

NATIVE PLANTS CAPRICORNIA



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QUEENSLAND

Cultivation
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ROCKHAMPTON
BRANCH

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Annual subscriptions now due.



Boweria serrulata

July 2018 Newsletter No. 204

Next Meeting – Friday 27th July

Meeting is at 7:00pm (Committee meeting at 6:00 pm all welcome) 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. Shirley Hopkins will be raffling local native plants so bring along your spare coins.



Guest Speaker – Phil Steer

Phil Steer, Principal of Steer Environmental Consulting presents...

Building relationships: Skills for applying native vegetation to industrial challenges

Phil brings a wealth of experience in environmental regulation and now his experience from the industry perspective, identifying how native vegetation can be used to improve environmental performance.

Next Outing – Sunday 5th August

According to one contact, **Canoona** has received some better rainfall with some flowering occurring late last month. Like most of the country, it will be drying out and in need of good rain. The Nickel Road end of Hams road has a good stand of Serpentine endemics as well as the Canoona Park end of the same road. Come prepare for a day in the bush and meet at Northside Plaza carpark to car pool and be ready to depart at 8:00 am. Register your interest in attending with Neil Hoy on 0439 943 281.

Last Meeting – Friday 22nd June

Maryanne Jones, newly commenced as a Project Officer with Greening Australia in January spoke about the projects she has been involved with during her short time in Rockhampton including:

- Turtle monitoring in the Fitzroy River. Nest recording, catch and tagging, monitoring fox, wild dog and pig predation.
- Moores Creek weed control, between First Turkey and Stockland Shopping Centre

- Mt Etna projects continuing. Special thanks to John McCabe and Steve Elson for their efforts as well as other volunteers
- Cane Toad Traps, toad hunting, toad bait, community involvement and native frog identification
- Sandy Point revegetation, weed control and regrowth of dune vegetation
- Kinka Beach tree plantings
- New projects on the radar include Lake Mary and gully erosion.

Plants tabled for the night included: *Acacia conferta*, *Acacia* sp., *Brachychiton bidwilli*, *Callistemon 'Pink Alma'*, Fruit of *Eleocarpus angustifolius*, *Gardenis psidioides*, *Geijera latifolia*, *Grevillea 'Billy Bonkers'*, *Grevillea 'Dorothy Gordon'*, *Grevillea 'Firesprite'*, *Grevillea 'Marmalade'*, *Grevillea 'Pink Sunrise'*, *Grevillea wickhamia*, *Melalueca fluviatilis*, *Melalueca viridifolia* (dark red form), *Pittosporum venulosum*,

Last Outing – Sunday 1st July

The last outing planned for heavy black soil was rained out and subsequently cancelled. Fingers crossed for this month, even though we don't mind the rain.

Upcoming Events

Fri 27th July 7pm	Native Plants Capricornia July Meeting (See above)	
Sat 28th July 11:30am to 1:30pm	<p>Gladstone Harbour Water Quality and Industry Barge Tour. Join Port Curtis Harbour Watch in a free barge tour of Gladstone industries and investigate water quality and life in Gladstone Harbour. Listen to Curtis Ferry commentary of the industries in Gladstone Harbour. Learn how to test and record water quality in various locations throughout the Harbour.</p> <p>The barge departs from the Gladstone Yacht Club at the bottom end of Goondoon Street, Gladstone. Cost is free with light refreshments supplied. This event is proudly sponsored by Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership.</p> <p>Bookings are essential. To find out more information or to register your interest contact Harbour Watch at Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre on 07 4851 0333 or at harbourwatch@boyneisleec.eq.edu.au. Online booking is also available at EventBrite</p>	
Sun 29th July 11am to 1pm	National Tree Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newman Oval in Mount Morgan • O'Shanesy Park in Rockhampton • Frenchman's Creek in North Rockhampton
Sun 29th July	Emergency Services Day at the Heritage Village. Rockhampton Regional Council tree giveaway of local naïve species with information compiled by NPC.	
August – TBC	150 year Celebration for the Creed Family History in the Raglan District (1868-2018).	
Sat 4th Aug 2:30pm	Rockhampton and District Historical Society Meeting. Held at the Borough Chambers. Contact John on 4927 4897 for more information or to register your interest in attending.	
Sat 11 August Time TBC	Re-opening of the Kershaw Native Plants Gardens - see: https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/AboutCouncil/News-and-announcements/Latest-News/Change-of-date-for-Kershaw-Gardens-Opening	

