



# The Message Stick

## September 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

Jimmy Jacky .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> September
The Beak .....	9 <sup>th</sup> September
Christmas Rocks.....	16 <sup>th</sup> September
General Meeting .....	19 <sup>th</sup> September
Wedge Island .....	23 <sup>rd</sup> September
The Leap Formal Dinner.....	27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> October
Diamond Cliffs Camp .....	29 <sup>th</sup> September – 1 <sup>st</sup> October

### Reminder

To participate on any walk, memberships must be paid in full. They were due in July.

I would also like to remind walkers of the **MUST TAKE** list of items to be carried on every walk. (Refer Handbook):-

- ❖ Warm clothing
- ❖ Rain coat
- ❖ Spare food
- ❖ Hat
- ❖ Water – 3 litres recommended
- ❖ Paper and pencil
- ❖ Whistle
- ❖ Torch
- ❖ First aid kit.

*Please take the time to re-read the club's outing rules which have been attached to the newsletter.*

### 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*

Thanks to Kevin for organizing the navigation training sessions. He has gone to a lot of trouble to plan them and it will be of great benefit to those who attend. Please call Kevin on 4969 6068, mob 0417 326634 to register.

Don't forget The River to Reef bike ride coming up on 6/10/12. Some of us are riding 90km, others 60km and there is a 35km option. It would be great to see some more bushwalkers on bikes for the event as it's a great cause with all money raised helping the local community and it is good fun.

The cycling trip of Tasmania for 2013 is shaping up. Please let me know if you are interested in riding with us or joining the support crew team. The trip will probably take place in March. The support crew will carry our camping gear for us and meet up with us each night but will have the days free for exploring and walking.

Have a great month everyone!

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 23<sup>rd</sup> September

### Key to Walks Grading System

Distance	Terrain	Terrain
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*

**Please contact the leader to nominate for all walks**

**Mt Jimmy Jacky**  
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

**Depart:** 7 am

**Journey:** 120km \$12.00

**Map Ref:** New Mirani 819468

**Grade:** L66

**Estimated walking time:** 5-6 hours. **Total of**

**all uphill sections:** 250m. **Pace:** slow -

medium. **Terrain:** very uneven.

**Vegetation:** mostly open forest. **Expect:** spear grass and lantana.

Please note that this walk is of an EXPLORATORY nature. We will set off from a cane farm in the Septimus area. Looking at the map, Mt Jimmy Jacky is about 5k to the south. (Surely we can find it?)

Due to the experimental nature of this walk we cannot guarantee to return via the same route.

No drinking water will be available. It would be a good idea to wear sock covers or gaiters in case of spear grass.

**The Beak  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**Leader:**Jenny Wooding 4944 0236  
**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 is a  
relatively easy walk starting off on tracks to a  
coral beach and then up to a lookout. We then  
head off track to 5 other deserted beaches.  
Several Whitsunday Islands can be viewed  
from the beaches and lookout. The tide will be  
in when we are at the second beach which is  
nice and sandy so it will be perfect for  
swimming. Those who don't want to swim can  
relax on the grass and enjoy the scenery. In the  
past this walk has had naked people, whales  
and dugongs so be prepared for the  
unexpected.

**Christmas Rocks  
16<sup>th</sup> September**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474  
**Depart: 6.00AM**  
**Journey:** 200km \$20.00  
**Map Ref:** Mirani678734  
**Grade:** M86  
**Estimated walking time:** 6-7 hours. **Total of**  
**all uphill sections:** 300m. **Pace:** slow-  
average. **Terrain:** very uneven terrain.  
**Vegetation:** rainforest. **Expect:** some  
waitawhile, steep loose slopes, some rocks  
scrambles.  
We will be starting off at the end of Dalrymple  
Road. Following the Western trail (which leads  
to Mt Dalrymple), we soon leave the taped trail  
and head for a creek junction and Lineel Falls.  
Up stream from there we follow a ridge to an  
open rocky outcrop, Christmas Rocks. These  
can be spotted from Mt David Lookout. The  
return to the cars will be via a different route

**PLEASE NOTE** the earlier starting time.

**Induction 6.45pm/ General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Wedge Island  
23<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Leader:** Kathy Cant 49522269  
**Depart :** 8:00am  
**Journey:** 100km \$10.00  
**Map Ref:** Calen 070 879  
**Grade:**S44  
**Estimated walking time:** 2 hours **Total of all**  
**uphill sections:** 100m **Pace:** easy **Terrain:**  
beach and island **Expect:** a relaxing day.  
This will be an easy day of walking at Cape  
Hillsborough ambling across the causeway to  
Wedge Island. Low tide is 11am. As it won't be  
a long walk I suggest a very social day with a  
bbq afterwards. So bring along your esky (or  
chilly bin) with snags and a drink if you would  
like to finish with lunch in the park.

