



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

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January-February 2016

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PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

February 15 Annual General Meeting

Excursions:

February 13 Mary Cairncross

February 21 Iron Bark Gully

March 6 Mt Mitchell

March 20 Kedron Brook

March 25-28 Easter Camp, Sundown Nat. Park

April 30-May 2 Bindarrabi

August 17-22 Long Excursion, Cape Hillsborough

General meetings are held on the third Monday of the month, between February and November, starting at 7.30 pm, in the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland building at 237 Milton Road, Milton. This is near the corner with Baroona Road and next to the Castlemaine Perkins (Fourex) Brewery and the Theological College entrance lane. Entrance in Milton Road, with side ramp. Parking available in adjacent streets. For those who park in the Theological College car park, please put a \$3 donation in the box at the meeting reception. Milton railway station is directly opposite the building and there is a pedestrian underpass from the station under Milton Road.

Daytime meetings will be held occasionally at the Queensland Museum from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

Mailing Address: PO Box 5663, WEST END 4101

PRESIDENT:	Mr James Hansen	Ph: 3263 2254	president@qnc.org.au
SECRETARY:	Vacant	Ph:	secretary@qnc.org.au
TREASURER:	Mr Mike Anderson	Ph: 3263 4502	treasurer@qnc.org.au
EXCURSION SECRETARY:	Mr Barney Hines	Ph: 3720 9414	excursion@qnc.org.au
QNC NEWS EDITOR:	Mrs Lynette Haselgrove	Ph: 4683 7255	news@qnc.org.au

DEADLINE for News items - 15th of each even numbered month.

The Queensland Naturalist is published twice per year.

ARTICLES to the EDITOR, Dr Peter Woodall at journal@qnc.org.au

The new News

Welcome to the new format for QNC News. If there are sections that are difficult to read or if you have any suggestions to improve the format, please contact me.

I decided that it was easier to include the photos in the printed version, even though they do not always reproduce very well in black and white. So my apologies if they do not look all that brilliant. It is not due to the photographer. In the electronic version they are in glorious full colour.

All members now have the option of an electronic version (pdf) of this newsletter or a print copy sent via Australia Post. The Subscription form on page 16 includes the choice of email or post. Members can either post this form or, if paying subs by email, include their preference in the email. (Note: this form is dated "2015", as many subscriptions are still unpaid.)

If you elected to receive your News by email but have received a hard copy through the post, would you please let me know so that the list can be corrected. We have sent test emails to those on the email list which has allowed us to confirm that most addresses are correct. It may take us a little while to sort things out.

Lynette

General Meetings

MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- ❖ Presentation of Queensland Natural History Award 2015
- ❖ Presentation of Annual Report and Balance Sheet
- ❖ Election of Office-bearers and Council for 2016
- ❖ Presidential address

Please bring a 'plate' for supper.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Two motions are to be presented to the AGM to amend the Constitution of the club.

The first is that the class of membership in Clause 4.2 (b) "Country" be deleted and any reference to "Country" Members /membership be removed from the Constitution. This change is needed because Country membership was defined by reference to the Brisbane telephone district which is no longer relevant.

Secondly it is proposed that the definition of "Family Unit" in Clause 4.3 (c) and By-Law 6) GENERAL (F) be amended to parent(s) and their children up to the age of 18 years. This change is to align the Constitution with the current practice of the club.

COUNCIL POSITIONS

It would be wonderful to start off the new year with a full Council. Our Club depends on volunteers to carry out its full range of activities and every bit of support is fully appreciated.

A number of nominations have been received for positions on Council. However, we still need people for positions of Secretary, Senior Vice-President and a Councillor. If you are able to assist would you please nominate for one of these positions or any other place on Council that interests you? A nomination form is on page 16.

ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Reception: Dr Dick Date

Supper: Ms Megan Thomas

If you can assist at meetings with reception or supper, please advise a Councillor.

Meeting Reports

GENERAL MEETING: 16 November

Beyond the Bulldozers: Towards the conservation of Australian Butterflies.

Dr Donald Sands, a former CSIRO entomologist, is well known for his publications and for his conservation work to preserve and establish habitat for the recovery of the Richmond Birdwing butterfly *Ornithoptera richmondia* in northern New South Wales and southeast Queensland, including Mary Cairncross Reserve at Maleny. He was awarded an OAM for his work in the horticultural industry.

