

NATIVE PLANTS CAPRICORNIA

NATIVE PLANTS QUEENSLAND – ROCKHAMPTON BRANCH

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Next Meeting – Friday 23rd March

A workshop to gather ideas for our WWW site!

Exciting Times for NPC!

Some twenty years since the Internet became popular, our branch is finally paddling out hoping to catch the Third Wave of the *Internet of Everything*.

Thanks to a team of eager students, supervised by Dr Ashley Holmes, Senior Lecturer - Digital Media, CQUniversity who have offered to build the site, we need to draw together our thoughts about what we would like our new WWW page to deliver, before we meet with the design team.

So ... if you have ever switched on a computer, been on a field-trip or planned to plant a few native plants, please start a list of the questions that the new WWW might be able to answer. We will demonstrate what other NPQ branches have designed and discuss what we would like to deliver via our new WWW site.

Meeting is at 7:00 pm. Turn up hill at the traffic lights on Frenchville Road through the car park. We hope to see you there. **Show and tell** - Bring along your labelled specimens (if you know them), some cuttings for everyone to identify and any extra native seedlings. Hopefully we will have a plant raffle so bring along your spare coins.

Next Outing – Sunday 8th April (postponed to avoid Easter)

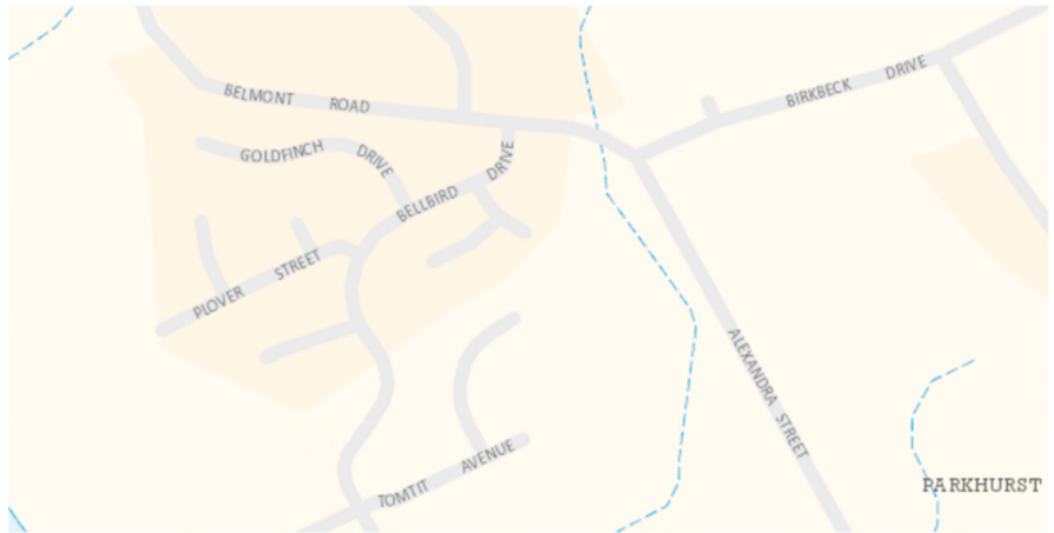


Plover Street Remnant, Kawana.

Imagine a delightful natural bush park right on our doorstep here in North Rockhampton that runs from undisturbed Coolibah – Brigalow – Belah frontage to the Fitzroy River through a patch of diverse semi-

evergreen rainforest on limestone outcrop surrounded by a delightful open woodland of ghost gums, iron barks with a rare kangaroo grass understorey – already popular with birdwatchers. Remember to wear sun smart clothes, sturdy shoes and a hat. Directions and map are on the next page.

Meet at the Northside Plaza carpark (over the hedge from the Shell Service station) at 1:45 pm or 2:00 pm on-site at the cul-de-sac at the river end of Plover Street (Alexander St → Belmont Rd → Bellbird Drive → Plover Street → cul-de-sac). Please register with Neil Hoy on 0439 943 281 or email hoyn@optusnet.com.au.



