

Banksia Bytes

Native Plants Sunshine Coast



npscsecretarycs@gmail.com

www.npqsuncoast.org

Native Plants Queensland

Newsletter

September 2016 Number 8



OFFICE BEARERS

Anne Windsor
Cat Secomb
Joan Abercrombie
Marie Livingstone
Wendy Johnston
Gretchen Evans
John Dillon



Chair
Hon Secretary
Hon Treasurer
Events Coordinator
Banksia Bytes Editor
Excursions Coordinator
Webmaster



npsc.chair@gmail.com
npscsecretarycs@gmail.com
jabercrombie@skymesh.com.au
npscsevents@gmail.com
news.npq.suncoast@bigpond.com
pelion4@gmail.com
johnf.dillon@bigpond.com



Editor's Note:

We have just come home from 6 weeks camped under desert oaks in sandy spinifex country. The wildflowers were in their glory after good rain earlier in the year. I hope to enjoy the wildflowers here this week.

Of interest in our garden at present is our first flower spike of the spear lily *Doryanthes palmeri*, a plant we grew from seed about 10 years ago. Joan D recommends this and another feature plant on page 4. Check the recent Pine Rivers Newsletter for a plant that looks like the spear lily but is a weed.

Do you like the insect trails left on the bark of this *Leptospermum purpurescens*? Frank and Ian McM describe some of the critters appearing in their garden on pages 2 and 3.



Doryanthes palmeri





Triangle Slug at Mount Coolum

Frank McGreevy

Early Saturday morning, 11th June 2016, strong winds blew over an old, dead Macaranga in my backyard at Mt Coolum.

On investigating the trunk and peeling off some bark about 2.5 metres from the base, I discovered a Red-triangle slug (*Triboniophorus graeffei* Humbert, 1863) 70mm long and 40mm wide, which when moving became 85mm long and 25mm wide! Apparently, it lives in rainforest and eucalypt woodland, buried in ground under logs and rocks during the day and crawling on tree trunks at night, particularly after rain, leaving lines of small circular markings on smooth-barked eucalypts after feeding. A herbivore, it feeds on algae and fungi living on tree trunks, rocks and leaf litter on the forest floor. The species is oviparous, laying soft spherical eggs in a small cluster. Only the one genus with one species is found in Eastern Australia.

The single genus, *Triboniophorus*, is found from the Illawarra district of NSW up the Australian East Coast into Papua New Guinea. Also Irian Jaya, New Britain, New Ireland, and Admiralty Islands. A large colour range exists in this species, the most common being bluish grey. On Mt Bellenden Ker it is bright orange, Mt Bartle Frere white, and Mt Kaputar bright red. For colour photos see Stanistic (2010) et al, P373.

Some controversy exists as to whether the family arose in the north and spread south, or it arose in Antarctica followed by a two-pronged northern radiation. Ref. Beesley et al 1998. The jury is still out on this issue and we may never know of an outcome.

Bibliography:

Beesley PL, Ross GJB, & Wells A, (eds) (1993) Mollusca The Southern Synthesis, Fauna of Australia, Vol 5, B, CSIRO. Melb. P1109-1110.

Stanistic J, Shea M, Potter O, Griffiths O, (2010) Australian Land Snails Vol 1., A Field Guide to Eastern Australian Species. Bioculture Press; Mauritius, P372-373.

Queensland Museum (2007) 2ed. Wildlife of Greater Brisbane, P20.

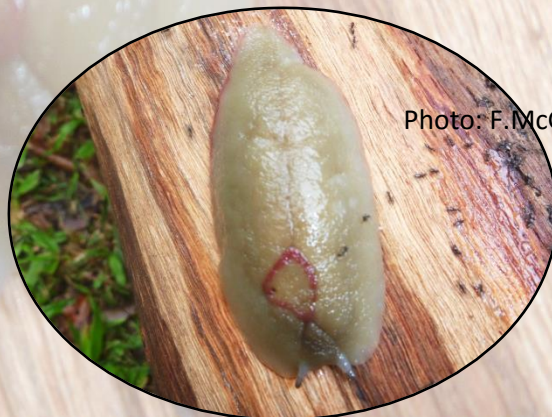


Photo: F. McGreevy



Toona ciliata

Photo: I. McMaster

Signs of Spring

Photos and text: Ian McMaster



While technically it is still winter, the recent bout of warm weather has heralded the first obvious signs of spring in our garden. It has been lovely to see the various *Pultenaeas* come into blossom, and the contrasting purple of the *Hoveas* and *Hardenbergias* makes a glorious splash of colour on the ridge. In the rainforest part of the garden we are blessed by the new red leaves on many species, with lilly-pillies and the big red cedar perhaps the most spectacular.

