

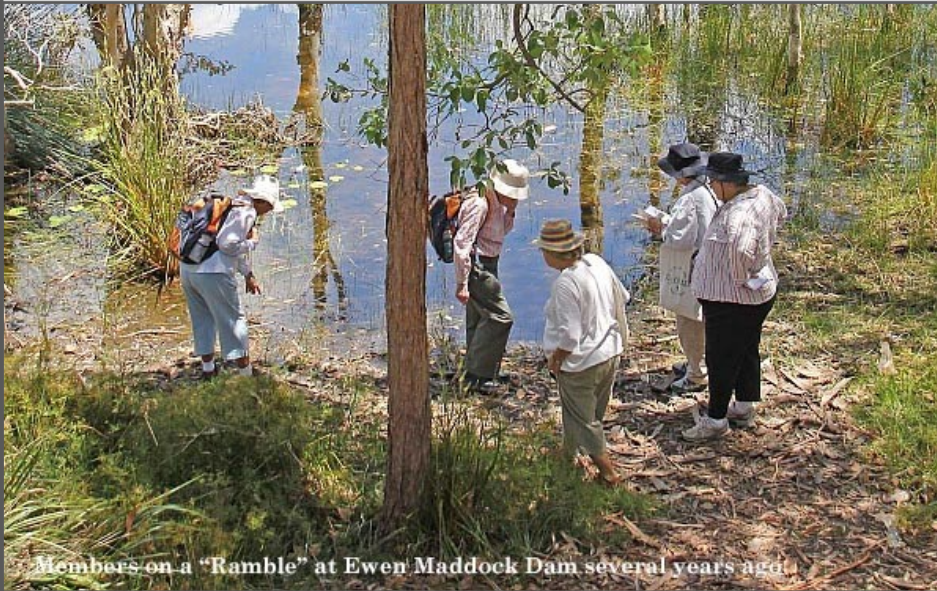
WALLUM

AND COASTAL HEATHLAND STUDY GROUP



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Members on a "Ramble" at Ewen Maddock Dam several years ago

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From our Leader

Greetings members and other readers, your Study Group Leader is still with you but a few changes have been made. Due to my lack of modern technology skills, Allan Carr is now our Newsletter Editor but I'll provide some Wallum info from time to time. Allan is also looking after our outings now.

Anyway, here I am with a few business items. I hope you've all renewed your Native Plants Queensland membership. Study Group memberships fall due in June so thank you to those who've already renewed. Ours remain at \$5.00 and can be sent to me by cash or cheque to the address on the right. Cheques should be made payable to "Wallum Study Group" not to me. You can pay for a couple of years if you wish.

Members with an email address should send it to Allan at the address on the right.

Please get your membership renewals to me soon so I can get our end of financial year records in order and start getting organised again. I've been through a rough patch but hopefully regaining my enthusiasm. Allan's assistance with the newsletter will be a help along with a few small changes we are looking at. We welcome any ideas and suggestions from members.

The Native Plants Queensland Journal has had some interesting and colourful articles lately and the "Heathland Ramble" has shrunk somewhat. I've decided to cease providing the "Ramble" and instead shorter versions will be included in this newsletter.

Barbara H.

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Hibbertia stricta

Jeanette Martin

Discussion Outcomes

- Future excursions will be bi-monthly in March, May, July, September, and November. (for the rest of 2019 - Jul, Aug, Sep, Nov)
 - These will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
 - These gatherings will include a plant swap. (from July 2019)
 - We should include a 'meeting/discussion' at some of these.
 - We should try to include at least one excursion per year on the south side of Brisbane)
 - We should place more priority on what Wallum plants we grow and record our successes. (Thank you Robert for your list. **We need more of these from members.**)
- If you have any comments on these outcomes please let us know as soon as possible.**



Members on the Soldier Settlers' Trail

Our Last Excursion at Beerburrum

In June, eleven members plus two visitors met at Parrot Park for our walk on the Soldier Settlers' Trail nearby - not real Wallum country but a botanically interesting location where we saw some species found in Wallum areas including the two at the left. It was really encouraging to have such a good attendance following the very low numbers at our previous outings.

