



# The Message Stick

## July 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

Town Beach and Beyond.....	6 <sup>th</sup> July
Pods Pinnacle.....	13 <sup>th</sup> July
General Meeting.....	16 <sup>th</sup> July
Mt Beatrice .....	20 <sup>th</sup> July
McBride's Lookout.....	20 <sup>th</sup> July
Sydney Heads .....	27 <sup>th</sup> July
Mt Jukes.....	3 <sup>rd</sup> August



### Mc Brides Lookout

### 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

Remember its membership renewal time again please make sure to renew your membership before 15th July 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 Kollin on 0448 375 743.

It's 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**

## **Rocky Day Creek – 14<sup>th</sup> November 1999**

### **The Message Stick**

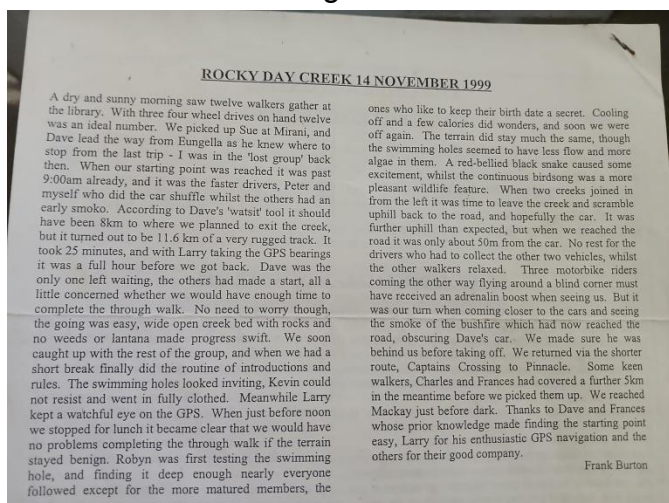
December 1999/January 2000

A dry and sunny morning saw 12 walkers gather at the library. With three four-wheel drives on hand twelve was an ideal number. We pick up Sue at Marani, and Dave lead the way from Eungella as he knew where to stop from the last trip – I was in the 'lost group' back then. When our starting point was reached it was past 9:00am already, and it was the faster drivers, Peter and myself that did the car shuffle whilst the other had an early smoko. According to Dave's 'watsit' tool it should have been 8km to where we planned to exit the creek, but it turned out to be 11.6km of a very rugged track. It took 25 minutes, and with Larry taking the GPS bearings it was full hour before we got back. Dave was the only one left waiting, the other had made a start, all a little concerned whether we would have enough time to complete the through walk. No need to worry though, the going was easy, wide open creek bed with rocks and no weeds or lantana made progress swift. We soon caught up with the rest of the group, and when we had a short break, finally did the routine of introductions and rules. The swimming holes looked inviting, Keven could not resist and went in fully clothed. Meanwhile Larry kept a watchful eye on the GPS. When just before noon we stopped for lunch, it became clear that we would have no problem completing the through walk if the terrain stayed benign. Robbin was first testing the swimming hole, and finding it deep enough nearly everyone followed except for the matured members, the ones who like to keep their birthdate a secret. Cooling off and a few calories did wonders, and soon we were off again. The terrain did stay much the same, thought swimming holes seemed to have less flow and more algae in them. A red-bellied caused some excitement, while the continuous birdsong was a more wildlife feature. When two creeks joined in from the left it was time to leave the creek and scramble uphill back to the road, and hopefully the car. It was further uphill then expected, but when we reached the road, it was only about 50m from the car. No rest for the drivers to had to collect the other two vehicles, whilst the other walkers relaxed. Three motorbike riders coming the other way flying around a blind corner must have received an adrenaline boost when seeing us. But it was our turn when coming closer to the cars and seeing the smoke of the bushfire which had now reached the road, obscuring Dave's car. We made sure it was behind us before taking off. We returned via the short route, captains crossing to pinnacle.



Some keen walkers Charles and Frances had covered a further 5km in the meantime before we picked them up. We reached Mackay just before dark. Thanks to Dave and Frances whose prior knowledge made finding the starting point easy, Larry for his enthusiastic GPS Navigation and the others for their good company.

