

ONC NEWS

Newsletter of The QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 348 January-February 2020

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Print Post Approved: 100003858 www.qnc.org.au

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Sardens Photo: Desley Wilgoss





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May 18 CT White Lecture

Andrew Franks Bryophytes

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April 5-13, 2020 Long Excursion 2020

Expedition National Park

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May 2-4 Durakai State Forest

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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Deadline for News items – 15th January for Mar-Apr 2020.

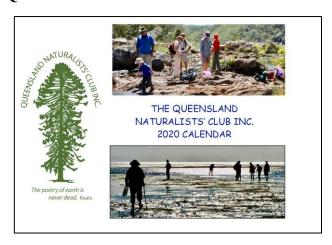
The Queensland Naturalist is published twice per year, send articles to the Editor:

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

ONC Calendar 2020





The Club's 2020 calendar features winning photos from the photographic competition run during the September 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.

March 26-29, 2020: World Science Festival Street Science

As part of the 2020 World Science Festival, there will be another Street Science display at Southbank from 26th to 29th March 2020. The Royal Society of Queensland (RSQ) is applying for a stall and has invited the QNC to have a hands-on display that will engage children and young people in learning about natural history.

The theme for the 2020 QNC hands-on display is Pods and Seeds. Council invites members to put aside pods and seeds for this display. The items need to withstand many childrens' hands, or be able to be housed in a clear container that children and young people can hold and look at. Because this is an education activity, we would like accompanying photos of the flowers or fruit from which the pods or seeds came and the original plant. Any other interesting information relating to the items or the theme will also be welcome.

If you can help in any way, please email Sally (president@qnc.org.au) with a description of items you have. Put the item/s aside and bring them to the February 2020 QNC general meeting or post them to the Club's postal address (per the front page).

For more information about the festival, visit:

https://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au/street-science-2020/

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) has finally been filled

Thank you Cathie Duffy for taking up this long-vacant position. Your contribution is much appreciated.

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.

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.

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_Library/Catalogue.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 17 Reception: Could this be you?

Supper Duties: Could this be you?

Thank you to the volunteers at the November General Meeting.

Please bring a plate of food to the AGM on February 17 to share for supper.

COMING UP

Monday 17 February

Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address



QNC President Sally Johnsen will present:

Wildlife of East Diamond Island

East Diamond Island, a coral cay south of Willis Island in the Coral Sea, does not get many visitors due to its isolation. When a group of us visited the island in November 2012, we were enthralled by the wildlife on this tiny cay in the middle of a vast ocean. This presentation will share the challenges faced when travelling to such a remote location and give a photographic overview of some of the wildlife that we saw.

Please bring something to share for the AGM supper

Monday 16 March

Biocrusts

Dr Wendy Williams, Arid Soil Ecosystems, School of Agriculture & Food Sciences, The University of Queensland

Further details to come.

Monday 20 April

Plants of China

Doug Smith

Further details to come.

Monday 18 May

CT White Lecture: Bryophytes

Andrew Franks

Further details to come.

MEETING REPORTS

General Meeting: 18 November

Report from the long excursion to Diamantina National Park, August 5-14

Sally Johnsen introduced the report, showing a map of the park and the various Club activities during the trip. Interestingly, the plains biological soil crust, cryptobiotic crust, contains fungi, algae and bacteria and has photosynthetic activity which is almost as beneficial as rainforest.

Mike Anderson gave the mammals report, outlining the results of three nights of Elliot trapping in three locations: high sand dune, low sand dune and alongside Whistling Duck Creek. The 50 traps x 3 nights on the dunes produced one house mouse (*Mus musculus*). The 40 traps x 3 nights along the creek produced 10 x long-haired rats (*Rattus villosissimus*) and 8 x house mouse. Two large feral pigs and vagrant cattle from neighbouring properties were seen. Few kangaroos were observed.

Janet White gave the vegetation report, noting special adaptations for the low rainfall environment. Beyond Janets Leap, to the west were hidden channels with good littoral vegetation. After good rainfall earlier in 2019, *Astrebla* sp. (Mitchell grass), was seen and the annual, *Iseilema* sp. (Flinders grass), was even more evident.

