



The Message Stick

July 2024

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Leap Walk..... | 7th July |
| Flaggy Rock..... | 14th July |
| General Meeting..... | 17th July |
| Paradise Falls..... | 21st July |
| Kate's Place..... | 28th July |
| Hazelwood Creek Camp..... | 2nd – 4th August |



Paradise Falls

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

Trip Leader Bag

At our general meeting on Wednesday 19th June 2024, it was decided that all walk's leaders will 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. Passing the bag from leader to leader means that equipment is not being checked and therefore cannot be maintained correctly. We thank you for your understanding.

Remember its membership renewal time please make sure to renew your membership before 30th June 2024. <https://mackaybwcq.org.au/membership>

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.

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 16th of July.

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 24th of July.

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.

Leap Walk from Tranquil Hill to Westlake Drive
Sunday 7th July

Leader: Bethany Morgan 0415 761 058
Depart: 10am from the Leap Tea house
10 Westlake Drive, The Leap
Journey: n/a
Grade: M85
Estimated walking time: 5 hours
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Pace: Slow to Average
Terrain: Steep uphill, rocky & uneven in sections, loose rocks
Vegetation: Thick scrub, grass trees, wattles, etc.

Expect: Meet at 10 Westlake Drive The Leap, where we will do a car shuttle to Tranquil Hill for the start of the walk.

A steady walk up the Northwestern side of The Leap, starting at Tranquil Hill (Morgan property). Walking and some short scrambles through scrub up to a rocky outcrop at the top of the ridge with views from Mount Dalrymple to Cape Hillsborough.

A nice spot to sit and take in the view with smoko. We will follow the ridge around to the Southeastern peak to take in views towards Mackay. We will then follow the more well know track down past the larger cliffs and finish in Westlake Drive.

All welcome to enjoy a hot or cold beverage at The Leap pub afterwards.

What to bring for the walk: Hat, backpack, water, lunch/snacks, insect repellent (scrub itch is bad at the moment) walking shoes, long clothing and gators are a good idea but not essential. The many grass trees mean lots of spiders so long clothing is recommended.

Flaggy Rock
Sunday 14th July

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732
Depart: 7am from 295 Alfred Street
Journey: 200km = \$20
Grade: S55
Estimated walking time: 4 Hours
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Pace: Slow
Terrain: Uneven
Vegetation: open forest, long grass

Expect: long grass, lantana, some steep slopes.

The west side of Flaggy Rock Bluff is a cliff face up to 80 metres high. We will walk around the base of the bluff to the south end, then climb to the top where we can overlook the ocean to the east, Mt Funnel to the north and hills to the west and south.

Insect repellent is a must and remember to bring enough food and water for the whole day.

This is a fairly easy walk for the adventurous.

Please RING to nominate for the walk BEFORE 12.00 midday the Saturday before the walk.

**Induction 6.30pm &
General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 17th July**

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

**Paradise Falls
Sunday 21st July**

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7am from 295 Alfred Street
Journey: 100km = \$10
Grade: M66
Estimated walking time: 7 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 300m
Pace: Average
Terrain: very uneven underfoot, creek, and beach
Vegetation: rainforest, scrub

Expect: off track, some rockhopping, some steep slopes, beach.

This is one of my favourite walks around Mackay. It's a circuit, with a good variety of views, terrain, and vegetation. Paradise Falls is on the north-east side of Cape Hillsborough, there probably won't be any water coming over the falls, but it is a pretty area. I plan to go up to the top of the waterfall, as well as visit the base. It's a bit of a scramble and is optional. There is a low tide at about 4:45pm, so we should be able to walk back along the beach

**Kate's Place
Sunday 28th July**

Leader: Kate Brunner 0467 976 955
Depart: n/a
Journey: n/a
Grade: L86
Estimated walking time: n/a
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Pace: n/a
Terrain: n/a
Vegetation: n/a

Expect: For more details about this walk please contact the leader.

**Hazelwood Backpack Creek Camp
Sunday 2nd – 4th August**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732
Depart: 7am from 295 Alfred Street
Journey: To be Advised
Grade: L88
Estimated walking time: n/a
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Pace: n/a
Terrain: n/a
Vegetation: n/a
Expect: I have not done this walk before, so I cannot give any information. I have talked to the landowner and he said the terrain will be difficult. If you want to do this walk nominate before the next meeting, 17-7-2024.

