

NATIVE PLANTS CAPRICORNIA



NATIVE
PLANTS
QUEENSLAND

Cultivation
Conservation
Education

ROCKHAMPTON

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August 2018 Newsletter No. 205

Next Meeting – Friday 24th August

Meeting is at 7:00pm at the Frenchville State School Activity Centre. Turn up hill at the traffic lights on Frenchville Road through the car park. We hope to see you there. Bring along your specimens to identify and any extra native seedlings. We will be raffling local native plants so bring along your spare coins. The committee will meet from 6:00 pm so feel welcome to come along to join in or help set-up. Thanks.

Urban Agriculture – Building Community



Community building through urban agriculture in suburban Gracemere is a passion of [Mehraban Farahmand](#) – and he is writing the story as a PhD at CQUniversity!

After more than a decade practising in Laos and another at Gracemere, Mehraban has a Masters of Sustainability and an inspiring list of achievements – see later.

Come and hear how we can support our community following Mehraban's lead. If you have a few native plant or kids' books you would like to donate to the Gracemere lending library, bring them along – they will be appreciated.

Next Outing – Sunday 2nd September – Keppel Sands Headland

This is a favourite site to take in the sea breeze and spectacular panorama over Coorooman Creek estuary and a corner of Keppel Bay. The tide is high at 2pm. The windswept vegetation is very diverse and right at eye-height – great botanising! There is even a different species of native grape to try to re-locate. A plant list will be provided. Please register your interest in attending with Lenore Lindsay on 0411 201 819.

Car-pool at the Northside Plaza carpark (behind Caltex) for a 2:00 pm departure. Should be at Scofield Parade (beachfront) by 2:30 pm for a leisurely stroll to the headland.

Last Meeting – Friday 27th July

Phil Steer from Steer Environmental Consulting share his life as an environmental consultant with lots of slides to take us 'on-location' to the very practical challenges that he is asked to fix. As expected, biological solutions can take the hard edges off engineered solutions and that is the challenge the Phil delivered to us – to become involved with application of plants in real life industrial situations such as screening / wind-breaking, quarry rehabilitation, bioremediation and wetlands for nutrient removal. Phil flagged some excellent composting operations and sand quarrying where the resource is replaced by successive floods. Members discussed supporting the Garden Competition with displays at Tropicana and the final setting-up of our own WWWW site.

The small rainfall beforehand had helped an amazing display of plant specimens that overflowed onto three tables! Thanks to Phil, Penny and family for spending their evening with us!

Last Outing – Sunday 5th August to Canoona



The unique flora of our very own unique Serpentine flora in the Canoona / Marlborough area was a big hit with visitors for the 2016 Yabba. A small bunch of members re-visited to find the bush recovered from yet another fire. While drier than it was in 2016, there were still quite a few species in flower and rare & threatened species at every turn. Phil explained his research project findings and also some handy regeneration of some dry rainforest released from the grips of rubbervine.

Upcoming Events

**24 August Friday
7pm**

Native Plants Capricornia - Meeting at 7:00 pm (See above)

28 August

Visit by Jarrah Wills surveying Rockhampton and Gladstone for Myrtle Rust

31 August

Close of entries for the Austrafloora Photography Competition (see below)

**1-2 September
Sat & Sun
Chinchilla**

Rare Wattle Outing at Chinchilla. A group will be heading out around Chinchilla on this weekend to see many of the rare species that persist in the area including the long phyllode variety of *Acacia rigens*, *A. lauta* and *A. lineata*. **Saturday Trip:** Meet at the park in Kogan at 9am. **Sunday Trip:** Meet at the Tourist Information Centre at Chinchilla at 8:30am. For more information, contact Len and Joan Hubbard on 07 4662 7065. Visitors from Brisbane NPQ Branches with join the Chinchilla Nats for the trips. Neil and Dianne may attend.

