

Banksia Bytes

Native Plants Sunshine Coast

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Native Plants Queensland



Newsletter

AUGUST 2015 Number 3

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 2015

AUGUST Saturday 15 and Sunday 16	Native Flower Show and Plant Market BG Mt Coot-th-a.
AUGUST Tuesday 18 – 30 August	Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival 18-30 August. A copy of the full program is available on our website www.npqsuncoast.org and is also on the Sunshine Coast Council web site. The popular walks get booked early so don't miss out! Bookings information is listed with each walk. There will also be printed copies of the program available on our August 9 outing to Emu Mt.
SEPTEMBER Saturday 5	Rosewood Festival plant sale
SEPTEMBER Saturday 6	Bushland Vibes
NOVEMBER Sunday 15 – 20 TH	ANPSA Conference Canberra Website anpsa.org.au
NOVEMBER Saturday 28 8.00AM – 1.00PM	Mapleton Community Library fair and plant sale. Sunshine Coast will have a Plant Sale at the Mapleton Fair.

Future meetings

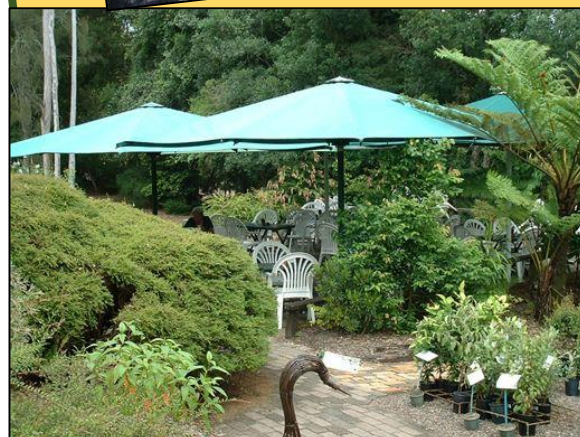
August 9: Sunday August 9th. Meet at 1.50 pm for a 2.00 pm start, in Havana Road East, Peregrine Beach. Janet Whish-Wilson will lead us on a walk to admire the wildflowers on Emu Mt.

September 13: Wildflower walk led by John Birbeck - possibly a return visit to Racemosa Reserve

October 11: Excursion to the Fragile Web in Blackbutt and the Friends of Yarraman Creek rehabilitation site. This will be a full day excursion, organized by Anne Windsor

November 8: Talk and demonstration by Anne Windsor on Water plants at the McMasters' home

December 13: Visit Fairhill nursery for a talk by Nick Hansa and afternoon tea in Elements cafe. \$8.50 per head



Information about outings contact....

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



Extra information re Plant sales and flower show August 15 and 16.

Sunshine Coast will be combining with Bush Foods Queensland for a display highlighting the diversity of food available from native plants.

Sunshine Coast will also be selling an amazing array of plants. For many months a group of dedicated workers have been selecting and preparing plants at David Hockings' nursery. Some lucky gardeners will get the opportunity to buy these plants on August 15 and 16.

Bushland Vibes: Enjoy, Explore, Experience

A day of entertainment, activity, and new experiences for all the family at **Maroochy Botanic Garden**. Take in the Art Exhibition and sculpture demonstrations, relax and enjoy the entertainment, join a guided walk, or help weave a green wall.

The Gubbi Gubbi Dance Troupe and Geckoes Wildlife will be there, and you can meet the **Roving Minstrel** and the **Roving Ecologist**. To enjoy a unique Gourmet **Bushfood Lunch @ \$35.00 pp**, followed by a **Bushfood Walk**, or to secure a spot in a fascinating **Weaving Workshop**

@ \$20.00 pp, email bushlandvibes@gmail.com to make a booking.

Coffee, lunches and snacks will be available.
A full event program will be available soon on
<http://www.friendsofmaroochybotanicgardens.org.au/>

