



QNC NEWS

Newsletter of the
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

No. 363 Jul-Aug 2022

www.qnc.org.au

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PROGRAM - JULY AUGUST

General Meetings: No need to register for general meetings

Monday, 18 July

Speaker: Dr Will Goulding

Topic: The History, Cultural Context and Biological Diversity of Papua New Guinea's Louisiade Archipelago

Monday, 15 August

Topic: Lonesome extended excursion reports and photographic competition for 2023 calendar.

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

July 24 – Day excursion, Coochiemudlo Island

August 21 – Day excursion, Plunkett Conservation Park Beenleigh

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

Reminder - QNC Subscriptions due 30 June 2022

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

Back Numbers of "The Queensland Naturalist"

Peter Woodall notes that over the years we have accumulated increasing numbers of past issues of "The Queensland Naturalist". The QNC council has decided that these surplus numbers will be available free at club meetings. Over the coming months, Peter will be bringing into meetings a range of these surplus copies from past years so please come and browse through them to see if you need to fill any gaps in your collection or if there are any of interest from the years before you joined the QNC.

Covid-19

COVID guidelines

- ❖ **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 images. We would also love to see your exhibit in the QNC News and online.

Dr Conrad Hoskin delivered the **2022 CT White lecture** at the May meeting.
Dr Geoff Monteith delivered the **2021 CT White lecture** at the June meeting (held over from last year).

The 2021 CT White lecture will be published in the next edition of the **Queensland Naturalist**. The 2022 CT White lecture will be published in the December edition.

CT WHITE LECTURE 2022

Title: Vertebrates of the mountains of North East Queensland

The Speaker: Dr Conrad Hoskin – Senior Lecturer, College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University

Dr Hoskin has an impressive academic background having completed his BSc (Hons) in 1996 at the University of Queensland and after various wildlife related employments, he returned to UQ to complete his PhD. He worked at ANU and since 2011, at James Cook University. His research has focused on Queensland vertebrates, particularly reptiles and frogs but he has also done some work on mammals and birds. Much of his work has been carried out in the mountains of eastern Queensland, particularly North Queensland.

He has discovered more than 33 new species of frogs and reptiles in Queensland, with more than 15 of these made in the field; the remainder resulting from genetic studies and analysis of available data. Amongst this taxonomic work is his co-description of three new genera. Dr Hoskin is an extraordinarily busy and productive academic and has published over 80 peer reviewed papers that have attracted over 2000 citations.

Conrad assists on the IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group and the Skink Specialist Group. He has been a long-term contributor and Honorary Research Fellow to the Queensland Museum. He has served as treasurer to the Australian Society of Herpetology and has supported the community group Kuranda EnviroCare for more than a decade.

Dr Hoskin has donated many specimens to the Queensland Museum including 28 type specimens, 14 of which are the only specimens held in any collection.

CT White Lecture 2022:

Dr Hoskin's presentation introduced us to some exciting species discoveries in Queensland rainforests and discussed what they tell us about biogeography, history and adaptation. The conservation of several highly localised species was also discussed. Overall, Dr Hoskin concluded that reptile and frog species can exist in remarkably small areas, although persistence is generally tied to rocky areas (litho-refugia). Species adaptation is incredible and there are still many exciting discoveries to be made. Fortunately, many of these species are located in National Parks, however threats include climate change, fire, introduced species, poaching and genetic effects of small, fragmented populations.



My honours was in one of the core areas:

Cophixalus frogs of the Wet Tropics



Worked out that species were older than thought

And 'discovered' my first species

The original collection of *C. concinnus* on Thornton Peak included two species!



Cophixalus aenigma

Cophixalus concinnus

Cophixalus concinnus exemplifies the climate change threat to Wet Tropics mountaintops

Will upland species survive warming?
Will they survive heatwaves and droughts?
Are *Cophixalus* particularly susceptible due to terrestrial breeding?
Will microhabitats limit the decline?



Beautiful Nursery Frog (*Cophixalus concinnus*) > 1100 m Thornton Peak



Litoria andürrmalin
McDonald, 1997



Cophixalus zweifeli
Davies & McDonald, 1998



Most Cape Melville species are adapted to rock

CT WHITE LECTURE 2021 (HELD OVER)

Title: Surveying the Flightless Insects of the Wet Tropics Mountaintops – One Mountain at a Time.