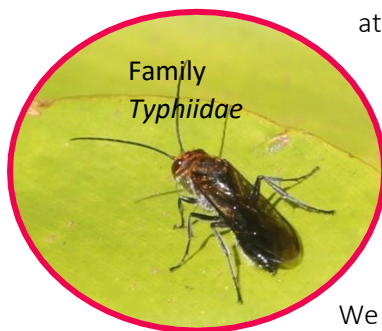
But the plant life is not the only sign to emerge in this weather. We had a magnificent season for butterflies last summer, only to see them vanish with the cold weather. Most of the other insects seemed to follow, with only the little gnats and midges still around in any quantity. As a result, the birdlife changes in our garden with the seasons. Fruit eating birds are now rare, as are most of the honeyeaters, which have seemingly flown down to wallum country, where plants still flower. Up here, the most common winter birds are the ever-present fantails, and those species prepared to dig in the ground for their daily feed of insect life. So we have a family of magpies owning our lawn; eastern yellow robins perching on the nearest tree whenever we are turning over soil in the garden, kookaburras waiting for the worms that are uncovered when we move a barrow of mulch, and the shrike thrushes that rattle through dead leaves looking for hiding insects.

We love the enormous variety of birds that our garden attracts, so we were delighted to see signs of a broader range of insects starting to appear, as this will encourage birds with differing palates to come back. We have seen several different beetles this week for the first time in a while. There were three species of ladybird in one section of the garden; the tiny and quite hairy yellow shouldered ladybird, the common red and black version, and a yellow striped ladybird that we found perched on leaves of our hairy walnut.



Eutinophaea bicristata

Our weeds play host to several weevil species in summer, and we found the first of these back this week, the citrus leaf weevil, *Eutinophaea bicristata*. While there are enough flowers in bloom to



Family
Typhiidae

attract plenty of European honey bees, we have also noticed an upsurge in the numbers of native bees, flies and wasps. The large wasp in the photo is a Typhid wasp. I was chatting the other day to a chap from the Queensland Museum, who commented that Australia is still largely virgin territory when it comes to animal species, for while we know our mammals reasonably well, up to 70% of the insects in our local bushland are undescribed species. So I now no longer get annoyed when I can't tie down an insect to a particular species!

We have had much delight in trying to understand not just the plants in our garden, but the various other orders that depend on them, and the seasonal patterns of flowers and fruits. Whether it is a kangaroo in the back paddock, a skink sunning itself on the path, or a butterfly or wasp catching the sunlight through the trees, the animals in our garden provide so many insights into the complexity of even small ecosystems.



Lampropholis guichenoti

A Tale of Two Feature Plants

Text and photos by Joan Dillon

Feature plants may have an architectural quality due to their shape, be a flowering tree which is stunning at a particular time of year, or really be anything which appeals to you and makes a statement in your garden.

My “feature” plants happen to be a Spear Lily (*Doryanthes palmeri*) and a Wallum Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea fulva*), planted in different areas of the garden. Both produce spectacular flower spikes, the reason for planting them in the first place.

Number 1, the Spear Lily, is a VERY large plant with magnificent sword shaped leaves. I was so impressed that I planted a second one. And then I waited, and waited, and so on. After about 15 years, it actually developed a rapidly elongating flower stem. Great excitement. However, several months went by as I waited, again. Would this thing ever actually flower?

It had evidently decided that official spring was the appropriate time to burst into bloom and should be fully out by September 1st. It is certainly a feature but be warned; the size and foliage are features in their own right, but if you want one, make sure you are young enough when you plant it, to see it in flower!

The Wallum Grass Tree on the other hand is a graceful plant with its circular skirt of fine leaves and it started to flower in about four years. Now, one year later, it is sending up its second spike. There’s a feature plant which is well worth having, and is also suited to a smaller garden. I’ve become quite fond of grass trees and have planted four different species, all tubestock, so it will be interesting to see how fast they grow. The wallum species was a real surprise. *Xanthorrhoea glauca* from the Border Ranges is looking promising. As the name suggests, the leaves are an attractive bluish green. Grass trees are not as slow as I was led to believe and are well worth a try.



