



The Message Stick

August 2024

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Midge Mountain	1 st August
Mt Jukes.....	4 th August
Mt Britton/ Pods Pinnacle camp.....	10 th – 11 th August
Mt Ossa.....	18 th August
General Meeting.....	21 st August
Cape Hillsborough.....	25 th August
Mt David.....	1 st September
Advanced Warning Denham Range Camp.....	7 th – 8 th September



Midge Mountain

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

This year is our **50th Anniversary** and we would like to redesign our club shirts to celebrate. If you have any ideas or suggestions for what you would like the shirts to look like please send all your ideas to the club email listed below.

Just a reminder to members any person who attends a club walk must be a member. This includes children under 5.

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 20th 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 by 26th 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

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.

**Midge Mountain
Thursday 1st August**

Leader: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856
Depart: 10am from ADRA Carpark, Milton Street (CNR Luscombe st)
Journey: 200km = \$20
Grade: M43
Estimated walking time: 4 - 5 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 50m
Pace: slow
Terrain: Beach, creek crossing, rock and bush
Vegetation: grass and forest

Expect: Midge point is north of Calen. We will walk south along the beach and cross a tidal creek to reach the point. Thanks to information from a local, we know the location of coloured rocks. This walk is fairly easy and is being repeated for the benefit of some who could not attend last time. Dependent on the group on the day we may or may not go up the small mountain (50m).

Please note the late starting time and different meeting place and the walk is on a Thursday.

**Mt Jukes
Sunday 4th August**

Leader: Phillip Morgan 0431 130 074
Depart: 7am 295 Alfred Street Mackay
Journey: 80km = \$8
Grade: M87
Estimated walking time: 7 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 450m
Pace: Medium
Terrain: Steep creek ascent
Vegetation: Possible scrub

Expect: Mt Jukes is an impressive 450m Plutonic Intrusion resulting from volcanic activities some 32* million years ago. Located 45 minutes north of Mackay the dome shaped Mt Jukes offers impressive views. For those interested after the walk there is a fantastic woodfired pizza spot at the base of Mt Jukes.

**Mt Britton/The Bluff/ Pods Pinnacle camp
10th – 11th August**

Saturday 10th the Bluff

Leader: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856
Ralph Morgan
Depart: 8am 295 Alfred Street Mackay
Journey: 240km = \$24
Grade: S75
Estimated walking time: 4 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 225m
Pace: Average
Terrain: Uneven
Vegetation: long grass, scrub/ forest, vines

Expect: An easy creek crossing with steep banks, a short steep scramble over loose rocks close to the summit with uninterrupted excellent views. We will be taking a new route different from previous walks to the bluff. Depending on vehicles we may have to start walking from the old township/ camping area. Heading off the old track to the lagoon we will follow the remnants of an old fire break, crossing 'first creek' and heading up a ridge, before joining previous route. Following 'first creek' back to township is an option. There is no water available on the day. Car camping will be available free at the old township site with new toilets, or at Lyall's minors hut with bunks and hot shower. There will be two fairly easy day walks on Saturday and Sunday. There will be a campfire and singalong on Saturday night accompanied by Lyall on guitar.

Sunday 11th Pods Pinnacle

Leader: Kevin Smith 0417 326 634
Depart: 8am 295 Alfred Street Mackay
Journey: 240km = \$24
Grade: L86
Estimated walking time: 5 – 6 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 300m
Pace: Average
Terrain: 4wd track, rockhopping, steep slopes, grass
Vegetation: scrub, grass

Expect: Pod's Pinnacle is a new walk for Mackay Bushwalking Club. It is located near the Diamond Cliffs in Mt Britton. The Pinnacle is quite impressive and has spectacular views of the Diamond Cliffs, the Bluff etc.

This walk can be part of an overnight camp or a day trip from Mackay and return.

The walk will commence from the Mt Britton Township Fig Tree at 09:30.

Walk up a 4wd track through a private mining claim area for 2.6km. Note that I will be driving this section so as to preserve the very little cartilage in my knee.

