

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

Newsletter

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APRIL 2014.

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Hello to members and other readers,

I've had great difficulty finding inspiration to get started with this issue, there have been so many distractions, and this absolutely beautiful Easter weather hasn't helped - I just want to sit and dream the perfect days away. To-day the temperature is around 27°, the sky is perfectly clear and blue and it is so peaceful. The nights are getting cooler, even had the electric blanket on to warm the bed the past two nights (Geoff is still up north), and summer is definitely gone. There has been some rain off and on, just enough to top up the tanks and freshen what was a very brown countryside, and save plants from giving up. Of course, the grass is going rampant, the neighbours' yards are all tidy, mine is lovely and natural, just perfect for Brown Snakes to hide in. First of all, I hope this newsletter reaches you before next weekend, when there is an outing to the Beerwah Scientific Area 1 (I think that is still its status, there are so many changes taking place), and I hope we will be able to access it via its usual entry off Mawsons Road, from Roys Road. Since the Area came under the control of National Parks & Wildlife Service, maintenance is no longer as it was back when Forestry looked after it.

On Sunday 27th April, we will meet by 9.30a.m. at the Matthew Flinders Picnic Park, near Tibrogargan Creek, north of Beerburum - Refidex Map 126 Ref. B/C 16 - for a cuppa and comfort stop. From there we'll go to the Scientific Area via Roys Road & Mawsons Road, to do a "survey" of plant regrowth over the 7+ years since vandals burnt practically all the Area over about six months. We did monitor one track for a couple of years, but as the condition of the track deteriorated and became too rough for our cars to access, we haven't been back. It is time we returned, but it will be walking, I'm told by National Parks staff, as **the gates cannot be unlocked**. Personally, I am not looking forward to the walk, as my left knee isn't as good as it used to be, but I'll bring my new "shooting stick" with its little seat, and do my best. There are certain places which we concentrated our previous surveys on, so they will be carefully checked.

Bring lunch, as I'm sure there will be somewhere where we'll be able to have lunch at Beerwah (there's a little park just north of the town alongside the railway line, with facilities). I would like to have a little discussion time with members, if possible. At least, the weather is cooler, so it should be a pleasant day out.

**Boronia**

**Guinea Flower**

For Sunday 18th May, Bribie Island has been chosen for our day out, meeting by 9.30a.m. at the Bribie Island Community Arts Centre, Sunderland Drive - Map 52 Ref. R4. (The map reference for the April date was for the Sunshine Coast section of the Refidex.) We'll do a "ramble" along the path, past "Warren's Garden", then plan to go out to the "Haul Road" into the Wallum there. The only thing to upset this plan will be a lot of rain beforehand, and we'll worry about that when the time comes. Bring lunch, etc. as I'm sure we'll be able to find a place at Banksia Beach to relax and discuss the day. Again, we haven't done this



*Boronia falcifolia*



*Hibbertia stricta*

area for quite a while, so it will make a nice change (I hope). I think Caboolture Daytime Branch might have been there more recently, if so, we'll be able to rely on Allan Carr's knowledge.

Sunday June 22nd will be a place we haven't visited for many years, and where many of you have never been. It isn't Wallum either but in the hilly country of the Pine Rivers Hinterland between Samford and Dayboro. The only Wallum plants will be those surviving under the care of my husband Geoff, since I moved to Moore around 2006/7. But I can assure that there are a lot of other Australian native plants to enjoy on a visit. You'll be welcome from 9.30a.m. for morning tea, bring lunch, and there will be a cuppa for anyone still there for afternoon tea. It will be a bit cool, so bring a jacket, no need for a thermos or a chair. Where? and how to get there?

Three ways - from Petrie; Strathpine; Samford.

From Petrie via Dayboro Road to Dayboro, left into Mt. Samson Road, turning right into Kobble Creek Road at the Samsonvale Rural Fire Brigade building. Left into Pringles Road, DON'T cross the creek, and proceed to the fork with all the mailboxes. Go into Farrow Road straight ahead and simply follow the road around all the bends, past 4 houses and 2 dams till you come to a side road at another small dam. Look for the post with 270 on it, and go up the hill towards the house, sheds and trees you should have already seen. If you get lost, the phone number is 32899272.

