



The Message Stick

July 2026

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Spikelets - Homevale.....	5th July
Mt Dalrymple.....	11th July
General Meeting	15th July
Castle Rock - Cathu.....	19th July
McBride's lookout	25th July
Christmas in July Camp.....	25th -26th July
Sydney Heads.....	2nd August
Shoal point.....	2nd August
Redcliff Island.....	9th August



McBride's Point

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	0407 164 856
Treasurer	Robert Kollin	0448 375 743		Telina Lambert	0434 392 558
Membership Secretary	Wendy Bennett	0429 363 929	Equipment Officers	Frances Eiteneuer	0447 866 188
Social Media Manager	Wendy Bennett	0429 363 929		Penny McMahon	0421 071 294
Digital Officer			Librarian/ Archivist	Robert Kollin	0448 375 743
			Safety Training Officer	Kevin Smith	

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.

Attention Club Members Current memberships expire 30th June 2026. To continue participating in club activities please renew before 1st July 2026.

Any persons who wish to attend a club walk must be a registered, financial member of Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. This applies to all new members, including day members and children. New members must complete our online induction, complete the membership form, and pay appropriate fees before participating in any club walks.

Membership forms can be emailed to mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com or posted to Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc, PO Box 1313, Mackay 4740. Bank Details are: BSB: 064 707 Account Number: 10 047 598 Use your name as the reference.

It's starting to cool off now but weather can still be unpredictable so 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 or Telina 0434 292 558 before the 14th July.**

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 21st July.

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating their birthday in July hope to see you on a walk soon 😊



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



Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc

Duties of Trip Leaders

**A trip leader is to be appointed for each outing.
The duties of the trip leader shall be to:**

1. Obtain necessary permits beforehand.
2. Know the area to be walked, preferably through a recent reconnoitre except where all persons taking part have been made aware of the walk's exploratory nature by previous notification.
3. Ensure that a suitable First Aid Kit is carried on the trip.
4. Arrive at the assembly area at least 15 minutes before the advertised starting time.
5. Inform new walkers of outing rules before setting out and ensure that all persons intending to take part in the outing have proper equipment and clothing so as not to endanger or inconvenience either themselves or other persons taking part.
6. The Trip Leader has the power to refuse any individual the right to participate on a particular outing where he/she considers the individual unsuited or physically unfit.
7. Choose from the vehicles available the most suitable for the trip. Allocate persons to particular vehicles and familiarise driver with route and procedure to be taken.
8. Determine the course of the walk and the time of halts and departures.
9. Convey along the line of walkers the type and whereabouts of dangerous species and hazards of terrain always considering the safety of the party before all else.
10. Select campsites, paying particular attention to the hazards of fire, flooding and dead limbs. Inspect campsites before departure with special attention to fires and litter.
11. Report relevant incidents in writing to the Safety Secretary and/or committee members as soon as possible after the incident occurs.
12. Ensure that members pay due respect to his/her authority and that they observe rules regarding safety, conservation and general behaviour. Any serious misconduct or breaking of Outing Rules will be reported at the next monthly general meeting.
13. Check the party from time to time to see that they are all present. Arrangements will be made for a reliable person to act as "tail" where considered necessary.
14. Ensure that the party does not separate except with very good reason. Should two or more persons leave the main party, one of their number, shall be appointed as responsible for their safety and conduct.
15. In the case of emergency, consult all experienced members of the party, and if they consider it necessary, hand over control to the person best qualified to act in the situation. In cases involving delay or injury, arrange to inform the Contact Officer giving details of the delay and/or injury, the action taken, and any particular help that is needed.
16. Furnish a report to the Publicity Officer and/or Newsletter Editor as soon as possible after the outing.
17. Only in special circumstances shall an outing be cancelled or venue altered, and then only after consulting with experienced members of the party.
18. Be familiar with the requirements of the club's risk management policy, members' handbook and the leader's duty of care.

Every member is a potential trip leader.

All are encouraged to reconnoitre new areas and report to the club any possibilities for new walks.

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.

Spikelets - Homevale

Sunday 5th July

Leader: Kevin Smith 0417 326 634

Depart: 7am from Mackay

Journey: 250km \$25.00

Grade: M85

Pace: Average

Estimated walking time: 6 hours or 8km

Terrain: Open bush, some moderately steep ridges.

