



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 351a July-August 2020

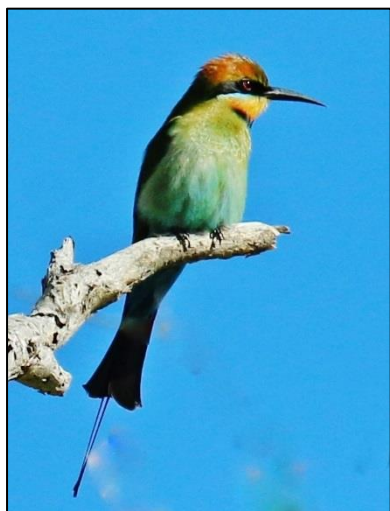
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Rainbow bee-eater, Sandy Camp Wetlands
Photo: Kathy Clark



Intermediate Egret
Sandy Camp Wetlands Photo: Kathy Clark

PROGRAMME

Please note that General Meetings have been suspended in line with current government instructions under COVID-19 restrictions.

We are pleased to announce that outdoor excursions are back!

Please follow the **Registration guidelines during COVID-19.**

Excursions:

July 22	Enoggera Reservoir
July 26	Dwyer's Scrub Conservation Park
August 19	Bribie Island National Park
September 4-6	Durikai State Forest Camp
October 3-5	Minto Craigs Camp
October 17	Scotts Point

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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Deadline for News items – 15th August for September-October 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

Subscription Reminder

This is a reminder that Subscriptions for 2021 are due on 1 July 2020. Options for payment are shown on the back page of the QNC News.

Excursions are back!

We are pleased to announce that outdoor excursions are back! Please follow the **Registration guidelines during COVID-19** found in the Excursions section.

General Meetings will continue to be suspended until further notice.

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 or secretary@qnc.org.au and we will reciprocate.

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.

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) 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 member, we hope you have a long and happy association with the club:

- Andrew Pengelly (Middle Park)

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.

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES DURING COVID-19

To comply with government regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club is changing the way that registrations occur for Club outings. These guidelines are listed below. Note that the Club may need to change the guidelines at short notice to comply with ongoing changes in government regulations.

Guidelines at 8 June 2020:

- Club activities will be restricted to 20 patrons, including leader(s)
- Members must register via email to the Excursion Secretary at excursion@qnc.org.au, at least 48 hours before the commencement of the outing with the names of each attending person
- To limit the number of people, registrations will be awarded on an a first in first served basis, with members advised if they are successful or not in their application
- Participants will need to maintain social distancing requirements for the outing
- Please do not attend QNC outings if you are feeling unwell or showing cold or flu-like symptoms

COMING UP

July 22: Mid-week outing Enoggera Reservoir, D'Aguilar National Park

Wednesday 9:30 AM

Leaders: Peter and Leith Woodall 0447 446 635

We will meet at 09:30 AM at the carpark of the Walkabout Creek Discovery Centre, just off the start of the Mt Nebo Rd (UBD 137:19G, -27.442, 152.927). The Discovery Centre is currently closed but the toilet facilities here may be open. The relatively late start is to avoid peak traffic.

We will follow the Araucaria Trail (about 5km return) to a patch of Hoop Pine, where we will have lunch, and then return. The track goes downhill to the edge of the reservoir and then is relatively flat as it winds its way around the edge of the reservoir.

There are a good variety of water and woodland birds, some insects and interesting plants along the walk. Bring water, lunch and insect repellent, although we don't expect insects to be a problem.

The QNC conducted surveys here and published the results in "A Brisbane Bushland", edited by Helen Horton, 2002. This covers the history and all aspects of the natural history of the area. If you have a copy, bring it along, otherwise we will try to have some copies for sale.

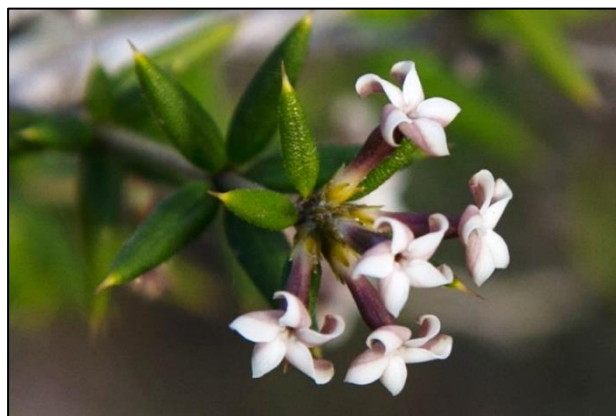
Registration: Please register and adhere to the **Registration guidelines during COVID-19**.

