

QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 349 March-April 2020

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richosurus vulpecula, Samford Photo: Peter Woodall



Margin-winged stick insect Ctenomorpha *marginipennis* Samford Photo: Peter Woodall

PROGRAMME

General Meetings:

March 16 Dr Wendy Williams *Biocrusts*

April 20 Dr Doug Smith *Collecting in the Clouds:*

Joseph Rock and George Forest in Yunnan

May 18 CT White Lecture

Andrew Franks Bryophytes

Excursions:

March 20-22 Cooloola BioBlitz, Rainbow Beach

April 5-13, 2020 Long Excursion 2020

Expedition National Park

April 26 Sandy Camp Wetlands, Wynnum

May 2-4 Durakai State Forest

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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Deadline for News items – 15th April for May-June 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

World Science Festival Street Science

Unfortunately, the application by the Royal Society of Queensland, with whom the QNC were going to share a display tent, was not accepted this year. Many thanks to all members who have started collecting 'fruit', or pods and seeds, for the QNC display. The Royal Society of Qld will apply for a display at the 2021 Street Science, so hang onto your pods and seeds in case we need them for the display next year.

Meeting Venue

During the latter part of 2019, adequate storage space became available at the current venue for General Meetings, Toowong Uniting Church Hall. Also, the QNC is no longer renting a storage lock-up for Library items as some have been relocated to the shipping container at Kalbar, or to the home of the Librarian. Given these two positive changes, Council has agreed to continue renting Toowong Uniting Church Hall for General Meetings. Many thanks to all members who provided meeting venue suggestions for consideration, your input was 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_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).

March 16 Reception: Jeanette and Murray Watson

Supper Duties: Judy Haines

April 20 Reception: Could this be you?

Supper Duties: Could this be you?

Thank you to the volunteers at the February Annual General Meeting, including everyone who brought a plate for supper, Susan Nelles for reception duties and all those who assisted with the room set up and clean up.

COMING UP

Monday 16 March

Biocrusts

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

Biological soil crusts (biocrusts) form a "living skin" at the soil surface in many low-productivity ecosystems around the world including water- and cold-limited environments, and early-successional seres. They may be composed of any configuration of soil surface-dwelling cyanobacteria, eukaryotic algae, lichens, mosses or liverworts, and support assemblages of decomposers and a faunal food web. These soil surface communities have global relevance, as it has been recently estimated that they cover about 12% of the terrestrial surface currently.

Monday 20 April

Collecting in the Clouds: Joseph Rock and George Forest in Yunnan

Dr Doug Smith

Further details to come.

Monday 18 May

CT White Lecture: Bryophytes

Andrew Franks

Further details to come.



Red-footed booby (*Sula sula*) and chick at nest East Diamond Island Photo: Sally Johnsen



Brown booby (*Sula leucogaster*) and chick on nest East Diamond Island Photo: Sally Johnsen

MEETING REPORTS

Monday 17 February

Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address

This year, the Club maintained a good-sized membership and welcomed several new members, especially attracted to the Club camps. The Club held 10 meetings, including a Members' Night when the popular photo competition was held to select photos for the 2020 QNC Calendar. There were 10 day excursions and three camps: Cullendore High Country over the Australia Day long weekend, Mt Clunie Cabins in October and the long excursion and camp to Diamantina National Park in August. The Club also participated in the World Science Festival in March, with an exhibition of shells and Club members available to answer scientific questions, and the Native Plants of Queensland exhibition at Mt Coot-tha in September.

Sally's presentation was about East Diamond Island, a coral cay south of Willis Island in the Coral Sea, 400 km NE of Townsville, or 400km SE of Cairns. The island lies within the Coral Sea Commonwealth Marine Reserve. Sally was fortunate to spend 4 days on the island in November 2012 and shared some beautiful photos and interesting accounts of the sea turtles, abundant birdlife, crustaceans, molluscs and vegetation found on the island.



Terrestrial hermit crab (*Coenbita perlatus*) inhabiting a tapestry turban shell (*Turbo petholatus*) Photo: Sally Johnsen



White-capped noddy (*Anous minutus*), common noddy (*Anous stolidus*) and red-footed booby (*Sula sula*) sharing some prime real-estate Photo: Sally Johnsen



Landscape and vegetation Photo: Sally Johnsen



Sunset over the Coral Sea Photo: Sally Johnsen

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 (<u>news@qnc.org.au</u>).

