

Banksia Bytes

Native Plants Sunshine Coast



npscsecretarycs@gmail.com

www.npqsuncoast.org

Native Plants Queensland

Newsletter

May 2016 Number 7

OFFICE BEARERS

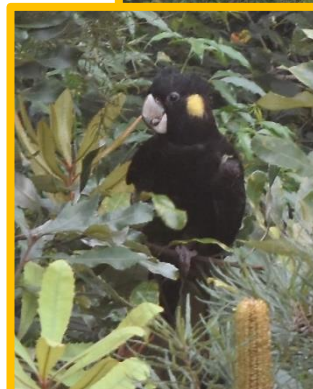
Anne Windsor	Chair	npsc.chair@gmail.com
Cat Secomb	Hon Secretary	npscsecretarycs@gmail.com
Joan Abercrombie	Hon Treasurer	jabercrombie@skymesh.com.au
Marie Livingstone	Events Coordinator	npscevents@gmail.com
Wendy Johnston	Banksia Bytes Editor	news.npq.suncoast@bigpond.com
Gretchen Evans	Excursions Coordinator	pelion4@gmail.com
John Dillon	Webmaster	johnf.dillon@bigpond.com



Editors Note

Have you noticed the wattles coming into flower along the highway? The banksias are also blooming and this *Banksia spinulosa* var. *collina* is attracting birds in our garden. Just this evening 2 yellow-tailed black cockatoos came in, with great fanfare, to crack some of the old cones on the adjacent *Banksia robur*. For other plants, this is the fruiting season and we have white cedar and *Acronychia* fruits, ready to start the next generation.

*Happy Gardening with
Australian Natives*





COMING EVENTS

- ★ **May 22** - Visit to Woodfordia site, led by Donna Farrell. This is a joint outing with Samford, Pine Rivers and Caboolture. We will car pool from Peachester ready for a 10 am start at Festival Hall, Woodfordia (signage on site). Gates will be open from 9.15 to 10 am only. Finish approx. 3 p.m. BYO water and lunch (fridge available if required). Coffee/tea provided. Plenty of chairs and tables on site. Sunscreen, insect repellent and walking shoes recommended. (And we may even be entertained by the 'Tree Huggers' at lunchtime.)



- ★ **June 12** - Gather at 10.30am at 93 Willandra Place, Mapleton to explore Nita and Phillip Lester's magnificent garden. It is much expanded since our last visit in 2014. Bring your walking shoes as Nita calls her garden a "walk through, walk over" garden and it is on a slope. 12.30 pm ~ish enjoy your BYO lunch on the deck. We might need to have a short Branch meeting. Tea, coffee, milk, hot water etc will be on hand.

2.00 pm Patrick Lester will tell us about the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened species.

Directions:



Continue right to the end of the Willandra Place, up the steep hill, using the bitumen private road called 'Kingfisher Ridge' until you drive through the Lester's gate. Their property is called 'The Wilde Woode'. Nita will indicate where to park. If we have a large number attending, we might consider car-pooling from the turn-around point on Willandra Place. Ph is 5445 7182 - in case you get lost.

- ★ **July 8-10** - Qld Garden Expo. Check the details on page 15.



- ★ **August 6-7** - Details page 16.



Natives Naturally, for your Garden at the Maroochy Gardens.

- ★ **August 14** - an ecological walk with Wyn Boon in Jowarra. Meet at 2pm at Jowarra NP.



Hoya australis (Wax Flower)

Chrissie McMaster

Do you think of a Hoya as the plant Great Aunt Ethel had on her front porch? I think maybe everyone's great aunt had one, hiding the meter box, gathering spiders and their webs, attracting butterflies.

Out in its natural habitat, it looks a little different from Aunt Ethel's. My reading tells me it is quite widespread across Qld in a variety of habitats from brigalow scrub to open eucalypt forests to dry rainforests. It occurs in rocky places around the GlassHouse Mountains, and the vines I've seen in those gullies have been densely intertwined, forming matted tangles or trailing over rocky outcrops, hanging down into the gully below.

It appears to be in a number of forms, with experts stating that it is a very variable species.

