



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 344 May-June 2019

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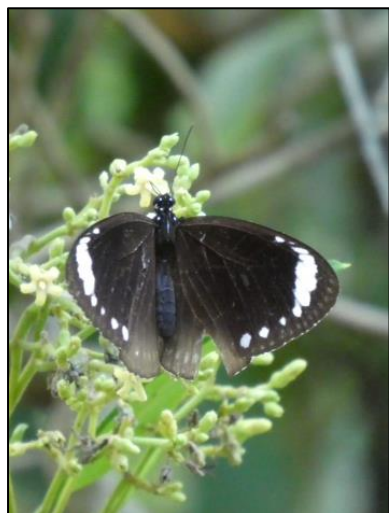
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Wide-faced damner (*Dendroaeschna conspersa*) in the carpark
Gold Creek Photo: Denis Taylor



Purple crow (*Euploea tulliolus*)
Gold Creek Photo: Denis Taylor

PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

May 20

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

June 17

Please check the website for details

Excursions:

May 4–6

Long Weekend Camp ***CANCELLED***

May 26

Ben Bennett Bushland Park

June 22

Dowse Lagoon, Sandgate

August 5–14

Long Excursion 2019

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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QNC News Editor:	Ms May-Le Ng		news@qnc.org.au

Deadline for News items – 15th June for July-August 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

Street Science! 2019



The Royal Society of Queensland (RSQ) were thrilled by the joint RSQ, QNC and Birds Queensland stand at the World Science Festival Brisbane, Street Science! 2019 event held in March. This was the first collaboration in an event on behalf of the Queensland Science Network.

According to Tony Van Der Ark of RSQ, across the 15 hours, the stand was at capacity for at least 60% of the time and there wasn't a single minute with less than 8 people visiting. The assistant-producer of the event commented to Tony that the stand was one of the most popular participants of the weekend.

QNC's amazing shell display was extremely popular. A huge thank you to Sally Johnsen for lending her shells and putting a lot of work into their presentation and accompanying information, Colleen Foelz and Myriam Preker for assisting her. Also, a big thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation and operation on the day, including Michael Anderson, Dick Date, Colleen Foelz, Judy Haines, James Hansen, Sally Johnsen, Ian Lawn, Myriam Preker, Desley Willgoss and Peter Woodall.

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.

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, Professor Stephen and Mrs Dayana Barker from St Lucia and Ai-Le Ng from Ferndale. We hope you have a long and happy association with the club.

Facebook

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

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

LIBRARY CUPBOARD

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

DIGITAL EXHIBITS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

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

ROSTER FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Thank you to the volunteers at the March and April General Meetings, including Jeanette Watson, Murray Watson, Lil Spadijer and all those who brought plates of food and assisted with the room set up and clean up.

COMING UP

Monday 20 May

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

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

Over a period spanning almost 20 years, Kevin Lamprell thrust the Australian Bivalvia into amateur and academic prominence. After retirement from his working life as a plumber, Kevin's dedication to malacology earned him many accolades, culminating in the award of a Doctor of Philosophy from Griffith University in 2000.

It was Kevin's obsessive enthusiasm for bringing his hobby to public attention that led to his milestone publication on world-wide Spondylidae. Bivalves have always played second fiddle to their more illustrious gastropod cousins, much of this bias is attributable to the natural beauty possessed by popular gastropod groups such as cowries, cones and volutes, or the raw visual appeal that comes from their form such as the intricate spination of the Muricidae. In the Spondylidae, all these attributes merge in a tangle of colour and spines that surely makes this group the most glamorous of bivalve families.

Monday 17 June

Speaker and topic to be confirmed. The details will be added to the website when they are available.

MEETING REPORTS

General Meeting: 18 March

Dr. Chris Burwell

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

Deniss 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.

Chris' presentation gave us a good idea of the beauty and variety of dragonfly and damselfly species.

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).

