



# The Message Stick

## March 2018

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

Eungella Tracks.....	4 <sup>th</sup> March
Owens Creek.....	11 <sup>th</sup> March
Upper Cattle Creek.....	18 <sup>th</sup> March
General Meeting.....	21 <sup>st</sup> March
Cape Hillsborough.....	25 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Camp.....	30 <sup>th</sup> March – 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
South Molle Island.....	5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> May
St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend.....	16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> June



*Crossing Pretty Creek*

### Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	4954 6108	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Ian Brooks	0408 071 965	Assis Walks Coordinator	Frances Eiteneuer	49576028
Treasurer	Ian Burgess	0428 875 991	Equipment Officer	Julie Vella	0448076983
Publicity Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478 772 418	Safety Officer	Charles Hamlet	0478 772 418
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

## *From the Editor*

There is a good variety of walks on offer in March but please remember they are all weather dependant as to whether or not they go ahead. We haven't had a lot of rain so far this year so I guess it could come at any time to play havoc with our walks. Any cancellations or changes will be advertised on the club Facebook page.

It is great to hear that Deb is making a speedy recovery and we all wish her well and look forward to seeing her back in the bush with us.

**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**

## *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*

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

### **Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks**

#### **Eungella Track Sunday 4 March 2018**

**Leader:** Donna Burgess 0488 787 953

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 160km \$16

**Map Ref:** Mirani

**Grade:** L15

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

**uphill sections:** 100m **Pace:** average **Terrain:**  
graded walking track **Vegetation:** rainforest

**Expect:** leeches, snakes, swimming

This is a return walk commencing at Eungella township along the graded walking track to Broken River. The track takes us past several lookouts eventually crossing Broken River where we should be able to enjoy lunch and a swim. Some walkers may wish to end their walk at Broken River while we return to Eungella. The walk is suitable for beginners and is entirely on graded walking track. You will need to bring plenty of water, swimmer and insect repellent.

**Owens Creek  
Sunday 11 March**

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer 49576028  
**Depart:** 7:00am  
**Journey:** 135km \$13.50  
**Map Ref:** Mirani 760682  
**Grade:** M87

**Estimated walking time:** 5-6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 250m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven **Vegetation:** rain forest some wait-a-while **Expect:** mostly rockhopping, scrambles, swimming holes.

Owens Creek is about 14km northwest of Garget. It is a most interesting creek meandering through rain forest

Although this is a reasonably easy walk, **it is only suitable for walkers who are confident rock hoppers.** We are sure to encounter some wait-a-while, so come prepared.

If numbers permit, we may split into two groups, a fast group and a slow group.

**Upper Cattle Creek  
Sunday March 18th**

**Leader** Peter Bennett 0427383732  
**Depart:** 07.00am  
**Journey:** 200kms \$20.00  
**Map Ref:** Mirani 659710  
**Difficulty :** Moderate to Difficult  
**Grade:** M88 (some may think M11 11)

**Estimated walking time:** 6.5 hours **Total of all uphill sections** 240m **Pace:** slow **Terrain:** very uneven, **Vegetation:** rain forest **Expect:** some rock hopping, scrambling up and down steep slopes, vines, fallen trees swimming holes.

This will be a fairly difficult walk down a steep creek till we reach Cattle Creek. (About 4 kms down stream from Lineel Falls). We will walk down stream a ways, find some swimming holes and return via what I think is Rescue Ridge. There will be a steep climb out of the creek and onto a ridge where it will be easier going. This walk is for experienced walkers only. You will need to carry water and food for the whole day.

A change of clothes to travel home is a must.

**Please ring me (do not text) to register before 12.00pm on the Saturday before the walk.**

**Induction 6.30pm/ 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 Clive and Daphne

**Cape Hillsborough  
Creek 4, Black Wasp Overhang and Paradox Falls**

**25 March 2018**

**Leader:** Kevin Smith Ph 0417 326634

**Depart:** 07:00

**Journey:** 100km

**Grade:** M65

**Total Uphill:** 460m

**Terrain:** Rock hopping, scrambling.

This is a new look at Cape Hillsborough area. We go up a creek with small gorges in parts and investigate some cave overhangs then up to the top of lookout peak for 360 deg views. Back down another creek for a short distance, uphill to a large overhang cave then a scramble to the top of this for more views. From here a stroll cross-country to the top of Paradox Falls. (usually not flowing) If time permits we will investigate the bottom of this fall. This walk would be suited to beginner walkers as well as others but it is a reasonably full day walk of 8 or 9km with 460m height gain and loss.

