



The Message Stick

November 2018

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

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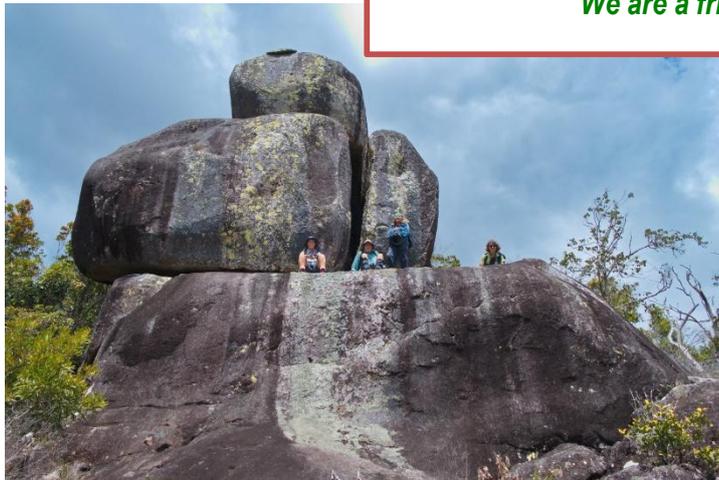
Future Events

Blacks Beach Social Walk and BBQ.....	4 th November
Gamma Forest Walk.....	10 th November
West Hill Island.....	18 th November
AGM.....	21 st November
Christmas Break up camp.....	8 th & 9 th December

AGM Reminder

Please come along and support your club so we can keep providing great bushwalks and other activities throughout 2019

We are a friendly committee



Walkers resting at Christmas Rocks

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

Please lock the date of the club AGM into your diaries and try to come along to support the committee and have a think about taking on a role for the upcoming year.

At this stage we don't have walks planned for the 25th November and the 2nd December so if you would like to lead a walk on either of those dates, let me know and I will advise everyone via the Club Facebook page.

Details of the club Christmas break up camp are included in this newsletter. Please phone Daphne if you plan on coming along for catering purposes. The break up camp is always a lot of fun.

**Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
jennywooding@dodo.com.au
prior to 25th November**

Key to Walks Grading System

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

Black's Beach Social afternoon Sunday 4th November

Leaders: Clive & Daphne Goodson 0417706240,
4954 9338

Depart: 3.00pm from Black's Beach picnic Area,
Bourke St.

Grade: M32

Estimated walking time: 2 hours **Total of all uphill sections:** 5m **Pace:** medium **Terrain:** beach sand **Expect:** sun, mosquitoes, views of Islands & Slade Point, migratory shore birds, attractive coastal scrub.

This is a social activity, being a BYO BBQ at the Blacks Beach picnic area, (Northern end of Bourke Street) with a short walk beforehand to stimulate the appetite. We will walk south from the picnic area along the beach, through remnant beach scrub to the mouth of McReady Creek, returning along the beach (8km). There is a lookout at the picnic area that is well worth the climb (stairs).

Partners and friends are welcome to attend. Non walkers have the option of arriving for the BBQ around 5pm, or having a relaxing afternoon at the picnic area.

Please bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat & suitable footwear, BBQ food and chairs.

**Gamma Forest Walk
Saturday 10th November**

Leader: Coral Morgan

Contact Person: Frances Eiteneuer 49576028

Depart: 7am

Journey: 200km \$20

This will be an easy beginner's walk along semi shaded track through Gamma State Forest at the end of Chelmans Rd, Eungella with a steep descent at the end. This track leads through rainforest to Maud Creek with opportunity for swimming. Expect an early finish.

Please phone Frances by Friday 12.00 Noon to register for this walk

**Westhill Island
18th November**

Leader: Peter Bennett (0427383732)

Departure: 07:00am

Journey: 180km \$18.00

Map Ref: Carmilla 508 840 (Edge of salt-pan)
548 847 (causeway)

Grade: M54

Estimated Walking Time: 6 hour, **Pace;** Average (remembering we need to beat the tide) **Terrain;** Beach Walk. **Expect;** Rock Hooping, Rocks with oyster shells, sharp rocks, some scrambling sections and water crossing.