17 February

Peter Woodall presented photographs of two bird species seen in Brisbane recently:

- 1. Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*) arrives in October/ November and departs around April. It has a white rump.
- 2. White-Throated needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) can be found in Brisbane between October and March/April. It is white rumped and white backed.

Doug Freckelton showed photos of a pademelon concentrating on a large python in his yard.

Barry Jahnke displayed two plants:

- 1) Vitex trifolia, the nectar of which is used by wasps and bees, particularly teddy bear bees and blue banded bees.
- 2) Yellow swamp orchid (*Phaius bernaysii*) noting that though it had flowered in August/September, it is only now seeding. The seeds are like very fine dust.

Desley Willgoss displayed a fungus that Lil Spadijer identified as *Coprinellus disseminatus*.

Two specimen boxes were donated for interested members.

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

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.

We propose to have an extra 2 nights, i.e. Sunday and Monday nights, at Rainbow Beach. This will allow Club members some time to visit areas that you might not have visited during the weekend.

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

Registration: Please register and pay the BioBlitz fees via Eventbrite (link provided on the BioBlitz website). Please also email excursion@qnc.org.au if you have will be attending the BioBlitz and indicate whether you intend to stay on and join the Club activities.

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 to avoid coinciding with the Australian Naturalists' Network 2020 gathering in September. People may arrive from Friday afternoon, 3rd April. The first QNC activity will be on Sunday 5th April.

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. Campers should 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 Ecotours, Roma, runs several ecological tours, including tours of Coalseam 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.

- CSG Tour date: Wednesday 8th April 2020.
- Half day (start and finish time to be advised)
- Cost: \$50 per person, paid in cash at the beginning of the tour.
 - a. The QNC is required to have firm numbers, between 9 and 11, for this excursion to go ahead.
 - b. If, on the Registration Form, you indicate you will go on this excursion, you will need to pay for your seat if you later decide to pull out. If there are people on a wait-list for this excursion, and your seat can be filled by someone else, then you won't need to pay if you pull out.
- Bring your own lunch and refreshments.
- At least 9 people are required for the tour to go ahead, with maximum group size of 11 people.
- During the tour, Craig will point out the CSG infrastructure and provide commentary about CSG activity and the general ecology of the area.

Directions:

- 1. Drive to Roma (about 6 hours west of Brisbane, via Toowoomba.
- 2. Take Roma Injune Rd (head north at KFC intersection at Roma) and travel to Injune
- 3. From Injune travel approx. 38km north on the Carnarvon Highway (Injune-Rolleston Rd)
- 4. Then turn right (east) onto Arcadia Valley Rd
- 5. Travel approx. 4.9km on Arcadia Valley Rd (don't go too fast otherwise you will miss the turn!)
- 6. Turn left over grid and onto track to Lonesome Homestead (there was a Lonesome sign there but occasionally it gets pinched)
- 7. Follow the main track for approx. 1.3 km to the Homestead
- 8. Camping is in the paddock and area around the Homestead.

Note: The Homestead is not in the National Park, it is adjacent to the National Park in Lonesome Holdings.

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. You will be sent a registration form, which must be completed and returned by 18 March 2020.

Payment: National Parks and QNC camping fees are to be prior to the excursion by direct deposit to the QNC bank account (BSB 034068, Account 901249) or in cash to the QNC Treasurer at a General meeting. If paying into the bank account, please use your name and Lonesome as the comment and email a copy of the transfer receipt to excursion@qnc.org.au and treasurer@qnc.org.au.



April 26: Sandy Camp Wetlands, Wynnum

7:30AM

Leader: Kathy Clarke

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: May Day Long Weekend Camp – Durakai State Forest

Leader: Harry Hines

This year's May Day weekend camp will be to Durikai State Forest, about 40km west of Warwick (~2.5-3hrs drive from Brisbane). The vegetation communities include box-ironbark woodlands that support several rare or threatened species such as squatter pigeon, turquoise parrot, black-chinned and regent honeyeaters, diamond firetail, border thick-tail gecko, little pied bat, *Macrozamia conferta* and the endemic eucalypt Durikai

mallee *Eucalyptus infera*. The state forest is rich in nectivorous birds (24 species of Meliphagidae, 4 species of lorikeets, swift parrot). The club held a long excursion to the area in Aug 2007. Recently, the area has been subjected to extreme drought with considerable tree and shrub death. However, good rains have fallen there in early 2020. The excursion provides an opportunity to examine the effects of the drought and the post-rains recovery.

