



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of the
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 361 Mar-Apr 2022

www.qnc.org.au

Print Post Approved: 100003858

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PROGRAMME MAR-APR 2022

General Meetings: Please register at meetings@qnc.org.au or phone Mike on 0434 148 170

Monday, 21 March

Speaker: Steve Wilson

Topic: 'Living on the edge: Queensland's endangered grassland earless dragons'

NO GENERAL MEETING IN APRIL DUE TO LONG EXCURSION COMMITMENTS

Excursions: Please register at excursions@qnc.org.au

March 6: Night field trips with Ross Coupland – **CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER EVENT**

March 26: Day Excursion – Private Property, Urliup, NSW – see p7 for details

April: 10-19 Long Excursion – Expedition National Park (Lonesome) see p8 for details

April 30 May 1,2: Weekend Excursion – London Ck Environmental Reserve

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Mailing address: PO Box 5663, West End, QLD 4101

President:	Mr Ron Carr	Ph: 0421 382 500	president@qnc.org.au
Secretary:	Ms Judy Haines	Ph: 0402 236 359	secretary@qnc.org.au
Treasurer:	Mr Mike Anderson	Ph: 07 3263 4502	treasurer@qnc.org.au
Excursion Secretary:	Mr Barney Hines	Ph: 07 3720 9414	excursions@qnc.org.au
QNC News Editor:	Dr Annette Neill	Ph: 0427 369 730	news@qnc.org.au

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.

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) 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 https://www.qnc.org.au/Library/QNC_LibraryCatalogue.pdf

COVID-19

COVID guidelines

- ❖ **Please register for all meetings by email to meetings@qnc.org.au or phone Mike on 0434 148 170**
- ❖ **Please register for all excursions by email to excursions@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 the library display is limited to recent journals.
- ❖ ***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.

AGM

Monday 21 February 2022

President's Report

In 2021 there were nine day excursions and five camp excursions, which was impressive given the effect of Covid restrictions especially on interstate excursions. There were ten general meetings with high quality speakers and Covid precautions.

The President said he was impressed by the long history of the QNC, of which many eminent naturalists have been, and are currently members. A measure of the Club's history is the QNC Centenary plaque at Kangaroo Point. (This has to be moved due to construction of a bridge – an agreement for it to be relocated in CT White Park at Kangaroo Point has been made by the President.)

Many natural history observations have been made over the years but the President is concerned about correct storage of data and keen that all observed material be gathered, collated for usefulness and preserved for future use. There has been a shift towards recording observations on the app iNaturalist facilitated by Dr Peter Woodall and all our photos can be viewed by everyone on that site. This has the capacity to bring us together and increase the current strong club spirit.

The Club website is being upgraded with help from Webmaster Terry Johnsen and will be an even better portal for promoting and connecting club activities. The Club Constitution was also refreshed in the last year though this doesn't change the day to day life of the Club. There is a need for QNC to remain relevant to the scientific community, as it has been in the past, as well as to current members. The President welcomed input from members on ideas on this, or any other topic relating to the Club.

Election of Office-Bearers

The President declared all positions vacant and called on Harry Hines to preside over election of Council Members. Harry pointed out that all positions have had written nominations so all were elected unopposed with agreement from the floor and applause. Ron thanked all Council Members for their acceptance of positions.

