



The Message Stick

May 2012

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

Future Events

South Molle Island Camp	5 th – 7 th May
7 Mile Creek	13 th May
General Meeting	16 th May
Mt McGregor	20 th May
Rescue Ridge	27 th May
St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend	26 th - 27 th May
Mikes Peak Ridges Loop.....	3 rd June

Training has begun for our cycling tour of Tasmania in 2013 and visit to Denis. Please email me if you are interested in joining our Saturday morning social rides which hopefully will occur every second week, starting the week after South Molle Camp. Our aim is to enjoy ourselves whilst improving fitness. 😊



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

An interesting month of walks is coming up, with plenty of variety. Thanks to everyone who has put their hand up to lead a walk.

Isaac Regional Council emailed out the information about the St Lawrence Wetlands weekend after we had our meeting and planned the walks calendar for the month. I will add the email to the end of the walks descriptions for anyone who may be interested in the weekend. A free bus will be running to and from Mackay to St Lawrence for the event.

It was sad this month to say farewell to 2 club members who have moved away but great to see we are still getting new walkers joining up each month.

Enjoy the month everyone.

Our Publicity Officer is Rob Kollin
robertskool@qld.chariot.net.au
Please email Rob 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 25th May

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,	4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
L = long – over 10km	Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling	8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only
	8-10 = Bush as above + thick scrub, major rock	
	Scrambling using hands, technical	

Future Events

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks

South Molle Island Camp

Saturday 5th May – Monday 7th May

Leader: Jenny Wooding 49440236,
0447091532 after 5pm

Please see previous April Newsletter for full details.

Seven Mile Creek, Septimus

Sunday 13th May

Leader: Cheryl Brodie, 49552895 or 0439 799
071

Depart: 7am

Journey: 120km \$12

Grade: M66

Estimated walking time: 5-6 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** Some. **Pace:** average.

Terrain: walking beside creek, some rocks and

soft creek sand. **Vegetation:** long grass, lantana, scratchy vines. **Expect:** open forest, swimming, rock hopping, some steep climbs, bird life .

This is a medium walk with some fitness required. It's a beautiful creek that weaves its way up to a nice waterfall and great swimming hole. We only went up to the waterfall when we revisited this creek recently so beyond that we will be exploring as the club hasn't done this walk since 1994. How far we get up the creek will depend on the day and what the terrain is like. Bring enough water for the day although the creek should still have fresh water running.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 16th May**

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

**Mt McGregor
Sunday 20th May**

Leader: Chris Laidlow 49591782
Depart: 7:00am
Journey: 80km \$8.00
Map Ref: Mirani 958623
Grade: S73

Estimated walking time: 5-6 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 240m. **Pace:** average. **Terrain:** very uneven. **Vegetation:** open forest. **Expect:** some steep slopes, long grass. Mt McGregor is only 272m above sea level in the Devereux Creek area. It is a little rough under foot but we will be taking the climb at a leisurely pace to get to the different vantage points at the top. Some of this walk will be of an exploratory nature. It would be best to wear longs to guard against scratches from scrub and fallen branches. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

**Rescue Ridge
Sunday 27th May**

Leaders: Eric Minger ph 49533796
Pam Faulkner ph 49533796
Depart: 7am.
Journey: 200 km. \$20
Map Ref. Mirani 201072
Grade: M76

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill:** 400m **Pace:** moderate **Terrain:** Steep and very uneven **Vegetation:** Rainforest. This is a delightful rainforest walk to a beautiful part of Cattle Creek where it spills over a series of waterfalls and cascades. We leave the cars on Dalrymple Road and drop steeply down. Although not a long walk, it is fairly difficult on account of the steepness and in the last section some waitawhile. This walk is suitable only for experienced walkers.

**Mikes Peak Ridges Loop
Sunday 3rd June**

Leader: Garry Hendicott 49440236
Depart: 6:00am
Journey: 240kms \$24.00
Map Ref: Mirani 2nd Ed 626 263
Grade: M67

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 300m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** very uneven, hidden obstacles underfoot, lots of up and very steep descents in places **Vegetation:** open scrub, very long spear grass **Expect:** Long grass all day, trip hazards and obstacles hidden in grass underfoot, limited shade, no water, some scrambling across gullies.

This will be a somewhat tougher than usual walk due to the terrain, long grass and hidden obstacles. Once up on the ridges there are no shortcuts back. Total walk distance is about 7kms and the vast majority of it is in long grass with the potential for stumbles under every step.

The walk will start from the Mt Adder Road in Homevale NP, near the turnoff to The Arch. Beginning with a 1.5km cross country bash over and through various gullies to the base of a ridge which we will then follow up to the summit of Mikes Peak (655m high) for an early lunch. We will return via an alternate 2km long snaking ridge, narrow in places with a steep descent at the end (tough on the knees), followed by another similar cross country bash back to the cars. Time permitting we may get the chance to explore another rock formation on the way back.

