



# The Message Stick

## June 2025

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

Web: <https://mackaybwcq.org.au/>

Email: [mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com](mailto:mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com)

### Future Events

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Pretty Creek - Lineel Falls Loop.....       | 1 <sup>st</sup> June                    |
| Pink Hibiscus Patch, Cape Hillsborough..... | 8 <sup>th</sup> June                    |
| Mt Catherine.....                           | 15 <sup>th</sup> June                   |
| The Spikelets.....                          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> June                   |
| General Meeting.....                        | 25 <sup>th</sup> June                   |
| Dalrymple Camp.....                         | 28 <sup>th</sup> –29 <sup>th</sup> June |
| The Leap.....                               | 29 <sup>th</sup> June                   |
| Town Beach and Beyond.....                  | 6 <sup>th</sup> July                    |



### Pretty Creek

### Club Officers

|                      |               |              |                    |                   |              |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President            | Peter Bennett | 0427 383 732 | Digital Officer    | Bethany Morgan    | 0415 761 058 |
| Vice President       | Carole Weekes | 0455 872 207 | Newsletter Editor  | Telina Lambert    | 0434 392 558 |
| Secretary            | Philip Morgan | 0431 130 074 | Walks Coordinator  | Coral Morgan      | 0407 164 856 |
| Treasurer            | Mari Simmonds | 0429 190 168 | Equipment Officers | Frances Eiteneuer | 0447 866 188 |
| Membership Secretary | Mari Simmonds | 0429 190 168 |                    | Penny McMahon     | 0421 071 294 |
| Social Media Manager | Wendy Bennett |              | Librarian          | Robert Kollian    | 0448 375 743 |

## From the Editor

Remember its membership renewal time again please make sure to renew your membership before 30th June 2025. <https://mackaybwcq.org.au/membership>

And just a reminder to members any person who attends a club walk must be a member. This includes children.

If anyone has any old documentation, walk write ups, newsletter articles e.c.t from the 60's, 70's or 80's please get in contact with our Librarian, Robert Killian on 0448 375 743.

Note that the meeting for this month will not be held on the normal 3rd Wednesday (18/06/2025) due to the show but will be held the following week on the 25/06/2025.

It's starting to cool down now for 2025 but the weather is still unpredictable so please be aware that walks may need to be cancelled at short notice if the leader deems it unsafe to go ahead. Any cancellations will be advertised on the Club's Facebook Group. Also remember that the terrain can be treacherous and have a possibility of poisonous animals and plants so be prepared with a small personal **First Aid kit**. It doesn't have to be huge but should include a snake bandage.

### Trip Leader Bag

All walk's leaders need to arrange for the trip leader bag to be returned to Frances or Penny ASAP after every walk please. Our equipment officers need to check the bag each week to ensure it contains all the necessary equipment and forms needed for the following Sunday's Walk.

Assembly point for walks (unless otherwise advised):  
CAR PARK - CORNER of ALFRED AND NELSON STREETS  
Car Park address is 295 Alfred Street  
Please arrive 15 minutes before walk start time.

Please make sure that if you would like to lead a walk in the following month, please inform our walks coordinator **Coral Morgan 0407 164 856 before the 24th of June.**

All items for the next newsletter including walk information for upcoming walks and previous walk write ups should be sent to [mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com](mailto:mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com) by 1st of June.

## 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  | 4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required |
| L = long – over 10km  | 8-10 = Rocks, creeks, rockhopping, scrambling, thick scrub, major rock scrambling using hands, technical | 8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only  |

# A Blast From The Past



Most of you would be aware that our club was initiated just over 50 years ago in 1974. But how many of you are aware that there was previously a “Mackay bushwalkers club” in existence earlier, which eventually folded here in an article from 1966.

## WEEKEND CAMP AT CATHU.....March 5/6<sup>th</sup>.....By Rachelle

In spite of good intentions, the party got away a little later than planned. Maybe this time we can blame the dubious-looking weather.

Permission had been obtained from the Forestry Dept to visit Cathu and it was confirmed that morning that the mountain road was still trafficable.

At the Forestry settlement an officer warned us that three timber trucks were on top and could be coming down, so the winding wet road was negotiated with extreme caution.

When we reached the forestry hut on top the leader decided that the road was too slippery for the cars to continue so we off-loaded and took temporary possession of the hut (having been granted permission by the Forestry Dept.)

