



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 341 November-December 2018

[Facebook](#)

www.qnc.org.au

Print Post Approved: 100003858

CONTENTS

Council News	2
General Meetings	3
Meeting Reports	3
Exhibits	3
Excursions	4
Excursion Reports	7
What Else Is On?	9
Of Interest	9
Nomination Forms	12



Photos: Neil Fordyce

PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

November 19 Long Excursion Report

Excursions:

November 2-4 Green Mountains
November 11 Pullenvale Forest Park
November 25 Mt Cordeaux
December 8 Xmas break up
January 25-28 Cullendore High Country

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Mailing address: PO Box 5663, West End, QLD 4101

President:	Mr Neil Fordyce	Ph: 0400 299 991	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:	Ms May-Le Ng		news@qnc.org.au

Deadline for News items – 15th December for Jan-Feb 2019.

The Queensland Naturalist is published twice per year, send articles to the Editor:

Dr. Peter Woodall at journal@qnc.org.au

If you receive a paper copy of the newsletter, switch to receive the coloured email edition by contacting Mike (treasurer@qnc.org.au) to update your details.

COUNCIL NEWS

Subscriptions Due

Subscriptions were due in July for the 2018-2019 year. This edition of QNC News will be the last for those whose subscriptions are not up to date. A renewal form is on page 12.

Meeting Venue

The QNC Council is investigating venues for our monthly General Meetings. We are currently hiring the Toowong Uniting Church Hall for meetings as well as hiring container storage for our Library, books and equipment. If any members know of a suitable venue for our monthly meetings where there is also storage space for the equivalent of 4 double door cupboards, please advise Judy (secretary@qnc.org.au) or phone 0402 236 359.

Nominations for Council 2019

Nominations are open for the election of the QNC Council at the AGM in February 2019. Nomination form is on page 12. Nominations need to be returned to the Secretary by post or email 14 days prior to the AGM. Please consider volunteering to contribute to the functioning of the Club. If you would like to know more, please contact Neil president@qnc.org.au.

New Members

John Donnelly, Tenterfield; John Haughton, Churchill; Mr Martin Rady & Caroline Jeffrey-Rady, Lota and Dr Vivian Eliana Sandoval Gomez, Darra.

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

We always welcome new members. Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to join us in appreciating, learning and sharing our natural history experiences.

Death of Member

Long-time QNC member Jan Date died suddenly on the 14th August.

Dick and Jan have been active members of QNC since 1973 and contributed greatly to the club.

After raising a family Jan found time to volunteer at the Queensland Museum for 35 years in various sections but became very well known as one of the “skinners” who fleshed out specimens for the museum. Her days at the museum were sacrosanct according to Dick.

Jan was a great science mentor to her grandchildren by answering their many and varied questions. She didn't forsake the modern technology and kept up with them via SMS.

She will be remembered as a person who always had a smile and time for others.

Margaret Thorsborne AO passed away recently. Margaret was awarded the QNC Natural History award in 2006. With her late husband Arthur, she initiated the long-term monitoring of the Pied Imperial Pigeon on the Brook Islands, north-north east of Hinchinbrook Island about 40 years ago. Together with her husband Arthur she has informed and educated the public by actively promoting the natural history values of this region. She is the collector of more than 200 botanical specimens from the area in the Queensland Herbarium. Her involvement in some of her many organizations has required courage as well as commitment as she has led the fight to protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. As well as her own research and organizational contributions, Margaret has contributed to our understanding of natural history through funding of other people's research into key species such as the mahogany and squirrel gliders, and the gifting of her property to extend the Edmund Kennedy National Park. The ripple effect of these gifts will be felt well into the future.

The Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island was named in tribute to Arthur and Margaret.

Facebook

Follow our Facebook page for titbits about the natural world, to find out what we've been up to and for information on upcoming events. Share our page with your friends and families and contact Leith (librarian@qnc.org.au) if you have information we could post. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to see what we publish, and you don't have to divulge any private information.

GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held between February and November on the third Monday of the month from 7:30 PM at the Toowong Uniting Church Hall, 82 Sherwood Road, Toowong. This location is conveniently reached by public transport and is approximately 200 m from Toowong Village Shopping Centre, Toowong Railway Station and the main bus stops. Street parking is available near the church and there is an off-street parking area on the river side of the church (ignore the permit required sign). Parking at Toowong Village Shopping Centre is free for entry after 6:00 PM.

