



# The Message Stick

## February 2024

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

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

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### Future Events

<b>Pebblyrock Creek .....</b>	<b>.28<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>The Rock Arch .....</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>St Lawrence .....</b>	<b>10th-11<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>General Meeting.....</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Freshwater Point .....</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Owen's Creek .....</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> February</b>



**Pebblyrock Creek**

### Club Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Peter Bennett</b>	<b>0427 383 732</b>	<b>Digital Officer</b>	<b>Bethany Morgan</b>	<b>0415 761 058</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Carole Weekes</b>	<b>0455 872 207</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Telina Lambert</b>	<b>0434 392 558</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Philip Morgan</b>	<b>0431 130 074</b>	<b>Walks Coordinator</b>	<b>Coral Morgan</b>	<b>4957 8474</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mari Simmonds</b>	<b>0429 190 168</b>	<b>Equipment Officers</b>	<b>Frances Eiteneuer</b>	<b>0447 866 188</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Mari Simmonds</b>	<b>0429 190 168</b>		<b>Penny McMahon</b>	<b>0421 071 294</b>

## From the Editor

Hi Everyone, and a Happy New Year. Let's make it a good one.

2024 has started a bit wet for parts of the region so please be aware that the weather can be unpredictable at this time of year and 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 full 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.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to [mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com](mailto:mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com) by 20th February.

## 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.

### **Pebblyrock creek Sunday 28th<sup>th</sup> January**

**Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732**

**Depart :** 7:00am from Mackay

**Journey:** 160km \$16.00

**Grade:** M33

**Estimated walking time:** 5 Hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 60m

**Pace:** Slow

**Terrain:** Creek walk

**Vegetation:** Rain Forest

weather footwear is required. We can split into two groups to cater for all fitness and rock hopping abilities.

You will need to carry water and food for the whole day.

A change of clothes to travel home is a must.

**Please ring me (do not text) to register before 12.00pm on the Saturday before the walk.**

**Expect:** This walk is in the Cathu State Forest Reserve.

This is an easy walk with small cool off holes along the creek. The creek has running water and there will be lots of creek crossings, so wet

**The Rock Arch – Cape Hillsborough  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

**Leader: Penny McMahon 0421 071 294**

**Depart :** 7:00am from Mackay

**Journey:** 100km \$10.00

**Grade:** S45

**Estimated walking time:** 4 Hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** Almost Nil

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** Initially National Park track, beach, Some rocky foreshore sections, boulders, some sharp rocks – Gloves advisable.

**Vegetation:** Long grass, open sunny sections, coastal scrub

**Expect:** Some rockhopping, some sharp rocks. Possibly hot with not much shade in some sections. Bring plenty of water as there is none available along the walk. Great views.

We will commence the walk along the National Park track at Hidden Valley. Then make our way to the “beach” (rocky foreshore) The tide should be low enough for us to get around the headland without wet feet. We will inspect an impressive sea cavern which affords great views. We then continue along the foreshore, and around some more headlands to another impressive feature - The Rock Arch. We will climb through the Rock Arch to a ridge on the other side for lunch and great views (Unfortunately there is not much shade). So, if it is too hot, we will stay in the shade at the Rock Arch.

There will be time to beachcomb along the way and who knows what treasures we might find.

Please, Slip, Slop, Slap and bring plenty of water.

**St Lawrence Weekend**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**Car Based Camp**

**Leader: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856**

**Depart :** 7am from Mackay on Saturday.

**Journey:** 320km \$32.00

**Grade:** Contact leader.

**Estimated walking time:** Contact leader.

**Total of all uphill sections:** Contact leader.

**Pace:** Contact leader.

**Terrain:** Contact leader.

**Vegetation:** Contact leader.

**Expect:** This will be a leisurely social camp, suitable for beginners. We will commence the day observing the incoming tidal surge in St Lawrence ck, as there is a tidal range of over 8 metres and the water funnels in from the bay. This is quite impressive.

Following this we will set up camp at the rodeo grounds where there is ample space and good facilities. Bring some \$1 coins if you wish to avail yourself to a hot shower. Bring your own drinking water and food for the weekend. You could come along just for the Saturday or byo car, caravan or then and camp for the night.

A suggested programme for Saturday could include checking out the historical township and cemetery and inspecting the old mine site, before doing an afternoon walk to the bund wall before visiting the old wharf site and Waverly creek.

Koalas frequent the area and have been spotted in the township or at the golf course.

The camp site is a good spot for viewing the sunset over the wetlands. As it will be new moon conditions could be favourable for anyone interested in star gazing.

An early morning walk on Sunday along the short track to the wetlands bird viewing structure (through an area usually frequented by a number of kangaroos) is recommended. To stretch the legs, one can walk further along the dirt road past the goat farm and fish ladders on the way home, visiting Carmila beach and having lunch at Flaggy Rock are options.

**Don't forget your best insect repellent.** And lets all pray for good weather. **Intending campers should notify the leader by Wednesday 07/02/24**

**Induction 6.30pm &  
General Meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Freshwater Point  
Sunday 18th February**

**Leader: Celestine Lambert 0499 469 444**

**Depart :** 7am from Mackay. Leader from Mackay meet up to be decided.

**Journey:** 100km \$10

**Grade:** M44

**Estimated walking time:** 5 Hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 40m

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** Beach, rough tracks, some rocks

**Vegetation:** Long grass, open sunny sections, coastal scrub

**Expect:** Great coastal views. Possibly sandflies in places.

This should be a relatively easy day, suitable for beginners. There'll be some beach walking (sand and rocks), some rough tracks, and a section along the side of the road.

