



QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

The poetry of earth is never dead. Keats

QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

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November-December 2017

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PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

Nov 20 Long Excursion Report
 Feb 19 AGM
 Mar 19 Dr Bill McDonald

Excursions:

Nov 12 Hillview Drive Reserve Muirlea
 Nov 15 Sherwood Arboretum
 Nov 19 Manorina NP
 Dec 2 Kholo Botanic Gardens
 Jan 25-29 Bindarrabi
 Feb 11 Pine Mt Bush Reserve



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 – January - February 2018 QNC News – 15th December 2017.

The Queensland Naturalist is published twice per year.
 ARTICLES to the EDITOR, Dr. Peter Woodall at journal@qnc.org.au

COUNCIL NEWS & NOTICES

AWARD OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO DAVID SHAW

It is with great pleasure that Council announces the awarding of a Life Membership to David Shaw. David, with his wife Bernice, has been a member for 36 years and he has served on Council for 24 of those. He was Treasurer for 5 years, Excursion Secretary for 2 years and has been Lanternist for the past 10 years, a role he still fills. He also continues to maintain our website and to provide IT advice when the need arises and is the author of the software the Club has used for many years to manage membership and financial records. David and Bernice continue to participate in and contribute to QNC outings on a regular basis.

COUNCIL POSITIONS

Council is pleased to announce that Barry Jahnke has taken on the role of Vice-President that has been vacant this year. Welcome back to Council, Barry.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 2019

Nominations are open for the election of the QNC Council at the AGM on February 19th, 2018. A nomination form is on page 15; nominations need to be returned to the Secretary by post or email by February 5th, 2018. There are some crucial roles to be filled, in particular Newsletter Editor and Assistant Secretary, so please consider volunteering to contribute to the functioning of the Club. Information about these roles follows and if you would like to know more, please contact Ruth Thomson at news@qnc.org.au

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – **It is imperative that this role is filled.** The Newsletter is the Club's main means of communicating with members and the current acting editor is unable to continue on Council next year because of a variety of family obligations.

Skills needed are a basic familiarity with Word, manipulating photos, emailing and googling. It is not hard if you can do these. Each News can be produced using the previous edition as a template which is both helpful and time-saving. There are comprehensive instructions to follow which were prepared by the previous editor, Lynette Haselgrove. There are members who are happy to proof read the final copy. And Council has a subscription to Office 365 which would be available. It would also be feasible for people to share different aspects of the preparation.

If you would like to take on this role, you might find it helpful to run through the procedure with me as I do the next issue, January – February 2018, which will be my last. *Ruth Thomson*

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY (or Minutes Secretary) and is responsible for Council Minutes and sometimes also the General Meeting Minutes and other occasional assistance to the Secretary. Skills needed are a familiarity with Word and emailing. Council has a subscription to Office 365 which would be available.

POTENTIAL SALE OF THE ROYAL QUEENSLAND GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY PREMISES

The RQGS is currently in negotiations for the sale of their premises where our General Meetings are held. If the sale occurs, we will need to find alternative premises for 2018. Besides being reasonably centrally located, such premises ideally need to be able to accommodate our bookcase and other equipment and also not require us to finish our meetings by 9.00pm as some possible places stipulate.

If you know of any suitable venues, please let either the President or the Secretary know.

MEMBERSHIP FEES were due on 1st July. If you have not yet paid, the renewal form can be found on the last page of this newsletter. People who remain unfinancial after December 31 will no longer receive the News or the Queensland Naturalist.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to: Gary Young - Red Hill; Judith Giles – West End; Ann Tracey – East Brisbane; Robert Whyte and Ann Jones –The Gap; Susan Rouse & Mark Shuman – Coorparoo.
We wish you a long and happy association with the Club

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITS at General Meetings

A request for anyone who would like to upload a PowerPoint or jpeg image to arrive by 7.15pm and liaise with the Lanternist.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO LEAD EXCURSIONS

Excursion Secretary, Barney Hines would like to hear from people who would like to lead any of the excursions he plans. If you are interested, please contact him, tel 3720 9414 or excursion@qnc.org.au .

EXCURSION SIGN-ON SHEETS The Club is now asking all people who attend excursions to sign an Attendance Sheet. This provides a record of your attendance in case it may ever be necessary to make an insurance claim. It also offers the option of recording your email address so you can receive a species list from the excursion.