Sun 12th Aug 9am	Targinnie Property. Meet at the cross roads at Port Curtis Way, Yarwun and Targinnie Road at 9am. BYO Lunch. For more information, contact Paula Wallace on 0407 638 238 or 4978 2488.
Sat 18th to Sun 19th Aug	BirdLife Capricornia Outing to Blackdown Tablelands. Stay tuned for more information on this and other BirdLife Capricornia events on their website . Contact Allan Briggs on 4935 4645 to register.
Sat 1st and Sun 2nd Sept	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 <i>Acacia rigens</i> , <i>A. lauta</i> and <i>A. lineata</i> . 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.
Sun 2nd Sept	Native Plants Capricornia Outing. Details coming.
Sat 15th to Sun 16th Sept	Native Plants Queensland 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.
Fri 21st to Sun 23rd Sept	Date Claimer for Yabba 2018! will be held in Warwick this year, so pencil it into your calendars now! We hosted Yabba Capricornia 2016.
Fri 5th Oct 7pm	Native Plants Capricornia September Meeting postponed to Friday 5 th October due to <i>Yabba</i> . Our Guest Speaker will be Dr. Tobias Smith.
Sat 6th Oct	2018 Gladstone Stingless Bee Workshop at Calliope (Dr Tobias Smith)
Sun 7th Oct	2018 Rockhampton Stingless Bee Workshop (Dr Tobias Smith)
Sun 7th Oct	NPC Display at Tropicana - tropical gardening and sustainability expo (Rockhampton Botanic Gardens) – NPC to conduct 2 workshops
Fri 26th Oct	Native Plants Capricornia October Meeting.

New Cultivar of Macadamia

In 1980s about 90 low growing trees of a new species of Macadamia were discovered growing near a creek in Bulburin National Park. Some specimens (known informally as the Bulburin nut) are now growing in Gladstone Botanical Gardens and there is a move to establish more from cuttings in Bundaberg Botanical Garden. Apart from conserving this rare species, it is hoped that it may be possible to exploit its dwarfing genes to limit the size of commercial Macadamia trees (which require pruning in cultivation as they get older). Bundaberg is the largest producer of macadamia nuts in Australia. The new species, *M. jansenii* is itself not a commercial proposition as its nuts are bitter. [Summarised from ruralweekly.com.au 5 JUN 18]. The Census of Queensland Flora lists four species of Macadamia mainly from the districts Mo, Pc and Wb. These are Queensland nut, *M. integrifolia*; Rough leafed Queensland nut, *M. tetraphylla*; Bulburin nut, *M. jansenii*, and *M. ternifolia*. The nuts of last as well as those of three other species from north Queensland contain cyanide compounds and are toxic to varying degrees. Contributed by Bob Newby.

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](#).

Atractocarpus fitzslanii (previously *Randia fitzslanii*)

Found this "Native Gardenia" (*Atractocarpus fitzalanii* subsp. *fitzalanii*) with about 20 others in teatree/blue gum swamp country, named Bushland Park, between Lapwing Court and the Yeppoon Golf Course. Looks like a few escapees from planted trees somewhere in western Yeppoon suburbia or the Golf Club grounds. Habitat is a bit out of character. Nearest natural occurrence I am aware of is in the lower part of Granite Creek Gorge, north of Ogmoo and probably few kilometres north of the Livingstone Shire northern boundary. The species has been relatively common in landscape horticulture for at least 40 years and is grown at a local advanced tree nursery. There are no records (2014 QHerb Census) for Port Curtis Pastoral District, but there are several for Moreton PD, suggesting that there are also wild escapes in South East Queensland. Contributed by John McCabe.

Notes from Neil Hoy: It is certainly fairly hardy growing naturally in *Corymbia citriodora* woodlands on the scarp at Magpie Hollow, overlook St Lawrence. It 'should' be good as an attractive tub / balcony ornamental, but I have found it a bit sensitive to prolonged sunlight here at work. There were a couple in / in front of the bird dome at the RBG for many years.