Sunshine Coast Branch will have a display and information stand at the Vibes

The date is September 6th

Welcome to Bushland Vibes - a free family fun day for Fathers Day-

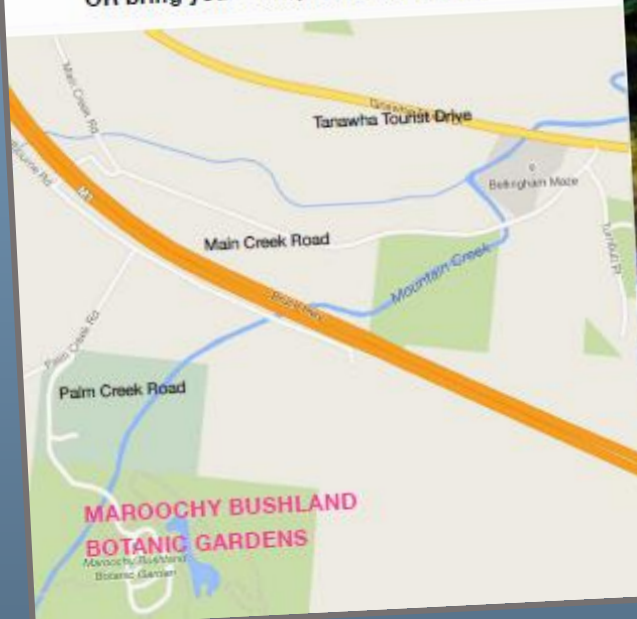
music, dance, wildlife demonstrations, bush walks, pottery demonstrations, painting and sculpture exhibitions; plant sales, botanical and book stalls; and a giant raffle; - for the **Gourmet Bush Food Tasting*** and **Weaving Workshops*** - *reservations by email at - bushlandvibes@gmail.com

Featuring Gubbi Gubbi Dance Troupe, Geckoes Wildlife, New World Rhythm, The Wild Roving Minstrel, Bush Poets,

Bushland Vibes Art Exhibition

There will be food available, - Lions BBQ; On The Go Espresso; sandwiches and afternoon tea will be served at our Friends Green Wall Cafe.

OR bring your own picnic and a rug!



Bushland Vibes

6 September 2015 9am - 4pm

Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens

enjoy / explore / experience

<http://bushlandvibes.wix.com/2015>



Proudly supported by



Wonderful Wallum



What is the "Wallum"?

The "Wallum" is:

The Wallum Banksia - Banksia aemula

The Wallum Boronia - Boronia falcifolia

Pink and White and Yellow

Coastal heath lands

High dune heaths

Dull green and swampy

Moist peaty sand

Springtime colour

White-cheeked honeyeaters

Insects and other wildlife

Precious and beautiful

Endangered and unappreciated

North Stradbroke Island, Moreton Island

Bribie Island, Fraser Island

The Sunshine Coast and Cooloola

Once it was also the Gold Coast

IT IS Boronia, Yellow pea flowers, Wedding bush, Epacris and Heaths

It was once Christmas bells

The "Wallum" is... Wildflowers



The Wallum Project:

5

What is it?

Barbara Henderson has had a lifelong love of the plants of the Wallum and formed the Wallum Study Group, announced in the Bulletin of Sept 1992. This passion has meant Barbara has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and committed a great deal of this knowledge to paper. Her Heathland Rambles have been a feature of the Bulletin for many years and her advocacy of the Wallum has seen her involved in many of the struggles to protect the Wallum on the Sunshine Coast and other areas. As a keen photographer, she has captured the plants and destruction of the Wallum

Much of the material in Barbara's collection pre-dates the digital era, so a small group has decided that all this valuable material must be preserved digitally.

What has been done so far?

On Sunday 26th April 2015 Barbara brought the first load of her material for scanning. Allan and Di Carr from Caboolture SGAP, John and Joan Dillon with Marie Livingstone from Sunshine Coast divided up the work. The Dillons took large folders of slides and Allan and Marie took the printed material. Jan Sked has provided a disc with many copies of the Heathland Rambles and some photos. So it begins.

Where will we end up?

We don't know. We do know that this incredible collection of information must be preserved. So, if you have an interest in the plants of the Wallum and the history of the Wallum areas of the Sunshine Coast - I am sure there is a job for you!



Di, Allan Carr, Barbara Henderson, Marie, John and John Dillon

Betty Sykes

"My satisfaction working in the Wallum is hopefully helping to preserve what is left of it, after continuing encroachment by development."

Betty first became interested in the Wallum when she met Barbara Henderson at a Sunshine Coast Environment Day at Cotton Tree, Maroochydore in 1989. A willing pupil, she quickly learnt to appreciate and identify the plants of the Wallum.