QNC CALENDAR 2018 Many thanks to everyone who contributed photos for the 2018 Calendar. There were many excellent photos – too many in fact for this year’s calendar – but hopefully they can be used for the next one. Please contact Sheryl Backhouse (details below) if you would like to place an order. The calendar will be available for collection at the November meeting. Cost is \$12.00 collected or \$15.00 posted.

Sheryl Backhouse - sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com tel 3289 4198

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.

Please bring any pictures of exhibits that you want to project to the Lanternist by 7.15pm.

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

20th November

Noonbah Long Excursion Report

Members will present a series of short reports covering the botany, birds, mammals, invertebrates and an overview of the region. Peter Haselgrove will chair the presentation.

19th February 2018

AGM and Address by the President, Mr N. Fordyce.

19th March 2018

The Southern Connection – Forest Flora of Patagonia

Dr W.J.F. McDonald, Honorary Research Associate, Queensland Herbarium

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 closer to the day. Thank you to the following people who have nominated already.

November 20:	Reception:	Coral & Joseph Reichman;	Supper Duties:	Susan Nelles
February 19:	Reception:;	Supper Duties:
March 19:	Reception:;	Supper Duties:

Thank you to those who have helped recently: Yvonne & Keith Travers, Barbara Braddock, Philip Baxter, Mike Anderson, Jeanette & Murray Watson.

Thank you also to all the generous members who bring plates of food for supper.

MEETING REPORTS

MAPPING QUEENSLAND'S THREATENED SPECIES' HOTSPOTS

Dr Melinda Laidlaw

**Senior Ecologist at the Queensland Herbarium and Weed Spotters Network Queensland
Coordinator**

Dr. Laidlaw described the modelling that has been used to map the pre-clearing habitat distribution of over 300 of Queensland's threatened flora and fauna species; its use to determine changes in the extent of particular habitats; and the development of strategies to monitor changes and counteract threats. She is one of the authors of the publication *Scientific Review of the impacts of land clearing on threatened species in Queensland* and the person responsible for the modelling and analysis in it. This report can be sourced at <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/threatened-species/documents/land-clearing-impacts-threatened-species.pdf> and is worth reading for further information of this important topic.

The study used the Maxent distribution modelling method: species observation records from across Queensland and associated climate attributes (including mean temperature, temperature seasonality, annual precipitation, seasonality of rainfall, topographic ruggedness, land zone and pre-clearing broad vegetation group) were used to produce models of potential pre-clearing habitat for each threatened species. Complications in achieving useful models include species which appear irregularly, those with fewer than 10 records and the need to consider potential bias from roadside records.

Models have been prepared for 191 endangered and vulnerable plant species and 116 endangered and vulnerable fauna species. Each species has a map showing the extent of the modelled habitat together with sightings denoted by black circles. Most maps are available on WildNet while the geodatabase of all models is available for download from open data portal,

<https://data.qld.gov.au/dataset/modelled-potential-habitat-for-selected-threatened-species-queensland>

It is planned to add it to Queensland Globe.

A strong environmental driver of distribution in some species is temperature which, in the example given of *Phebalium distans*, accounts for 76.5% of the model. With a warming climate, suitable habitat for temperature sensitive species is expected to move or reduce and work is being done to identify suitable refugia. Fifty temperature sensitive plants have been listed, among them five allopatric *Macrozamia* cycads which are expected to move upslope out of the currently protected areas and therefore also become further genetically isolated.

One suggested strategy is to identify non-remnant areas which can be used for biodiverse carbon farming. Further information is at the Regrowth Benefits website, <http://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/regrowth-benefits/>

Land clearing in Queensland increased markedly after 1945 with the availability of new mechanical and chemical methods and also government policies to settle and develop the Brigalow Belt. The rate dropped in the mid-2000s associated with the Vegetation Management Act but has increased somewhat in recent years and this loss of habitat continues to affect threatened species. The extent of the loss of native vegetation can be read in the Queensland government's State of the Environment Report, <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/state-of-the-environment/>. Of particular concern is the low percentage of these threatened species' habitats in protected areas. For example, with flora, only about 15% of habitats were in protected areas while about another 6% were in forestry reserves.

Distribution maps of threatened species habitats show the highest density of them to be in south-east Queensland, the Brigalow Belt, the wet tropics and the New England Tableland. Springbrook National Park is a particularly concentrated spot. There are various potential uses for the mapping of these "hotspots" and they include monitoring threatened species habitat loss or gain over time; predicting changes due to climate changes and identifying areas being threatened.