Frank Burton



## 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.**

### **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.**

### **Pods Pinnacle Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Kevin Smith 0417 326 634  
**Depart:** 8am 295 Alfred Street Mackay  
**Journey:** 240km = \$24  
**Grade:** M57  
**Estimated walking time:** 5 hours  
**Total of all uphill sections:** 280m  
**Pace:** Average  
**Terrain:** 4wd track, rockhopping, steep slopes, grass  
**Vegetation:** scrub, grass  
**Vegetation:** Scrub

**Expect:** Pod's Pinnacle is a newish walk for Mackay Bushwalking Club. I led this walk last year but many walkers were away at the time. It is located near the Diamond Cliffs in Mt Britton. The Pinnacle is quite impressive and

has spectacular views of the Diamond Cliffs, the Bluff etc.

The walk will commence from the Mt Britton Township Fig Tree at 09:30.

Walk up a 4wd track through a private mining claim area for 2.5km.

Walkers will then walk through the bush over a couple of ridges and into a major creek. We will walk up the bed of the creek a ways and then exit the creek up a steep slope at the side of the lower Pod's Pinnacle. The Pinnacle has 3 parts. We will climb on the top of the first section, then climb to the top of the second higher Pinnacle. Note that there is only space on top of the pinnacles for a few people. From here we walk through the bush to the top of the 3rd section which is a large flat area of rock with great views, plenty of space and could be a beaut spot for a late lunch.

We will walk back under the cliff of this pinnacle then back toward the creek etc.

**Please book by contacting the leader by phone on 0417 326634 as I am not on Facebook.**

### **Induction 6.30pm & General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

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



**Mt Beatrice**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

**Depart:** 7 am from 295 Alfred St

**Journey:** 150km = \$15.00

**Grade:** M77

**Estimated walking time:** 7 hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 500m

**Pace:** average.

**Terrain:** very uneven underfoot

**Vegetation:** open forest.

**Expect:** many steep slopes, steep scrambles, lantana, long grass, fallen branches and trees.

Mt Beatrice (528m) is a distinctive mountain near the Bruce Hwy north of Calen. Good views north to Proserpine and the Whitsunday Islands and south to Cape Hillsborough are possible from vantage points near the top of Mt Beatrice. The walk will commence in the Rise and Shine area, where we will access a mountainous ridge which we will follow to the top of Mt Beatrice. We will return the same way. It is likely to be difficult under foot with rough ground and fallen trees in our path. The walk will be steep in places and is expected to be reasonably difficult. Carry water for the whole day.

**McBride's Lookout**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Coral Morgan 0407 164 856

**Depart:** 8am From Mackay

**Journey:** 100km = \$10

**Grade:** M52

**Estimated walking time:** 4 hours

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

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** Beach and rocky headland

**Vegetation:** Forest and Grass

**Expect:** We will begin at Ball Bay near the camp ground, and follow a rough taped trail and then cleared track to Haliday Bay, before walking along a beach to a rocky headland near the swimming enclosure. We will the return to the track up to Mc Brides Lookout where scrambling up a rocky outcrop provides 360-degree views. The rest of the day will be

spent exploring Ball Bay including a wetland area. This will be a relaxed day of easy walking – suitable for beginners. Please come prepared for a full day walk with food, water, sunscreen and insect spray. If interested in taking advantage of the camp around either on Saturday or Sunday night please discuss this with Coral by Friday pm.

**Note the later starter**

**Sydney Heads**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

**Leader:** Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

**Depart:** 7am 295 Alfred St.

**Journey:** 250km \$25.00

**Grade:** M66

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 350M

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** uneven, long grass, hidden obstacles underfoot, slopes, loose scree

**Vegetation:** Forest, dense vegetation in places.

**Expect:** Steep slope with loose scree, rocky outcrops with height, trip hazards, sun, no water and magnificent views.

Sydney Heads is the most prominent feature in Homevale National Park rising to a height of 921 metres. Although a short walk of just under 5kms the rewards are spectacular. All of Homevale can be seen from this vantage point, including the Marling Spikes, Mikes Peak and Mount Britton. The ascent up Sydney Heads requires a scramble up (and down) a loose scree covered slope. Care must be exercised here to avoid dislodging material onto other walkers.

