



# QNC NEWS

Newsletter of the  
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 359 Nov-Dec 2021

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

Print Post Approved: 100003858

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## PROGRAMME NOV-DEC 2021

**General Meetings:** Please register at [meetings@qnc.org.au](mailto:meetings@qnc.org.au) or phone Mike on 0434 148 170

**November 15** Speaker: Dale Arvidsson

**Topic:** Tropical Mountain Plant Science (TroMPS) conservation project

**No meeting in December**

**Excursions:** Please register at [excursions@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursions@qnc.org.au)

**November 21** London Creek

**December 11** Samford Ecological Environmental Facility

## CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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*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.**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Website

QNC is currently working on a project to revise and update our website. Watch this space for more details as they become available <https://www.qnc.org.au/>

## 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](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.

## Library Catalogue

The library catalogue can be found on the QNC website at [http://www.qnc.org.au/Library/QNC LibraryCatalogue.pdf](http://www.qnc.org.au/Library/QNC%20LibraryCatalogue.pdf)

## Subscription Reminder

Any 2021/22 subs due on 1 July 2021 not paid by 31 December 2021 will lead to automatic removal from the mailing lists. The envelope in which the QNC News is posted will show the subscription currency on the address label.

## Calendars

We have limited numbers of the new 2022 QNC Calendar available. The calendars at \$10 each for collection at General Meetings or \$13 posted. Orders can be made to [treasurer@qnc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@qnc.org.au) or Phone 0434148170. Payment can be made to Queensland Naturalists' Club at Westpac Bank (BSB 034-068, Account 901249), using your name as a Reference.

## COVID-19

### COVID guidelines

- ❖ **Please register for all meetings by email to [meetings@qnc.org.au](mailto:meetings@qnc.org.au) or phone Mike on 0434 148 170**
- ❖ **Please register for all excursions by email to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) or phone Barney on 07 3720 9414**
- ❖ COVID-19 social distancing, hygiene and other requirements will be implemented at all QNC meetings and excursions.
- ❖ Also, NO SUPPER will be held at the meetings, and no books or library items will be on display.
- ❖ ***Please do not attend QNC meetings or outings if you are feeling unwell or showing cold or flu-like symptoms.***

# 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 can be accessed by public transport and is approximately 200 metres 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).

## 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.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### **Monday 15 November 2021**

**Speaker: Dale Arvidsson**

**Topic: Tropical Mountain Plant Science (TroMPS) conservation project**

This project, led by the Australian Tropical Herbarium in Cairns, focussed on collecting flora from Australia's tropical mountaintop plant communities in far North Queensland to take pre-emptive action to secure plant species by growing them in ex-situ living collections at seven public botanic gardens. The TroMPS project aims to secure the future of plants native and endemic to high altitude peaks of North Queensland to 'backup' at-risk wild populations.

### **Dale Arvidsson Biography**

Dale is Curator of Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, the historic City Botanic Gardens at Gardens Point, and Sherwood Arboretum. As well as horticulture and conservation and land management, Dale's diverse background also includes tourism, visual arts and design and underlying all of this – a love for plants and gardening. He commenced at Brisbane in 2015 and is currently Chair of the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens.

Dale is impassioned about botanic gardens and their role in conserving and researching flora in the face of a changing climate and our increasing impact on the environment. How your botanic gardens and arboreta are appreciated and utilised by the wider community, and making a real difference through the Gardens work, is Dale's focus for the future of Brisbane's 3 much loved botanic collections.

**At the 2021 October meeting Paul Campbell addressed QNC on the subject of feral cats and the Bilby Project.**

Australia has the highest mammal extinction rate in the world and by 2020 cat predation was linked to the extinction of 34 mammal species in Australia (38% of official mammal extinctions). Land clearing, habitat loss and foxes have also played a part. Male cats need 5-8% of body weight in prey daily while females with kittens need 20% of body weight per

day. Feral cats do not require free water. Despite myths, Australian feral cats are not large and weigh between 2-8 kg. Bigger animals are more common in Gippsland, Victoria where they can obtain much more protein while in western Queensland cats tend to be lean. Females have 8 to 21 young per year all their life.