Last Meeting – Friday 23rd February

Local artist Jet James (assisted by Shelly McArdle) discussed the use of his art work to celebrate local nature. Apart from creating aesthetically pleasing images, Jet's work aims to raise awareness of the environment and the need to care for our environment. Apart from his paper etchings he had quite a number of other examples of his work on display including fabrics, purses, etc. He outlined the processes he uses to produce fine detail prints of plants and insects. For example the wing veins of the dragonfly image were clearly visible. There was discussion about highlighting the plants in coastal scrubs and local iconic species. Ideas for collaboration were canvassed including perhaps hands-on workshops. Mention was made of the 'Plant of the Month' work done by Helen Gallehawk as a resource. There was a lively discussion about promoting the art work.

Jet was thanked by Bob and presented with one of the locally made wooden pens (conker berry wood) we had purchased as thankyou gifts.

Approximately 15 specimens were tabled including *Brachychiton acerifolius* which this year has flowered about two months later than normal (and has yet to re-leaf).

Last Outing – Sunday 4nd March

The last excursion was to Bluff Point at Yeppoon. Despite, promising conditions, the trip was cut short as it was nearly rained out! Also a just a reminder to those coming on our outings. Please remember to bring suitable footwear, hat, sunscreen, water and long sleeve shirt and pants if you are prone to scratches.

Upcoming Events for this Year

**Friday 23rd
March
7:00pm**

Native Plants Capricornia Meeting. What are your ideas for our new WWW site? Come ready for a brainstorm and to share your ideas. We will be showcasing what other branches have done with their website as inspiration for ours.

**Saturday 24th
March
8:30pm**

Earth Hour. The fight for our planet's future is on! Australia is home to some of the world's most iconic and breathtaking natural landscapes and wildlife. But just like may of the natural wonders across our blue-green planet, we're facing massive threats to our biodiversity due to climate change. That's why millions of people in over 180 countries are switching off their lights for Earth Hour as a symbolic gesture to show the need for stronger climate action. Are you ready to join the movement Australia? Find out more at <https://www.earthhour.org.au/>.

Saturday 31st March	Capricorn Edible Plants Meeting. Contact Ann Oram on 0408 760 779 for more information.
Sunday 8th April 9:30am	Gladstone SGAP Outing. Meet at Sensory carpark at 9:30 am. Members will take a walk through Lion's Park, Dawson Road. We will then move on to Callemondah Lakes (along Police Creek Trail) to do a bit of bird watching. For more information, contact Paula Wallace on 0407 638 238 or 4978 2488.
Sunday 8th April 9:00am	Native Plants Queensland Annual General Meeting. Held at Bribie Island Arts Centre, 191 Sunderland Drive, Banksia Beach, arriving at 9:00am (for a 9:30am start), finishing at 12:00pm.
Sunday 8th April 1:45pm	Native Plants Capricornia Outing. Members will be exploring the Plover Street remnant vegetation at Kawana which hugs the Fitzroy River.
Thursday 12th to Friday 13th April	The Future Face of Ag. Fitzroy Basin Association is delighted to host Joel Salatin, an American farmer, lecturer, author and pioneer of the famous Polyface Farm – a diversified, grass-based, beyond organic, direct marketing farm. Cast as the focus of a multitude of books and documentaries, the progressive Polyface Farm allows livestock and poultry to move frequently through pastures, offering landscape regeneration and optimal productivity through symbiosis. Salatin's mission is to develop emotionally, economically, environmentally enhancing agricultural enterprises and facilitate their duplication throughout the world. This workshop will be held at the Frenchville Sports Club. Tickets are available at fbarockhampton.eventbrite.com.au . For more information, contact Katie Crozier on 0408 874 042.
Saturday 14th April 4pm	Emu Park Bushcare Outing. Come along for the group's first event of the year! Meet at Marine Parade, Emu Park for some weeding and infill planting. Wear sunsmart clothing and sturdy shoes. Bring a water bottle and a pair of gloves. We are looking for someone to tow their trailer. If you can help, please contact Julianne Weekers at j.weekers@cqu.edu.au . For more information about Emu Park Bushcare, check out their website http://www.emuparkbushcare.org.au/ .
Sunday 13th May 9:30am	Gladstone SGAP Outing. Members will take a walk at Thompson's acreage bush garden and possibly the Round Gladstone Trail. Meet at 9:30 am at the Haddock Drive property of Lee and Wayne. BYO Lunch. For more information, contact Paula Wallace on 0407 638 238 or 4978 2488.
Sunday 3rd June	Ecofest. NPC's Outing for June will be to Ecofest. Planning is underway now for this annual event held at Tondoon Botanic Gardens in Gladstone. More details to follow in subsequent newsletters.