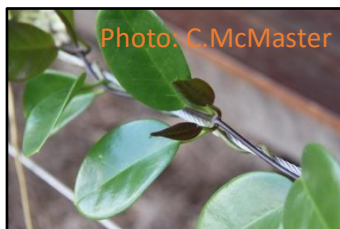


In cultivation, the vine will grow in many positions as long as it has good drainage. It's hardy in exposed conditions, but grows well in sheltered positions or even full shade, where the leaves deepen in colour.

The vine stems are easily wound around supporting wire or timber trellising without breaking. The leaves are opposite, thick and fleshy, up to 15 cm long, rounded with an abrupt point. New growth of leaves tends to be darker than the older growth, and can be so dark as to appear black. The stems exude a milky latex if cut.

The small five-petaled flowers cluster into showy umbels hanging down from the vine. Cream with a little deep pink in each flower, they look delightful and their fragrance adds a lovely perfume to the garden. Retain the flower stems, as the flowers are produced perennially from the same stem.

Despite Jan Sked saying in her superb book *Growing Australian Plants in Subtropical Gardens* that *Hoya australis* flowers better if it has some sunlight, our three very young, south-facing trellised vines get no sunlight but have 13 blooms this year.



This lovely plant is excellent for cultivation, a climber that wends its way across trellises to make a good screening plant or decorative wall-plant. It also grows well in pots as long as the drainage is adequate. Maybe Great Aunt Ethel knew a thing or two, growing it on her porch.



LOVELY LAWN INVADERS

Michael McCuaig

Sometimes I mow the lawn at the Dicky Beach home of my daughter and her husband, usually doing, even if I have to say so myself, a great job. I say usually, because occasionally there are strange patterns that result from weird modifications of the normal mowing lines, giving the appearance of an apprentice crop marker learning his “trade” on a rather small scale.

Let me allow the words of Kathleen McArthur, from “The Bush in Bloom” (1982), page 123, (for the month of November), to try to explain these alien sights.

“Flowers pop out of lawns now; the white ground orchids called Ladies’-Tresses (more colourful than its English namesake), and the Mauve Lawn Lily.”

The former plant is *Spiranthes sinensis* and the latter is *Murdannia graminea*. See the March 2016 issue, page 213, of the Bulletin, for Allan Carr’s splendid photos of *Spiranthes*.

The strange markings on the lawn I refer to above are the result of trying to dodge the delightful floral stems of *Spiranthes* as I wheel the mower along, thus leaving the little flowers to positively shine in the midst of uncut grass. This is not, perhaps, a pretty sight to those who don’t know they are there, don’t much care about them or who just prefer neatly trimmed lanes of grass and edgings all the time I counted at least 24 of the flower stems which equates to a lot of dodging!!

I have not seen the *Murdannia* growing in any local lawns but there were many of these plants flourishing in the regenerating area of KMCA Park after the fire of last year. And a wonderful wallum sight they make.



Spiranthes in a Dicky Beach lawn



Murdannia growing in KMCA Park



Velleia in a Dicky Beach lawn

LOVELY LAWN INVADERS CONTINUED

There were, however, growing in rather grass - depleted areas of the lawn from above, a few *Velleia* plants. By removing the petals from some flowers and then counting the sepals, they came up as *spathulata*. (M to M p244). The number of these plants in this lawn fluctuates greatly according to environmental conditions and, seeing these conditions this year had, up until then, not been exactly helpful to growth, there were only a few plants showing. At other times there were many. Because of this paucity, I was not going to pursue the matter.

Some days later, however, I stumbled on council mowed and kept lawns, close to the path around Currimundi Lake and not far from Nicklin Way Bridge. In there, there was an abundance of these small (well mown) plants replete with many of their tiny yellow flowers. The "sepal test" revealed them to be *V. spathulata*. This plant would certainly be a worthy inclusion in KMCA's lawn list.

It would be remiss of me, especially after our recent (April/May) heavy rain, to finish there. In many places there are popping up the fruiting bodies of FUNGI. Many of these are so obvious because of the stark contrast they make with the lawns in which they grow. The ring shown here is at the side of residences, their well-kept lawns and the Coastal Pathway, as it winds its way past KMCA Park and on towards the beach dunes.

I can't wait for November of this year to see the new crop of lawn plants. My dodging and weaving mowing may well result in my dismissal as lawn mower at Dicky Beach and observations will need to be from afar. What am I saying? The job is honoured, noble and best of all - free.

