

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc.  
Wallum & Coastal Heathland  
Study Group

Newsletter

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28.

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Acacia suaveolens  
SWEET WATTLE

Dear members and other readers,

It is Tuesday 13th, and after a "white" foggy start to the day, the sun emerged properly around 10 o'clock to give us a beautiful clear blue sky for a perfect washing day. But the washing will have to wait, as I have been trying to do this newsletter for the past week, and now that husband has gone back to his place for a few days, I should have no interruptions - I can only hope. I've also been waiting for programmes, etc. for the Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival 2010 to come, with it now only four weeks away. With everything now at hand, I have no excuse to delay with sending out all the information, more about the Festival and other coming activities further on in the newsletter.

The Study Group welcomes another new member - Charlotte Hodgson from Deception Bay. She is very keen, has done a course at Nambour TAFE, and on her first outing with us, brought part of her own Herbarium of specimens, prepared as part of her studies. I'm sure we'd all like to see more of her work, and I think information might go both ways between her and us.

I had a problem choosing a feature flower for this newsletter, so there are three. Acacia suaveolens or Sweet Wattle, is one of the several smaller wattles found in Wallum wetlands, and coastal forests & hillsides. To name just a few, there are: A. attenuata, which is rated "rare" due to loss of habitat, which was coastal from Maryborough to Gold Coast - I have seen it at Caloundra, and recently learned that it is just north of the Mooloolan River National Park.

A. baueri, the smallest and "vulnerable" in south-east Queensland wet Wallum areas.

A. hubbardiana or Hubbard's Wattle, can be cultivated successfully, a shrub with weeping branches and creamy-yellow flowers which often get it called Pale Prickly Moses, confusing it with -

A. ulicifolia or Prickly Moses, for its foliage, and a common name you won't forget

if you come into close contact with it. Its cream flowers age through gold & orange to brown, staying on the low shrub, and providing a most attractive show. These 2 wattles can

be found in dry & wet heaths along our coasts.

A. juncifolia is a slender upright small shrub favouring hilly places, and has long narrow foliage and bright yellow flowers. Look for it on Wild Horse Mountain.

A. quadrilateralis isn't well-known, but I have seen it at Coolum, in what is now the Emu Mountain Housing Estate, in wetland.

A. myrtifolia has a wide range, occurring interstate, in south-east Qld. it is usually found in hilly places, such as Emu Mountain north of Coolum Beach, and at Mt. Mee.

Larger Acacias include A. complanata or Flat-stemmed Wattle, THE one which should be in every coastal garden. Found in woodlands adjacent to Wallum areas, it is a beautiful

Guinea Flower



Hibbertia stricta



Boronia falcifolia



*Boronia falcifolia*

shrub with lovely green foliage, and bright yellow round flower balls several times a year. More about it in "Cultivation Notes".

A. cincinnata, which I've seen at Redcliffe, Deception Bay and between Coolum & Peregrine. It has the most fascinating flattened coiled seedpods, and seems to favour moist places.

A. flavescens has its southernmost limit around Coolum Beach, and it is found in the Mackay region. See "Cultivation Notes". I'll also deal further with A. suaveolens later in the newsletter.

Boronia falcifolia has been a favourite of mine since my introduction to the Bribie Island wildflowers and the local "Boronia Patch" back around 1950. Sadly, development of this popular holiday destination and the resultant urbanisation, has had quite an adverse effect on the Island's wallum wildflowers. Other parts of coastal south-east Queensland have been similarly "modified", and I fear that one day Boronia keysii won't be the only "rare/endangered/vulnerable" of our local boronias. These include the following:

Boronia rivularis, the Wide Bay Boronia, occurs near Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach, and I learned only last week that it is also found just north of the Mooloolah River National Park, in a proposed development. In my 2008 Refidex, this area is on Map 79 and part of Map 80 in the Sunshine Coast section. A relocation project, managed by the nearby Sunshine Coast University, with the co-operation of the developer, is moving plants to University property, with success. Among the plants are Boronia rivularis and the endangered Acacia attenuata.

B. parviflora, probably not very well-known, belongs in the wet Wallum such as the former Marcoola wildflower field, has very small plants not easily seen or found. B. polygalifolia, more often found in low-lying parts of open Eucalypt forests, with clayey-loam soils. I remember one brave survivor up on Emu Mountain where people stood to admire the view, but it is fairly common north-west of Caboolture, in Smiths road. Shirley Flinn and I both tried to grow it, with limited success.

