



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 345 July-August 2019

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www.qnc.org.au

Print Post Approved: 100003858

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View from the Bluff, Easter Camp Photo: Barney Hines



Saturday afternoon, Easter Camp Photo: Greg Neill

PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| July 15 | Professor Glenn King, University of Queensland
Animal venom in drug development |
| August 19 | Professor Chris Frid, Griffith University
The enlightened citizens guide to Marine
Pollution. Or What can we do with our waste? |

Excursions:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| June 22 | Dowse Lagoon, Sandgate |
| July 21 | Glasshouse Mountains |
| August 5-14 | Long Excursion, Diamantina National Park |
| August 31 | Bradbury's Beach, Dunwich, Stradbroke Island |
| October 5 -7 | Queen's Birthday long weekend camp, Mount
Clunie Cabins |

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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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 August for September-October 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

Subscription Reminder

This is a reminder that Subscriptions for 2020 are due on 1 July 2019. Options for payment are shown on the back page of the QNC News.

Vehicle Door Magnets



Neil Fordyce has designed some terrific QNC vehicle door magnets, which feature photographs taken by Club members. The magnets are available at \$25 each.

Show them off on your vehicle and bring attention to the Club and some of the natural wonders we are able to enjoy in Queensland.

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.

QNC Natural History Award

Nominations are now open for the 2020 QNC Natural History Award.

The Queensland Natural History Award has been awarded since 1992 and is presented annually by the Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc. The award recognises persons who have made outstanding contributions to natural history in Queensland.

For more information please check the QNC website or contact a member of Council.

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

Welcome to our newest members, we hope you have a long and happy association with the club:

- Miss YiPei Zhou aka Elle, Gatton
- Miss Li Yimeng aka Carmen, Gatton
- Dr Paul Campbell and Ms Vicki Campbell, Kenmore

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 15 April

Don Marshall

1919 QNC Expedition to Lamington

Don Marshall, a retired Journalist and Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service (QNPWS) Officer, talked to us about key developments in the interest in natural history in Queensland and its protection. He described in detail the Christmas 1918 Queensland Naturalists' Club scientific expedition to Mt Bithongabel in Lamington and its outcomes.

Mr Marshall's grandmother's cousin was Sidney Jackson, a noted ornithologist, oologist and participant in the 1918 expedition. Mr Jackson's detailed diaries of his naturalising over large parts of Australia are kept in the National Library and have provided much of the information for this talk.

Early events noted include the arrival in Brisbane in the 1860s of Silvester Diggles, an artist, musician, ornithologist, entomologist and a founder of the Queensland Philosophical Society, later the Royal Society of Queensland; a first Field Naturalists Club in 1886; and the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU) in 1900.

In the first years of the 20th century, the area around Lamington was suffering from severe drought and there was increased clearing for housing, railways, timber and farms. For example, Lahey's Canungra mill was processing 50 hoop pines a day. A young Romeo Lahey (born 1887) was concerned about the destruction of the bush he had come to value and became active in promoting conservation of the natural environment. This culminated in 1915, after four years work, in the proclamation of Lamington National Park. Prior to this, plans to clear and develop the area had progressed. A 19 ½ mile bridle trail 8 feet wide had been constructed from Bithongabel to Cainbale, and 16 blocks on the Roberts Plateau had been pegged for future clearing for dairying – the O'Reilly family had wanted to clear theirs by burning.

Accessing the mountains was not easy – in 1913, there was the track from Kerry over Heartbreaker Ridge and in 1916 the Stockyard Creek Track was built from Kerry. Another track came from Christmas Creek.

At this time, national parks were not completely protected, e.g. timber cutting could occur, but QNC member, Henry Tryon, after visiting Lamington NP in 1916, urged the focus to change from just 'reserve' to include 'preserve.' By 1918, other people too were lobbying for protection of native plants and animals.

The eleven-man 1918 QNC expedition to camp in the Bithongabel Antarctic Beech forest left Brisbane on December 25th. Except for the older Henry Tryon, the rest were men in their 20s and 30s and included Cyril White, Clive Gillies and the amateur ornithologist and journalist, Alex Chisholm whose reports in the press

were influential in the general community. Their camping gear had been sent up earlier by train and pack horse. The group travelled by train to Beaudesert and horse to Kerry where they stayed overnight at the hotel. Herb O'Reilly had been employed to be their guide and took them up to Bithongabel where the O'Reillys had already constructed a lookout over the Tweed Valley. While they had few creature comforts – limited diet, no nearby water and pesky blowflies, the group was impressed by the fresh and scented air, the trees and other plants, lichens, mosses, lyrebirds and other birds. They journeyed home in stages via West Canungra Creek, Darlington State School (then deserted), Hillview and then by light rail to Beaudesert. The verdict was that these mountains were superior to the Blue Mountains and they dubbed them the 'Green Mountains', an epithet which still remains.

