



The Message Stick

October 2025

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Teemburra Creek.....	5 th October
Dalrymple Creek – Pigeon Creek	11 th -12 th October
General Meeting.....	15 th October
Shoal Point	19 th October
TBA.....	26 th October
Freshwater point	2 nd November



Pigeon 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 Kollin	0448 375 743

From the Editor

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 Kollin on 0448 375 743.

And just a reminder to all members that any persons who wish to attend a club walk must be a registered member this is all new members, including day members and children and all must attend and induction before participating in any club walks if you cannot make it to the induction meeting feel free to contact our club President Peter Bennett at 0427 383 732 to arrange a solution.

It may be cold weather at the moment 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 14th of October.**

All items for the next newsletter including walk information for upcoming walks and previous walk write ups should be sent to mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com by 21st of October.

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, rock hopping, scrambling, thick scrub, major rock scrambling using hands, technical	8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only

A Blast From The Past

PIGEON CREEK –13th February 1994

PIGEON CREEK: 13 February

LEADER: Coral Morgan (578474)

DEPART: 7.00 am

JOURNEY: 140 km \$7.00

Map Ref: Mirani

This walk is in the Dalrymple Creek area, near Mt Charlton. The walk involves a fair bit of rock hopping. There should be flowing water in the creek and lunch should be had at the bottom (or top!) of a

substantial waterfall. It has been a long time since the Club has visited this creek and it has also been a long time since Coral has lead a walk.

PIGEON CREEK: 13 February

A total of 22 walkers, including Kev, Joe, Joy and Colleen from Proserpine participated in this walk up a small creek off Dalrymple Creek. There was a good flow of water in the creek with a couple of small swimming holes. Pretty displays of flowering violets were observed in some places along the banks. Although moonlighter was prolific, only Maureen and Alister managed to get stung. At the main falls twelve of the group ventured to scramble up above for a look at higher falls and a little exploration of this relatively unknown area. It was a commendable effort by young Jane Williams in making it all the way to the falls.

(Coral Morgan)

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.

Teemburra Creek Sunday 5th October

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

Depart: 7am from Mackay

Journey: 140km = \$14

Grade: M66

Estimated walking time: 7 hours

Total of all uphill sections: 350m

Pace: average

Terrain: Off-track, some creek rock hopping, some rock scrambling.

Vegetation: Scrub

Expect: Creek walking, rocky sections, some short steep climbs and descents. We will follow Teemburra Ck upstream from Captains Crossing, in the Mia Mia State Forest, south of Pinnacle, for a km or 2, then follow Endeavour Ck upstream for a km or 2 before climbing up to a ridge. We follow the ridge for a while, then scramble down to Teemburra Ck, downstream from Captains Crossing. There is a great swimming hole here. After a refreshing swim, we follow the creek back to the cars. There are spectacular rock formations in Teemburra Ck here.

The drive into Captains Crossing involves a 9km 40-minute 4WD track. Walker numbers will depend on 4WDs being available

Dalrymple Creek

Saturday 11th

Leader: Kate Brunner 0467976955 or messenger

Depart: 7am from Mackay or 8am at Junction Argents Road / Mt Charlton Road

Journey: 140km = \$14

Grade: N/A

Estimated walking time: N/A

Total of all uphill sections: N/A

Pace: Slow - Average

Terrain: uneven rocky creek bed and edges, walking in water and rock hopping.

Vegetation: average rainforest creek of this region, so boulders, rocks, creek crossings, vines, swimming holes.

Expect: Length of walk will depend on the group; there is a nice waterhole before the steep cliffs start. Otherwise, we walk up creek till lunch, and a bit later return same way.

Downhill is faster.

Shoes suitable for walking in water are a good idea... perhaps a pole for extra balance while crossing the creek (or pick up a stick).

If you attending this walk and would also like to participate in the Sunday Walk of Pigeon creek there will be availability to camp the night at the entrance to Dalrymple creek, walkers just wanting to do the Sunday Walk are welcome to camp as well. Could campers please ring Coral (0407 164 856) by Friday to make transport arrangements. We plan to have a fire in a fire place

**Pigeon Creek
Sunday 12th October**

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 8am from Mackay
Journey: 130km = \$13
Grade: M65
Estimated walking time: 5 Hours
Total of all uphill sections: 200m
Pace: Average
Terrain: Uneven, moderate creek, some open paddock
Vegetation: Rainforest

Expect: some moderate rock hopping, possible moonlighter and fine vine.

