



The Message Stick

March 2026

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

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

Email: mackaybushwalkingclub@gmail.com

Future Events

Clean up Australia Day.....	1 st March
Mc Brides point	7 th &8 th March
Sparkle Falls.....	15 th March
General Meeting.....	18 th March
Pidgeon Creek.....	22 nd March
The Leap.....	29 th March



Mc Brides Lookout

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	Kevin Smith	
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.

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 17th March.

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 March.

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating their birthday in March 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

The Funeral service of Maureen Thompson will be held on the 20th of March at the Babtist church on the corner of Shakespeare and Brisbane street at 2:30pm

Maureen first started walking in 1981. It all started when she won a trip to New Zealand. She was a avid walker a life member of the club, a beloved scallywag, a memorable character and an absolute legend.



Some Comments for Maureen

Farewell Maureen old mate. May you follow the pink tapes to a better place where no one puts stones in your backpack and the bushwalkers are happy to have you "steal" their lunch. You will be sadly missed. - Eric and Pam

Condolences to her friends & family. A legend for sure! – June

May she rest in peace. – Frances

Very sad news. RIP Maureen ❤️ - Edie

I am very sad to hear that ... she was my good mate and lots of fun! – Kate

What a treasure! She just loved to walk! ❤️ - Di

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.

Clean up Australia Day

Sunday 1st March

Leader: Coral Morgan 0407 164 856

Depart: 1pm at Illawong Beach Resort

Journey: n/a

Grade: n/a

Pace: n/a

Total Uphill sections: n/a

Estimated walking time: n/a

Vegetation: n/a

Terrain: beach

Expect: We will meet outside Illawong beach resort at the end of Illawong Drive. We will cover the area of Illawong Beach (Far Beach), across Shellgrit Creek "Tidal" towards the Mouth of Bakers Creek. This is a registered event, Celestine has kindly offered to supply bags for collection of rubbish, gloves may be handy. You could carry a large backpack if you have one. Many hands make light work. Come on lets show our community spirit.

Don't forget the usual drinking water, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Please phone me to book for this event.

Note Later Start Time

Ball Bay Camp and Mc Brides point

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th March

Leader: Penny McMahon 0421 071 294 if you wish to Camp

Peter Bennett 0427 383 732 if you wish to do the Sunday walk

Depart: 2pm Saturday from Mackay if camping or 7am from Mackay

Journey: 90km = \$90

Grade: S72

Pace: Average

Total Uphill sections: 100m

Estimated walking time: 3.5 hours

Vegetation: Forest, beach and rocks

Terrain: Track, Bush, some rock hopping.

Expect: Saturday: Penny and Coral will be traveling to Ball Bay at 2pm for an overnight camp to then proceed with Peters walk on Sunday, you can join us with seats available or make your own way there. A camp fee will be collected on behalf of the council. The facilities include clean toilets, an outside shower and a camp kitchen with sink and BBQ and electric power. Love to have u join us please ring penny for camping arrangements.

Sunday: This walk will commence from Halliday Bay beach where we will walk along a track to the top of a lookout with great views of Ball Bay. We will then go off track through the bush to McBrides Point, looking down at the rocky point itself. Next we will walk along the top of a cliff and then down to a rocky outcrop and back to the coast with views to Cape Hillsborough. We will follow the rocky shore to Ball Bay and then take the walking track back over a saddle to Halliday Bay. We may be able to have lunch at Ball Bay or even back at the cars at Halliday Bay. This is a fairly easy walk but is surprisingly rewarding with great views and variation of scenery and terrain.

Ring me to nominate for this walk, no later than midday the day before the walk.

Bring spare cloths just in case.

Sparkle Falls

Sunday 15th March

Leader: Kate Brunner 0467 976 955 or Messenger

Depart: Contact Leader

Journey: n/a

Grade: n/a

Pace: n/a

Estimated walking time: n/a

Total Uphill sections: n/a

Expect: n/a

**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.

**Pidgeon Creek
Sunday 22nd March**

Leader: Peter Bennett 0427 383 732

Depart: 8am from Mackay

Journey: 130km = \$13

Grade: M65

Pace: Average

Total Uphill sections: 200m

Estimated walking time: 5hours

Vegetation: Rainforest

Terrain: Rainforest, some moderate rock hopping, possible moonlighter and fine vine.

Expect: This creek is a tributary creek of Dalrymple Creek. It was named when Coral and Maureen first explored it and saw a flock of Wompoo pigeons. It is not a particularly difficult creek to negotiate and the reward is a waterfall. It is optional to go up and around the falls and come back down a ridge parallel to the creek until a junction.

Ring me to nominate for this walk, no later than midday the day before the walk.

Bring spare cloths just in case.

**Mt Mandura (Leap Walk)
Sunday 29th March**

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

Advanced Warning for Walk Planning

In Upcoming Months

Urana Creek Camp – Mayday weekend

Christmas Camp – September/October

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



"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.

