



# The Message Stick

## August 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

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Mt Jukes .....                             | 3 <sup>rd</sup> August    |
| The Three Brothers .....                   | 10 <sup>th</sup> August   |
| Rainforest Ridge .....                     | 17 <sup>th</sup> August   |
| General Meeting.....                       | 20 <sup>th</sup> August   |
| Pioneer Valley Rail Trail.....             | 24 <sup>th</sup> August   |
| Pretty Creek – Mt William Exploratory..... | 24 <sup>th</sup> August   |
| Mt Saint John.....                         | 31 <sup>st</sup> August   |
| Paradise Falls .....                       | 7 <sup>th</sup> September |



### The Three Brothers 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 19<sup>th</sup> of August.**

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 26<sup>th</sup> of August.

## 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**

### **Bong Bong Creek – 19 December 1999**

As our planned walk to Upper Cattle Creek was abandoned due to recent wet weather, we decided to revisit the historical Bong Bong Creek. It had been a few years since we had walked this particular creek, although we have been close by in the Pinevale region several times. Bong Bong Creek is the location of 3 known mining sites that we know of – all presumed to be copper mines. The creek bed is mainly rocks and is for a fair section a gentle sloping broad rocky section with various scrub islands dividing the dry shallow channels. We found our way to the first mining site. The old timber wagon is still in the creek. Those of us familiar with the site were extremely surprised by the appearance of a ventilation shaft, disappearing to an unknown depth. It had been covered many years ago, and the top timbers must have rotted caving in the top. We were left with goose bumps as we could have walked over its hidden tops at other times.

From the limited historical information I have read about the site, we had always presumed there was only an audit into the mountain, no underground workings. We will have to research that further.

From here we rock hopped upstream, due to recent rains, we found a few waterholes. One of our number decided to remain beside a cool water hole while the rest of us continued up the creek towards the second mining site. On reaching the gully leading to the site, three of us went back to the cool waterhole for lunch while the rest of us explored the open cut site and looked at the old

intact truck. After lunch was eaten, and spent stunning copious Marsh flies and dropping them into the water (they don't swim), the other rejoined us to announce that they could not find the truck which was fairly visible in the grass last time. A mystery – we will have to venture back another time and try to locate the truck or determine if a keen restorer has taken possession of it. Peter, Frances and I rambled around in a lower section of the creek to find a third mine site – although by now a majority of the group have seemed to have lost enthusiasm for the mines. A lengthy walk back along the old road eventually brought us back to the cars and cold drinks. A reward for the walk was a swim in the Pioneer River at the Mia Mia Bridge. We thank Peter for participating in our walk and welcome back Helen. One day we will get back to the upper cattle creek Falls.

Kerry Morgan

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Kerry 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.**

### **Mt Jukes**

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

**Leader:** Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

**Depart:** 7:00am from 295 Alfred Street

**Journey:** 70km = \$7

**Grade:** M98

**Estimated walking time:** 6 hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 450m

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** very uneven terrain

**Vegetation:** scrub

**Expect:** much steep slopes, very steep scrambles, loose rocks.

Climbing to the top of Mt Jukes is steep with rock and scrub being encountered near the top, including stinging plants. Long protective clothing is recommended. Water is to be carried for the whole day. Views from the top include Mt Funnel, Cape Hillsborough, The Leap, Mackay and many more.

**Ring me to nominate for this walk before 12.00 noon Saturday.**

### **The Three Brothers**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Kevin Smith 0417 326 634

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

**Journey:** 160km = \$16

**Grade:** M66

**Estimated walking time:** 4 – 5 Hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 260m

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** Long grass, obstacles underfoot, rocks to explore, something different

**Vegetation:** Open bush with scrub, some moderately steep ridges

**Expect:** The Three Brothers are 3 large rock formations on top of a ridge in Cathu State Forest. They are huge solid rock formations. One of them is a giant ball in shape and is balanced on a small footprint on top of the ridge. I doubt we will be climbing to the top of any of them but we can explore around and partly on them. From the

ridge top there are clear views of Mt Catherine and Beatrice and the Bruce Highway going up a wide valley area past Elaroo. Also views of Cathu area and Mt McCartney.

**Please book by contacting the leader by phone on 0417 326 634 as I am not on Facebook.**

### **Rainforest Ridge**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Deb Wilson 0400 319 078

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

**Journey:** 200km = \$20

**Grade:** L66

**Estimated walking time:** n/a

**Total of all uphill sections:** n/a

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** road, rainforest, some mossy rocks to traverse in the final rainforest section, small creek to rock hop across.

**Vegetation:** rainforest, some lantana, long grass, the fire trail could be overgrown as I haven't been for a while.

**Expect:** Expect to park cars at Crediton Hall camping ground. Walk along road, through rainforest, and continue onto the fire trail which could be overgrown with long grass, turning back into a section of rainforest then arriving at the white water tank for lunch, after which we retrace our steps back to the cars. Total length of whole walk is approximately 11 kims. Walk will take approximately 6 hours to complete. Depending on the fitness of the group.

