



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 342 January-February 2019

[facebook](#)

www.qnc.org.au

Print Post Approved: 100003858

CONTENTS

Council News.....	2
General Meetings.....	3
Meeting Reports	4
Exhibits.....	5
Excursions	6
Excursion Reports	8



An unidentified Daisy
Mount Cordeaux. Photo: Barney Hines



Wildflowers and Mt Mitchell
Mount Cordeaux. Photo: Barney Hines

PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

February 18	Annual General Meeting
March 18	Chris Burwell <i>Australia's dragonflies and damselflies</i> and Dennis Reeves' contribution to their study

Excursions:

January 25–28	Cullendore High Country
February 22	Samford Ecological Research Facility
March 24	Gold Creek Reservoir

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 February for Mar-Apr 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

QNC Calendar 2019



The Club's 2019 calendar features winning photos from the photographic competition run during the October General Meeting. Copies of the calendar are available for \$10 picked up from the Treasurer or \$13 including postage. Please contact Mike (treasurer@qnc.org.au) or ring 0434 148 170 with the number of copies required. Payment can be made by posting a cheque to the Treasurer QNC, 164/462 Beams Road, Fitzgibbon, QLD 4018 or paying online to Queensland Naturalists' Club BSB 034068 Account 901249. There are only 30 copies left so get in quick.

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.

Assistant Secretary (Minutes Secretary) is needed!

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

New Members

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

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).

February 18 Reception: Could this be you?

 Supper Duties: Could this be you?

Thank you to the volunteers at the November General Meeting, including Ann Tracey for reception duties and Sally Johnsen for supper duties.

COMING UP

Monday 18 February

Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address

This year's presidential address will be *Rare and Vulnerable Species of the Northern Tablelands, NSW*, an introduction to the threatened species of this area.

Monday 18 March

Chris Burwell, Senior Curator of Entomology, Queensland Museum

Australia's dragonflies and damselflies and Dennis Reeves' contribution to their study

The Odonata, comprising dragonflies and damselflies, is one of the best known groups of Australian insects in terms of their taxonomy. The vast majority of Australia's species have been described and formally named. There are probably few completely new species awaiting discovery but molecular techniques may well reveal hidden diversity within existing 'species'. This is certainly not to say that there is little to learn about them; there are ample opportunities to better document their distributions and biologies. The late Dennis Reeves, a long standing member of the Queensland Naturalists, was a passionate odonatologist and amassed a huge collection of dragonflies and damselflies over many decades. This collection, numbering more than 6000 specimens, was donated to the Queensland Museum by Dennis and Joan Bryan in 2012, more than doubling the museums holdings. Chris will give a brief overview of Australia's dragonflies and damselflies and will delve into Dennis' contribution to their study.

MEETING REPORTS

General Meeting: 19 November

Neil Fordyce, Janet White, Peter Woodall, Greg Neill, Melanie Venz and Harry Hines presented various aspects of the long excursion to Binya National Park and Bowra. Although the area is experiencing severe drought and was hotter and drier than average, there was a good turnout with 21 people at Binya NP and 41 at Bowra. It was great to see children getting involved and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy has agreed to QNC putting together a booklet about Bowra, which will be edited by Peter Woodall.

Binya NP is a sand plain with minimal topography, whereas Bowra has two main billabongs and consists mostly of quaternary rock. Worked stones of similar composition (a coarse sandstone not seen locally) with grinding surfaces and knapping marks were found at both locations. These were documented and mapped for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service but left *in situ*.

Binya National Park

Binya NP's flat landscape is dominated by woodland on floodplains with a grassy understorey. There was not much herbage on this occasion, though 50 grasses are listed. Janet showed photos of yapunyah (*Eucalyptus ochrophloia*) with its dark stocking, shiny bark and leaves, cypress pine (*Callitris endlicheri*) and ironwood (*Acacia excelsa*) (many of which were dead). Seven mistletoes (3 *Lysiana* spp. and 4 *Amyema* spp.) and 17 other plant species including *Capparis loranthifolia*, *Jasminum lineare*, *Rhodanthe* sp., *Senecio magnificus*, *Exocarpos aphyllus* were added to the list for the park.

