



The Message Stick

September 2024

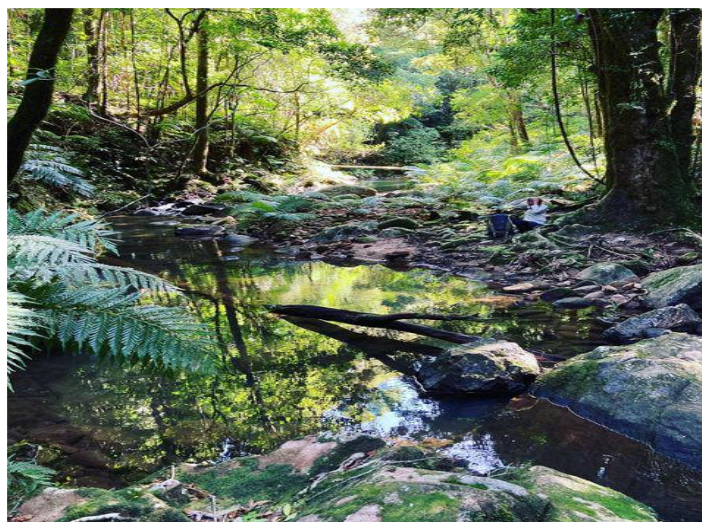
Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Mt David.....	1 st September
Pods Pinnacle.....	8 th September
Mt Mc Gregor	15 th September
General Meeting	18 th September
Park Walk.....	22 nd September
Sydney Heads.....	22 nd September
Mt William.....	29 th September
Pretty Creek.....	29 th September
Car Base Camp Advanced Warning	6 th & 7 th October



Mt David

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 17th of September

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 September.

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.

Mt David
Sunday 1st September

Leader: Philip Morgan 0431 130 074
There will be a lot of up/down hill sections.
Depart: 6:00am carpark corner of Alfred st/Nelson st.
Journey: Journey: 200km = \$20
Grade: L88
Estimated walking time: 8 - 10 hours
Total of all uphill sections: N/A
Pace: Medium – Fast
Terrain: Taped Track
Vegetation: Rain forest

Expect: Mt David, 1246m about sea level is located a few kilometres Nth Wst of Mt Dalrymple. We'll be following the same track to Mt Dalrymple to the junction lookout then head north towards Mt David. There will be a lot of up/down hill sections.

Pods Pinnacle
Sunday 8th September

Leader: Kevin Smith 0417 326 634
Depart: 8am 295 Alfred Street Mackay
Journey: 240km = \$24
Grade: M57
Estimated walking time: 5 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 300m
Pace: Average
Terrain: 4wd track, rockhopping, steep slopes, grass
Vegetation: scrub, grass

Expect: This walk was cancelled last month due to wet weather. Note the updated write-up.
Pod's Pinnacle is a new walk for Mackay Bushwalking Club. It is located near the Diamond Cliffs in Mt Britton. The Pinnacle is an impressive formation and has spectacular views of the Diamond Cliffs, the Bluff etc. This is a beaut walk and would be suitable for agile beginners.
The actual walk will commence from the Mt Britton Township Fig Tree at 09:30 am.
We will walk up a 4wd track through a private mining claim area for 2.6km.
After leaving the track we walk through the bush over a couple of ridges and into a major rocky/sandy creek. We will walk up the bed of

the creek a ways and then exit the creek up a 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 pinnacle and then down again. We then climb to the top of the second, higher more impressive Pinnacle and down again. Note that there is only space on top of this pinnacle for a few people at a time. 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 shade for a spell.
We will walk back under the cliff of this pinnacle then back toward the creek.
Note, it is mandatory to contact the leader on 0417 326634, I am not on Facebook.

Mt MacGregor
15th September

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7am 295 Alfred st
Journey: 80km = \$8
Grade: S63
Estimated walking time: 5 – 6 Hours
Total of all uphill sections: 240m
Pace: Average
Terrain: Very Uneven
Vegetation: Open Forest

Expect: Some steep slopes, long grass, moonlighter, maybe some lantana. From MacGregor creek we will be climbing MacGregor which is 272m above sea level in the Devereux creek area. It is a little rough under foot but we will be taking the climb at a leisurely pace to get to the different vantage points at the top. We will see views of the valley, and on a clear day the views extend to the sea. The views are well worth the effort. It would be best to wear long and/or gaiters to guard against scratches from scrub. You will need to carry water for the whole day.

