



# QNC NEWS

Newsletter of The  
QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

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Photo: Peter Woodall

## PROGRAMME

### General Meetings:

- May 21 Dr Darryn Schneider  
*The Life of E. J. "Kalbar" Smith*
- June 18 Professor Darryl Jones  
*Food, fights and frights*

### Excursions:

- May 5-7 Pottsville Environment Park, NSW
- May 13 Lloyd Bird Environmental Park
- May 19 'Koala Crossing'
- June 10 Moggill Regional Park
- June 16 City Botanic Gardens
- June 29-July 3 Upper Mary River
- July 14 Coolum Beach
- Sept 16-30 Long Excursion 2018



Photo: Mike Hines

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**Deadline for News items – 15<sup>th</sup> June for Jul-Aug 2018.**

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ARTICLES to the EDITOR, Dr. Peter Woodall at [journal@qnc.org.au](mailto:journal@qnc.org.au)

## GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held on the third Monday of the month, between February and November, starting at 7.30 pm, at the Toowong Uniting Church Hall - for the foreseeable future. This is located at 82 Sherwood Road, Toowong, about 200 metres on the left as one travels from Toowong Village Shopping Centre and Toowong Railway Station and the main bus stops. Street parking is available near the church and there is an off-street parking area about 20 metres on the river side of the church – ignore the permit required sign. Parking at Toowong Village Shopping Centre is free for entry after 6pm.

**MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY** C. T. White Memorial Lecture      Guest Speaker: Dr Darryn Schneider  
**The Life of E. J. “Kalbar” Smith**

Ernest Smith was born in England in 1877 and emigrated to Australia with his family in 1887. Though clever at school, he had to forego schooling opportunities and, as a young plumber, found himself in the pioneering Fassifern district, and eventually the township of Kalbar.

Encouraged by a radio broadcast by The State Botanist C T White in the 1930s, he started studying plants and with further encouragement, through correspondence with C T White, went on to become an accomplished amateur naturalist and local historian. He was an active member of the Queensland Naturalists' Club and left a legacy of dozens of articles published in the Fassifern Guardian and The Queensland Naturalist. Many of his natural history specimens were sent to institutions.

Dr Darryn Schneider is a physicist who grew up on a dairy farm outside Kalbar and heard about Ernest Smith from his grandfather, who was a friend of Ernest. His interest grew progressively from an inquiry of Barry Jahnke about a Rhinoceros Beetle his grandfather had given Ernest to studying Ernest's articles written for the Fassifern Guardian and then on to finding out more and more about this amazing character and accomplished citizen scientist.

As a physicist, Dr Schneider worked on projects located in Antarctica from 1995 to 2009, wintering there twice: first in 1996 at the Australian Casey base where he ran the geophysical observatory and subsequently in 2000 at the Amundsen-Scott base at the South Pole where he ran the AMANDA neutrino telescope. He then worked on the construction of the neutrino telescope called IceCube. He now does project management in the exploration phase of resources projects.

**MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**      Guest Speaker: Professor Darryl Jones  
*Food, fights and frights: Wildlife making it in the big city*

While urbanisation is catastrophic for most species, a notable few have been able to thrive. Some of these animals are well known (such as magpies and possums) but other species are quite unexpected as abundant city dwellers; ibis, stone-curlews and powerful owls are major surprises. This talk will explore the reasons for these species' success with particular emphasis on food.

Darryl Jones from Griffith University is a behavioural ecologist, now working in urban and road ecology, with a particular interest in the many ways humans interact with and understand nature. Darryl is a popular speaker on urban wildlife, having been interviewed many times on ABC radio. He has written books for the general reader on the megapodes (brush turkeys) and magpie behaviour. He has just written a new book on why we feed birds and why it matters.

### Library Cupboard

The library cupboard will not be available at our General Meetings at Toowong. Journals and newsletters will be on display each month, and new books will also be brought to meetings. If anyone wants to borrow a specific book, let Leith know ([librarian@qnc.org.au](mailto:librarian@qnc.org.au)) and she will bring the book to the meeting. The library catalogue is on the QNC webpage ([http://www.qnc.org.au/Library/QNC\\_LibraryCatalogue.pdf](http://www.qnc.org.au/Library/QNC_LibraryCatalogue.pdf)).

