

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

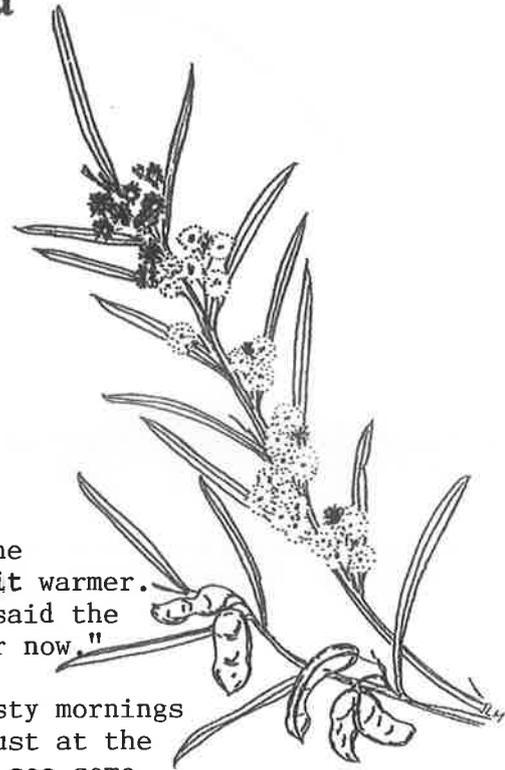
Newsletter

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35.

JUNE 2013.



Hello to members and other readers,

It is cold out here away from the coast where the nearness to the sea seems to make things just a little bit warmer. But we have passed the Winter Solstice, and as a friend said the other day - "Well, it should be on the way back to summer now." However, I think we still have some cold days ahead yet, and a few more frosts, as we've had only a couple of frosty mornings so far. I'm looking forward to a few warmer days in August at the ANPSA 2013 Conference at the Sunshine Coast. Maybe I'll see some of you there? - More about that later on.

I must apologise for the long space between newsletters, but life seems to have had more in it than I've had time for. The month of May had several family birthdays, but the weeks since the year began have simply vanished. I had to assure one member who phoned me a couple of weeks ago, that he hadn't lost a newsletter, but that I was a couple of months behind. So here we are, and first of all, I would like to send a warm welcome to two new members:

Geoff Harvey of Buderim, S.E. Qld, who is leader of the Hibiscus Study Group, and who joined after I had written to him with some information I had acquired about our local Ranunculus species.

Dan Ossedryver from Dee Why, a north-eastern suburb of Sydney, N.S.W., who told me that he has lived at Tin Can Bay and Beerwah in S.E. Qld. He is closer than I am to those sandstone wildflower areas such as Ku-ring-gai, which I would still like to visit one day, but possibly has some knowledge also of our S.E.Q. Wallum.

I hope both of you will forgive my delay in replying to you, and as we go along, that you will find your membership worthwhile.

Trigger Flower



Stylidium graminifolium

ACTIVITIES - Past and future: Weather conditions caused the cancellation of two outings last summer, with the planned Bribie Island Wallum Day at the Community Nursery postponed from November 2012 to February 2013. However, rain again changed our plans, and I'm hoping the anticipated day at Bribie Island will happen in October this year. We were going to make use of the Nursery's computer to look at some of the Wallum photographs taken by John Ward, instead of searching out the last of the spring wildflowers under a hot summer sun. More about that later.

In October 2012, we visited a place we've not looked at before - a track at the base of Mt. Beerwah, leading off from the picnic area. There weren't many flowers to be seen, but that didn't stop us from several interesting finds. Sky blue flowers up the stem gave away the presence of Lobelia gibbosa, usually found on stony hillsides of our coastal ranges. This is the same species as the "mystery" plant seen at Raaen Road, D'Aguiar in September 2011, and also grows at my husband's Mt. Kobble property. This was a most pleasant outing, with members rambling along and finding plants, most of which were identified. I've still to do the plant list for this and other outings, having got behind on this task.

