



The Message Stick

April 2026

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Eungella Tracks Top End.....	5 th April
The Arch.....	12 th April
General Meeting.....	15 th April
Freshwater Point.....	19 th April
Pebbley Rock Creek.....	26 th April
Urannah Creek Camp.....	4 th , 5 th , 6 th May



Freshwater Point

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

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.

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.

TBA: A Club Brunch will be held for those who are part of the committee as well as for those who have been leaders as a thank you for your hard work and commitment to the club (terms and conditions apply) More info will be released closer to the event.

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 14th April.

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 21st April.

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating their birthday in April 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



Funeral Notice for the Late

Maureen Betty Thompson

Friends & Family are respectfully advised of Maureen's passing.

Maureen Betty Thompson

1st July, 1933 ~ 14th February, 2026

Aged 92

MAUREEN

Foolishly, I mention that I had a dream
 A dream to climb Mt Dalrymple .
 "I'll take you up" says she!
 "We can go on my old postie bike ."
 To the Gorge riding pillion
 on an old the postie bike?
 Perhaps not
 So we went in the car
 My first glimpse of the forest clad mountain
 Was a daunting sight to behold.
 "Hello Dally!!!!" Maureen calls out.
 "Hello David ,Hello William"
 Are these mountains her personal friends?
 Maureen sets off at a cracking pace
 In search of her secret rock
 "Come on be quick, don't let anyone to see "
 She slips into the forest and I am
 Scrambling to keep up
 I am gasping and panting
 Whilst up ahead Maureen waits
 perched on a rock
 She pulls a length of cord from her pack
 "What is that for?" I ask in all innocence
 "If you can't keep up, I will tie you to a tree and
 leave you here."
 You know what?
 I think she actually means it!

"We will have smoko at Kate's kitchen" she says
 as she gallops ahead
 By the time I arrive there, dripping with sweat
 She is sitting cross legged on the ground
 Amidst an assortment of plastic bags
 with her thermos of tea
 "What kept you?" she says as I struggle to draw
 breath "Hello knobbly knees have you missed
 me?" She says as she strokes the flanks of a very
 large tree.
 I've heard of tree huggers, but this woman knows
 the trees by name.
 Will I survive this walk? I wonder as we charge up
 the slope
 Following pink tapes that adorn lots of trees
 "I put these here "she tells me with pride," just to
 mark the short cuts".
 A small window appears in the dense forest
 "This is the gibber come out for a peak,
 Just don't look down" she warns as I step into
 space
 Just when I think ,that's it, I am done,
 "We're here " she calls out ,as she scampers up a
 tree
 On the summit I stand in awe- the world at my
 feet
 Mt Dalrymple will always be a favourite of mine
 Thank you Maureen for being the first to share
 this magic place with me.

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 Tracks Top End

Sunday 5th April

Leader: Telina Lambert 0434 392 558

Depart: (7am for Mackay if someone could lead the town end) 8am at Gargett

Journey: 170km = \$17

Grade: L45

Pace: Slow - Average

Total Uphill sections: n/a

Estimated walking time: 5-6hours

Vegetation: Rainforest

Terrain: Walking track (may be overgrown)

Expect: We will start this walk at Broken River making our way along the track to the sky window where we will make a decision dependent on the group to see who would like to continue to Pine Grove and possible the Charlet were will (cars pending) have already left a car to taxi drivers back to broken river.

The Arch Cape Hillsborough

Sunday 12th April

Leader: Deb Willson 0400 319 068

Depart: 8am from Mackay

Journey: 100km = \$10

Grade: M45

Pace: Average

Total Uphill sections: N/A

Estimated walking time: 5 hours

Vegetation: Track, open sections, coastal scrub.

Terrain: National Park track, beach with mostly rocks, some sharp rocks, no shaded areas, some boulders

Expect: rocks, we will commence walk along the national park track at Hidden Valley. Making our way to the beach.

The tide will be going out; it should be low enough to start walking by the time we get there with a later start .

If not, we won't have to wait long before we can start walking.

There is an impressive sea cavern to explore along the way. We then continue along the rocky

beach, around some headlands to arrive at the Rock Arch for lunch.

Bring water, hats, sunblock and gloves for any sharp rocks you may encounter.

General Meeting 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th April

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

Freshwater Point

Sunday 19th April

Leader: Celestine Lambert 0499 469 444

Depart: (7am for Mackay if someone could lead the town end) 8am From Freshwater

Journey: 100km = \$10

Grade: L44

Pace: Slow - Average

Estimated walking time: 5 hours

Total Uphill sections: n/a

Vegetation: Scrub

Terrain: Cleared track, Beach, pending group rock hopping

Expect: Great coastal views. Possibly sandflies in places.

This should be a relatively easy day, suitable for beginners. There'll be some beach walking (sand and rocks), some rough tracks, and a section along the side of the road. If anyone wants a shorter walk there is a track part way directly back to the cars.

