



The Message Stick

April 2025

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Camerons Creek.....	29 th March
Rawsons Creek.....	6 th April
Redcliffe Island.....	12 th April
General Meeting.....	16 th April
Goose Ponds.....	20 th April
Blacks Beach.....	27 th April



Redcliffe Island

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				

From the Editor

Weather is 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 15th of April.

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 22nd of April.

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

Maud Creek Falls – 24th OCTOBER 1999

Detailed route descriptions of this walk were contained in the report in *The Message Stick* August 1999. The party of 7 including myself, Neil Springell, Frances Eiteneuer, Peter Haber, Cherie Hamel, Katy Feeney and Julie Vella left town at the earlier time of 6:00am. The high notes of the walk started almost straight away with Frances catching sight of a Regent Bower Bird. We commenced the walk the same as last time and upon arriving at grid reference 623757, we departed from the previous course. We headed south for about 100m and then picked up the ridge heading west. We passed some impressive stands of flooded gums. One in particular was remarkable in that it grew from the ground as a single tree, then split into two trunks, each about 1m in diameter, and then joined together again in a single trunk. Several of us climbed up and stood in the “eye of the needle” formed by this remarkable tree. The walk from here to the creek was simply a matter of following the ridge. The creek was reached and followed to the top of

Maud Creek Falls, where some elected not to make the steep descent to the bottom. Those of us who reached the bottom had a swim and sat under the cascading waters of this very special waterfall. After lunch was ascended the waterfall, retrieved the rope that was used as a hand line on the steeper section, and headed back to the cars. We stopped for a swim before leaving the creek. I was delighted to sight a pair of the Common Great Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*). Throughout the walk we also saw several specimens of the Red Bellied Black Snake which are so often seen in this area. We reached the cars just on 5:00pm at the conclusion of a splendid day. Whilst a very solid walk, this walk is very rewarding and suitable for inclusion in the club's day walk program in the future.

Steven 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.

Camerons Creek Saturday 29th March

Leader: Chrissy Lando 0412 345 920

Depart: 7:00am from Mackay

Journey: 110km = \$11

Grade: M86

Estimated walking time: 6 Hours +

Total of all uphill sections: 200m +

Pace: Slow to Moderate

Terrain: Uneven Terrain, Rock Hopping, Steep Scrambles

Vegetation: Rain forest

Expect: mostly rock hopping, some steep scrambles, wait-a-while, the odd Moonlighter & swimming holes

Cameron Creek is in the Kelvin National Park, Koumala Range. With recent rain, nature's cups are brimming with delightful freshwater pools for swimming. It starts with fairly easy rock hopping, before opportunity arises to clamber over larger boulders. Our goal is to get to the first Waterfall, located around 200m elevation where we might get to see some Blue Fiery Skimmer Dragonflies and Blue Ulysses Butterfly's. However, depending on water levels enroute, we will be wet early on. Packs need to be waterproofed through these sections so that we can swim through - boots, packs, clothes and all. Ideally, I'd like to keep moving at a moderate but leisurely, rock hopping pace to get to the base of the first waterfall, where we can enjoy snacks or lunch and a lovely swim. Depending how the adventure goes, the canyons above the first waterfall are spectacularly stunning and get better as we start to rise a little more steeply. It's deliciously stimulating and needless to say refreshing! If we continue, we can traverse a short, steepish rainforest section to access the canyon. It also rewards us with a fulfilling view of the waterfall from above.

Additional information:

- Maybe up to 8 hours with 400m elevation and up to 11km
- Dress in light quick to dry type gear. Expect to be fully clothed including shoes and socks for all swimming passes. The climate & this rainy weather is warm enough to endure being wet all day. Most swimming holes can likely be avoided and or are only waist deep but that will depend on the rainfall between now & departure.
- Out and back, rock in water. Some scrambles where you may need to use your hands.
- Hazards: Care must be taken to avoid a small inconvenient but venomous Moonlighter stinging plant obstructing our path off the creek bed. Dirt is moist and loose. Dislodging rocks may also be likely. Rock climbing in some parts, though the rock is grippy with not much exposure.
- Carpooling: It is imperative to limit the cars to this destination. Once we know numbers, we will arrange at the meeting point.
- Waterproofing: Please discuss with me if you have any concerns, or questions about waterproofing your bags & items for swim throughs.

Note that this walk is on a Saturday.

Please contact me any time to nominate but no later than Friday 28 March by 12noon. Always leave a voice message with your name and number and I will always return your call.

Rawsons Creek Sunday 6th April

Leader: Kate Brunner 0467 976 955 or fb messenger
Depart: 8am from Finch Hatton
Journey: [if someone will lead from town cost of journey would be \$ 15 and departure 7am. Update on fb]
Grade: M87
Estimated walking time: n/a
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Pace: n/a
Terrain: Creek walk, Rock Hopping, Swimming Holes
Vegetation: Rain forest

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 someway up but plenty of dipping opportunities all along also lovely ferns and moss and nice rocks.
There are sections of large boulders at times we can avoid them by walking on the side but that is sometimes tangled in wait-awhile. 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.

