



# QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The  
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 350 May-June 2020

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[www.qnc.org.au](http://www.qnc.org.au)

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Moaning Frog *Heleioporus cyrei*  
Canning River Regional Park, Perth  
Photo: May-Le Ng



Evening Brown butterflies (*Melanitis leda*) feeding on  
fermented sap in the decayed sections of an Acacia  
Photo: Sally Johnsen

## PROGRAMME

Please note that the Programme has been suspended in line with current government instructions under COVID-19 restrictions.

We look forward to resumption of our normal Club activities and hope to incorporate our already planned excursions and speakers into a new schedule as soon as we are able.

In lieu of Club excursions, we would love you to share your experiences in, or observations of, the natural world through the newsletter. These may be current or something you've been meaning to share for a while.

## CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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**Deadline for News items – 15<sup>th</sup> June for July-August 2020.**

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

Dr. Peter Woodall at [journal@qnc.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@qnc.org.au)) to update your details.**

# COUNCIL NEWS

## COVID-19 Update: Message from the President

The following email was sent on 25 March 2020 to all members who have provided their email address to the Club. It is provided here for members who have not read or received the message.

*Dear Members*

*After discussion in the Council of The Queensland Naturalists' Club on Monday night this week it was agreed that all meetings and field activities of the QNC be suspended from the present moment, in line with current government instructions. It was further decided the President would send an email to all accessible members to apprise them of this decision.*

*During this time we encourage members to continue to participate in the Club by contributing observations, nature notes and photos from their allowed activities, to the QNC News, Facebook, and website. Please refer to your copies of QNC News, or the website, for contact details.*

*We look forward to resumption of our normal Club activities, and hope to incorporate our already planned excursions and speakers into a new schedule as soon as we are able.*

*The QNC Council continues to meet monthly through the Zoom video/audio conference platform, attending to administrative matters. If you wish to make suggestions or comments you are welcome to contact the President at [president@qnc.org.au](mailto:president@qnc.org.au) or the Secretary at [secretary@qnc.org.au](mailto:secretary@qnc.org.au).*

*Please share this message with any of your friends in the Club who may not receive it.*

*May you stay healthy and safe in these challenging times.*

*Kind regards,*

*Sally*

## Naturalists' Clubs' Newsletters

Several naturalists' clubs are sharing newsletters to encourage continued interest and knowledge sharing while social distancing is in place.

These can be found at the following links:

<https://qnc.org.au/Publications.htm>

<https://mysd.com.au/fieldnats/nats-magazines-2/>

If you have connections with additional field naturalists' clubs that have expressed willingness to share newsletters during these COVID-19 restrictions, please email [president@qnc.org.au](mailto:president@qnc.org.au) or [secretary@qnc.org.au](mailto:secretary@qnc.org.au) and we will reciprocate.

In lieu of Club excursions, we would love you to share your experiences in, or observations of, the natural world through the newsletter. These may be current or something you've been meaning to share for a while.

Please send your written piece with photos and photo captions to [news@qnc.org.au](mailto:news@qnc.org.au).

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter.

## Facebook

Follow our Facebook page for tidbits 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](mailto: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

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

- Peter Berry (Chambers Flat)
- Sue Lashko (Cook, ACT)

## MEETING REPORTS

### The Queensland Natural History Award 2020: Dr Andrew Baker



The Queensland Natural History Award for 2020 was presented to Dr Andrew Baker by Mrs Sally Johnsen

Dr Andrew Baker is Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Environmental Science at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), and Honorary Senior Research Fellow in Vertebrate Zoology at the Queensland Museum.

Andrew graduated from QUT with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Hons) in Biology in 1993 and received his PhD in Evolutionary Biology (QUT) in 1999. He has undertaken natural history research on Queensland mammals for over two decades. In the last six years, he has discovered six new antechinus species, with two of the four species occurring in Queensland being endangered.

Andrew Baker is an educator and conservation biologist, actively teaching more than 600 university students annually about the importance of Australian fauna. He is the recipient of many teaching awards from QUT, has been nominated by QUT for a National Carrick Award for Teaching Excellence, and he achieved international recognition for teaching, being made a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA). In 2016 Andrew received the Australian Whitely Medal for outstanding natural history publication.

