



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

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March -April 2018

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PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

Mar 19	Dr Bill McDonald
Apr 16	Ms Helen Schwencke
May 21	Dr Darryn Schneider

Excursions:

Mar 11	Pine Mt Bush Reserve
Mar 18	Manorina NP
Mar 29-Apr 3	Upper Mary River (Easter)
Apr 8	Moggill Road Park
Apr 15	White Rock Conservation Estate
May 5-7	Pottsville Environment Park
May 19	Koala Crossing (QTFN)
Sept 23-30	Bowra (Long Excursion)



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

Annual General Meeting February 19th 2018

THE 2018 COUNCIL

President	Mr Neil Fordyce	Secretary	Ms Judy Haines
Senior Vice-President	Ms Sally Johnsen	Treasurer	Mr Mike Anderson
Junior Vice-President	Mr Barry Jahnke	Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Excursion Secretary	Mr Barney Hines	Lanternist	Mr David Shaw
Librarian	Mrs Leith Woodall	QNC News Editor	Ms May-Le Ng
Queensland Naturalist Editor	Dr Peter Woodall	Imm Past President	Mr James Hansen
Councillors:	Mr David Bouchard	and	Ms Desley Willgoss

Council welcomes Ms Sally Johnsen as Senior Vice-President and Ms May-Le Ng as News Editor.

A nomination is still required for THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY (Minutes Secretary)

Can you help? If so, please contact the President or other member of Council.

QUEENSLAND NATURAL HISTORY AWARD 2018

At the Annual General Meeting, it was with great pleasure that the Queensland Natural History Award for 2018 was presented by the President, Mr Neil Fordyce, to Dr John Stanisic, Honorary Research Fellow at Queensland Museum. Dr Stanisic is Australia's foremost expert on land snails and held the position of Curator of Molluscs at the Queensland Museum for 26 years. Since retiring from the Museum, Dr Stanisic has worked as a Biodiversity Scientist and in 2010 was awarded "Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year" by the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Stanisic received his B.Sc. (Hons) from the University of Sydney in 1972 and his M. Sc. in 1978, both works being on the study of freshwater sponges. In 1988 he was awarded a PhD in Zoology from the University of Queensland for his thesis on "Systematics and Biogeography of East Australian Charopidae."

He has described over 400 new species and more than 100 genera of land snails and has surveyed more than 2000 terrestrial sites for land snails in eastern Australia. This work has resulted in the publication of 49 peer reviewed papers, literally hundreds of unpublished scientific reports and many popular articles as well as the important two volumes of "Australian Land Snails." Besides his professional career, Dr Stanisic has volunteered his time to contribute to raising awareness of science with school children. One notable example of this is the Samford State School Biodiversity Project in 2011.

*The Queensland Natural History Award has been presented annually since 1992 by the Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc. to give recognition to people who have made outstanding contributions to natural history in Queensland. The award consists of a medallion featuring the Bunya Pine tree and is set in a polished block of Bunya Pine wood. The Bunya Pine *Araucaria bidwillii* is endemic to Queensland and is the symbol of the Club.*



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS Kaikoura 2016 Earthquake in New Zealand, its relation to movement of the Australian Plate and how it affects our daily lives.

In his address, Mr Neil Fordyce compared the different situations in New Zealand and Australia relating to tectonic plate movement and their varying outcomes.

New Zealand sits in the area where the Pacific and Australian Plates are converging in a complex manner. In the North Island, the Pacific Plate is being pushed under by the Australian Plate while in the south of the South Island, the Australian Plate is subducting below the Pacific Plate. In between, through most of the South Island, fault lines are radiating northwards from the Alpine Fault with movement along them of about 3cm annually.

Australia, by contrast, sits in the centre of the Australian Plate which is moving slightly east of north at 7cm a year which is very fast and the fastest of the continental plates. The land mass however is very stable and earthquakes are infrequent and significantly less intense than in New Zealand.

