



# The Message Stick

## June 2019

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

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### Future Events

The Bluff.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> June
St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend.....	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> June
Hazlewood Gorge.....	16 <sup>th</sup> June
General meeting.....	19 <sup>th</sup> June
Redcliff Island.....	30 <sup>th</sup> June



*Bushwalkers enjoying themselves in front of Hazlewood Falls a few weeks back*

### 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*

Once again the rain has played havoc with our walks calendar. Hopefully we will soon be seeing the end of it. On the May Day weekend, Charles had planned to drive to Denham Range to camp with us and to walk to the Stalk but the rain and mud put an end to those plans.

Please don't be shy putting your hand up to lead a walk whether it be an old favourite or an exploratory.

The July Newsletter will be published a couple of weeks early due to me going away. If I don't have all the walks descriptions on in time, they will be posted to the Club Facebook page.

Enjoy the month.

**Items for the next newsletter should  
be sent to  
[jennywooding@dodo.com.au](mailto:jennywooding@dodo.com.au)  
prior to 20<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,  
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*

**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.**

**It is requested club members do not post their tracks of walks online.  
Leaders have spent time developing the tracks, often gaining  
permission from Land Owners and don't wish to have the tracks put out  
for others to copy**

**Hazelwood Gorge Upstream  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**The Bluff (Homevale NP)  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Leader:** Garry Hendicott 4944 0236 or Jenny 0447 091 532

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 240kms \$24.00

**Map Ref:** UTM 55k 660867E 7634036N GDA94

**Grade:** M54

**Estimated walking time:** 4 to 5 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 280m **Pace:** slow to average **Terrain:** very uneven **Vegetation:** open forest, scrub **Expect:** heat, exposure to sun, lantana, other assorted scratchy vegetation, loose rocks, magnificent views.

The Bluff is the colloquial name for a rocky outcrop in Homevale NP, identified on the Mirani map as 609. It offers spectacular views over the Diamond Cliffs, Sydney Heads and the Marling Spikes, so bring your cameras.

We will start our walk from near the historic Mt Britton Town area, work our way along a small creek/gully, then head out and up over a snaking ridge leading up to the back of the Bluff itself.

There are some steep sections with loose rock underneath requiring care, especially the final ascent. Walk distance is only 5.6kms but will likely be hot and exposed in places, bring sunscreen, a hat and plenty of water for the day as none will be available.

This is not a particularly difficult or long walk and there is no rush so is suitable for most off track walkers.

Time permitting we may also visit an interesting fossil site on the way out and maybe chips at "The Junction".

Some of us are keen to camp Saturday night at Mt Britton before the walk. Everyone welcome to join us but please advise by Thursday. Also we would need someone to lead the non-campers out on Sunday morning.

**Leader:** Garry Hendicott 49440236 or Jenny 0447091532

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 200km \$20.00

**Map Ref:** Hillalong 650863E 7650576N AGD66

**Grade:** M75

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 120m

**Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven terrain

**Vegetation:** open forest

**Expect:** some steep slopes, some rocking, steep scrambles, loose rocks, swimming holes.

This spectacular deep gorge with its coloured rock formations is situated outside the rainforest area about 16kms from Eungella. We access the gorge by scrambling down a steep gully. There will be plenty of rock hopping as we make our way upstream and there should be opportunities for swimming. The return journey to the cars will be across open forested country.

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

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

**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

## *Previous Activities*

### **Smalley's Beach to Cape Hillsborough 7 April**



Like a lot of walks recently we were worried about the rain however the weather on the day was wonderful, the car shuffle was a breeze and the walkers keen for a bit of cave action. The vegetation up from Smalley's beach has had a bit of a thrashing from recent cyclones with a few fallen trees which needed to be navigated around. Emerging from the coastal rainforest on the steep slope we headed across the rocks and grass and below the small escarpment to a group of caves, one of which we were able to walk through from end to end, which was a great treat. Morning tea was atop

the usual rocky outcrop overlooking Ball Bay and Finlayson Point.