B. rosmarinifolia, Forest Boronia, is fairly well-known, has rather unpleasant-smelling foliage, has been cultivated with some success and is found along the main track in the Beerwah Scientific Area 1.

B. saffrolifera is a lovely boronia which has almost lost out to loss of habitat. A tiny population survives in Pine Ridge Conservation Park on the Gold Coast, it is probably on North Stradbroke Island, and some is safe ? in National Park on Bribie Island. The largest area of it was at Ninghi, just before the Bribie bridge, but has been "converted" to "Sandstone Lakes". Discovered by a Wallum Study Group member in 1993, this wildflower spectacle was available to us for several years, to collect flowers for displays, and to rescue plants, and it was with much sadness that we realised it would be developed. B. falcifolia also grew here, both species having flowers in at least 2 shades of that lovely cerise-pink. On Bribie Island, an area of B. saffrolifera lost out to a golf course for a housing estate.

With the ongoing takeover of coastal Wallum areas for tourist & housing developments, etc., could a plant which once was, and still is in some places, as plentiful as B. falcifolia, find its way on to future "rare/endangered/vulnerable" plant lists? That would be a tragedy, but those of us who study Wallum & coastal heathlands are no strangers to the loss of these flowering fields.

Hibbertia stricta is one species of another favourite group of plants of the Wallum and adjacent bushlands, and our coastal montane areas. I'll deal with it and other Hibbertias in another section of the newsletter.

I had hoped to get this issue to you sooner, before this weekend's outing to the Beerwah Scientific Area 1, when Pine Rivers S.G.A.P. branch members are to be our "guests". Friday 16th finds me still only on page 2 after having to repeat what had been done due to typing errors (I'm a hopeless typist, even after all these years) and having to go out yesterday to attend to various matters.

We've had an outing each month to date, visiting places other than coastal heaths, but still studying plant communities with the same or similar species. Saddleback Mountain, north of Caboolture, was chosen for February, but a rainy day and rather wet vegetation underfoot changed our plans, and we checked out the relatively new Information Centre at Glass House Mountains township, just off the main road. We started with our morning cuppa and a "meeting" where I reported on the 2009 Sunshine



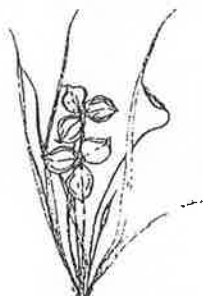
*Blandfordia grandiflora*



*Hibbertia stricta*



*Thelymitra pauciflora*



*Patersonia sericea*



*Stylidium graminifolium*



*Dampiera sylvestris*

Coast Wildflower Festival, and the plans for this year's event and our part in it. Inside the Centre, out of the rain, we spent the morning looking at all the displays featuring the Glass House Mountains, their flora & fauna, the various walks, and literature on offer. This was interesting enough to keep us occupied till we had lunch outside under the somewhat inadequate shelter over the picnic table & BBQ. Then a wander along the "creek-bed" before we headed home after an outing with a difference but still relevant to our study of the local wildflowers. I am curious as to who decided that Mt. Ngun Ngun (silent "N") should be pronounced "Nah-Gun-Gun"? I've known these mountains almost all my life, but have never heard that before. I missed the March outing to Beerburrum due to a health problem, and sincerely thank Shirley Flinn for taking charge at the last minute. Those who attended enjoyed the bushland wildflowers in the vicinity of the little historic cemetery at the northern base of Mt. Beerburrum. Due to recent rains, the track beyond was covered with water, and prevented further exploration. This area is a delightful place, once you get beyond the first section of the roadway nearer the township - it is a bit weedy. Both the Study Group and the Caboolture Daytime S.G.A.P. like visiting it, and it is an easy Sunday drive. It will be included in this year's Wildflower Festival programme with our members as guides, on Sunday 29th August.

April saw us heading south into Brisbane's northern suburbs of Deagon and Bracken Ridge, to look at the Deagon Wetlands, followed by lunch and discussion back at Pat Barry's home & garden. It was pleasing to have some new "eyes" this time, and following rains, the Wetlands yielded some tiny mysteries, so I brought home a few specimens to identify. Monday morning was spent with "Mangroves to Mountains" as I tried to put names to plants. And there were a few "jawbreakers" among them! Of course, they still need "official" identification, before being added to our list. Lunch at Pat's was a lively and pleasant couple of hours, and her garden, as always, a clever and attractive blend of native & exotic plants in an informal layout showing how well native plants fit into a well-cared-for suburban garden. Our thanks to Pat for her hospitality.