Previous Activities

Halliday Bay, McBride's Lookout and Ball Bay 2nd June 2024

What went well:-

The number of participants reached double figures
An octogenarian not only insisted on climbing the rocks at the top, but stood up while there
Our departure from town was punctual
We chose a fine, sunny day for it



There was an abundance of toilet blocks available
The group included long time members as well as new recruits
Both the young(er) and the old were represented
There were no injuries
We didn't lose anyone
Lunch came with a view
The track through to Ball Bay was in excellent condition
Three people were so impressed with Ball Bay that they stayed there overnight
Variety was included - beach, rocks, tracks, flat areas

and uphill and downhill
The wattle was out in flower
We met another group of hikers
Kate shared some produce
Tales were shared from the club's past

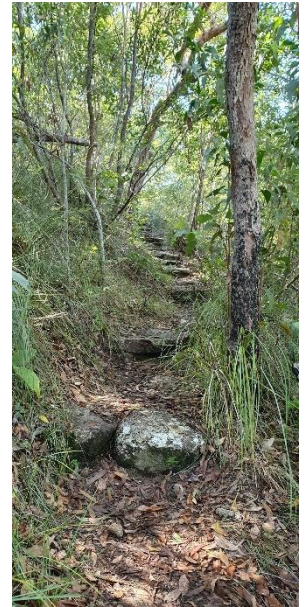
Areas for improvement: -

We need to work on the male/female ratio
We need to avoid insect infestations and broken foot bridges
The leader should explain where to meet in more detail for those arriving separately



*Thanks to all of you for making the day so enjoyable. What a great bunch of people!

Carole Weekes



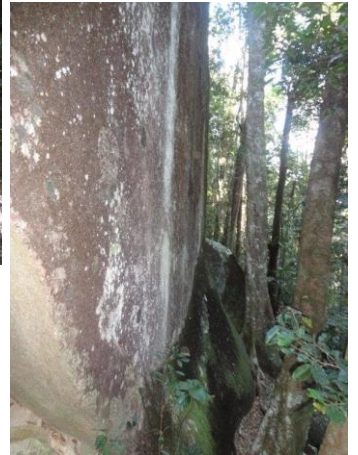
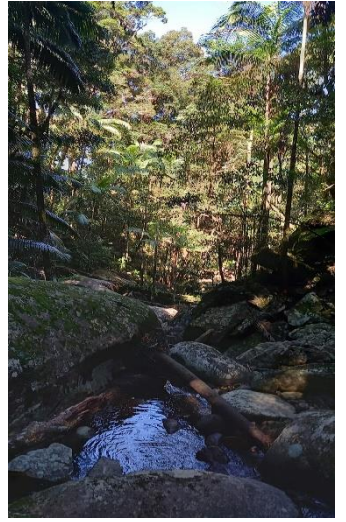
I arrived late & joined the group as they were just heading down from McBrides Lookout to Ball Bay. Some of us checked out what is left of the whale bones from the dead whale that died here in September 2019. After some refreshment we headed off to check out the wetland area - not particularly wet at present. Most then headed off back along the track to Halliday Bay and home, while Coral, Kate and I had a very pleasant overnight camp at Ball Bay.

Penny McMahan



Finch Hatton Falls

9th June 2024



Back of Finch Hatton

16th June 2024



On a perfect winter day 11 of us did the Back of Finch Hatton hill climb, which is usually done on Finch Hatton Show Day. With hardly a cloud in the sky, the views were perfect, we could see so much of the Pioneer Valley upper section, and over Teemburra Dam, as well as Mt Pinnacle. We searched for shade at lunch time as it had become quite warm. We heard the music from the Show & saw the helicopter taking people for rides, but it did not come anywhere near us this year. We were all quite surprised to learn that the new bicycle track lower section is at the start of where we traditionally commence our walk. Thanks Mari for leading us.

Penny McMahon



There were 11 of us brave adventures collected together to tackle the steep ridge know to the club as "Back of Finch Hatton" A club favourite usually done on the same day as Finch Hatton show for reasons I will mention later. We start our trek from the old town water tank but things have changed from our usual walk. The new mountain bike track has now invaded the lower part of our ridge like a giant twisting spider so after a confused start we got onto a vehicle access road to access the top of the tracks before we plunged into the thick grass tree's and rock scrub and really started our hike and clamber. It was a solid effort to pick our way up the overgrown slope with none of our old track left. As we climbed we caught glimpsing views into the valley and the busy township of Finch Hatton and the cluster of the activity of the annual show spotting the odd spin of entertainment rides. Finally



with muscles burning we reached the smoko stop and sat on giant boulders to admire the view and enjoy the rest and for some a sugar hit. While watching the helicopter from our arial view of the action. Then it was on and up. Always up!!!. Some areas quite steep and seemingly endless until a surprise for some



we came to a fence. First sign of civilization since the lower bike track development. Any track that may have been was now long gone. It was to find that which way was easiest as we crossed over to our lunch rock with open views of the Pioneer Valley one side and Teemburra dam on the other and distant views towards the coast depending on how far the eye could see. I think everyone just wanted to find a shady seat which we did for quite some time

discussing landmarks amongst the other chatter. The trek down was faster but we soon lost our trail so ended up same ridge, different route for a large part of it. Plenty of rock features and step scrambles. Definity faster down and back to the new, is somewhat bumpy road and back to our comfy cars.

Thank you to Mari for leading this popular walk and thankyou for the company who made this another great adventure.

Celestine Lambert

Smalleys Beach 23rd June 2024



Midge Mountain 30th June 2024