MT. KINABALU - WHERE GONDWANA MEETS EURASIA

David Bouchard - October Members' Night

David entertained us with an informative description of his trek to the summit of Mt Kinabalu in the Malaysian state of Sabah in the northern Borneo which he illustrated with many wonderful photos of the scenery and vegetation. The trek to the mountain top, 4,095 metres, was done over two days, sleeping briefly in a lodge overnight before setting out at 2 a.m. to reach the summit before sunrise. The climb started at the National Park Headquarters at 1600 metres and progressed through lush forest until reaching the rocky upper slopes.

Mt Kinabalu is a granodiorite pluton ten million years old and still rising. The vegetation along the trekking path is temperate and, being on the western side of the Wallace Line, predominately Eurasian though a few Southern Hemisphere genera are also found. At about 2000 metres, *Leptospermum* species start appearing. Initially, they are about 10 metres tall but gradually become smaller and are still present at the peak growing in the rocky crevices along with *Dacrydium*, a member of the Gondwanan Podocarpaceae and relative of the New Zealand Rimu conifer *Dacrydium cupressinum*. Another podocarp found is a Celery Pine, *Phyllocladus hypophyllus*.

There are more than 1000 flowering plants, among them a concentration of about 40 Fagaceae species such as beech, oak and chestnut. Also abundant are ferns – 608 species of which 50 are endemic; rattan palms 40 species; rhododendrons – 20 species in the park; and 750 species of orchids, 90 being endemic. Other plentiful genera noted were *Selaginella*, *Lycopodium* and *Nepenthes*.

BOOK TOPICS

BOOK AUCTION A very enjoyable and productive auction of surplus books from the library was held at the October General Meeting raising \$305.50 for the Club. Only one small pamphlet remained unsold. Thanks to Leith Woodall for organising it, Peter Woodall for his professional auctioneering and to both Leith and Barney Hines for pencilling.

LIBRARY NEWS

Angus Emmott has kindly given us two new books by to add to the library:

Frogs of the Lake Eyre Basin: a field guide by Michael J. Tyler, Steve G. Wilson and Angus Emmott; Longreach, Qld. : Desert Channels Queensland, ©2011 (597.89 TYL)

Snakes of Western Queensland: a field guide by Angus Emmott and Steve G. Wilson; Longreach, Qld. : Desert Channels Queensland, 2009 (597.96 EMM).

Both books are well illustrated and would be useful for people travelling in the relevant areas.

Leith Woodall

NEW BOOKS FOR SALE

The following two books will be available at the November General Meeting:

Rocks, Landscapes & Resources of the Great Artesian Basin - A Handbook for Travellers by Warwick Willmott, Alex Cook & Barry Neville. - another book in Warwick Willmott's series of very useful regional geology guides:

Mangroves to Mountains (2017) - with a plastic cover on the paperback edition and 32 additional pages. New entries include orchids, grasses and vines. The paper used is of the same high quality but is of lighter weight so this edition is not as heavy as the previous one.

UPCOMING 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.

NOVEMBER 12th HILLVIEW DRIVE RESERVE, MUIRLEA.

Walking with Life: Exploring our Living Catchments series

Sunday 2.45 for 3pm - 5pm

Leader: Helen Schwencke

Register by email: excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject: WWL Hillview Drive 12/11/17

OR contact Helen Schwencke 0423 127 492

OR through QNC's Meetup website: <http://www.meetup.com/Walking-with-Life-in-our-catchments-Nature-Excursions/> (become a member first).

Meet at the corner of Hillview Drive & Riverside Drive, Muirlea (Google Maps -27.574051, 152.742973, UBD Map 160, N20). The street address is 124-170 Riverside Drive, Muirlea

The Hillview Drive Reserve is a 37.2 hectares reserve situated 4.7kms north of the Ipswich CBD in the suburb of Muirlea. It adjoins the Kholo Botanic Gardens along the Brisbane River and helps to conserve native vegetation in the area. Previous uses of the reserve include limited grazing and timber extraction. The Reserve was purchased in 1999 to form part a major bioregional corridor which connects across the Brisbane River with linkages to Brisbane Forest Park.

The reserve has no facilities, no tracks, no open gates and access is by climbing through a barbwire fence. There are no access restrictions imposed by the Ipswich City Council. You will need to come prepared for some bush scrambling. The hillside leads down to a creek line that flows into the Brisbane River through Kholo Botanic Gardens.

Wear your bushwalking gear and sturdy shoes. It is recommended that you wear trousers and a long-sleeved shirt for this adventure.

