



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The

QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

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PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

July 18	Myriam Preker	<i>Between the Tides</i>
July 27 (Day)	Melanie Venz	<i>Winged Wonders</i>
August 15	Members	<i>Three Short Talks</i>

Excursions:

July 1-4	Aroona, Mt Mort
July 17	Blunder Creek
August 7	Mt Elimbah (Mt Saddleback)
Aug 17-22	Long Excursion, Cape Hillsborough
March 2017	Lord Howe Island

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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

Subscriptions are now due!

Renewal form on back page

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, Melbourne St (cnr Grey St) South Brisbane from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

General Meetings

MONDAY 18 JULY Myriam Preker *Between the Tides*

This talk delves into the mysteries of the astonishing variety of life existing on the small strip of land that is subject to the ebb and flow of the tides. In this talk, we explore how the variations in the heights of the tides create easily-identifiable zones of organisms and we will look, not only at where on the shore the plants and animals occur, but also the degree to which they have become adapted to their environment. Comparisons will be made between shores from different parts of the Pacific.

The two photos on the cover illustrate Myriam's talk.

WEDNESDAY 27 JULY Daytime Meeting at Queensland Museum theatre, level 2 Melanie Venz
Winged Wonders: 20 years of microbat monitoring at Lamington National Park.

The bat surveys at Lamington NP in Queensland's Border Ranges began as an interesting aside to a monitoring program for a threatened rodent, but eventually became one of the longest running trapping programs for bats in Queensland. Over 20 years, we trapped 16 species of microbat, primarily in the rainforest around Green Mountains and O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, but extending up to 8 km away into the drier eucalypt forest along Duck Creek Rd. Other forays further down the mountain yielded an extra two species on the bat detector, one species sheltering in culverts in the valley and four species of megabat, giving an impressive total of 23 bat species overall, in an area equivalent to the average pastoral property in western Queensland. A small number of species dominated the trapping dataset, including the large forest bat *Vespadelus darlingtoni* and Eastern forest bat *V. pumilus*, the little bentwing bat *Miniopterus australis*, Gould's long-eared bat *Nyctophilus gouldi* and Eastern false pipistrelle *Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*. Some species were recorded very infrequently, with one species recorded from a single capture in two decades. The trapping data also revealed some insights into demographics and life history of the local bats, including variable timing of breeding and the assumed proximity of maternity and bachelor roosts for the bentwing bats. Bats were temporarily marked by clipping a small patch of fur, with recapture information giving some clues about local movements. Where bentwing bats have their maternity cave is a question of regional significance and recent (unsuccessful) attempts to find this maternity site via light-tagging and radio-tracking are detailed. Radio-tracking of a single individual of the vulnerable large-eared pied bat *Chalinolobus dwyeri*, a collaboration with other researchers, was more successful, with a key foraging area and a roost area being located at Green Mountains. Some insights are also shared about the response from tourists after being shown captured bats and the role of education in changing entrenched views about bats.

There will be tea and coffee afterwards in the Dinosaur Room at the Museum.

MONDAY 15 AUGUST **Members' Night** **Variety of talks by club members.**

Greg Neill *"Galapagos of the Southern Ocean"* Greg & Annette visited Macquarie Island to be amongst the Penguins. Included in the trip were stop offs at the New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands, Campbell and Auckland. Not only did the Penguins and Albatross catch the eye but also the mega herbs and the endemic birds to the islands were of great interest.

Harry Hines *"Some recently discovered/described vertebrate fauna from Queensland."*
Michael Mathieson as yet unconfirmed.

Roster for general meetings

July 18	Reception: Ann and David Hanger
	Supper: Barbara Braddock
August 15:	Reception: Megan Thomas
	Supper: Coral & Joe Reichman

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

Meeting Reports

General Meeting: 16 May

Elle Stephenson is a biologist with CSIRO with a particular interest in the principles underpinning wildlife disease and conservation status. Elle has a MSc in Wild Animal Biology at the Royal Veterinary College of London, in conjunction with the Zoological Society of London. Elle has a comprehensive understanding of wild animal systems including emerging infectious diseases, sustainable utilisation and invasive species management. Elle has worked in remote locations including Madagascar and Sri Lanka.

Elle spoke about her work as a field technician in Madagascar studying lemurs.