July 26: Dwyer's Scrub Conservation Park, Upper Lockyer Valley

9 AM – 3 PM

Leaders: Ron Carr (0421 382 500) and Dick Copeman (0439 728 992)

Dwyer's Scrub is a vine scrub growing in an elevated area (approx. 500m) in the catchment of Ma Ma Creek, which flows into Lockyer Creek. It is growing in basalt soil that sits over a sandstone base. The vegetation includes a lot of interesting dry rainforest species growing within a eucalypt overstorey, although it has been affected by drought and there are some weeds. The species list for the park includes over 300 plants and over 80 birds.



Alyxia ruscifolia at Dwyer's Scrub Photo: Dick Copeman

The access road is somewhat hilly and winding and includes some gravel but is in good condition and suitable for 2WD vehicles. We will walk down a vehicle track to a creek and then loop back up along the road. It is a bit uneven and there is some prickly vegetation, so sturdy footwear and long pants or gaiters are advisable. BYO food and drinks.

Directions: Travel time will be about 1hr 45mins from Brisbane. Take the road towards Toowoomba and then leave the highway and take the turnoff into the centre of Gatton. Turn left at the traffic lights in Gatton and go 6km out of town on the old Toowoomba road, then turn left on to the road to Clifton. Travel 14km along the Gatton-Clifton Road, through the village of Ma Ma Creek, to East Egypt Rd on the right, which will have a QNats sign. Travel 9 km along East Egypt Rd up to the locality of Little Egypt on a ridge. Stay on East Egypt Rd running along the ridge. Don't go on the road to Toowoomba. 3.5km after Little Egypt you will be at a corner property at 1290 East Egypt Rd, the number is on the fence, turn left at corner, (there will be a QNats sign there) and run down the hill 0.5 km, past the conspicuous sandstone letterbox until you see the Dwyer's Scrub Conservation Park sign, then go a further 0.6km to where a track veers off to the right. Park beside the road. We will be walking down the track. If you put 1290 East Egypt Rd in your phone or nav system you should be right.

Registration: Please register and adhere to the **Registration guidelines during COVID-19**. Please also indicate whether you would like to get a lift or whether you are able to offer extra spaces in your vehicle, as well as your suburb, so we can match you up.

August 19: Mid-week outing to Bribie Island National Park

9.00 AM

Leader: Allan Carr

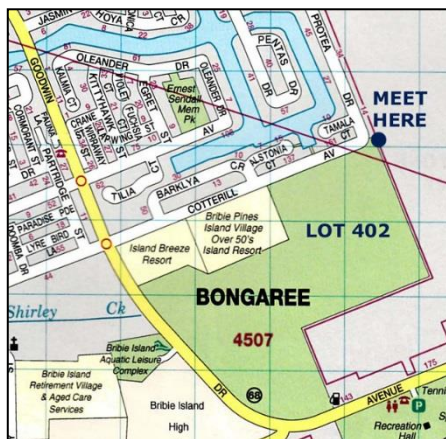
We will visit a part of Bribie Island National Park, which is a mosaic of eucalypt, tea-tree and banksia forest, paperbark wetland and wallum heath once classified as Lot 402

Back in September 1998 Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association won a court case to save this 37.31 ha block from development. The achievement resulted from a mammoth volunteer effort involving about a dozen people supported by another 90 or so. Lot 402 was saved from urbanisation, and a few years later it was transferred into Bribie Island National Park. It contains four Regional Ecosystems –

- Regional Ecosystem 12.2.5: Open forest to low closed forest on coastal dunes, beaches and old beach ridges
- Regional Ecosystem 12.2.7: Melaleuca quinquenervia open forest on sand plains
- Regional Ecosystem 12.2.9: (Wallum) Banksia aemula low open woodland on dunes and sand plains. Usually deeply leached soils
- Regional Ecosystem 12.2.12: Closed heath on seasonally waterlogged sand plains

The same location will be venue for the annual Wonders of the Wallum Wildflower Walk conducted by Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association later in August as part of the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival.