The Speaker: Dr Geoff Monteith, Honorary Research Fellow, Queensland Museum

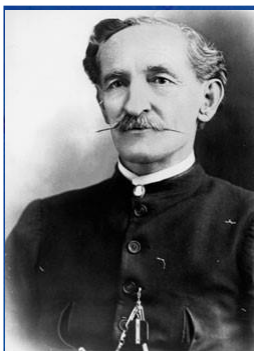
Geoff is a graduate in entomology from the University of Queensland and served his career as curator of insects at UQ from 1963-1978 and then at the Queensland Museum from 1978-2008. His main interest in entomology has been surveying and studying rainforest insects. He has been a member of QNC since the 1970s, was on Council from 1980-1985, President in 1983-84 and led long excursions of the club to Cape Tribulation in 1982 and to Kroombit Tops in 1983.

CT White Lecture 2021:

The mountains of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, between Cooktown and Townsville, are geologically old and preserve a high, cool, wet, rainforest environment which has been continuous since the time when Australia was connected to Gondwanaland and when most of Australia had that environment. Many of the insects that occur on their summits have a similar ancient ancestry but were unknown to science until famous Harvard biogeographer and entomologist, Philip J. Darlington Jnr., climbed and collected beetles on some of those peaks in 1957-58, revealing just a glimpse of an amazing and unknown fauna.

Between 1980 and 2000, Geoff Monteith led adventurous parties from the Queensland Museum who systematically sampled the insects from 61 different mountain tops in the Wet Tropics. Only 12 were accessible by vehicle. Fourteen of them were low enough to walk up and back in a day, while 35 were so high or remote that they required backpacking up and camping near the summit. The 2021 CT White lecture summarised this fieldwork, the people who participated, and the broad-brush results derived from entomologists around the world who studied the many tens of thousands of insects that were collected.

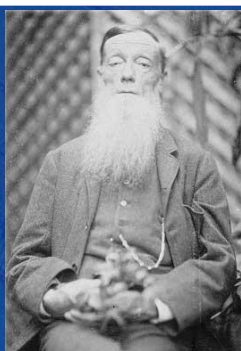
Geoff also recalled the QNC 1982 long excursion to Cape Tribulation.



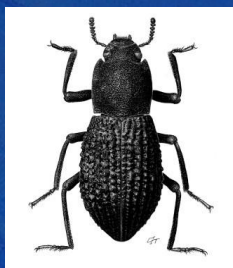
Archibald MESTON F. M. BAILEY Kendall BROADBENT

Meston argued that his group were the first to get to the summit.

