



# The Message Stick

## March 2012

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740  
Web: <http://www.mackay.bwq.org.au>  
Email: [mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au](mailto:mackaybushwalkers@dodo.com.au)

### Future Events

Freshwater Point .....	4 <sup>th</sup> March
Cattle Creek .....	11 <sup>th</sup> March
Games Night .....	16 <sup>th</sup> March
The Diggings .....	18 <sup>th</sup> March
General Meeting .....	21 <sup>st</sup> March
Dalrymple Creek .....	25 <sup>th</sup> March
Pioneer Point .....	1 <sup>st</sup> April

### *Important First Aid Reminder – Please Read*

To protect yourself legally, the first aider does not provide medication to the casualty. You may, however, assist the casualty to take medication that he/she has with him/her.

If a walker has a condition which does or could require medication, the trip leader needs to be informed so they can assist should an incident occur.

As everyone will be aware the weather has been very hot of late making walking conditions extreme at times. All walkers need to ensure they have enough water for each trip. A minimum of 3 litres is essential for each full day walk. It is also a good idea to carry an electrolyte drink or sachet when the weather is very hot.

**All walkers have a responsibility to ensure they have adequate fluids and any medications they may require for each bushwalk.**

### 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*

A busy month of activities is coming up. Dan had to postpone the games night but it is now being held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Full details follow in the newsletter.

Daphne is organising a First Aid Course for club members to take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April and is calling for expressions of interest. Mackay Bushwalkers will subsidise part of the course costs and it is a very worthwhile thing for walkers to undertake. Please phone Daphne on 49549338 for more information and to register your interest. After the Crediton Trail walk on 29<sup>th</sup> January someone left a white polo shirt in Coral's change of clothes bag. If you are missing the shirt, please phone Coral on 49578474 to retrieve it.

Let's cross our fingers and hope the rain doesn't spoil too many of our planned walks for this month. All of our walks this year have been very well attended and I hope we can keep the momentum going throughout the year. Please remember to email me photos to make the newsletter interesting.

### **Wet Weather**

#### **Yes it's the rainy season again!**

If any walks need to be cancelled late in the week due to wet weather, I will email out a message saying the walk is off and letting people know if there is an alternative one happening. I will phone people who don't have email.

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.

#### *Note*

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to [jennywooding@dodo.com.au](mailto:jennywooding@dodo.com.au) prior to 24<sup>th</sup> March



*Which Witch*

*and*

*Where was we?*

*Any clues?*

### **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

### Freshwater Point Sunday 4th March

**Leader:** Penny McMahon 49514287

**Depart:** 8am

**Journey:** 100km \$10

**Map Ref:** Mackay 419279

**Grade:** S44

**Estimated walking time:** 4 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** Not much. **Pace:** average. **Terrain:** some beach, some tracks, some rocks. **Vegetation:** Could be long grass. **Expect:** Sandflies and great views.

Expect an easy day with some beach walking (sand and rocks), some tracks, some rockhopping and probably some long grass. If there has been plenty of rain beforehand the tracks could be sloshy underfoot. If the weather is hot bring plenty of water and do the Slip, Slop, Slap. There is a very short but steep climb up to a lookout and this is well worth the effort. Bring your imagination & sufficient drinking water for the day. This walk is suitable for beginners.

### Cattle Creek Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer 49576028

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 150kms \$15.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 633645

**Grade:** M64

**Estimated walking time:** 5 Hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 100m, **Pace:** slow to average, **Terrain:** very uneven, **Vegetation:** Rainforest **Expect:** some scrambling, rock hopping, lots of swimming holes, some difficult creek crossings. Our first creek crossing is at the beginning of our walk so either come prepared to get your shoes wet or be prepared to take them off. This will be a relaxing walk following the bottom end of Cattle Creek. There will be plenty of opportunities for swimming in this beautiful creek.

### Games Night Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March

**Organiser:** Dan McKinlay 49534249, 0409 057 494, [dmckinlay@bigpond.com](mailto:dmckinlay@bigpond.com)

**RSVP:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

A range of games including cards and scrabble will be on offer as well as many others that people will be bringing along.

This is the first time we have had a games night and it should be a whole lot of fun so drag those games out of the cupboard, dust them off and bring them along. No doubt there will be some hearty competition taking place and we all might get to test our gray matter out.

Please bring along a plate of supper to share.

### Eungella Dam Road to The Diggings Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March

**Leader:** Denis Jeffery 49583394

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 200km \$20.00

**Map Ref:** Hillalong 546538-536580

**Grade:** L55

**Estimated Walking Time:** 5 hrs **Total of all uphill sections:** 400m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** uneven with a few hills **Vegetation:** open forest, small amount of lantana **Expect:** minor rock hopping, swimming in the river.

We begin the walk off Eungella Dam Road and descend to a small creek which we follow downstream for about 500m before encountering a disused forestry track. This track is followed for some distance uphill before meeting a more substantial track which eventually arrives at The Diggings. There should be opportunities for a swim here. We then follow another track to Eungella Dam Road and then along this road back to the cars. Total distance is about 12.5k. The majority of this walk is on forestry tracks of varying condition and is generally not too difficult.

### Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

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

## Dalrymple Creek Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 4954 3428

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 120km \$12.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 773728

**Grade:** M75

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

**uphill sections:** 120m **Pace:** average **Terrain:**

very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** rain forest

**Expect:** mostly rockhopping, swimming holes,  
difficult creek crossings.

The starting point for this walk is on a dairy farm at Mt Charlton. The creek flows through rain forest. The main waterfall should be reached by lunch time. The best spots to swim will be at morning smoko and again on the way back just before reaching the cars. Medium rockhopping is the order of the day. As there is a lot of moonlighter in this area, protective clothing is recommended.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Crediton Trail 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

Before we could start walking we had to make a stop at Sky Window to look for Coral's boot that she left there on last weekend's walk – it was not to be found. We began walking just after 9am and soon found the going to be a little boggy. The first obstacle we encountered was the creek which had more water in it than normal so most of us opted to clamber over a log which spanned the stream. It soon became obvious that this would not be the easy walk that it used to be. The track is so overgrown with lantana and wild raspberry that instead of being named the Highland's Great Walk it should be The Highland's Great Scrub Bash. We spent lots of time trying to discern where the track was supposed to be. Anyway, Dan did a great job of finding the way and clearing a path. We arrived at the morning tea spot a little after 1030 and shared our space with the leeches. Young Corey was attacked by them but put on a brave face. After the break we set off and reached the Great White Tank at 1250 for lunch. The Great White Tank is no longer white, but a dirty cream colour. Along the way Jeanette had lost her watch so we were determined to search for it on the return trip. As we just sat down for lunch the skies opened and the rain teemed down. There was a mad scrambling for all sorts of wet weather gear, even including an umbrella which was produced by Maureen. Dan had been severely leeches on his back with about five of the critters spaced evenly over his whole back. While we were having lunch, four 4WDs came past which necessitated a mad scramble by those sitting in the middle of the road. The rain didn't ease off, so after a short lunch we headed off. The trip back was at a steady pace with few stops and with the rain coming and going. Jeanette's watch was found close to where she lost it, the creek was crossed by some walking in the water and some tackling the log and we reached the cars at 4pm. Now if no one has seen a mountain of leeches then you should have seen Dan's back. There were about four leeches all attached to the same spot forming a grotesque mound, and he had blood coming out of lots of places, and probably from places that we were not allowed to check. To add insult to injury, he had forgotten his dry clothes and had to drive home wrapped in a towel. Fortunately, it was not raining when we reached the cars, so most of us could change into dry clothes. Overall, despite the weather, the leeches and the condition of the track, it was a good walk and thanks must go to Dan for his leadership and scrub bashing ability.

Denis

**PS.** Now what a sight that would have been – Dan driving home wearing nothing but a skimpy towel with 4 ladies as passengers! Just imagine if the police had of pulled him over! Well done Dan – I think that is almost as good as leaving your keys at the wrong end of a walk. ☺

## Cape Hillsborough 5<sup>th</sup> February

What a good  
looking bunch! ☺



Turtle Look Out  
**But** where is the  
turtle!



Now whose  
bum would  
that be!

Any  
ideas  
Edie?

## Hazlewood Gorge 12<sup>th</sup> February



Due to the very hot weather we had been having, Garry wasn't expecting a large turnout for this walk but was pleasantly surprised to have 21 starters (and delighted to have 21 finishers). The conditions had looked doubtful in the week prior to the walk and he had plans B and C in place in case it was too wet to go down into the gorge or there was just too much water racing through to render it safe for a group of bushwalkers. However on the day it all looked good so he went with plan A.

The slide down into the gorge was much easier than any time I had previously been down. I think the wet weather and other walkers had cleared the usual lantana and tangly vines so it was a straightforward descent. Coming back out was quite slippery and most of us were on all fours at various parts of the ascent. Due to the extreme heat we didn't make it as far along in the gorge as was planned but we did have a wonderful time at the large water hole. We spent a



leisurely lunch break there with most people opting to swim and play under the waterfall. We did continue on a little further upstream to where the other creek runs into the gorge. After that we decided to return as it was just too hot for serious exploring.

Despite the heat, it was a great day's walk and enjoyed by everyone although I'm sure a few people would have been feeling some normally unused muscles the next day. We were lucky to see a black headed python out sunning himself although he was less than delighted to see us. He looked quite agitated in fact at our appearance and soon disappeared down a crack in the rock.

Thanks Garry for such a great walk.

Jenny



### **Shoal Point Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Even though there had been no promises of leeches, lantana, moonlighter, climbing under and over fallen logs, scrambling over loose rocks, or difficult creek crossings, the Shoal Point walk still attracted about twenty participants, which proves that some people like it easy.

Because of the heat it was decided to walk south instead of north to avoid facing into the sun and to catch a bit of breeze and have some chance of shade. At about 2.45 we headed around the point, doing a spot of rock hopping and then spreading out across the beach as we found our own comfortable speed. The group included some locals, some who had driven from town and further afield, several recent inductees, and quite a few regulars.

South of the Bucasia swimming enclosure we left the beach to follow bush tracks and then a path through the parkland, stopping in a picnic shelter for afternoon tea. The return journey saw us covering the section of the Sunset Bay foreshore that we missed on the way down, and many bands of soldier crabs drew our attention, as did the blowcarts further towards Shoal Point. Aggie caught up with us, and later on so did Kathy, and soon after the group accessed the lookout via the staircase set into the dunes.

Back at the Shoal Point picnic area, Clive and Bill joined us for a BBQ tea, with everyone enjoying the ambience of the tidal flats, Little Green Island, and the silhouette of Cape Hillsborough picked out against the pastel sunset. Two enthusiastic walkers then headed part of the way up to Reliance Creek, which Clive had visited on his own while the rest of us were at Bucasia, but that is another story.

Thanks, Daphne, for leading a great walk during which we covered a respectable number of kilometres in a truly beautiful environment accompanied by new and old friends. There is certainly a place for half day walks followed by shared BBQs in our calendar, as the support for these events always proves.

Carole