The Message Stick
November 2026

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. PO Box 1313, Mackay, 4740
Web: https://mackaybwcq.org.au/
Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

November/December

Rawsons Creek ..... 1st November
Mt Hayden and McCready Beach ..... 15th November
AGM / General Meeting ..... 18th November
Cattle Creek ..... 22nd November
Denham Range Camp ..... 28th-29th November
Owen's Creek ..... 6th December
Black's Beach Spit ..... 13th December
Social Night Dinner ..... 16th December



Rawson's Creek

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	Vacant		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			
Social Media Manager	Wendy Bennett	0429 363 929	Libarian/ Archivist	Robert Kollin	0448 375 743
Digital Officer	Vacant		Safety Training Officer	Kevin Smith	0417 326 634

Messages From the Editor

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, anyone who wishes to do just a day membership must intend to attend a walk within the month.

Please remember that the terrain we walk in can be treacherous with the possibility of encountering poisonous animals and plants. Be prepared with a small personal First Aid Kit. It doesn't have to be huge but should include basics. e.g. band-aids, at least one snake bandage, single use antiseptic wipes etc.

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.

If you have anything you would like brought up in the following meetings but you cannot attend, please send your suggestions to the club email mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com or contact our President Peter Bennett 0427 383 732 or Vice President Telina Lambert 0434 392 558.

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 coordinators Coral Morgan 0407 164 856 or Telina Lambert 0434 292 558 before 17th November.

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 25th November.**

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating their birthday in November.

We 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

ATTENTION - All Club Members

Our next AGM is Wednesday 18th November 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Downstairs Room

60 Wellington St, Mackay

ALL current positions will become vacant prior to the AGM, and officers for each role will be elected, and voted in, on the night. Many current officers, who have given much of their time over the years, do not wish to be re-elected this year so new MBC members will be needed to fill their roles.

In particular, the club will be needing a new President, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Social Media Manager (Facebook), Digital Officer (Webpage) and Contact Officer. There may also be officers in positions not already mentioned who do not wish to be re-elected for another year.

For the MBC to continue, it is vital that the executive positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor are filled, for without an executive committee you cannot have a club.

All committee members play an important part in ensuring the smooth running of our club.

If you would like to nominate for a committee position and become one of our club officers, please send an email to mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com and/or come along to our AGM.

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc
Duties of Trip Leaders

A trip leader is to be appointed for each outing.
The duties of the trip leader shall be to:

1. Obtain necessary permits beforehand.
2. Know the area to be walked, preferably through a recent reconnoitre except where all persons taking part have been made aware of the walk's exploratory nature by previous notification.
3. Ensure that a suitable First Aid Kit is carried on the trip.
4. Arrive at the assembly area at least 15 minutes before the advertised starting time.
5. Inform new walkers of outing rules before setting out and ensure that all persons intending to take part in the outing have proper equipment and clothing so as not to endanger or inconvenience either themselves or other persons taking part.
6. The Trip Leader has the power to refuse any individual the right to participate on a particular outing where he/she considers the individual unsuited or physically unfit.
7. Choose from the vehicles available the most suitable for the trip. Allocate persons to particular vehicles and familiarise driver with route and procedure to be taken.
8. Determine the course of the walk and the time of halts and departures.
9. Convey along the line of walkers the type and whereabouts of dangerous species and hazards of terrain always considering the safety of the party before all else.
10. Select campsites, paying particular attention to the hazards of fire, flooding and dead limbs. Inspect campsites before departure with special attention to fires and litter.
11. Report relevant incidents in writing to the Safety Secretary and/or committee members as soon as possible after the incident occurs.
12. Ensure that members pay due respect to his/her authority and that they observe rules regarding safety, conservation and general behaviour. Any serious misconduct or breaking of Outing Rules will be reported at the next monthly general meeting.
13. Check the party from time to time to see that they are all present. Arrangements will be made for a reliable person to act as "tail" where considered necessary.
14. Ensure that the party does not separate except with very good reason. Should two or more persons leave the main party, one of their number, shall be appointed as responsible for their safety and conduct.
15. In the case of emergency, consult all experienced members of the party, and if they consider it necessary, hand over control to the person best qualified to act in the situation. In cases involving delay or injury, arrange to inform the Contact Officer giving details of the delay and/or injury, the action taken, and any particular help that is needed.
16. Furnish a report to the Publicity Officer and/or Newsletter Editor as soon as possible after the outing.
17. Only in special circumstances shall an outing be cancelled or venue altered, and then only after consulting with experienced members of the party.
18. Be familiar with the requirements of the club's risk management policy, members' handbook and the leader's duty of care.

