



# QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The  
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

[facebook](#)

[www.qnc.org.au](http://www.qnc.org.au)

Print Post Approved: 100003858

May - June 2017

No. 332

INSIDE	Page
Programme	1
General Meetings	2
Meeting Reports	3
What's On	5
Excursions	6
Excursion Reports	8
Council News	10
Exhibits; Facebook	11
Booking Form	12



## PROGRAMME

### General Meetings:

- May 15 C. T. White Memorial Lecture  
Dr John N. A. Hooper
- June 19 Dr Owen Seeman
- July 17 Dr Matt Phillips

### Excursions:

- Apr 29-May 1 Yandilla via Kilcoy
- May 27 Colleges Crossing
- June 3 Alexandra Hills
- June/July Long Excursion 2017

**MAILING ADDRESS:** PO Box 5663, WEST END QLD 4101

President:	Mr Neil Fordyce	Ph: 0400299991	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		news@qnc.org.au

**Next Deadline - July – August 2017 QNC News – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

**NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE BECAUSE OF LONG EXCURSION**

**The Queensland Naturalist** is published twice per year.

ARTICLES to the EDITOR, Dr. Peter Woodall at [journal@qnc.org.au](mailto:journal@qnc.org.au)

# GENERAL MEETINGS

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.

**General Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May**      **2017 C. T. White lecture, Dr John Hooper**, Head of the Biodiversity & Geosciences Program at the Queensland Museum, Adjunct Professor at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery.

## **What do we still not know? The “marine unknowns”, and why they matter.**

Australia is one of 17 megadiverse countries, together containing 70% of the world’s species, yet only around 150 thousand species have been described so far for all Australian territories and marine Exclusive Economic Zone, with an estimated 700 thousand to 1 million species predicted to live in our forests and seas. Of these known species only 34 thousand are marine, yet we lay claim to one of the world’s largest seabed areas of 13.9 million square kilometres, illustrating how little we still know, even from our shallow coastal waters.

Over the past 36 years Dr Hooper has been responsible for the Queensland Museum’s collections of ‘sessile marine invertebrates’ (animals that live attached to the seabed for at least part of their life cycles) which also are of great interest to the marine natural products chemistry industry as sources of new bioactive chemical compounds with potential pharmaceutical applications. His association with this industry has provided the Queensland Museum with resources to explore, document and build-up collections of around 50,000 marine specimens across the Indo-west Pacific, discovering over 5,000 species, the majority new to science, and in particular, to explore the primitive but remarkable world of sponges (Phylum Porifera.)

**General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June Dr Owen Seeman**, Collection Manager for Arachnida at the Queensland Museum, Subject Editor for the journals *Zootaxa* and *Systematic and Applied Acarology*.

## **Mites: Miniature Beasts and where to find them**

Mites are the smallest animals with legs, allowing them to crawl into and exploit some of the most extraordinary habitats on animals, as well as more mundane places in the soil, on plants and in water. They can be beautiful or grotesque; they do things that seem extraordinary or revolting. After working on mites for about 25 years, Dr Seeman will expose the Acari (mites and ticks) to us and reveal some of his favourite mites, with special focus on his work on those mites which live intimately with beetles.

### **Roster for General Meetings**

Please consider nominating for the General Meeting Roster. You can select a spot on the Roster Sheet which is available at each meeting OR if you are unsure about committing two or three months in advance, email your availability to [news@qnc.org.au](mailto:news@qnc.org.au) closer to the day. Thanks to the following people who have nominated already.

