



The Message Stick

November 2024

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

RSVP's Closed for 50 th Anniversary Dinner.....	3 rd November
Owens Creek.....	3 rd November
Pretty Creek.....	10 th November
Mt Blackwood.....	16 th November
50 th Anniversary Dinner.....	20 th November
Turtle Creek.....	24 th November
General Meeting	27 th November
Mystery Creek walk.....	1 st December



Mt Blackwood

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

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.

Notice of 2024 Mackay Bushwalkers Club Annual General Meeting

To be held 7:30 pm Wednesday the 27th of November at 60 Wellington st

Agenda:

1. Open and welcome 2. Members present & apologies 3. 2023 AGM Minutes read and accepted. 4. Reports: a. President b. Treasurer 5. Election of Office Bearers: a. President b. Vice President c. Treasurer d. Secretary e. Membership Secretary	f. Social Media Manager g. Digital Officer h. Newsletter Editor i. Walks Coordinator j. Equipment Officers 6. General Business 7. Close of Annual General Meeting Nominations for above positions are welcome by email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com otherwise can be made during the AGM
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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 26th of 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 3rd of December.

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.

Mackay Bushwalkers' Club is turning 50!



The club was formed when a group of 6 enthusiasts met on 20th November 1974 in response to a notice in the Daily Mercury placed by Bob Irvine. The very first walk was to Cut Creek on 24th November 1974

To celebrate this momentous occasion the club is holding a dinner

And you're invited!



Date: 6pm Wednesday 20th November 2024
Venue: Boomerang Hotel Nebo Road Private function room
RSVP: Email by 3rd November mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com
Tickets \$20 per person

Contacts: Rob Kollin 0448375743
Carole Weekes 0455872207
Coral Morgan 0407164856
Frances Eiteneuer 0447866188



- bookings are confirmed when payment is made to the club bank account
- numbers are limited so first in best dressed! Partners are welcome
- we'll be inviting some of our memorable faces from days gone by
- food platters served on the night, a bar is available to purchase drinks
- bushwalking dress theme - prize for best dressed!
- please contact the dinner organisers above if you have interesting club photos (digital photos if possible), albums, videos, memorabilia, or anything else to display on the night - photos and items from the early days are most welcome!

Help us make this an anniversary to remember!



Owens Creek
Sunday 3rd November

Leader: Mari Simmonds 0429 190 168

Depart: 7am from Mackay

Journey: 140km = \$14

Grade: M87

Estimated walking time: 5 Hours

Total of all uphill sections: 280m

Pace: Average

Terrain: very uneven terrain

Vegetation: rain forest

Expect: Mostly rock hopping, scrambles, swimming holes. Owens Creek is about 14km northwest of Gargett. It 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

Pretty Creek
Sunday 10th November

Leader: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856

Depart: 7am from Mackay

Journey: 200km = \$20

Grade: S43

Estimated walking time: 3 – 5 hours

Total of all uphill sections:

Pace: Slow

Terrain: Uneven

Vegetation: Rainforest

Expect: This is to be an easy leisurely walk along the western Dalrymple trail. No track just the odd tape. We will reach a 'pretty' rain forest creek and probably explore a short distance upstream. Hopefully we can form two groups with the more energetic venturing further along the trail. At this time of year there is only a rare chance of leeches. The temperature in the Eungella rain forest is usually a bit cooler than a day in town.

Mt Blackwood Evening Twilight Walk
Saturday 16th November

Leader: Deb Wilson 0400319078

Depart: Leave from Mackay usual meeting carpark at 4.30 pm

Journey: 50km = \$5

Grade: n/a

Estimated walking time: 4 – 5 Hours

Total of all uphill sections: 450m

Pace: slow and relaxed

Terrain: Bitumen road, with rainforest and bush bordering edge of road

Vegetation: n/a

Expect: This walk will be suitable for beginners who are reasonably fit and also for slower walkers. There will be no hurry you can take your time.

The reason for an evening walk is we can still get our walking done without the hot day temperature, cooler and comfortable. Hopefully there could be night creatures out and about.