### Photographic Exhibits at General Meetings

If you would like to upload a PowerPoint or jpeg image, please arrive by 7.15pm and liaise with the Lanternist.

## Roster for General Meetings

Please consider nominating for the General Meeting Roster. You can select a spot on the Roster Sheet which is available at each meeting OR if you are unsure about committing two or three months in advance, email your availability to [secretary@qnc.org.au](mailto:secretary@qnc.org.au) closer to the day.

## MEETING REPORTS

### General Meeting: 19 March

Dr W.J.F. McDonald presented The Southern Connection – Forest Flora of Patagonia.

Patagonia is the name given to the most southern part of the South American continent. It is not politically defined but consists of the southernmost regions of Chile and Argentina.

It originally formed part of the ancient continent of Gondwana, along with Antarctica, Australia and southern Africa, which began to separate during the Jurassic c. 160 to 180 million years ago.

The region is extremely cold and contains the largest continental icefield after Antarctica and Greenland. Annual rainfall is relatively high (4000 – 7000 mm) between the Pacific coast and the Andes but decreases rapidly to less than 1000 mm on the eastern foothills and as little as 200 mm across the plains.

Most of eastern Patagonia is treeless and comprise deserts, steppes and grasslands, while moist forests and associated communities occur extensively along the Pacific coast and either side of the Andes. These latter communities are typically dominated by species of southern beech (*Nothofagus*) and also contain a range of species in other families with close links to the temperate rainforest flora of Australia.

The most widespread and abundant *Nothofagus* species are the two deciduous species, *N. pumilio* and *N. antarctica*, with the two dominant evergreen species, *N. dombeyi* and *N. betuloides*, prominent in northern and southern Patagonia respectively.

Conifers are often associated with *Nothofagus* communities, particularly in northern and central Patagonia, and include *Araucaria araucana*, *Fitzroya cupressoides* and (in drier sites) *Austrocedrus chilensis*.

Some of the plant families shared with Australia include Proteaceae, Winteraceae, Atherospermataceae, Cunoniaceae, Eucryphiaceae, Elaeocarpaceae and Ericaceae. One of the most striking members of the Proteaceae is the notro or Chilean firebush *Embothrium coccineum*, (photo) found in and adjacent to *Nothofagus* forests, which is a popular ornamental tree.



Photos provided by Dr McDonald.



### General Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> April

Helen Schwencke is a co-founder of the Butterflies and Other Invertebrates Club and was the President for the first 12 years. She has a long-term passion for butterflies and for adult education. She organises Woodfordia's Butterfly Project, see <https://theplantingfestival.com/book-workshops/>, has co-authored *Create More Butterflies* and is director of Earthling Enterprises ([www.earthling.com.au](http://www.earthling.com.au)).

Caring for caterpillars means learning to love larval life-forms while boosting biodiversity and acting as a counterbalance to increasing urban desertification including paving and grass monocultures.

There are different types of metamorphosis in invertebrates:

- Complete metamorphosis: for butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps and other orders.
- Simple metamorphosis: as in cockroaches, grasshoppers and stick insects.
- Very simple metamorphosis: as in silverfish.

The mechanism of metamorphosis is extraordinary. Groups of cells called imaginal discs develop in eggs and remain dormant in the caterpillar stage. At pupation these imaginal discs form the skin of the adult body parts. There are discs for its eyes, wings, legs and so on.

There are between 20,000 to 40,000 species of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) in Australia. Of the 400 or so that are considered to be butterflies, 200 occur in south-east Queensland & northern NSW, and feed on 360 known species of butterfly host plants. Helen provided a list of the top ten plants, which are manageable in urban gardens, and collectively host up to 32 butterflies.

Helen believes that caring for caterpillars teaches us life lessons, highlights the role and value of butterflies at different levels of the systems we live in, and shows us their important role in the food web. In fact, caring for caterpillars means caring for the environment. Invertebrates comprise 98% of the animal life on the planet. People can care for caterpillars by helping with local revegetation and regeneration, finding out what caterpillars eat (much to discover about this), planting host plants for caterpillars and others and reducing the use of pesticides and other biocides. On a personal level it is fun, involving dexterity, compassion and connection with another developing living being.

