

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

Christmas Bells

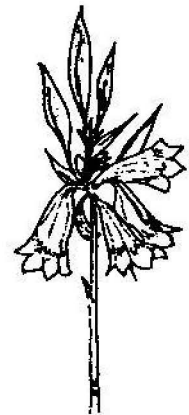
Newsletter

34.

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Blandfordia grandiflora

Hello to members and other readers,

Here at Moore, summer seems to have arrived already with the past few days brutally warm - it was 38° at 1.30p.m. today - and only 80 mls. of rain since beginning of July, which had 55½ mls., none in August, and 15 so far this month. There is a permanent smoke haze, mainly from burn-offs thank goodness, and there is minimum green around us. That was Sunday, Monday is still cloudless and hazy, but is cooler at 30° mid-morning. My arthritic thumb joints have been forecasting rain, so we are hoping, but still sprinkling parts of the garden.

To start with, I'll deal with a couple of bits of business. We've acquired 2 new members recently - Gwen Malcolm of Glass House Mountains, and Will Glynn from over the other side of Brisbane at Capalaba. Gwen belongs to G.M.A.N., a hard-working organisation - the Glass House Mountains Advancement Network. Members work with their local community and National Parks & Wildlife Service staff to promote and care for a unique and beautiful part of south-east Queensland's near-coastal region. As Gwen knows the area fairly well, her knowledge will be useful to us for walks. Will comes a long way to join us on our bush rambles and is being introduced to some places and plants which are new and interesting to him. Whilst on membership, there are a few renewals to come in - the annual fee is still \$5. Perhaps this has just slipped your mind, I must admit that I am often late with my renewals, putting it aside and it gets lost in all the other paperwork. If I don't hear from you before Christmas, I'll assume that you are no longer interested, and this will be the last newsletter you'll receive. The Study Group's finances are healthy, ending the Society's financial year at 30th June 2012 with a balance of \$1815.76, income mostly generated by membership subs., plus a tiny amount of interest. Expenses are associated with the production and dispatch costs of the newsletter, plus the annual Group Activity Permit fee of \$27, which allows the Study Group access into various reserves in the Beerburum and Beerwah region. This covers 6 vehicles and 20 persons, and we use it mainly when we visit the Beerwah Scientific Area 1. In recent years there have been some problems here - more later in the newsletter.

Now, a VERY IMPORTANT ITEM - This coming Sunday 28th October, we were to have gone to the Abbey Museum, Old Toorbul Point Road, Caboolture, but our guide is unable to be there, so our outing will now be a ramble around Mt. Beerwah, meeting there at our usual time of 9 - 9.30a.m. See the Glass House Mountains Walks map for directions to the carpark, which has a picnic table and toilets. Mt. Beerwah Road turns off Old Gympie Road at the old Cobb & Co. building, there is some gravel road towards the end of the road. I do apologise for the very short notice, but I've had a very busy few weeks. It is years since I last visited Mt. Beerwah (no climbing), wonder if we'll manage to find any of the rare Banksia conferta, some of our Glass House Mountains being among its few locations.

Sunday 18th November is our final outing for this year, and will be based at the Bribie Island Community Nursery, thanks to member John Ward, who I hope will be able

measure the mountains. Water at Mt Beerwah and Mt Tibrogargan is dependent on rainfall. Please bring your own wood for BBQs.

1 Trachyte Circuit P

Easy to medium grade. This is a 5.7 kilometre walk suitable for persons with a reasonable level of fitness. Please see over for a detailed map and description.

2 Mt Beerburrum P

Easy to medium grade. The top of Mt Beerburrum may be reached by a steep 700 metre concrete pathway. The track is accessed by a road just south of Beerburrum. On a clear day you may see Brisbane.

3 Mt Ngungun P

Medium grade. This reasonably steep walk up a rough 700 metre track leads to the summit of Ngungun where there are spectacular views of all the other Glass House Mountains. Examples of caves and 'organ pipes' may be viewed on this walk.