Wood was gathered, and a fire lit; then a short shady walk brought us to the look-out which on clear days affords magnificent view of the coast line from Proserpine to south of Seaforth. Our view was rather blurred with rain and low-flying misty cloud, but beautiful all the same.

A twenty-minute walk along the road brought us to a bridge over a fair sized creek where it had been intended to camp, but with the wet conditions naturally we preferred our dry warm hut. En route we encountered the three timber trucks. The men had been forced to roll off the load of logs – even they were proceeding with difficulty, the truck tires being plastered with red soil.

We returned to camp to dig in for the night and everyone busied themselves claiming stretchers found laying around, and cooking this and that. After tea Maureen and John volunteered (I think) to wash up all the dishes whilst others wiped up. Somehow or other a few of the dishes went around the circle twice.

Afterwards a little time was spent around the great log fire place where a few yarns were spun, whilst outside the wind and the rain fought a battle against fair weather. When the fire died down and the coals glowed red, no one could resist hot toast and a cuppa for supper. And so to our sleeping bags, some to sleep like logs, others to listen to the wind and rain all night. Next morning the tired ones were brought tea in bed, but later had to get up and cook breakfast. It was agreed that as it was still raining we ought to pack up and get out before the condition of the road worsened and the nine creek crossings became uncrossable. But later there was a break in the weather and we all set off on a ten mile walk on the ring road which brought us to the other side of the bridge reached the previous day. This was enjoyed by everyone of us in spite of the rain – in fact who doesn't enjoy walking in the rain? The air was cool and we walked the distance with ease though at times our shoes became heavy and twice from red clay.

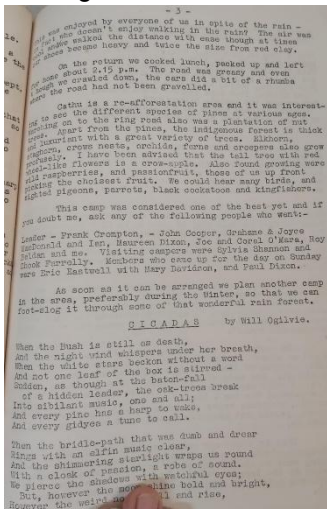
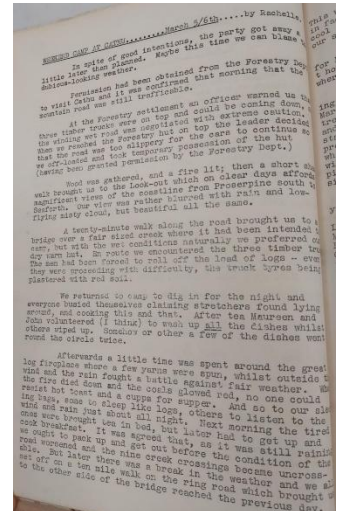
On the return we cooked lunch, packed up and left for home about 2.15 p.m. The road was greasy and even though we crawled down, the cars did a little bit of rumba where the road had not been gravelled.

Cathu is a re-forestation area and it was interesting to see the different species of pines at various ages. Matching onto the ring road also was a plantation of nut trees. Apart from the pines, the indigenous forest is thick and luxuriant with a great variety of trees. elkhorn, staghorn, crows nest, orchids, ferns and creepers also grow profusely. I have been advised that the tall tree with red wheel-like flowers is a crow-apple. Also found growing where wild raspberries, and passionfruit, those of us up front picking the choicest fruit. We could hear many birds and sighted pigeons, parrots, black cockatoos and kingfishers.

This camp was considered one of the best yet and if you doubt me, ask any of the following people who went:-

Leader – Frank Crompton, - John Cooper, Grahame & Joyce MacDonald and Ian, Maureen Dixon, Joe and O'Mara, Roy Beldan and me. Visiting campers we Sylvia Shannon and Chook Farrelly. Members who came up for the day on Sunday were Eric Eastwell with Mary Davidson, and Paul Dixon.