At both locations, invertebrates were collected incidentally; by spreading a white sheet under flowering *Eremophila* and catching specimens when the plant was shaken; and by using a 20 watt lamp to attract insects. Peter showed photos of satin azure (*Ogyris amaryllis*) and two-spotted line blue (*Nacaduba biocellata*) butterflies. Dragonflies included the wandering percher (*Diplacodes bipunctata*) and blue skimmer (*Orthetrum caledonicum*).

Daily bird lists resulted in 55 species recorded, 18 of which were new to the list for the park. One individual Major Mitchell's cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*) (Vulnerable conservation status in Queensland) was observed twice. Other birds that are rarely or have never been recorded in the park included white-necked heron (*Ardea pacifica*), Australian wood duck (*Chenonetta jubata*), Pacific black duck (*Anas superciliosa*), black-fronted dotterel (*Elsayornis melanops*) and Australian pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*). Masked (*Artamus personatus*) and white-browed (*Artamus superciliosus*) woodswallows were seen in large numbers, 320 and 253 respectively. Highlights were the black-breasted buzzard and its nest site, little eagle, square-tailed kite, southern boobook seen by day, black honeyeater, brown-headed honeyeater, white-fronted honeyeater and brown treecreeper.

Bowra

Bowra has a more varied landscape and habitat and the season seemed more advanced here than at Binya NP. Only one of the 44 listed grasses was observed. Janet showed photos of *Polygonum plebeium*, *Hakea ivoryi*, *Wahlenbergia* sp., *Schenkia* sp., *Minuria* sp. and *Portulaca* sp. Specimens of 120 plants were collected and pressed for the Queensland Herbarium and members helped to identify common plants along tracks so that informative labels can be made. Two mistletoes were added to the species list for the property.

Beetles (*Cyphogastra pistor*, *Dicranolaius bellulus*, *Phoracantha punctata*, *Rhantus* sp. and *Eretes* sp.), yabby (*Cherax destructor*), spiders (*Damoetas* sp., *Eilica* sp. and *Neosparassus* sp.), a small blue-legged juvenile red-headed centipede (*Scolopendra morsitans*) and moths (*Agrostis munda*, *Ochrogaster* sp. and *Strangeia xerodes*) were observed. A willie wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) found the only blue skimmer (*Orthetrum caledonicum*) before we did and *Agrius godarti* was found in Barb's boots! Significant finds included *Chloroclystis insigillata* (new record for this region), *Diatenes igneipicta* (previously only one record from Queensland), *Diatenes gerula* (previously one recorded in coastal Queensland and some recorded in Cunnamulla in the 1920's) and *Niguza eucesta* (one record from central Queensland and one from northern New South Wales).

89 bird species were observed, including painted honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) (Vulnerable conservation status both nationally and in Queensland), Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) at the water treatment plant at

Cunnamulla and Bourke's parrot (*Neopsephotus bourkii*). No finches were observed and there were few fairy-wrens and water birds.

Short-beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), stripe-faced dunnart (*Sminthopsis macroura*), western grey kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*), eastern grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*), wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*), red kangaroo (*Osphranter rufus*) and swamp wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) were observed. Melanie showed how the microbats were caught using harp traps, mist nets and trip lines and explained species identification using teeth, forearm lengths, penis morphology and calls. Chocolate wattled bat (*Chalinolobus morio*) and Finlayson's cave bat (*Vespadelus finlaysoni*) were new to Bowra's list, little broad-nosed bat (*Scotorepens greyii*), lesser long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*), inland cave bat (*Scotorepens balstoni*), inland forest bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*), white-striped freetail bat (*Austronomus australis*), inland freetail bat (*Mormopterus petersi*) and yellow-bellied sheath-tail bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*) were observed through their calls while spotlighting.