**The Leap Formal Dinner  
Saturday/Sunday October 27/28**

**Leader:** Steven Morgan (4954 0037)  
**Depart:** 2:00pm  
**Journey:** 50km \$5  
**Map Ref:** Mirani 635310  
**Grade:** S86

**Estimated walking time:** 4 hours **Total of all**  
**uphill sections:** 200m **Pace:** average **Terrain:**  
very uneven terrain **Vegetation:** scrub **Expect:**  
some steep slopes, some rockhopping, steep  
scrambles, loose rocks.

It has been a l-o-n-g time since we have done  
this formal dinner on The Leap. Let your  
imagination run wild. We take up a light weight  
table in pieces which we assemble on site, a  
delicious meal, and our best formal clothes. For  
guys, this means a three piece suit. We head  
up The Leap on Saturday afternoon, prepare  
ourselves for the meal and then enjoy an  
evening of wining and dining with a view like no  
other. Bed down for the night on top of the  
mountain, and for breakfast clean up the

leftovers before packing up and heading down the mountain. This is an opportunity to let our imagination and creativity run wild as we think of ways to create to make our dinner as extravagant as possible given that we have to carry everything. How to pack a suit in your pack without crushing it? Could I manage real crystal glasses rather than plastic? How can I make a bottle of the finest wine lightweight? Join us as a diner, or as part of the kitchen crew (any chefs out there). No admission to

**Diamond Cliffs Camp**  
**Three Day Backpacking Camp**  
**Saturday, Sunday & Monday 29 & 30 Sept & 1st Oct**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 49578474

**Depart:** To be decided

**Journey:**

**Map Ref:** Mirani 641357

**Grade:** M87

**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours per day.

**Pace:** slow. **Terrain:** very uneven terrain.

anyone not dressed to standard. As the meal will be provided, there will be a cost to cover this. Usual National Park camping fees also apply. Due to the nature of the site, there is a limit of 12 diners. Be part of the fun and book now with Steven on 4954 0037 or 0418 882 817. Anyone who would like to be part of the planning team to assist with the menu and food preparation should also make themselves known  
ASAP

**Vegetation:** open forest, rainforest. **Expect:** Lantana and thick scratchy vegetation. Scrambles, loose rocks. Views and a full moon rise.

It is proposed to camp in the shelter of a cave at the back of Diamond Cliffs (Homevale). Numbers will need to be limited. The approach route will depend on the availability of access. Interested persons please contact leader A.S.P. Final booking date will be 26th September

## *Previous Activities*

### **Cape Hillsborough Sunday 29 July 2012**



The tide being too high the 11 walkers on the day were forced to walk the formed track to Beachcomber's Bay and then head across Cascade Creek, which was hardly noticeable due to the small amount of water coming from it. A short backtrack was required before we found the small, dry, steep creek bed which we needed to scramble up until it petered out. After that we continued up through scrub to a high rocky vantage area with great views for morning tea. The lovely

breeze which had cooled us nicely on the way up became uncomfortably cold for some of us who decided to shelter behind some rocks on top. However this gave us a sweeping panorama of the Cascade Creek valley and the rocky outcrop at the section of the creek junction, which was to be our destination for lunch. After scrambling down from our rocky lookout we followed a ridge for some distance before dropping down into the valley, crossing one branch of Cascade Creek, and heading up to find the rocky outcrop and overhangs for our lunch stop. There had been a distinct lack of flowers along our route until we reached the lower section of the valley, there we encountered beautiful red bottlebrush flowers and later on the yellow wattle was looking splendid. We should have



chosen a warmer spot for lunch as it was too cold to relax afterwards and we soon moved on, crossed the other branch of Cascade Creek and climbed up to a warmer overhang on the sunny side of the valley.