It is common butterfly behaviour to congregate on hilltops to find mates and reduce inter-breeding. Recent legislation in NSW requires investigation and planning to prevent destruction of hilltop habitats. In the hills of Brisbane's western suburbs, the butterfly *Cupha prosope* has been assisted by deliberate planting of its food plant *Scolopia braunii* – its favoured plant for egg location.

Many larvae of "blue" butterflies are attended by ants and for these, food plant losses not only affects caterpillar food availability but, where ants are part of the butterfly life cycle, the loss of one species of ant or their nesting sites can reduce the survival of the butterflies. Many of these attending ants are very fussy when finding a suitable nesting site.

Caterpillars of ant-dependent butterflies supply honey-dew as food for the ants and receive in return protection from parasitic wasps and other predators. Some caterpillars produce a pheromone similar to the ant brood, encouraging them to transport the caterpillar into the ant nest. In some species such as the mangrove or Illidge's ant-blue butterfly *Acrodipsas illidgei*, the caterpillar feeds on the ant brood. These ants nest in the hollows of old growth mangrove trees *Avicennia marina*. Some caterpillars, on maturing to a butterfly, escape from the ant nest by entangling the ants in their hairy body scales.

The bulloak jewel butterfly *Hypochrysops piceata* of the Millmerran-Goondiwindi area depends on ants that live only in old bulloak trees, *Allocasuarina luehmannii*, and these trees have been extensively cleared in these farmlands. The caterpillar of the inland brigalow imperial blue *Jalmenus eubulus*, feeds only on old growth brigalow and is attended by ants that are confined to the lower branches, so excessive cattle browsing that destroys the lower branches affects this cycle.

As temperatures increase the ranges of coastal butterflies, particularly the “crows”, has dramatically shifted south. The brown crow *Euploea tulliolus* now breeds in Brisbane every year whereas twenty years ago it was mostly breeding north of Rockhampton and the small brown crow *Euploea darchia* now regularly visiting Brisbane was previously found north from Mackay. Movement by these species to southern habitats are accurate markers for climate change.

Abundance of local butterflies can also be a marker for the health of the natural environment. Many grass-breeding species, particularly the “skippers” have diminished because native grasses have been replaced by introduced species. The introduced grasses, often very flammable, have invaded most ecological niches, so that displacement followed by wild fire has, unfortunately, seriously reduced the numbers of food plants such as small shrubs, sedges and native grasses. Drainage and weed invasion into coastal wetlands has displaced the *Viola betonicifolia*, the only food plant for the fritillary butterfly *Argyreus hyperbius inconstans* which is now probably extinct in Queensland.

Mosaic or strip burning can prevent the current destruction of parts of the butterfly life cycle that occurs with wild fire, by protecting (maintaining) unburnt refuges. Fire control is a contentious issue highlighted by the fact that different parts of Australia need different strategies and regimes if native fauna and flora are not to suffer. Unfortunately, the normally secure tenure for butterflies, National Parks, are under State government tenure and control and therefore subject to oscillating State government policy that can affect the protection of many fragile butterfly habitats.

Other strategies to assist butterflies include preservation and planting of appropriate plant species and corridor planting to connect islands of vegetation. Some threatened species might be sustained by capture and release to dilute genetic and inbreeding problems. The Richmond birdwing butterfly *Ornithoptera richmondia* program has shown what is possible with public support in planting food plants for a threatened butterfly species.

Excursions

FEBRUARY 13TH

MARY CAIRNCROSS SCENIC RESERVE

Saturday 9:00am Leader: James Hansen Ph: 07 3263 2254 or Register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au - subject “Mary Cairncross” or with leader.

Assemble near entrance to carpark, 148 Mountain View Road, Maleny, 9:00am for morning tea. We will set out at 9:30am at a leisurely pace for approximately 2-2½ hours exploring vegetation, especially flowering plants and fruit trees, observing birds and any lifeforms we can see, sharing our knowledge and various areas of expertise. If wet prior to our visit, there may be fungi to be seen.

The Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve is a Sunshine Coast rainforest area with many visitors and its walking tracks have no steep gradients. There are some boardwalks. If the weather is fine after recent rain, there may be spectacular views to the south of Mt. Beerwah, elevation 556M and Mt. Coonowrin (formerly called Crookneck) 377M.

Wear covered footwear and a hat. Apply insect repellent. There is the likelihood of leeches and ticks and their larvae.

