



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

[facebook](#)

www.qnc.org.au

Print Post Approved: 100003858

March-April 2017

No. 331

INSIDE	Page
Programme	1
General Meetings	3
Excursions	6
Council News; Facebook	10
Exhibits	11
What's On!;	11
Booking Form	12



A Bombyliid (Bee) Fly *Comptosia* sp.



PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

March 20 Dale Arvidsson *Brisbane*
Botanic Gardens

April 10 2016 Long Excursion Report

Excursions:

March Lord Howe Island
 March 12 Simpson Falls, Mt Coot-tha
 March 18 Toorbul and Bribie Island
 April 8 Cleveland
 April 14-17 Easter camp
 June/July Long Excursion 2017

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 5663, WEST END QLD 4101

President:	Vacant	Ph:	president@qnc.org.au
Secretary:	Ms Judy Haines	Ph: 0402 236 359	secretary@qnc.org.au
Treasurer:	Mr Mike Anderson	Ph: 07 3263 4502	treasurer@qnc.org.au
Excursion Secretary:	Mr Barney Hines	Ph: 07 3720 9414	excursion@qnc.org.au
QNC News Editor:	Vacant	Ph:	news@qnc.org.au

Deadline for QNC 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

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.

Dear Members

The Club has reached a low point and needs your help.

We have no President, no Vice-presidents and
no one to edit the QNC News.

Under the Associations Incorporations Regulations a club cannot continue to exist if it does not have an elected President.

We are required by law to submit our annual return of association within one month of our AGM. So, it would seem that we need to appoint a new president within that time.

From our Constitution:

12.2 At the annual general meeting of the Club all Members of the Council shall retire from office, but shall be eligible upon nomination for re-election except that the maximum period of consecutive office of President shall be two (2) years.

Under commonsense rules a club cannot continue to exist if there is no way to let members know when meetings and outings are to occur.

We need a President and a newsletter editor.

GENERAL MEETINGS

General Meeting 20th March

Mr Dale Arvidsson, Curator | Brisbane Botanic Gardens

“Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha – the Queensland Conservation Collection.”

In 2015 The Legacy Way tunnel project delivered a new 4ha extension area to Brisbane Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha. Now called the Queensland Conservation Collection, Curator Dale Arvidsson will explain the layout of this extension area and the Gardens’ aims to house as many of Queensland threatened species here as possible.

General Meeting 10th April

“Cape Hillsborough National Park” Long Excursion 2016

Note the date change!

Members will report on the 2016 Long Excursion. The meeting will be chaired by Myriam Preker and will consist of short presentations. A general overview of the region’s rainforest, eucalypt forest, mangrove community, beaches and rocky headlands will be provided, as well as detailed reports on the geology, birds, vegetation and the intertidal organisms of the beach and rocky headlands.

Roster for general meetings

At each meeting we need two members to attend to the Reception and two members to organise supper.

A book is usually circulated at each meeting asking people to nominate for these tasks at future meetings. We realise that many people do not want to commit themselves just in case they do not make it to the meeting.

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

March 20	Reception:	Barbara Odgers
	Supper:	Coral & Joe Reichman
April 10	Reception:	-----
	Supper:	-----
May 15	Reception:	Bernice Shaw
	Supper:	-----