I think I will retain the gig for some time to come!!!



Velleia in council lawn by the lake.



Mushrooms just itching to cross the path.



*Editor's Note: I tried growing both *Murdannia* and *Velleia* in a garden here. They lasted for almost a year but I haven't seen the *Velleia* for quite some time. The *Murdannia* is still there (if I really look for it) - I'm hoping the next rain might give it a boost but maybe I'll have to wait until November. Some germination in the garden or lawn would be most welcome although I doubt we would see them before we mowed them!*

Diversity in the Garden

Leaf Beetle

Ian McMaster

One of the joys of a garden with lots of native plants is that it attracts so many birds and other animals. We have had the pleasure of an extended warm spell, which appears to have supported a greater population of insects than we had noticed before. This spectacular specimen is one of the more uncommon leaf beetles, *Spilopyra sumptuosa*. Leaf beetles apparently feed on either one specific species, or a relatively small range of species, so their population is dependent on the host plants being available. In this case, the beetle's hosts are *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* and *Guioa semiglauca*, both of which are relatively abundant. We found this small group on the guioa.



Photo: I. McMaster



Tessellated Stick Insect

Wendy Johnston

This tessellated stick insect very nearly came to an untimely end while I was cutting off leggy shoots on my *Austromyrtus dulcis*.



Something Savoury

Warrigal Greens and Feta Triangles

Ingredients:

- 500g Warrigal Greens leaves, blanched*
- 1 tablespoon parsley, chopped
- 4 spring onions, chopped
- 300g fetta cheese, cubed
- 100g tasty cheddar, grated
- 75g pine nuts
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 4 organic, free range eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cracked pepper
- 10 sheets of Puff pastry
- Olive Oil Spray

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C
2. Combine chopped Warrigal Greens, spring onions, parsley, pine nuts, nutmeg, fetta and cheese in a bowl
3. In a separate bowl whisk eggs, salt, pepper and oil
4. Pour egg mixture over Warrigal Green mixture and combine
Cut puff pastry sheets into quarters
5. On each piece of puff pastry, put some of the mixture
Fold and seal the edges
6. Place on greased trays
7. Bake for 45 min
8. Serve with freshly steamed vegetables or salad.



Something Refreshing

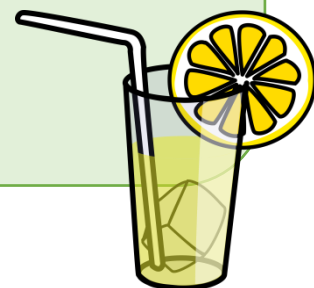
Pineapple and lemon myrtle refresher

Ingredients:

- 2L unsweetened pineapple juice
- 6 lemon myrtle leaves
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 L mineral/soda water
- Mint leaves

Method:

1. Pour boiling water over lemon myrtle leaves and allow to cool
2. Mix pineapple juice, lemon myrtle Tea and mineral water together
3. Serve with ice and mint leaves



Something Sweet

Lemon Myrtle Panna Cotta

Ingredients:

- 1 sachet Queen Jel-it-in
- 4 lemon myrtle leaves, crushed
- 200ml milk
- 1 ts vanilla essence or 1 pod
- 500ml light cream
- 2tbsp caster sugar

Method:

1. Dissolve one sachet Queen Jel-it-in in the milk and then pour into a saucepan
2. Add the lemon myrtle leaves, cream and caster sugar, vanilla and heat, stirring, until the sugar has dissolved and the mixture starts to bubble
3. Remove from heat
4. Divide it between panna cotta moulds and leave to come to room temperature then chill for at least 3 hours. Invert onto a plate to serve.
Serve with berries and cream if desired.



More recipes to come in Banksia Bytes 8



Fern happenings

Wendy Johnston

My staghorn ferns are all growing a new sheath leaf that will further strengthen the attachment to the host. This only happens once a year and now is the time.





SUPERFLUOUS QUESTIONS.