No evidence of insects in QM from this expedition



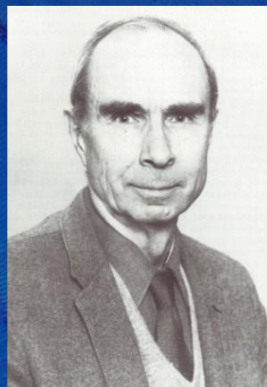
C. T. White
was F. M. Bailey's grandson



Rhododendron lochiai *Apterotheca pustulosa*
Mueller 1887 Carter 1924

PROOF THAT SAYER & DAVIDSON REACHED
THE SUMMIT OF BELLENDEN KER

NO SIGNIFICANT INSECT COLLECTING ON
NQ MOUNTAINS UNTIL 1957-58

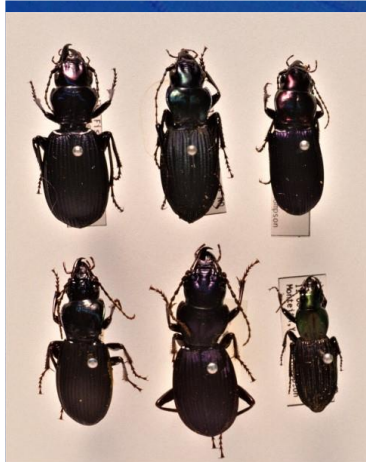


PROF PHILIP DARLINGTON
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

18 MONTHS IN AUSTRALIA
WITH WIFE AND YOUNG SON IN
A 2ND HAND KOMBI VAN

CLIMBED AND CAMPED ON ALL
THE MAJOR WET TROPICS PEAKS

FOUND AMAZING UNKNOWN FAUNA OF
FLIGHTLESS BEETLES



SOME OF DARLINGTON'S
NEW CARABIDS

HE DEVELOPED A THEORY
FOR WHY INSECTS ON
HIGH MOUNTAINS
BECOME WINGLESS

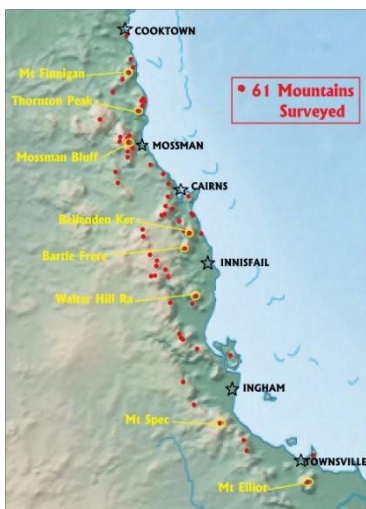
ONCE WINGLESS THEY
ARE TRAPPED ON
ONE MOUNTAIN



1960-70s I WAS AT UQ

PhD ON STRANGE ARADID BUGS

FOUND 40 NEW SPP ON WET TROP MTNS



1979-1999

35 EXPEDITIONS

61 SUMMITS COLLECTED

12 WE DROVE TO

49 WE WALKED UP

35 SO HIGH WE NEEDED
TO BACKPACK UP
AND CAMP ON TOP

HOW DID WE COLLECT THEM ?

Flight intercept traps

Pitfall traps

Litter Extraction

Night with headlights

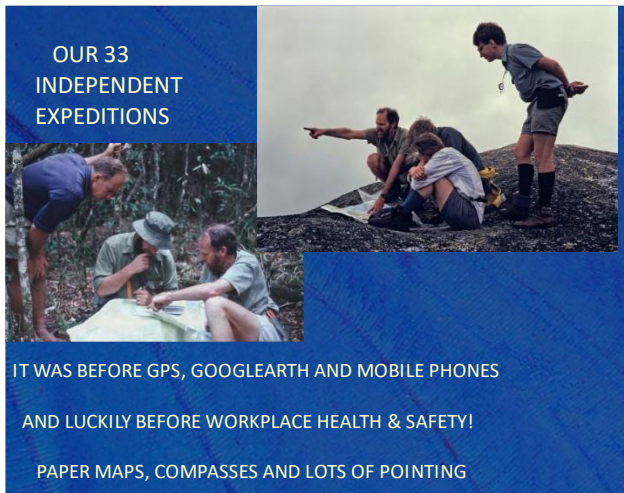
Pyrethrum spraying on logs
and tree trunks



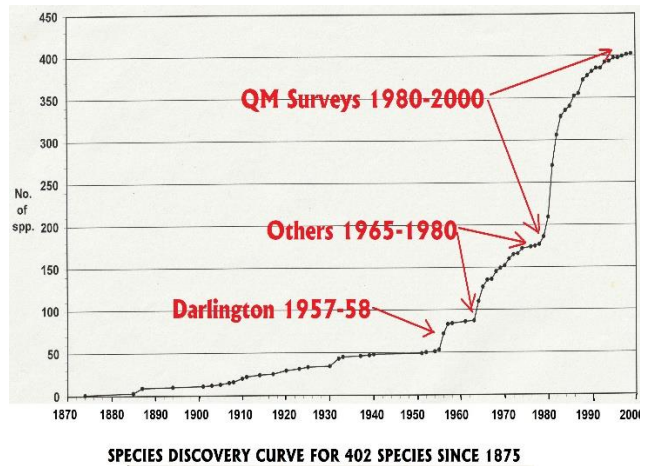
Methods of insect collection included flight intercept traps that need to be left in situ for a week or more



Pitfall traps need to be left in situ for a few days. Could be baited to collect dung beetles



SOME OF THE HIGH CAMP CREW
David Morwood, Barry Jahnke, Ron Johnson, David Yeates and one of the four Hines boys?



The rate of insect discovery increased rapidly and then slowed



The Queensland Naturalist

Journal of
The Queensland Naturalists' Club.



Cape Tribulation Issue

Vol. 26 Nos 1-4
December 1985.

THE 1982 CAPE TRIBULATION EXCURSION

The magnificent tropical environment, the fine weather conditions, and the hospitality of the local people combined to make the 1982 long excursion of The Queensland Naturalists' Club a memorable event. A total of 57 members and children took part, 6 from Townsville and the rest journeying 1,600 km from southeast Queensland. About 30 travelled together on the "Sunlander", departing Brisbane on Friday, September 24 and arriving Cairns after 2 train-bound nights at 6.00 am on Sunday 26 to be met by excursion leader Geoff Monteith with 2 vehicles for the mountain of luggage and a chartered coach for the bodies. After a quick scratch breakfast on a beach on the Cook Highway the party arrived at Cape Tribulation for lunch and settled into cabins and tents at "Pilgrim Sands" for a stay of 12 nights. One of the four cabins was set aside as catering headquarters and was already filled with 2 small truckloads of food which Marjorie Semple, as O/C food, was subsequently to transform into no less than 1,440 man/meals through the medium of teams of cooking volunteers.