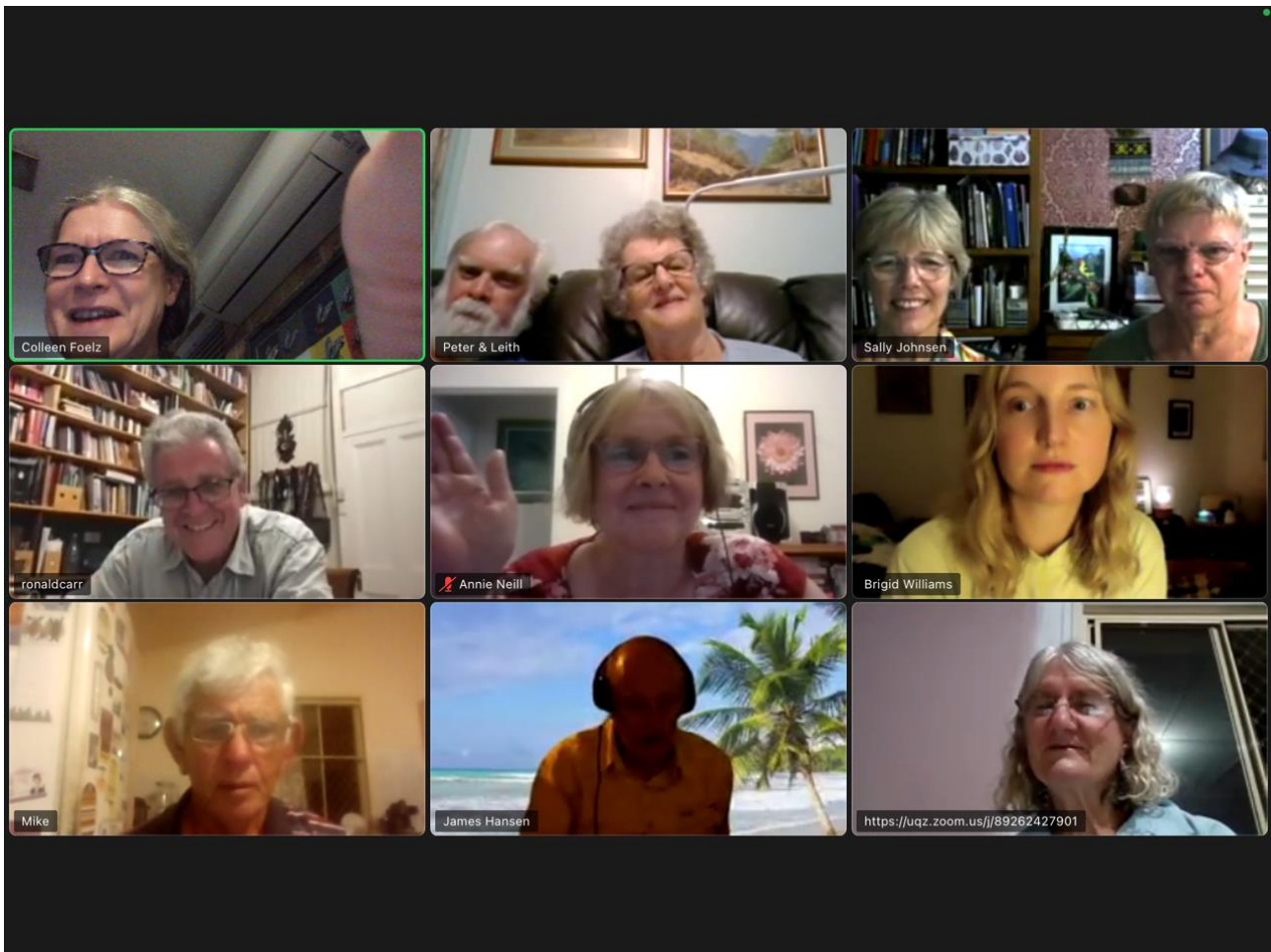
As a result of the election the 2022 council is as follows:

	Position	Name
1.	President	Ron Carr*
2.	Vice President	Colleen Foelz
3.	Secretary	Judy Haines*
4.	Treasurer	Mike Anderson*
5.	Excursions	Barney Hines*
6.	Journal editor	Peter Woodall*
7.	Newsletter editor	Annie Neill*
8.	Webmaster	Terry Johnsen*
9.	Librarian	Leith Woodall*
10.	Lanternist	Brigid Williams*
11.	Councilor	Dick Date*
12.	Councilor	James Hansen*

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 13. | Councilor | Cathryn Duffy |
| 14. | Councilor | John Sampson |
| 15. | Immediate
past president | Sally Johnsen |

** Indicates returned to same position*

Despite Covid restrictions and the recent 'rain bomb' and flooding in Brisbane, the council continues to meet monthly, by Zoom if necessary. Below is a collation of council members at the February Council meeting.