Since the 1850s, New Zealand has experienced 29 earthquakes of a magnitude greater than 6 on the Richter Scale. The strongest was the 1855 Wairarapa quake which at 8.2 was 8000 times stronger than the 1989 Newcastle earthquake.

One of the closest to it in magnitude was the Kaikoura earthquake in November 2016 which, by virtue of occurring in sparsely populated areas, caused only 2 fatalities. It was centred near the small North Canterbury town of Waiau. Along the east coast of the South Island north of Kaikoura, a fault scarp of one to two metres high emerged along the sea shore, lifting the intertidal zone out of the water completely with disastrous consequences for the organisms that had lived there. Many Hutton shearwaters burrows in the nearby hills were devastated by an enormous rock slide. The earthquake affected many different faults to varying degrees. Notable were the Kekerengu Fault, where up to 12 metres of horizontal displacement was measured and the Papatea fault which moved at 3km/sec and was incredibly noisy.

The use of GPS was central to measuring the various movements caused by this earthquake. It has also been used to discover that there is a large area in the North Island where the subducting Pacific Plate is stuck under the Australian Plate. This is of concern as a sudden release of this built-up pressure could cause a massive earthquake.

The problem caused in Australia by the rate of its movement stands in stark contrast to the New Zealand situation. It relates to its position on the Earth's surface no longer being mapped accurately and so not being in sync with Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Since 1994, Australia has moved 1.6 metres northward. For some applications such as mobile phones, this is not significant as their accuracy is only within 5 to 10 metres. With other applications such as remotely operated mining trucks and farm tractors, such an error could cause accidents, as could, in the future, self-driving cars. In 2017, Australia's coordinates were revised, based on predictions of where the country would be in 2020. Until then, the new coordinates will still be approximate while the continent catches up with our updated longitude and latitude, but not as inaccurate as they were before the change.

A full report of the Presidential Address will appear in The Queensland Naturalist.

COUNCIL NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Excursions are the fun part of being a member of the QNC and they are a chance to observe nature and learn a little from the wide-ranging knowledge of the members.

Our long excursion in 2017 was a very successful trip to Noonbah Station near Longreach as guests of the Emmott family. The excursion was reported by ABC radio in a good interview with some of our members at Mount Felix. This year we will be going to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's "Bowra" property near Cunnamulla for a week in September and prior to that we will spend a week at Binya National Park.

While our Excursions officer has the job of overseeing excursions and advising leaders, we need members to come up with excursion locations and to lead them. If you have an idea for a day walk or a longer trip, or wish to lead one, please contact our Excursions Secretary at excursions@qnc.org.au or contact the Council.

I live in Tenterfield, a small country town 280 km from Brisbane that survives as a community because of volunteers. It was this volunteer spirit that prompted me to put my name forward for President of QNC last year and I hope to continue in 2018. QNC also survives through people volunteering their time and with decreasing membership over the last few decades it leaves fewer people carrying the load.

I would like to ask members to come forth and assist with small duties that will make a difference to our club and meetings. At each meeting, we would appreciate a few people offering to help councillors with the various tasks. You can assist by helping set up & put away the chairs & tables; volunteering for supper duty or to be the "greeter" at the door; bringing a plate for supper; or joining the Council. The latter requires a bit more input but the other jobs are small and easy to carry out.

Don't forget to bring to the meetings mention of any interesting items you have found or seen for "show and tell" - and bring a friend if you have one! (*apologies to George Bernard Shaw*)

All the best for 2018. *Neil Fordyce*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Scott Pascoe of Morningside and Quan Pham, James Campbell & Sonia Campbell of St. Lucia. We wish you a long and happy association with the Club.

NEW SITE NEEDED FOR CLUB'S STORAGE CONTAINER

For several years the Club's storage container has been accommodated on our property 'Melaleuca' at Kalbar. It is a 6m x 2.5 m container with a pitched roof, additional ventilation and is supported on hardwood planks. It is likely that this property will soon be for sale which means that the new owners may not wish to have the container on their property. Therefore, it may become urgent for the Club to find a new location. Any member who has information which may solve this potential problem is asked to contact myself or any Club Councillor.