Galls and Wattles

Have you ever noticed those galls on wattles as you take a walk through the bush? I certainly have and I find it even more of a worry when they invade your backyard! It led me to do a little digging this month around the species that makes these growths on acacias. These galls (or lumps and bumps on the leaves) are caused when an insect such as a wasp lays eggs in the stem of leaf. The wattle will react to this by forming a lump around the damaged area.

A revision of the *Trichilogaster* genus (wasps) was published in 2007 and described 9 species. Eight of these species are native to Australia and are listed below with their known host plants. Only one other species is known which is native to Saudi Arabia (*T. arabica*).

Trichilogaster species

T. acaciaelongifoliae

T. esculenta

T. flavivena

T. madenii

T. olgae

T. pendulae

T. signiventris

T. stefani

Host plants

A. floribunda, *A. longifolia*, *A. melanoxyton*, *A. sophorae*

A. aneura

A. acuminata sp. *burkitii*

A. floribunda, *A. implexa*, *A. longifolia*, *A. maidenii*

A. pruinocarpa

A. pendula

A. pycnantha, *A. rivalis*

A. ligulata, *A. rostelifera*



Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae. Photo: Simon van Noort (WaspWeb).

Trichilogaster signiventris. Photo: Simon van Noort (WaspWeb).

Next time you spot some galls on the wattles in your garden, take a closer look and see if you can spot which species you've got!

Full article on *Trichilogaster* species: Prinsloo G.L. & Naser O.C. 2007. Revision of the pteromalid wasp genus *Trichilogaster* Mayr (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea): gall-inducers on Australian acacias *African Entomology* 15(1): 161-184.

Weeds and water

The big rains in early March have helped lots of species to germinate and flourish while conditions remain warm enough. One species that is storing a huge amount of seed for distribution to new homes over the coming months is African Love grass (*Eragrostis curvula*). It is an invasive plant in Queensland and major environmental weed that is not a restricted or prohibited plant under Queensland legislation. You may recognise the steely-blue-green foliage and super fine, but dense seed heads along our thoroughfares at present. A very early introduction in the North Street roundabout was eventually brought under control. It does well in very harsh compacted soils such as the verges of bitumen roads where it thrives and multiplies of the slightest run-off and spear effectively by road-side slashing. N Hoy.



Aussie plants battle through frosty winters across the globe

This month, we have photos of Australian Natives living abroad! While we enjoy a balmy summer, our local species are struggling through frosty winters in the northern hemisphere.

In London, England...

Ann McHugh's friend reports from their garden in London about little Aussies battling the Big Freeze over there. Ann is looking forward to catching up with everyone back in Rocky in a few weeks.



You might not recognise it, but this one is *Acacia dealbata*, struggling with its new life in the frost!



This one is *Grevillea* "Canberra Gem", also trying to flower under the snow.

And in Tokyo, Japan...



This abstract art-form on the last day of winter emerged as a healthy clump of Cycads to greet Spring! The straw wrapping is widely used to protect against the cold. Hessian wrap is also used and may be valuable here for trunks and branches that are susceptible to sunburn.