Helen illustrated with slides predators, parasites and diseases affecting Lepidoptera such as a paper wasp butchering a caterpillar, assassin bug, tachinid fly, and a possible disease preventing completion of pupation.

Helen has raised 46 species of caterpillar in her inner city suburban garden, and 75 species altogether and showed us slides of some of the more colourful ones such as Joseph's Coat moth *Agarista agricola*, a hawk moth and speckled moth on crotalaria.

She then showed a photographic sequence (obtained with great patience and much sleeplessness) of the development of the common crow butterfly *Euploea core* from egg through caterpillar to pupa and adult with a similar sequence for pupation of the lemon migrant *Catopsilia pomona*.

## COUNCIL NEWS

### **Assistant Secretary (Minutes Secretary) is needed!**

Can you help? If so, please contact the President or other member of Council.

Until the assistant secretary position is filled, our secretary is requesting assistance from any willing member to help with the task of sending application forms and covering letters to agencies inviting applications for the Queensland Natural History Award. This has to be completed by end of May. Duties include photocopying and addressing envelopes etc. Please contact Judy Haines if you are able to help.

### **Welcome to New Members:**

Teghan Collingwood, Highfields; Baby Piper – daughter of May-Le Ng and Sam Nicol.

**We hope you have a long and happy association with the club.**

### **Facebook**

Since 2014 we have been using Facebook to promote club outings, general meetings and for short reports on our activities. In that time, we have attracted 703 followers.

In addition to club news, we also link to items of general interest to our followers, such as the Queensland Mycological Society poster on identifying stinkhorns, which can be found at (<http://qldfungi.org.au/wp-content/uploads/References/Downloads/Queensland-Stinkhorns-Poster-2017-A3.pdf>).

If you would like to see what our club Facebook page has to offer go to <https://www.facebook.com/The-Queensland-Naturalists-Club-Inc-274805869219010/>. 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.

*Leith Woodall*

# EXCURSIONS

Fees apply for weekend camps - \$2 per adult per night, plus other camping fees, if applicable. Registration for all excursions is with the Leader or contact given. Those participating in any Club activity do so as volunteers in all respects and as such accept responsibility for any injury to themselves, however incurred. The Club or its officers cannot accept any liability or responsibility.

## Volunteers Required To Lead Excursions

Excursion Secretary, Barney Hines would like to hear from people who would like to lead any of the excursions he plans. If you are **interested, please contact him by phone:** 07 3720 9414 or email: [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au).

## Excursion Sign-On Sheets

The Club asks all people who attend excursions to sign an Attendance Sheet. This provides a record of your attendance in case it may ever be necessary to make an insurance claim. It also offers the option of recording your email address, so you can receive a species list from the excursion.

### May 5th to 7th (Labour Day Weekend)

### Pottsville Environment Park, NSW

Pottsville Environmental Park is located on Centennial Drive in Pottsville, NSW, 135km from Brisbane CBD. Leader: Barney Hines. Home phone 3214 2519. Mobile 0420 351 801.

Register by email to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) – subject “Pottsville”.

This excursion to coastal northern NSW will be based at the Pottsville Environment Park, a 54 hectares area of coastal vegetation adjacent to the township of Pottsville and set between the two arms of Cudgera Creek.

The main vegetation communities are based on Swamp Box, Broad-leaved Paperbark, Black She-oak, Pink Bloodwood and Brush Box with Mangrove and tidal wetland communities along the creek. A number of threatened or otherwise significant plant species have been identified there. The site contains a permanent roost site for the Greyheaded Flying Fox. It also provides habitat for several threatened fauna species including the Koala, Common Planigale, Coastal Blossom Bat, Osprey, a number of insectivorous microbats, Bush Thick-knee\*, Collared Kingfisher and Glossy Black Cockatoo. (\*Bush Thick-knees are not surviving here as successfully as those in Brisbane.)

The park contains a series of walking trails and is just a short walk West of the beach and North of the Pottsville CBC and Mooball Creek estuary.

Camping space is limited and there will also be room for a few camper vans and possibly a couple of caravans adjacent to the camping sites.

For those who wish to camp outside the reserve there are two caravan parks adjacent to the reserve. Pottsville North and Pottsville South with Pottsville North being adjacent to the entrance of the reserve.

