



The Message Stick

November 2025

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

New Years Celebration/ Camp.....	1 st December – 1 st January
Eungella Walking track.....	18 th January
General Meeting.....	21 st January
Botanical Gardens.....	25 th January



Eungella Tracks

Club Officers

President	Peter Bennett	0427 383 732	Contact Officer	Wendy Bennett	0429 363 929
Vice President	Telina Lambert	0434 392 558	Newsletter Editor	Telina Lambert	0434 392 558
Secretary	Philip Morgan	0431 130 074	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan Telina Lambert	0407 164 856 0434 392 558
Treasurer	Robert Kollin	0448 375 743	Equipment Officers	Frances Eiteneuer Penny McMahon	0447 866 188 0421 071 294
Membership Secretary	Wendy Bennett	0429 363 929	Librarian/ Archivist	Robert Kollin	0448 375 743
Social Media Manager			Safety Training Officer		
Digital Officer					

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.

Its starting to warm up now and storm season is upon us so weather 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. **Also** remember to bring lots of water as weather is hot and humid.

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 20th 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 by 27th of January.

Key to Walks Grading System

Distance

S = short – under 5km
M = medium – 5-10km
L = long – over 10km

Terrain

1-3 = Graded or open terrain, no scrub
4-7 = Bush, minor scrub, rainforest
8-10 = Rocks, creeks, rock hopping, scrambling, thick scrub, major rock scrambling using hands, technical

Difficulty

1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners
4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only



"Get your Camping Fix in 2026"

COMBINED CLUB CAMPOUT DATE CLAIMER:

- ❖ 22 – 24th May 2026. *
- ❖ Bouldercombe Sport and Recreation Complex.

Hosted by: Capricornia Bushwalkers Club Inc.

Bouldercombe Sport and Recreation Complex is located within the Bouldercombe township mid-way between Rockhampton and Mt Morgan on the Bennett Highway. The facility provides both camping grounds and open plan shed accommodation. Join us for a weekend of exciting activities. More details later, but put the dates in your diaries now.

**Access to the complex is open Friday from 9:00 am for anyone wishing to arrive early. Official sign-in will be on Friday afternoon, with the walk nominations being available at that time.*

For enquiries email: capbushwalkers@gmail.com

Kevin Cullen – 0487 655 892

Capricornia Bushwalkers Club Inc.



Blast From the Past

New Year 2011-2012



Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc.



The Spirit of Christmas

We share the Christmas spirit
With tiny, furry friends
Who watch us from the tree tops
And hide around the bends.
As we walk the leafy tracks
They scamper out of view
Observing us as we all rest
To share a needed brew.
Now wouldn't it be lovely,
If creatures large and small,
Joined with us for Christmas tea
-we'd really have a Ball!
As long as we, together, share
The forest, hill and creek
The world remains a happy place
For all, who Nature, seek.

A Happy and Joyful Christmas
to all Club members.



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.

New years Camp

Wednesday 30th December – Thursday 1st January

Leader: Bethany Morgan 0415 761 058

Depart: 5pm Contact Bethany to get Address

Journey: n/a

Grade: M85 and S22

Estimated walking time: n/a

Expect: Join us as we bring in the New Year with fellow bushwalkers at The Leap. The event will commence on New Year's Eve (December 31) at 5pm with a camp side dinner and overnight camping, games and damper.

An early rise to watch the first sunrise of 2026 and then two walking options will follow, with the conclusion of the event roughly after lunchtime on January 1st. The first option graded at M,8.5 is a walk up and over the top of the Leap towards "The Leap lookout" then circling back and following the creek down to the waterfall. If it's flowing, a nice dip to cool down with morning tea will be nice before the ascent back uphill to camp via the driveway.

The second option is graded as an S,2.2 and is a much shorter, easier walk heading downhill below the campsite and following a firebreak along the Southern side of the mountain. With glimpses of town through the trees, take your time spotting some beautiful ancient Zamia's, Grass Trees, orchards, ferns and more before following the driveway back uphill towards camp.