Directions: (from Brisbane) Travel north along the Bruce Highway (M1) for approximately 54 km from start of M1 at Carseldine, then turn left onto Steve Irwin Way. Follow this for 18 km then turn off into Landsborough and proceed along the Landsborough – Maleny Road for approximately 13km. Turn left onto Mountain View Road and proceed a further five kilometres to the Mary Cairncross Reserve. RACQ estimates travel time 1½ hours.

FEES apply for weekend camps - \$2 per adult per night, plus other camping fees, if applicable.

REGISTRATION for all excursions is with the Leader or contact given.

Those participating in any Club activity do so as volunteers in all respects and as such accept responsibility for any injury to themselves, however incurred. The Club or its officers cannot accept any liability or responsibility.

FEBRUARY 21ST **IRON BARK GULLY (WWL)**

Sunday 2.45 for 3pm - 5pm Leader: Helen Schwencke Ph: 0423 127 492 Register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au - subject "Ironbark Gully" or join and sign on through QNC's Meetup site: <http://www.meetup.com/Walking-with-Life-in-our-catchments-Nature-Excursions/events/227336976/>

Iron Bark Gully, Samford Conservation Park, Ferny Grove (in the Kedron Brook Catchment). Meet at or near the Ironbark Gully carpark and picnic tables. This is a signposted turn off Samford Rd Ferny Grove. It is a popular picnic spot so may be busy. We will be walking the 900m Crebra circuit which has been recently burned though is showing lots of regeneration. The track follows dry creek gullies, is undulating, though in good condition. This circuit walk begins at the picnic area and meanders through ironbark and spotted gum forest, with a myriad of under-storey plants. While walking, look and listen for wildlife feeding on the flowers and leaves of the ironbark trees, also observe the wide variety of plants that are hosts for butterflies and other invertebrates. The gullies are part of the watershed for Kedron Brook. The eastern face of the ridge above the walk forms the headwaters of Cabbage Tree Creek. This is not readily accessible from Crebra Circuit. This activity is the 9th in our Walking with Life: Exploring our Living Catchments series.

The turnoff is located on Google Earth at: -27.392295, 152.924588, 950m past England Rd, Ferny Grove outbound to Samford. UBD Map 117, F17. For a map of the trails in this area please check: <http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/samford/pdf/samford-cp-map.pdf>.

MARCH 6TH **MT MITCHELL SADDLE AND SUMMIT**

Sunday 8:00am. Leader: Barney Hines Ph: 07 3720 9414 Register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au - subject "Mt Mitchell" or with the leader.

Mount Mitchell is one of the two peaks that guard Cunningham's Gap and forms part of the Main Range National Park. It is an interesting mountain of diverse communities ranging from rainforest to open wet sclerophyll forest (grey gum with a heavy grassy under-storey) to mountain top heaths. The mountain top communities are perhaps the most interesting with lots of giant spear lilies *Doryanthes palmeri* and paper daisies clinging to the cliffs. It is likely that there will be lots of insects hill-topping and possibly some peregrine falcons doing likewise. There might also be some good fungi about if we have had some summer rains.

The trail up to the top of the mountain is 10 kilometres return and involves a 400 metre rise in elevation. I would prefer our outing to spend most time on the upper slopes of the mountain. As such I will encourage members to amble along at a moderate pace until we get some way up. We intend to stop for lunch at the saddle between the main peaks and people can decide if they wish to go on to the summit if they wish (about an extra 30 minutes, but with little shade). Please be aware that the summit area has sheer cliffs and care needs to be taken, particularly with children. Walkers will need to carry at least two litres of water and lunch. There are toilets at the carpark area on the Cunningham Highway. Please register in case of possible cancellation due to bush fires, cyclones, Kylie Minogue concerts or some other natural disaster.

Directions: From Brisbane, head out on the Ipswich motorway, before turning off onto the Cunningham Highway. Follow this until Cunningham's gap (the nearest town is Aratula). The start of the trail is on the left hand (southern) side as you come up to the crest of the range. Parking is on the opposite side of highway. Allow 1 hour 35 minutes from Brisbane. Please arrive around 7:45 am for an 8:00 am start.

MARCH 20 KEDRON BROOK

Sunday 2.45 for 3pm to 5pm - *Walking with Life* - Kedron Brook Catchment. More details in QNC News No. 325.

EASTER MARCH 25-28 SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK

Leaders: Barney Hines Ph: 07 3720 9414 and Peter & Lynette Haselgrove. Register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au - subject "Sundown - Easter" or with the leader.