As soon as it can be arranged we plan another camp in the area, preferably during the winter, so that we can foot slog it through some of that wonderful rain forest





## 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.

### **Pretty Creek - Lineel Falls Loop Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**Leader:** Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

**Depart:** 7:00am from Mackay

**Journey:** 200km = \$20

**Grade:** M75

**Estimated walking time:** 5 Hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 100m

**Pace:** Medium

**Terrain:** Rock hopping, some scrambling, creek crossings

**Vegetation:** Rainforest

**Expect:** Nice swimming holes and some steep off track.

This walk begins on the Western trail to Mt Dalrymple before we will head off on a ridge down to the junction of Pretty Creek and the upper reaches of Cattle creek. We will explore a little way downstream where there are some spectacular swimming holes. We will then head back to the junction and diverge 150m or so upstream to visit Lineel Falls. From here we will travel 800m back up Pretty Creek via some small waterfalls and micro gorges to where we will rejoin the western trail to return to the cars. The creek is quite spectacular in this section with some short difficult sections requiring use of all four limbs. This walk is weather dependent and will not go ahead if there has been heavy rain in the days beforehand or forecast for the actual day

### **Pink Hibiscus Patch, Cape Hillsborough Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**Leader:** Kate Brunner 0467 976 955 or Messenger

**Depart:** Smalley's beach [or carpool from town to be announced]

**Journey:** n/a

**Grade:** M66

**Estimated walking time:** n/a

**Total of all uphill sections:** n/a

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** n/a

**Vegetation:** n/a

**Expect:** After dropping a car at the board walk, we climb from Smalley's beach to the height of the cave "gallery", we continue on that level till it ends in a cliff there is a spot that allows scrambling up to a ridge with views. We follow this down a saddle and up a outlook hill then we descend to that Hibiscus patch, then follow an escarpment, till an opening lets us descend into a stoney creek bed. We follow water courses out towards the road hopefully emerge on to it near the board walk. No Wait-a-while, no leeches, nice views and flowers.

**Mt Catherine  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**Leader:** Deb Wilson 0400 319 078 Phone or text is fine.

**Depart:** 7:00am from Mackay

**Journey:** 140km = \$14

**Grade:** M66

**Estimated walking time:** 5-6 hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 450m

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** n/a

**Vegetation:** Rainforest, scrub

**Expect:** Mt Catherine is a 485m high peak situated close to Mt Beatrice, north of Calen. The walk will commence from private property at Yalboroo, then into national park following a ridge line.

The climb is relatively gradual with a number of smaller peaks along the way, with some steeper sections to climb.

There are great views of the jagged peak of Mt Beatrice.

Vegetation is open forest, with rainforest type vegetation nearer to the top, lantana, cycads, tall grass trees with some moonlighter on the track to be aware of.

The track may be overgrown with weeds and long grass as it is two years since the club has done this walk.

This walk will be at a slower relaxed pace. We will stop at the first lookout for a break then continue on to the large flat rock lookout at the top where we will have lunch.

**The Spikelets  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Leader:** Keven Smith 0417 326 634

**Depart:** 6:00am from Mackay

**Journey:** 240km = \$24

**Grade:** M77

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 450m

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** Open bush, some moderately steep ridges.

**Vegetation:** Long grass, obstacles underfoot, rocks to explore, something different

**Expect:** The Spikelets are three very interesting craggy, rocky, bluffs in the centre of Homevale NP. This is a walk with much variety

including fantastic views, caves, amazing rock formations, arches, rocky overhangs, open forest and more, this walk is approx. 9.3km.

Spikelet 1 is quite large and so we will only explore part of it including Wallaby Cave, the top of Spike 1A with views across the gap to Spike 1B and surrounds, Hidden Arch and then Big High Cave with views across the valley to the other two Spikelets.

Then hang ten on "Wave Rock" and sit on "Panorama Peak" on Spikelet 2 and explore more caves below. Then on to the 3rd Spikelet which really requires the whole day to explore on its own. In the centre of the impressive towering rock formations is a lost world we could explore as much as time allows. From the top of one of these peaks are fantastic views of Spikelet 1 and all the Mt Britton icons of Sydney Heads, Marling Spikes etc.