The Regional ecosystem types in the reserve are 12.9-10.2; 12.9 - 10.17c; 12.9 - 10.7; and 12.9 - 10.19 in proportions 40:30:20:10.

12.9-10.2: *Corymbia citriodora* subsp. *variegata* +/- *Eucalyptus crebra* open forest on sedimentary rocks

12.9-10.17c: Open forest of *Eucalyptus carnea* and/or *E. tindaliae* and/or *E. helidonica* +/- *Corymbia citriodora* subsp. *variegata*, *Eucalyptus crebra*, *Eucalyptus major*, *Corymbia henryi*, *Angophora woodsiana*, *C. trachyphloia*, *E. siderophloia*, *E. microcorys*, *E. resinifera* and *E. propinqua*. *Lophostemon confertus* often present as a sub-canopy or understorey tree. Occurs on Cainozoic and Mesozoic sediments.

12.9 - 10.7: *Eucalyptus crebra* +/- *E. tereticornis*, *Corymbia tessellaris*, *Angophora leiocarpa*, *E. melanophloia* woodland. Occurs on Cainozoic and Mesozoic sediments.

12.9 - 10.19: *Eucalyptus fibrosa* subsp. *fibrosa* woodland +/- *Corymbia citriodora* subsp. *variegata*, *E. acmenoides* or *E. portuensis*, *Angophora leiocarpa*, *E. major*. Understorey often sparse. Localised occurrences of *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*. Occurs on Cainozoic and Mesozoic sediments. Habitat for threatened plant species including *Macrozamia parcifolia*.

NOVEMBER 15th SHERWOOD ARBORETUM
Wednesday Mid-week Walk 10am Leader: Dr Dick Date 07 3379 7957

Register by phone (as above) or by email to excursion@qnc.org.au

It is important to register so we can have another guide if numbers warrant.

The efforts of the Friends of Sherwood Arboretum recently have received a boost from Brisbane City Council by incorporating the Arboretum as part of Brisbane's Living Plant Collection under the care of the Curator of Brisbane Botanic Gardens. Recent plantings of important tree species have broadened the range of Queensland tree species represented. The arboretum was established during the 1920s. QNC was represented at the official opening and planting of the 'Kauri Pine' avenue by the then President of the Club. Meet at the Jolimont Street car park for the walk around the Arboretum finishing up at the picnic table area for a quiet lunch. Good spot for 'birdos' as well as timber and ornamental tree addicts.

NOVEMBER 19th MANORINA NATIONAL PARK, MOUNT NEBO.

Sunday 9am to 1pm Leader: Rob Reeves

Register with Rob either by phoning on 0408 854 077, or emailing rob@robsguitarschool.com

The excursion will be a walk along the Morelia track to the summit of Mount Nebo, 6km return. The walk begins in rainforest and follows a gentle grade through wet eucalypt forest, and a palm thicket before reaching the summit in dry eucalypt woodland. There is a rock shelf at the summit where people can have morning tea and enjoy the outlook over to Moreton Bay.

Some recent photos of plants found on this walk can be found in the "Plants of D'Aguilar National Park" Facebook page, which members are welcome to join and to post their plant photos to!

DIRECTIONS:

From The Gap: Follow Mount Nebo Road to Mount Nebo Village and continue following the signs to Mount Glorious. After passing the Goat Track on the right and D'Arcy Kelly Rd on the left, the entrance to Manorina picnic area is a few hundred metres further on the right. Travel time from The Gap is approximately 30 to 35 minutes. The Mount Nebo Road is heavily used by cyclists on the weekends, so you may want to allow extra time or alternatively, travel by Samford.

From Samford: Follow the Mount Glorious Rd towards Mount Glorious. At the top of the range, turn left towards Mount Nebo. The Manorina picnic area is about 5km on the left, just after the speed limit reduces to 60km. Travel time is about 30 minutes.

Bring: Water, morning tea, and standard bush gear. There may be ticks, leeches or mosquitoes, depending on the current conditions!

The nearest toilets are at the Cafe in the Mountains at Mount Nebo Village. Other public toilets are at the Maiala picnic area at Mount Glorious.



**DECEMBER 2 KHOLO BOTANIC GARDENS
CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP**

Saturday - 7am for bird walk; 8.30am to 9am for breakfast

Leader: David Bouchard

No need to register but contact David if you have any queries on 0429 627 080.

Description: Natural vine scrub with native plantings next to the upper Brisbane River.

