



# The Message Stick

## July 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

Cape Hillsborough Tracks.....	4 <sup>th</sup> July
The Leap.....	11 <sup>th</sup> July
Mt Bridgeman.....	18 <sup>th</sup> July
General Meeting.....	21 <sup>st</sup> July
Mt Catherine.....	25 <sup>th</sup> July
Broken River Backpack Overnight Camp.....	30 <sup>th</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> August



*Walkers exploring Spring Creek.*

### Club Officers

President	Bruce Pownall	0417 759 032	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	4957 8474
Vice President	Clive Goodson	0417 706 240	Digital Officer	Garry Hendicott	4944 0236
Secretary	Daphne Goodson	0417 706 240	Membership Secretary	Mari Simmonds	0429 190 168
Treasurer	Mari Simmonds	0429 190 168			
Equipment Officer	Clive Goodson	0417 706 240			
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

## *From the Editor*

July has quite a variety of walks on offer so hopefully there will be something to suit most. We will be able to take advantage of the good walking weather and get out into the bush.  
Just another reminder that all memberships are due on June 30<sup>th</sup>! Forms can be downloaded from the club website and emailed in once completed. Fees can be paid online.  
Enjoy the month.

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

## *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.

### **Cape Hillsborough Bush and Beach Sunday 4th July**

**Leader:** Daphne Goodson 0417 706 240  
**Depart :** 7am Journey : 100kms. \$10  
**Grade.** M55  
**Estimated walking time:** 5 hrs

**Total of all uphill sections:** 300m **Terrain:** graded tracks and beach **Vegetation :** rain forest, open forest, mangroves  
**Expect :** scenic views, fairly easy walking, steps, insects. The plan is to cover all the tracks accessible easily from the resort - the boardwalk, Hidden Valley (Yuiberra Plant Trail), the track to Andrews Point and lookouts, and

Beachcomber track. We will be adjusting the walks to suit the tide, which is just after lunch. We can also be flexible if walkers wish to take advantage of the low tide and go to Wedge Island.

Bring sunblock, repellent, and plenty of water as well as lunch. This is a relatively easy walk, mostly on tracks.

### **The Leap Walk Sunday 11th July.**

**Leader:** Deb Wilson 0400 319 078

**Co Leader:** Penny McMahon 4951 4287

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 50Kms \$5

**Map Ref:** Mirani 635310

**Grade:** S54

**Estimated walking time** 4-5 hours. **Total of all uphill sections** 500m. **Pace:** slow **Terrain :** very uneven. **Vegetation** rainforest, long grass and grass trees at eye level at the top. **Expect** some rockhopping in the creek bed, some steep climbs on way up and maybe the occasional loose rock to look out for.

From the end of Westlake Drive we will follow a track, then into a rocky creek bed uphill, then walk along the foot of the cliffs and up to the top of the mountain. We should enjoy some great views of Mackay and the surrounding countryside. You have to be reasonably fit for this walk although I am putting this walk on for beginners and slower walkers. Bring food and water for the day.

### **Mt Bridgeman Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 0447091532

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 80km \$8

**Map Ref:** Mirani 037 405

**Grade:** M65

**Estimated walking time:** 6-7 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 500m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** rocky creek bed, large boulders, rock faces, long grass some steep scrambles.

We will commence our walk at the bottom of the Eton Range and follow the creek for just over a kilometre. The creek has interesting rock formations and terraces. We will leave the creek to take a ridge up to Mt Bridgeman. This is lovely country to walk through and there are a lot of large boulders along the way to explore but there are some steep scrambles. Long grass can make walking a challenge and gaiters are recommended.

This time around I think we may spend time exploring the large boulders on the peak just before the actual Mt Bridgeman. These are really impressive and in the past we have never had time to explore them properly.

### **Induction 6.30pm General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

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

### **Mt Catherine Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Deb Wilson 0400 319078

**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.

## Broken River O/Night Camp Sat 31<sup>st</sup> July & Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Aug

**Leader** Ian Burgess 0428 875 991

**Co-Leader** Donna Burgess 0488 787 953

**Departure** 7am

**Journey** 200km \$20.00

**Grade** L86

**Estimated walking time**

Day 1 (6-7 hrs) 9.5km

Day 2 (3-4 hrs) 8.5km

**Vegetation** - scrubby creek edges and open forest  
**Expect** - rock hopping, lantana and bush tracks

### Day 1

This will be a new overnight hike/camp for the club.

Leaving from the Diggings campground we head down Broken River along the river edges, over many open rocky sections and past rocky pools and shady banks.

There will be numerous crossings of the river as we make our way down eventually coming

out onto wide river banks to reach our overnight campsite near Charlie's Yard.

### Day 2

We head off from our campsite and locate an old forestry track that follows the ridges back toward the diggings campground. This section is easier walking than day 1 with up and downhill sections with views back toward Eungella Dam and Nebo.

We should reach the cars at the Diggings campground around lunchtime.

Please note that this walk is through a working cattle property and great care and respect needs to be taken not to disturb livestock near cattle yards and holding areas.

Water tablets are advisable as the river water may be low and require treating.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Mt Dalrymple Sunday 30th May.**

As we drove towards Mt Dalrymple, we could see that there were going to be no views from the top.



Heavy thick clouds and drizzling rain was all we could see, covering the mountain. Not a very promising start to our walk. I definitely thought everyone very brave for coming along in such difficult weather conditions. We set off and upwards on the track and reached the summit by 12.30. A complete white out with no views!

We settled down for lunch, extra jackets came out, it was freezing, with the cold icy wind blowing. Lunch was over quickly, too cold to linger. I think most of the group did enjoy the different atmosphere caused by the weather at the summit. It was a relief to get down out of the wind.



Back onto the track and downwards and back out to the cars. Very slippery muddy conditions walking back downhill. We had a great day walking regardless of the miserable wet weather, cold conditions, and leeches, plenty of leeches.

Everyone arrived back at the cars safely having completed a difficult walk to the top of Mt Dalrymple.

Deb

**Note from the Editor:** Although weather conditions were not perfect I had a great day and I think everyone else did as well.



### Spring Creek Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June



Although Spring Creek was known to the club this was a new walk. Starting at Cockies Creek Road, on the Eungella Dam Road, we headed overland to Spring Creek. We followed the creek, which was quite dry, for a number of kilometers before passing through some micro gorges and rock pools; some of the pools were full of beautifully healthy pond weed. Eventually we peeled off Spring Creek and headed across country to meet up with the access road for an easy walk out to the Eungella Dam Road again.

We enjoyed some history checking out what remains of the old racecourse site. The day was perfect for hiking, crisp and clear, even the rock hopping wasn't too arduous. Disappointingly we were not able to pass the cattle yards down to Broken River as there was stock movement happening over the weekend; at the request of the station owner we avoided the area as to not disturb the livestock.



Donna