LIBRARY CUPBOARD

Journals and newsletters will be on display and new books will be brought to General Meetings. However, as the library cupboard is not available at the Toowong Uniting Church Hall, books can be borrowed by contacting Leith (librarian@qnc.org.au) prior to the meeting. The library catalogue can be found on the QNC website at http://www.qnc.org.au/Library/QNC_LibraryCatalogue.pdf.

DIGITAL EXHIBITS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Do you have something to share at a General Meeting? If your exhibit requires the projector, please arrive by 7:15 PM and liaise with the Lanternist to upload your PowerPoint or jpeg image. We would also love to see your exhibit in the QNC News and online, please see the Exhibits section of this newsletter.

ROSTER FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

Our General Meetings are warm and welcoming thanks to the generous help of a few volunteers who provide reception and supper duties. Please consider nominating for the General Meeting Roster by signing up at a meeting or emailing your availability and preferred task to Judy (secretary@qnc.org.au).

Thank you to the volunteers at the October General Meeting, including Marjorie Jahnke for Reception duties and Barbara Braddock and Marjorie for supper duties and all those who brought plates of food and assisted with the room set up and clean up.

COMING UP

November 19 Long Excursion Report

A full report on the 2018 long excursion will be given at the November QNC meeting and wildlife documented as the various experts get identification done.

MEETING REPORTS

General Meeting: 15 October

QNC held a photo competition at the October general meeting and more than 50 pictures were submitted to win inclusion in the 2019 QNC calendar.

Members present were given four "voting" labels which they put on their choices for the competition. A wide variety of pictures were submitted, and the results will be available soon as a 2019 QNC Calendar!

EXHIBITS

Do you have some natural history observations to share? Exhibits may be shared at General Meetings and through our website, social media and newsletter.

If you can bring your exhibit to a General Meeting, the exhibit may be in physical (e.g. specimens, books) or digital (e.g. images, videos) format. If your exhibit requires the projector, please arrive by 7:15 PM and liaise with the Lanternist to upload your PowerPoint or jpeg image.

If you are unable to attend General Meetings, and we also ask this of Meeting exhibitors, please send photos and an accompanying description to:

- The Club website –David (web@qnc.org.au)
- Our Facebook page – Leith (facebook@qnc.org.au)
- The QNC News – May-Le (news@qnc.org.au).

October Meeting Exhibits

- ❖ Barry Jahnke spoke about ANN 2018.
- ❖ Colleen Foelz gave an update on the bilby project. Bilbies to be re-released at Currawinya NP.
- ❖ Harry Hines reported on the passing of Peter McCrae.

EXCURSIONS

Fees apply for weekend camps of \$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

Do you know of a great place that other naturalists might enjoy exploring with you? We are looking for people to suggest excursion locations and for volunteer excursion leaders. If you are interested, contact Barney by email (excursion@qnc.org.au) or telephone: 07 3720 9414.

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 that you can receive a species list from the excursion.

COMING UP

November 2 – 4: Green Mountains – 100 Year Anniversary

The celebration of the centenary of the Naturalists Camp at Mt Bithongabel will be held over three days in November at O'Reilly's, Green Mountains.

Members who wish to attend this event will need to organise their own accommodation. It is envisioned that some club members will camp at the Green Mountains National Parks campsite. Bookings for this can be made online through the national parks website and should be done early to avoid disappointment.

Summary of the planned events:

Friday 2nd November 2018 Warren Smith will be at O'Reilly's setting up a display in the theatre at the Resort with everything we have in any way related to the Field Naturalists' camp in 1918/1919 ; the follow up from the camp and copies of articles which were published shortly after it ; items related to 1966 when the marker cairn at Mt Bithongabel was unveiled ; some mention of 2014 when under the Friends of Parks Program a new sign was added at the site and the track into the cairn site from the Border Track was cleaned and marked : included will be books and articles written by some of the camp participants. Any people coming for the weekend will be able to check in and register with a Green Mountains Natural history association member who will be available near the O'Reilly's reception desk. After the display is set up it will be available for viewing by any of the early arrivals.