MANY NATS WROTE UP RESULTS FROM THE CAPE TRIB TRANSECT



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Cape Tribulation Issue

Vol. 26 Nos 1-4
December 1985.

Birds – Barry Jahnke
Geology – Tony Ewart
Soils – Dick Date
Pat Marks – Mosquitoes
Dave Yeates – March Flies
Geoff Monteith – Beetles, Bugs, Palms
Ron & Lorna Johnson – Butterflies

UPCOMING MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Date: Monday July 18 general meeting

Speaker: Dr Will Goulding

Will has worked in avian conservation and research across three continents. He has broad interests in the natural environment but is especially interested in the unique ecology and conservation of land birds on islands. He completed his PhD at the University of Queensland in 2018 and currently works in the Bird and Mammal Collection and Discovery Centre at the Queensland Museum.

Will's topic will be: The History, Cultural Context and Biological Diversity of Papua New Guinea's Louisiade Archipelago.

The Louisiade Archipelago is a relatively poorly known group of islands that support high levels of endemic biodiversity. They are situated less than 1000 kilometres north-east of Cooktown in the most south-east section of Milne Bay Province. Since their first (European) discovery in 1606 by Spanish explorer Luis Váez de Torres, few attempts have been made to document the biological diversity on the islands. The most notable efforts were collections made by Albert Meek for Lord Rothschild's TRING Museum in the late 19th century. It was the first and last time that some of these species were documented, leading to the islands supporting more than 10% of the world's bird species listed in the IUCN's Data Deficient category. The remoteness and difficult access to these islands has hampered many subsequent efforts to determine the status of such species. Will has spent more than a decade visiting the islands to fill such knowledge gaps. He will present some of his findings and interesting observations relating to the culture, history of exploration, and biodiversity across these islands.

Date: Monday August 15 general meeting

The August meeting will include a presentation from several QNC members on the recent Lonesome NP long excursion. Subjects covered will include the general ecology, birds, plants, mammals, reptiles and insects (including moths). Questions will be taken after the last presentation.

Voting on photos for the club calendar competition will also be held that same evening. So, it's time to find your best photographs taken on a QNC excursion or outing and enter them into the competition for inclusion in the 2023 QNC Calendar. Photos are not restricted to those taken in the last year so don't overlook your older photographs.

Please note:

- The competition will be judged by club members attending the August Club Meeting.
- Please add "Photo Competition" to the subject byline.
- Photos should be emailed asap to photo@qnc.org.au

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 are recommended 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 Excursion – Coochiemudlo Island

Excursion Leader: Susan Nelles (0487 202 101) zefarella@icloud.com

Day and Time: Sunday, 24 July. We will meet at the ferry terminal on the island at 10.15 am. Call Susan to find our location if you are late.

Registration: Please register by sending an email to excursions@qnc.org.au, with details of all people attending in your party and a contact phone number. Please put "Coochiemudlo" as the subject. Please also address your email to Barney (the excursion secretary) as otherwise it can end up in the spam folder.

Description: We will explore some of the natural features - in the coastal, mangrove, open forest habitats and the Melaleuca Wetlands. Lynn Roberts (Botany in the Bush Redlands) with advice from John Moss, has compiled a flora list of 144 species (available on request from Susan). Go to Coochiemudlo.org and click on 'About' and 'Explore the Island's history and natural resources' for links to a February 2020 Birdlife Redlands list by Kathy Clark *et al* and a list of 118 species observed back to 1971.

There is also an excellent Community Booklet on the web site, with history etc. There are 4 km of sandy beaches; Morwong on northside, Norfolk eastside, Main Beach southside and the foreshore. The entire foreshore is public land reserved for conservation and recreation since being gazetted in 2019. There are toilets, several free gas BBQs, tables and 3 cafes.

The ferry leaves from Victoria Point terminal, at the end of Colburn Ave on the half hour, 9.00 am, 9.30 etc and leaves the island at 3.15 pm, 3.45 pm etc. Note that parking at the

ferry may be limited, so please allow some extra time before the ferry departs. The journey to the island takes 10 minutes. Visit [Amity Trader](#) to see details of price, discounts and information on the island. **When catching the ferry please be aware that cash is not accepted and facemasks must be worn.**

Activities will involve general naturalising in the coastal forests and the melaleuca wetland. Low tide may provide us with an opportunity to visit the mangroves or alternatively do an intertidal walk on the sandier beaches. Exact activities will depend on people's preferences on the day. Low tide will be 12:39 pm with a height of 0.58 m. Please note that this is not a super low tide, but hopefully a few critters will still be exposed for those who are keen.