Facilities include kitchen, large meeting area, toilets and hot showers. Access is limited after 5pm with cars being able to leave the premises via an automatic gate but not return.

Local excursions will be looked into if needed e.g. Cudgen Nature Reserve 13km to the North. If the warm weather keeps up, you will need insect spray.

### May 13<sup>th</sup>

### Lloyd Bird Environmental Park

**Sunday** 1.45pm for 2pm - 4pm Lloyd Bird Environmental Park, Scriven St, Mt Crosby. Walking with Life: Exploring our Living Catchments series. Leader: Helen Schwencke Phone: 0423 127 492

Register by email to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) with the subject: Lloyd Bird Environmental Park OR contact Helen OR through QNC's Meetup website: <http://www.meetup.com/Walking-with-Life-in-our-catchments-Nature-Excursions/> (become a member first).

**Meet at** the end of Scriven St., Mt Crosby, at Malcolm McDougall Park (Latitude/Longitude: -27.539962, 152.799973)

We will start at this park with a view of the Brisbane River near the Mt Crosby Weir. This reserve is rather overgrown. From there, for those who are interested we can take a short drive back around to the weir itself, where the surrounds were once a popular local picnic spot. From there we'll explore Lloyd Bird Environmental Park, where many of the native ground covers are scarce and replaced by invasive species. The BCC has a reserve across the road called Scriven St North Reserve where the ground covers are more intact. The Regional Ecosystems to be visited are described as of "least concern".

The late Lloyd Bird OAM, the 'Environmental Champion of the West', was a long-time member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (now known as Native Plants Qld). The Ipswich branch of Native Plants Queensland are the proud custodians of his library of lists of plants discovered in the Ipswich area. Members of the branch have begun to digitize this resource in order to make it available to all.

There is little public information available via an internet search. There are no facilities available. In QNC style we are unlikely to walk very far into the reserves. Also, there are no clearly defined tracks in the Lloyd Bird Environmental Park, nor in the Scriven St North Reserve. The sites slope down from a ridge. Wear sturdy shoes and come well covered.

### **May 19<sup>th</sup> 'Koala Crossing'**

**Saturday** 8.30am      Leader: Barry Jahnke      Phone: 0411 278 865      Register by email to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) - subject 'Koala Crossing' or with the leader.

This day excursion will be a joint one between the Queensland and Fassifern Field Naturalists' Club to this Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) reserve between Peak Crossing township and the Flinders-Goolman Reserve, with which it shares a common boundary. In its 652 hectares it has at least four ecosystems in the woodlands and open eucalypt forests as well as some rainforest understorey in the south-east corner of the property. In recent years over 80,000 trees have been planted, including those which are known to be koala food plants.

If there is enough time we may visit two different locations and upon arrival a decision will be made by use as to where we go first. One location involves a short scramble across a small creek followed by a stroll up a small hill to a rock outcrop. The other location involves a drive along a sealed track up to a ridge and then a walk back down the same sealed track. Both areas have eucalypt forests and we may do some car-pooling.

**Directions:** These directions are from the junction of Ipswich-Boonah Road and Mt. Flinder's Road which is about 2 kms north of the Peak Crossing School. The given distances are approximate. Drive along the Mt. Flinder's Road which is sealed for the first 3.3 kms and then turns into dirt. Keep going, and at 6 kms you will see a large QTFN sign at the entrance gate on the right-hand side of the road. Enter and drive along the sealed track and after crossing Sandy Creek (which may not be flowing) you will come into more open country where you will pass through two old wooden gateways. Stop at the second one which is not far from an old cattle dip. It is here where we will make our decision about where we will go. You will have gone too far if you have driven up the hill and come to a steel storage shed.

Bring your usual field gear as well as lunch, water, insect repellent, sock protectors (the black spear grass will probably be ripe) and as it is a joint excursion, your name bar.

Please register with the leader in case there needs to be some change in the plans.

### **June 10<sup>th</sup> Moggill Regional Park**

**Sunday** 1.45pm for 2pm - 4pm      Little Ugly Creek area, Moggill Regional Park, Wirrabara Rd, off Mt Crosby Rd, Mt Crosby.      Walking with Life: Exploring our Living Catchments series.