Saturday 3rd November 2018 A table with GMNHA members in attendance will be available for registration. The \$10.00 Lunch vouchers will also be available from this table (the vouchers give us a reasonably accurate idea of the numbers we will have for lunch). Tea and coffee etc will be available outside the theatre while people are arriving and possibly spending some time looking at the display. At around 10.30 visitors will be invited into the theatre where a presentation about the camp and its importance will be presented by Mr Don Marshall, a retired QPWS officer. Following this presentation and any questions and answers lunch will be available in the covered area outside the theatre. After lunch all those who wish to walk out to Mt Bithongabel

to the original camp site will be able to do so. The display will remain available throughout the afternoon and again in the evening if those staying wish to spend more time viewing it. Participants will then have their own arrangements for dinner in the Resort Dining Room or otherwise.

Sunday 4th November 2018 The display in the theatrette will remain available throughout Sunday before people leave to return home. It will be dismantled late on Sunday to be returned to the Archives storage.

November 11th Pullenvale Forest Park

Sunday 2.45 for 3pm – 5pm Leader: Helen Schwencke Phone 0423 127 492

Register by email: excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject: WWL Pullenvale Forest Park 11/11/18

Meet at the entry to Pullenvale Forest Park which is from Pullenvale Rd, 400m from Grandview Rd Intersection (UBD 176 H14). Google map reference: 27°31'15.7"S 152°53'21.7"E. Address: 386 Pullenvale Road.

or through QNC's Meetup website: <https://tinyurl.com/meetup> (become a member first)

Pullenvale Forest Park description from the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group: "Pullenvale Forest Park has a large open grassed area with shaded picnic and BBQ facilities, popular with families and recreational users. For the nature enthusiasts, there are walking tracks that extend deeper into the 12 hectare park, through rainforest, vine forest and eucalypt forests.

A highlight of the park is a newly constructed boardwalk along Pullen Pullen Creek providing a place to sit and enjoy the beauty of the park. This boardwalk is ideally suited for wheelchair visitors."

There's a picnic shelter though no toilets. The track was well-established.

Parking spaces are available though it can be a popular spot.

For more information visit: <http://www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au/default.asp>

Brisbane City Council's available information is: <https://tinyurl.com/pullenvale-parks>

November 25th Mt Cordeaux, Main Range National Park.

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Leader: Barney Hines (3720-9414; 0420 351 801) **Please register** either by email to excursion@qnc.org.au or by phone.

This walk ventures onto the upper slopes of Mount Cordeaux, the northern of the two peaks that guard Cunningham's Gap. The walk follows a graded track through rainforest, before entering some montane heath towards the end. There are cliffs along the upper part of the track and limited space at the lookout such that the group may have to split if we have large numbers. The walk is 6.8km long. Please bring water and lunch, hat and sunburn cream. Expect leaches if it has been raining.

There are giant spear lilies *Doryanthes palmeri* near the lookout which may be in flower. Butterflies are likely to be active in the warm weather.

More information regarding the walk can be found on the National Park website for the park. https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/main-range/about.html#mount_cordeaux

Directions: From Brisbane, head out on the Ipswich motorway, before turning off onto the Cunningham Highway. Follow this until Cunningham's gap (the nearest town is Aratula). The start of the trail is on the right hand (northern) side as you come up to the crest of the range. Allow 1 hour 35 minutes from Brisbane. Please arrive around 8:20 am for an 8:30 am start. There are toilets at the carpark and no facilities thereafter.

December 8th CHRISTMAS BREAK UP at MINNIPPI PARKLANDS, Tingalpa

Saturday at 8 am Leaders: Peter and Leith Woodall (Ph 0447 446 635)

Parking area at end of Stanton Road West, Google Maps -27.48289, 153.11516

Register by email to excursion@qnc.org.au

This northern end of Minnippi Parklands has a large well vegetated lagoon, with a flat, sealed walkway all the way around. There is usually an abundance of birds (eBird lists 189 species from 1185 lists), some interesting plants and usually some dragonflies that can be observed from a pontoon.

There are toilets and water bubblers near the parking area. We will try to secure a shady picnic table.

Directions:**1. Coming from the North** on the Gateway Motorway:

Use the left 2 lanes to take exit 100 for State Route 23/Wynnum Rd

Turn right onto Wynnum Rd/State Route 23,

500m Turn left onto Graystone St

250m Turn right onto Stanton Rd West

2. Coming from the South on the Gateway Motorway:

Use the left lane to take exit 100 for State Route 23/Wynnum Rd,

Use the left lane to turn left onto Wynnum Rd/State Route 23 (signs for State Route 23/City)

500m Turn left onto Graystone St

250m Turn right onto Stanton Rd West,

3. From Wynnum Rd/State Route 23 travelling East:

On Wynnum Rd, just past Murarrie Rd on your left, and before the Gateway Motorway, turn right (small sign to Minnippi) into Graystone St, after 250 m, turn right into Stanton Rd West,

4. Finally continue south on Stanton Rd West, past the Tingalpa Model Aero Club, to the parking area at the end of the road. We will try to have secured a picnic table near the lagoon.