Andrew Baker has authored more than 65 scientific publications and has written more than 30 popular science articles. His popular publications and books focus on engendering public understanding of natural history, especially concerning Queensland and Australian mammals.

Andrew is a committee member with the Australian Mammal Society, and member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature where he is an expert on Queensland and Australia's threatened carnivorous marsupials.

He is co-editor of the Field Companion to the Mammals of Australia, Australia's only species-level mammal identification key for each state and territory, where he has contributed many scientific illustrations.

Andrew was author of the Dasyurid chapter (a family of marsupials native to Australia and Papua New Guinea) in Handbook of Mammals of the World (which won the 2016 Australian Whitely Medal for outstanding natural history publication), is principal co-author of both Secret Lives of Carnivorous Marsupials and Strahan's Mammals of Australia 4th Ed., and is the author of a book about the philosophy of science, Questions of Science: 3rd Ed.

Andrew's primary contribution to the natural history of Queensland lies in communicating and fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of Queensland's mammal diversity to a large audience of scientists, amateur naturalists, laypersons and the general public.



## EXCURSION REPORTS

### March 18-24: Cooloola BioBlitz, Rainbow Beach



Wompoo Fruit-Dove Photo G Neill

The Cooloola BioBlitz was to be held from 21 -22 March, with some QNC members staying on for a further 2 nights. With the COVID-19 shutdown, the official BioBlitz was cancelled just a few days prior. With 2 houses already hired, QNC members decided we would still go and have a mini BioBlitz from 18 – 24 March.

Seven QNC members and two visitors attended at various times over those days, two were present for the entire period.

Sites that were visited included Inskip Point (3 visits), Poona Lake (2 visits), Teewah Pumpstation (Ground Parrot) (2 visits), Seary's Creek (2 visits), Bullock Point (1 visit), Rainbow Beach firebreak trail (1 visit), Bymien Picnic area (1 night visit).

82 bird species were recorded across the various locations. A highlight for most of the members would be the excellent sightings of Wompoo Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*) along the walk into Poona Lake.

The most interesting sighting was the 3 Glossy Black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) that flew over on their return from Fraser Island while we were watching waders at Inskip point on the last morning. The previous sighting for that species in the Rainbow Beach area was December 2015.

The Fraser Island ferry ceased to operate on the morning of the 24th March, providing a small reprieve for the shore birds, especially those species preparing for their return flight to the northern hemisphere!

Prior to our visit to Poona Lake on 18th and 21st, iNaturalist had 5 species of Odonata listed. We added four new species (with 1 more awaiting identification) including a Dune Ringtail (*Austrolestes minjerriba*), a damselfly.



Dune Ringtail *Austrolestes minjerriba* Photo: D Smith

Two observations worth noting because of their camouflage skills were a jumping spider (no identification at time of writing) on a white gum trunk and a Bark-mimicking Grasshopper *Coryphistes ruricola*, both found along the township firebreak. Another find of interest was a stick insect, which could be a form of Aberrant Stick-Insect *Candovia aberrata*, found at night at Searys Creek.

Overall, about 100 observations, other than birds, were added to iNaturalist.

Greg Neill



Aberrant Stick-Insect *Candovia aberrata*, found at night at Searys Creek Photo: Ross Coupland



Jumping spider (no identification at time of writing)  
Right: Bark-mimicking Grasshopper *Coryphistes ruricola*



## NATURE NOTES

### What's Not So Loopy About Loopers?

If the famous U.S singer, Danny Kaye was in the Brisbane area during February and March he would have had a lot to sing about; but he would have had to keep his cap on his head or he would have had his hair top-dressed.

Danny would have been singing that 1950s song 'Inchworm' by Frank Loesser, which he made so famous, and he would have been sitting under one of many local Poinciana trees. These trees have been stripped by the Poinciana Loopers this year, the larva of the moth *Pericyma cruegeri*. The word 'Inchworm' comes from the looping locomotion of the caterpillars, which seem to be measuring the earth or branches along which they loop in search of fresh foliage. Hence, the Family name Geometridae meaning 'measuring the Earth'. However, there are Loopers and Semi-loopers; but more on that later.



