



The Message Stick

June 2026

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

| | |
|---|---|
| Pink Hibiscus Walk - Cape Hillsborough | 7th June |
| General Meeting | 10th June |
| Paradise Falls | 14th June |
| Slade Point Reserve | 21st June |
| Clean-Up Cape Palmerston | 25th June |
| Cullen Island | 27th June |
| Rawson's Creek | 28th June |
| Spikelets - Homevale | 5th July |
| Mt Dalrymple | 11th July |
| Castle Rock - Cathu | 19th July |
| Christmas in July Camp | 25th – 26th July |

Sparkle Falls



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 Coordinators | Coral Morgan | 0407 164 856 |
| | | | | Telina Lambert | 0434 392 558 |
| Treasurer | Robert Kollin | 0448 375 743 | Equipment Officers | Frances Eiteneuer | 0447 866 188 |
| | | | | Penny McMahon | 0421 071 294 |
| Membership Secretary | Wendy Bennett | 0429 363 929 | Librarian/ Archivist | Robert Kollin | 0448 375 743 |
| Social Media Manager | Wendy Bennett | 0429 363 929 | Safety Training Officer | Kevin Smith | |
| Digital Officer | | | | | |

From the Editor

If anyone has any old documentation, walk write ups, newsletter articles etc. from the 60's, 70's or 80's please get in contact with our librarian, Robert Kollin on 0448 375 743.

Attention Club Members

Current memberships expire 30th June 2026. To continue participating in club activities please renew before 1st July 2026.

Any persons who wish to attend a club walk must be a registered, financial member of Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. This applies to all new members, including day members and children. New members must complete our online induction, complete the membership form, and pay appropriate fees before participating in any club walks.

Membership forms can be emailed to mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com or posted to Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc, PO Box 1313, Mackay 4740.

Bank Details are: BSB: 064 707 Account Number: 10 047 598

Use your name as the reference.

It's starting to cool off now, but weather can still be unpredictable so 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.

A club lunch is to be held on Saturday 13th June for committee members and walk's leaders as a thank you for their hard work and commitment to the club.

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.

If you would like to lead a walk in the following months, please inform our walks coordinator: **Coral Morgan 0407 164 856 before the 9th 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 23rd June.

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating their birthday in June. Hope to see you on a walk soon. 😊

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, rock hopping, 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.

Unless otherwise stated, please ring the leader to nominate for all walks before 12.00 pm the day before the walk.

Pink Hibiscus Patch Cape Hillsborough Sunday 7th June

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7am from town or Smalley's Beach, if arranged.
Journey: 100km = \$10
Grade: M66
Estimated walking time: 6 hrs. **Total of all uphill sections:** 250m. **Pace:** Average.
Terrain: Uneven, some moderately steep scrambling, some creek walking. **Vegetation:** Rainforest, open scrub. **Expect:** No Wait-a-while, no leeches, nice views and flowers.

After dropping a car at the board walk, we climb from Smalley's beach to the height of the cave "gallery". We continue on that level till it ends in a cliff, where there is a spot that allows scrambling up to a ridge with views. We follow this down a saddle and up to an outlook hill then we descend to the Hibiscus Patch, and a cave. We then follow an escarpment, until an opening lets us descend into a stoney creek bed. We follow water courses out towards the road and emerge near the board walk.

General Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 10th June

Downstairs room, Mackay Family Care and Community Support Association Centre 60 Wellington Street, Mackay. All are welcome, including newcomers and visitors.

Paradise Falls Sunday 14th June

Leader: Ken Fihelly 0427 718 282
Depart: 7:00 am
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 rock hopping, 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 there are spectacular and varied views along the route. 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 4pm, so we will be able to walk back along the beach and the rock-shelf.

Circumnavigation of Slade Point Sunday 21st June

Leader: Edie Weiss 0412 689 414
Depart: 7am from Campbell St, at the end of David Muir St, Slade Point.
Journey: N/A
Grade: M33
Estimated walking time: 5 hours, **Total uphill:** N/A, **Pace:** relaxed, **Vegetation:** walkways, tracks, sand dunes, roadways, **Terrain:** varied, **Expect:**

This walk traverses a variety of landscapes from old stand melaleuca forests, bush, sand dunes, headlands, beach, saltpan and roadways. It is about 10km and pace will be relaxed. Bring morning tea, lunch and water. Ring or text Edie to nominate for this walk. (New members should ring please)

Clean-Up Cape Palmerston Thursday 25th June

Leader: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856

Depart: 7 am

Journey: 180 kms \$18

Grade: S32

Estimated Walking Time: Total Uphill: Nil,

Pace: Slow, **Total Uphill:** Nil, **Vegetation:**

Terrain: Expect:

I recently participated in a cleanup event in this area conducted by Sarina Landcare, and it was a most enjoyable outing. There is no shortage of rubbish in this area, and we can take up where the other group left off. A couple of 4WD vehicles will be needed. With a low high tide before 8 am, the tide is quite suitable. Celestine will again provide bags. I suggest you bring your own gloves and don't forget the usual sunscreen, insect repellent and drinking water. We could finish early at 2 pm and possibly spend some time exploring the area. Please contact me by phone call by Wednesday the 24th by 12 noon and earlier if possible.