Directions: Take the Kholo exit off the Warrego Highway at North Ipswich. Cross the Highway and take the first exit to the left – Riverside Drive. Proceed around 2.5km, the Gardens are on the right at 243 Riverside Drive Muirlea. Approximately 30 minutes from the western suburbs.

Meet at 7.00 am in the carpark for a bird walk along the track past Coal Creek. The Gardens open at 6.00am if you want to get there earlier.

Breakfast to start 8.30am to 9.00am - barbeques and picnic shelters are available – provide your own food.

Canoe launching is available in the Brisbane River, but you need to carry your craft 200m to launch spot.

January 25th – 29th, 2018 BINDARRABI

Australia Day Long Weekend - Thursday to Monday

Leaders: Doone Wyborn and John Moss (tel 0427 596 753)

Register either by phone or email excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject ‘Bindarrabi.’

We are returning to Bindarrabi after a highly successful visit in May 2016. The organisers are hoping that a summer camp will enable more interaction with invertebrates, frogs and reptiles. Bindarrabi is an excellent site, surrounded on three sides by the Koreelah National Park (NSW).

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

Bindarrabi is \$10.00/person/night for camping, which includes use of facilities. A \$2 club fee per person per night will also be levied. Participants are welcome to arrive from Thursday afternoon and stay until Monday morning. Longer stays may also be accommodated by arrangement with the owners.

Payments can be made by direct deposit to Bindarrabi P/L, BSB: 484-799 - Account:123888240.

Our hosts are Doone Wyborn and Carol Shantal. Their website contains further information and photos of the campsite: <http://www.bindarrabi.com/> .

Directions

From Brisbane: There are two routes: the recommended route is via Ipswich and Boonah which, though it has more gravel road, is shorter and, in Doone’s opinion, safer and more scenic than the alternative route via Beaudesert and Woodenbong. *Don’t use GPS when coming from Brisbane as it takes you the long way around.*

From Ipswich or Yamanto take the Ipswich-Boonah Road to Boonah and continue through the town on the Boonah -Rathdowney Road for 14 km. Turn right on to Carneys Creek Road and continue along it for 15 km. At this point where the road to Killarney and Queen Mary’s Falls turns right, **DO NOT TURN RIGHT**, but keep straight on along the road to White Swamp. This road becomes a dirt road after 1.5km and crosses the border into NSW after 14km. At this point Carneys Creek Road in Queensland becomes White Swamp

Road in NSW. At 10.8 km past the border you will find the turnoff to the right into the Koreelah National Park and camping ground.

Bindarrabi from Koreelah National Park turnoff: Proceed past the National Park camping ground on your left for 700 metres to the National Park yellow metal gate (we will have it unlocked for you.) Continue past the National Park gate for 200m to the Bindarrabi Gate. Please leave the gates as you find them. Continue on the road for 700m until you see the campground on your left.

From NSW North Coast: via Kyogle, Summerland Way to Mount Lindesay Highway, left to Woodenbong and on to Old Koreelah. Then turn right onto White Swamp Road and proceed for 11.8 km to the Koreelah National Park turnoff.

From New England Tableland: Proceed along Mount Lindesay Highway from Tenterfield to Legume and a further 23 km to Old Koreelah then turn left and on to White Swamp Road and proceed for 11.8 km to the Koreelah National Park turnoff.

From inland SE Queensland: From Warwick travel to Killarney. Four km past Killarney, turn left on to Spring Creek Road which leads you past Queen Mary's Falls and Carrs Lookout. Six km past Carrs Lookout where the Condamine River Road enters from the left, turn right towards Boonah, and 700m past this point turn right on to the Head Gate Road (gravel) towards White Swamp. You cross the border after 500m. After 5 km turn RIGHT on the White Swamp Road towards Old Koorelah and proceed to the Koreelah National Park entrance after 3 km.

FEBRUARY 11th, 2018 PINE MOUNTAIN BUSH RESERVE

Pine Mountain Quarry Rd, Pine Mountain and the nearby "The Cricket Pitch"

Walking with Life: Exploring our Living Catchments series

Sunday 2.45 for 3pm - 5pm

Leader: Helen Schwencke

Register by email: excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject: WWL Pine Mountain Bush Reserve 11/02/18

OR contact Helen Schwencke 0423 127 492

OR through QNC's Meetup website: <http://www.meetup.com/Walking-with-Life-in-our-catchments-Nature-Excursions/> (become a member first).

