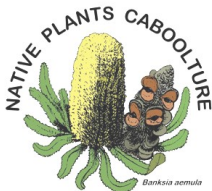


# NATIVE PLANTS Caboolture



Newsletter of Caboolture Branch of Native Plants Queensland  
(Society for Growing Australian Plants Queensland Region Inc.)

Branch Address: PO Box 1036, Bongaree Qld 4507

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## Newsletter March 2019

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### Branch Meetings & Excursions

**Tuesday 9th April** - Meet at 9:00am for a walk in the Beerburum State Forest at O'Shea Rd BRACALBA, just west of the end of the bitumen. (Some call it WAMURAN), UBD Map 36:F14. Meeting after the walk at the Wamuran Hall, UBD Map 36:H21. BYO morning tea/lunch.

**Meetings** are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, usually in a park or picnic area where there are facilities such as toilets. We start with a cuppa at **9:00am in summer and walk before the meeting - 9:30am in winter and walk after the meeting**. We go for an easy to moderate walk in nearby bushland, heathland, rainforest, wetlands etc, where we admire, study and learn to identify the plant species, look out for wildlife, and generally have a pleasant day. All members, prospective new members, and visitors are welcome.

**Bring:** Morning tea, lunch, drinks, cup, hat, sun screen, repellent, folding chair and **closed** walking shoes.

**Propagation Days** are held every other Tuesday of the month at the CREEC Community Nursery, 150 Rowley Road, Burpengary from approx. 9:00 am to midday. Facilities include covered work area, hot water urn, fridge, cutlery, crockery etc and toilets. Sometimes we go seed collecting or for a walk on the site. All members, prospective new members and visitors are welcome.

## Our February meeting at The Gantry Mt Mee

Fourteen members attended this outing which commenced with a gentle ramble along part of the Piccabeen Track. Slow progress was made as a great deal of time was spent on plant identification. What we did not know was that many of us were picking up unwanted hitch-hikers in the form of the dreaded Scrub Itch mites. Several of us suffered from their bites. See the article in this newsletter to learn more about these troublesome creatures.

Don't forget that our March meeting is also our Annual General meeting, and that our annual fees are due and payable then. See page 2 for details of how to pay.

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## NPQ ACTIVITIES

### Tuesday 12th March:

**Native Plants Caboolture Annual General Meeting and Monthly General Meeting** - Meet at 9:00am for a Walk at Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre, 150 Rowley Rd BURPENGARY, UBD Map 67:M15. AGM and General Meeting after the walk. BYO morning tea/ lunch.

### Weekend 16/17th March:

**Native Plants Queensland Autumn Gathering & Annual General Meeting:** Hosted by Kingaroy & District Branch at The Department of Agriculture Research Facility, 214 Kingaroy-Cooyar Road, Kingaroy, 16th March at 10:00am for a 10:30am start. See page 10 of your NPQ March Journal for more details.

### Tuesday 9th April:

**Native Plants Caboolture Meeting** - 9:00am Walk at O'Shea Rd BRACALBA/WAMURAN, just west of the end of the bitumen. UBD Map 36:F14. Meeting after walk at Wamuran Hall, UBD Map 36:H21. BYO morning tea/lunch.

### Tuesday 30th April:

**Native Plants Caboolture - Fifth Tuesday Outing.** Meet at 9:00am in the car park at Buderim Forest Park, Quorn Close, Buderim. UBD Sunshine Coast Map 78:G1. The Edna Walling Memorial garden is at the entrance to the park and Jenny Hill has been in touch with one of the ladies from the Buderim Garden Club who maintain the garden and she thinks a member would be willing to talk to us about the garden on the day. We may also check out the Buderim Village Park which is new and is being built in stages. It has lots of natives and is a credit to the Council. It is close to the Edna Walling Garden and is a great place for lunch with shelters and BBQ's. Three cafes are nearby.

### Tuesday 14th May:

**Native Plants Caboolture Meeting** - 9:30am Meeting in the nursery at Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre (CREEC). After the meeting - walk at Sheep Station Creek Environmental Reserve (from Williamson Road), UBD Map 66 - Q2. BYO morning tea & lunch.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEES**

It is that time of year when we renew our memberships of both Native Plants Queensland, and Native Plants Caboolture Branch. Together with the March 2019 edition of your NATIVE PLANTS QLD JOURNAL you will have received a membership renewal form setting out the applicable fees for Native Plants Queensland only. (It does not include Branch fees.)