Eremophila tetraptera (harlequin fuchsia bush), was eventually located on a plain close to our camp. *Asteraceae* sp., *Acacia ligulata*, and *Ptilotus* sp. were among others reported.

Peter Woodall gave the invertebrate report. Varied habitats were stony gibber, riparian, sand hills and rocky hills. Using a night light and sheet trap, a large range of species were found, and QNC has added a considerable number of species to the QPWS official list. They include beetles, flies, bugs, bees, butterflies and moths, mantises, antlions, dragonflies, grasshoppers, caddisflies, spiders, shells and crabs. A rare arid species was the plume moth (Pterophoridae).

Greg Neill gave the bird report. Of the 194 bird species ever recorded for Diamantina NP, 146 are possible to be seen in August. We sighted 97 species, or 66% of the possible August birds. This was fewer than could have been expected, especially as there had been two flood events in 2019, and one flood event in 2018. Memorable birds sighted were the Black Falcon, a Hobby eating a Diamond Dove, a rare Letter-winged Kite at nest, an Owlet Nightjar, the Black Honeyeater and the Gibber Bird. The vagaries of birding meant that the Plum Headed Finch was seen by another group and heard by ours but not seen.

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 (<u>facebook@qnc.org.au</u>)
- The QNC News May-Le (news@gnc.org.au).

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.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all those who helped with excursions for 2019. A special thanks for the landholders who hosted many camps and outings, the Club greatly appreciates this generosity. 2020 is already shaping up to be another great year for excursions and I encourage all members to get involved either by participating or leading. Barney

COMING UP

February 23: Python Rock and Moran's Falls, Green Mountains Section, Lamington National Park

Sunday 23rd February 2020, 8:30AM

Leader: Barney Hines 0420 351 801.

In the height of summer, it is always wise to head to the mountains for one's natural history adventures. This outing will involve a series of short walks that together make about a 10 km walk. Please meet at the main car park at Green Mountains. From there we will walk the Centenary Trail, which heads back parallel to the road to the head of both the Python Rock and Moran's Falls track. We will head to Python Rock first where we will enjoy morning tea, with the ambition of making it to Moran's Falls for lunch.

The Centenary and Python Rock tracks can be negotiated by parents with strollers, and even assisted wheelchairs, but the Moran's Falls track descends maybe 150m, with multiple short sections of uneven stairs. Those who prefer not to do the Falls track may return early to the main carpark. All these tracks have hardened surfaces so that there is no mud to negotiate, even in heavy rain.

The walk will have a mixture of open wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, with mostly rainforest in the afternoon. Details of the walks can be found on the website: https://parks.des.gld.gov.au/parks/lamington/

Please bring water (approximately 2L depending on your thirst) and food for the day. Leeches may be present if we have had recent rain.

Please note that for those who wish to stay in the park, the camping area at Green Mountain is currently closed, but is due to open in early 2020.

Directions: Allow two hours travel time from the Brisbane CBD. Note that this is the Green Mountains Section ("O'Reilly's") of Lamington National Park, accessed via Canungra. Meet at the main carpark, which is located just after the camping area and before the O'Reillys Guesthouse.

Registration: Please register to excursion@qnc.org.au

March 20-22: Cooloola BioBlitz, Rainbow Beach

QNC Leaders: Greg & Annie Neill 0437 144 736

We will be joining the Cooloola BioBlitz.

The BioBlitz is 48-hour period of biological surveying to expand upon existing records of plant and animal species within the Cooloola Coast region. Expert scientists and naturalists will lead groups into a diversity of habitats, including beach, bush, lake, estuary, sand blow, perched lake and fen, in the Great Sandy Biosphere and National Parks where all living things will be located and identified. No experience is required, we encourage all ages to attend.