Michael McCuaig

Gretchen coerced me to buy a plant (or two), from the little Barung stall in downtown Maleny’s main street some time ago. At least one of them was *Pararistolochia praevenosa* and any other knowledge has since been obliterated. It is with this plant that we are here concerned. Since the people who live next door to us had erected a sizeable fence right near where I wanted the plant to grow, I decided to place it next to, and thus use as a stake, a Melaleuca plant. (Not exactly the correct thing to do Michael!)

The questions I asked of this little vine started with, “Will you grow in this (not exactly suitable) spot?” The answer to that became a fairly resounding positive. I therefore changed the question to, “Will you flower for us (and the butterflies)?” Although it took me a long time to wake up to the fact, to my amazement, it did. In fact, when I finally saw the first flower and became encouraged to look more closely, there were quite a few flowers showing. I was on a roll. The question now became, “Will you achieve the zenith and make us some fruit??” I horribly missed the result of this one for some time, until the unfamiliar yellow/orange of one mature fruit caught my eye. A much, much, closer inspection this time, showed me that there other fruits present but their green colour nicely hid the fact from my poor eyesight.

So, what an absolute thrill to see a series of steps that, I, of little faith, just did not expect. As much as I really consider the fruiting process as the pinnacle of the whole plant growth process, confirmation of this occurs only with germination of the seeds! Or at least an attempt at this process. The next, inevitable question was thus, “Will you small, strange, triangular-shaped seeds germinate for me?”

These photos thus record my efforts. No success as yet. If, however, you know that the species does not readily transplant, please don’t tell me. (I did place some of the seeds into tubes-just in case.)

After all that, there are two questions left. First, “Where are all the butterflies?” Secondly and probably fairly obvious to you all by now, “Should I go to Specsavers?”



Photo: M. McCuaig



Some fruit to exult in.



Flowers at last.



The vine grows on a Melaleuca



Seeds extracted from the fruit.



Seed just longing to germinate.

All things Fungal

[Many thanks to Gretchen for her comments on our specimens]

Correction

In Banksia Bytes No. 6, the caption on the photo of Marie and Gretchen studying a fungus should read “Gretchen and Marie studying the chalky stem of a **Russula** fungus at Mt Mellum”.

Gretchen’s response to Michael’s query about the fungus in his potplant: *The pot plant fungus which is very common is **Leucocoprinus birnbaumii**. Seems it often pops up in nurseries. It is usually a much brighter lemon yellow than your photo but you did say it was when younger.*



This fungus was seen by Dan and Wendy on a walk from Baroon Pkt to Kondalilla recently. *Gretchen’s response: I think your blue one is **Entoloma hochstetteri**. The cap looks a bit different to usual - often more pointy but there are few blue fungi around and we have found them there. To be sure you need to see the spores which are pink.*



This fungus was captured by Dan and Wendy on the same walk as above: *Gretchen’s response: There are 2 small red fungi. I think these are **Mycena viscidocruenta** because they are the more common around here. They are sticky which makes them look shiny. Thanks for the photo of the gills although they look a bit paler. This has a common name which should please a few people. Ruby Bonnet.*



I recently had my first visit to Mary Cairncross, and what a delightful place it is. The one thing I took photos of, because they were everywhere, was fungi. All shapes and sizes and colours, and all quite beautiful. Unfortunately, Gretchen was able to identify only one of them, because I hadn’t taken a photo showing the structure of the underneath parts. – from Anne.

Gretchen’s response: *They are **Microporus xanthopus** and it is probably the most common fungus on the range. This means it has tiny pores and a yellow foot. You can clearly see how it is attached to the wood but it may not look so yellow. I have seen up to 50 growing along a fallen log. It belongs to the Polypore group and is often found growing on fallen quandong (*Elaeocarpus grandis*) branches especially near creeks. It is a wood rot fungus and can last for months and there are lots in Mary Cairncross.*

Outing Reports

Working Together for Native Plants – 13th March 2016



Photo: P.Storer

On 13th March Native Plants Sunshine Coast partnered with Friends of the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens (MRBBG) and Sunshine Coast Council to host Native Plants Queensland Regional Council Meeting and AGM at the A&E Centre at the MRBBG. The meeting was followed by a series of short talks by local experts on what is happening in our area regarding native plants.

The talks were varied and informative, stimulating considerable discussion. The talks touched on the ecological aspects of native plants for the area, the Council’s acquisition plans and strategies, aspects of growing native plants, the *Gardens for Wildlife* scheme to highlight the relationship between plants and fauna in even a small garden, and the economic challenge of growing and selling native plants.



