



The Message Stick

June 2015

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au

Future Events

Mt Catherine.....	4 th June
Homevale Camp.....	6 th – 8 th June
Gooseponds Social Walk.....	14 th June
General Meeting.....	17 th June
Mt Jukes	18 th June
Mt Tanya	21 st June
Cut Creek	28 th June
Maud Creek camp	4 th & 5 th July
Far Beach to Bakers Creek	4 th July

Memberships

All Club Memberships are due at the end of June.

Membership forms will be attached to this newsletter.



New Treasurer

Many thanks to Michelle Dartnell for taking up the Treasurer's position! Welcome to our committee Michelle.

Club Officers

President	Carole Weekes	49546108
Vice President	Garry Hendicott	49440236
Secretary	Kerry Morgan	49540037
Treasurer	Michelle Dartnell	0428552603
Safety Officer	Vacant	-
Equipment Officer	Garry Hendicott	49440236

Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Assist Walks Coordinator	Kevin Smith	49696068
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	49440236
Publicity Officer	June Bradley	49557696

From the Editor

At the moment the weather is very conducive to walking although it may be a little more difficult to get out of bed for those early starts. June has plenty on offer for all levels of fitness and ability so hopefully a lot of us will be out walking.

Please try and have items for newsletters emailed in by the date in the newsletter. It makes the production process a lot smoother.

Have a great month everyone!

Our Publicity Officer is June Bradley

zipa2@southernphone.com.au

Please email June any photos you think would look good in the newspaper

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to

jennywooding@dodo.com.au

prior to 24th June

Key to Walks Grading System

Distance	Terrain	Terrain
S = short – under 5km	1-3 = Graded or open terrain, no scrub	1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners
M = medium – 5-10km	4-7 = Bush, minor scrub, rainforest, Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling	4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
L = long – over 10km	8-10 = Bush as above + thick scrub, major rock Scrambling using hands, technical	8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only

Future Events

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

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

Mt Catherine Exploratory Thursday 4th June

Co-ordinator: Kevin Smith 4969 6068

Depart: 6am

This will be an exploratory walk in the Rise and Shine Rd, Mt Catherine area.

Homevale (Mt Britton) Camp 6th – 8th June

Leader: Jenny Wooding 49440236,
0447091532

Depart: 10am

Journey: 240kms \$24

Map Ref: Mirani 8655 603 325

Grade: Varied

This camp will take place over 3 days and we will be camping at the old Mt Britton Township. Walkers may come out for the entire camp or just part it. There is a lot of spear grass in this area and the wearing of gaiters is recommended for each of the walks.

Saturday: We will drive out to Mt Britton in time for lunch and to set up camp. For the afternoon we will walk up the western ridge behind the town and it will be a spectacular place for photographers to capture the changing late

afternoon colours on Sydney Heads and the Marling Spikes. We will return to camp via an old road.

Sunday: We will walk approx. 4km to a lagoon via a 4WD track which traverses up a steep, narrow ridge. On the return trip we will take a detour and explore a small rocky outcrop. The afternoon will be exploratory and its expected this will be a full day's walk.

Monday: This will be an exploratory Marling Spikes circuit from the campsite led by Garry. It will be a longer walk with lots of unknowns so it is one for the more adventurous. Coral will lead a less challenging walk from the campsite so people will have a choice of walks.

Please contact the leader by June 2nd if you intend joining all or part of the camp or if you require more information.

Gooseponds & Beyond Social Walk &BBQ Sunday 14th June

Leader: Edie Weiss 0412689414

Depart: 2.00pm

Journey: n/a

Meeting place: Behind North Mackay Bowls Club

Grade: L12

Estimated walking time: 3 ½ hrs uphill sections: 0 **Pace:** average **Terrain:** all on pathways **Vegetation:** open **Expect:** easy walking **Bring:** BBQ food for after!