May 15:	Reception:	Susan Nelles & Bernice Shaw
	Supper:	Lil Spadijer
June 19:	Reception:	
	Supper:	

### **MISSING PERSON: DID YOU MAKE A PAYMENT at 115 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE?**

**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 this deposit would you please contact the Treasurer, Mike Anderson, by phone or by email. Contact details on page 1**

# MEETING REPORTS

## **General Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> March Mr Dale Arvidsson Curator, Brisbane Botanic Gardens The Queensland Conservation Collection**

In March 2015, Mr Arvidsson became Curator at Brisbane Botanic Gardens which includes the City Botanic Gardens and the Sherwood Arboretum as well as Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. Previously Curator at Mackay's Regional Botanic Garden from 2006 to 2014, he was the first person from a regional botanic garden to become President of Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc. He sees the role of botanic gardens as conserving and researching flora in the face of a changing climate and increasing human impact on the environment. His focus for the future is education of these messages and making a difference to our environment and how it is perceived by the wider community.

Mr Arvidsson gave a very interesting and most informative address, covering both general information about the Gardens as well as the Queensland Conservation Collection.

Botanic gardens may look like parks but that is not their role. Rather they exist to hold documented collections of living plants for the purposes of scientific research, conservation, display and education. They are analogous to libraries maintaining collections of books and museums conserving artefacts. The Brisbane Botanic Gardens comprises three sites: City Botanic Gardens (1855), Sherwood Arboretum (1925) and Mt Coot-tha (1976) and aims to avoid unnecessary duplication of species. Unlike in other states, it is run by the City Council not the State Government.

Mr Arvidsson is concerned that many younger people growing up in the urban environment may be developing "green blindness" – that is, they have no connection to plants and perceive the world as that defined by the built environment and electronics.

The collection can be classified by various criteria:

Geographic – Australia, America, Africa, Pacific. No true Asian presence despite the Japanese Garden but this is to be remedied in the future.

Taxonomic – e.g. Plant communities, Conifers, Tropical Gymnosperms. Affected by taxonomic revisions.

Thematic Collections eg Japanese Garden, Exotic Rainforest.

Climate Collections - Arid, Tropical Dome, Temperate. The latter has found recent hot weather difficult.

Historic Collections - mainly at City and Sherwood sites though some historic bougainvillea from the City Gardens were transferred to Mt Coot-tha.

Ecological Collections – Australian Plant Communities (APC) and Queensland Conservation Collection (QCC). The QCC is the newest part of the gardens, a 4ha site above the legacy way tunnel and its role is to conserve Queensland native flora, especially those species under threat in the wild. The Mt Coot-tha site is less than ideal to grow plants. Bunya phyllite on the upper slopes makes it difficult to retain water and moisture. In addition, the water that filters through the cracks comes out mineralized and salty and this is not good for some plants. On the lower slopes, the gravelly podzolic soils are only 20 to 40 cm deep and lie over solid clay and rock. In steeper sections, soil can get washed away and some areas were once part of the adjacent quarry. The best soil was where the tunnel was built. While it was saved and returned to the site, compaction of soil occurred in the QCC during construction, despite efforts to prevent it, and is having to be remedied. Water is collected from two creeks and stored in two dams – 12 ML in the APC dam and 18 ML in the new dam - and is recycled. Queensland has 13 bioregions and a large variety of plant species. For example, the South-east Queensland Region has more plant diversity than Kakadu National Park and most are under pressure from population growth and possible climate change.

The Brisbane Botanic Gardens, through its membership of the Queensland Seeds for Life agency (Q-SFL) is involved in collecting and storing seed in secure seed banks as long-term insurance against loss of biodiversity. Botanists collect seed from all over the State and lodge half with the Brisbane Botanic Gardens and half with the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew who are funding this venture. Over the past 10 years, 1,000 species have been collected. These include the following critically endangered ones.

*Acacia purpureopetala*, a purple-flowering wattle limited to about 500 plants in the wild and known from only 5 sites near Herberton.

*Brachychiton* sp “Ormeau” – 61 trees on a mining lease south of Brisbane.

*Phebalium distans* (Mt Berryman Phebalium) – 175 plants Mt Berryman, Kingaroy area. Most surviving in roadside areas so threatened whenever road works occur.