MEETING REPORTS

Annual General Meeting: 20th February

Presentation by James Hansen, Retiring President

It wasn’t until the 16th Century that a Dutch cartographer and geographer, Mercator, in 1569, produced the common cylindrical projection named after him. He combined a framework of lines of latitude and longitude with the earlier accurate survey work produced in Charts. The Mercator projection was essential for navigation of sailors (and airmen) around the world. All of the meridians (lines of longitude) are drawn as straight lines North to South and are of the same length, all the parallels are straight lines the same length from East to West. The meridians are equally spaced but the parallels are not. So that the meridians never meet, the map is stretched in an east-west direction and this is balanced by stretching the map also in north and south directions away from the Equator. This was useful for navigators as it showed the true compass direction between any two points. The course to be followed was one straight line, called a rhumb line (or loxindrome) drawn between the two points. The rhumb lines cut the meridians at a constant angle. If one were to place a string on a globe between the two locations, it would follow the curvature of the globe and be a shorter distance between the two points than the straight rhumb line on a map. The curved line, called a Great Circle Route, is easily followed by ships and aircraft using satellite or inertial navigation with constant changes of heading to follow a curved track. The Mercator display is most accurate near the Equator, but the distortions increase, outside the Tropics, moving away from the Equator to the Poles. The land masses retain the right shape but their size is grossly distorted,

e.g. Greenland appears almost as large as Canada plus the United States of America (excluding Alaska). There were subsequent refinements. In 1963, Arthur Robinson a geographer and cartographer and Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin, produced another version. This was further refined with satellite imagery in 2011 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA, USA).

The Robinson map: This is a map projection of a world map which shows the entire world at once. It was specifically created in an attempt to find a good compromise to the problem of readily showing the whole globe as a flat image. Robinson map 2011 (Source: NASA) *Global warming*. The centuries-old Mercator projection is a notoriously inaccurate world map. Greenland isn't the massive land mass as shown on the map. But a new map by artist and architect Hajime Narukawa offers what's possibly the most proportional map we've ever seen. Keio University Graduate School of Media and Governance Narukawa Laboratory (CC BY-ND 2.1 JP). You can print and fold the map, so you can have your own hyper proportional paper globe. The thing that makes this map truly innovative is that when you transfer it from a 3D globe to a 2D map, the land and water proportions stay the same. That, as well as the fact that the map can be folded and fits perfectly together, helped Narukawa's map design win the coveted Japanese [Good Design Award](#).

"The map can be tessellated without visible seams," the Good Design Award description reads. "Thus the [Narukawa] world map provides an advanced precise perspective of our planet."

Many of the technologies that affect our lives and shape our built environment from smart phones to farm equipment up to aeroplanes rely on location information. Many of the modern technologies that shape our lives depend on where they are in relation to known locations on the landscape. These reference points and the coordinate system of latitudes and longitudes are called a datum. Each country has its own datum, the one Australia is now using (from February 2017) is called Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020). GDA 2020 is fixed to Australia's tectonic plate, so wherever Australia goes, GDA 2020 goes. All our mapping is based on this GDA but the telecommunication devices we rely upon use a different system. These devices determine locations using global satellite systems such as GPS which are based on a datum which is fixed to the centre of the earth. This earth-fixed datum allows the satellite positioning to accurately reference locations on the earth's dynamic surface. By 2020, all Australians are likely to have access to affordable devices that can measure location to an accuracy of ten (10) centimetres. From 1 January, 2020, users will be able to transition to a time dependent reference frame which will provide a sustainable, traceable, high precision geospatial reference system capable of meeting the most demanding positioning requirements.

The President's report will be published in The Queensland Naturalist with the full Annual Report for 2016.

Queensland Natural History Award

The Queensland Natural History Award for 2017 recognises the outstanding contribution made over several decades to natural history in Queensland by Dr Peter Woodall, whose scientific expertise in both the academic and practical aspects of natural history over many years make him fully deserving of this award.

Peter is recognised for teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, scientific research increasing our knowledge of biology and ecology, contributions to scientific publications and amateur organisations and engaging members of these organisations in ecological projects. His enthusiasm in communicating his knowledge of birds and natural history to a broad range of people is well known.

Front page: Photo of Peter receiving the QNHA from President James Hansen.

