator	Peter Bennett	0427383732
Treasurer	Ian Burgess	0428 875 991	Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	4944 0236
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

From the Editor

As promised the newsletter is early this month due to me taking off to WA for a few weeks. Thank you to everyone for getting walks descriptions to me so quickly

Reminder that all club memberships are due at the end of June. Membership forms and payment details can be found on the club website.

Have a great month everyone!

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 25th July**

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

Difficulty

1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners
4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only

Future Events

Logging Tracks:

Lately we have noticed a trend where participating walkers publish club walk tracks on social media or other online services.

We understand the desire to do this to earn hero status points from your online buddies, let's face it our walks are awesome, who wouldn't be impressed.

However perhaps you may like to consider the following:

- Our walk destinations and our method of getting there are the clubs intellectual property. They are in fact the only thing of value that our club possesses. Without the intellectual property that sets us apart from the others, there is no club. It is not in the clubs best interest to give that information away to all and sundry for free.
- Walk leaders expend considerable time and energy developing our walks. Creating a successful walk often requires significant research and multiple exploratories to discover out of the way places that our members might find rewarding and enjoyable. They are giving up their time and energy to do that for you. It is conceivable those leaders may not be impressed seeing their work lost to the web.
- Many of our walks require access through private or leasehold property. Those very same walk leaders also spend a lot of effort nurturing and earning the trust of property owners over many years

so that these walks can take place for your benefit. Such trust is hard earned but easily lost. Once lost it is almost impossible to regain. We get permission to access for our club only based on our reputation. Permission to publish such access routes without restriction is not given by the property owners. Doing so by posting tracks on line poses the risk of us losing access.

So before hitting that "post" button next time, take a few minutes to consider whether a few likes are worth what it potentially means to the rest of the club and its members.

Vice- President

Garry Hendicott

All trip leaders please ensure you collect the club gear bag before undertaking your walk.

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

**Red Cliff Islands - Seaforth
Sunday 30 June – midmorning walk**

Leader: Ian Burgess – 0488 787 953

Depart: 10:30am

Journey: 90km - \$9.00

Grade: S33

Estimated walking time: 3-4 hours **Total uphill:**

50m **Terrain:** Beach, stone causeway, rocks.

After parking at the Seaforth swimming enclosure we will walk along the beach to Finlaysons Point.

We will walk along the causeway to South Red Cliff and then to North Red Cliff. We will circumnavigate the first island to explore the rock pools and do the short, steep climb on the second island before heading back along the beach to the cars

scratchy scrub, long grass, fallen branches and trees.

Mt Britton (727m) is a distinctive mountain close to the old Mt Britton township in Homevale. 4WDs are required to access the starting point of the walk. The 4WD track is easy, but there may be long grass on the track. We walk up to The Arch which is a great spot for morning tea and photos. Then we head up a very steep grass and dirt slope to the base of the cliffs, and around them to a steep scramble up a loose rocky slope. This brings us to a ridge and we follow that up to the top. There are a couple of steep rock scrambles and one or two exposed sections on the ridge, so a head for heights is required. We are rewarded with spectacular views from the top, including the Marling Spikes and Sydney Heads, as well as views to Mt Fort Cooper, and the west. We then head down a different ridge, which is open and easy, cross a dry creek, and make our way back to the cars, to complete a circuit. It can be hot and open, so carry at least 2 litres of water. If anyone wants to camp at the Mt Britton township campsite, we can meet out there. Contact me for details.

**Mt Britton
Sunday 7th July**

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718282

Depart: 7:00 am

Journey: 240km \$24.00

Map Ref: UTM 55K 663583E 762510N GDA94

Grade: M85

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

uphill sections: 400m **Pace:** average. **Terrain:**

very uneven underfoot. **Vegetation:** scrub.

Expect: steep and very steep loose dirt, grass and rocky slopes, steep scrambles, exposed sections,

**Mt Catherine
Sunday 14th July**

Leader: Deb Wilson 0400 319078 (please text)

Depart: 7am

Journey: 140km \$14.00

Grade: M55

Map Ref: Calen 745920

Total Ascent: 450m

Estimated Walking Time 6 hours

Mt Catherine is a 485m high peak close to Mt Beatrice just north of Calen.