Barry Jahnke 0411278865

GENERAL MEETINGS

***** NEW MEETING VENUE *****

TOOWONG UNITING CHURCH HALL, 82 SHERWOOD ROAD, TOOWONG 4066

Following the sale of the RGSQ property at Milton, the Club will be meeting at the Toowong Uniting Church Hall for the foreseeable future. This is located at 82 Sherwood Road, Toowong, about 200 metres on the left-hand side of Sherwood Road as one travels from Toowong Village Shopping Centre and Toowong Railway Station and the main bus stops. Besides street parking near the church, we can use the off-street parking area about 20 metres on the river side of the church – ignore the permit required sign. Parking at Toowong Village Shopping Centre is free for entry after 6pm.

Library Cupboard

The library cupboard will not be available at our General Meetings at Toowong. Journals and newsletters will be on display each month, and new books will also be brought to meetings. If anyone wants to borrow a specific book, let me know (librarian@qnc.org.au) and I will bring the book to the meeting. The library catalogue is on the QNC webpage (http://www.qnc.org.au/Library/QNC_LibraryCatalogue.pdf).

Photographic Exhibits at General Meetings – If you would like to upload a PowerPoint or jpeg image, please arrive by 7.15pm and liaise with the Lanternist.

GUEST SPEAKER 19TH MARCH 2018 THE SOUTHERN CONNECTION – FOREST FLORA OF PATAGONIA

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

Nothofagus species dominate temperate rainforests in southern Australia, New Zealand and southern South America. As a result, *Nothofagus* has long been considered one of the key genera in understanding how the far southern (Gondwanan) flora and fauna have evolved and migrated. A 3-day post-conference excursion in central Argentina in 2010 left Dr McDonald determined to visit more of these forests, especially those further south in Patagonia. He returned from a 23-day walking tour in late 2017 and looks forward to sharing some of his scenic and botanical highlights.

Dr McDonald's photos from Chile on page 1: Forest & fresh snow, Araucaria araucana & Nothofagus pumilio; Buds & flowers of Embothrium coccinium (Proteaceae)

GUEST SPEAKER 16TH APRIL 2018 CARING FOR CATERPILLARS - MS HELEN SCHWENCKE

Ms Schwencke's talk *Caring for Caterpillars* will explore the essential ecological roles caterpillars play in the natural environment; how to care for them through their various life stages to be able to release them as adults; and how they offer us a special connection with nature in our gardens, local spaces and places.

A member of QNC, Helen Schwencke is an ecologist whose passion is introducing people to a whole new "meaning of life" through connecting them with nature (especially insects) and also with growing food for biodiversity. She organises Woodfordia's Butterfly Project. She co-authored *Create More Butterflies* and is director of Earthling Enterprises (www.earthling.com.au). For further information on Woodfordia's Butterfly Project, see <http://theplantingfestival.com/apply/butterfly-group.html>

GUEST SPEAKER 21ST MAY 2018 C. T. WHITE LECTURE
THE LIFE OF E. J. "KALBAR" SMITH DR DARRYN SCHNEIDER

Ernest Smith was born in England in 1877 and emigrated to Australia with his family in 1887. Though clever at school, he had to forego schooling opportunities and, as a young plumber, found himself in the pioneering Fassifern district, and eventually the township of Kalbar.

Encouraged by a radio broadcast by The State Botanist C T White in the 1930s, he started studying plants and with further encouragement, through correspondence with C T White, went on to become an accomplished amateur naturalist and local historian. He was an active member of the Queensland Naturalists' Club and left a legacy of dozens of articles published in the Fassifern Guardian and The Queensland Naturalist. Many of his natural history specimens were sent to institutions.