This trip had many significant outcomes on nature conservation, with discussion in the media continuing for several years. More immediately, in February 1919, five of the O'Reillys were appointed honorary rangers, and subsequent visits by Nats discovered two new plant species and the Rufous Scrub Bird. The area was targeted for tourist development with plans for roads and accommodation, not all realised, and protection of plants and animals. Discussions to extend protective aspects of National Park legislation continued in Brisbane and involved Nats members, and culminated with National Park protection being granted in 1922. O'Reilly's Guesthouse opened in 1924.

Thanks to Judy Haines for summarising this interesting presentation.

20 May

Dr John Healy, Curator Marine Environments (Molluscs), Queensland Museum & Science Centre

C.T. White Memorial Lecture: Kevin Lamprell, the Shell Man: From Citizen to Scientist

Myriam Preker thanked John for a most interesting and enjoyable talk. She has herself used Kevin's books on many occasions and particularly loved the pictures of him going off in this dinghy to pick up specimens. She also noted the interest shown by the public in shells during the QNC display at the World Science Festival in Brisbane earlier this year.

Acting President, Barry Jahnke, asked who knew about CT White himself. Joan Cribb responded, informing us that CT White was one of the leading people in her student days, collecting in many places, and was the grandson of FM Bailey. He made many pen and ink illustrations of Queensland plants and described many species of plants though he had no formal training. He received an honorary MSc at the University of Queensland. He was a great force in the QNC, being President three times and leading the botany group. He was very approachable and helpful. He died suddenly in the 1950's while he was a government botanist.

Barry pointed out that it is never too late to start a new interest.

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 April and May General Meetings, including Coral and Joseph Reichman, Lil Spadijier, Marjorie Jahnke, Doug Freckelton and all those who brought plates of food and assisted with the room set up and clean up.

COMING UP

Monday 15 July

Professor Glenn King, University of Queensland Institute for Molecular Bioscience

Professor King is a biochemist and structural biologist whose expertise lies in translating venom-derived peptides into human drugs and bioinsecticides. His lab maintains the most extensive collection of venoms in the world, which includes venoms from more than 600 species of venomous spiders, scorpions, centipedes and assassin bugs. Professor King's primary focus is on the development of drugs to treat three pervasive nervous system disorders: chronic pain, epilepsy, and stroke.

We are literally surrounded by venomous animals, which make up about 15% of all animal species on the planet. Virtually all gardens in Brisbane contain venomous ants, bees, centipedes, spiders, and wasps, while some also provide homes for venomous assassin bugs, caterpillars, robber flies, and snakes! Despite their sinister reputation, only a very small minority of these venomous animals are dangerous to humans. Indeed, on the contrary, venomous animals have thus far yielded six drugs that are used to treat human disorders as diverse as diabetes, hypertension, and chronic pain. Glenn will provide an overview of recent research on the use of animal venoms to develop drugs to treat autoimmune diseases, cancer and epilepsy, as well as a venom compound that may become the next Viagra! In particular, Glenn will describe a drug being developed from the Fraser Island funnel-web spider that prevents brain damage following a stroke.

Monday 19 August

Professor Chris Frid, Griffith University (Gold Coast Campus) School of Environment and Science

The enlightened citizens guide to Marine Pollution. Or What can we do with our waste?

For many years, the response to waste disposal was 'the solution to pollution is dilution'. But 50 years ago, when we first saw images of our little planet hanging in space, it became obvious that we sit on a finite planet and cannot keep on diluting forever. In this whirl-wind tour of the science, economics, engineering and philosophy of marine pollution, we look at what we have learnt in the last 50 years and what the next 50 might hold for our seas and oceans.

MEETING REPORTS

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Barry pointed out that it is never too late to start a new interest.

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@gnc.org.au)
- Our Facebook page – Leith (facebook@gnc.org.au)
- The QNC News – May-Le (news@gnc.org.au).