The walk commences from Deb's property and then immediately into the National Park along a ridgeline. The climb is relatively gradual with a number of smaller peaks along the way with some steeper sections. There are beautiful views provided from some vantage points including over the valley to the south with Deb's property in the foreground. There are great views of the jagged peak of Mt Beatrice and the vegetation is forest with cycads, elk horn ferns, tall grass trees, orchids and some moonlighter. Bring water for the whole day. **Please text Deb if you would like to participate in this walk and she will ring you back if need be.**

Induction 6.30pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 17th July

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

Back of Finch Hatton – (with pie option) Sunday 21 July 2019

Leader: Donna Burgess – 0488 787 953

Co-Leader: Ian Burgess

Departs: 8am (note later start)

Journey: 130km \$13.00

Map Ref: Mirani 703607

Grade: S55

Estimated walking time: 4 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 250m **Pace:** Slow to average **Terrain:** Very uneven **Vegetation:** Open forest **Expect:** Some steep slopes, long grass, loose gravelly sections, grass covered rocks

The walk will start at the Finch Hatton water tank and take us to the top of a rocky ridge. There will be plenty of views of the valley along the way and if it's a clear day we may see out to sea. Lunch will be on top of a large rocky outcrop with more great views across to Mt Pinnacle and down the valley.

The car pooling for this walk will be arranged into cars stopping at the Pinnacle Pub, for a Pinnacle pie and cars continuing back to Mackay without the pie stop. Let me know your preference when nomination for the walk.

Sydney Heads Sunday 28th July

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236,
Jenny Wooding 0447 091 532

Depart: 6 am

Journey: 250km \$25.00

Map Ref: UTM 55K 6 63 728E 76 31 090N
(WGS84)

Grade: M55

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 350m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** uneven, long grass, hidden obstacles underfoot, slopes, loose scree **Vegetation:** Forest, dense vegetation in places especially on top. **Expect:** steep slope with loose scree, rocky outcrops with height, trip hazards, sun, no water and magnificent views.

Sydney Heads is the most prominent feature in Homevale National Park rising to a height of 921 metres. Although a short walk of just under 5kms the rewards are spectacular, all of Homevale can be seen from this vantage point. We will visit a rocky outcrop (cliff edge) on the Northern end overlooking the Diamond Cliffs and then traverse the top of the heads to the highest point at the Southern end overlooking the Marling Spikes, Mikes Peak and Mount Britton. The vegetation on top can be dense and difficult to move through in places.

The ascent up Sydney Heads requires a scramble up (and down) a loose scree covered slope. Care must be exercised here to avoid dislodging material onto other walkers.

4WD or high clearance 2WD is recommended to reach the departure point on Mt Adder Road. Numbers may be limited depending on the availability of suitable vehicles.

For those wanting to camp, there will be the option of camping at Mt Britton on the Saturday night. To enable this I will be seeking a volunteer to bring walkers who do not wish to camp out to Homevale on the Sunday morning.

Note the early start time due to length of journey.

Previous Activities

Mt Pinnacle Sunday 26th May

This walk hasn't been done for a number of years but will surely become a regular into the future as it offers great views up and down the Pioneer Valley and across to Teemburra Dam . The Finch Hatton and Eungella areas experienced devastating bush fires in late 2018 and although some of the rainforest on the Clarke



Range is still ravaged, Mt Pinnacle has made a rapid recovery.

The first section of the walk is very steep with long grass but after that it settles down to a comfortable uphill gradient, through grasstrees, some small boulders and easy walking grass. The cattle had been very generous and created a pad which was followed at some points during the day however you needed to watch out for fairly fresh cowpats.

Once we started to walk along the ridge the views were excellent on both sides. Towards the top we passed through and around a number of enormous monoliths, several of which served very nicely as lunch platforms.

Mt Pinnacle has a definite top which is grassed and lightly treed, it has 360 degree views of the area, and a communication tower which was untouched by the fires in 2018.



As always we appreciate the access given by the private landholders and to Francis for her hard work in the lead up to the walk.

Donna

The Bluff Sunday 2nd June

Deb, Garry and myself travelled out on Saturday and camped the night at Mt Britton. We had a very pleasant afternoon/evening with dinner being cooked on a nice toasty fire.



Right on time on Sunday morning 2 cars arrived bringing another 6 bushwalkers to join us. The morning was a little gloomy with many of the large features of the area disappearing into the mist. Not to be deterred we set off convinced the weather would clear when we got to the top. Garry, carrying a back injury accompanied us to the beginning of the rise before returning to camp.

We made it to the top in quite good time despite the undergrowth doing its best to slow us in places. We stopped various times along the way to enjoy the expansive views.

Almost to the top some of us were surprised to see solar panels connected to an unofficial light. We then had quite a bash through the undergrowth to make it out to the end but we all made it and settled in for an early and long lunch. We called up Garry on the radio and he took some pics of us all on the top from way back at camp.

Whilst having lunch the sun broke through and our views became even more impressive. We returned to Mt Britton via the same route and took our time doing so. On the return trip the super eagle eyed members of our group found quite a variety of tiny and interesting insects to observe and photograph.

Back at camp we headed off to explore the 250 million year old fossil site. For some walkers this was their first time at the fossils so that made it all the more exciting. The afternoon was rounded off nicely by viewing a huge flock of brolgas, some dancing, before enjoying the mandatory chips and coffee at the junction.



Jenny

Hazlewood Gorge Sunday 16th June