We enjoyed a quick cuppa before walking on the trail from the Beerburrum Cemetery. Along the way we encountered flowering *Banksia spinulosa* var. *collina*, *Epacris pulchella*, *Leptospermum microcarpum*, *Lomandra multiflora*, *Pultenaea myrtoides*, *Westringia eremicola* and many others without flowers including the vulnerable *Dodonaea rupicola* with its lovely rusty brown hairy fruits and *Monotoca scoparia* with tiny fruits.

Back at Parrot Park we had our lunch and a discussion about ideas for future activities of the group. **The discussion outcomes are listed top left.**

Did You Know?

One of our past members, Don Perrin, completed a second edition of his *Dictionary of Botanical Names* before he passed away in 2017. His daughter, Mutiara finished the publication task in 2018. It is available from greendataprojects@gmail.com.

Don was long time member of the study group and SGAP Qld Region/ Native Plants Qld. One of his many achievements was the 'Wallum Project' which grew into Redcliffe Botanic Gardens, opened in 1995. Each year Moreton Bay Regional Council award a **Don Perrin Environmental Bursary** of \$2000 in his memory.

DICTIONARY OF
BOTANICAL
NAMES



compiled &
illustrated by Don Perrin

Allan C.



Monotoca scoparia



Epacris pulchella

Feature Plant

Burchardia umbellata milkmaids COLCHICACEAE

Pronunciation: bur-CHARD-ee-a um-bell-ARE-ta

Derivation: *Burchardia*, after Johann Heinrich Burckhard, a German botanist; *umbellata*, from the Latin, *umbella* - a little shadow or umbrella and the suffix *-atus* - possessive of or likeness to (comparing the flower stems to the spokes of an umbrella).

Burchardia is a genus of about 6 species endemic to Australia, this one in heathlands and woodlands of eastern and southern states, all the others in WA.

Description: *B. umbellata* is a small, tufted herb to 65 cm with tuberous roots in moist sandy soils. They have a cluster of up to 10 carrot-like tubers under the stems.

Leaves: Tiny stem leaves and one or two long, partly rolled leaves to 60 mm x 4 mm are grass-like at the plant base. These and the stems die back after flowering and fruiting.



Burchardia umbellata flowers
The reddish centres become the fruits.



Burchardia umbellata fruits, some with
withered petals at their bases.

Flowers are sweetly scented, 6-petalled to 20 mm across and white with reddish centres and purple anthers. They are arranged in terminal clusters (umbels) of 2 to 9 on thin stalks to 60 cm from September to November.

Fruits are papery three-cornered capsules to 5 mm long with many tiny granular seeds.

Aboriginal people ate the thickest tubers raw or roasted in the coals. They are white, fleshy, crisp, and starchy, with a nondescript flavour.

These plants are rarely available in nurseries, but can be propagated from seed with no pre-treatment and kept in containers. They require moist, well-drained soils and sunny or lightly shaded locations.

Have any members grown them successfully? If you have, let us know about your experience so we can include your story in a future newsletter.

A Western Australian Species

Burchardia congesta is a very similar species which grows in south-western WA in coastal areas from Geraldton to Albany. The yellow colour of the anthers and flower centres which become the fruits seem to be the only differences. The size is the same and flowering occurs at about the same time.

In September 2014, Diane and I photographed them in Kings Park Botanic Gardens in Perth, Red Gully Reserve to the north and at Western Flora Caravan Park near Eneabba.

All photos by Allan Carr *Burchardia congesta* in Kings Park, Perth, WA>



Some Banksias and Boronias of south-east Queensland

Banksias have been on my mind a lot lately, probably due to my disappointment at being unable to get a *Banksia robur* to grow in a little bit of garden near the back entrance to my Moore half acre. With five *Melaleuca thymifolia* (from Coolum Community Nursery, natural to the Coolum area) already there. I hoped to get at least one *B. robur* to join them, growing together as a miniature Wallum patch. Several years ago I planted the *B. robur* but it wasn't very happy and finally its leaves yellowed and died. Then early in 2017 a couple of slender shoots appeared. I didn't get too excited as they reached about 20cm, looking rather fragile. Anyway, they died off late in 2018 and I won't bother trying again, I'll just admire them where they have been used for landscaping on the Sunshine Coast.