Four large sites (Nos. 13-16) have been booked at the southern end of the park in the Broadwater Camping Area. Each site will be shared by club members. The sites have been booked for five nights - Thursday night to Monday night. Note: very large caravans / motor homes may have trouble reaching the camping area.

Fees are \$5.95 per person per night, with a family fee of \$23.80 per night. Note: A family is 1 or 2 adults and accompanying children under 18 years. The family rate applies to a maximum of 8 people. Free for children under 5 years.

Please book before the 5th March, so that any un-needed sites can be relinquished. Payments may be made at the meeting in February or to the treasurer. Please complete the form on page 15 and attach to your payment or scan and email to excursion@qnc.org.au.

The camping area has separate mowed campsites with steel BBQ's, pit toilets and bush showers with a donkey boiler to heat water. Water (both tank and river) is available at the park HQ.

There are four recognised walks of various lengths - only two have formed tracks. The creek beds are rocky so sturdy shoes are needed. There is excellent bird watching in the open areas.

One full day walk will be to the back boundary where a granite dyke comes through the park.

APRIL 30 - MAY 2 BINDARRABI

Friday-Monday Leaders: Doone Wyborne and Robert Backhouse. Organiser: Sheryl Backhouse. Please register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au. - subject "Bindarrabi" Details on when and how to pay camp fees will be advised in the next edition of the News.

At the camping ground there is a covered area for meals including kitchen with large gas stove and washing up facilities. Also two hot showers, two composting toilets, two long drop toilets and as much spring water as you want to use and drink. The camp can take 24 vans in the main area but several more nearby. They have ten bell tents five metre diameter with floors which they rent out at \$20.00 per night and they can sleep four - BYO bedding etc. They will erect and take down.

Bindarrabi is \$10.00pp per night for camping which includes use of facilities. If you wish to stay longer either before or after, email Sheryl at sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com

Hosts are Doone Wyborne and Carol Shantal and their website is <http://www.bindarrabi.com/>. Queen Mary Falls and the National Park are nearby.

Directions: (from website)

From Boonah: Take the Rathdowney Rd for 14 km. Turn right into Carney's Creek Rd, travel for 15 kms to the Killarney and Queen Mary's Fall turnoff to the right. DO NOT take this turn-off, just keep straight along the White Swamp Rd. This road crosses the NSW border after a further 15 km.

At 10.8 km beyond the border is a turn to the right for Koreelah National Park and camping ground. Turn into the camp ground and follow the track for 700 metres to a locked gate (which will be open!). Continue along track to Bindarrabi Gate. Please shut the gate after you enter as there are cattle on the property. Continue on road for 620m til you see our campground on your left.

From Woodenbong: (coming from the Lismore / Kyogle/ Byron area)

Follow Mt Lindsay Highway west for 23 kms to Koreelah.

Turn right into White Swamp Rd. Follow White Swamp Rd for 11.8 km until you see the sign for for Koreelah National Park and camping ground on your left.

Turn into the camp ground and follow the track for 700 metres to a locked gate (which will be open!). Continue along track to Bindarrabi Gate. Please shut the gate after you enter as there are animals on the property. Continue on road for 620m til you see our campground on your left.

AUGUST 17-22

LONG EXCURSION 2016

For your diary - the long excursion for this year will be to Cape Hillsborough. The leader is Myriam Preker. More details will be in the next News.

LORD HOWE ISLAND

The Club is thinking about having another trip to Lord Howe Island similar to the ones in 2014 and 2015. This trip will be in either October 2016 or March 2017.

If you are interested in joining us please let me know as soon as possible. And, please, state clearly whether you prefer October or March or whether either is suitable. Email me, Lynette Haselgrove, at news@qnc.org.au.

The QNC always prides itself on going to interesting places with interesting people. Council is seeking venues and enthusiastic leaders to guide us through 2016. If you know a place that you would like the club to visit, please contact Barney Hines or email excursion@qnc.org.au

★ *Council wishes to remind excursion leaders that a contribution toward recce costs can be claimed from the Club.*



Excursion Reports

OCTOBER 24

JOLLY'S LOOKOUT

Ten people participated in this walk. The weather was fine, enabling spectacular views of the Samford Valley.

The Walking With Life outing was also complementary to the Wildlife Queensland Brisbane North Branch which, in the past, has conducted walks from Mountains to Mangroves.

The walk was primarily along the Thylogale Track and lower circuit at Jolly's Lookout which is part of the D'Aguiar Range National Park. The complex and interesting geology of the Brisbane region was explained and discussed as to effects on soil and vegetation in the area.