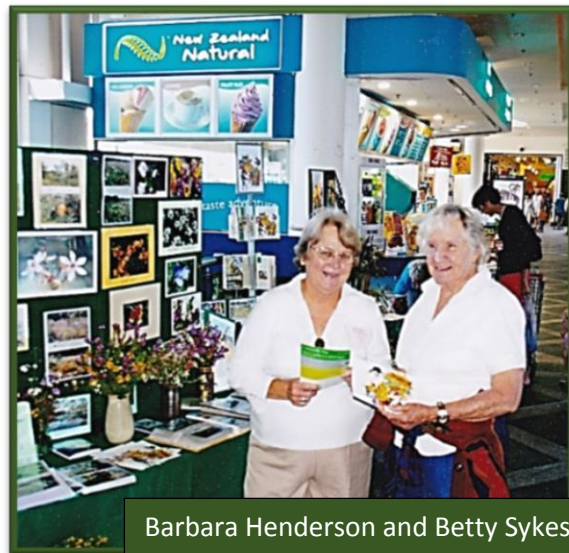
Since 1990 Betty has assisted with the rescue of Wallum plants, as the bulldozers moved in to develop areas of Mudjimba and Marcoola. The plants were then transplanted to Mudjimba where Betty could often be seen weeding and recording their progress. She is keen to see local native plants used along footpaths and in our gardens. Two of the plants she would like to see more widely planted are *Homoranthus virgatus* and *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*. Betty is renowned for saying "Scientific name please". As she says, "better one only as distinct from perhaps up to five names".

Until recently Betty was a familiar face each Monday morning seed collecting with Coolum Community Native Nursery. She is now involved in a new project in Keith Royal Park at Marcoola. Walking through her local park at Marcoola, she had always been aware of the local Wallum plants growing amongst the mowed grass. So when in 2012 she heard the Sunshine Coast Council was to upgrade Keith Royal Park and was asking local residents for their input, Betty approached Debbie Blumel, the then local councillor, demonstrating to her how the insistent growth of the wildflowers, despite regular mowing, was happening. As a result, it was decided to cordon off a small section of the park to help restore and preserve some of the plants. Once mowing ceased, the plants flourished with almost 60 plants now identified. Betty feels this small patch is important for future generations to learn about Wallum and that it will encourage them to use local native plants in their own gardens. For Betty, passing on her knowledge of the Wallum is essential.

For the past three years the Wallum in the Keith Royal Park has been part of the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival. This year will be no exception when on Friday 21st August, from 10.00am to 11.am, Betty looks forward to showing you her small patch of Wallum.



Betty on Emu Mt with *Sphaerolobium vimineum*



Barbara Henderson and Betty Sykes



Homoranthus virgatus



Ricinocarpos pinifolius

Betty at
play

Betty Sykes in Keith Royal Park



*Wallum on the
Sunshine Coast*



Banksia aemula



Banksia robur



Boronia falcifolia



Drosera spatulata



Aotus lanigera

Wonderful Wallum Regeneration and Welfare

1. From May 15th to May 31st.

Some of the neighbours whose homes border the N.E. edge of Kathleen McArthur Park, have long been saying that the park needs a strong regenerative fire to sort out old foes and to reaffirm the park's continued appeal. The good folk of the EPA duly agreed and on or about May 15th, sent a fire through this northern sector of the park. From Sat 16th to Tuesday 19th, the rain just fell and fell, making lower lying areas into small ponds. This, quite remarkably, considering the fire's heat, the evidence of which is everywhere, contributed enormously to one huge frogs' party, resulting in a couple of days of extremely loud and seemingly ubiquitous cacophony. Judging by this, the sign proclaiming that the two frog species present, the Wallum Rocket frog and the Wallum Sedge frog, are in trouble, may be a trifle overstated. This, of course, assuming that the noise did not come from other species that may be present.

So I says to myself, what if we were able to follow, both in words and, much more enjoyably, through close and continuous photographs, the regenerative process. Thus we begin. Stop me when you wish.

There were some outstanding features (not surprisingly), of this burn. Apart from the frogs being able to survive the intense heat and rejoice in the rain, the initial best effect was the greatly increased visibility into the inner areas of the wallum. This from the bordering path which carries many people to and from the beach each day. To people interested in the plant life therein, however, this effect is much greater from the sand paths which intersect some 500 metres inside the area. This effect was also very evident when looking across the Closed Sedgeland section. For all the times I have passed by, this has appeared as an impenetrable mass of the fern Bungwall, (intriguing common name that), *Blechnum indicum*. Now it is possible to view the whole, roughly triangular shaped segment bordered as it is on two sides by, mostly, acacias.