4 Glass House Mountains Lookout P

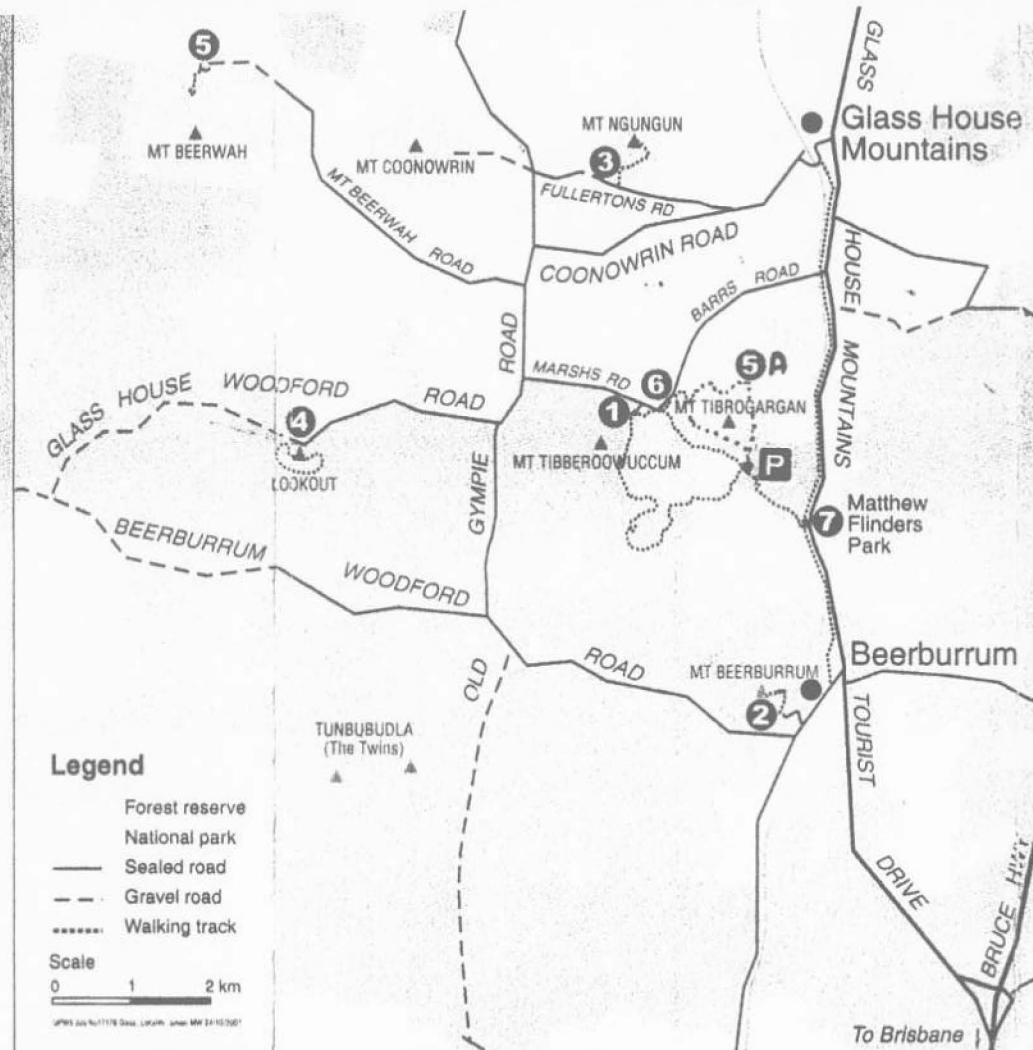
Easy grade. This can be accessed by car where there are panoramic views of the mountains. There is a 700 metre loop walking track that provides an opportunity to stretch your legs.

Mt Beerwah P

5 Hard grade, easy to cliff line. The summit of Mt Beerwah may be reached by a very steep rough track on the northern side. Only experienced climbers should proceed past the cliff line.

5A Tibrogargan Circuit' P

Easy walk with good views accessed from 6 and Matthew Flinders park 5.2 k loop



Legend

- Forest reserve
- National park
- Sealed road
- Gravel road
- Walking track

Scale
0 1 2 km

GPW 2001/11/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100

Walks

October

MON	1	8	15	22	29
TUE	2	9	16	23	30
WED	3	10	17	24	31
THUR	4	11	18	25	
FRI	5	12	19	26	
SAT	6	13	20	27	
SUN	7	14	21	28	

in the

Glass House Mountains

Jack Ferris Lookout - Trachyte Circuit

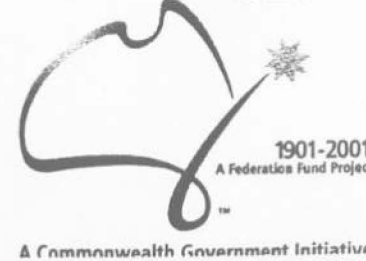
The Glass House Mountains rise dramatically from the coastal plain about one hours travel by road or rail north of Brisbane en route to the Sunshine Coast. These 13 spectacular volcanic peaks were formed about 24 million years ago. The mountains are conserved in National Parks and Forest Reserves.

6 Mt Tibrogargan P

Easy grade to lookout, hard to summit. A short 400 metre walk from the car park leads to a lookout where there are good views of some of the mountains. A rough track for experienced climbers only proceeds past this point to the summit. You may also walk the 'Trachyte Circuit' from this car park.

7 Matthew Flinders Park P

Walks (1) and (6) may be accessed from this park. A 1.2 kilometre walk with good views of Mt Tibrogargan connects with the 'Trachyte Circuit' walking track. Cross Tibrogargan Creek, pass under the railway via Evans Road, turn onto Berteaus Road and then follow the signs to Mt Tibrogargan.