March Meeting Exhibits

Dr Chris Burwell brought along a drawer from Deniss Reeves' collection and a number of books on odonates, some containing reports written by Deniss.

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

May 4–6: Long Weekend Camp - Cancelled

Please note that, unfortunately, this camp has been cancelled.

May 26: Ben Bennett Bushland Park

Sunday 8:30 AM

Leader: Lil Spadijer 32713160 (or leave a message on 0432111760)

This bushland is close to the centre of Caloundra. The park and adjacent botanical garden have five different natural habitats to explore: lowland rainforest, open Eucalypt forest, wet and dry heathland and Melaleuca woodland. There are self-guided walks from 800 m to 1100 m in length (return), including a little climb. It is a great place for birdwatching but be early as you won't see any birds during the day. Hopefully, there will also be some fungi. Scribbly Gum and the giant Tallowwood dominate the area.

There is plenty of parking but be early as the park is also used by the locals. The park has toilets, tap water and BBQ.

Directions: As for Caloundra township; past Nicklin Way, continue on Bowman Rd, turn left into Queen St. The entrance is on the left. UBD Sunshine Coast p.100

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".

August 5–14: Long Excursion, location to be confirmed

This is a date claimer for the long excursion this year. The desired destination is Diamantina National Park, pending road conditions for getting into the park after the flood waters recede. If access into Diamantina NP is not safe, then we will visit another western location that has recently benefitted from rain and/or flood, but that has safe road access.

EXCURSION REPORTS

March 24: Gold Creek Reservoir Dragonfly and Damselfly Outing



Dendroaeschna conspersa (wide-faced darner) in the carpark
Photo: Denis Taylor

The weather was ideal for dragonfly and damselfly activity for the Sunday morning outing at Gold Creek Reservoir on the 24th March; hot, humid and sunny. The list of species was off to a spectacular start before we had moved out of the car park. After spending the early morning birding, I arrived back at the car park around 9.00am to find a circle of people surrounding a large, dark coloured dragonfly on the ground. It was quickly 'netted', although it put up no resistance and I suspect it was on its last legs. When I inspected the beast I was initially stumped, but I eventually twigged that it was a male wide-faced darner (*Dendroaeschna conspersa*), a species I had never seen at Gold Creek, and in fact a species I had never seen alive! The species occurs in south-eastern Australia from Victoria north to south-eastern Queensland, with an isolated population at Carnarvon Gorge. We have relatively few specimens of this species in the Queensland Museum, with records in Queensland from Toowoomba, the Lockyer Valley, near Jimna, Highvale and Yarraman.

As we moved into the reserve we soon encountered another spectacular dragonfly, one of the enormous species of green emperors. Two species of these very large *Anax* dragonflies are infrequently encountered in south-east Queensland, the Green Emperor (*Anax gibbulosus*) and the Lesser Green Emperor (*Anax guttatus*). They are virtually impossible to distinguish on the wing. This individual was sighted several times but easily evaded my poor attempt to capture it.



Eastern dwarf tree frog (*Litoria fallax*)
Photo: Denis Taylor

We spent much of the morning along a stretch of Gold Creek below the dam wall, between the causeway and the concrete bridge that crosses the creek. In this area the creek was relatively slow flowing with a large pool open to the sun for much of the day. Dragonflies were particularly conspicuous here. Numerous small, powder-blue palemouths (*Brachydiplax denticauda*) were occupying territories, perching on emergent and streamside vegetation, as were several red arrows (*Rhodothemis lieftincki*). Species cruising up and down the creek and over the pool included a large Australian emperor (*Anax papuensis*), and several water princes (*Hydrobasileus brevistylus*) and yellow-striped flutterers (*Rhyothemis phyllis*). Also patrolling the pool but skimming much closer to the surface of the water, were Australian emeralds (*Hemicordulia australiae*). Other dragonflies occupying the area included red fiery skimmers (*Orthetrum villosovittatum*) and a wandering percher (*Diplacodes bipunctata*), black-headed skimmer (*Crocothemis nigrifrons*) and blue skimmers (*Orthetrum caledonicum*) and spectacular graphic flutterers (*Rhyothemis graphiptera*) with their distinctively patterned wings. Three similar species of black and yellow gomphids, a group of dragonflies in which the eyes are narrowly separated, were seen darting out over the pool to return to perch along the edge of the creek; pale hunter (*Austrogomphus amphiplitis*), twin-spot hunter (*Austroepigomphus praeruptus*) and stout vicetail (*Hemigomphus heteroclytus*). Most of the dragonflies observed were males, but the occasional female was seen, either flying in tandem with a male, or flying close to the water surface and laying eggs by flicking the tip of the abdomen.