May Meeting Exhibits

Dr Healy brought along Kevin Lamprell's books and some shells representative of their phylla.

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

June 22: Dowse Lagoon, Sandgate

Saturday 9:00 AM

Leader: David Hanger dahangerkippa@gmail.com or leave a message on 07 3880 0914

There is usually quite a variety of birds on the lagoon, so people may arrive early if they wish to bird watch.

It is proposed to spend a short time inspecting the planting area where an attempt has been made to recreate something approaching the diverse habitat prevailing in the pre-Para grass days.

Then a slow walk for about 1.5km around the lagoon on a paved surface looking at anything that moves or grows. The Keep Sandgate Beautiful Committee would be very grateful to the Club for a list of wildlife recorded on the day.

Bring: Morning tea plus something to sit on, water bottle, insect repellent, sunscreen etc.

Directions: Meet at 9:00 AM in the parking area at the end of Burnett Place, which runs off Brighton Road, Sandgate.

Registration: Please register with David Hanger or via excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject "Dowse Lagoon".



QNC breaking into New South Wales over the border fence, Easter Camp Photo: May-Le Ng

July 21: Glasshouse Mountains National Park Scientific Reserve No.1, Roys Rd, Beerwah



Allocasuarina emuina

Sunday 9.30 AM – 3.30 PM

Leaders: Dick Copeman (dcopeman49@gmail.com, 0439 728 992)
Ron Carr (ronkcarr@gmail.com, 0421 382 500)

This scientific reserve is mostly freshwater wallum heath with some stands of larger trees and small bodies of water. Many wildflower plants will be in bloom at the time of our excursion, including some rare and endangered plants. *Allocasuarina emuina* and *Eucalyptus conglomerata* are both Endangered under both commonwealth and Queensland legislation and are pictured as seen during the reconnaissance mission to the site. We should also see some insects, birds, frogs, reptiles and fungi. It will be easy walking along flat, sandy tracks and we will walk out the way we walk in, so any who wish to leave earlier will be able to do so.

Bring: A back pack with lunch, snacks and water plus something to sit on, as we will stop for lunch along the track.

Directions: Travel north along the Bruce Highway and take exit 163 onto the Steve Irwin Way towards the Glasshouse Mountains. Go through the villages of Beerburrum and Glasshouse Mountains and as you enter Beerwah, turn right onto Roys Rd at the traffic lights. Proceed for 5km along Roys Rd and then turn into an unmarked side road on the right. There will be a QNC sign at the turn. Park in to the right near the National Park gate. Allow 1 hour 20 mins driving time from central Brisbane.

Registration: Please register with Dick Copeman or with excursion@qnc.org.au, with the subject "Beerwah". For car-pooling, contact Dick.



Eucalyptus conglomerata

August 5–14: Long Excursion, Diamantina National Park

Monday 5th to Wednesday 14th August 2019

Leader: Sally Johnsen 0449 517 627

Following 3 floods and other good rainfalls this year, the flora and fauna at Diamantina National Park are flourishing. Whilst a number of QNC members have made private or work-related trips, this excursion will be the first QNC visit to Diamantina NP.

Here are some points of interest about this camp.

1. Other groups, such as Birds Queensland, have visited the park on previous occasions, and the Rangers welcome these visits.
2. The Rangers have indicated they have a number of survey sites across the park, and they would appreciate QNC assistance with doing surveys at these sites.
3. Drinking and washing water is available at the National Park. Bring suitable containers to fill for drinking water. You will need to be self-sufficient with your accommodation (camper trailer, tent, van, swag, etc), food, cooking arrangements (gas only), and shower.
4. We will be camping at Gum Holes campsite, where there is plenty of water for canoeing for those who take along their canoe. Diamantina Lakes is the BoM weather site. It could be cold at night, possibly as low as 4°C or 5°C in the mornings.

5. The Rangers have offered to make available 3 rooms in the Ringers Quarters (2 single beds per room), near the Rangers Station for members who are not able to camp. Further details of this are yet to be obtained. This location is 21km from Gum Holes.
6. Given the isolation of the park, arrangements will be made for fuel (diesel and unleaded) to be delivered to the park for purchasing by QNC members.
7. We will take along the QNC marquee to keep books and other items during the camp.
8. Those joining the excursion will be asked to collect and bring suitable dead timber, collected outside the National Park, so we can have a fire to keep us warm for our after-dinner get-togethers.
9. Costs will be the standard National Park camping fees per person per night, and the standard QNC camping fees.