For some time now I've been thinking that our Study Group could have a definite logo. *B. aemula* is used by Sunshine Coast and Caboolture Daytime branches but I think we should have wet Wallum species, *B. robur* with the lovely little *Boronia falcifolia* as its companion. Both have the same habitat – the wet Wallum coastal heathland, while the contrast in size is spectacular. The Banksia's flower brushes can reach 20cm while the Boronia's four pink petals reach only 10mm, quite a difference. The large stiff leaves of the Banksia with their yellow margins and mid veins to 30cm certainly outsize the Boronia's 20mm aromatic leaves in whorls on the stems. This Boronia grows as a small shrub to 1m and it was once a wonderful sight - a field of these with their pink among other yellow and white Wallum wildflowers. Of course I have a deep affection for this Wallum Boronia which my Scottish father called "swamp heather".



Banksia robur in dark blue-green



Banksia robur in soft gold



Banksia robur in light brown



Banksia robur leaves in soft coppery pink

These two plants that I'm suggesting for a Wallum Study Group logo are always found in the wet heathland swamps in the low – lying area behind the dunes and other places with peaty, sandy soil. Late Winter and Spring, late July to early October are the best times to see this beautiful Boronia but sadly, as with much of our coastal heathlands most of these areas have been lost to various developments over the years. I was blessed with seven childhood years on pre-bridge Bribie Island back in the 1950s and absolutely enjoyed the wildflowers each year. Later, when I discovered a Redcliffe group studying Australian native plants I learned what all these flowers were.

B. robur, the swamp banksia, probably doesn't catch as much attention as other Banksias whose flower brushes are cream or golden and more easily noticed. But, when you are lucky enough to see it in flower with its several different coloured brushes that is when you notice its quiet beauty. It can have five different colours: dark blue-green buds, deep green turning to soft gold which becomes light brown before aging to grey as we do. Those wondrous leaves have beauty too in the new growth which is a soft coppery pink on reddish-brown stems. New bud spikes are reddish until everything goes green and those buds turn a lovely dark blue-green. Yes indeed, *B. robur* has a beauty all its own and would be a lovely logo for us with a spray of pink *Boronia falcifolia* somehow fitted artistically in with the Banksia.

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Continued from page 4

As I have already mentioned, Banksias in general do not grow at Moore. When I came to Moore in 2005, my neighbours had a lovely *Banksia spinulosa* in their garden, but it gradually “grew backwards” and died a few years ago. To my knowledge *Boronia falcifolia* has so far defied all efforts to cultivate it, a pity because like many of the delightful Wallum plants it would help create beautiful little gardens. It seems that the only *Boronia* which can be grown is the near-threatened and protected *B. rivularis* which occurs mainly in the Tin Can Bay/ Fraser Island area. People from other States which have *Boronias* with scented flowers often have to be told that our species have aromatic foliage to their disappointment. Rubbing the leaves between your fingers enables you to experience this often elusive pleasure. In one species, *B. rosmarinifolia*, the forest boronia, it is not a very pleasant smell but the plant is a lovely small shrub of the open forests.

Barbara H.



Boronia falcifolia flowers

Here's a list of Wallum plants that Robert and Linda Price are growing at their place

<i>Acacia hubbardiana</i>	<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>
<i>Acacia suaveolens</i>	<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>	<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i>
<i>Allocasuarina emuina</i>	<i>Eucalyptus bancroftii</i>	<i>Melaleuca pachyphylla</i>
<i>Austromyrtus dulcis</i>	<i>Gahnia aspera</i>	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>
<i>Baeckea frutescens</i>	<i>Gahnia clarkei</i>	<i>Melaleuca thymifolia</i>
<i>Baloskion tetraphyllum</i>	<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	<i>Monotoca sp. Fraser Island</i>
<i>Banksia oblongifolia</i>	<i>Grevillea leiophylla</i>	<i>Oxylobium robustum</i>
<i>Banksia robur</i>	<i>Grevillea reptans</i>	<i>Patersonia sericea</i>
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	<i>Hakea florulenta</i>	<i>Phebalium woombye</i>
<i>Blechnum indicum</i>	<i>Hibbertia vestita</i>	<i>Philotheca queenslandica</i>
<i>Callitris columellaris</i>	<i>Homoranthus virgatus</i>	<i>Seringia hillii</i>
<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	<i>Hovea acutifolia</i>	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i>	<i>Leptospermum semibaccatum</i>	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>
<i>Crinum pedunculatum</i>	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	<i>Xanthorrhoea johnsonii</i>
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	