Walkers will then meet me at the car where we will walk through the bush over a couple of ridges and into a major rocky creek. We will walk up the bed of the creek a ways and then exit the creek up a very steep slope at the side of the lower Pod's Pinnacle. The Pinnacle has 3 parts. We will climb on the top of the first section, then climb to the top of the second higher Pinnacle. Note that there is only space on top of the pinnacles for a few people. From here we walk through the bush to the top of the 3rd section which is a large flat area of rock with great views, plenty of space and could be a beaut spot for a late lunch.

**Please contact the leader by midday
Friday 9 August.**

Mt Ossa 18th August

Leader: Carole Weekes 0455 872 207

Depart: 8am 295 Alfred Street Mackay

Journey: 100km = \$10

Grade: M44

Estimated walking time: 4 hours

Total of all uphill sections: n/a

Pace: Relaxed

Terrain: tracks, grassy areas, cattle pads, gravel roads, creek banks, paddocks

Vegetation: open forest, long grass, rainforest along creeks.

Expect: some flat sections, some short steep climbs and descents along 4WD tracks, mountain scenery in many directions

Expect: We will be visiting a private property, and mainly walking along the boundary fences of a farm quite close to a National Park, with some creek banks to explore, foothills and paddocks, and will probably enjoy lunch beside a dam, accompanied by a couple of friendly horses. The day will be peaceful, fairly easy, and the scenery is stunning. The walk is suitable for beginners and there is no need to rush. The Club

appreciates very greatly the willingness of the farming family to allow us access once again to their beautiful property.

If you are travelling from the Pioneer Valley or from north of Mackay, you can meet the convoy from town at the Mt Ossa store on the highway, but please indicate this when you book, and I will designate a time. The rest of us will be meeting cnr Alfred and Nelson St at 7.45am.

or

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

Depart: 8am 295 Alfred Street Mackay

Journey: 100km = \$10

Grade: M66

Estimated walking time: 6hours

Total of all uphill sections: 350m

Pace: Average

Terrain: off-track, rainforest, long, rock scrambling

Vegetation: rainforest, long grass

Expect: We will be visiting a private property, and climbing a mountain south of, and linked to, Mt Ossa National Park. The QTopo map shows it as being a few metres higher than Mt Ossa, at 290m. There's a lookout on the way up, and plateau of sort, with grasstree, on top.

We will be travelling with Carole's group from Mackay, and if you are travelling from the Pioneer Vally or from places north of Mackay, you can meet the convoy from town at the Mt Ossa store on the highway, but please indicate this when you book in, and I will designate.

Induction 6.30pm & General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 21st August

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

**Cape Hillsborough
25th August**

Leader: Coral Morgan
Depart: 7am 295 Alfred Street Mackay
Journey: 104km = \$10
Grade: M32
Estimated walking time: 5 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 100m
Pace: Steady
Terrain: Beach and Tracks
Vegetation: n/a

Expect: This is planned as a relaxed day, suitable for beginners. We will commence the walk across the causeway to wedge island followed by the beachcomber walk. After lunch we will do the hidden Valley circuit, concluding the day with the board walk and taking in the midden, Bring the usual lunch, water, sunscreen and insect repellent.

**Mt David
1st September**

Leader: Philp Morgan 0431 130 074
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: Please contact leader if wanting more information.

**Advanced Warning Denham Range Camp
7th – 8th September**

Leader: Telina Lambert 0434 392 558
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: Please contact leader if wanting more information.

Previous Activities

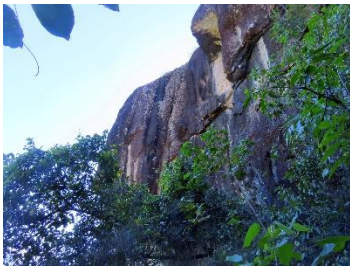
Flaggy Rock Sunday 14th July



On a beautiful, sunny, winter day 15 Bushwalkers undertook the challenge of Flaggy Rock. Easy going up to the morning tea spot on top of the rocks, with views of the cane fields and mountains to the west. Glimpses of the coast as we continued along the top until we commenced down and along to find our way underneath the cliff faces. Here it became a challenge for some as we fought our way through undergrowth, trip vines & some steep up and down rocky sections. We found our way to one of the

rock ledges for lunch, and a view. The rock overhangs are always impressive, but we did not have much time to stop and photograph them. After lunch the challenge of the vegetation and steep rocky down hill slope greeted us again. I was pleased to see the cars come into sight. A good day with great company. Thanks Peter & also Ken (those secateurs were a Godsend.

