

# Banksia Bytes

## Native Plants Sunshine Coast



[www.npqsuncoast.org](http://www.npqsuncoast.org)

**Native Plants Queensland**

## Newsletter

September 2023 Number 32

### OFFICE BEARERS

<b>Spencer Shaw</b>	President	<a href="mailto:spencer.shaw@brushturkey.com.au">spencer.shaw@brushturkey.com.au</a>
.....	Hon Secretary	<a href="mailto:npscsec@gmail.com">npscsec@gmail.com</a>
<b>Joan Abercrombie</b>	Hon Treasurer	<a href="mailto:joan.abercrombie44@gmail.com">joan.abercrombie44@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wendy Johnston</b>	Banksia Bytes Editor	<a href="mailto:news.npq.suncoast@bigpond.com">news.npq.suncoast@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Julie Nimmo</b>	Excursions Coordinator	<a href="mailto:julienimm@gmail.com">julienimm@gmail.com</a>
<b>Maria Rosenfelder</b>	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:npqsuncoast.web@gmail.com">npqsuncoast.web@gmail.com</a>



### We need a secretary.

The duties are not onerous – mostly updating the database with new members, passing on information (such as other Branch newsletters or Region information) to the members, posting a call for articles for our newsletter (only 3 or 4 times a year) and then distributing the newsletter. Please give the position due consideration and put your hand up for the job.

### From the Editor



Well, spring has arrived with pink new growth from the ground, on the rasp ferns, to the treetops of the red cedars. Our latest joy comes from the first ever spike on the *Xanthorrhoea glauca*, planted over 40 years ago! We have always enjoyed its colour and natural symmetric form so this is a bonus.

In this newsletter we look at the family Lauraceae and feature the wonderful display of flowers to be found in our area in Spring.

Happy Gardening

Wendy



## Lauraceae of Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve

By Spencer Shaw

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August I was pleased to present my second Family based plant discussion for the volunteers of Mary Cairncross. Earlier this year we talked Myrtaceae, the Myrtle Family, but this time it was one of my favourite Families. Let's be honest I love all things green, but for this moment in time, it's the Lauraceae, the Laurel Family.

Lauraceae is named for a single species *Laurus nobilis*, the 'True' Laurel or Bay Laurel, that occurs in Europe, the home of our scientific nomenclature / naming system. In retrospect this could be seen to overstate the importance of the 'True' Laurel, as it very much appears to be an outlier of the great diversity Lauraceae presents in the tropics and subtropics around the globe and in particular Australasia. From my research, figures vary widely but it's estimated there are approximately 44-52 Genera and between 2500-3500 species, currently ...

Generally, members of the Lauraceae family are woody trees and shrubs, except for the Genus *Cassytha*, the Dodder Laurels, which are slender hemiparasitic vines and add considerable diversity to the ecology of this family. No *Cassytha* species have been recorded in Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve as yet, but they would only be living in the canopy, so may be present and are yet to be recorded. Globally Lauraceae are generally evergreen, but in those areas where they have spread into temperate zones, some species have evolved to be deciduous. All of our local species in subtropical Australia are evergreen. Leaf arrangement is generally alternate, although species such as *Neolitsea* leaves are arranged in pseudo-whorls, leaves (arranged in clusters on the stem, the clusters separated by regular intervals, usually produced behind a scaly resting bud). It would appear that fruit types are consistent across the Family, being drupes (one seeded fruit). One of our favourites is the Avocado, *Persea americana*. Other species of culinary or commercial importance to western culture include Bay Leaf – *Laurus nobilis*, Cinnamon - *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* and of course Camphor Laurel - *Cinnamomum camphora*.

Although timelines vary widely, studies of Lauraceae appear to agree that it is a particularly ancient family, originating early in the evolution of flowering plants. The family would appear to be Gondwanan in origin, and in particular, Australasia being a centre for early diversification. In Australia 130 species from 8 Genera are recorded as native. The 8 native Genera are *Beilschmiedia*, *Cassytha*, *Cinnamomum*, *Cryptocarya*, *Endiandra*, *Lindera*, *Litsea* and *Neolitsea*. A recent addition to Lauraceae Genera that are present in Australia is *Persea*, due to Avocados escaping from plantations! A far more widespread naturalised plant / weed from the Lauraceae is of course the Camphor Laurel *Cinnamomum camphora*. Both loved and loathed, but far from a threat to our remaining rainforests as it primarily colonises degraded grazing and horticultural country. In Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve we have recorded 19 native species from 6 of the native Genera, which is pretty impressive to think that our little 55ha remnant contains 15% of the species of Australia's Lauraceae!



