



# The Message Stick

## November 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

Burroughs Creek Camp.....	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> November
St Helen's Creek.....	11 <sup>th</sup> November
Urannah Creek Camp.....	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> November
Western Trail.....	18 <sup>th</sup> November
Annual General Meeting .....	21 <sup>st</sup> November
Break up Camp .....	24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> November
Blacks Creek.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Dollar Falls.....	9 <sup>th</sup> December



*Happy Birthday  
Penny  
It was a lovely  
evening*

### AGM Reminder

A reminder to all that the AGM is being held on  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

All committee positions will be declared vacant.  
Nomination forms for committee positions will be  
emailed out in the next week or so.

We would love to see some new faces on the  
committee and fresh ideas are always welcome.

*Hope to see you there.*

### 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*

*Penny's surprise birthday dinner was a very pleasant evening. Everyone had done a great job of keeping quiet about the night and so Penny had no idea it was happening. Elaine and Kathy did an excellent job of balloon blowing and decorating tables. I thought the lizards were a nice touch. Also happy birthday to Kate!*

*It's hard to believe the end of the year is approaching so quickly. A big thank you to club member, Bev Swan for allowing us all to camp on her property for the annual break up. It will be a lot of fun.*

*It's great to see a few pictures appearing in the newspaper again. Well done Rob and thanks to those who send the photos to Rob.*

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.

**Items for the next newsletter  
should be sent to  
[jennywooding@dodo.com.au](mailto:jennywooding@dodo.com.au)  
prior to 26<sup>th</sup> November**

### 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**

### **Denham Range Backpack Camp Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

**Leader:** Dan McKinlay 0409057494 or  
49534249

**Depart:** 7:00am at Car park.

**Journey:** 200km \$20.00

**Map Ref:** 583776 2 58046 Mirani

**Grade:** L55

**Estimated walking time:** 9 hours over two days in the Crediton State Forest. **Pace:** Steady

**Expect:** Steep climb, uneven terrain, creek beds, open forest, some Lantana, 4 wheel drive track along return.

This walk is a full backpack hike and a good level of fitness is required. You will be required

to carry all your camping equipment and food. It may well be hot so 3 litres of water is recommended to be carried each day.

Day one –Est 10 km, will be from cars and access to the camp site will be via Hazlewood Creek, up a steep ridge and walk adjacent to Burroughs Creek

Day Two –Est 13 Km will be from Denham Camp Range Camping Ground along section of the Highland Great Walk .

Could be a good introduction to those backpack hiking for the first time. Water and Toilet Facilities are available at the Denham Range Camping Ground and a camp fee of \$5.45 is payable per person.

**Please advise the Leader by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October if you intend to walk.**

**St Helens Creek  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**Leader:** Paul Eder

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 140Km \$14

**Map Ref:** Calen 740806

**Grade:** S73

**Time:** 4-5 hours

**Total Uphill:** 20m (not counting boulders)

**Terrain:** very uneven, rocky all the way.

**Expect:** Mostly rockhopping & creek crossings.

St Helens creek is a large rainforest creek which flows out of Eungella National Park in the Cameron Pocket area about 13km west of Calen. Depending on water level we might have to cross the creek a few times. There will be plenty of time to use the swimming holes along the way so forget the swimmers.

**Urannah Creek Camp  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Leader:** Steve Morgan 4954 0037

**Please contact the leader for information about this camp**

**Western Trail  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 4954 3428

**Departure:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 200km \$20.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 689749

**Grade:** M46

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours. **Total of all uphill sections:** 400m.

**Pace:** slow to medium **Terrain:** uneven.

**Vegetation:** rainforest. **Expect:** some steep slopes, some rock hopping, leeches.

We will drive to the end of Dalrymple Road and then commence our walk into the national park via a taped trail leading through beautiful rainforest. For anyone interested in ascending Mt Dalrymple at a later time, this would be a good walk to "get the feel" of what the going is like to ascend Mt Dalrymple from the 'Western Trail'. Our destination on the day will be one of the Cattle Creek tributaries. We will walk as fast as the slowest walker which will probably be me. The aim of the day is just to enjoy a relaxing day in this beautiful area.