Queensland Natural History Award 2022

The Qld Natural History Award for 2022 has been awarded to Dr Conrad Hoskins of James Cook University. Dr Hoskins hopes to be able to attend next month's meeting to receive the award and will deliver the 2022 CT White lecture in May. At the June meeting, Australian Entomologist Dr Geoff Monteith will deliver the 2021 CT White lecture (held over from last year).

GUEST SPEAKERS

Monday 21 February 2022

Ross Coupland's presentation on 21 February examined all species of stick insect known to inhabit Southeast Queensland, some 40 species in total. Around 10 of these species remain undescribed, including one photographed at Kondalilla National Park (see below). Night time is best for finding phasmids. A careful, slow search along disturbed forest edges, paying particular attention to young, native trees and shrubs, should yield a variety of species. Ross has developed a standardised, portable camera setup for documenting finds. This consists of a Canon DSLR with 50mm macro lens and a basic, single flash on an extension cord. This allows for precise control of lighting among and around branches and leaves, so as not to disturb the insect or induce any kind of threat display.

He has an admirable, ethical approach to studying these insects, preferring to simply find and document them as found in the field. This way, one can get a true picture of the ecological requirements and habits of a species, in its natural setting. Ross does not collect specimens or genetic material unless he knows there is a genuine need to do so and encourages others to do the same, particularly where the more restricted species are concerned.

Ross spends much time travelling to and searching in often remote and understudied locations for new and interesting species that are infrequently encountered. He has co-authored a paper (in press) which describes a number of species from the Scenic Rim region's National Parks and has contributed to the knowledge of phasmid species found around Southeast Queensland through collaborative work with entomologists both in Australia and abroad.

To see more of his wonderful shots of wildlife both here in Australia and further afield, head to <http://www.flickr.com/rosscoupland>



Colleen Foelz thanked Ross for his presentation on behalf of QNC



**Undescribed female *Acrophylla* sp.
Kondalilla National Park**



Sub-adult female
Extatosoma tiaratum



Female showing 'startle display'
Onchestus gorgus

Coming Up - Monday 21 March 2022

Speaker: Steve Wilson

Topic: 'Living on the edge: Queensland's endangered grassland earless dragons'

Australia is home to 23 described species of dumpy little rough-skinned lizards called earless dragons. They thrive in some of the harshest deserts including the vast gibber plains of stones and clay with little or no topographic relief, shade or standing water. When the mercury rises they are often the last lizards standing in a shimmering heat haze. But some species, restricted to temperate and subtropical grasslands, are not doing so well. Some may represent mainland Australia's first reptile extinctions, victims of habitat fragmentation and loss. Others are hanging on but only just. These little lizards are living on the edge.

Steve Wilson Wildlife Consultant

Steve Wilson is an award-winning Australian herpetologist, naturalist, photographer and author based in Queensland. He also takes a keen interest in birds and mammals, invertebrates and botany.

Steve has authored and co-authored eight reptile books ranging from natural history to reference books (national, state and regional identification guides) and a children's book.

For nearly 40 years he has been working to compile one of the most comprehensive image libraries of Australian and international reptiles. These photos appear in his field guides and dozens of other books and magazines. See Photo Galleries below for a selection.

<http://www.stevekwilsonreptiles.com.au/>

He has been employed by the Queensland Museum as an Information Officer since 1986, educating the public, identifying their specimens and (hopefully) instilling a desire to conserve our unique biological heritage.

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 excursions@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

Evening Excursion – Gold Creek Reservoir, Brookfield

CANCELLED DUE TO RAIN EVENT

Date and time: Sunday 6th March, 2022 from 5pm to approximately 9pm.

