



The Message Stick

May 2018

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

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

Email: mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com

Future Events

South Molle Island.....	5 th , 6 th & 7 th May
Orchid Creek.....	13 th May
General Meeting.....	16 th May
Far Beach.....	20 th May
Cape Hillsborough.....	27 th May
St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend.....	8 th , 9 th & 10 th June

A few Points for walk leaders

- Walk leaders MUST obtain permission from landowners when walking on private property
- Walk leaders are to take the phone numbers of people when they register for walks so they are able to notify of any late changes.



Donna and Ian still smiling after completing the notorious Dray track backwards!

Club Officers

President	Clive Goodson	4954 9338	Contact Officer	Coral Morgan	49578474
Vice President	Carole Weekes	4954 6108	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	49578474
Secretary	Donna Burges	0488 787953	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

On rare occasions late changes may need to be made to the walks calendar due to weather or other events. These changes will be advertised on the Club Facebook page but leaders will also endeavour to contact people who have already registered for a particular walk.

Best of luck to those heading off on the Larapinta adventure! Hope you all have a fabulous trip and also to our secretary and treasurer who are gallivanting off to Italy. I look forward to hearing about all your adventures when you return.

Have a great month everyone

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 24th May**

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

**South Molle Island
5th, 6th & 7th May**

Leader: Jenny Wooding 0447091532

All details in previous newsletter but a few spots are still available. We will be leaving Mackay at 9am Saturday and returning around midday on Monday. Please call ASAP if interested

**Orchid Creek, Cathu
Sunday 13 May**

Leader: Clive Goodson 0749549338

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 170km \$17.00

Map Ref: Calen 620978

Grade: M87

Estimated walking time: 6 hours **Pace:** average

Terrain: very uneven terrain **Expect:** some rock hopping and scrambling up and around rock faces, so walkers will need to be reasonably fit.

We will follow the creek uphill as far as time permits. Hopefully we will find some nice swim holes to cool down in.

To register for the walk please **ring** me (don't text) no later than 12.00 noon Saturday, or leave a message on 0417 706 240

**Induction 6.30pm/ 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 Coral and Carole

**Far Beach (Illawong) to Bakers Creek
Sunday 20th May**

Leader: Coral Morgan 49578474

Depart: 7am

Journey: N/A

Map Ref: Mackay 278572

Grade: M43

Assembly: at Illawong/Far Beach (near air disaster memorial)

Please note we will meet at the starting point as above – down Petrie Street to the beach. The walk will take us south along the beach and across the shallow tidal Shellgrit Creek – then more beach walking to the mouth of Bakers Creek. On the way back we will follow sandy vehicle tracks through a reserve and then some bush bashing back to the beach, returning by lunchtime to beat the tide. It is a beach walk so remember slip, slop, slap and bring enough drinking water.

When booking we will discuss the possibility of staying on for a lunchtime Barbeque. If you leave a message please include your number.

**Cape Hillsborough Bush and Beach
Sunday 27th May**

Leader: Daphne Goodson 0417 706 240

Depart : 7am

Journey : 100kms. \$10

Grade. M55

Estimated walking time: 5 hrs

Total of all uphill sections: 300m **Terrain:** graded tracks and beach **Vegetation :** rain forest,

open forest, mangroves **Expect :** scenic views, fairly easy walking, steps, insects.

The plan is to cover all the tracks accessible easily from the resort - the boardwalk, Hidden Valley, the track up to the top at the southern end, and the swimming pool track. We will be adjusting the walks to suit the high tide at 9 30 and low tide at 3.45.

Bring sunblock, repellent, and plenty of water as well as lunch.

St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend

June 8th, 9th and 10th

Co-ordinator: Carole Weekes 49546108

Our club has a well established tradition of attending this event, initially for Saturday only, but more recently some of us have camped for one, two or three nights. We usually pitch our tents on the lawn at the Eastern end of the Recreation Grounds at a cost of \$10 per site per night. Lunch can be purchased on Saturday, and about \$30 will buy you a Bushman's Dinner and entertainment by Mango Junction on Saturday evening.

Other attractions planned for this year include :-

- * Movie and Wine and Cheese night on Friday 8th
- * Markets from 8am to 4.30 on Sat 9th
- * Wetlands tours and environmental presentations at various times
- * Art workshops and local crafts

If you just want to do your own thing, St Lawrence has an historic cemetery, fresh water fish habitats, koalas and abundant bird life.

Go to Isaac.qld.gov.au or phone Karen Armstrong on 0418266144 for more information.

Our arrangements for car convoys/ car pooling are very fluid, as people usually arrive and depart at different times, but if you are interested in attending for all or part of the time please let me know **A WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT.**

Previous Activities

**Black Wasp Overhang and Paradox Falls, Cape Hillsborough.
25th March, 2018**

Cape Hillsborough is always an interesting place to walk and with the promise of new places with such intriguing names who could resist – even in the rain!

It **was** a wet walk –rain from the heavens or drips from the trees or grass. Either way, we were going to get wet but it was worth it. We saw Paradox Falls from the track, from the bottom where we walked through it into a cave, from the top where we followed the creek that fed it and saw where it fell over the cliff. Later, we saw it from the beach! We stood on top of Black Wasp overhang and looked at the view then later went down into the overhang where there was another cave to investigate.