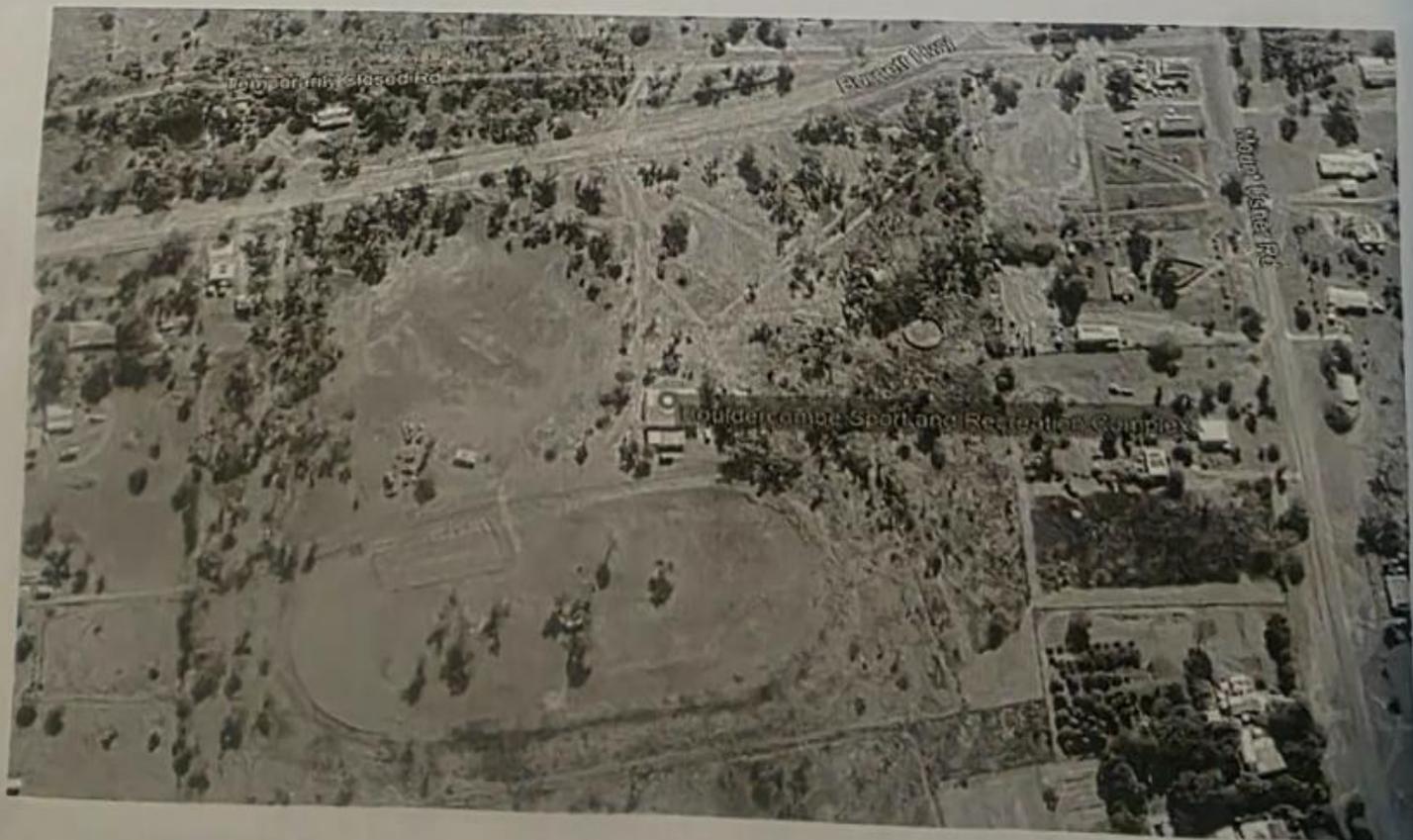
Bouldercombe Sport and Recreation Complex is located within the Bouldercombe township mid-way between Rockhampton and Mt Morgan on the Bennett Highway. The facility provides both camping grounds and open plan shed accommodation. Join us for a weekend of exciting activities. More details later, but put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

Cape Hillsborough lookouts

Sunday 1st February



One always feels good, no matter how tired after a good day out with friends. The Cape Hillsborough track drew a group of 8, and the weather brought clear blue skies and a little heat. Undeterred, we embarked on our hike, but within 30 metres, we stalled, with cameras pulled out for a very nice mushroom shaped fungus display on a log. I, as leader, thought lucky we have all day. Not much further, we spotted a phone shy, possible rock wallaby.

Then the steps. Endless rock steps which weaved ever upwards. They must have been placed many years ago, looking part of nature. It would have been a huge job and still holding firm against many feet and nature's abuse. At the cave, some of us went in for an explore. Jeanette discovered the roof a little low,



but the resulting bump was all part of the experience. Ian decided to climb through one of the ceiling holes. Quite a tight squeeze. The track circled up around the point where he popped out. The rest of us took the easy route tackling more steps. Up. Up and more up until the first lookout didn't disappoint. More camera action with views of the bay and wedge Island. Some had stories of the adventures it holds for when the tide is low and the causeway when clear. Not on this day. Super king tide made for a vast expanse of blue water and a few sculptured rocks poking above the calm surface.