**4WD or high clearance 2WD is recommended to reach the departure point on Mt Adder Road.**

**Numbers may be limited depending on the availability of suitable vehicles.**

**Mt Jukes**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

**Advanced Notice. Update to come.**

# Previous Activities

## Pretty Creek – Lineel Falls Loop

### 1/06/2025



The Mt Dalrymple west track was a bit indistinct in places, but there were plenty of tapes to show the way. We followed the track to the high point on the ridge above Pretty Creek, then followed the un-tracked ridge, more or less, to the junction of Pretty Ck and an upper tributary of Cattle Creek. It was a bit steep getting into the creek, and the rocks beside the creek a bit wet from drizzle or cloud, so care was needed following the creek downstream. There was more water in the creek



than I expected, and crossing it usually involved wet feet. The creek here is especially beautiful, and the rainforest was lush and green. It was a mild day, and only Chrissy was brave enough to have a swim here. We went downstream a bit to enjoy the views, then turned around and continued back, past the Pretty Ck junction, to Lineel falls, on the Cattle Ck tributary, where we had lunch. Then we backtracked again to Pretty Ck and followed it upstream. The rocks were still wet beside the creek, and we decided for safety



reasons, to not rock-hop up the creek, but to exit up the steep side, back to the ridge. We then followed the Mt Dalrymple west track to the crossing with Pretty Ck, which is spectacular in this area, before returning to the cars. Thanks everyone, for a great day.

**Ken Fihelly**

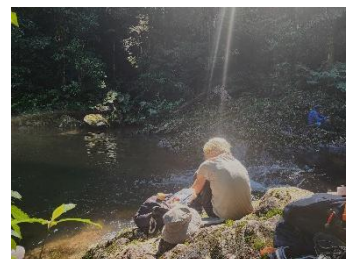
I think everyone was watching the sky and it was nice to see sunshine for a beautiful rainforest walk. Of course, after the rain the leeches knew we were coming so the 8 of us were ether picking off or bleeding out. It is a beautiful area on the western trail which we followed for a while before branching off on a GPS coordinate which took us scrambling steep



slippery slopes into cattle creek which we followed down as far as we could until water rocks and step banks halted us. We retraced our steps and went upstream to find that Lineel Falls had a good flow weaving between the rocks this was lunch. Ken was the only one to walk through water to a flat rock while the rest of us intent on keeping shoes dry congregated on a smaller rock. Most had a bit of an explore further up but there was a challenging circumnavigation of a jutting rock which challenged most and sent one cold soul swimming. We then attempted to follow pretty creek up, named because, it is. We tried to clamber along the bank to keep out of the water but it proved to be very steep so with resignation we

plunged our boots in until we came to a point where we had no choice but to leave the creek and go up in search of the track we came in on. We did veer off again to look at the point we **were** to exit had there not been so much water. It was a great day for challenges and enjoying nature at its best. Thank you ken for leading us into the magic spot.

**Celestine Lambert**





## Pink Hibiscus Patch 8/06/2025



## Mt Catherine 15/06/2025





# The Spikelets

22/06/2025



Some of the 12 starters camped out at Mt Britton township site and had a very damp camp. The weather did not improve much Sunday for the Spikelets walk.

A delayed start waiting for the weather to improve (or do we not even start?) but we walked in the

finest mist up the muddy slippery Lagoon Road and then off track. Wallaby cave and then view of the gap in Spikelet 1. The views of the Diamond Cliffs and Sydney Heads etc were occasional, and unclear due to the mist. Onward to Big Cave for smoko and a shower of heavier mist went over luckily while we had shelter. Then the Arch which some people were very impressed with.

Then through long wet grass crossing the creek at

not the very best spot and up to Spiklet 2. The weather got a bit worse here and there was some walkers who wanted to call it quits.

We had a bit of a meeting and I decided the whole point of going to Spikelet 3 is to explore it. The slippery wet rock would not be good for this and may be unsafe, hence there really wasn't much point going on.

So we went back down the ridge and a better creek crossing and back to the

Township site with muddy boots at about 1pm. Maybe one day we will do just Spiklet 3, which will give us lots of time to explore it.

Kevin