Family of magpie-larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) on the inlet tower

Photo: Denis Taylor

Several damselfly species were also seen at the pool, including three very similar species all with a conspicuous blue tip to the abdomen; common bluetail (*Ischnura heterosticta*), eastern billabongfly (*Austroagrion watsoni*), blue riverdamsel (*Pseudagrion microcephalum*). A few orange threadtails (*Nososticta solida*) were also seen, delicate damselflies with orange stripes on the thorax that hover in space. One pair was observed in the 'wheel position', the male using the tip of his abdomen to clasp the front of the female's thorax while the tip of the female's abdomen engaged with the secondary genitalia at the base of the male's abdomen. Perusal of Robert Ashdown's photographs from the day also revealed a red-tipped shadefly (*Argiocnemis rubescens*), a species I didn't notice on the day.

In the late morning, as it started to become uncomfortably hot beside the open pool, we shifted our attention downstream to where the creek crosses Gold Creek Road. Here the water was flowing rapidly over a rocky base and the creek was heavily shaded by riparian rainforest. These different conditions translated to a very different mix of species. Another large, dark-coloured damner dragonfly was captured patrolling above the stream and proved to be a unicorn damner (*Austroaeschna unicornis*). There is some uncertainty about this identification, however, as the characters used to separate unicorn damner from inland damner (*Austroaeschna pinheyi*) are a little ambiguous and the precise identity of specimens from south-east Queensland is uncertain. A second, female unicorn damner was later netted by Stuart Johnson as it hawked above the road. We also observed several stunning blue and black sapphire rockmaster (*Diphlebia coerulescens*) males along the rainforest-lined creek, and several common flatwings (*Austroargiolestes ictromelas*). Both are damselflies which might be mistaken for dragonflies; the rockmasters are the most heavy-set Australian damsels, and as their name implies, flatwings rest with their wings outspread like those of most dragonflies. A second, larger species of riverdamsel inhabited the edges of the more strongly flowing creek, the flame-headed riverdamsel (*Pseudagrion ignifer*). Its common name refers to the bright orange face of the male. Dark red fiery skimmer males were also common along the shady reaches of the creek.

After the official festivities were over, the gang of five who had travelled down from Toowoomba and I spent some time along the edge of the reservoir itself. We only added a couple of new species, the large, boldly patterned, yellow and black Australian tiger (*Ictinogomphus australis*) and the large reddish common glider (*Tamea loewii*), two species with contrasting flight styles. Common gliders are perpetual motion machines, constantly on the wing while the sun is out, whereas Australian tigers are like flycatchers, sallying out from a prominent perch to defend their territories. We also saw another enormous green emperor menacing the airspace over one of the inlets of the reservoir, but again I spectacularly failed to get it into the net and its precise identity remains a mystery.



Eastern yellow robin (*Eopsaltria australis*)

Photo: Denis Taylor

The total haul of dragonfly and damselfly species for the day was a very impressive 29, well over half the 45 species recorded from the reservoir. Thanks to all the participants for their enthusiasm and good company.