These walks will both commence after breakfast at around 8am. For those not walking, you are encouraged to soak up the tranquillity and relax with a cuppa!

There is definitely a potential opportunity for abseiling for those keen for some adventure, the first walking group will split into two groups after the lookout section, with one group heading to the abseiling cliffs and the other continuing along the waterfall route. This will all depend on numbers and will be confirmed closer to the event.

LOCATION: Address provided upon RSVP

LOGISTICS: We will all meet at the big shed, at the bottom of the hill at 5pm sharp. ONLY 4WD or AWD vehicles are able to drive up the steep slope to the campsite. Carpooling from the bottom of the hill will be necessary for those who don't have suitable vehicles so please arrive on time so we can work out who will

need to leave their vehicles behind. There is plenty of room to park and leave your car at the bottom.

FOOD: BYO dinner. There will be jaffle irons available for anyone to use, 2 gas BBQ's and of course an open fire. There will be damper and billy tea for all to share. Please BYO cups, plates, utensils etc. We will provide facilities for washing up.

WATER: We have an abundance of rain water available, it is unfiltered but safe to drink. Use your own discretion and BYO drinking water if you prefer.

CAMPING: Small tents have flat grassy spots, car/rooftop campers etc will have plenty of room on the rockier terrain, stretcher beds are recommended where possible as the ground is fairly rocky.

SHOWER: For those who can't go a night without the luxury of a shower, a camp shower will be available for all to use, hot water and all.

TOILET: Due to the rocky terrain around camp not being suitable for 'traditional camping methods', Coral Morgan has generously offered to pay for the hire of a Portaloo for this event. Any attendees willing to make a small donation to her to help cover this cost would be greatly appreciated.

What to bring:

- Camping gear
- Chair
- Dinner, breakfast, morning tea, lunch
- Cooking/eating utensils
- Swimmers for waterfall
- Towel, spare clothes
- Bushwalking gear ie shoes, backpack, water bottle, hat, raincoat just in case
- Binoculars
- Insect Repellent
- Cash for donations (optional)

RSVP by December 30th by TEXT to Bethany on 0415761058 OR via the club FB Event

Eungella Tracks
Sunday 18th January

Leader: Telina Lambert 0434 392 558
Depart: 7:00am from Mackay
Journey: 170km = \$17
Grade: M43 – L65
Estimated walking time: 2- 5 hours

Expect: This year we will start at the Broken River end of the track and make our way along the pathways until we get to a nice swimming hole with some rapids for a nice little lunch and a swim. At this point we will then break into two groups those who wish to go back along the pathways to broken river and those who wish to continue on to the Crediton end were there will be a Car pool waiting to bring people back to the broken river end.

I am not sure of the condition of the tracks but it should be a relatively easy walk.

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

None Planned at the Current Stage

**Induction 6.30pm &
General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 21st January**

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

Botanical Gardens
Sunday 25th January

Leader: Telina Lambert 0434 392 558
Depart: 8am from the Botanical Gardens Café
Journey: n/a
Grade: S23 – M24
Estimated walking time: 1 - 5 hours

Expect: This will be more of a social walk and will be a very easy walk around the Botanical Gardens grounds for the first part. We will then break into two groups, those who wish to go back to the cars and for those who wish to make the walk longer, we will make our way to the hospital bridge where we will stop for lunch before making our way back. Plans may change on the day for how far the 2nd group goes dependent on conditions.