Seeing that you have travelled so far, you could allow extra travel time to visit some iconic dinosaur places.

Via Winton you could visit the Age of Dinosaurs (www.australianageofdinosaurs.com) or Lark Quarry (www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au). Bladensburg NP (parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/bladensburg) (30 minutes from Winton) is also looking good, currently has many budgies and different birds, and is worth visiting before the Diamantina NP excursion. Via Windorah you could visit Eromanga Natural History (dinosaur) Museum (www.enhm.com.au).

Directions: Diamantina NP is in a remote location. It will take two long days driving from Brisbane to either Winton (1,358 km and 14 hrs 40 minutes from Brisbane GPO), or Windorah (1,203 km and 13 hours 25 minutes from Brisbane GPO). If you like to travel at a more leisurely pace, then allow longer time to get to either of these towns. It is then a 4-hour drive south from Winton (306 km), or a 4-hour drive north from Windorah (350 km), to the Park.

For road conditions and safety reasons we will travel into the Park as two groups, leaving from Winton or Windorah as people choose. We will meet beforehand in either of these towns at 4pm on the afternoon of Sunday 4th August. We will then depart these towns at 9am on Monday 5th August. Additional information will be made available to, and requested from, those who are registering for this excursion.

Registration: To register your interest in participating in this long excursion, please email excursion@qnc.org.au with subject "Diamantina". Additional information, including a detailed registration form and packing checklists for remote travel, will be made available to those registering for this long excursion.

Please express your interest as soon as possible so that we can make fuel delivery arrangements.

August 31: Bradbury's Beach, Dunwich, Stradbroke Island

Meet Saturday, August 31 at 10:00 by the One-Mile Jetty, Yabby Street, Dunwich.

Leader: Myriam Preker

Description: North Stradbroke Island is one of Australia's most outstanding natural areas. It lies at the heart of a major biogeographic overlap zone. It is here that the southern and northern biotas meet, forming unusual communities of both temperate and tropical species. Bradbury's Beach, Dunwich, combines this with a diversity of habitats in close proximity to one another: mud and sand flats; seagrass beds; a small mangrove area; a macro-algal-dominated intertidal area; a rocky out-cropping; and a small patch of corals.





Soldier Crab, *Mictyris longicarpus*, spends much of its time buried underneath the sediment. Large numbers emerge on the falling tide to feed on detritus, leaving rounded pellets of discarded sand behind them.

How to get there: Make your way to Toondah Harbour, Cleveland (Brisbane UBD Ref. Map 186, D17)

By car: Cleveland is about 45 minutes from Brisbane CBD. There is free parking available.

By train: Catch the Cleveland Line from Brisbane (South Bank, South Brisbane, Roma Street, Central Stations, etc.). There is a free Stradbroke Flyer courtesy bus pickup from the train station 10 minutes prior to each water-taxi departure.

Our day will start with a leisurely nature walk. The area around Dunwich offers an excellent opportunity for bird watching, especially shore birds; whereas in the cemetery, koalas can often be seen. After a lunch break, we will start to explore the low-tide area in the park in front of Bradbury's Beach. The low tide is at 16:17 (0.14 m).

What to bring: Sunblock; sunhat; sturdy footwear that can be used in water and that protects the ankles; reef-walking stick; windbreaker (if it is a windy day). Additionally, swimming and snorkelling equipment will also be useful for any "Vikings" among us, or glass-bottom buckets for Queenslanders!



Brain Coral, *Dipsastraea speciosa*



Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Two companies operate water taxis from Toondah Harbour to North Stradbroke: North Stradbroke Island Water Taxi (Vehicle Ferry & Water Taxi) and Stradbroke Flyer Water Taxi (Gold Cat). The journey will take around 25 minutes. Timetables and vessels are subject to change without notice so check the day before departing. The last ferry from the island is at 19:25 or, if you require a bus connection to the train, at 18:25.

Registration: Please register via excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject line "Stradbroke Island".

