



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

Kangaroo Creek- Cathu.....	26 th October
Freshwater point	2 nd November
Full Moon Meander ~ Slade Point Reserve.....	5 th November
Finch Hatton Gorge Tracks.....	9 th November
Teemburra dam kayaking trip.....	15 th November
General Meeting.....	19 th November
Mt Charlton Creek Walk.....	23 rd November
TBA.....	30 th November
Rowellan park Chirstmas Break up.....	6th – 7 th December



Teemburra Dam

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 months, please inform our walks coordinator **Coral Morgan 0407 164 856 before the 18thth of November.**

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 25th of November.

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



Notice of the 2025 Mackay Bushwalkers Club **Annual General Meeting**

7:30 pm Wednesday 19th November at 60 Wellington st. If you would like to nominate for office bearer positions, please email

mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com otherwise nominations can be

made during the meeting.

Agenda:

1. Open and welcome.
2. Members present & apologies.
3. 2023 AGM Minutes to be presented.
4. Reports:
 - a. President.
 - b. Treasurer.
5. Election of Office Bearers:
 - a. President.
 - b. Vice President.
 - c. Treasurer.
 - d. Secretary.
 - e. Membership Secretary.
 - f. Social Media Manager.
 - g. Digital Officer (web site manager)
 - h. Newsletter Editor.
 - i. Walks Coordinator.
 - j. Assistant walks coordinator
 - k. Equipment Officers.
 - l. Safety & training officer.
 - m. Librarian/Archivist
6. General Business
7. Close of Annual General MeetingA Blast From The Past

Mt Omega

History

The following article in *North Australian Monthly*, June 1962 by Arthur Henry Brownsey may be of interest to you. The article was supplied by Graham Drury.

We Climbed Mt Omega

A 2750FT. MOUNTAIN IN THE MACKAY DISTRICT,
NORTH QUEENSLAND
By A.H.B.

We climbed Mount Omega a good many years ago. The party consisted of three girls and five men. We went as far as we could in a truck, and had a few miles to walk before commencing the climb. We carried enough food and water to last us the day, as we had to do the trip up and back in a day. The loads were strapped on our backs so as to leave our hands free.

On our way to the forest spur we were to climb we passed a huge rock that appeared to have come from nowhere as there weren't any other rocks or stones anywhere near. No doubt it had rolled from somewhere on Mount Omega in the dim past. It was about 50ft. in height and about 100ft. in circumference.

We walked through some heavy bloodwood and grasstree country. One tree in particular, we all agree, was the finest specimen we had ever seen.

Most of this country had been rooted up by wild pigs. We did not sight any. They would have heard us coming a mile away. Neither did we see any other game on the trip up and back. We were mountain climbers that day and nothing else.

We had planned to go as far as possible by mid-day, and if we were not then somewhere near the top to turn back. The forest spur we had picked out to climb turned out to be much easier than we expected. There were a few patches of scrub, and some rough patches to negotiate, however.

We were all mighty pleased to reach the top about midday, and we were very fortunate indeed to find a fairly level and open space.

After a well earned rest we boiled the billies and had some lunch, and believe me, everyone had a healthy appetite. We had to congratulate the young ladies on their mountain climbing abilities; they were really wonderful.

More History

Last year we celebrated our 25th anniversary. Here is a copy of the minutes of the first meeting of our Club.

Minutes of Meeting called by Bob Irvine to reform a bush walkers club.

Meeting was held at Adult Education Centre on 20th November 74 at 8pm.

Present were R Irvine, R Sherrin, B Mayer, L Pike Mesdames L Howard and S Wessel.

We then commenced to have a look around and take some photos.

There were magnificent views from this vantage point, 2750ft. above sea level. We could look eastwards down over the valley of Silent Grove and Mt. Charlton. Farm houses and patches of sugarcane and cleared land were just discernible. To the left was Mt. Charlton, about 1200ft., and to the right was Mt. Alpha (2400ft. in height). In the distance we could pick out Copper Gap and Kungurri Gap.

To the south was wave after wave of scrub-covered hills and mountains, with deep gorges all emptying their waters into Boulder Creek which sliced its way through the ranges as far as the eye could see. We could also see portion of the Clarke Range.