You will need to bring food and water for the whole day. It is also advisable to bring plenty of insect repellent.

**Induction 6.45pm/ Annual General Meeting  
7.30pm**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

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

**Break up Camp**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

**CO-ORDINATOR:** Kathy Cant  
49522269

This year's car based break up camp will be held at **Bev Swan's property in the Marian area**. Please see mud map on the final page of this newsletter for how to get there.

**Arrival time:** 2pm onwards on Saturday afternoon.

**Facilities available:** bush toilet, shower, large table and BBQ plate. Someone will need to bring a gas bottle.

**The club will provide nibbles, drinks (non alcoholic) and food for the BBQ dinner on Saturday night (including dessert) for those who have booked with Kathy by Wednesday 21st November**

All campers will need to bring camping gear, swimming gear and all your own food for Sunday.

We have decided to forgo the traditional Sunday walk this year in favour of water activities at the campsite.

**Blacks Creek  
Sunday 2nd December**

**Leader:** Frances Eiteneuer **49576028**

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 130kms \$13.00

**Map Ref:** Mirani 901423

**Grade:** M55

**Estimated walking time:** 5 -6 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 10 m **Pace:** average **Terrain:** uneven, rocky and soft sand creek

bed **Vegetation:** some open rain forest, scratchy vines **Expect:** walking along creek bank through scrub, some walking in soft sand, some minor scrambling, limited shade, a relaxed day.

This will be a relatively easy walk along the banks of the picturesque Blacks Creek. There should be plenty of opportunities for swimming

so don't forget your swimmers. You will need to bring sunscreen and water for the whole day.

### **Dollar Falls**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

More Details about this walk in the December newsletter

## *Previous Activities*

### **Blue Water Trail 30th Sept 2012**

Four of us certainly had a good workout following the river and the coastline from the Regional Botanical Gardens along the Pioneer River to Iluka, and then along the beach as far as Illawong. Rather than returning to the cars via the suburbs, we decided to retrace our steps after enjoying lunch in Quota Park, thus completing a walk of about 24 kms all up. However, it was not all hard work, as the pace was comfortable and we enjoyed plenty of breaks, including a morning drink stop at "Bridges", and a close inspection of the Community Gardens. The weather was kind, as a bit of cloud cover and a gentle breeze took the sting out of the heat of the day. We shared the trail with cyclists, joggers, family groups and a trio of intoxicated fishermen, as well as an assortment of dogs and a few supposedly aggressive magpies. By 3pm we were all in our vehicles heading for home.

Carole

### **Mt. David Weekend 29<sup>th</sup> & 30 September 2012**



Mt. David is part of the Central Queensland section of the Great Dividing Range called the Clarke Range. The mountain is 1249 metres and compare to Mt. Dalrymple sitting at 1260 metres. It is part of the Eungella National Park.

Eight of us, packs loaded, took to the Western trail and headed north winding our way through the rainforest and crossing Pretty, Stony, Billy and other unnamed creeks. Having full packs, a few of us could feel the effects of not being as fit as we would have liked, but all determined to get there. After lunch we reached the junction to Mt. Dalrymple and to Mt. David.

Another hour and we were scrambling to the top rock, in time to see the stunning views towards Mackay and the north coast and everything in between. We had sightings of Regent Bower bird twice, a Noisy Pitta, Pied Currawong feeding and some of us a King Parrot.



We settled into our accommodation, ate dinner and then up on the rocks again to view the lights of Mackay and in the distance Proserpine and a pink glow past Proserpine which would have been Abbot Point.