About Madagascar

Elle showed pictures of the national symbol, the Traveller tree *Ravenala madagascariensis* of the family Strelitziaceae. It derives its name from its capacity to release water when the trunk is cut.

Madagascar was part of Gondwana and separated from India 88 million years ago. Since then its isolation allowed unique evolution to take place with the appearance of now extinct fauna such as the massive elephant bird of which one egg would feed an entire village.

Lemurs have been present there for 64 million years and are generally accepted to have arrived from Mozambique on floating debris, where the closely related slow loris occurs. They are the only primates with teeth growing continuously through life.

The Project

Elle's work took place on the south-east coast of Madagascar where there is a mountain range behind the coastal plain with rainforest vegetation.

The nearest town, Kianjavato, occupied land which was semi-agricultural and secondary forest. The country was colonised by the French who cleared much of the primary forest and of whom there are still traces including an intact but derelict laboratory in the regrown forest. Infrastructure is poor.

Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership

Elle worked for the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership started by Dr Edward E. Louis Jr., Director of Conservation Genetics at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium (involving work in the community, education and animal rehabilitation as well as studies of the fauna.)

Much of the work involved the greater bamboo lemur *Prolemur simus* which is one of the 25 most endangered primates. In fact, it was considered extinct until Dr Louis located 40 individuals by walking transects in the forest.

The work involved five groups of greater bamboo lemurs who were radio-collared and identified by "dog tags" with coloured collars according to gender. Animals were captured and given a biomedical examination before being fitted with a collar and released. Three lemur groups were used to observe behaviour in the wild which involved one of two methods. One was a continuous method of watching and recording behaviour for 2 hour stretches so a researcher could observe 3 animals in a day period. The other approach was to record behaviour at set intervals e.g. five minutes, when the observer records GPS, date, animal and its behaviour at intervals.

The other two lemur groups were used as habituating groups. Researchers tried to get as close as possible to the animals without alarming them and then sit with them all day so they accept the observer and behave normally in their presence.

Madagascar is the third poorest country in the world so the situation with regard to burning the forest is complex as people need to farm for food but patches of forest destruction made it hard to follow the lemurs since they would be forced to relocate.

Elle showed a photo of her tent in which she lived for 10 months with rice for every meal. She also showed photos to illustrate the striking biodiversity of the country. There was a great diversity of butterflies and moths, including an abundance of the spectacular day-flying sunset moth and lunar or comet moth, a remarkable spider oozing liquid from holes in its back for purposes unknown, a bright red juvenile tree boa with the adult green form, various chameleons including the tiny leaf chameleon and the leaf-tailed gecko.

The black and white ruffed lemur faeces were used for their seed content to replant trees for forest revegetation. Aye-ayes, which are nocturnal and therefore hard to study, are sometimes called "woodpeckers of the forest" as they tap trees with their elongated finger and listen for insects to dig out.

The indigenous culture has 18 dialects as well as French. Burial rites are varied also, ranging from earth burial with a tombstone to leaving the body in the forest under an overhanging rock and a curiously protracted custom in which the body is wrapped up and left in an open tomb from which it is periodically removed and uncovered for ceremonies and photographs. The people are passionate about the forest and its animals but have little understanding of threats to the ecology of the region. Elle's group involved the community, including children, in tree-planting.

Elle remarked in closing that her time in Madagascar was one of the most interesting experiences of her life.

General Meeting: 20 June CT White Memorial Lecture

Unnatural history: information and misinformation in science.

Emeritus Professor Roland Sussex is a specialist in languages, especially Serbian, with special interests in technology and science – particularly in relation to pain. He is also involved in the MOOCS (Massive Open Online Course) project at UQ, which recently enrolled its one-millionth student.

Roly has a deep concern for the integrity of science and its communication. Generally, there is a poor response to science in society, mostly due to poor or incorrect communication and ideology. Darwin was caught up in religious and academic scandal over his book "On the Origin of Species", as was Galileo, who was made to recant his theory of a heliocentric solar system by the Roman Inquisition.

Political ideology in the Soviet Union took a xenophobic view of western science, regarding it as bourgeois, capitalist and idealist. Many Soviet scientists faced persecution for suggesting theories contrary to those accepted by state appointed science academics. The Soviets supported Lysenko's enforcement of belief in Lamarckian principles of inheritance and Marr's theory of the origin of language. Marr, a linguist, presented a bizarre theory of language development to avoid the accepted world theory of a single origin of language in Africa. Despite ridicule his theory persisted in the Soviet Union and alienated the study of language there until his theory fell from favour in 1950.