Previous Activities

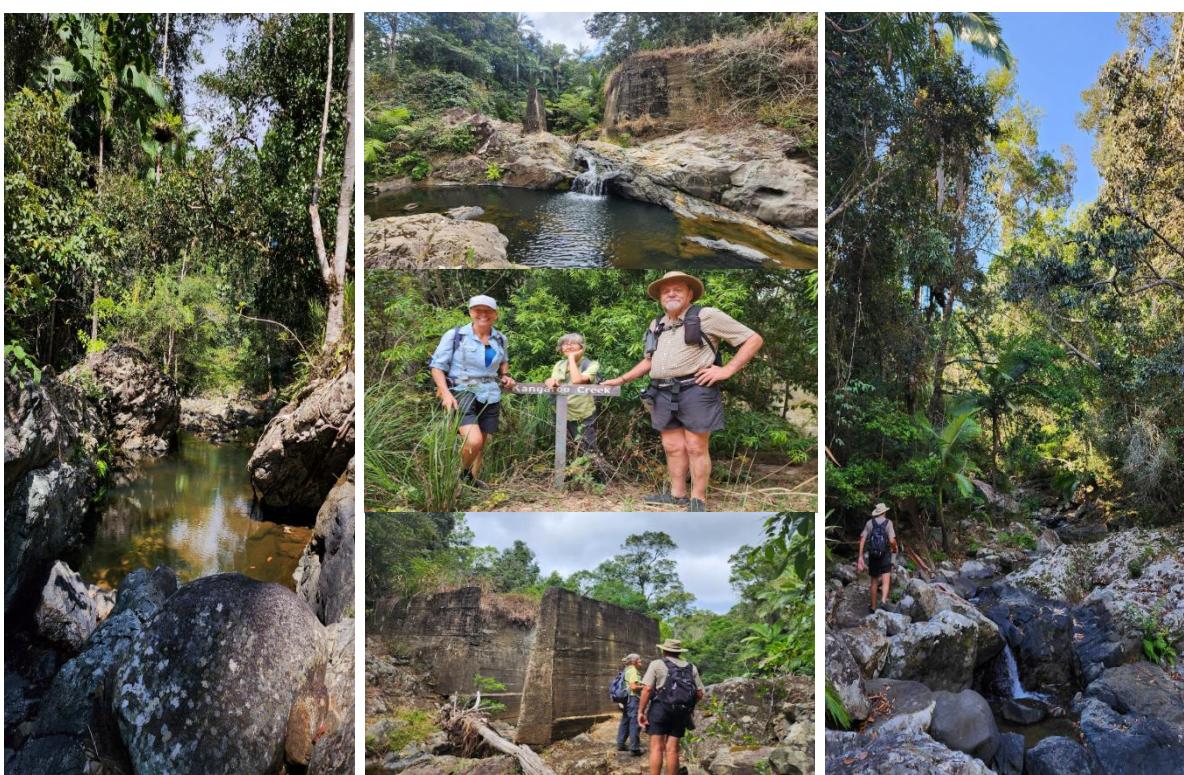
Kangaroo Creek- Cathu Sunday 26th October

Kangaroo Creek- Cathu State Forest. A straight forward lovely creek walk to the top of a waterfall then a hectic scramble to make the overpass down the other side and back up and out. What I learnt today-

1. Shoes - Check the soles of 5 year old shoes before you take them on a hike. Walking in sock covered shoes is mentally draining. Thanks [Kate](#).
2. Dehydration- Always carry hydralyte or at least table salt(thanks [Jeanette](#)) Muscle cramping and fatigue can be unpleasant. I drank 3 litres of water and still became dehydrated from sweating.
3. Resilience.- Keep on keepin on. It will all work out in the end.
4. Wear long pants regardless of the heat so your legs dont look like you've been mauled by a feral cat.