What to bring: Bring a hat, sun and insect protection, water and food, binoculars, print out of the plant or bird lists, shoes that can get wet if you wish. **Pay on board by Eftpos.** You can swim at the island on the high tide.

Day Excursion – Plunkett Conservation Park, Beenleigh

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

Day and Time: Sunday, 21 August at 8:30 am

Registration: Please register by sending an email to excursions@qnc.org.au, with details of all people attending in your party and a contact phone number. Please put "Plunkett" as the subject. Please also address your email to Barney (the excursion secretary) as otherwise it can end up in the spam folder.

Description: Plunkett Conservation Reserve, comprising 432 ha, contains four Regional Ecosystems:

- 12.11.3 and 12.11.5; based on soils of metamorphic and volcanic origin, of good fertility and producing an open forest of *Eucalyptus siderophloia*, *E. propinqua*, *E. microcorys*, *E. acmenoides*, *E. major*, *Corymbia intermedia*, *C. citriodora variegata* and *Lophostemon confertus*. The understory here is quite thin but not weedy.
- 12.9-10.17 and 12.9-10.19; smaller in extent and established over exposed sandstone strata of lower fertility. The vegetative cover here is lower in height, sparser and healthier. It includes Plunkett Mallee (*Eucalyptus curtisii* - which takes its common name from this locality), *Eucalyptus planchoniana* and *Angophora woodsiana* in the overstorey. Fringe myrtle (*Calytrix tetragona*) is a feature of the area in which we will be walking and should be in good bloom by then.

The land for the reserve was originally acquired by Ted Corbould, a grazier, tree planter and naturalist, who then donated it to the state in the mid-1970s.

What to bring: Sturdy footwear, walking stick, morning tea, lunch, water, hat.

How to get there: From Brisbane, take the M1 south past Beenleigh and then take exit 38 at Yatala, and proceed into Stanmore Rd at the roundabout. Go to the end of Stanmore Rd, turn left onto Beenleigh-Beaudesert Rd and then after approx. two km, turn right onto Veivers Rd. It continues on as Quinzeh Creek Rd, with the Conservation Park on your left. Look for the QNC sign on the left as the road veers to the north. Allow 50 mins from central Brisbane.

Mid-week Excursion – Mt Kaputar NP, NSW **Dawson Spring Campground**

Excursion Leaders: Cathie Duffy (0400 510 332) duffyma@bigpond.com
and Ruth Palsson (0427 776 584) mumpalsson@gmail.com

Dates: 24 to 28 October Arrive in the afternoon of Monday 24 October and leave on the morning of Friday 28 October 2022, **but do see below!**

Registration: Please register by sending an email to excursions@gnc.org.au, with details of all people attending in your party and a contact phone number. Please put “Kaputar” as the subject. Please also address your email to Barney (the excursion secretary) as otherwise it can end up in the spam folder.

Details:

Cost: QNC fees apply of \$2 per adult per night. This will be collected in cash at the camp. Accommodation/camping fees are to be paid separately.

Mobile phone reception: excellent

Accommodation: Members are responsible for booking their own accommodation – generally a campsite at Dawsons Spring Campground, but there are limited cabins in the area either the National Park cabins at Dawsons Spring (fully booked as of 14 June 2022) or down the mountain at Dulcinea (see below). Cathie and Ruth have space for one female in their cabin.

Campgrounds on Mt Kaputar NP have hot showers!! plus picnic tables and BBQ facilities.

To book a campsite: <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation/campgrounds/dawsons-spring-campground>

As of 15 Jun 2022, there were 6 sites available for camper trailers and 10 tent sites. We suggest that you avoid Site 2 if possible; it is adequate, but small.

Note: Caravans are not permitted beyond the park entrance:

(<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/mount-kaputar-national-park/visitor-info>) And the sign at the bottom says “no motorhomes”.

Members with caravans or motorhomes may wish to stay in one of the Narrabri Caravan Parks or the Showground (one hour trip to the mountain each way).

There is another cabin for rent near the bottom of the mountain

<https://www.visitnarrabri.com.au/narrabri-directory/dulcinea-holiday-retreat/>

How to get there: Narrabri is about 600 km from Brisbane. Dawsons Spring Campground is 58 km from Narrabri – a one hour drive at least. The road is gravel and then changes to narrow bitumen. At the time of writing, 14 June, the gravel was not in good condition, and there were many potholes in the bitumen but still suitable for 2WD with care. Beyond Coryah Gap, the bitumen is just wonderful. It was resurfaced a few weeks ago.