**Please DO NOT forward fees direct to Native Plants Queensland, but forward the TOTAL OF ALL FEES, TOGETHER WITH THE NPC 'MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM' to:**

The Treasurer  
Native Plants Caboolture  
PO Box 1036  
Bongaree QLD 4507

Of course, 'In Person' payment, (with the NPQ form), to Allan Carr is acceptable.

Allan will forward your form together with the NPQ portion of your payment to the Membership Officer, at NPQ.

This method of payment will enable our Branch Treasurer to ensure that all branch members are in fact current financial members of Native Plants Queensland, as is required by our constitution.

Your co-operation in this matter will be appreciated.

<b>Fees for 2019/2020 are :</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>Couple</b>
<b>Old Region:</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Branch:</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Total :</b>	<b>\$48.00</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Make any cheque payable to:**

**"SGAP Caboolture Daytime Branch"** (No other name is acceptable)

## Plant of the Month - March

by Allan Carr

### *Bossiaea heterophylla*

variable bossiaea

**Pronunciation:** boss-ee-a het-er-o-FILL-a

FABACEAE

**Derivation:** *Bossiaea*, after Boissieu de la Martinère, botanist on La Perouse expedition which called at Botany Bay just after the arrival of the First Fleet and left six weeks later, never to be seen again: *heterophylla*, from the Greek, *hetero* – different and *phyllo* – leaf, (a reference to different leaf shapes on the same plant).



Leaves and flowers



Fruits and leaves



Flower

*Bossiaea* is a genus of about 50 endemic species represented in all states. About half of these are found in south-western WA and 17 are found in Qld.

**Description:** *B. heterophylla* is a small spreading shrub to 1 m in coastal sandy heathland and woodland. Young branches are usually flattened and hairless. It is found from Bundaberg in Qld, south along the coast and nearby inland of NSW to Gippsland in Vic.

**Leaves** to 20 mm x 10 mm are alternate and variable in shape from \*linear to \*ovate in two rows on opposite sides of the branch as in the photo on the left above.

**Flowers** to 12 mm across are typically pea-shaped. The standard is broad, yellow with red markings and tinged red on the back; the keel is reddish and longer than the wings. Flowering can be from March to May and September to October.

**Fruits** are flattened pods to 40 mm x 5 mm with thickened edges and contain 4 to 8 small black seeds.

\*linear = long and thin with parallel sides

\*ovate = shaped like an egg in outline, broadest near the base



Immature fruits and skeleton leaves



Habit

## Native Plants Caboolture

### Chairman's report - 2018

A year with complementary activities to the usual nursery and regional related roles for the branch. Propagation is ongoing with significant plant sales throughout the year. The branch has had continued community involvement with the schools promoting native plants, Native Plants Queensland (NPQ) and our Branch.

This year the branch published a book authored by Allan Carr, A Field Guide to Native Plants of Bribie Island and nearby costal South-east Queensland. A review of the book appears in the NPQ March journal.

In August the branch took up the opportunity to register as a CTC Affiliate for the Cane Toad Challenge. It is a University of Queensland initiative that aims to support research and development, and facilitate the uptake on innovative cane toad control technologies. In August the branch applied to be registered as a CTC Affiliate. We have successfully commenced trials of traps and baits. Although its early days, the CTC science program affiliates have already removed *over a million poisonous tadpoles* from local waterways.

Membership has been steady with good attendance at activities and nursery days. Throughout the year the branch has participated in the following activities.

- 9 Jan - Deep Water Bend Reserve, Wyampa Rd Bald Hills (Tinchi Tamba Wetland Reserve)
- 30 Jan - Madonna's Wildlife Info Session – Ocean View, Mt Mee
- 13 Feb - Neurum Creek Conservation Park, Cruice Park, Woodford
- 13 Mar - Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre (CREEC), Burpengary
- 3 Apr - Bribie Island, Bribie Island Community Arts Centre (BICAS)
- 8 Apr - Bribie Island, BICAS – NPQ Autumn Gathering and AGM
- 8 May - Nursery at CREEC, Burpengary
- 29 May - Dicky Beach Coastal Walk
- 12 Jun - Parrot Park, Beerburrum, Soldier Settlers Track from Cemetery
- 10 Jul - Godwin Beach Esplanade Park
- 31 Jul - Marcus Dunes, Noosa National Park
- 14 Aug - Matthew Flinders Rest Area, Beerburrum, Beerwah Scientific Area
- 11 Sep - Pioneer Park, Landsborough, Dularcha National Park
- 9 Oct - Tibrogargan Picnic Area, Barr's Road, Glass House Mtns.
- 30 Oct - CREEC, Wonders of the Wallum Talk and Bill Tulloch Memorial Lecture Slideshow
- 13 Nov - Ben Bennett Bushland Park, Queen Street, Caloundra.
- 11 Dec - Caboolture Scouts Site, Smiths Road, Caboolture

I would like to thank the people for belonging to the Caboolture daytime Branch family. Your loyalty and commitment is what allows us to succeed in the nursery and out in the region.