Expect: Long grass, obstacles underfoot, rocks to explore.

The Spikelets are three very interesting craggy, rocky, bluffs in the centre of Homevale NP. This is a walk with much variety including fantastic views, caves, amazing rock formations, arches, rocky overhangs, open forest and more.

We commenced this walk last year but after Spikes 1 & 2 wet weather caused us to abort going to Spikelet 3. So this time we will only be doing Spikelet 3 with a quick look at Spikelet 1 for anybody who was not on last walk. This will give us a lot more time to look and explore Spikelet 3.

It is quite large, and in the centre of the impressive towering rock formations is a lost world we could explore as much as time allows. From the top of one of these peaks are fantastic views of Spikelet 1 and all the Mt Britton icons of Sydney Heads, Marling Spikes etc.

Note Leader is not on Facebook so Ring to Book in.

Mt Dalrymple – Via Western trail

Sunday 11th July

Leader: Kate Brunner , 0467976955 or messenger

Depart: 5am From Mackay 6am from walk site

Journey: 200km = \$20

Grade: L88

Pace: Steady

Estimated walking time: 8-9h

Vegetation: rainforest

Terrain: uneven

Expect: This walk is especially in honour of Maureen who loved that mountain and has walked up there countless times. Some of her family members will join us and leave some of Maureen's ashes.

This is quite a long walk, and steep in parts. In the past we often allowed about 8-9h return, including brakes. We would like to adjust the speed to all who wish to come.

As the days are short now, we ought to set off early and please **bring torches**, just in case.

Walk off at 6 am would be great... but perhaps difficult?

We can debate the time. But I think I might sleep in my car at the

car park.....it would be possible to pop up some tents there too.

It is also planed to have a second group who will not attempt the whole track.

We hike along a reasonably well marked, but quite rough trail to the top of mt Dalrymple. There will be some creek crossings and steep slopes, perhaps also leeches. On the upside, wonderful trees, Vines, mosses and ferns and an amazing view from the top. As mentioned above, if we can take time, this should not be too overwhelming and anybody willing is welcome!

or

Leader: Frances Eiteneuer 0447 866 188

Depart: 5am from Mackay

Journey: 200km = \$20

Grade: M55

Pace: slow

Estimated walking time: 4 – 5 hours

Vegetation: rainforest

Terrain: uneven

Expect: We will travel with the Group who are delivering Maureen's ashes to Mt Dalrymple. After farewelling Kate's group and Maureen's family we will take our time to a spot where we can comfortably sit down and enjoy morning tea and our surroundings. How far we go depends on the ability and willingness of the walkers in this group.

We may finish our day with lunch at the Chalet. This will be a day walk to Mt Dalrymple to scatter the ashes of Maureen Thompson who was an avid bushwalker for more than 40 years. There will be easier options for those who don't want to do the entire trek to the top.

**General Meeting 7.00pm
Wednesday 15th July**

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

**Castle Rock – Cathu
Sunday 19th July**

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

Depart: 7:00am from town

Journey: 170km \$17.00

Grade: M65

Pace: average

Total Uphill sections: 260m

Estimated walking time: 6 hours

Vegetation: open forest

Terrain: very uneven

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

Castle Rock is an outcrop in the Cathu State Forest. 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. We will spend enough time to explore the rock before returning to the cars. I haven't done this walk before, but the club has done it a number of times. Some of us saw Castle Rock from an adjacent ridge on a nearby walk, and the Grid Reference shows which ridge Castle Rock is on.

**McBride's lookout
Saturday 25th July**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

Depart: 8am from Mackay

Journey: 100km = \$10

Grade: S32

Pace: Steady

Expect: Views and rock scrambles on lookout.