From Strathpine follow Samsonvale Road then Winn Road to Mt. Samson Road, turning right and following the road to the Samsonvale Rural Fire Brigade building. Just follow the directions as above.

From Samford take Mount Samson Road, and simply follow it through all that beautiful scenery to the Samsonvale Rural Fire Brigade building at Kobble Creek Road. Then just follow the above directions.

If you do happen to stop at the wrong house, they are either Hendersons, or they know Geoff, so will put you right. We've never lost anyone yet, but if uncertain once off Mt. Samson Road, just phone us.

At 270 Farrow Road, Kobble Creek, I started converting what was mainly an exotic garden when I met Geoff in 1980. Now it is predominantly Australian native, with plants I obtained mainly through the two S.G.A.P. groups I belonged to for the next 20+ years - Redcliffe Australian Plants Club and Pine Rivers S.G.A.P. Therefore it is a garden of memories - of people and their gardens and plants, and places we went to on outings. I've hated leaving it, which is why I don't return too often. There is a rainforest garden on one small slope which was too windy for Geoff to grow bananas on, but with a tiny "creek" at the bottom, fed from an intermittent overflow from our big dam. A friend's wife once called it "The Madwoman's Garden at Samsonvale" because of the variety of plants in it. It is now an example of a beloved garden surviving without its "creator". I hope you can come and enjoy it.

I haven't made detailed plans for July and August, just the basics for inclusion in the June Bulletin. They are as follows, with dates and locations to meet.

Sunday 20th July: A bush ramble at Sandstone Point, meeting between 9 & 9.30a.m. in the carpark beside the Pebble Beach Common, on Bestmann Road (off Bribie Island Road before the bridge). Refidex Map 52 Ref. F 19. There are a couple of places I am considering for this outing.

August is a busy month, especially for me and maybe a couple of other members, so I don't usually have an outing then. At this stage, I know that Sunday the 3rd has "What's Cooking in the Garden" at the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens, Sunday the 17th is probably the day for the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association's annual wildflower walk, and the 24th & 31st are both on the programme of the Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival, with which I am usually involved. All of that leaves only Sunday the 10th free, and I thought we could visit Beerburrum again to catch the wildflowers of the lower track from the cemetery, in their spring flowering. There is a greater diversity on this track, with a lot of shrubs and smaller plants such



*Boronia falcifolia*

as: Hibbertias vestita & stricta; Pultenaea myrtoides; Patersonias sericea & glabrata; Hovea sp.; Comesperma hispidulum; Hakea florulenta; Daviesia umbellulata; Westringia eremicola; the rare Dodonaea rupicola; Seringia (Keraudrenia) hillii; two species of the fern Lindsaea - linearis & ensifolia; bushes of Leptospermum juniperinum and more. Many of these plants belong to genera found in the Wallum heaths, but of different species, and some are only in the hinterland hills and open Eucalypt forests adjacent to the wetter Wallum areas.

So, on Sunday 10th August we'll meet at Parrot Park, Beerburrum for the usual cuppa, before venturing off into the bush to see what we can find. Bring the usual needs and lunch for afterwards.

September, October and November outings are just suggestions at this stage of the year, but I will just give you an outline.

September is the "mystery" month, for which I have to do some thinking about. Any suggestions will be welcome. I'm hoping to go to the Tin Can Bay Seafood Festival, which is on Saturday 27th September, and renew several friendships, plus enjoy a few days in that lovely place.

I thought that, after many years, we might venture up to Mt. Mee and its wildflowers in October. This can be a hot month, perhaps it might be a bit cooler up in the mountain bushland. There are also roads in the Glass House Mountains region along which there could be accessible bushland with interesting plants. Looking at my UBD Refidex, I see a "P" (park) on Fullertons Road near Mt. Ngun Ngun, so I'll check that one out.

November is our final for the year, and John Ward assures me that we can, as usual, get refuge from the summer sun by using the Bribie Island Community Nursery as our base for our break-up day. Dates for October and November will be finalised later in the year, when I know what else is happening.

If anyone has any queries about our outings, please contact me on 54247073, evenings.

SOME TRIVIA, though some of it is important within the natural environment.