Lauraceae are a particularly valuable food source for our native pigeons and a host of other birds, with many of the Lauraceae species fruiting for a month or two each and different species fruiting at different periods throughout the year. The skins and often thin flesh surrounding the seeds require many fruits to be eaten (or at least digested in the crop and then seed regurgitated) to provide enough sustenance for the birds. Hence many of these trees are particularly abundant in their cropping. Trees such as *Cryptocarya*



*erythroxylon* and *C. glaucescens* are abundant in their fruiting and carry their fruit above the foliage allowing easy access to the flighty Flock or Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*. On the other hand (or should I say branch), the fruit of species such as *Litsea australis* and *Neolitsea dealbata* are located on younger branches, hidden under foliage and more likely to be consumed by secretive birds such as the Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus* or Wompoo Pigeon *Ptilinopus magnifica*. Some of the largest fruit that can be found in Mary Cairncross come from the Genus *Endiandra*, with *Endiandra compressa* – flat black fruit to 60mm, *Endiandra lowiana* – round red or yellow fruit to 60mm, *Endiandra pubens* – round red fruit to 60mm all being recorded. These large fruits are certainly too big for any of our native birds to eat and now rely on gravity and water courses for dispersal, but in deep time would have been spread by the megafauna that once used to roam these rainforests.

So next time you are enjoying your Avocado on toast, remember to thank the amazing Lauraceae family for its tasty fruit both to us and native birds.

Genus and Species	Common Name	Form
<i>Beilschmiedia elliptica</i>	Grey Walnut	Tree
<i>Beilschmiedia obtusifolia</i>	Blush Walnut	Tree
<i>Cinnamomum oliverii</i>	Oliver's sassafras	Tree
<i>Cryptocarya erythroxylon</i>	Pigeonberry Ash	Tree
<i>Cryptocarya glaucescens</i>	Jackwood	Tree
<i>Cryptocarya laevigata</i>	Glossy Laurel	Tree
<i>Cryptocarya macdonaldii</i>	Bill's Laurel	Tree
<i>Cryptocarya obovata</i>	Pepperberry	Tree
<i>Cryptocarya sclerophylla</i>	Hardleaf Laurel	Tree
<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i>	Three-veined <i>Cryptocarya</i>	Tree
<i>Endiandra compressa</i>	White Bark	Tree
<i>Endiandra discolor</i>	Rose Walnut	Tree
<i>Endiandra lowiana</i>	Sunshine Coast Walnut	Tree



<i>Endiandra muelleri</i>	Green Walnut	Tree
<i>Endiandra pubens</i>	Hairy Walnut	Tree
<i>Litsea australis</i>	Brown Bolly Gum	Tree
<i>Litsea leefeana</i>	Brown Bolly Gum	Tree
<i>Litsea reticulata</i>	Bolly Gum	Tree
<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	White bollygum	Tree

### Some plants flowering now in Maria's garden to inspire you



### Maria's question

Has anyone had success growing any kind of plants under and around established eucalypts? And if yes, which plants can you recommend.



## Paper Daises

By Spencer Shaw



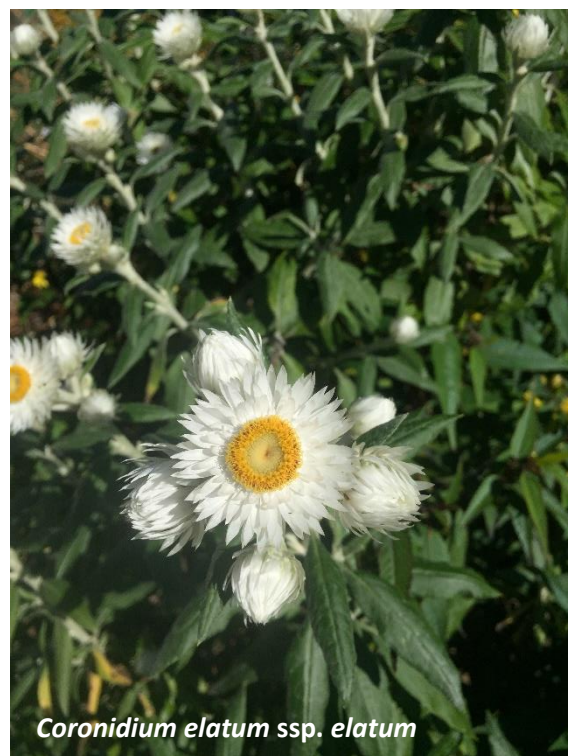
This time we are going to look at two plants that are small in size but are prize winning when it comes to their flowers – Paper Daises. This article focuses on two spectacular local Paper Daises, those being the White Paper Daisy *Coronidium elatum* ssp. *elatum* and the Yellow Paper Daisy *Xerochrysum bracteatum*.