October 5 –7: Queen's Birthday long weekend camp, Mount Clunie Cabins

Leaders: Greg & Annie Neill

We will have the use of this beautiful, privately owned property for the Club's Queen's Birthday long weekend base camp. Please see the website for more details: <http://www.mountcluniecabins.com.au/index.html>

The property is on the southern slopes of Mt Clunie and borders the southern boundary of Mt Clunie National Park. There is a possibility of a full day's walk on Sunday, mostly along an unused road reserve, and on Monday a half day walk along a rainforest track to the shoulder of Mt Clunie.

There is a very large grassed area that will be available for camping, vans and tents. Camp fees will apply (to be advised). There is one cabin still available, the other is already booked. Phone 07 4666 5118 or email bookings@mountcluniecabins.net to make a booking.

Registration: Please register via excursion@qnc.org.au with the subject line "Mt Clunie".

EXCURSION REPORTS

April 19–22: Easter Long Weekend – Ballow View Nature Refuge And Beyond

A grand contingent of 44 naturalists, including 6 new members, enjoyed an excellent Easter camp. The campsite was situated on Ballow View Nature Reserve with outings onto the surrounding property, "The Glen". Friday afternoon involved a hike to "The Bluff", an area of fantastic escarpment with views to the east over Burnett Creek to the Mt Ballow massif and to the north towards Lake Moogerah and beyond. Saturday we walked down the central catchment of the property, through the water reserve to a rocky gorge. On Sunday we drove up to the State border where we walked climbed the border fences and hiked to Watson's Falls.



Coral fungus Photo: Barney Hines



Drosera peltata Photo: Greg Neill

The moderate amounts of rain in the six weeks preceding had fortunately broken the otherwise very dry summer. As a result, the country had come to life and wildflowers were in abundance, particularly in the Ballow View NR and surrounds. These included slug herbs, spade flowers and a species of daisy. Areas of rock platform were particularly productive with the beautiful sundew *Drosera peltata* a feature, and many a Nat got down on hands and knees to try and work out what insects were caught in these sticky traps. Shrubs in flower included several species of *Plectranthus*, *Leucopogon juniperinus* and the pea *Davisonia ulicifolia*.



Joseph's coat moth caterpillar (*Agarista agricola*) Photo: Barney Hines



Slug herb flower (*Murdannia graminea*) Photo: Barney Hines

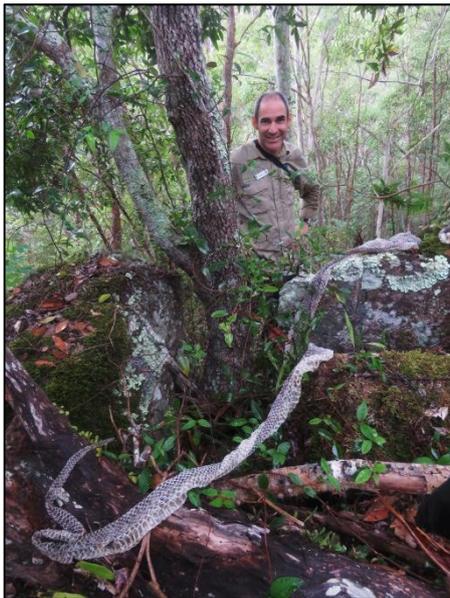


Nats in action Photo: Barney Hines

Some traps for catching small mammals were set along the bluff and around camp. These were successful in catching two different types of antechinus. Of the two, the brown antechinus (*A. stuartii*) is smaller, flatter and uniformly coloured and was found in the gully near camp. The yellow-footed antechinus (*A. flavipes*) was caught near the bluff and has a beautiful grey head with buff body. Another species caught at the bluff was the docile pale field rat (*Rattus tunneyi*). Some bat traps were also set and two species were captured, *Vespadelus darlingtoni* and the closely related *V. pumulis*.



Vespadelus bats Photo: Greg Neill



Barney and the carpet python skin
Photo: Greg Neill

A few herps were about. Highlights are always the snakes, yellow-faced whip snakes (*Demansia psammophis*) and an enormous carpet python (*Morelia spilota*) skin at The Glen and an eastern small-eyed snake (*Cryptophis nigrescens*) near Watson's Falls. The reduced limb skink *Anomalopus verreauxii* was also observed near Watson's Falls. Eastern banjo (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) and spotted grass (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) frogs were hopping around after the rain. A further few species were observed around the dam in The Glen.