Among our finds at Deagon Wetlands were plants of Viola betonicifolia, which played a significant part in the battle to save the area from becoming a suburban shopping centre in the late 1990s. Don Perrin got top marks for finding our lone mystery Xanthorrhoea, which I think is X. macronema. We usually have difficulty locating this plant among surrounding vegetation. May took members north of Landsborough, to explore tracks on the southern side of Ewen Maddock Dam, where there are supposed to be some Wallum-type wetlands. Again I had to ask Shirley and Pat to take charge of the outing, and from their reports, it seems that this area warrants another excursion, probably next year. As we ramble around the Glass House Mountains region, we find that it has a most interesting history, especially of farming and timber-getting, as does most of south-east Queensland. So it is not only the plants we are learning about, but also the people whose names are part of the history. I have a book "Sunshine Coast Heritage" which is an enormous collection of the stories which local historian Stan Tutt wrote for the Sunshine Coast newspapers for many long years. If you ever find it in a library, or bookshop, you'll agree with me that it makes very good reading.

After spending the last week of May in hospital getting some "repair work" on my coronary system, I was back fighting-fit for our June outing to the "wilds" of Raaen & Chambers Roads, D'Aguilar, on the northern side of D'Aguilar township. Suburbia is rapidly taking over, and creeping towards bushland we visit each year. A new development off Raaen Road swings around to a frontage on to Chambers Road, which heads west to join the D'Aguilar Highway east of Woodford. Roadside vegetation along Raaen Road is dominated by Pultenaea villosa, Hairy Bush Pea, but around in Chambers Road, the understorey is mainly Hovea acutifolia, which was in bud - we can never catch it in flower. Other plants in this particular patch of bushland included: Hibbertia aspera, Platylobium formosum or Handsome Flat Pea, Xylomelum salicinum, or Woody Pear, the little twiner Billardiera scandens or Appleberry, and a mystery single ground orchid leaf which really got us thinking.

Another stop along Chambers Road gave us Bursaria spinosa with its brown seedpods, Goodenia bellidifolia and Velleia spathulata, which are closely related, and a very, very spiny form of Daviesia ulicifolia. Some lazy household "vandal" had dumped a load of garden rubbish containing Asparagus Fern, Mother-of-Millions and other soft succulent-like plants. Hopefully, the ground on the roadway there is too hard and dry for anything to take root and grow, but as this area develops, more rubbish will be dumped in the bush, leading to more degradation. To finish the day, we tried a new idea for lunch, returning to Wamuran and C.J.'s Bakery and the seafoods shop to buy our lunches. We enjoyed these and some conversation out back of the shops in the large undercover eating area, before heading home. A member had suggested that it would be a more relaxed way to end our outings, and would also allow us to discuss plants, etc. seen.

Fan Flower



This is my third attempt to finish this newsletter, and it is now a fine, but cool, Thursday 22nd July, and I must succeed today, as time is running out. Last Sunday found us at the Beerwah Scientific Area 1, to check out the tracks chosen for the Wildflower Festival walk on Friday 20th August. Well, I thought I was all organised as I left home early on a foggy Sunday morning. Geoff was at Moore, so I didn't need the house keys, did I? We met at the Matthew Flinders Picnic Area as usual - 5 Study Group members and 7 from the Pine Rivers S.G.A.P., for morning tea and comfort stop. As we prepared to leave for Beerwah, it hit me! What hangs off the house keys? That little pass into the Scientific Area, which gets us through the locked gates - THE KEY, of course! So we had to walk in, which wasn't a big problem, but we were then restricted, by time, to looking at only one track. Flower-wise there was plenty to see, it was even a "Patersonia Day", and we even found one white one. There was a lovely plant of Pultenaea petiolaris and, at the intersection, our special Tetratheca thymifolia, Black-eyed Susan or Tom Dooleys, was easy to see with all its blooms. The extremely long and bent-over Xanthorhoa flower spike, observed on the last 2 outings to Beerwah, had been broken off by some mindless vandal, while bike tracks were on the roadways, their riders obviously ignoring "no access" signs on the gates. We even met 5 horse riders, admittedly only walking their mounts and doing no damage, but unaware that the Scientific Area

