



The Message Stick

September 2025

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Mt Saint John.....	31 st August
Paradise Falls	7 th September
Mikes Peak.....	14 th September
General Meeting.....	17 th September
Mt Ossa.....	21 st September
Castle Rock.....	28 th September
Teemburra Creek.....	5 th October



Paradise Falls

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 16th of September.**

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 23rd of 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	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

Creek to creek – Sunday March 1st 2015

Creek to Creek
Sunday March 1

Apologies from the Editor - This one should have been in last month's newsletter!

At the end of the Eimeo Creek to Reliance Creek walk I asked people to say what they remembered about the walk, but I did not get around to the writeup till much later, and had forgotten what everyone had said. So here is what I think they said, or I have made up. You can put names to the quotes yourself!

'It's too hot'
'Where did we say we would meet Paul?'
'Where was I supposed to meet everyone? I will wait by the swimming enclosure and hope they find me'
'It's too hot'
'Where has Clive disappeared to?'
'I saw him jump a fence back there'
'You would think if Clive had another woman he would be more discreet than to bring her walking, poor Daphne'
'Everyone, I would like you to meet my sister'
'Oops'
'The numbers keep changing, how am I expected to keep the roll up to date, 7, 8, 9, 10, oops, one gone, 9, 11.....'
'Is that a dog, a pig dog, a dog pig...no it's a pig on the beach'
'Smile piggy wiggy'

'It's too hot, where is the breeze?'
'Wild pig pork chops used to be good when I was a kid'
'Remind me not to bring frozen yoghurt again'
'Laundry service supplied'
'Let's not go all the way to Reliance Creek, it's just too hot!'
'Nice to see you Penny, but we are not going any further than here'
'Did you see the crab eating the box jelly fish?'
'What sort of birds are you watching with your binoculars'
'Just checking if she is getting too much sun in that bikini'
'Remember last time it was pouring rain, could do with that now!'
'We can get an icecream at the shop ... hope they have paddle pops'
'Oh no! The shop has closed due to lack of custom, didn't they know we come once a year?'
'Are those black cockatoos flashing their red tails at us and laughing?'
'Smart people work out where the shade will be in the afternoon and park their cars accordingly'
'It's still too hot!'
'No comment, I'm too old to remember the walk'



Then everybody said 'That's my Daphne from last time!'

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.

Mt Saint John Sunday 31st August

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7:00am from 295 Alfred Street
Journey: 200km = \$20
Grade: M65
Estimated walking time: 5 Hours
Total of all uphill sections: 450m
Pace: Average
Terrain: Uneven terrain
Vegetation: Open forest

Expect: some steep slopes, steep scrambles, lantana

Mt St John is a small but prominent mountain in the Crediton area. Good views should be available from the summit: Mt Dalrymple to the north, Mt Britton and Teemburra areas to the east and Glenden area to the west. Be prepared for long grass. You will need to bring enough drinking water for the whole day.

Paradise Falls Sunday 7th September

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7:00am from 295 Alfred Street
Journey: 100km = \$10
Grade: M66
Estimated walking time: 7 Hours
Total of all uphill sections: 300m
Pace: Average
Terrain: very uneven underfoot, creek, and beach
Vegetation: rainforest, scrub

Expect: off track, some rockhopping, some steep slopes, beach.

This is one of my favourite walks around Mackay. It's a circuit, with a good variety of views, terrain, and vegetation. Paradise Falls is on the north-east side of Cape

Hillsborough. There probably won't be any water coming over the falls, but there are spectacular and varied views along the route. I plan to go up to the top of the waterfall, as well as visit the base. It's a bit of a scramble, and is optional. There is a low tide at about 4:30pm, so we will be able to walk back along the beach and the rock-shelf.

Mikes Peak and the Arch Sunday 14th September

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7 am from 295 Alfred St
Journey: 240km = \$24.00
Grade: M67
Estimated walking time: 7 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 300m
Pace: average.
Terrain: Some steep uneven terrain.
Vegetation: Open scrub, long grass.

Expect: Steep slopes, some steep scrambles, long grass, obstacles underfoot.

Mikes Peak is south of the Marling Spikes, and near Mt Britton. This is a circuit walk, starting on Mt Addar Rd, near Mt Britton, and crossing open scrub to a ridge that leads up to Mikes Peak. There are great views of the Marling Spikes, Sydney Heads and Mt Britton from here. We then follow a ridge down towards Mt Britton, with more great views, before crossing a creek and a short ascent to The Arch, a notable feature around here. From here we make our way to the 4WD track, near the old cattle yards, and follow the track back to the cars.

**Induction 6.30pm &
General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 17th September**

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

**Mt Ossa (Farm Amble)
Sunday 21st September**

Leader: Carol Weekes 0455 872 207
Depart: 8am (PLEASE NOTE LATER TIME)
Journey: 100 kms = \$10
Grade: M44
Estimated walking time: 4 hrs
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Pace: Relaxed
Terrain: Tracks, grassy areas, cattle pads, gravel roads, creek banks, paddocks
Vegetation: Open forest, long grass, rainforest along creeks

Expect: Some flat sections, some short steep climbs and descents along 4WD tracks, mountain scenery in many directions.

