



## Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc General Information

Have you ever tried bushwalking? It is a great way to unwind from the speed of modern life and to get good exercise at the same time. Bushwalking is fun and a great way to meet people. The desire to explore the natural world around us is the heritage from which our country developed. Bushwalking is the true spirit of Australia.

The Mackay region is particularly well situated with many diverse areas for bushwalking, including the substantial wilderness areas of Eungella National Park.

**THE CLUB:** The Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc has been operating since 1974. The aim of the Club is to foster bushwalking as a recreational activity. Its organisation is very low key. A monthly general meeting is usually held at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of each month at the downstairs room of the Mackay Family Care and Community Support Association Centre, 60 Wellington Street, Mackay. Interested persons are welcome at these meetings.

The Club produces a Monthly Newsletter which gives descriptions of future walks, indicating how hard they are and the type of country through which the walk will go.

**DAY WALKS:** Walkers are required to nominate for outings by contacting the Trip Leader NO later than 12 midday the day prior, unless otherwise stated. Nominating earlier is preferable. The most common activity of the Club is the Day Walk. We leave town in the morning, drive to the area of the walk, then spend much of the day walking. We carry our lunch and have it somewhere in the bush, walk back to the cars and normally return to town at about dark.

Walks vary from dry mountains with no water to creeks where we have plenty of opportunities for swimming. Walks take in a wide variety of natural scenery. Day walks are almost always on Sundays and usually leave at 7:00am. (Times are given in the newsletter.) We meet at the Car Park on the corner of Nelson & Alfred Streets opposite Jubilee Park. To come on a day walk, turn up 15 MINUTES BEFORE DEPARTURE TIME at the car park. A trip leader is appointed for each activity.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** From time to time the Club organises camps and social activities. Camps are usually for a weekend and vary from camping at the cars to carrying all camping gear in a backpack and walking to a campsite. To attend backpack camps, persons must be a Club member and have attended at least one day walk before the backpack camp. The club also plans longer trips, usually one week, to more distant locations. The Club also has some abseiling activities. Fees for these other activities are additional to membership fees and will be detailed in trip descriptions.

**HOW TO JOIN:** To become a member you will need to attend a half hour induction meeting. Induction meetings are held prior to our General Monthly Meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at The Downstairs Room of the Mackay Family Care and Community Support Association Centre, 60 Wellington Street, Mackay and begin at 6.30pm.

To nominate for induction meetings please ring the clubs Contact Officer.

**TRANSPORT:** We take a practical number of vehicles for walks. Persons can either take their own car or go as a passenger in another car, depending on the availability of cars. Passengers are asked to contribute an amount for the car owner's costs. The recommended cost is 10 cents per kilometre for the trip length. (For example, a trip to Broken River is 90km each way, a total trip of 180km and the contribution amount would be \$18.00.)

**TRIP LEADERS:** Trip leaders are appointed for Club walks. It is the responsibility of the trip leader to write a description of the walk for the Club newsletter, to organise transport and to guide walkers to and from the destination of the walk. Leaders usually have a good knowledge of the area in which they are leading the walk. Sometimes walks are described as "exploratory". This means that the leader has not been there before and cannot guarantee the nature of the walk.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** There are two types of membership you can take to attend club activities.

Ordinary Membership of the club incurs an annual membership fee and entitles you to attend any club activity within that membership period. Our membership period is from July 1 to June 30 each year.

Day Membership incurs a day membership fee and entitles you to attend that day's walk only. (You cannot attend a camp as a day member) Day Membership can be taken out on one occasion only. After this you must become an ordinary member to be able to participate in club activities.

**WHAT TO BRING AND WHAT TO WEAR:** For a day walk you will need a small backpack. Long sleeves and trousers, a hat, sunscreen and sturdy shoes are recommended. You may also want to bring suitable attire for swimming where opportunities exist. The following should be carried on every day walk: small torch, at least two litres of water, food, sunscreen, hat, raincoat, insect repellent (cream Rid is very popular with walkers), small whistle, emergency kit (containing paper, pencil, fire starting equipment such as matches or cigarette lighter, first aid equipment). By all means bring a camera and/or binoculars but remember you will have to carry them all day.

**PEOPLE:** You will find us a friendly group of people. A wide variety of people from all ages walk with the Club, including cane farmers, doctors, retirees, housewives, unemployed, teachers, students, cleaners, technicians, etc. Some walks are suitable for younger children but you should check with the trip leader beforehand.

**All activity costs, including membership fees, must be paid prior to participating in any club activity.**