The second lookout had the group arriving in spits and spots. Victims of the heat and climb. It was noted that the plaque had undergone a name change from, 'Turtle lookout' to its indigenous name, presumably with similar meaning. The 3rd lookout really tested boots, so we took it at a very steady pace as we ventured through rainforest down more steps. It was



mutiny at the 4th small lookout where it was decided a lunch rest was appropriate and most went the last part down in their own time down to the water's edge where the beach was well under water. A good portion of our group had seen it many times but only low tide so it was a new experience to see the water so high, and we ate to the sound of jet ski's buzzing across where the causeway hid. The trouble with going down is the up after, but it was nice taking time through the

forest then it was all downhill from there where we strung out a bit. By the time we tail enders reached the bottom the tide had vacated a bit leaving a pristine stretch of beach. Ours were the first footprints in the sand. We regrouped near the path entry to comment on what a beautiful day it had been and goodbyes said. Thank you for the fellow explorers who shared such a beautiful place....

Celestine Lambert

Eungella Tracks

Sunday 15th February



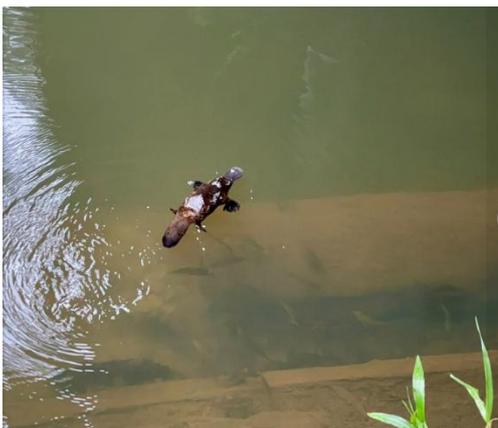
It was an ominous start to the morning. Dark clouds hovered overhead, and rain fell. Not the best weather for hiking in an area known for rain. Still, we gathered, putting out faith in BOM, that they might actually be right, and that it would clear. We met up with another 2 at Garget, bringing our number to 11, including the two literal backpackers. As we started the climb up the range, we were shocked by the erosion and landslides visible on the mountainside.

Then half way up we lost visibility to thick cloud. Still, our faith held, and we suddenly broke out of the wall of mist just short of our hike starting point. Many sighs of relief. Packs and boots on, including the 2 child carriers, we embarked



on our journey, getting less than 100 metres before stopping under the bridge where we were greeted by turtles of all sizes and to our pleasure a cheeky platypus. So much for shy and elusive. This one was happy to perform for the tourists. The actual lookout was not so productive with a strong current pushing the turtles back. Finally, we settled into hiking along the beaten track, which followed the river, ducking palm fronds. One of the hitch hikers rode a bit higher in the carrier pack and could be heard giggling as the fronds brushed against him. The joy of a nearly 3-year-old. Our leader, Telina, finding her way, accidentally

turned left, and we found ourselves in the middle of the river. A welcome detour checking out the crossing, which, if followed, continues on to Eungella. we backtracked and resumed our way along the river bank with cameras out to marvel at how pretty the rapids and small waterfalls were. It was only a short walk to the flat rocks which was to be our destination point where we enjoyed a chilled break and some swam while others chatted and the toddler did what toddlers do. Explored water puddles. It was at this point that as pre planned the group split and 3 continued on the long trek to Crediton end entry



while the rest of returned, deviating inland and were immersed in vibrantly healthy palms and deep green mosses. No sign that only a few years ago it had been ravaged by fire. In true rain forest nature, misty rain made it feel fresh and so alive. We made our way back to the parkland where it was nice to sit on real seating for lunch and some an ice-cream.

Sadly though, no longer homemade. The kids' faces showed they still enjoyed it. We had not left a car at the other end for the adventurous, so Telina shifted her car around to utilise the 7 seats. The 3 ragged wanderers, looking like they had been ravaged wandered out of the wilderness, legs covered



in blood, raving about, "So Many Leeches. We piled into the car, looking like a clown car, for the trip back down the mountain to the



other cars. Many thanks were given for a lovely day's walk in a location that never disappoints. Thank you, Telina, for leading this walk, and thank you for the great company.

Celestine Lambert



15/2/2026 9 adults and 2 "young ones" enjoyed the Eungella Tracks walk, in perfect walking conditions in spite of the prediction for heavy rain. We commenced walking at Broken River and were almost immediately entertained by platypus under the bridge. We followed the Rainforest Discovery and Granite Bend Tracks to the river crossing. Plenty of water flowing in Broken River. We continued on to Crystal Cascades for morning tea and where some had a swim. Some continued on to Crediton and others returned via the Rainforest Discovery Track to Broken River for lunch. A few did the short River Walk and were rewarded with another platypus sighting. So pleased that the walk was not cancelled due to predicted rain. Thankyou Telina for organizing and leading the walk.



Penny McMahon