Fringed Lily



Thysanotus tuberosus

*Boronia falcifolia*

After having to miss two outings, we met at Sandstone Point (on the way Bribie Island) for another look at one of our favourite bits of bushland, the Clark property, last visited in April 2011. I was surprised to note the 2-year gap in visits, which shows just how quickly the years go by. Most of our usual group came along on what was an extremely uncomfortable, hot and muggy day, but we managed to add 15 plants to the previous list, which shows that even one month can make a difference to what is in flower, this latest was in March. Two of the flowers at the start of this newsletter were noted & have also been seen on our later outings to the Deagon Wetlands in May and at Freshwater National Park in June. Stylidium graminifolium

or Trigger Plant with its pretty pink flowers and pollination "trigger", and Thysanotus tuberosus or Fringe Lily whose three mauve petals have "fringes" around their margins, were flowering in the slashed area between the bushland and nearby "suburbia". The Thysanotus were also seen among the grasses in the open Eucalyptus forest, with a few in much the same situation as the following two outings. These are 2 of our prettiest wildflowers, the Stylidium being one of those plants which recovers quickly after fire, bursting into flower along with the Wallum Grasstrees, Xanthorrhoea fulva. April saw us at the Bribie Island Community Nursery, with me hoping to have our "computer day". However, John was carried off to look at plants growing there, and we didn't have things go as planned. However, a good time was had by all, we did look at a couple of CDs on the computers, and somehow managed to have a meeting of sorts as well as the usual social chit-chat.

It was a small group who met at the Deagon Wetlands in May, and we found lovely purple Hardenbergia violacea flowering, and a very unusual Mistletoe with long "spines" radiating out from the rounded "body" which looked like a gall, or maybe it was really a gall. Again, wildflowers were on holiday, with only some red Melaleuca pachyphylla here and there. Deagon Wetlands is a coastal Melaleuca wetland with some Wallum species and a few other plants we've not encountered elsewhere. One little groundcover I found there several years showed up in similar habitat at Freshwater National Park, Deception Bay on our June outing. After our walk at Deagon Wetlands, a few of us went back to Pat Barry's home to have lunch and look around her attractive garden. Freshwater in June was a bit wet underfoot, but not enough to stop us following the track, hopefully to a little creek which runs through it and into Little Burpengary Creek. But we missed the track where it went to the left, and had to back-track to go the right way. We were pleasantly surprised a member whom we hadn't seen for 3 years as she has been busy studying. Hopefully we'll see more of her now she has reached her goal, but she saved us going too far, telling us the track became too wet a little further on. Flowers were few, but Thysanotus tuberosus were out, and there were signs that the Park's Patersonia sericea had flowered the previous day and were preparing for their usual spring show here. They are plentiful here, and once our eyes were "in" we could see an abundance of clumps of Patersonia leaves everywhere. Two Hibbertias grow in this Park - H. stricta and H. vestita, and it is sometimes difficult to identify them correctly. The latter is supposed to have lots of tiny hairs on leaves and stems, hence the species name of "vestita", but plants can often have quite minimal hairs, so we look to the tips of the leaves, which in the former tend to be almost pointed. When they are in flower, identification is easy, as the flowers of H. vestita are about twice as large as those of the other species. The tiny scrambling Wallum Grevillea, G. leiophylla is one of the area's wildflowers, and before we humans took over places like Redcliffe and Deception Bay and coastal Burpengary, this dear little plant grew in these low-lying open forests with their Melaleuca quinquenervia, Eucalyptus racemosa (Scribbly Gum), Eucalyptus tereticornis (Blue Gum or Forest Red Gum), Angophora leiocarpa, Allocasuarina littoralis (Black She-Oak), Acacia disparrima (Black Wattle), and many other species. With their understory of Xanthorrhoea johnsonii, small shrubs and flowering herb-like plants, and various grasses, they are lovely places for a calming walk, listening to the birds and simply enjoying Nature. We certainly love visiting such places, learning as we go, and teaching anyone who wants to learn. So we look to future activities, in what is going to be a big year for S.G.A.P. in Queensland.

A.N.P.S.A CONFERENCE 2013. By the time you receive this newsletter, this biennial event will be only 4 or 5 weeks away, depending on whether you are going on the Pre-Conference tours, or just attending some of the talks and activities of the week of the Seminar. Society members who are part of the organising committee, or just doing background work, are really "getting into it" from now on. By representing the Wallum Study Group, I've found myself with 4 tasks, something I didn't intend, but as usual, the Wallum just got hold of me. There will be a Wallum Study Group display, and I am assisting Jan Sked with organising other Study Group displays, of which there won't be a large number, sadly.

Then I've been asked to provide a workshop on the afternoon of Monday 12th August, probably similar to the one I did last year at the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden, as part of the annual Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival.