**2 September
Sunday 2 pm**

Native Plants Capricornia Outing. Keppel Sands Headland (details above)

13 September Thursday	NPC Collect and pack flowers for Spring Flower Show – volunteers, please?
15-16 September Sat & Sun	Native Plants Queensland (NPQ) Spring Flower Show and Plant Market. This annual event will be held at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mount Coot-tha Road, Toowong from 9am to 3pm on both days.
15 September Saturday	BirdLife Capricornia Outing. Shorebird information day in Yeppoon. Contact Allan Briggs on 4935 4645 for more information.
16 September Sunday	BirdLife Capricornia Outing. Shorebird information day in Gladstone. Contact Allan Briggs on 4935 4645 for more information.
19 September Wednesday	Last day for signing Myrtle Rust Summit petition
21-23 September Fri-Sun	Date Claimer for NPQ Biennial Yabba for 2018! will be held in Warwick this year, so pencil it into your calendars now! We hosted Yabba Capricornia 2016.
21 September Friday	NPC September Meeting – Moved to 5 October (see below)
5 October Friday 7pm	Native Plants Capricornia <i>September Meeting</i> postponed to Friday 5th October due to Yabba. Our Guest Speaker will be Dr. Tobias Smith presenting on native bee keeping.
6 October Saturday	2018 Gladstone Stingless Bee Workshop at Calliope (Dr Tobias Smith). Details and book on Eventbrite.
6 October Saturday	Small Landholders Day - Rockhampton Showgrounds (NPC plan to hold a stall) – volunteers needed.
7 October Sunday 10am to 4pm	2018 Rockhampton Stingless Bee Workshop Dr. Tobias Smith at CQ University North Campus, including honey tasting! Cost is \$40 or \$25 for concession. RSVP to Dan Coughlin on 0419 203 240 or at dan_coughlin@internode.on.net by Wednesday 3 rd October 2018. See attached flyer for more information.
7 October Sunday 9am-2pm	NPC Display at Tropicana - tropical gardening and sustainability expo (Rockhampton Botanic Gardens) – NPC to conduct 2 workshops – NPC Outing – volunteers needed!
13-14 October	Photography Workshop held at North Keppel Island Environmental Education Centre. Enquiries: Christine tel: 0749392510 E cwils321@eq.edu.au
26 October Friday 7:00 pm	Native Plants Capricornia October Meeting.

On a Myrtle Rust Mission

For the last 8 months I have been undertaking an assessment of the damage caused by the invasive fungal pathogen *Austropuccinia psidii*, the causal agent of myrtle rust, to Australian native flora. To do this I have been talking to botanists, ecologists, plant pathologists, bush regenerators, consultants and concerned citizens from around the country in order to get insights into the diseases impact. This information has helped guide my field assessments. So far I have surveyed over 480 native myrtle populations comprising 110 species within central and northern NSW, south-east Queensland and the Wet Tropics. The results have been alarming, with once common and wide spread species, range restricted species and keystone ecological species being severely impacted. There is still a large data gap remaining for the central Queensland region, and I am here to fill this gap. Any information you have on the whereabouts of native 'rainforest' myrtles would be highly valued, and discussions about observations would be welcome. Please contact me on 0422460756 or email jarrahwills@hotmail.com.



Dr. Jarrah Wills (UQ, QLD Herbarium)

Myrtle Rust Action petition open for signatures:

A petition calling for a Myrtle Rust Summit to bring together all the stakeholders - government, industry, researchers, environmental groups, community and media is now available for you to support: Go to https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Petitions/House_of_Representatives_Petitions/Petitions_General/Petitions_List and find petition is No. EN0686. Signatures open: 22/08/2018, Signatures close: 19/09/2018.