In the Spring 2013 issue of "Wildlife Australia" magazine of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland was an article "Millenarians" dealing with very old plants. A Plunkett Mallee (Eucalyptus curtisii) with clonal stems covering 471 square metres at Beerwah, Queensland, has been estimated at 4000 to 9000 years old. Others in Barakula State Forest are thought to be up to 15,000 years old, having apparently sprouted during the last Ice Age.

I wonder where, at Beerwah, is this Eucalyptus curtisii? On the track we are going to follow next Sunday, there is a small group of the Beerwah Form of this Eucalypt, as well as a few specimens of the rare Eucalyptus conglomerata. No doubt, the Scientific Area 1 is a very special place.

There is serious concern among many of us, especially on the Sunshine Coast, about plans to establish a Motocross Park within the 534 hectares of Beerwah State Forest, an area which has been logged in the past, between the Motorway and the Steve Irwin Way, and north of the Kart Track near Ewen Maddock Dam. This beautiful forest boasts a variety of plant communities, I've been told there is Forest Wallum, but I've never been in there. Driving along the Steve Irwin Way on the way home, I've seen on the left, the Old Caloundra Road turning off into the bush, but have never been game to investigate it alone. All four of the local Sunshine Coast politicians are in favour of the proposal, being that something must be done to get motor-bike riders out of the State Forests, etc., and we all agree with that - we know what they do. Will be on the watch for progress in what will become a very big argument.

Do any of you ever buy "SubTropical Gardening" magazine? I usually do, out of curiosity about their information about gardens and plants, which are mostly exotic, sometimes ones we regard as weeds. In Issue 34 - Quarterly - February 2014, there was this amazing article of 4 pages about "Bimblebox - Nature Refuge and the Biggest Estate on

Earth." I'll bring the magazine with me next Sunday in case anyone would like to read the article, there isn't enough space here to copy and include it. Bimblebox Nature Refuge is under serious threat from mining plans in the Galilee Basin of Central Queensland.

#### SOME CULTIVATION NOTES

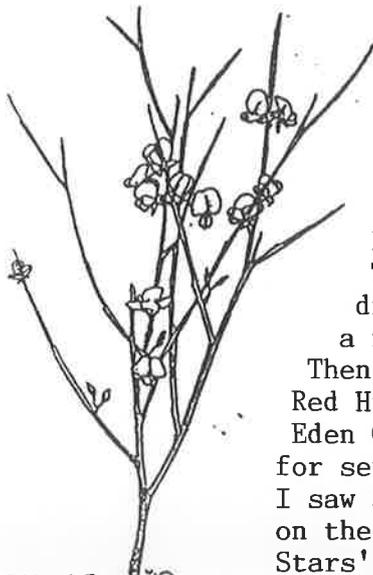
The wattle on this page is Acacia suaveolens which we often see in our Wallum and other areas of heaths. We can't claim it as just a Wallum species as its range is from Queensland through the coastal heathlands of N.S.W., Victoria, south-eastern S.A., and Tasmania. Although its cream flowers don't "grab" you, it has slender greyish-green foliage, and seed pods which are its most interesting feature. They are rectangular with curved corners, and grey to purple-toned (don't you love my "botanical" descriptions?), and carry about 4 or 5 black seeds. At present I have my latest one just starting to flower, it will grow in this awful apology for soil, but it seems that I will have to replant as they die. However, in more suitable soil, I'm sure it would be well worth a try. One plant I have absolutely no trouble with is Dianella brevipedunculata, the species of Flax Lily found in our coastal Melaleuca quinquenervia wetlands, such as the Deagon Wetlands Reserve, near where Pat Barry lives at Bracken Ridge. Grass-like leaves can easily reach a metre, but the flower stems stop half-way, with tiny blue flowers, then bright blue berries produced on multiple little stems, hence the species name. Birds love the fruits, I've seen Noisy Miners and Pale-headed Rosellas feeding on the plants, and discovered they are eating the green fruits. It is easy to grow and I must remember to bring some plants with me next Sunday so you can try them for yourselves.