Apart from the workshop, the most important task I'll have is helping the Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Branch of SGAP with the bus tours of the southern end of the Coast, in particular the Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park walks on Tuesday 13th August and Thursday 15th. I'm to find guides to show our visitors this wonderful Wallum remnant which we owe to the dedicated efforts of Kathleen and fellow members of the then-Caloundra Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld. This unstoppable lady started the branch in 1963, the year following the formation of W.P.S.Q. by her and three friends. Present day members will be celebrating this 50th anniversary over the weekend of 30th August and 1st September, so it will be fitting that their long-serving member Jill Chamberlain will be there to show off "their" Park. All I have to do now is find a few more guides for the two walks each day.

If any members of the Study Group, locally of course, feel that they would like to be of use, even for one walk, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME SOON. Phone No. 54247073 in the evenings, please, for more details.

Well, that is the BIG activity for the year, and then we settle back into a quieter programme for September, October and November. We go into recess over the hot months of December and January.

But, first of all, what are we doing in July and August? Our July outing is earlier in the month than usual, due to me having a very important "date" on what would be our day out. As the 21st is "Old Girls' Day" at my old High School in Brisbane, we are going to the Berwah Scientific Area 1 on Sunday 14th July, which isn't far away. This outing is in the SGAP Diary in the June Qld. Region Bulletin, so hopefully, some of you have noted it. Usual meeting place and time, so no-one should get lost. If you arrive late, we plan to enter the Scientific Area by the other track off Roys Road nearer the highway. The reason is that those Sunday motor-bike riders have churned up the firebreak and the access track off Roys Road, that I would prefer not to use our usual entrance, the "cemetery track". Anyway, it's time we looked at a different part of the Scientific Area. Bring the usual excursion needs - morning tea, lunch, insect repellent, notebook, camera, binoculars. Hope to see you there.

August, well August has the Conference and the Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival. I gave the Sunshine Coast Council website in the June Bulletin - www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au - for anyone needing information. However, my own commitments for the Festival, I have nothing else to date. Everyone is busy with the Home Garden Expo this weekend of 5th, 6th & 7th August, so I haven't been able to find out anything. On Thursday 22nd August I am doing a Wallum wildflower workshop at the Bicentennial Hall/Community Centre in Bicentennial Drive, behind the Sunshine Beach Primary School in David Low Way, Sunshine Beach, just before Noosa Junction. Check with me for more info, after

Vanilla Lily



Sowerbaea juncea

Trigger Flower



Stylidium graminifolium

Sun Orchid



Thelymitra pauciflora

Wallum Tea-Tree



Leptospermum semibaccatum

Fringed Lily



Thysanotus tuberosus

Christmas Bells



Blandfordia grandiflora

the July 14th outing, when I should know more. Included in the Festival programme is a walk in the Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park on Saturday 24th August. This is Sunshine Coast & Hinterland Branch's contribution to the Wildflower Festival, and I usually help as a guide. Apart from those two days, I don't know what else is happening - a bit frustrating, I must admit, at this late stage.

Fan Flower



On Sunday 29th September, Richard & Carole Green have agreed that we visit their Toorbul garden to see how their experimental "Create a Wallum Garden" plot is growing. Some of our local members were present in February 2012, and helped set out the collection which Richard & Carole had ready for our "working bee" at this very coastal place. We had hoped to check on the garden before this, but rains, king tides and two rather full creeks along Pumicestone Road into Toorbul, resulted in the decision to wait until better conditions prevailed. So, if you can be there on the 29th, directions were in the October 2012 Newsletter No. 34 - 18 The Crescent, you can enjoy a very pleasant time, seeing how the garden is growing, and watching for the resident wildlife on the nearby tidal flats.

At the moment, our October outing is uncertain, so you will have to phone me about any details. Sunday the 20th is the date, and I hope we can have a delayed visit to a Wallum area near the Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology, The Abbey Place, off Old Toorbul Point Road, which turns left off the Bribie Island Road - See UBD Map 49 Ref. P 14. If this location isn't possible, we will do a walk from the cemetery at Mt. Beerburum, weather and road conditions allowing. For this area we usually meet at Parrot Park next to the Beerburum State School, and at the slightly earlier time of 9.00a.m., as the weather warms up. Please phone me, evening is best, for confirmation of either.