Our leader, Paul, had his heart set on reaching another rocky overhang higher up the side of the valley, but the thick undergrowth made it a less than desirable destination for some who chose to by-pass it and head for the ridge to wait for those who made it to the overhang. Our route then led us up to the main lookout, which once again provided us with splendid views. We followed roughly the old (and now overgrown) taped (well partially anyway) track back to the bitumen track, passing a group of Miranni SES volunteers practising their abseiling skills at the cliff section. Some beautiful red sundew plants were observed clinging to the damp rock face there. Paul felt that he had "led us up the garden path" a few times, but he shouldn't worry as we all had a good day & enjoyed ourselves in the great outdoors on a beautiful sunny day. Thanks Paul.

Penny McMahon

### **Pinevale Creek Sunday 5 August 2012**

Our original leader for this walk, Peter, was called away suddenly on urgent SES work, so Frances took over the leader's role instead. We were a small select group of 6, Frances, Dan, Maureen, Paul, Therese and Penny.



The beginning of this walk requires us to cross the upper reach of the Pioneer River. Paul and Therese forged ahead and crossed at the usual place. As we saw the water climb up around their thighs, the rest of us tried to find a shallower crossing, but unfortunately there was none, so it was - grit the teeth and go. The water was freezing and the current quite strong, and Dan had to hold onto Maureen to avoid her being swept away. My teeth were chattering as I put my boots on over the other side and most of us kept jackets on for quite

some time.

The rocks were dry and being a small group we made good progress up Pinevale Creek. The gnarled roots and trunks of the huge old trees along this section are particularly impressive. Hot tea at morning tea was very welcome. In places we followed the creek bed and at other times the old road and, just for adventure, we had to bash through lantana. The beautiful aroma of lemon myrtle delighted us as we brushed past it. Some moonlighter was fruiting and we tasted it, but it is very bland. By the time we reached the site of the old Pinevale mine we had warmed up. We spent some time looking around the site at the old mining equipment. Dan



impressed us with his ability to lift the ore cart axel & wheels. Therese and I "filly fallied" around trying to remember and organize how to take self-timer photos while the others obligingly kept their poses.....eventually success!



We continued on up the creek and the boulders became larger and larger as we got closer to the waterfall. We had lunch there, it was so peaceful and relaxing, we could hear the birds (but rarely saw them) and the sound of the water was restful.....were we missing

something????? Maureen, Paul and I opted to climb up above the waterfall and continued up the creek for 10 minutes before returning to join the others for the return journey.

We retraced our steps for most of the way until we decided to try to follow the old road. Eventually it became too overgrown and we headed back to the creek....but oops.... it was not the same creek. However with a good sense of direction Frances led us through a tall grassy area and...hey presto...we were back at the river crossing all ready to tackle the freezing water again. Not for us a swim this trip. I do believe a great day was had by all. Thanks Frances.

Penny McMahon

### Mt St John 12<sup>th</sup> August



The weather was perfect as eleven walkers led by Frances left the cars at 9am. There was a small bit of hesitation to decide which direction to take, but we had full faith that Frances would lead us to our destination and back again.

Our first obstacle was a small creek, some walkers chose to cross by fallen logs, therefore avoiding wet shoes. On our walk we came across a large section of scrub that had been burnt out by bushfire. We had a steep hill to scramble up and a bit of long grass to hang

onto would have been helpful to some. Celestine and Telina raced to the top, while the rest of us made our way carefully. Four walkers stopped for lunch, while the other walkers went on a bit further. During our lunch break Celestine spotted something far off in the distance and we all agreed it to be a dragline in a coal mine. During the walk we had magnificent views of Hazelwood Gorge and surrounding country. Walking through the blackened aftermath of the bushfire, the bush was beginning to regenerate. We saw beautiful new growth of red leaves on stark blackened tree trunks. It was a good photography subject which a few keen photographers took advantage of. In hidden crevices were tiny, delicate maidenhair ferns regrowing. We saw an elkhorn with a pencil orchid in flower which Penny pointed out, it had escaped the reach of the fire.



