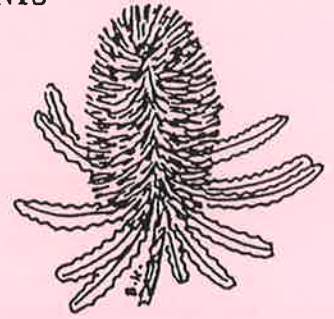




WALLUM
(Coastal Heathland)
STUDY GROUP



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NEWSLETTER NO. 3.

MAY, 1994.

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EMU SWAMP,
PERECIAN BEACH,
SUNSHINE COAST, Q.



Dear members, At last, some news about what the Study Group is doing this year. At an informal meeting at Shirley Flinn's Caboolture home in February, we chose two weekends for Study Group get-togethers and discussed other suggestions.

The 14th & 15th of May, in the Landsborough/Caloundra area, and the 3rd & 4th of September, at the Beerwah Field Study Centre, were the two dates chosen. But the Queensland Region's annual Autumn Plant Sale will be held on Sunday 15th May at Ferny Grove, and is therefore unsuitable for several Study Group members. Queensland members will have seen in the March Bulletin, that further information would be included in this newsletter.

The date for the first Study Group weekend is now the 4th & 5th of June, and a booking has been made at the Ewen Maddock Environmental Education & Recreation Centre, for our Group to use it all day Saturday, and overnight Saturday, leaving after breakfast on Sunday morning. A new Centre, it has modern bunkhouse-style accommodation, and a large recreation hall with self-service kitchen for groups of fewer than 30. The cost for the day and overnight is \$12.00 per person, payable on arrival Saturday. Day only cost is \$2.00.

The weekend's programme is:

Saturday: Informal meeting and get-together, and bush walks through the area's Wallum, along defined walking tracks. There will be slides in the evening.

Sunday: After breakfast, we will leave the Centre, to spend the day in the Caloundra region, visiting various Wallum areas. Our guide will be the Caloundra City Council's Environmental Officer, John Birbeck, who can show us different wildflower areas, some of which are not readily accessible to everyone.

