

Banksia Bytes

Native Plants Sunshine Coast



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Native Plants Queensland

Newsletter

April 2018 Number 15

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From the Editor

Welcome to Banksia Bytes 15. Inspired by a wonderful flowering specimen of Macleay Laurel in the Twin Falls picnic ground at Springbrook many years ago, we eventually planted some around the house at Buderim. This week one flowered for the first time and is just as pretty as I remembered it.

The 'birdspace' here in recent weeks has been totally dominated

by rainbow lorikeets.

We have up to 10 mature *Elaeocarpus*

grandis trees within 100 m of the house and these have flowered prolifically. It has been constant chattering with enormous swooshes as hundreds of birds take off together. We have not seen the usual range of other birds - perhaps put off by the lorikeets? That feast is over now, but the figbirds are here, in much, much smaller numbers, feeding on the seeds of the white cedar, *Melia azedarach*, and the sulphur-crested white cockatoos are raiding the pecan nuts.



Elaeocarpus grandis



Anopterus macleayana

I hope you are enjoying your garden as much as we are enjoying ours.

Wendy

Meeting Dates for your Diary

Sunday May 13: 8.00 am start for a Mary Cairncross walk with Spencer Shaw and morning tea in the café to celebrate Mother's Day. RSVP to Pam Watson by Thursday 10 May if you are attending the morning tea. Phone 5429 6845 or email lpw3@bigpond.com

Sunday June 10: 8.30 am for the first section of the Great Walk, below Baroon Pocket Dam, 2kms each way with a nice lookout at the end. Allow approx. 4 hours. Walk led by Marc Russell. Directions: from the Maleny-Montville Road turn into Western Avenue, which is at the southern end of Montville village, then turn left into Narrows Road, (fourth road on the left and follow this road to the end, keeping to the right at the end of the road), where there is signed parking. Track: Good path, slight to moderate slopes but we will travel at a slow pace. Morning tea, edibles at Secrets after the walk.

Friday July 13-Sunday 15: Qld Garden Expo so no excursion. NPSC will have a manned display

Sunday August 12: 8.00 am start at Parrot Park, Beerburrum Rd, Beerburrum for car-pooling to the start of the Soldier Settler's Walk. Walk led by Gwen Malcolm from GMAN. The walk is 6-7km long but as it is the same way in and out any walkers who prefer to go only part way can retrace their steps quite easily. The terrain is mostly flat but with a gradual uphill slope, and some rocky spots. Gwen suggested a coffee afterwards at the Black Squirrel Coffee Shop, Beerburrum.

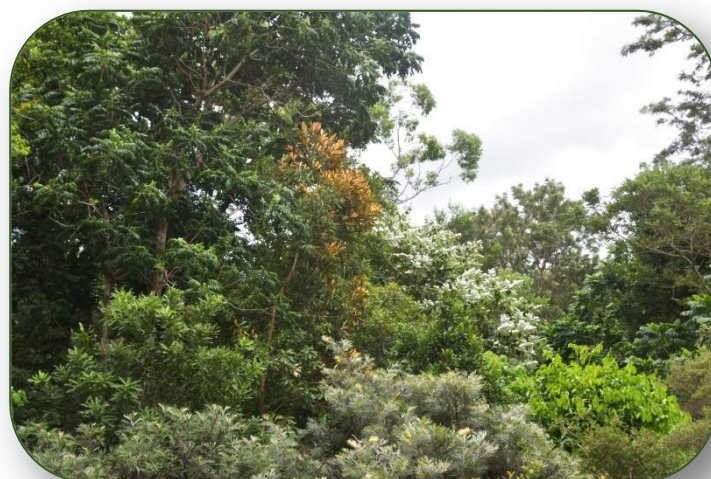


For Information about outings contact....

Pam	0447 488 673
Marie	0427 152 022
Chrissie	0408 792 227

Shades of Green by Wendy Johnston

In the windy weather of the past few weeks the trees in our outlook have put on a wonderful show. From the dark green of the *Dysoxylon mollissimum*, the bronze underside of the leaves of the *Grevillea baileyana*, the white backed leaves of the *Alphitonia petriei*, the shiny green of the macadamias, the silver of the *Grevillea* 'Golden Yul-lo', the light green of the *Phaleria clerodendron*, to the grey-green of the eucalypts and silky oak in the background, the trees have responded to the wind in an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour.



Grevilleas of the Sunshine Coast

With Spencer Shaw from Forest Heart EcoNursery

Grevilleas are one of the great mainstays of native plant gardening. Honey Gem, Sandra Gordon, Robyn Gordon and Bronze Rambler are just a few of the hybrid grevilleas that are present in many people's gardens.

Closer to home on the Sunshine Coast, we do have a few local native grevilleas.

The Coochin Hills Grevillea (*Grevillea hodgei*) is a very rare shrub to 4 metres found on some of the Glasshouse Mountains. It has large creamy white flowers up to 20cm in length.