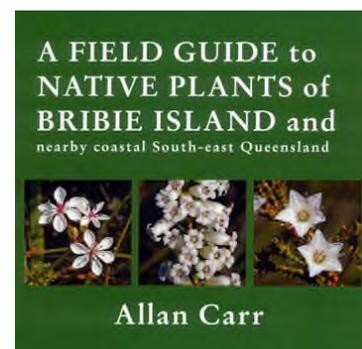
Girl Guides Environmental Day

On 4th August 2018, Native Plants Capricornia together with eight other local environmental groups participated in the 2018 Environmental Day for Guides in the Rockhampton region. There were approximately 65 guides who circulated around the various stands in small groups to receive a stamp on their passport after they had participated in the different events. Ours was a drawing activity based around creek vegetation. After a sausage sizzle lunch there was a special ceremony to mark 70 years of guiding by Wirrallee (aka Margaret Hale to us). Well done Margaret; a magnificent effort (and thank you for organising the day). Contributed by Bob Newby.

Another must-have book!

A book describing 78 of the plants in Byfield National Park, this brand new publication is a must-have for local botanists. I personally look forward to each edition of the Caboolture Newsletter just to admire Allan's photos – very special. We plan to order 10 copies at Yabba so can offer them to members at \$20.

Carr, Allan (2018), **A Field Guide to Native Plants of Bribie Island and nearby coastal South-east Queensland**, Caboolture Daytime Branch, Native Plants Queensland.



Fitzroy Basin Association Launches New Podcast

Listen to the work taking place in the world of natural resource management. The Ripple Effect is Fitzroy Basin Association's exclusive podcast. In season 1, we take to the skies to see how helicopters are a part of pest control, travel to watery depths in Yeppoon to reassess marine debris and discover a native sanctuary hiding in amongst industry in Gladstone. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

Fitzroy Basin Association Celebrates 25 years



FBA is Celebrating 21 Years with a Family Fun Afternoon at Capricorn Caves, 30 Olsens Caves Road, The Caves.

[Book here](#).

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm AEST Sun. 23 September 2018

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have supported and been involved with Fitzroy Basin Association

over the past 21 years. Please join us for a Sunday Roast, an after lunch activity and cake to celebrate. Numbers are limited, book now to avoid disappointment. If you and your family would like to take advantage of one of the four after lunch activities please tick the relevant box when registering. Please see the list of activities below.

- **Adventure Caving (5 years and over)**
- **Cathedral Cave Tour (open to all ages)**
- **Fossil Tour (open to all ages)**
- **Rock Climbing & Bouldering (5 years and over)**

Closed in shoes must be worn for all activities, children must be accompanied by an adult.

CQUniCares Annual Appeal

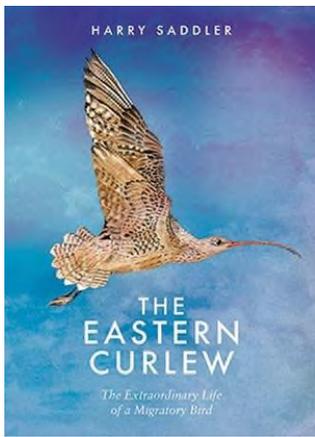
Last year, Professor Scott Bowman, Vice-Chancellor and President of CQUniversity Australia, launched the CQUniCares Annual Appeal. The generosity and support towards the appeal in its first year was astounding and together our CQUni community raised more than \$116,000 to significantly support students in undertaking their studies in 2018. Businesses and individuals from around our CQUni footprint dug dee and gave to this very important fund – a fund that simply changes lives.

The appeal began with a dream to raise \$25,000 in 25 days, but what transpired was simply fantastic. The funds raised will now assist 25 students in need to receive life-changing scholarships. This enables these students to embrace their education opportunity and without the financial struggles that can sometimes accompany the decision to pursue further education. Read more about the students who have benefitted from the scholarships [here](#). If you would like to make a donation, visit the [CQUniversity website](#).

New Book: The Eastern Curlew

If you haven't seen it already, a new book on the eastern curlew has been published by Harry Saddler. Below is an excerpt from the CSIRO website.