Notes from Bob Newby: I have planted a couple as an experiment in my little arboretum on Frenchville Road. They struggle in the dry weather. Have also just put in a *Fitsalania heteropetala* but am expecting it to struggle with the dry conditions as well.



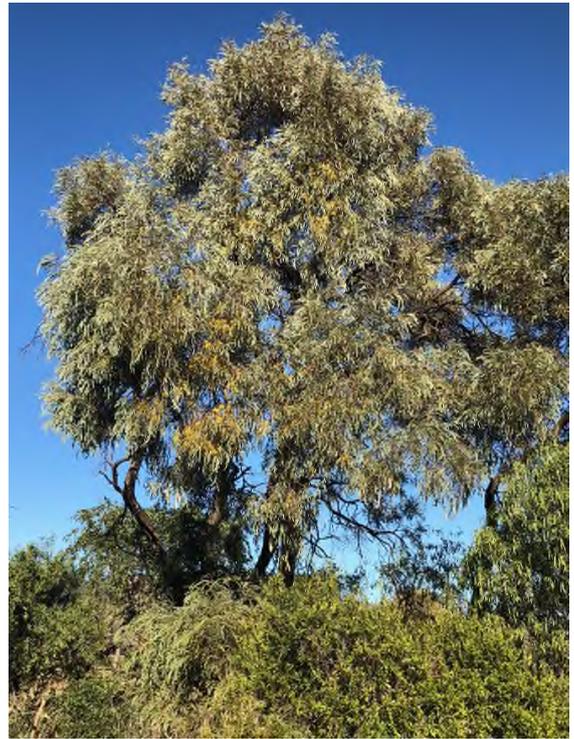
Keybase

Early this month I had the opportunity to attend a workshop in Mackay run by Prof Betsy Jackes of JCU. She introduced us to the use of KeyBase. Essentially it is a free online data base of published plant keys (mainly) from various regions and for various taxa (mainly Australian). New keys are being added progressively as they are published and the new rainforests of north Queensland key should be added later this year. If you select Flowering Plants of Queensland for example you will be presented with a list of 360 keys to choose from. It is anticipated that by 2020 all genera will be represented. All keys are interactive (and therefore require internet access) and are based on the Lucid platform. While there are a few 'tricks' to be learnt, it is a filtering key that provides a number of advantages over paper-based keys. The program keeps a running visual tally on taxa eliminated from consideration and those still under consideration. If you narrow your identification to a few possible taxa you are able to query the key as to what specific features are needed to separate them. At any stage you can go back one or more steps (or even start again!). For many keys there is immediate online help with terms and photographs as well as hot links to the Atlas of Living Australia. As with all keys, sometimes the result comes out quickly within a few steps while in other cases it is a question of progressive elimination. One of the important messages impressed on us was 'If in doubt- leave it out'. As we found out from practice, a guess can lead you seriously astray. To get started search for keybase rbq or go to: <http://keybase.rbq.vic.gov.au/>. Contributed by Bob Newby.

What's in Flower in CQ

Following the rain in early July, quite a few acacia's and ironbarks have come into flower. *Owenia acidula* is also budding and last week. Photos: E Owbridge.





New Native Plants Queensland Website!

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

Myrtle Rust – A Matter of National Concern

The Winter Regional Gathering of Native Plants Queensland reinvigorated our members concern in regard to Myrtle Rust by a disturbing presentation by Dr Jarrah Wills of the Queensland Herbarium. We had been lulled into a sense of false security in the last couple of years, as this insidious air borne ‘predator’ of the family Myrtaceae seemed to have reduced impact. But Dr Wills explained that we are very much mistaken because Myrtle Rust has been steadily spreading north and south from its original illegal entry point into Australia in the Gosford area. It is now readily found infecting the natural bushlands as well as the constructed garden and landscape environments along coasts and hinterlands of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, across to Kakadu and the Kimberly’s, with southwestern Western Australia and Tasmania firmly in its intentions.

It was very disturbing to see recent photographs of the Daintree rainforests where large emergent Myrtaceae tree species were dead and dying across the canopy. Similarly smaller Myrtaceae species were dying right down to the understory. This is also happening throughout the rainforests, forests and wetlands of Queensland. The same was true in the southern states, particularly the coastal heathlands of northern NSW.