Dr Darryn Schneider is a physicist who grew up on a dairy farm outside Kalbar and heard about Ernest Smith from his grandfather, who was a friend of Ernest. His interest grew progressively from an inquiry of Barry Jahnke about a Rhinoceros Beetle his grandfather had given Ernest to studying Ernest's articles written for the Fassifern Guardian and then on to finding out more and more about this amazing character and accomplished citizen scientist.

As a physicist, Dr Schneider worked on projects located in Antarctica from 1995 to 2009, wintering there twice: first in 1996 at the Australian Casey base where he ran the geophysical observatory and subsequently in 2000 at the Amundsen-Scott base at the South Pole where he ran the AMANDA neutrino telescope. He then worked on the construction of the neutrino telescope called IceCube. He now does project management in the exploration phase of resources projects.

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 sec@qnc.org.au closer to the day.

March 19: **Reception:** Faseny McPhee & Kathy Clark;

Supper Duties: Jeanette & Murray Watson.

April 16: **Reception:**; **Supper Duties:**

Thank you to all those who helped in February:

On Reception- James Hansen

For Supper – many people including Barb Braddock, Janet White, Sheryl Backhouse, Bernice Shaw, Kathy Duffy; and all the generous members who brought plates of food.

Also the many others who helped set up the room for our first meeting there.

FACEBOOK NEWS

During 2017, our Facebook followers increased by 152 from 494 to 646. Most followers are not members of QNC but are interested in natural history & are looking for further information. Though they are mainly from Australia, 29 other countries are represented. Sixty -one percent are women. In 2017, 129 postings were added. On average, each post was seen by 244 people; 114 of these posts were liked by 1 or more followers with an average of 5.2 likes per post. Our most successful post, a link to an ABC report on baby turtles dying because of the heatwave, was seen by 2178 people.

Leith Woodall

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.

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 asks 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.

MARCH 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

This excursion was initially scheduled for February 11th but cancelled because of the extreme heat.

Register by email: excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject: WWL Pine Mountain 11/03/18

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 A.

It is listed on a number of bird observer websites and made for an interesting recyging 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 but some interesting vegetation, including 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.

MARCH 18th MANORINA NATIONAL PARK, MOUNT NEBO.
Sunday 8:30am to 1pm Leader: David Bouchard

Register by email to excursion @qnc.org.au

or contact David at 0429627080; email bouchdl@bigpond.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 post their plant photos to!

This excursion was cancelled on 19th November 2017 because of rain.

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.

MARCH 29th – APRIL 3rd (EASTER) UPPER MARY RIVER



Leaders: Brian and Grace Lowry ph: 5435 0318.

Registration & Further Inquiries either by phone or email excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject 'Easter'.

The Easter camp will be held on the property of David and Jacky Lowry on the headwaters of the Mary River. The club has held successful camps here before, at Easter in 2007 and again for the May camp in 2009. It will be nice to return after a 9-year hiatus.

Campers can arrive Thursday afternoon and depart Tuesday morning if they wish to avoid Easter traffic.

The property comprises 60 acres in the headwaters of the Mary River, with the young river forming one boundary. It is mostly under grazing. There is riparian rain forest along the river and in a tributary creek running through the property. Camping will be in a grassy paddock alongside the river. There are now distinct camping bays from David's planting of rainforest trees. The photo on the right is of the campsite from previous excursions. We envisage the evening campfire to be again under giant *Waterhousia* trees beside the stream.

Access is suitable for conventional vehicles unless there is a major flood. The camp will use club toilets. Bore water of excellent quality will be laid on. Bring plenty of arthropod repellent or other anti-tick measures.

Several activities are envisioned including trips to new areas not previously visited. Some excursions will require vehicle trips away from the camp.



GETTING THERE:

Option 1. (Shorter and more scenic). Follow Glasshouse Mountains Highway about 16 km to the turnoff to Beerwah and Woodford. Zero the odometer and follow the Woodford/Kilcoy Road through Beerwah and Peachester. At 16.8 km take the right turn (Stanley River Road; sign says 'Maleny 20'). Follow road up to the plateau, pass turnoff to Bellthorpe on the left and soon after at 24.0 km look for a minor road on left named Postmans Track. Follow this down into the Mary River headwaters. Care! The road is sealed but narrow and very steep in places. Soon after reaching the valley floor, at 28.3km, look for QNC sign and turn off to the right. Follow QNC signs to the camping area.