We have three small, shrubby grevilleas on the coast that grow between 30 centimetres and 1 metre in height. All have small pink flowers. They are *Grevillea leiophylla*, *Grevillea reptans* (from Cooloola north) and *Grevillea humilis* subsp. *lucens* (from Caloundra south). These three occur in similar habitats of heath and open forest and can flower over many months from spring to autumn.



Then of course we have our world famous Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*). It is perhaps the tallest of all of the grevilleas; these spectacular trees can grow to 40 metres. They occur naturally in the Mary Valley and have been planted widely through the landscape. Historically they were logged for their valuable and durable timber, and they are one of the most popular agroforestry trees now throughout the world in the subtropics and tropics. These forest giants are a great source of nectar for wildlife and their leaf litter is great for improving soils.

Another tree grevillea (up to 20 metres) that occurs in our drier rainforests is the White Yeil-Yeil (*Grevillea hilliana*). This is another spectacular tree with silvery undersides to its leaves and white flowers up to 30 centimetres.

Some of our local native grevilleas are hard to get from native nurseries for your garden. However there's plenty of opportunity for you to appreciate them in their natural setting on many of our native heathland and open forest woodland walks, so get walking and enjoy the view!



Murdannia graminea and others

by Joan Dillon

A friend further down our valley found this little grass-like herb in one of her cattle paddocks a few years ago. She remembered it from her childhood and hadn't seen it for years, but suddenly there it was. Presumably seeds had lain dormant in the soil until conditions were just right.

Since she's a keen "herbaceous perennials" person, she propagated it and I acquired a few plants. Since then the plant has spread around the garden, entirely of its own accord and flowers quite regularly. The 3-petalled pale lavender flowers add a useful bit of colour amongst other ground covers and low shrubs. Glenn Leiper gives its common name as Slug Herb, which seems rather unfair!



When David Hockings' nursery was being cleared, I found a struggling specimen of a yellow-flowering Phebalium. Despite the bright yellow flowers, its species name is *whitei*; botanical nomenclature can be confusing. Anyway, it continued struggling, even after careful re-potting, so has been transferred to one of my large corrugated iron 'vegetable bins' filled with sandy free-draining soil and watered automatically. *Phebalium nottii* does spectacularly well under the same conditions and 'survives' but grows slowly in my heavy soils.

Phebalium whitei comes from the Darling Downs and Granite Belt and is listed as vulnerable in the Atlas of Living Australia. I am hopeful that it can be propagated from cuttings as it is a very attractive small shrub and would make a very colourful addition to any garden or possibly as a pot plant. No local flower photos as yet but plenty via google.



These fungi appeared in Marie's woodchip pile at Peachester.

Gretchen's Response:

I have never seen so many all together.

Often called the crinoline fungus, it belongs to the Stinkhorn group and is common in both Eucalypt forest and Rainforest, as well as garden mulch, especially after rain. Last Monday (March 26) at Mary Cairncross many visitors stopped to see a pretty one in the garden on the right of the entrance. I have seen it many times beside the main track through the forest.

This fungus emerges from a partly buried egg to form a cylindrical stem with a brown slimy cap (gleba) containing the spores. A net like petticoat hangs below the cap but in Marie's photo, because so many emerged together, the petticoats have been broken. The petticoat can be yellow, pink or orange. A foetid smell is produced which attracts flies and insects. Spores in the gleba are caught on their legs and are thus dispersed.

Myrtle Rust

by John Birbeck

Hello All

Further to my earlier correspondence regarding Myrtle Rust, I can advise that some progress has been achieved. However, it is necessary to first develop a scientifically rigorous methodology (including citizen science) to progress this important issue.

The first step will be to conduct a comprehensive survey of members' knowledge of myrtle rust impacts including:

- Known resistant plants/groups of plants in cultivation and/or in the wild
- Location of plants
- Whether plants are flowering and/or fruiting?
- Myrtle rust impacted plants – how are they surviving?

This survey framework will be finalised following meetings with our working group and the QLD Herbarium. The survey will be included in the next issue of Banksia Bytes.

In the meantime, I would like to conduct a trial survey using *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*, which is one of the most impacted and threatened species from Myrtle Rust.

Please let me know:

- If you are still cultivating this plant
- What condition the plant(s) are in e.g. heavily/partly impacted, seasonal recovery
- If the plants are still flowering and fruiting
- If you are able to treat your impacted plants
- If you know of any wild plants or populations showing any myrtle rust resistance
- If you have any other observations

Please respond to this email: npscevents@gmail.com



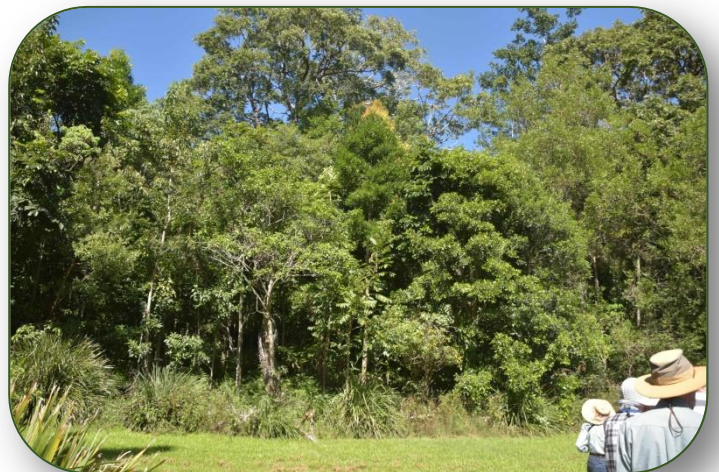
Outings and Events Reports

February Excursion - Russell Family Park – where a native rainforest canopy is replacing camphor laurel canopy



