

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

Guinea Flower

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Hibbertia stricta

Hello members, and other readers,

I must apologise for almost 18 months of "silence", no newsletter since August 2015, but I lost my inspiration and incentive, both of which I hope are now returning. It was probably a case of "burnout" which I've been lucky to avoid over nearly 40 years. So now I guess that "this old dinosaur is slowly emerging from her cave" and has even signed up for a Beginners' Computer Course held at our nearest local Council Library at Woodford. It will take a little time and probably a few more sessions, but I must "emerge" - the time has come to move on from my faithful little typewriter. So, without any more ado, Newsletter No. 41 is being prepared - at last! There is a lot to cover, so make a big cuppa, and find a comfy chair.

COMING ACTIVITIES are first on the list, with a very important change to start with.

VERY IMPORTANT - Don't go to Bribie Island on Sunday March 26th (next weekend). I made a big mistake when putting together the March/April/May programme for the latest (March 2017) Journal. Please refer back to the December 2016 Journal activities and the details for our outing to the Ewen Maddock Dam Wetlands, north of Landsborough. There are no facilities, but a comfort stop can be made back at Pioneer Park, at the northern end of Landsborough, where Caloundra Street meets the Steve Irwin Way. Sunshine Coast UBD Map 96 Ref. K 17/18. If the walk is done by 11.30/12 noon, we could have lunch back at the Landsborough Bakery (good stuff). So that is Sunday 26th March at the Ewen Maddock Dam & Wetlands - 9/9.30 start.

Our outing on Sunday 23rd April is to Skippy Park, Old Landsborough Road, between Beerwah and Landsborough. Signposted, so shouldn't miss it.

On the 14th May meet at Matthew Flinders Park, north of Beerburrum at 12 noon, for a walk with John Birbeck, focussing on Banksias of the area. Please note different time, we can have a quick lunch & cuppa before or after. As John is organising this walk along with members of Sunshine Coast Native Plants Society, I'll have to check details nearer the day.

This outing should tie in with our Banksia "project" 2017 - more on that later.

Those are our regular outing dates till May, after which we might have some Wallum areas included in our programme. These would be connected with another "project" which has been in the planning for some time now. More on that later.

Most of you would know that I have more than a passing interest in the work of that indomitable artist, writer and Wallum conservationist Kathleen McArthur, who lived at Caloundra for most of her life, and created a strong interest in the Wallum wildflowers which were everywhere. To encourage more of the community to learn more about these flowers, and to grow some, Kathleen decided to hold a small show and plant sale at her home "Midyim" at Caloundra. It was the year 1967, four years since she and 3 friends had started the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, to share their concerns over the increasing loss of our wildflower areas to developments. Her show was a success which outgrew her home, and several years later, it moved to Coolum Beach Community Hall. This annual Coolum Wildflower Show happened every year until, for



Boronia falcifolia

various reasons, it closed down at this venue in 2001. In the 2 years following, a smaller Show was successfully organised by the Coolum District Coastcare Group at the Coolum Beach Primary School.

At these 2 Shows we didn't have to worry about organising bus trips to look at the wildflowers - they were in the adjoining bushland. It was a sad year for us in 2004 with no Show anywhere, but there was a revival in 2005, albeit a little different in format. Festival organisers used the natural areas and various venues, for walks and presentations, etc. This was to become the Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival, and now, in 2017, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this Festival which grew from the small beginning in Kathleen McArthur's garden back in 1957.

I don't know how it will be celebrated up on the Sunshine Coast, but I'm sure the Wildlife Preservation Society memers won't let it go by forgotten. Keep tuned.

I first became involved with the Coolum Wildflower Show on 1990, mainly as a guide on the bus trips to various wildflower areas, showing people flowers they probably never knew existed, and which were basically inaccessible. At that time, I was the secretary of the S.G.A.P. group at Redcliffe, and we had a look at the Show in 1989 when we were spending a weekend at the Beerwah Field Study Centre. The Wildflower Show was a wonderful annual gathering of environmentally-minded people devoted to the conservation of our wild areas, and working hard to conserve as much as they could of the Wallum between Bribie Island and Tin Can Bay/Rainbow Beach. In 1992 I started this Study Group, and provided a display at the Coolum Flower Show. From then on till the Show's final days in 2003, I had my Sunshine Coast "holiday" for a varying number of days.

We "farewelled" Kathleen McArthur in 2000 at age 85, a couple of days before that year's Wildflower Show, and I wonder if she approves of what we are now doing, keeping alive her ambition to educate people about the Wallum - what is now left of it.