Also perfectly timed for Spring were the Plum blossoms of *Prunus lannesiana* at Shiba Park. The latest word is that the famed Cherry Blossoms have started to open this week. N Hoy



Acacia decurrens attracts a high price at florists in Tokyo.



Likewise a 180 mm pot of a very showy form of *Hardenbergia violacea* will set you back about \$AU30.

Other photos from across Queensland



Bottle tree with Creeping Blue grass (*Bothriochloa insculpta*) +/- some buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), etc. on Darling Downs after an excellent season. Photo contributed by D Hoy.



Bottle trees in formal landscaping at Grand Central, Toowoomba.

Riddle me this – Mystery Beast!

Is it a fluffy toy? This is the tricky riddle for readers in this month's newsletter.

Can you identify me? I am the mystery beast of the month!

Email your answers to the editor: Emma Owbridge at nativeplantscap@gmail.com.



Across the identification desk



William Henderson from Tasmania, visiting a friend on The Coast forwarded this photo of a lacy leaved plant, suspecting that it may be a weed to watch.

Sugar Research tells us it is the Star of Bethlehem (*Ipomoea quamoclit*) An annual twiner with leaves divided, to the midrib, into pairs of narrow segments. The whole leaf is up 6 cm wide and 10 cm long. Flowers are bright red, trumpet-shaped, with a tube about 3 cm long which is flared at the end into 5 lobes about 1.5 cm across. Usually 1 to 3 flowers are grouped at the end of a stalk in the leaf joint. Seed capsules are globular with 4 dark brown seeds. Star of Bethlehem, or Cupid's Flower, is widespread and common. It is a serious weed of cane capable of pulling down the crop and causing difficulties during harvesting.

<http://tools.sugarresearch.com.au/weedsID/Page13.html>

Note: While the infestation was able to be controlled, with this morning glory / sweet potato family there is real chance of seeds germinating some seasons later and possibly tubers re-shooting. Thanks William – well spotted – shows that weed spotting skills are quite transferrable! N Hoy.



Native Plants Queensland Annual General Meeting

The Native Plants Queensland Annual General Meeting will be held at Bribie Island Arts Centre, 191 Sunderland Drive, Banksia Beach, arriving at 9:00am (for a 9:30am start), finishing at 12:00pm. Bring morning tea and lunch to share. There will be a guest speaker and the opportunity to walk along bush tracks. The election of the Regional Council for the 2018/2019 year will take place at this time. Nominations are called for the following positions:

President	Conservation Officer
Vice Presidents (2)	Displays Officer
Honorary Secretary	Journal Editor
Honorary Treasurer	Publicity and Promotions Officer
Membership Officer	Councillors (2)
Botanical Advisor	

All members holding elected or appointed positions on the Council are asked to prepare brief written reports on activities for the year to be presented to the Annual General Meeting and then handed to the Secretary. All Branches are requested to submit written reports of their activities to the Regional Secretary before the AGM.

Survey for Myrtle Rust

Dr Jarrah Wills from the Queensland Herbarium (Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation) is putting together a database that is assessing the impact of myrtle rust on Australian plants. He is mainly looking at native populations/plants and will need a date, location and severity rating of these populations. Have you seen

much of an impact in your local area? If you have some information that may assist, please contact Jarrah at jarrah.Wills@dsiti.qld.gov.au.

Seeking Feedback on the NPC Rockhampton Library

We are seeking feedback from members to see if they find our library useful. Are our members still using it? Is there still useful information to be gained and is it serving its purpose? I absolutely think we need a library. Books of all ages are great to learn from and show the approach that was taken in past years in the identification and propagation of native plants. We are also wondering if there are new titles which members would like to see purchased for the library. However, with the age of the iPad now upon us, and apps (second wave of the Internet!) on devices gaining popularity, we may need to rethink the direction of our library. If you would like to give feedback, please contact Neil Hoy on 0439 943 281 or email at hoynd@optusnet.com.au.

