



The Message Stick

October 2026

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

October

Lineel Falls.....	4 th October
Sydney Heads Bluff – Homevale National Park.....	11 th October
Bike Ride Bluewater Trail – Cathy Freeman Path.....	18 th October
Training Presentation.....	21 st October
General Meeting.....	21 st October
St John Creek.....	25 th October
Rawsons Creek	1 st November



Bluewater Trail/ Gardens

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
				Penny McMahon	0421 071 294
Social Media Manager	Wendy Bennett	0429 363 929	Librarian/ Archivist	Robert Kollin	0448 375 743
Digital Officer			Safety Training Officer	Kevin Smith	0417 326 634

Messages From the Editor

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, anyone who wishes to do just a day membership must intend to attend a walk within the month.

Remembering 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 basics. E.g. Band-Aids, Small bandage, Single use antiseptic wipes. E.C.T

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.

If you have anything you would like brought up in the following meetings but you cannot attend, please send your suggestions to the club email mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com or contact our President Peter Bennett 0427 383 732 or Vice President Telina Lambert 0434 392 558.

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 Lambert 0434 292 558 before the 20th October.

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 October.

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating their birthday in October 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.



Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc By Laws

Outing Rules for Club Activities

1. All persons intending to participate in an outing must contact the leader **NO later than 12 midday the day prior, unless otherwise stated. Nominating earlier is preferable.** Arrival at the assembly area for this outing **MUST** be at least 15 minutes before the advertised departure time, to allow for transport arrangements to be made. Persons intending to make their vehicles available for transport should have their vehicles fuelled and in a roadworthy condition. The decision as to which vehicles go on the outing is at the discretion of the trip leader.
2. All vehicles being used in an activity must leave the assembly area together and follow the trip leader's vehicle in convoy. Each driver should constantly check the vehicle behind and if it is not still following; stop and wait for it. All drivers must stop at turn off points to ensure that drivers of following vehicles are aware of the turn off.
3. Walkers must be suitably clothed and have appropriate footwear. Each walker must have their own pack and carry food and water for the day and, if required, any special medication. At least 2 litres of water per person is recommended. Every walker should also carry the following: small torch, sunscreen, raincoat, insect repellent, small whistle, emergency kit containing paper, pencil, first aid equipment, fire starter such as waterproof matches or cigarette lighter. The trip leader at his/her absolute discretion may refuse any walker who is not adequately equipped the right to participate in an activity.
4. No offensive or dangerous items including fire-arms, dogs, alcoholic, illegal drugs, transistor radios and cassette players are to be taken on activities. The trip leader shall at his/her discretion determine whether an item is offensive or dangerous and may refuse any walker who insists on carrying such an item, the right to participate in an activity.
5. The Club endeavours to provide at least one First Aider at each activity. The MBC encourages members to undertake a Senior First Aid Training Course from a recognised provider and offers a partial reimbursement on completion of certification.
6. All litter must be carried out including food scraps such as orange peels and apple cores and sanitary pads/tampons.
7. Faecal matter and toilet paper should be buried 15cm deep and well away from tracks and at least 100m away from any water course.
8. Walkers must not pollute any creek or stream with items such as soap, food scraps or human wastes.
9. Walkers must co-operate with the Trip Leader and heed any reasonable direction he/she may give.
10. Walkers must not separate from the main party, go ahead of the Trip Leader or negotiate terrain more difficult than that chosen by the Trip Leader without the Trip Leader's express permission.
11. Walkers must constantly observe the walker behind them and stop if that walker requires assistance or is out of sight, even if this means losing sight of the walkers in front (the walkers in front would then also stop and so on right to the leader). In the event of any delay, a message should be relayed to the Trip Leader.
12. Walkers must convey along the line of the party, information regarding any hazards such as loose/slippery rocks, dangerous plants or animals.
13. Walkers must not engage in any activity that is offensive to or endangers other walkers or members of the public. In particular, walkers must not playfully or idly throw objects and must not unnecessarily dislodge loose material. When there is a possibility of accidentally dislodging loose material, walkers should ensure that there are no walkers or members of the public directly below them and should warn anyone that could be endangered by the falling of the loose material. Walkers should call in a loud and clear voice **BELOW** or **ROCK** whenever they dislodge loose material.
14. Walkers must adhere to fire restrictions and the lighting of fires is discouraged. When fires are constructed, the fire must be thoroughly extinguished after use and the fireplace dismantled and ashes scattered in such a way that no sign of the fire remains.
15. Walkers must not collect bush products whether alive or not and must avoid disturbing or damaging the bush through which they are walking.
16. Some of the risks of activities include injury from slipping or falling in uneven, slippery, loose or steep terrain, injury such as cuts, impalement and eye injuries from sticks, branches and other objects, injuries from "nasties" such as stinging plants, stinging insects, poisonous animals (such as snakes) and aggressive animals (such as wild pigs), exposure caused by wet and/or cold conditions and exhaustion and dehydration caused by hot conditions and the physical effort required. Activities are usually conducted in areas remote from medical assistance. Walkers participate in activities at their own risk and must not attempt activities or terrain which they consider too difficult or too risky for themselves.
17. All members should be familiar with the Members' Handbook.