Xanthorrhoea fulva



Doryanthes palmeri



Put on the apron and start baking with Karen Shaw

Davidson Plum Jam Drops

Ingredients:

- 125 g butter, softened
- 100g raw caster sugar
- 1 ts vanilla essence or 1 pod
- 1 egg
- 200 g self raising flour
- 1/3 cup Davidson plum jam

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180'
2. Line baking trays with non-stick baking paper.
3. Cream butter, sugar and vanilla together until pale and creamy.
4. Add egg and beat.
5. Sift flour over butter mixture and stir until combined
6. Using lightly floured hands, roll mixture into balls. Place on trays and flatten slightly. Make a indentation in the centre of each ball. Spoon ½ teaspoon of jam into the centre of each biscuit.
7. Bake for 15-20 mins.

Set aside on tray to cool completely.

Aniseed Myrtle Shortbread

Ingredients:

- 125gm butter
- 40gm sugar
- 25gm icing sugar
- 250gm plain flour
- 1 desert spoon dried Aniseed Myrtle
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons Orange Blossom Water (or orange juice)

Method:

1. Cream the butter and sugar.
2. Add icing sugar. Blend.
3. Sift flour with Aniseed Myrtle and salt and then slowly add to the mixture alternating with orange blossom water until a smooth dough is formed.
4. Divide dough into 4 or 5 pieces or roll into balls
5. Shape into bars/balls about 1cm thick.
6. Place on ungreased sheet.
7. Bake 150C for 15 to 20 minutes until pale golden (not brown).
8. Leave to cool and then transfer to wire rack



Chocolate and wattle seed cake

Ingredients:

- 225g butter
- 375g brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 100g dark chocolate, melted
- 200g self raising flour
- 250ml boiling water
- 2 tsp ground wattle seed

Method

1. Add wattle seed to boiling water and let it sit for a bit.
2. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs & vanilla.
3. Add melted chocolate and stir in gently.
4. Add flour
5. Add boiling water & wattle seeds.
6. Pour into lined (or silicone) loaf tin and cook for 30 – 40 minutes at 180 deg C



Some wildflowers seen in central Australia this year following good rain in April



A field of white and purple *Ptilotus* spp.



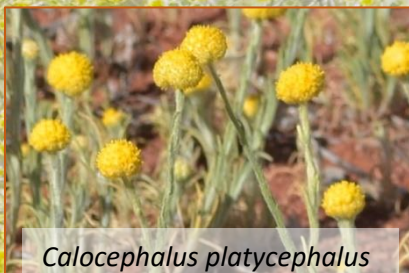
Macgregoria racemigera



Maireana georgei



Calandrinia pumila



Calocephalus platycephalus



Leptosema chambersii



Senna artemisioides



Drosera burmannii



Acacia maitlandii

Background is *Acacia ligulata* one of many wattles in bloom



Tussocks of *Frankenia cordata* around a claypan

Outing Reports

Woodfordia - May 2016

Wendy Johnston

The outing to Woodfordia attracted over 75 members of NPQ. It was organised by Samford, and in particular by Donna Farrell, a long-time Woodford Tree Hugger and bush-regenerator and weed-removalist and Tree Hugger band member.

We each chose 2 walks, one before lunch and one after lunch, from a prepared list of options. The scale of the site and its plantings is enormous and it was impressive to see how the plantings complemented the overall site as well as the individual usage of the local areas. I personally was pleased to see that ferns and cycads are being used in the gullies and surviving without regular extra watering. I also enjoyed seeing the butterfly plantings – lots of them signed showing the butterfly and host plant.

We all enjoyed our day and thanks to all those people who made it possible.



Visit to The Wilde Wood - June 2016

Wendy Johnston

On an overcast and cool morning a good crowd met at Nita and Phillip Lester's home in The Wilde Wood. Nita led us on a tour of her lovely well-planned garden which is only 3 years old. The front garden is mostly informal, laid out on 3 terraces from the house down to the pool. The plants, which had been specially chosen for the site, were flourishing. These were supplemented by nature's local volunteers. The black cockatoos were clearly very pleased with the garden (particularly the Hakeas and Banksias) and had left a path of destruction behind, as black cockatoos do. There were many flowers and plants to delight us all.