Each year during the late Summer to Autumn period at Taringa, our Poinciana trees support a reasonable population of these loopers. This year, they have been in plague numbers so that the trees are almost completely defoliated. The fall of frass has been so heavy that some people have thought they heard raindrops but realised that it was the abundant falling of these pellets on understory foliage, roofs and paths. Hence why Danny Kaye would need to wear his cap. The caterpillars seemed to feed mostly during the night and spend the daylight hours trying to camouflage themselves along the rachis of a leaf. However, as food became scarce, the caterpillars were easily seen moving about during the day in search of leaves which still had leaflets.

Some birds were seen eating small numbers of the caterpillars, possibly because the disturbed prey exudes a brown fluid which may be distasteful. The birds that were noted feeding on the loopers were Noisy Miners, Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Pied Butcherbirds, Grey Butcherbirds (when the Pied Butcherbirds allowed them in), Australian Magpies, Australian Brush Turkeys, Pied Currawongs and Rainbow Lorikeets. The fully fed larvae usually descended to the ground to pupate in protective cover, ranging from leaf litter to under mats and boots. These pupae were actively sought after by Australian Magpies and even more energetically by Crows.



The adult moths are very variable in pattern intensity but have small scallops along the wing margins that helps their cryptic camouflage. Common's Moths of Australia (1990) gives the distribution as occurring in "north-western Australia, the Northern Territory, and eastern Queensland as far south as Brisbane. It has a wide distribution in south-east Asia, and also occurs in Micronesia." He further states that it was first recorded in Papua New Guinea in 1958, where it was thought to have been inadvertently introduced and where it feeds on the





foliage of *Peltophorum ferrugineum*. There is no mention of when it first entered Australia but it is interesting to note that at the time the book was published (1990) no native food plants had been reported. Both Poinciana and Peltophorum are in the family Caesalpiniaceae so it is most likely it feeds on one or more of the 120 plus native and naturalised species in Queensland. As *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, a NQ species often cultivated in Brisbane, is one of these, it would be worth checking for larvae at this “busy” time!

As mentioned earlier, there are Loopers and Semi-loopers. So, what’s the difference?

Those moth larvae called “Loopers” are generally of moths in the family Geometridae, whilst those called “Semi-loopers”, like *Pericyma cruegeri*, are generally in the Noctuidae. In gross morphological terms the larvae differ in the number, size and arrangement of the abdominal segments’ false legs (“prolegs”). Broadly speaking, the noctuids have more and the geometrids fewer. In addition, geometrids generally have well developed anal prolegs (“claspers”).

Other distinguishing features in the adult moths, such as the paired tympana (hearing organs) located on the underside of the metathorax, are more difficult to see.

The crop devastating “Fall Armyworm” recently found in Australia [see recent item on Landline] is a typical noctuid. So-called “armyworms”, “earworms” and “cutworms” are larvae of the economically important subfamilies Amphipyrinae, Heliethinae and Noctuinae. These are generally pests of lawns (e.g. “lawngrebs”) and crops such as tomato, maize and cotton. They usually have shorter and stouter larvae that often burrow into the food plants, which is why they are so destructive.

Barry Jahnke and John T St L Moss (accompanying photos by Barry Jahnke)

### Evening Brown Butterflies Feeding



Regular dog walking along the Downfall Creek bike path east of Newman Road, Wavell Heights, enables opportunistic naturalising. During April, many Evening Brown butterflies (*Melanitis leda*) have been observed feeding on fermented sap in the decayed sections of a branch of an Acacia. When disturbed by the photographer, the butterflies take to the wing but quickly return and resettle at their feeding stations.

Long-legged “Banana-stalk flies” (*Telostylus angusticollis*), family Neriidae order Diptera, are regularly seen alongside the Evening Browns. They each seem to ignore the other. According to the CSIRO’s Insects of Australia (1991), these flies occur in southern Queensland and New South Wales. Their larvae live in decaying vegetable matter.