Option 2. (via Maleny). From Maleny follow the Conondale - Kenilworth Road past the Witta turnoff and down from the plateau. Just before Conondale look for Aherns Road on the left (patch of Paulonia trees on the right). Set odometer and follow this for 1.5 km and continue on Aherns road as it does a sharp right turn. At 8.8 km cross the upper Mary River. At 10.1 km look for QNC sign and turn off to the left.

APRIL 8th MOGGILL ROAD PARK, MOGGILL RD, MOGGILL.

Walking with Life: Exploring our Living Catchments

Sunday 2.45 for 3pm - 5pm

Leader: Helen Schwencke

Register by email: excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject: WWL Moggill Road Park

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 street parking along Aitcheson St., Moggill (Google Maps -27.585677, 152.860257.)

Very little public information about this reserve was available. It is a remnant of former Palustrine wetland (e.g. vegetated swamp) along the Brisbane River. The Vegetation Management Property Report describes part of the park as "containing of concern regional ecosystems".

The Regional Ecosystem represented is 12.3.8. The wetland's area is nearly one hectare, comprising "characteristic species including *Cyperus* spp., *Schoenoplectus* spp., *Philydrum lanuginosum*, *Eleocharis* spp., *Leersia hexandra*, *Cycnogeton procerus*, *Nymphaea* spp., *Nymphoides indica*, *Persicaria* spp., *Phragmites australis*, *Typha* spp. and a wide range of sedges, grasses and forbs. Emergent *Melaleuca* spp. may sometimes occur. Occurs in freshwater swamps associated with floodplains." These are described as "very sparse."

Extensive revegetation work has been done in this park and the walking is easy and level though there are no marked tracks. The site is close to the Moggill Ferry and the Brisbane River. It is also close to where the Bremer River joins the Brisbane River. Our activity will involve a leisurely stroll, seeing if it's possible to identify the species of concern (botanists welcome), and whatever other life-forms attract our interest.

APRIL 15th

WHITE ROCK, WHITE ROCK CONSERVATION ESTATE

Sunday 8:00 am

Leader: Barney Hines.

Register by email at excursion@qnc.org.au or phone 3720 9414 (home) or 0420 351 801

White Rock Conservation Estate is a 2,500 hectare reserve. It contains a series of sandstone ridges and bluffs, which harbour over 600 species of plants and 150 species of fauna. We will walk to the most notable of the bluffs, termed White Rock, from which the park is named. The trail is approximately 6.5 km and involves a circuit, following the ridge line to the rock and returning via the valley. The outward trail will involve some moderate inclines and some scrambling, whilst the return journey involves a mostly flat walk out along a vehicle track.

A series of vegetation communities will be encountered during the walk. Initially we will travel through Queensland blue gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) forest with a lower storey of paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*). This changes as we leave the valley to much harder communities dominated by spotted gum *Corymbia maculata*, wattles (*Acacia* sp.) and some heath.

Please bring water and a light lunch. The forest is very open for much of the walk, so ensure that participants bring hats, sunburn cream and appropriate clothing. There are toilets and picnic shelters at the carpark for those who want to stay for a more substantial late lunch afterwards.

Directions

From Brisbane, head out of town on the Centenary Highway (M5) before turning on to the Ipswich Motorway (M2). From the Ipswich Motorway, turn off at Exit 31 onto Collingwood Drive. Follow this until it meets Redbank Plains Road, where you turn left. Follow this for 600 metres, before turning right into School Road. Follow School Road until it ends at the reserve, including through a new housing estate where the road changes name to Norton Sands Drive, before it changes back to School Road yet again. Allow approximately 50 minutes from the Brisbane CBD.