Meeting place: Vacant land at corner of Cotterill Avenue and Protea Drive, BONGAREE where there is plenty of room for parking UBD Map 53:J15



Registration: Please register and adhere to the **Registration guidelines during COVID-19**.

September 4-6: Long Weekend Camp – Durikai State Forest

Leader: Harry Hines

This year's September weekend camp (beginning on the pupil free day on Friday 4 September) 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 Friday and finish at lunch on Sunday. 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: Please register and adhere to the **Registration guidelines during COVID-19**.

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.

October 3-5: Camp – Minto Craigs, Croftby, Scenic Rim



Leader: Barney Hines 0420 351 801

Minto Craigs are a prominent rocky outcrop, a rhyolitic ring dike south of Boonah in the Fassifern District. The highest point is Mt. Minto, 1,082 feet high, which was originally called Coweemooraburra. The varied vegetation communities include low woodland, shrubland and small areas of microphyll vineforest at the base with the surrounding areas dominated by eucalypt open forest.

The campsite is on a private property of 60 acres, including Mt. Minto, and adjacent to Crown Land that also forms part of the Minto Craigs ring dike. The owners have been very careful in the preservation of the natural history features on their land. The camp area has some slopes, is grassed amongst some small eucalypts and is suitable for tents, caravans and camper trailers. Nearby is a relocated hall which will be available for evening get-togethers. If the weather is suitable, frogs may be calling from a near-by dam. Campers will need to be self-sufficient, including water. Toilets are on site. Day visitors are welcome and need to be on site by 8.30am for a 9.00am start.

As a guide, travelling time from central Brisbane is about 2 hours. It is expected that the second day (4th) will be spent on or about the Craigs, but for those who choose to not climb the hills, there is plenty to see on the surrounding slopes.

Directions: Make your own route to the prominent round-about in Boonah near the sports grounds and the Boonah Motel, then use the following directions. Turn south from the round-about and pass the main business centre on your left and the Boonah State School on your right. You will then be heading south on the Boonah-Rathdowney Road (Route 93). Pass the Dugandan Hotel on your right, and soon after crossing Teviot Brook you will see Trinity Lutheran Church on your left. Soon after passing the church, you will see cultivation and a major intersection near several houses. Continue on the Boonah-Rathdowney Road into hilly country and look for Ganthorpe Road on your right. At this point you will see mountains of the Scenic Rim including the lower rocky Minto Craigs. In the lower land along your route, look for the “Coochin Coochin” homestead on your right opposite forested hills on the left. Slow down as you will soon see Carney’s Creek Road turn-off on your right into which you turn at a right-angle. (Amongst the signs there will probably one to The Head). After rising over a hill, you will see Minto Swamp (if there has been enough rain) and behind it, Minto Craigs. The next road to look for will be Dwyer Ridges Road on your right and after turning into it, look for a gate on the right, about 100m up a hill from Watson Road. (This gate is at -28.119, 152.586 and is numbered 619). Be sure to close it after entering and then drive slowly along this gravel easement as you will pass close by two new dwellings. The easement will end at the campsite which is to the left of the owner’s houses.

Registration: Please register and adhere to the **Registration guidelines during COVID-19**. The owner has requested a maximum of 30 campers, please register early to avoid disappointment.

October 17: Scotts Point

Leaders: Dr. Ian Lawn and Myriam Preker.

Day and Time: Saturday, October 17, 2020. Meet at 14:00 (low tide is at 16:05, height 0.24m).

Location: Assemble at the car park adjacent to Scotts Point Progress Park Brisbane UBD Ref: Map 91, R14 (the car park entrance is opposite 2 Margate Parade: turn right after you enter the car park to access the parking spaces adjacent to Scotts Point Beach).

Description: Scotts Point is a rocky outcrop along the south-eastern shores of the Redcliffe Peninsula. Weather permitting, we will be exploring the platforms and tidal pools uncovered by the falling tide.

What to bring: Water, lunch and standard beach gear such as: sunblock; sunhat; sturdy footwear that can be used in water and also protects the ankles; reef-walking stick; and windbreaker, if it is a windy day.