Boronia fulcifolia

to help us to enjoy a more "static" day than usual, using computer technology to examine our flowers, etc. Who knows, I might even make a move that way, and have my own "portable" lap-top, to allow us to look at some of the CDs I've accumulated to date. The Community Nursery is on First Avenue just past the sports fields on the right, we'll meet from 9.00a.m., bring morning tea and lunch, and anything you'd like to discuss. I'll have my books and photos as usual, so we should find plenty to do. There is no walk planned, November can be rather hot on Bribie Island, but we'll just see how the day goes.

November

MON	5	12	19	26	
TUE	6	13	20	27	
WED	7	14	21	28	
THUR	1	8	15	22	29
FRI	2	9	16	23	30
SAT	3	10	17	24	
SUN	4	11	18	25	

If you have any queries about any outings, phone me evenings on 54247073. It pays to check sometimes in case of changes. There are no outings in December or January 2013 - holidays, Christmas and hot weather. I'd love to brave the sun one midsummer and look for Burmannia disticha, a Wallum wetland plant which flowers December/January, when we never go out. Check it out - page 54 "Mangroves to Mountains".

It is now time to start selecting where to visit in 2013, and I'm sure I'll find a few places to ramble around the coast and in the Glass House Mountains region. Following are the February and March 2013 outings.

On Sunday 24th February, we will return to Richard & Carole Green's "Wallum Creation Garden" at 18 The Crescent, Toorbul, north of Caboolture. Cool breezes off Pumicestone Passage should temper any summer heat while we meet for morning tea from 9.30a.m., before we inspect the progress of the plants over a year since it was planted in February this year 2012. Afterwards will be time for lunch and a chat while watching the local wildlife on the nearby wetlands - a very pleasant way to spend a Sunday. 18 The Crescent is easy to find - Refidex Map 41 Ref. J 16, with the No. 18 visible on the map.

A bushland ramble at Sandstone Point will be our outing on Sunday 17th March, meeting at our usual time of 9 - 9.30a.m. for morning tea and comfort stop at the Pebble Beach Shopping Centre next to the Pebble Beach Common on Bestmann Road. After morning tea, John Ward will guide a walk to see what we can find in this bushland. We last visited this area in April 2011, and the track was a bit wet, so don't wear your best shoes. With the present state of the weather, we mightn't have to worry, but surely by then we'll have had some rain. Turn off the Bribie Island Road before the bridge, into Bestmann Road, Pebble Beach Common (with toilets) and Shopping Centre on Refidex Map 52 Ref. F 18.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT OUR OUTINGS during 2011 & 2012.

Excursions/rambles during these two years have seen us visit 12 different places with only 2 repeats - twice to the Beerwah Scientific Area 1, and 3 times to the tracks at Mt. Beerburum's northern base. In May 2012, at the invite of John Birbeck, we accompanied Sunshine Coast S.G.A.P. and others to inspect an area newly-acquired by S. Coast Regional Council, just north of Australia Zoo and east of the Steve Irwin Way near Landsborough. The vegetation was more open forest than Wallum, but it was an interesting mix of coastal bushland species. There were a large number of medium and smaller flowering plants, and of particular note was the Banksia spinulosa with dark gold brushes with almost black styles. There was a fair bit of discussion over identification of several plants, and it would be interesting to compare notes with other lists made. Owing to a busy time since then, I haven't yet compiled my own list, and wasn't able to join a second visit in September, which was a rather full-on month, especially for those of us who also belong to the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland. September was its 50th birthday, and there were some extra activities taking up time.

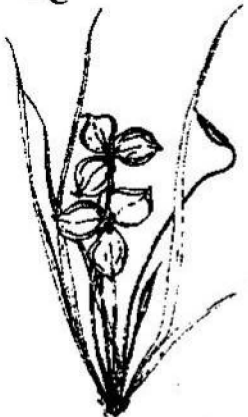
In July 2012, we decided to look at the Wallum in what used to be a University study area on land just across from the Bribie Island Community Arts Centre and Bicentennial Gardens. It was too wet for us to simply walk across, so a key was obtained for the

locked barrier at the northern end of Hornsby Road, and away we went. While the Wallum flowers hadn't reached their peak, there was still plenty to look at, and it was a good opportunity to hone up our skills at identifying the plants from their leaves, something we should be able to do. There was a bit of water underfoot, but we made some interesting finds, for me it was Acacia baueri, our tiniest Wattle. A couple of us browsed through the Arts Centre and all its temptations, but for once I escaped almost intact (my purse, that is).

August and September 2012 outings were to Beerwah Scientific Area 1 and the Jack Ferris Track near Tibrogargan Creek - off Caves Road - and within the Glass House Mountains National Park. On both occasions we experienced something which some of us fear may increase and even become permitted within National Parks, with approval from the new LNP State Government. For many years, as we have walked various tracks in places like Mt. Mee State Forest and the Beerwah Scientific Area 1, trail-bike riders have brazenly ignored signs banning them, 4 WDs and horses in these special reserves, and there has been so little we could do about them. None of that has changed, and we no longer enjoy the peace of the bush, on most outings. At Beerwah in August, the one track we've been able to use, between Roys Road and the Scientific Area's locked gate, was so churned-up by the trail bikes that even I, whose 22 year-old Camry Wagon will go most places, couldn't get to the gate. And the fire-trail area outside the Area's boundary was like a ploughed field. After these outings, when we usually have to park our cars near the bike riders and their dust, I report back to the National Parks office at Maleny. However, there is little they can do, and we do appreciate this, so do our best to work around the problem. We just park and walk in to the Scientific Area, although this restricts the actual area we can cover, and we are always looking at the same things.