There was an overall paucity of reptiles (15 species), probably due to dry conditions. Bynoe's gecko (*Heteronotia binoei*), a dtella (*Gehyra versicolor*), Burton's legless lizard (*Lialis burtonis*), inland marbled velvet gecko (*Oedura cincta*), tessellated gecko in cracking clay (*Diplodactylus tessellatus*), timid slider (*Lerista timida*), south-eastern morethia skink (*Morethia boulengeri*), central netted dragon (*Ctenophorus nuchalis*) and Schomburgk's ctenotus (*Ctenotus schomburgkii*) were observed. There were very few frogs, *Litoria rubella* and *L. peronii* were seen but not calling.

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).

November Meeting Exhibits

Elizabeth Bishop sent a photograph album belonging to her second cousin, Patricia Marks, containing photos from club outings during the 1940s.

Myriam Preker shared photos from the Waterloo Bay outing. A small swimming anemone with fluorescent green tentacles was living in a tube. A shaggy sea hare, *Dolabella* sp., was seen that was not known from this site before. The black nudibranch, *Palonus australis*, is a tube anemone with stinging cells and fringed exterior similar to bryozoans but lives in a tube and feeds with tentacles. A U-shaped tube worm feeds by setting up a current through a tube to filter out food. A small octopus and squid were also shown.

Leith Woodall brought the Singapore Garden magazine *Gardenwise* showing the Turnbolls being presented with an orchid.

Leith presented a gift of appreciation to Neil and Janet for great planning and organisation and advance preparation of the long excursion this year; to Sally and Terry for going on a recce, providing support and taking the group to the museum in Cunnamulla; and Murray and Jeanette for going on a recce, managing the toilet tent and being great support and help.

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.

A NOTE FROM THE EXCURSION SECRETARY

A big thank you to all the leaders of excursions throughout the year. The club would not be what it is without your efforts. A second shout out to the landholders who hosted us. I am looking forward to another exciting year of excursions ahead. Barney.

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

January 25–28: Cullendore High Country

Leaders: Murray & Jeanette Watson Phone: 07 3349 5965 E-mail: jaw.muzza@bigpond.com

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 visiting the National Park. There are lots of wallabies, wallaroos, kangaroos, plenty of birdlife and there may be 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.

Bring: 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 directions to Killarney. Follow the Warwick/Killarney Road for 14 km. Turn right onto the Cullendore Road. Follow the Cullendore Road for 18 km to the Cullendore Border Gate. After 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 for the camping area.

Website for Cullendore: www.cullendore.com

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

February 22: Samford Ecological Research Facility

16:00-20:00

Leader: Matt Phillips (0466 361 826) and Barney Hines excursions@qnc.org.au

The Samford Ecological Research Facility (SERF) is situated on a property that was bequeathed from Elizabeth 'Pat' Marks' estate. Pat was a past president of the QNC and very active member. Long standing members may recall visiting Pat's property in the early 1980's for QNC breakups.

The outing will involve a walk around the property, followed by a supper and hopefully some moth trapping. Bring a picnic meal.

Lots of information is found on the SERF website, including articles from the QNC: <http://www.serf.qut.edu.au/>

The club's last outing to the site occurred in 1993 and is described here:

http://www.serf.qut.edu.au/serfresourcefiles/nature_notes_excursion_qnc_1993.pdf

Directions: From the city, follow Samford Road through Ferny Grove and Ferny Hills. Turn left into Camp Mountain Road. Continue along this for 3.3 kilometres and turn left into the site.

Allow approximately 40 minutes from the Brisbane CBD.

Registration: Please register as access and times still need to be confirmed.