I am proud to have been part of so many activities linked to this plant community, and with age slowing me down, I now prefer simply to teach anyone who will look and listen. There are now many active groups and people caring for the various plant communities on the Sunshine Coast, and plant nurseries able to supply local species for gardens. The Coolum Community Native Nursery, a Coolum Coastcare project, has done well from its small beginnings, and a visit to it, at Yaroomba just south of Coolum Beach, is definitely not a waste of time. Open from Tuesday to Friday 7.30 - 3.30; Saturday 8.30 - 12.30; (Mondays by appointment) (07) 54739322, 23 Warran Road, Yaroomba Q 4573.

There are many other small nurseries on the Coast, concentrating on a variety of plant communities. Anyway, I'm wandering a bit, and need to attend to a couple of business matters before more plant "stuff".

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 2017.

With my "absence" things have got a bit neglected in the renewal of membership area. Quite a few are now well overdue, and I'll send you a reminder. I admit I've had a rather slack 18 months, but I would like to receive renewals to June 2017, because by then it will be close to renewals to June 2018.

If you have an email address, please provide it, as I will be needing it some time soon. Will you ensure that it is neatly written and readable?

COMPUTERS and "DINOSAURS"

I'd be the first to admit that I am a bit of a "dinosaur", and have avoided computer use as long as possible. At last I am emerging from my "cave", and venturing out to the Council Library at Woodford. Things are changing here, technology is here now and I can no longer ignore the changes. With the losses of Wallum wildflowers a couple of decades ago, I applied words from some songs of the crazy 70s to the situation. I changed a few words here & there, and got "Where have all the flowers gone?" when all the beautiful fields of mauve Sowerbaea juncea/Vanilla Lilies were lost at Marcoola and other places. Then there was (I think) the "Yellow Taxi" song which said that "but you don't know what you've got till it's gone - replace (?) Paradise, put up a parking lot". Now I have

another one - "And the times, they are a-changing". I thought I had another one, but can't remember for sure. I feel that these lyrics somehow describe some of what is taking place in our Wallum. Or am I just an old Hippie who missed out? But for now I have to get my brain around the operation of a computer. Don't hold your breath waiting for an online newsletter, I've a way to go yet.

The Wallum Study Group is at last being recognised as a possible useful part of the Society. Things are happening, forcing the old Dinosaur to emerge and learn. I have my hour each Thursday morning, trying to understand what is what with the computer. Our Study Group is changing a bit, with more members who are quite computer-savvy, and wanting the Study Group to move forward and catch up. To remain as leader, I must "emerge from my cave" and catch up, my poor old brain is getting some real exercise.

A couple of projects have been put our way, and I'll try to explain as briefly as possible what they are.

BANKSIA HYBRIDISATION is something we've rarely come across in our study of the Wallum.

Late in 2016 I received a call from a member of Aust. Plants Socy. NSW. regarding a study into the above, concentrating on Banksias robur & oblongifolia, and Banksias aemula and serrata, all of which occur here in south-east Queensland. Interestingly, until our February get-together on Bribie Island, I had never, in all my years of heathland rambling, seen Banksia serrata in such close-up as I did along the sandy track not far from the Community Nursery. This Banksia appears to have its northern limit at Bribie Island, and I hope to learn more about it. It is very similar to B. aemula but much more robust. From the interest from several members, it would seem that what we've been asked to do won't come as "hard work". During this year 2017, we'll be noting where these 4 Banksias are found growing along our coastal strip, or other sites (B. robur does occur in places on Mt. Mee north of Brisbane). Do we include Banksia robur where it has been successful as roadside and other landscaping? Flowering times from bud to finish, and any colour variations will also be included. The research is being conducted by Dr. Adrian Renshaw of the University of Western Sydney and others, and as they say - "It is right up our alley". Anyway, Adrian thought some of our Study Group members would be interested in helping with the research. Banksia robur is fairly well distributed around the lower Wallum wetlands on the Sunshine Coast, Bribie Island, is in the Beerwah Scientific Area 1, and probably many other places I don't know about. Banksia oblongifolia is often in the same areas, but on slightly higher and drier ground. It grows near the top of Emu Mountain north of Coolum Beach, and it was where, many years ago, I photographed a brush with a distinct greenish colour. And I'm sure that somewhere back in my early years of learning about the Wallum plants, I heard that Kathleen McArthur spoke about these two Banksias "cross-breeding". It would be very interesting to learn more about this possibility, so I hope members will be able to collect some facts during 2017.

Then we have the two other Banksias included in this research - Banksias aemula and serrata, both of which grow in company with each other at Bribie Island.

I use Banksia aemula as one of the Wallum Study Group's flowers used as our Logo, the other being Boronia falcifolia. In late February when I first saw Banksia serrata growing opposite Banksia aemula, I was amazed at the similarity but there was a difference obvious in the more robust tree and its brushes. These ranged from fresh buds through to well-finished old grey brushes.