Facts are often distorted by special interest groups such as the smoking lobby and coal lobby. In 1954 the US Surgeon General claimed harmful effects of smoking but the smoking lobby tried to get it squashed and they remain opposed to plain packaging despite the risks of smoking being well-proven. Public discussion is manipulated by undue influence by political, religious and business sectors. This contrasts to genuine controversy (scepticism) which is a welcome part of science.

In many instances ideology and bad communication held back scientific advances. Semmelweis tried to persuade doctors to wash their hands between tasks to decrease the rate of post puerperal infection. But he was regarded as a crank. His theory was subsequently accepted.

Conservative Church doctrine also had long-lasting effect on the understanding and management of pain in which Roly takes a special interest as part of PainLang project at the University of Queensland. Pain was thought to be inflicted as a divine consequence for sin e.g. Genesis "in sorrow shall you bring forth your children". Queen Victoria created a scandal when she chose to use ether during the birth of Prince Leopold. Until the mid 20th century no pain relief was afforded for those dying of cancer and the absence of anaesthetics made surgery agonizing. Roly recommended Joanna Bourke's book, *The Story of Pain*, 2014.

In the debate over climate change the political right uses emotive language to describe supporters of climate change as "leftist", "greenie", "eco-catastrophist" and the left calls their opponents "climate deniers" and "capitalists". Emotive language obscures the science thereby resulting in the public becoming cynical, confused and angry about the climate change debate in which there appears no middle ground or credibility of sources.

Science needs to be unhooked from politics, economics and ideology and therefore needs trusted advocates. Education is important because it facilitates good communication. In Kerala the world's first *elected* communist government encouraged education in a very poor community which resulted in reduction in the birth rate and improved responsible public behaviour. The Queensland Naturalists' Club could have a valuable educational function as a forum, because of its knowledge of the natural world. Members should remember the importance of using political influence by communicating views to politicians.

Professor Sussex finished by answering many members' questions and invited contact at r.sussex@uq.edu.au.

Excursions

July 1st to 4th Aroona, Mt Mort

QNC Wildlife Survey 2016 at Queensland Trust for Nature Property

Leaders: Harry Hines and Tanya Pritchard (QTFN)

Aim: The aim of the survey is to get a better understanding of the flora and fauna of Aroona.

Background: Aroona is a 2000 ha property recently acquired by the Queensland Trust for Nature, that straddles the Little Liverpool Range, south-west of Grandchester (see www.qtn.org.au/aroona-nature-refuge). There have been no detailed flora or fauna surveys of the property, nor of the adjoining Mount Beau Brummel Regional Park. A search of the Queensland's WildNet database using a latitude/longitude rectangle that encompasses Aroona and Mount Beau Brummel Regional Park returns less than 80 species (mostly birds) which includes only 8 plant, 2 mammal and no butterfly, reptile or amphibian species.

The survey: We plan to establish several standard fauna survey sites, initially within reasonably close proximity to the homestead. During the initial survey in July we aim to deploy Elliott, camera and pitfall traps and carry out diurnal bird and reptile censuses, owl call playback and spotlighting. If overnight temperatures are mild, we may also set up harp traps for bats at potentially suitable sites. Incidental observations and collecting of flora species not previously recorded will also be undertaken. An inventory of fungi and flora species will also be made, with collections of specimens for the Queensland Herbarium. We hope to undertake subsequent surveys at other times of the year to target herpetofauna and bats and to assess seasonal changes in birds and plants.

The leaders will be onsite from mid-morning Fri 1 July 2016. Friday will involve setting up trap lines and some nocturnal surveys. Trap clearing and a range of other activities will be undertaken during Saturday and Sunday. Traps will be pulled in on Monday (4 July) morning.

The outing is open to all Club members and you are welcome to come for all or part of the excursion.

The camp: The camp will be based at the QTFN headquarters (see below). There is ample room for camping/camper trailers/vans etc on the flats around the homestead. There is a toilet in the homestead but if the number of participants is high we will also provide one or more of the Club's toilets. There is tank water available and a shower for those who need it. No open fires. There may be options for some members to stay in the homestead but this will be assessed on a case by case basis (the preference is for people to camp). A BBQ is available for use as well as a stove top and QTFN will provide a BBQ dinner on the first night, otherwise self-catering. Power is available for charging equipment and for outside lighting purposes. Note that frosts are likely overnight at this time of year.