This creek is a tributary creek of Dalrymple Creek. It was named when coral and Maureen first explored it and saw a flock of Wompoo pigeons. It is not a particularly difficult creek to negotiate and the reward is a waterfall. It is optional to go up and around the falls and come back down a ridge parallel to the creek until a junction.

The owners have kindly given us permission to camp on their land but has asked that we are careful with fires so there will be a fire place, Walkers may camp Saturday night near Dalrymple creek, or meet at the usual place in town on Sunday morning, could campers please ring Coral (0407 164 856) by Friday to make transport arrangements. We plan to have a fire in a fire place

**Induction 6.30pm &
General Meeting
Wednesday 15th October**

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

**Shoal Point
Sunday 19th October**

Leader: Carole Weekes 0455 872 207
Depart: Meeting place is Shoal Point picnic ground at 1.30 to suit the tide
Journey:
Grade: M33
Estimated walking time: 4 hrs
Total of all uphill sections: N/A
Pace: Relaxed

Terrain: Beach, sandy tracks, rocky areas, headlands, pathways, staircases.

Vegetation: mangroves, long grass, scrub

Expect: Great views of islands, mountains, insects, some open sections, easy rock hopping and short descents and ascents, possible hot spells.

This is an afternoon walk to suit the low tide to allow us to reach the estuary of Reliance Creek, north of Shoal Point. Have your lunch before meeting at the Shoal Point picnic ground for a 1.45 departure from where the cars are parked. While we are waiting for the tide to recede, we will walk along the high areas and descend to the beach via a sandy track and do some beach exploration before climbing back up the headland for afternoon tea in the shade. The group will then set off along the beach to Reliance Creek before returning to the cars.

The distance from the picnic ground to the estuary is under 6 kms return, and usually takes about 45 mins each way. The earlier meandering will be about 2.5 kms, depending on our choices on the day. This will be an easy day of relaxation, but bring sun and insect protection, and sturdy footwear and water.

(PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE DIFFERENT TIME AND DEPARTURE POINT)

TBA 26th

Sunday October

Leader: Peter Bennit 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: n/a

Freshwater point

Sunday 2nd November

Castle Rock

Sunday 28th September

Leader: Celestine Lambert 0499 469 444

Depart: 7am from Mackay, 8am at Fresh Water Point boat ramp

Journey: 100km = \$10

Grade: M44

Estimated walking time: 5 Hours

Total of all uphill sections: 40m

Pace: Average

Terrain: Beach, rough tracks, some rocks

Vegetation: Long grass, open sunny sections, coastal scrub

Expect: Great coastal views. Possibly sandflies in places.

This should be a relatively easy day, suitable for beginners. There'll be some beach walking (sand and rocks), some rough tracks, and a section along the side of the road.

If there has been rain, the tracks could be muddy. Bring sun protection, enough water for the day, smoko and lunch. There is a very short but steep climb up to a lookout with views south to Mt Funnel and this is well worth the effort.

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

None Planned at the Current Stage

Previous Activities

Pretty Creek – Mt William Exploratory

24th August 2025



We were 4 in our small group, enough for an official bushwalk.

On arriving at the end of Mt Dalrymple Road, the carpark was surprisingly full. It was realised that it was the birdwatcher group, who had arrived earlier and set up camp at the end of the carpark. Tables, chairs, well organised and comfortable. After talking to them, it was discovered that

they had bird nets set up at the beginning of the track.

We began our walk on the track with a man from the bird group helping us pass by the almost invisible nets without disturbance or damage to the nets. I asked if they had caught any birds with the nets, they had captured 6. I forgot to ask what types of birds were caught.

The birds are weighed and measured. After all information is collected about the bird they are safely and carefully released back into the rainforest.

The first section of track leading to Pretty Creek was confusing to follow as there were pink tapes and tracks leading off in different directions. We arrived at Pretty Creek too early for morning tea, so we kept on moving.

Further on we came across pristine rainforest, we were off track now. Large trees that had fallen long ago across the creek, now covered in moss, ferns and elkhorns. Ancient tall buttress trees stood silently as we



passed by. We followed the creek up some difficult slippery rocks and climbs gaining height, on reaching the saddle we made our way up along the ridge.