Sally Johnsen (including accompanying photos)



## Interesting and Unusual Butterflies Reappearing in South-East Queensland



Bordered Rustic butterfly on Corchorus Photo: Glenn Leiper

This year after some good rains, following a prolonged drought, we have seen an explosion of butterflies (and other insects) in South-East Queensland. One need not be a butterfly expert to have noticed the current north-easterly migration of the Blue Tiger butterflies, which commenced in late January or early February and continues to this day (as I write this in mid-April 2020). This slow and subtle movement is in sharp contrast to the masses of migrating Caper Whites that we often see in this region.

People who know me or have visited my Capalaba garden are acquainted with the range of butterfly larval food plants [best called "host plants"] that I have grown. In certain seasons some resident butterflies such as the Blue Triangle (*Graphium choredon*), Common Eggfly (*Hypolimnas bolina nerina*), Common Aeroplane [aka White-banded Plane] (*Phaedyma shepherdii*) and Yellow Migrant (*Catopsilia gorgophone*) appear commonly on my small acreage, and a few, such as the Orchard Swallowtail (*Papilio aegaeus*), Common Crow (*Euploea corinna*), Evening Brown (*Melanitis leda*), Lemon Migrant (*Catopsilia pomona*), Large Grass Yellow (*Eurema hecabe*), Narrow-banded Awl (*Hasora khoda*) and Indigo Flash (*Rapala varuna*) are common all year round. However, a few reliable regulars such as the Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida calybe*) and Glasswing (*Acraea andromacha*) have been absent until quite recently.



Blue-banded Eggfly, Mt Crosby Photo: Paul Grimshaw



*Hypolimnas misippus* Danaid Eggfly female Photo: Garry Sankowsky

Every now and again, certain butterflies (mostly from further north) appear in SEQ, usually in relation to changed weather (?climatic) conditions. I can't remember when I last saw the Blue-banded Eggfly (*Hypolimnas alimena lamina*) passing through my Capalaba garden (wished I had kept better records!) but a friend, Paul Grimshaw, has recently seen (and photographed it) in his Mt Crosby garden. Another related species, the Danaid Eggfly (*H. misippus*), which also feeds on Love Flower, seems to have disappeared from the southeast altogether. The female of this species is a strong mimic of the Lesser Wanderer. Its preferred host plants (*Portulaca* species) remain relatively common, particularly in seaside waste areas; although, most of those areas have subsequently been built on.



In recent days I have seen several old friends reappearing in my garden; including the Rustic (*Cupha prosope*) [recently photographed by Glenn Leiper in his small Beenleigh garden], Purple Crow (*Euploea tulliolus*) [also Peter Hendry's & Kathy Clark's gardens], Yellow Albatross (*Appias paulina*) [also Peter Hendry's & Wes Jenkinson's garden], and the drab but interesting Migratory Skipper [aka Narrow-winged Awl] (*Badamia exclamationis*) [also Wesley's garden]. And even more recently Peter & I observed a freshly emerged Leafwing in his acreage garden. I have all their host plants growing here and am hopeful that their colonies will re-establish.



Meadow Argus, *Junonia villida* Photo: John T St L Moss

Those wishing to entertain these and many other butterfly species native to this area would be wise to grow the relevant host plants as well as nectar plants for the adults.

The inexpensive handbook I compiled for the Butterfly & other Invertebrates Club, and recently revised, lists butterfly host plants for this region. It is available locally from the Queensland Naturalists' Club book sales and the Indigiscapes gift shop. However, in these difficult times it may be best to source it online via the BOIC website.

John T St L Moss

### A Photographic Tale of 3 White-faced Heron Nests

#### NEST 1

Long term residents along the Downfall Creek bike path east of Newman Road, Wavell Heights, say a pair of White-faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) have lived in the area for many years. Having lived in Wavell Heights for less than 3 years, I first saw them in Heinrich Gerns Park, where the heavily guano-stained pathway showed the presence of a frequently used roost above. At the time of my initial observations, there was a pair of White-faced Heron roosting next to a sturdy nest, and I wondered if they would breed.