This should be of huge concern to all our members as the potential exists with the continuing dieback of the Myrtaceae family to change the face of the Australian landscape, and the dependent fauna in a massive way. **Imagine having no Myrtaceae family plants in your garden!** The Australian community needs to be made aware of the situation so that comprehensive public pressure can force national and international involvement from all levels of Government, Botanic Gardens, Commercial Horticulture business, and concerned organizations like ANPSA, APS, NPQ. It is obviously of extreme and urgent importance as outlined below.

'Myrtle Rust in Australia - a draft Action Plan' is now published in PDF format at www.apbsf.org.au. This document is open for public comment **until 31 August 2018**. The intent of the draft Action Plan is to provide a

framework for a nationally coordinated environmental response to Myrtle Rust – that is, for the conservation of native biodiversity at risk. Such a response has been lacking to date.

'Myrtle Rust reviewed: the impacts of the invasive pathogen *Austropuccinia psidii* on the Australian environment' is now published in PDF format at www.apbsf.org.au. This is the first overall synthesis of the environmental effects of this pathogen. The intent of the review of impacts is to provide the evidentiary basis for the proposed actions, and to show their urgency.

Uptake of the draft Action Plan, and resourcing of its recommended actions, are not a given. No agencies are yet committed to it. Uptake will depend in part on public and professional feedback during the comment period. Australia has to date lacked any nationally coordinated response to the environmental dimensions of this pathogen. Some momentum has been established over the last year at Commonwealth level, but needs reinforcement at all levels of government.

The Review and draft Action Plan were co-funded by the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) of the Commonwealth Department of Environment, and the Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (PBCRC). As of June 30, the PBCRC sadly no longer exists, but much of its legacy is preserved at the www.apbsf.org.au website.

Myrtle Rust disease, caused by the pathogenic fungus *Austropuccinia psidii*, is already causing the steep decline of a number of Australian native plant species, at least four of which are now approaching extinction after only a few years of exposure. 45 species are nominated in the draft Action Plan for priority conservation actions. The beginnings of ecosystem-level decline are starting to become apparent in rainforest, coastal heathland, and some Melaleuca wetland communities, and cascade declines of other biota are on the cards in some cases.

I urge your organisation to consider providing comment on the draft Action Plan, to the email address shown on it, [by August 31](#). We understand that comments received will be collated and circulated to the government agencies who would need to lead and provide core funding for any environmental response. A strong expression of stakeholder views, whether critical of the draft Action Plan or supportive, will help to demonstrate the seriousness of the issue, and to secure attention to it in both government and non-government circles.

This real and growing threat was discussed at this week's ANPSA Council Meeting teleconference and the Conservation Officers at National level - Eddy Wajon, and State level - Glenn Leiper, are working together on responses. Native Plants Queensland will also be mounting a specific informational display at the September Spring Wildflower Show so that the message of potential devastation to the Myrtaceae family Australia wide can be understood by the general public as well.

Only through widespread public expressions of concern will all levels of Government stand up and take notice and support/fund the necessary research. So please encourage all of your members get active, write to local Federal and State Members and Local Councillors and importantly spread this message of major environmental concern at every opportunity throughout your communities. Contributed by Lawrie Smith.

Garden Design Study Group – Lawrie’s New Garden

Consider signing up for the Garden Design Study Group, with many interesting topics covered in the bimonthly newsletter. Membership and emailed newsletters are **free**, with posted copies \$20 per year to cover printing and postage. Below is a snippet from the latest issue, written by Bob Bannon.

Under threatening skies, twenty members of the Garden Design Study Group - Queensland came to North Lakes a major new planned residential community, north of Brisbane. For many, it was their first time at Lawrie's garden, while for others it was a chance to witness the changes to this work-in-progress garden. (Aren't they all?)



Certainly a big lifestyle change for Lawrie and Carmel, having been on acreage properties for some forty years, scaling down to an 880 square metre block, of which, the house occupies about half. They chose this property because it overlooks two of the many lakes in the area, and the surrounding natural environment areas. A formal pathway borders the lake, with the new associated landscape adding to the already huge plant diversity. Talk about a "borrowed landscape"! Lawrie has taken on the 'maintenance' (read redesign) and further planting of the

park border plantings, much to the delight of the Council maintenance crews. This has almost doubled the available planting area and increased the plant palette, visually 'borrowing' several mature *Grevillea* cultivars to add to the garden. Lawrie is very pleased about this, as his previous properties had a serious dislike for anything in the *Proteaceae* family!