DNA analysis shows that today's feral cats came with the First Fleet from Britain. They are all tabby marked. In mid 1800s cats were deliberately released and protected because the government wanted rabbits eradicated. Even up to early 1900s cats were being released into the wild. There are estimated to be between 2.1 and 6.3 million feral cats in Australia and they occupy 99% of the land, including 100 offshore islands.

Feral cats are efficient hunters, and highly adaptable, with highly individualised behaviour. They are nocturnal and solitary hunters; they prefer live prey and only scavenge when desperate. Dominant males have territories up to 8-10 sq km. In studies of feral cats in the Pilliga, one radio-tracked male moved 170 km. WA has trialled 1080 sausage bait which will control but not eliminate cats. Sausages have shown less success in Qld because pre-planning for bait dropping fails to select optimal weather conditions. Individual cats tend to specialise in particular prey then suddenly switch to another prey for no apparent reason.

### **Save the Bilby Fund eradication campaign**

There was a major problem at Currawinya National Park around 2012 when feral cats exterminated a colony of bilbies; 300 animals in 3 years. No attempt was ever made to eliminate cats from inside the fence when it was built nevertheless from 2003 to 2012 the bilbies did well in the presence of cats. However, by 2014 there were no bilbies. Perhaps floods caused a good season and cats rapidly increased. In 2016, Save the Bilby Fund took over control and did everything they could to eradicate cats. In 2019 no cats could be detected and bilby numbers had dramatically increased to 350-400 animals with bilbies now outside the fence also. It is unknown how they got out. No evidence of burrowing has been found, and it is now wondered if they climbed the fence.

The fence itself had problems with rapid corrosion of the bottom wire despite galvanisation because of contact with acid soil. It has now been replaced (at massive cost by government) with plastic coated wire. Kangaroos sometimes jump over the fence, and cats, capable of jumping 2m from standing, can get in and out. The fence is 2m high plus a buried section which is now made up of chain wire.

Strategies which have not worked in controlling feral cats include- shooting with spotlighting and night vision scopes, thermal imaging scopes, trained detection dogs, drones with thermal sensors, and baits. The dogs never flushed a single cat. Thermal sensors could pick up animals but required enormous power to cover sizeable areas and also could not reliably differentiate cats from other animals. All cats caught had their stomach contents checked but none revealed ingested bait. Camera traps (100) worked but cats, and other animals, can detect cameras. It is uncertain how they do this. Traps were partially successful but only if set in the known path of a particular individual.

An expensive but fairly successful device, the Felixer grooming trap, was developed in South Australia. It has 3 lasers and a computing device to identify reliably what type of animal has approached. If a cat is identified it fires 1080 gel onto the cat which then ingests the poison when grooming with fatal results. Because of their expense Felixers are only used on the edge of the fence or in other high value areas. One of the most successful approaches to reducing feral cats is that of land management by Indigenous people who track and eat cats and control fire regimes.

# EXCURSIONS

Fees apply for weekend camps of \$2 per adult per night, plus other camping fees, if applicable. 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.

## REGISTRATION GUIDELINES DURING COVID-19

- The number of participants at Club activities may need to be restricted.
- **Members must register via email** to the Excursion Secretary at [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) preferably at least 24 hours before day outings and three days prior to camps.
- **Registration needs to include the names and contact details of all persons attending.**
- 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.***

## UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

### Day Outing to London Ck Environmental Reserve

**Date and time:** Sunday 21 November at 8am (meeting time 7:45 am)

**Leaders:** Ron Carr, Judy Haines, Doug Smith

**Phone:** Ron 0421 382 500

**Register:** by email to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) with the subject **London Ck** in the subject line. Please include names and contact details of all attendees.