Leaders: Colleen Foelz (mob 0424 427 563) and Ross Coupland

Day Excursion – Private Property, Urliup, NSW

Date and time: Saturday 26 March 2022

Leaders: Judy Haines (0402 236 359)

Register: by email to excursions@qnc.org.au with the subject **Urliup** in the subject line. Please include names and contact details of all attendees.

Details: This is a private property at 587 Urliup Road, Urliup in NSW, about one and a half hour's drive from Brisbane centre and consists of almost 7 hectares, in a valley which was partially cleared of rainforest for banana growing and is currently used for cattle grazing. There is a creek suitable for swimming lined by interesting riparian forest and a patch of uncleared rainforest, which is actually on the neighbour's land but which we can look at. There are hills to climb for those with the energy and interest. Oddly there is only one gum and almost no wattles in the valley, though neighbouring ridges have eucalypt forest. There seems to be a good variety of butterflies, dragonflies and frogs and something which bites you when you go in the swimming holes. There is plenty of shelter and shade, for rain and sun respectively, toilet facilities and water.

Long Excursion– Expedition National Park (Lonesome section)

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

Leaders: Sally Johnsen during the preparation phase, with assistance from others during the excursion itself.

Phone: Sally (0449 517 627)

Registration: In the first instance, and as soon as possible, please email excursions@gnc.org.au with your name, email, mobile phone number, and the number in your party. The registration form, and other information relevant to the excursion, will then be emailed to you. When you get that email, please return the completed registration form as soon as possible.

Updated information from Sally Johnsen: Please read in conjunction with details already provided in QNC News 360 Jan-Feb 2022

Registrations for the April 2022 long excursion to the Lonesome section of Expedition National Park north of Roma, will **close** at 5pm on Thursday 31 March, and no late registrations will be accepted.

If you are interested in joining this long excursion, please email excursions@gnc.org.au as soon as possible; an information pack and registration form will then be sent to you. For the interest of non-camping members - one room with two single beds is still available in the Homestead.

If you have already received an information pack and have not yet returned your registration form, for planning purposes it would be very helpful to the organisers if you could do this as soon as possible.

Depending on the weather, a range of habitats will be explored including the Dawson River and its riparian vegetation, remnant Brigalow and Belah, remnant Poplar Box, regrowth Brigalow and Belah, vine scrub on jump-ups, high sandstone ridges with macrozamia, various gorges and gullies across the national park, Ooline scrub and Lake Nuga Nuga and surrounds.

A review of eBird indicates two club members have between them, observed 56 bird species within the Expedition National Park, Lonesome section. The number of bird species for Lake Nuga Nuga National Park exceeds this, with 164 species listed on eBird.

Selected maps, fauna and flora lists, and the Santos publication 'Field guide to trees and shrubs of eastern Queensland oil and gas fields' will be made available to each party on arrival at the excursion. A limited amount of club reference material will be taken on the excursion, and participants are encouraged to bring along their own favourite reference books.

Should you have any queries, or require any additional information, I can be contacted by email: sally.johnsen@powerup.com.au, or mobile 0449517627.

View of the paddock near the homestead



Camping Area near the homestead



Valley and Hills



Escarpment





Weekend Excursion April 30, May 1,2 – London Creek Environmental Reserve

This is a date claimer for an upcoming weekend excursion. More details about this fascinating area can be found in Ron Carr's day excursion report on p.18. More details about the proposed camp will be posted on the website as they become available.