Immediately they set foot in the place, a little over twelve months ago, Lawrie prepared site survey plans, sun and shade analysis, and soon had concept plans drawn up - which included the 'borrowed' landscape of the adjacent street and park. Plans were soon afoot to immediately remove four pencil pines, several mock orange hedges and forty agave feature plants; then relocate and reconstruct a metal garden shed (blocking the prime view to the lakes and park landscape), and commence planning and planting a native garden.

Much thought has gone into the selection of plants, with some working, while others haven't performed as expected. (You aren't alone there Lawrie). The Lilly Pilly hedge outside the fence, has received a substantial 'sculptural' trim, improving the views, while maintaining privacy. The new 'potting pergola' has *Tecomanthe hillii* (Fraser Island Creeper) planted, which will eventually cover it with its magnificent flowers showing through



underneath. *Tristaniopsis laurina* 'Luscious' a new variety with larger leaves and denser foliage was carefully located adjacent to the potting pergola to provide summer shade, along with *Pandanus tectorius*, *Geitonoplesium cymosum*, and *Smilax glycyphylla* to complete the planting. Nearby, Lawrie has planted a 'transparent hedge' GDSG NEWSLETTER #104 August 2018 ANPSA Garden Design Study Group – Newsletter NL 104.doc page 10 using smaller fine leaf plants *Leptospermum*, *Melaleuca* and *Acacia* which will be 'pruned up' to show off their gnarled trunks to offer filtered views through to the lake, hence the term 'transparent hedge'.

The shade house along the side of the house is ideally placed on the northside, with the sun controlled initially by shade cloth, which will eventually be covered by assorted vines. It gives great growing conditions, indicated by the healthy specimens of lilies, *Costus potierae*, *Cordyline*, *Hoya* and orchids. The front north garden has had a fairly substantial makeover. The Sheena's, Gold has gone (Yay). The *Murraya paniculata* hedge ("What? I hear you say"), has been severely pruned to sculptural wedges, and I believe will eventually be replaced with a suitable native. The rest of the plants in the front garden are natives, including *Eleocharis reticulatis*,

Leptospermum madidum var. *madidum*, *Mallotus phillipensis* and a lovely *Myoporum floribundum*, to name but a few. Meanwhile, the street footpath hasn't missed out with a *Tristaniopsis laurina* and *Brachychiton discolor* the choice to modify the north western sun. The southern side is a narrow corridor, where a lack of sunlight hampers growing conditions but is targeted to be a future verdant 'green wall'.



Once our exploration of the garden was complete, and thankfully the showers held off, we headed along the pathway meandering around the lakes, excited at the variety of plants we came across, both natural and those planted by the Developers. *Acacia leiocalyx* was just beginning its explosion of colour and perfume, and *Banksia robur* was sprouting its beautiful coppery green flower spikes, as our forty minute walk took us to our lunch destination, the North Lakes Golf Club, where most of us (sorry George) enjoyed a lovely, if delayed meal. After overcoming our hunger pains it was time to go back to Lawrie's, a short ten minute walk. (He took us up the long garden path the first time).

On the way back, we ventured off the track to the lake edge, to be rewarded with the sight of a pair of Black Swans with five new cygnets. A lovely way to end what was an exciting, pleasurable day with a great bunch of friends. A big thank you to Lawrie and Carmel for opening their house and garden up for us, and sharing their new found experiences living in suburbia, on a "normal" house block.

Armstrong Street Community Gardens are looking for volunteers

Do you love gardening? Do you have free time and want to volunteer? After the 20 week course at Armstrong Street Community Gardens, we need a group of volunteers that can form a committee to look after the beautiful gardens. You will be conserving the land and helping the garden to stay healthy. It will connect you with the community, you can provide fresh food to those in need and you'll be preserving the green space in your neighbourhood. For more information or to register your interest contact Rhonda on 4921 2222 or email RhondaW@mdaltd.org.au or at 108 Alexandra Street, Kawana.