Further information can be obtained from the website: www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au/projects/bioblitz or the BioBlitz organiser Lindy Orwin Phone: 0478 039 322 Email: coordinator@cooloolacoastcare.org.au

April 5-13, 2020: QNC long excursion 2020 – Expedition National Park (Lonesome section)

Sunday 5th April to Monday 13th April, 2020

Leader: Barney Hines excursion@qnc.org.au with assistance from Sally Johnsen (Mobile: 0449517627) during the planning phase.

The long excursion is being held in April next year to avoid coinciding with the Australian Naturalists' Network 2020 Get-together in September.

We will be exploring the sandstone country and Dawson River in the Arcadia Valley via Injune, including Lonesome Holdings and Lonesome National Park, Bielba National Park (4WD access only), and Lake Nuga Nuga.





Limited accommodation (3 rooms with 2 people in each) in the Ranger's Hut is likely to be available, and hut facilities (including tank water) will be for use only by those staying in the hut. If interested, please apply for the hut accommodation early. This accommodation will be issued to those deemed to have greatest need, as well as a first come basis. Those who can are encouraged to camp.

Camping will be near the Rangers Hut at Lonesome Holdings, which is adjacent to Lonesome National Park and which is managed by National Park Rangers. If the drought continues, those camping will need to be self-sufficient with water. Updates about water will be provided closer to the time of the excursion. National Parks and QNC camping fees will apply.

Club toilets will be set up.

QNC member, Craig Eddie of 'Boobook', Roma, runs several ecological tours, including tours of Coal-seam gas (CSG) facilities in the Arcadia Valley that show both sides of the story for this activity. If you are interested in going on a tour of the CSG facilities, please email excursion@qnc.org.au as soon as possible to allow arrangements to be made with Craig. The date and cost of this activity will be advised as soon as it is known.

Directions: Head west from Brisbane from Roma (580 km), then head north from Roma towards Injune along the Carnarvon Development Road (90 km). From Injune continue north for a further 37 km, then turn right into Arcadia Valley Access Road. Lonesome National Park is 18 km (4km gravel) along this road. More detailed directions will be provided closer to the excursion.

Registration: Please email excursion@qnc.org.au with your name, contact details and the number in your party as soon as possible to receive updates about this excursion.



April 26: Sandy Camp Wetlands, Wynnum

7:30AM

Meet at the car park on Sandy Camp Rd (opposite Iona College sports field). There are no facilities here so we will drive to Wynnum foreshore for morning tea.

UBD 142 Q16

This is a 3 hour circuit so please carry water and a snack as well as insect repellent.

May 2-4: Date Claimer for Long Weekend Camp – Durakai State Forest

Leader: Harry Hines

More details in later newsletters.

EXCURSION REPORTS

October 26: Roma Street Parkland

On a warm sunny spring morning, 13 Nats were taken on a guided tour of Roma Street Parkland by Lawrie Smith and Jill Lam, another Parklands volunteer. Following on from his talk at the QNC meeting, Lawrie pointed out geographical features of the gardens and how they had changed historically. We started our tour in the comparative gardens. Silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*), jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and white oak (*Grevillea baileyana*) were in flower. During every season, there will be a variety of plants in flower or fruit within the Park.



Pruned lemon myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*)
Photo: Desley Willgoss



Jacaranda in flower Photo: Desley Willgoss

Bottle tree ridge had a nice collection of *Brachychiton* spp. Some of the bottle trees had been transplanted from the Darling Downs and looked in very good condition. In this area, a row of lemon myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*) had been pruned in topiary style. A great tip for the home gardener is to keep the plants low enough so leaves can be harvested for the kitchen, without pruning, these can become large trees in no time.

The Albert Park section of the Parklands has figs and other trees planted in the 1860s and 1930s, which makes it one of the oldest parks in the city. Sadly, many trees were lost in the tornado of 2007.

We walked past a row of pretty kangaroo paws before heading to the fern gully and rainforest garden over a bridge that allows tree tops views. These areas were planted 20 years ago and have grown into large specimens in that time, no doubt due to adequate watering from the underground rainwater tanks and lake. There have been some problems though with possums, scrub turkeys and ibis over the years. It was lovely to see tall tree ferns (these have mostly been lost in home gardens since the last drought). The palms have also grown very tall as have some of the grass trees. With good watering and misting, large ferns such as the king fern (*Angiopteris evecta*) are thriving.