Photo: P.Storer



Photo: P.Storer



Photo: P.Storer



Photo: P.Storer

+++++

Outing to Dicky Beach – April 2016

Our April outing began with a stroll down the Mangrove Walk at Golden Beach.

This is a small area, but easily accessible thanks to the excellent elevated walkway, which allows you to get right into the mangroves without causing any damage to the ecosystem - or getting your feet dirty!



Photo: A.Windsor



Photo: A.Windsor

We were lucky to find one of the several species of mangrove trees in flower - the Orange Mangrove *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*. The flowers have fringed petals encased in a thick orange-red calyx. The calyx looks like

plastic, and must be quite durable because it is often washed up on local beaches, none-the-worse for its journey.

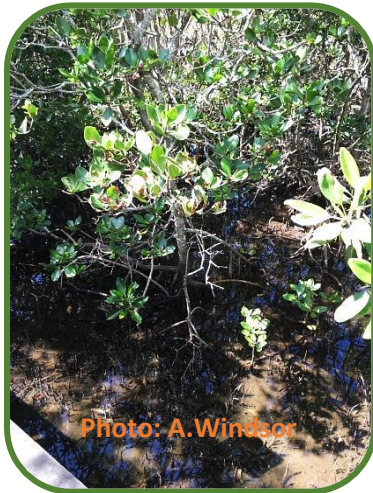


There are several types of pneumatophores, or aerial root structures, seen in mangroves, the most common being the pencil-shaped. These are found in the Grey Mangrove *Avicenna marina* subsp. *australasica*. These help the tree obtain oxygen via lenticels (pores) in the pneumatophore.

The Orange Mangrove, however, has knee-shaped pneumatophores.



And yet another difference is seen in the Stilt-root Mangrove *Rhizophora stylosa*. As its name suggests, it develops extra above-ground roots to help with its oxygen intake.



Mangrove trees also have different shaped fruits, the most common being an elongated cylindrical shape. This what the Orange Mangrove has, but the Grey Mangrove has large rounded fruit.



Mangroves are fascinating places, with a unique, salt-tolerant group of species. Go explore one today!

April outing Part Two



The beach walk from Dicky to Currimundi took place after our very social lunch get-together at the Dicky Beach Surf Club. We walked down the coastal pathway, investigating the remnant vegetation.

There were quite a few very large trees, Banksias and Beach Tuckeroos most commonly, but numerous other species, including the Beach Birds-eye *Alectryon coriaceus*, and some quite magnificent *Parsonsia straminea*, Monkey Rope.





Photo: A. Windsor

As we reached the open beachfront, we examined the dunal vegetation, and marvelled at the tolerance so many species have developed for the tough life they lead. Though they do have a great view!

Thanks again to Michael McCuaig for organising the day for us.



Photo: A. Windsor

Plant Identification from Dicky Beach Outing

Eric Anderson

My Sunshine Coast Council contact has confirmed that the large leaved plant we saw on our recent Dicky Beach to Currimundi walk was as I suspected a *Terminalia* - *Terminalia catappa*, the Beach Almond. It has been planted in some recreation parks in coastal areas by Council.

According to *Flora of Australia* the plant ranges from SE Asia, through Malesia to Polynesia and has been extensively planted throughout the tropics. In Australia it occurs in the extreme NE of Arnhem Land, N.T. and from islands of Torres Strait to about Mission Beach near Tully. It is a characteristic tree of sandy and rocky beaches.



Photo: E. Anderson

Terminalia catappa

Visit to Natives R Us – 8th May 2016



We spent a very enjoyable Mothers Day at **Natives R Us** wholesale production nursery at Traveston. Jacinta, the owner and manager, is breathing new life into an old nursery that had been let slide into decay. An area adjoining the nursery has been acquired to grow the 'Mother plants' so that soon all plants growing there will have been sourced there. We were treated to a guided tour of the site and met the workers who apart from being very friendly and helpful also produced a wonderful morning tea. We left there armed with plants and great admiration for Jacinta's enthusiasm and determined approach to the challenges she faces. It was great to see another native plant nursery on the coast.