How to get there: Scotts Point is located in the suburb of Woody Point on the Redcliffe Peninsula, just north of Brisbane. Whether you access this from the Bruce Highway (via Anzac Avenue), or from the Southern Cross Way (via exit 120A for the Deagon Deviation route), make your way to Oxley Avenue, then turn into Kings Street and head towards the coast until you reach 2 Margate Parade.

Registration: Please register and adhere to the **Registration guidelines during COVID-19**.

EXCURSION REPORTS

February 23: Python Rock, Lamington National Park

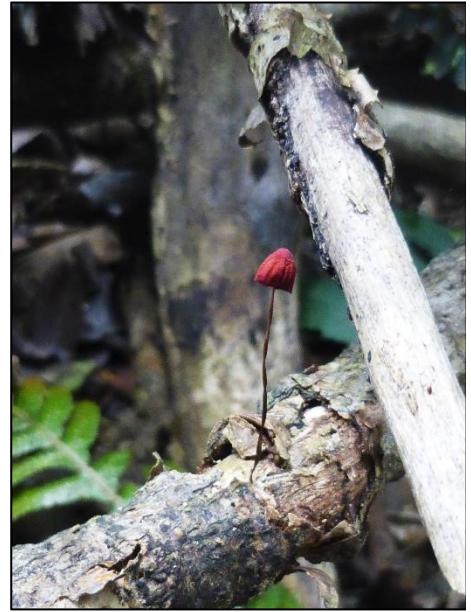
A long, long time ago in a time before COVID-19, a group of naturalists assembled at the Green Mountains section of Lamington National Park. In unseasonably cool conditions, with the threat of continuing showers, the group set off. Luckily the showers held off, as did the leaches.

An early highlight was the many firewheel trees *Stenocarpus sinuatus* that were flowering high up in the canopy and leaving small carpets of red flowers on the forest floor. Another flower of interest was that from the Booyong *Argyrodendron*, which were again littering the floor. Birds were a little quiet, however nesting Black-faced Monarch provided a good spectacle.

A lunch of sorts was enjoyed at the Python Rock lookout. Deciding that Moran’s Falls was too far, the group instead heading out to Pat’s Bluff, enjoying the open woodland. An enjoyable day, and I think everyone returned safe and sound.



Booyong flowers on the forest floor Photo: Barney Hines



Fungi - *Marasmius* sp. (*haematocephalus*).
Identification courtesy of Amalie Spadijer



Black-faced Monarch Photo: Leith Woodall



Cup Fungi - *Cookeina* sp. (*colensoi*)
Identification courtesy of Amalie Spadijer



A rainforest Rutaceae in flower. Possibly *Acronychia bauerlenii*. Identification courtesy of David Hanger



A Lady Beetle larva Photo: Barney Hines

June 17: Boombana

A glorious morning for the first post-Covid QNC excursion with bright sun and tolerable temperatures even under the rainforest canopy. A group of five of us started from Boombana at a relatively late time as a concession to the midwinter conditions (and return of peak traffic!). Our plan was to walk briskly to Jolly's Lookout (4 km) looking for birds, pademelons and insects and then return in a more leisurely manner looking at the static features such as plants and fungi. However, we lacked the self-discipline to walk briskly with so much of interest on the way and so never actually reached Jolly's at all!

We did enjoy the mixture of wet eucalypt forest and rainforest which often seemed to be battling for supremacy along the winding track and made a good attempt to identify the plants which were again showing early signs of flourishing after the long drought. Many of the eucalypts showed epicormic growth despite the lack of fire for many years and we speculated whether this was a last ditch survival response by a dying drought-stricken tree. Many smaller rainforest trees were just plain dead though impossible to know the cause. We saw one fungus, a bolete, the size of a saucer, along the path but surprisingly little else mycological.

There were continual bird calls – mainly of brown gerygone (one good view of this often elusive bird), brown thornbills, golden whistlers and Lewin's honeyeaters. We also heard a few we couldn't manage to see such as green catbird, white-throated tree creeper and one which outwitted us despite being quite close in a thick canopied tree, possibly a bower bird from its strange varied calls though certainly not the full repertoire of the satin.

Can anyone identify this? Let us know if you know what it is!