The reward for this slog will be spectacular views of the features of Homevale NP from various points along the ridges, you will get to see, Sydney Heads, The Marling Spikes, Clarks Pinnacle, The Bluff, Diamond Cliffs, Mt Britton and peer through the eye of The Arch from above.

It is essential you bring sufficient water and food to enable walking the entire day in the open sun.

Note the 6am start.

It's that time of year again!

The Isaac Regional Council would like to invite you to the 2012 St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend. This has now become an annual event and as a previous guest or participant we would welcome you again.

2012 sees the return of local band "Hullabaloo" as well as excellent food by camp oven cooks "The Bait Layers".

Please see the attached flyer for more information and don't hesitate to contact me for further information.

Kind regards

Helen Kraatz

Tourism Officer Clermont Visitor Information Centre

ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL

Governance & Community Services Directorate

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Previous Activities

Pioneer Point 1st April 2012

We commenced the walk from the Swamp Bay parking area about 9.15am. The first 2k was easy walking on a graded track before reaching the beach. We then started walking north up the beach over pebbles and rocks of varying sizes. There were a few headlands to clamber over and what seemed like never ending points as we made our way up the beach. A turtle was spotted but nothing much else in the water. As we headed north the rocks became larger which entailed more rock hopping than I was



expecting, but generally it was not too difficult. We reached what we will call Pioneer Point for lunch with a great panoramic view out over the water and surrounding islands. After a break we started the return journey. Some people collected various items of flotsam and jetsam on the way back, some useful and maybe some not so useful. We reached the spot where the track meets the beach after a couple of hours, and, after a well deserved break we completed the last couple of ks back to the cars in quick time. When we arrived back we found that someone had reversed into Garry's car causing some panel damage and a broken tail light. After much cursing about people not leaving any contact details a small note was discovered on the windscreen as we were about to drive off. Hopefully Garry can get it fixed at no expense to him. (Ed Yes he did). Apart from this incident it was a great day and a most enjoyable walk. Thanks to all who participated and thanks to Garry and Jenny for organising the town end.

As most of you know, Romaine and I will be moving to Tasmania at the end of April, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your company and friendship on the many walks that we have shared together. If any of you are down our way in the future, please come and pay us a visit and maybe I will be able to organise some walks. I will leave my contact details with Jenny.

Denis

Middle Creek 15th April



The Leap Sunday 22nd April

What beautiful weather we've having at the moment (about time I hear you say). It was a perfect day to climb the Leap. Fourteen walkers assembled at the start and were all eager until Paul started warning them about the dreaded scrub itch. I thought a few might change their minds and run for the hills but it didn't seem to faze them. Paul decided to take the creek way up so there was a fair bit of rock hopping and a few hairy climbs to master on the way up. Thankfully there was not much water in the creek and the rocks were pretty dry except for moss in some areas which can catch the unwary. You can see where lots of rock falls have occurred in the past and Celestine pointed out on one of our stops some huge rocks just hanging waiting to fall, so we didn't feel too comfortable sitting there for too long. When we reached the top we just stopped to take in the views at different points. The grass trees were plentiful so you had to push your way through in places but it wouldn't be the Leap without them and it's all worth it in the end. You feel high up looking down on the cars below but apparently it's only 280 metre (still wouldn't like to fall off). After we finished morning tea Dan and Anne decided stay behind at the rocks while rest of the group went on to the highest point to take in more views, which were fantastic and so clear. We looked for the place where the aboriginal lady had jumped. What a legend, her baby survived the fall and was raised by the trooper chasing the mother, all over killing cattle for food. Thank goodness times have changed. We returned via the track under the cliff face which was much easier and quicker going. We finished early (around 1.30) which would have horrified some of the older club members. Shush don't tell them.

Cheryl

The Leap. 22nd April

Fourteen walkers went on the walk to the top of the leap. Well done to all the five new walkers Rebecca, Peter, Heather, Jenny and Mathew who all acquitted themselves very well on what was a tricky climb to the top with plenty of rockhopping and some steep climbs. Everyone was rewarded at the top with some great views at different locations on what was a lovely clear day. I take my hat off to Ann who suffered a fall and bruised her head but she shouldered on like a trooper and completed the walk and was fine when the walk was over. There was a mystery nomination who did not front up on the walk, a Arnold Zeffell. Paul had a vague recollection of an older bloke very, very tall and very lean from Kuttatubul who had not walked for a long time. Can anyone else recall this mystery person? I can remember a bloke on a comedy TV program from the late sixties called Greenacres who had the same name. Thanks for leading the walk Paul.

Dan

Social Outing for the month

Farewell Kiwi Fran dinner at the Sailing Club