Photo: A.Windsor



Photo: A.Windsor



Queensland Garden Expo July 8 - 10, 2016

Native Plants Sunshine Coast is once again participating in this gardening extravaganza. Thanks to the generosity of the Sunshine Coast Council we will be located in the Living Backyard section.

Our theme for 2016 is "Native Plants for Containers" and we are working with Native Plants Queensland Region to produce a new colour version of a brochure on this theme, to help promote native plants for all gardens, no matter how small.

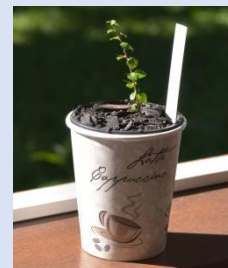
Anne, Joan Dillon, Marie and Allan Carr from Native Plants Caboolture have the planning well underway and Karen and Spencer Shaw from Forest Heart nursery are assisting with plants.

How can you help?

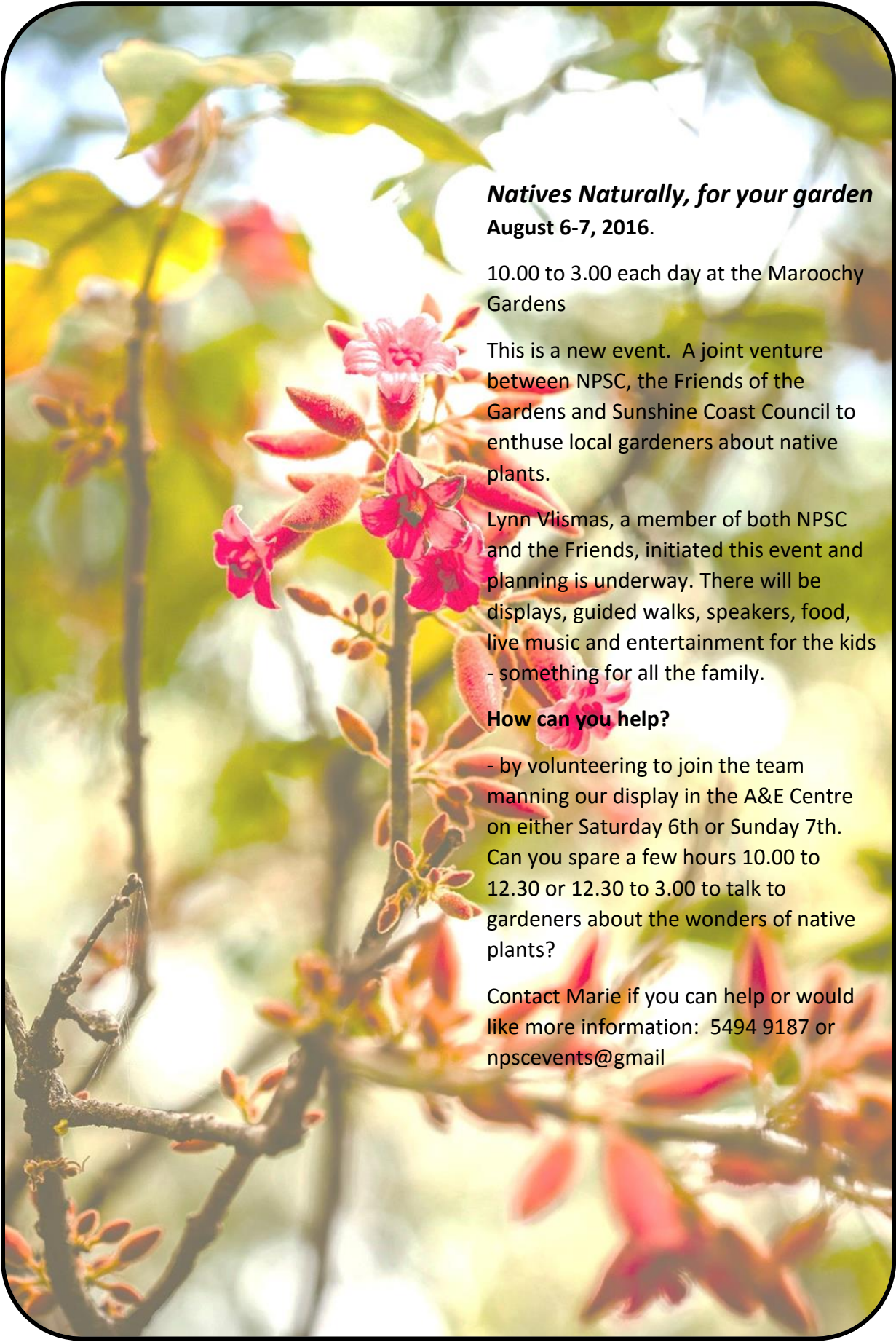
- by volunteering to do a shift from either Friday 8th or Saturday 9th from 8.00 - 12.30 or 12.30 - 5.00 and Sunday 10th from 8.00 to 12.00 or 12.00 to 4.00. You will get a free pass to the Expo if you are able to help.



