

Banksia Bytes

Native Plants Sunshine Coast

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www.npqsuncoast.org



Native Plants Queensland

Newsletter

Nov/Dec 2015 Number 5

OFFICE BEARERS....

Anne Windsor	Chair	5491 5868	awindsor@bigpond.com
Marie Livingstone	Hon Secretary	5494 9187	sgapsuncoast@gmail.com
Joan Abercrombie	Hon Treasurer	5496 5013	jabercrombie@skymesh.com.au

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 28: Saturday
8.00AM – 1.00PM

Mapleton Community Library Fair & Plant Sale

Sunshine Coast will have a
Plant Sale at the Mapleton Fair.



DECEMBER 13: Sunday
2.00pm

Visit Fairhill Nursery
for a talk by Nick Hansa
and afternoon tea in
Elements Cafe. \$8.50 per head



2016 Meetings and Excursions Native Plants Sunshine Coast to April

February 14 - 2.00 pm AGM and Cat Secomb as guest speaker at 213 Candle Mt Drive Peachester.
Any changes to the venue will be on our website www.npqsuncoast.org

March 13 - 9.30 am Regional Gathering hosted by Sunshine Coast, Friends of the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens and Sunshine Coast Council at the Maroochy Botanic Gardens, commencing at 10.00am.

Further details will be sent closer to the event and will be on our website www.npqsuncoast.org

April 10 - Walk amongst the foreshore plants Dicky Beach to Currimundi.
Lunch at Dicky Beach Surf Club, walk, afternoon coffee at Currimundi.
Michael McCuaig will book Dicky Beach Surf Club for lunch if numbers indicate the need.
Closer to the event, details will be on our website www.npqsuncoast.org

REGIONAL NEWS



Saturday, 5th December: Regional Christmas Gathering at Brisbane Botanic Gardens. Mt. Coot-tha.

This Gathering will be staged near the Australian Plant Communities Displays in the Gardens. Arrangements are being made for us to have special limited vehicle access time between 9.00 and 9.30am via the service road at the round-about near the Mt.Coot-tha quarry. BYO morning-tea at about 10.00am during which Dale Arvidsson, Curator of the Gardens, will give a short talk, followed by guided walks in the Gardens. After a Bring-to-Share lunch at 12.00 noon the groups will go on another walk.

Hot water, tea, coffee, sugar, milk, a few tables and a few small marquees will be supplied. See September issue of *Native Plants Queensland* For further details.



Sunday 13th March 2016 Regional Gathering hosted by

Native Plants Sunshine Coast
at the Arts & Ecology Centre,
Maroochy Regional Bushland
Botanic Gardens

If you would like to join the
Planning group let
Marie know

sgapsuncoast@gmail.com

Information about outings contact....

Marie 0427 152 022
Chrissie 0408 792 227
Gretchen 0400 772 602



In your spare time, if you have any spare time, when you visit the garden beds at Mount Cootha on Dec. the 5th, here is a little exercise you might like to carry out as you engage with the beautiful plants so wonderfully displayed.

Below are illustrated 8 species or varieties of Acacia, photographed in the very same gardens. Your most enjoyable and fruitful task is to match the SPECIES name, from the list immediately below, to the plant's photo and number. Could any task be any better?

Acacia baileyana, cognata (X2), howittii, saligna, pravissima, cardiophylla, fimbriata.



1.....



4.....



6.....



2.....



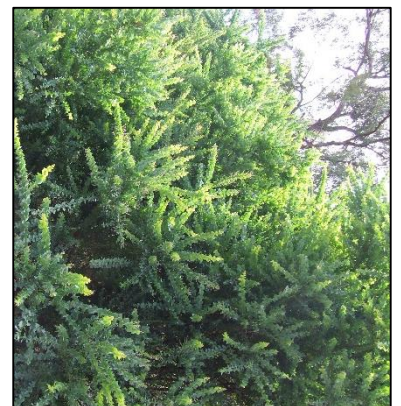
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3.....