We will be parking at the edge of a salt-pan. The last 1.5km of the car journey will require 4WD vehicles. The date chosen is preceded by low high tides, so if the weather has been fine it will be easy to walk across the salt-pan along a vehicular track of approx. 5kms to the mouth of the creek. Crossing the causeway involves walking through shallow water across a rocky area, so it is recommended to carry suitable footwear for this section. I will take a faster group around the Island and Coral will do some exploration up a creek on the ocean side. Back on the mainland a short distance along the beach front there is an area of fascinating coloured rock formations.

It might pay to bring a torch and a spare snack and jacket just in case we get caught by the tide, it has been known to happen, not often.

The day will possibly be hot so bring plenty of water, also sun protection

To register for the walk please **ring** me (don't text) no later than 12.00 noon Saturday.

**Induction 6.30pm/ Annual General Meeting
7.30pm
Wednesday 21st November**

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

Induction by Donna and Ian

**Christmas Camp
8th and 9th December**

Coordinator: Daphne Goodson 4954 9338,
0417706240

The Christmas Camp this year will take place at Rowallan Park. The Park has great facilities and walkers may choose whether to stay in the bunk houses, put up their tent or visit daily. If choosing to stay in the bunk house mattresses are provided but you will need to bring your own pillow and bedding.

Walkers can arrive at the camp anytime from early afternoon on Saturday. The park has several walking tracks so we will organise an afternoon walk.

For the weekend, the club will pay all costs for camping, staying in the bunkhouse or coming out just for the day. A BBQ dinner will also be provided at no cost. We do ask all participants to bring a plate of nibbles to share and to provide their own breakfast.

Partners and friends are also welcome to attend.

Please notify Daphne by 1st December if you intend coming along

Previous Activities

Mt Beatrice 16th September 2018



Mt Beatrice is very noticeable from the Bruce Highway north of Callen, because of its distinctive cliffs. The ridge including Mt Beatrice, Mt Zillah and the un-named peak to the south, look very attractive to bushwalkers. A car shuffle and private property permission are required for this walk. We headed for the slope leading up to the ridge to the un-named peak. There were some lantana patches here, and we found a way around and through them.

The ridge was more open, with some grass-trees and some scrub to push through. We arrived at the top of the first peak and continued along the ridge to Mt Beatrice, with great views including the cliffs, Mt Catherine, and to the ocean, Cape Conway, and the islands, to the east. We didn't have to climb the cliffs to get to the top of Mt Beatrice, as there is a route up through attractive Casuarina trees behind the cliffs. Then Mt Zillah came into view, and we continued along the ridge towards it. The ridge became quite narrow in places and we had more views down into the valleys on either side. After crossing Mt Zillah there is a long ridge down. We encountered some lantana here which slowed us down. Eventually we came out into the private property and gave the cows something to stare at, as we made our way back to the car, and completed the car shuffle. Thanks Garry, for advice on the walk, and Kevin, Kate and Deb for your help on the walk.

Ken

Mt Britton 26th August 2018



The 4WD track was in reasonable condition, with the main obstacle being long grass. It was quite dry there, and we pushed through long grass up the slope to The Arch or Hole-in-the-Wall. It is a spectacular and photogenic sight. After enjoying the place for a while, we headed straight up the steep, grassy slope towards the cliffs above it. We bypassed the upper cliffs on the right, and found a route up the steep, sometimes slippery slope behind them. This put us on the north east ridge of Mt Britton, and we proceeded along the ridge.