This walk consists of a section which is part of the Great Walk. On leaving the hall we walk along River Road before turning into the Crediton State Forest.

The trail in the forest can be challenging to follow but there are some markers along the way.

Bring food and water for the whole day.

**Induction 6.30pm &  
General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Pioneer Valley Rail Trail  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Telina Lambert 0434 392 558  
**Facilitator:** Coral Morgan 0407 164 856  
**Depart:** 7:00am from 295 Alfred Street  
**Journey:** 100km = \$10  
**Grade:** M22 and L25  
**Estimated walking time:** 3 – 6 hours  
**Total of all uphill sections:** 100m  
**Pace:** slow to average  
**Terrain:** Track, possible creek crossings and mud  
**Vegetation:** Scrub and grassland

**Expect:** Stage 1 of this trail has recently been developed following the route of the abandoned railway line several options are available for members including a 6km trip going as far as a creek crossing for lunch and returning or a 15km through trip to Works Benholme Road where we will then drive a carpool back to Gargett. This section of track has official been opened from the Pioneer Vally Sporting Association in Gargett to The Mirani Railway station. The walk itself will be fairly easy as it's on a manmade path but however this is a shared trail and we may encounter other people enjoying the trail as well on horseback or bike.

Bring food and water for the whole day.

**Pretty Creek – Mt William Exploratory  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

**Leader:** Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282  
**Depart:** 7:00am from 295 Alfred Street  
**Journey:** 200km = \$20  
**Grade:** S75  
**Estimated walking time:** 7 Hours  
**Total of all uphill sections:** 300m  
**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** Rainforest, some rock hopping, some scrambling, creek crossings.  
**Vegetation:** Rainforest.

**Expect:** Some steep slopes, some steep scrambles, rockhopping, fallen trees.

This walk begins on the Western Trail to Mt Dalrymple, which we follow to the crossing of Pretty Creek. The rainforest is generally open in this area. We will explore upstream of this creek and I expect to reach the saddle east of Mt William. From the saddle we will attempt to find a way up to the top of Mt William. I am told this area is particularly beautiful, with some big rainforest trees. We will return to the saddle, than maybe find an alternate route back down a ridge a bit further east, and walk out on the Western Trail.

**Mt Saint John  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Previous Activities

## Town Beach and Beyond

6/07/2025



Who says footpath walks have to be boring for adventurous bushwalkers. The clouds came over offering shade from the sun and thankfully No rain, as we walked from Iluka Park to Canelands. It was easy pathway the whole way leading us through sandfly creek reserve. Though, why anyone would wish to preserve sandfly's is beyond me, but I guess they are good food for the birds and other unseen wildlife which make the swamp lands home.

There were 7 Club members including the 2 young ones in the pram and one extra tag along in our friendly little group chatting away the foot steps and taking photos of birds and a confusing art feature that one member said represents the mangrove flower.



Whatever it is, it was a good photo prop. One of our members brought a rubbish bag and popped up and down cleaning our pathway which became a bit more challenging when we reached an area which hid campsites. It was a pleasant walk along the river discussing the possible future council plans and the pointless use of stage 1

putting a line of deck chairs and shade where nothing else complimented them. We finally reached the road and dodged traffic and walked the next stage boardwalk which has always been a nice walk past the now seasonally empty lagoon to the seating opposite Canelands where most choose to



alleyways and amazing themes, some of us had no prior since we ether drive past or are so focused on our, at hand task we don't even acknowledge a look, really worth the detour. We then slowed our trek again at the time line wall which is really quite interesting naming any and all significant events of the Mackay and district history.



get varying flavours of coffee and lunch and a pit stop. Back on the trail Telina our leader for the day lead us into town where she knew of art works so we spent the next hour ducking down oohing and awwwing at some murals of varying knowledge of them



Then it was back to the cars after a great little walk, sore feet are worth it for such an enjoyable day meeting new and old faces. Thank you for yet another day for memories where all, even the littlest could attend. Thank you, Telina for an enjoyable day.

**Celestine Lambert**



## Pods Pinnacle 13/07/2025



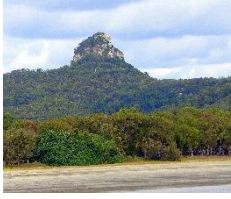
## Mt Beatrice 20/07/2025





# Mc Brides Lookout

## 20/07/2025



7 ladies participated in the McBrides Lookout walk on a cool & sometimes cloudy day. We commenced the walk from Ball Bay & walked up the very dry track to the lookout rock. Some hadn't climbed it for a while & were very pleased to climb it again. Superb views - Seaforth to the right, Ball Bay immediately in front and Cape Hillsborough to the left. Pauleys Beach, where we would later check out what remained of the whale bones, was also visible. We returned to the beach for a late morning tea before most headed over to Pauleys Beach to check out what is left (not much) of the whale bones. Lunch back at Ball Bay campground before heading off to the Mt Jukes Family Farm for ice cream. Good day, good company, thanks Coral for facilitating the walk.



**Penny McMahon**