We Need Your Participation

Hi everyone its coming up to that time of year again where we choose our next committee members, so start thinking: if you feel like you have skills or would like to help the club in any way we have all positions available that you will be able to nominate for at our end of year meeting in November or via email to the club address if you cannot make it to the meeting. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated to keep this wonderful group of like minded people trekking the trails.

And as always we need walk leaders so if you have a place and time in mind please let one of the walk coordinators know before the next meeting on the 21st October even if its not for the following month.

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.

Lineel Falls – Pretty Creek Loop

Sunday 4th October

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

Depart: 7.00am from 295 Alfred St Mackay

Journey: 200km = \$20

Grade: M75

Pace: medium

Total Uphill sections: 100m.

Estimated walking time: 5 hours.

Vegetation: Rain forest

Terrain: rock hopping, some scrambling, creek crossings.

Expect: Nice swimming holes and some steep off track.

This walk begins on the Western trail to Mt Dalrymple before we will head off on a ridge down to the junction of Pretty Creek and the upper reaches of Cattle creek. We will explore a little way downstream where there are some spectacular swimming holes. We will then head back to the junction and diverge 150m or so upstream to visit Lineel Falls. From here we will travel 800m back up Pretty Creek via some small waterfalls and micro gorges to where we will rejoin the western trail to return to the cars. The creek is quite spectacular in this section with some short difficult sections requiring use of all four limbs. This walk is weather dependent and will not go ahead if there has been heavy rain in the days beforehand or forecast for the actual day.

Sydney Heads Bluff – Homevale National Park

Sunday 11th October

Leader: Kevin Smith 0417 326 634 (**leader is not on Facebook so phone contact only**)

Depart: 7.00am from 295 Alfred St Mackay

Journey: 240km = \$24.00

Grade: M85

Pace: Average/slow

Total Uphill sections: 230m

Estimated walking time: 4 hours

Vegetation: Open bush

Terrain: some moderately steep ridges.

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

Sydney Heads Bluff sits at the foot of Sydney Heads Cliffs.

The views from this bluff are fabulous. Not only can you see the Mt Britton area including Magnificent views looking straight at the Marling Spikes, but also Mt Britton itself including "Hole in the Wall", but the views looking up at the very close cliffs of Sydney Heads are just magic.

Once on top of the Bluff itself there will be time to explore and climb as much as you want on rocky bluff and cliffs etc.

Though it may be a bit warm in October for this area, it is an easy walk less than 3km one way and starting at an altitude of 400 metres and getting to 630 metres at the top with a fairly gradual climb all the way. So if we take it slow with a few stops it should be fine. PS. I will be taking the easy route this time unlike when the club did the walk in 2015.