Thanks Peter. It was an adventure.for.sure

Julie Ward



Freshwater point Sunday 2nd November



There were to be six, but after late cancellations we were a comfortable number of four. All capable walkers and actually had to slow ourselves down. The lookout is getting a bit more overgrown every year but still worth the steep scramble to the top even if the view was a bit hazy. We had all seen it when clear, so we weren't worried about photos to add to our vast collections. We were at the point looking out without realising we had made the hike with

intense chatting and pointing out cans for Len to put in his baggy. It is disappointing that people are such grubs as to pollute such a beautiful area. After a short break relishing the breeze we walked on, chatty chat and missed the track into the first bay so were on the lookout for the





second bay where we left the track and did some easy rock hopping. The tide was still relatively high so being lighter up it was nice to see the coastal version of many King Orchids, not only clinging to barren inhospitable terrain, but thriving, throwing out sprays of long orange flower heads. An inspection of their leaves showed a thicker waxy covered leaf built for protection. A bit tougher than the inland scrub, version. Our first real break was at the big tree, known for its prominence amongst smaller scrubby growth. When we moved on we were a bit higher up the beach and bypassed the next rocky headland via a short track into Turtle Bay.

Never yet seen signs of turtles but the big sign says they are there. Someone has repaired the picnic bench but alas. No seating so we left the beautiful bay to follow the track. We turned off the main again to go to the natural lagoon from whence the area gets its name. It is not catchment area but where the water table rises but it was pretty damn dry. The rubbish sadly has not been removed and disappointing to see how people can be so callous to use it as a dumping ground for white goods, one still full of

unknowns. The old bright car though dumped however gives personality with its amusing "Still runs," graffiti. With the water level low we were able to explore and on the other side just over the bank from the beach we discovered the ruins of an old well and looka like crumbling water storage tanks. Looking in the well still had water and was in surprisingly good condition. A quick check to see what the beach was like had us turning back from the rocks and walking the open melaleuca forest back to the track around to the sandy beach and onward. The big puddle blocking the stone chip road still blocked our path so not all did fancy footwork swing off mangroves. I still marvel at the variety of colour in the stones near the end of the point. We

rejoined and reached the coloured rocks otherwise known as the thermal stones and with the sun very bright overhead the colours really popped. Too hot without good shade for lunch we wandered back until we found a nice shaded spot where we had a long lunch before the short civilised walk along footpaths and road back to the cars getting into deep discussions Thank you to everyone who came on this walk. It is a beautiful area to spend a day amongst good company and made more interesting with new discoveries.

Celestine Lambert



Full Moon Meander ~ Slade Point Reserve Wednesday 5th November



12 people attended our Wednesday evening walk at Slade Point on the evening of the brightest full moon of the year. We first viewed it from the lookout point at the southern end of Lamberts Beach before walking down to, and along, North Harbour Beach. Whilst on the beach we had some fun trying to "catch the moon" with our cameras. We then returned via Slade Point Conservation Reserve walking tracks. Thankfully it was too dry for mosquitoes or sandflies to bother us. The consensus was that we walked about 5 km. Thanks, Chrissy, for organizing this very enjoyable mid-week Beaver Moon walk.

Penny McMahon



Finch Hatton Gorge Tracks Sunday 9th November



9 Bushwalkers walked up Finch Hatton Gorge to Wheel of Fire Cascades. There were 2 groups, one group walked up to Araluen Cascades via Finch Hatton Creek and the other group walked there via the track. The groups joined up past Callistemon Crossing for a refreshing swim and lunch at Wheel of Fire Cascades. The weather has been dry, making the creek water low and crossing easy at Callistemon Crossing. As well, some strategically placed flat stones across the Finch Hatton Creek have improved the ability to cross without getting wet feet. A lovely outing with the benefit of great company. Thanks Anne & Wendy for leading this walk.

Penny McMahon



Today we walked in Finch Hatton Creek coming out at Araluen waterfall, then jumping onto the track to wheel of fire! Water is somewhat low but made for nice rock hopping! Was very pretty as you'd expect!

We met with the others along the way.

Swim time! Lovely chilled out day with great company!! Thanks Annie
Di Rutland



**Teemburra dam kayaking trip
Saturday 15th November**



**Happy Festive Season
See You All In 2026**