Looking west we could see the country where later were to arise the thriving settlements of Cameron's Pocket, Barron Pocket and Rise-and-Shine in the far distance. To the left, Mt. Dalrymple (4400ft.) could be plainly seen. Looking to the east we saw the grandest view any of us had ever seen.

It was a clear day and we had a grandstand view of the Pacific Ocean and the offshore islands.

To the left we could see St. Bee's and Keswick, Brampton and Carlyle Islands, and almost in front of us was the Smith Group - a dozen or more islands all told. Shaw Island was easily recognised, also Cape Conway. Close to Seaforth Beach was Redcliffe and Sand Islands, and a little further on, the Port Newry Group.

It was soon time to move off on the homeward journey. About halfway down, as we were now well ahead of time, we made a short detour down a scrubby gully. Here, to our great surprise, we found a spring of lovely clear water. After a long drink, we were all greatly refreshed.

We arrived home very tired indeed but quite happy because we had achieved what we set out to do.

Also present was National Fitness Officer John Waskiewicz who explained the advantages of affiliation with the National Fitness.

R Sherrin chaired the meeting and called for nominations for President.

Les Pike was nominated by Mrs L Howard and seconded by S Wessel. Carried.

There was only one nomination and Mr Pike was duly elected President.

L Pike then called for nominations for secretary-treasurer & Vice President. As only one nomination was received to these positions they resulted as follows:

See Treasurer S Wessel nominated by L Pike Seconded by Mrs L Howard. Carried.

Vice President R Irvine nominated by R Sherrin seconded by B Mayer. Carried.

Club Rules This subject was discussed and the results of the discussion are as follows.

1. Party Leader is to be appointed at each outing.

2. Tail End Johnny is to be appointed at each outing.

3. Party Leader is to have complete control on whole of outing.

4. No dogs strong drink or transistors are to be taken on any outing.

5. Trip fees (re transport) A fee of 1 cent per person per mile to be charged and collected by party leader for re-imbursment to driver of each car used on basis of 3 cents per mile.

6. All accounts & correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary.

7. Day walks to start at 8am sharp Sundays from park opposite Mackay P.O.

8. Overnight camps to start at 1pm sharp Saturdays from Park opposite Mackay P.O.

More History

Persons present for subsequent meetings are as follows (with spellings being the editor's best interpretation of the hand written minutes):

22 January 1975

Keith Brooks, Bruce Mayer, Terry Faux, John Donovan, Bob Sherrin, Mike Keogh, Bob Irvine, Bernadette Conole, Leigh Millard, Robyn Elmer, David Elmer, Robert Faux, Mesdames Sylvia Wessel, Leslie Howard, Doris Foster and Beatrice Freeman.

19 February 1975

Sylvia Wessel, Doris Foster, Beatrice Freeman, Wendy Viti, Bruce Mayer, Bob Sherrin, Dennis Crowley, Pat McGee, Terry Faux, Bob Irvine, Les Pike and Robert Faux.

19 March 1975

Beatrice Freeman, Sylvia Wessel, Desley Williams, Wendy Viti, Bob Irvine, Bruce Mayer, Dennis Crowley, Tom McGhie, Les Pike and Pat McGhee.

9. Outings of duration longer than above starting time to be decided by committee.

10. Membership will be in two divisions - Junior & Senior.

11. Fees to be charged per year will be

Juniors \$1.00 10 - 16 years

Seniors \$2.00 16 years and over.

12. New members will be allowed two outings before being asked to join the club.

13. Said Club shall be called "Mackay Bush Walkers Club"

14. Mackay Bush Walkers Club to be affiliated with National Fitness Council for the area.

15. The committee has power to add to these rules if need arises.

General Business. A Trip was arranged for Sunday 24th Nov at a place to be finalised on Sunday depending on weather.

Other dates set for outings will be

Sunday 8th December one day walk

Sunday 5th January one day walk

Saturday & Sunday 25th and 26th January two day camp. As there was no further business the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

16 April 1975

Sylvia Wessel, Paul Chignell, Marlene Chignell, Percy Stokes, Tom McGhie, Bob Irvine, Pat McGhee, Beatrice Freeman, Dennis Crowley and Bruce Mayer.

