



# The Message Stick

## December 2024/ January 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

Mystery Creek walk.....	1 <sup>st</sup> December
Illawong to Bakers Ck.....	8 <sup>th</sup> December
BBQ and Night Walk Botanic Gardens.....	14 <sup>th</sup> December
January 2025	
Abseiling, Cape Hillsborough.....	12 <sup>th</sup> January
General Meeting.....	15 <sup>th</sup> January
Eungella Tracks.....	19 <sup>th</sup> January
The Junction.....	26 <sup>th</sup> January



### Eungella Tracks

### 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				

## From the Editor

Reminder that there will be no scheduled walks between the 15<sup>th</sup> of December – 11<sup>th</sup> January due to the Christmas Break.

Weather is 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 months please inform our walks coordinator Coral Morgan 0407 164 856 before the 14<sup>th</sup> of January.

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 20<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Rob Kollin 0448375743**

## 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

## 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.

## **Mystery Creek walk / Exploratory Walk Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

**Depart:** 7am from Mackay

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

**Grade:** M85

**Estimated walking time:** 4 hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 120m

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** very uneven

**Vegetation:** rain forest

**Expect:** Mostly rockhopping, scrambles, wait-a-while, swimming holes, difficult creek crossings.

This is an ever-popular walk in the Mt Charlton area. This Creek runs all year and comes out from the rainforest areas of Eungella National Park. The walk culminates in one of the best swimming holes in the district. The hole sits between two waterfalls. This walk consists of constant rockhopping all the way. Make sure you bring your swimmers.

This will be a hard walk, so be prepared.

**Ring to nominate for this walk no later than 12.00 midday before the walk or sooner.**

**Bring a change of clothes to travel home.**

## **Illawong to Bakers Ck Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 0407 164 856

**Depart:** 7am Illawong (Far beach) Carpark

**Journey:** n/a

**Grade:** M32

**Estimated walking time:** n/a

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

**Pace:** Leisurely

**Terrain:** Beach

**Vegetation:** Mild scrub

**Expect:** We will walk along Illawong drive and then through a council made track to the beach, before crossing Shell Grit Creek. The timing will be ideal for a shallow crossing as the tide will be going out so be prepared for wet feet, from then it will be a long stretch of sandy beach to the mouth of Bakers Creek.

After a smoko break we will return part way inland along tracks in a mature reserve before going through the bush back to the beach back across Shell Grit Creek and more beach walk back to the starting point. The pace on the day will be leisurely.

Remember 'beach' means sunscreen, hat, plenty of drinking water and possible sandflies. We should be back before lunch

**Please call to book rather than texting.  
Note the different meeting place.**

## **BBQ and Night Walk Botanic Gardens Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 0407 164 856

**Depart:** 5pm Lagoon Street carpark (Holland Street end) near the playground

**Journey:** n/a

**Grade:** n/a

**Estimated walking time:** n/a

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

**Pace:** n/a

**Terrain:** n/a

**Vegetation:** n/a

**Expect:** Let wind up the year with a potluck Barbecue. Bring something for yourself to cook on the council Barbecue and a salad or sweet to share.

Following the popularity of mt Blackwood night walk we will have a go walking in the gardens commencing at 6:30pm after sunset. We will plan to stay in a group. **No Stragglers.** Bring touches and insect repellent. (it will be a full moon)

**Please call the leader by 12pm Thursday to discuss food arrangements and if you only wish to attend for the walk, Thank you.**

## **Abseiling, Cape Hillsborough**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

**Leader:** Bethany Morgan 0415 761 058

**Depart:** n/a

**Journey:** n/a

**Grade:** n/a

**Estimated walking time:** n/a

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

**Pace:** n/a

**Terrain:** n/a

**Vegetation:** n/a

**Expect:** Contact Leader for more information.

**Induction 6.30pm &**

**General Meeting 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

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

## **Eungella Tracks**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**Leader:** Mari Simmonds 0429 190 168

**Depart:** n/a

**Journey:** n/a

**Grade:** n/a

**Estimated walking time:** n/a

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

**Pace:** n/a

**Terrain:** n/a

**Vegetation:** n/a

**Expect:** Contact Leader for more information.

## **The Junction**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

**Depart:** n/a

**Journey:** n/a

**Grade:** n/a

**Estimated walking time:** n/a

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

**Pace:** n/a

**Terrain:** n/a

**Vegetation:** n/a

**Expect:** Contact Leader for more information.



# Previous Activities

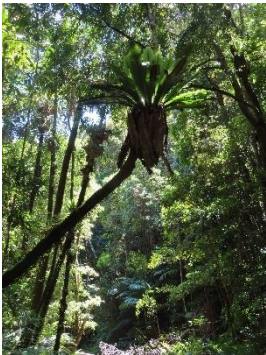
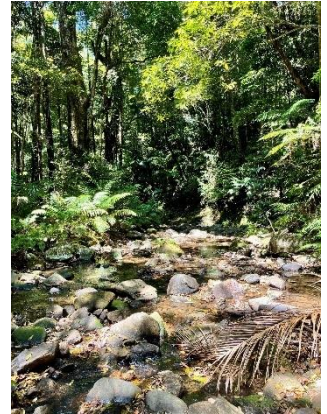
## Pretty Creek 10<sup>th</sup> November