*Nest 1, Spring-Summer 2018. 3 young successfully raised to fledging*



24 November 2018, parent White-faced Heron parent, Nest 1, Heinrich Gerns Park, Newman Road, Wavell Heights



26 November 2018, Heinrich Gerns Park, Newman Road, Wavell Heights, one of the 3 young birds in Nest 1 raises its head to view the world



28 December 2018, Downfall Creek off Heinrich Gerns Park, Wavell Heights, the 3 young birds from Nest 1 have fledged

*Nest 1, Spring-Summer 2019. 3 young successfully raised to fledging*

During the Spring of 2019, the Heinrich Gerns Park pair of White-faced Heron hatched 3 chicks. By 7 December 2019, the young birds had moved from the nest into nearby branches. They stayed in their tree whilst their feathers grew and by 30 December 2019, they had fledged and were observed in Downfall Creek hunting for food. Each evening they returned to their 'home' tree to roost.





7 December 2019, Nest 1, Heinrich Gerns Park, Newman Road, Wavell Heights



23 December, 2019, Heinrich Gerns Park, Newman Road, Wavell Heights, the 3 young birds from Nest 1

Sadly, the well-used White-faced Heron nest in Heinrich Gerns Park, was blown from its tree during a storm. Since this occurrence, the parent birds have not been seen.

*NEST 2, Spring-Summer 2019. No young raised*

In November 2019, in the dog off-leash area off Primrose Close, Wavell Heights, a White-faced Heron was noticed fetching sticks, flying high into a tree and, jointly with another bird, construction of a nest commenced. After a couple of weeks one of the pair were sitting in the nest, and a few weeks after that an adult could be seen feeding a young bird. This nest seemed quite flimsy when compared with the nest in Heinrich Gerns Park; perhaps they were a younger pair building a nest for the first time?

There was a severe thunderstorm on Christmas Eve 2019 and on Christmas Day, the nest had been blown out of the tree. Sadly, the body of an unfledged chick was found near the fallen nest.



9 February, 2020, the demise of the well-used and substantial Nest 1, Heinrich Gerns Park. Decorated by someone unknown.



25 December 2019. Nest 2, Downfall Creek off-lead dog park off Primrose Close, Wavell Heights

*NEST 3, Summer-Autumn 2020, 3 young raised to fledging*

A few days after Christmas 2019, a pair of White-faced Heron were observed nest building in a tree in the Downfall Creek children's playground, Magenta Street, Wavell Heights. Could this be the same pair whose nest had fallen from its tree during the Christmas Eve storm? Shortly after Nest 3 was complete, the birds were observed sitting in the nest. Three young birds were successfully raised by from this nest.



22 March 2020, Nest 3, children's playground, Magenta Street, Wavell Heights. The nest is intact and 3 un-fledged chicks in the tree.



26 March 2020, children's playground, Magenta Street, Wavell Heights. Nest 3 has started to disintegrate.



Nest 3, 1 April 2020, children's playground, Magenta Street, Wavell Heights. Nest 3 is on the ground



9 April 2020, the young White-faced Heron from Nest 3 have fledged, and have moved into their local neighbourhood



16 April 2020, the local residents are enjoying the young White-faced Heron in their neighbourhood

#### *Anticipating Spring 2020*

As a local resident of the area it is my pleasure to report and document the long-term presence and successful breeding of White-faced Herons in the section of Downfall Creek east of Newman Road, Wavell Heights. There have been 2 separate, successful breeding pairs last season, with 6 young birds fledging - only a few newborn birds did not survive. Nests will have to be rebuilt before the breeding season of Spring of 2020. I look forward to being able to observe and document the lives of these elegant and wonderful birds. May they have continued success in breeding and thriving along Downfall Creek and surrounds.

Sally Johnsen (including accompanying photos)



## Jethro from Pittsworth



*Hello again, John - didn't have to ask around too much. I checked some records a wildlife carer sent to me last month of koalas rescued from Pittsworth in 2019, and sure enough .*

*There he is - picked up from Boundary Road, Pittsworth on 28 October 2019 by RSPCA ambulance - affected by chlamydia and treated at RSPCA Wacol for bilateral conjunctivitis/cystitis, microchipped, eartag #0544 - cleared for release 20 December 2019.*

*He was assessed as 10 years of age, with a body score of 4 (apparently out of 10), weighing 6.3kg. He was given the name Jethro.*

*Thanks so much for sending me the photo. That's great to follow up on one successful retrieval - out of nine koalas taken for treatment last year, only one other made it back to home range.*

Over the nearly 50 years living here, we have had Koalas wandering through our garden in Pittsworth. They have been steadily declining over the years in this area and for the last 5 years none has been in the garden. However, there have been two seen fairly regularly in some roadside trees planted by Landcare about 1 km from here.