Hard going through thick vines and scrub, grateful to arrive for lunch and a short rest at the top of the eastern peak of Mt William. Feeling refreshed we set off on our long walk back to the car. Down and across gullies following a ridge that would bring us out onto the western trail. Pink tape was sighted through the trees, we were now back on the track. Up climbs down slopes, most of the group were getting weary by now it had reached 4pm. Finally getting past the last confusing section of track, we recognised familiar land marks that reminded us we were almost back to the road and back to the car.

The carpark now empty, the birdwatching group had long departed.

All of us had acquired a few leeches along the way throughout the day.

A great day of walking a total of 8 hours, a distance of 11.32 km had been covered through sections of thick scrub, rugged terrain, creek sections and track.

Thankyou Ken for leading this challenging long walk in beautiful Eungella National Park

Deb Wilson

Rainforest Ridge

17th August 2025

Our small bush walking group was made up of 5 walkers. Thank you to Frances and Lesley for their help in securing the gear bag. We arrived in one car at Crediton Hall, a last-minute change of plans was decided upon as I had a sore toe and another walker had a sore foot.

The first 3 km section of road we planned to walk was cancelled; we happily drove to the beginning of the track. Starting our walk, we soon came to a small creek we had to cross, the rocks were slippery, so not an easy accomplishment to get across with dry boots. We made it over the creek, rock hopping with no mishaps. The first section following along the fence was overgrown with long grass, soon we were back on the rainforest track. Cool and pleasant, walking in the shade. On the track there were slippery rock sections, many exposed tree roots visible and plenty of trip hazards underfoot.

We arrived on the fire trail, overgrown with grass and plants covering the ground. I was aware we could come across snakes warming in the sun, on this part of the walk. The sun broke through the trees onto the trail in a lot of different areas in this long section of fire trail. Two black snakes, quite large, well hidden in the overgrown foliage. One asleep curled up enjoying the sun. The sleepy snake had to be moved on so as we could pass safely. There were leeches and some of us were unlucky enough to take home ticks. We arrived at the white water tank, enjoyed lunch and a short rest, before returning back along the same route leading to the car.

Rainforest Ridge was an enjoyable walk, covering 12 km, with sections of rainforest track and overgrown fire trail.

On the drive home we stopped to take photos of a small herd of Highland Longhorn cattle as well as a larger herd of Belted Galloway cattle. Thankyou to those walkers who came along for the adventure.

Deb Wilson

Mt Saint John

31st August 2025



Paradise Falls

7th September



Another sunny day in paradise. Stunning views over Cape Hillsborough. Impressive cliffs and overhangs, in various colours. This walk has lots to offer. Morning tea on the ridge above Paradise Beach gave us great views over the beaches below, and the ridges



above. We stayed high after the morning tea ridge and visited another impressive cliff above Paradise Beach, with lots of interesting animal and insect tracks. Descending towards the beach, we hit a patch of moonlighter. Best to go further to the right next time.

Paradise Creek starts with big boulders, which we made our way through and around, before the creek bed becomes more level and easier to walk

along. We were greeted by 1000s of Crow butterflies fluttering around us as we walked up the creek bed. Magical!

Paradise Falls was dry, as expected, but it is an impressive cliff and rainforest. We backtracked to near the start of the creek and found the scramble up to the top of the waterfall. It's a pretty area here, with attractive ferns. The tide was lower by then and we followed the beach around the first headland, enjoying the rugged cliffs beside us. We found the route bypassing the second headland, and the cliff break back down to the rock shelf, which was well above water by now. The walk back to Cape Hillsborough beach, around the headland, is spectacular, with all the



exposed rocks.