Meet at the car park on Pine Mountain Quarry Rd., Pine Mountain. (Google Maps -27.544308, 152.709465. Search Google Maps for "Pine Mountain Bush Reserve Car Park" as I've had it named as a place. The street address is 20-100 Pine Mountain Quarry Road, Pine Mountain. UBD Map192 A4.

It is listed on a number of bird observer websites and made for an interesting reccyng walk. The walking tracks are graded and the walking is easy with only some small rises. The creek lines flow to the Brisbane River.

Regional Ecosystem type: 12.11.14: Eucalyptus crebra, E. tereticornis, Corymbia intermedia woodland on metamorphics +/- interbedded volcanics. The conservation status of this vegetation type is listed as being "of concern."

Time permitting, we will also look at the nearby "The Cricket Pitch", 857-863 Pine Mountain Rd, Pine Mountain QLD 4306. Google Maps Reference, -27.543463, 152.711912, also searchable using "The Cricket Pitch" Pine Mountain Ipswich.

This is a small patch of remnant dry vine scrub vegetation which doesn't have a Regional Ecosystem type designation. There are some mowed tracks, though some of the more interesting vegetation, including a variety of butterfly host plants, is off track.

Wear good walking shoes, and it's recommended to wear long trousers and a long-sleeved shirt. There are no facilities in the Reserve or at The Cricket Pitch, although BBQ facilities are available at The Cricket Pitch. Anyone for an after-excursion BBQ or picnic? The nearest facilities are at the Kholo Botanic Gardens.

EXCURSION REPORTS

August 26-27

BARAKULA AND GURULMUNDI STATE FORESTS, CHINCHILLA

Thirteen members of the QNC made their way to Chinchilla for a joint outing to the Barakula and Gurulmundi State Forests with the Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club (CFNC).

On the Friday night, some of us went to the evening meeting of the CFNC where we enjoyed their hospitality and met Grace Lithgow, now 92 years old. Frank Truscott showed photographs of some of the plants we were likely to see over the next two days.

On Saturday morning, we gathered early outside the caravan park, joined 8 members of the CFNC and then drove in a convoy of 8 vehicles into Barakula State Forest. We had frequent stops with Frank Truscott pointing out the plants and other features.



There were many species of wattles - just a few are mentioned here: *Acacia chinchillensis* (pictured), *A. sparsiflora*, *A. semiluna*, *A. decora*. The wildflowers were not at their best because there had been little rain before our trip, but we still saw some interesting species: Broom Bush *Chorestrum candollei* and Sandstone Boronia *Boronia glabra*. We saw two mistletoes: Grey Mistletoe *Amyema quandang var bancroftii* with broad leaves; and the Square-stemmed Mistletoe *Viscum articulatum* which is in a different family (Viscaceae) and is a hyperparasite, living on the Grey Mistletoe. (on page 1)

We saw a number of butterflies, an Australian Emperor Dragonfly (caught by Murray Watson), several day-flying tiger moths, a Golden Orb-weaving Spider *Nephila edulis*, and several jewel beetles feeding among the flowers.

We stopped to look at the Waaje fire tower, one of the few remaining fire towers in State Forests and no longer manned. It was 34m high and the outer poles are from single tree trunks.

In the afternoon we moved to a waterhole, where many birds were coming down to drink. These included the Yellow-tufted and White-eared Honeyeaters (pictured) and a noisy bunch of Apostlebirds. After a long and successful day, we returned to Chinchilla in the dark.



On Sunday morning, with slightly reduced numbers, we set off for the Gurulmundi State Forest and its well-known wildflower area. Along the way we stopped at a farm dam and counted 34 Brolgas. Nearby we saw Red-winged Parrots, Galahs and Cockatiels, all feeding in the fields.

Photos: Wattle - Peter Woodall; Honeyeaters – Leith Woodall



We soon stopped and discovered new plants: Sandalwood *Eremophila mitchellii*, Native Apricot *Pittosporum angustifolium*, *Grevillea longistyla* (pictured left), *Kunzea opposita* (below left), *Bossiaea rhombifolia*, Western Jacksonia *Jacksonia rhadinoclona*, White Fringe-myrtle *Calytix tetragona*, Yellow Fringe-myrtle *Calytix gurulumundensis*. (on page 1)

Our final stop before lunch was at a gorge where we got good views of a White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike and the beautiful *Homalocalyx polyandrous* (pictured below right).

