



# WALLUM

AND COASTAL HEATHLAND STUDY GROUP



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*Banksia oblongifolia*



## Our Last Excursion at Sandstone Point

In March four members plus a young chap who was interested in native plants and joined us on our walk, enjoyed some botanising in some real Wallum country.

The area had hundreds of *Xanthorrhoea fulva* vertical flower spikes contrasting with the crooked trunks of many *Eucalyptus bancroftii* and the *Banksia oblongifolia* above, was flowering for us. Some *Pultenaea myrtoides* had a few lingering pea flowers from a late summer flowering. And *Corymbia trachyphloia* flowers caught our eyes in the canopy above. Sadly, at some time in the future this area could be cleared for development as it is not protected in any way.

## New Editor

As you will have noticed above right, we have a new editor. Barbara has some health issues at present and has handed over some of the study group jobs to me.

I have been a member of the study group since 2009 and a member of SGAP Qld Region/ Native Plants Qld since 1980. In 2018 Native Plants Caboolture published my book, *A Field Guide to Native Plants of Bribie Island* which has descriptions and photos of many Wallum species.

All text and photos in this newsletter have been supplied by me, but hopefully in future editions we can have lots of contributions from other members.

A FIELD GUIDE to  
NATIVE PLANTS of  
BRIBIE ISLAND and  
nearby coastal South-east Queensland



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*Thysanotus tuberosus*

Jeanette Martin

## Science meets Nature

“Fascinating Facts: Science meets Nature” was the title of a Native Plants Sunshine Coast event in March. One of the sessions was presented by study group member, Hilary Pearl who is currently engaged in some PhD research, “DNA barcoding to enhance conservation of Sunshine Coast Heaths” involving studies on 67 different sites. In her update Hilary offered a summary of findings and some musings ~

High diversity on mountains - refuges from which re-colonisation has occurred. Probing phylogenetic diversity (differences relating to evolutionary development) may be a way to establish conservation values of specific sites. *Pimelea linifolia* was present at most sites.

Is a wealth of closely related species better than fewer species with a broader genetic range? Ought some threatened species be the focus? How accessible should reserves be? Could introduced weeds be a problem? How should the public be educated? Fascinating food for thought.



Barbara Henderson enjoying a walk in Deagon Wetlands Reserve, October 2018



*Melaleuca pachyphylla*

## Deagon Wetlands Reserve

Our excursion this month will be at the Deagon Wetlands Reserve, an area of coastal *Melaleuca* wetland and Eucalypt forest with many species like the *Melaleuca pachyphylla* above found in Wallum heathland. This reserve was saved from development in 1990 by intense lobbying from some local community groups and as a result Brisbane City Council purchased the site using their environment levy funds. However, it has recently lost a long narrow strip from its western edge due to a Gateway Motorway upgrade.

On our last visit there we were privileged to have a close observation of a Pacific Baza (*Aviceda subcristata*) scouting the area for food - see photo page 4.

We have a list of 85 plant species we have found there, including 20 wallum heath species and about 15 forest heath species. Hopefully we can add a few more to the list on our visit there this month.

### 9.00am Sunday, 26 May 2019

Deagon Wetlands Reserve (Model Aero Club Carpark, Bracken Ridge Road, Sandgate, **UBD Map 110:H1**).

- Bring morning tea, water, hat, walking shoes, lunch

There are no toilet facilities at this spot.

We can move to the nearby park with toilets, in Brighton Road for lunch after. (UBD Map 110:P3)

## For Your Diary

**9.30am Sunday, 23 June** - Meet at Parrot Park Beerburrum (UBD SC Map 136:C4) Walk on Soldier Settlers Track nearby.

**9.30am Sunday, 28 July** - Meet at Beachmere Conservation Park (UBD Map 60:P13) Lunch after at Clayton Park nearby.

- Each time you need to bring morning tea, water, hat, walking shoes, lunch, (sunscreen and/ or insect repellent)

## Feature Plant

*Tricoryne elatior* common rush lily JOHNSONIACEAE

**Pronunciation:** try-co-RY-nee ee-LAT-ee-or

**Derivation:** *Tricoryne*, from the Greek, *treis* - three and *koryne* - club, because the fruit is divided into three club-shaped nutlets: **elatior**, from the Latin, *elatus* - tall as this species is the tallest in the genus.