There were some rock scrambles along the way, but nothing too difficult. There was also some dry scrub to push through. There are great views of the southern cliffs of Mt Britton, from the ridge, and the distinctive profile of Mt Fort Cooper in the distance. Eventually, we arrived at the first summit, and crossed the saddle to the main summit, where we had great views of the Marling Spikes and Sydney Heads, as well as open views to the west. After lunch, we followed our tracks back to the saddle, and contoured across to close to the cliff edge. We followed the cliff-line down, sometimes over rocky slabs and other times pushing through dry scrub. As we came round, we had good views of the ridges we ascended and of a large hole in the side of Mt Britton. We followed a ridge down and crossed a creek and made our way back to the cars. Thanks Garry, Coral and Kevin for gps tracks and advice on the route.



Ken

Christmas Rocks Sunday 7th October



The 13 Walkers who participated in this adventure were rewarded for their early morning start with pristine rainforest and a spectacular creek to follow. This walk was semi exploratory with Garry taking us down a different ridge to save us having to climb over Lineel Falls. It proved an easier way to travel and so we had more time to enjoy the creek. The ridge which took us up to

Christmas Rocks was dense with vines which slowed our progress but it was well worth it when we suddenly broke out of the forest and onto the rocks. These rocks always amaze me as the walk is through thick rainforest with limited views and then suddenly we come out onto the rocks and are able to enjoy incredible panoramic views. Thanks to Garry for leading such a great walk and of course the company was excellent as always.



Jenny

Mt Catherine Sunday 14th October



A sunny, clear sky made it a great day for taking a leisurely walk to the top of Mt Catherine. Jenny and Garry led the town walkers out to Rise and Shine Rd, collecting Mari on the way. Peter, Di and Therese made their own way out earlier. Fifteen walkers set out in the warm weather. I decided an early smoko break would have to do, at a good place for a rest- the first rocks at the top of the first ridge. There were good views of Mt Catherine looming behind us.

Onwards and upwards to Jenny's rock arriving in time for lunch. Not much shade was available but everyone managed to find a comfortable spot. From lunch rock, we had good views of the coast and distant islands, due to being a reasonably clear day without a lot of dust and smoke haze. Below us were dams nestled in the cane paddocks. Garry, Peter and Tony decided that it was a good opportunity to explore further down the mountainside. Unfortunately they didn't make it to the rocks they were heading for due to the steepness of the descent.

Native tea tree orchids were in bloom due I think to the rain that we were lucky enough to have had the previous week. Good views of Mt Beatrice and Mt Zillah along the way back. I didn't tell the group Kerry was waiting at the cars with a cold watermelon, a welcome surprise the walkers certainly deserved due to the heat of the day. Thank you to Jenny and Garry for their support and help to me on the day. It was a good walk.



Deb

McBride's Lookout and more Sunday 21st October



Two carloads left town at 9am for Halliday Bay where three other walkers were awaiting our arrival to undertake a series of short beach and bush walks in the Halliday Bay/Ball Bay area. The group of ten included several regular participants, one new inductee, a mother and son on their second walk with us, and a couple of long term members who have been absent from the tracks for a while. After introductions, the group headed north towards the enclosure to explore the rocks and to capture on film the stunning views available from several vantage points.

Then it was time to prepare for the main event of the day, the climb to the rocky lookout atop the hill between the two bays. This was accomplished easily despite the intensifying heat, and seven walkers climbed the rocks to enjoy the stunning 360 degree views.

Next on the agenda was the walk down the track to Ball Bay, where lunch was enjoyed at some shady picnic areas before setting off along Ward Esplanade in the direction of Smalley's Beach. The sea breeze was much appreciated as by now we were feeling the intensity of the sun, so turned back to access the buffer zone off Mason Street which led us to the wetland area which is currently very dry.



The only snake we saw was a dead one, and the curlews did not make an appearance, but our Polish visitor was very pleased to see several kookaburras, one at close range. Our attempts to call up other examples of native fauna came to nothing, but for the camera buffs there were lots of very photogenic trees, mangroves, palms and flowers.



The return walk along the esplanade and/or beach, and the track through the scrub from Ball Bay to Halliday Bay brought our day's activities to an end, and we were back at the town car park with some of the day left.

Thanks to all those who helped to make for an enjoyable and relaxing day in a beautiful part of our Mackay region.

Carole