Next morning after the usual, we headed west, looking for a cave. Plenty of overhangs and great landscape but no cave. So with time passing we headed off taking a big curve around the mountain. Plenty of boulders and then sink holes and then big sink holes. The girls explored these and filled their water bottles from the beautiful water deep within these holes. By following the curve around the mountain we missed three inclines and reached the marked track again where it crossed Billy Creek. From here we headed for home.

We reached the road before it started to rain so couldn't ask for anything better.

A great weekend. A big thank you to Coral.  
Paul Lanigan

### Teemurra Creek Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October



Ten of us met up to explore Teemurra Creek. It was over 2 years since our last visit and we were keen to see how the creek may have changed after a couple of big wet seasons and a cyclone. The water level was the lowest I had ever seen it but in most places it was still clear and the big waterhole where we had lunch still had plenty in it for those of us who enjoyed a swim. The walking was relatively easy and in places the creek appeared wider than it had in the past while other parts seemed unchanged. At

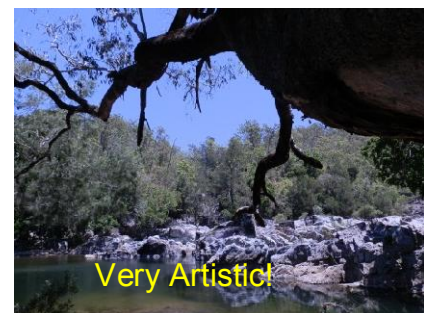
morning tea we discovered a python in a water hole – almost in the same place we had seen one 2 years before. We were concerned it would be very cold in the water and it seemed unable to get out due to the very steep rock sides surrounding it. Paul placed a large stick into the water and in no time it had slithered up it and out of the water. Well done Paul. It was a relaxing day of walking with great company as usual. Thanks to those who came along.



Jenny



Local Wildlife



Very Artistic!

### Owens Creek Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October



Fourteen club members assembled at 8.30 am in the Owens Creek area on a perfect day. As this particular walk had not been on the calendar since 2009, there was an air of expectation, and we were not to be disappointed, as the first part of the trip along the creek set the tone for the day – lots of action.

Several people at the head of the line managed to step over a snake without noticing it, but Cheryl was ready for the next one, and although her characteristic scream was

absent, she certainly moved very quickly. Luckily, the third snake event only involved a shed skin, but it was an impressive length.



Morning tea was enjoyed at **The Big Rock**, and by this time we were surrounded by deep rain forest, tall palms towering above us, and a variety of epiphytes in evidence. The music of the cascading water and the occasional whipbird call added to the richness of our surroundings, and flashes of deep blue were sighted as Ulysses butterflies advertised their presence.

An almost complete skeleton was scrutinised, but no decision was reached about exactly which reptile had met its end. As we continued our journey upstream, with lots of rock-hopping and some awkward maneuvers along rocky ledges, through the scrub and over (or under) logs, many of us were grateful that the water level was lower than on some trips in the past remembered by a few old hands.



Lunch was enjoyed at the waterfall which had always been our leader's target, and while some napped, took photos or just sat around on fairly uncomfortable rocks, Jenny, Garry, Frances, Therese, Kevin, Penny and Kate cooled off in the colder than expected swimming hole. After a long break we faced up to the return journey which was to present us with a few obstacles. It is always more difficult to bend down to crawl under a log across our path (I use the term lightly) after hours of rockhopping, and this resulted in some spectacular commando rolls, and called for agile movements on behalf of those who chose to climb over the tree trunks.



About 45 minutes before reaching the cars, an afternoon tea break was taken, and once again we had some bushwalkers who were tempted into the clear waters of this beautiful creek. The scrub was thick in places, and wait-a-while kept us vigilant.

