



The Message Stick

September 2020

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

Future Events

Beginner's Backpack camp.....5th & 6th September
West Hill Island.....13th September
General Meeting.....16th September



Walkers preparing to tackle Mt St John

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

As you can see we have a few spare weekends in September so if you would like to lead a walk please contact a committee member and the walk can be advertised on the club Facebook page.
Remember to keep sending write ups and photos to make the newsletter more interesting.
Enjoy the month everyone.

Items for the next newsletter should
be sent to
mackay.bushwalkers@gmail.com
prior to 25th September

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 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.

Crediton Hall to Fern Flat Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July

Leader: Jenny Wooding 0447091532,
49440236

Depart: 8am

Journey: 200km \$20

Grade: L33

This walk is especially suited for anyone who is new to backpacking but keen to give it a go and of course old hands are also very welcome to participate.

The walk will begin at Crediton Hall and continue to Fern Flat a distance of approx. 11kms all of which is on track. Walkers will need to carry their tents, sleeping bags and food for the weekend. Fern Flat has a toilet and water tank. On Sunday we will return via the same track. We will be able to walk at a relaxed pace allowing people the chance to get used to carrying a larger pack. For more information please call me and I do have a spare pack if anyone needs one.

Please book by Wednesday 2nd as I will need to book the campsite. The club will pay camp fees.

**West Hill Island
Sunday 13th Septemeber**

Leaders: Coral 49578474, 0407 164856 and Kate

Depart: 7am

Journey: 180kms \$18

Map Ref: (Carmilla) mouth of creek 545-846

Grade: Group "A" M31
"B" L86

It is planned to do this walk in two groups. Initially we walk across a saltpan, past squatter's huts and to the creek mouth (approx. 3.5km). It is about 850meters along the beach front to the spectacular coloured rocks, then back to the creek where an exposed oyster rock causeway leads towards the island. To allow for plenty of time for the group going around the island, we need to follow the tide out and cross a channel at knee depth. You will get your boots wet or preferably carry "water shoes" for the crossing. Group A will probably loiter behind and only go as far as the first beach, while Group B (Kate's mob) will do a

brisk challenging walk around the island, approx. 8km, encountering picturesque beaches, rocky headlands and pebbly foreshore.

Be prepared for a warm sunny day with no fresh water available.

The last kilometre of our car journey is quite rough requiring 4WD. If necessary ferrying passengers could be an option. We will work it out.

**Induction 6.30pm General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 16th September**

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

Induction by Clive and Daphne

Previous Activities

**Lambert's Beach and Slade Point Reserve
Sunday 9th August**

The weather, the whales, the butterflies and the fig birds all conspired to create a very pleasant day for



those walkers who turned out for the 15 km bushwalking event in the Slade Point area. After meeting at Ram Chandra Park and going through the preliminaries, the participants set off up the beach towards the harbour, where a short break was enjoyed before heading back to pick up the track from the beach circuit to the start of the amphitheatre track. Penny joined the group just before they left the beach, and a long dead turtle was a point of interest, with Frances and Penny measuring the shell.

Before heading along the sandy track towards the amphitheatre, the smart new sign naming the landmarks was inspected and it was time for a group photo. Morning tea was taken in the park, and on starting out on the main part of our walk, it was pleasing to notice that maintenance had been carried out on some of the tracks in the reserve. The

amphitheatre area was cool and attractive as always, with many shades of green and many botanical varieties contributing to its attractiveness.



As we travelled along the main track, we encountered open sandy sections, travelled through rich forest, inspected a couple of lookouts, spied a group of fig birds, noted that Fern Gully was completely devoid of water, and then, in the vicinity of the wetlands area, met thousands of butterflies which made our day.

Due to the navigational uncertainties of the leader, we exited the reserve in an unexpected spot, which led to a slightly longer walk before returning to the park

for lunch. At the conclusion of this, four of our party left for home while the rest of us climbed up Lambert's Lookout and joined the group watching the antics of two adult whales and a young one. We then walked along the headland past the colourful water tower and were treated to the sight of a much larger humpback breaching just off Keswick Island.



I am sure we all enjoyed the crisp scenery, the good company, and the easy but long walk providing plenty of variety.

Carole

Castle Rock 23rd September 2020

15 walkers, including 3 new members, set off early with the aim of climbing up to, and exploring, Castle Rock, in the Cathu State Forest. Due to a much slower road trip because of road works and fearless leader overshooting the track to the start point, we started the walk later than I had hoped.

Having scrambled up steep rocky outcrops, traversed fallen timber and pushed through scratchy vegetation we paused to admire the magnificent views at the last highest point before the Rock where one walker decided to wait for our return. Mari generously volunteered to stay with her while the rest of us pushed on towards the top.

Because of time restraints I decided not to explore the area around the rock, returning to our previous stop for a late lunch. Coming back down on the now well trodden track was much faster, and we reached the cars at 3pm, satisfied that we had all enjoyed a good workout, great weather and good company.