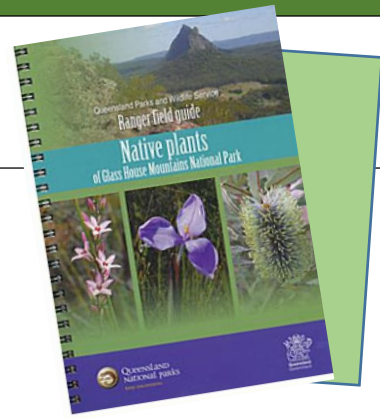
5.....



8.....

BOOK REVIEW

*Ranger field guide: Native plants of
Glass House Mountains National Park*



Rowena Thomas and Shelly Novello,
Senior Conservation Officers
with Qld Parks and Wildlife Service
have written this excellent introduction to the
Native plants of the Glass House Mts.

With brief introductions to the various plant communities, a very clear explanation on how to use the guide and an excellent map showing the various sections of the Park, the guide is immediately appealing no matter what level your botanical knowledge.

The guide is arranged by Life-form groups with a coloured edge on pages for plants where flower colour is an aid to identification. Each page has a legend showing which section of the Park contains the plant.

The glossy paper combined with a sturdy spiral binding makes the book visually appealing and user friendly. The high quality photographs showing the plant in its habitat plus close ups of the botanical features are a highlight and a great aid to identification.

The book is compact, lightweight and sturdy and its deceptively simple layout provides a wealth of information for both visitors and locals.

Sunshine Coast would like to thank Rowena who has given us complimentary copies.

It is available for \$22 at the Glass House Mts Visitor and Interpretive Centre. Other locations are listed on the web site www.npsr.qld.gov.au.

Over-the-phone sales

To purchase a copy of the Ranger guide:

Call 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Mobile phone charges may apply

Ask to be connected to the 'Ranger guide sales' number

Please have your credit card details handy.

by Marie

SOCIAL NEWS

Afternoon tea for David and Olive

On a Wednesday afternoon in November, some of the Hockings Collection team gathered at the nursery for surprise afternoon tea to thank David and Olive for their generous donation of plants to Native Plants Sunshine Coast.

Over many months David has guided us through his nursery, finding many unusual plants to prepare for sale and sharing his expertise. His speed and mastery of propagating cuttings left us struggling to keep up but we learned many tips as we worked with him.

We are all indebted to David and Olive for their generosity in sharing, not just their nursery plants but their wealth of knowledge about and passion for native plants from so many different parts of Queensland.

Thank you David and Olive.



photo by Chrissie



HAVE A LAUGH....



All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.



The next time you boil or steam vegetables, don't pour the water down the drain, use it to water potted patio plants, and you'll be amazed at how the plants respond to the "vegetable soup."



YOUR LOCAL NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

Spencer & Karen Shaw
20 Coral St, Maleny
Phone: 07 5435 2193
nursery@forestheart.com.au
www.forestheart.com.au

• Quality Native Plants • Nest Boxes • Revegetation Materials
• Reference Books • Eco-friendly Products • Gifts • Workshops

NATIVE OR INDIGENOUS?



Grevillea humilis subsp. *lucens*.



Helichrysum elatum



Hibiscus heterophyllus



Brachychiton discolor

Native or Indigenous?

Spencer Shaw

We have recently opened our retail nursery called Forest Heart, in Maleny on the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. In doing some market research by visiting native nurseries in SE QLD, I was reminded that what is generally sold as a Native plant could be from anywhere in Australia and you might know this already but Australia is big, really big and diverse, very diverse and what grows naturally in South West Australia might be stunning in bloom, but has buckley's chance of surviving in the humid subtropics of SE QLD and what grows naturally in the tropics of NE QLD may in fact become a weed when planted down here!

Now I'm not suggesting that there's anything wrong with using Native plants from elsewhere in Australia for horticultural purposes (other than the two listed above...) I for one have a penchant for the flora of Tasmania and insist on trying to grow Huon Pine, Myrtle Beech and Leatherwood. My concern is that for the majority of the public buying and planting Native plants in their garden, is that they may well be under the impression that they have planted something that would have grown naturally in the bush in their local area - which for the majority of native plants sold in retail nurseries, is just not the case. By all means enjoy your gardening and plant what you like, but if you want to plant local to your area that's when we need to start switching to terms like Local Native or Indigenous and that's exactly what we will be supplying at Forest Heart.