*Notolaea ipsviciensis* (Cooneana Olive) from the Ipswich/Dinmore area now dominated by housing and industry. They are not regenerating there.

### **The Queensland Conservation Collection**

Plants here are organized into Queensland plant communities to show them in their natural environment.

Examples discussed included:-

Dry Rainforest - *Backhousia oligantha*, *Clausena smyrelliana*, *Omphalea celata* (essential for N.Q. Day moth), *Hernandia bivalvis*

Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket - plants that grow well with summer rain and a dry winter such as *Phebalium distans*, *Brachchiton* sp Blackwall Range (Collinsville, Mt Nebo area), *Cadellia pentastylis*

Inland Waterways – *Eucalyptus raverertiana*, *Livistona nitida*, *Melaleuca quercina*

Brigalow Belt – *Acacia harpophylla*, *Solanum johnsonianum*, *S. dissectum*, *S. elachophyllum*, *S. adenophorum*

Southern Montane Heaths & Shrublands – *Leptospermum barneyense*, *Melaleuca formosa*

Central and Inland Montane Heaths & Shrublands

Northern Montane Heaths & Shrublands – *Melaleuca pyramidalis* – known from only 3 sites.

North and Central Queensland Rainforests – *Cassia* sp. Paluma Range, *Gardenia psidioides*, *Gymnostoma australianum*, *Xanthostemon formosus*

South-east Queensland Rainforest - *Gossia gonoclada* (susceptible to myrtle rust)

Mr Arvidsson mentioned that when *Eugenia reinwardtiana* is infected by myrtle rust, it does not set fruit and this is a potential problem to be aware of with other plants.

Another problem mentioned was that caused by fire in rainforest aided by the encroachment of lantana as rainforest plants are not adapted to fire.

Hybridisation within the Gardens is always a possibility, eg with *Solanum* and *Plectranthus* species, so one needs to keep bringing in new specimens from the wild. This makes the seed bank more important than the living collection.

Mr Arvidsson also noted that fog is an important source of moisture in montane areas such as the Bunyas and there is concern that a warming climate will lift the fogs off the mountains to the detriment of the flora there.

### **Botanic Endeavour 2020**

In 2020, the Gardens will celebrate 250 years of the discovery of Australian flora by Banks and Solander during their trip with Captain Cook in 1770. Among the projects planned is a new garden to be planted with those species they discovered in Queensland.

Mr Arvidsson has invited the Club to become involved in the celebrations.



Cape Hillsborough Scene

### **General Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> April Cape Hillsborough Long Excursion Report**

**Myriam Preker, Judy Haines,  
Peter Haselgrove and Desley Willgoss**

Thirteen members attended this excursion held between 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016. The site at Cape Hillsborough was varied being comprised of sandy beaches below a rocky headland, adjacent rainforest, large rocks on the beach, mud flats, mangroves, and a causeway to Wedge Island.

### **Vegetation and Geology: Peter Haselgrove**

The camp was situated on the southern side of the remains of an old volcano. Bands of tuff on the headland slope in a southerly direction and granite rocks are found on the foreshore. Chemical erosion of the solidified lava has produced caves in the area.

Verdant areas of rainforest receive regular rain from both the north-east and south-east. Common trees are horsetail sheoaks, carabeen, eucalypts, hoop pine on both the rocky slopes and behind the beach, palms at the beach edge, and a mangrove community. Lichens grow on the rocks. Cycads occur in open eucalyptus woodland. There were few flowers which was not unexpected at that time of year. A *Dodonaea* sp. was fruiting and wonga vine and ferns were noted.

Butterflies seen included Common Eggfly, Eastern Brown Crow, Border Rustic and Ulysses Swallowtail. The larval food plant for the Eastern Brown Crow, *Trophis scandens*, was present. The green ants found were the tropical species, different from that found in Southern Queensland.