Birds were quiet, possibly due to the often grey skies and also the season. However, the numerous buff-rumped thornbills (*Acanthiza reguloides*) and white-throated treecreepers (*Cormobates leucophaea*) on the Nature Reserve and The Glen were a feature. A peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) swooped over us at lunch on the Saturday, providing great views for those fortunate. A spotted quail-thrush (*Cinlosoma punctatum*) was seen in The Glen and a flock of glossy black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) at Watson's Falls.

Fungi were in abundance and Lil was in her element, head down and snooping around like a well-trained blood hound. She introduced us to the punks. These are large fungi that grow on the trunks of smooth barked eucalypts, such as the grey gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*). As the fungi mature, they become infested with insects, then harden and fall to the forest floor where they resemble a piece of Styrofoam. Two species were present, the brilliant and more common white punk (*Laetiporus portentosus*), which was seen at the bluff but also conveniently in the gum tree beside the campfire. Later, Lil found the cousin species, the curry punk (*Piptoporus australiensis*). This fungus is brilliantly coloured orange and is reputed to have a curry-like smell.



Crossing the fence to the lunch area above
Watson's Falls Photo: Greg Neill



Curry punk (*Piptoporus australiensis*)
Photo: Barney Hines

In true Nat's tradition, the description of the smell produced much debate. The author of this article contending that Cheezels was a better analogy than curry. However, this was hotly contested by another Club member, who grew up beside the Cheezels factory but admitted abstinence from said product ever since. He contested that "wet boots" was the most apt description, which on reflection is likely true, as conceivably Cheezels are likely made with such mixed with curry powder. Could this scientific elucidation be published in the Club journal?

The great spirit of the camp was of real joy for the leader. The intermittent showers appeared to simply boost spirits and not deter them. With so many members and a swag of novices, it was great to see people getting out and enjoying the spectacular display of natural history on offer.

Finally, a big thank you to the owners of the Ballow View Nature Refuge, Hugh Wackwitz and Phil Rowland, for enabling all of this to happen and for organising access to The Glen. They are an inspiration to others with their dedication to conservation.

NATURE NOTES

On the Recent Easter Camp to Ballow View Nature Refuge, someone asked about the derivation of Plectranthus. I have consulted my "dictionary of Botanical Names" by Don Perrin and it says (Greek) plectron cocks spur + anthos a flower. Spur on petal base of type species.

Greg Neill



We observed a moonbow during the Easter Camp at Ballow View. Lunar rainbows, or moonbows, form in the same manner as the rainbows we know. However, they may be less well known as not many people are out at night when the conditions are right.

We were lucky to be looking the right way after a short shower as the full moon was rising, providing enough light to create the moonbow.

May-Le Ng



Easter Camp Photo: Ai-Le Ng

QNC CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION

The QNC runs a wide range of day outings and camps during the year. We would like to capture some of these moments in our annual calendar. To this end, we are asking members to submit photos from QNC outings to the QNC Calendar Photo Competition. The competition rules are:

1. Photos must depict natural history and taken in association with club activities.
2. Photos must be in JPG format, not larger than 4Mb size and in 3:2 aspect ratio to allow printing onto A4 paper. QNC may crop entries submitted with other ratios for display or for the calendar.
3. Participants may submit up to 4 entries.
4. Photos should be submitted by email with supporting information including location and species to: photo@qnc.org.au
5. Titles/captions are not necessary. Photos will be judged by members on their merit.
6. Photos will be printed to A4 size and displayed on the night of the September general meeting.
7. Voting will be by members on the night of the September general meeting.
8. Entrants agree that the Club may use their photos on the 2020 calendar.
9. The photographer will be credited and copyright remains with the photographer.
10. Entries will be accepted until 5 PM on 12th September 2019.
11. Council's decision about inclusions in the calendar is final.

WHAT ELSE IS ON?

Queensland Science Network

The Queensland Science Network is an unincorporated collaboration between more than 20 knowledge-based not-for-profit societies based in Queensland, including QNC. The societies all collect or disseminate scientific knowledge as one of their major functions.

The network has a Facebook page and www.scienceqld.org.au is in an early stage of development.

USC Honours Project: Call for Nocturnal Bird Records

Dylan Westaway, an Honours student at the University of the Sunshine Coast, is undertaking a project studying a suite of nocturnal bird species in Queensland. He is compiling maps of the distribution of each species in the South-East Queensland bioregion and developing species distribution models (SDMs) with the aim of assessing the conservation status of these species and understanding the influence of a variety of environmental factors (including human land use) on the presence/absence of these species.