Every year around August, large flocks of Eastern Curlews leave their breeding grounds in the Arctic and embark on a perilous 10,000km journey to the coast of Australia. The birds cannot swim; if they become



exhausted and fall into the ocean, they die. But it's a journey they have taken for tens of thousands of years, tracing invisible flyways in the sky in what is one of the most spectacular mass migrations in the animal kingdom.

Following the Eastern Curlew along its migratory path, award-winning nature writer Harry Saddler explores how these incredible birds have impressed themselves on the cultures of the countries they fly through, the threat to their survival posed by development, and the remarkable ways these birds and humankind may be entwined. The Eastern Curlew is a delightful and vivid portrait of a fascinating natural phenomenon.

The Eastern Curlew by Harry Saddler is now on sale for \$29.99.

To grab your copy, head to <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7870/#review>



Austroplebeia australis – Tobias is keen to know if anyone has this species of native bee that occurs from Rockhampton north?



RSVP to 0419 203 240 or email: dan_coughlan@internode.on.net by Wednesday, 3rd October 18.

Native Stingless Bees

Workshop by Dr Tobias Smith

- 7th October 2018, 10am - 4pm
- CQUniversity North campus
- -Building 32 room G.18
- \$40 or \$25 concessions

Includes honey tasting.

RSVP to 0419 203 240 or email dan_coughlan@internode.on.net by Wednesday, 3rd October 2018.

About the presenter: Dr Tobias Smith is a bee researcher, educator and stingless beekeeper based on the Gold Coast. As a researcher Tobias is based at the University of New England, where he works as part of the Rader Community Ecology Lab. Tobias's research interests focus on wild bees in agricultural landscapes, crop pollination by native bee species, and native bee diversity and ecology. Tobias has been an educator for over 10 years, and has extensive experience delivering bee and pollination workshops to all age groups, from preschool to university to adult education. Tobias has been teaching stingless bee keeping workshops for four years, up and down the east coast. In addition to being a bee researcher and educator, Tobias is also a commercial native beekeeper, keeping stingless bee hives around SEQ and northern NSW.

You are invited to hear Tobias at the Native Plants Capricornia meeting at 7pm Friday, 5th October at Frenchville State School Activity Centre

The Australian Native Bee Book
by Tim Heard

Would you like to become a beekeeper?

In this workshop, entomologist Dr Tobias Smith will teach you the basics on how to keep stingless bees and/or become a beekeeper. He will entertain and educate you at the same time. This workshop alternates between slide presentations and a practical session to build a strong foundation of knowledge and experience. His stunning slide presentation will cover the topics of bee nesting biology, bee foraging biology, diversity of wild bees, importance of bees in natural systems, traditional stingless beekeeping around the world, modern stingless beekeeping in Australia, using stingless bees for pollination of gardens and farms, sugarbag honey and its properties, rescuing bees threatened in the wild, and more. In the practical sessions, we will open hives and observe the amazing structures within. We will learn how to move a colony from a log into a hive. We will divide the hive into two halves showing the process of colony propagation.

Ann McHugh's Latest Travels:

Ann and daughter, Jenny Moisaner, had a busy time around Darwin which was a hot 32 deg – she loved it. *Hymenachne* swallowing the pink lilies and *Salvinia* creeping in to the beautiful Yellow Water Billabong



Darwin Wollybutt (*Eucalyptus Miniata*)

Drosera petiolaris - growing on very dry sand (by Smartphone microscope converter \$5 at Kmart)



Turkey bush (*Calyatrix exstipulate*)



Cochlospermum gilvraei (family Bixaceae)



Grevillea dryandri



Screw pine (*Pandanus spiralis*) - Yellow Water sunrise



... and back in Brisbane, Ann has been to see Milton and Aileen. They are settling in well. Their upper story unit looks out onto some nice Eucalypt woodland. Photo please Milton!