I would like to say a special thank you to the 10 great people who accompanied me and tolerated my steady pace. It was an achievement for me to get that far and I was particularly pleased that with Penny, I located the special site where I last camped with Steven. There was no mistaking THAT ROCK. Particular mention of

Frances who help out by leading most of the way with the tapes a bit difficult to find in places and Phiona for the generous Devonshire tea at the Chalet.

**Coral Morgan**



11 Bushwalkers escaped the heat of Mackay to enjoy a walk to Pretty Creek, in the cooler temperature of Eungella National Park. The taped track was easy to follow and due to the very dry conditions,

was also dry underfoot. Even though, due to the very dry conditions, there was no moss, very little fungi and many dry leaves, it is a beautiful walk through the rainforest. Access to



the creek proved a little tricky for some, but the creek itself was low and easy to cross without wet feet. Morning tea beside the creek before heading upstream. Some members continued up the creek, while some took to the ridge to look for Coral's rock. Coral & I continued on to find the rock, which was of significance to her. After the 2 groups had explored sufficiently, we met up on the main track after lunch, to return to the vehicles. A great day out in the rainforest. Thanks Coral for leading the walk.

**Penny McMahon**





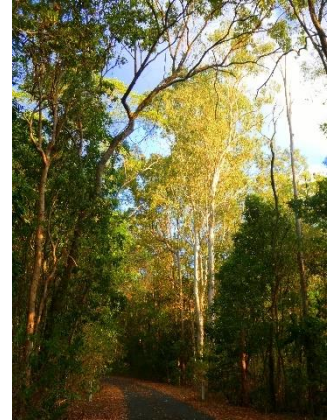
# Mt Blackwood

## 16<sup>th</sup> November

The town people departed Mackay at 4.30, the weather was looking great, no rain throughout the day and no storms looming throughout the afternoon. Perfect weather for an evening walk to the summit of Mt Blackwood. We had a few late arrivals due to forgetting their necessary torches. Not long after everyone arrived, we began our climb. The stifling heat of the day



subsided as 13 happy walkers headed towards the destination of the summit. There was unfortunately a last-minute cancellation of one walker. Included in our group of bushwalkers was our youngest member, Caspian. Comfortably Caspian made it to the top of Mt Blackwood and most importantly back to the car, snugly sitting in his stroller being pushed by Dad James. A great effort by James, it would have made his accent slightly more difficult and tiring.



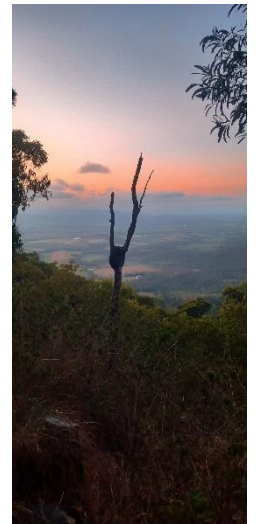
As we progressed up the mountain, the group started to thin out as the faster walkers strode out ahead.

Soon only Coral, Penny, Carmel and myself were left in the quiet of the surrounding bush, as we headed

slowly upwards with a slow steady pace.

The quietness of the evening, allowed the many bird calls to be heard. An orange footed scrub fowl, a noisy pitta and several other calls we could not identify.

We arrived at a break in the tree canopy and there it was, beautiful full round moon rising about the tree tops. It was a pleasant cool comfortable evening for walking. Our little group of four made it half way to the top. We arrived at a look out and I was amazed to see so many house lights dotted throughout the darkness below. We could also see the car lights on the highway. We stopped for a break and it wasn't long before we heard the voices of the other group breaking through the silence of the darkness. Not long then the shine of the torches travelling down towards us.



We reformed as a group and headed back towards the cars.

Something different for a walk but enjoyed by all that participated, with lots of great photos of the full moon rising above the coastline.