I'm told by a Study Group member who manages the Community Nursery nearby that Banksia serrata is in several places on the Island, someday I hope to see more of them.

Snake Vine
Hibbertia scandens



So that is Project No. 1, it is not meant to be an onerous task for members, but something to do if you happen to be in a "Banksia area" at some time.

Something else has come the way of the Wallum Study Group, something which could fit into our outings programme.

A WALLUM GARDEN IN THE MT. COOT-THA BOTANIC GARDENS



Blandfordia grandiflora



Hibbertia stricta



Thelymitra pauciflora



Patersonia sericea



Styliidium graminifolium



Dampiera sylvestris

It could be said that this project could be "right up our alley", and it will be quite a challenge for the Gardens staff. But I'll leave them to worry about that and then I'll tell you where we will fit in. Many years ago, the new Curator of the Gardens, Dale Arvidsson, mentioned to me that there had been some thought about developing a Wallum garden, and that I might be contacted. Then last year at our Flower Show in August, Dale and I again discussed the subject, and it seems that the time has come to make definite plans for such a project. Dale isn't very familiar with Wallum and indicated that he might like to accompany our Group on any outings we have this year to Wallum areas. To date, plans for our excursions haven't gone past May, so we have the months of the Wallum flowers available. The Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival occupies the last two weeks of August, but won't affect us too much. I will need to speak with Dale again about when he is able to go "heathland rambling" with us, and then decide where and when to fit such outings into our plans. There is the possibility that some members might like to go further afield, (an hour or so) and visit a couple of places on the Sunshine Coast. This "project" will need some discussion, in the coming months, so be prepared for some "talk time" on our outings, or perhaps an extra outing to discuss "business". Please give it all some thought.

We have suffered one of our hottest years on record, but I haven't been out and about anywhere in the Wallum to see how it has managed. Rosa Sorensen of Mudjimba, and volunteer at the garden in Keith Royal Park, tells of how dry it is there and in her own garden, in their part of Mudjimba/Marcoola. Quite distressing to see plants lovingly collected and cared for, dying, but hoping some have sown seed to replace those lost. I call the little patch in Keith Royal Park "Betty's Garden" for Betty Sykes who saved it from the council mowers, and had bollards placed around it, to protect it. The glorious Pultenaea robusta and Dillwynia floribunda have both died and we can only hope that there is seed which will produce new plants to replace them. Each spring these are the feature of this little "garden" along with Leptospermum semibaccatum, Patersonia sericea and all the other little treasures in this part of the Park.

However, there has been rain, enough to refresh the plants and hopefully present the usual pretty Festival display in August.

Betty Sykes and I met at the 1995 Environment Day Festival, and have been friends ever since. She's a little bit older, but what a spirit! Last November (I think) she had one knee replacement operation at age about 90, is now considering having the other one done. She has learned about the Wallum flowers by following me around, and helping with the rescue of many plants, her house name is "WALLUM", and her "disciple" is Rosa, who in turn, is hoping to have someone follow her "in the Wallum". I have been delighted with our "line of succession", something all of us doing the work of caring for Nature hope will happen as we grow older, and need younger ones to follow us. The Wallum on the Sunshine Coast has suffered such brutal destruction, with the loss of so many beautiful places and their wildflowers. My generation (now in their 70s) has been blessed to have seen the Coast in its natural glory before the bulldozers moved in, and changed everything. These days, when putting together our quarterly programme of outings, it is hard to find the places and the variety of them to keep members interested. However, there have been new members to introduce to our favourite places, some of which they haven't visited.

And I have a funny little story to tell you, about a key, one of our favourite places to visit, a handbag, a few years of frustration about someone who is always mislaying things, and one of our 2017 "projects". So over the page you must go.

Hibbertia scandens goes wild

Volunteer plants often seem to do really well. Near a bird bath on the western side of our house, nestling under a fairly dense array of shrubs, a stray seed found a home.

This garden never gets supplemental watering but there might be some splash from the bird bath – which is more often dry than full of water. It would not seem a great environment in which to start life.

By the time I had noticed there were some extra leaves in the ornamental Corymbia Summer Beauty, the Hibbertia scandens was well and truly established. It rapidly spread over the Syzygium cascade, explored the Xanthostemon verticillatus and raced to the top of the Summer Beauty where it cascaded like a waterfall. I thought it looked great but then noticed that the Summer Beauty was starting to bend under the weight of the Hibbertia. This tree has been growing since 2001 so it has a sturdy trunk.

Time to prune, so several strands of the Hibbertia got a severe cut back. The Summer Beauty looked happier and flowered through the remaining Hibbertia leaves. A few months have passed and the Hibbertia is once again taking over.