Native Iris



*Patersonia sericea*

is now National Park. I had to agree with them that there was no signage to that effect, and on Monday I reported the matter to the Parks & Wildlife Service at Maleny. Their hands are somewhat tied, with insufficient staff to supervise their large territory on weekends. They are aware of the ongoing abuse of the Area and its surrounding firebreaks, and suggested that if we are concerned, we should write to the local member, Andrew Powell, and to the Premier herself, Anna Bligh. I know we are not a political group, but after experiencing first-hand those trailriders and their noise as they plough up the open space of the firebreak, I think that perhaps I should send a couple of letters off. As I didn't have the gate key on Sunday, we had to park our cars on the firebreak, where they got covered in dust, and there was the added anxiety of damage to the cars. Things are definitely not as they used to be!

We did the lunchtime "thing" again, but with several choices in the region, we divided into 3 separate groups, with 3 Pine Rivers members opting to visit Wild Horse Mountain, the 4 Study Group/Caboulture

Daytime members going to Beerwah, leaving 5 of us to head for the Landsborough Bakery and its goodies. Despite the absence of THE KEY, everyone enjoyed their outing, and there were flowers a-plenty for keen photographers and lookers. I just have to hope that the other Beerwah track will be in good order for the Festival walk on the 20th August.

Guinea Flower



*Hibbertia stricta*

Programmes for the 2010 Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival are included with most newsletters, and I do hope they are in time for anyone who wants to join any activities.

*Hibbertia stricta*

## "HIBBERTIA INTEREST SECTION"

The Hibbertia genus is most strongly represented over in Western Australia, but here in S.E.Q. we have a few quite lovely species brightening up the Wallum and adjacent bushland when they come into flower. Those lovely clear yellow, often almost heart-shaped petals, always 5, are just so cheerful. I only wish that more of them were in general garden cultivation. I did try, here at Moore, but it doesn't seem to be "Hibbertia country". I think it is just too dry an atmosphere for them, and to date, on the few forays I've made into the local bush, I've found none in the wild beyond the D'Aguilar/Woodford area.

Hibbertia aspera is usually found in the hill country, and is at D'Aguilar and Mt. Mee, and has been moderately successful in a couple of our gardens. In fact, it tends to grow for several years, producing its little flowers which appear to set viable seed which results in a few new plants appearing in the garden. This is when the parent plant apparently dies, but you don't lose it as the new seedlings replace the old plants. The species name "aspera" applies to the rough surface of the small oval leaves on a plant under a metre. Featured in this issue is H. stricta which deserves much more recognition and cultivation. It is a long-lasting species, with plants in the Beerwah Scientific Area 1 which I have noted since I first went there in 1989. These plants hug the ground as a rounded mat, spreading out to a metre or so, with flowers about 1½cm. across. It is a bit similar to H. vestita which has tiny hairs on stems and foliage, and blunt rather than pointed tips on the leaves. Flowers are much larger, the size of a 20c. piece, so when the two species are together, as often happens, they are easy to separate when flowering. Another species, H. serpyllifolia is often misidentified and retailed as H. vestita, and is a wide-spreading creeping ground cover with "chunkier" foliage which is also shiny and lacking the fine hairs of our H. vestita, which can be termed a ground-cover, but can reach 30-40 cm. high.

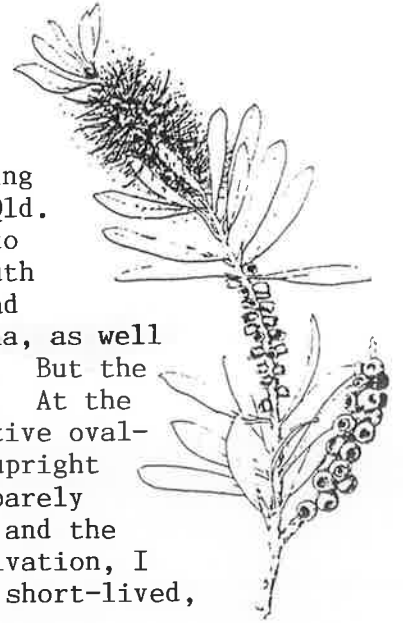
If you go to Bribie Island for the B.I.E.P.A. walk on Sunday 15th August, look out for the beautiful metre or so high Hibbertia linearis. In good conditions, this is a plant worthy of a place in the garden, but has not yet proved successful. Side stems branch out from the main stem, and often carry several flowers up to 2cm. across. Plants which I've rescued in the past haven't lasted beyond a season in the garden, sadly, but I've had more success, even with neglect, with the lower-growing H. obtusifolia, which seems to have a number of forms. Its flowers are comparable with those of H. linearis, and if you find a plant on offer in a nursery, try it. Hibbertia scandens is well-known and agreeable to cultivation, and I even have it, or two of it in a pot here at Moore. However, the flowers are about half the size of the glorious specimens which grace our coastal dunes.

