

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

Newsletter

ISSN 1038-7889

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JULY 2011



Wallum bottlebrush

Dear members and other readers,

The past month has been busy beyond belief, and there is no relief in sight until September of maybe later. Warmer weather might help, by getting me started earlier in the day, but our continuing frosty mornings don't find me getting out of bed too soon these days. This will probably be my briefest newsletter ever, with minimal news, and is mainly to accompany this year's Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival brochures and membership renewal notices. Due to circumstances beyond my control, with the preparation and mailing to me of brochures, I received them later than usual, and I apologise to anyone who misses out on any chosen activity on the programme for the Festival. This year there are only 22 events, and all are relevant to wildflowers. Our Study Group is "doing" Beerburum instead of Beerwah, as the latter's tracks suffered from all the wet at the beginning of the year. We introduced the walk at the northern base of Mt. Beerburum last year, 2010, and found some very interesting plant species, even a couple of rare ones. It is more forest Wallum, with different species of plants such as Hibbertia, Gompholobium, Pultenaea, Hovea, Acacia, Leptospermum, Banksia, Goodenia, and so on. Local artist and environmentalist, Jane Thompson, has produced a triple-fold brochure of "Wildflowers Glass House Mountains", which, in spite of only having around 34 pictures, is an excellent little guide to those flowers. If any local members of the Study Group would like to help with the walk, you don't have to be a wildflower expert, we can use you in other ways, i.e., liaison between our "guests" and our guides/wildflower "experts". You can be a "learner guide", and increase your knowledge of the Wallum and forest plants. I would also be interested in feedback from any members who enquire and/or participate in any of the walks on the programme. This would help with planning of future Wildflower Festivals. Comments, good or bad, are always appreciated, so please drop me a line, sorry, no email here. Study Group members who volunteer to assist in guiding the walks do not need to book, instead phone me on 54247073 evenings.

The Wildflower Festival brochures are sent to all of our members, member groups and State Regions, and it isn't intended that the Study Group promotes only activities "close to home" though it may seem like that. Equal promotion would be given to coastal heath wildflower events in any State, but as it stands, interstate members are very rare to non-existent, except for 2 in New South Wales and 1 in Canberra. I do know that coastal heathlands around Australia have received little real attention, with only New South Wales retaining some extensive areas in National Parks. It is sad that such a beautiful plant community has suffered so much destruction, but it is unfortunately just where people like to live, right by the sea.

Yes, it is that time of year when annual membership renewals are due - no change from the humble \$5, for which you receive at least 2 (coloured paper) newsletters per year. I'd like to produce 3 or 4 smaller issues, but never seem to have time for that, life is just too full-on. (My 3rd great-granddaughter arrived on the 28th July, to the delight of her parents, grandmother, 2 uncles and 4 aunts, plus 2 cousins and a grand-aunt.). Anyway, I hope you all decide to stay with the Study Group, with its motto - STUDY - LEARN - TEACH - RECORD. We don't do much by way of propagation as Wallum and coastal heath plants seem to prefer their natural habitats to our domestic gardens, but we do a lot of studying and learning, we like to teach anyone who is interested, and I am trying to make time to record what we see on outings, and include the lists

in the newsletters. Already one member has used a list from one area we visited to compare with a similar area.



Boronia falcifolia

COMING ACTIVITIES: August is mainly involved with the 2011 Wildflower Festival, details in enclosed programme. Our Beerburrum walk is on Wednesday 31st August, meeting at Parrot Park, next door to the school in Beerburrum by 9.15a.m. for a 9.30a.m. start. Although I will be away between 10th and 19th August, I'll be there on the "big day". On Sunday 14th August, there will be a final check on the track for the 31st, and Shirley Flinn will be in charge in my absence. It is our monthly outing, and members will note what is in flower, and the condition of the tracks, after which we will decide

on our "plan of attack" on the 31st. Last time we visited Beerburrum, we drove to the cemetery to have morning tea, to dodge the cold wind, this also saves a long, boring walk past somewhat weedy bushland. It would save time to do this on the 14th, but as Shirley is in charge, I'll leave any decision to her.

I was contacted by Barry Jahnke, on behalf of the Queensland Field Nats., with a request to show a group of them the wildflowers of the Beerwah Scientific Area 1, on Wednesday 10th August. Again, Shirley will be in charge, with help from other local members. I suggested that the walk be on what we call the "Cemetery Track", as it is in the best condition. This track is off Roys Road, east of the cemetery, with a right turn at the corner of a pine forest. Meeting time should be 8.45a.m. for 9.00a.m., and there will be no need to take cars in, as this track is an easy "ramble". If you would like to help Shirley on either the 10th or the 14th, please phone her on 54954307.

AUGUST Wednesday 10th - 8.45a.m. to meet members of Qld. Field Nats. at gate on Cemetery track, Beerwah Scientific Area 1, off Roys Road.
Sunday 14th - 9.00 - 9.30a.m. at Parrot Park, Beerburrum for Study Group to check track from cemetery for Wildflower Festival walk.
Wednesday 31st - 9.15a.m. for 9.30a.m. start for Wildflower Festival walk.
Contact Shirley Flinn on 54954307 re the 10th & 14th, & Barbara on 54247073 evenings for the 31st.

SEPTEMBER Sunday 25th: Meet 9 - 9.30a.m. opposite the hotel at D'Aguilar, to look at bushland at Raaen & Chambers Roads.

OCTOBER Sunday 16th: Meet 9 - 9.30a.m. in Priests Road, off Deception Bay, for Freshwater National Park, Deception Bay.

NOVEMBER Sunday 20th: Meet 9 a.m. in carpark off Bracken Ridge Road, UBD Map 110 Ref. H 1. for bushwalk in the Deagon Wetlands.

More details of these 3 outings will be in the September issue of the SGAP Qld. Bulletin. After the walk in the Deagon Wetlands, we will probably return to the home & garden of Study Group member Patricia Barry for lunch. This is our final "date" for 2011, until we resume in February 2012.

We haven't had a Bribie Island Wallum Day this year, partly due to inability to fit it in, and also because the Island wildflower areas have been too wet. Hopefully we can enjoy some interesting and useful discussion at the November outing lunch. I know we have thoroughly enjoyed our outings this year, and possibly even learned some more about the little plants that are out there in our Wallum areas and coastal forests. Several members do try to grow some of those treasures, and I am thrilled to report that I have 2 Hakea actites, one in flower, in my Moore garden. Then there are 2 Melaleuca thymifolia still growing, plus Melaleuca sieberi and a M. thymifolia cultivar. An Acacia, bought from Fairhill as A. attenuata produced flowers again this year, and 3 M. irbyana/tamarascina continue to thrive, ignoring frosts. There are a couple of M. pachyphylla (Callistemon pachyphyllus), one presently in bud, and several Lomandras and Dianellas. Leptospermum petersonii and the Rothwell form of L. polygalifolium also seem to have settled in, so I have managed to grow a few Wallum plants. Austromyrtus dulcis seems to prefer to grow in pots.

And that's all for now. Please phone me (before 10th August or after 19th) if you have any queries.

Barbara H.