MAY 5 to 7 (LABOUR DAY WEEKEND) POTTSVILLE ENVIRONMENT PARK, NSW

Preliminary information only: Full details in the next newsletter but you can register your interest by email at excursion@qnc.org.au

This excursion to coastal northern N.S.W. will be based at the Pottsville Environment Park, a 54 hectares area of coastal vegetation adjacent to the township of Pottsville and set between the two arms of Cudgera Creek. Within the Park is a level camping area adjacent to the Environment Centre building which has a large meeting space, kitchen with refrigerator, showers and toilets. There are over 4km of walking tracks.

The main vegetation communities are based on Swamp Box, Broad-leaved Paperbark, Black She-oak, Pink Bloodwood and Brush Box with Mangrove and tidal wetland communities along the creek. A number of threatened or otherwise significant plant species have been identified there. The site contains a permanent roost site for the Greyheaded Flying Fox. It also provides habitat for several threatened fauna species including the Koala, Common Planigale, Coastal Blossom Bat, Osprey, a number of insectivorous microbats, Bush Thick-knee*, Collared Kingfisher and Glossy Black Cockatoo. (*Bush Thick-knees are not surviving here as successfully as those in Brisbane.)

It is hoped to explore also some nearby areas such as the marine life in Cudgera Creek at Hastings Point and the beach dune vegetation,

It takes about 1 ½ hours to drive from Brisbane and there is a nearby caravan park with cabins for those who would prefer not to camp.

SATURDAY, MAY 19th "KOALA CROSSING"

Leader: Barry Jahnke 0411 278 865

Preliminary notice – full information in the next Newsletter

This day excursion will be to the Queensland Trust for Nature reserve, "Koala Crossing", which has a common boundary with the Flinders-Goolman Reserve, north-east of the township of Peak Crossing. In its 562 hectares, it has at least four ecosystems in the woodlands and open forests with some rainforest understorey. In recent years about 800,000 trees have been planted, including those which are known to be koala food plants.

EXCURSION REPORT

January 25th – 29th 2018 BINDARRABI Leaders: Doone Wyborn and John Moss

The Bindarrabi Community property of 812 acres is situated in the NSW Border Ranges north-east of the town of Killarney and is set within the World Heritage rainforest listed Koreelah National Park, which straddles the Qld/NSW border from Wilson's Peak to the old Mt Lindesay Highway near Legume. Most of the park is inaccessible but a portion can be accessed along The Head section of the series of roads from Boonah to Queen Mary Falls.

We had 16 Nats members and 3 other adults camping as well as 3 visiting Nats. Additionally, there were 15 children which reflected an important aspect of the property; namely, the people friendly space and facilities. Several families hired the spacious Bell Tents and there was more than adequate space in the covered cooking and eating areas. Unlimited fresh spring water, two hot

showers, two composting (and two long drop) toilets added to the convenience and made it a lot easier for the leaders (ie no digging and eventually filling in toilet holes!)

In May 2016, the QNC was invited to camp on the property and to contribute to ongoing listings of plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. In addition, Wes Jenkinson and I commenced a survey of lepidoptera (moths & butterflies) and others added fungi.

(Right) A pair of Scarlet Perchers (*Diplacodes haematodes*) (N.Fordyce)



On our January trip, because of the numbers, naturalising was focused more on children's activities. Nevertheless, the bird people were able to contribute a total of 31 birds including White-throated and Owlet Nightjars. On one evening, in the glare of Wes' insect attracting, ultra-violet light sheet, we witnessed a juvenile Tawny Frogmouth being fed moths and other insects by its patient parents -- I suspect feeding off Wes' light source!