I am sure all participants enjoyed the relaxing day in the bush, but most were probably relieved to reach the cars just after 4pm, as our creek walk was also quite active, even though we had plenty of breaks. Many thanks to Frances for a safe, enjoyable and varied bushwalk once again.  
Carole

### Tarzan Made an Appearance!



**Mackay's Biggest Bike Ride  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Team Bushwalkers**

**Kathy, Cheryl, Dale, Garry, Jenny**

Sorry Dale I didn't get a photo of you – next year I will!

The ride raised over \$50,000 for local charities.

Let's hope to see more Bushwalkers on bikes next year.

It's a lot of fun!

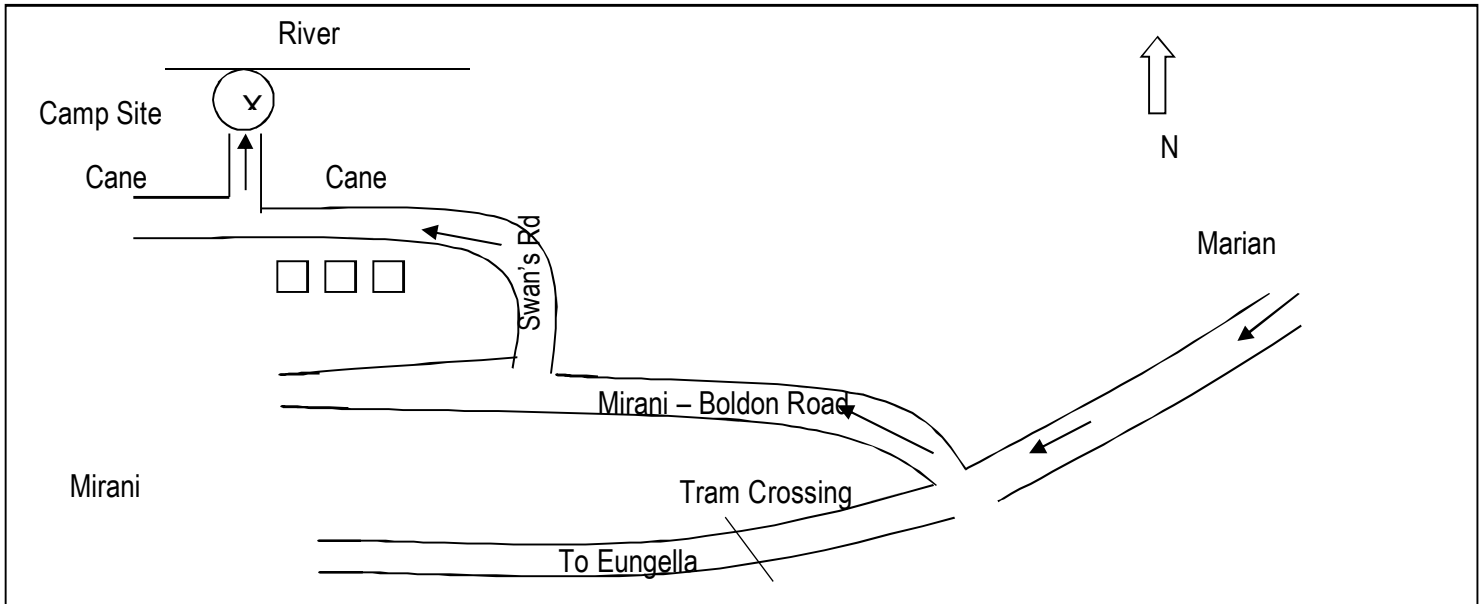


**Navigation Training Field Day  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

Kevin did a fantastic job with the navigation training and all who participated gained a lot from the experience.



**Mud Map for Christmas Break Up Camp  
24<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November**



Go about 1.5k along Mackay Eungella Road after going through Marian. On a slight rise you will come to Mirani Boldon Road. Take this road drive for about 4 - 5 ks until you come to Swans Road, follow Swans Road for about 400 - 500m around a corner, past three houses and then it will be a right turn onto a headland and down to the river. Should be able to mark the spot where we turn onto the headland.