The rest of the burnt area was similarly exposed to reveal seemingly destroyed everything – except for rather isolated pockets, which could best be termed "islands", on which there were species completely untouched by fire or heat. How does that happen? Everywhere else there were blackened and blistered banksias, charred and sizzled gahnias, withered wattles and indeterminate bits of plant remains. Their one common feature seemed to be that, if new growth were to occur, it would have to come from seeds left in the ground. Or so I erroneously thought. I was encouraged to thus think by the delightful sight of opened banksia seed capsules, their contents now spread widely. But subsequent days were to produce very different results.

What has happened and continues to happen, as some black sticks, little more than twigs burnt to ground level, spring to life and commence to form new growth every bit as good as the old, is quite astounding. One of the outstanding features is the appearance of "copper tops"-burnt ends of *Xanthorrhoea* (fulva?, latifolia?) leaves, which from the very earliest of burnt times were obvious. From May 31st, about 16 days, these tops were pushed upwards by the green of new growth beneath them. As time has progressed, the openness of the area and the presence of these quaint burnt leaf tops being ever pushed skywards, has shown this plant to occupy an amazing percentage of the ground covering plants.

More shall follow.



1.) Flooded, burnt out area day 4 after fire



2.) Closed Sedgeland day 10 a.f.

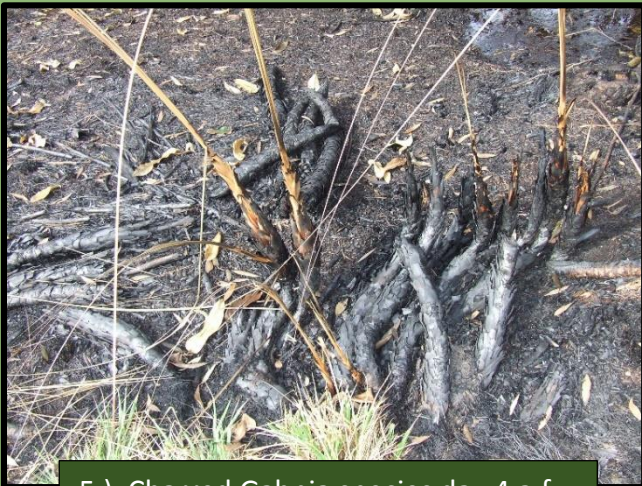
Wallum Regeneration continued



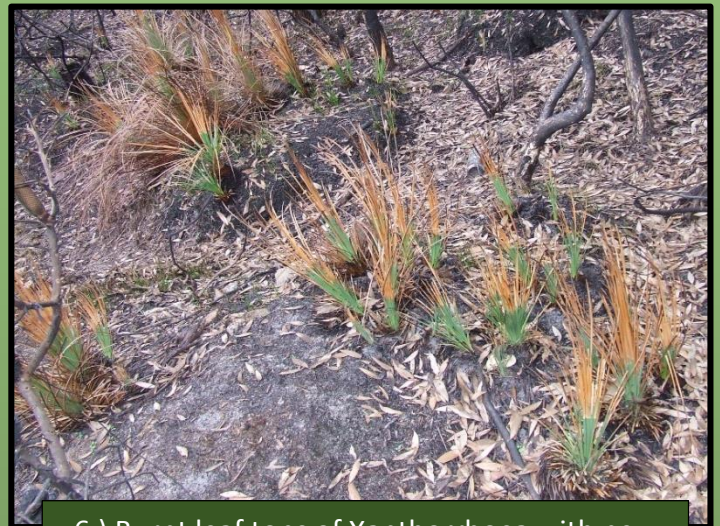
3.) My favourite *A. suaveolens* and burnt banksias day 4 a.f.