Note :- I am not on Facebook so you need to ring me if you wish to attend this walk.

**Bluewater Trail – Lagoons Bikeway &
Catherine Freeman Walk
Sunday 18th October**

Leader: Mandy Nimmo 0407 579 222
Depart: 8:00 am From Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (cafe car park)
Journey: n/a
Grade: L13
Pace: Leisurely/steady group pace
Estimated time: 2–3 hours, depending on the group's pace, stops and chosen distance.
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Terrain: Predominantly sealed shared pathways and bikeways, with generally gentle terrain. Riders should be comfortable sharing pathways with pedestrians and other cyclists.
Vegetation: Open Pathways

Expect: Approximately 16.3 km for the featured circuit, although the total distance may vary depending on the group and where we choose to stop. A scenic social bike ride exploring the Bluewater Trail around Mackay. Starting from the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, we'll make our way onto the shared pathway network through the Lagoons Bikeway and Catherine Freeman Walk, following sections of the Pioneer River and passing wetlands, gardens and other natural areas. The Bluewater Trail connects a number of Mackay's attractions and natural spaces, including the Botanic Gardens, Bluewater Lagoon, Catherine Freeman Walk, Sandfly Creek Environmental Walk and Bluewater Quay.

The ride will be relaxed and social rather than a fitness-focused ride, with opportunities to stop and regroup along the way. The final distance and riding time will depend on the group, and we can make leisure stops as required.

The route provides a great opportunity to see parts of Mackay from a different perspective, with Pioneer River views, wetlands, gardens, environmental areas and abundant birdlife along the way. The Sandfly Creek section in particular is recognised as an important habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Bring: Water, sunscreen, hat, snacks if required, and a roadworthy bicycle. A helmet is required. Please bring a spare tube/repair kit if you have one.

No cost – just bring your bike and enjoy a morning ride with the group!

**Training Presentation.
21 October 2026
7:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

Prior to the October club meeting from 7 pm till 7:30 pm I will be giving a training presentation on the use of the newly purchased snake bite bandages and the newly purchased hand held radios and also on the use of the Personal Locator Beacons.
This will only be for 30 minutes before the meeting but if people want some hands-on use of these items after the meeting is finished that can be done also.

**General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 21st October**

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

**St John Creek
Sunday 25th October**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732
Depart: 7am from meeting point in Alfred Street
Journey: 200km = \$20
Grade: M65
Pace: average
Estimated walking time: 5 hours
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Terrain: uneven terrain
Vegetation: open forest.

Expect: St. John Creek is a small creek which runs into Hazelwood Creek. We will follow a track into St. John Creek and then follow the creek down to Hazelwood Creek. If time permits we can walk down Hazelwood Creek.

This is not a hard walk but reasonable fitness is required.

Bring food and water for the day and a change of clothes to travel home in.

If you want to do this walk contact me by phone before 12.00 midday the Saturday before the walk.

Rawsons Creek
Sunday 1st November

Leader: Kate Brunner 0467976955 or messenger

Depart: Sign on in Finch Hatton Gorge 8 am
[if someone will lead from town departure 7am. Update on fb]

Journey: 150km = \$15 From Mackay

Grade: M87

Pace: Average

Estimated walking time: n/a

Terrain: uneven

Vegetation: Rainforest

Expect: We follow the general walking track to where it is close to Rawsons creek on the right. Then descend into the creek bed. We follow this creek till about lunchtime and return the same way. It depends much on water levels how far we get. There is a wonderful swimming hole some way up but plenty of dipping opportunities all along, fringed by ferns, moss and boulders. Some very large. We can avoid them by walking on the side of the creek. Sections of the slopes are tangled in wait-a-while. Possibly a good idea to have skin protection. We will most likely walk through water here and there. I don't want to make this sound like a hard walk it has been a favourite club walk for as long as I can remember. And how far we go will depend on the group.