Ok so let define Indigenous plants. Put quite simply these are the plants that grow naturally in your local area, for example the Sunshine Coast is home to over 1500 Indigenous plants and on a slightly wider scale SE Queensland is home to some 3000 Indigenous plants.

So with a palette of between 1500-3000 Indigenous plants gardeners in SE Queensland gardeners have a plenty to choose from when it comes to making the most of our local flora for their horticultural endeavours! So why do we see so few of our Indigenous plants in the Australian Natives section of your local retail nursery, I think it's a lot to do with labels... producing and selling plants on a large scale requires that they be turned into a commodity, standardised and labelled so that regardless whether you're in Melbourne or Cairns, you can grab a Robyn Gordon Grevillea.

It's time to start using Indigenous plants in gardens and this opens up a whole new world in horticulture that benefits not just you but the wildlife too!

Lost and Overlooked Beauties

Joan Dillon

We often and justifiably lament the loss to development pressure of many of our wallum plants. Many of these species are well suited to horticulture, look fabulous in the garden, but are not available in the general run of mainstream garden centres. Fortunately this is slowly changing. We need to be on the lookout for these plants, try them in our gardens, and promote them to the neighbours. Remember; "if they don't know them, they won't grow them."

Earlier this year I managed to purchase 3 tubestock specimens of Vanilla Lily (*Sowerbaea juncea*), multi-planted them in a large pot, and was rewarded with several months of wonderful mauve to purple flowers. It looks as though some seed might set, after which I'll split the large clumps and try a couple of plants in my heavy soil. Some wallum plants are turning out to be quite adaptable as to soil type.

Boronia keysii appears occasionally and its main requirement appears to be plenty of light. It will die in the shade. So far it seems to be the only local *Boronia* to be propagated so snap it up if you see it. The flowering season in the garden is quite long.

Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia grandiflora*) are harder to find as they take 2-3 years to flower from seed but are worth the wait. Fresh seed germinates easily but the small seedlings are sensitive to transplanting. They are a commercial cut flower in NSW and the Dept. of Agriculture there has produced an excellent fact sheet which includes propagation and cultivation techniques.

Wallum Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea fulva*) is surprisingly fast growing. Planted both in the main garden and in a modified, better draining soil, two plants have each sent up a flower spike after 3-4 years, a pleasant surprise. A Grass Tree I would really like to see in cultivation is Bottle Brush Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea macronema*) so if anyone has one or two seedlings to spare, please let me know!

These plants and others can periodically be found in community and specialist nurseries but should be promoted more widely. If you can't source them locally, don't hesitate to ask a commercial outlet to order them for you, or try ordering online. They add a whole new dimension to your garden.



Blandfordia grandiflora



Sowerbaea juncea



Yarraman Trip report

by Anne Windsor

October Outing

The destination for our October outing was a revegetation site on Yarraman Creek in the South Burnett. The work there has been undertaken for nearly 10 years by Sue and Scott Reilly, with help for the last three years from the group they founded, The Friends of Yarraman Creek.

When the Reillys moved to Yarraman in Feb 2005, the part of the creek that bordered their property was colonised mostly by Camphor Laurels, Privet, Climbing Asparagus, Chinese Celtis, Lantana, Rhodes Grass and Green Panic, and the greatest invader, the large weed grass *Arundo donax*. And don't think 'grass', think 'bamboo-like canes, growing 6-10 metres, with a metre deep matted mass of thick rhizomes'. Native wildlife there was almost non-existent.

Along with undertaking a major house renovation, the Reillys set about weed removal and creation of a native garden, and revegetation of the near creek bank. They then decided to begin revegetation of the far creek bank and adjoining land. This work continued - weeding, poisoning, planting, watering, and moving along the creek to repeat the process.

Then came the floods of 2011. The house was able to withstand the floodwater thanks to Scott's foresight which saw 20 cubic metres of concrete being put into the house's foundations. What did more damage than the floodwater was a demountable building - to quote Sue "our home could have been impacted by the Yarraman/Blackbutt Soccer Clubhouse/Canteen which washed past while breaking up and ended up wedged beneath the D'Aguilar Hwy. bridge just downstream. Fortunately this demountable building did not hit our home but it did trash our front garden. Creating weeks of clean-up work, broken glass, timber, roofing iron, ovens, soccer nets, uniforms - you name it, and it was littered all over our property and on Toowoomba Regional Council land. Including the large steel grid like chassis on which it was built, which was lodged in the Yarraman Creek upstream of our home, near "River Buttercup Narrows".