That Hibbertia scandens is what I call a successful plant! However, I think it is time to curb its exuberance.



My thanks to Marie Livingstone, Sunshine Coast Branch N.P.O., for the picture and story about her very successful Hibbertia scandens. It is amazing how these things happen. In this case, because we are more familiar with this Hibbertia as a scrambling plant on the frontal dunes along the south-east Queensland coast. At the entrance to my Kilcoy doctor's waiting room and a nearby window, there are two trellisses as screens, with H. scandens on them. When I first saw them, I was delighted and decided to try to grow the plant, although Kilcoy has slightly more humidity than Moore. The prolonged harsh weather and probable lack of care (watering) has taken its toll on the Kilcoy plants, and they have suffered severe leaf fall. However, even the slight rainfall we've had has helped them to recover, and I hope they can return to what they previously were. As for my several plants at Moore, some in pots, some in the ground, that's another story. All alive, but need watering.

Before I sign off, I'll try to fit in brief reports on our activities since July 2015. Attendances varied from 2 to 13, with days at the Bribie Island Community Nursery the most popular. These are usually our last "date" for the year, using the Nursery as shelter from the summer sun, and they are often social gatherings, rather than wildflower walks. July 2015 found the Group at Toorbul where Richard & Carole Green are experimenting with an attempt to "Create a Wallum Garden". As this is their getaway residence, the plants are left to rely on Nature's care, which is sometimes lacking. Results vary, but a day at this garden is always pleasant.

Christmas Bells



Blandfordia grandiflora

September and October 2015 were "quiet" days, to the section of Freshwater National Park beside the Great Northern Garden of Remembrance, Deception Bay, and the heath of Mt. Mee.

Bribie Island Community Nursery was well-attended(13) for end-of-year and was a wonderful day for all. Welcome guests were Betty Sykes and Rosa Sorensen from the Sunshine Coast. I really enjoy days when everyone is busy chatting or doing something. The Nursery again sheltered us from the summer heat in February 2016 with good attendance, but

Vanilla Lily

also 8 apologies. We rambled around in some bushland at Chelsea Street, Kippa Ring in March, and 8 of us had a pleasant day at Mt. Mee in April 2016. We ventured (on foot) into the Beerwah Scientific Area 1 in June, but flowers were few. In July 6 walked the "upper track" to the old quarry at Beerburum - I was late and didn't walk, but we discussed the coming Spring Flower Show. With most members busy with all the activities in August, there was no outing.



Sowerbaea juncea

There were 2 outings in September, one with Sunshine Coast Branch near Landsborough, the other at Beerburum. October 2016 saw some of us on a "new" track at the Bobbie Sattler Reserve near the Corbould Racecourse. A very interesting walk in open bushland which led into semi-Wallum, and one we want to do again sometime. There were 8 present including 5 from Sunshine Coast N.P.Q. In November 2016 12 attended end-of-year gathering, and 9 came in February for a meeting and walk to see Banksias aemula and serrata. Where? you ask - at this time of year - the Bribie Island Community Nursery of course. It can be fun racking my brain to find places to visit, but we do get around here & there, although there are some interesting bushland and wetland areas I have in mind. The main problem is distance, and in many cases, the Sunday traffic.

Well, I have a little story which may amuse some while others will say "That's Barbara". I am always putting things down then can't remember where, and I spend half of my life looking for what I have "lost" until one day they turn up. The key for the Beerwah S.A. gates is carefully looked after by me, but a few years ago, I couldn't find it anywhere. Eventually I gave up looking, and that is why we always have to walk in. You've read about our proposed "projects" for 2017, and that one could include visits to the Beerwah S.A.1. The very week that all of this was being discussed, just by chance I was looking in my handbag for something, and remembered that there was another pocket on the side of the bag. I opened the velcro fastening, looked inside. Lo, and behold, it was full of keys, including that precious one lost for those recent years.

Trigger Flower

In late November 2016 I attended a "Wild/Flower Women Symposium" held at the Central Qld. University campus at Noosaville. To attend it I spent 2 nights at a caravan park at Tewantin, adding to my knowledge of various such parks on the Sunshine Coast. The presentations at the Symposium dealt with the many women who have been involved in a variety of ways with wildflowers - Conservation; Art; Plants & flowers. It began with the



Stylidium graminifolium

with the focus on Judith Wright and, of course, Kathleen McArthur, then moved on to other women, most of whom I had never heard of. Two "locals" gave presentations, these being Stephanie Haslam of Noosa, author of "Noosa's Native Plants" and Maree Prior from Tin Can Bay, who works for the environment in various ways. Some years ago she was an artist too, but nowadays that is in the background. Her information on development proposals for Rainbow Beach & Tin Can Bay horrified.

Please excuse mistakes - B.H.