Council elected for 2017

President	Vacant	Secretary	Ms Judy Haines
Vice-President	Vacant	Treasurer	Mr Mike Anderson
Junior Vice-President	Vacant	Assistant Secretary	Ms Ruth Thomson
Immediate Past President	Mr James Hansen	Excursion Secretary	Mr Barney Hines
QNC News Editor	Vacant	The Queensland	
Lanternist	Mr David Shaw	Naturalist Editor	Dr Peter Woodall
Librarian	Mrs Leith Woodall		
Councillors	Mr David Bouchard		
	Dr Dick Date		
	Ms Desley Willgoss		

Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc.
Annual Financial Report to 30 November 2016

Balance Sheet:

At 30 November

<u>2015</u>	Current Assets:	<u>2016</u>
119	Cash on Hand	106
3,209	Westpac A/c	3,000
5,248	Suncorp A/c	5,333
73,780	Short Term Deposits	73,780
<u>82,356</u>	<u>Total Current Assets</u>	<u>82,219</u>
Less Current Liabilities:		
1,000	Unspent donation	1,000
<u>81,356</u>	<u>Total Net Current Assets</u>	<u>81,219</u>
Members Funds:		
1,202	Net Income/Deficit	-138
80,154	Balance, Funds start year	81,357
<u>81,356</u>	<u>Members' Funds, 30 Nov.</u>	<u>81,219</u>

Income and Expenditure:

<u>2015</u>			<u>2016</u>	
Income	Expend		Income	Expend
1,636	550	Excursions	3,019	3,120
1,755	373	Books etc	3,143	2,421
0		Cards, Calendars, Bookmarks	1,368	527
179	3,238	QN Journal	100	2,449
5,665		Subscriptions	6,180	
1,419		Interest received	2,589	
		Sundry Inc,incl.dons.	30	
	2,237	QNC News,print,post		2,314
	2,150	Insurance		2,216
	64	Equipment, display etc		737
	759	Council,Phone,Post,Forms		905
335	1,060	Meeting costs,incl parking	375	746
	373	Audit,QN Awards,charges		355
		Government Fees		810
0	0	Library purchases	0	230
2,053	66	Miscellaneous	45	47
	2	Bank & Government Fees	0	
	967	Club Shed		0
<u>13,042</u>	<u>11,839</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>16,849</u>	<u>16877</u>
1,203		Net Income from activities		-27

Notes to the Accounts:

1. Term Deposits (3) at Suncorp are at various maturity dates in July 2017, Aug 2017, Aug 2017 at interest rates of 2.55% (\$31,850), 2.85% (\$16,400) and 2.95% (\$25,529.57). Average Rate 2.8%.
2. Due to the Club accounting for its business on the basis of cash receipts and payments, certain assets and liabilities have not been included in the Balance Sheet. These include:
 - a) Unsold books are not included in the assets.
 - b) Sundry other assets including computer equipment, slide and digital projectors and camping equipment.
 - c) Subscriptions amounting to \$495 (2015 - \$215) paid in advance.
3. A special donation of \$1,000 was received during 2005, and included in liabilities, but no expenditure has occurred to date.

Independent Audit Report: The auditor has appended the usual statement to the above Financial Report that, subject to the usual qualifications, they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at November 30 2016. Signed: R C Bates CPA Jan 13th, 2017.

EXCURSIONS

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.

March 11-18 Lord Howe Island

A small group of 16 will travel to Lord Howe Island for a week of naturalising with our guide, Ian Hutton.

March 12th Simpson Falls, Mt Coot-tha Walking with Life

Sunday, 2.45 for 3pm - 5pm This is the walk postponed from 12th February due to the heat wave.

Meet at the carpark on Sir Samuel Griffith Drive (Google Maps -27.462077, 152.954183, UBD Map 158 B8). Parking is available along the roadside. Carparks are available both at the base of Simpson Falls, and on the ridge past the TV stations. If you choose to park at either of these, please allow for the walking time to our meeting point, or join us along the way.

