



# The Message Stick

## October 2020

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740  
Web: <http://www.mackay.bwq.org.au>  
Email: [mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com)

### Future Events

Salonika Beach.....	4 <sup>th</sup> October
Crazy Cat Mountain.....	10 <sup>th</sup> October
The Beak.....	11 <sup>th</sup> October
Cape Hillsborough.....	18 <sup>th</sup> October
General Meeting and Induction.....	21 <sup>st</sup> October
Netherdale Gorge.....	25 <sup>th</sup> October



*Walkers enjoying themselves on the beginner's backpack camp*

### Club Officers

President	Daphne Goodson	0417706240	Contact Officer	-
Vice President	-			
Secretary	Julie Ward	0403230545		
Treasurer	Mari Simmonds	0459835551		
Equipment Officer	Clive Goodson	0417706240		
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532	Membership Secretary	Wendy Bennett 0429363929

## *From the Editor*

Please note everyone the Club's AGM will be held in November. This is early notice but all committee positions will be declared vacant and we would love to see some new faces take up some roles for the forthcoming year.

There is a variety of walks on offer this month so hopefully lots of us will be out and about enjoying them. The weather is heating up so remember to bring plenty of water and sunscreen along for each walk.

**Items for the next newsletter should  
be sent to  
[mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com)  
prior to 25<sup>th</sup> October**

## *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*

**All trip leaders please ensure you collect the club gear bag before undertaking your walk and return it as soon as possible afterwards**

Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks before 12.00pm the day before the walk unless otherwise stated.

### **Salonika Beach Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474, 0407  
164856  
**Depart:** 2pm from Alfred Street Car Park  
**Map Ref:** Mackay 377408  
**Grade:**S21

We will drive towards Hay Point, through Half Tide and to the Southern end of Salonika Beach near Breen's Creek. Bring spare shoes or get your shoes wet. When the tide is low enough, we will walk across the creek towards Mick Ready Beach and plan to be back at the cars by dark. It may be possible to observe Pied Imperial Pigeons flying out to roost on Victor Island.

**Crazy Cat Mountain  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**Leader:** Kate Brunner, contact 49588 436, or messenger or [katcalen@hotmail.com](mailto:katcalen@hotmail.com)

**Journey:** 140km, cost \$14.00

**Depart:** 7am.

**Terrain:** uneven forest, probably tangles, ups and downs

I see Crazy Cat Mountain from my home in Cameron's Pocket, across a neighbour's paddock and have permission for the walk.

It will be an exploratory walk, and therefore it's hard to say how long it will take, or what we might find. I feel it will not be a massive walk as it isn't a very big mountain, but I hope we can follow the crest in some way. I have always wished to check it out.

[Please note this is a Saturday walk.](#)

**The Beak  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 0447091532

**Depart :** 7:00am

**Journey:** 320km \$32.00

**Map Ref:** Proserpine 875567

**Grade:** S44

**Estimated Walking Time** 4 hours **Pace**

Average **Terrain** Beach, tracks, rocks

**Vegetation** Minor bush and scrub **Total uphill**

100m **Expect** Some scrambling, jellyfish, sand, mangroves, stunning scenery.

This walk has Wow factor and is suitable for most but does involve some off track bush bashing and scrambling over rocks and headlands. The reward for this effort will be stunning views of the Whitsunday Islands. We begin the day near Shute Harbour where we will walk on track to Coral Beach and then up to the lookout where we will have morning tea. From here we will traverse a ridge down to Cane Cockies Beach. We will then make our way around several headlands taking us to another 4 beaches. Previously we have encountered naked people and whales on this walk – no promises but expect to be surprised.

**Cape Hillsborough Bush and Beach  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**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 tide.

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

**Induction 6.30pm General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

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

Induction by Clive and Daphne

**Netherdale Gorge  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**Leader:** Kate Brunner, [katcalen@hotmail.com](mailto:katcalen@hotmail.com)

Ph: 49588436

**Depart:** 7am

**Journey:** 180km, cost \$18.00

**Estimated Time:** 7 hours

**Grade:** M56

**Terrain:** steep, uneven, tangle

**Expect:** scrambles, steep up and steep down, some mud, maybe wet feet, pretty ferns.

From Dalrymple road we enter the bush close to what used to be a school house. We descend along a steep ravine and aim for a rocky shady waterfall as destination. On the way back we retrace our route.

## *Previous Activities*

### **Beginners Backpack Camp 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September**



Nine of us set off from Crediton Hall for the trek to Fern Flat with our large packs. Now four people had never backpacked before and two were inexperienced and feeling a little rusty so I expected a slow trek with numerous stops to make adjustments. How wrong I was! We kept up a steady pace for both days with lots of good conversation and laughter along the way.

The campground at Fern Flat was fully booked but luckily I was able to book the walkers camp for us all and it proved to be an ideal spot with plenty of space to set up in the bush. One challenge we had to face was keeping our food secure from the rampaging bush turkeys who weren't shy at all and very happy to raid our supplies. After dark a bandicoot came out and it took a lot of persuasion to leave Garry's food supply alone (must have been the fruit cake he was hoarding).



On arrival at Broken River we saw a platypus in the River and for Cathy it was her first ever sighting of such a beast.

It was a happy weekend and when I asked who would come along if I put a longer backpack on at some stage it seemed the majority were all enthusiastic which is fantastic.

Jenny



### **Blacks Beach Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

It was the school holidays, there was a serious backpacking event departing, and the weather was windy and cloudy at times. There was also a warning about a very recent crocodile sighting, so some of these factors may have resulted in the small gathering for the event planned by Daphne. However, those who assembled at 2.30 for a beach and bush walk, followed by a social gathering had a most enjoyable time.

Five of us set off along the beach towards the creek estuary and enjoyed the breezy conditions for about an hour before arriving at the start of the Spit track, which was free from biting insects, and very pleasant except for the few open sections which were sunny and a bit too hot. The



last section of the 8 + km walk was completed back on the beach, where we met two visitors to Mackay who joined us for the drinks and nibblyies. As the windy conditions continued, all seven of us decided to skip the BBQ and prepare the evening meal at home instead, but first there was the obligatory ascent of the fitness stairs for the exercise, the view, and a photo.

Thank you Daphne for leading us on a relaxing and very pleasant afternoon at your beautiful local beach and nature reserve area. The crackers, dips, cheese, chocolate slice and fruit contributed by members and the company of all participants made for a great item on the September calendar.

Carole

### West Hill Island Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

