



# *The Message Stick*

## *October 2021*

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*

Whitsunday Great Walk.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> October
Mt Ossa.....	10 <sup>th</sup> October
Rainforest Ridge.....	17 <sup>th</sup> October
General Meeting.....	20 <sup>th</sup> October
Cape Hillsborough Abseiling.....	24 <sup>th</sup> October
Mt St John.....	31 <sup>st</sup> October



**Some of the walkers who scaled Sydney Heads**

### *Club Officers*

President	Bruce Pownall	0417 759 032	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan	4957 8474
Vice President	Clive Goodson	0417 706 240	Digital Officer	Garry Hendicott	4846 1490
Secretary	Daphne Goodson	0417 706 240	Membership Secretary	Mari Simmonds	0429 190 168
Treasurer	Mari Simmonds	0429 190 168			
Equipment Officer	Clive Goodson	0417 706 240			
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Wooding	0447 091 532			

## *From the Editor*

Some early notification of the club AGM which will be held in November. All committee positions will be declared vacant and we would love to see some different faces on the committee.  
Once again a big thanks to all those who are putting their hands up to lead walks. Walkers appreciate your efforts. Don't be shy about putting your hand up to lead walk and more experienced walkers will help you through the process if you are unsure.  
Keep checking out the Message Stick Club Facebook page for news and photos.

**Items for the next newsletter should  
be sent to  
[mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com)  
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,  
8-10 = Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling,  
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.

**Brandy Creek Backpack Camp**  
**Saturday 2nd October to Monday 4th**  
**October**

**Leader:** Jenny Wooding 0447091532  
**Depart:** 11am  
**Journey:** 300km \$30.00  
**Map Ref:** Proserpine

**Grade:** L37

### **Day 1**

Estimated walking time: 2 -3 hours (8.3km) to  
Repulse Creek

### **Day 2**

Estimated walking time: 5 - 6 hours (11.5km)  
Repulse Creek to Bloodwood Camp

### **Day 3**

Estimated walking time: 3.5 - 4.5 hours  
(8.5kms plus additional side track) Bloodwood  
Camp to Airlie Beach

This is a good introductory backpack hike with plenty of variety along the way. The plan is to leave town around 11am and drive to the Brandy Creek Car Park where we will have lunch before we begin the walk. First day is fairly flat and easy walking. We should arrive early enough at the campground to give us time to explore the creek once we are set up. The 2nd day is longer and gets steeper and the 3rd is quite hard with a steep up before a long descent into Airlie Beach. However we will arrive in Airlie in plenty of time to have lunch there. We will get a maxi taxi to take us back to the cars and the cost will be split between walkers.

There is water available along the way and toilet facilities at each camp site. All your needs for the camp (food/ tent/sleeping bag etc) have to be carried in and out.

It is essential to notify the leader by Wednesday September 29th if you intend to come on this camp as camping permits need to be purchased.

### **Mt Ossa Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**Leaders:** Carole Weekes (49546108) for booking, journey to farm and petrol money. Bruce Pownall for the climb up Mt Ossa itself.

**Departure:** 7 am

**Journey:** 100 kms ( \$10)

**Grade:** range of distances and levels of difficulty - exploratory in nature.

We have obtained permission to walk on a private property in the Mt Ossa area, and the walks will largely be determined on the day by the nature of the members who participate. There is the opportunity to explore paddocks leading up to foothills, to walk the perimeter of the farm, to follow a creek, and to access the Mt Ossa National Park in order to climb Mt Ossa (270 m).

Some members have visited the property before on several occasions, and a few have

climbed to the top of Mt Ossa. Others have been some of the way, stymied by bad weather. The climb follows a gully for a time, and is then untaped rain forest. The owner will point us in the right direction. The easier walks on the farm will be exploratory and a case of playing it by ear. Once again, some of us have done bits and pieces before. Come along with an open mind to enjoy a day of walking in a beautiful setting.

I imagine the day may begin with some easy walking through goat paddocks to the hills, following a creek in another direction, and then climbing Mt Ossa. We may split into two groups early on, or later, depending on the number of easy or hard sections, and on whether or not people fall easily into 'slow' or 'energetic'.

You are welcome to text my mobile number (0455872207), and arrangements can be made to meet us at the Mt Ossa shop on the highway, or for anyone coming from Mirani, to meet us at the access road to the farm. Ask me about this when booking.

### **Rainforest Ridge Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

**Leader :** Deb Wilson 0400 319078

**Depart :** 7am

**Journey :** 190 kms - \$20

**Grade :** M54

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hrs **Total of all**

**uphill sections:** 400 m **Terrain:**

uneven **Vegetation:**

rainforest **Expect:** gentle slopes, some  
lantana

This walk is on a marked trail and part of the Great Walk, starting in the Crediton area and ending at the Great White Tank on Cockies Creek Road, where we will have lunch before retracing our steps to the cars. The day will be fairly easy and we will enjoy plenty of variety - grassy areas, an old road, rich rain forest, scrubby areas, a creek environment, and pass close to cleared paddocks. This walk is suitable for beginners with reasonable fitness.