#### **Trip Details:**

Travel time from Brisbane CBD to Peachester should be about 1 hour and 30 minutes. Leaving about 7:00am on a Wednesday it was 1 hour from Clayfield and 1 hour 20 mins from Bulimba. The entrance to the site is locked and it then takes a steep descent unsuitable for 2WDs. There is limited space for parking around the entrance. Meeting at Peachester Primary School will give an opportunity to park 2WDs there and carpool and travel the last few kilometres to the site in the 4WDs. We will also meet John Birbeck there. John has the keys and will accompany and guide us during the excursion. We will leave from Peachester at 8:00am, travelling in convoy NW on Peachester Road, turning right into Bald Knob Road then right into Macdonalds Road until the entrance which will be marked is reached.

Please bring lunch and water for the day. Leaches and mozzies could be about and a single tick turned up on the recce. Sun protection is advised. Phone reception (Telstra) is available where we park the vehicles at the reserve.

### Site Details:

The site contains 142 ha and 4 Regional Ecosystems (REs). The periphery of the site comprises sandstone ridges descending, sometimes very steeply, to London Creek which runs more or less centrally through the reserve and sets its own microclimate. The stretch along the creek is identified as RE 12.9 - 10.16 – microphyll to notophyll vine forest. Five floral species within this community were listed as vulnerable or threatened in a 2012 survey. We are likely to spend a good deal of our day in this area where the track is wide, gently undulating, shady, easy to travel and pleasantly weed free.

The 3 other RE's comprise (i) *Eucalyptus pilularis* tall open forest with shrubby understory (ii) *Eucalyptus grandis* – open forest sandstone in the wetter gullies and southern slopes and (iii) RE 12.3.2 (listed as of concern) *Eucalyptus grandis* as an open forest with wet vine forest understorey fringing the narrow gullies in the higher rainfall areas.

Fauna surveys in 2012/13 reported 12 species of frogs including the Giant barred frog (endangered) and the Tusked frog (near threatened) and 61 mammal and reptile species. There are some attractive old farm dams on the property but swimming is not an option. The dams were full although the area was in need of rain when the recce was carried out. There has been some rain since which will have brightened the vegetation though the creek may still not be flowing.

### Day outing – Samford Ecological Research Facility

**Date and time:** Saturday 11 December 2021 from 3.30pm to 8pm

**Leaders:** Barney Hines and Matt Phillips

**Phone:** Barney (0420 351 801) Matt (0466 361 826)

**Register:** by email to [excursion@gnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@gnc.org.au) with the subject **SERF** in the subject line. Please include names and contact details of all attendees. **Please note that QUT may put a cap on numbers and preference will be given to those who register first.**

**Details:** The QNC is pleased to announce that the Xmas party will be held at the Samford Ecological Research Facility (SERF). This property was bequeathed to QUT from Elizabeth 'Pat' Marks estate. Pat was a past president of the QNC and very active member. Long standing members may recall visiting Pat's property in the early 1980s for QNC breakups. We also visited the site in November 2019.

The outing will involve a walk around the property, which has a mix of plant communities from dry sclerophyll forest to riparian rainforest. A highlight of the previous visit was observations of nesting grey goshawks. This would be followed by a BYO dinner and then some night activities of spotlighting and possibly some moth trapping.

There is a house on site with wide verandahs that club members can use and take shelter from the elements and there is plenty of lawn for picnics.

Please refer to the SERF website for more information, including articles from the QNC.  
<http://www.serf.qut.edu.au/>

A previous club's outing to the site occurred in 1993 and is described below.  
[http://www.serf.qut.edu.au/serfresourcefiles/nature\\_notes\\_excursion\\_qnc\\_1993.pdf](http://www.serf.qut.edu.au/serfresourcefiles/nature_notes_excursion_qnc_1993.pdf)

**Directions:**

From the city, follow Samford Road through Ferny Grove and Ferny Hills. Turn left into Camp Mountain Road. Continue along this for 2.8 kilometres and before turning left into the site.