About 20 members attended. Eric introduced us to the history of the park up to the current day. In the master plan for the park's development is an allocation for a native rainforest. Eric and Diana took up the challenge to begin this forest about 10 years ago. The oldest plantings are now a dense young rainforest. Half of each planting is bleeding heart trees which grow quickly producing a good leaf fall as mulch, fruiting prolifically and attracting the fruit-eating birds (which coincidentally drop seeds of other rainforest species from their diet), and then dying out when the canopy closes. The

park's bushcare group meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday morning as well as the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday mornings. Everyone is welcome to join in. Clearly a great amount of work is being achieved – weeding, mulching and planting. The planning, dedication and hard work of Diana and Eric and their team have been rewarded by the transformation from a camphor laurel forest with a weedy understorey to a vibrant native forest. I'm sure the Montville community will appreciate their efforts and take up the challenge to continue the good work for a long time to come.



March AGM and Garden Visit at Flaxton

NPSC Annual Report 2017

Very dry to very wet, 2017 was this and not much in between. Outings were well attended, new members joined us, and a notable older member passed away. We celebrated 10 years of our branch, and continued to explore both gardens and natural areas. Our Excursions Officer stepped down, and a new member stepped in to take over the reins. Our Treasurer wrangled our funds. Our fearless Secretary/Events Officer wrangled us all. I thank them all for helping keep the branch running smoothly, and hope that the projects we have in the pipeline will take root and grow to flowering in the coming year.



This year's AGM was held on the deck of Deb Wagner's home, overlooking the home dam and garden into a mature rainforest with many red cedars. After the meeting and afternoon tea Deb led us on a tour of this wonderful garden. Careful consideration has been given to garden design principles including aspect, shading and lack thereof, and plant selection to achieve this inspirational garden.



April Meeting at Mt Mellum

The subject for discussion at this meeting was John Birbeck's project to breed from plants which have survived the scourge of myrtle rust, so strengthening the chances of longevity of the species. A willingness to participate was expressed by all those present. Ian related the very positive outcomes from the 2016 propagation of threatened and endangered species where most of the plants have been returned to native parks and reserves. After the meeting and morning tea, John Birbeck gave a very informative talk on propagation methods, and some of the group opted to get their hands dirty and pot cuttings of some special plants while the rest of the group went on a tour of the lovely rainforest garden with Ian.



Native Bee Workshop at Maroochy Regional Botanic Garden August 2017



On the 10th March a big crowd of native bee enthusiasts gathered at the Maroochy Botanic Gardens to watch the local experts demonstrate the handling and care of native bees.

Spencer Shaw gave a talk on native plants to encourage native bees in your garden and NPSC put on a small display. Our Native Plants for Native Bees brochure went home with many of the participants.



NPQ AGM at Bribie Island April 2018

The Queensland Region AGM was held at the Bribie Island Community Art Centre. All positions are unchanged, except for the President. Ian McMaster's three year term has come to an end, and Bob Bannon has taken on the role. Most importantly, Gold Coast and Toowoomba have re-joined as Branches of NPQ, much to everyone's delight. So a big welcome to them. Alan Carr gave a presentation on the plants of Bribie to whet our appetite for the book to be released towards the end of the year.



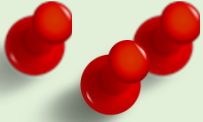
Epiphyte Tree by Wendy Johnston

We found this tree and another like it in the bushland near the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden. It is tucked away in a gully where it must be getting plenty of regular persistent moisture and came as a great surprise to me as it is an area of open eucalypt forest.

Beware the Grasshoppers!

I was anticipating a good flowering from the Hovea just outside the back door, but today I found at least 5 of these grasshoppers at work munching on the leaves.





Forthcoming Events

Saturday, April 28: Grovely plant sale at Grovely TAFE Campus. Entry via Woking Street, off Casey Street, off Dawson Parade, Keperra (UBD Map 138:1E). 9.00am to 3.00pm. Admission free.

May 26: *Birds, Community, Conservation.* Bird Conference at Maroochy Botanic Gardens organised by John Birbeck, Birdlife Australia Sunshine Coast Branch.



June 13-15 Queensland Garden Expo at Nambour. NPSC will be participating.

August 5-6 Parks Alive, Roma Street

September 15 – Natives Naturally at the Maroochy Botanic Gardens. NPSC will be participating.

September 15/16 Spring Flower Show at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha.



Silky oak grain

The End of Banksia Bytes 15