Please text or phone to register for the walk

**Induction 6.30pm General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Cape Hillsborough Abseiling  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

**Leader:** Steve Morgan 0418 882 817

Please contact the leader for more information

**Mt St John  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

**Leader:** Mari Simmonds 0429 190 168

**Depart:** 7:00am

**Journey:** 200kms \$20.00

**Map Ref:** Hillalong 549479

**Grade:** M65

**Estimated walking time:** 5 Hours, **Total of all**

**uphill sections:** 450m, **Pace:** average,

**Terrain:** uneven terrain **Vegetation:** open

forest, **Expect:** some steep slopes, steep scrambles, lantana

Mt St John is a small but prominent mountain in the Crediton area. Good views should be available from the summit: Mt Dalrymple to the north, Mt Britton and Teemburra areas to the east and Glenden area to the west. Be prepared for long grass. You will need to bring enough drinking water for the whole day

## *Previous Activities*

**Cascade Creek Walk  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

Two groups walked, Coral led the relaxed paced group as they explored Cape Hillsborough tracks and enjoyed the day at their own pace. Coral was joined by Frances and Carmel.

We set off along the beach as the tide was low, then continued up to the track which led to the



swimming hole at the bottom of Cascade Creek. Almost immediately from leaving the water hole we started to climb up amongst the rocks. In the shaded cool hollows of the creek bed we came across blue triangle butterfly's. Our smaller group of seven walkers made great time climbing amongst the boulders as we reached the top of the creek. There were several stops along the way for water breaks and to catch our breath. We climbed out of Cascade Creek and headed up to a ridge where we had great views. We then followed the ridge around to the ever popular, Cape Hillsborough lunchtime rocks, arriving there at 11am. We

stayed for an hour long lunch enjoying the ocean views and spring weather. Over in the distance

exchanging waves with us was another group of hikers descending on the track towards Cape Hillsborough. After our long restful lunch we moved on, along the way making a detour to Cathedral Cave. Back onto the track and as we walked out towards the cars we came across our second group of walkers. We had a good day out climbing and exploring Cascade Creek. It was great to see Therese back from her travelling adventures. It was also great to have Jules join us on another club walk.



Deb

### **Mt Britton Camp 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September**

How much fun can be had in just one weekend? I'm really not sure of the answer but I know all who came along and participated in this camp had a great time and we never seemed to stop laughing. Conversations were never dull and best to say that what's discussed on camp, stays on camp.

Garry and I headed out on Thursday to do some mountain bike riding on Friday and not long after arriving back at camp Bruce and Len turned up and Charles a short time later. Donna and Ian came after dinner and we had quite a few laughs around the campfire.

Saturday morning saw us all having a relaxed time and cooking breakfast as we were joined by Lyn and Mark. We set off to explore the rocky "Comb" excepting Charles who had opted for some adventuring on his bike. The day almost began with a mutiny as I announced because of the late start to the walk no "Smoko" would be held. Walkers soon got over their angst and some opted to have a chew on something before we left. Although this was only a short walk it provided plenty of challenges as we climbed, scrambled and crawled the rocky surfaces and squeezed through some gaps. Our efforts were rewarded with some spectacular views of the Homevale landscape. A detour on the way back to camp found us checking out the old cattle yards and fossicking on fossil hill. On arrival at camp, Deb, Kerry and Tony joined us.



Sunday morning saw June and Peter arrive bright and early for the hike up Sydney Heads while 3 others sadly had to pack up and return home. The day was crystal clear with a light breeze blowing so conditions were perfect. We made good time through the bush and soon began the ascent which saw us clawing and scrambling our way to the top.

Once we broke through the scrub at the top we were rewarded with incredible views and a light breeze for morning tea. From here we circumnavigated Sydney Heads and enjoyed lunch on the highest point. The bush on top was difficult

for the leader to bash a path through at times but the views certainly made the effort worthwhile. A shortcut was taken to get us back to the “gap” where we were to begin the descent.

I think I speak for the group when I say we were all quite weary by the time we reached flatter ground. We slipped and slithered our way down and I’m sure the distance had doubled from when we ascended in the morning. I’m quite astounded to see the backside is still intact in my shorts although Deb said her pants had a few tears in them. We were a scratched and grubby bunch who arrived back at the cars but we were all sporting big grins which was a testament to how much we enjoyed the day.

Thanks Garry for leading the 2 days of walking and thanks to everyone who came along for all or part of the weekend.



Jenny