Austraflora Photography Competition (Entries close 31st August 2018):

This is our 7th year running the Austraflora Photography Competition! The image must fit within the theme: Australian Native Flora, Nature and Landscapes. This can include Australian native flowers, foliage, bark, seeds/nuts/fruit, fungi, moss, lichen, and Australian landscapes. Photos of Australian Native Flora, Nature and Landscapes entered, are judged by an expert horticultural and photography panel, determining the top 12 winners. The winning 12 images feature in their very own month of the Austraflora Calendar. There's lots of amazing prizes you can win including flights to Melbourne, city accommodation, and tickets to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in March 2019. For more information, check out the [website](#) and enter the competition [here](#).

Winning Entries from Previous Years



2015, Bec Lundberg



2014, Peter Nydegger



2013, Jessica Peisley



2012, Tony Markham

New Native Plants Queensland (NPQ) Website!



The new Native Plants Queensland website is now up and running. Take some time to check it out here: www.npq.org.au.



Did anyone notice our new logo on the letterhead of the newsletter? Check it out and let us know what you think. Email: nativeplantscap@gmail.com. It was designed by Plantasy Web Development who have also developed our new website



Urban agriculture in suburban Gracemere:

Mehraban Farahmand (call him Men) has been living in Gracemere with his wife Cecelia and two boys for the past 13 years. He comes from India and has lived in Vientiane, Laos for 13 years.

He has 27 years experience in the development field as a management consultant to the UN and international NGOs. Presently he is undertaking a PhD in Urban Agriculture at CQUniversity with a focus on social capital. He is keen to learn about community development and has started various Social Action projects within his neighbourhood including the Gracemere Community Verge Garden, Community Compost Capital, Gracemere Lending Library, various Children and Junior Youth Projects.

He is passionate about the environment and is keen to learn and share from others on efforts that individuals, families, communities and institutions are taking to reduce our carbon footprint and preserve the fragile ecosystem through Urban Agricultural practises.

On a personal and community level, I have initiated various projects in my neighbourhood that has attracted attention from the community which has adopted the initiatives. Below are some of the activities that I have facilitated:-

1) Gracemere Lending Library (G2L)

A fridge that is being used to encourage book reading. People are donating and borrowing books.

2) Community Compost Capital (3Cs)

Compost bins on either side of the frontyard that are used for depositing vegetable scraps. When ready they are donated to the community.

3) Gracemere Community Street Food (GCSF)

Verge gardens that are for community consumption. More families are following suit and encouraging the community to grow vegetables for others.

4) Gracemere Backyard Swap (GBS)

Weekly on Sundays, a group of people meet for a Devotional Gathering followed by breakfast and swap of vegetables, poultry.

5) Gracemere Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Programme

Encouraging youth between 12-15 years to come to a space that assists them build capacity for individual and collective transformation through study, recreation, arts and service projects.

6) Cow Manure for Growth (CMG)

Assisting families who are in need to cart manure from the Gracemere Sales yard (holding pen for cattle at the auction house) to houses within the region.

7) Street Conversations

Engaging elevated conversations to discuss community building activities in light of the deteriorating conditions of the world.



ABC radio picked up the story on the Gracemere Community Street Foods which generated interest nation-wide. It can be seen on <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-25/community-spirit-grow-along-with-tomatoes-in-footpath-garden/7785302>

I am ever eager to collaborate with industry, academia, individuals and the community to build connections as we learn to strengthen the community-building process and limit our consumption habits or take steps to mitigate the impacts of our actions on others and the environment. **Mehraban Farahmand 0474146069** | E mehraban.farahmand@cqumail.com

What's in Flower in CQ

A few plants have come into flower this month out west including *Eremophila mitchellii*, *Pandorea pandorana* and various species of acacia.



Eremophila mitchellii in flower.



Eremophila mitchellii flowers up close.



Pandorea pandorana in flower.



Pandorea pandorana flowers up close.

Photos: Emma Owbridge



Return Address: Native Plants Capricornia, 401 Frenchville Rd, Frenchville QLD 4701