Every member is a potential trip leader.

All are encouraged to reconnoitre new areas and report to the club any possibilities for new walks.

Revised 06.2026

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club Inc. By Laws and Outing Rules for Club Activities

1. All persons intending to participate in an outing must contact the leader NO later than 12 midday the day prior, unless otherwise stated. Nominating earlier is preferable.
2. Arrival at the assembly area for this outing MUST be at least 15 minutes before the advertised departure time, to allow for transport arrangements to be made. Persons intending to make their vehicles available for transport should have their vehicles fuelled and in a roadworthy condition. The decision as to which vehicles go on the outing is at the discretion of the trip leader.
3. All vehicles being used in an activity must leave the assembly area together and follow the trip leader's vehicle in convoy. Each driver should constantly check the vehicle behind and if it is not still following; stop and wait for it. All drivers must stop at turn off points to ensure that drivers of following vehicles are aware of the turn off.
4. Walkers must be suitably clothed and have appropriate footwear. Each walker must have their own pack and carry food and water for the day and, if required, any special medication. At least 2 litres of water per person is recommended. Every walker should also carry the following: small torch, sunscreen, raincoat, insect repellent, small whistle, emergency kit and first aid equipment. The trip leader at his/her absolute discretion may refuse any walker who is not adequately equipped the right to participate in an activity.
5. No offensive or dangerous items including firearms, dogs, alcohol, illegal drugs and music playing devices are to be taken on activities. The trip leader shall at his/her discretion determine whether an item is offensive or dangerous and may refuse any walker who insists on carrying such an item, the right to participate in an activity.
6. The Club endeavours to provide at least one First Aider at each activity. The MBC encourages members to undertake a Senior First Aid Training Course from a recognised provider.
7. All litter must be carried out including food scraps such as orange peels and apple cores and sanitary pads/tampons.
8. Faecal matter and toilet paper should be buried 15cm deep and well away from tracks and at least 100m away from any water course.
9. Walkers must not pollute any creek or stream with items such as soap, food scraps or human waste.
10. Walkers must co-operate with the Trip Leader and heed any reasonable direction he/she may give.
11. Walkers must not separate from the main party, go ahead of the Trip Leader or negotiate terrain more difficult than that chosen by the Trip Leader without the Trip Leader's express permission.
12. Walkers must constantly observe the walker behind them and stop if that walker requires assistance or is out of sight, a call of wait-up is to be called to the leader in this event. Walkers in front would then also call for the leader to wait-up and so on right to the leader). In the event of any delay, a message should be relayed to the Trip Leader.
13. Walkers must convey along the line of the party, information regarding any hazards such as loose/slippery rocks, dangerous plants or animals.
14. Walkers must not engage in any activity that is offensive to or endangers other walkers or members of the public. In particular, walkers must not playfully or idly throw objects and must not unnecessarily dislodge loose material. When there is a possibility of accidentally dislodging loose material, walkers should ensure that there are no walkers or members of the public directly below them and should warn anyone that could be endangered by the falling of the loose material. Walkers should call in a loud and clear voice **BELOW or ROCK** whenever they dislodge loose material.
15. Walkers must adhere to fire restrictions, and the lighting of fires is discouraged. We operate on a total fire ban on day walks. Only on some multi day hikes a fire is lit. Extreme care must be taken when lighting an open fire. The fire must be extinguished fully before leaving unattended.
16. Walkers must not collect bush products whether alive or not and must avoid disturbing or damaging the bush through which they are walking.
17. Some of the risks of activities include injury from slipping or falling in uneven, slippery, loose or steep terrain, injury such as cuts, impalement and eye injuries from sticks, branches and other objects, injuries from "nasties" such as stinging plants, stinging insects, poisonous animals (such as snakes) and aggressive animals (such as wild pigs), exposure caused by wet and/or cold conditions and exhaustion and dehydration caused by hot conditions and the physical effort required. Activities are usually conducted in areas remote from medical assistance. Walkers participate in activities at their own risk and must not attempt activities or terrain which they consider too difficult or too risky for themselves.
18. All members should be familiar with the Members' Handbook.

Revised 06.2026

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.

Rawsons Creek
Sunday 1st November

Leader: Kate Brunner – 0467 976 955 or Messenger
Depart: 7:00 am 295 Alfred St, Mackay
Sign on in Finch Hatton Gorge 8:00 am
Journey: 150km = $15 From Mackay
Grade: M87
Pace: Average
Estimated walking time: n/a
Terrain: Uneven
Vegetation: Rainforest
Expect:

We follow the general walking track to where it is close to Rawsons creek on the right. Then we will descend into the creek bed. We will 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, fringed by ferns, moss and boulders, Some very large. 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 skin protection. We will 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. And how far we
go will depend on the group.