Leader: Helen Schwencke Phone 0423 127 492 Register by email: excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject: WWL Simpson Falls 12.3.17 or through QNC's Meetup website: <http://www.meetup.com/Walking-with-Life-in-our-catchments-Nature-Excursions/> (become a member first)

Simpson Falls is the western branch of the headwaters of Ithaca Creek with flows into Enoggera Creek. Mt Coot-tha Forest is around 1,500 hectares of open eucalypt forest forming the south-eastern part of D'Aguiar National Park. We will explore some of the tracks in that area, starting with Track #41 - Stringybark Track down to top of Simpson Falls.

See the downloadable Mt Coot-tha Forest Track Map link:

https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/20160729-mt_coot-tha_forest_track_map.pdf

For more information visit: <http://www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au/default.asp>

<http://www.oncewasacreek.org/2013/03/where-a-creek-begins/>

There will be no April WWL activity.

March 18th Toorbul and Bribie Island for waders

Saturday 11.30 am. Leaders: Peter and Leith Woodall Phone: 3848 4757 (On the day 0447 446 635). Register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au with Subject "Toorbul". Please include names and contact details.

We will be looking mainly at birds on this excursion, so bring your binoculars and telescope (if you have one). However, as good Naturalists, we will also be looking at anything else of interest.

1). This excursion will start at 11.30 am at the southern end of the Esplanade, Toorbul where there is a wader roost. There is very little shade here so make sure that you have sun protection (hats, sunscreen, etc) and also insect repellent (if there is no breeze). High tide (1.86 m) is at 1.19 pm here so we will watch the waders coming in to their roost, many will soon be migrating to their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere so some should be in (partial) breeding plumage.

2). After spending about an hour here, we will drive over to Bribie Island, going to the wader roost at Kakadu Beach, which is almost directly across Pumicestone Passage from Toorbul. We will look at the waders here, which can be a different assemblage to those seen at Toorbul, and then move about 1 km north to have lunch at the Col Fisher Park, where there is some shade, tables and a toilet block.

3). After lunch, we will drive to the Buckleys Hole Conservation Park at the southern end of Bribie. This can be good for water birds and we will look over the lake and then walk down to the small bird hide.

4). Finally, for those who wish, we can drive a few kms to the car park for Red Beach. This is a dirt road but suitable for all vehicles. The car park is set in some very good natural woodland and this is one of the few sandy beaches in Moreton Bay. It is not patrolled, but it is generally very calm for anyone who wants to take a dip or paddle. (There are no toilets or change facilities here). It will be getting to low tide in the afternoon, so you can walk along the beach for as long as you want!

We will be doing quite a lot of driving between these different areas, so it would be good to car pool if possible. Being a Saturday, I am hoping that the places will be less crowded than on a Sunday.

Directions: 1). Travel North on the Bruce Highway, about 5 km North of the Bribie island turn-off, take Exit 157 to Pumicestone Road. Turn Right into Pumicestone Rd and follow it into Toorbul. Turn right into Freeman Rd, then Left into 2nd Ave, and then Right into the Esplanade and then follow this South to the end of the road. (UBD Map 51, R5, -27.047, 153.108).

We should travel as a group to the other locations so I won't give full directions.

2). Drive back on Pumicestone Rd, turn Left into Old Toorbul Point Rd, Left into Bribie Island Rd (85) to Bribie Island, turn Left into Sunderland Drive, follow it West to the T-junction and turn Left into Solander Esplanade, about 500 m South is the car park for the bird hide (before the roundabout!). (UBD Map 52, J4, -27.048, 153.134).

3). Drive back on Sunderland Dr, turn Right (3rd exit) into Goodwin/Benabrow Ave (the way back to Brisbane), just before the bridge, turn left into Welsby Parade, follow this into Toorbul St, past the RSL, at the roundabout take 3rd exit into McDonald St, and turn Right into The Blvd. (UBD Map 63, E4, -27.091, 153.163).

4). Back onto McDonald St, Right into Spowers, Right into Gregory, Left into Tully, dirt track leads off right at the end of the road. . (UBD Map 63, G7, -27.099, 153.170).