Directions: The address of the homestead is 338 Alpers Rd, Mt Mort (-27.830236°, 152.417763° GDA94). From Grandchester take the Grandchester-Mt Mort Road and continue to follow as it turns into Alpers Road. Access to the homestead is via an all-weather road suitable for 2WDs. Approximate travel time from Brisbane is 1.5 hours.

Registration: Please register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au or by telephoning Harry. Feel free to ring Harry if you require any further information on 3378 6570 (hm) or 0423 782 186 (mob).

July 17th Blunder Creek, Durack

Walking with Life Exploring our Living Catchments - Oxley Creek Catchment

Sunday 1.45 for 2pm - 4pm Leader: Helen Schwencke It is hoped that a local guide will be joining us on the day.

Meet on Bowhill Road on the eastern side of the Gaelic Football Club (UBD Map 219 C2).

Register by email: excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject: "WWL Blunder Creek 17.7.16", or through QNC's Meetup website: <http://www.meetup.com/Walking-with-Life-in-our-catchments-Nature-Excursions/> (become a member first) or Contact Helen Schwencke 0423 127 492.

Blunder Creek is one of a number of creeks that flows into Oxley Creek. Much of Oxley Creek and parts of Blunder Creek, have been heavily mined and there are few areas of natural vegetation remaining in the low land reaches. Our site for this activity is on Blunder Creek shortly before it flows into a previously mined wetland area. It's a precious though small patch of remnant vegetation, so is a treasure.

While the area is reasonably flat there are no marked paths in the bushland area. There are no toilet or other facilities available.

Parking, which is limited, will be on Bowhill Road unless we are successful in obtaining keys to a locked gate where more parking would be possible.

For more information visit: <http://www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au/>

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.

August 7th Mt Elimbah (Mt Saddleback)

Sunday 8.30am Leader: Ruth Thomson (0419 122 977) Register by emailing to excursion@qnc.org.au – subject “Mt Elimbah.”

Meet at the carpark of the Mt Saddleback Section of the Glasshouse Mountains National Park, Old Gympie Road, Elimbah.

Mount Elimbah has a nice representation of rocky pavement, woodland and heath habitats within a relatively short distance and we will spend the day on the tracks around the base of the mountain botanising, birding and possibly also seeing some fungi and the odd wallaby. An easy climb a little way up the mountain (optional) gives views over nearby pineapple farms and the more distant Glasshouse Mountains. Rowena Thomas, one of the authors of the Ranger Field Guide to the Native Plants of Glasshouse Mountains National Park, is planning to join us and show us plants of particular interest. Do bring this book if you have a copy as it is very helpful in identifying the plants there.

No toilet facilities.

Directions: About 60 to 70 minutes’ drive from central Brisbane. Note: As you travel north, Old Gympie Road makes a sharp left hand turn 6 km after passing under the D’Aguilar Highway underpass at Caboolture – the main roadway continues into Elimbah as Smith Street. This turn is 400m past Three Ponds Place on the right and the bend to the right is marked by two yellow and black signs. The park entrance is on the right 1.4km on. There is limited parking at the park entrance and adjacent roadside but plenty on a side dirt road 100m further on the left, just before Carawatha St on the right.

August 17-22 Long Excursion 2016 - Cape Hillsborough

Leaders: Myriam Preker & Ian Lawn

The preparations for the Cape Hillsborough Long Excursion are progressing well. Information we have gathered on the Natural History of this area continues to confirm the incredible diversity of this part of the Queensland coast. In addition to the diverse marine fauna and flora to be encountered here, the following details have been gathered from species lists compiled by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service over recent years. There are: 10 vegetation communities with more than 500 species of vascular plants; 136 species of birds (although some are migratory); 22 species of mammals, including one of the 4 colonies of ghost bats identified in Queensland; 25 species of reptiles, including 2 species of legless lizards; 8 species of amphibians; and approximately 25 species of butterflies which, coincidentally, can be seen in large numbers during the winter months.



There are still some non-powered campsites reserved by the Club if anyone is still interested in joining us on this excursion - but please let us know, as soon as possible, if you wish to attend so that we can cancel any reserved sites that are no longer required.