Then, on our September walk on the Jack Ferris Track to the lookout (of same name), we experienced a different type of meeting! It is a narrow, gentle uphill track, of course, wide enough for two - just - and about half-way up we met 2 horse riders coming down. This in National Park! Obviously, there are now in our society, those who do not understand what National Parks are, and if they do, they don't give a fig for any rules & regulations. When told they were in National Park and shouldn't be on that track, the man rudely replied that "It's a free world." Again I spoke to my National Parks person, realising that they are largely powerless. If either of those horses had taken fright at anything and shied, someone could have been hurt. But we hear rumours that the new State Government could be making changes, to ensure that National Parks are more utilised. After all, the new Department arrangement has our National Parks lumped with "Recreation, Tourism and Racing" - have I got that right? No-one seems to be able to provide an answer to questions about what is going to change regarding the status and use of National Parks, something most of us nature lovers have regarded as almost sacred. So we drive the accessible tracks, walk the paths, listening for trail bikes, and now watching for horses.

Native Iris



Patersonia sericea

Fan Flower



Dampiera stricta

Guinea Flower



Hibbertia stricta

However, on the Jack Ferris Track we made some very interesting discoveries. On the lower slope which is virtually a grassland under the trees and quite open, some plants wouldn't even be seen if they weren't in flower. The fine stems and leaves of Dianella rara without the dainty blue flowers, and the stalks of yellow Goodenia bellidifolia, would go unseen another time. And as we were about half-way up the slope, there was a Hovea, but not H. acutifolia, the most common species in the region. It was one I've never seen, its flowers were finished, but the leaves had their own distinctive look. I collected a sprig, to compare with "Mangroves to Mountains", and there it was on page 159 - Hovea ramulosa. Another one to add to our increasing store of knowledge. Then there was an Acacia which had Don Perrin interested. Don loves his Acacias, and has been talking, for ages, about the one he saw on the "upper track" from the cemetery to an old quarry on the lower northern

base of Mt. Beerburum, when the plant was in flower. He was sure it was something to do with either A. aulacocarpa or A. disparrima. Well, on the Jack Ferris Track, we found plants with both green and spent seed pods, and thanks again to the "bible" "Mangroves to Mountains", we could identify the pods as being those of A. aulacocarpa. Although the area was quite dry, there were enough little flowers to help identify plants, and I was thrilled to find Pultenaea petiolaris, which belongs to the forests and is never found in the wet Wallum. In fact, keeping each company by the track were this Pultenaea, Hibbertia stricta and Hovea heterophylla (I think). Westringia eremicola belongs on stony dry hillsides, and grows near the actual Lookout, from which there is a marvellous view of Mt. Tibberooocum, which is usually hidden behind Mt. Tibrogargan.

I did intend to provide up-to-date plant lists to go with reports on outings, but seem to have failed in the effort - but I live in hope.

This year's Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival seemed to pass very quickly. I didn't involve the Wallum Study Group this time, and there were fewer activities on the programme anyway. One of the Sunshine Coast Council's Festival organisers was away in the middle of all the planning, so things were scaled down from previous years' programmes, giving everyone a bit of a breather. As with most of the environmental work being done, volunteers are necessary, and there can be times when there is a shortage. This year's walks were the usual most popular ones, but even then there were only 3 or 4 guides present. I participated in 4 activities, the main one being a "Wallum Wildflower Identification - some tricks and tips" workshop at the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens. Armed with my usual folders of pictures, photo albums, some plant specimens, and a C.D. of many of the Sunshine Coast's beautiful Wallum flowers, I fronted an "audience" of 40, some with knowledge, several friends, learners and some with a lot of knowledge of their own. I kept telling myself not to be nervous (I've spoken at our Society Conferences, and done a few TV appearances) so this can't be so bad. My skills are fairly ordinary, based on 30 years of Wallum rambling and my intense love of the wildflowers. I've learned from others, books and just being out in the field, and I'm not strongly botanical or technical. I prefer to use botanical names, but with audiences that have varied levels of knowledge, I sometimes have to revert to a few common names. It was a good session, and I enjoyed it, and would be happy to do it again some time.

Betty Sykes and I plus several others, had a pleasant morning in Keith Royal Park at Marcoola, where a little corner of the park has been enclosed with a bollard fence to protect the re-establishment of Wallum wildflowers naturally, and prevent mowing of them. I made a new discovery, a tiny grass-like plant I've never seen before, and which needs official identification. Wallum really is so wonderful when you stop and take time to really LOOK at it.