This is similar to the sight that confronted the Reillys when they bought their property – wall to wall weeds.



When the weeds are removed, the planting can begin.



A great use of weeds – animal refuges.

Outing continues.....

When the waters receded, the clean-up began. They rescued plants that had been washed out of the ground, removed debris from plants that had been completely covered, pruned plants that had been badly damaged, and waited. And they were rewarded with many plants that grew again, despite what they had been through.

And they continued with their reveg work, progressing along both sides of the creek. They encountered many obstacles throughout this time, but were determined to continue. Then in 2012, the Reillys formed the Friends of Yarraman Creek, with interested local people joining them in the reveg. work. They propagate many of the plants for their reveg., most notably *Lomandra hystrix*. These have been planted in the thousands along the creek banks and thousands more *Lomandra longifolia* in the areas further from the creek, and these tough plants have survived floods and droughts, and form the main barrier to erosion of the creek banks and surrounding areas.

Today the Reilly's property, the appropriately named 'Lomandra', and the adjoining creek banks are a green oasis, filled with native flora. The native fauna has returned too, and is now able to live, feed, breed successfully in this wonderful area. This small part of Yarraman Creek is a vision of how all our creeks must once have looked, and an inspiration to all who see it.

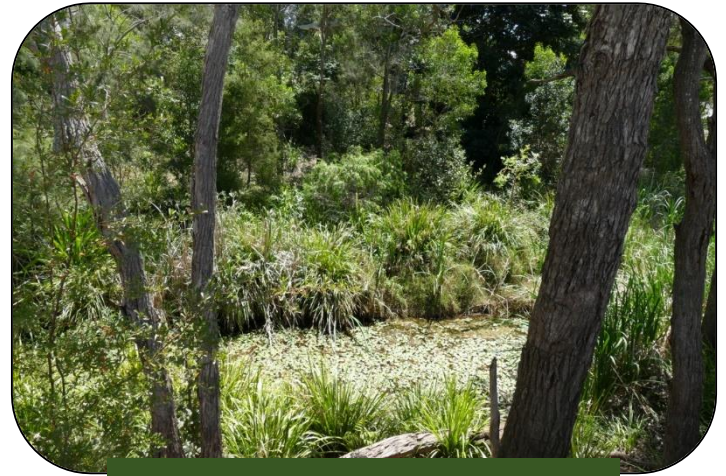
Our thanks go to the Reillys for sharing this wonderful place with us.

And before we left the South Burnett, we visited The Fragile Web, a little haven for education about the interconnectedness of the earth and everything that lives upon it. It is the creation of Wendy and Ray Benfer, and it is a tribute to their passion for caring for our planet.

Thanks to them too, for sharing The Fragile Web with us.



A few years later and this is what the Reillys can see now.



Everywhere you look, there is beauty.



And now the creek draws visitors from far and wide!

What's in a name chase??



Day 103



Day 112



Day 113



Day 113

From the time I first saw “Snow White” on one of my many meanders through the burnt-out, but recovering, areas of Kathleen McArthur Park, I knew that I knew this plant, or at least the somewhat telling structure of the floral stem and attached little white flowers- sometimes showing stripes on the tepals. So how to find out its real name?

First step, checking the EPA plant list for the park. No bells rang there. Then into “Mangroves to Mountains’ (M to M), the source of all (my) local plant knowledge. A rush through the “Dunes and Headlands” and “Coastal Heath” sections yielded an enjoyable trip through the photos of the plants of these areas, but not much towards “Snow White’s” real name.

Someone told me it was a *Libertia*. So back to M to M and although this revealed *Libertia paniculata* as a delightful plant and flower of the Iridaceae, it didn’t look the goods. Onto the www which yielded another lovely *Libertia*, viz *pulchella*, but not sufficiently similar to think about changing “Snow White” to *Libertia*. I was tempted to use the name “*Libertia*” but stuck with her “true”, snow white pseudonym. Just as well!!