Bring food for yourself, water, insect repellent, and you absolutely need a torch, either head torch or handheld.

I don't know what to expect as I have never been to Mt Blackwood at night.

There will probably be a few annoying insects.

**Turtle Creek
Sunday 24th November**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732
Depart: 7am from Mackay
Journey: 160km = \$16
Grade: M33
Estimated walking time: 5 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 60m
Pace: slow
Terrain: Creek walk
Vegetation: Rain forest, Expect rock hopping, Swimming holes.

Expect: This walk is in the Cathu State Forrest Reserve.

This is an easy walk with small cool off holes along the creek. The creek has running water and there will be lots of creek crossings, so wet weather footwear is required. We can split into two groups to cater for all fitness and rock hopping abilities.

You will need to carry water and food for the whole day.

A change of clothes to travel home is a must.

Please ring me (do not text) to register before 12.00pm on the Saturday before the walk.

**General Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 27th October**

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

**Mystery Creek walk / Exploratory Walk
Sunday 1st December**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732
Depart: 7am from Mackay
Journey: 140km = \$14
Grade: M85
Estimated walking time: 4 hours
Total of all uphill sections: 120m
Pace: Average
Terrain: very uneven
Vegetation: rain forest

Expect: Mostly rockhopping, scrambles, wait-a-while, swimming holes, difficult creek crossings.

This is an ever-popular walk in the Mt Charlton area. This Creek runs all year and comes out from the rainforest areas of Eungella National Park. The walk culminates in one of the best swimming holes in the district. The hole sits between two waterfalls. This walk consists of constant rockhopping all the way. Make sure you bring your swimmers.

This will be a hard walk, so be prepared.

Ring to nominate for this walk no later than 12.00 midday before the walk or sooner.

Bring a change of clothes to travel home.

Previous Activities

Mt William

29th September



On Sunday 4 hikers ventured onto Mt William. There were lots of huge trees down and it did get very messy in these areas- very tangled. The rainforest was dry. In places it was nice and open with the nice green



ferns. The highlight for me was the Trig we came across.



Photo to come. It is still listed on the Australian Trig points. A beautiful view, but you can tell the top gets

sooo much weather as it so tightly overgrown- so much infact we found it hard to push through! We altered our day because of its dense growth! Only a couple if places where you could see a view out- even the Trig was leaning to the left!

Was an adventurous day out enjoyed by all! Thanks Ken and happy travelling.

Di Rutland

City Surprise

17th October



Coral's Thursday afternoon mystery walk took us first through the mangrove and vacant land between Shakespeare St and the approach to the Ron Camm Bridge. The flying fox colony took off but the ibis with her chicks stayed put. A bit of circumnavigation took us to the Bluewater Trail. Delma was waiting near Canelands with some much-appreciated watermelon. As it was a very low tide, our final destination was to walk across the Pioneer River and circumnavigate Cullen Island. Thanks Coral for arranging this walk.



Penny McMahon

Mick Ready Beach 20th October



drive tracks, coloured

Coral and six followers (Penny, Carmel, Fran B, Jeanette, Len and Carole) enjoyed exploring Mick Ready Beach, Victor Point and surrounding areas on a clear but hot day. Gentle breezes and shady spots were greatly appreciated, and the coastal scenery at low tide and then at a much higher level was a great backdrop. Sand, four-wheel



variety. Thank you Coral for sharing your home territory.
Carole Weekes



7 Bushwalkers enjoyed the Mick Ready Beach Walk on a very warm Spring day. As the tide was low, we took the opportunity to walk across the sand to the headland at Victor Point. From there we made the decision to go inland a short distance, but soon decided it was better to return, via the beach, while the tide



was still coming in. After morning tea, we walked south towards Grasstree Beach along the rocky section. It became quite hot in the sun, so we opted to have lunch and a rest under some shady pandanus trees before returning to the cars via bush tracks. Thanks Coral for leading this walk.

Penny McMahon



Teemburra Creek 27th October