This easy walk commences from the campground at Ball Bay, across the beach, up a short steep bushy section, and onto the established trail up to the lookout. A more energetic option continuing on scrub bashing to the point and following the coast line back may be available depending on the group, while others could return down the track. A Socal BBQ lunch at the campground will follow

**Please book by phone call. By 12pm Thursday
23rd July.**

**Christmas in July Camp and BBQ
Saturday 25th – Sunday 26th**

Co-ordinator: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856

This event is planned to replace our recent unsupported Christmas break up camp. The council camp ground at Ball Bay has a good clean toilet block with an outdoor shower. There is also an undercover kitchen with gas BBQ, a sink with hot water, and a power point. After the morning walk on Saturday, we will share a BBQ lunch with bread rolls and salad provided – BYO meat, drinks, etc. in the afternoon we could do a relaxing beach walk or explore the wetlands before camping for the night. Partners are welcome to join in. **RSVP by phone before 12pm Thursday 23rd and earlier, if possible, to indicate your intention to participate in the lunch and /or camp.**

**Sydney Heads
Sunday 2nd July**

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

Depart: 7am from town

Journey: 250km \$25.00

Grade: M66

Pace: average

Total Uphill sections: 350m

Estimated walking time: 6 hours

Vegetation: Forest, dense vegetation in places.

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

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.

Shoal point – Bush to Beach

Sunday 2nd August

Leader: Carole Weekes 0455 872 207

Depart: 8am from Bucasia Boat ramp

Grade: M33

Expect: This is a half day walk to suit the tide, as high tide is around lunch time, and is an activity pitched at those members who do not feel up to climbing Sydney Heads. The plan is to set off at low tide heading along the beach towards Shoal Point, with a bit of variety introduced as we climb staircases or sandy tracks to reach the top of the headland. Depending on the group, we may have lunch / morning tea on the most southerly outcrop of rocks on the beach, or continue to the picnic ground at Shoal Point. On this outing, we will not be proceeding to the mouth of Reliance Creek. The return journey will be along the pathway through parkland to the cars at the estuary of Eimeo Creek.

The pace will be relaxed, and is a good introductory activity for everyone to enjoy, with a bit of exercise and stunning views to appreciate along the ways.

PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT TIME AND PLACE FOR MEETING. Water, sun protection and insect spray need to be packed.

Red Cliff Island

Sunday 9th August

More information to come in next months newsletter

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

No other upcoming events.

Previous Activities

Pod's Pinnacles

24 May

Beautiful weather was welcomed by the 13 eager starters for Pod's Pinnacle walk.

Some had done the Bluff Walk the day before and had camped overnight.

We headed off on time at 09:30 as planned, and walked up the track which had lots of long drying grass.

This caused some stops for clothing changes such as gaiters to keep grass seeds out of socks etc. After a few of these I was concerned perhaps we should have started earlier, but we got to the main creek for elevenses smoko which was good. (This was after a 20 metre navigational overshoot at one point)

There was water flowing in the creek and we even came to the "waterfall" along the way.

The first view of Pod's Pinnacle for some!

I was goaded by the young ones into taking the direct steep route up the climb out of the creek beside Pinnacle number one, which caused a few whinges from some of the mob.

But we all got up onto Pinnacle one and some were daunted looking up at Pinnacle two saying "We are going up there?"

We all got onto the lower section of Pinnacle 2 but only a handful completed the climb to the top.

Looks daunting

Sami with top at fingertips

Pod's Pinnacle numbers 3 , 2 and 1.



Back down number 2 and on to Pinnacle 3 for a late but beautiful lunch at 12:45.

A big mob of top knot pigeons put on a flying display and upset the currawongs.

After a leisurely lunch we skirted the bottom of the cliff of Pinnacle number 3 and looked up at the undercut edges above where we had our lunch.

The walk back was virtually spot on the best route and we took the easier way down into the creek.

I was asked quite a number of times how did I find these pinnacles and why is it called Pod's Pinnacles.

Well I first saw the pinnacles from on top of the Bluff and thought I must investigate that. So plotted the point from Google Maps and Lorna and I walked there. Lorna stopped in the creek at the bottom while I went up for a look. I could see it was doable but I did not climb up as I did not want to fall and put Lorna in a difficult situation with an injured "leader" Later I flew the drone over for a look and organised Ken and Jim to join me and we climbed them surprisingly easily.

And why Pod's Pinnacle? Well that was a nick name my dad gave me more than 70 years ago. He said I had a Pod belly like a poddy calf so he called me Pod. (I still have the poddy calf belly.)