In April we had a day based at the Bribie Island Community Nursery, with the intention to do what had been cancelled due to bad weather in November 2012 - look at some of the wildflower images, etc. which John Ward has on computer at the Nursery. It didn't quite go as planned, so we are going to try again on Sunday 17th November. "Wallum through a computer screen" could be an interesting change, especially as it is fairly

hot that month to be wandering around in the sun at a time when many of the flowers have finished their spring show. Of course, once we have the computer up and running, with someone managing it, anyone who isn't very interested in "computer Wallum" can wander around the Nursery and check out the plants. If all goes to plan, there could be time for a short walk in nearby bush, which is also worth a look. The day should begin around 9.00a.m. with morning tea, a brief "meeting" to discuss plans for 2014, then "computer Wallum" before lunch. As this will be the final get-together for 2013, it will also be our Christmas break-up. The Community Nursery is just past the playing fields in First Avenue, the road from Bongaree to Woorim, Map 53 Ref L 18 in the UBD Refidex, hot water is available for cuppas, and there is a toilet. Thanks go to member John Ward, for always making this comfort available to us when we go to Bribie Island.

Native Iris



Guinea Flower



Patersonia sericea During these past months, the weather hasn't always been kind to us, and rain has changed or postponed some outings. It certainly hasn't been a lot of "sunny Queensland", and I don't enjoy days of cloud and cold combined. Out here at Moore, we are more or less at the beginning of the ranges leading up to the eastern Darling Downs, and I've had to become used to hotter summers and much colder winters plus a drier atmosphere than what I've lived most of my life with, on the coast. I think I'm gradually acclimatising, but when husband Geoff spends time here in winter, he feels the cold more, and calls the place "Frostbite Flats". However, so far this winter there have been very few frosts, maybe all that cloud is a benefit after

Hibbertia stricta

all, keeping what warmth there is, closer to earth. My main hope, and that of many more of us in S.G.A.P. Qld, is for a sunny fine August for the forthcoming A.N.P.S.A. Biennial Conference, tours and Seminar over three weeks in all. No rain, please. And for myself, there is the Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival over the last two weeks of August. It's going to be a full-on wildflower month, with quite a lot of "wallowing in the Wallum", as well all those wonderful places in our beautiful State, to which the pre- and post-Conference tours are going. If you are one of those travellers, I hope you enjoy yourself, and see some interesting places and plants. And I might see some of you at the Conference, or on one of our heathland rambles.

Study Group membership renewals were due by the 30th June, and are still \$5, payable by either cash or cheque - made out to ANPSA Wallum Study Group. Some members have been paying for a couple of years, which is acceptable if easier for you.

With only 3 members interstate, this Study Group has become very localised within south-east Queensland. This doesn't particularly worry me, but there IS coastal heathland in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and perhaps still a little in South Australia, while Western Australia has most of its wildflowers in the south-west of the State. Perhaps the name "Wallum" is a bit off-putting, that is why there is also "coastal heathland" in the name of the Study Group. The lack of interstate members can't be due to not knowing there is such a Study Group, as in all States except Western Australia, the S.G.Liaison Officers provide "snippets" from various newsletters for the States' Journals/Newsletters. It would give me great pleasure to receive some news from interstate members, about their coastal heathlands. I know that in some places this particular habitat has been severely impacted on by human development, such as we have seen here in south-east Queensland, so there wouldn't be a lot to tell. I have books which were written about "disappearing heaths" in Tasmania and around Port Phillip Bay, and it seems that apart from that on Kangaroo Island, coastal heathland in South Australia isn't very plentiful any more. Yet in New South Wales, for some reason or other, there are National Parks between the sea and the main highway, with extensive areas of coastal heathland protected. Here in south-east Queensland, we do at least have some of North Stradbroke and Bribie Islands, a large part of Moreton Island and Fraser Island, plus the Cooloola and Noosa National Parks protecting a substantial amount of Wallum or coastal heathland. But I am strongly aware of what has been lost in this region, having lived around Moreton Bay for the greater part of my 70+ years. When I started this Study Group in late 1992, there was some criticism of my choice of study, but I wanted to create more awareness of these beautiful flowers, and see if we couldn't grow some of them in our gardens. They would make such wonderful Australian cottage gardens, and down south, in Victoria,

there are some very attractive plantings of their, and other, small flowering plants, more so than here in Queensland where our most eye-catching garden species are the larger, bolder, colourful Grevilleas. Well, about 60-70% of Wallum plants continue to defy cultivation, mostly those very pretty ones such as Boronias, Epacris, the many pea flowers, the small lily-like plants, the gorgeous Hibbertias, Dampiera & Goodenia - the list goes on. I'll deal further with this in "Cultivation Notes".