There were a large number of frogs identified by Harry Hines and the children, particularly around our camp facilities. They were as follows:

Tusked Frog *Adelotus brevis*,

Striped Marshfrog *Limnodynastes peronii*,

Great Barred Frog *Mixophyes fasciolatus*,

Orange Eyed Treefrog *Litoria chloris*,

Graceful Treefrog *Litoria gracilentia*,

Cascade Treefrog *Litoria pearsoniana*,

Central Stony Creek Frog *Litoria wilcoxii*. (Shown in photo below – H. Hines)

Clicking Froglet *Crinia signifera*,

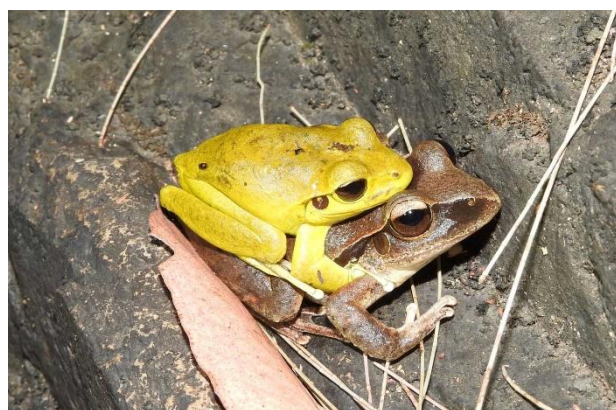
Spotted Marshfrog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*,

Red Backed Broodfrog *Pseudophryne coriacea*,

Eastern Sedgefrog *Litoria fallax*,

Broad Palmed Rocketfrog *Litoria latopalmata*,

Emerald Spotted Treefrog *Litoria peronii*,



As well, several large reptiles were seen, including a red-bellied black snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus*, a rough-scaled snake *Tropidechis carinatus*, Lace Monitors, Cunningham's Skinks *Egernia cunninghami*, Water Dragons. A large dark coloured Carpet Python *Morelia spilota* put in an appearance. The invertebrates were in low numbers, which surprised us, with our visit this time in the warmer months. About 60 moth species were identified last time compared with about 20 on this occasion. Conversely the butterflies were more obvious this visit with 30 identified compared to about 15 on the previous visit.

Of course, being at the height of summer, cicadas were very much in evidence and at several sites almost deafening. The loudest were the Razor Grinders (*Henicopsaltria eydouxii*) which occupied the Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) and tall eucalypt trees in the wet sclerophyll forest. There were 11 species overall, including *Psaltoda brachypennis*, a new species I had described in the *Australian Entomologist* of December 2000. It was also pleasing to find evidence of another

species, the Green Grocer/Yellow Monday (*Cyclochila australasiae*), common in Sydney where I grew up, but on this occasion just a single discarded wing along Trough Creek. The only other insect of note was a dead Jewel Beetle picked up by one of the ladies and passed on to my friend Richard Zietek for checking. He identified it as *Themognatha excisicollis*.

Several interesting species of terrestrial and epiphytic orchids were found including a Late Beard Orchid (*Calochilus therophilus*) [PHOTO- right H.Hines] and a stunning Christmas Orchid (*Calanthe triplicata*). I had another look at a tree that I had previously identified as the endangered Small-leaved Tamarind (*Diploglottis campbellii*) and confirmed my original observation.

In general, everyone had an enjoyable and fulfilling weekend, including those of us who did the "hard yards" with Doone to his beautiful "Secret Waterfall", which will forever remain secret, due to its inaccessibility through an almost impenetrable Brush Box forest on a perpetually rising scree slope! *John Moss with frog list & reptile IDs from Harry Hines*



NATURE NOTE 841

Glaucus atlanticus



Glaucus atlanticus, known variously as blue angel, sea swallow and blue dragon, often end up on our beaches in large numbers when there are strong, off-shore winds such as has occurred recently with Cyclone Gita. These small blue sea slugs, aeolid nudibranchs, float around the oceans as part of the "blue tide" of animals such as *Physalia physalis* (bluebottle), *Velella velella* (by-the-wind-sailor) and *Porpita porpita* (blue button). Because of the positioning of an air sac in its stomach, it floats inverted and consequently camouflaged, with the pale dorsal surface facing downwards and the blue and white ventral surface facing upwards.

Part of their digestive system is coated with chitin, so they can safely ingest the nematocysts of bluebottles.