Most of us had to return to Brisbane after lunch but we were well satisfied after a wonderful weekend. Our grateful thanks to the Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club and especially to Frank and Kath Truscott for guiding us around.



Photos- Grevillea & Homalocalyx – Peter Woodall; Kunzea, Calytrix, Mistletoes – Ruth Thomson

**September 17th WEMBLEY PARK TO BOWIE FLAT, BRIDGEWATER CREEK,
COORPAROO *Walking with Life***

A lovely warm afternoon saw a group of some 15 people saunter slowly through paths in areas of re-vegetation along Bridgewater Creek. As there had been a long dry spell, there was not a large amount of insect or other activity, though there were a few surprises. The most conspicuous evidence was for a number of different species of lacewings. Two clumps of eggs for one less well-known species were found, along with many clusters of single eggs attached to stalks. Eggs laid individually in groups on stalks are said to belong to Family Chrysopidae - Green Lacewings. Various spiders and plant hoppers were also noticed. Subsequently, when I revisited the site I spotted a native Water Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) wending its way up Bridgewater Creek.

After meandering through the revegetated areas, we speedily crossed an open grassed area alongside a caged creek that held little interest and walked on to Bowie's Flat - a reconstructed wetland. A boardwalk has been constructed across the pond. The water level was extremely low but there were a number of Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and some non-native escapees:

Helen Schwencke

8th October WHITES HILL RESERVE, HOLLAND PARK *Walking with Life*

Our group of twelve people including 2 children slowly explored a walk up Whites Hill. With the continuing long dry spell, there was little recent conspicuous insect action. A number of spider species were noticed, along with a katydid that appeared to be at home burrowing through leaf litter – or at least using it very efficiently as camouflage and attempting to be cryptic in the face of photographers. A colony of native bees, *Tetragonula carbonaria*, was spotted utilising a hollow in a fallen tree. We also saw a number of arboreal termite nests, although no Kookaburra action was visible. Eighteen species of birds were recorded. The pathway has been heavily modified for mountain bike use, with the construction of various jumps and steeply angled sweeps for fast riding downhill. On our way downhill, a patch of native ground orchids (*Dipodium variegatum*) were admired by all. It is a leafless orchid endemic to south-eastern Australia which forms mycorrhizal relationships with fungi of the genus *Russula*.

Helen Schwencke and Peter Woodall



Bottlebrush Grass tree *Xanthorrhoea macronema*. (left)

The explanation of its scientific name is interesting: *Xantho* = yellow (Gk); *rrhoea* = rhoia = flow (Gk); *macro* = long, large (Gk); *nema* = thread, filament of stamen (Gk). So, grass trees often have a good flow of yellow (or reddish) sap, and this particular species is characterised by long stamens.



This lovely little spider, *Sandalodes bipenicillatus*, (right) is in the family Salticidae or Jumping Spiders, one of the largest families of spiders with nearly 6000 species in the world.



Fig. 4. The Green Tortoise Beetle *Cassida compuncta* (left) is in the Leaf Beetle family Chrysomelidae. Most species feed on *Eucalypt* and *Acacia* leaves.

Photos and descriptions: Peter Woodall

EXHIBITS

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

If you have a PowerPoint or jpeg image to display, please bring them to the Club Lanternist by 7.15pm.

If you take an exhibit to a meeting, a written description to accompany it would be greatly appreciated by the Secretary and Newsletter editor. 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.

September General Meeting:

Barbara Braddock – burrowing cockroaches seen swarming near the road near Emerald; possibly migrating.

Neil Fordyce – *Eremophila bignoniiflora* from Lightning Ridge; use of Lucid app to identify wattles; report of 25 Red-tailed Black Cockatoos *Calyptorhynchus banksii* feeding on White Cedar *Melia azedarach* near Collarenebri.

Harry Hines – Night photos from Diamantina NP in May when a variety of inhabitants were still coming out night to avoid daytime heat:

Pale-striped Ground Gecko *Lucasium immaculatum*, Brigalow Beaked Gecko *Rhynchoedura mentalis*,

Kristin's Spiny-tailed Gecko *Strophurus krisalys*, Gibber Earless Dragon *Tympanocryptis intima*,

Central Netted Dragon *Ctenophorus nuchalis*, Stimson's Python *Antaresia stimsoni*,

Fawn Hopping-Mouse *Notomys cervinus*, Forrest's Mouse *Leggadina forresti*,

Kultarr *Antechinomys laniger*, Striped-face or fat-tailed Dunnart *Smithnopsis sp.*

Also a group of Black-faced Woodswallows *Artamus (Angroyan) cinerius* asleep in a Mimiritchie *Acacia cyperophylla*.