On this page and the newsletter heading is my older daughter's drawing of Acacia suaveolens, the Sweet-smelling Wattle. We can't claim it to be solely a Queensland species, as it ranges all the way south to Tasmania and into south-east South Aust. It is presently flowering in our Wallum, and I'm told that it is regenerating very strongly in Kathleen McArthur Park, Currimundi, probably in response to a controlled burn-off by National Parks & Wildlife about this time last year. Its dainty cream flowers are followed by one of the most attractive seed pods within Acacias - roughly rectangular with a pointed tip and blue-green with a touch of almost purple. The plant sends up long slender branches with linear blue-green phyllodes, appearing sparse, but when the branches are covered with the cream flowers, it is a very pretty shrub.

SOME CULTIVATION NOTES

Continuing with Acacia suaveolens, I have 2 plants in my Moore garden, both purchased from the Coolum Community Native Nursery, a year apart. The older one has flowered, on branches up to 160cm., but seems to have lost its vigour and colour, probably due to lack of some nutrient in the "soil" here. The other, bought last August, is still only about 40 cm. high but has had flowers right up the stem. Beside the older plant, an Acacia hubbardiana is looking a real picture, with flowers all over it, at about the same height as the A. suaveolens. I would like to grow more small wattles, if just to prove to my ex-farmer husband that they are not all "mongrel bloody wattles" in his words. He turned to slashing after he stopped growing bananas, and paddocks of dead Black Wattles were pretty brutal to the canopy of the tractor, but I have yet to convince him that there are some very lovely small wattles. The scarcity of such was mentioned in Acacia Study Group newsletter No. 118 September 2012 - "One matter that seems to be consistently raised at these meetings is that there are a number of smaller Acacias that deserve to be grown more as garden specimens, but are not commonly available in nurseries". How true, and not just Acacias.



Wallum bottlebrush

Acacias have an undeserved bad reputation for causing asthma and other breathing problems, but this is gradually being proven incorrect, the culprit more probably being grasses and other plants. But try to convince some people that this is so - they have a fixed opinion that the Acacias are guilty. I must admit some wattles do make me sniffle a bit, but it is the perfume.

Since I attended (and enjoyed) the 1995 ASGAP Conference hosted by Victoria and based at Ballarat, I've been receiving the Kurunga Native Nursery BUSH TELEGRAPH, and always love reading each issue, although the plants are more suitable to Victoria. In the Summer 2012 Newsletter No. 77 there was almost 1½ pages on "Summer lilies for the garden", and included were several plants which occur in our Wallum.

Thelionema caespitosum slightly resembles Dianellas with strappy leaves and blue flowers. It grows on Bribie Island, I have seen it near where they have their spring walk. Sowerbaea juncea should need no description, but we no longer see the swathes of mauve. Tricoryne elatior has wiry stems, bright yellow starry flowers which open around 11a.m. Caesia parviflora is another with grass-like stems and white to pale blue flowers. Burchardia umbellata likes wet places and keeps company with Sowerbaea juncea, and has heads of 6-petalled scented white flowers on fleshy stems.

Dianella longifolia and D. revoluta are both found on our rambles, often away from the coast, but with the unmistakable starry blue flowers and berries of pale or dark blue. Blandfordia grandiflora, Christmas Bells, which are protected in Queensland unless a permit has been obtained to deal in them, which would be rare.

Newsletter No. 78 Autumn 2013 has an article on Greenhood Orchids, of which the Nodding Greenhood, Pterostylis nutans, grows in south-east Queensland.

I'll try to remember to include this article in the next issue, as I have seen them grown in pots. Perhaps a permit is needed?