IMPORTANT: If you need to contact me, please use my new email address: myriam.preker@yahoo.com.

Booking: Please register by completing the Booking Form on the last page which you can mail with your payment or lodge at any General Meeting. If you wish to register electronically, please email a copy of the completed form to: treasurer@qnc.org.au stating the date of the transfer of funds to the Club account. Details in form.

March 2017 Lord Howe Island

The trip is now fully booked, but if you are interested in joining a waiting list, please let me know. Lynette Haselgrove at news@qnc.org.au.

Excursion Reports

April 17th Nudgee Beach

This boardwalk is a gem, giving access to a range of coastal wetland habitats and vegetation types that would otherwise be inaccessible. One of the highlights was seeing Copper Jewel butterflies (*Hypochrysops apelles*) on the wing with evidence that caterpillars had been eating the mangrove leaves. The walk was thoroughly enjoyed by participants.

Helen Schwencke

April 30–May 2 Bindarrabi

About 24 members attended the 3-day camp at Bindarrabi near Koreelah National Park in northern New South Wales. The weather was fine and warm but cool enough at night to enjoy the usual campfire. On the Saturday afternoon, the owner of Bindarrabi, Doone Wyborne, gave an interesting presentation of the history of the area and its geology. The participants then undertook a short walk down to Trough Creek through sclerophyll forest. It was interesting to observe damage done to a eucalypt by yellow tailed black cockatoos. Interesting also was the severe dieback of Sydney blue gums *Eucalyptus saligna* caused by psyllid attack. In this area there was a high population of bell miners which drove away bird species which would normally feed on the insect psyllid populations. There was also a nice forest of mature hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* along the creek.

On Sunday morning, the campers drove through the property to a crossing over Trough Creek where the families with children walked westwards along the creek and the rest of the party went eastwards. Progress was slow due to the usual identification of species along the way. There were many small cascade tree frogs sitting on leaves of shrubs along the creek. Some of the walkers were very excited about orchids encountered – many pink rock orchids *Dendrobium kingianum*, some helmet orchids *Corybas barbata* and *Corybas fimbriatus*, nodding greenhoods *Pterostylis nutans* and mosquito orchids *Acianthus exertus*. Lunch was enjoyed at a beautiful spot on the rocky bank of the creek. We made it into a small part of the National Park before we had to walk out to the road leading back to the vehicles.

The next day the members drove to the foothills of “Bindarrabi” from where Doone harvests spring water for the camp site. The water has been tested and found to be within the top 10 spring waters in Australia. The track meandered through rainforest containing red cedar *Toona australis*, lace bark tree *Brachychiton discolor* and giant stinging tree *Dendrocnide excelsa*.

The numbers of species found on the excursion were: 151 plants including 26 fungi, 51 birds, 7 frogs, 7 mammals including a yellow footed antechinus, 4 reptiles and 65 insects.

Mike Anderson

May 15th Greenwood Lakes, Oxley Creek

WWL activity Oxley Creek Catchment. The area has been heavily modified due to long-term extensive sand and other mining in the lower lands of the catchment past the Greenbank Army Reserve. Revegetation work is being done to the ongoing credit of the catchment and habitat groups working in the area. Unfortunately, as a whole, the area has not yet been rehabilitated after the mining and while the area looks wild, there's not as much habitat as would be possible if more native vegetation was present. The scenery is pretty and a walk along the edge of the lakes is delightful. Ten or more Rainbow Bee-eaters were seen in the top of a tall dead tree at some distance. Anne brought sampling equipment and we spent some time looking at gambusia, shrimps and other aquatic macro-invertebrates.

Anne Clarke (Oxley Creek Catchment Assn) and Helen Schwencke.



June 11th Kalbar and Obum Obum

This one-day excursion was to two Land for Wildlife properties in the Scenic Rim. Although it was a QNC excursion, members of the Fassifern Field Naturalists Club were also invited and we had a total of thirty-one naturalists present on a mild calm winter's day.

The forenoon part of the excursion was to Marjorie & Barry Jahnke's property, "Melaleuca", at Kalbar. This is former grazed land that was scalded by salt as prior to European settlement it supported Brigalow-Softwood Scrub. Many years ago some earthwork was undertaken to turn scalded areas into some water channels and wader ponds. In some other places tree and shrub plantings have increased biodiversity and have included an area which can also produce a sustainable supply of wood-fuel from a wood-lot plot which includes *Casuarina glauca*.