I investigated the tag number on the tagged animal and copied the information below. I think the last remark is quite significant.



John Walter (including accompanying photos taken in his garden)



## 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](mailto: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.

## QNC CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION

The QNC has run a wide range of day outings and camps during the years and 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 for the 2021 Calendar. Photos can be from any QNC outing, regardless of when the outing occurred.

The competition rules are:

1. Photos must depict natural history and be taken in association with club activities.
2. Photos must be in JPG format, not larger than 4Mb size and in landscape orientation. QNC may crop entries submitted with other ratios for display or for the calendar. Aspect ratio of 3:2 is desirable.
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](mailto: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. Alternative electronic forms of voting by members is being explored, should general meetings still not be permitted in September.
8. Entrants agree that the Club may use their photos for the 2021 calendar or in the Club newsletter, the QNC News.
9. The photographer will be credited and copyright remains with the photographer.
10. Entries will be accepted until 5 PM on Monday 7th September 2020.
11. Council's decision about inclusions in the calendar is final.

# WHAT ELSE IS ON?

## May 9: Global Big Day

On 9 May, birding's biggest day is back!

Global Big Day is an annual celebration of the birds around you, and this year is no different. While not everyone may be able to leave home to bird this year, Global Big Day is still an opportunity to check in with the birds in and around where you live. Join us on 9 May and be a part of a global birding community by sharing what birds you see around you with eBird.

Participating is easy. Wherever you are, you can be a part of the global community of birders on 9 May. Please remember to always put safety first and follow all local safety guidelines and closures. You can enjoy birds from inside your home and still be part of Global Big Day.

If you can spare at least 5 or 10 minutes, report your observations to eBird online or with our free eBird Mobile app. If you have more time, submit checklists of birds throughout the day at different times. Can you find more birds in the morning, or the evening? You never know what you might spot. Your observations help us better understand global bird populations through products like these animated abundance maps brought to you by eBird Science.

This year, Global Big Day will focus on the number of checklists we can collect as a global team. Last year, 35,209 eBirders from 174 countries collected an astounding 92,284 checklists in a single day. Will you join us on Global Big Day to make 2020 the year that we surpass 100,000 checklists of birds in one day? Help us set a new checklist record!

Details about how to participate: <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-9-may-2020>

## Queensland Conservation Council Photo Competition

There is nothing as powerful as an image to inspire emotions, motivate people to take action or highlight a threat. History is full of iconic images that have inspired movements and led to lasting change.

With that in mind, and during these strange and challenging times, sharing your photos can show others the natural wonders around us.

The Queensland's Natural Wonders Photography Awards are about celebrating the power of images and the importance of photographers in protecting our natural world.

The entry categories are:

- Land and Seascapes
- Native Plants and Wildlife
- Smartphone category - images taken for the above two categories
- Any of the above - under 18

Enter the Awards with that perfect shot waiting to be shared or a photo from a beautiful place that deserves recognition and protection for generations to come.

Entry is open to everyone, regardless of experience or age. Details on our website:

<https://awards.queenslandconservation.org.au/>

## Free Back Issues: Natural History Magazines and Journals

Barry Jahnke has duplicate copies of several natural history magazines and journals, especially the Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland magazine 'Wildlife in Australia'. He is offering these free to good homes, please contact Barry on 0411 278 865 if you are interested.

