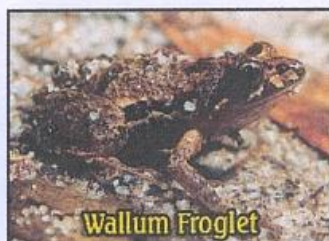


WALLUM WONDERLAND

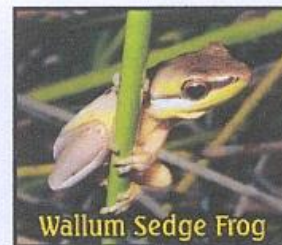
Allan Carr

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.