Dylan is requesting sightings or acoustic records of the following nocturnal bird species to assist his study:

Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*)

Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*)

Marbled Frogmouth (*Podargus ocellatus*)

Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*)

Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*)

Eastern Barn Owl (*Tyto javanica*)

Southern Boobook (*Ninox novaezealandiae*)

He is looking for any records of these species which haven't already been supplied to Wildnet, Atlas of Living Australia, Faunawatch or the Queensland Museum. All occurrence points provided will be used purely for mapping and modelling distribution and will not be visited.

Individual sightings can be submitted here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WG9NJ9>

Larger datasets can be sent to Dylan Westaway: dmw022@student.usc.edu.au

Save the Bilby Fund's 2019 Bilby Tracks Program

Bilby Tracks is a program run by Save the Bilby Fund, which is responsible for managing the land and bilbies within the Bilby Fence at Currawinya National Park. The program engages members of the community in conducting regular animal and habitat surveys and monitoring in this relatively remote area of western Queensland. The *2019 Bilby Tracks – Journey with us into bilby country, a tour of learning and discovery* (31 August – 7 September 2019, departing Brisbane) is based around the program developed during our three previous trips.

The details for the 2019 Bilby Tracks program run by Save the Bilby Fund are now on the website:

<http://bilbytracks.com.au>

Please contact Colleen with any questions: bilbytracks@savethebilbyfund.org

Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat Project: Volunteer caretaker recruits needed

The Northern hairy-nosed wombat project is looking for recruits for the volunteer caretaker program for summer 2019 and 2020. The project needs two people to conduct the daily on site duties for managing the sites at Epping Forest National Park and Richard Underwood Nature Refuge. Ideally, the project is looking for individuals that are capable of committing one month (or more) to be on-site undertaking the daily duties.

For more information, email: jenny.molyneux@des.qld.gov.au

Australian Native Bee Association

Information about the newly formed Australian Native Bee Association (ANBA) can be found on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Native.Bee.Association/>

UTS School of Design: Looking for Insect Specialists to Assist Project

Donna Sgro, lecturer in Design Studies at the University of Technology Sydney, is looking for people with a research interest in insects to assist with a current project.

Donna is interested in how design can reframe the value of insects in society, why insects are critical to a broad range of contexts, yet are often overlooked. Donna's students are engaging with the issues that insects currently face in Australia and a current project involves developing an Insect Cards educational set which can assist the students to identify insect issues identified in scientific papers. The Insect Cards aim to identify ways that design can be used to engage with insect issues, focussing on improving the value of insects to society in novel ways, and introducing design students to a range of issues.

Insect specialists are being sought to assist with developing the prototype Insect Cards using insect studies research. If you have an insect issue that might be interesting for designers to work with, please contact Donna: donna.sgro@uts.edu.au

June 30 – July 6: Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Annual Conference

The 51st Annual Conference of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators will be held at the University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus this year. This is only the second time the conference has been held outside the USA. Registration is now open, see <https://2019gnsi-conf.org/> for more information.

September 29 – October 3: Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) National Conference 2019

Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) National Conference and Biennial General Meeting 2019, Blooming Biodiversity, will be held in Albany, Western Australia, this year. A series of tours and day excursions to take in native flora in bushland settings as well as gardens and landscaped areas. The south-west of Western Australia is known for its pristine bushland and there will be an emphasis of native flora in its natural setting.

For further information, please see www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au or contact the Perth Office at enquiry@wildflowersocietywa.org.au

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

- 8 July 2019 The restoration capacity of soil seed banks in abandoned cropping fields of semi-arid landscapes
Peta Zivec, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University
- 12 August 2019 Two talks on problem grasses
Simone-Louise Yasui, Queensland University of Technology
Gabrielle Lebbink, University of Queensland

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

General meetings are usually held at The Hut, 47 Fleming Road, Chapel Hill, 7:00 PM for 7:00 PM start on the fourth Wednesday of each month from February to November. www.theca.asn.au

- 24 July 2019 Annie Ross And Greg Siepen: Discovering The Galapagos
- 28 August 2019 Valerie Hagger, University Of Qld.: Biodiversity Investigations Of Native Plantings



Easter Camp Photos: Greg Neill



Can you identify the species in these two terrific photos taken by Greg Neill during the Easter camp?

Send your thoughts to news@qnc.org.au

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

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