What to bring: The usual camping equipment including warm clothes; you will be camping at 1500 m above sea level. It is often 10°C cooler than down at Narrabri. Days will be warm to hot. We always use walking poles for most of the tracks on Kaputar. Most tracks have rocky sections. Some tracks are suitable for your Sunday best!

Firewood: Each campsite has a cooking fireplace. Bring your own wood. The cabins have a fire pit we will use for evening campfires.

Drinking water: The signs say “boil before drinking” but the rangers drink the water without boiling. Your choice!

Possible activities: Sunset/sunrise from Mt Kaputar, on track and off-track wanders in a variety of habitats. Check out some plants confined to Mt Kaputar or even just confined to the Governor or confined to a very small area on Mt Coryah or go looking for more populations of that plant! It's a native tobacco. Hunt for the famous pink slugs. Spotlighting is always an option. Basically, walks of 5 to 10 km each day depending on conditions. Some walks may involve some small amounts of scrambling.

Three days on the mountain is not very long! So, we suggest participants drive Brisbane to Narrabri on Sunday 23 Oct 2022 and over night in Narrabri. Drive up to Kaputar on Monday morning 23 Oct and set up camp ready for an afternoon walk out to Lindsay Rock Tops, a more or less level walk out to an old lava flow with great views and cliff lines with a suggested time of one hour. We will take longer and have a good look! We can discuss possible activities for the next three days; and discuss activities on participants bucket lists. Tuesday, 24 Oct. Go out to The Governor in the morning (One and a half hour round trip, so we plan to use at least three hours and include morning tea). We will see an undescribed *Melichrus* and *Coronidium kaputaricum* which is confined to the basaltic cliffs of Mt Kaputar and The Governor. After lunch, we will take a wander along the Bundabulla Link Track to the communications towers on Mt Dowe.

Wednesday and Thursday will be planned at the campfire the night before. Possible destinations:

1. Any of the marked tracks;
2. Mitchell Dyke; one of the best lookouts in Australia! Put -30.295566, 150.108163 into Google Maps; or
3. Have a wander over the rocky outcrop at -30.267039, 150.053583. This is the only known location of *Zieria odorifera* subsp. *copelandii*. At the end of the drought, only three plants were known to be alive.

Plant, bird and mammal lists will be emailed to participants. For starters:

<https://www.birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/branches/documents/NN-Narrabri-Complete-Birdlist.pdf>

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/check_lists/89751-Mount-Kaputar-National-Park-Check-List

A brief introduction to the park from www.australiangeographic.com.au

IN THE NORTH-WESTERN region of NSW, Mt Kaputar National Park is one of Australia's most beautiful and intriguing areas, accommodating a range of different environments, microclimates and wildlife. Formed about 21 million years ago after drifting over a volcanic "hot spot", Mt Kaputar sticks out above the surrounding landscape with its distinct volcanic plugs, gorges and rock formations shaped by millions of years of erosion. Its uniqueness stems from the range of environments and microclimates it supports, from the pockets of dry rainforest traversed during an ascent of the mountain to the sub-alpine wilderness 1510m above sea level, which is occasionally blanketed by snow in winter.

A good general introduction to the park is [Mount Kaputar National Park](https://www.mtkaputar.com.au/).

For even more detail of vegetation see [Floristic analysis, vegetation mapping and community description for Mt Kaputar National Park, Narrabri, NSW, Australia by John T Hunter](#). The introduction to this report includes information on geology, aboriginal occupation, European history, land use etc.

PAST EXCURSION REPORTS

Day Excursion – Bradbury’s Beach, Dunwich, Stradbroke Island

This excursion was cancelled, unfortunately, due to bad weather

Day Excursion – Whites Hill Reserve, Camp Hill, Brisbane

By Greg Neill and Doug Smith

A successful half day outing was held on the 26th June at White’s Hill Reserve with a particular focus on Sankey’s Scrub. The scrub is approximately one hectare in size and comprises the remains of dry rainforest standing on a slope leading down to Salvin Creek, a tributary of Bulimba Creek. There were 19 members in attendance, including two new members, one visitor and two from Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club. The weather was fine and cool at the start and remained that way for the day. Sankey’s scrub was the location for the first ever field trip for the QNC in 1906. The March 1888 *Brisbane Courier* reported a much more leisurely outing as a forerunner of the QNC, The Field Naturalists:

‘A most pleasant Saturday afternoon was spent by the Brisbane field naturalists on the 10th instant at Sankey’s Scrub, near White’s Hill, Coorparoo. The party left town at 1.30 p.m. by waggonette, and proceeded via Stanley-street, the Old Cleveland-road, and the Upper Bulimba-road, to the scene of action. Leaving the vehicle by the road side, a walk of half-a-mile through open forest brought them to the shelter of the scrub.’