I'm sure that Hardenbergia violacea is a plant everyone wants to grow, given there are now several cultivars. But they aren't so easy at times. I've had mixed results here. My first one, in a large pot near my ramp, did really well till about a year ago, then started to die off. I've just replaced it with another from a nursery at Carseldine in Brisbane's northern suburbs. Another one, bought pot and all at sale price from the nursery at Kilcoy when it closed down a few years ago, has also just died. One just appeared in soil from Geoff's (I think) which we used to improve the ground up near the back fence, and I was thrilled at the lovely healthy leaves. But that was it, and it didn't last long at all. Maybe it didn't like the bore water, they never tell you what it is that kills them, do they?

Now for a little tale about a place, its plants, and what has happened to it and one particular plant.

The story begins back in 1992, not long after this Study Group started, when Shirley Flinn from Caboolture, went to a place supplying sand and soils, and discovered a Wallum paradise. This was at Redondo Street, off the Bribie Island Road at Ninghi, before you cross the bridge to the Island. There was this dazzling field of mauve, yellow and pink - Sowerbaea juncea/Vanilla Lilies, Dillwynias, Pultenaeas, Gompholobiums, white Epacris and 2 Boronias - falcifolia and safrolifera. There were many, many more, and Shirley and I got us permission to pick flowers for displays, and to remove plants to our gardens. We were told this wouldn't last, as the area was planned for housing development, so we "made hay while the sun shone", with our Study Group members even coming from as far away as Rochedale and Logan, south of Brisbane. SGAP and Study Group members from the Caboolture area tried to convince the local Council to do what they could to halt the development, especially when we realised that Boronia safrolifera has a very limited distribution - Bribie Island, Ninghi (at that time), North Stradbroke Island, the tiny Pine Ridge Conservation Park at Runaway Bay, and possibly some parts of northern N.S.W. I asked a Herbarium botanist about having B. safrolifera included on the Endangered List, but she stated that "it could take some time for that to be done", to which I replied that "bulldozers (two of them) moved faster than that", and those bulldozers did get into action, making one big mess of the Ninghi patch over a weekend. Looking back through my newsletters, I see where we started removing plants in 1992/3, but by 2006 nothing remained of the Wallum area, it was converted to a housing estate with lake, and named "Sandstone Lakes". A nearby area is "Sandstone Point" hence the name. However, plants were removed by an SGAP member/nurseryman





JACKSONIA  
Scoparia

living nearby, whom we visited in September 2008, and were amazed at the sight which greeted us in one of his shadehouses. All these beautiful Wallum plants in flower, all rescued from Ninghi and being treated expertly by someone who has the knowledge and facilities which we don't, being the amateurs we are. There were plenty of Boronia safrolifera, but at that stage, I didn't know what he planned to do. We haven't been back, perhaps a return visit is needed.

Then, in February just gone, returning from a medical appointment at Red Hill in Brisbane, I called into what was Carseldine Gardens, now Eden Gardens Nursery at Carseldine, to catch up after not going there for several years. Wandering around, checking out their native plants, I saw 3 pots of Boronia 'Seaside Stars' with unmistakable pink flowers on the label - Boronia safrolifera. The description said that 'Seaside Stars' was selected from a housing development field near Bribie Island. Bright pink star shaped flowers cover the plant during late winter into early spring. Straightaway I thought that they were "my" Boronias from Ninghi, that "development field near Bribie Island" had to be Ninghi.

I was so dismayed to see them for sale at a nursery in Brisbane's northside, that I wanted to buy all 3 there and then, but I didn't know what I would do with them, as Moore certainly isn't the suitable environment for a Boronia which naturally grows in coastal Wallum wetlands. So I bought one of them, told the cashier they shouldn't be sold at all in suburban nurseries. Luckily, being a native plant enthusiast herself living at Redcliffe and with a knowledge of coastal areas, she understood my concern. We had a friendly chat, and I went on my way.

One month later, in a similar situation, I again called at Eden Gardens Nursery to see if the remaining two Boronias had been bought. I eventually found one plant on a table of plants, reduced in price, and not looking its best. I didn't hesitate, but bought it too, and came home wondering what I would do with it.