April 8th G.J. Walter Park Seafront, Cleveland

Saturday, 12:30pm (Low tide at 14:15, height 0.44m) at the G.J. Walter Park Picnic Shelter, 76 Shore Street East, Cleveland. Leaders: Dr Ian Lawn & Myriam Preker

Register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au with Subject "Cleveland". Please include names and contact details.

The G.J. Walter Park is located on the southern shores of Moreton Bay just north of Toondah Harbour, Cleveland. The foreshore extending out from the park is a wide, muddy-sand flat supporting diverse seagrass meadows and a small stand of mangroves. The seagrasses not only present a substrate for algae and sessile invertebrates to attach to but also support a variety of animal communities by providing food and shelter. Small invertebrates such as worms, crabs, snails and sea cucumbers are abundant and fish, such as toadfish, can be seen. The area is an important site for migratory shorebirds providing food and roosting areas for their stopover.

What to bring: Sunblock; sunhat; sturdy footwear that can be used in water; windbreaker, if it is a windy day; water bottle, if it is a hot day. On this trip, a reef walking stick is not essential but may come in handy if you get stuck in the mud.

Directions: Make your way to the G.J. Walter Park at Cleveland (Brisbane UBD Ref: Map 186 E16), which is accessed at the eastern end of Shore Street East. There are toilets adjacent to the car park.

April 14 -17 Easter Camp - Sheep Station Creek via Lions Road, NSW

Good Friday, April 14 to Easter Monday, April 17 - Sheep Station Creek Property, Loadstone, via Lions Road. Leaders: Ann and David Hanger (ph: 38800914; Ann 0422 285 056; David 0421 340791) and Phil Baxter (0429 348 452). **All attendees must register**, either by phone or email to excursion@qnc.org.au.

The QNC Easter camp will be held on the property of Phil and Leigh Baxter, a grazing and forestry estate adjoining the Borders Range National Park in Northern Rivers NSW. This camp is restricted to those with high clearance 4WDs due to a rocky crossing of Grady's Creek at the entrance of the property.

The property is an old dairy that has been extensively reforested with Eucalyptus plantations as well as having areas of remnant mixed Eucalypt forest along the ridges and elements of riparian rainforest. The campsite area will be adjacent to Sheep Station Creek between plantation and riparian scrub communities. There is plenty of space. It will be bush camping with no facilities. However the water in the creek is suitable for cooking and washing-up. The club will provide pit toilets. The property has excellent Telstra mobile coverage, but no coverage from other networks. Note that only Phil has a Telstra connection amongst the leaders.

For those not wishing to camp, there is a bed and breakfast, located approximately 5 minutes' drive from the property. However, attendees will still need a high clearance 4WD to enter the property or arrange a shuttle with others. Please contact the Bed and Breakfast directly if interested. Cougal Park B & B, 145 Lions Road. Phone 02 6636 6213; website: www.cougalpark.com; Email: mail@cougalpark.com.

The outing will include walks into the National Park visiting both riparian rainforest communities and more elevated communities of wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest. Please bring sturdy boots and walking poles as there are limited tracks and some walks will involve steep slopes and rocky creek crossings. The National Park areas in particular have areas of very high biodiversity and should provide great interest to members.

Directions.: Please be aware that the camp is at Sheep Station Creek property, not at the NSW Border Ranges National Park campsite by the same name.

The following directions are from Beaudesert, which is south of Brisbane. Total travel time from Brisbane CBD is about 2 hours. Please note that there is no fuel etc. available beyond Beaudesert.