Before heading off we distributed a few descriptions and lists made of these early observations, as well as one made by the Queensland Naturalists’ Club on the 8th Aug 1908. Our intention was to see how many species we could “re-find”.

The first point of interest was a viewing of *Eucalyptus hallii*, the Goodwood gum. The only other stand of this Eucalypt is found at Goodwood, near Bundaberg. The stand at Whites Hill was found by Rod Fensham while researching for his publication ACE Guide to Eucalypts Brisbane.

On the walk down to Sankey Scrub area, we sighted a pair of Spotted Pardalotes at a nesting hollow in a stub branch. They provided a great opportunity for photographers, although poor early morning light was a hindrance.

Near the She-Oak track a low spiky-leafed shrub with small red fruit caught our interest. It was identified as the Ground Berry (*Acrotriche aggregate*) and with John Moss’s encouragement a few of us followed his lead and tasted the fruit which was very astringent.

We did “re-find” a specimen of *Macadamia ternifolia*, although it is what we would describe in 2022 as *Macadamia integrifolia*. Whether this was the same tree as the one in 1888 is open to conjecture. No flowers or fruit were seen on the trees in the scrub, but we did find lots of flowers and fruit on the ground near a tree at the entrance to Sankey Scrub area. This was possibly a planted tree. John Moss identified a horseshoe felt fern (*Pyrrhosia confluens*) seen more often in a rainforest context and is a new plant species for the Reserve. Some of us also located *Cupania shirleyana*, which back in the 1888 report was noted as being also recorded “on the Rockhampton Ranges”. The Atlas of Living Aust website shows scattered small populations from north of Bundaberg to Brisbane.

Overall, 38 species of birds were recorded in eBird for the outing with the standouts being a Wompoo Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*) that presented very nicely for the photographers and a Grey Goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*). **Both of these birds are first time eBird records for the Reserve and the Reserve eBird list now stands at 159 species.** <https://ebird.org/australia/hotspot/L2560211>

The group saw two live, healthy koalas and Peter Woodall found a koala skull, possibly the result of a road accident, near Pine Mountain Road.

A club project has been set up in iNaturalist, <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gnc-2022-june-whites-hill>, where you can view the (at time of writing) 49 species recorded on the outing.



Spotted Pardalotes (*Pardalotus punctatus*) at nest in Whites Hill reserve



Wompoo Fruit-dove (*Ptilinopus magnifica*)



Case moths Family Psychidae



Split-footed lacewings
Subfamily Myiodactylinae



Iridescent Semi-slug
Ubiquitarion iridis



Star Goodenia (*Goodenia rotundifolia*)



Ground Berry (*Acrotriche aggregate*)



Koala skull (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)



Lacewings Suborder Hemerobiiformia

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Lonesome NP excursion 2022 Botanical Highlights

By Tony Bean

The week-long camp at Lonesome National Park proved to be very interesting and diverse from a botanical point of view. The weather was dry, but many of the grasses were still seeding, with a good proportion of those seeds ending up in my socks. The valleys are dominated by *Eucalyptus populnea* and *E. melanophloia*, while the sandstone ridges sported a variety of eucalypts, including *Corymbia hendersonii* and *E. tenuipes*. In the vicinity of the Lonesome campsite, *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel grass) was dominant in the ground layer, but other native grasses and herbs were *Enteropogon acicularis* (windmill grass), *Evolvulus alsinoides*, *Sporobolus creber*, *Arundinella nepalensis* (reed-grass) and *Brachyscome dalbyensis*.

The Dawson River gorge/lookout, accessible by road north of the campsite was very rich floristically, but is still recovering from a severe fire in 2018. Here we found *Apatophyllum teretifolium*, a small prickly shrub listed as a threatened species, as well as *Eucalyptus panda*, *Conospermum sphacelatum*, and *Astrotricha cordata*. David Bouchard led us cross-country to where we could access the bed of the Dawson River, and along the way, we found *Eucalyptus virens* (Glossy-leaved ironbark), another threatened species, and *Pityrodia salviifolia*. The latter is not threatened, but its occurrence here was a surprise as it usually grows further north and east.