To assist you further, the entrance to SERF is 200 metres past the turn off into Upper Camp Mountain Road, so when you see that you will know that you are nearly there. The entrance is adjacent to the property boundary – bush on the SERF side and open paddock on the other. Otherwise, the sign at the entrance was easy to miss last time we visited. If you get to Petersen Road then you have gone too far.

Allow approximately 40 minutes from the Brisbane CBD.

**Base Camp – Goomburra – Main Range National Park**

**Date and time:** Saturday 15 January 2022 to Wednesday 19 January 2022

**Leaders:** Harry Hines, Barney Hines

**Phone:** Harry (0423 782 186) Barney (0420 351 801)

**Register:** by email to [excursion@gnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@gnc.org.au) with the subject **Goomburra** in the subject line. Please include names and contact details of all attendees.

**Details:** The Goomburra section of Main Range National Park has a very diverse range of habitats and is an excellent place for natural history. Goomburra is elevated ranging from 700 metres at the Manna Gums campsite (where we will camp) to over 1000 metres at Sylvester's Lookout and the edge of the escarpment. This national park has a broad range of habitats ranging from temperate woodlands to wet sclerophyll forest to rainforest. Temperate species typically found further south are present in the area, including Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds, and the whirring tree frog *Litoria revelata*. Glossy black cockatoos were frequenting the campsite in September and Russet-tailed thrushes were calling from the forests.

Goomburra has a good range of walking tracks which the club will utilise during the camp. Some of these walks may require bringing a picnic lunch to carry. The cascades walk has swimming holes as well as numerous creek crossings, that will likely involve members getting wet feet. The weather will likely dictate activities. If days are hot, we will head to the higher altitudes. If conditions are very wet, then it is possible that we will head out of the park for a day outing to forest estates on the Darling Downs (west of Allora).

Camping will be at the Queensland Parks and Wildlife campsite of Manna Gums. This is a public campsite so we will be sharing the facility with others. However, it is envisioned that it won't be too crowded, especially during the week, as most pundits head to the beach at that time of the year (fingers crossed). Facilities at the campsite include water (not drinking) and composting toilets. Note that wood cannot be collected from the National Park, so members will need to bring their own firewood if they desire a fire.

Members will need to book using the QPWS website.

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/main-range>. This site also has lots of information on the park itself. Please ensure that you select Manna Gums when choosing your site. The \$2 per adult per night club fees will be also collected.

Participants should expect heat, rain, leeches, ticks and mozzies. Please bring a sense of humour to combat these!



Barney will be arriving by about Saturday lunchtime with activities planned for Sunday. Harry will be arriving on Sunday. Note that there is no mobile phone reception at the campsite.

**Directions:**

Goomburra can be reached from both the New England and Cunningham highways. From the New England Highway turn off the highway 3km south of Allora onto Inverramsay Road. Follow Inverramsay Road, then Forestry Reserve Road east about 35km to the park boundary. From the Cunningham Highway turn off at Gladfield 25km west of Cunninghams Gap or 13km east of the Cunningham and New England highway junction, turn north and travel 8km to join Inverramsay Road. Follow Inverramsay Road, then Forestry Reserve Road to the park boundary. Note that a lot of car navigation systems won't work as you approach the National Park as you will lose reception.

The last 6km of road to the park is unsealed. This section passes through "Gordon Country" - a private property that accommodates campers also. Ignore all signs as you travel through this area and continue on. It is possible that the road may be impassable due to flooding heavy rain. Check road conditions with RACQ ([external link](#)) before you visit. The road to the lookouts will be closed after heavy rain. Allow two hours travel time from Brisbane.

**Long Excursion Date Claimer – Lonesome Holding, via Injune**

**Date and time:** Sunday 10 April 2022 to Tuesday 19 April 2022

**Leaders:** Sally Johnsen et al.

**Phone:** Sally (0449 517 627)

**Register:** by email to [excursion@gnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@gnc.org.au) with the subject **Lonesome** in the subject line. Please include names and contact details in case the activity is cancelled.