Clematis glycinoides (Headache vine) was in flower. Two *Rubus* species (native raspberries) and *Ficus coronata* (sandpaper fig) had early fruit. There were orchid species present - *Dendrobium speciosum* high in the trees and at a lower level the white flowered *Calanthe triplicata* and pale yellow flowers of *Dendrobium monopryllum* were observed. *Tabernaemontana pandacaqui* (Family Apocynaceae), a small shrub, was heavily in flower with its distinctive perfume.

All in all an interesting and enjoyable walk at a leisurely pace. John Wrench led the walk as Helen Schwencke was unavailable.

Thanks to James Hansen for this report.

NOVEMBER 14 POOH CORNER, SUMNER

Saturday morning, 14 November, scheduled for the outing to Pooh Corner started out overcast. Richard alerted me to the BoM radar which showed a large band of rain coming towards Brisbane, so I contacted some of the members who had registered with me and told them that the outing would be cancelled.

However I knew that there would be others who had registered online, so Leith and I went out to the meeting place for 7.30am. By 8am, a small group of members had assembled and seven of us decided to go for a walk notwithstanding the rain. We set off down the tracks and saw some interesting plants and fungi, the most spectacular was a large curry punk *Polyporus australiensis* (photo) on the trunk of a eucalypt.

There were few birds active but many Grey Kangaroos were seen over the railway tracks in the Wacol Prison grounds. After about an hour the rain got heavier and most of us decided to return to the cars, although Lil continued on around the circuit, finding many more fungi.

Peter & Leith Woodall



NOVEMBER 22 CAMP MOUNTAIN

Walking with Life - Camp Mountain / Bellbird Grove.

Braving dark and gloomy looking weather, eight adults and two children met at the Camp Mountain lookout and had a lovely afternoon. Unfortunately the view to Brisbane was obscured by low hanging clouds, though a misty view of Samford was delightful. The low cloud kept the temperature at a lovely comfortable level. After spotting some life-forms, an unidentified bird at a distance, a Black Jezebel butterfly, and a blooming of puffball fungi on a dead tree root, we left the hilltop headwaters of Cedar Creek for Bellbird Grove at the base of Camp Mountain. One adult and two children chose to explore the creek line, while the remainder of us undertook the 1.7km Turrbal circuit which led us through sections of bad weed infestation, and others of more interesting dry vine thickets. The dark gloominess of the day gave the walk a Tolkein-esque feeling, though luckily the rain held off for the afternoon. A very small aggregation of Caper White butterflies was spotted. All in all unexpected though highly enjoyable.

Helen Schwencke

DECEMBER 5 CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER AT TINCHI TAMBA

Approximately 16 people attended this excursion on a nice warm Sunday morning, starting a little after 7am. After a late arrival by the organiser, the party wandered along the track to the Bird Hide. Unfortunately the tide was well in and no waders were visible. However 41 bird species were identified, notably whistling kite, Brahminy kite and white-bellied sea eagle. Six species of butterflies were observed, including a swamp tiger. Other species identified were rhino beetles and a blue blubber (a jellyfish).

Following an hour and half walk, the party had breakfast while the Council members had a brief Council Meeting. This was the last excursion for the year and represented a Christmas break-up.

Mike Anderson

DECEMBER 13-19 2015 LONG EXCURSION

Griffith Creek Campground, Kroombit Tops. LEADER: Mr Harry Hines. Report will be published in the QNC News No. 325.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Mr J. Shieder, Mrs Michel Ohmer and Dr. Jeffery Bednark, Fairfield
Mr David Stewart and Ms Sheena Gillman, Karana Downs
Dr. Don Sands, Upper Brookfield; Mr Sam Nicol, New Farm

We hope you have a long and happy association with the club.

CALENDAR 2016

For those who bought calendars, the government has announced that, from 2016, Labour Day celebrations will revert back to the first Monday in May and the Queen's Birthday public holiday will be on the first Monday in October. Legislation making the necessary changes was passed on 13 October 2015. Please note the changes on your calendar.



Council
News

CLUB CARDS

Our popular Club Cards are available at Meetings. They feature a number of new subjects and a few of the old versions. Check the display at the General Meetings.

IS IT YOUR PLATE?

Sheryl has a white plate which was left behind by the person who brought in the light coloured fruit cake at the November general meeting. To claim it if yours please phone Sheryl on 07 3289 4198.