We all got back to the Mt Britton Township safely a bit after 4 pm and I think all loved the walk and the rocks and variety of scenery etc. Kevin Smith

Joint Camp - Bouldercombe
Capricornia Bushwalkers and Bundaberg Bushwalkers Club
23rd – 24th May



Sparkle Falls
31st May

Sparkle Falls. 12 of us hiked up, up and away onto the western branch of Finch Hatton Creek. A very steep and steady trail took us to an outstanding lookout and the first of many beautiful waterfalls.

As we continued, we were treated to a succession of picturesque cascades, numerous creek crossings, and plenty of boulder hopping through the rugged creek bed. Once we arrived at Sparkle falls a few adventurous souls braved the chilly waters for a refreshing swim, while others relaxed in the sunshine and soaked up the tranquil surroundings. We enjoyed a long lunch and a slow walk back. It was an excellent day on the trail, filled with breathtaking scenery, good company, and a diverse group of friendly hikers



who made the experience all the more enjoyable. Thanks for leading the way Kate
Julie Ward

Pink Hibiscus Walk - Cape Hillsborough
7th June

An enjoyable hike from Smalley's Beach to Cape Hillsborough, traversing the western section of the park. The trail showcased, stunning lookouts, towering palm trees, beautiful basket ferns, native hibiscus, grass trees, caves, creeks, and lush grasslands. To top it all off, Mari provided a fascinating and informative lesson on the geology of the area and Janette had a



special landing from a Ulysess butterfly. Thanks to Ken for leading the way and making another memorable experience.

Julie Ward





With blue skies and freezing cold breeze, we met up at the turnoff to Smalley's beach to organize the car shuffle in which a car was left at the boardwalk, which was our exit point. The rest of the cars were left at Smalley's beach car park where we donned boots and looked at the mangroves which had done very well in recent years. Our entry point was through a tunnel until a piece of faded tape marked the entry out of the mangroves and onto the bush track. Not much of a track, and even though there were bits and pieces of a trail we were glad of the faded tapes.

The vegetation was very varied from prickly scrubby stuff to coastal rainforest and luckily pre warned of the presence of moonlighter. Wow! Was it healthy. Luckily no brush-up's, but our passage was very guarded as we scrambled past over the rocks. It is an incredible

area, rugged and exposed to the extremes of weather, yet some big trees still managed to wrap their roots literally around big boulders and grip tenaciously to the rock faces.

We had to leave the guidance of our pink tapes, to follow our own course, to find the bat caves. Only 3 of us pulled out our torches to explore a bit. There were a few bats we tried not to disturb too much. Many migrate further north in winter. We sat for smoko break in the shadow of towering cliff faces, weathered to many wild curves



and hollows. There were quite a few smaller caves at all levels disappearing into darkness, these being ignored as we followed the mis-sharpen cliff to its end at an abrupt drop. By this time, it was a climbable height, though a challenging scramble which led us onto the grass tree ridge where we were captivated by a great view down into Smalley's bay and across the land. Top of the world stuff.

We followed this ridge and were treated to multiple lookouts from different angles and different views, leaving Smalley's Bay and looking over the mangroves of Cape Hillsborough. After plenty of photos we dropped down a bit to a shallow cave hollow where wild Hibiscus, {common name}, were budded up ready to burst into flower. We sat

in the hollow to eat lunch and chat and really didn't want to move when it was time to make our way down the hill in search of an access to the creek where palms and wait a while grabbed our attention. The creek was pretty with a few water holes and big boulders. Again, vegetation found a way clinging to the banks. The rocks slowed our trek, with a few challenges but not to be deterred we found our way back to civilization in the form of the bitumen road and a short walk later we were at the shuffle car where we drivers piled in and left the others to enjoy a rest. No one wanted to join me on the public board walk, walk so after every one left, I enjoyed the stroll. Quite nice.