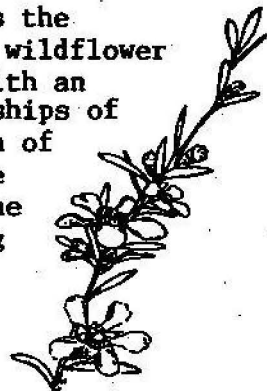
On Saturday 1st September, I did my personal bit towards celebrating the 50th birthday of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland - WPSQ. I actually joined WPSQ before I joined SGAP, firstly at Pine Rivers, then switched over to Caboolture. Now the two have become the Moreton Bay branch of WPSQ. My love of and interest in the Wallum led me to Kathleen McArthur who was one of the founders of the Society back in 1962. Later in the 1960s she was responsible for having land

at the northern shore of Lake Currimundi set aside as an Environmental Park, becoming Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur)

Conservation Park a few years after her passing in 2000. For years the Caloundra/northern Sunshine Coast & Hinterland branch of WPSQ have held wildflower walks at Currimundi Park on the 1st Saturday of September, along with an information stall and display. This year, I chose to blend memberships of SGAP & WPSQ, my Wallum work, and the wildflowers, and my admiration of Kathleen McArthur into participating in the local activities of the Sunshine Coast & Hinterland WPSQ at Currimundi, and helped guide the 2 Wildflower Walks. There was also a small celebration and cutting of the birthday cake for the branch.

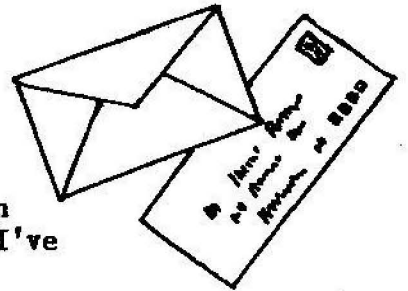
My final walk in the 2012 Wildflower Festival was with Mark Bizzel at Coolum Beach, near Stumers Creek. It was a busy few days and Sunday afternoon found me totally worn-out but satisfied.

Wallum Tea-Tree



Leptospermum semibaccatum

FROM MY MAILBOX



I don't always manage to include notes from correspondence, in fact, sometimes there isn't such a lot of it. But this time I've decided to pass on some of what members are writing to me.

Barry Kemp from Toormina, NSW. He and his wife have "down-sized" for health reasons, and his outside activities are severely restricted. Letter d. 27/2/12 says "the heathland area at the (Coffs Harbour) botanic garden is neglected as the volunteers and staff have limited knowledge of the plants and can't easily tell the weeds from the natives. Re Patersonias, we often find the diminutive P. fragilis which can usually be picked by its small size. It seems to mainly be in wet heath, common at Red Rock. P. sericea sometimes self-propagates in the Botanic Garden heathland bed, but I haven't had any luck sowing seed in seed trays. (Barry has been a Study Group member for almost the 20 years, and is a volunteer at the Coffs Harbour Botanic Garden. I sometime mention his book "Wildflowers of the North Coast of New South Wales" from 2004, and suitable for use in south-east Qld.)

Coolum District Coast Care Group Inc. was "born" back around 1998 when we were saving plants from the Quinn Developments at Marcoola. It was probably the first Community Group started by the-then Maroochy Council, and I have always felt a part of it. Nowadays I pay their membership of SGAP Qld. Region and our Study Group, and I am an honorary member of their Group. In March they wrote to thank me "for your reference to the Coolum Community Native Nursery in the March 2012 edition of the Bulletin." The letter explains the Community Nursery's work, and that "we are very proud to be part of the movement to encourage the use of Australian plants, particularly those of our local area. We greatly appreciate the mention of our Community Nursery in your publication." All their plants are grown from locally collected seed, and there has been some success with the difficult-to-propagate Ricinocarpos pinifolius (Wedding Bush) and Gahnia aspera (Sawsedge).

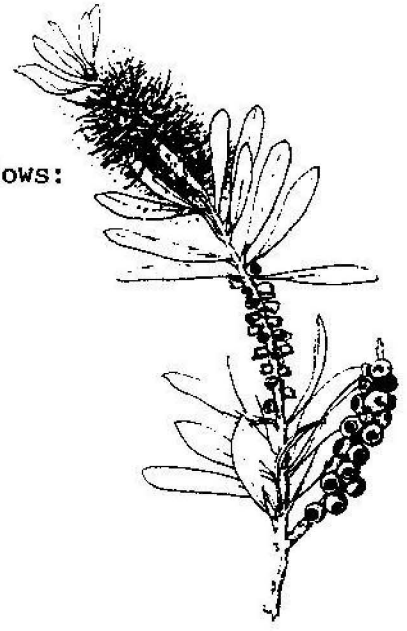
As I have already mentioned, if you are on the Sunshine Coast and want some local native plants, consider a visit to the Community Nursery in Warran Road, Yaroomba. It is closed Sunday & Monday and half-day Saturday, phone 54739322. And I have a plant list if you'd like to find out what they have in stock.