Correction: in the Annual Report for 2014, recently published in The Queensland Naturalist, on page 95 Exhibits for April 28, The Qld Mycological Society website was incorrectly given as www.fungi.org.au. It should be www.qldfungi.org.au.

Club Publications

There are many publications available from the Club including new books. We have also increased our stocks of QNC cards which are available for \$2.00 each, so this is a good time to purchase them also.

- ✿ New edition: Rocks and Landscapes of the Gold Coast hinterland 3rd edition – Warwick Wilmott \$18.00
- ✿ Butterfly Host Plants of SE Qld and northern NSW – John Moss \$10.00
- ✿ A Brisbane Bushland: the history and natural history of Enoggera Reservoir and its environs \$12.00
- ✿ Seaweeds of Qld – Alan Cribb \$12.00
- ✿ Landscapes of the National Parks of Central Qld – Warwick Wilmott \$18.00
- ✿ Rocks and Landscapes of National Parks of Nth Qld – Warwick Willmott \$18.00
- ✿ Common Wildflowers of Girraween and Bald National Parks – Peter & Leith Woodall \$5.00
- ✿ Create More Butterflies – Frank Jordan and Helen Schwencke \$20.00
- ✿ Fungi out West – Chinchilla Naturalists Club \$20.00
- ✿ QNC cards (no text) - \$2 each, envelope included, selection of images.
- ✿ Compilation of Quids 1-18 1994-2008 \$5.00
- ✿ CD's - Collection of 285 calls of Australian Birds - 4 discs by Helen Horton \$20.00
- ✿ 85 Bird calls of SE Qld (1 disc) by Helen Horton \$5.00
- ✿ Qld Naturalist - Back Issues \$1.00 to members.
- ✿ Centenary Issue Qld Naturalists \$5.00

Exhibits

Exhibits for general meetings may be in the form of specimens, books, digital images etc. If you have an exhibit please think about also providing a small piece of written text to accompany it. Your natural history observations can be shared with all members via:-

- ★ The club website - email text and photos to web@qnc.org.au
- ★ Our Facebook page - contact Leith for help at facebook@qnc.org.au
- ★ In the QNC News - email text and photos to news@qnc.org.au

This variety of formats allows all members, including non-Brisbane members, to share their experiences.

November Exhibits

- Mr Bruce Rasmussen showed photos of a python constricting a ringneck parrot prior to eating it.
- Mrs Joan Cribb described, with samples, the fallen red flowers of the Illawarra Flame Tree *Brachychiton acerifolius* emphasising that these flowers are male with stamens and the female flowers remain attached to the tree to develop the seeds.
- Dr Dick Date showed the photos of two spectacular flowers from Ms Pam Grice's garden -

Hoya macgillivrayi from Cape York

(Photo left)



Tecomanthe hillii Fraser Island creeper

(Photo right)



- Dr Dick Date described *Gossia gonoclada* the angle-stemmed myrtle (photo right).
- Dr Dick Date described with photos the actions of a female eastern water dragon laying eggs in a pre-excavated hole.
- Mrs Leith Woodall also described her experience with hospitalisation after being bitten by a brown tree snake *Boiga irregularis* considered to be virtually harmless.
- Mr Bob Backhouse showed two specimens collected during the September border camp: a tangled coral fern *Gleichenia dicarpa* and a volcanic rock sample of rhyolite.



- Dr Peter Woodall donated a number of magazines for interested members.
- Mr Harry Hines donated a number of specimen bottles for interested members.
- Dr Alan Cribb described seed dispersal by "fluttering" with two seed samples of *Hiptage benghalensis* and *Petrea volubilis*.

Library & Facebook



Mrs Leith Woodall

New book recently added to the library:
“Reptiles of Australia” 7th edition by Harold G Cogger.

The club’s Facebook page is open to the public and has achieved 328 “Likes”. It can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/The-Queensland-Naturalists-Club-Inc-274805869219010/>

What’s On!

THECA MEETINGS www.theca.asn.au
General meetings are usually held at The Hut,
47 Fleming Road, Chapel Hill,
on the fourth Wednesday of each month from
February to November at 7:00pm.
(UBD 177 P2)

QUEENSLAND HERBARIUM SEMINAR

FM BAILEY ROOM, AT 12 NOON

[www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/
plants/herbarium/seminars-events/](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/seminars-events/)

The Herbarium hosts free public seminars at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens from noon until 1pm in the second week of the month (February to November) - FM Bailey conference room in the Herbarium building. You don’t need to register, just turn up on the day.