Kurunga Nursery moved to a new address a few years ago, but if it is anything like what it was at the previous address, it is well worth a visit if you are ever in Melbourne. They don't just sell plants, but lots of other goodies, I'd be a regular customer if I lived near them. Here is the address and other contact details:

Kurunga Native Nursery and Paperbark Cafe, 118 York Road, Mt. Evelyn, Vic. 3796.
 Phone: 03 97608100 Fax: 03 9737 1968 Mel. 52 K 3
 www.kurunga.com.au email: info@kurunga.com.au



*Wallum lemon-scented tea-tree
Leptospermum liversidgei*

Have you managed to get to the Coolum Community Native Nursery yet?
 157 Warran Road, Yaroomba, Qld. 4573. Phone: 07 54739322

www.coolumnatives.com info@coolumnatives.com

Tuesday to Friday 7.30 - 3.30 & Saturday 8.30 - 12.30.

(Open Monday by appointment)

Happy shopping!

Some cultivation notes, continued.

I doubt I'll ever get many Wallum plants to grow in the heavy soil of Moore, and back at Geoff's place at Kobble Creek (Samsonvale), some of my little treasures are still surviving, but I have lost quite a few due to my absence. Geoff reckons it is just the way Nature works, but I know it is because they miss me - I can't expect him to do what I used to do. But such is the penalty for moving. However, I am surprised at just what is growing and doing well in this awful soil and drier atmosphere. With the bits of rain we've had, and milder conditions, the town gardens are all green and healthy-looking, the grass is nice and tidy, oh, it all looks so lovely. The Acacia I purchased several years ago at Fairhill Nursery, Yandina, with a tag that said "Acacia attenuata" (rare & endangered), flowered well again this year and is now making seed pods which will have to be protected from the Pale-headed Rosellas and perhaps the several King Parrots which come & go, according to what they can find in my garden to eat. Lomandra hystrix loves it here and is the same height as I am (not hard I know) at 150cm, while its mate L. longifolia isn't far behind. Smaller Lomandra cultivars which I have found at nurseries give mixed results, but those which do well are very welcome. Dianellas are much the same, with D. brevipedunculata, usually found with Melaleuca quinquenervia in coastal wetlands, isn't far behind the larger Lomandras, so they are good shelter for smaller plants. Dianella congesta of the beachfront dunes, does well and has produced some fruit, hopefully towards some jam. Geoff has had to put finer wire netting on my "birdcage" where I grow vegetables needing protection, as the Noisy Miners had found the larger wire netting and were getting in to eat the blue berries. I'm sure the birds must be eating the berries off the D. brevipedunculata, then doing their "droppings" from my couple of gum trees, as I've been potting-up seedlings under them, and I'm sure they are that species.

Banksias don't like it at all here, but at present I'm hoping that the B. spinulosa and B. robur from the Coolum Nursery will take pity on me and stay alive and thrive. I've mentioned before that Melaleucas seem to be the most forgiving of all natives, mine haven't looked back, except for M. 'Revolution Gold' which struggle, and one other planted by the original owner is looking quite sick. Hakea actites was among the first plantings in 2005, and its only drawback now is being a bit overshadowed by overhead vegetation. Another one from a year or so later, is now above me, in amongst a Lomandra hystrix, but looking fantastic. The third one, from the Coolum Nursery has been in the garden for almost 3 years, and is doing as well, with woody seed pods among its foliage.

Although not a Wallum plant, another success seems to be Viola hederaceae, a small form with two-tone mauve flowers, and it's a real "runner". I think I brought it home from an excursion in the Sunshine Coast hinterland near 30 years ago, and it survived everything at Geoff's place and nowadays grows among the grass in his backyard. Some pieces I planted here have taken off and now my Ranunculus seedlings are in danger.

It makes me sad that my second favourite little plants just do not like Moore, so I can't enjoy the cheery yellow flowers of Hibbertias. However, I just might keep on trying and who knows, I might find a corner in the garden which they like.

In the last newsletter, No. 34, I wrote about the 2 Ranunculus species which I have.

Boronia

R. plebeius, the species I collected on the range above Geoff's place, seems to have spread its favours (seeds) around when it died down after flowering, as I have little plants in the garden where it was growing.

Of the three plants of R. lappaceus, two appear to have died, or vanished, A few seedlings have also come up in a nearby pot, so I hope I have a few to spread around, in the garden and to other members.

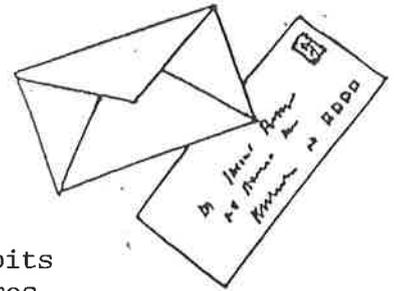
Of my two potted Hardenbergia violacea, the one in the garden well away from the house is not as robust as the other which is in a larger pot by the ramp. It is full of tiny buds, some even showing bits of purple. Perhaps it is benefitting from having the teapot emptied on it, and sometimes the rinsings from empty milk bottles.