Both these species are members of the Asteraceae (Daisy) Family, which also includes many less than popular exotics such as Cobbler Pegs, Cats Tongue, Fleabane, Purple Top etc... What they do have in common with these weeds, is that they are pioneers of bare ground. Many Daises are the first plants to colonise cleared ground - that's why we are so familiar

with them as weeds, because one thing us humans seem to like doing is clearing! Being from tough Australian stock paper daises often thrive and survive in the hardest of soils, such as road sides and landslips. The windblown seed can spread far and wide, colonising bare ground and even the ash bed of freshly burnt country.

The Yellow Paper Daisy *Xerochrysum bracteatum* is an annual to 1 metre (often shorter) that you may see on roadsides on the west side of the range. The White Paper Daisy *Coronidium elatum* is a taller biennial (often lasting several years) found in a few patches of high country, Eucalypt forest such as Bellthorpe and Curramore. This species had been previously recorded as only extending north to the Border Ranges, until I sent samples in from Curramore some years ago. Just recently it's also been recorded at Kureelpa Falls.

Paper Daises are also great in cultivation; the trick is not to spoil them. Well drained soils and a light mulch and don't worry too much about fertiliser and you'll have masses of Paper Daisy flowers in no time at all.



## *Grevillea hodgei*

By Joan Dillon

An article in the recent edition of Australian Plants traced the history of a registered cultivar of the NSW Xmas bush, *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*. One seedling, a dwarf form named 'Johanna's Christmas', was found near Evans Head in northern NSW in 1969 and was then lost, courtesy of rutile mining. It has had a chequered career in the nursery industry and can only be propagated by cutting. Since then, and around 50

years after rutile mining ceased, another two plants have been seen, also dwarfed, probably due to exposure to wind and salt spray. Epigenetics is apparently at play.

This story made me think about *Grevillea hodgei*, now critically endangered and restricted to the Coochin Hills. A few years back Ian and Chrissie McMaster took cuttings from a plant on Rupari Hill prior to the area being cleared to make way for communication towers. Habitat loss in the name of “progress”. The surviving cutting was entrusted to my care while they were overseas, quite a responsibility. It sulked in the shadehouse for some months and eventually decided to grow, much to my relief. A flower was produced, and a seedling later appeared on the shadehouse floor.



*Grevillea hodgei* was sold for some years as Coochin Hills grevillea, possibly before it was officially named. It then went out of fashion as other grevilleas with similar flowers but different growth habit came on the market.

My two plants are now thriving down in the back paddock in heavy dark colluvial soil which is very different from that in the Coochin Hills or Rupari Hill. It makes me wonder how widespread it was in the past prior to clearing for pineapples and other crops. The same could apply to *Leptospermum leuhmannii* which seems to grow just about anywhere on the range.

The Qld government did employ a botanist in the early 1900's. His job was investigation of economically important plants, but he did name others. More research to be done!