Bluewater Trail – Lagoons Bikeway & Catherine Freeman Walk
Sunday 8th November

Leader: Mandy Nimmo – 0407 579 222
Start: 8:00am
Meeting Point: Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (Cafe Car Park)
Cost: N/A
Grade: Moderate
Pace: Leisurely/steady group pace
Estimated riding time: 2–3 hours
Distance: Approximately 16.3 km for the featured circuit, although the total distance may vary depending on the group and where we choose to stop.
Terrain: Predominantly sealed shared pathways and bikeways, with generally gentle terrain. Riders should be comfortable sharing pathways with pedestrians and other cyclists.
Expect: A scenic social bike ride exploring the Bluewater Trail around Mackay.

Starting from the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, we'll make our way onto the shared pathway network through the Lagoons Bikeway and Catherine Freeman Walk, following sections of the Pioneer River and passing wetlands, gardens and other natural areas. The Bluewater Trail connects a number of Mackay's attractions and natural spaces, including the Botanic Gardens, Bluewater Lagoon, Catherine Freeman Walk, Sandfly Creek Environmental Walk and Bluewater Quay.
The ride will be relaxed and social rather than a fitness-focused ride, with opportunities to stop and regroup along the way. The final distance and riding time will depend on the group, and we can make leisure stops as required.
The route provides a great opportunity to see parts of Mackay from a different perspective, with Pioneer River views, wetlands, gardens, environmental areas and abundant birdlife along the way. The Sandfly Creek section in particular is recognised as an important habitat for migratory shorebirds.
Bring: Water, sunscreen, hat, snacks if required, and a roadworthy bicycle. A helmet is required. Please bring a spare tube/repair kit if you have one.
No cost – just bring your bike and enjoy a morning ride with the group!

Mt Haden and Mick Ready Creek
Sunday 15th November

Leader: Coral Morgan – 0407 164 856
Co-Leader: Mandy Nimmo - 0407 579 222
Depart: 7:00 am - 295 Alfred St, Mackay
Journey: 80kms = $8
Grade: M22
Pace: Slow to Medium
Estimated walking time: 5hrs
Total of all uphill sections: 160 metres
Vegetation: Open forest along track and some grass and stunted trees on headland
Terrain: Beach and rough track, some easy rocks
Expect:
We will start the day with an optional walk up a short, steep track to Mt Haden, which has never been visited by the club before. Mandy is familiar with the climb. Mick Ready is a small, secluded, serene beach (barring some possible motor bike activity in the area). Access will be a 20-minute walk along a wild 4WD track. We plan to cross a shallow creek on the outgoing tide and walk across to Victor Point. From here we can view Victor Island and back across to Hay Point and Mackay, as well as to Mt Funnel looking south. Victor Island is noted for its colony of Pied Imperial Pigeons. (P.I.P.S) During the breeding season thousands of (P.I.P.S.) have been recorded making the crossing to the island after 4:00 pm. There is an opportunity for the more energetic walkers to venture further to Salonika Beach. We will be returning to the cars the same way in which we came. Be prepared to walk through water and remember to bring lots of water, and sun protection.

AGM and General Meeting 7.00pm
Wednesday 18th November

Downstairs room, Mackay Family Care and Community Support Association Centre 60 Wellington Street, Mackay. Newcomers and visitor's welcome. Please come along – we need new committee members to help keep our club active. See Page 3 for more information about the AGM.
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Cattle Creek
Sunday 22nd November

Leader: Alyth Tweedie - 0400 754 524
Depart: 7:00 am – 295 Alfred St, Mackay
Journey: 150 kms = $15
Grade:
Pace:
Estimated walking time:
Total of all uphill sections:
Terrain:
Vegetation:
Expect:
Cattle creek walk is an easy to moderate walk. We follow the north branch of cattle creek and return the same way. Slippery rocks, lovely bush. Expect some moonlighter.

Denham Range Camp
Sat/Sun 28th - 29th November

Day 1
The Stalk / Denham Range Camp

Leader: Philip Morgan - 0431 130 074
Depart: 7:00 am 295 Alfred St, Mackay
Journey: 250 kms = $30
Camping Fee: $0 (Covered by Leader)
Grade: S43
Pace: Medium
Estimated Driving Time : 3.5 hours one way
Estimated walking time: 3 hours
Total uphill sections: 40m.
Vegetation: Open bush.
Expect (Drive): 4x4 cars with moderate clearance will be needed hence the increased fuel cost for this trip. The track was rough in spots back in September. Car-pooling options should be available.
Expect (walk): The stalk is a rocky outcrop with a nice view, the walk to the stalk is quite short. If there is time and energy to spare, we can explore the creeks on the way back. Lunch at the cars.