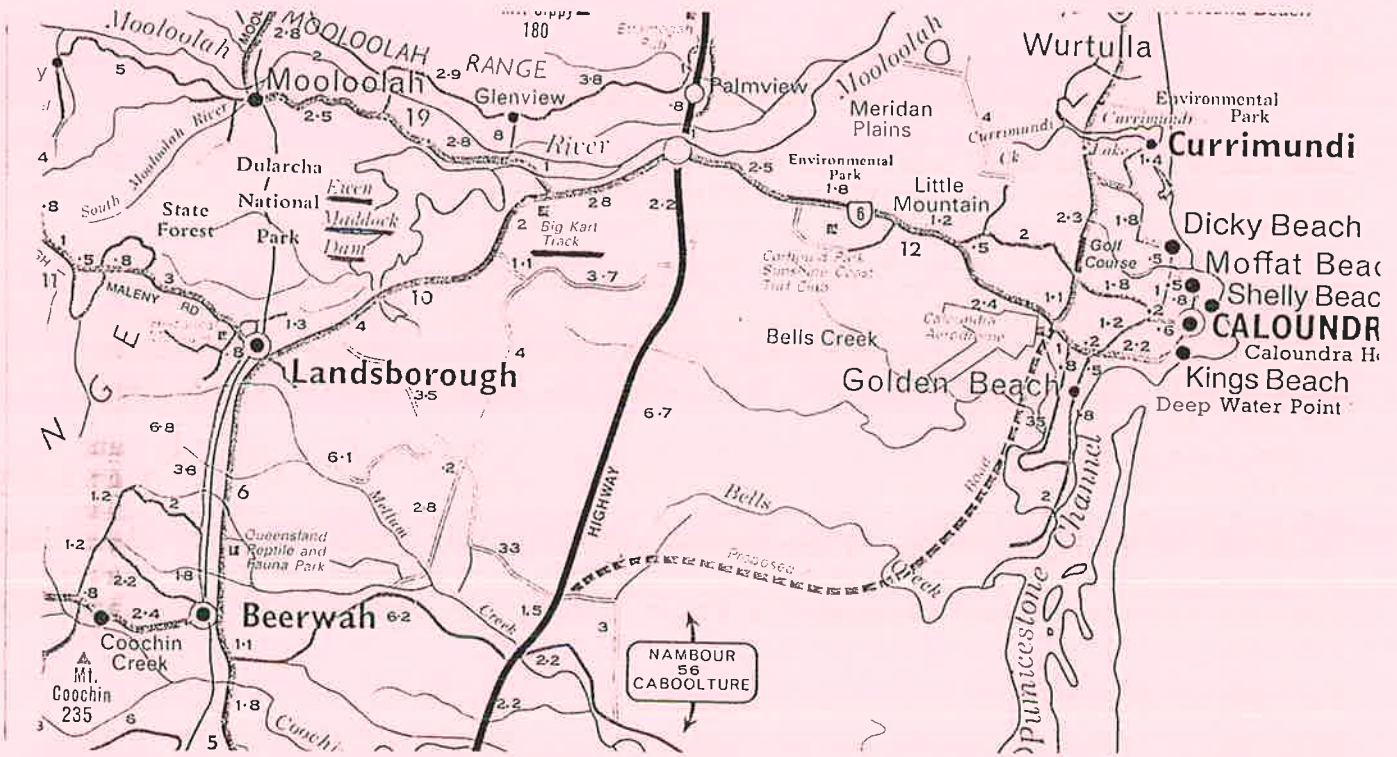
BYO meals for the weekend, (or the day), the kitchen is fully equipped, and bring your sleeping bags or bed linen. If anyone wants to bring some slides for the Saturday evening programme, please do, but place a limit on the number. Insect repellent is advised, there could be mosses still around.

A rather informal weekend is planned for Study Group members, there could be visitors joining us, as the Centre manager is placing an article in local newspapers about the weekend. I emphasised that we will be having some sort of a meeting, but visitors would be welcome to sit in. This could be beneficial to the Group, in the form of extra members, in a region which is experiencing continued loss of Wallum habitat. It is also poorly served by the S.G.A.P., although other groups such as Wildlife Preservation Society, Sunshine Coast Environmental Council, Landcare, etc., are well represented. Even if we don't find any new members, just extending the knowledge and awareness of the Wallum will be worthwhile.

Due to the continuing showery weather, some of the Wallum areas we plan to visit are rather wet underfoot, and gumboots could be useful in these places.



DIRECTIONS: The Ewen Maddock Centre is on the north-eastern shore of the dam, which is between the Landsborough and Mooloolah turnoffs. From the south (the Brisbane area) take the old Bruce Highway at the Beerburum turnoff, pass Landsborough, cross the eastern arm of the dam, and look for the Centre sign about 200 metres north of the dam. There is a gravelled area at this turnoff, which is opposite the "Big Kart" entrance. From the north (Sunshine Coast area), pass the Mooloolah turnoff, and on the right, opposite the "Big Kart", you'll see the Centre's sign and gravel roadway. Follow the gravel roadway to the Centre's carpark, where we will be meeting at 9.00a.m. on Saturday morning. If you are only joining us on Sunday, meet us there at the same time - 9.00a.m. - and we hope to leave there soon after, to visit the Caloundra area. The map below should make it easy to find the Centre, if there are any queries or problems, phone me on (07)2899272, letting it ring out, in case I am in the garden. If you can't get me during the day, try at night up until 9.00p.m.