## 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](mailto:sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com)

## 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 (area of interest lies within the black polygon shown on the map on the next page). 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:

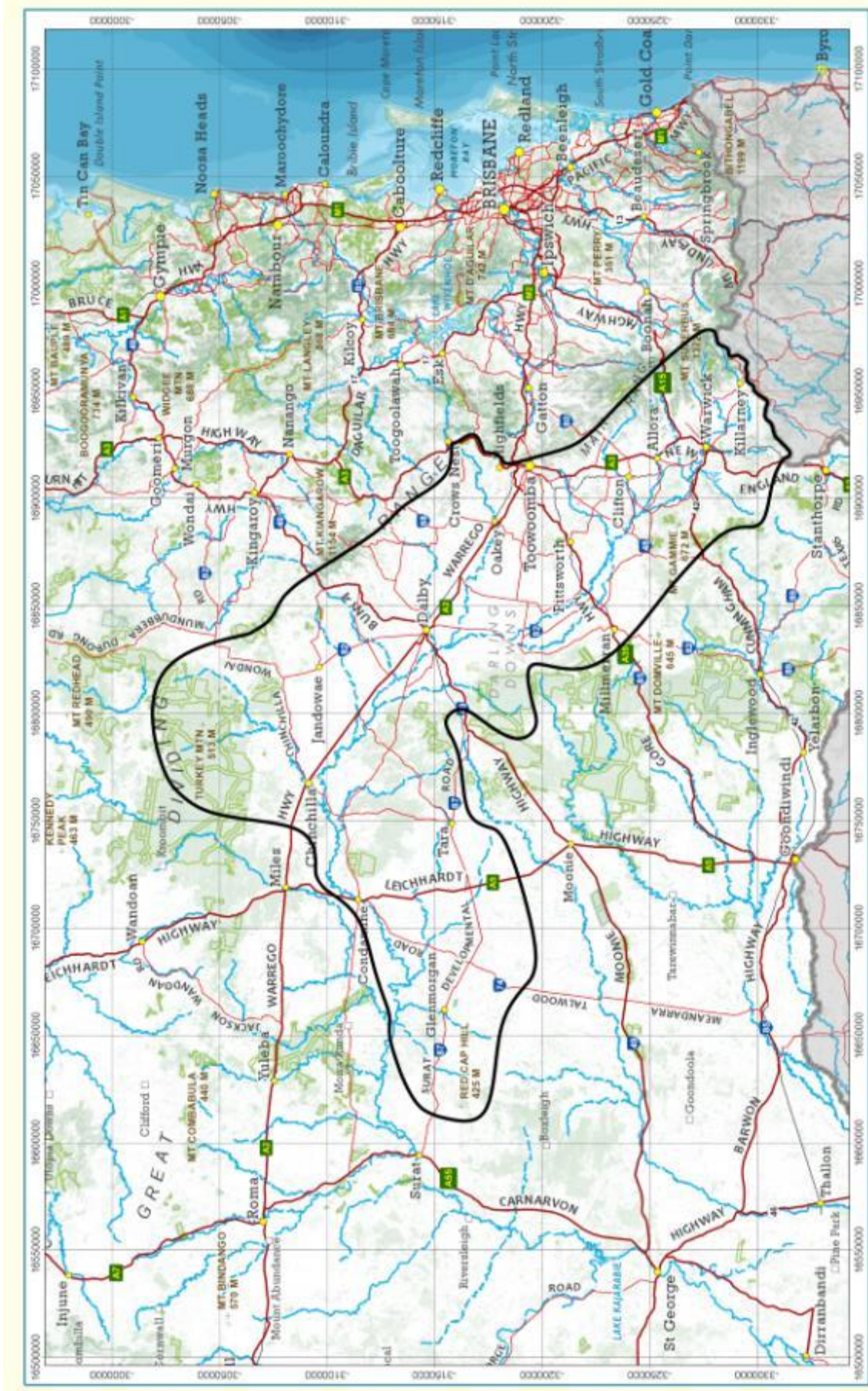
- We are seeking photos that are in focus and show the features of the plant clearly.
- Ideally photos should show flowers, foliage and any other features of significance for identification. The field guide is aimed at ordinary people with no botanical expertise. The most suitable photos for our purposes 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](mailto: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





# QTOPO

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 World Geodetic System 1984  
 Projection: Mercator Auxiliary Sphere  
 Datum: WGS 1984  
 Units: Meter

QTOPO has compiled the best information available to Queensland Government. The accuracy and reliability of this data is known to vary across the different scales. It is provided for information purposes as some accuracy data is omitted. Metadata information can be obtained via the QTOPO application. <http://topo.qld.gov.au>  
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