- by volunteering to spend an hour or so on the "plant in a coffee cup" event. NPSC and Native Plants Caboolture are providing plants for this Qld Garden Expo initiative and workers to help enthuse the "coffee cup" participants about the joys of native plants. The Expo organizers provide the potting mix and venue and will announce which organization is providing the plants - a great free publicity opportunity for Native Plants Queensland.



Contact Marie if you can help or would like more information: 5494 9187 or npscevents@gmail.com



Natives Naturally, for your garden
August 6-7, 2016.

10.00 to 3.00 each day at the Maroochy Gardens

This is a new event. A joint venture between NPSC, the Friends of the Gardens and Sunshine Coast Council to enthuse local gardeners about native plants.

Lynn Vlismas, a member of both NPSC and the Friends, initiated this event and planning is underway. There will be displays, guided walks, speakers, food, live music and entertainment for the kids - something for all the family.

How can you help?

- by volunteering to join the team manning our display in the A&E Centre on either Saturday 6th or Sunday 7th. Can you spare a few hours 10.00 to 12.30 or 12.30 to 3.00 to talk to gardeners about the wonders of native plants?

Contact Marie if you can help or would like more information: 5494 9187 or npscevents@gmail



Myall Park Botanic Gardens



Myall Park Botanic Garden near Glenmorgan on the Western Downs has a unique collection of inland Australian plants species as well as unique native fauna.

There is an art gallery, accommodation, camping and caravan facilities. Myall Park Botanic Gardens is run as a not-for-profit organisation managed by a group of volunteer Honorary Directors, with the site managed by caretakers. Due to the important heritage status of the Garden, there is some financial assistance from local and federal governments as well as making some income from the accommodation onsite, however it is only through the efforts of many volunteers including the "Friends of Myall Park" and several bush-care groups and individuals volunteering their time and expertise that so much of the work gets done. The Directors are very grateful for the range of skills and time so many of the Garden's supporters contribute every year.

2016 is shaping up to be a great year, with welcome rains helping the garden along and several working bees planned to renovate gardens and displays. The Garden can always use more help and the Directors would welcome any expressions of interest from people who may like to volunteer their time to helping realise their vision of continually improving the Garden. Aside from those keen to the work in the field, the Directors would also welcome the input from people with all sorts of managerial skills including financial management, event organising, marketing and auditing. Volunteers with trade skills are also of great value in helping to look after the gallery and accommodation buildings.


People wanting to be involved and volunteer their time and expertise to help Myall Park Botanic Garden grow and improve are most welcome to contact the Garden by telephoning or emailing Director and Secretary Sue Akeroyd on 0415 291 225 - akeroyd.sue@gmail.com

Further information about Myall Park Botanic Garden can be found at <http://myallparkbotanicgarden.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/myallparkbotanicgarden/>


Native Plants Sunshine Coast


Future Meetings and Excursions

 **September 11** - a flower spotting walk along Forestry Rd, Landsborough, led by John Birbeck.




I might just help with the pruning to get ready for our visitors.

 **October 9** - A walk in the Dillon garden at Hunchy.

 **November 13** - Meeting and garden exploration at Peter and Linda Scharf's property.



 **December 11** - Forest Heart. Talk from Spencer and afternoon tea by Karen.



Information about outings contact....

Cat	0432 040 854
Chrissie	0408 792 227
Gretchen	0400 772 602
Anne	0417 733 991



The end of Banksia Bytes No. 7