There is an additional walk on the Festival programme this year, at Peregrine Beach. It will take you to that area between the developed high dune and the eastern side of Emu Swamp north of Woodland Drive/Murdering Creek Road (National Park). Along the track there is a wonderful collection of plants of a couple of Wallum habitats. The lower dunal community has the Hibbertia linearis, and, if I remember rightly, the dainty little H. acicularis, usually found nearer the wetter Wallum.

Back in my Kobble Creek garden at Geoff's place, I have several Hibbertias, brought home from various rescue sites over the years. H. stricta & H. vestita from near the Narangba Wreckers, now gone under a widened Old Gympie Road, H. obtusifolia from roadside at Marcus Beach, more H. vestita from Emu Swamp and Marcoola, are just a few which are somehow surviving despite my absence. In fact, this garden has evolved over around 25 years to become something resembling a bit of natural bush. As most of my plants are natural to south-east Queensland, they manage on their own, or maybe it has something to do with that shaly loam they are growing on. There have been many losses, but the successes have made up for them. My Moore garden has a drier atmosphere, dreadful "dirt" which needs a lot of improving, and bore water which doesn't agree with everything. Out here I have different wildflowers, some of which are unusual and very new to me - "Mangroves to Mountains" has proved useful with identifications.

## SOME CULTIVATION NOTES

In the opening paragraphs of the newsletter, I mentioned several of the smaller wattles likely to be encountered during Wallum rambles in our part of Australia, namely south-east Qld. That doesn't mean that our interest in Acacias is confined to that corner of the country, some of them can be found way south as far Tasmania. A. myrtifolia, along with A. suaveolens and A. ulicifolia occurs in the Blue Mountains & coastal Victoria, as well as in South Australia in the Coorong and on Kangaroo Island. But the others described earlier are pretty well Queensland species. At the moment A. suaveolens is flowering and forming those distinctive oval-rectangular mauve-green seedpods, the real feature of this upright slender plant with its long narrow grey-green foliage. It barely stands out in the crowd until the dainty pale cream flowers and the unusual seedpods appear in late Winter. As for garden cultivation, I haven't seen much evidence of this, and I think it might be short-lived, if it does agree to grow for you.

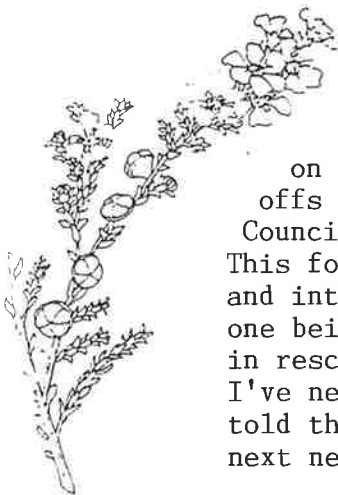


Wallum bottlebrush

Acacia complanata will grace any seaside and near-coastal garden, but says a fairly definite "NO" to me here at Moore. I'm trying my third plant but it is very, very slow to get going, with only a little burst when we had rain at the beginning of the year. I'd say it definitely prefers the coastal humidity, and I would encourage everyone to plant one, or even three. It can be pruned as it has a lignotuber, it has attractive broad green foliage, interesting flattened stems, and the loveliest sprays of bright yellow flower balls several times a year. It doesn't grow in wet Wallum, but in the adjacent busland, as well as in our coastal forests, right up into the hinterland hills, such as D'Aguilar and the Closeburn area near Samford. Its greatest admirer is Study Group member and the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens stalwart, Don Perrin - he just loves it.