Road directions to Sheep Station Creek Farm

Direction	Odometer (km)	Distance (km)
At traffic lights at Beaudesert, follow Mt Lindesay Highway towards Kyogle; Zero your odometer.	0	0
Turn off the Mt Lindesay Highway onto Innisplain Rd	24.7	24.7
Continue along Innisplain Road, becoming Running Creek Road and then Lions Road until you reach the NSW border (Richmond Gap).	51.9	27.2
Continue over the border. Border Gate to Second (2 nd) Railway Bridge flyover.	61.4	9.5
Second Railway Bridge to Glen Arvin Rd turn-off.	63.1	1.7
Glen Arvin Rd turn-off to the front gate of Sheep Station property.	64.4	1.3

Note that along Glen Arvin Rd you will pass 2 houses. The second house is close to the road; you will feel like you are driving right through their property. Keep following the road - it goes straight ahead, slightly downhill, and then turns to the right. Follow until you reach the gate. Please leave the gate as you find it.

Please do not arrive before 10 am Friday as the leaders will be absent. Signs to the campsite will be put in place upon their arrival.

In the event of heavy rain, the camp may need to be cancelled.



Left: Two budding naturalists inspecting life in Sheep Station Creek

Right: The area near the campsite. This area will be slashed before the camp.



April 29 – May 1 Date Claimer: May Long Weekend Camp

Venue to be confirmed.

The club intends to have a camp over the May long weekend. However, a venue has yet to be determined. Please check the club website for updates closer to the date.

Long Excursion 2017 Central West Queensland

June 24 – July 9 Leaders: Peter and Lynette Haselgrove Enquiries to pely95@gmail.com or Phone: 07 4683 7255 **Participants must Register:** An application form is on the last page.

Fees: The Club fee of \$2 per adult per night will apply as usual, plus accommodation or camping fees at Noonbah. These amounts will be finalized closer to the excursion date and you will be given instructions for depositing the amounts into the QNC Club Account.

The trip for 2017 will be to two properties in Central West Queensland. For the first week, we will stay at Noonbah, a grazing property owned by Angus and Karen Emmott. Noonbah is SW of Longreach and west of Lochern National Park. In the second week, we will be camping at a Bush Heritage property, Edgbaston Reserve, NE of Aramac. We expect to spend about six days at each place.

Timetable: Arrive at Noonbah on Sunday or by midday Monday 25th / 26th June;
Leave Noonbah Sunday 2nd July travel to Edgbaston Reserve, via Longreach shops;
Depart Edgbaston Friday or Saturday 7th / 8th July.

Travel to and from your home base is independent. We will meet at Noonbah.

At Noonbah we will be naturalizing both on the property and in Lochern. Our hosts are very keen and extremely knowledgeable naturalists and will, therefore, guide us to special places.

Our camp will be in and around an unoccupied fully furnished five-bedroom house. The main bedroom has a double and a single bed and ensuite. There is also a separate bathroom, separate toilet and laundry, washing machine, kitchen with upright stove/oven, fridge/freezer. A family might like to have exclusive use of the main bedroom and ensuite at a slightly higher rate per person. Campers will be near the house and able to use the facilities. Noonbah camping:-

Beds in the house (\$10/person/night)

Main bedroom, ensuite (exclusive use - \$15/person/night)

Own camp outside with use of facilities (\$5 /person/night)

I think that the best way to organize the use of bedrooms is for people to email us with their requirements, e.g. single bed, double bed, don't care, willing to share a room. We will then try to co-ordinate things.

Note: These fees have been set by us, Peter and Lynette. The Emmotts did not want us to pay, but we felt that it was only fair to contribute to their electricity costs and to show our thanks for them giving us the use of their facilities and their time.

From Noonbah, we will stop over in Longreach for lunch and to restock supplies and then travel to Edgbaston Reserve, near Aramac where we will camp for six days or so.

If anyone wishes to stay over for a night or two in Longreach, they are welcome. However, we would prefer that no-one left Noonbah before Friday, 30th and everyone must arrive at Edgbaston between 3pm Sunday 2nd and midday Monday 3rd. Your time in Longreach is entirely at your own expense and your own organisation.

Links: www.facebook.com/Noonbah-Station and www.bushheritage.org.au/edgbaston

Bush Heritage's Dr Alex Kutt and Rob Wager, have provided the following summary of our visit to Edgbaston.