21 May 1975

Les Pike, Beatrice Freeman, Pat McGee, Tom McGhie, Bruce Mayer, Keith Brooks.

18 June 1975

Beatrice Freeman, Dennis Crowley, Pat McGhee, Bob Irvine, Sylvia Wessel, Lee Millard, Margaret Sockhill, Leslie Spencer and Allan Maxfield.

16 July 1975

Wendy Viti, Bob Irvine, Sylvia Wessel, Dennis Crowley, Beatrice Freeman, Les Pike, Noel Cowan, John Martin, Joyce Walz, Mick Hogan, Bruce Mayer.

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

MT OMEGA 23 JULY 2000

After months of obsession with Mt Omega I finally led a Club walk to one of its peaks. This was my first trip as a leader and I couldn't have wished for a more happier and helpful group.

Maureen, Bev, Dale, Neil Springell, Col, Larry, Alan and I left the cars on the side of the road 2kms past Boulder Creek and made our way to Goose Egg Rock some 10 minutes away for the obligatory photo session.

The next point of interest was an abandoned garden plot in the rain forest where some enterprising individual had grown some sort of cash crop in the past.

Our next stop was Smoko Rock about 3/4 of the way to the first peak. Most of us sat beneath it for our meal while the adventurous ones climbed onto the top for a better view. They offered to help us up using a rope but we politely declined.

It was only 30 or 40 minutes then to the first peak where the family plaque is situated. I have known for a while that this was not the top of Mt Omega but wasn't sure which of the next two peaks it was. A mate and I have been to the second peak and I thought this was the true peak.

Larry and Neil, using the GPS and a map finally

established the top is in fact the third peak and where we were standing near the plaque and where my grandfather thought was the top of Mt Omega is not even marked on the map.

The second peak is two and a half hours away, round trip, and there is nothing to see from it so we decided to give it a miss and have a leisurely lunch before heading back. Neil wanted to take a different route down but I lack his youthful level of fitness and sense of adventure so insisted we go back the tried and tested way.

On the way down running water can be heard at one point and most of the group went to investigate and found a tiny waterfall about 2m high with some picturesque palms nearby. This can be added to the walk as a permanent feature in future walks as the direct route to the plaque and back is barely five hours.

As the point we went to is not really Mt Omega we tried to think of a new name for it. After trying a few we finally settled on Brownsey's Lookout. So for the moment that is its unofficial name.

Thanks to the other walkers for a very enjoyable day.

Graham Drury

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.

Kangaroo Creek- Cathu Sunday 26th October

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

Depart: 7:00am

Journey: 180kms \$18.00

Grade: S83

Estimated walking time: 5 hours **Terrain:** uneven, rock hopping, scrambling. **Vegetation:** rain forest

Expect: swimming holes

Kangaroo creek flows west from the top of Cathu state forest, it descends from the loop road and eventually joins Urannah creek. The top section of the creek has some pretty waterfalls and pools. Although the distance to the main feature is not long it the walk involves constant rock hopping and scrambling. Wear shoes that can get wet. (Volleys are good)

Bring a change of clothes for the drive home. Please let me know if you want to register for this walk before 12 midday Saturday.

Freshwater point Sunday 2nd November

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.

Full Moon Meander ~ Slade Point Reserve Wednesday 5th November

Leader: Christina Lando 0412 345 920

Depart: 530pm Ram Chandra Park, Pacific Esplanade, Lamberts Beach Slade Point (Aim for the "Seabreeze Hotel Tavern" Lamberts Beach and you are in the right place! Plenty of street parking)

Journey: n/a

Grade: n/a

Estimated walking time: 3hours

Total of all uphill sections: n/a

Pace: Amble

Terrain: Predominantly Coastal undulating dune, sandy trails and flat beach. Comfortable dry sand under foot (could almost go barefoot, though some sharp twigs & rock hide in the sand.