Cullen Island Saturday 27th June

Leader: Frances Eiteneuer 0447 866 188

Depart: 1 pm North-West corner of Canelands' Ground Carpark

Journey: N/A

Grade: S33

Estimated Walking Time: 3 hours, **Total Uphill:** Nil, **Pace:** slow, **Vegetation:** a little scrub **Terrain:** sandy **Expect:**

We will walk to the walk/bike way, down a set of stairs and further along the walkway until we come to the causeway which takes us out to Cullen Island. Exploring Cullen Island can be great fun but be prepared to get your shoes muddy or even wet Insect Repellent is most necessary. I have done this walk twice before but I need to go and check it out as conditions may have changed over the past couple of years. We hope to see pelicans and a number of shore birds.

Please **ring** before 12 pm Friday 26th June to nominate for this walk.

Rawson's Creek Sunday 28th June

Leader: Kate Brunner 0467 976 955 or Messenger

Depart: 7 am from town or 8 am Finch Hatton Gorge

Journey: 150 kms \$15

Grade: S/M87

Estimated Walking Time: 5 hours **Total**

Uphill: N/A **Pace:** average **Vegetation:**

rainforest **Terrain:** track and creek **Expect:** rock hopping

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 some way 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 as it has been a favourite club walk for as long as I can remember.

Spikelets - Homevale Sunday 5th July

Information about this walk will be in the July newsletter

Mt Dalrymple Saturday 11th July

This will be a day walk to Mt Dalrymple to scatter the ashes of Maureen Thompson who was an avid bushwalker for more than 40 years. There will be easier options for those who don't want to do the entire trek to the top. More information is to follow in the July newsletter.

Castle Rock - Cathu Sunday 19th July

Information about this walk will be in the July newsletter

Christmas in July **Saturday 25th – 26th July**

This will be a social club camp when people, don't have end of year commitments. There will be a morning walk and lunch time get together on the Saturday and an overnight

camp at Ball Bay, for those who wish to stay the night.

More details will be published in the July newsletter.

Previous Activities

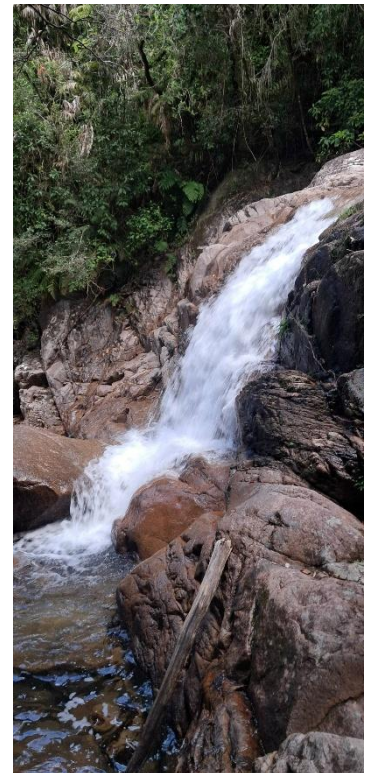
Hazelwood Gorge **3rd May 2026**

Hazelwood Gorge. An easy track walk leading into the steep decline down a rocky gully into the gorge. Then slow and steady rock hopping along the boulders upstream. This bought us to some lovely waterholes which necessitated swimming. What started with rain and several delays ended with a rainbow and an appreciation of another beautiful spot in our neighbourhood. Thanks for your company today, Kate, Di, Mandy and Peter.

Julie Ward



Sparkle Falls **10th May 2026**



Homevale Camp/ The Bluff 23rd – 24th May 2026



It was great to see a well-attended camp with 12 people staying overnight. The Mount Britton historic township site, surrounded by majestic scenery is a great free camp spot. It was noted that the usual winter influx of grey nomads was not present and we virtually had the place to ourselves. On Saturday, our leader Ralph Morgan (now 60 years young) took eight walkers up the Bluff by a different route than previous hikes. The abundance of spear grass was a nuisance on an otherwise straightforward climb, but we reached the summit by 12.30 pm. An early return allowed ample time for setting up camp before a group gathering ensued to celebrate the leader's birthday and keep warm around the campfire while sharing yarns. On Sunday more walkers arrived from town, and 13 people took part in the Pod's Pinnacles walk led by Kevin Smith. Many commented that it was a great enjoyable day.

Coral Morgan