Redcliffe Island Evening Walk Saturday 12th April

Leader: Deb Wilson 0400 319 078
Depart: 2pm from Mackay
Journey: 90km = \$9
Grade: S33
Estimated walking time: 3 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 50m
Pace: Leisurely
Terrain: Sandy Beach, Stone Causeway, rocks
Vegetation: n/a

Expect: We will meet up at the Seaforth water park, then travel down to Finlaysons Point We will walk along a short stretch of beach then start the walk over to Redcliffe Island

On the north island we will walk up a short steep track to the summit where there is a lookout with great coastal views.
After returning to the waterpark there is the option to stay longer and have a barbecue, there will also be a full moon for those who wish to stay and watch it rise
Note that this is an evening walk and has a later start time.

Induction 6.30pm & General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 16th April

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

Goose Ponds Sunday 20th April

Leader: Telina Lambert
Depart: 9am from Goose Ponds dog park
Journey: n/a
Grade: M22
Estimated walking time: 3 - 4 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 20m Max
Pace: Leisurely
Terrain: Walking Path
Vegetation: n/a

Expect: We will start at the Goose Ponds Dog park and walk along the foot path following the perimeter of the goose ponds creek where we will get to see the native wild life of Mackay mainly birds, possible goannas, snakes and with all this rain a croc as well maybe, we will be required to cross the road in parts but will make our way to the Magpie sporting club and beyond. On the way back we will take a different section of path in parts, and if anyone is interested we can nip up to Baskin Robbins for a nice cool treat. This will be a very easy walk perfect for every fitness level.
Note the later start time of 9am and location on the Goose ponds dog park.

Blacks Beach
Sunday 27th April

Leader: Carole Weekes 0455 872 207

Depart: Car Park at shopping centre in Blacks Beach Rd on right just before junction with Pacific Drive At 12 Noon to suit tides.

Journey: n/a

Grade: L33

Estimated walking time: 4 – 5 hours

Total of all uphill sections: N/A unless you decide to run up the fitness staircase

Pace: relaxed

Terrain: beach, bush tracks

Vegetation: scrub, open forest, dune grasses

Expect: Have lunch before you arrive, and the plan is to access the Blacks Beach spit track via a grassy easement, and when we reach the estuary of McCready Creek, we will walk back along the beach, as low tide is at 4.30, but for those who do not wish to walk the entire distance, there will be an opportunity to return to the cars after about 6 kms.

For the stayers, the walk will continue to the picnic ground near the exercise steps, and then beyond, to the first little bay under the Dolphin Heads cliffs. We will then return to the cars along the beach and via another sandy track. Please carry plenty of water, a snack, and sun and insect protection. This walk has been designed to be easy, with options for a shorter walk built in for those who only want to complete a medium distance. Recent inductees to our club are most welcome.

PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT TIME AND MEETING PLACE FOR THIS ACTIVITY.

Previous Activities

Paradise Creek

02/03/2025



Left Hand Branch

09/03/2025



Blacks Creek

23/03/2025



Weather was looking promising leading up to the weekend, Sunday morning and still looking good.

Town people and country people met at Mirani. We all travelled as a group to the creek destination.

In total there were 9 keen walkers. We decided to divide into 2 groups, A slower group to walk and explore at their own leisure and enjoy the day, led by Frances.

The other group we planned to walk the creek banks to our usual lunch spot.

Off we all set, weather thankfully good. The water level in the creek was high and in narrow sections the current was very fast and furiously flowing.

We made it to the big tree, Len checked out the old cattle yards, I noticed that the area was becoming overgrown.

Several different varieties of fungus were discovered.

We headed on to find a good spot for morning tea and a welcomed swim.



A long swim was enjoyed by some.

We walked on, then it was up slopes, down gullies, through vines and lantana.

Finally making it to the designated lunch spot. The current was so strong and raging that it was not possible to enjoy a comfortable swim at lunch break.

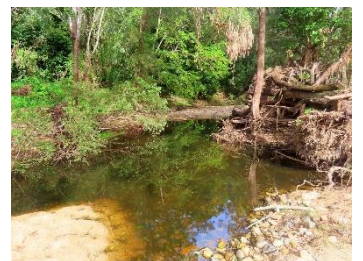
After lunch we headed up creek to find a wider lower-level section of water to cross over, where the walking would be easier. We crossed to the other side in waist deep water. When the terrain became impassable because of high overgrown weeds and sections of boggy mud, we found a suitable place to cross back. Another swim, rest and a few bites to eat. We headed back to the cars.

It started to rain for the first time, it didn't matter, we were all wet and had wet shoes, we were fortunate to have had an enjoyable fine day for our walk.

Arriving back at the cars, the other group had already left for home we only missed them by about an hour.

A great day out walking with good friends.

Deb Wilson



2 groups today. While the faster group set off, Frances, Coral, Edie & I set off at a slower pace, down the sandy creek bed. A lot of fast flowing water in the creek today, so we explored a few sections of higher ground, trying to avoid the tangled undergrowth as much as possible.

We had a leisurely lunch on a log with a good view of the creek, before heading back to the vehicles. We were spectators to a good view of a brolga family in a waterhole as we left for home. Considering

all the rain lately, we were fortunate to have a fine day at last.

Thanks Deb for organizing the walk.

Penny McMahon