If there has been rain, the tracks could be muddy. Bring sun protection, enough water for the day, smoko and lunch. There is a very short but steep climb up to a lookout with views south to Mt Funnel and this is well worth the effort.

**Owen's Creek  
Sunday 25th February**

**Leader: Mari Simmonds 0429 190 168**

**Depart :** 7am from Mackay

**Journey:** 140km \$14

**Grade:** M87

**Estimated walking time:** 5 Hours

**Total of all uphill sections:** 280m

**Pace:** Average

**Terrain:** very uneven terrain

**Vegetation:** rain forest Expect: mostly rock hopping, scrambles, swimming holes.

**Expect:** Owens Creek is about 14km north west of Garget. It is a most interesting creek meandering through rain forest.

Although this is a reasonably easy walk, it is only suitable for walkers who are confident rock hoppers. We are sure to encounter some wait-a-while, so come prepared.

If numbers permit, we may split into two groups, a faster group who rock hop up to the swimming holes and another group who explore the flatter, less rocky part of the creek nearer to where we park the cars.

# Previous Activities

## Eungella tracks – Crediton creek walk.

21 January 2024

First walk of the year and a beautiful day to be up a mountain hiking a rainforest trail along the banks of Broken River. 16 of us plus our youngest member 6-month-old Caspian passenger in a backpack gathered at the bridge and set forth into the cool moist forest where we quickly encountered an abundance of leaches. Fighting them was futile so we marched on and some of us saw the first small snake, then a bit further the second. But we were not to be deterred. There



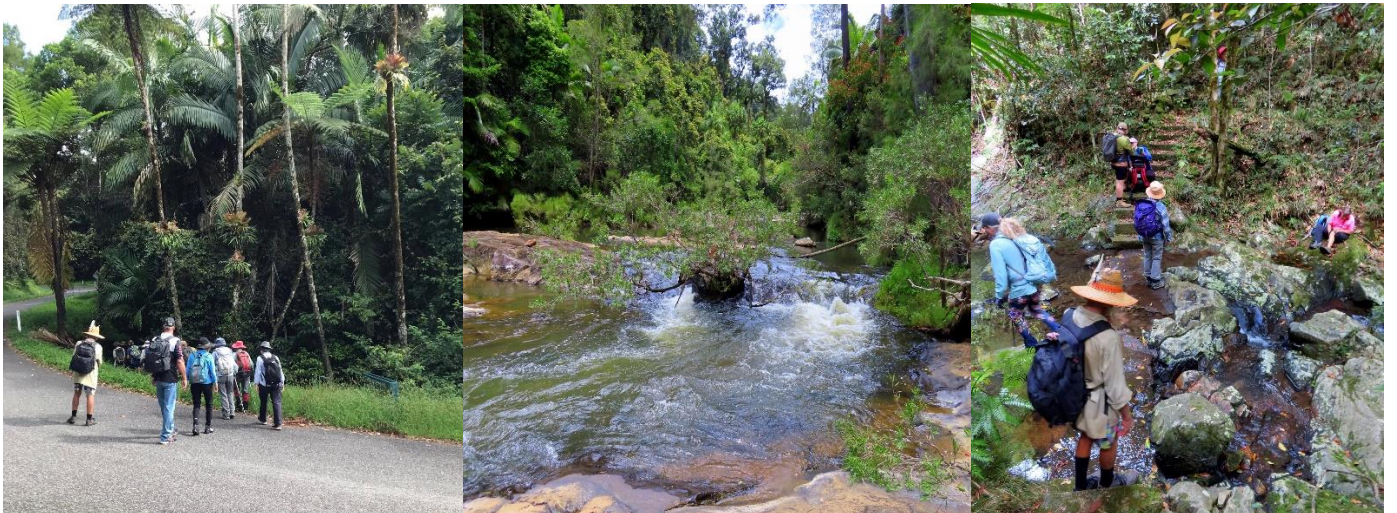
was water in most of the gully creek crossings and a good flow at our smoko stop, where we were dedicated to plucking off our slippery little blood sucking vampires. Moving on we encountered fallen trees, and detours, and glimpses of the ever-changing waters from calm stretches to noisy rapids. No platypus but some saw bubbles and ripples. Finally, when everyone started to drag their feet at the 7km mark we made out lunch stop on huge flat water worn rocks with swimming opportunity or just laze and enjoy the tranquil surrounds, listening to the gentle murmur of water amongst the quiet

of the rainforest. And of course, friendly conversation. After reluctantly moving again the group split, some continuing onto broken river camp exploring en-route before enjoying yummys from the cafe' and watching platypus play below the viewing platform, while the rest of the group hiked back through leach land to the cars which as much as we enjoyed immersing ourselves into the beauty of nature were the most welcome site for weary feet. All in all, it was a great day meeting new and old friends and escaping the heat which I heard was pretty nasty back in the real world.



Many thanks to Mari for leading such a beautiful walk on a beautiful day.

Celestine Lambert



# Eungella tracks – Crediton creek walk.

## 21 January 2024

16 Bushwalkers, including 3 new members, enjoyed the Eungella Tracks walk, in the beautiful Eungella National Park. The temperature was pleasant in the rainforest, which was lush and green after the recent rain. However, the path was dry underfoot. We encountered many species of fungi as well as some lovely Christmas Orchids. We enjoyed morning tea at the usual small creek, and lunch at Cascade falls. I believe most, if not everyone, became a host for some leeches. We started the walk at Crediton and walked to Broken River.



After lunch most walkers returned the same route, while 4 continued walking on to the Broken River Rest Area. Some of us were entertained by several platypuses, at both the Platypus Viewing area and under the Bridge. A lovely walk in the rainforest, away from the heat of Mackay. Thanks Mari for leading this walk.



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Penny McMahon