I had already passed the first plant off, as soon as I could, to Carole Green, who with husband Richard, has established an experimental Wallum garden at their weekender at Toorbul. The second plant, well, I'd saved it from the bin, but what to do with it. It was hard work in my heavy soil, but I managed to dig a large hole, which I filled with grey Wallum sand in large pots where other Wallum plants had died off long ago. In went the Boronia 'Seaside Stars' watered well, and with much hope, but not a lot of confidence. Carole and I have exchanged opinions and hopes, she has pruned hers off to ease its stress, I've just asked mine to grow. Both plants lost leaves, and we are not very hopeful of success. But if you don't try, you don't know. I intend to look further into how this Boronia reached a retail nursery in Brisbane's northern suburbs, so far from the plant's natural situation.

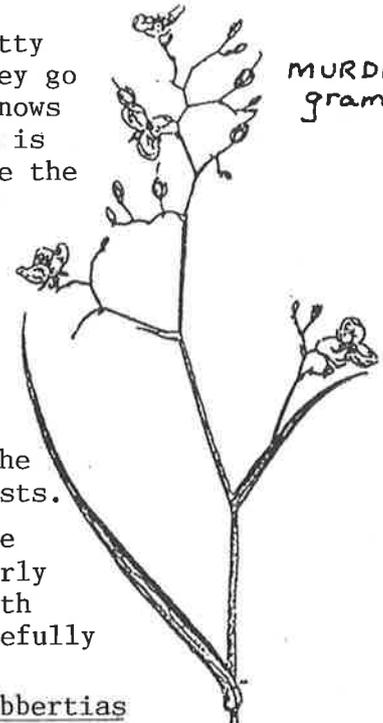
This sort of thing is happening with many of our small pretty native plants, they are being sold in the wrong places, they go home to a totally unsuitable situation, with someone who knows nothing about them, they die and another Australian native is replaced by a successful exotic. This is no way to educate the home gardener about our country's lovely native plants.

So far looking hopeful in my Moore garden are 2 Hibbertia scandens and a Carpobrotus glaucescens which I purchased from the Bribie Island Community Nursery. I like to buy plants from our Community Nurseries, and have bought some from Bribie Island and Coolum, but still have to get to the one at C.R.E.E.C. at Morayfield.

I'd love to hear from any members who are trying to meet the challenge of growing plants from our coastal heaths & forests.

Incidentally, of those earlier Study Group members who came from afar to collect sand and plants from Ninghi in the early 1990s, I understand that 2 of them have been successful with their efforts, one at Rochedale, the other at Nerang. Hopefully the next newsletter will have some news of these gardens.

And Shirley Flinn still has a Grevillea leiophylla, and Hibbertias vestita & stricta growing after many, many years.



MURDANNIA  
graminea



*Blandfordia grandiflora*

I mustn't forget to report on our past activities in November 2013, and February and March 2014. Using the Bribie Island Community Nursery to keep us out of the hot summer sun last November, we did manage to use some technology, with a couple of computers "fired up", and Hilary providing her microscope. I didn't make it to the microscope as I seemed to be busy all the time with other things. But I think everyone present enjoyed the day, although I suspect that Don would have liked a walk. There was a little bit of excitement when we were visited (down past the plant stands) by a Kookaburra, which sat in a tree and steadily eyed a fairly large Green Tree Snake. There were those who wanted to "rescue" the snake which was twined in the mesh of the fence. But it was only Nature in action, and I think both bird and snake got away safe.



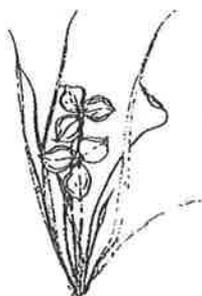
*Hibbertia stricta*

February can be a hot month, and only 5 of us turned up to walk in the part of the Deagon Wetlands Reserve which is going to be affected by the widening of the adjoining Gateway Arterial Road from 2 to 4 lanes each way. Pat Barry had attended a meeting (as a member of "Keep Sandgate Beautiful Assn.") in January, and on speaking with him, found that the environmental representative knew nothing about environment, the natural one anyway. So we looked at the section of the Wetlands to be affected, and in spite of the impending changes, we did manage to enjoy a short walk before returning to Pat's to have lunch.