Over the top of the cape, the landscape was full of thriving grasstrees and on the various high points we were treated to great views of the area and some escarpments which need to be further explored. Lunch was held on top of the highest rocky outcrop where the sun was warm, the breeze steady and the views spectacular. After a small detour to an overhanging cave, a couple of walkers had the great treat of seeing two owls fly from their owl roost on the cave ceiling. Our speedy group of walkers descended the track into the Cape Hillsborough car park area in great time allowing plenty of time for coffee, cake and ice creams.



Donna

### **Bucasia and Shoal Point Sunday 12th May**

Two participants left the cars at 8am and set off along Bucasia Beach in glorious weather, with the freedom to modify the planned walk to suit ourselves, which is exactly what we did, notching up over 14 kms by about lunch time. Our journey to Shoal Point included some of the pathway, some sandy tracks between it and the beach, and a detour to the newly landscaped lake in Shoal Point Waters, where morning tea was enjoyed.



On such a perfect day, many families were enjoying the picnic area at Shoal Point, and Cape Hillsborough in the distance was profiled very clearly. Our walk included Nautilus Park, the length of O'Brien Esplanade, the rocky areas on the point, and more of Bucasia Beach on the return journey, by which time wind had increased.

The day was capped off with a drive and short walk to Rosewood Drive Reserve to inspect the two cygnets and their mother. At various times during the course of our outing we were treated to very crisp views of Mt Jukes, The Leap, Black Mt, Little Green Island and of course the Northern Beaches locations.

Thanks Edie for your company and all the chatting.

## Crediton Hall to Denham Range Great Walk Multiday walk over the May Day weekend

### Saturday - Total walk 21Kms



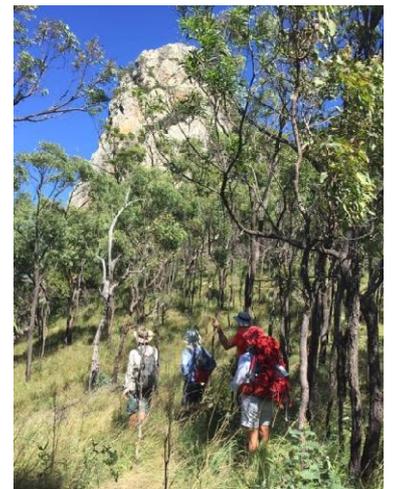
We watched the weather and in the end we went with the forecast, so with military like precision we stepped off from Crediton Hall at 8:30am hoping the rain would stay away as predicted. The first section of this walk, to the white tank, is a regular favourite with the club. It has undergone some changes following the recent fires, with a large section of the track through the rainforest having been dozed to create a fire break, hopefully the vegetation recovers quickly and doesn't look so ravaged in the coming months and years. By morning tea we had navigated several hazards including a very dodgy short cut, black snakes and a walker suffering from a semi-mild attack of h'angry.

Leaving the white tank we set off along the Cockies Creek road section and it wasn't long before the drizzling rain set in and turned the clay and black soil road into a sticky, boot clinging, slippery mess so for 10km we slogged up hill and down with our muddy boots, until we reached the Denham Range campsite. My personal wish was that the rain would hold off while we set up our tents and prepared our dinner, thankfully this happened and we were even able to get a fire going with the waterlogged timber. The one and only good thing about (dead) lantana is that it burns well even when it's soaking wet. We went to bed thinking that should the rain continue we may be heading back home the next day.



### Sunday - Total walk 12kms

Thick fog greeted us on the morning of the second day but cleared away to eventually reveal a stunningly beautiful day with clear blue skies. Our day walk was to the Stalk a well-worn volcanic plug, and was glorious with the open spotted gum forest and easy walking low vegetation. Along the way we had great views from the Knob, an almost totally eroded volcanic plug with steep sides, and from the Stalk which we explored before heading back through this beautiful country. The green ginger wine was most welcome at the end of the day, sitting around fire, warming the inside and out.



### Monday - Total walk 20kms

Thankfully after two days of sunshine the walk back to Crediton Hall was much easier with the mud from the earlier days starting to harden and not stick to our boots as it had on the walk in. We made very good time on the walk back, tired and dirty, we even managed to finish the long weekend with a pie at the Pinnacle Pub.

Donna