On our way back we had some rocks fall as we walked along the ridge. A slow steady scramble down the steep hill with loose rocks and nothing to hold on to for support except the random blackened tree, or large rock. Eleven very dirty and blackened walkers arrived back at the cars at 3pm. Maureen the clubs eldest walker was the cleanest and Cody the clubs youngest walker was the dirtiest from head to toe. Thank you Frances for leading another great walk, enjoyed by all as always. Thank you Kathy for back up with the GPS. Happy walking!



Deb.





## Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc By Laws Outing Rules for One Day Activities

Adopted 17 July, 1996

1. All persons intending to participate in an outing must contact the leader prior to the day of the outing. Arrival at the assembly area for this outing **MUST** be at least 15 minutes before the advertised departure time, to allow for transport arrangements to be made. Persons intending to make their vehicles available for transport should have their vehicles fuelled and in a roadworthy condition. The decision as to which vehicles go on the outing is at the discretion of the trip leader.
2. All vehicles being used in an activity must leave the assembly area together and follow the trip leader's vehicle in convoy. Each driver should constantly check the vehicle behind and if it is not still following; stop and wait for it. All drivers must stop at turn off points to ensure that drivers of following vehicles are aware of the turn off.
3. Walkers must be suitably clothed and have appropriate footwear. Each walker must have their own pack and carry food and water for the day and, if required, any special medication. At least 2 litres of water per person is recommended. Every walker should also carry the following: small torch, sunscreen, raincoat, insect repellent, small whistle, emergency kit containing paper, pencil, first aid equipment, fire starter such as waterproof matches or cigarette lighter. The trip leader at his/her absolute discretion may refuse any walker who is not adequately equipped the right to participate in an activity.
4. No offensive or dangerous items including fire-arms, dogs, alcoholic, illegal drugs, transistor radios and cassette players are to be taken on activities. The trip leader shall at his/her discretion determine whether an item is offensive or dangerous and may refuse any walker who insists on carrying such an item the right to participate in an activity.
5. At least one person who holds a current First Aid Certificate must be present on all activities.
6. All litter must be carried out including food scraps such as orange peels and apple cores and sanitary pads/tampons.
7. Faecal matter and toilet paper should be buried 15cm deep and well away from tracks and at least 100m away from any water course.
8. Walkers must not pollute any creek or stream with items such as soap, food scraps or human wastes.
9. Walkers must co-operate with the trip leader and heed any reasonable direction he/she may give.
10. Walkers must not separate from the main party, go ahead of the trip leader or negotiate terrain more difficult than that chosen by the trip leader without the trip leader's express permission.
11. Walkers must constantly observe the walker behind them and stop if that walker requires assistance or is out of sight, even if this means losing sight of the walkers in front (hopefully, they will then also stop and so on right to the leader). In the event of any delay, a message should be relayed to the trip leader.
12. Walkers must convey along the line of the party information regarding any hazards such as loose/slippery rocks, dangerous plants or animals.
13. Walkers must not engage in any activity that is offensive to or endangers other walkers or members of the public. In particular, walkers must not playfully or idly throw objects and must not unnecessarily dislodge loose material. When there is a possibility of accidentally dislodging loose material, walkers should ensure that there are no walkers or members of the public directly below them and should warn anyone that could be endangered by the falling of the loose material. Walkers should call in a loud and clear voice **BELOW** or **ROCK** whenever they dislodge loose material.
14. Walkers must adhere to fire restrictions and the lighting of fires is discouraged. When fires are constructed, the fire must be thoroughly extinguished after use and the fireplace dismantled and ashes scattered in such a way that no sign of the fire remains.
15. Walkers must not collect bush products whether alive or not and must avoid disturbing or damaging the bush through which they are walking.
16. Some of the risks of activities include injury from slipping or falling in uneven, slippery, loose or steep terrain, injury such as cuts, impalement and eye injuries from sticks, branches and other objects, injuries from "nasties" such as stinging plants, stinging insects, poisonous animals (such as snakes) and aggressive animals (such as wild pigs), exposure caused by wet and/or cold conditions and exhaustion and dehydration caused by hot conditions and the physical effort required. Activities are usually conducted in areas remote from medical assistance. Walkers participate in activities at their own risk and must not attempt activities or terrain which they consider too difficult or too risky for themselves.
17. All members should be familiar with the Members' Handbook.