### **A walk in the Bribie Wallum – A follow up in June 2023**

By Julie Nimmo Catching up with friends on a walk is always a good idea when they are both members of NPQ. Julie Nimmo (Sunshine Coast) and Mandy Shaw (Mackay) caught up on Bribie Island, north of Brisbane. Using the Kingaroy and Districts Branch report in the NPQ Journal March 2023 we headed out into the Wallum adjacent to Bribie Arts Island Community Centre. With the March Journal and Allan Carr's '*A Field Guide to Native Plants of Bribie Island*' (2018) we set out to explore this area. We spotted the *Phebalium* sp planted in the car park pretty readily and *Austromyrtus dulcis* which covered large areas as understorey and had a couple of fruit left, acting like a ground cover in some sections of the walk. Although there was good vegetation to see including *Xanthorrea* sp and *Banksia* sp., the plant highlight was the Boronia and we only found one, possibly *B. falcifolia* (someone might be able to confirm this). It is worth noting that this is a fairly easy walk and, as long as you get back before 1.30pm, there a good coffee and food to be had (food closes at 2pm), as well as a visit to the Community Arts Gallery.





## Spring colour in the Dillon Garden

Winter was very green but now colour is returning to the garden with many plants in flower or at least starting to flower. Some like *Hibbertia aspera*, *Boronia keysii* and *Philothea difformis* are rarely without flowers. The flowers are small but at least they are a contrast to the foliage. Apart from the photos, others in flower are *Hardenbergia violacea*, *leptospermums*, *melaleucas* adorned by small honeyeaters, *xerochrysums*, *Patersonia glabrata*, *Bauera rubioides* and an occasional *Dampiera stricta*. A cheery welcome to the changing season.





## Touring Sunshine Coast Wallum and Coastal Heathland

By Rae Bassett @thebotanicalplanet

In August I joined a retreat with Dr Sue Davis to explore and learn more about the plants of the Sunshine Coast wallum and coastal heathland environments. Over the course of 4 days we visited 4 wallum sites and spent time observing and drawing many plant species under the guidance of our guest artist, Edith Rewa. It was a most enjoyable few days and I thought other members may enjoy seeing a selection of my photos from the walks.

### Emu Mountain

On the first evening we did a quick bolt up Emu Mountain to observe the ground orchids before the sun set. On the walk up we saw much *Acacia hubbardiana* perhaps coming towards the end of flowering, plus spots of flowering *Pimelea linifolia*, *Mirbelia rubiifolia*, *Phebalium Woombye*, *Hakea actites*, Wallum grasstree and *Banksia oblongifolia*. Of interest were the *Bossiaea ensata* seed pods as they caught the evening light. On our journey we were also treated to sightings of Milkmaids, Caladenias, Glossodia and Donkey orchids in the fading evening light. We were sad when it was time to head back down.



### Marcus Dunes

On day 2 it was unseasonably warm but we braved the heat for a hike up the dunes following the fire trail. At the entrance we were greeted by a corridor of stunning *Rinocarpus pinifolius* in full flower lining both sides of the trail, which held us transfixed until a pair of Glossy Black Cockatoos landed nearby to feed.

As we continued up the trail there was much in flower including *Conospermum taxifolium*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Woollsia pungens*, *Phebalium Woombye*, *Philotheca queenslandica*, *Zieria laxiflora*, *Boronia rosmarinifolia*, *Sowerbaea juncea*, Blood root in flower (*Haemodorum tenuifolium*), native iris of 2 kinds - *Patersonia sericea* and *Patersonia fragilis*, various *Hibbertia*, the Wallum wedge pea (*Gompholobium virgatum*), and a *Dillwynia* sp. Parrot Pea.





## Mooloolah River National Park

On day 3 we visited a section of the Mooloolah River National Park from the Claymore Road entrance. There was some rubbish at the entrance which was sad to see, but after we passed it the habitat and track were in good order and we marvelled at the floral display that included masses of *Boronia* blooming alongside towers of starry white *Sprengelia* flowers to create a magical effect. There was much *Mirbelia rubifolia* in flower along the path plus many Sundew glistening in the sunlight.

We saw several sun orchids and clusters of Milkmaids. There was also a magnificent *Leucopogon* heavy with white flowers and some iridescent blue and green *Banksia robur* in flower.



*Thelymitra ixioides*



*Leucopogon leptospermoides*



*Boronia falcifolia*

## Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park



*Allocasaurina emuina*

On our final day we visited the Kathleen McArthur Conservation Park for a walk that was a fitting climax for our days of wallum walks.

