



The Message Stick

February 2025

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Cape Hillsborough Lookouts.....	1 st February
Mt Mandura (Leap Walk).....	8 th February
Eungella Walking Tracks.....	15 th February
General Meeting.....	18 th February
Rawsons Creek.....	22 nd February



Cape Hillsborough

Club Officers

President	Peter Bennett	0427 383 732	Contact Officer	Wendy Bennett	0429 363 929
Vice President	Telina Lambert	0434 392 558	Newsletter Editor	Telina Lambert	0434 392 558
Secretary	Philip Morgan	0431 130 074	Walks Coordinator	Coral Morgan Telina Lambert	0407 164 856 0434 392 558
Treasurer	Robert Kollin	0448 375 743	Equipment Officers	Frances Eiteneuer Penny McMahon	0447 866 188 0421 071 294
Membership Secretary	Wendy Bennett	0429 363 929	Librarian/ Archivist	Robert Kollin	0448 375 743
Social Media Manager			Safety Training Officer		
Digital Officer					

From the Editor

If anyone has any old documentation, walk write ups, newsletter articles e.c.t from the 60's, 70's or 80's please get in contact with our Librarian, Robert Kollin on 0448 375 743.

And just a reminder to all members that any persons who wish to attend a club walk must be a registered member this is all new members, including day members and children and all must attend and induction before participating in any club walks if you cannot make it to the induction meeting feel free to contact our club President Peter Bennett at 0427 383 732 to arrange a solution.

Its starting to warm up now and storm season is upon us so weather 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. **Also remember to bring lots of water as weather is hot and humid.**

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 months, please inform our walks coordinator **Coral Morgan 0407 164 856** or **Telina Lambert 0434 392 558** before the **17th February**.

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 **27th of February**.

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating their birthday in February hope to see you on a walk soon 😊



Key to Walks Grading System

Distance

S = short – under 5km
M = medium – 5-10km
L = long – over 10km

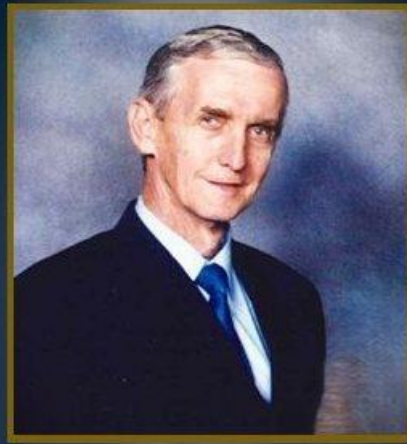
Terrain

1-3 = Graded or open terrain, no scrub
4-7 = Bush, minor scrub, rainforest
8-10 = Rocks, creeks, rock hopping, scrambling, thick scrub, major rock scrambling using hands, technical

Difficulty

1-3 = Easy, suitable for beginners
4-7 = Medium, reasonable fitness required
8-10 = Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only

Pat was one of the foundation members of the Mackay Bushwalkers' Club, and he was an ardent bushwalker.



McGEE, Patrick

“Pat”

Of Mackay.

30/12/1941 – 19/12/2025

Aged 83 yrs.

Passed away peacefully on
Friday the 19th of December 2025.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend
Pat's Service which will be held at 10:00am
on Tuesday the 13th of January 2026
at the Newhaven Chapel,
218 Harbour Road, Mackay.



NEWHAVEN FUNERALS
NORTH QUEENSLAND

www.newhavenfuneralsnq.com.au
218 Harbour Road, Mackay, Qld, 4740
Ph: 07 4953 1200

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.

Eungella Walking Tracks 15th February
General Meeting 18th February
Rawsons Creek 22nd February

Cape Hillsborough Lookouts
Sunday 1st February

Leader: Celestine Lambert 0499 469 444

Depart: 8am from Mackay

Journey: 104km = \$10

Grade: S/M54

Pace: Slow

Total Uphill sections: 335m

Estimated walking time: 3 hours +

Vegetation: Rain forest

Terrain: Path with stone steps

Expect: This public trail climbs by many stone steps through the rain forest to 3 different lookouts (Twin Beach Lookout, Diwaia Lookout and Andrews Point Lookout) It is suitable for those of reasonable fitness but may have some slip hazards. The tide will be in so the circuit back along the beach will not be possible but it is still a great walk due to diversity of natural rock features, vegetation, with each of the lookouts having a different outlook. We can take our time and take lots of rest since the distance is not long.

Note Later Start Time

Mt Mandura (Leap Walk)
Sunday 8th February

Leader: Deb Wilson 0400 319 078

Depart: 8:30am from Mackay

Journey: 50km = \$5

Grade: S86

Pace: steady to slow

Total Uphill sections: 250m

Estimated walking time: 4 hours

Vegetation: is rainforest for part of the way, long grass and grass trees at eye level at top.

Terrain: is very uneven. Rocky creek bed section which could be slippery depending on the weather

Expect: Some rock hopping, scrambles some steep climbs and descents, loose rocks, trip hazards and possible downed trees to climb over.