**Note the early start !! Note also Leader is not on Facebook so Ring to Book in.**

**Induction 6.30pm &  
General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 25th June**

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

## **Mt Dalrymple**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

**Leader:** Kate Brunner 0467 976 955 or  
Messenger

**Depart:** leave town at 7:00am Saturday 28.  
June

**Journey:** 190km = \$19

**Grade:** n/a

**Estimated walking time:** 5 – 6 hours per day

**Total of all uphill sections:** n/a

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** uneven

**Vegetation:** Rainforest

**Expect:** leave town at 7am Saturday 28. June sign in car park end of Dallrymple road. We can organise car pool via phone close to the day. With a full camping load I would allow 5-6 h walking on both days, depending... We hike along western trail to the top of mt Dallrymple. The walk follows mostly a rough, but well marked track, some steep ups and downs. Along the way we could do a side trip to mt David. Water bottles can be refilled, about 20 odd minutes before the camp spot. This water might require treatment or boiling. It will probably be a cold night up high, so you need a good sleeping bag, [thermals, or whatever your cold weather equipment is. There are wind protected spots. I strongly advise to keep the load light! Hoping to see a great starry sky! We return the same way on Sunday

**Recently, we cancelled a camp like that due to weather, but some were interested in trying again. So this is it, I am open for input and modified ideas.**

## **The Leap**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**Leader:** Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

**Depart:** 10:00am from Mackay

**Journey:** 50km = \$5

**Grade:** S54

**Estimated walking time:** 3 Hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 250m

**Pace:** Slow – Steady

**Terrain:** Very uneven, and possibly slippery, in the rocky creek bed section.

**Vegetation:** Rainforest, nearing the top there are grass trees and long grass.

**Expect:** Some rock hopping, scrambles, some steep short climbs and descents, loose rocks, possibly some downed trees to climb over.

**NOTE the 10am start time. To arrive at the top in time for lunch.**

The Leap is situated in the Pioneer Peaks National Park, north west of Mackay. This walk is suitable for slower walkers and reasonably fit beginners. There will be no need to hurry. We will walk partly on tracks and partly in a rocky creek bed. We start out on a track, then continue for a while in a rocky creek bed. There is an optional side trip to some organ-pipe cliffs, and dry waterfall. Then continue up to the foot of some cliffs, and on to the top where we will have lunch. We should enjoy views of Mackay and the surrounding countryside.

## **Town Beach and Beyond**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Telina Lambert 0434 392 558

**Depart:** 9:00am from Town Beach Car park (North) (near Iluka Park)

**Journey:** n/a

**Grade:** L12

**Estimated walking time:** 3 Hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 10m

**Pace:** Slow - Average

**Terrain:** Footpath and roadways

**Vegetation:** n/a

**Expect:** This walk will be an easy walk along foot paths. We will start our walk from the Town beach car park and make our way along the blue water trail through the Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve. We will be making our way to past the Bluewater Sculpture trail and to Canelands where we will stop for some lunch. Where after lunch we will follow the same trail back to the cars.

**Note the later start time and meeting point.**

# Previous Activities

## Black Beach

27/04/25



Twelve members, including our newest inductee, Merinda, took advantage of the fine, sunny weather to enjoy the beach, the scenery and the track along the Spit during an afternoon outing. After leaving the cars, we headed in the direction of the easement following it to the south to access the Spit track. There were only a few people using it apart from our group, and when we arrived at McCready Creek, we found our bench seat surrounded by



overgrown vegetation, so it was unsuitable for our traditional group photo to be taken.

A short break in the shade taking in the scenery was enjoyed



before heading along the beach for the next part of our walk. Slade Point and the islands were crisply outlined and evidence of soldier crabs decorated the sand. It was good to see the beach being used by a few more people as we approached the picnic ground, by which time our group had been



reduced to six, as Coral, Penny, Therese, Fran, Merinda and Edie had set off for home after covering a good distance.

The stayers appreciated the cool breezes, the shade and a bit of rock hopping as the first of the little bays underneath the Dolphin Heads cliffs was explored, and by the time we had returned to the cars, about 10 kms had been covered by Carmel, Ian, Ashley, Michelle, Phiona and myself.

**Carole Weekes**



12 Bushwalkers met on a beautiful autumn afternoon for a walk along the Blacks Beach Spit. Some rested at McCready's Creek to enjoy the view & have afternoon tea. All walked back along the beach with the tide way out & a

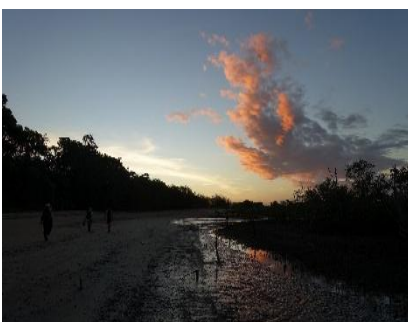


beautiful cool breeze. Some left early, while others continued on to the rocks. Thanks, Carole, for organizing the walk.