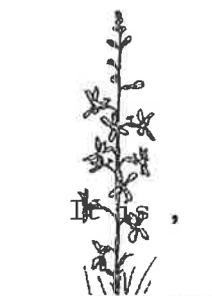
*Thelymitra pauciflora*

March at Beerburrum was a pleasant day, after a cuppa we drove to the cemetery then walked along the upper track towards the disused quarry. While there weren't a lot of flowers to be seen, there were still some Banksia spinulosa and oblongifolia flowering, an Acacia aulacocarpa was full of buds, and some of the small plants such as Tricoryne elatior peeped at us from among the grasses. I "christened" my new walking (shooting) stick with its tiny seat, which allowed me to rest my arthritic knee while the others explored the old quarry surrounds. We found a plant with an attractive little yellow pea flower, and wondered if it was a weed. Hilary sent me a copy of a page from the new weed book by Joan Heavey and Sonia MacDonald - "Weeds of the Sunshine Coast" - and this plant could be Stylosanthes hamata/Caribbean Stylo or Verano. I am sending a specimen along with some other pieces for botanists at the Herbarium to confirm.



*Patersonia sericea*

Our outings seem to be enjoyed by all, as leader I am pleased to see that our knowledge is increasing, and I love watching members examining and discussing what a plant could be, and using their various field guides.



*Styliidium graminifolium*

IDENTIFICATION At the end of 2013, Betty Richardson from Dayboro wrote to me about a plant she had found while on holiday at Rainbow Beach some years ago. The local Council had planted groups of trees to repair the dunes and encourage regrowth, and used mainly Banksias. However, one plant/tree was different, resembling a Frangipani, even a perfumed white flower. Betty has taken cuttings home year after year, with no success, there were no seeds. One year a Garden Club held a plant stall there, and the mystery was solved when one lady took the time to search among the books, and found the plant! It is Cerbera manghas/Evergreen Frangipani (Mangroves to Mountains - P. 30), the helpful person told Betty it was "Cerberus mangan", and it is native of the North Coast, Cooloola landmass being its southern extremity, though says creeks and beaches north of Noosa. Grows only from seed which is very hard to get. Thanks, Betty.



*Dampiera sylvestris*

SUNSHINE COAST SPRING WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL starts Friday 22nd August. Activities include: 2 Ground Parrot walks - Airport and Peregrine Beach. W'life Pres. Socy. walk at K. McArthur Park, C'mundi Thurs. 28th. Wallum Workshop, Bicent. Hall S'shine Beach - Yours truly Friday 29th. Marcus High Dunes walk. Sunshine Beach end Noosa Nat. Park walk. Lake Weyba West walk. Keith Royal Park, Mudjimba wildflowers.

Sunday 8th June: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY at University of Sunshine Coast. 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. For more information visit [www.wed.org.au](http://www.wed.org.au)

Barbara H.