News of your gardens or any projects you are involved in, would be welcome, although I can always find plenty to say.



Boronia falcifolia

FROM MY MAILBOX



There is never a lot from my mail, except when membership renewals roll in, and a few members include a little note. But Bracken Ridge, Brisbane member Patricia Barry often send bits she finds or a note about something of interest. From her comes the following:

Dated 27.1.13 When I visited the Netherlands (or Holland) we visited Arnhem and saw the famous bridge which was the scene of the Battle of Arnhem in WW2. Very ancient town, badly bombed of course. In front of the newish Town Hall were big square concrete pots containing Aust. native grasses and *Scaevola calendulacea* (I think) but the flowers were white. (There was a couple behind having their wedding photos taken.) Aust. native plants kept popping up all over the place, at the Floriade and the Flower Market. (This was summer of course.)

Thank God for the rain today....feeding our gardens. The Dutch love their gardens, so different from the dull uninteresting gardens by the majority here. (And their gardens are TINY), but not an inch wasted.

Dated 4.2.13 Rex Bartlett of Toowong has had a few medical problems lately and we have missed his company on outings, but renewed his membership, and included a thank-you for me sending on a booklet on *Eucalyptus* I.D. which Shirley Flinn got for him. He says that the other Eucalypt key he has is the one published by the Qld. Herbarium with similar sort of key based on bark type. "This last week I have been cleaning up my yard with many fallen trees including a large Sydney Blue Gum. Fortunately the Council is doing a street collection of the detritus!"

Dated 11.2.13 Sue Williams is a past member from Lennox Head, northern N.S.W. She sends a newsletter donation so she can keep in touch after the former SGAP Group in her region closed quite a few years ago.

"Thanks for continuing to send the Wallum & Coastal Heath N/L. I really look forward to reading all the news, even though I am too far away to be involved. Our "heath" is growing ever taller, particularly the Scribbly Gums and Wallum.Banksias. I think that some of the smaller plants will die out and it's likely that the Boronia pinnata has disappeared already. It's all still beautiful and weed-free, and so we are happy."

Sue and her husband are on approximately 100 acres of coastal heath north of the seaside town of Lennox Head, which is north of Ballina. I visited them back in 2004 I think, and marvelled at their "treasure". We did discuss management at the time, but it is a wonderful piece of land to own.

And that is it for my mailbox, for this issue.

Page 9 of this issue has some photos which I took last June when checking Currimundi Park in connection with the Conference day tours on Tuesday 13th & Thursday 15th August. No. 1 is Currimundi Creek looking towards where it enters the sea. No. 2 shows a sprawling bush of Banksia robur at various stages of flowering. No. 3 is a close-up of Woolly Aotus, Aotus lanigera in an area of small Wallum plants. No. 4 shows Jan Sked aiming for a good close-up of some Aotus lanigera. No. 5 is dainty Leucopogon ericoides with sharp-tipped leaves and fluffy petals. No. 6 captures a group of gorgeous blue Dampiera stricta among Brachyloma daphnoides. No. 7 is a few stems of my favourite, Boronia falcifolia, Wallum Boronia. No. 8 catches an Acacia disparrima (I think) full of lovely creamy yellow catkins.

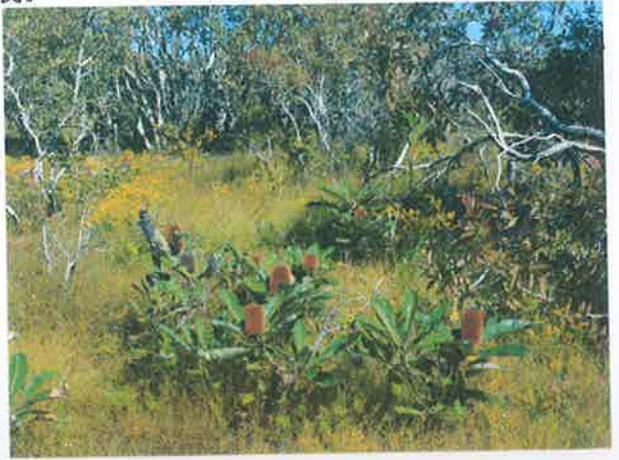
Hopefully these and many other flowers will put on a glorious show for our visitors.