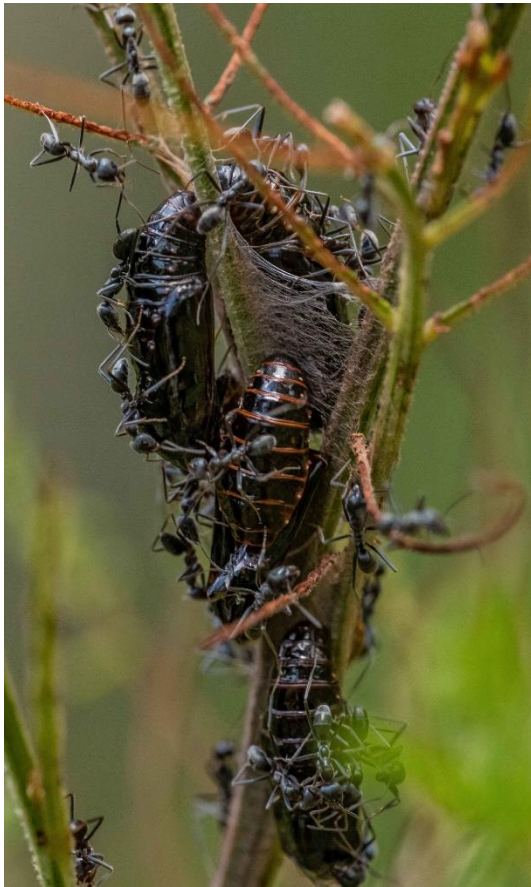
PAST EXCURSION REPORTS

January 2022 – Goomburra Base Camp, Main Range National Park

By Barney Hines and Harry Hines

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the written report for this excursion will be held over until the next newsletter. There were 6 naturalists who contributed observations to iNaturalist for the Goomburra Excursion. Most prolific was Doug Smith with 120 observations and 62 species, followed by Greg Neill, Delma Clifton, Andrew Pengelly, Annie Neill and Barney Hines.

Thanks to Peter Woodall for creating a Project on iNaturalist to record the species observed on the excursion. The full project can be viewed at <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/qnc-2022-jan-goomburra>. Following are some of the species observed (p12 to p17).



Common Imperial Blue (as recorded on iNaturalist) is also known as The Imperial Hairstreak.

Imperial Hairstreak butterflies have a mutualism relationship (where both species benefit) with some species of rainbow ant (*Iridomyrmex* sp.) The caterpillars provide sugar for the ant and the ants protect the caterpillar from predators. The black caterpillars are usually found feeding on acacias, on this occasion *Acacia irrorata*. Groups of males congregate at an acacia bush on which pupae are about to emerge. Female pupae secrete pheromones, which attract the adult males. Immediately after the female crawls out of her pupal case, a male copulates with her.

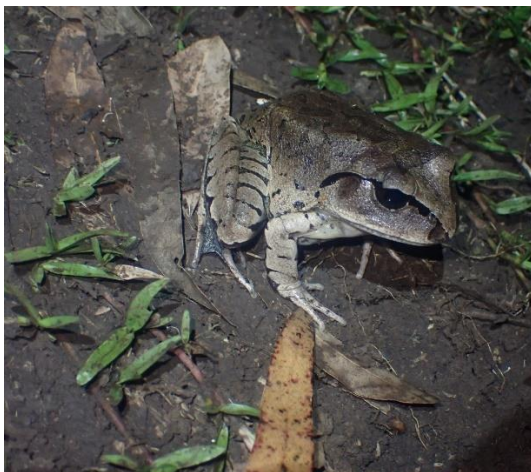
Some video of the interaction between ants, larvae, pupae and male and female butterflies can be seen here <https://southernforestlife.net/happenings/2017/6/26/the-life-of-the-imperial-hairstreak>