Leader: Helen Schwencke      Phone: 0423 127 492

Register by email to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) with the subject: Moggill Regional Park      OR      contact Helen Schwencke      OR      through QNC's Meetup website: <http://www.meetup.com/Walking-with-Life-in-our-catchments-Nature-Excursions/> (become a member first).

**Meet at** the parking area close to the end of Wirrabara Rd, Mt Crosby. (Latitude/Longitude: -27.529183, 152.849798). See the [Moggill Regional Park map](#) for an indication of where the walking track starts. For more information about the park itself, including the loop we'll start walking on, Wirrabara Loop, see: <https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/moggill/about.html>

This park entrance is well maintained with relatively low weed incursion, with diverse ground covers. Our path, depending on our walking speed, may take us through a number of different Regional Ecosystem types that are of least concern. The area we'll be exploring drains into Kholo Creek, close to the Brisbane River. The nearby

“Ugly Gully” was once a well-known swimming hole in the 1960s & 1970, though now over grown with invasive plants and difficult to access.

There are no facilities available in the area of this walk. The track is well established, though may be hilly in some places, depending on how far we walk. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

### June 16<sup>th</sup> City Botanic Gardens

**Saturday** 10:00am Leaders: Barry Jahnke & Ross Muller

Register with Barry Jahnke 0411 278 865

Ross Muller is an experienced volunteer guide at these famous Botanic Gardens who will be showing us some of the special areas of interest.

The City Botanic Gardens are Brisbane's heritage Gardens founded in 1855 on land surveyed as a botanic reserve in 1828 and worked as a convict farm until 1842. Its first curator, Walter Hill, set about transforming a patch of clear-felled riparian scrub into an English parkland garden resplendent with the exotic Jacaranda and the indigenous Moreton Bay Fig, and the Bunya and Hoop Pines. At the same time the Gardens became the 'Cradle of Queensland Agriculture' as Hill trialed a wide variety of plants as potential cash crops for farmers. Despite the scourge of flood and drought, due to the dedication and diligence of its curator and gardeners, the Gardens have been the site 'for preservation, research and pleasure'. Today they remain the city's invaluable green oasis.

Please note that there is no parking in the Gardens.

**Meet:** We will meet just inside the gardens at the junction of Alice and Albert Streets.

### June 29<sup>th</sup> - July 3<sup>rd</sup> Upper Mary River

Leaders: Brian and Grace Lowry ph: 5435 0318.

This camp is a rescheduling of the Easter camp, which was unfortunately cancelled due to wet weather. We are taking advantage of the school holidays to make the camp extend beyond the weekend, so that most of the activities that were previously planned for Easter can go ahead. Thus, the camp will run from Saturday morning to the Tuesday morning, with the option of people arriving on Friday afternoon if they wish. Registration & further inquiries either by phone or email [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au) with the subject 'Upper Mary River'.

The camp will be held on the property of David and Jacky Lowry on the headwaters of the Mary River. The club has held successful camps here before, at Easter in 2007 and again for the May camp in 2009. It will be nice to return after a 9-year hiatus.

The property comprises 60 acres in the headwaters of the Mary River, with the young river forming one boundary. It is mostly under grazing. There is riparian rain forest along the river and in a tributary creek running through the property. Camping will be in a grassy paddock alongside the river. There are now distinct camping bays from David's planting of rainforest trees. We envisage the evening campfire to be again under giant *Waterhousia* trees beside the stream.

Access is suitable for conventional vehicles unless there is a major flood. The camp will use club toilets. Bore water of excellent quality will be laid on. Bring plenty of arthropod repellent or other anti-tick measures.

Several activities are envisioned including trips to new areas not previously visited. Some excursions will require vehicle trips away from the camp.

#### **Directions:**

Option 1. (Shorter and more scenic). Follow Glasshouse Mountains Highway about 16 km to the turnoff to Beerwah and Woodford. Zero the odometer and follow the Woodford/Kilcoy Road through Beerwah and Peachester. At 16.8 km take the right turn (Stanley River Road; sign says 'Maleny 20'). Follow road up to the plateau, pass turnoff to Bellthorpe on the left and soon after at 24.0 km look for a minor road on left named Postmans Track. Follow this down into the Mary River headwaters. Care! The road is sealed but narrow and very steep in places. Soon after reaching the valley floor, at 28.3km, look for QNC sign and turn off to the right. Follow QNC signs to the camping area.