*Tricoryne* is a genus of about 16 species most of which occur in south-western WA. There are 3 species in south-east Qld.

**Description:** *T. elatior* is a small, upright, wiry, tufted, perennial herb to 80 cm with a short rhizome and fibrous roots in well-drained deep sandy or stony soils in moderately sunny to semi-shaded locations, often amongst eucalypts. They have multiple wiry stems that are round or faintly grooved. It is found in all states. Plants will re-sprout from rootstock after fire. It was first cultivated in England in 1824.

**Leaves** to 100 mm x 4 mm are basal and green to bluish-green but reduced to scales on the upper stems.



*Tricoryne elatior* with native bee and fruits  
The broad lobes are the three petals



*Tricoryne elatior* flower and an older flower  
that has petals and sepals spirally twisted

**Flowers** to 20 mm across are light yellow and lily-like in groups of 2 to 10 from September to February. The 3 petals and 3 sepals give the appearance of 6 petals. There are 6 prominent stamens that are feathery below the anthers. Spent flowers wither and spirally twist around the ovary.

The flowers usually open in mid-morning and close by mid to late afternoon.

**Fruits** to 6 mm long break into 3 parts when mature each having a single oblong, angular, black seed.

This plant could be an attractive garden addition if grown in clumps and could be suitable for containers and miniature gardens. Propagate from seed which should begin to germinate in about 25 days, or by division of clumps. It will grow best in full sun with a moderate amount of moisture.

Have any members grown it successfully? If you have, let us know about your experience so we can include your story in a future newsletter.

## Devastating Fire on Bribie Island

Over three days in January a large area of the National Park near Banksia Beach School and the Community Arts Centre was devastated in a fire started by children. The very hot fire included some Regional Ecosystem 12.2.9 - *Banksia aemula* woodland (Wallum country) and 12.2.12 - wet heathland in the 'of concern' category.

A swathe of the woodland around the Community Arts Centre was cleared in the fire control operation. It will take many years for the area to recover and it may never return to the level it had reached before the fire. Photo 3 months after fire >





*Viminaria juncea* in wet heathland  
Lot 402, Bribie Island National Park

**“Sedges are the glue that holds the heath together”  
Anne Windsor**

**Wallum Hotspot**

Back in September 1998 Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association won a court case to save from development, Lot 402 located off Cotterill Avenue, Bribie Island. This 37.31 ha block contains four Regional Ecosystems - 12.2.5, 12.2.7, 12.2.9 and 12.2.12 all now included in the National Park.

This was achieved with a mammoth volunteer effort involving about a dozen people supported by another 90 or so. The area is the venue for the **Wonders of the Wallum** walk, part of the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival on Sunday, 1 September later this year.



*Sphaerolobium vimineum* flowers and fruits  
Lot 402, Bribie Island National Park

**What Wallum Plants  
are you Growing?**

Here's my list, send me yours.

- Acacia suaveolens*
- Acacia ulicifolia*
- Aotus lanigera*
- Austromyrtus dulcis*
- Banksia oblongifolia*
- Banksia robur*
- Boronia keysii*
- Hibbertia vestita*
- Leptospermum polygalifolium*
- Melaleuca nodosa*
- Melaleuca thymifolia*
- Mirbelia rubrifolia*
- Petrophile shirleyae*
- Phebalium woombye*
- Philotheca queenslandica*
- Pimelea linifolia*
- Thysanotus tuberosus*
- Tricoryne elatior*
- Xanthorrhoea fulva*
- Xyris complanata*



*Patersonia fragilis* flowers  
Lot 402, Bribie Island National Park

**Membership Renewals**

It's nearly time to renew your membership due in June. Send your \$5.00 to Barbara or pay at an excursion. (And remember that you need to be a paid up member of a state body such as Native Plants Qld also.)

**Check out the details of  
our next excursions on  
page 2.**

If you live in south-east Qld watch for the program of free walks in the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival at - [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au) early in July.



*Pultenaea paleacea*



Pacific Baza (*Aviceda subcristata*)  
Deagon Wetlands Reserve, October 2018