NOTE: BCC lists Minnippi Parklands extending far south to Preston Rd (Preston Rd Park) and there is another entry to Minnippi parklands off Kate St, Carindale, please don't use either of these car parks.

Bring: breakfast, drinks, chairs, hats, sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars

Activities: From 8-9 am we will walk around the lagoon, 9-10am for breakfast, 10-11 council meeting, 11-12 looking at birds and dragonflies from the pontoon.

January 25th – 28th 2019 Australia Day camp – Cullendore High Country

Leaders: Murray & Jeanette Watson Phone: 07 33495965 or email jaw.muzza@bigpond.com

Registration: Register by e-mail to excursion@pnc.org.au or contact Murray and Jeanette directly.

Our camp for the Australia Day long weekend will be to Cullendore High Country. This is a private 4000 acre working cattle property with 2000 acres set aside for camping and exploring. The property adjoins Maryland National Park and is within the Great Dividing Range half an hour from Warwick. We will be exploring various areas of the property and also visiting the National Park. There are lots of wallabies, wallaroos, kangaroos, plenty of birdlife and maybe a glimpse of the spotted tail quoll.

An area has been booked for QNC to camp in, directions of which will be given by the owners Stuart and Wendy Bell when you call into the office to check in.

PLEASE NOTE: it could be cooler owing to the location of the camp so pack some warm clothing as well as the usual hat, sunblock and walking shoes for the day activities.

Toilets and showers are available but please bring your own drinking water.

Rates/night: Adults \$15. Children (4-16) \$10. Families \$45. Only payable in CASH on-site as there are no EFTPOS facilities.

Directions from Warwick: Follow the Warwick/Killarney Road for 14 kilometres. Turn right onto Cullendore Road. Follow the Cullendore Road for 18 km to the Cullendore Border Gate. After a further 3 km turn right onto the Maryland-Cullendore Road (follow the blue camping sign). In approximately 1 km turn left onto the Cullendore Creek Road. You will see a blue camping sign and a Cullendore High Country sign at this turn. Go through the front gate and proceed to the office at the top of the hill. Please check in and receive your directions of where to camp.

Website for Cullendore: www.cullendore.com

EXCURSION REPORTS

September 8: Waterloo Bay

When considering an excursion to explore between the tidemarks, a walk along rocky platforms or headlands generally comes to mind. When QNC members and their guests assembled on the foreshore of Waterloo Bay, however, it was to discover, first hand, just how rewarding a slow amble across a sheltered, muddy-sand flat could be. Bravely ignoring the adverse weather warnings, the perils of getting stuck in soft mud, and of getting hands and boots extremely dirty, became apparent as we worked our way across the sea-grass flats. A typical "Nats pace" was soon established so, despite the best efforts of our Excursion Secretary and his able young assistants to hurry us along, we only just made it out to the water's edge before the tide turned. Although the area cannot be considered free from human (or dog) disturbance, the diversity and abundance of the organisms we encountered were nevertheless impressive! Four species of sea-grasses, three algae, approximately 40 invertebrates (belonging to 10 phyla), one fish and, thanks to Judy Hines, a list of 20 birds were recorded.

Highlights included the following: an unidentifiable sea anemone with bright green tentacles; a large number of *Bursatella leachii* (the Ragged Sea Hare) and *Dolabella auricularia* (the Wedge Sea Hare) (the latter, although not mentioned in the Wild Guide to Moreton Bay, has previously been recorded from Stradbroke



Island); a black nudibranch, *Dendrodoris nigra*; a fine, Moreton Bay Baler, *Melo georginae*, half buried in the mud; and two species of small squid, *Euprymna tasmanica* (the Southern Dumpling Squid) and *Idiosepius pygmaeus* (the Pygmy Squid). We were also fortunate enough to see several colonies of the phoronid, *Phoronis australis* (the Anemone Horseshoe Worm). Members of this minor phyla are restricted to only about 20 species worldwide. These fragile, seagrass beds and mudflat ecosystems of Moreton Bay are very important in maintaining the health of the Bay and need our care and protection.