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

Proposed - Easter Weekend Camp at Neem Hall

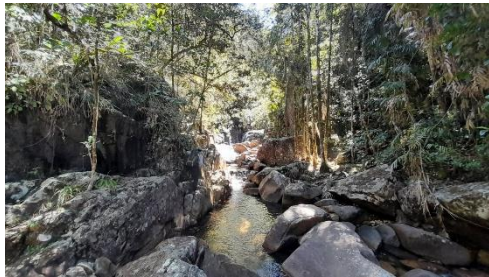
Previous Activities

Doolamai Falls

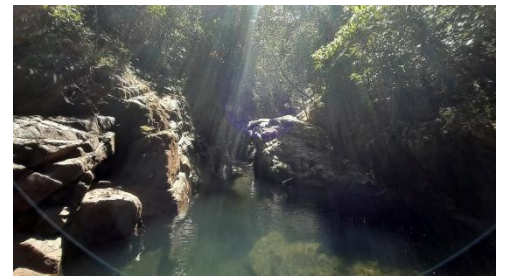
6th September



We followed the Finch Hatton Gorge track, nearly to Wheel of Fire cascade, before climbing a steep ridge to the west, and a steep descent to the junction of the left and right branches of Finch Hatton Ck. Then a short but gorgeous scramble to the bottom of Dooloomai Falls. After enjoying the spectacular view, we back-tracked a short way and ascended on the east side, to the old National Park track, and left to the top of the falls. More spectacular views from here. Then we



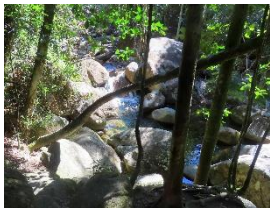
followed the old NP track, overgrown with Wait-a-While and collapsed in places, to the Finch Hatton - Mt Dalrymple route, and followed that back to main track, and out. Thanks, Alyth, for a great walk.



Ken Finelly

Araluen Falls

6th September



Six lady Bushwalkers walked up to Araluen Cascades in the Finch Hatton Gorge section of Eungella National Park on a beautiful Spring day. It was cool in the rainforest but the ground was very dry and the creek water quite low. We had morning tea at the cascades, then walked up to Callistemon Crossing, where parts of the track appeared to have been washed out. We later enjoyed lunch back at the picnic area. Thanks Edie for leading this walk and ladies for your company.



Penny McMahon



Mt Ossa: around the Farm

13th September



At 8am a group of eight Bushwalkers left town in a convoy and met another three at Mt Ossa Store, before continuing on to a farm close to the National Park. After being welcomed by the owners, five walkers followed Ken to the start of the climb which would take them aloft, while the others began a leisurely amble following the boundary fences of the property.

There was a gentle breeze as we crossed a creek and started a gentle climb past an animal enclosure, admiring some friendly dogs, the distant mountains, and many stately trees. We found some shade for morning tea, entertained by birdsong before a slightly rough descent through open forest led to a flatter grassy area with some tracks to follow. Between



here and the dam a snake was spotted crossing in front of us, and as we settled down beside the water, cattle, sheep, horses and goats were in our line of vision but birds were in short supply compared with other years.

In the peaceful atmosphere after lunch at least one person stole a nanna nap, and when it was time to complete our amble, Frances and Penny were back on gate opening duty. The trip back to the cars was on a dirt road and after a photo stop

at the creek, Edie drove us back to town.

Carole Weekes

Five ladies enjoyed a leisurely walk around farmland in the Mt Ossa region on a beautiful Spring day. The day was quite warm but fortunately we had quite a bit



of cloud

cover. On some of the higher sections we had good views of the surrounding countryside. Morning tea was beside the track, and we had lunch at the dam. Only 1 egret was at the dam while we were there. Thanks Carole for leading the walk & thanks ladies for your company.