I'll bore you with a few comments on my attempts with Wallum plants here at Moore. Two Hakea actites still going, one starting to flower, 2 Melaleuca thymifolia which have produced a few flowers, Acacia falcata which flowered for the first time in three years, and which I purchased from Fairhill as Acacia attenuata. Melaleuca nodosa flowers each year, but I've discovered that it also grows at Gurulmundi and Barakula, near Miles & Chinchilla so doesn't mind this situation. So I'm just going to have to go bush down on the Coast to enjoy Wallum, as this is definitely way out of their territory.

However, I know there are members out there who are still persevering with attempts to cultivate some Wallum plants. Please keep me informed. Lynn Reilly from Runaway Bay, Gold Coast sent me notes on "Building a wallum garden from scratch" by the Australian Plants Gold Coast group, since July 2004. I'll print it in full in the next newsletter, when I'm in less of a hurry, and my brain is working better.



Wallum lemon-scented tea-tree  
*Leptospermum livensidgel*

As one of the Wildflower Festival activities, I will be speaking on "Plants of the Wallum" at the Coolum Community Native Nursery on the morning of Tuesday 24th August. This Nursery is one of the spin-offs from when plant rescues by Greening Australia and the former Maroochy Council, under the direction of Chris Jonkers, started at Marcoola in 1997. This followed my meeting Chris in February 1997 at this development site, and introducing him to the Wallum there. Several community groups formed, one being the Coolum District Coastcare, members of which became involved in rescue and relocation, and ultimately, the Community Nursery. To date, I've never visited it, so it will be something to look forward to, as I'm told there is a lot of good work going on there. Something else for our next newsletter, which I do plan to get out before Christmas.

Coming up are some ideas and dates for future activities.



## Vanilla Lily



*Sowerbaea juncea*

**AUGUST:** This particular month is advancing much too fast for my liking, after what has been a hectic year so far. It will be dominated by the 2010 Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival and its events, especially those with which the Study Group and I personally are involved. The B.I.E.P.A. Wildflower walk is on Sunday 15th, see in the programme for details. Our members usually assist, as several are also members of B.I.E.P.A., and those who helped in 2009 have been contacted about doing so again this year. I am in two minds, as I feel that is time that the Island-resident members of B.I.E.P.A. should take more responsibility for providing guides, as do all the other areas involved in the Wildflower Festival, i.e.: Noosa area - Noosa Parks Association; Coolum/Emu Mountain/Peregian Beach - Coolum Coastcare & other local; Currumundi/Caloundra - Currumundi Catchment Care & Wildlife Preservation Society; Beerwah/Beerburum - Wallum Study Group. That is only how I feel, and it is up to individual Study Group members to decide what they want to do. Our involvement will be at Beerwah (2 walks as in the programme between 9.00a.m. and 11.30a.m.) where Maleny P. & W. Service ranger Rowena Thomas will again join us. Please contact me if you can be available - we need at least 3 persons as guides on each walk, 4 would be a bonus. Then on Sunday 29th, a few of us will be needed at Beerburum for the walk with which most of us are now familiar.

Privately, as a member of the Blackbutt/Benarkin Garden Club, I've been asked by them to lead them on a walk in the Scientific Area on Sunday 22nd August. Numbers could reach the mid-20s, most of them will be completely new to Wallum wildflowers (maybe that will be easier to manage), and although I could probably do it on my own, if anyone fancies a Sunday outing in Beerwah's wildflowers, please contact me.

**SEPTEMBER:** In the latter half of this month, there will be the Queensland Region S.G.A.P. State Conference based at Jacobs Well, with a three-day visit to North Stradbroke Island. I don't know if any of the Study Group's regular outing attendees have booked for the Conference, but I think I'll take a chance on having our annual Bribie Island Wallum Day on either of two Sundays - the 19th or the 26th, with the latter the most likely. It will clash with the Conference, but I don't think that will be a serious issue, as Study Group members involved with the Conference rarely attend any of our outings. At this stage, I will suggest that the 26th be our Bribie Island day, and will have to confirm it at a later date.