The previous months were exceptionally dry but a week before the excursion the property received 133 mm of rain which refreshed the vegetation but it meant that the water-birds which are usually common there now had other water-bodies to inhabit in other parts of the district. An example was the sighting of one Royal Spoonbill where-as before the rain it was not un-common to see over thirty in the same area. However, the wetlands still had many water-birds including Black-winged Stilts, Black Swans and Black-fronted Dotterels.

Three other vertebrates recorded on this property were Yellow-faced Whip Snake, Black Flying Fox and Australasian Shoveler.

During lunch in the house garden members were able to watch the resident Zebra Finches and Brown Honeyeaters and listen to John Moss lead a discussion about mistletoes. Later Peter Shields gave an over-view of salts in Australian soils.

Some of the Australian plants in the house garden attracted some attention, especially *Senna artemisioides* which were starting to flower.

After lunch a short drive took members to Aub and Merrilyn Podlich's property on Obum Obum Hill which is composed mostly of syenite. The Podlichs have preserved some of the original Brigalow-Softwood Vine Scrub which was once very extensive in this Fassifern district. In addition, they also have some open grassed areas from earlier farming practices and



Acacia harpophylla (Brigalow)



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin

small areas of eucalypts including *Eucalyptus crebra*. Aub and Merrilyn are members of the Fassifern Field Naturalists' Club.

Several walking tracks through the scrub took us past many scrub species including *Turraea pubescens* (Native Witch-hazel), *Alstonia constricta* (Bitter Bark) and the characteristic stems of the Corky Milk Vine (*Secamone elliptica*). Three plants species showing their orange-coloured fruits were *Pittosporum angustifolium* (Weeping Pittosporum), *Elaeodendron australe* (Red Olive Plum) and *Alyxia ruscifolia* (Chain Fruit).

However, a delightful time was spent back near the cars where visitors relaxed under the shade of an old Broad-leaved Brush Wilga (*Geijera salicifolia* var. *latifolia*) to be entertained by a procession of Lewin's Honeyeaters, Silvereyes, Rufous Fantails and other birds competing for space at the bird baths.

It is worth noting that fifty-four species of birds were recorded for the two properties.

Barry Jahnke

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 reconnaissance costs can be claimed from the Club.

WANTED
Excursions
Ideas and
Leaders

Council News

Welcome to New Members

Ms Kathy Clark, Capalaba; Mr Steven Eastwell, Toowong; Mr Rolf Schlagloth and Dr Flavia Santamaria, Yeppoon; Ms Annabel Hickey, Prof. Peter Holbrook, William Holbrook and Eloise Hickey, New Farm; Dr Gill Brown, Mr Steve Watson and Abbie Brown, Fig Tree Pocket.

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

Your QNC News by post or email

Just a reminder that you can elect to receive this newsletter as a black and white printed copy by post or as a colour PDF by email. To change your preference at any time please email the News editor at news@qnc.org.au.

Calendar 2017

Sheryl Backhouse is again creating the club calendar for 2017 and would very much like your photos in high resolution. Photos need to be in "landscape" format. Don't worry if they are not quite perfect in some aspects (perhaps Sheryl can doctor them) as long as the main subject is sharp.

Include details of what the photo is and if it was taken at a Nats outing, then details of this too.

Phone Sheryl 07 3289 4198 or send your photos to sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com

QNC Queensland Natural History Award

Nominations are being called for this annual award. Information and nomination forms may be obtained by emailing president@qnc.org.au or by writing to the Secretary. Closing date for lodgement with the Secretary is 31 August 2016. Any nominations carried over from the previous two years may be updated by the closing date.

And if you have a nomination for 2017, please put it forward now. To learn more about this award see the Guidelines and Rules at www.qnc.org.au/QNHA/qnha.htm

Council Membership 2016

A vacancy exists for a Junior Vice-President.

Exhibits

Exhibits for general meetings may be in the form of specimens, books, digital images etc.

If you take an exhibit to a meeting, please think about also providing a *small piece of written text* to accompany it.

May Exhibits

- ❖ Barbara Braddock showed a section of dried scaled skin with a blackish colour found on the recent excursion to Bindarabbi. It was thought to be reptilian, possibly from a goanna.