Vegetation: n/a

Expect: All are welcome. We will walk as slow as the slowest walker. An observation point early on for Moonrise and Sunset. Moonrise: 5.59 pm

Sunset 6.15pm, Last light 6.38pm, Low tide: 5pm

We will follow a coastal sandy single trail adjacent to the North Harbour Beach (North Wall beach) before dropping onto the beach. Since it is low tide, we may be lucky to observe turtle tracks / nests since it is the season. After another kilometre we will enter the reserve again. More sandy trails amongst the dunes, blanketed by the night sky. Once we turn back towards our start point, we will encounter a welcome change in the habitat and choose a trail that meanders through Melaleuca swamp, dry wetland, salty mix of rainforest (referred as Littoral) with paperbark and coastal vines. Wander, observe nightlife and plant life, as we head back towards our start point. Suggest: take poles, sticks which will help propel you forward more easily as you trudge through thick soft dry dune sand. Good support for your back and they help to keep your back and core upright.

Guaranteed: You will get sand in your shoes! Ring me for any discussion, no problem! See you there! Chrissy 04 12345 920

**Finch Hatton Gorge Tracks
Sunday 9th November**

Leader: Anna-Claire Murphy 0438 149 974
(Advised to text)
Depart: 7am from 295 Alfred St
Journey: 140km \$14.00
Grade: S34
Estimated walking time: 3 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 100m
Pace: average
Terrain: mostly graded walking tracks, one creek crossing
Vegetation: rain forest

Expect: some steep slopes, leeches, swimming holes.

We plan to follow the walking tracks to both Araluen Falls, and Wheel of Fire. This should be an easy day of walking and swimming. There are a moderate number of stairs on the Wheel of Fire track (366 in total), but the swimming hole at the end of this track is very beautiful, making the effort to get there well worthwhile.

Please text the leader by 12pm Saturday 8th November.

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

Leader: Philip Morgan 0431130074
Depart: 7am from Teemburra dam boat ramp car park. Please reach out if you need directions.
Journey: n/a
Grade: S34
Estimated walking time: 4hrs (on the water)
Trivia: Teemburra dam was constructed in 1997 for the purpose of supplying crop irrigation and town water. The filling of the dam submerged many creeks, which are now littered with upright tree trunks. These creeks are quite fun to explore.

Expect: Launch the kayaks from the boat ramp at 7am and return around 11:00 am. Optional lunch afterwards at the pinnacle pub (known for their great pies)

Expect: high likelihood of getting wet, prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

Gear:

-A Kayak and life jacket....if you don't have a kayak, or you have a spare you're willing to lend out, please let me know.

-water & snack food.

-Suitable clothing.... I'll be wearing long sleeved shirt, trousers, water shoes, hat and sunnies.

**Induction 6.30pm &
General Meeting
Wednesday 19th November**

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

Please see attached our AGM notice.

In addition to the attached agenda, our monthly induction is scheduled beforehand at 6:30, and a general meeting will follow the AGM.

We sometimes face challenges filling our office bearer roles, and your nomination would make a meaningful difference. You'll have plenty of support along the way if you decide to get involved.

**Mt Charlton Creek Walk
Sunday 23rd November**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732
Depart: 7:00am
Journey: 140km \$14.00
Grade: M85
Estimated walking time: 4 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 120m
Pace: average
Terrain: very uneven terrain
Vegetation: rain forest

Expect: mostly rock hopping, 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 rock hopping all the way. Make sure you bring your swimmers. We may need to walk in water, so bring so bring shoes that can get wet. (Voleys are good for this walk. Bring a change of clothes for the trip back to town.

Ring me if you want more details of this walk.

To register for this walk, ring me before 12 midday the day before.

**To be Announced
30th November**

Leader: n/a

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

**Rowallan park Christmas Break up
6th – 7th December**

Coordinators:

Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

Wendy Bennett 0429 363 929

The Christmas Camp this year will take place at Rowallan Park. The Park has great facilities and walkers may choose whether to stay in the bunk houses, put up their tent or visit daily. If choosing to stay in the bunk house mattresses are provided but you will need to bring your own pillow and bedding. Walkers can arrive at the camp anytime from early afternoon on Saturday. The park has several walking tracks so we could organise an afternoon walk. For the weekend, the club will provide a barbeque dinner no cost. We do ask all participants to bring a plate of nibbles to share and to provide their own breakfast. Participants will also need to bring their own chair. Partners and friends are also welcome to attend.