It was a great walk. Had its challenges and a lot of variety. Not for everyone but well worth the effort. Thank you to Ken for not getting us lost, and thanks for good company. A good day

Celestine Lambert

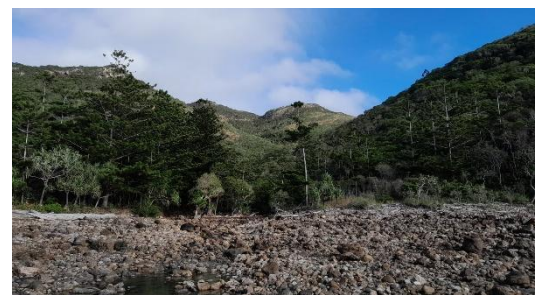
We followed the usual track from Smalleys Beach, on the Cape Hillsborough traverse, nearly up to the plateau, and then contoured southwards under cliffs to the cave and the big overhang. After a break there, we continued following the base of the cliff, until we reached a break in the cliffs, allowing us to climb up to the plateau. There was some steep rock scrambling here, but there are mostly good hand and foot holds. We enjoyed great views northwards along the coast, and westwards towards Mt Jukes, from the adjacent lookout. The scrub was mostly open as we followed the top of the cliffs eastwards. We arrived at a spectacular lookout with great views of the southern cliffs of Cape Hillsborough, and looking east towards Wedge Island. Not far from there we found the Native Pink Hibiscus patch, but unfortunately, we were a bit early in the season, and mostly only saw some buds. After lunch in the nearby cave, we returned to the cliff edge and followed it along, until we arrived at the gully that took us down from the plateau. We followed some creek beds, dry except for some small water holes, through the rainforest, to the road, and to the cars, parked at the boardwalk carpark.

Ken Fihelly

Paradise Falls 14th June



Another sunny day in paradise. Stunning views over Cape Hillsborough. Impressive cliffs and overhangs, in various colours. This walk has lots to offer. Morning tea on the ridge above Paradise Beach gave us great views over the beaches below, and the ridges above. We stayed high after the morning tea ridge and visited another impressive cliff above Paradise Beach, with lots of interesting animal and insect tracks. We attempted to find another cliff lower down and



to the left, but ran into thick scrub and a steep slope. So we headed right and down, and avoided most of the moonlighter we ran into last year.



Paradise Creek starts with big boulders, which we made our way through and around, before the creek bed becomes more level and easier to walk along. We were greeted by 1000s of Crow and Blue Tiger butterflies fluttering around us as we walked up the creek bed. Magical! Paradise Falls was dry, as expected, but it is an impressive cliff and rainforest. We backtracked to near the start of the creek and found the scramble up to

the top of the waterfall. It's a pretty area here, with attractive ferns. The tide was lower by the time we returned and we followed the beach around the first headland, enjoying the rugged cliffs beside us. We found the route bypassing the second headland, and the cliff break back down to the rock shelf, which was well above water by now. The walk back to Cape Hillsborough beach, around the headland, is spectacular, with all the exposed rocks.

Ken Fihelly



Slade Point Reserve 21st June

The morning started out misty and cold as the group of 9 members entered the Slade Point Reserve. Following tracks through the Reserve, we eventually reached North Harbour Beach. After beach walking for some distance, we re-entered the Reserve & headed up to the lookout. Along Lamberts Beach we took shelter from the rain and enjoyed morning tea. Once the rain stopped, we headed up to the Whale Watching Platform, the Water Tower and the park at the end of Albatross Street, in



winds that nearly blew us away. As we headed down and walked behind the houses along Slade Esplanade, we were sheltered from the winds, the clouds dispersed and it became a beautiful sunny day. After walking along the sand, we headed up to the park near the boat ramp to enjoy a leisurely lunch, before walking beside the road back to the vehicles. A very enjoyable, picturesque & social morning walk. Thanks, Edie, for leading this walk.

Penny McMahon



Edie's Slade Point walk on a very pleasant winter's day attracted an interesting mix of new and long standing members and despite being an easy walk, was attended by several of our really strong bush walkers.

We entered the Slade Point Natural Resource Reserve from Teal Street to find the early morning light created a very special

atmosphere as we followed the track leading us eventually to the beach between North Wall and Lambert's Beach.

On the way to the whale viewing platform, we climbed the lookout above the beach, and this was followed by morning tea in a shelter before making our way past the water tower and hence to the last lookout of the day. Next on the agenda was a pleasant stroll adjacent to the water, more beach walking, lunch, and the return to the cars along Slade Point Road.

Many thanks to Edie for investigating her planned walk and finding sections overgrown and inundated, and then coming up with a shorter and more suitable version for us to enjoy.

Carole Weekes