I intended to do a very short newsletter this time, as I am running a bit late with it. But I was asked to provide a list of the plants flowering in my Wallum garden over the past few months. It is surprising to see so many producing the odd flower or two, as some should only come into bloom during Spring. Perhaps the continued showery days are the reason for the unseasonal appearance of some of the flowers. Several wildflowers seed and self-sow easily. Trachymene incisa (Wild Parsley, has edible tubers) produces lots of seed which I have collected and could distribute. Goodenia bellidifolia (there seem to be 2 different forms, the Bribie Island plant is much daintier) also self-sows easily and results in a mass of bright little yellow flowers which have just a touch of brown. Velleia spathulata might not be everyone's idea of a desirable garden plant, but mine are surrounded by lots of little seedlings which I'll pot up in case anyone does want any. Ground covers include Lobelia alata (which was "rescued" from the southern section of the Emu Swamp area prior to roadworks) which is not really a weed, but does need thinning-out before it smothers surrounding plants. Evolvulus alsinoides has a little blue Convolvulus-like flowers on very fine spreading stems, and it also produces a lot of seedlings. This plant has a wide distribution and is obviously tough as nails, as I have found it on the heavy soils of the Darling Downs where cattle are grazing, in the lawn of the Redcliffe Bush Children's Home on compacted red loam and under constant trampling of children's feet, and my own plant was in white sand on Bribie Island. It was also seen growing in a park which is constantly mown and walked on. Lobelia alata is a possible hanging basket plant as long as it is kept fairly moist.

Platysace ericoides is a ground-hugging plant with wiry stems and clusters of dainty white flowers in Spring and early Summer. Mine seems to sucker from under the main plant, and has gradually spread, but doesn't seem to be invasive.

Here is the list of plants which have flowered from February until now (early May).

Two orchids: *Eriochilus cucullatus* - Parson's Bands

Name unknown

(Little ground orchids often lurk in the clod of earth containing "rescued" plants).

Acacia baueri - the smallest Wallum *Acacia*, more plentiful than we realise, just has a very endangered habitat.

Acacia ulicifolia - in its second year of flowering.

Baeckea imbricata - a lovely little plant, can be obtained from some nurseries.

" *linearis* - also very dainty.

Boronia falcifolia - just a few flowers off & on; how do we grow these beauties?

Caesia parviflora - like many of these, comes from the wet coastal heaths.

Callistemon pachyphyllus - budding again.

Cloanthes parviflora - collected with permission from the Ninghi area, between Caboolture & Bribie Island; I had only seen this plant at Blackdown Tableland, C.Q; it has just begun to flower.

Dampiera stricta - those beautiful deep blue flowers; plants are gradually spreading by suckering.

Dillwynia glaberrima - one of the Wallum yellow pea flowers which are very difficult to cultivate; mine came from Marcoola, south of Coolum.

Dodonaea triquetra - widespread in most coastal & hinterland areas; any *Dodonaea* I grow gets attacked by scale, even these local ones.

Epacris pulchella - very pale pink flowers on plants from both Ninghi and Marcoola; the Beerwah Wallum has a much deeper pink (would love to get one).

Eriocaulon australe - likes really wet conditions and I think mine will grow "backwards" gradually; probably better in a bog garden.

Eriostemon myoporoides subsp. *queenslandicus* - one of the hardest to relocate, but my Marcoola plants have just started to flower (might be lucky).

Gompholobium pinnatum - another yellow pea, and for the ones which succeed and grow, I have at least one which will flower then die.

Goodenia bellidifolia - seem to be 2 forms of this species, the dainty Bribie Island one, and a more robust one from the Donnybrook area.

" *rotundifolia* - this plant has a slightly upright growth habit, and came from near Emu Mountain, Sunshine Coast.

Hibbertia acicularis - a spreading ground cover which likes wet places.

" *obtusifolia* - how many forms of this species? I have 2 from near Castaways Creek, Marcus Beach, where they were on sand dunes.

" *salicifolia* - a small scrambler/ground cover which I think is happier in its natural Wallum habitat and soil.