Please notify Peter or Wendy by 29th November if you intend coming along.

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

None Planned at the Current Stage

Previous Activities

Mt Ossa

21st September



The convoy with 9 bushwalkers left town and arrived at the Mt Ossa store about 40 minutes later, where Therese joined us for the short drive to the start of our walk. After greeting our hosts and their dogs, the five mountain climbers left with Ken, and the remaining five of us headed for the farm boundary line. The day promised to be warm and sunny despite the cloud cover.

The second group consisted of four octogenarians and Therese who had recently returned from her travels and was welcomed back warmly. For the first section of our amble we were in open areas mostly, and on the lookout for patches of shade and hopeful of encountering a breeze. After a few rises, we settled down for morning tea and bird song entertained us, and the scenery of the Mt Ossa National Park provided a backdrop. The next section of our walk involved several descents that required care, and even though dry conditions prevailed, the creek banks were attractively lined with fresh young palms that suggested coolness.



We were relieved to find ourselves in open forest on fairly flat ground with some shade, and spread before us was the beauty of the distant forested



foothills. A photo session at our usual spot was organised, but alas our usual log for sitting on had disappeared. Before long the dam was visible, and a group of cattle on the other side of the fence did not wish to share the shade, so took off along the bank. Lunch was enjoyed in shade but the many birds who in other years had provided entertainment were largely absent.

Soon we were approaching the end of our walk, but we encountered a distressed call coming from a kid whose head was caught in the fence as it was attempting to graze on vegetation out of reach. Penny came to the rescue - and the kid was a fast learner, as after being freed it almost immediately got stuck again, but had the sense to turn its head the right way, as taught by Penny.



Many thanks to Coral for providing the transport, to Frances for navigating, and to Penny and Therese for helping me up on several occasions.

Carole Weekes

Castle Rock

28th September

Castle Rock -Not. Thanks Ken and Co for the aimless wanderings in Cathu State Forest The landscape was dry and crispy. The humidity had us all working up a sweat on the up. Ken found us a diamond in the rough and we were grateful to sit back, relax, enjoy the view, the company and the conversation.

Julie ward



Teemdeavour Creek

5th October



Captains Crossing was busy with long weekend/school holiday campers. We were dodging runners doing an event on the 4wd track in. Its a very pretty place. Teemburra Ck had a good water flow, as did Endeavour Ck. There had been a burn near Endeavour Ck, and we used that to get out of the creek and onto the 4wd track. We followed a good ridge from there to Teemburra Ck, with a steep descent into the creek. There is a great swimming hole here, and spectacular rock formations in the creek. After lunch and a swim, we made our way upstream, back to Captains Crossing.

Ken Fihelly



Not a big group but a good size . We only needed one 4x4 car to first reach the turn-off, which had been invaded with cars, people, and portable shelters. It seems we had chosen the same day as a marathon fun run, so our drive in was not only had to contend with washouts and potholes, but we also had to dodge runners. After we had bounced our way into Captains Crossing causeway, we encountered more cars and campers. We nodded to a few of said campers as we picked out way upstream where sandy banks gave way to rock hopping with very steep sides hemming us in. Beautiful long stretches of water, then craggy rocks that broke the water flow into many channels. We bypassed the Junction of Endeavour Creek and Teemburra Creek



without even realising we had, until noting the current had slowed. We had a quick break before continuing up the left branch, now looking for a place not too strenuous to exit the creek bed. Earlier, we had seen what looked to be a wild bull looking down upon us, not hiding his substantial horns, so we were aware and wary of cattle. Thankfully, they moved as we scrambled hands and feet up what looked the best climb. It had been burned, so it was clear but also slippery with few hand holds. Finally able to walk again, we continued through open forest until finding the disused road ,which incidentally was in better condition than the road to Captains Crossing. We were only on it for a short time before we branched onto another Ridge of overgrown open forest. Our ridge ended abruptly, leading to some guesswork and Ken's old GPS readings to plot course. The



first sighting of the ck was quite spectacular with rugged grey rocks and cliff faces. Getting down proved less appealing without a rope, but after a couple of false leads we slid/ climbed our way down to awe. Trouble was being on the wrong side of the creek we had to find our way across. Swimming would have been easier but we tested nerve and found a way along to bank to where the large swimming hole ended in a natural dam of cracked rock.