### **Birds: Judy Haines - What was there and what was not**

What was there of particular note: Orange-footed Scrubfowl, White-breasted Sea Eagle, Rajah Shelduck, Emerald Dove, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Dusky Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Fairy Gerygone, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Whimbrel, Gull-billed Tern, Bush Stone Curlew, Olive-backed Sunbird, Channel-billed Cuckoo (arriving there earlier than we see in the south.)

There were only a few waders and no noisy miners, fairy wrens or pardalotes.

### **Sand Environment – Desley Willgoss**

Life on and in the sand was evidenced by sand dollars including *Peronella peronei*, acorn worms, moon snails including *Conuber sordidum*, a sea urchin, *Echinocardium* sp., and several types of sand “bubbles”, the products of a variety of crabs. The best shells were taken by hermit crabs.

### **Marine Life – Myriam Preker**

Despite a lack of a collecting permit and access to a microscope as well as not being able to go swimming, the group recorded an impressive total of 158 marine species. These included:

Brown, red & green algae; one *Halophila* sp the only seagrass; 23 species of sponges (Porifera); 12 species of Cnidaria (sea anemones and jelly fish); hard and soft corals; a sea whip; 30 species of molluscs including 1 chiton; 7 species of worms; 16 crustaceans; 3 bryozoans; 14 echinoderms; sea cucumbers and tunicates.

Of particular note was the sea anemone, *Phymanthus muscosus* which may be a new record for Queensland.

## **WHAT'S ON!**

**THECA Meetings** [www.theca.asn.au](http://www.theca.asn.au)

The Hut, 47 Fleming Road, Chapel Hill 7pm – 9pm

**24<sup>th</sup> May** *Environmental and Conservation Issues in India* – Charles Worringham

### **Queensland Herbarium Seminar FM Bailey Room, at 12 noon**

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. No need to register. [www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/seminars-events](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/seminars-events)

**15<sup>th</sup> May** *Grass pollen aerobiology and human health impact* - Janet Davies

Head of Allergy Research Group, School of Biomedical Sciences - Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation - Centre for Children's Health Research, Queensland University of Technology

**12<sup>th</sup> June** *Fairies at the bottom of the catchment: A history of Fairy Bower, the lost*

*National Park of the lower Fitzroy* Sandy Pollock, Botanist, Queensland Herbarium

### **Native Plants Queensland Market - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, Grovely TAFE Entry via Woking St**

Extensive range of plants from the popular to the less common ones not available commercially, including waterwise ones, pond plants, butterfly-attracting and bush tucker plants. Many suitable for suburban gardens and small areas.

Expert advice on all aspects of plant selection and care from the growers and NPQ members. Books and other information available. Low prices. Sizes from tubes to large pots. Light refreshments available.



**A new publication of interest - *The Nature Guide to North Stradbroke Island-Minjerribah***

provides a comprehensive introduction to the island's unique wildlife and ecology. Beautifully illustrated with over 700 photographs, specialist contributors include well-known Queensland scientists and naturalists Dr Chris Burwell, Harry Hines, Glenn Leiper, John T. Moss, Dr David Stewart and Dr Kathy Townsend. Published December 2016 by the Friends of Stradbroke Island Inc.  
See <https://stradbroke-nature.myshopify.com/pages/the-nature-guide> for further details

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.

## EXCURSIONS

**APRIL 29 TO MAY 1, 2017    MAY LONG WEEKEND CAMP – YANDILLA VIA KILCOY**

Leader Barney Hines    Phone 3720 9414

**All attendees must register**, either by phone or email to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au)

"Yandilla" is a cattle breeding property of 500 acres adjoining the southern end of the Conondale National Park. Extensive walking tracks traverse the property into the forest and National Park. Kilcoy Creek West branch and East branch transect the property. The upper reaches normally provide many rock pools suitable for swimming. A bird list of 165 birds is available.

We will have our own dedicated area to camp. Facilities include flushing toilets and cold, possibly hot (under construction) showers. Tank water is available for drinking however you may wish to bring your own. All rubbish to be taken away when leaving. No power is available.