Membership Renewal

It's that time of the year again to renew your Native Plants Queensland membership. All current members should have recently received a personalised membership renewal form with the latest *Native Plants Queensland Bulletin* (March 2018) which was mailed out. If you would like to renew your membership, please check the that your details printed on the top left of the form are correct and update if required. Fees are as follows:

Ordinary Full Year	\$40.00
Ordinary Half Year	\$20.00
Student (Proof of student status required)	\$20.00
Overseas	\$60.00
New Member – Name, address, email, phone	\$5.00 * extra

Rockhampton Branch fee – add \$10 (received as a donation if paid separately – no membership)

* A \$5.00 joining fee applies to new applications (new members).

Return your form (updated with any changes) by mail, email or by hand to Lenore Lindsay (NPC Rockhampton Treasurer and Membership Officer). You can either choose to pay in cash at the next meeting (please ensure you have correct change) or by direct deposit - Society for Growing Australian Plants Qld Region Inc. Rockhampton Branch, Bank Transfer Details:

Suncorp Bank BSB 484 799 Acct: 452047497 – Identification*: _____

(Please email the receipt details to hoynd@optusnet.com.au – will be acknowledged)

* No Identification – thanks for the donation!

Tondoon Botanic Gardens Gladstone: Green, serene... and one of the nation's best

Driving into the Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens, there are two things you notice immediately. You slow down and hear the unmistakable sounds of insects and birds 'singing' together. It's almost like a fanfare that represents a sense of arrival. Indeed, you've arrived at one of the top 10 regional botanic gardens in Australia as announced by Australian Geographic magazine in its January edition. And there's a different energy and serenity about the place that's drawing more and more people in. Visitor numbers are the leading measure of success for botanic gardens with Tondoon nearly doubling between 2014 and 2016. During that time, they increased from 154,000 to 292,000 people coming through the gates of the rolling 150 ha property.

The Gardens cultivates native species from the Port Curtis region and far north Queensland as well as some endangered species, but they have a different feel from what many people would regard as your typical botanic gardens. Senior Parks and Conservation coordinator Barry Meiring said that's another aspect of being recognised in the top 10. "We do have a different feel as opposed to manicured lawns and straight edges, and it gets a grip on you." He said much of the credit for the Gardens' success should go to Curator, Brent Braddick, who has spent many years implementing the original vision of landscape architect, Laurie Smith. Brent said the vision was ambitious because regional botanic gardens were a new concept 30 years ago when Tondoon

was founded in 1998. Since then, 25 others have opened because of their greater acceptance in the Bicentennial year.

Staff are proud of this latest achievement, but say it wouldn't have happened without support structures in place and people making the right decisions. "Our two-year-old Strategic Plan has been very good for giving us new direction, with science and community needs steering out work," Barry said. "Our strategy for research and conservation, education, recreation and culture, promotion and business development is a total package. You can't have one without the other." So, what makes a good botanic garden? Both Barry and Brent believe vision, good design, energy and flow making it easy for people to move around, are essential ingredients. With those foundations already there and more media exposure through national recognition, the Gardens are looking forward to a very bright future as one of Gladstone's must-see destinations. Printed in the *Gladstone Weekly* magazine earlier this year.

Gladstone NPQ News

Members of Gladstone Branch NPQ have been very busy over the past few months. Below are a few snippets from their adventures. Photos contributed by Ruth Crosson.



Members turned out for an emu parade at the Boyne Island area on 4 March 2018. This rubbish was collected in only 45 minutes at Handley Drive Lagoon and along the nearby roadsides.

Paula and Caitlin from Gladstone SGAP looking over some waterwise plants at a visit to Tannum Boyne Nursery run by Paul Ford. Inside the nursery, members were treated to a family of sunbirds whose babies left the nest for the first time.



For Parks Week, Brent Braddick and Dr Rebecca Hendry led a botanical discovery walk at Canoe Point on 13 March 2018.

Eight adults and 2 children participated in the Discover Canoe Point Flora Week on 13 March 2018. This photo shows participants walking across the boardwalk over the mangrove tidal community.



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