We will be visiting a private property, and the club appreciates very much the willingness of the owners to allow us once again access to their beautiful farm. The day will involve walking along the boundary fences of the place very close to a National Park, with some creek banks to explore, foothills and paddocks, and lunch will probably be taken beside a dam and in the company of a couple of friendly horses. The day will be peaceful, fairly easy, and the scenery is stunning. Beginners are most welcome, and there will be no need to rush.

If you are travelling from the Pioneer Valley or from further north, you can join the convoy from Mackay at the Mt Ossa Store on the highway, but please indicate this when booking, and I will designate a time. The rest of us will be meeting at the corner of Nelson and Alfred streets at 7.45 for departure at 8am.

**Mt Ossa
Sunday 21st September**

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 8am (NOTE LATER TIME)
Journey: 100 kms = \$ 10
Grade: M66
Estimated walking time: 6 hrs
Total of all uphill sections: 350m
Pace: average.
Terrain: off-track, rainforest, some long grass, some rock scrambling.
Vegetation: rainforest, long grass

Expect: rainforest, rocky sections , some short steep climbs and descents. We will be visiting a private property, and climbing a mountain south of, and linked to, Mt Ossa, in the Mt Ossa National Park. The QTopo map shows it as being a few metres higher than Mt Ossa, at 290 metres. There's a lookout on the way up, and a plateau of sorts, with grasstrees, on top.

We will be travelling with Carole's group from Mackay, and if you are travelling from the Pioneer Valley or from places north of Mackay, you can meet the convoy from town at the Mt Ossa store on the highway, but please indicate this when you book in, and I will designate a time.

Castle Rock
Sunday 28th September

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

Depart: 7am from Mackay

Journey: 170km = \$17

Grade: M85

Estimated walking time: 6 hours

Total of all uphill sections: 260m

Pace: average

Terrain: very uneven terrain

Vegetation: open forest

Expect: some steep slopes, steep scrambles, lantana, spear grass.

Castle Rock is an outcrop in the Cathu State Forest and road access is good. Excellent views are to be had from the top. The walk will take us from the road before the forest station at Jaxut along a ridge to the dramatic drop off at the end. Along the way we will pass some interesting rock formations and a few small boulder caves.

Bring water and food for the day.

Bring spare cloths to change into after the walk, food and water for the day

To register for the walk please ring me (don't text) no later than 12.00 noon Saturday.

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 rockhopping, 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

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

Pigeon Creek to Dalrymple Creek (TBA)

Car Base Camp at Urana creek (TBA)

Previous Activities

Sydney Heads 27th July 2025

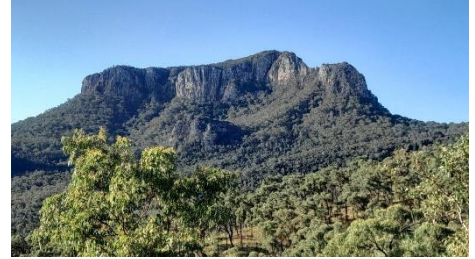


we approached the cliffs, and there was a bit of slipping on the loose scree, in places. After a scramble up the chute, we made it to the top, where the sun was starting to break though. We enjoyed stunning views along the eastern cliffs of



Sydney Heads, towards Mt Britton, and Mt Fort Cooper in the distance. The foliage on top of the plateau was thicker and taller than I remembered from last year, but was passable. We made our way to the highest point of Sydney Heads (921m), where we had lunch with spectacular 360 degree views, including the Marling Spikes, and Diamond Cliffs. The previous rain had cleared most of the haze away, and we felt like we could see forever. We then headed to the edge of the eastern cliffs for more great views, and a flying demonstration from a Peregrine Falcon. We then made our way carefully down the chute, and back to the cars. Thanks everyone for a great day.

Ken Fihelly



Mt Jukes 3rd August 2025

Still exhausted but really enjoyed our walk up Mt Jukes.

Highlights:

- Some photos of our climb up. The terrain was very steep!
- Moonlighter plant, including Ken Climbing under a moonlighting plant.
- Views South, onto Mt Blackwood, Mackay, Marian, and the Pioneer Valley / Great Dividing Range
- Views North onto the Ocean - Well worth it 😊
- Direct Views onto Mt Jukes from the property - From the morning and the afternoon.

Mitchell Smith



The Three Brothers 10th August 2025

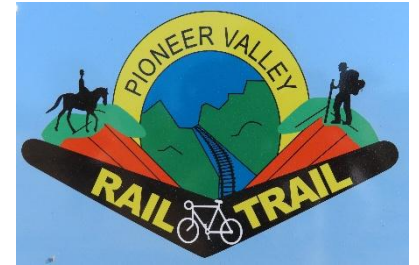


Rainforest Ridge 17th August 2025



Pioneer Valley Rail Trail

24th August 2025



Rail Trail (Shorter walk)

Many thanks to Telina and Coral for organising this walk which attracted twelve bushwalkers. The convoy from town met Telina at Platypus Beach, and we then continued on to Gargett where Celestine was waiting. The car shuffle was necessary because there were options to walk either 8-9 kms, or to go the full distance from Gargett to Mirani, or to do yet another length in the case of Ash and Michelle, who were heading back to town early to enjoy the cricket.