**Deb Wilson**



It has been a long time since a night walk has been included in our events and it proved to be very popular with all levels of fitness being a safe easy walk we

split into group then straggled further into conversing pairs. No everyone made it to the peak of the

long winding road choosing to stop at a lower lookout which offered great

views, but those who did make it were treated to a red rising moon at a

lookout point near the top. The peak itself offered no view due to the

infrastructure so the fit group went back down to the last viewpoint and

everyone with a camera/ phone tested the quality in attempt of the perfect

shot of the moonlight reflecting off the waters of Cape Hillsborough. Very

beautiful. We not long started down 2 shadows came out of the darkness

pushing our youngest member in a stroller. they headed onwards to the

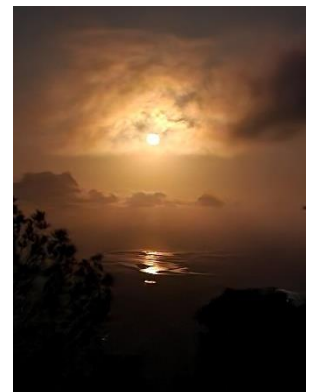
lookout for further photo taking and viewing of Mackay city lights spread out

below. On our way down we meet back up with the slower groups and

conversations continued. Thank you Debs for a nice evening stroll. (Pant

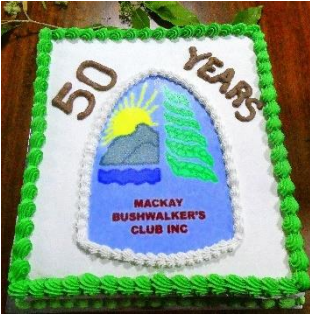
Pant)

**Celestine Lambert**





## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner 20<sup>th</sup> November



A few snaps from the 50th anniversary celebration. A huge thank you to those who put so much time and effort into organising it, you all did a fantastic job! It was great to see so many photos and hear stories of days gone by, friendships, adventures (and misadventures).

**Bethany Morgan**



Mackay Bushwalkers Club celebrated it's 50th Anniversary. What a great night it was, celebrating together with Bushwalking friends from the past and present. The slides and photos brought memories of previous activities, some of friends no longer with us, and some of places we haven't visited for years. Thanks to all who assisted in organizing the event, I think we all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

**Penny McMahon**



## Turtle Creek/ Oaky Creek 24<sup>th</sup> November



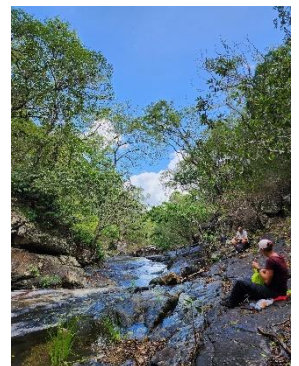
Today we went exploring Oaky Creek at Cathu- where the turtles were- but not now!

8 walkers headed up the rocky creek bed, which to our surprise kept dangling the waterfall carrot in front of us to continue walking!! It showered frequently making it a very testing walk on the rocks- but the reward of really nice scenery and small waterfalls kept us moving forward to see what else would capture our attention! We saw some Ulysses butterflies, and another green coloured one, and a couple of water dragons.

The golden orchids were seen looking very healthy-some were flowering. A

large cluster of fungi was seen on our way out!! A lunchtime dip in one of the pools was enjoyed buy some-we were all wet!!! Lots of laughter with great company made it a really nice day out! Thanks Pete- great fun!!

**Di Rutland**





# Turtle Creek/ Oaky Creek

## 24<sup>th</sup> November



Hoping for a fine sunny day we eagerly arrived at our starting point at Cathu State Forest.

As we prepared to head off,

some people noticed the broken wooden sign hiding in the long grass, it said Oaky Creek.

Turtle Creek now became Oaky Creek.

Where we last year stood in waist deep water was now dry and rocky. The creek had changed a lot over the past 12 months.

A group of eight cheerful walkers headed upstream as a slight sprinkle of rain came down, an indication of what was in store for us later throughout the day.

It reached 10oclock and morning tea was agreed on. We found a suitable place, where I sat, a large brown flowering native orchid hung above.



Morning tea enjoyed, we continued upstream. Not long and we encountered heavy rain showers, thankfully the showers of rain did not last long.

The sun peeped out between the bursts of annoying rain.

Covers on back packs, no need for rain jackets as rain came and passed on.



Most importantly, careful attention to each step forward as the rocks became wet and slippery. The group had a few walkers slip but generally everyone managed to stay upright.

Our quest was to find a suitable swimming hole for our lunch break, a hole that was clear and deep.

We came upon a water hole with a small waterfall, it was suitable for lunch break but it was only 11am. On we walked there was surely going to be a bigger and better swimming hole just above the next rocks and around the corner.

Lunchtime arrived and we didn't find a better lunch spot, around we turned and back we went to the first suitable swimming hole.

Lunch was welcomed, we were lucky to have a good break in the rain while we rested. Some had a quick swim. Joyclyn attracted two Ulysses butterflies to hover and dart above her, they seemed to be attracted to her bright blue shirt. Never staying still for a photo disappointingly.



After lunch we continued back towards the cars. More heavy unwelcomed rain showers and lots of careful foot placement we continued on arriving safely at the cars.

No complaints of a hot day. The rain was annoying but it kept us cool.

An enjoyable day of wet weather creek walking. Thankyou Peter

**Deb Wilson**