Pat Barry - letter d. 22/3/12 contains a little article from Sandgate Community News. "THINK LOCAL - NATIVE PLANTS - Viola betonicifolia. The Viola betonicifolia has a purple flower, but with many variations, some with touches of white. In the Deagon Wetlands it tends to grow underneath the Paperbarks, enjoying the moisture. The leaves are a long arrowhead shape and dark green. Seeds 'explode' from the fat pods. This Viola is a host plant to the rare Australian Fritillary Butterfly, and this fact has played an important part in the preservation of the Deagon Wetlands, as the butterfly is endangered in Queensland." Pat doesn't know who wrote on behalf of KSBA/Keep Sandgate Beautiful Association in Community News.

Allan Carr, Bribie Island sent in 2 pages "Wallum Wonderland" about the wildflower walk in the Beerwah Scientific Area 1 during the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival a couple of years ago. Another 4 pages tells of his impressions from the SGAP State Conference at Jacobs Well on 2011. I wouldn't even start to copy either story, and would prefer to simply include them as is, complete with Allan's lovely photography.

Carole & Richard Green - 10/4/12 sent a lovely Blue Wren card with a short report on that "Wallum Creation Garden" planted 2 months earlier at their Toorbul place. Carole says "On a visit to Toorbul (3/4/12) we noticed first flowers on Westringia eremicola, Dianella brevipedunculata, Murdannia graminea, Boronia polygalifolia, and your small un-named plant. The only casualty was Grevillea leiophylla, possibly fell victim to the excessive rain event just after the planting. All other plants look OK. The small un-named plant is doing very well and has flowered, first purple then opens to 4 petalled white when open. This plant is to be added to our list as it was a wait & see specimen."

SOME CULTIVATION NOTES



Wallum bottlebrush

As mentioned in "From my mailbox" Carole Green has a list of the plants used in the "Creation of a Wallum Garden", as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Ochrosperma lineare | Boronia keysii |
| Grevillea leiophylla | Boronia polygalifolia |
| Westringia eremicola | Acacia hubbardiana |
| Dianella brevipedunculata | Banksia integrifolia |
| Dianella congesta | Lomatia silaifolia |
| Austromyrtus dulcis/Midyim Berry | Laxmannia sp./Wire Lily |
| Hakea actites/Wallum Hakea | Murdannia graminea |
| Callistemon/Melaleuca 'Hinchinbrook' | |
| Melaleuca pachyphylla/Wallum Bottlebrush | |
| Eustrephus latifolius/Wombat Berry | |
| Dianella species from Barbara | |
| Eugenia reinwardtiana/Beach Cherry | |
| Melaleuca thymifolia - purple & cream/Thyme Honey Myrtle | |

On 26/02/2012 40 plants went into the ground.

In February 2013, the progress of plants will be monitored on a Study Group outing.

Meanwhile, out here at Moore, summer seems to have arrived, things are looking rather dry, and I am giving thanks for a good supply of bore water. Not that everything likes it, some plants have leaves with browning-off on them, and I think it is a reaction to the bore water.

Hibbertias don't like the soil at all, so I try them (one, anyway) in a pot. It is Hibbertia vestita, one of my favourites with its lovely large bright clear yellow flowers. Have you ever looked closely at the petals - they are just beautiful, so delicate and papery with tiny little folds here & there on them. Flowering is almost finished, but was excellent and recorded on photographs.

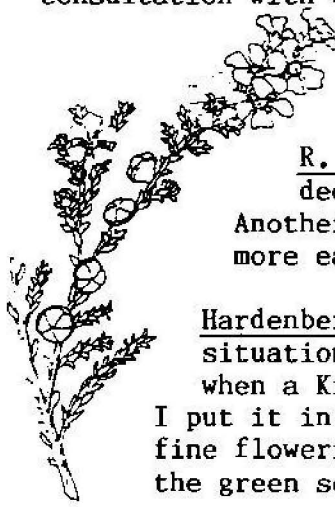
Many years ago, at Geoff's, we often went up onto the high country of the Mt. Samson Range of the property's southern boundary, to visit a couple who lived up there. I found wildflowers, one lot being Ranunculus sp., brilliant enamel-like yellow petals and lobed leaves. Of course, I brought some home to the garden, and they have now been planted here at Moore. I always thought they were R. lappaceus, until recently when I acquired three plants from Don Perrin. They weren't quite the same as those I brought back from up high, but Don called them R. lappaceus, so it was into the "bible" - "Mangroves to Mountains", and what did I find? Another species, and upon consultation with Glenn Leiper, I decided that the mountain species is actually R. plebeius. There are obvious differences - in the flowers and in the leaves.

R. lappaceus has slightly smaller flowers, leaves are also smaller, more numerous in the basal clump and more divided.

R. plebeius is larger in the flower and the leaf which is not as deeply divided, and there are fewer leaves to the plant.