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Kathleen McArthur Park Gate



*Aotus lanigera*



Currimundi Lake



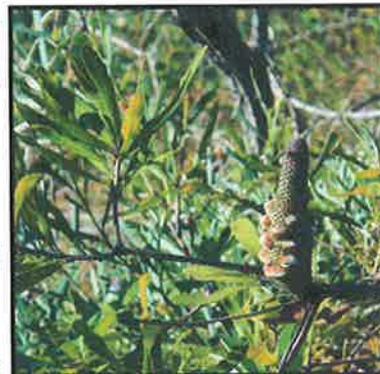
*Acacia concurrens*



*Acacia suaveolens*



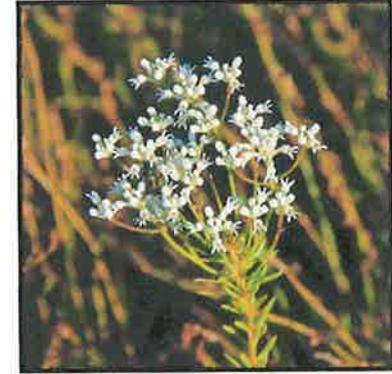
*Acacia suaveolens* seed pods



*Banksia oblongifolia*



*Boronia falcifolia*



*Conospermum taxifolium*



*Dampiera stricta*



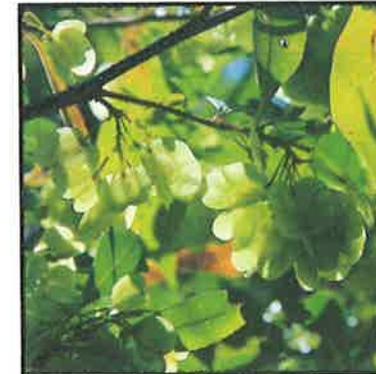
*Dianella revoluta*



*Dillwynia floribunda*



*Dipodium variegatum*



*Dodonaea triquetra*

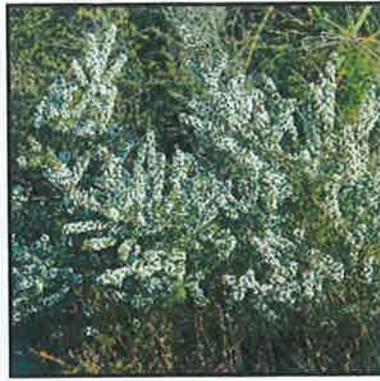


*Epacris pulchella*

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*Leptospermum speciosum*



*Leucopogon ericoides*



*Leucopogon pimelioides*



*Melaleuca nodosa*



*Patersonia fragilis*



*Patersonia sericea*



*Persoonia virgata*



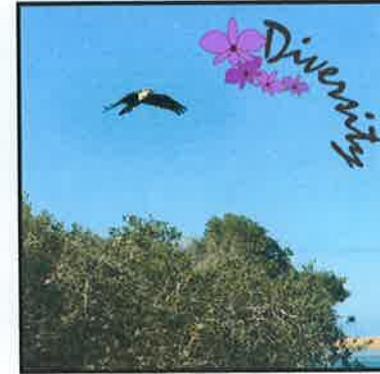
*Phebalium woombye*



*Philotheca queenslandica*



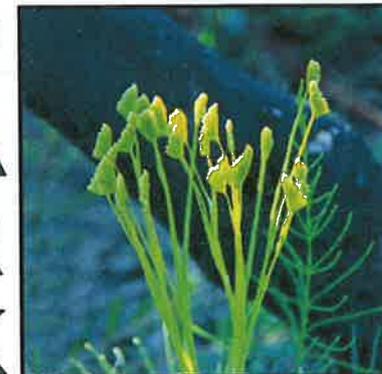
*Ricinocarpos pinifolius*



Eastern Osprey overhead



*Calochlaena dubia*



*Schizaea bifida*



*Tricoryne elatior*



*Xanthorrhoea fulva*

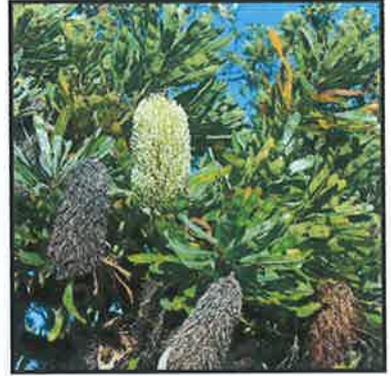
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Track over dunes



View west to Lake Weyba



*Banksia aemula*



*Boronia rosmarinifolia*



*Leptomeria acida*



*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*



*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*



*Styphelia viridis ssp. breviflora*



*Tetratheca thymifolia*



*Woollsia pungens*



*Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*



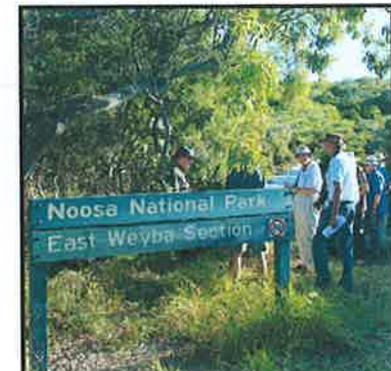
*Zieria laxifolia*



Pondering plant identification



Across the dunes to the sea



Waiting for coach at Peregian

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On the track up Mt Tinbeerwah



*Acacia hubbardiana*



View to Noosa from the track



*Commersonia viscidula*



*Goodenia rotundifolia*



*Hibiscus splendens*



Panoramic view from Mt Tinbeerwah to the north west



*Leptospermum microcarpum*



*Logania albiflora*



*Lomandra confertifolia ssp confertifolia*



*Philotheca difformis ssp smithiana*



*Plectranthus graveolens*



*Pomaderris argyrophylla*