Pandanas planted as a mature specimen Photo: Desley Willgoss



Row of kangaroo paws Photo: Desley Willgoss

A huge Pandanas on the lake edge came from a nursery on the Sunshine Coast as a mature specimen and was craned into place. Louisiana iris grow on the edge of the lake along with other flowering water plants such as water lilies. The lake is aerated with a fountain and the waters are reputed to contain lungfish and perch.

We next went to the Spectacle Garden that has 25 rooms and is in a more formal garden style with colourful seasonal flower displays. There were hedges clipped from a variety of lily pilies (Syzygium spp) and a Malay apple tree (Syzygium malaccense) in fruit. Lawrie showed us the bulb area under the Mississippi birches that is as close as he could get to the tulip gardens of Holland requested by a former premier.

Some animal life was seen in the gardens. There were some eastern water dragons (*Intellagama lesueurii*). A common ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*) was seen snoozing in a tree. Birdwatchers in the party reported kookaburra, drongo, pheasant coucal, blue-faced honeyeater, ibis, figbird, Pacific black duck, wood duck, masked lapwing, noisy miner and mudlark. We thank Lawrie and Jill for an enjoyable and informative tour of the Parklands.

Desley Willgoss

November 23: Samford Ecological Research Facility (SERF)







Grey goshawk (Accipiter novaehollandiae) and prey at the Samford Ecological Research Facility (SERF). Photos: Greg Neill

Stifling weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 34+ who attend the outing to the Samford Ecological Research Facility (SERF). For many it was a nostalgic event, being the estate of the late Pat Marks, who was a former president of the QNC. Many a QNC Christmas breakup was held here in the 1970s and 80s (and possibly earlier).





QNC Memories: Deniss Reeves leading the way during an excursion to Pat Mark's property. Christmas 1970. Photos: Doug Home

For this year's event, it was definitely goanna weather when we arrived and at least two large specimens were seen ambling around the property. However, as the afternoon progressed, conditions cooled and became more bearable for the human folk present. We commenced by walking to the pump house and headed upstream through the littoral rainforest. Two highlights were the beautiful blossoms of the lace bark (*Brachychiton discolor*) decorating the forest floor and the nest of the grey goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*) with at least one chick inside and parent birds attending.

Unfortunately, the extremely dry conditions made other birds and plants difficult to observe. The birds showed limited activity and were difficult to approach quietly over the dry leaf litter and many of the understorey plants were shrivelled. Hopefully, another outing during wetter times will be more productive in this regard.

Members stayed on for dinner before the evening activities commenced. A walk to the pump house revealed a common brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), a tawny frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) and an eastern water dragon (*Intellagama lesueurii*). Several stony creek frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*) were observed around the creek and two other species, the tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*) and the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog (*L. fallax*) were heard. A juvenile stick insect was found and provided much delight to the children as it climbed from one body to the next. Moth traps were also set.

Altogether, a most enjoyable and social outing. Thanks to QUT for providing access and we look forward to a return visit.

Barney Hines and Matt Phillips

ODONATA PHOTOS FOR FIELD BROCHURES

The late Deniss Reeves, former QNC President and long-term member, had a passion for dragonflies and damselflies and devoted his life to raising community awareness and understanding of them. During his odonatological career Deniss amassed thousands of specimens, donating many to scientific institutions like the Queensland Museum.

In memory of Deniss, and with some of the generous bequest received from his estate, Council is working towards producing field brochures for budding naturalists to learn about dragonflies and damselflies. These will be aimed at encouraging naturalists and engaging younger naturalists in the activities of the Club, according to his wishes.

All members are encouraged to join the project by seeking these beautiful creatures, learning a little about them and photographing them. What better way to spend the summer than out in nature?