Elephant Weevil
Orthorhinus cylindrirostris



African Black Beetle (Introduced)
Heteronychus arator



Great Barred-Frog
Mixophyes fasciolatus



Fleay's Barred-Frog
Mixophyes fleayi



Wilcox's Frog
Ranoidea wilcoxii



Red-eyed Tree Frog
Ranoidea chloris



Pobblebonk
Limnodynastes dumerilii



Fletcher's Frog
Platyplectrum fletcheri



Sapphire Rockmaster (female)
Diphlebia coerulescens



Sapphire Rockmaster (male)
Diphlebia coerulescens



Common Flatwing
Austroargiolestes icteromelas



Wandering Ringtail
Austrolestes leda



Southern Whitetip
Episynlestes albicaudus



Forest Needle
Synlestes selysi



Gastrophora henricaria



Blue Eyes Lacewing
Nymphes myrmeleonoides



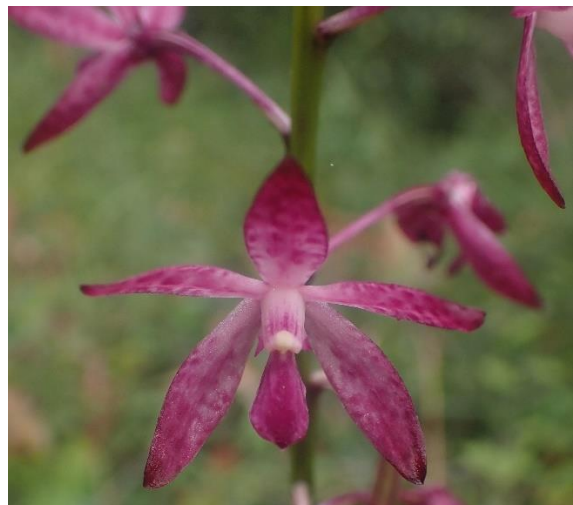
Ruby Bonnet
Cruentomycena viscidocruenta



Rainforest Horsehair
Marasmius crinis-equi



Gristle Fern
Oceaniopteris cartilaginea



Blotched Hyacinth-Orchid
Dipodium punctatum



Kangaroo Apple
Solanum aviculare



Bolwarra
Eupomatia laurina



There was great excitement on two evening excursions when Harry Hines located two owls roosting in an old Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). John Goldie & Kathy Walter logged eBird sightings for the night of 16 Jan <https://ebird.org/australia/checklist/S101060337> and Greg Neill logged a sighting for the 18 Jan <https://ebird.org/australia/checklist/S101056974>. The sightings were recorded as Masked Owls. A few days later the eBirders received email advice from an eBird reviewer that the Masked Owls were in fact, Barn Owls. The following reasons were given. "Although a bit hard to see, the legs are quite skinny and aren't fully feathered. The wings appear relatively unmarked. Masked owls are much more heavily barred on wings with a greyish base colour to the upperparts (not fawn). The facial disc is also quite heart shaped consistent with Barn Owl." This advice from the eBird reviewer initiated several emails between Harry, John, Kathy, and Greg and several birding experts, with nothing definitively resolved.

Coincidentally, a few days later Kathy & John were lucky enough to visit the CSIRO Wildlife Collection in Canberra where they had the opportunity to inspect hand preserved skins of both species. "Feathered legs are clearly different, but you can see why they are hard to distinguish. These specimens are from eastern Australia, I think NSW. They also showed us ones from Northern Australia and the differences were much harder to see, especially size and back colouring. Seeing either on its own, even in the hand, didn't allow us to easily distinguish. You have to be quite familiar with both species to see an aggregate of the features to make a confident call. Side by side you could see that there were differences – mostly the back and wing markings, which we didn't have in our photos of the birds. The leg feathering and leg size is noticeably different in the hand, however at a distance and at night it is very subjective. The face shape is an unreliable indicator from skins – their preparation, storage and 'ruffling' can make all the difference. So, we could see why somebody would consider our find to be Barn Owls – the degree of feathering on the legs is pretty slight in our photos and that's about all we've got to go on. Harry heard them call in the evening and thought Masked."

Harry Hines has previously reported Masked Owl road kills from Cunningham's Gap. There are 2 recent records in eBird for Masked Owls, heard only, at Goomburra at Manna Gums 20th Feb and Mount Castle Lookout 17th Feb.