Another difference in this dry weather is that R. lappaceus tends to wilt more easily without regular watering. These are my observations.

Hardenbergia violacea of which I now have 2 (in pots) have done well in that situation. I bought one plant complete with glazed pot, at a reduced price when a Kilcoy nursery closed. Can't remember where I bought the other one, I put it in a large pot beside the ramp and it has grown well and produced a fine flowering. When seeds started to form, a couple of King Parrots sampled the green seed one morning, and I thought I'd have a battle to collect ripe seed.



Wallum lemon-scented tea-tree
Leptospermum livensidgei

However they didn't return, but I had to bag seed pods on an Acacia attenuata which was more to their taste.

BRIBIE ISLAND

Recently a proposal for a wood-pulping plant on the mainland, with a pipeline for waste to reach across the Passage and Bribie, has been discouraged by the State Government, and a possible risk of damage by chemical pollutants, prevented — at least for the time being.

The main threat to Bribie's particular beauty at the present time is its land 'development' for housing and even for industrial building — with the consequent complete loss of areas that were once well-known for the wealth and colour of their wildflowers. Solander, named after a man who was fascinated by the plant life of this continent, is the current prime example of this, with mechanised equipment busily engaged in fabricating a sterile lake that is at best an inartistic imitation of the natural waterway only a few hundred metres to its west, and with new householders dumping their rubbish over the fence on to the remaining boronias and ground orchids, still supposedly protected — protected from being picked, but not from being smothered by discarded car bodies, tyres, old washing machines or bulging green plastic bags. In the newly set, naked streets, such as the one called with fine irony Botany Crescent, it will not be necessary to dig up the shy native orchids or the colourful heath plants to make room for bedded petunias. It seems we are still transplants from another hemisphere.

Welsby, whose name graces the Passage-side drive south of the bridge, would have been staggered at the extent of the changes on Bribie, but its growth was and is inevitable. Yet it is still possible for Bribie to find that half-way house between wilderness and over-development. If restraint is exercised on the growth of marinas and on the over-clearing of the mangrove areas so vital to the continuance of the health of the bay waters and the life in them, and if sensible planning is carried out with low profile suburbs and, most important of all, sufficient areas left in their natural state, Bribie will retain its air of relaxation — its own personality, as in Bribie's and later in Welsby's day.

A couple of magazine articles from many years ago, just to remind you of how our Wallum areas were treated.

Christmas Bells can still be found, if you know where to look — I don't know where they are on Bribie Island, but they do pop up now and then in the Beerwah Scientific Area 1, especially after fire, as we found back in 2007, I think it would have been. Vandals practically burnt out the Scientific Area bit by bit in 2006, and we found the Bells aplenty, as we were able to venture off the track, with a lot of the vegetation cleared temporarily. Now it is all grown back again.

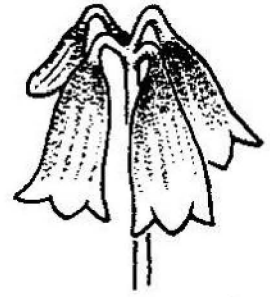
There is always more that I can put into one newsletter, so some will have to wait until the next issue, early in 2013. Then I'll be able to tell you if my plants from the Coolum Community Nursery (purchased September 2012) have survived.

This must be the first time I've sent out a newsletter before Christmas for many years. So I can wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Festive Season. In 2013, I'd like you to tell me about your Wallum happenings, whether they be growing the plants, having a Heathland Ramble, finding some important facts about Wallum, anything wildflowerly.

Happy Christmas & New Year,

Barbara H.

SILENT BELLS



It is satisfying to be able to confirm that Christmas bells (*Blandfordia grandiflora*) are indeed flowering in a Russell Island swamp. With no recent sightings from Stradbroke Island, the nearest known bell colony is at Pine Ridge (South Coast).

Nearly 40 years ago Kathleen McArthur warned: "Commercialism has set a price on the head of every Christmas Bell, so that until they are completely protected by law we will never again see those patches where hundreds of bright flowerheads popped out of the pademelon swamps." Ironically, while the bells became protected, the land they grew on did not.

For those yet to experience a real live Christmas bell in an ankle-wrenching and humid mid-summer swamp, it's hard to convey the attraction of the individual flower, let alone its luminosity. The blooms are mainly yellow north of Noosa, but bi-coloured red and yellow, with a few all yellow, further south. This year's bell crop has been a bumper one on the Sunshine Coast, especially in Mooloolah National Park and Maroochy areas.

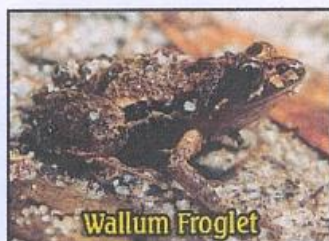
Opinions remain divided about *B. grandiflora*'s capacity as a garden subject. The plant is unpredictable, though it does seem to flower profusely after a fire. Its preferred habitat is a tussock in a peaty swamp, with its 'feet' in the water. Some years ago the National Parks and Wildlife Service at Caloundra relocated a number of lilies from a planned slash pine plantation to a safe swamp. Some survived and flowered later.