I appreciate being able to give many thanks to the Branch office bearers for their commitment to responsibility and dedication throughout the year. Special thanks to Alby and Julie Saunders for producing the newsletter each month over the years.

Thank you  
Alan Baxter  
Chairman

## What is Scrub-itch?

By Alby Saunders using data from Wikipedia

Scrub-itch mites are a family of mites sometimes known as chiggers. There are several species of similar mites that occur throughout many countries. They live in forests and grasslands and are also found in the vegetation of low, damp areas such as woodlands, along lakes and streams, and even in drier places where vegetation is low, such as lawns, golf courses, and parks. They are most numerous in early summer when the presence of grass, weeds, and other vegetation are heaviest. These relatives of ticks are nearly microscopic, measuring 0.4 mm (1/60 of an inch) in the adult form, and have a chrome-orange hue.

These mites go through a lifecycle of egg, larva, nymph, and adult.

The length of the mite's cycle depends on species and environment but normally lasts two to 12 months. The number of cycles in a year depends on the region. For example, in a temperate region, there might only be three per year, but in tropical regions the cycle might be continuous all year long. Some adult mites winter in protected places such as slightly below the soil. Females become active in the spring, and once the ground temperature is regularly above 16°C, she lays eggs in vegetation, up to 15 eggs per day. The eggs are round and are dormant for about six days, after which the nonfeeding prelarvae emerge. After about six days, the prelarva grows into its larval stage.

When in the larvae stage, they are about 0.17–0.21 mm (0.007–0.008 in) in diameter, normally light red in colour, covered in hairs, have only six legs, and move quickly relative to size. The larvae congregate in groups on small clods of soil, in matted vegetation, and even on low bushes and plants, where they have more access to prospective hosts.

Chiggers attach to the host, pierce the skin, inject enzymes into the bite wound that digest cellular contents, and then suck up the digested tissue through a tube formed by hardened skin cells called a stylostome. They do not burrow into the skin or suck blood, as is commonly assumed. Itching from a chigger bite may not develop until 24–48 hours after the bite, so the victim may not associate the specific exposure with the bite itself. The red welt/bump on the skin is not where a chigger laid eggs, as is sometimes believed. The larva remains attached to a suitable host for three to five days before dropping off to begin its nymphal stage. They tend to attach where clothing have restrictions, such as belt lines, or behind the knees when wearing jeans.

Once the larva has engorged itself on skin and has dropped to the ground, it develops to its nymph stage. The nymphs are sexually immature, but more closely resemble the adult.

The adults which have eight legs, are harmless to humans, in that they are not parasitic and feed on plant material. The females lay three to eight eggs in a clutch, usually on a leaf or under the roots of a plant, and die by autumn.

References to chiggers go as far back as sixth-century China, however, most information about chiggers came from problems that arose during and after World War II.

### Handling chigger bites

Because chigger wounds are a complex combination of enzymatic and the resulting mechanical damage, plus allergy and immune responses, plus possible secondary bacterial infection subject to local influences, no one remedy works equally well for all people.

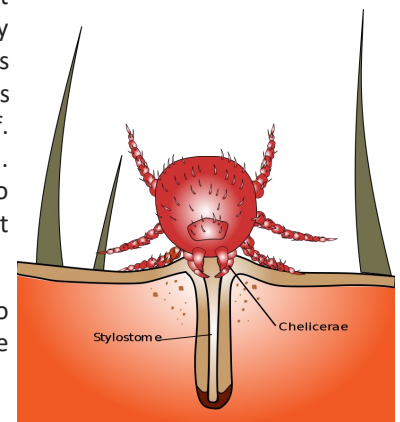
The chiggers' digestive enzymes in the saliva causes "the insanely itchy welts". The itching may be alleviated through use of over-the-counter topical corticosteroids and antihistamines, however you should seek the advice of your pharmacist or doctor before using such remedies. The red, itchy welts normally heal on their own within one to two weeks. Hot showers or baths also will help reduce itching. In cases of severe dermatitis or secondary infection associated with chigger bites, a doctor should be consulted.