**Details:** Further details of the camp will be confirmed in early 2022.

The 2022 Long excursion is planned for the second week of the Easter school holidays. The venue will be Lonesome Holding, the same property that the club was planning to visit for the long excursion of 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic forced its cancellation.

The property is not open to the public, but we have kindly been granted access by QPWS. It is located some 30 minutes north of Injune, in central Queensland. The current thought is to commence the camp on the Sunday and to run through to the Monday of the Easter weekend. However, campers are welcome to stay on to the Tuesday if they wish to avoid Easter traffic.

The property has a homestead on it, which has some facilities that club members will have access to. Members can camp in the vicinity of the homestead, and a small number of members will be able to use the house for accommodation.

The property has a range of habitats, including sandstone escarpments, brigalow, and an area of the Dawson River. Several club members have previously visited the property, including Mel Venz, David Bouchard, and Murray and Jeanette Watson.



## PAST EXCURSION REPORTS

### August 22, 2021 QNC Day Excursion to Bribie Island

By Peter Woodall

A group of 'Nats' gathered at the Bribie Island Community Centre where we met our guide for the morning, Allan Carr. Allan lives on the island and is an expert on its flora, having published a book "A Field Guide to Native Plants of Bribie Island and nearby coastal South-east Qld". Allan took us to the fire trail which unfortunately had been recently mown, taking off many of the wildflowers that had been present previously. We then walked down the Banksia Trail and into the Palm Grove Circuit and then returned to our starting point.

We saw many of the familiar wallum plants such as Wedding Bush *Ricinocarpos falcilolius*, Wallum Boronia *Boronia falcifolia*, and Vanilla Lily *Sowerbaea juncea*. Birds were not very plentiful but some of the group had a good view of Rainbow Bee-eaters, and later, a Spangled Drongo. A large Lace Monitor climbed a tree next to the track and allowed good views of it. In some of the flowers we found a Long-nosed Lycid Beetle *Porostoma rhipidium*.

Many of us then went to Pumicestone Passage for lunch and then went to the nearby bird hide at Kakadu Beach. Here we had distant views of Double-banded Plovers and better sightings of a Brahminy Kite and Pied Oystercatcher. Finally, some of us continued over to Buckleys Hole where we found a range of waterbirds including Royal Spoonbills, Black Swan and a White-bellied Sea-eagle. Some red and blue Damselflies *Xanthagrion erythroneurum* were on the waterlilies.

It was an excellent day out and we thank Allan for sharing his expertise with us. A more detailed list of the species we observed can be found at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/qnc-2021-august-bribie-island>



Long-nosed Lycid Beetle *Porostoma rhipidium*



Vanilla Lily *Sowerbaea juncea*



Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*



Wedding Bush *Ricinocarpos falcilolius*

### **Sept 3-6 Barakula State Forest, via Chinchilla**

**By Peter and Lyn Haselgrove**

The outing took place over four days, with most participants travelling to and from the camp on the Friday and Monday leaving two full days to naturalize. We were very fortunate in having Frank Truscott of Chinchilla Field Nats to show us around and some lucky members were able to spend the Monday visiting Gurulmundi State Forest with Frank for even more wildflowers.

Barakula State Forest is one of the largest State Forest areas in the southern hemisphere encompassing approximately 280,000 ha. The area straddles the Great Dividing Range with a greater proportion of it being southwest of the range and fairly flat. The forest was gazetted in 1907 and has been used for hardwood railway sleeper production and cypress pine for the building industry. Originally there was a mill and small township and school present but there is now only the Forestry Office and sheds remaining. Away from the Dividing Range the land is heavily timbered with ironbark, spotted gum, white cypress and bullock / cypress regrowth. A tree new to many of us was the Yellow Jacket, *Corymbia watsoniana*, large trees with rough flaky yellow-brown bark. A fine specimen was growing near the entrance to our campsite.