Notices

GETTING KIDS INTO NATIONAL PARKS

NPAQ has recently launched a free guide booklet called *Getting Kids into National Parks* to help us get our youth connected to the natural world. The booklet can be downloaded at www.npaq.org.au/latest-news/getting-kids-into-national-parks.

It can also be found on the NPAQ Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NPAQld/posts/1097159673630293. If you would like to share this post please do!

You may also be able to obtain a printed copy of the booklet from NPAQ. Contact **Anna Tran**, NPAQ Phone: (07) 3367 0878 PO Box 1040 Milton Centre QLD 4064 atran@npaq.org.au

TICK AWARENESS BULLETIN

Ticks are parasites and although they are small, they can potentially pose significant health concerns. Minimising exposure to ticks is an important part of being in the bush and prevention through appropriate clothing and repellents should be considered.

Brisbane City Council has produced a Tick Awareness Bulletin which summarises the standard prevention strategies. It includes a number of new products that can be used on ticks once they have attached. The aim of these products is to kill the tick before attempting to remove it, which can limit the exposure to toxins. These new products include a cream, a device that emits a mild but safe electric charge and an ether cold spray.

WILD COUNT

It is easy to believe that common native animals like kangaroos, possums, lyrebirds and wombats will always be around. Is it possible, that, despite being relatively common, they are in decline? WildCount aims to answer this question.

WildCount is a 10-year fauna monitoring program that uses motion-sensitive digital cameras in 200 sites across 146 parks and reserves in eastern NSW.

WildCount looks at trends in occurrence of animals at these sites, to understand if animals are in decline, increasing or stable.

INVESTIGATING THE DECLINE OF OUR NATIVE SPECIES

The WildCount project is an initiative from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and National Parks and Wildlife Service and is a 10-year monitoring program that uses 300 motion-sensitive digital cameras across 146 National parks and reserves. It looks at trends around what animals are present at these sites and how many there are, to understand if native species are in decline, increasing in number or stable.

Since the WildCount program started in 2012, over 800,000 images have been collected. Each year between February and May the WildCount team go out into the bush and set up the motion sensing cameras. They set up a lure of peanut butter and honey in a tea ball to attract the animals and wait two weeks before retrieving the cameras to see what they have captured.

The only problem is that when the team are done with checking all the cameras, there will be around 280,000 images captured. This takes a small team of researchers and volunteers almost a whole year to process accurately. While about one third of all the images contain no animals, WildCount has captured some truly weird and wonderful animal interactions so far, like a pair of wallabies having a hug, a curious emu, a Lyre bird attacking a black snake and a wombat crossing paths with a spider.

<http://www.ala.org.au/blogs-news/wildcount-help-sift-through-animal-selfies-for-science/>



NEW SPECIES OF NATIVE BEES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE HARSH OUTBACK OF AUSTRALIA

The bee specialists from South Australia uncovered four new native bee species – three of them with special narrow heads and unusual long mouth parts allowing them to feed on slender flowers found on emu bush, a hardy native of the Australian desert environment. The new native bees were

found during the nature discovery project Bush Blitz expeditions at Cane River Conservation Park in the Pilbara region of the far northwest of Australia and Bon Bon State Reserve, south of Coober Pedy in South Australia. Published in the journal ZooKeys and led by the University of Adelaide's Dr Katja Hogendoorn, the researchers describe the four new species in the genus *Euhesma*, based on evaluation of DNA 'barcoding' and morphological comparison of the bees with museum specimens. "Three of the species belong to the group of bees that feed on the flowers of emu bushes," says Dr Hogendoorn. "The way they have adapted to be able to feed on these flowers is a great example of co-evolution. "These bees have narrow faces and very long mouth parts to collect the nectar through a narrow constriction at the base of the emu bush flowers. The fourth species belongs to a different group within

this large genus and has a normally round-shaped head.” Dr Hogendoorn says that despite native bees’ environmental and economic importance as pollinators of native plants and agricultural and horticultural crops, only an estimated two-thirds of Australian bee species are as yet known to science. “Habitat loss and pesticides are the main cause of native bee declines in Europe and the United States but the conservation status of native Australian bees is largely unknown,” she says. “This lack of information is largely because we have a very limited knowledge of the taxonomy, distribution and population dynamics of our invertebrates. It would be a sad case if species became extinct before they were recognised.”