Ken Fihelly

A warm and windy loop walk. Hiking 7.6km round trip to Paradise falls. Some old taped well-worn track and a new twist in direction along and under the cliff lines. The Purple Crow butterflies, the Alexandra palms, the gnarly buttress roots, the stunning red Coral tree flowers, the sea turtles and the landscape - An outstanding display of nature at Cape Hills Bourgh Thanks Ken and Co. Beautiful day

Julie Ward



Mikes Peak

14th September

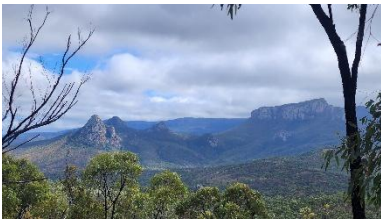


I hadn't done this walk for some years, and I was nervous the grass was going to be long and thick, as it can sometimes be near Mt Britton. Fortunately, there had been a fire through there recently, so I needn't have worried. There was some longer grass initially, but following some animal tracks made progress easier. We were soon on the ridge leading to



top of Mikes Peak, and it became rocky and steeper here. Eventually we were at the top, and enjoyed spectacular views Sydney Heads and the Marling Spikes to the north, and Mt Britton to the south. From here we followed a great ridge down and towards Mt Britton, with more spectacular views. There was a steep decent off the ridge, and rocks hiding in longer grass required care on the descent. More long grass and hidden rocks ascending the other side of the gully, but eventually we arrived at the Arch in time for lunch. Lots of photos were taken here. We followed the cliff back down below the arch, to the flats below. There has been long thick grass on these flats previously, but this time, after the fire, it was pleasant walk across to the 4wd track, and back to the cars.

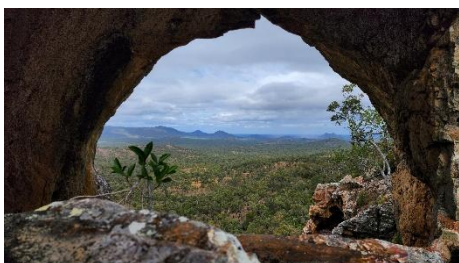
Ken Fihelly



Homevale NP -Mikes Peak and The Arch. 9.4km. 6 hours walking with an elevation gain of 521m. A lot of up and down and then another little bit of up and then let's go down and perhaps across and up, now let's go down and out. All in all, a great night of camping at Mt Britton township and a perfectly cool, breezy day for a hike. Thanks Ken and Co. Always a pleasure.

Julie Ward

Some met up in Mackay, some at Eton, and by the time we met the campers at Mt Britton intersection we numbered 8. Not a huge group but comfortable. The Mt Adder Rd was a tad rough but survivable and we followed a GPS reading to our parking spot near an overgrown track which would be our exit point. A remnant of cattle property days prior being declared national park..... We were in long grass straight away heading a general direction, cross country towards our target area of Mikes Peak. Not dramatic like many of the local features, nor big, but as we progressed, it became a long and gradually steepening hill. As it became challengingly steep, we started lagging a bit, feeling muscles tighten and it didn't help that under foot were hidden trip hazards. Thankfully the steepest part had not fully recovered from



fire in the last 12 months. Every time we thought we were close with the slope levelling, we looked up and there was more. These spots were good to rest with opportunistic pics of the dramatic landscape featuring, Marling Spikes, Sydney Heads and The Diamond cliffs. The Ridge began to get quite narrow with very steep sides so care was taken not to step too close to



the edge. The top came abruptly but the highest point was not obtainable being a sheer rock escarpment like a jagged knife edge of rock towers. Quite impressive. Our break there was brief with the local occupants being a large ant nest and they were not pleased with our presence. We could only then go down and the tangling grass was back and there were multiple involuntary sit downs. It was a long way back down, now with great views of Mt Britton itself with all its cliffs, caves and rock features. There was a bit of excitement when our next goal was spotted in the distance. The Arch. Seeing the eye, we were spurred on again and soon thereafter we changed direction to across the hill. Slip, slide and sit again. It was quite a challenge with ankles twisting as we grabbed grass clumps for support. The Arch is still impressive for those who have seen and awesome for those who hadn't but lunch was our priority before cameras..... the rest was easy then. Downhill to the flatter land where we saw wild cattle, probably not so wild, having escaped from the neighbouring cattle property but they didn't hang around after giving us a few glares.....



It was a good day, even though we were almost blown off the hill but the weather did favour us, keeping it cool in an area which gets extremes of heat. We were challenged by landscape obstacles and appreciated the easy bits in turn highlighted by the magnificent views of the rugged cliffs and peaks and of course the framed view through the eye of the Arch which can only be viewed to get true appreciation. Thank you, Ken, for leading a brilliant walk and for the great company of friends shared...