This is not so much a bush walk as a social walk all on formed pathways, but if you like you can walk on the grass! The idea is to cover all the parts of the Gooseponds and Jane's Creek which now have linked pathways, including under the highway. Many will have covered some parts of this walk, but the idea is to link it all together for about 12 km, so a decent Sunday afternoon stroll. Along the way there should be lots of birdlife as well as some remnant riparian vegetation. There is not much cover, so make sure to be sunsafe and bring water for the trip.

We should be finished by 5.30 so if you would like to stay for a BBQ dinner there are facilities and also the opportunity for an icecream from the servo!

If non-walking family members would like to join us for dinner, that would be good.

As this is also Finch Hatton Show day, those who have spent the day up the valley might also like to join us for the BBQ, if they have not

eaten too much fairy floss and hot diggidy dogs!

Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 17th June

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

Mt Jukes Thursday 18 June 2015

Leader: Kevin Smith 49696068

Depart: 6:00am

Journey: 70km \$7:00

Map Ref: Mirani/Calen 025765

Grade: M97

Estimated walking time: 7 hours. **Total of all uphill:** 450 m.

Pace: average **Terrain:** very uneven.

Vegetation: scrub. **Expect:** some steep slopes, long grass, very steep scrambles, loose rocks and stinging plants.

Long protective clothing is recommended. Our aim is to sit on top of the 'elephant's rump' across from Mt Blackwood. Views along the way and at the top are magnificent.

Water is to be carried for the whole day.

Mt Tanya Sunday 21st June

Leader: Peter Bennett 49543428 /0427 383 732

Depart: 7am

Journey: 60km \$6.00

Map Ref: Mirani 058377

Grade: M87

Estimated Walking Time: 6hrs , **Pace:** Average, **Terrain:** Very uneven terrain, **Vegetation:** Thick Scrub, **Expect:** much steep slopes, lantana, vines This will be a challenging walk, leaving from Oakenden and following a small creek onto a ridge and then to the top of Mt Tanya. Expect a lot of lantana.

Be prepared to get lost and scratched. This walk is for fit walkers only and is not suited to beginners.

**Cut Creek
Sunday 28th June**

Leader: Kathy Cant 0423 046187

Depart: 6am

Journey: 80km \$8

Estimated walking time: 6-7 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 500m **Pace:** average

Terrain: rocky creek bed, large boulders, rock faces, some steep scrambles.

This will be a continuation of the walk done in November 2014. We will commence our walk at the bottom of the Eton Range and follow the creek. The creek has interesting rock formations and terraces. Please note the early start. This is so we can continue further up the creek, then hopefully climb Mt Bridgeman. The climb to Mt Bridgeman will be exploratory as the club has not done this for 20 years.

**Maud Creek Camp
4th & 5th July**

Leader: Steve Morgan 4954 0037,
0418 882 817

steven.morgan61@gmail.com

Please contact the leader for more information.

**Far Beach to Bakers Creek
Saturday 4th July**

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 1pm

Meeting Place: Near the toilets at QUOTA Park, Binnington Esp – just off the beach end of Bridge Rd.

As an overnight camp is scheduled this weekend, an easy alternate walk is on offer SATURDAY afternoon.

Please note the different starting point, where we will meet at QUOTA Park near the Ocean International Hotel. As the tide goes out we should be able to proceed across Shellgrit Creek and walk all the way to the mouth of Baker's Creek and return – a total of approximately 10km. Be prepared for a late finish.

Previous Activities

**Creek to Creek
Sunday March 1**

Apologies from the Editor - This one should have been in last month's newsletter!

At the end of the Eimeo Creek to Reliance Creek walk I asked people to say what they remembered about the walk, but I did not get around to the writeup till much later, and had forgotten what everyone had said. So here is what I think they said, or I have made up. You can put names to the quotes yourself!

'It's too hot'

'Where did we say we would meet Paul?'

'Where was I supposed to meet everyone? I will wait by the swimming enclosure and hope they find me'

'It's too hot'

'Where has Clive disappeared to?'