Address: 1785 Mt Kilcoy Road, Mt Kilcoy 4515 (northern end of Mt Kilcoy Road.) Two-wheel drive access. An excellent campsite for families as there is lots of open space.

Fees \$50 family \$30 single per weekend + club fee

For further information visit <http://www.yandillacampingandfarmstay.com.au/>

**MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>    COLLEGES CROSSING, BRISBANE RIVER**

**Saturday 8.00 am.** Leaders: Peter and Leith Woodall    Phone: 3848 4757 (On the day 0447 446 635). Register by email to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) with Subject "Colleges Crossing." Please include names and contact details.

This is a short, "easy" outing, walking on a flat path for only a couple of kilometres in total. We will meet on the edge of the lagoon and then walk out on a spit of land between it and the Brisbane River. We should return to the cars at about 11.00 am. There is a good variety of birds here and also some interesting riparian vegetation with the insects this brings.

Meet    This excursion will start at 8.00 am at the western end of the carpark. There are nearby shelter sheds, toilets and even a café (Colleges by the River.) We are meeting early because the place can get very busy at the weekends. Bring sun protection (hats, sunscreen, etc) and also insect repellent (if there is no breeze.) If you wish, bring morning tea/brunch which we can have in the shelter sheds at the end of the walk.

Directions: 1). From the north, get on Moggill Rd (33), past Pinjarra Hills turn right onto Mt Crosby Rd (37), pass through the small township of Mt Crosby, cross the Brisbane River and take the first turn right into the Colleges Crossing Recreation Reserve.

2). From the south, get on the Ipswich Rd, (M7/2), take the Warrego Hwy (M2) to the exit to North Tivoli & Mt Crosby, take the Mt Crosby Rd (37) north, travel 3.6 km and turn left into the Colleges Crossing Recreation Reserve, just before reaching the Brisbane River.

Park at the far, western end of the recreation area. (UBD Map 194, D10, -27.55754, 152.79834)

The lagoon is suitable for small canoes or kayaks, if anyone wants to bring one, but be aware that the water contains bull sharks, and the Brisbane River beyond the lagoon can be fast flowing. The QNC takes no responsibility for on water activities!

## **JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> GREATER GLIDER CONSERVATION AREA (GGCA), ALEXANDRA HILLS.**

**Saturday 9.30am** Leader: Susan Nelles. Mob 0487 202101 Home 3820 2101

Please register either by phone or email to [excursions@qnc.net.au](mailto:excursions@qnc.net.au)

The conservation area comprises 52 hectares of bushland within the Coolnwynpin Creek Catchment. The reserve has a large amount of biodiversity for a small area. The vegetation is open eucalypt woodland dominated by Scribbly Gum forest with grassy understory and two patches of heathland on tertiary surfaces. A current plant list of 139 species will be available for reference. In addition some 9 species of frog, 108 birds, 22 mammals and 21 reptiles have been recorded. Koalas and wallabies are regularly observed and powerful owls also occur.

Meet at Wimborne Road Park – opposite Chipping Drive. UBD 204 M3 close to the entrance to the conservation area.

Track is about 2 km and is gently undulating and partly shaded. Please bring morning tea to eat on the track. Lunch will be at the park near the cars at the end of the walk – a chair could be useful. There are no toilets but there is a water tap and shops are close by.

## **LONG EXCURSION 2017 CENTRAL WEST QUEENSLAND**

**June 24 – July 9** Leaders: Peter and Lynette Haselgrove Enquiries to [peily95@gmail.com](mailto:peily95@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. Details in QNC News 331.

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 25 / 26 June; Leave Noonbah Sunday 2 July travel to Edgbaston Reserve, via Longreach shops; Depart Edgbaston Friday or Saturday 7 / 8 July. Travel to and from your home base is independent. We will meet at Noonbah. More detailed information on directions to Noonbah and Edgbaston and flora and fauna lists will be emailed to participants in May.