Time for the big guns. The flowers looked obviously as perianth 3 + 3. This, even without pulling the flower apart which, I am sure you will agree, in a protected plant area, would just not be the done thing.

So, start with the old Liliaceae and move on as able. Into “Clifford and Ludwig”. The family may well be changed but surely not the genus! I mean, they just don’t shift plants from one genus to another-do they ?? All the while, I knew that I knew that floral structure from the deep distant plant past-but equally I was almost certain it was from an introduced rather than a native species. It was driving me nuts. Well OK, even more nuts.

A quick run through the genera of this once proud and very large family and Bingo 1, there was *Chlorophytum*. The memories flooded in!!! Surely almost every home and/or workplace in times gone by, had a “Spider Plant” growing somewhere, with an inflorescence structure of exactly the type as I had been trying to bring back to memory. Surely almost every school science teacher used this plant to nip off the little “spiders”, plant them in potting mix and show asexual plant reproduction at its easiest and quickest. And although it had faded from my memory, it is amazing how common the plant is in local gardens once the mind has been reminded of it.

What's in a Name Chase continues.....

Alas! Even though it was not marked as an introduced species, I could find no native species into which I could evolve the lovely little "Snow White". Fortunately a search of the marvellous www yielded Bingo 2! Once upon a time, Chlorophytum had had name changes. Now there's a shock!!! The plant was once named Caesia, which did ring bells-but very, very softly.

Once again into M to M. There was a Caesia-Caesia parviflora var vittata (p169). Could this be the end of the road? Page 169's photo was encouraging, even if the family had now graduated to the Johnsoniaceae. The colour, however, was all wrong. Stripes yes, but a rather nice pink/purple colour. So the next thought was, if there is one variety "vittata", was there yet another variety to look at? Sadly, not in M to M there wasn't. So back to www. Bingo 3, there was another one. And with white flowers if you don't mind!! So very quickly images of C. parviflora var parviflora were found and confirmed, to my mind at least (what would you expect?), that here was the name for which I had been searching.

So dear kind and gentle readers, if any of you knows of just reason why this plant should NOT be called by the above name, please don't hold your peace/piece (take your pick)*, but let me know as soon as possible.

Thanks and please, please don't tell me I should have asked "Billy Bloggs" who knows all there is to know about the split Liliaceae, and lots more, and who thus could have saved me an enormous amount of time in the process.

So, at least two questions can be raised. How did the world ever get by without the www? Closer to home, how did interested people of south east Queensland, survive without "Mangroves to Mountains"?

*If you have lots of time, look up the spelling of this word in the oft quoted invocation at wedding ceremonies. It seems to me, that trying to find the correct spelling, is a perfect example of an exercise in futility.....

Michael



Day 175

Wallum Regeneration 3

FLOWERS 1

As interesting as regrowth of burnt vegetation can be, when all is said and done, it is the flowers that draw us to the wallum. Slow as the process might have been, when environmental conditions for flowering have been right, the plants have sure turned the process on. There are so many wonderful examples of this that probably occur each and every year, but mostly are overshadowed by their more showy, even spectacular, cousins which display their colours and shapes at more visited sites within the park.

One such seemingly simple sight from the regeneration area, vividly sticks out, in my mind at least.

Gompholobium pinnatum, shown at right.



This remarkable and, at this stage, tiny little plant, is fully illustrative of the tenacity and “necessity” of plants to flower, given the essential conditions.

Usually flowering when much larger plants, there were plenty of examples of regrowing, mere slips of stems, showing those delightful, yellow, pea shaped flowers. The flowering stimulus is somehow and somewhere retained so that very little vegetative growth seems necessary to produce flower instead of leaf.

I try to present here, from some 50 visits to burnt areas of the park, a sequence of appearance of flowers on the resurgent plants. It is certainly not definitive and is meant to show the flowers on the day they were first spotted. It is the very vivid colours of many of them that indicate, even from a large distance on the path, their actual presence. Indeed, there is no way that, without those illustrious floral indicators, I could identify many of the plants, clawing, as they are, their way back from near extinction to their former glory. What a process! Even with them, I sometimes feel like an out-of-town sightseer caught in the heaviest fog of the year.