These are then stored in sacs (*cnidosacs*) in the tips of their *cerata* (finger-like projections) and used to sting their prey – the other members of the "blue tide" including the bluebottles from which they were obtained! It is advised not to pick them up because, while they seldom sting people, if they do, it may be like a very painful bluebottle sting.

When photographed, this specimen was propping itself up on its forelimbs and turning its head from side to side as though trying to work out where it was. Seconds later, a large wave swept it further up the beach, flattened it, and knocked off many *cerata* in the process. *Ruth Thomson*

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.

EXHIBITS

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

Please bring any PowerPoint or jpeg images 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.

February Meeting Exhibits

Dr John Stanisic displayed a copy of 'Australian Land Snails Volume 1' of which he is lead author. This is field guide to 796 species of eastern Australian land snails. Volume 2, which will be released soon, describes an additional 800 species from other regions of Australia.

Dr Alan Cribb brought some specimens of the bolete, *Strobilomyces velutipes* (a relative of the edible European Old Man of the Woods) bearing a parasitic ascomycete, *Hypomyces chlorinigenus* (the pale layer in the photo on the right.) This parasitic fungus was first described in the United States, subsequently in Europe, Indonesia and New Zealand, and now in Australia.



Mr Bob Backhouse brought in a Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) cone which was in the process of disintegrating. A proportion of the seeds were not viable, these being very thin compared with the rounded ones which were in the first stage of germination. The white root (see photo) is gravity sensitive and can grow up to 20cm through leaf litter to the soil. Once there, it transfers the seed's nutrients to form a tuber from which the leaves subsequently grow.

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. Please refer to the following website for details:

www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/seminars-events

5 March 2018 Giant rat's tail grasses *Sporobolus* spp. Associate Professor Brent Sellers (University of Florida)

Associate Professor Sellers is involved in research and extension. His studies involve weed management in pastures and rangeland. He uses his research to inform his education of cattle ranchers and 'ranchette' owners in cost effective weed control strategies for weed control in pastures and rangeland.

12 March 2018 Endangered weeds: conservation of disturbance-dependent rare species in modified landscapes Jennifer Silcock (Queensland Herbarium)

9 April 2018 Forest Restoration and Climate Experimentation (FoRCE) Associate Professor Andy Marshall (University of Sunshine Coast and University of York, UK - www.force-experiment.com)

FoRCE is a pantropical experiment, with permanent field plots in Tanzania and Australia. It aims to measure and understand long-term tropical forest dynamics and interactions with climate, human disturbance and experimental management. Use is made of permanent sampling plots, hemispherical photographs, experimental vine removal and remote sensing.

THECA MEETING Wednesday 28 March 2018, 7.00pm

Protecting Endangered Species from Climate Change Dr April Reside (U.Q.)

Aspects to be discussed will include increasing coral bleaching and continuing habitat destruction across the continent leaving native flora and fauna with fewer places to live.

The Hut, 47 Fleming Road, Chapel Hill www.theca.asn.au

Australian Naturalists' Network 2018 Get-Together Reminder:

If you are planning to attend this excursion in western Victoria, September 29 to October 8, your Registration Form and deposit needs to be forwarded to the SEANA by 31 March. Further information on this event is available at <https://australiannaturalistsnetwork.wordpress.com/> and also from members of the Queensland Nats Council.

ABC RN OFF TRACK HAS BEEN VISITING BRISBANE

ABC Radio National has recently been featuring urban Brisbane wildlife on its Off Track programs. Topics covered to date are greater gliders, the water dragons of the Roma St Parklands and life below the surface of the Brisbane River. If you missed the broadcasts, you can follow the links from <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/> to individual programs. And there also a link to more nature observations on their WILD OZ page

HOW TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN

An article on the work of Nats member and our April Meeting speaker, Helen Schwenke, appeared on the ABC website and can be read at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-13/how-to-attract-butterflies-to-your-garden/9422772?pfmredir=sm>.

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