Ian Lawn and Myriam Preker

Photos courtesy Barney Hines.

September 16 – 30: Long Excursion 2018 Binya National Park and Bowra Sanctuary

The dry weather did not deter over 40 people attending the 2018 long excursion to Binya National Park and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Bowra reserve.

A lack of rainfall in the district was very evident in the look of the countryside. Waterholes on the Cuttaburra Creek and Warrego River at Binya provided the only natural water for the National Park. At Bowra the man-made "Lagoon" near the homestead provided the main water source and attracted a number of birds and animals to it during our stay.

Binya provided quite a floral show, compared to Bowra, with the Eremophilas, mainly *E. sturtii*, and the groves of Yapunyah, *Eucalyptus ochrophloia*, coming into full flower.

The Yapunyah attracted large flocks of woodswallows, white-browed and masked, plus a variety of other birds including Black Honeyeater and the White-fronted Honeyeater. A trip to the Cunnamulla weir from Bowra turned up a Painted Honeyeater which caused a lot of excitement, nearly as much as the low-flying Black-breasted Buzzard at Binya.



Photo: Neil Fordyce

Temperatures were cool at the start of the trip with overnight lows at Binya down to 5C resulting in not too many reptiles being seen and some campers wishing they'd brought more clothes. At Bowra a couple of warm evenings allowed some reptiles to be spotted and a Stripe-faced Dunnart to be seen (see photo). QNC managed to

assist some ANU research students by finding them two Bearded Dragons for their study program, which was much appreciated. A night vision scope proved to be quite good at finding reptiles in the dark but Peter Woodall and myself didn't quite get the catching side of the operation sorted out.

Invertebrates were not ignored as Peter and Leith Woodall had a new insect trap which seemed to work very well and they even managed to catch a water boatman some kilometres from the billabong at Binya! A spider hunt in two Eremophilas, on behalf of Robert Whyte, attracted quite an audience and has turned up three possibly new species out of the small collection taken.

Mel Venz & Harry Hines conducted some bat trapping and were very successful with numbers of individuals and numbers of species. More on the results of that at the November meeting.

John Moss contributed greatly to the identification of the Mistletoes whilst many people did a great job identifying the host species and other flora. Gretchen Evans scratched for fungi but didn't have much success.

One of the joys of the trip was the presence of five family groups which included a number of children who proved very adept at catching reptiles. The kids were good company and very inventive when it came to keeping themselves occupied.

The full report on the excursion will be given at the November QNC meeting and wildlife documented as the various experts get identification done.

Neil Fordyce, excursion leader.

❖ More photos on page 11 courtesy Neil Fordyce, Janet White and Barney Hines.



Photo: Janet White

October 20-22: Girraween National Park



This outing was cancelled due to continuing wet weather. However, the local Stanthorpe Field Naturalists were able to walk in Girraween on Sunday 21st. And the weather was very kind.



WHAT ELSE IS ON?

Queensland Herbarium Seminars

The Herbarium hosts free public seminars at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens from noon until 1 PM on the second Monday of the month (March to November) at the FM Bailey conference room in the Herbarium building. There is no need to register, refer to the following website for details:

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

12 November 2018

The Arctic and Antarctica – the same but different

Ralph Dowling (Queensland Herbarium)

The Hut Environmental & Community Association Inc. (THECA) Meetings

THECA monthly meetings are light hearted get-togethers held at The Hut, 47 Fleming Road, Chapel Hill, at 7:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of each month (February – November).

Come for refreshments and networking from 7:00 PM, with meetings commencing at 7:30 PM. Presentations usually run for about an hour, with refreshments and informal discussions afterwards. All members and non-member visitors are welcome, please check THECA's website for updates: www.theca.asn.au

The President and Council of **The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.** have pleasure in inviting you and a guest to the presentation of the Australian Natural History Medallion 2018 to Sarah Lloyd for her contribution to conservation, natural history and education on Monday 12 November 2018 at 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130. Reception at 6:30 pm with light buffet. Cost \$22. Following the presentation, Sarah Lloyd will speak on "Life amongst slime". Please RSVP to Wendy (03) 9877 9860 or reply to this email.

OF INTEREST

Insect Hotel

A response from Chris Burwell to an exhibit to the meeting in August:-

There is evidence of a real microcosm of various bees and wasps and their parasites having occupied the 'nests'.