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. See QNC News 331 for details.

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](http://www.facebook.com/Noonbah-Station) and [www.bushheritage.org.au/edgbaston](http://www.bushheritage.org.au/edgbaston)

Bush Heritage's Dr Alex Kutt and Rob Wager, have provided a summary of our visit to Edgbaston. Full details were in the last QNC News No. 331.

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. 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. They welcome QNC's participation in these activities, and they 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.

Note: A 4WD vehicle is required as roads can become slippery and chopped up when wet. High clearance is not necessary.

If you wish to attend this excursion, email/post a completed application form (on last page) to the Haselgroves.

Also email them if you would like to find a passenger or a driver from Brisbane or Longreach or someone to share a hire vehicle from Longreach. If possible, they will link you with others.

## EXCURSION REPORTS

February 19<sup>th</sup>

### WESTERN WINDOWS WALK, MT GLORIOUS

We were overtaken by at least 50 motor cycles on our way to Mt. Glorious and saw about 100 cyclists going down the mountain. We hadn't been to the area at weekends for a number of years – we mostly go during the week when we more or less have the place to ourselves. On arriving at the Maiala picnic area, we couldn't find a place in the car parks and had to park along the road – there was a fun run on with about 150 runners.

Unperturbed, we met up with the other Club members, 13 adults and two children, and set off down the road to the entrance of Joyner's Ridge Road. Fortunately, we had enough members with natural history knowledge so I only had to concentrate on where we were going. From the road entrance, we set off along the Western Windows track, a delightful area of rainforest with plenty of interesting things to see. Unfortunately, the same track was part of the fun run so we were continually stepping aside to let the runners through. Part way along the track, we climbed to the Western Windows Lookout, crossed the road and walked down Brown's Road to meet the track to Green's Falls. Finally, we took this track back to Maiala where we had lunch.

The weather was good, the other walkers knowledgeable and we resulted with a list of 24 birds, 1 reptile, 2 butterflies, 10 fungi, 10 ferns and 52 plants. Keith Travers

March 11th-18th

### LORD HOWE ISLAND



A group of 15 people travelled to Lord Howe. Unlike the last Club trip in 2015, we arrived safely and on time. Our guide for the week, Ian Hutton, met us at the airport.

Ian had arranged a series of mostly half-day walks to various parts of the island. His accompanying talks informed us about the vegetation and birds that we saw along the way. In addition, he had arranged for evening talks at the Museum on history, geology and fauna and flora. The walks allowed us to see some of the more unusual plants on the island such as the banyan

*Ficus macrophylla subsp. columnaris* and what is known as forked tree *Pandanus forsteri*. The walks that led to cliff tops gave us quite close views of red-tailed tropicbirds *Phaethon rubricauda* and masked boobies *Sula dactylatra tasmani*.

The wind died away mid-week and two longer boat trips – one around the island and one to Ball's Pyramid -were undertaken. Those on the Ball's Pyramid trip got to see some of the rarer sea-birds.

An afternoon glass-bottom boat trip gave some of the group the opportunity to go snorkelling while the rest contented themselves with views of the wonderful corals and sea-floor life and the remarkable variety of fish.

Highlights of the trip bird-wise were the Lord Howe Island woodhen *Tricholimnas sylvestris*, the seabirds and large numbers of ruddy turnstones *Arenaria interpres*, Pacific golden plovers *Pluvialis fulva* and bar-tailed godwits *Limosa lapponica* coming into breeding plumage before their departure for the Northern Hemisphere. A small self-effacing bird on the foreshore near the airstrip was finally identified as a non-breeding double-banded plover *Charadrius bicinctus*.

Who is organising the next trip?

Peter and Lynette Haselgrove



## March 12<sup>th</sup> SIMPSON FALLS TRACK, MT COOT-THA

The location for our activity was near the headwaters of Ithaca Creek West, part of the Enoggera Creek Catchment. Having postponed this Walking with Life activity from February due to severe hot weather, a group of eight of us met along Sir Samuel Griffith's Drive, a short distance down from the TV towers. This marked track provides the shortest walk into the top of the falls. Since the drought had not broken, the creek and the falls were dry.