QNC members, along with some visitors from the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club, camped near the site of the old mill which was an open flat area, lightly grassed. A small group of cattle initially observed members setting up camp efforts and visited one of the night fireside gatherings. Rainbow bee-eaters were also landing in the camp area. We visited both the NE and NW sections of the park on subsequent days with Frank as our guide. On the Saturday we drove out to the Auburn Road and then into the north-east section of the area. Despite somewhat dry conditions there were plenty of wildflowers, especially wattles and several rare species were observed, in particular those restricted to the area. Lunch was taken near a patch of softwood scrub and a dam, after numerous stops to admire and identify wildflowers. One unusual bird heard at the lunch spot was Lewin's Honeyeater which called several times. We also recorded Red-browed and Diamond Firetails there. The return journey included a side trip to view a patch of *Acacia handonis*. There were large numbers of Homoranthus plants at various places along the tracks.

Sunday saw us heading to the NW of the area to view the Waaje Wildflower Area. We proceeded along the road towards the Dogwood Creek camping area then passed through a large patch of Lancewood *Acacia shirleyi*. One of the Chinchilla Nats members told us that the timber was exported to China and made into knick knacks to sell back to Australia, and



it was also used to make aboriginal spears. We stopped at the Waaje No. 4 fire tower for smoko. This lookout tower was originally built in 1964 as a wildfire lookout tower. Approximately 30m high with a cabin on top on four ironbark legs, the tower was completely refurbished in 2020 and is now heritage listed.

Further along into the wildflower area proper there were large patches of white *Calytrix*, *Micromyrtus*, *Spinifex*, *Homoranthus*, a brilliant red flowering *Hakea* and bright yellow flowers of a small melaleuca, probably *Melaleuca uncinata*. Dick Date identified 28 different *Acacia* species from a list of 60 species in Grace Lithgow's book for *Acacias* in the Chinchilla and Murrilla Shires. A fair bit of time was spent either travelling or looking at wildflowers and so no serious birding was carried out. However, despite that and not a lot of bird activity, 51 species were seen or heard including Bush Curlew near the campsite.

The Ranger-in-Charge, Gary Hearle and his family joined us for all of Saturday and part of Sunday. It was a real pleasure to have him with us and to meet his wife and young son. Gary also spent most of a day with us on the pre-outing to give us an idea of what there was to see. We are most grateful to him for his help and more so for his interest in our endeavours. We also thank Frank for all the time he gave us both in the planning stages and during the camp.



*Hakea purpurea*



*Calytrix gurlmundensis*



Pink Kunzea *Kunzea capitata*



Sandstone Boronia *Boronia glab*

### **Sept 26 2021 Belmont Bushland Excursion**

**By Dick Copeman**

Twelve members came along on an overcast but pleasant morning. The first part of the walk up the hill from Scrub Road had been burnt recently, with a variety of ants more visible as a result, but with one large meat ant nest seemingly abandoned by its ants. At the top of the hill, Black Jezebel and Glasswing butterflies were 'hilltopping' and a young, rescued koala was sighted, recovering up a tree in a small enclosure. Nancy Cramond, daughter of the Vickerman family who previously owned much of the reserve, still lives in a cottage in the reserve and welcomed us into her garden, which included a Scrub Daphne (*Phaleria chermsideana*) in bloom and a Silver Croton (*Croton insularis*).

Heading down the hill on the southeast side, the soil changed to a red colour and the vegetation changed to dry rainforest with Bastard Crow's Ash (*Pentaceras australe*) in bloom, and a number of vines. Down the slope, Foambark trees (*Jagera pseudorhus*) were prevalent and Swamp Wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*) were active. Returning up the slope and out on the track to the other hill top, we traversed an attractive grove of Scribbly gums (*Eucalyptus racemosa*) and then found the uncommon Bell Fruit (*Codonocarpus attenuatus*).