If there has been rain, the tracks could be muddy. Bring sun protection, enough water for the day, smoko and lunch. There is a very short but steep climb up to a lookout with views south to Mt Funnel and this is well worth the effort.

**Pebbly Rock Creek
Sunday 26th April**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

Depart: 7am from Mackay

Journey: 160km = \$16

Grade: M33

Pace: Average

Total Uphill sections: 60m

Estimated walking time: 5hours

Vegetation: Rainforest

Terrain: rock hopping, have seen moonlighter, swimming holes.

Expect: This walk is in the Cathu State Forest 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 foot wear 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.

**Urannah Creek Camp
4th, 5th, 6th April**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

Depart: 7am from Mackay

Journey: 440km = \$44

Grade: Base Camp

Expect: I am wanting to do a base camp in the Urannah Creek area. To get to the Urannah Creek Homestead, 4WD vehicles are a must. We need the clearance, also there is a lot of sand to go through. As time has crept up on me I will need to know by 10th April who is intending to come on this camp.

If you wish to come on this camp please contact me ASAP as I need numbers and I need to contact the owner for permission. I

can give you more information about this walk.

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

22-24th May 2026 Combined Campout date Hosted by the Capricornia Bushwalkers Club Inc. **See Below For more information if interested**

Christmas in July

Saturday 25th – 26th July

Save the Date – We are planning a social club camp when people, don't have end of year commitments. A morning walk and a get together on the Saturday and an overnight camp at Ball Bay, for those who wish to stay the night. Come along to our next monthly meeting on the 15th April or contact coral on 0407 164 856 with any ideas for a fun event.

More details to be published at a later date.



"Get your Camping Fix in 2026"

COMBINED CLUB CAMPOUT DATE CLAIMER:

- ❖ 22 – 24th May 2026. *
- ❖ Bouldercombe Sport and Recreation Complex.

Hosted by: Capricornia Bushwalkers Club Inc.

Bouldercombe Sport and Recreation Complex is located within the Bouldercombe township mid-way between Rockhampton and Mt Morgan on the Bennett Highway. The facility provides both camping grounds and open plan shed accommodation. Join us for a weekend of exciting activities. More details later, but put the dates in your diaries now.

**Access to the complex is open Friday from 9:00 am for anyone wishing to arrive early. Official sign-in will be on Friday afternoon, with the walk nominations being available at that time.*

For enquiries email: capbushwalkers@gmail.com

Kevin Cullen – 0487 655 892

Capricornia Bushwalkers Club Inc.



Previous Activities

Clean up Australia Day Sunday 1st March

11 community spirited participants braved uncertain weather to participate in an official clean up Australia day event. It was planned to cover the area from Far Beach towards the mouth of Bakers Creek however due to storm water run-off the crossing off Shellgrit Creek was aborted and we all did our thing along the beach, the bush, the road and car parks with the aid of sturdy horse feed bags donated by Celestine and Ralphs empty Ute and his mums garden cart, we managed to gather an impressive array of garbage – in all a rewarding afternoon.

Coral Morgan



11 Bushwalkers helped with

Cleanup Australia Day, cleaning up Illawong Beach. We started at Shellgrit Creek, unfortunately the water was too high and fast flowing for us to cross the creek to the southern side. From Shellgrit Creek some walked along the beach to the car park, then collected rubbish along Illawong Drive on the way back to the cars. It was an incredibly windy day, but we were able to dodge the showers. Well done everyone.

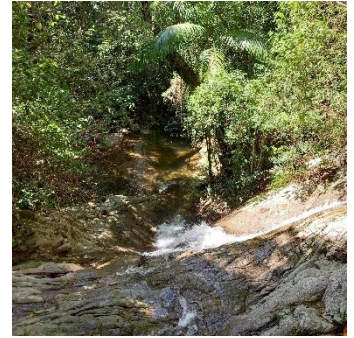
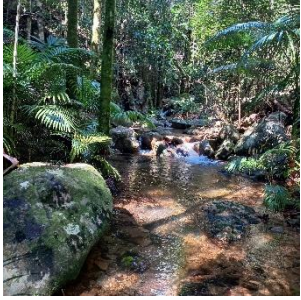
Penny McMahon



Pidgeon Creek Sunday 22nd March

What a lovely chilled days walk we had yesterday!
Such a pretty creek with lots of meandering waterfalls
to navigate up and over onto the next surprise. Lots to
look at - including an abundant amount of
moonlighter! Great company guys and gals!! Thanks
Pete 👍

Di Rutland



After all that long no walk time, everything had an
extra special gleam about it, very enjoyable day
thanks for great company all and to Peter for leading
Kate Brunner

Thankyou Peter for leading,
We had a great day out walking, rock hopping, and
getting wet shoes. Was great

Deb Wilson