June Exhibits

- ❖ Barry Jahnke showed a sprig of brigalow, *Acacia harpophylla*, from a tree which has developed strange white leaf discoloration of unknown cause. He is requesting assistance in identifying the cause.

- ❖ Peter Woodall - Slide of Fly agaric *Amanita muscaria* – recently photographed in cold wet Canberra nature reserve, Bruce Ridge. Mainly known in southern states, though few records for southern Qld. Probably brought in from Europe in association with pines. “Fly” – can be used as insecticide, one of its compounds attracts flies. Considering



medieval belief that flies could enter head and cause mental illness, hallucinogenic effects of ingestion may have been put down to associated flies entering brain rather than mushroom itself! Mycorrhizal relationship with pine trees not eucalypts. This one was close to pine plantation, though one in Portugal found with eucalypts. Toxicity – deaths rare, active chemical, muscimol, can be detoxified by boiling. Used by shamans in Siberia to enter trances. Best known mushroom from children's books, also in Super Mario Bros video games. Suggested that, as hallucinogenic state causes distortion of size perception, could be possible source of size changing in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland – no evidence of Lewis Carroll using hallucinogenic drugs!



What's On!

Queensland Ornithological Conference 2016

BirdLife Southern Queensland and Birds Queensland are hosting the 2016 Queensland Ornithological Conference at the University of Queensland, St Lucia on Saturday, **9 July 2016**. To register for the 2016 conference and take advantage of the early bird fee visit tinyurl.com/ndl24ap or print off an **application**

and post it to: Queensland Ornithological Conference, c/- P O Box 3784 South Brisbane BC Qld 4101

Talk: 11 July *Is Science any use for saving species and habitat?*

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/brisscience>

THECA Meeting 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). See the website for information on Events.

Queensland Herbarium Seminar FM Bailey Room, at 12 Noon www.qld.gov.au

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.

- 11 July Untangling the Evolution of Australasian Mimosoid Legumes
 Dr Gill Brown, Queensland Herbarium, DSITI
- 8 August Impact of changing disturbance dynamics on the condition of grassy eucalypt forest habitat for Eastern Bristlebird recovery Zoe Stone, University of Queensland

Forum 2016 Barriers to Biodiversity Conservation

at Queensland Centre for Advanced Technologies (QCAT), Pullenvale on Saturday 15 October 2016
Presented by The Hut Environmental and Community Association Inc (THECA)

Keynote speakers: Don Sands, Honorary Research Fellow, CSIRO and Jane Hutchinson, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Tasmanian of the Year

Visit www.theca.asn.au or phone (07) 3878 5088 or email info@theca.asn.au. Registration forms will be available in July 2016.

Notices

Brisbane Airport Fire Ant Notification to Community Groups

A new incursion of fire ants has been detected near the Brisbane airport. This is a new arrival of fire ants to Australia and genetic testing indicates that the ants originated from the Southern United States and are not related to current or previous fire ant populations in Queensland. It's likely the fire ants arrived in freight sometime in the last two years and thanks to a vigilant person who reported them to Biosecurity Queensland in September last year, we don't think they've had time to spread far.

We have seen, through the success of the Fire Ant Program in Gladstone and the Port of Brisbane, that this terrible invasive pest can be eradicated. The key is to act quickly.

The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program could not have achieved its success to date without the ongoing awareness and vigilance from local communities. Seventy per cent of fire ant sightings in South East Queensland are reported by the general public.

We urge you to check your yard, local parks and recreational areas for fire ants.

Although small, fire ants are one of the worst invasive species to hit Australia's shores. Fire ants can ruin our lifestyle and have serious environmental and agricultural impacts. They inflict a terribly painful sting and can restrict everyday activities, such as barbecues, picnics and sporting events.

Join the ant hunt and check the top five spots for fire ants. On residential properties: lawns, footpaths, garden beds, outside taps and sprinklers and electricity and water meter pits. On rural properties: dams and irrigation lines, edges of cultivated land, cropland post-harvest, fence lines and piles of organic matter.

A typical fire ant nest looks like a mound of loose dirt, with no visible entry or exit holes. Nests can also be found under logs, rocks or gardening materials.

Fire ants are small, varying in size between 2-6mm and are coppery-brown with a dark abdomen. They are aggressive and inflict a painful sting which can be life threatening.