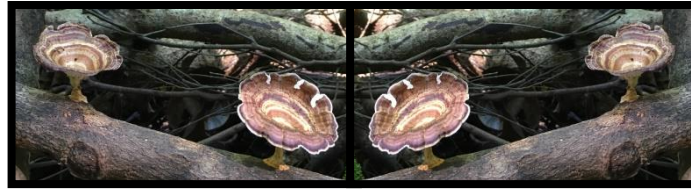


After lunch on the spacious verandah, Patrick Leonard talked to us about the RED List, a derivative of UNESCO, and its relevance to conservation and management of endangered species. The IUCN **Red List** of Threatened Species founded in 1964, is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species. The Red List initially listed only animals. Plans were made for managing the conservation of these animals. However it became clear that conservation of habitat was vital to the



animal's survival and needed management also. Plants were added to the list.

Patrick's special interest is in fungi and the inclusion of certain fungi on the RED List. We discussed how important the role of fungi is - both as food for animals and their mycorrhizal relevance to plants. The incompleteness of our knowledge of fungi, what they are, how and where they grow, and how to manage them, makes conserving them a difficult and complex issue. However, time is running out and action is needed before it is too late. It may well be that the strategies, such as fire, we are using to protect animals are counter-productive when it comes to managing fungi!



Nambour Garden Expo Report – July 2016

Anne Windsor

Our display at the Nambour Garden Expo this year was eye-catching, and we had lots of visitors over the three days. Our theme was 'Native Plants for Containers'. We purchased a hanging basket stand and Joan took on planting this up with colourful daisies and trailing plants. It was a great talking point with visitors to our display. And those visitors included a number of native bees who came across from the neighbouring display!

Following on the containers theme, we also had a slightly-larger-than-usual container - a water garden tub filled with sedges, rushes, and a Water Snowflake, *Nymphoides indica*. This, along with several unusual waterplants spread across the display area, provided a good deal of interest to visitors.

Our photo display was colourful as usual, giving visitors lots of ideas about growing native plants in containers. We had two colour brochures to provide further information on our main topic, and Joan and I gave talks on container plants. There was a good level of interest, and lots of questions afterwards.

The branch also participated, for the first time, in the coffee cup recycling initiative that the Expo promotes. Joan and Allan provided a tray of native seedlings, and a couple of members manned their stall for an hour or so.

It was the first opportunity for us to display our new, smart, branch shirts, and don't we all look great!

Biggest thanks go to Marie for her wonderful organising - we couldn't do it without her! Thanks also to Joan for supplying and maintaining many of our display plants. And finally, thanks to everyone who set up, manned, and helped dismantle our display. It was a great team effort!



Natives Naturally – August 2016

Marie Livingstone

The inaugural Natives Naturally event on August 6th and 7th at the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden was a delight. The Friends of the Gardens had some great plants for sale and their catering team produced excellent home made food at a very reasonable price.

Native Plants Sunshine Coast had a display to help promote native plants for local gardens

and our members were on hand to answer the many questions about "which native plant where". All the gardeners who attended had a genuine interest in gardening with native plants.

Many thanks to Lynn Vlismas, a member of both NPSC and the Friends of the Gardens, who was the driving force behind this event and to the many members of the Friends who helped make Natives Naturally a success. Without support and help from Michael Gilles and Rob King from Sunshine Coast Council, Natives Naturally could not happen. Many thanks to them both.

Special thanks to Joan Dillon who had our display plants looking magnificent and to Anne Windsor for her fascinating water plants. As always, John Dillon was a tower of strength and the master of packing the utes. Our ever helpful members, Linda and Peter Scharf and Joan and Joe Abercrombie helped with promoting native plants and NPSC.



Both Spencer Shaw and Joan Dillon were speakers and the audience asked many questions and were very appreciative of the expert advice.

It is the willing support from so many of our members that make events such as Natives Naturally not just a possibility but a pleasure.



Jowarra Section of Mooloolah NP – August 2016

photos and text by Anne Windsor

Our trip to the Jowarra Section of the Mooloolah River NP was led by our former branch Chair Wyn Boon. Before we set off, Wyn told us a little about his responsibilities in his job working for National Parks. One of his main tasks is managing fire in park areas. He explained how the thinking about burning has been evolving over many years. It used to be that fires were only ever deliberately lit in the winter, so that burns would be cooler, and not so destructive. However, this is not as nature would do it, and the artificial regime favours some species and negatively impacts other species. So these days, the thinking is to burn at different times of the year, and burn patches here and there, causing a mosaic in the landscape of unburned, freshly burned, and recovering areas. It was fascinating to hear about.

