



The Message Stick

June 2024

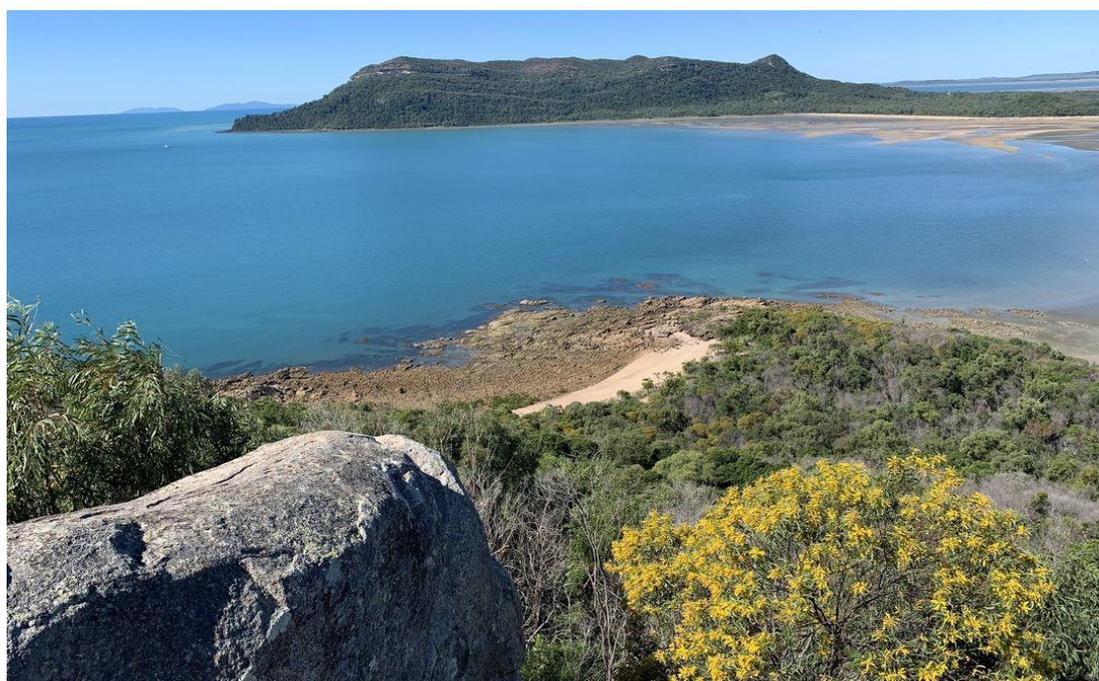
Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Halliday Bay, McBride's Lookout and Ball Bay.....	2 nd June
Finch Hatton Falls.....	9 th June
Back of Finch Hatton.....	16 th June
General Meeting.....	19 th June
Smalleys Beach.....	23 rd June
Midge Mountain.....	30 th June



McBride's Lookout

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

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.

Also, we have been made aware that some people are unable to access the newsletter via the Facebook page so we will be updating our registration process to account for this soon. We will be able to send out emails or postal to those requesting however there will be a fee per month for those who wish to have it sent by post.

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

It's starting to cool down now for 2024 but the weather is still 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 19th of June.

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 June.

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.

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

Leader: Carole Weekes 0455 872 207

Depart: 9am from Mackay

Journey: 100km = \$10

Grade: M52

Estimated walking time: 4 Hours

Total of all uphill sections: 100m

Pace: Average

Terrain: Beach, track, rock, taped trail

Vegetation: Forest, grass

Expect: PLEASE NOTE LATER STARTING TIME TO SUIT THE TIDE This walk will begin at Halliday Bay with a walk along the beach to a rocky area near the swimming enclosure. We will then access the track up to McBride's Lookout which provides 360 degree views from a rocky outcrop. Next a taped trail will take us through to Ball Bay, but if the trail is too overgrown, we will drive to Ball Bay instead. The rest of the day will be spent exploring Ball Bay, including a wetland area. This will be a relaxed day of quite easy walking, but please bring sun and insect protection, plenty of water and the usual morning tea snack and lunch. Suitable for beginners - the climb to the top is on a track and steep in parts, but very short.