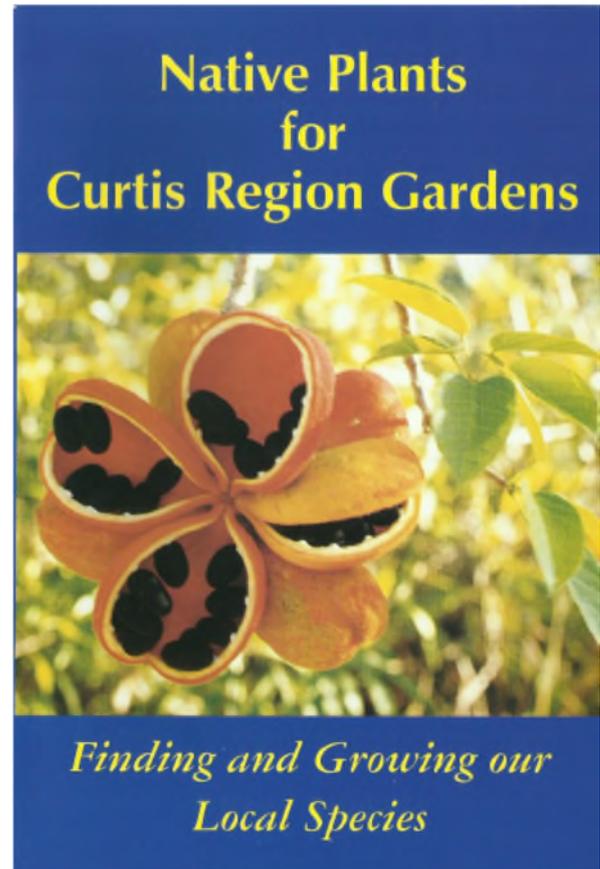
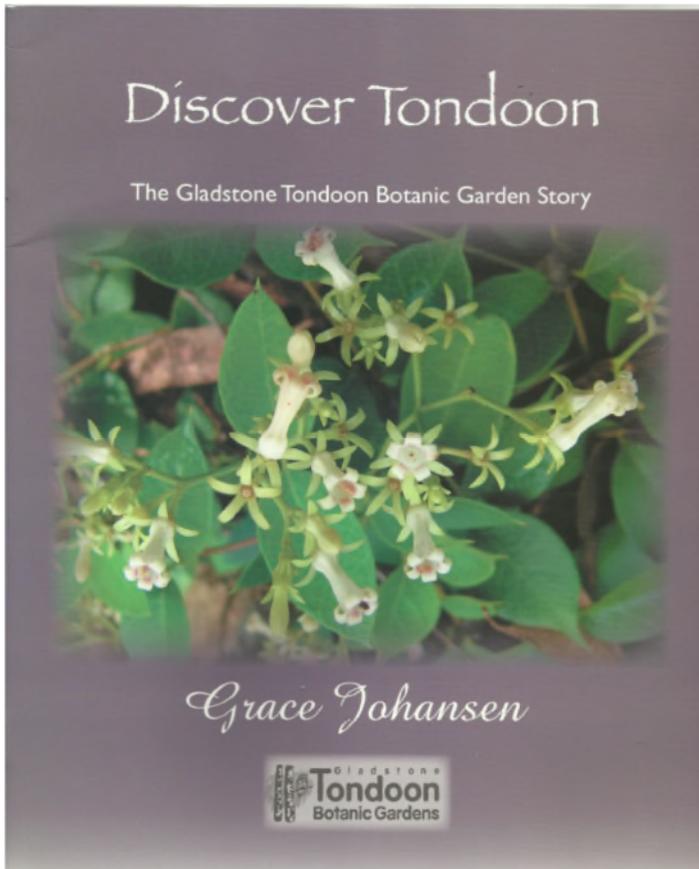
CQUniCares Annual Appeal

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](#).

Books for Sale

The following book are for sale. Contact Ruth Crosson at ruth.crosson@hotmail.com to place an order. If you do not have access to email, please call Emma Owbridge on 0438 157 945 who can get you in contact with Ruth.



Discover Tondoon is \$10 plus postage and packing.

Native Plants for Curtis Regional Gardens is \$8 plus postage and packing.



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