



The Message Stick

March 2019

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

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

Email: mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com

Future Events

Rawsons Creek.....	3 rd March
Pebbley Creek.....	10 th March
Maud Creek.....	17 th March
General Meeting and induction.....	20 th March
St Lawrence Camp.....	23 rd & 24 th March
Pretty Creek Gorges.....	31 st March



One of the many crossings of Owens Creek

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

A huge thank you to all those who have accepted committee positions to ensure the continuation of the club. We welcome Peter who will be the assistant walks coordinator and the return of Garry to the Vice President and Equipment Officer roles, however it is disappointing to see no other new faces to the committee and the roles have mainly rolled to the same people.

The creeks are really nice at the moment with plenty of water after recent rains so walks participants are making the most of them.

Enjoy the month everyone.

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 26th 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

Difficulty

1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners

4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required

8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only

Future Events

Please Note: Most of the walks scheduled for March are creek walks. Most of us love to have a swim in the hot weather. However these walks may need to be cancelled at short notice if we receive a lot of rain, making the creeks unsafe to traverse. If a leader deems the walk shouldn't go ahead he/she will contact people who have already nominated for the walk and notification will be placed on the club Facebook page advising of the cancellation.

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

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

**Rawson's Creek
Sunday 3 March**

Leader: Donna Burgess, 0488 787 953

Departing: 7am

Journey: 140km, \$14.00

Time: 6 hours approximately

Grade: S76

Total Uphill: The creek is not steep, but has a reasonable fall, we will not have a definite destination as it will depend on the group and conditions. **Pace:** Medium **Terrain:** Very uneven, large boulders, rocks all the way. **Vegetation:** Rain forests **Expect:** Mostly rock hopping and creek crossings. Boots will get wet and the rocks will likely be slippery so pick your foot wear carefully.

There is no track once we enter the creek, we either walk in the water, on rocks or scramble through tangle. Leaches maybe present.

Rawson's Creek is a wild rainforest creek with lots of recent flow from the Eungella National Park catchment area. We access it from the Finch Hatton Gorge walking track, there will opportunities to swim so remember your swimming attire.

**Pebblyrock Creek
Sunday 10th March**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427383732

Departure: 7:00am

Journey: 160km \$16.00

Map Ref: Calen 6717 9608

Grade: M33

Estimated walking time: 5 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 60mtr **Pace:** slow. **Terrain:** Creek walk. **Vegetation:** rain forest. **Expect:** rock hopping, have seen moonlighter, swimming holes.

This walk is in the Cathu State Forest Reserve

This is an easy walk with small cool off holes along the creek. The creek has running water and there will be lots of creek crossings, so wet weather foot wear is required. We can split into two groups to cater for all fitness and rock hopping abilities.

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.

**Maud Ck – “Big Bend” and “Tributaries”
Sunday 17th March**

Leader: Jenny 0447091532 / 49440236

Easier Option Leader: Frances Eiteneuer
49576028

Depart: 6am

Journey: 200km \$20

Map Ref: 662292E 7675045N GDA94

Grade: M77

Walking Time: 6 hours **Total of uphill:** 200m

Terrain: Difficult Creek Banks, Steep Slope, Dense Jungle, lots of water. **Expect:** Bush Bashing off track, Not being able to see your feet, Scrambling through thick vegetation, Vines and prickly things.

Despite a leisurely 45 minute warm up along an easy forest track to Maud Creek, this walk becomes difficult immediately upon entering the creek.

Our aim will be to follow Maud Creek downstream to “Big Bend”. This is only about half a kilometer but is made difficult by the very dense rainforest jungle on the creek banks and will take some time. Vegetation may have changed since our last visit due to bushfires in the area so the walk will be somewhat exploratory.

We will get to Big Bend well before lunch and be prepared for a lengthy and leisurely swim at Big Bend in the magnificent deep fern fringed pool.

Bring your watershoes if you wish to participate in exploring further downstream from here as it is easier to swim than walk the impenetrable banks. The water is crystal clear and not too cold.

A reasonably lengthy stay will be had in the environs of Big Bend to allow exploration and frolicking. Those who do not wish to explore downstream via the water have the option of relaxing here until the explorers return.

We will make our return via a small but pretty tributary entering just upstream of Big Bend. This tributary has some difficult sections eventually becoming impassable at a little gorge rising abruptly with multiple levels of small waterfalls. At that point we will go bush up a steep slope through dense vegetation making a bee line for the top of a ridge and subsequently picking up the track we came in on. A reasonable climb is involved.

It is highly recommended to wear long sleeves, gaiters, gloves etc due to the dense vegetation. You will come back with some scratches and the odd leach. You may also likely encounter other

assorted jungle nasties. I think you will be amply rewarded for your effort.

This walk will be dependent on the weather.

For those wanting an easier day, Frances will be leading a walk in this area on the forestry tracks. Please phone Frances if you would like to take this option.

**Induction 6.30pm/ Annual General Meeting
7.30pm
Wednesday 20th February**

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

**St Lawrence Car Based Camp
Sat / Sun 23 & 24 March 2019**

Leader : Coral Morgan 0407 164856

Co Leader : Kevin Smith

Depart :- Early TBA

Journey :- 320km Plus

This is to celebrate the leader's return to the club (after car accident). Come one, come all- There are good facilities at the Rodeo Camp Grounds St Lawrence, which costs \$10 per person.