Option 2. (via Maleny). From Maleny follow the Conondale - Kenilworth Road past the Witta turnoff and down from the plateau. Just before Conondale look for Aherns Road on the left (patch of Paulonia trees on the right). Set odometer and follow this for 1.5 km and continue on Aherns road as it does a sharp right turn. At 8.8 km cross the upper Mary River. At 10.1 km look for QNC sign and turn off to the left.

July 14<sup>th</sup>

Coolum Beach

**Saturday 13:00.** The low tide is at 14:44; tidal height 0.04m.  
Full Details for this outing will be in QNC News No. 339.

Leaders: Myriam Preker and Ian Lawn

**\*\* Long Excursion 2018 September 16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> \*\***

Leaders: Neil Fordyce & Janet White    Enquiries: 0400 299 991 – Please leave a message.

The long excursion for 2018 will be to Binya National Park and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Bowra Sanctuary near Cunnamulla. The trip will comprise a week at Binya and a week at Bowra.

Binya is a small national park situated on the Warrego and Cuttaburra Creek flood plains 110km South of Cunnamulla. It is an isolated park with few facilities so requires some level of self-sufficiency. Binya is not well surveyed so QNC can make a significant contribution to the knowledge of the park.

The AWC Bowra sanctuary is 17km NW of Cunnamulla and has a camping area and a few powered caravan sites which will cater for about 25 people. As well, a shearers quarters can sleep 11 people in 6 rooms.

Bowra is a similar size to Binya and is well known as a very good birding location.

Please Note: Bowra has been booked by QNC for the week so do not contact Bowra about sites.

Registrations open late July "Expressions of interest" may be sent to [Neil.Fordyce@gmail.com](mailto:Neil.Fordyce@gmail.com) with the subject line "Long Excursion 2018 interest".

## EXCURSION REPORTS

### March 11      Pine Mountain Bush Reserve

Helen Schwencke led a successful trip with about 20 attendees, half from QNC and half from Meetup. The weather was cool and overcast and as we walked on the paths we encountered a few light showers. As usual we found much of natural history interest: a Forest Aristolochia *Aristolochia meridionalis*, which is the food-plant of the Clear-winged Swallowtail; several Upright Justicias *Justicia adscendens* were in flower; a large grasshopper, the Giant Valanga *Valanga irregularis*, perched on a tree trunk for us and we found a Tricolour Soldier Beetle *Chauliognathus tricolor* (photo), with characteristic short forewings. The outing finished with a good view of a Tawny Frogmouth roosting in the car park.



We also found a group of colourful fungi. They are *Marasmius haematocephalus* or a related species. There are a number of species in this genus with similar colours but different gills or spores, which require microscopic examination. The *Marasmius* species have the ability to dry out and then revive when wetted again. They are small but valuable decomposers of leaf litter. The name *Marasmius* is Greek for "thin or wasted" which relates to the very thin stipes and *haemato* means blood (coloured) and *cephalus* means head, so the full translation may be a "wasted red-head" [Details from *Australian Subtropical Fungi* 2014]

*Report and photos kindly supplied by Peter Woodall.*



## March 18      Manorina N.P. Mt Nebo

Leader: David Bouchard

There were eight participants including Robert Reeves who was originally going to lead this walk in November, but it was cancelled due to rain.

The track we followed out to the Samford Valley lookout was through tall wet sclerophyll forest with dominant canopy species such as white mahogany *Eucalyptus acmenoides*, Sydney blue gum *E. saligna* and brush box *Lophostemon confertus*. There was also a small patch of rainforest in a south-easterly valley dominated by piccabeen palms *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*. The cabbage tree palm *Livistona australis* was very common as an understorey tree at the start of the track.

The high rainfall, varied topography and geology (granite & metamorphics) resulted in quite a diverse range of plant species along the walk. Just a selection of some of the 70 plus plant species we saw were: *Eupomatia laurina* a plant that has scale like staminodes rather than petals, very common in shaded areas; coarse stink bush



Hedgehog fungus *Hydnum repandum*  
Photo: Peter Woodall

*Opercularia aspera* which lived up to its common name; giant rasp fern *Doodia maxima* (photo front page) much like the prickly rasp fern only larger; *Acomis acoma* a low growing plant in the daisy family with small yellow flower heads without ray petals, common around the Mt Nebo area; and two Macrozamia's the sprawling *M. lucida* and *M. macleayi* with its radial symmetry.