Each plant is backed up by photos from the day it was recorded. Being a poor miserable excuse for a photographer, many of the images are useful only as a record of the plants’ existence. For this reason, photos from other, later, days of record, which might be considered better, are sometimes used to illustrate the plant.

Spending a little time in the different park areas enables comparisons to be made between the burnt areas and those places where fire was part of the past and the spaces appear to have regained their former status. By far, to me, the most intriguing region of them all, is the verge of the burnt locality. This is just a treasure trove of numerous species, many of which take a lot more time to appear in the recently scorched section.



Tricoryne elatior
Day 103



Drosera pygmaea & *Utricularia* sp
Day103



Murdannia graminea
Day 124

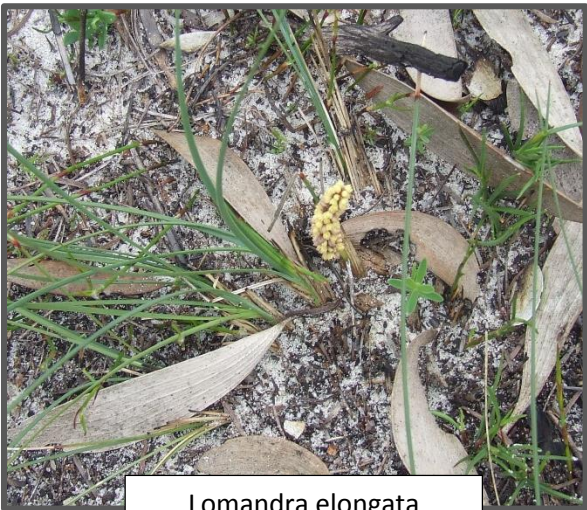
WALLUM REGENERATION 3 continued.....



Styliidium graminifolium
Day 103



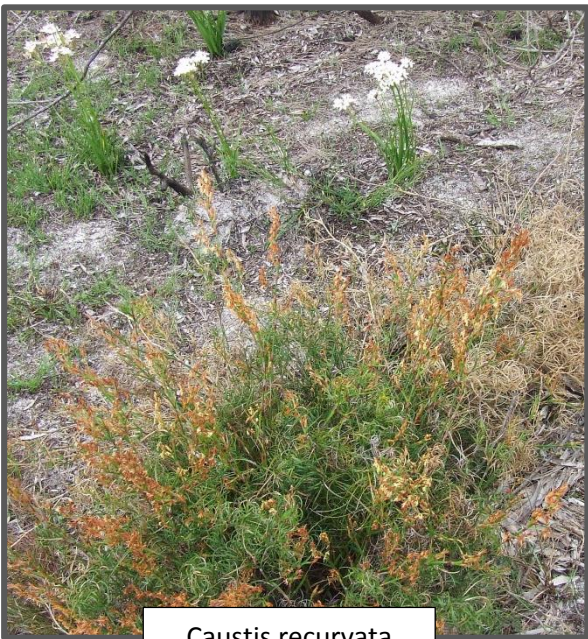
Macarthuria neocambrica
Day 103



Lomandra elongata
Day 103



Velleia sp.
Day 119



Caustis recurvata
Day 119



Burchardia umbellata
Day 119

Flowers Observed in K.McArthur Park.

Days after Fire	Species Observed Flowering in Burnt Area
66	Sowerbaea juncea
78	Caesia parviflora var. parviflora
80	Tricoryne elatior
80	Stylidium graminifolium
80	Patersonia sericea
80	Velleia sp. (spp.?)
85	Burchardia umbellata
85	Xyris complanata
85	Xyris juncea
89	Thelymitra sp.
102	Lomandra elongate
102	Macarthuria neocambrica
103	Xanthorrhoea fulva
103	Drosera pygmaea
103	Utricularia sp.
103	Leptospermum semibaccatum
103	Laxmannia gracilises
106	Villarsia exaltata
107	Dianella sp.
119	Goodenia stelligera
119	Dipodium variegatum
119	Caustis recurvata
124	Haemodorum austroqueenslandicum
124	Gompholobium pinnatum
124	Murdannia graminea

Season's Greetings to you all