Rosemary Opala

WALLUM WONDERLAND

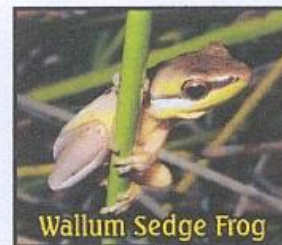
Allan Carr

Our Wallum Watchers always look forward to August each year when the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival brings an opportunity to join many knowledgeable plant enthusiasts on some of the scheduled walks. Many of us always join the annual "Wonders of the Wallum" walk on Bribie Island and we did this year on Sunday 15 August. Then on Friday 20 August Carol Heyworth and I participated in the walks at Beerwah Scientific Area No. 1.



Wallum Froglet

It was a wet day! Rain was forecast for the morning and consequently the participant numbers were low. That meant we had more chance to learn from the experts. Light drizzle persisted for much of the time so the vegetation was festooned with water droplets. The tracks were lined with



Wallum Sedge Frog

puddles and in the wetter areas a continual chorus of froglets and frogs entertained us.

Carol Heyworth went with a group of seven including Barbara Henderson starting from Roy's Road and I went with a group of eight which included Rowena Thomas from National Parks, John Ward from Wallum Action Group and Bill O'Donnell from Gold Coast beginning at Mawson's Road. Both groups met where the tracks intersect and after a brief time together returned to our respective starting points. In the group I was with Rowena and John provided the expertise and Bill was very clued up on sedges and grasses so John was determined to add some to his repertoire.

As we made our way along the track the light rain continued making photography difficult. However, we found plenty to interest us. There were many plants in flower as we expected at this time, even a few *Patersonia sericea*. I kept a list of species I sighted, many of them in flower. No doubt some of the experts would have a longer list. My list:



Acacia hubbardiana
Acacia suavecolens
Allocasuarina littoralis
Alphitonia excelsa
Banksia aemula
Banksia oblongifolia
Banksia robur
Banksia spinulosa
var. collina
Bauera capitata
Baumea teretifolia
Boronia falcifolia
Boronia rosmarinifolia

Melaleuca pachyphylla
Cassytha filiformis
Caustis recurvata
Conospermum taxifolium
Corymbia intermedia
Daviesia umbellulata
Dodonaea triquetra
Drosera spathulata
Epacris microphylla
Eucalyptus conglomerata
Eucalyptus curtisii
Eucalyptus racemosa
Gahnia sieberiana

Gompholobium virgatum
var. virgatum
Goodenia stelligera
Grevillea humilis subsp. lucens
Hakea actites
Hakea florulenta
Laxmannia gracilis
Leptospermum semibaccatum
Leptospermum trinervium
Lomandra multiflora
Mirbelia rubiifolia
Patersonia sericea
Persoonia virgata

Petrophile shirleyae
Pimelea linifolia
Philotheca queenslandica
Pultenaea myrtoides
Ricinocarpos pinifolius
Selaginella uliginosa
Sprengelia sprengelioides
Sticherus flabellatus
Tetratheca thymifolia
Xanthorrhoea fulva
Xanthorrhoea johnsonii
Xyris juncea
Zieria laxiflora

*Boronia rosmarinifolia**Hakea actites**Philotheca queenslandica**Bauera capitata*

OVERVIEW OF BEERWAH SCIENTIFIC AREA No. 1 (Adapted from notes prepared for ASGAP Conference 1999)

The Department of Environment and Resource Management oversees a large plantation area between Caboolture and Caloundra, and to the west. Due to the foresight of some far-sighted foresters back in the 1930s and 1940s, sections of native forest were set aside as the pine forests were established. After the Forestry Act of 1959 was passed, there was provision for such sections to become "Scientific Areas", to be used for scientific purposes, other than pine plantations.

Being the first such area officially declared in Queensland after 1959, the Beerwah section was therefore named "Beerwah State Forest Scientific Area No. 1". Recently this area was gazetted as a National Park. It is divided into blocks of varying size, which are burnt at different intervals and times according to season and weather.

The Beerwah Scientific Area is a 'collection' of different plant communities, from Eucalypt forest dominated by *Eucalyptus racemosa* (Scribbly Gum) to the reed-filled swamps. *Corymbia intermedia* (Pink Bloodwood) and a few other eucalypt species form a light canopy with the Scribbly Gums over an understorey of flowering shrubs, such as *Banksia oblongifolia*, *Daviesia umbellulata*, *Persoonia spp.*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Grevillea leiophylla*, *Boronia rosmarinifolia* and others. These forests open out into wet Wallum areas, with *Boronia falcifolia*, *Bauera capitata*, *Leptospermum semibaccatum*, *Epacris pulchella*, *Conospermum taxifolium* and so on. There are different compositions of species in each plant community, from dry to wet areas, and whichever route is taken there is always something of interest.