I think the oldest and most extensive nesting material is an old dark resin which has hardened over time. I found some fragmented abdominal segments of the solitary bee that I think is responsible, which is the resin bee *Megachile ustulate* (in the Family Megachilidae). I suspect that it is most likely that the things that you thought might be honeybees are the mummified remains of unemerged specimens of *M. ustulata* which have a reddish-brown abdomen. I suspect that multiple females had nested together, but they are solitary bees in that each female makes her own nests and there isn't any co-operating between the different females nesting in the same place.

At least three other wasps have also been nesting among those old, original nests, sometimes using the cavities left behind after the bees had emerged.

There was a cluster of urn-like, mud pots that would have been made by one of the species of mud-dauber wasps belonging to the genus *Sceliphron* (Family Sphecidae). These are the elongate-bodied black and yellow wasps that have a very thin and long waist.

Also, there were some other nest cells constructed of resin, but that was lighter in colour. These were made by a species of potter wasp (sometimes called mason wasps) belonging to the family Vespidae and the subfamily Eumeninae. Most of these wasps use mud to make their nests but one common local species uses resin – the species is *Epsilon chartergiforme*. I found the body of an un-emerged specimen and could confirm its identity.

There is also evidence of another wasp using mud to make its nest, quite a small species, but I couldn't find any remains and as such it's hard to tell what it might have been.

There was also evidence of parasites at work; one empty cell had the pupa of a parasitic fly, most likely a bristle fly (family Tachinidae) and another cell contained a mass of pupal remains of a tiny parasitic wasp belonging to the genus *Melittobia* (family Eulophidae) Species of *Melittobia* aren't very fussy and attack a wide range of wasps and bees. These wasps are gregarious, very many developing on the host within a single cell.

Finally, as I didn't end up freezing the nests, I had a number of specimens of another species of wasp in the family Leucospidae emerge. I found them over two or three days on my window. Leucospid wasps are another group that is also well known for parasitising the nests of bees and wasps. The particular species was *Leucospis histrio*. So, as you can see there was lots going on in those nests over the years.

Chris Burwell, Queensland Museum Senior Curator (Entomology), Biodiversity Program

An email discussion of interest. If any members have any thoughts on the matter, please email the editor.

The discussion follows:-

1. I found your "fibrous growth on tree at Rollingsstone" quite intriguing, and came to the following conclusion:

Firstly, this is definitely not a lichen, dodder, bromeliad nor mistletoe. It does not resemble any other epiphyte that I am familiar with!

You do not state which species of tree, nor in which site. However, the grey bark and opposite-placed elliptic leaves suggest an *Avicennia marina* subsp *australasica* which means a mangrove forest location. The twiner on the left would therefore most likely be a Mangrove Waxflower Vine (*Cynanchum carnosum*).

The "fibrous growth" appears to be partly decomposed coir which was probably deposited by storm or king tide and became adherent to the bark lenticels, which makes it appear to emanate from the tree itself. This material is often washed up on our beaches, particularly in the north, and nearly always originates from Asian fishing boats, where it is used for stuffing in pillows etc! Although it is possibly (but less likely because of its uniform appearance) directly from a decayed coconut.



Although I am pretty confident of my diagnosis, I would like to hear of any other theory.

2. I think it is one of the borer beetle leftover. I found something like that myself and was quite disappointed when it was so easy to peel off. You couldn't do it with a fungus.

3. One further thought on the "fibrous growth" is that it may be a discoloured synthetic stuffing or packing material (such as pillow polyester microfibre) which may explain its uniformity.

4. Sorry but borer beetle frass most unlikely as far too much for such a small tree and also the wrong consistency; frass is never so stringy and is usually very fragmented and thicker. However, borer beetles do use Grey Mangrove and are vital in producing chambers for ant colonies that support the rare Illidge's Ant Blue Butterfly (*Acrodipsas illidgei*).

As for fungi: again far too much for such a small tree and decomposed material would not be of such tenacious-looking, long-stranded hairlike, even consistency.



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 email your details and newsletter preference to: treasurer@qnc.org.au

Name.....

Postal Address.....

.....Phone.....

Email.....

@.....

❖ I would like to receive my QNC News by

EMAIL OR POST (tick only one)

NOTE: This form must be returned to the Secretary 14 days before
the Annual General Meeting by post to PO Box 5663, WEST END 4101.

The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc
Council Nomination Form

Proposer:

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

the Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc hereby nominate

(Name of nominee)

for the position of _____
(Council Position)

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

Name of Secondor: _____

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

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

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