Photo: Judy Haines



A large vine found in lieu of Elwyn's Photo: Faseny McPhee

There wasn't a lot of insect life and we didn't see pademelons, reptiles or amphibians. There are low but constant numbers of walkers even on a weekday. A further (pleasant) distraction was the appearance of a friend of Elwyn Hegarty (a long standing QNC member) who met us on the track and helped us search for some huge vines on a fig tree that Elwyn had found there 40 years ago, which had had a decisive effect on her subsequent career. Armed with Elwyn's map and photos we plunged around in the undergrowth below the track in several spots where we could see massive figs but sadly failed to find the fig with its vines. It did make us notice the girth of some of the vines there and the frequency of lawyer vine!

We enjoyed a sociable, but socially distanced, snack back at Boombana before departing home. Let us hope this is the first of many outings for us cabin-fevered naturalists!



Figure 37. A big pepper vine needs the support of a single big tree to survive. This specimen was 140 cm in girth below the split into two trunks each about 1 m in girth, and its great size can be attributed to the longevity of its association with its original host, combined with the age of the epiphytic fig which replaced it.

Elwyn Hegarty, a long-standing QNC member, asked us to look for giant vines she spotted 40 years ago. She provided this photo, information and an accompanying map. Unfortunately, we couldn't find them.

June 21: Sandy Camp Road Wetlands Bird Walk, Wynnum

The original outing planned for April 26 was cancelled due to COVID-19. As our State brought its case numbers down, restrictions were eased and we were able to hold this walk on June 21. Our small group of eight was able to meet to enjoy nature for a lovely sunny morning.

Sandy Camp Road Wetlands are a man-made series of lagoons at Lytton. While industrial areas to the north and west separate it from the Brisbane River, it is connected to a whole series of wetlands. To the north are the Wynnum Mangrove Birdhide and Boardwalk and to the south the GJ Fuller Oval Lagoons, Lindum Wetlands and Kianaweh Rd Wetlands.

Despite being so close to industrial areas, it has a range of different habitats that clearly suit a variety of different birds. The most important are the series of lagoons with vegetated tracks between them. There are other areas with tall grasses and reeds, patches of swampy paperbark and eucalypt forest, and an area of mowed lawn.



Australasian Grebe Photo: Kathy Clark



Osprey taking off from nest Photo: Kathy Clark

Sandy Camp certainly lived up to its reputation as an excellent spot for bird watching. Our group sighted 56 different species and heard another seven, making a total of 63 species and 264 individual birds in about 3 hours. In the first 30 minutes we had sightings of about 30 species.

One of the first areas to check at Sandy Camp is the Osprey nest on the far end of the mown field. This is a huge nest on a man-made platform on top of a very high pole. We were lucky as there was an osprey on the nest. At the end of our walk, we had a better view when it flew off from the nest. Each year the ospreys raise young here.

The track between the front two large lagoons gave views of many waterbirds, such as Dusky Moorhens, Eurasian Coots, Wandering Whistling Ducks, Grey Teal, White Ibis, a Royal Spoonbill, Australasian Grebes, Little Pied Cormorants and an Intermediate and Great Egret. A couple of Willie Wagtails thought they were waterbirds also and were following Comb-crested Jacanas around the water lilies catching insects. The trees and reeds along the track had plenty of honeyeaters, Bar-shouldered Doves, Tawny Grassbirds and two beautiful Forest Kingfishers. A Whistling Kite and then a Black Kite also flew briefly overhead.



Willie Wagtail with Jacana Photo: Kathy Clark



From a viewing platform at the other end of the first lagoon, some observers with very keen eyes noticed a Pacific Black Duck high up on a stick nest. In the photo you can just make out the duck on the nest. We were all quite surprised at this as it was a very large nest and quite high up, possibly a White Ibis nest. Morcombe's Birds of Australia says that these ducks prefer to use tree hollows but will also use old nests of other birds. Again, this was surprising as we thought the only ducks to use tree hollows were Wood Ducks.

Pacific Black Duck on Ibis nest high in tree Photo: Kathy Clark

The next group of birds encountered were Double-barred Finches, Chestnut-breasted Mannikins and Scarlet Honeyeaters. We then went looking for the Juvenile Striated Heron that is usually present on a back track. It flew off when we accidentally disturbed it but it didn't fly far and most of us managed to see it. There were plenty more birds near the back lagoon including: a Leaden Flycatcher, Silvereyes, Drongo, Rufous Whistler, more honeyeaters, Variegated and Superb Blue Fairywrens and beautiful Rainbow Bee-eaters. On the lagoon itself there were some egrets, darters and large numbers (75) of Little Black Cormorants.