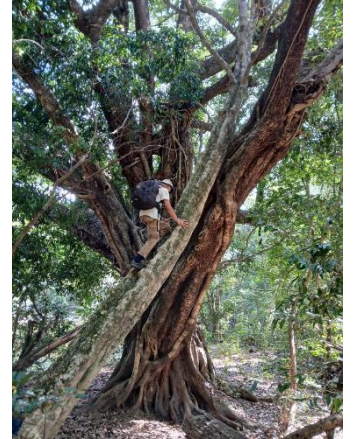
These cracks proved to be a little wide to just step over so more trial and error routes. One of our party has a stumble and did an unexpected not so graceful Swan dive into one of these water filled crevasses. Thankfully, only the worst a bruised knee, hurt pride, and a wet backpack. A shock reminder to be careful. We did find a way to keep dry feet and soon sat to a nice lunch break at the swimming hole, which was much appreciated by a couple, without backpacks. As we were



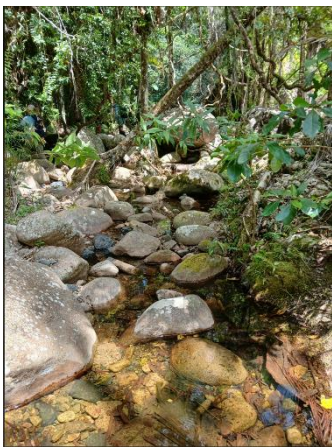
picking up to leave, we watched a snake casually swim past, crossing the expanse. We didn't hurry on, but sauntered different ways across the rocks, not only finding the easiest route but the best photo points, before we regrouped and climbed our way back upstream. As much fun as we were having it was pleasure to enter pockets of rainforest and even a Jurassic palm forest. Even, found a green what was first thought to be moss, proved to be iridescent green bubbles. Went fill the water bottle there, Thanks. A bit further, a mini slot canyon, complete with waterfall, drew us back onto the rocks. It was impressive in its way, but we were now on a mission to find the comfort of the car. One would not normally get

excited about cow poo but to us it meant, easy walking, so we thought. Another rock jungle blocked our way and we found a way through. Literally through a hole. A few more rocks and the bliss of a car track. A few campers looked and said, "Hi, as our bedraggled group limped out and onto the car where we collapsed to check electronic devices. We had covered just over 10 km's. 10 very challenging Km but worth every step, stumble, ankle twist, and bursts of survival adrenalin. Thank you Ken for drawing on your knowledge to lead us to such an incredible location, but be warned it is a true explorers paradise, carved by the fury of nature. Not for the faint hearted.

Celestine Lambert



Dalrymple Creek – Pigeon Creek 11th-12th October

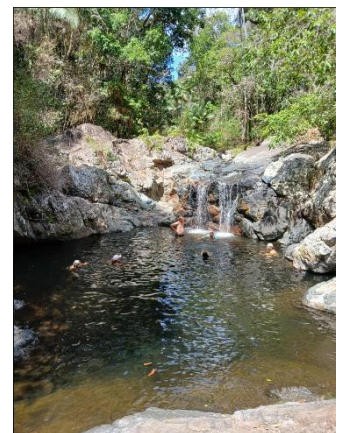


We numbered 9, I think, as we all met up on a cattle property north of Mackay with a plan. Well plans change. We crossed Dalrymple ck, noting a good flow, and reached our planned ck, only to find a dry, rocky gully. Even the Lantana was dry. NOT. Was the unanimous decision. It was a clear vote to tackle the harder but wet Dalrymple ck, and glad we did because being later in the day it was getting warmer and not far up we found a lovely little swimming hole with a bonus waterfall to shower under. Most braved the chill water and we had an extended smoko break. When we did move it was obvious it was to be all rock hopping, weaving back and forth across the ck with steep scrubby sides. For some unknown reason, it was a goal for most to keep boots dry.