" sp. from Marcoola & near Emu Mt. - like a cross between *vestita* (hairy leaves and stems) and *acicularis* (very small flowers).

Laxmannia gracilis - has interesting "stilt" roots and tiny white & pink flower heads.

Leucopogon sp. - a small shrub with edible clear green/white fruits.

Lobelia alata - is always in flower, and had to be "weeded" recently.

Melaleuca thymifolia - can take hard pruning for better flowering.

Mitrasacme paludosa - tiny herb-like plant often found in coastal wetlands.

Pimelea linifolia - there seem to be several forms of growth from 15cm. to 75cm.

Platysace ericoides - also appears to have different growth habits.

Pseudanthus orientalis - very low-growing plant with glossy leaves and tiny flowers.

Pultenaea myrtoides - has just started producing its yellow pea flowers.

Stackhousia viminea - reed-like stems and leaves, and greenish/yellow star flowers.

Sprengelia sprengelioides - prickly foliage and starry white flowers.

Stylidium debile - the smaller Trigger Plant of heaths with basal bright green leaves.

" *graminifolium* - merges with the grasses when not flowering.

Trachymene incisa - finely divided leaves, white flower heads on long divided stems.

Tricoryne elatior - flowers come out mid-morning, yellow with fluffy anthers, merge with native grasses when not in flower.

Xyris complanata - Hatpins, unusual yellow 3-petalled flowers on thin stems.

Velleia spathulata

In spite of the large collection of Wallum plants presently thriving in my garden, I haven't had the time to do a lot of propagation. Plants have been "rescued" from 3 areas so far, with permission of the owners of the properties. These "digs" have taken place over the past eighteen months, often at short notice. The first area is now a new road and roundabout, connected with Stage 2 of the Sunshine Motorway near Coolum and Peregrin Beach. This was a very rushed effort, but most of the plants are growing well in a modified garden - the clods of plant and soil were planted close to one another, and filled around with river sand or creek gravel. The natural heavy shaley loam had been dug out beforehand (quite an effort), but the newer garden which contains the Ninghi and Marcoola plants is partly dug out, and partly a gravel mound. I try to copy the natural situation of having the plants quite close together, and they seem to do well this way. A few cuttings have been done, and seeds planted, with mixed results. I hope I find more time later this year to do a lot more seed propagation, and to try cuttings as well.

Dot Brown, Toorbul, is a long-time grower of Wallum plants, as she lives in the natural territory, and many of her wildflowers just self-seed everywhere. She has had losses over the years, but retains her marvellous enthusiasm for Wallum. Her opinion of our permitted "digs" is - "Wallum Heaven".

Shirley Flinn, Caboolture, has quite a large area for Wallum plants, and has been successful with the relocated specimens, many of which have been simply planted in among the other native plants in her garden, which made pleasant looking in February, in spite of constant showers while we wandered around.

Sue Gallagher, Burpengary, lives close to Burpengary Creek and her garden has soil which is typical to a creek flood plain, it is good black loam, but not the most suitable for Wallum plants. Like me, she has had to modify her wildflower gardens, and her main problem during the recent showery months, has been ants bringing the heavier soil to the surface, thus causing a few deaths. She has coastal and inland heath (Texas/Stanthorpe) plants growing with her other native plants.

We haven't been back to the Ninghi area since last October, as the weather was getting a bit too hot, and we were becoming wary about snakes, after Dot was bitten on her thumb one morning.

The Marcoola wildflower plain will be mostly houses this Spring, and we will lose a wonderful place. There have been several "rescue" visits to Marcoola, not only by members of the Study Group.

The Bribie Island Environmental Protection Committee - B.I.E.P.A. - has members who work in the Caboolture Council/Greening Australia Community Nursery on the island, and they have been once to Marcoola. These people have ambitious revegetation schemes for areas of Bribie which were exotic pine plantations.

On the Sunshine Coast, a LEAP (unemployed youth) scheme removed Wallum plants from Marcoola for replanting along the Motorway extension, and on roundabouts.