November 2021 – London Creek Environmental Reserve

By Ron Carr

Leaders: Ron Carr, Judy Haines and Doug Smith

Twelve of us met with John Birbeck at this Reserve just a little north of Peachester on Macdonalds Road. This land is owned by Sunshine Coast Council and purchased with funds raised by the Environmental Levy. Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) now has an impressive bank of high-quality ecological sites. This is one of the many sites from which the public are excluded. We are therefore indebted to SCC and John for allowing QNC entry.

Before acquisition, this site was lightly grazed by miniature horses and was in quite good condition however it has improved greatly over the past 10 years of complete protection, with council taking a strategic approach to weed management.

The site contains 142 ha and four 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 spent 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 REs 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 understory fringing the narrow gullies in the higher rainfall areas.

Although the old farm dams were full the area was in need of rain. The creek was not flowing and reduced to linked pools.

We had no time to explore anything beyond the creek banks and bed and not even all of that. The area has good camp sites and many in the group were in favour of returning for a camp of a few days' duration, especially as we would have the opportunity to explore nearby and different sites on the SCRC register.

The weather was kind and made for a very pleasant day out with no mozzie or tick problems. Worth noting that mobile reception (Telstra) was available only in the vicinity of where we parked the vehicles. A plant list and bird list have been lodged and are available on the QNC website. Following (p19-p21) are records of some species observed on the day. These photographs/observations are by Doug Smith and Greg Neill. The full project can be viewed here <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/qnc-2021-nov-london-creek-nr>