In the morning we will watch the tide roar in under the train bridge, and then set up camp. There is a variety of interesting things to do for the rest of the day.

Before we go home on Sunday, we will travel by car pooling in the 4wd vehicles to "The Hoogly". This is situated at the mouth of the Styx River. Kevin and I have been there and it is awesome.

Anyone could stay for one day only if they wish. Please be self sufficient and book with the leader by Thursday 21st thanks.

**Lineel Falls/Pretty Creek Loop.
Sunday 31st March**

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236 0447091532

Depart: 7.00am

Journey: 200km \$20

Grade: M75

Map Ref: Mirani 669 731

Estimated walking time: 5 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 100m **Pace:** medium

Terrain: Rainforest, rockhopping, some scrambling, creek crossings. **Expect:** Nice

swimming holes and some steep off track bashing. This walk begins on the Western trail to Mt Dalrymple before we head off on a ridge down to the junction of Pretty Creek and the upper reaches of Cattle creek. We will explore a little way downstream where there are some spectacular swimming holes. We will then head back to the junction and diverge 150m or so upstream to visit Lineel Falls. From here we will travel 800m back up Pretty Creek via some small waterfalls and micro gorges to where we will rejoin the western trail to return to the cars. The creek is quite spectacular in this section with some short difficult sections requiring use of all four limbs.

This walk is weather dependent and will not go ahead if there has been heavy rain in the days beforehand or forecast for the actual day.

Previous Activities

**Owens Creek:
Sunday 17th February**

When Frances put her name down to lead this, one of her 'Signature' walks, I wonder did she have any inkling of what was in store.

Instead of the calm and tranquil Owens Creek, with its waters rippling merrily down from the not so steep heights, casually meandering between boulders large and small, Frances and her team of 11 found a torrent of water, rushing down between the banks, foaming at each and every drop, trapping the unwary some of whom foolishly tried to keep their boots dry. Everyone agreed that it was the most water in the creek that



they'd ever seen, but that didn't detract from the enjoyment - once the boots were wet, it was 'what the heck' may as well just plough through and enjoy the cool water.

Kate was the first to sample the swimming hole near the rope bridge, whilst some of us tested out the bridge ropes longevity and strength by walking across to see what hidden treasures the tarps on the other side hid (bugs).

The 'Big Hole' was duly reached where most took the opportunity for a cooling swim before lunch, after which Garry and seven other continued at a fair pace to the top waterfall, quite an achievement!

The trip back to the cars in the afternoon was reasonably fast, even allowing for the frequent detours from rock hopping, to the bank, to climbing around and over obstacles, but back at the start again, everyone agreed that it was 'another awesome walk'

Thanks to Frances and Garry.



Bee Creek

Sunday 24th February

True to Eungella early morning form, the range was engulfed in fog. Together with the evident rainfall all the way up the valley from the night before had me wondering whether it was a good idea to be in a creek as I was trying to find Bee Creek Road through the mist.

Lulled by the promise of an easy creek walk, seventeen people had turned out for the day. Even so, there were early mumblings concerning the much maligned "hill" at the end. Not sure but I think the ringleader may have been Frances. Surprising really seeing how she used to live up there once.

It was still misty as we entered the creek, plenty of moisture underfoot made negotiating the slippery rocks a little difficult. However I liked the way the mist made the creek look somewhat surreal.

Shortly after we came across the longest and straightest smoko log I have ever seen. It was way too early for smoko but soon enough for a group photo.



The day brightened relatively quickly revealing some spectacular and pretty sections of creek. Bee Creek is quite varied, rocky in some places and calm in others with some very nice cascades and swimming holes. On this occasion I think it looked better than previous trips due to the healthy flow of water. Perhaps the best I have seen this creek deliver so far. We picked a good time to go.

Whilst we still had a bit of Lantana to deal with, we were fortunate that recent heavy rain had flushed the banks quite well and made going fairly easily.

Later on, just to prevent the hill mumblings from developing into a full on mutiny, I took the opportunity to show Frances a spot where the return road looped within fifty metres of the creek. "Could be a shortcut if you need it", I offered. In the background someone else says, "No way am I going over that hill".

With that sorted and about another kilometre to go before Mt Everest, we head further downstream for some even better creek sections and a cooling swim in the last waterhole.



Finally, there we all are, standing in a nice green pasture looking up the ridge to the dreaded hill. Doesn't look so bad, look, I can see the top. We are all feeling pretty good, it has been a great day so far, no one wants to avail themselves of the shortcut, and so up we go for lunch at the top.

Personally I like the hill and its rocks. There is even a rock with orchids all over it. I've been told to come back in October to see it flowering. Maybe.

I had to be content with another rock with strange things growing on it.



Sometimes being in front is a bonus, on the way down the other side I was lucky to have a small flock of inquisitive little yellow and grey birds flit along from tree to tree in front of me. They made a noise but I don't know how to spell it.

Once down it was an easy stroll back to the cars along a dirt road.

Thank you to all those who came along and helped make it such a great day. Well done Frances for making it easily over the big hill 😊



Garry