On the way back to the cars, we decided to go via

the waterhole. Incredible! It was full, flowing and so refreshing! Thanks Kevin. It was a great day and your place-names were spot-on! Therese Laidlow



**Easter Camp
Homevale National Park
Friday 30th March 2018**



Due to the track into Denham Range camping ground being deemed impassable due to recent wet weather, Coral decided we could try camping at our regular spot at Mt Britton township and attempt walks about that area. Coral and Fran, Elaine and Penny met up at Eton with Bryan and we headed out to the lookout to set up camp. It was a beautiful day and we hoped the weather would hold out for the entirety.

That afternoon we set out on a short walk from the shire quarry on Mt Adder road across country to meet up with a small creek and follow its course back to one of our cars. The creek, not named on the maps was called 'Butterfly Creek' by myself, as

we encountered hundreds upon hundreds of butterflies of all shapes and colours. It was relatively easy going along the shallow stream, however we took regular rest stops and picked suitable river logs to sit and take in the breeze and surrounding scenery and to chat.

After some distance we encountered another larger creek and remarked how the junction would have been quite a spectacle in a torrent. Large boiler hole at a junction of two different levels. Coral reported how they had stumbled upon a lone camper in the long undergrowth. They had surprised themselves and a large kangaroo, the latter just making a few hops to the side to let them pass. He wasn't going to give away his hideout it seemed !

A short distance further after sighting orchids way up in the dead branches and persevering with the rocky creek bed, we came across the Mt Britton road and our car. Collected our first car and returned to camp to a fireplace and cup of tea. Thanks to Ralph for collecting and sawing wood for the evening fire. We were later joined by Peter Howard who came for a chat.



We would camp at the Lookout for two nights until the weather dampened the enthusiasm. It gave Ralph an opportunity to run his drone and survey the local scenery from a different perspective.

Saturday 31st March:

Today the weather was overcast with light showers and since I hadn't been up The Bluff before, Coral suggested that would be a good walk for the day. Penny, Elaine, Fran and Bryan headed off mid-morning after some directions from Peter and Coral and waypoints from Peter's GPS. The first part of the track was towards a gold mining lease where the warning signs looked mildly threatening (something about private property and

a lessee of unsound mind!) We took a detour along a small stream then cut up along the ridges through rather dense and prickly scrub. We joined the GPS track from earlier expeditions and made our way, taking in more rest stops, encountered rain showers and occasional views.



After about two and a half hours we made summit at The Bluff to be rewarded with commanding views of Diamond Cliffs, Clarke's Pinnacle, Sydney Heads, Marling Spikes and further in the distance the fine mesa shape of Mt Fort Cooper. I had waited some years to reach this landmark and was not disappointed with the outcome. We were lucky to have clear skies for good views and photo opportunities.

After our lunch, we covered up with raincoats and endured the rain for most the way back down to the campsite, beating our way through the thicket and trying to keep to the track. Everyone enjoyed the walk today with a great outcome. Thanks fellow MBC walkers.

Sunday 1st April 2018:

Today, after our breakfast and packing up the camp, we decided that the wet weather was too much and as we were expecting more from impending cyclonic action, we decided to return home. The paddocks along Carinya Station were covered with grass and for the first time in years of travelling out that way, the cattle looked like they were enjoying the pasture. A flock of Bustards was seen along the way and the lagoon at the Turrawalla Road turn off was full of water and lilies. A stop for the regular cappuccino and plate of hot chips at Nebo Junction before making for home.



Many thanks to everyone for a pleasant camp this Easter. Most enjoyable
Bryan Marshall

Highlights of Easter Backpack camp

This walk was reduced to 2 days due to the onset of rain but we still had a good time.



Trying to find some shade on day 1



Lunch in a dry creek



The Hill begins

Lambert's Beach and Slade Point Reserve Sunday 22nd April

Twelve members assembled near Lambert's Lookout at 8am, ready for a comparatively relaxed walk in pleasant conditions and with a later than usual starting time.

We followed the well established routine of stretching our legs with a climb up to the lookout with its newly constructed observation shelter, and although there was a bit of cloud on the horizon, the view was stunning as always, with the ocean a strong torquoise shade punctuated by the islands.



Most walkers set off south along the beach facing into a stiff breeze, but a few chose the parkland, with the group reuniting at the rocky point ready to pace it out for morning tea on the grassy area at the north of the harbour. Cameras were busy recording the assorted vessels, the seascape, and fellow walkers.

The journey back along the beach was wind assisted, and we were soon accessing the beach circuit track within the reserve, and studying the map displayed above Pacific Esplanade. The Amphitheatre Circuit led us into a tranquil, cool and shady section displaying some highly photogenic botanical specimens, and the next section to be explored was the longer Reserve Circuit. Birds and butterflies made brief appearances, and one log was adorned with a very unusual light green fungus.

The special features of Fern Valley were admired as we made use of the boardwalk for our lunch stop, and despite the fact that there was no water lying around, there was a bit of annoying insect life. After the dryness of Fern Valley, we were prepared for the wetland area further on to be completely parched, but this was not the case.

The last section of our walk contained a couple of turkey mounds, and right at the end we saw a couple of turkeys and as we crossed the parklands back to the cars some black cockatoos made their presence felt.



All participants completed the walk which covered about twelve kilometres, and I was happy to be able to introduce several of them to the Slade Point Reserve.

Carole