Overall, we found over 50 species of plants, 35 invertebrates, 6 fungi and 21 birds. Thanks to Peter and Leith Woodall and Peter Henry for posting photos of many of them on iNaturalist and eBird at

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/qnc-2021-sept-belmont-hills-reserve>

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S95312573>





Iridescent Semi-Slug *Ubiquitarion iridis*



Star Goodenia *Goodenia rotundafolia*



Blue-spotted Hawker *Adversaeschna brevistyla*



Dome Web Spider *Cyrtophora moluccensis*

## **Oct 24 (Towards) Mt Bell, Teviot Gap**

**By Barney Hines**

A band of 13 enthusiastic types assembled at Teviot Gap for a day in the bush. Cool, overcast, and windy conditions prevailed, a far cry to the heat wave predicted for the lowlands. Some plant highlights were the coachwood tree *Ceratopetalum apetalum* that decided to have a rest – and in doing provided a pleasant resting spot for members present. Whalebone *Streblus brunonianus*, Brittlewood (*Claoxylon australe*) and a species of *Alectryon*, possibly *A. subcinereus* were all in flower. Another species of interest was the Red Carabeen, *Karrabina benthamiana*, with young individuals easily identified (once known) by the large, almost circular, stipules, leaves and new growth with a nice pink hue. This plant also bears panicles of woody fruit, a few of which were observed on the forest floor (but were much more prevalent during the recce on October 4). These look at first appearance a little bit like the flowers of the walking stick palm *Linospadix monostachyos* only bigger. Fungi were also out early after recent rains.

Birds were a little quiet early on due to the windy conditions. However, by smoko we were entertained by the harsh cries of the Paradise Riflebirds and Green Catbirds. Noisy Pittas were also in good voice with their lovely 'walk to work' call. Pale-yellow Robins and Yellow-throated Scubwrens were both observed. Herps were represented by a couple of Black-soled Frogs *Lechriodus fletcheri* found in the slow flowing rainforest stream. In addition, a White-crowned Snake *Cacophis harriettae* was found dead on the dirt road on the way out.



Altogether a very good day out. The group never made it to Mt Bell, but no-one seemed to notice too much. If people are interested then why not check out the photos from the day on iNaturalist – some 125 species are now listed and counting!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/qnc-2021-oct-mt-bell>



Big smiles from the gang after enjoying the day out and for not being squished by this coachwood tree



Brittlewood in flower *Claoxylon australe*



Fletcher's frog *Lechriodus fletcheri*



Ear Fungus *Auricularia cornea*



# ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Meeting Exhibits

Miriam Preker collected and displayed the silken egg cocoons of a Magnificent Spider, *Ordgarius magnifica* (previously *Dicrosticus magnifica*) and gave a short presentation. Within the six egg cases were an estimated 3000 baby spiders, but only two or three will achieve adulthood. Unlike other spiders, the Magnificent Spider attracts moth prey by emitting pheromones when alerted to a male moth flying by, then casting a sticky blob, or bolas, at the end of a silken thread and reeling in the prey. In the display jar many tiny spiders had emerged from the egg sac and could be seen as white spiderlings.



Magnificent Spider *Ordgarius magnifica*

## Birding through the ages event at Queensland Museum

The Queensland Museum, along with the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, is delivering an event on Sunday 28 November at the Queensland Museum at South Bank celebrating the origins of bird watching in Australia.

Professor Hugh Possingham and a panel of experts will take attendees on an historical look at Queensland's amazing birdlife and showcase how they've been documented through the ages. See rare books from the Queensland Museum library and learn how their insights are still so relevant and informative now.

The Eventbrite link

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/birding-through-the-ages-tickets-194272092057>

Queensland Museum Facebook event link

<https://www.facebook.com/events/871115520441702>

## Vale Elizabeth Baxter

Elizabeth Baxter died on 20th October 2021 after a long illness. Elizabeth was a QNC member for a long time and we extend our condolences to family and friends.

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

**DUE 1<sup>st</sup> JULY**

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☐ Family \$40   ☐ Single \$25   ☐ Student /Junior \$15   ☐ Club Badge \$15

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