I usually purchase the magazine "Subtropical Gardening", although there is a lot of exotic content. Issue 31 has a couple of pages devoted to a funny little plant with the name of Cullen tenax. A food plant of the Chequered Swallowtail butterfly, its

1.



2.



3.



4.



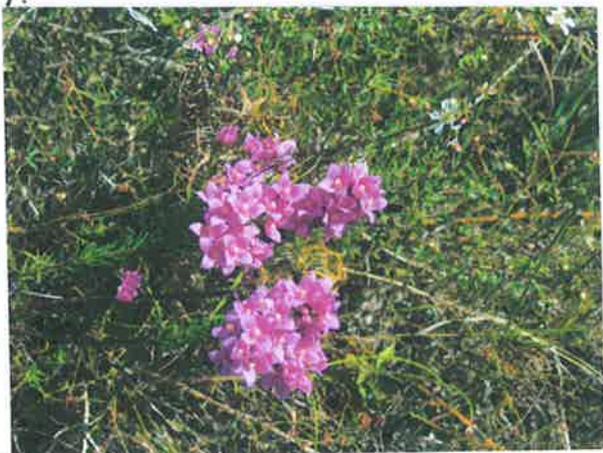
5.



6.



7.



8.



seeds can be used in a cake for us to eat. Very useful for a rather insignificant weed-like plant which is very common here at Moore. Geoff is very cynical about my efforts to protect it from the mower, so I'll have to try the cake - he might like it! The magazine also has a lovely picture and description of our Banksia aemula from Joan Dillon, on the Sunshine Coast.

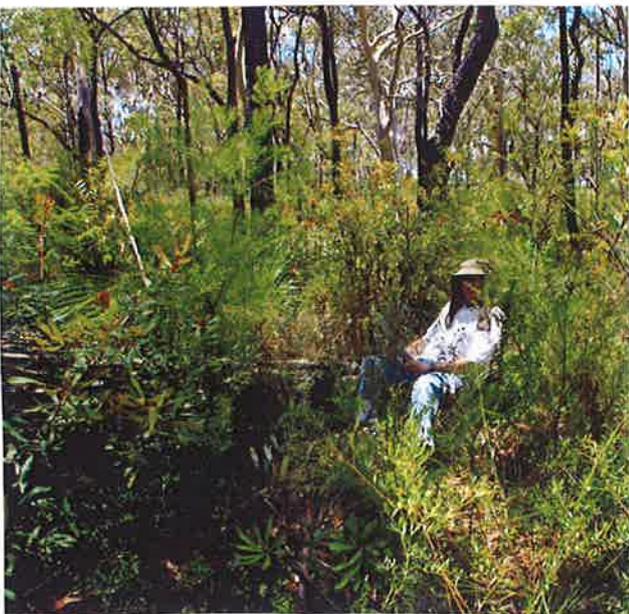


My thanks to Glenn Leiper for the photos on left of a strange little plant we found last year in Keith Royal Park (in Betty's wildflower garden), during one of the activities of the Wildflower Festival. Had never seen it before, so phoned Glenn with Betty Sykes's address and phone no. They connected, Glenn checked out the plants, and had it identified as Centrolepis strigosa. One day, idly looking at a wildflower guide to plants of Victoria's Little Desert, by the late Fred Rogers, what did I find - yes, Centrolepis strigosa, our little mystery plant in a more inland situation to ours. The top photo shows it about normal size, the other is a close-up of the flowers.



Then, if you want to know what we really do on our outings, Rex has found a quiet, sheltered spot in the Beerwah Scientific Area 1 for some reading while having lunch. And I'm sure the Study Group newsletter had something of interest for a lunchtime read. He was extra careful not to damage the plants, and was near to where Tetratheca thymifolia is always found when we visit Beerwah. We might not see it where we are going this coming Sunday, as we are going to look at another track.

SENIOR CITIZEN CHEER!!!



Snake Vine
Hibbertia scandens



I thought I'd finish off with a bit of humour we "oldies" can relate to. It's from a newsletter from the N.A.B. Retired Officers' Association, hope it gives you a bit of a giggle.

Bye for now,