Other birds shown were Little Button-Quail *Turnix velox*, Inland Dotterel *Charadrius australis*, Spinifex Pigeon *Geophaps plumifera* and Barn Owl *Tyto alba*.

Of greatest interest though was his project with John Augustine using thermal cameras to look for the Night Parrot *Pezoporus occidentalis* – and a thermal image of one!



Kristin's Spiny-tailed Gecko (ALA)



Central Netted Dragon (ALA)

NATURE NOTE NO. 840

AN ANT-MIMIC

While looking through the wildflowers at Gurulmundi during the QNC excursion in August, we came across a little “ant”, only about 8mm from head to tail. Looking at it more closely though, it was obviously NOT an ant, but another type of insect mimicking an ant. It had long hind legs and very long and thin antennae. These gave a clue that it may be in the grasshopper order, *Orthoptera*.



Back in Brisbane, a bit of searching on the internet revealed that it was actually a first instar nymph of a Gum-leaf Katydid *Torbia viridissima*. The adult, pictured below, also has long hind legs and very long antennae.

Many insects mimic ants. Ants bite or sting and probably have lots of stored formic acid so they are not very good to eat. So, if you look like an ant you are probably less likely to be eaten. *Peter Woodall*

NATURE NOTES

Members are reminded that we welcome you sharing your natural history observations with other members in the form of a short Nature Note.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Fasanya McPhee: Oxley Creek Common Birds is a new Facebook page. Check it out, and contribute good photographs to share.

From Mike Hines: information about a new ebook, *Nature Photography: Understanding the Camera* by Steve Berardi which aims to teach you how to photograph the wonderful moments you observe in nature without getting too technical. Intended for manual digital cameras (i.e. those that allow aperture, shutter speed and ISO to be changed), many of the concepts can also be used with other cameras.

Also, the following links to some amazing photographic competition winning entries.

https://www.theguardian.com/science/gallery/2017/oct/13/delving-into-the-hidden-world-of-nature-royal-society-of-biology-2017-photographer-of-the-year-in-pictures?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Lab+notes+2016&utm_term=247863&subid=1481145&CMP=ema-3242

AND

https://www.theguardian.com/science/gallery/2017/oct/09/our-restless-earth-geological-society-photography-competition-winners-2017-in-pictures-earth-science-week?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Lab+notes+2016&utm_term=247863&subid=1481145&CMP=ema-3242

WHAT'S ON!

QUEENSLAND HERBARIUM SEMINARS 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

13 November 2017 Teresa Eyre and Geoffrey Smith (Ecologist/Zoologist, Queensland Herbarium)

Large and old, with a big butt – the demographics of habitat trees in Queensland's forests and woodlands

6TH BUSHFOODS CONFERENCE Saturday 18th November, 2017

Topic: Research and Developments in Plant and Animal Bushfoods.

Venue: Lecture Theatre L08, Griffith University Logan Campus, 68 University Drive, Meadowbrook 4131.

Registration: 8:30 am - 9.00am

Fee: \$50 (inc. Morning Tea, Lunch & Bushfoodie Dinner) + QBA Membership \$10.00

Further information from Sheryl Backhouse at sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com tel 3289 4198

or Dr Narendra Nand at narendranand@hotmail.com or tel 0432 036 537

The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc
Council Nomination Form

Proposer:

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

member of the **Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc** hereby
 nominate _____
 (Name of Nominee)

for the position of _____
 (Council Position)

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

Secunder:

Signed: _____ Date ____/____/____

Name of Secunder: _____

Nominee:

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

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

NOTE: This form must be returned to the Secretary
 14 days before the Annual General Meeting either
 by post to PO Box 5663 West End 4101
 or emailed to secretary@qnc.org.au

Annual Membership Subscriptions

DUE 1st JULY

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

Options for Payment of Subscriptions

❖ **By Post to**

The Treasurer, Mr Mike Anderson, 164/462 Beams Rd, Fitzgibbon 4018
with a bank cheque or money order and this completed form.

OR

❖ **At a General Meeting:**

Handed to the Treasurer in an envelope with this completed form
OR

❖ **By EFT to:- Account:** The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc.

Bank: Westpac *BSB:* 034-068 *Account No.:* 901249

Reference: Your Name

And also email your details to: treasurer@qnc.org.au
including your preference for receipt of Newsletter (see below).

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