Despite the dryness, there was plenty of evidence of life-forms having utilized the various plants along the way, though little was spotted on the wing or still actively eating various host plants. Eggs of Baly's Leaf Beetle (aka the Two-tailed Leaf Beetle) *Aproidea balyi* were found on some Wombat Berry plants *Eustrephus latifolius*.

After reaching the top of the falls and finding a new and very substantial foot bridge and viewing platform across the top of the creek, we ventured a short distance up the track towards the top of Mt Coot-tha. The highlight of the walk was spotting a Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* in a Grey Gum *Eucalyptus punctata*.



Helen Schwencke

## March 18<sup>th</sup>

## TOORBUL and BRIBIE ISLAND

Eleven people attended this outing which was mainly to observe migratory waders before they left for their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere. We recorded a total of 54 species of birds, a few butterflies & dragonflies and diverse plants.

At the Toorbul wader roost, about 700 Bar-tailed Godwits were seen, many starting to change to their coppery breeding plumage. They will soon be leaving for eastern Siberia and Alaska. We also saw a few Great Knots, and Black-tailed Godwits. We were pleased to see about 150 Eastern Curlew which is critically endangered because of loss of feeding grounds on their migration path. One estimate suggests that a quarter of the world's population winters in Moreton Bay and Great Sandy Strait.

Birds noted at Kakadu Beach included Black-winged Stilts and Lesser Sand Plovers. After lunch we drove on to Buckleys Hole where we saw a range of waterbirds and a very obliging young Sacred Kingfisher which posed for the photographers. Finally, we went to Red Beach where we walked along the beach and some of us enjoyed a swim. Our thanks to Harry Hines for bringing extra telescopes and assistance with identification.

Peter and Leith Woodall

## April 8<sup>th</sup>

## G.J. WALTER PARK, CLEVELAND SEAFRONT



Thirty-four club members and their guests assembled at the G.J Walter Park in Cleveland at noon for a slow amble across the exposed, muddy-sand flat seaward of the park. We proceeded at typical QNC pace and, despite the interruption of a number of showers, we found an impressive list of marine organisms, which we examined. The young naturalists in the group had keen eyes and found many interesting animals, especially crabs. One of the highlights of the excursion was finding two, young, coral colonies near the seaward edge of the mud flat. It is reassuring to know that there is still coral recruitment occurring in Moreton Bay.

Ian Lawn & Myriam Preker

## Council News

Council is delighted that long-time-member, Mr Neil Fordyce of Tenterfield responded to the appeal for a President in our previous newsletter and welcome him very warmly. The Club is most fortunate that someone with his talents and knowledge is willing to take on the role while living a considerable distance from Brisbane.

However, Council still needs people to fill the roles of Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents. These are preparatory roles for future Presidents and important in ensuring continued good management of the Club.

Also needed is a Newsletter Editor. The Assistant Secretary, Ruth Thomson, has offered to switch to this temporarily. As a result, however, the job of the Secretary, Judy Haines, has grown and an offer to help with secretarial work would be most gratefully received.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Dr Stuart Pell, Kenmore

Mr Harvey Cooper-Preston, Durack

Ms Colleen Foelz, Fairfield

*We wish you a long and happy association with the Club.*

### QUEENSLAND NATURAL HISTORY AWARD 2018

The Queensland Natural History Award is presented annually by the Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc. to give recognition to persons who have made outstanding contributions to natural history in Queensland. Nominations may be made by individuals (a proposer and a seconder) or by organisations. Criteria for assessment include scientific research, publication of books or popular articles, contributions to organisations, gifting, teaching and administration. Nominations must be received by the Secretary by 31st August each year and remain current for three years. Information in the form of three documents, Rules, Guidelines and Nomination Form, are available on the Club's website or from the Secretary.