There were fields of heathland flowers as far as the eye could see as we were gifted a day when the park was clearly at it's floral best. We recognised many species from the previous walks including *Pimelea*, Parrot peas, *Dodonea triquetra*, various *Hibbertis* and *Boronia*. We enjoyed a field of *Epacris obtusifolia* in full bloom, together with treasured sightings of Hyacinth orchids, *Goodenia stelligera*, Emu Mountain Sheoak (*Allocasaurina emuina*) and a magnificent Mistletoe (*Dendrophthoe*

*vitellina*) in flower.



*Goodenia stelligera*



Our introduction to the wallum complete, we were now besotted by its floral charms and all eager to return at the same time next year.



Botanical art cards created during the retreat:



## Excursion to Book Farm July 2023

### A Visit to Book Farm

By Robert Price

An invitation to an NPSC walk at Jill Morris's fifty-acre property at Reesville had me wondering: why is it called Book Farm? I should have asked but I'm guessing it's because Jill is the author of numerous publications for children and adults such as the one I remember reading to our kids some forty years ago, *Harry the Hairy-nosed Wombat*.

I'm looking now at a mud map kindly provided which we were able to use to negotiate paths through an area where revegetation work began in 2012. It was striking how much has been achieved since then. Our group next walked a loop through original forest in which was growing the climber *Carronia multisepalea*. Due to habitat fragmentation, this vine is now uncommon, and the Southern Pink Underwing moth (*Phyllodes imperialis subsp. smithersi*) that relies on it for breeding purposes is endangered. We had a great opportunity to examine at ground level the vine's distinctive alternate leaves with their characteristic bent petioles (pictured right).

Before returning to where we had begun our walk, some of us carefully made our way down to the headwaters of Obi Obi Creek.







Here and elsewhere were encountered some fine old examples of another climber with its peculiar jointed leaves, *Pothos longipes*, clinging to boulders or trees such as this fig (left).

We were fortunate indeed to have Jill and her friends Rene and Rayne guide us through a significant patch of rainforest, 33 acres of which falls under a Voluntary Conservation Agreement with the Sunshine Coast Council. This is a programme that seeks to permanently preserve and enhance bushland on private property.





## Excursion to Noosa North Shore August 2023

### Sunshine Coast Branch - Native Plants Queensland – Trip to the Wallum - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August



Julie Nimmo – NPSC Events organiser

We have had some great events during the past months and our August 'Walk in the Wallum' event was similarly fantastic. Preceded by the nail-biting Matildas game the night before, we had wonderful weather and we couldn't have asked for more for our walk. Expertly led by Robert Price, Linda Price and Joan Heavey, our visit to the Arthur Harrold Refuge was supported by a detailed species list and some additional species were identified on the day. Parking at the beginning of the Great Walk in Maximillian Road, we car-

pooled enabling us to walk from east to west finishing in the cooler forest as the day warmed up. The walk was followed by lunch at Get Away at the Noosa North Shore Retreat, a well-designed tropical building well suited to a friendly catch up and debrief on the walk – and maybe a little discussion on the Matildas!



Our next meeting will be at Maria's in Palmwoods in September. So, stay tuned for your invitational email and when it arrives RSVP by email to [npscsec@gmail.com](mailto:npscsec@gmail.com) with your mobile so we know you are coming and can let you know if there are any changes.

Looking forward to the next catch up.

#### A few flowers seen on the walk:





## Questions raised and responses:

### 1. Question raised about **pruning banksias** :

I wonder if cutting off spent candlesticks will promote more as the rainbow lorikeets and wattle birds adore them.

Response from Marie:

The Banksias at Peachester had a hard life. I pruned one of the *Banksia integrifolias* every year so I could see over it to the mountains. I started when it was young and it seemed perfectly happy with the regime - flowering every year on the new growth. Older specimens were not quite so happy with pruning. They tended to send up long shoots which flowered happily but the trees were harder to keep in a compact shape.

The *Banksia spinulosa* did not seem to cope quite as well with my pruning regime but did survive for many years. I did not try a *Banksia robur*.

The yellow-tailed black cockatoos did prune every possible flower whatever the size of the tree - not always very tidily - but the trees responded well as it was really just a tip prune.

### 2. Question raised about **growing under eucalypts**:

Has anyone had success growing any kind of plants under and around established eucalypts? And if yes, which plants can you recommend.

Thanks to Spencer Shaw, Joan Dillon, Rae Bassett, Robert Price, Maria Rosenfelder, Marie Livingstone and Julie Nimmo for their contributions to this newsletter.