Caloundra City Council is planning to promote the city as the "Wildflower City", a bit ironic, as the Caloundra region has seen enormous destruction of the wildflowers over the past 30 years. John Birbeck might expand on the subject during our Study Group weekend, he has borrowed some of my photos for copying for Council use.

Unfortunately, Marcoola won't be available to us for much longer. I visited the area 3 weeks ago, and was told that although the machinery had been held up by the rain for several weeks, it would soon be moving back in to prepare the development. Well, the weather might still be holding things up (can I hope?), but it had all been slashed and looked a terrible mess. We got a few more plants but the best parts are becoming more inaccessible, and once machinery is working there, we won't be able to take our cars in, and plants get rather heavy to carry back & forth.

I've received plants lists from the following people:

Glenn Leiper (Environmental Education Centre, Jacob's Well): Lot 6 Behm's Road,
Jacob's Well.

Paul Forster (Queensland Herbarium): Woodgate National Park, Wide Bay District.
Wallum area, 1 km. W. of Poona Point, Wide Bay
District.

Margery Stutchbury (Study Group Member, Bundaberg): A property situated on the Gregory River, on the Woodgate Road. The owners regard the native plants as a nuisance and laughed when told they owned a treasure.

Lists continued:

Noel Smith (Pimlico, N.S.W. - prospective Study Group member): 7 acres at Pimlico, which he owns and which is regenerating with wet & dry sand heath plants, and sedgeland plants. Heard about the Study Group at Lismore S.G.A.P.

Aileen Phipps (Hon. Secretary, S.G.A.P.-N.S.W. Sutherland Group): Curra Moors, a heathland area of the Royal National Park which is edged by 200 ft. cliffs into the sea and subject to salt spray & wind - recently completely burnt; Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, near Kiama, a montane heathland with wonderful views of the Illawarra district - elevation 600 metres. Also included is a brochure about the Barren Grounds Bird Observatory.

I am always delighted to receive plant lists for both coastal and montane heaths, and any other literature dealing with Nature Reserves and walks in heathlands, as I would eventually like to compile some sort of guide to interesting areas throughout the country. This would be distinct from information now available from various sources such as National Parks and so on.

I have mentioned the Beerwah Field Study Centre earlier in the newsletter, in relation to the Study Group having a weekend there in September. Between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast, there is a lot of land under the control of the State Forest Service. The Beerwah Centre, run by the Australian Littoral Society, uses the buildings which used to be the Forestry Station. With my interest in the Wallum (Beerwah has large areas), and as a member of the Littoral Society, I have been doing a bit of work there helping with students doing field work in the Wallum areas, and with wildflower walks.

The Centre has been booked for the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of September for a Study Group weekend. There will be an informal meeting on the Saturday, slides or spot-lighting in the evening, and on the Sunday, members of the Study Group will be invited to assist with the annual Wildflower Walks organised by the Centre. Members can come for either day, or stay for the whole weekend.

The daily charge is \$5 per person, with overnight accommodation on two levels - Bunkhouse, with shared sleeping quarters, showers & toilets, full kitchen facilities, BYO food and bed linen/sleeping bag - for \$8 per person per night, or camping for \$5 per person per night.

A request was made for the Study Group to have a day visit to montane heath at Mt. Mee, north of Brisbane. I would like to make this a combined excursion for us and the Redcliffe & District Branch of S.G.A.P. (I have my own selfish reasons for combining the groups, as I am secretary of Redcliffe, and we could use the date of their July outing). I'm sure Study Group members won't mind if a few more SGAPPers join them. One necessity for an excursion to the Mt. Mee heath is a "Permit to Traverse", as the area is in the Mt. Mee/Mt. Byron State Forest. If you are interested in coming on the outing, you should contact the Forest Service, and obtain a permit, which runs current with your car registration, and is useful to have on hand. Sunday July 31st is the date, and we will meet near the Forest Station, which is reached via Sellin Road, Mt. Mee.