**Easter Camp:  
Moonlight Dam and Denham Range  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 49440236 0447091532

**Journey:** 240kms \$24

**Camp Fees:** \$19.05

**Grade:** L48

The arrangements for this camp are yet to be finalised but the plan is to drive to Moonlight Dam on Good Friday morning. We will then backpack up to Denham Range to camp. This is about a distance of 16kms and it is all on track. The first 11 kms are relatively flat but the next 5 are very steep and this makes it quite a challenging walk.

We will camp at the Denham Range campground for 2 nights and on the Saturday undertake a day walk to the Stalk. Other club members who would prefer not to backpack are welcome to drive to Denham Range to camp with us and to participate in the Saturday walk.

Sunday we will backpack back to Moonlight Dam with spectacular views along the way and camp the night there. Monday morning we can do a short walk in Moonlight Creek before returning home.

### **South Molle Camp Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 49440236 0447091532

**Journey:** 320kms \$32.00

**Return Boat Trip:** \$65

**Camp Fees:** \$12.70

A camp in Paradise - a 2 night camp on South Molle Island. It will be a casual camp and will include walks both on and off track and provide stunning views of the Whitsundays.

The boat fee includes water supplies but walkers will need to bring all food and cooking gear.

At this stage I am unsure of the starting time but it will be sometime Saturday morning and the Monday morning will be a very early start as the boat can only collect us when the tide is suitable but this will allow us time to enjoy breakfast in Airlie Beach.

At this stage the Sandy Bay camp site where we have previously camped is almost booked out so I am looking at the Paddle Bay campground on the opposite side of the island. This campground only takes a maximum of 12 so I will have to limit numbers to that many. Please contact me early if you would like to join this camp.

Campers will also need to share the cost of carpark fees with the drivers.

**Full details will be in the April newsletter but please register your interest for this camp with me by 11<sup>th</sup> March so I can book the campsites. It will be a case of taking the first 12 people only.**

## *Previous Activities*

### **Eungella tracks 21 January 2018**



stirring it up with a stick, when it very rapidly sped off.

A longish lunch break was had at the kiosk picnic area, with the luxury of tables and chairs, and toilets. A platypus was very active in the river, busily swimming and then scurrying over rocks to reach his objective. As we left a group of us once again watched a platypus from under the bridge – perhaps the same one.

A couple of walkers opted to stay in the kiosk area for a leisurely afternoon, while the rest of us continued back to the cars, a faster walk as there was no need to stop for smoko. A slight hiccup when Peter had problems getting his vehicle to

A good start to the Bushwalker season with 15 walkers, 2 new. (welcome to Margaret and Matt) The track was dry, so only one leech was reported (Edie) and, with the day being mostly overcast, walking conditions were good.

We started at the Crediton and of the track, making good time, stopping for morning tea at the dry creek, and again briefly at the spot where we usually have lunch on a through walk. Here there was some debate over whether the snake we found was dead, but Peter decided the issue by







start, but that was soon sorted and we were back in time, just, to have a hot coffee, thanks to the stayers who alerted staff to the possibility of sales to a group of receptive walkers.

A good day, with pleasant company, easy walking, the odd platypus or 2 – what more could a bushwalker want.

FB Images by Penny.

### Lineel Falls and Pretty Creek Sunday 11th February

Although we did not complete the full loop as planned on this walk we still had a very nice day. In the hot weather this is one of my favourite places to be.

We set off on the western trail and it wasn't long until the correct ridge was found to take us off to the junction of Pretty Creek and another unnamed Creek. Not having been this way since the cyclone I was expecting the walk to be more challenging than it was. There were extra trees lying on the ground which we had to navigate our way around but the undergrowth wasn't too bad. Right on 10am we came across "Smoko Rocks" where we enjoyed morning tea.



times in waist deep water.

It wasn't long before we headed back to the beach and the junction before heading 150m or so up the other creek to Lineel Falls. Here we had lunch and quite a few of us swam and the water was indeed refreshing but I don't think it was as cold as it has been on previous occasions.

Back at the creek junction we huffed and puffed up the steep ridge to take us back to the Western Trail. Thanks to everyone who came along to make this a great day in the bush.  
Jenny



Soon we were off again and straight down to come out smack on the junction. Waters from the cyclone had gouged the bank out making it steeper and more challenging to get down to the creek. Once down a couple of walkers opted to stay at "Pretty Creek Beach" while the rest of us headed downstream. Recent rain had made the creek somewhat deeper than on previous occasions which made crossing it interesting. Most of us opted just to wade through it, at