The brochures are to be illustrated with clear, detailed photographs of damselflies and dragonflies. If you would like to contribute photographs to the project, please email your photographs to photo@qnc.org.au with the following information:

- Photographer's name
- Species if you know it (not essential)
- Date and time of observation
- Location description and, if possible, coordinates and datum
- Habitat type
- Any other notes from your observation

The photos should be of sufficient quality for printing and should allow identification of the species but please limit the size of each image to 4MB.

Photographers agree that the Club may use their photos for the project, including materials relating to the project. QNC may crop photos for display but copyright remains with the photographer and all photos used will be credited to the photographer.

WHAT ELSE IS ON?

September 11-20, 2020: Australian Naturalists' Network 2020 Get-together in Stanthorpe, Qld.

The Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club is hosting the next ANN get-together from Friday 11th to Sunday 20th September 2020. Introductory information and an Expression of Interest (EOI) form are now available. To receive these or for further information please email Lynette Haselgrove at anngb2020@gmail.com or contact members of the QNC Council.

We are still accepting EOI forms, however, numbers may be limited and places will be awarded in the order in which the forms are received.

In August 2020, any remaining places will be offered as daily passes. The cost for a day will include a seat on the coach, lunch, dinner and extras.

Outings will be to local protected areas with high botanical diversity, including those on granite soils, traprock and basalt. Areas we hope to visit include:

- Girraween National Park noted for its wildflowers and striking granite features;
- Sundown National Park containing box/ironbark woodland which provides excellent birdwatching;
- Amiens State Forest a great diversity of flowers and birds;
- Cunningham's Gap rainforest; and
- Torrington State Conservation Area.

At least one outing will concentrate on geological aspects of the district.

Plants of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs: Can you help us?

A local group of plant lovers has initiated a project to develop a field guide to the plants of Toowoomba and the Downs based around the Condamine River catchment. Our inspiration is the excellent Mangroves to Mountains by Glenn Leiper et al. Our working title is Condamine Country: A Field Guide to the Plants of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs.

To that end, we are seeking photos of local flora and would be pleased to receive any good shots you might have that you are willing to share with us. The project is not a profit-making venture, so no payment for images is possible, however authorship of any images we use will be acknowledged.

Details for photo submission:

- We are seeking photos that are in focus and show the features of the plant clearly.
- Ideally photos should show flowers, foliage and any other features of significance for identification. The field guide is aimed at ordinary people with no botanical expertise. The most suitable photos for our purposes are the ones which show the feature/s of the plant which are most likely to attract the attention of a curious amateur.
- Photos should be as high resolution as possible and in JPEG (jpg) or TIFF (tif) format; we may need to crop
 or otherwise adjust images.
- Photos should be of wild plants only (not garden specimens)
- Photos can be of introduced as well as of native species. We intend to include a selection of introduced plants.
- Please name any files you send us in this way:
 - o [Genus] [species] [your given name] [your surname] [the location of the plant] [month taken] [year taken] (e.g. Acacia blakei Fred Neurk Clark Rd Chinchilla Feb 2018)

- Omit any of the detail above that is unknown; if the plant itself is unidentified, please replace [genus] and [species] with the word [unknown] (e.g. unknown Fred Neurk Clark Rd Chinchilla Feb 2018)
- If you are submitting more than one photo of a particular species, please add a number at the end (1, 2, etc.)
- Please limit your submission/s to three photos of any given species.

If you have photos that you think would be suitable for our book that you're willing to share, please send them by email to: condaminecountry@gmail.com

It would help if you could limit the number of file attachments to any email – say a maximum of three files per email. We will be grateful for any help you can give us!

The Condamine Country Team: Trish Gardner, Kerrie Rathie, Peter Macqueen, Steve Plant, Lisa Churchward and Greg Spearritt

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

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

26 February 2020 See the website for details closer to the date

25 March 2020 See the website for details closer to the date









Lovely views of the Spectacle Gardens and Malay apple tree (Syzygium malaccense) in fruit, Roma Street Parklands
Photos: Desley Willgoss

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

DUE 1st JULY

Subscription Type (please tick)									
	☐ Family S	\$40	☐ Single \$25	☐ Student /Ju	nior \$15	☐ Club Badge \$15			
Payment Options									
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