Then we had an enjoyable walk through the smallish area of the park. There were some awesome gigantic old trees still present, plenty of strangler figs, palms, and a melaleuca swamp.

We were joined on our walk by a friend of Gretchen's - Sapphire, the fungi guru. What an added bonus this was, as Sapphire instructed us on the importance of fungi in the landscape, and identified many species we came across on the day.

Thanks to both Wyn and Sapphire for an educational and very pleasant walk.



Future Events

September 17th and 18th – Native Flower Show and Plants Market



How you can help:

NPSC are having a joint display with Frogs Qld covering container plants, including water plants. Joan D, Anne W, Spencer S and Ian McM are all speaking so we are well represented. We are having plant sales again and are relying on Forest Heart nursery for a lot of our stock this year. **So, Marie is looking for helpers to man the sales area on Saturday afternoon.** If anyone wants to spend a bit of time helping the Qld Frogs folks man the joint display then that would be good.



Photo: A.Windsor

SMALL NATIVE PLANTS FOR SMALL GARDENS

Sat 17 Sep, 9am - 4pm
Sun 18 Sep, 9am - 3pm

\$3
entry!

Native Flower Show and Plants Market

At Brisbane Botanic Gardens-
Mt Coot-tha Auditorium



- Low prices!
- A wide variety for all gardens
- Popular and rare plants available
- Expert advice – talk to the growers!
- Allied group displays
- Learn more at the Speakers' Corner



SGAP trading as NPQ

Join a branch and learn more about native plants!
Call (07) 3720 2882 or visit www.npq.org.au



October 6-9



Celebrate Spring!

Greetings fellow green thumbs! The team here at Brisbane International Garden Show central are very busy organising what is sure to be a great gathering of gardeners!

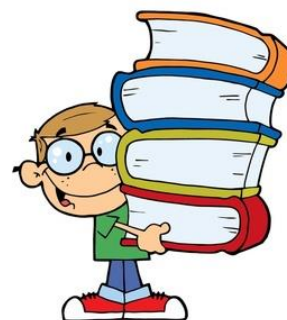
We have several fantastic features you won't want to miss like the Sustainable Organic Kitchen Garden, the Landscape Display Gardens, dozens of nurseries with plenty of spring colour and new releases for sale, not to mention our daily lecture and demonstration program which is FREE to all of our visitors.

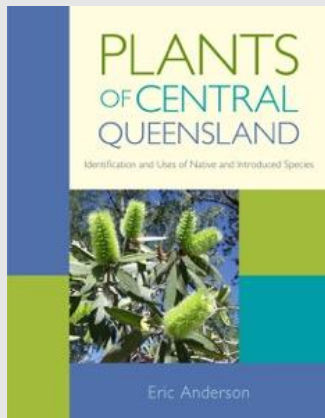
You won't be disappointed with our great line up of gardening experts and personalities, a massive range of gardening products and some very good street entertainment and music all set and ready to go!

Be sure to mark 6-7-8-9 October on your calendar for a visit to Brisbane International Garden Show to celebrate Queensland's true gardening style.

November 19th - Mapleton Library Book Sale

As in previous years NPSC will be having a plant stall at this event. So fertilise your pots and get them looking great for November. More from Marie and Joan to come.





Plants of Central Queensland

Identification and Uses of Native and Introduced Species

A new hardback edition, with 517 plants and 882 photos with description and notes on an additional 277 plants species, was published in April by CSIRO Publishing. Plant Groups featured include Ferns (7), Palms & Cycads (6), Orchids (3), Mistletoes (7), Elkhorn (1), Mangroves (10), Wattles (40), Angophoras (2), Eucalypts & Corymbias (32), Other Woody Plants (154), Vines & Creepers (35), Cacti (6), Herbaceous Plants (86), Water Plants (15), Sedges & Mattrushes (4) and Grasses (109).

The 'Central Queensland' of this book embraces a large area straddling the Tropic of Capricorn: a region encompassing about 500 km north of the Tropic, 300 km south and 600 km inland from the coast. All vegetation types are included except rainforest. Information describing the plant's habit, habitat and distribution is provided. Informative notes highlighting declared, poisonous, weed and medicinal plants are included, and plants useful for koalas, bees and bush tucker are noted. These are the most important plants you might see if you live in or travel through central Queensland.

The Book costs \$160 and is available locally from Barung Landcare in Maleny or from the publisher – <http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7305.htm>



Native Plants Sunshine Coast

Future Meetings and Excursions

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



☀ **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. 8