Finch Hatton Falls
Sunday 9th June

Leader: Kate Brunner 0467 976 955

Depart: From Finch Hatton gorge at 7am

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: We follow a very steep rough track a bit past half-way to Mount Dalrymple. Then descend into a bouldery section of the creek. There are swimming/dipping holes, nice rock formations, moss, ferns and juicy lushness. Might be cool. We ought to allow 7 h at least... if I remember correctly? I have not been there for several years so part of it will be somewhat

exploratory. The largest part of the walk however follows a well marked track to mount Dalrymple. We follow the same route back. The track could be slippery in parts as it is steep but there should be no major difficulties.

Back of Finch Hatton
Sunday 16th June

Leader: Mari Simmonds 0429 190 168

Depart: 7am from Mackay

Journey: 130km = \$13

Grade: S55

Estimated walking time: 4 Hours

Total of all uphill sections: 250m

Pace: Slow to Average

Terrain: Very Uneven

Vegetation: Open Forest

Expect: Some steep slopes, long grass, loose gravelly sections, grass covered rocks. The walk will start at the Finch Hatton water tank and take us to the top of a rocky ridge. There will be plenty of views of the valley along the way and if it's a clear day we may see out to sea. Lunch will be on top of a large rocky outcrop with more great views across to Mt Pinnacle and down the valley.

**Induction 6.30pm &
General Meeting 7.30pm**
Wednesday 19th June

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

Smalleys Beach
Sunday 23rd June

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282

Depart: 8am from Mackay

Journey: 100km = \$10

Grade: M55

Estimated walking time: 5 Hours

Total of all uphill sections: 300m

Pace: Slow to Average

Terrain: **Very Uneven**

Vegetation: rain forest, open woodland, long grass, grasstrees, mangroves, beware of moonlighter plants

Expect: Taped rough trail, some steep slopes, great views, insects, gullies, may be hot conditions in open sections.

I think this is one of the most spectacular walks in the Mackay area, with great views in all directions. This will be a through walk involving a car shuffle, and will generally follow the old track, which is now mainly just a trail, and non-existent in places. The journey will take us through a variety of landscape and vegetation types, and the degree of difficulty varies quite a lot as well, with some fairly level sections, and some of steep climbs. There are some rocky sections and some easy gully crossings, but on the whole it will not be too demanding. Please carry water for the whole day and remember the insect repellent and sunblock. Sunglasses or other eye protection is recommended for the grasstrees.

Midge Mountain
Sunday 30th June

Leader: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856

:Ralph Morgan

Journey: 200km = \$20

Grade: M43

Estimated walking time: 4 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 before crossing a tidal creek on the outgoing tide

were we will get some wet feet. After walking back up the creek we should find a steep track which leads up the small mountain to a vantage point. Down the other side we access a sandy beach, and we can walk as far as we like. On the return around a rocky headland, we will examine some special coloured rocks.

Previous Activities

Eimeo to Reliance Creek

Sunday 5th May 2024

Bucasia to Reliance Creek walk. Frances & I joined the group at Shoal Point after checking out the Orange-footed scrubfowl & their mound. Lovely sunny day with good breeze at times. Tide high but going out quickly. Good walk along the sand making sure not to trip over any old mangrove tree stumps or wood. Excellent views along the route & at the entrance to Reliance Creek where we all had lunch. Some of us just can't help ourselves & had to pick up rubbish on the way back, but fortunately there was not a lot. I left the group at Shoal Point and drove Edie & Becky back to the start at Bucasia, where we were fortunate enough to see the Barking Owls in their favourite tree.



Penny McMahon

How surprising, but how lucky that this particular Sunday developed into such a perfect day for a walk after all the indifferent weather we have been experiencing. As ten Bushwalkers and three visitors gathered at Eimeo Creek, we were not too optimistic about this happening though because of the appearance of the sky. Wendy and Peter were unable to join us but had made the trip to the meeting place for a quick meet and greet, and then waved eleven of us off on what turned out to be a 15 km + trek.