Celestine Lambert

Mt Ossa

21st September



Mt Ossa farm walk. Carole, Coral, Frances, Therese & I enjoyed a leisurely walk around the Pratt family farm. It was quite a warm day, and sections in the sun were very hot, so we were very thankful for the sections in the shade. Morning tea in the shade once we reached the top of the uphill section, was very welcome. We had great views of Mt Ossa and other surrounding fields and mountains. As usual, we

enjoyed lunch in the shade beside the dam watching the birds, although there were not as many birds visible as in previous years. It was an enjoyable easy walk with great company and conversation.

Penny McMahon



There were 10 of us headed out to a farm, off a road, at the end of a road, tucked up in a valley, on the edge of Mt Ossa National Park. We were greeted by Guinea Fowl, dogs, kids, and friendly farmers who were happy to share their piece of paradise with us. Our group of 10 halved, and while some went off to explore features of the farm, an easy stroll around, the rest of us ventured off behind the cane fields,

through a gate and into wilderness. A steep, rocky gully had us rock hopping, climbing, diverting around obstacles until after a lot of puffing and a few short rests we found ourselves looking out at an expansive view over farmlands and mountains to the west. We only ventured a short way before the plateau we had found ourselves upon, sharpened to a sharp point and we had views of 270* at least standing atop large, sharp drop off rocks which perched on the edge of an extreme slope. Venturing back, we followed the edge for a while hopping onto the many large rocks encircling the plateau to take photos or just admire the view. Soon we wandered



more central and discovered Grass tree forests. Most times I have been in grass tree it has been a battle to push through but up on top there they stood as individual sentinels each with long beards, giving the image of an old-world forest like the fantasy movies. There were a few other gnarled trees battling the extreme of difficult conditions of growing on a rock. Banksia and Mackay Cedar

etc pierced their roots into barren crevices and clung on tenaciously. We reached the other end of the flat plateau and decided on lunch and you wouldn't think it so hard to find a lunch spot. We only wanted a view, a breeze, shade and comfortable seating. We finally settled on rocks in the spindly shade surrounded by grass tree and was that a fleeting breeze? It was a good place to discuss places to visit and dinosaur fossils out west, and the forces of nature which created



such extremes of our location. Heading back down we were thankful for modern tech to find the approximate exit point. Note I say approximate. We had left no footprints or broken paths, and the huge rocks offered no clues so we just found the best route, weaving and clinging onto anything we could and even sitting on our butts with the GPS saying close enough. We finally found our gully and the rest is history. At the bottom we surprised a mob of goats which bolted but it explained the mesh fencing. As we came around the cane the pet goats saw us and everyone would have known we were coming with a chorus of bleating and cries as they came to greet us. Talking to the farmer they had quite a menagerie of goats, 130 in fact and unseen cows as well as those creatures which welcome us. It must be noted. We did NOT climb Mt Ossa, but an un-named mountain bordering the edge of the Mt Ossa national park. We had Viewed Mt Ossa itself a couple of Km away from atop our lofty hill. It will be an adventure for another day. Thank you again, Ken for another explore into the unknown. Our aching muscles were a good ache and we look forward to further adventures in great company.



Celestine Lambert



We travelled out to farm from town with Carole's group. Carole had previously got permission from the owners for our two groups. We followed the road back a bit, and made our way through the cane fields to the creek we were to follow most of the way up to the base of the cliffs. Fortunately, the creek was clear of lantana, unlike most of the areas on either side of the creek. It became steeper when the gully ran out, and a thick set of grasstrees didn't help progress up the slope. We were soon up on top of the plateau, and found the lookout nearby. Views were obstructed by trees, but we could see Mt Dalrymple to the west. The plateau is surprisingly flat, and we followed the western edge where there are some attractive rocks to visit. The plateau is also fairly open in some area, and has some pretty groups of grasstrees. We were still about 3.6 kms from the actual Mt Ossa by lunch time, and

Ossa creek, and a 200m descent, and a 200m ascent was between us and Mt Ossa, so climbing Mt Ossa from here is not doable by ordinary humans. We returned to the cliff break along the eastern edge of the plateau, with more nice rocks to walk along, and views through the trees. We also came across some Mackay Cedar trees here. The decent through the thick set of grasstrees was a lot easier than the ascent, and we found our gully and followed that back to the cane fields and the farm.

Ken Fihelly