Penny McMahon



Mt Ossa: Up the Mountain

13th September



After walking through the canefields, we arrived at the creek that marks the start of the route up to the plateau that connects with Mt Ossa, and began the climb. There wasn't much breeze in the rainforest, and I was feeling the humidity, as we scrambled up the dry creek bed. We were soon out of

the rainforest and among dense grasstrees, as we continued the climb up. I wasn't looking closely enough at my gps and we overshot the normal route up. But it didn't look too bad, so we kept going up. It got a bit steeper than the usual route, but we were soon at the lookout, admiring the views over the farmlands to Mt Dalrymple to the west, and Mt Blackwood to the south east. We followed the eastern edge of the plateau northwards, among the rocks and grasstrees. There is an attractive open area with scattered grasstrees on the plateau that made for enjoyable walking. We turned around where the plateau starts to descend toward Ossa Ck, and after lunch, returned along the western edge of the plateau. There are some large





Mackay Cedar trees near here, and more rock features and grasstrees. We soon reached the descent point and carefully made our way down, and back to the creek, and the cars. Thanks, Carole, for organizing access with the farmers, and to my uncomplaining companions, when I missed that turn.



Ken Finelly

Clarks Pinnacle 20th September



Clarke's Pinnacle is about 3 km NNE of Sydney Heads in the Homevale NP. The walk starts from the Mt Addar road, which gets rougher the further along you drive. Lantana seems to be slowly taking over large areas of the park, which was a concern for a circuit walk. Most of the morning is

taken up with a long steep-at-times climb up a ridge, with an elevation gain of about 350m. Some areas thick with saplings, vines and rock obstacles made for hard going. Towards the top,



the ridge shows spectacular views across a wide deep gully to Clarks Pinnacle, the walk's objective. We crossed a narrow ridge at the top of the gully, with great views on either side. We had lunch at a spectacular lookout overlooking Clarks Pinnacle, and with great views of the north peak of Sydney Heads, with Mt Britton and Mt Fort



Cooper to the side, as well as the Marling Spikes. Then the ascent of Clarks Pinnacle itself, with more great views looking eastwards over Kinchant Dam, and parts of the Pioneer Valley. The decent from there was steep, mainly down a steep gully, and dry creek bed. Then cross country, avoiding lantana, back to the cars. Its a hard but rewarding walk. Thanks to the route finders and other helpers, and the drivers, and all, for joining me on this adventure



Ken Fihelly

Illawong Beach to Bakers Creek 20th September



The cool wind made for a very pleasant walk for 7 Bushwalkers, who mostly walked along the beach from Shellgrit Creek to Bakers Creek, on a sunny Spring day. The armies of Soldier Crabs were present all along the sand flats. The leaning tree has lost it's top and is only a fraction now of its previous height. We enjoyed lunch in the shade in the foredune before continuing on to the broad, sandy mouth of Bakers Creek. We



returned back along the beach, with one more rest stop to enjoy the scenery. Thanks Mandy for leading this walk & ordering perfect weather.

Penny McMahon



Mt William – Pretty Creek

27th September



Showers were forecast for Eungella up to the day before the walk, and the rainforest was moist with the recent rain. The mosses on the trees were plentiful with many vibrant shades of green. There are some impressive big trees on Mt William. Great views across to Mt Dalrymple and Mt David, and parts of the Pioneer Valley from the top of Mt William West peak, from near the old trig point. Two years ago, our progress was stopped here by thick impenetrable shrubs, but this year it wasn't as bad and we were able to find a route eastwards, down to the saddle, and onto the east peak of Mt William. From there, we followed the route we had walked last year, down to Pretty Ck. It is beautiful in here, with many moss covered trees and is mostly open and the creek is mostly gently sloping. The wet conditions meant the leeches were out in force, and I got more than my fair share. We followed Pretty Ck downstream to the Western Trail, and out to the cars. Thanks to the route finders, and other helpers, and all for a beautiful walk.

Ken Fihelly