To make native bees more accessible to the scientific community, the researchers have started an open access project, AUSBS (Australian bees), with the global DNA barcoding database, Barcoding of Life Datasystems. “We aim to help scientists identify species using molecular markers so they can document local biodiversity of native bees, and to assist with recognition of new species,” says Dr Hogendoorn. “So far we’ve included 271 DNA sequences of 120 species collected during Bush Blitz surveys. With about 750 Australian bee species still undescribed, there is an enormous job still to do.” The project is a collaboration with Dr Remko Leijs and Associate Professor Mark Stevens from the South Australian Museum.

<http://www.theleadsouthaustralia.com.au/industries/education/new-bee-species-discovered-in-australia/>

A REQUEST FROM BUSH HERITAGE

Bush Heritage and Tom Sjolund are seeking unwanted Android phones (not Apple): "version 2.2 or higher, best is v4.1 or higher, with either forward, backward or both cameras. GPS would be good".

Tom is a Bush Heritage volunteer in Qld and is hoping to utilise Android mobile phones as an alternative to remote sensing cameras in locations where mobile phone coverage is available. He is on a caretaking placement at Goonderoo Reserve in Central Qld and is hoping to do further trials to determine the applications and functionality of the phones, including exciting prospects such as live feed footage from fauna monitoring sites.

If you have an old phone that you are happy to donate, contact Leanne about collection or postage.

Leanne Hales
Community Engagement - North
lhales@bushheritage.org.au
Tel: 07 4096 6893
Mob: 0458 001 623

2016 RIC NATTRASS RESEARCH GRANT

Applications are **open** for the 2016 Queensland Frog Society Trust Fund Ric Nattrass Research Grant.

Applications must be received by email by **6 February 2016** or postmarked no later than that date. Applicants will be informed by mid-March of the outcome of their application.

The Application Form can be downloaded at <http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/ric-nattrass-research-grant/>



KOALA STORIES is a gorgeous new book, penned by Deborah Tabart OAM, Chief Executive of the Australian Koala Foundation. This vibrant and beautiful book shares anecdotes and interesting facts about our Aussie icons, accompanied by delightful photos taken by internationally acclaimed wildlife photographer Suzi Eszterhas.

The stunning book is the perfect gift for animal-lovers of any age, and at the handy size of 18cm x 20cm it's easy to post or carry.

\$29.95 <http://www.savethekoalashop.com/books-stationary/book-koala-stories>



Recommended Website

At the suggestion of one of our long term members, I have introduced this new section.

If you come across a website related to natural history that you feel others might find interesting, please let me know so that it can be included in the QNC News.

<http://www.absa.asn.au>
Australian Bird Study
Association

SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK BOOKING - EASTER 2016

Name:.....

Email:.....

Contact phone:.....

(No. of adults) x (No. of nights) = (camper nights at \$5.95 per night) = \$.....

(No. of children) x (No. of nights) = (camper nights at \$5.95 per night) = \$.....

OR Family at \$23.80 per night = \$.....
(No. of nights)

Total enclosed \$.....

Number of nights	number of people					One Family
	1	2	3	4	5	
1	\$5.95	\$11.90	\$17.85	\$23.80	\$29.75	\$23.80
2	\$11.90	\$23.80	\$35.70	\$47.60	\$59.50	\$47.60
3	\$17.85	\$35.70	\$53.55	\$71.40	\$89.25	\$71.40
4	\$23.80	\$47.60	\$71.40	\$95.20	\$119.00	\$95.20
5	\$29.75	\$59.50	\$89.25	\$119.00	\$148.75	\$119.00
6	\$35.70	\$71.40	\$107.10	\$142.80	\$178.50	\$142.80
7	\$41.65	\$83.30	\$124.95	\$166.60	\$208.25	\$166.60

* **Please print or scan this form and include it with your payment.**

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The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc Council Nomination Form

Proposer:

I, _____ being a financial
(Full name of Proposer)

member of the **Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc** hereby nominate

for the position of _____
(Name of nominee)
(Council Position)

Signed: _____ Date ____/____/____
(proposer)

Second:

Signed: _____ Date ____/____/____
(second)

Name of Second: _____

Nominee:

I agree to accept this nomination and, if elected, will fulfil the duties
of the position.

Signed: _____ Date ____/____/____
(nominee)

NOTE: This form must be returned to the Secretary 14 days before the
Annual General Meeting by post to PO Box 5663, WEST END 4101.