The whole group stopped together to enjoy morning tea in a shady spot beside a gully about 3 kms from Gargett. After this, the long distance people headed off and Frances, Edie, Coral and Carole set a more relaxed pace. This little group enjoyed the mountain scenery in the distance, and shared the track at one time with a couple of horses and their mounts, and at various places observed grazing cattle, attractive trees, birdlife, and dog walkers. Frances was able to identify many of the landmarks so familiar to her, like Mt Martin, and by the time we arrived back at Gargett just after lunch, we had covered about 9 kms all up.



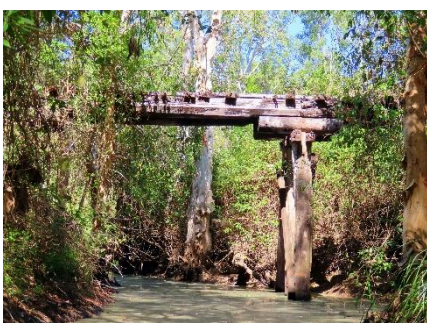
The track itself was dusty and as the day was quite hot and sunny, shaded areas were much appreciated. As we were driving back to town we passed the other group in full sun heading towards Platypus Beach, and were relieved that we had chosen the easier option. Thanks to the leaders, the drivers, and to my companions for their company.



Carole Weekes



Pioneer Valley Rail Trail walk on a very warm winter day. Different groups did different sections of the walk. 6 of us did the full length (approx 13 km) from Gargett to Platypus Beach at Mirani. We all had morning tea at the first waterhole and then spit into groups. The "long" group



enjoyed lunch in the shade at another waterhole where there is still a section of the old railway bridge. There were some shady areas but mostly we were in open country or (for the last few kilometers) beside the highway where it was sunny & hot. (I would not bother doing the road section again).

Penny McMahon



Some of us heard it on TV. Some on face book and some word of mouth but none of us knew what to expect from the new council multi purpose track following the old rail line course. Our leader Telina having done a brief recon and had found the end of the trail very busy with cane season at the siding, decided to park her shuffle car at Platypus beach for safety and we all

gathered at Gargett near the Gargett trail head end of the walk.



Walking proved very easy with slightly uneven path and we found chatting easy as we wondered, allowing for all speeds of hiker. We were surrounded by cattle paddocks and got a few bovine looks. Trees kept us shaded in patches on the first few km. It had been decided prior to commencement that we would split the group once we reached a pretty little creek crossing so we all gathered there for a smoko break and chat.

The next bit of the trail opened up more into longer straights with few trees so we appreciated when we passed into



patches of shade. At one of the multiple gates, we saw 2 of the more relaxed group had stopped and turned so a further 2 of our adventurers parted with us to return to the cars with the relaxed group while the rest of us continued on. A bit further along 2 more left leaving just 6 of the original 12 of us to complete the distance.



We reached a patch of very green forest at the base of a hill so it deserved another stop after a long hot straight. Not much further on our path was diverted onto a bit of rd. and we soon saw why. The very old characteristic bridge at first looked stable but upon further investigation proved to be questionably intact. It made a nice back drop for a lunch spot in a peaceful creek with majestic paper bark trees shading the pools of water. Once



past there it became very open and hot and sunny. And we soon reached the siding to find not a tractor, train or carriage in site. Not to worry the official trail ended at Mirani so we followed the rd. past the old Benholme homestead and back to the main rd. to follow headlands back to Platypus beach on the pioneer river. The last trek was long and hot so decided next time to find a safer spot to park closer to where we entered a rd. One upside to walking

along the main rd. we got to wave back at a car full of crazily waving women then realized it was the slower group which had turned back. As usual there was different distancer readings on devices but it was approximately 13km from Gargett to Mirani so not as long as expected. It is another walk worth adding to our list when we need an easy all skills day and I thank Coral and Telina for organising the walk.

Celestine Lambert

Pretty Creek – Mt William Exploratory

24th August 2025



The name Pretty Creek understates how beautiful it is. And it was surprisingly flat and open upstream from the crossing with the Mt Dalrymple Western Trail, for the most part. The steeper narrower sections weren't difficult to scramble up or bypass. There were some magnificent rainforest trees here, which were carrying whole ecosystems of smaller plants. The creek led to the saddle east of Mt William, and we followed the ridge up to the east peak of Mt William. There was some thick scrub on this ridge, but it was mostly open, and not too steep, and with more magnificent trees. There weren't any views due to the thick rainforest. Time didn't allow us to continue to the west peak. We returned to Pretty Ck via the ridge to the east of Pretty Ck, and

then followed the Western Trail back to the cars. Thanks to the hardy crew for a great day.

Ken Fihelly