Take a look around your property and if you see a mound of dirt that could be a fire ants nest, stand well back and poke the nest with a long stick. Never use your hand. If it's a fire ant nest, you'll notice ants of varying sizes swarming out to attack.

It's important that you don't attempt to disturb or destroy the ant nest yourself because if it's not done correctly the worker ants will simply evacuate their queen to a safe new location and start a new nest.

Ants Nest



Ants on a coin



If you think you've spotted fire ants, take a photo if possible and upload it to the website www.anthunt.daf.qld.gov.au or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Qualified Biosecurity Queensland technical officers will come and treat the ants using a combination of bait treatment and direct nest injection. The bait comprises corn grit that is soaked in soybean oil and insect growth regulator that sterilises the queen ant. The worker ants then can't reproduce and they die out. The insecticide has low toxicity and poses no negative health effects for humans or animals.

The new biosecurity laws start on 1 July 2016. Everyone will have responsibility for biosecurity risks under their control. Connect with us and learn what the new laws will mean for you by subscribing to the quarterly

eNewsletter at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/services/enewsletters>

For more information about the National Red Imported Fire Ant eradication program, visit www.daf.qld.gov.au/fireants.

**BioBlitz on Fraser Island
28 November to 4 December**

FIDO would like to invite members of the QNC to help undertake a biological stock take of a defined part of Fraser Island from the beach to Boomanjin and Birrabeen. This area includes most of the ecosystems and dune system types except the estuarine areas. It is hoped that with intensive scrutiny the number of identified native species could be increased. Knowing what exists will help in the management of the area particularly since a new Management Plan is currently being developed.

FIDO hope to attract over 100 specialists to this very exciting event. Full details are to be found on the Web page: <http://fido.org.au/bioblitz-beach-to-birrabeen/>

The BioBlitz is for anyone with expertise in identifying particular species within the area and FIDO hope many QNC members will be participants.

Annual Membership Subscriptions

DUE 1st JULY

Family \$40; Single \$25; Student /Junior \$15; Club Badges \$15

Current financial status is shown on address label of QNC News or in your QNC News email address.

Subscriptions are paid to the Treasurer, Mike Anderson

- ❖ By Post to 164/462 Beams Rd, Fitzgibbon 4018 with bank cheque or money order. Please include this completed form.
- ❖ At a General Meeting in an envelope with this completed form.
- ❖ by EFT -

Account: The Queensland Naturalists Club Inc
Bank: Westpac **BSB:** 034-068 **Account No.:** 901249
Reference: Your name

After EFT please email treasurer@qnc.org.au with your details, including your preference for Newsletter delivery (see below).

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Name:.....

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❖ I would like to receive my QNC News by **EMAIL** OR **POST**
(Please tick one)

Websites of Interest

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/moth-camouflage-and-butterfly-colour-linked-to-same-gene/>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2014/06/spider-venom-inspires-bee-safe-pesticide>

(Please note: This is dated 2014. Ed.) A new pesticide could be the bee's knees. A team of researchers reports the creation of a bee-friendly pesticide produced by fusing Australian funnel-web spider (*Hadronyche versuta*) venom with snowdrop flower (*Galanthus nivalis*) proteins.

<http://blog.bushheritage.org.au/blog>

CAPE HILLSBOROUGH LONG EXCURSION 2016 – AUGUST 17 - 22 BOOKING FORM Please Print and complete

Name:

Postal Address:

Email: Phone (Home): (Mob):

Type of campsite required (**please tick one below**):

Unpowered Site (\$175)* Powered Site (\$200)* Own Arrangements (\$20)**
(= 5 nights at \$2 per person per night)

No. of adults: Names:

.....

No. of children***: Names & ages of children:

* Single site fee applies to a maximum of 2 adults per site. Extra adults: \$70 per person.

** Club Fee Only as Cabin Accommodation is to be arranged directly by you with the Cape Hillsborough Nature Resort.

*** Cost children: \$40 per child.

Total Amount Payable \$.....

▪ Cheque or Money Order ENCLOSED with this completed form [] **OR**

▪ DEPOSITED in club account on (date) _____ and this form emailed to treasurer@qnc.org.au or posted to QNC, PO Box 5663, West End 4101.

Bank Deposit:- **Account Name:** The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc **Bank:** Westpac
BSB: 034-068 **Account No.:** 901249 **Reference:** Your Surname + L/E