The weekend of the 27th and 28th of August looks like being a busy one for the Study Group (the leader anyway). On the Saturday 27th, the Sunshine Coast Environmental Council will have its annual Wildflower Show at Coolum Beach, and I'll be there with a display. Sunday 28th is the day for the Pine Rivers S.G.A.P. Mini Flower Show at North Pine Country Park, Petrie, and there will be a small Wallum Study Group display. On the same day, there are the annual Wildflower Walks at the Bribie Island Bicentennial Gardens, with some Study Group members assisting as guides, and I'll present a display. We can manage the logistics of putting on 3 displays in two days, but I will need a second display board and more laminated photo "posters". I'm sure members won't mind if some of the Group's funds are allocated to providing display material.



Two invitations have come to the Study Group from interstate:

The first is from N.S.W. Region of S.G.A.P., to provide a display at a Wildflower Show in Sydney in late July. As there no individual Study Group members there, and I can't attend in person, I arranged to send a ring-binder/folder with information and photographs. This can stay permantly with their Displays Officer, to be used for displays, and additional information **can be added**, either by Sydney members & groups, or from me. Costs associated with this (the binder and postage) will come out of Study Group funds.

I am hoping to attend the 1995 Federal Conference at Ballarat, and was delighted to be actually invited, in the capacity of Study Group leader. There is going to be a S.G. leader's meeting and workshop, as well as a display and trade evening. I'll be putting together another folder of photos and information for that occasion.

If any Study Group members have anything which can be used for displays, please send it to me. I would also like to hear from any members/groups outside south-east Qld., who have done talks/displays on heath plant communities.

DATE CLAIMERS - in brief:

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th June: Weekend or one day only, based at the Ewen Maddock Environmental Education & Recreation Centre.

Entrance opposite the "Big Kart" turnoff, on the old Bruce Highway, north of Landsborough. Meet at the Centre 9.00a.m. either day.

Sunday 31st July: Day excursion to montane heathland at Mt. Mee State Forest. Meet 9.30a.m. near Forestry Office, off Sellin Road, Mt. Mee. "Permit to traverse" needed, contact the Forest Service in Brisbane.

Saturday 27th August: Wildflower Show at Coolum Beach, Sunshine Coast. Wallum (Coastal Heathland) Study Group display.

Sunday 28th August: Pine Rivers S.G.A.P. Mini Flower Show in the Courthouse, North Pine Country Park, Petrie. Wallum Study Group display.

Wildflower Walks and Wallum Study Group display at the Bribie Island Bicentennial Gardens, Sunderland Drive, Bribie Island.

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th September: Weekend or one day only, at the Beerwah Field Study Centre, Roys Road, Beerwah. Wildflower walks on Sunday with Study Group members assisting as guides.

As well as these dates, there is always the possibility of my being asked to provide a display at various activities and venues. I believe that even a small display using mainly photographs, extends the public knowledge of the Wallum, or coastal heathlands. Therefore, any photographs of heath flowers will be greatly appreciated. Just include names, descriptions and locations.

Before I come to the end of this "small" newsletter, I have one small item of business.

Annual subscriptions fall due in June - still \$5 - and I hope all members remain with the Study Group. If you come to the June weekend at the Ewen Maddock Centre, you'll find me ready with the receipt book. Otherwise, send your subs. as soon as possible during the month of June.

Just a little description of the Ewen Maddock Centre and its surroundings.

I spent a couple of hours there in mid-March, when there were few wildflowers in bloom. The E.M. Dam is itself a rather lovely area of water, with inlets between many "points", and the Centre has been built on a little rise overlooking the water. The buildings blend with the bushland, which has tracks wide enough to allow for wheelchairs. Natural vegetation has been left, and in Spring it will be lovely. In June, it should still please wildflower enthusiasts.

See you there,

Barbara H.