The riverbanks were surprisingly weed-free, and many interesting native taxa were seen, including *Lophostemon suaveolens*, *Abutilon tubulosum* and *Fimbristylis aestivalis*. Some huge specimens of *Eucalyptus longirostrata* loomed over the river. On the sheltered cliffs above the river, we found *Wahlenbergia islensis* (a rock-face specialist), *Lobelia trigonocaulis* (mainly a coastal species), and even a few specimens of tree-fern (*Sphaeropteris cooperi*).

A flat-topped hill north of the Arcadia Valley Road yielded some impressive views and numerous specimens of *Macrozamia moorei*. The beautiful small tree *Codonocarpus attenuatus* (Bell fruit) was also here – it has a narrow conical shape and bright green leaves.

On some hills near “the Candlesticks” there is an occurrence of Gympie Messmate (*Eucalyptus cloeziana*), and in the shrub layer, several unusual species: *Synostemon spinosus*, *Pimelea mollis*, *Dodonaea tenuifolia*, and *Prostanthera ringens*. The tally of eucalypt species for Lonesome N.P. was 22 species, including six species of ironbark, and a mallee species (*E. bakeri*) seen on the ridge north of the campsite.

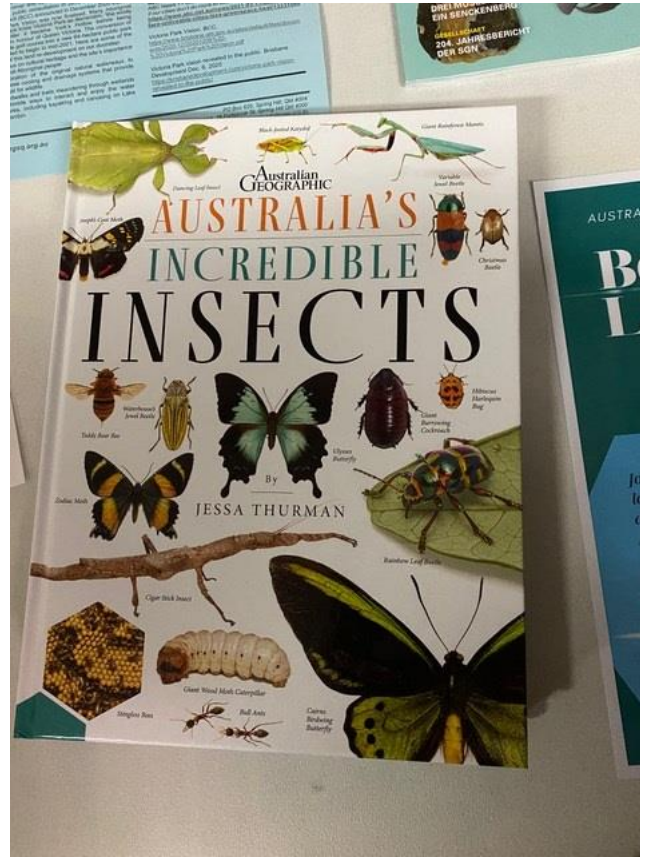
A day trip to Lake Nuga Nuga made a nice change of scenery and within the National Park we saw some impressive specimens of Ooline (*Cadellia pentastylis*). Sadly, many specimens outside the park were dead or in poor health. Interesting species on the edge of the lake included *Dentella repens*, *Salvia plebeia* (Australia’s only native salvia), *Nymphoides crenata* and *Swainsona luteola*.

Meeting Exhibits

At the May meeting **Judy Haines** brought in a dead **Golden-crowned Snake (*Cacophis squamulosus*)** which her neighbour had discovered on the footpath in Toowong, Brisbane. The snake showed the characteristic break in the light-coloured nape stripe and the striking pink-orange belly with a black central blotched line. It is said to be less common in suburban settings than the more common but smaller White-crowned and Dwarf White-crowned Snakes. It had two puncture points which suggested it may have been attacked by a predator. Like the other two Brisbane Crowned Snakes, it is nocturnal, living on skinks and their eggs and spends the day sheltering in leaf litter. One wonders if the very wet weather had flooded it out from its shelter during the day, making it more vulnerable to attack.



<https://www.jessathurman.com.au/shop/p/ausincredibleinsectsbook>



A close-up photograph of a Jewel Beetle (Cerambycidae) resting on a wooden surface. The beetle's elytra are a brilliant, iridescent green with prominent longitudinal ridges and several bright yellow spots. Its head and thorax are covered in a dense, golden-yellow pattern. The beetle is positioned diagonally, with its head towards the bottom right. The background is a blurred wooden surface with a circular object visible in the upper center.



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