Expect (camp): I've booked out camp the camp sites at Denham range for the 28th (max 18 people / 3 cars) there are toilet facilities, water tank (needs to be treated) and fire pits.

Day 2
Mt Bryden

Leader: Philip Morgan 0431130074.
Depart: At 8:00am from Denham range camp area.
Journey:
Grade: S43
Pace: Medium.
Total uphill sections: 100m
Estimated driving time: 3.5hrs one way
Estimated Walking time: 4hrs
Vegetation: Open bush.
Expect (walk): Mt Bryden via Mutiny rock. A small walk from the Denham range access road (description vague as I haven't been here before) lunch at the cars.
Please contact me no later than Friday 27th noon if you wish to attend. Option open if you just wish to camp.

Owens Creek
Sunday 6th December

Leader: Mari Simmonds - 0429 190 168
Depart: 7am from Mackay. Sign on at Mirani
Journey: 140km = $14
Grade: M87
Pace: Average
Estimated walking time: 5 Hours
Total of all uphill sections: 280m
Terrain: very uneven terrain
Vegetation: rain forest
Expect: Mostly rock hopping, scrambles, swimming holes.
Owens Creek is about 14km northwest of Gargett and is a most interesting creek meandering through rain forest. Although this is a reasonably easy walk, it is only suitable for walkers who are confident rock hoppers. We are sure to encounter some wait-a-while, so come prepared. If numbers permit, we may split into two groups, a faster group who rock hop up to the swimming holes and another group who explore the flatter, less rocky part of the creek nearer to where we park the cars. Please contact Mari before 12pm on Saturday Dec 5th if you wish to join us.

Black's Beach Walk
Sunday December 13th

Leader: Carole Weekes 0455 872 207
Departure: 7:30 am Shopping Centre Car Park, Black's Beach Road
Grade: M33
Estimated Walking Time: 4 hours
Pace: Relaxed
Terrain: Bush track, beach, scrub, easement
Vegetation: Dune plants, open forest, parkland
Expect: Insects, some open sections, creek environment, picnic area
This will be an easy walk suitable for beginners, and is mainly flat and on sand, with some rocks. Sun and insect protection, lunch, and plenty of water need to be carried. The distance covered will depend on the group, and rainfall and temperature on the day. PLEASE NOTE TIME AND DEPARTURE. If unsure of location, ask for directions at time of booking. The plan is to make our way along the beach at low tide, reaching the estuary of McCready Creek, and then returning to the cars via the Black's Beach spit bush track and a couple of easements. If conditions are favourable, the walk may be extended further after lunch. This walk is tide dependent.

Social Night - End of Year Dinner
Wednesday 16th December

Co-Ordinator: Coral Morgan - 0407 164 856

This will be a social get together at an eating place yet to be determined e.g. Souths Suburban Bowls Club.
More details to follow in the December Newsletter.

St Lawrence
Friday 25th December

There is king tide on Christmas Day (largest for this year), and Coral Morgan is hoping to view the tidal bore mid-morning in St Lawrence Creek underneath the railway bridge. Coral is hoping someone may be crazy enough to join her, either as a camp or day outing. More details in the December Newsletter

Previous Activities

Lineel Falls – Pretty Creek Loop

We started out on the Western Trail to Mt Dalrymple and turned off just before the descent to Pretty Creek, and followed a GPS track towards the junction of Pretty Ck and an upper tributary of Cattle Ck. The rainforest is mostly open here, with some tree falls and some thick scrub to avoid. It gets steeper as we approached Cattle Ck, and there's a short scramble down to the creek. There’s a beautiful swimming hole here, but the water is still a bit cold for comfortable swimming, so no swimmers among us. We continued downstream a short distance, enjoying the beautiful area, before retracing our steps, and continuing upstream to Lineel Falls. The water level was not high, and we were able to cross the creek and scramble up the slab beside the falls/cascade to the mid-level pool. Some continued up to the top of the falls. After a leisurely lunch, we backtracked to the junction with Pretty Creek and started the scramble up the creek. The lower water level at this time of year meant we were able to continue to follow the creek upstream to where the creek levels out, just before the crossing of the Western Trail. There are some spectacular 'micro-gorges' here, and the scrambling is fun and a bit challenging. We then found our way back to the track and back to the cars. Thanks to my fellow walkers, and thanks for the card, and kind words, etc.
Ken