Also identified by participants were 22 birds, four insects, two reptiles and six fungi including a white mushroom that had spore bearing icicle like structures on the underside rather than gills. Peter Woodall identified this as Hedgehog fungus *Hydnum repandum*. Thanks go to Robert for his local natural history knowledge and Peter for compiling a species list. Unsurprisingly the 30-minute walk out to the lookout took us four hours!



Two-tailed leaf beetle *Aproidea balyi*  
Photo: Peter Woodall

## March 29 – April 3 (Easter)      Upper Mary River      The Camp that wasn't!

While living in Brisbane Grace and I were reasonably active in QNC, less so when we moved to the Sunshine Coast hinterland. One was thus considerably looking forward to Easter Camp at the nearby property of brother David and Jacky Lowry. We had reconnoitred walks known to no Nats. As the time approached I was a little concerned about my own physical ability, and the continuing wet conditions. Still, if filtering through dripping forest might not appeal to all, there was a high chance of encountering Conondale crayfish in the open. We did not worry too much about vehicle access to the camp area because in the absence of flooding rain it had been done so often before. However, from using the route a few times the Wednesday before Easter it was apparent that the weeks of frequent intermittent light rain had softened the ground in a way not experienced before. David was prepared for some tractor retrievals. However, it got even more sloshy on Thursday, with each new wheel track creating a swamp and ones 4WD drifting in unexpected ways.

The Shaws arrived and these intrepid off-roaders thought the conditions not suitable for an Easter Camp. Reluctantly the camp was called off. Apologies for the late notice!

If it makes anyone feel better, David got his own 4WD bogged on the Friday. To make it worse, conditions were good on Saturday and Sunday!

## EXHIBITS

Exhibits for general meetings may be in the form of specimens, books, digital images etc. Please bring any PowerPoint or jpeg images to the Club Lanternist by 7.15pm.

If you do take an exhibit to a meeting, a written description to accompany it would be greatly appreciated by the Secretary and Newsletter editor. Your natural history observations can then be shared with all members via:-

- The club website - email text and photos to web@qnc.org.au
- Our Facebook page - contact Leith for help at facebook@qnc.org.au
- In the QNC News - email text and photos to news@qnc.org.au

This variety of formats allows all members, including non-Brisbane members, to share their experiences.

### March Meeting Exhibits:

**Barry Jahnke** brought along two native Sennas (cassias) that were flowering in his garden. *S. gaudichaudii* a scrambling species named after the French botanist Gaudichaud who collected in Australia during the voyage of the explorer Freycinet. The distinctive stalked gland was visible between the lowest leaflets. The other species was the brigalow senna *S. coronilloides* which had a more upright form.

**Brian Lowry** exhibited a fruiting segment of bamboo *Bambusa* sp. from Crystal Waters village on the upper Mary River. The bamboos at the village were undergoing a mast (simultaneous) flowering. The flowering of bamboos is a rare occurrence and results in the death of the parent plant.

**Barbara Braddock** brought in a preserved specimen of a white crowned snake *Cacophis harriettae*. These small snakes are quite common in leaf litter and are considered harmless to humans.

**Leith Woodall** exhibited a photo of a blind snake *Ramphotyphlops* sp. she discovered at a suburban gym. The snake was small and wormlike in appearance with vestige eyes. The blind snakes are burrowers and are non-venomous.

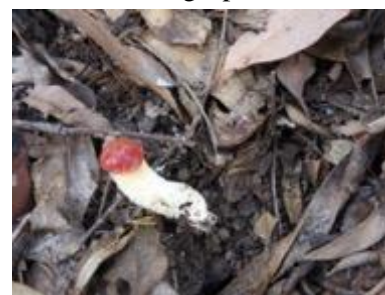
### April Meeting Exhibits:

**Dr Alan Cribb** mentioned how the resin from native cypress *Callitris* spp. has had some limited use as an adhesive by aboriginals and settlers. He then described how he purified the resin using alcohol and water, making an acceptable wood varnish. Alan brought along the powdered resin and a piece of timber he had varnished with it.