In central western Queensland, Bush Heritage Australia (BHA) manages Edgbaston Reserve, a property situated on the boundary of the Desert Uplands and Mitchell Grass Downs Bioregions. Bush Heritage purchased Edgbaston in 2008, primarily to protect a significant spring complex, which occupies approximately one third of the 8000-hectare (20,000 acres) property. The Edgbaston spring complex contains approximately one hundred natural springs (ranging in size from 1 to 6000m²) fed by water from the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) and is the most ecologically-diverse 'super-group' of springs in the entire GAB. The most notable feature of the spring complex is the presence of endemic fish, plants and invertebrates – most notably two fish species, the Red-finned Blue-eye (*Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis*) and Edgbaston goby (*Chlamydogobius squamigenus*) both of which are listed as

critically endangered by the IUCN and are only found at this location.

The focus of the conservation work at Edgbaston has understandably been on saving the critically endangered fish species; however, the values of the remainder of the reserve have yet to be fully explored and documented. Apart from the springs, the vegetation of the surrounding country is a combination of Mitchell Grass Downs and Spinifex hummock grasslands, Gidgee and Lancewood woodlands on the escarpments and breakaways, and open ephemeral claypans and lakes associated with Lake Mueller. These communities provide potential habitat for the Julia Creek Dunnart (*Sminthopsis douglasi*), an IUCN listed critically endangered mammal and the Spinifex hummock grasslands, an isolated and unique habitat that may contain endemic reptile species such as jewelled geckos in the genus *Strophurus* or possibly a new dragon in the genus *Diporiphora*.

The planned campout at Edgbaston is a great opportunity for Bush Heritage to work with the QNC to document more completely the values of this significant landscape. Bush Heritage will be establishing a series of at least 20 monitoring plots for terrestrial fauna and flora sampling (1 ha plots based on the standardised Queensland methods that will have pitfall traps, funnel traps, Elliott and cage traps and bird census sites), and conducting on-going fish and macrofauna monitoring. Some BHA PhD students, partners and volunteer scientists will also share their work in the fields of spring invertebrates, spring plant communities, Edgbaston frog and cane toad populations and perhaps paleo-history of the springs.

We welcome QNC's participation in these activities, but we are particularly keen for QNC members and experts to assist with:-

- Resampling EPBC Act listed plants and other rare plant populations and perhaps make Herbarium collections as a future resource for the reserve; and
- Inventory the insect fauna - especially moths, butterflies, ants or any other potentially diverse, unique or unusual communities; and
- Generally, inventory the flora and fauna, fossil or geological values of the reserve.

Depending on the numbers attending, Bush Heritage will assist with fuel on reserve for participants, provide some catering and ablutions facilities.

If members would like to find a passenger or a driver from Brisbane or Longreach or to share a hire vehicle from Longreach, please send us an email and if we can we will link you with others. Note: The PLB referred to in the last News is a Personal Locator Beacon (Similar to an EPIRB).

EXCURSION REPORTS

February 12th Simpson Falls, Mt Coot-tha.

This outing was cancelled due to extreme hot weather. The Queensland Police Service requested that all outdoor 'adventure' activities be called off.

February 19th Western Windows Walk

Report not received at time of printing.

Council News

Welcome to New Members:

Jonathan Cheyne, Cathy Collins and Oliver Cheyne, Kenmore;
Carla Perkins, Ferny Grove; and Stella Field, The Gap.

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

Death of member:

Mrs Margaret Pearson passed away in late 2016. Mrs Pearson's father had been a founding member of the Club in 1907 and she herself had filled multiple executive positions on Council including President.

IS THIS YOUR PAYMENT?

A deposit of \$50 was paid into the QNC Westpac Account on 9 January 2017 with the notation, 'Transfer Deposit 0000000 at 115 Queen Street QLD'. If you made such a deposit would you please contact Treasurer Mike Anderson by phone or by email. See bottom page 1.