Becky, Alessandra and Chom had joined us as part of the Northern Beaches Community Activation Week, and our day was enhanced by their participation and company. The walk covered the length of the Bucasia Walkway, and luckily by the time we reached its northern limit, the tide had ebbed sufficiently for us to use the beach until we decided to take yet another sandy track to access the top of the headland and avoid the wet rocks at Shoal Point. The view was admired and cameras were busy at the usual lookout spot before we descended to



join the others for morning tea at the Shoal Point Picnic Ground. On the way down, a pile of dirt being eyed off as a potential nest by some orange footed scrub fowl was a diversion. Frances and Penny had been holding the fort in expectation of a few more visitors who in the end were unable to come, so after a break in the shelter at the park, 13 of us made our way along the beach towards the mouth of Reliance Creek in clear sunshine and enveloped by stunning scenery to the east and north. All our favourite climbs were crisply outlined - Cape Hillsborough, Little Green Island, Smith's Pinnacle, Mt Jukes, Mt Blackwood, Mt Mandurana, Black Mt etc.

I have to say that I have never seen the estuary and its channels looking so beautiful. The water had a gentle flow and was clear and inviting, and three teenage boys were hopeful of a good catch. One of them interrupted his fishing to take a group photo for us. Lunch was enjoyed on the sand in the shade for some, and the return journey was uneventful, with no one tripping over the dead mangrove hazards to the relief of the leader.

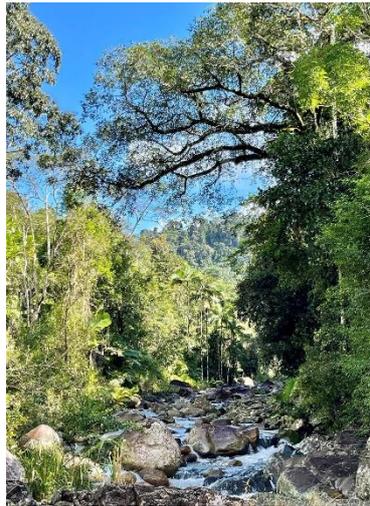


After a brief break, Frances and Penny and two others left us and the rest of the group, negotiating the rocks comfortably, set off along the beach under blue skies and warm conditions. Many thanks to all who made the day a success - club members, visitors, those who lent a hand when necessary, and to Jeanette for carrying out her duties so well as co-leader.

Carole Weekes

Owens Creek

Sunday 12th May 2024



West Hill Island

Sunday 19th May 2024



Leap Walk from Tranquil Hill + Social Event

Saturday 25th May 2024

Some Bushwalkers gathered at 2:30pm with myself leading the group of 11 up the Northern side of The Leap. We set off up some short yet steep uphill sections of fire breaks which are on our family's property. After 10 minutes of walking, we took a slight detour to a special spot know as "The Deck" where the view has become obstructed by rapidly growing wattles. Still, it was a peaceful and lovely spot to catch our breath before 3 members headed back down to prepare for the social fire, leaving 7 of us to continue on. We followed the ridge along the top of some cliffs until we entered the National Park section of The Leap. There were some sections of overgrown lantana which we navigated around, some beautiful open forested areas as well as dense sections of grass trees and a few fallen trees. We steadily made our way up to the Northern cliffs. Along the way we heard birds including the Noisy Pitter, Black Cockatoos, Wompoo Pigeons, Ulysses Butterflies, a Rock Wallaby, PLENTY of spiders, and some pretty moss and fungi. When we reached the top, we were rewarded with expansive views from Cape Hillsborough, Mount Jukes & Mount Blackwood all the way around to the South Western side towards Hampden and could see Eungella engulfed in rain clouds behind.



After enjoying the views from our spot 233m above sea level, we made the journey back down. Once back on our property, we made our way down below some cliffs to take in some lower, yet still beautiful views as we sat under some overhanging cliffs. We then rejoined the track for the final downhill section and emerged back at the house where we all enjoyed a social fire with a toasted jaffle cookup. A great easy local walk which was my first time leading a Bushwalk. I am very grateful for all who attended for making it such an enjoyable experience. We had great conversations and laughs while still being able to enjoy the peace and serenity of the bush! I am looking forward to leading this walk again in the near future and perhaps with a variation or two. Watch this space!

Bethany Morgan