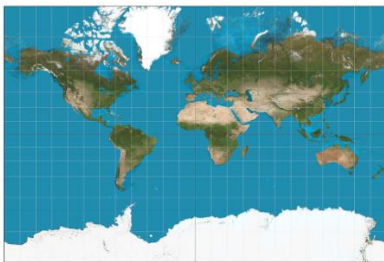
### QNC CALENDAR 2018

A reminder that it is never too early in the year to be collecting photos (landscape format) for next year's calendar.

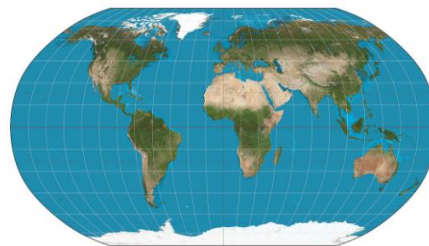
### ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE 2017 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY JAMES HANSEN

#### **THE EVOLUTION OF WORLD MAPS: from Mercator to Narukawa**

A MODERN MAP OF THE WORLD USING MERCATOR PROJECTION  
Source: Wikipedia



Robinson map 2011 (Source: NASA)



Hajime Narukawa: A NEW MAP OF THE WORLD



The difficulty of accurately representing the globe on a flat plane continues to inspire new solutions, the most recent being Narukawa's 2016 design which is based on dividing the world into 96 equilateral triangles. Note the relative sizes of Greenland; also variation in the distance from Adelaide to Perth. Further details were reported in QNC News 331.

## 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.

### MARCH MEETING EXHIBITS



1. The tiny *Mycena* species (*left*) is on a swamp wallaby scat and was found by Susan Nelles in the Eucalypt forest at JC Trotter Reserve, Cherbon St Burbank while on a U3A Botany in the Bush ramble on 16th March. Another macroscopically similar species on a moist cowpat was found at Bellthorpe on 28<sup>th</sup> March. They are both a response to the recent rains and warm, humid weather.

2. Mud wasp nest sent in by Bob Backhouse.

3. Blind Snake sent in by Bob Backhouse. Harry Hines commented that it appeared to be a juvenile *Anilios* species and that these are very hard to identify without microscopic examination, aided by Indian ink on their skin to highlight the scale pattern. Also, genetic data is now indicating many more species in *Anilios* than currently described using standard morphological methods. Harry also mentioned the recent description of a new species that is only known from a single specimen a few mm in diameter.

4. Photos by Harry Hines of Spectacled Flying-foxes (*Pteropus conspicillatus*) foraging in a tree on the Cairns Esplanade and in their roost in the CBD. A vulnerable species, it was often observed with its tongue protruding. It also has the very neat habit of moving to a head-up position to defecate!

### APRIL MEETING EXHIBITS

1. Joan Cribb brought in a container of Barbados cherries (*Malpighia puniceifolia*) from her tree for sampling.

2. Harry Hines showed several photos of butterflies from several places in Queensland including a Four-barred Swallowtail (*Protographium leosthenes*) and a Caper Gull (*Cepora perimale*) from Flinders Peak, a Yellow Palm-dart (*Cephrenes trichopepla*) from Pt. Lookout and a Leafwing (*Dolleschallia bisaltide*) from Kroombit Tops. He also showed details of the “false heads” in the Lycaenidae family (blues and coppers) such as a Two-spotted Line-blue (*Nacaduba biocellata*) from Durakai. Eyespots and tails on the rear underwing (tornal lobe) are believed to trick predators into taking bites from that part of the wing which is less essential for flight.

3. Judy Haines brought in a female Great Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa aruana/leiftincki*), one of the largest native bees, growing up to 23mm in length.



## LIBRARY & FACEBOOK

The club's Facebook page is open to the public and can be found at QNC Facebook Page.

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 *Leith Woodall*

**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](mailto: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**