**Penny McMahon**

## Redcliff Island

11/05/2025



Together there were 7 bushwalkers for the afternoon walk, including Ken, welcome back Ken.

The tide was perfectly low, the day was overcast with a strong wind blowing. We made our way across the causeway to the south island, walked on along the beach, being careful around the rocks.







After reaching the second causeway we then crossed over to North Redcliffe Island. Once across we then walked up to the lookout through long overgrown grass with sections of the track washed away from the heavy rains we have recently been experiencing. On reaching the lookout we had views of Newry Island, Rabbit Island and of the coastline.

The wind was blowing a gale at the top.

Once back down on the beach some of us decided to walk around the Island while others relaxed on the beach.



Interesting things we saw on the walk were sheer cliff rock faces, rock arches, and a giant stone pillar.



A nice afternoon of walking and catching up with friends. The sun was slowly going down as we reached the cars and the early evening was beginning to set in. This walk will be held again throughout the year as unfortunately the tide for crossing suited mother's day. Some interested people may not have been able to participate due to family commitments regarding mother's day .

**Deb Wilson**



## Freshwater Point 18/05/2025



What a magic morning, sky so blue and clear the water sparkled all day. 8 of us gathered at the Fresh Water Point boat ramp to seek adventure. Well a nice steady walk anyway. The track was a bit muddy, with massive bog holes we had to negotiate around but nothing a tough bush walker couldn't handle. The look out was quite overgrown and the hike up seemed steeper but well worth the climb. It was a very relaxed group , taking time to take plenty of photos and look at the flora and someone

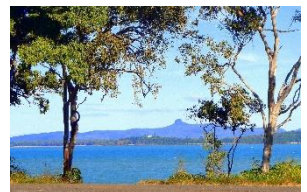


was lucky enough to find a 4 leaf clover. We had to gather at the point to get the group photo with sparking water and distant mountains, just to prove we made it to the point. 😊. Surviving the journey. We followed the track to the first sandy Bay where we stopped for smoko break before rock hopping to the next beautiful bay. Somebody was already



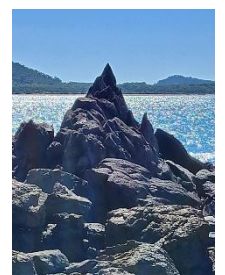
Fig Tree Bay

camped under the Fig tree so after regrouping, we found the short track to Turtle Bay via the bit of a lookout. Against a broken table under She Oak trees, we stopped for lunch. We decided due to fast rising tides to take the high road track onto the next Bay . My personal highlight was seeing the



Reservoir

pretty lagoon for which the area is named, but sad to see stinky rubbish dumped in such a special area. We passed the carpark and made our way to the coloured rocks. Only 3 of us climbed over mangrove roots to bypass the full size puddle blocking the stone chip road. There was another break at the coloured thermal rocks for more photos and chat before we headed back to the carpark for another rest and chat. The hardest





part of the journey was the last trek along the paved path back to the boat ramp. We survived huge boggy puddles, bush wilderness and spiders to be nearly beaten by a foot path. 5 bays in all, not including the stony ones we bypassed, and over 10 km's of walking. 'Various readings on wrist watches'. It was a walk for all and I believe all enjoyed it. A relaxing day amongst beautiful scenery, doing what we love.

**Celestine Lambert**



Freshwater Point Walk. 8 Bushwalkers enjoyed this walk on a perfect autumn day. Starting at the boat ramp, we followed the track, first veering up to the lookout to enjoy views of Mt Funnell near Cape Palmerston, then stopping at the point for more

views. We eventually dropped down from the track to a sandy beach, where we enjoyed morning tea in the shade. Around a rocky headland to the beach with the famous fig tree & up to the headland with great views south & north. Then down to Turtle Beach for a relaxing lunch. Next along some muddy tracks to the



northern side of Freshwater Point, with views across to Sarina & where we sometimes park our cars. Along the beach again to inspect the coloured rocks, before eventually retuning via the road to the cars. I believe we all thoroughly enjoyed this walk. Thanks Celestine for leading it.

**Penny McMahon**



## Abseiling, Cape Hillsborough 25/05/2025