Juvenile Striated Heron Photo: David Shaw

To see the whole list with more photos go to: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S70656425>

Kathy Clark

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.

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
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?

July 19: Field volunteer required for 15 day trip to NT

Wendy Williams (Arid Soil Ecosystems, The University of Queensland Gatton Campus) is running a field research trip to Kidman Springs (NT) leaving on July 19 by road (due to COVID-19). The team will be away for 15 days (estimated) and need one more volunteer to assist with the field sampling. Is anybody is sick of staying at home and looking for a lightning trip to NT in exchange for a helping hand? The volunteer would need to be fit and healthy but of any age. There is enough room in the two vehicles for one person, however, a team of two volunteers driving separately would also be ok.

Accommodation includes living quarters and kitchen facilities on site, plus the 4 days/3 nights to drive there (approximately 3000 km). Departure will be from Toowoomba early on July 19 and planned return is late on August 1. Kidman Springs is a working cattle station leased by NT government for research and the team has a long term fire experiment there with a MLA funded biocrust research project.

For details, please ring Wendy 0418 246 001.

June 10 for 10 weeks: Bush Blitz and Backyard Species Discovery Weekly Challenges

Join Bush Blitz scientists on a virtual expedition!

For the last decade, Bush Blitz, Australia's largest nature discovery program has taken taxonomists to remote parts of the country to document plants and animals. This program is a partnership between the Australian Government, Parks Australia (through the Australian Biological Resources Study), BHP and Earthwatch Australia.

Bush Blitz participants have helped to discover more than 1700 new species and made thousands of species records. There are an estimated 580,000–680,000 species in Australia but three quarters of this biodiversity is yet to be identified and scientifically described.

With species discovery expeditions currently on hold due to the pandemic, the Bush Blitz team has organised a virtual expedition. The Backyard Species Discovery project encourages all Australians to contribute to our knowledge of Australian biodiversity while practicing their social distancing.

We can't promise you'll find a new species but this is a great way to make a valuable contribution to science and brush up on your ID skills with the help of Bush Blitz scientists. All you need is a digital camera and internet access - the Bush Blitz team will guide you through the rest. For more information about Bush Blitz, and how to join this virtual expedition, visit the Bush Blitz website:

<https://bushblitz.org.au/introducing-an-expedition-for-everyone/>

Challenges will be announced every Wednesday on the Bush Blitz website (<https://bushblitz.org.au/>) and our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter channels. The first challenge will be announced on Wednesday 10 June and there will be 10 challenges in total - taking us right up to National Science Week.

Each challenge will be open for one week and we will announce a winner the Friday after entries close. The weekly prize will be a gift voucher and an official Bush Blitz cap - with extra prizes available if the winner is a group.

Check the Bush Blitz website after 12pm each Wednesday to find out what the challenge is and see the competition terms and conditions.

Good luck!

June 13 – September 6: Artistic Endeavour: Contemporary botanical artists' response to the legacy of Banks, Solander and Parkinson

The Redcliffe Museum is excited to reopen with a new exhibition featuring Queensland's unique plants - flowering, fruiting and full of life!

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the HMB Endeavour's voyage along the east coast of Australia, members of the Botanical Artists' Society of Queensland have created more than 60 original botanical artworks - some delicate, some bold, all highly detailed and scientifically rigorous. Featuring original specimens collected on that voyage, this exhibition is an innovative exploration of the artistic, scientific, environmental and cultural significance of this chapter in Queensland's botanical heritage.

Saturday 10:00 AM-1:00 PM artist demonstrations:

13 June 2020 | Dale Farnell

27 June 2020 | Florence Joly and Penny Watson

11 July 2020 | Kay Sullivan

Workshops (bookings required, limited numbers, \$10):

20 June 2020 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM or 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Introduction to realistic botanical art using graphite with Eva Richards

4 July 2020 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Introduction to botanical drawing with Anne Hayes

7 July 2020 | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Teens workshop: Draw an insect with Dr Nita C Lester

For more information contact the Redcliffe Museum by email: redcliffe.museum@moretonbay.qld.gov.au, telephone: (07) 3883 1898 or the website: www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Galleries-Museums/Events