The camp will officially commence after lunch on Saturday and finish at lunch on Monday. Those wishing to arrive earlier or depart later may do so.

Self-catering will apply. Club toilets will be provided. Open fires may not be permitted, depending upon the fire risk. Participants will be required to bring their own drinking water. Water for washing and cooking may be available from a dam at the campsite. The campsite is accessible by conventional vehicle with care. There is ample room for tents and camper trailers etc. Car-pooling will be used for day trips to minimise vehicle numbers and, for some areas, to take advantage of higher clearance vehicles.

Registration: Register with the leader Harry Hines on email (preferred): hhines_qnc@hotmail.com, mobile phone: 0423 782 186 or home phone 07 3061 9559.

Fees: QPWS camp fees are likely to apply, as well as the Club's \$2 per person per night.

Directions: Will be forwarded by the leader upon registration.

EXCURSION REPORTS

November 23: Samford Ecological Research Facility (SERF) – UV light

At the QNC excursion to the Samford Ecological Research Facility on 23 November 2019, I set up an UV light for a few hours, a little way down one of the walking tracks to see what insects and other beasties it might attract.

Even though the area was very dry, we had a reasonable number of animals at the light: Christmas beetles; mantises; midges; ant-lions; plant hopper; spiders; water boatmen; spider ants; native cockroaches; and moths.

Moths were the most diverse group, with about 14 identified to species and about an equal number to be identified. I've included images of some of the more colourful ones here, all have been uploaded to www.iNaturalist.com

To see the images go to www.iNaturalist.com >Explore, enter Samford QLD in the "Location" and click on "Filters" . > Exact date . enter 2019-11-23 and you will see them all.

Peter Woodall



Crocanthes perigrapta Long-horned Moths Family Lecithoceridae Photo: Peter Woodall



Cryptophasa rubescens Timber Moths Family Xyloryctidae Photo: Peter Woodall



Cryptophasa delocentra Timber Moths Family Xyloryctidae Photo: Peter Woodall



Aristeis hepialella Concealer Moths
Family Oecophoridae Photo: Peter Woodall

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.

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.





Photos: May-Le Ng



WHAT ELSE IS ON?

Call for Assistance

Sheryl Backhouse is looking for the diaries of the late Walter Hill who was the Curator of the Botanic Gardens in the city in the 1800's. Please contact Sheryl if you are able to assist: 07 3289 4198 or sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com

April 6: Public Forum – Is Queensland prepared for a warming climate?

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Griffith University, Southbank Campus, Lecture Theatre S05 2.04, 226 Grey St, South Bank, Qld 4101

The 2019-2020 summer climatic conditions and bushfires have raised concerns as to what the future holds for us in Queensland. Is this the new summer "normal"? If so, how can we adapt?

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ) and the Royal Society of Queensland, in conjunction with Griffith University's Centre for Governance and Public Policy have organised a public forum to address these questions. We have assembled an excellent panel of prominent speakers to present some critical perspectives. We hope you can join us for this important event.

Attendance is free but registration is essential as seats are limited: www.rgsq.org.au

For more information, please contact RGSQ at info@rgsq.org.au or (07) 3368 2066.

April 24-27: iNaturalist City Nature Challenge – Redlands City

iNaturalist has a City Nature Challenge each year. Redlands City will be participating this year, the first city in Queensland to take part in this Challenge. For more information, visit:

https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-redlands-city-qld-australia

Oueensland 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

9 March 2020	Cultivating informed management: a decision tree for threatened plant conservation				
	Ali Chauvenet, School of Environment and Science, Griffith University				
14 April 2020	Amalie Dietrich: a contested biography				
	Michelle Vine				

A story of data won, data lost and data re-found: the realities of ecological data preservation 11 May 2020 Alison Specht, Honorary Associate Professor, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Queensland

8 June 2020 Time-travelling with Banksia and relatives Ray Carpenter, Honorary Associate at BRI and Adjunct to School of Biological Sciences, University of Adelaide

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 7:30 PM start on the fourth Wednesday of each month from February to November. www.theca.asn.au

25 March 2020	Dr Mark Blaskovich, Bacteria: Friend or Foe?		
22 April 2020	Daniella Teixeira, Bioacoustics monitoring of black cockatoos		

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:
 - [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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

DUE 1st JULY

	Subscription Type (please tick)								
	☐ Family S	\$40	☐ Single \$25	☐ Student /Junior	\$15 □ Club Badge \$15				
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	Fitzgibbon								
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