'I saw him jump a fence back there'

'You would think if Clive had another woman he would be more discreet than to bring her walking, poor Daphne'

'Everyone, I would like you to meet my sister'

'Oops'

'The numbers keep changing, how am I expected to keep the roll up to date, 7, 8, 9, 10, oops, one gone, 9, 11.....'

'Is that a dog, a pig dog, a dog pig...no it's a pig on the beach'

'Smile piggy wiggly'

'It's too hot, where is the breeze?'

'Wild pig pork chops used to be good when I was a kid'

'Remind me not to bring frozen yoghurt again'

'Laundry service supplied'

'Let's not go all the way to Reliance Creek, it's just too hot!'

'Nice to see you Penny, but we are not going any further than here'

'Did you see the crab eating the box jelly fish?'

'What sort of birds are you watching with your binoculars'

'Just checking if she is getting too much sun in that bikini'

'Remember last time it was pouring rain, could do with that now!'

'We can get an icecream at the shop ... hope they have paddle pops'

'Oh no! The shop has closed due to lack of custom, didn't they know we come once a year?'

'Are those black cockatoos flashing their red tails at us and laughing?'

'Smart people work out where the shade will be in the afternoon and park their cars accordingly'

'It's still too hot!'

'No comment, I'm too old to remember the walk'



Then everybody said 'Thankyou Daphne for a lovely (too hot) day'
 Edie

Bee Creek Sunday 3rd May

Twenty five guessed Dale and Frances as we walked along. That's how many years it has been since our club last ventured down Bee Creek. A mixed troop of eighteen of us fixed that early in May.



As promised this was an easy and relaxing walk along the varied banks of Bee Creek. Although the creek had some flow it was obvious that the dry weather of late had taken its toll on the water level. Still the water was relatively clear with a few little rocky cascades here and there making it an enjoyable stroll, apart from a couple of lantana patches. Despite some nice rocky pools I had no success trying to coax anyone in for a swim.

Several little green tree snakes made their appearance, one in very spectacular fashion. My impromptu assistant leader young Hayden gets the prize here for claiming to have touched one. I believe it because I saw the thing standing on its tail trying to get away. I didn't know snakes could jump so high.

Up out of the creek and we were up on top of White Rock Hill for an extended lunch break. Some chose to explore around the many rocks whilst others chose to sleep through it all.

Rumour has it that the radiation from the large rotating radar installation nearby on the adjacent ridge was making us drowsy. Just as well my kid making days are over.

Following a short descent down a ridge, where Frances reckons we have to come back in October to see the orchids flower, we were back on the 4WD track for a leisurely stroll to the cars.

Someone mentioned coffee and ice cream at the Chalet on the way home and that is exactly what happened.

Garry



The Leap Thursday 14 May 2015

Eight of us had a great day on this midweek walk up the Leap.

The plan was to go up The Leap via the creek and visit a rocky outcrop with views to the East, then continue to the top of the Leap and return to the cars via the abseiling site. For a pleasant change, we accomplished our plans. Yeay!!!



As we set off there was a very strong sweet smell of Lavender in the air. I mean ver r r y strong. Barry had accidentally broken a bottle of Lavender Oil in his car and obviously some of it was on his clothes. It did fade as the day went on.

Some of the walkers had never been up the Leap before and they were very pleased with the day. The weather was fabulous. The scenery and rock formations along the creek are quite spectacular with the dolerite or basalt columns mostly standing vertically providing amazing rocky stairs. Mind you, --

--- there were a couple of complaints about the "rock climbing." At one point we strung up a "security rope" as I called it, on one of the steeper more exposed rocky climbs. There was not a drop of water in the creek and all rocks were as dry as could be.

We temporarily left the creek for a walk across to a rocky point on the northern side of the Leap. This rock has beaut views to the North and East with clear views of Mackay and Mackay Harbour.

We then returned to the creek and reached the summit with views to the South. With such clear weather we had a clear view of Mt Funnel and Clarke's Pinnacle etc.



We had lunch here with lots of discussion about the speed we are actually travelling as we hurtle through space on our spaceship Earth, even though we are sitting comfortably with a magnificent view eating lunch and sipping tea or coffee.