Penny McMahon



Beautiful weather. Clear and cool brought 15 of us out to tackle the amazing Flaggy Rock escarpment. This has been a club favourite for many years but not been visited for quite some so it was almost exploratory again with a lot of heavy overgrowth including spiky vines. We found our way to the top edge of the cliff face easy enough through native forest and a little used track to be rewarded with spectacular views of the valley one side and the ocean coastline the other. Some of us had distant memories while others were

enthralled by this amazing area. It was easy enough along the top edge but the fun really began with the steep decent using various butt slide, scramble and monkey tree swing down the loose slippery drop at the end of the escarpment to be confronted with the vines and thick scrubby



growth resulting in a slow pace which was nice to have time to appreciate the surrounding area. There were oos and aars at the sheer scale of the cliff faces devoid of vegetation looming up to a faraway sky. Massive trees making an effort to reach but falling short with some faces as much as 80 metres high. It wasn't far distance wise but seemed to take ages to reach our lunch spot under a deep overhang weathered into the cliff. While some just wanted to rest others were caught up in lively conversation



until we climbed off our perch and further along the base until we came to a point where we were unable to scale a drop so we traversed downhill to round the obstacle but attempts were to return to the rock face were blocked by

extreme vine scrub overgrowth. Due to our slower pace and time restraints, it was decided to chart a new route down off the mountain which lead us down a gully and through patchy dry rainforest into the lower country where we trekked a paddock then a cane headland back to the relief of a smooth civilised road which made an easy stroll back to the cars. It was an awe-inspiring day thanks to Peter who led our group of rag tag explorers guiding us through challenging terrain full

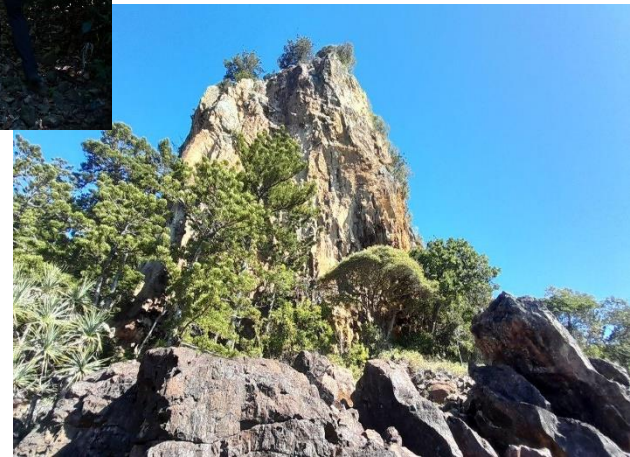
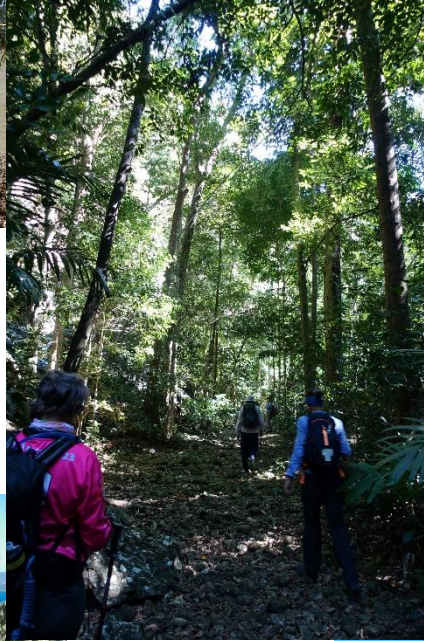


of variety of experiences we will remember. The endless views, the majestic multi coloured sweeping cliffs, the massive trees, the numerous orb spiders webbed between the vines and the great company so thank you Peter for leading this walk and thanks to the friends who shared the experience.

Celestine Lambert



Paradise Falls Sunday 21st July



Kate's Place Sunday 28th July

Great day exploring surrounding hills of St Helens Creek. 3 peaks conquered by 6 hikers. So many different hiking conditions challenged us all day. Lots of vine! Avoiding the wait-a-while was a challenge on our descent to the Creek, but this was navigated perfectly to spare us from that!! Thanks Kate for a great walk!

Di Rutland