Over the weekend of the 4th & 5th, don't forget the S.G.A.P. Spring Flower Show at Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium. This year's theme is "Native Gardens are for Kids - of all ages!", and from suggestions on the letter I received inviting the Study Group to participate, I chose one referring to the big, bad Banksia Men. It immediately made me think of a painting I have, done by Maree Edmiston-Prior from Tin Can Bay back when she first went professional at the Coolum Wildflower Show. It features 4 spent, brown *Banksia aemula* seed cones, a few other Wallum wildflowers and her 2 daughters among them all. There is a story behind the painting, which Maree explained to me - the Tin Can Bay Coastcare people had developed a wildflower walk along Snapper Creek (I attended the official opening, somewhere around 2000), but some of the old diehards of the town didn't approve of it, claiming that perverts would hide behind the big Banksia bushes. I can use the painting as a centrepiece with photos and dried flower parts to provide a small display, with impact, I hope, and within my abilities to put together.

**OCTOBER:** Warm weather will be with us, perhaps even some hot days. This month I would like to suggest something I've been thinking about for a while now. I know we don't manage to visit all the coastal wildflower places during the months which are available during the year, so to suggest a weekend in the country, with not a single Wallum wildflower in sight, might seem like madness. But this is something I have mentioned to a few members, and their responses have encouraged me to invite

the Wallum Study Group to an October weekend outing to my home and garden at Moore. While Wallum might be in very short supply, I have a large collection of books and photo albums which, these days, don't get the use they deserve. I thought that two days here would allow us to meet, chat, discuss and look, and there could still be time to go somewhere. Besides me at Moore, we have members Ray & Wendy Benfer at Blackbutt, and Wendy thought the idea feasible. I would need to know who would come, either for one day, or for the whole weekend, as accommodation would have to be considered. I have a couple of spare beds in the house, and another in the shed. Now the shed isn't a rough, primitive bush shed, it was planned to provide extra facilities for overnight guests, and has a bed (single with a fairly new mattress), a "kitchenette" with running tank water, electric jug & toaster, microwave, and plenty of lights & power points. Overnighters with their own vans can hook up to power, and we have plenty of water, with a couple of spare tanks. Shower & toilet are in the house, easily accessible from outside, there is plenty of yard space, and the "kitchenette" has crockery & cutlery, etc. Moore is in the upper Brisbane River Valley, and via either Ipswich and the Brisbane Valley Highway or the northern side of Brisbane, Caboolture and the D'Aguilar Highway, it takes inside 2 hours to get here.

It would probably be over the weekend of the 23rd & 24th of October, when days could be a bit hot, but nights should be pleasant. The shed is well ventilated, there is a large shady tree nearby, and air-conditioning in the house. Please give this idea some serious thought, and get back to me, hopefully there will be some chances to discuss and decide.

NOVEMBER: At this stage, I have no ideas about our final outing/activity for the year. I still have next week to prepare the programme for the December Bulletin, so I'll be hoping for inspiration. Any suggestions?

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are now due, still \$5, please fill in forms and return as soon as possible. Don't be like me and put the renewal form down to attend to later, then not see it for another couple of months. There were a few who didn't renew last year, if there is no return this year, there will be no more newsletters to you.

Each State Region has its Study Group Liaison Officer, most of whom provide brief reports on our newsletters in their State's quarterly Bulletins. Canberra's latest S.G. Liaison Officer is a member of our Study Group, Ian Anderson, who lives quite a distance from any coastal heathland. In the June Canberra Journal, Ian's report includes our N/L 27 with a lovely account plus 2 photos from his garden at Burra, near Canberra. One photo is of a L. liversidgei he's had growing there for more than 20 years on well-drained granitic soils. I don't know of anyone in south-east Qld. who has succeeded in growing this *Leptospermum*, and I've never seen a plant as large as the one in the photo. It just illustrates the differences which can occur from place to place. Many thanks, Ian, for that lovely report.

Study Group members come and go, some probably go because the Group isn't what they were looking for, but there is always a new person to replace them. There are those long-term members, my faithful followers, and some precious interstate members. One such joined our Group back in early 1996, and was probably my most regular correspondent. I often received a 2-page letter from her following a newsletter, so when there was nothing, not even a renewal, from her last year, I was puzzled, but thought that it was probably her 90+ years catching up on her. With still no response early this year, I phoned someone from her State - South Australia - and learned that she had left this earth about this time last year. I will miss Ida Jackson from Kangaroo Island and her letters, which told of her regeneration work, and other bits and pieces about a place I always wanted to visit. I never did manage to take advantage of her invitation years ago, to come and stay with her. Another loss to our native plants, and the Society. And that's it for this issue,

Wallum Tea-Tree



*Leptospermum semibaccatum*

Barbara H.