Although I had been here before I was surprised to notice this cliff, indeed virtually the hole of the Leap rock formations are made up of dolerite or basalt columns. After lunch we headed back down via the abseiling site, which provides nice views to the west. Walking below these cliffs as we looked up, we could see huge columns protruding from the cliff face seemingly defying gravity. We did not dilly-dally along this section.

We were back at the cars before 2:30pm and a stop for refreshment at the Leap Hotel on the way home topped off a perfect day. (And no scrub itch!)

Kevin

Mt Britton Sunday 17th May

Fourteen optimistic walkers headed out to Homevale but showers and poor visibility persisted so the Mt Britton walk was abandoned and replaced by an easy half day walk from the Mt Adder road across to the township and up to Lyall's place for lunch. We filled in the afternoon visiting historic sights, and consuming hot chips at the Junction Café. It is planned to have another attempt at bagging Mt Britton late in August.

Coral



Salonika Beach Walk Sunday 24th May

The late start time for this walk afforded everyone a bit of a sleep in. We departed Mackay at 8:00am. The walk started across Mick Ready Beach, we crossed the creek and continued onto Victor Point, it was then decided we would have smoko. Coral brought plastic bags along, as it was the official day for the sixth Mackay Coastal Clean up, and Coral decided we would all participate in collecting plastics and rubbish from the foreshore as we walked along the beach.

The Mackay Coastal Clean up people had been along the beach earlier, as we could see the tracks they had left behind in the sand. We came through and did a second clean up. The group continued on with our walk to Breens Creek. The amount of water in the creek made it unsuitable for us to cross over to Salonika Beach. We turned around and retraced our steps to a well sheltered lunch spot behind a huge rock formation. A relief to be out of the strong winds! While having lunch the sky turned very dark grey and we knew rain was coming. Some of us put on our rain jackets and headed out into the weather, while some still hoped the



rain would pass while they sheltered in our warm lunch spot. I think we all ended up a bit wet eventually.

We were heading back the way we came, to a large bag of rubbish Coral had left at a dirt road. We all arrived back at the road, Brian tied almost all of the rubbish bags onto a long sturdy stick, which was very good of him, otherwise we would have all had to carry it out ourselves. Coral decided we would head inland on the road to another road, which would take us back to the cars. Brian and Sue decided to walk the beach way as to get the rubbish safely back to the back of Brian's ute. Lucky for Brian and Sue, they had a good reason to continue along the beach.



Some other walkers needed a slight prompting for them to head in Corals direction. We came across Lantana scrub which looked formidable. Coral said, *"are you with me, are you going to follow me because if you are going to rebel, you had better get back to the beach and cross the creek fast"*. We all stayed and followed Coral through Lantana, muddy four wheel drive tracks, a black muddy slippery tidal creek. More mud, long grass, more mud and muggles on motorbikes. Coral, Fran and Kevin continued to pick up plastic bottles and rubbish till they could not carry anything more. It was a great relief to reach the cars and see Brian and Sue patiently awaiting our return.

Our inland adventure had taken two hours. The walk was great, even though we had some rain, we had more sunshine, our overall walking distance was 13.5 kilometres. I thought Coral's organising of our group to do a beach clean up, made Coral a reef super hero. Our small group of eleven walkers managed to fill two wheelie bins of collected rubbish, mainly plastic from reaching our oceans and reef.

Thank you Coral for a fantastic day, a mixture of beach and bush.

Deb

Grasstree to Mick Ready Beach Thursday 30th May

This mid-week walk attracted seven participants, including newcomer Alan. We successfully negotiated the network of rough tracks to reach the reservoir up behind Grasstree Beach. Then it was out to the point and back via beach and back to Mick Ready Beach. The usual flotsam and jetsam were observed deposited along the high tide mark. Bryan's beachcombing efforts scored him a treasure – one large concrete and crusted safety step, with a handy piece of rope lying nearby to assist in lugging the thing back to the car. He is thrilled with his acquisition and says he uses it every other day.

Coral