March 24: Gold Creek Reservoir

09:00

Leader: Chris Burwell

Following on from his talk earlier in the week (Monday 18 March), Chris Burwell will lead an outing to Gold Creek Reservoir, at the end of Gold Creek Road, Brookfield, in search of dragonflies and damselflies. The reservoir itself has a diverse fauna of species that breed in standing waters and Gold Creek, which snakes through riparian rainforest below the dam wall, features many species dependant on flowing water. Come and try your hand at capturing these aerial predators with hand nets, although we are unlikely to be collecting specimens. There should also be plenty of opportunities for photography. Binoculars are also strongly recommended, which can also be used for birding; almost 200 bird species have been recorded from the reservoir and surrounds.

Directions: Meet at the carpark at the very end of Gold Creek Road at 9:00am.

Registration: Registration & further inquiries either by email excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject 'Gold Creek Reservoir'.



Native Leek *Bulbine vagans*
Mount Cordeaux. Photo: Barney Hines



Mountain Boobialla *Myoporum betcheanum*
Mount Cordeaux. Photo: Barney Hines

EXCURSION REPORTS

November 2-4: Green Mountains

Participants walked to a cairn on Mount Bithongabel where several people camped overnight and were treated to a firefly display. The presentation by the Green Mountains Natural History Society will be brought to a meeting in 2019.

November 25: Mount Cordeaux

The brilliant blooms of magnificent flame-trees were of a feature of the forest for the Mt Cordeaux walk. Their contrasting red stood out from the dark greens of the rainforest canopy. This, and an abundance of wicked wild raspberries (*Rubus rosifolius*), heralded an early festive spirit.

The weather was kind, even though a heat wave was predicted. In fact, it was quite cool for much of the morning with the strong westerly breeze blowing through the rainforest.

The highlight of the birds was the noisy pitta, which was both seen and heard.

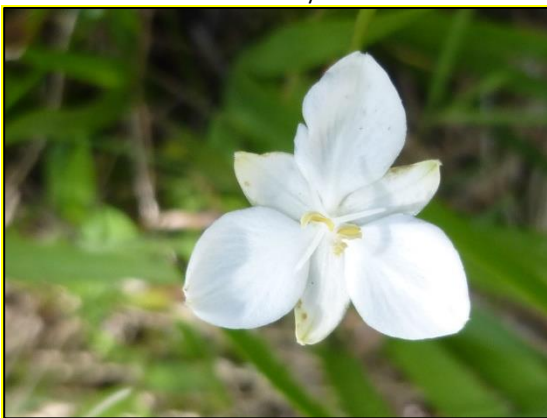


View from Mt Clunie looking south towards Mt Mitchell
Photo: Barney Hines



Native raspberry *Rubus rosifolius*
Photo: Barney Hines

Lots of plants were flowering, particularly in the higher altitude areas where heath plants were growing. These included small wildflowers such as the native leek (*Bulbine vagans*), *Libertia paniculata*, a *Wahlenbergia* possibly *graniticola*, many-flowered mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), as well as shrubs such as a *Leptospermum* possibly *variabile*, the beautiful mountain boobialla (*Myoporum betcheanum*) and a *Pittosporum*, possibly *undulatum*. The native frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*) was observed flowering in the rainforest areas.



Libertia paniculata
Photo: Barney Hines



Wahlenbergia sp.
Photo: Barney Hines

Thanks to Judy Haines with assistance with some of the plant IDs. Any errors are my own. An enjoyable outing for all. Barney Hines

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

DUE 1st JULY

Subscription Type (please tick)

Family \$40 Single \$25 Student /Junior \$15 Club Badge \$15

Payment Options

❖ **By Post**

Post a bank cheque or money order with this completed form to:

The Treasurer, Mr Mike Anderson

164/462 Beams Rd

Fitzgibbon

Queensland 4018

❖ **At a General Meeting**

Hand payment to the Treasurer in an envelope with this completed form.

❖ **By EFT**

Please transfer payment to the following bank account and email your details and newsletter preference to treasurer@qnc.org.au

Account: The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc.

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 034-068

Account Number: 901249

Reference: Your Name

Your Contact Details

Name.....

Postal Address.....

.....

Phone.....

Email

The QNC News will be sent to you by email. Please tick this box if you require a copy in the post.