Mt Mandurana is situated in the Pioneer Peaks National Park. This walk is suitable for slow walkers, beginners and reasonably fit walkers. There will be no need to hurry as there will be plenty of time to complete the walk.

Walk will begin at the cars, starting by walking along bitumen road uphill until we reach the edge of the rainforest.

Following the track until reaching the rocky creek bed section, then upwards following the track up along the foot of the cliffs and on towards the top of the mountain. Water breaks and rests will be had along the way for anybody that needs a rest. Smoko can be decided on and when to have it.

Lunch can be had on returning to the creek bed, after descent.

Bring water, food, hat.

For the parking of the cars we will be turning right from Westlake Drive into Herbert Court. Cars will be parked in Herbert Court

Note Later Start Time

Eungella Tracks
Sunday 15th February

Leader: Telina Lambert 0434 392 558
Depart: 8:00am from Mackay
Journey: 170km = \$17
Grade: M43 – L65
Pace: Slow – Average
Estimated walking time: 2- 5 hours
Total Uphill sections: 100m
Vegetation: Rain forest
Terrain: Path with stone steps

Expect: This year we will start at the Broken River end of the track and make our way along the pathways until we get to a nice swimming hole with some rapids for a nice little lunch and a swim. At this point we will then break into two groups those who wish to go back along the pathways to broken river and those who wish to continue on to the Crediton end were there will be a Car pool waiting to bring people back to the broken river end.

I am not sure of the condition of the tracks but it should be a relatively easy walk.

Note Later Start Time

General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 18th February

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

Rawsons Creek
Sunday 22nd February

Leader: Kate Brunner 0467 976 955 or Messenger
Depart: 7am from Mackay (if someone could lead from town end) 8am at Finch Hatton Gorge
Journey: 150km = \$15
Grade: S/M87
Pace: Average
Total Uphill sections: n/a
Estimated walking time: 3 hours +
Vegetation: Rain forest
Terrain: Pathway and Creek

Expect: We follow the general walking track to where it is close to Rawsons creek on the right. Then descend into the creek bed. We follow this creek till about lunchtime and return the same way It depends much on water levels how far we get. There is a wonderful swimming hole someway up but plenty of dipping opportunities all along also lovely ferns and moss and nice rocks. There are sections of large boulders. At times we can avoid them by walking on the side of the creek, sections of the slopes are tangled in wait-a-while. Possibly a good idea to have some skin protection. We will also most likely walk through water here and there. I don't want to make this sound like a hard walk it has been a favourite club walk for as long as I can remember. Water levels might be relatively high but we will see what the weather is up to. If the creeks to the Gorge are high we will find an alternative destination.

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

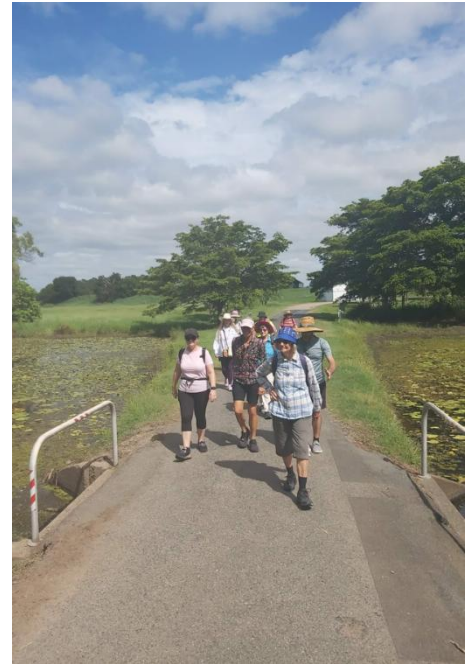
None Planned at the Current Stage

Previous Activities

Botanical Gardens 25th January 2026



It was going to be a hot day so we were grateful for the big shady trees which shielded the path from the burning sun. There were 13 of us including 2 new members and the 2 youngest upcoming adventurers being pushed



along the winding trail, pram style. The tunnel murals have not long been refreshed with beautiful art work which brightened up the dull walls bringing them to life with butterfly's birds and Australian native wildlife. We had travelled the high path initially so we took the low path return which wound through a rainforest stroll, across a bridge and to the sound shell



some of us had never seen due to it being off the beaten trail. We retraced our steps across the bridge to the shade and took out time enjoying deep conversations and each other company. Smoko break was at the children's play ground where the next moves were discussed. One person returned to the cars whilst the rest of us continued to the hospital park where a further 4 left us at the community gardens. We still had good numbers to continue to Canelands where some spoiled themselves to lunch other than hiking food, a hot coffees where a conversation became in-depth

about the use of a tiny plastic anti spillage plug after one person didn't get one :p. another hiker decided to stay and go shopping while the rest of us wasted no time hiking the now hot trail back to the cars, again grateful for the beautiful park land trees.

It was a great day and everyone enjoyed a social chat. Thanks, Telina, for leading and for those friends who shared the day in good companionship.

Celestine Lambert