Induction 6.30pm &
General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 18th September

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

Park Walk
22nd September

Leader: Telina Lambert 0434 392 558
Depart: Botanical Gardens main entrance, 9 Lagoon St, West Mackay QLD 4740
Journey: n/a
Grade: S11 – L24
Estimated walking time: Dependent on which options people choose anywhere between 1 hour – 6 hours
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Pace: Leisurely
Terrain: Walking Path
Vegetation: Planted area

Expect: The walk will start at the carpark of the main entry to the botanical gardens. There will be a short option for those wishing to only come for a small walk around the botanical loop itself and a longer option as well. The longer option will take us on pathways going past the Mackay base hospital and along the river until we reach Canelands shopping centre. Dependent on the group and how we are feeling it will be decided on the day if we continue on up the path past Canelands to town beach then return via the same path.

Sydney Heads
22nd September

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7am 295 Alfred st
Journey: 250km = \$25
Grade: M55
Estimated walking time: 6 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 350m
Pace: average
Terrain: uneven, long grass, hidden obstacles underfoot, slopes, loose scree
Vegetation: Forest, dense vegetation in some places.

Expect: Sleep slope with loose scree, rocky outcrops with height, trip hazards, sun, no water and magnificent views. Sydney heads is the most prominent feature in homevale national park rising to a height of 921m. although a short walk of just under 5km the rewards are spectacular. All of homevale can be seen from this vantage point, including the marling spikes, mikes peak and mount Britton. The ascent up Sydney heads requires

a scramble up (and down) a loose scree covered slope. Care must be exercised here to avoid dislodging material onto other walkers. 4WD or high clearance 2WD is recommended to reach the departure point on Mt Adder Road. Numbers may be limited depending on the availability of suitable vehicles.

Mt William
29th September

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7am 295 Alfred st
Journey: 200km = \$20
Grade: S74
Estimated walking time: 6 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 300m
Pace: Average
Terrain: Expect some steep and tangle slopes, rockhopping.
Vegetation: n/a

Expect: The day will begin by walking through a section of the dairy farm at the end of Dalrymple rd before entering the bush and tackling Mt William. This section could be overgrown and tangle. Once over Mt William we will descend into pretty creek which we will follow until we meet up with the Dalrymple western trail, which we follow back to the cars.

Pretty Creek
29th September

Leader: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856
Depart: 7am 295 Alfred Street
Journey: 200km = \$20
Grade: S43
Estimated walking time: 3 hours
Total of all uphill sections: n/a
Pace: slow
Terrain: uneven
Vegetation: rainforest

Expect: This outing is to cater for those who would like an easy option on the day of Ken's Mt William walk. Expect a leisurely walk along the western Dalrymple trail – no track – just the odd tape. We will reach "pretty" rainforest creek and probably explore a short distance upstream. At this time of year there is only a rare chance of leaches. The temperature in Eungella rainforest is usually a bit cooler than the day in town.

Previous Activities

Midge Mountain

1 August



10 Bushwalkers, led by Coral, undertook the Midge Point walk again. Walking across the creek was no problem, but putting shoes & socks back on damp feet proved a challenge for some. This time we did not climb to the top of the mountain. We explored around the coloured rocks and enjoyed lunch there. Then

walked inland for a short while before returning to the beach and exploring south to a further rocky area. We could see more beaches & rocky outcrops further around those rocks, but did not continue any further. The tide was well out by this time, so most of us returned back via the sand. The creek was even lower, so easier to cross also, & most continued back in bare feet. A

great week-day walk, thanks Coral.

Penny McMahon



Mt Jukes



Mt Ossa



11 Bushwalkers enjoyed a relaxed walk around a farming area at Mt Ossa on a surprisingly warm winter day. We enjoyed lunch beside a dam, which in previous years had plenty of birds, but not so today. Thanks, Carole, for leading this walk.

Penny McMahon

Plans for two separate walks in the Mt Ossa area were revised when it became apparent that numbers for the National Park climb were insufficient for that event to proceed, so all eleven of us enjoyed a relaxed amble following the fence line of the host farm. It was a clear

day which allowed crisp views in all directions and the sun almost became too much by the late morning.

I was pleased that four of the group were new to this particular walk, and we set off along a headland towards a creek crossing which provided a glimpse of rich rain forest vegetation. Soon we were following a rough track through undulating grassed terrain, and met our first grazing animals and their guardians. Open forest on the rises allowed scenic foothills and the backdrop of distant ranges to be viewed. A new fence threw the leader's tenuous navigation into disarray which caused us to backtrack for a while, and then there was a climb to find a shady morning tea spot. The birdwatchers noticed at least one bird they were unable to identify readily.

Between morning tea and lunch at the dam, we did a bit more up and down over loose gravel, covered grassy areas and

open forest, and noticed more rainforest lined creeks. There was also plenty of flat ground along headlands, and when on upland areas a wealth of blues and greens of all shades in the distance.