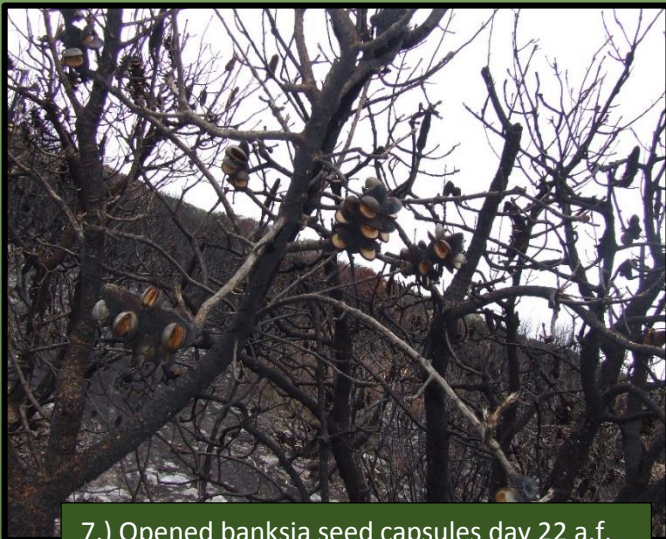
4.) Unburnt plant "island" surrounded by scorched vegetation day 4 a.f.



5.) Charred *Gahnia* species day 4 a.f.



6.) Burnt leaf tops of *Xanthorrhoea* with new growth pushing up. Day 16 a.f.



7.) Opened banksia seed capsules day 22 a.f.



Sign near Sedgeland every day.

Looks at Books 2



The ART of Plant Evolution by W. John Kress and Shirley Sherwood.
Published by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K. 2009

“Quite apart from the teaching on evolution, I found it a real pleasure to browse through these pages because of the superb quality of the selected drawings.”

Sir Ghilleen Prance, Scientific Director, The Eden project.

From the Foreword to the book, page 6.

This book contains so much for plant lovers, contemporary art lovers, lovers of history, of plant evolutionary relationship studies and of the continuing quest for a natural plant classification. Unusually for books for we who are the plebs, it focusses on plant orders. The book contains 136 paintings by 84 celebrated artists on such diverse subjects as apples, cabbages, iris, snowdrops, Corymbia, Idiospermum, quandong, holly, willow and many, many more. Each plant painting and its family is accompanied by a description of how the plant fits into its order and its position on The Tree of Plant Evolution (see below), the artist and his or her work and a description of the plant. Reproduced here are the diagram of The Tree, which shows the relationships between orders of plants; the painting of *Wollemia nobilis*; and the painting of *Langsdorffia hypogaea*, a root parasite and another member of a recently introduced family to some of us, the Balanophoraceae. (See Newsletter 2).

When you consult this book, you will find (amongst other things),

1. The tree diagram of the sequential progression of plant orders all based on the interpretation of DNA sequencing, as expressed in the third classification of The Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (APGiii).
2. Explanations of the current classification of the major groups of plants (p24-29), from the fungi through to the core eudicots: rosids and asterids. For these alone the book is well worthwhile.
3. Paintings of Australian native plants, including *Dicksonia antarctica* (sic), *Idiospermum australiense*, *Wollemia nobilis* and *Cephalotus follicularis*. Ten Australian native plants in all (by my count. But don't take my word for it look for yourself and compile your own tally!).
4. A photo of a fossil of *Archaeofructus liaoningensis*, the oldest known flowering plant. (p19)
5. *Amborella trichopoda*. This plant is believed to be the most primitive living angiosperm. (Page 65, Plate 12).
6. So many paintings in both colours and execution that will knock your socks off.
7. Perhaps some reasons to help understand why that grand ol' family, the Epacridaceae, was lumped into the common, ordinary, ol' Ericaceae. (Dreadful partisanship).

On a personal level, I at last found out the name of *Gunnera* (*manicata* p158), a plant whose name has eluded me since, as a kid growing up in Sydney, I saw it in many Sydney gardens and I thought how much it resembled rhubarb. Over the years I had forgotten all about it until seeing it in this book. This is what is said about its order, “The Gunnerales have proven critical in assisting botanists’ understanding of how flowers have evolved.” Just have a look at the description of its unusual flower structure.

At the risk of sounding repetitive, here is a captivating publication and within it there is just so much to entice you to delve further into its pages. Hopefully you have already read it and agree, or will soon do so and find your own enjoyment. Who knows? You may be well tempted to pack your bags and fly to Kew, arguably the centre of the universe, where many of these paintings, and others from the Kew collection, are displayed in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery, opened in 2008.

The three figures presented below are

The Tree of Plant Evolution, from page 15.

Plate 11, *Wollemia nobilis*, Araucariaceae, painted by Bronwyn Van de Graaff, page 61.

Plate 94, *Langsdorffia hypogaea*, Balanophoraceae, painted by Rosalia Delmonte, p231.