Our priority is protecting the health and well-being of the community as much as possible. Visits to the museum will be limited to 20 people for 30 mins. For more information about Moreton Bay Regional Council's response to Coronavirus (COVID-19), visit the Council website: www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Toondah Harbour – Petition closes 30 July 2020

Moreton Bay has outstanding coastal wetland values and features, with many of its diverse habitat types retaining a near-natural character and remaining interconnected with other habitats supporting biodiversity. Moreton Bay is one of Australia's important shorebird habitats and is a major dugong habitat in Queensland. It supports nationally threatened wetland dependent plant species, humpback whales, dolphins and six species

of marine turtles. Moreton Bay was declared a Ramsar site in 1993 under the international Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention). The Ramsar Convention is “an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources” and protects wetlands critical for biodiversity. www.ramsar.org

The Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area (PDA), declared on 21 June 2013, aims to enable redevelopment to boost tourism and create new business opportunities and jobs while supporting existing businesses. It is located on the southern shores of Moreton Bay in Cleveland, approximately one kilometre from of the Cleveland CBD and 33 kilometres from of the Brisbane CBD. The PDA covers 67 hectares, including 17.5 hectares over land and 49.5 hectares over water within Moreton Bay.

<https://www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/economic-development-qld/priority-development-areas/toondah-harbour.html>

The proposed masterplan for the Toondah Harbour PDA includes 3,600 dwellings, hotel and convention facilities, marina with boutique retail and dining precinct, recreational boating facilities, parkland, car parking and a new port facility:

<http://www.walkercorp.com.au/downloads/toondah-harbour/masterplan.pdf>

Birdlife Australia, and particularly Birdlife Southern Queensland, have been campaigning to protect this important wildlife habitat from development: www.actforbirds.org/savetoondah

The petition to the Queensland Parliament requesting an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the circumstances by which the Toondah Harbour PDA was declared, the adequacy of supporting work, soundness of decision making and a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the development closes 30/07/2020:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3271>

A separate petition requests Premier Palaszczuk to rule out any change to the boundaries of the Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetland that would facilitate inappropriate development at Toondah Harbour:

<https://www.actforbirds.org/toondah-queensland-petition>

Cicada Film Festival: Short film competition across SEQ – Calling for Entries

The Cicada Film Festival is a short-film competition that is helping youth to be heard. It is open to youth across South-East Queensland to make a film depicting environmental concerns and to suggest solutions. Entries can be from individuals or groups, in two age groups and two themes. There’s \$4500 cash in prizes to be won – so why not join in the thrill of the shrill!

Anyone under 25 is eligible to enter the Cicada Film Festival. If you are over 25, we invite you to share your passion of the natural world with the youths in your life – your children, grandchildren, neighbours’ and friends’ children.

Closing date: Threatened Species Day 7th September

Winners Announced: Friday 30th October 2020

www.cicadafilmfestival.com.au

Free Pamphlets: Rocks and Landscape Notes

Rocks and Landscape Notes and *Rocks and Landscape Notes: Brief Backgrounds* are short leaflets describing the geological origins of some of the more scenic areas of Queensland. Download your copies from the Geological Society of Australia’s website:

https://www.gsa.org.au/Public/Divisions/QLD_subpages/Rocks_and_Landscape_Notes.aspx?WebsiteKey=a8c3ae88-b6eb-48e1-bea8-adfed361add5&hkey=648b9b05-2706-4890-b3ab-3c306c82384d

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

Bugs and Beads

Vivian Sandoval is an entomologist working with insect-fungi interaction, the Secretary of the Queensland Mycological Society and a councilor of the Entomological Society of Queensland. She funds her own research projects through sales of the fungi/insect-inspired jewellery and collectibles she makes. Vivian make her jewellery available for purchase at a General meeting when they resume.

Vivian created "Bugs and Beads" to promote the connection between insects and fungi, arts and crafts. She designs and makes jewellery and collectables and promotes the work of local and international artists.

For more information, visit www.bugsandbeads.com or follow @bugsandbeads on Instagram and Facebook.

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 in previous editions of the QNC News). 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 \$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.

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 034-068

Account Number: 901249

Reference: Your Name

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Name.....

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☐ The QNC News will be sent to you by email. Please tick this box if you require a copy in the post.