Lunch was beside a body of water usually populated by pelicans, egrets and other aquatic species but today they were not around.

The final section of our walk was beside paddocks dotted with a variety of farm animals, and then a dirt road led us back to the cars ready for our homeward drive. Thanks to Coral, Phiona and Ken who supplied the transport, to Penny for co-leading, and to Frances for her navigational skills, and of course to our hosts who made us feel so welcome.

Carole Weekes



Cape Hillsborough



Penny McMahon

15 Bushwalkers enjoyed several walks at Cape Hillsborough on a perfect winter day. With the low tide we first walked across the causeway to Wedge Island. Great views from the top, especially of Causarina Beach to Beachcombers Bay, including the rocky outcrops behind the coast. Also, a bird's eye view of Orchid Island. Our next walk was the Beachcombers Bay track, where we enjoyed morning tea at the viewing area (except the vegetation has grown & the view is partly obscured.) A short drive to Hidden Valley to walk the track and have lunch on the foreshore with views towards Belmunda, Mt Blackwood & Mt Jukes. Finally we did the mangrove boardwalk track. Good company and fabulous scenery. Thanks, Coral, for organizing this walk.



Coral's idea for a series of short walks in the Cape Hillsborough area was very well received, with an attendance of fifteen, including two very recent inductees, Merren and Ryan. While most of the activities

were on track, we started the day with a walk along the beach to access the causeway across to Wedge Island. As we passed the Caravan Park, a couple of curlews and wallabies were sighted at very close quarters.



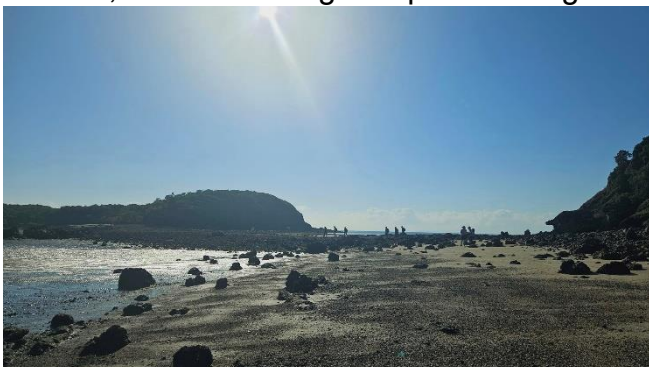
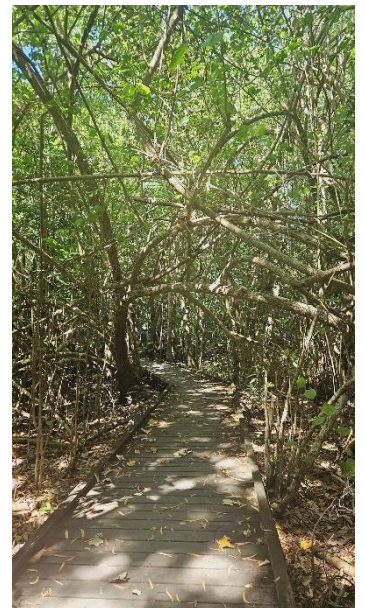
All participants except a handful of seniors headed up to the top of Wedge Island for the great views after a steady climb and a bit of rock-hopping. As the tide was very low, it would have been possible to reach Orchid Island as well, and a few explored the possibility. When the party was reunited, the group moved back along the causeway and headed up the beach before ascending to the

parkland and reaching the entrance to the bitumen track up to the lookout above Beachcomber Cove. Here morning tea was enjoyed while taking in the view. As we descended back down to the beach, we were pleased at the well-maintained track. Next on the agenda was a bit more beach walking as we navigated our way through Division Rocks.

A short drive took us to Hidden Valley, and after viewing the fish trap, we were ready for the circuit walk which provides so much variety within a small area - open forest, a small wetland area, rich rainforest, ocean views, and interesting interpretative signs. But first, lunch with a view

across to Belmunda, and our old favourites, Mt Jukes, Mt Blackwood and Smith's Pinnacle.

The day was not yet over, as the next stop was the Boardwalk, which again is short in distance but offers so much to walkers - mangrove habitat, grass tree forests, open forest areas, very rich tropical rainforest and an indigenous midden, as well as an abundance of interpretation via the signs.



Even though it was a day of easy short walks, those who completed all the activities, and that was the vast majority, covered at least 11 kms all up, and then some ended the day with a visit to Mt Jukes Family Farm. Thank you so much, Coral, for the idea, planning and leadership, and thanks to Ken also for his co-leadership. Once again, the members of our club proved that they are a great group with whom to spend a fine, sunny Sunday in the bush.

Carole Weekes