All figures are used by very kind permission related through the book's Commissioning Editor, Gina Fullerlove. I wish to express my gratitude to Dr Sherwood for this permission and my wonderment at the art that is contained in these and the plates in the rest of the book.

Looks at Books 2

Figure 1 The Tree of Plant Evolution

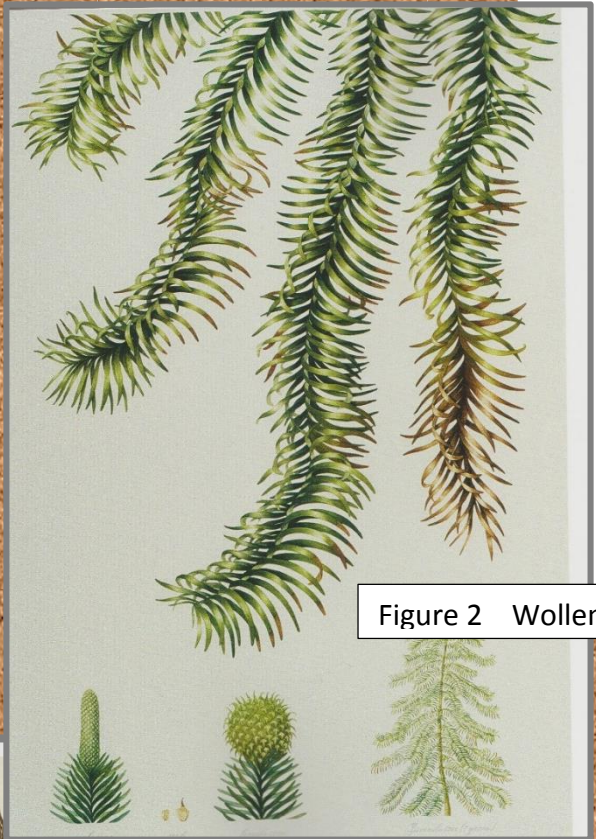
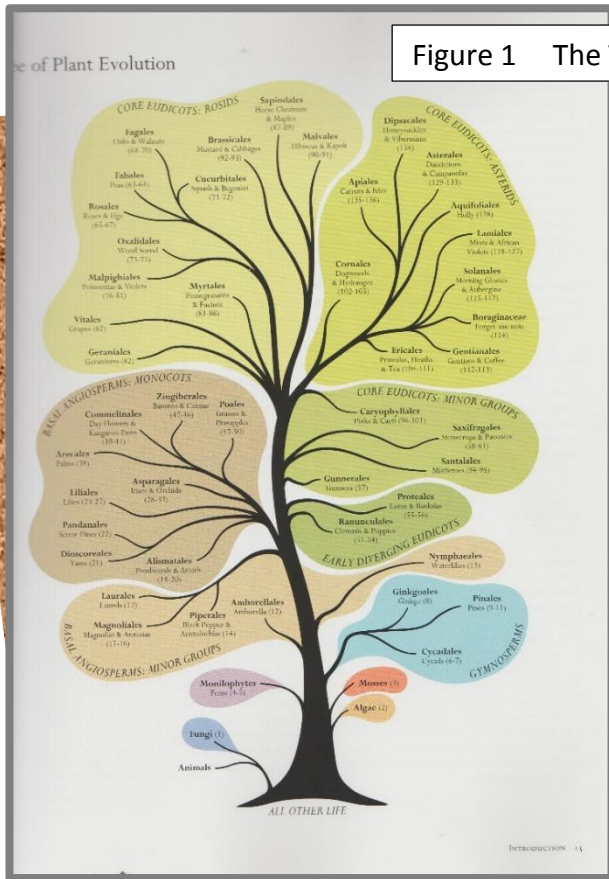


Figure 2 Wollemia nobilis

Figure 3 Langsdorffia hypogaea



GROW AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

www.npqsuncoast.org

A wonderful web site for our Branch thanks to the expertise, industry and imagination of John Dillon. Joan Dillon has supplied a great deal of text to get the web site started. Many thanks to Allan Carr from Caboolture Branch for allowing us to include his brilliant Plant of the Month segment. Now it is over to Branch members to be creative and share their knowledge with other native plant enthusiasts.

Visit the site today, see what is happening and think about your contribution. Make suggestions, check the links and let Marie know if there are any problems.