Sago Flower *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*



Floating Bur-Reed *Sparganium subglobosum*



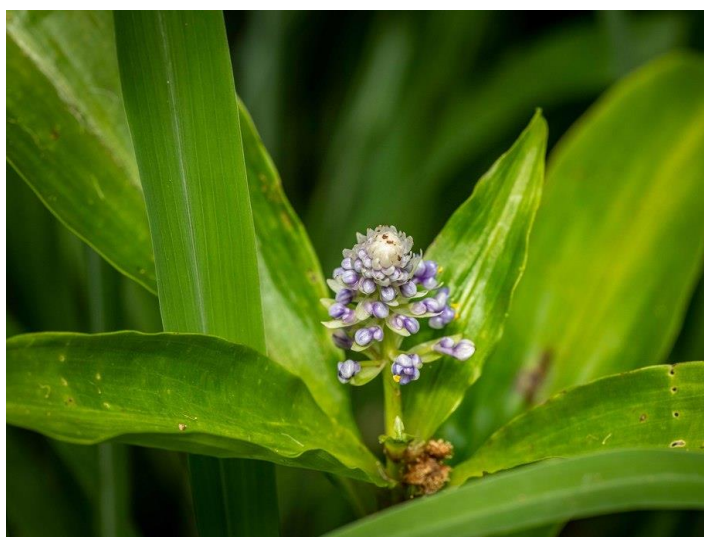
Rosella *Hibiscus heterophyllus*



Blue Quandong *Elaeocarpus grandis*



Red-flowered Mallow
Modiola caroliniana



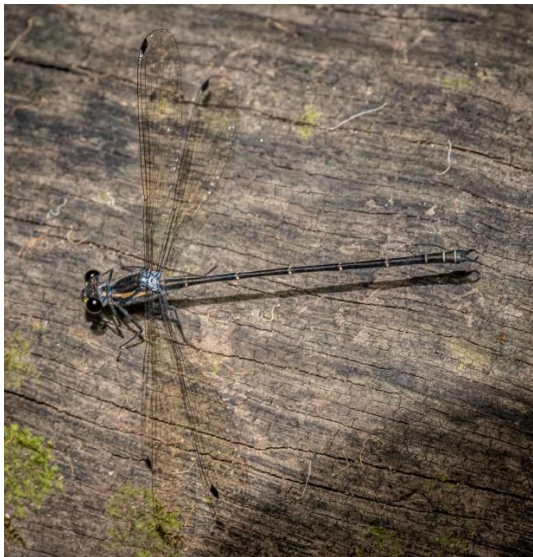
Pollia *macrophylla*



Common Brown Ringlet
Hypocysta metirius



Pygmy Percher
Nannodiplax rubra



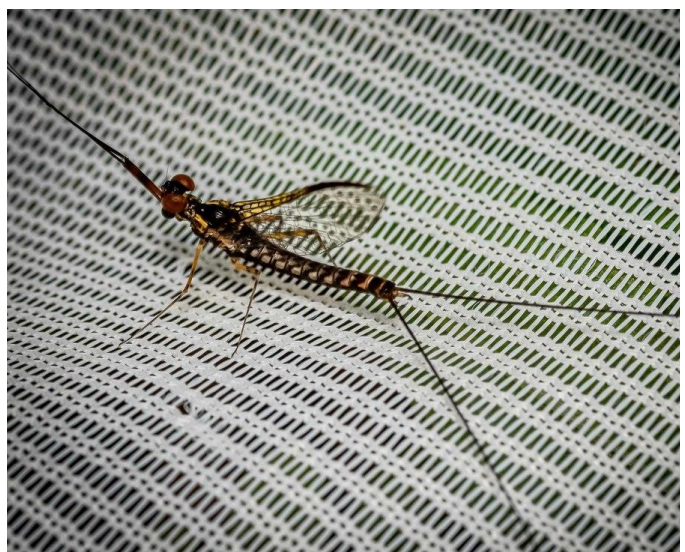
Common Flatwing
Austroargiolestes icteromelas



Australian Sunskinks
Genus *Lampropholis*



Net-winged Beetles Family Lycidae



Mayflies Order Ephemeroptera



**Grass Darts and Darters Tribe
Taractrocerini**



**Culicine Mosquitoes
Subfamily Culicinae**



Amanita* Sect. *Vaginatae



Genus *Microporus*



Brittlewood *Claoxylon australe*



Dicots Class Magnoliopsida

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Meeting Exhibits

Peter Woodall presented slides of **Lantern or Scarab-Pursuing Flies (Pyrgotidae)** taken at the December 2021 outing to Samford. The light sheet had attracted a fly that Peter submitted to iNaturalist for identification. He learnt that this fly is seldom seen but is particularly attracted to lights, and most information comes from North America. There are 365 species in the world, 67 species in Australia but only 0.2% of observations of flies on iNaturalist in Australia are of this family, so it is seldom observed. Reproduction occurs by the fly parasitising a Scarab Beetle, attacking while both are flying, the fly injecting eggs into the beetle's abdomen under the elytra. The egg hatches, the larvae feed on the beetle from the inside and then the pupate becomes the now dead host.

Leith Woodall drew attention to a recent article in Gardenwise journal about the **Woolly Frogmouth** in Singapore Gardens which had been thought to be extinct in Singapore in the wild. It has now been propagated and used in revegetation there.

At a previous meeting Doug Freckelton brought in a butterfly or moth to be identified (see photo last newsletter) however no-one could positively identify the specimen on the night. Many thanks to Deb Ford from Toowoomba, who writes "I think the unidentified insect photographed may be a **Treehopper (*Desudaba maculata*)** – we found several like this on our Leopard Ash (*Flindersia collina*). Some were like the insect pictured and others had white spots. I have seen them in the Brisbane area as well when, previously, we lived in Upper Brookfield."

Nature Notes by Annie Neill

On a recent holiday in Rainbow Beach, I was crossing the Carlo Sandblow when I noticed an interesting insect. Initially I thought it was a fly, but then it ran across the sand at amazing speed on very long legs. Many thanks to one of QNC's insect enthusiasts, Colleen Foelz, who immediately identified my find as a **Tiger Beetle**. Colleen was able to tell me that tiger beetles are the fastest insects on our planet – and it is an Australian species which holds the record. *Cicindela hudsoni* can travel at about 2.5 metres per second! Further investigation by Greg Neill revealed that our dune species was *Cicindela (Hypaetha) upsilon* for which there are only 124 records to date in the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).



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

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