Chris Burwell

REMINDER – WILD MUSHROOM POISONING

Recent reports of wild mushroom poisoning in New South Wales provide a reminder that eating wild mushrooms can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain/cramps, diarrhea, hallucinations, liver/kidney failure and death. Most cases of mushroom poisoning occur when toxic species are confused with edible species and it is best to avoid eating all wild mushrooms.

More information can be found on the NSW Department of Health website:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/wild-mushroom-poisoning.aspx>

BIRD MIMICS OF THE BUSH

You've all heard of Lyrebirds mimicking other birds, and even chainsaws, nail guns and violins, but what other Australian birds mimic? There's quite a few.

Most commonly known is the Lyrebird, and perhaps Magpies and Satin Bowerbirds. However, did you know about Great Bowerbirds, Silvereyes, Brown Thornbills, Yellow-throated Scrubwrens, Mistletoebirds, Olive-backed Orioles and Australian Figbirds? I've had first-hand experience with Mistletoebirds and Figbirds.

I was on a bird survey on the Darling Downs with a group of friends. It was a usual summer day – quite warm, and we sat in the shade of a large eucalypt for lunch. While we were munching our sandwiches, we listened to the birds above us: there were about 5 calls including Bar-shouldered Dove, Pale-headed Rosella, and Mistletoebird. Eventually one of us got up to check what attracted all these birds only to find it was one small Mistletoebird making them all. We stood and watched in wonder as one of the smallest of our native birds made all this noise.

It was recently that I came across the Australian Figbird mimicking. Friends and I were birding along the Old Kalbar Road in October last year. We clearly heard a King Parrot in the brigalow at the side of the road. We saw movement but when we focussed on the bird it was a male Australian Figbird. We stood transfixed watching it mimic King Parrot, Pale-headed Rosella, Torresian Crow, and Grey Shrike-thrush.

It makes me wonder how many other birds mimic. It also makes me take care of recording birds by call alone! Lesley Beaton, Fassifern Field Naturalists Club Inc. (submitted by Sheryl Backhouse)

WHAT ELSE IS ON?

May 11: Native Plants Sale, Grovely TAFE, 9am - 3pm

Native Plants Queensland will host our annual Plants Sale at Grovely TAFE with free off-street parking via Woking St. Entry is free and there will be a huge range of native plants in all sizes from tubes to advanced plants. You will find plants for all situations, forest, gardens and containers; sun to shade. Expert advice is available from the growers as well as Native Plants members, on all aspects of plant selection and care. Many plants on sale are not available in commercial nurseries.

There are free brochures on a range of plant species, such as Grevilleas, Wattles, bird and butterfly attracting plants, and natives for small gardens or containers. Books will be on sale and light refreshments will be available to buy. Come and enjoy the amazing range of native plants, on Saturday, 11 May from 9am to 3pm, at Grovely TAFE.



May: Protect the Bush Alliance Surveys

The Protect the Bush Alliance (PTBA) is an alliance of organisations, businesses and individuals that advocates the protection of High Conservation Value areas; identifies and encourages activities that improve the understanding of the importance of biodiversity and other environmental values; and facilitates the collection of biodiversity data in High Conservation Value areas.

PTBA is currently supporting the National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) by conducting surveys in State forests that were previously intended for gazettal to the Protected Area Estate. These survey events are great fun and provide essential data towards conservation outcomes.

If you would like to participate in either or both surveys planned for May 2019, please contact Dr Stephan Prowse (stephenjprorowse@gmail.com Tel: 0419 371 134) or Sheena Gillman (sheenagillman@gmail.com Tel: 0409 268 076).

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

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| 13 May 2019 | Achieving multiple benefits in ecological restoration for biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration
Valerie Hagger, University of Queensland |
| 10 June 2019 | <i>Cycas megacarpa</i> , survival outcomes across two translocation programmes.
Alicia Wain, Queensland Herbarium |

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

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| 24 April 2019 | Annual General Meeting followed by Dr Peter Hale with an update on the Mt Coot-tha Zipline Development. |
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

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.

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