**Neil Fordyce** brought along the wing of a tawny frogmouth (left) that had been killed by a car. The wing illustrated the tree bark camouflage pattern of the frogmouth's feathers. For contrast he also brought along the long and delicate feathers belonging to a lyrebird.

**James Hansen** showed us a photo (right) of the bolete fungus *Austroboletus mutabilis* found recently in bushland at Chermside Hills in Brisbane. It appears to be native to Australia, previously it has only been found at two other locations in Nth Qld. It was first described in 2006.



**Harry Hines** briefly described the captive breeding programme of the critically endangered Kroombit tinker frog *Taudactylus pleione*. Harry has been actively involved in procuring breeding pairs from Kroombit Tops National Park west of Gladstone. The captive breeding is being conducted at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and much care is taken to remove any Chytrid fungus that may endanger the frog's survival during the stress of relocation.

Book recommendation from Sheryl Backhouse:

**The Wasp and The Orchid Author: Danielle Clode**



'Have you met Mrs Edith Coleman? If not you must - I am sure you will like her - she's just A1 and a splendid naturalist.' In 1922, a 48-year-old housewife from Blackburn delivered her first paper, on native Australian orchids, to the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Over the next thirty years, Edith Coleman would write over 300 articles on Australian nature for newspapers, magazines and scientific journals. She would solve the mystery of orchid pollination that had bewildered even Darwin, earn the acclaim of international scientists and, in 1949, become the first woman to be awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion. She was 'Australia's greatest orchid expert', 'foremost of our women naturalists', a woman who 'needed no introduction'. And yet, today, Edith Coleman has faded into obscurity. How did this remarkable woman, with no training or connections, achieve so much so late in life? And why, over the intervening years, have her achievements and her writing been forgotten? Zoologist and award-winning writer Danielle Clode sets out to uncover Edith's story, from her childhood in England to her unlikely success, sharing along the way Edith's lyrical and incisive writing and her uncompromising passion for Australian nature and landscape.

Source: Riverbend Books.

[https://riverb.com.au/p/nature-the-wasp-and-the-orchid--2?barcode=9781760554286&search\\_key=wasp+and+the](https://riverb.com.au/p/nature-the-wasp-and-the-orchid--2?barcode=9781760554286&search_key=wasp+and+the)

## WHAT'S ON

### QUEENSLAND HERBARIUM SEMINARS      FM Bailey Room, at 12 noon

The Herbarium hosts free public seminars at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens from noon until 1pm on the second Monday of the month (March to November) - FM Bailey conference room in the Herbarium building. No need to register. Please refer to the following website for details:

[www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/seminars-events](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/seminars-events)

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|--------------|---|
| 14 May 2018  | Defining the native and naturalised flora for the Australian continent<br>Rod Fensham (Queensland Herbarium/Dept. of Biological Sciences, U of Q) |
| 11 June 2018 | Ernest James (Kalbar) Smith - Nature notes<br>Darryn Schneider (Queensland Naturalists Club)  |

### THECA MEETING

General meetings are usually held at The Hut, 47 Fleming Road, Chapel Hill, at 7.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month from February to November. [www.theca.asn.au](http://www.theca.asn.au)

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 23 May  | Professor Darryl Jones, Griffith University - "Bird Feeding - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly"  |
| 27 June | Dylan Oliver, Department of Agriculture and Forestry will present the current situation regarding Fire Ants in the Brisbane area. Find out where the hot-spots are and control methods being used. |

### Australian Naturalists' Network 2018 Get-together

Western Victoria, September 29 to October 8, Registration Form and deposit due 31 March. Further information on this event is available at <https://australiannaturalistsnetwork.wordpress.com/> and also from members of the Queensland Nats Council.

**Annual Membership Subscriptions**

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

Family \$40; Single \$25; Student /Junior \$15; Replacement Club Badges \$15

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The Treasurer, Mr Mike Anderson, 164/462 Beams Rd, Fitzgibbon 4018  
with a bank cheque or money order and this completed form.

**OR**

❖ **At a General Meeting:**

Handed to the Treasurer in an envelope with this completed form

**OR**

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