According to an Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet:

...After returning from a chigger-infested area, launder the field clothes in soapy, hot water (52°C.) ....As soon as possible, take a good hot bath or shower and soap repeatedly. The chiggers may be dislodged, but you will still have the stylostomes, causing the severe itch. Scratching deep to remove stylostomes can cause secondary infections. For temporary relief of itching, apply ointments of benzocaine, hydrocortisone, calamine lotion, New Skin, After Bite, or others recommended by your pharmacist or medical doctor....(The sooner the treatment, the better the results.)....

Home remedies to "suffocate" the mite such as, applying clear nail polish, rubbing alcohol, or bleach are of no benefit since the mites do not burrow into the skin.

*Possibly a dose of prevention by way of applying a generous application of a good quality insect repellent may be the way to go in future! However if you are suffering, Rob White has found that FEXOFENADINE tablets available over the counter from your Pharmacist work a treat.*



**Native Plants Caboolture, a Branch of Native Plants Queensland**

**Plants observed from Day Use Area to first part of Piccabeen Track - Mt Mee, D'Aguilar NP, 12 February 2019**

Reference: UBD Brisbane Map 44:F12, Australian Map Grid 469E 7003N

Family	Species	Form	Common Name	Notes	MtoM
MIMOSACEAE	<i>Acacia irrorata</i>	S	green wattle		176
MIMOSACEAE	<i>Acacia maidenii</i>	T	Maiden's wattle		176
ADIANTACEAE	<i>Adiantum formosum</i>	tF	giant maidenhair fern		431
ARACEAE	<i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i>	H	cunjevoi		419
ZINGIBERACEAE	<i>Alpinia caerulea</i>	H	native ginger		388
ULMACEAE	<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>	T	rough-leaved elm		407
DRYOPTERIDACEAE	<i>Arachnoides aristata</i>	tF	prickly shield fern		AF79
ARAUCARIACEAE	<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>	T	hoop pine		422
ARECACEAE	<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	P	piccabeen palm		320
BLECHNACEAE	<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	tF	gristle fern		432
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	S	breynia		130
ARECACEAE	<i>Calamus muelleri</i>	cP	wait-a-while		421
DICKSONIACEAE	<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>	tF	soft bracken		266
CUPRESSACEAE	<i>Callitris macleayana</i>	T	stringy-barked pine		291
CAPPARACEAE	<i>Capparis arborea</i>	S	caper bush		365
VITACEAE	<i>Cayratia clematidea</i>	V	slender grape		127
LAXMANNIACEAE	<i>Cordyline petiolaris</i>	S	broad-leaved palm lily		320
LAXMANNIACEAE	<i>Cordyline rubra</i>	S	red-fruited palm lily		321
DIOSCORIACEAE	<i>Dioscorea transversa</i>	V	native yam		425
BLECHNACEAE	<i>Doodia linearis</i>	tF	rasp fern		433
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	T	flooded gum		534
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>	T	blackbutt		526
CYPERACEAE	<i>Gahnia aspera</i>	Se	large-fruited sawsedge		251
MALVACEAE	<i>Hibiscus heterophyllus</i>	S	native rosella		185
EUPHORIACEAE	<i>Homolanthus populifolius</i>	T	native bleeding heart		360
POACEAE	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	G	blady grass		211
JUNCAEAE	<i>Juncus usitatus</i>	Ru	common rush		71
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	T	macaranga		411
ZAMIACEAE	<i>Macrozamia lucida</i>	C	pineapple zamia		153
LAURACEAE	<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	T	white bolly gum		286
PITTOSPORACEAE	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	S	sweet pittosporum		365
POLYPODIACEAE	<i>Platynerium bifurcatum</i>	eF	elkhorn		438
ACANTHACEAE	<i>Pseuderanthemum variabile</i>	H	love flower		164
RIPOGONACEAE	<i>Ripogonum elseyanum</i>	V	hairy supplejack		385
ROSACEAE	<i>Rubus rosifolius</i>	S	rose-leaved raspberry		316
MELIACEAE	<i>Synoum glandulosum ssp. glandulosum</i>	S	scentless rosewood		307
ULMACEAE	<i>Trema tomentosa</i>	S	poison peach		124
THYMELAEACEAE	<i>Wikstoemia indica</i>	S	bootlace bark		130

**Form:** T=Tree; S=Shrub; V=Vine; H=Herb; eF=Epiphytic Fern; tF=Terrestrial Fern; P=Palm; cP=Climbing Palm; Ru=Rush; Se=Sedge

**Note:** MtoM page numbers are for Leiper, G. et al 2017, *Mangroves to Mountains, Second Edition* (Page numbers for the previous Revised Edition will mostly be the same or close)

**AF** page numbers are for Jones, D.L. and Clemesha, S.C. 1982, *Australian Ferns and Fern Allies*