Others just waded up the middle. There were some really pretty rainforest areas with very tall towering palms and other areas where the trees hung over the creek. One particular tree made a spectacular show of a curtain of dangling roots making a cave to walk through. Wait awhile was a curse on



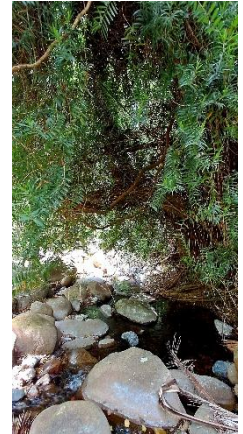
the banks, thus less incentive to leave the creek. We were starting to tire when we reached a Junction but still hadn't found a good lunch spot so it was the attitude of, 'Just around the next bend', so we kept climbing, by this time because the rocks were getting bigger. Soon we were climbing the steep banks to get past obstacles. Ken's map said there was a Junction of 3 creeks ahead, hoping it would provide something dramatic we went on. This proved to be 2 dry gullies so inspiration was waning so the next spot with a little rapids fall was our decided lunch. A few went further up looking for deeper water and found more shade and a sit in water. Good





enough. Others of us looked at another climb and decided 'good enough.' To not go that extra 20 metres. It was a peaceful lunch surrounded by steep wilderness. the trip back was quicker. We had wasted a lot of time relaxing and had thought we had covered a long way but in reality only about 3 km to our lunch destination. There was another stop at the first swimming hole. Last chance and not long after we left the ck to go cross country through light timber where we came across the Mount Everest of Turkey nest. No one had ever seen one that size before. I recon close to 12 feet tall. A hollow in the top where chick's had dug their way out. Ken suddenly stopped a little further along declaring "That's moonlighter" he had high gators, and long

shorts and the only plant we saw, a stunted thing with 2 small leaves, found the gap in his armour. 5 minutes later we spent the next 10 minutes comparing cures for this ,not so lovely heart shap leaf. Ken pulled out his duct tape and later at home heat treatment which he declared worked. The only other threats we faced was a fiesty tree snake and a python minding its own business.....I Must also mention. Though Coral didn't walk the ck



she had made a comfy little camp and enjoyed just being outside the noise of town with her little craft works. We thank her for getting the permission to come onto the property to make this walk possible.Also thank Ken for leading us into the wilderness and making the sacrifice to find the only dangerous thing. Thank you....

Celestine Lambert

Shoal Point 19th October



The low tide and the clear day attracted many groups to Shoal Point for picnics, strolling along the beach, various sports activities, and in the case of eight members of our club, for walking about nine kilometres. When we began at about 2 pm, it was hot but at times we enjoyed a pleasant breeze. The first part of our walk involved a climb from the picnic area to the lookout spot, and then a short stroll to the sandy track leading down to the beach south of all the rocks at the point. The tide

was out enough for negotiating the rocky areas easily, and after about 2.5 kms we enjoyed afternoon tea in the shade before heading up towards the estuary of Reliance Creek.

It is always a relief when the first aid kit does not have to be



opened, despite the obstacles adorning the stretch of beach

we were on. Our day member, Yvonne had trouble finding us, and Fran experienced a slight footwear problem, but there were no reportable events like a pig on the beach, or a miscalculation of the tide as we have had at this location in years gone by.



Mention of the mountains we have climbed always

occurs when they are visible as we progress towards the estuary, and although most of the group had visited the area before, at least three were exploring new territory. Thank you to Jeanette, Penny, Ash, Michelle, Yvonne, Fran and Carmel for being such easy company and making the day a relaxing outing.

Carole Weeks

Point to Reliance Creek on a warm Spring afternoon. We commenced with a short walk up the hill & down a bush track to Bucasia Beach before returning via beach & rocks to Shoal Point picnic area for afternoon tea. We then set off along the beach & through the dead mangrove area being very careful not to trip on any of the small stumps. We observed that the sand bank at the entrance to Reliance Creek had changed and was greatly reduced in area. Fortunately, we were blessed with a lovely cool breeze most of the time. Thanks Carole for organizing the walk.

Penny McMahon