LIBRARY & FACEBOOK

Mrs Leith Woodall

The club's Facebook page which is open to the public and can be found at [QNC Facebook Page](#) has recently generated interest in the topic of hatchling turtles being adversely affected by heat, with multiple visits and likes, and also sharing to other pages, all drawing favourable attention to the Queensland Naturalists' Club.

If you find any interesting natural history items which you think would be of interest to our Facebook followers, please send information to the librarian@qnc.org.au

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. Your natural history observations can then 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.

Online Exhibit: David Shaw - In my backyard is a *Lepidozamia peroffskyana*. It is now about 25 years since planting. If there has been normal rain in and before December, the plant grows a new crown, usually of five fronds and it takes over two weeks for the fronds to grow fully. In dry years, there is no sign of a fresh crown. The old fronds are, at the time of writing, slightly longer than two metres. The plant base is about 33cm high and 25 cm diameter. Go to the website [QNC Exhibits Online](#) to see a number of David's photos of this plant.

February Exhibits

Online Exhibit: Bob Backhouse has updated the article on scrub itch which was published in the QNC News. Scrub itch is the irritation caused by the bite of a small orange-red mite called a Trombiculid larva.

Peter Woodall spoke about a new website inaturalist.org which includes a project on Australasian fish, greatly facilitating their identification. He spoke about the ease of underwater photography with current cameras but the difficulty of identifying the often-abundant fish species captured, especially with the different colour phases of fish and name changes. *Inaturalist.org* has slides to aid identification. In its four months of operation 387 people have put up 10,000 observations with photos and locations and Peter himself was able to identify a fish from a past QNC Heron Island trip as *Acanthochromis polyacanthus*. It is also possible to look up what people have seen in particular locations and promises to be a very valuable resource for the future.

Harry Hines explained the large fee to DAFF for permission to collect and observe native animals. He reminded excursion leaders, that although the form and fee has been completed for 3 years, there is a 3 month lead time needed for permits for excursions where collecting is involved, especially when occurring in National Parks.

WHAT'S ON!

2017 Romeo Lahey Lecture: "Making Conservation Relevant in a Crowded World"

Wednesday 15th March 2017 : 7pm for a 7:30pm start Griffith University EcoCentre 170 Kessels Road, Nathan Qld 4111 Cost: \$10 entry at the door

For more information contact the NPAQ Office on 07 3367 0878 or admin@npaq.org.au or visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1825492371056869/> to register your interest.

THECA Meeting www.theca.asn.au

March 22 Platypus survey and other WPSQ projects

April 26 AGM - kangaroo-counters-in-search-of-the-lost-scamjet

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 on the second Monday of the month (March to November) - FM Bailey conference room in the Herbarium building. You don't need to register, just turn up on the day.

13 March *Ethnobotany—saving ancient Indigenous knowledge by recording, documenting and protecting cultural traditions of plant use for medicine, bush tucker and other purposes* Gerry Turpin (Botanist)

10 April Restoration FORUM - four presentations on ecological restoration, from four young minds engaged in research at the University of Queensland.

Healthy Waterways and Catchments (HWC) will host the Rainforests of Subtropical Australia Symposium (ROSA) on the Gold Coast on the **23rd and 24th of March 2017**. [Find out more.](#)

Speakers include Tim Low, Roger Kitching, Carla Catterall and Ralf Buckley. Registrations are limited, so book now! www.rosa2017.eventbrite.com

Further details of all the above events can be found on the QNC website.

LONG EXCURSION 2017 – JUNE 24 – JULY 9

BOOKING FORM Please Print and complete

Name:.....

Postal Address:.....

.....

Email:.....

Phone (Home): (Mobile):

No. of adults: Names:

.....

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

.....

Email to pely95@gmail.com or post to P & L Haselgrove PO Box 181
Stanthorpe Qld 4380

If undeliverable return to:

Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc.
PO Box 5663
WEST END Qld 4101
QNC News

**PRINT
POST
100003858**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**