And a list of other coastal plain plants at their place

<i>Acronychia imperforata</i>	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>
<i>Acrotriche aggregata</i>	<i>Exocarpos latifolia</i>	<i>Plectranthus graveolens</i>
<i>Alectryon coriaceus</i>	<i>Jacksonia scoparia</i>	<i>Pultenaea villosa</i>
<i>Alyxia ruscifolia</i>	<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	<i>Stephania japonica</i>
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>	<i>Trochocarpa laurina</i>
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>	<i>Lomandra confertifolia</i>	<i>Viola banksia</i>
<i>Curculigo ensifolia</i>	<i>Lomandra laxa</i>	<i>Westringia eremicola</i>
<i>Cyclophyllum coprosmoides</i>	<i>Lomatia silaifolia</i>	<i>Wikstroemia indica</i>
<i>Dianella brevipedunculata</i>	<i>Oplismenus aemulus</i>	<i>Wollastonia biflora</i>
<i>Eragrostis interrupta</i>	<i>Ottochloa gracillima</i>	<i>Zieria minutiflora</i>

The photos below and to the right were taken at Beachmere Conservation Park in 2017.



Banksia integrifolia



Gahnia aspera



Eustephus latifolius



One of the interpretive signs

Beachmere Conservation Park

Our excursion this month will be at the Beachmere Conservation Park. This 16.3ha area contains five Regional Ecosystems, of which three have 'of concern' biodiversity status (12.2.5, 12.2.7, 12.3.5a). It also borders on the Moreton Bay Marine Park so has a few mangrove species. The other two Regional Ecosystems are 12.1.1 and 12.1.3.

It contains some Corymbia and Melaleuca open forest with over seventy other species recorded by NPQ Caboolture Branch including a few Wallum species and one or two rainforest edge species.

Interestingly, this is one of twenty properties donated to the Queensland Government for conservation purposes by Harold Edward (Ted) Corbould, a wealthy pastoralist, philanthropist and artist who died in 1989. Two of the other donated properties are located on the Sunshine Coast.

Allan C.

For Your Diary

9.30am Sunday, 28 July - Meet at Beachmere Conservation Park (UBD Map 60:P13). Lunch after at Clayton Park nearby. **Part of this park is scheduled for a hazard reduction burn but there are other places close by where we can walk if necessary.**

9.30am Sunday, 18 August - Meet at Crummunda Park (UBD Map Sunshine Coast 90:E19). Walk in Currimundi Lake Conservation Park (Kathleen McArthur) (UBD Map 90:G18). Lunch after at Crummunda Park.

9.30am Sunday, 22 September - Meet at D'Aguilar Rest Area (UBD Map 35:L9). Walk at Raaen Road (UBD Map 35:A7). Lunch after at Raaen Road or D'Aguilar.

- Each time you will need to bring morning tea, water, hat, walking shoes, lunch, (sunscreen and/ or insect repellent)



Leptospermum semibaccatum

Marcus High Dunes
Noosa National Park

Some of the poorest places on Earth also have the richest plant species diversity.

Wallum Hotspot

Marcus High Dunes, an area of natural wet and dry heathland in the East Weyba Section of Noosa National Park, is another area saved from urban housing development with the help of the Noosa Parks Association in 2001.

The easiest access is from Hawthorn Grove where you can follow the fire trail between an area of wet Wallum and Melaleuca forest.

This eventually winds around north to the track following the crest of the high dunes back east towards David Low Way. It is certainly a hotspot of Wallum species like the those in photos on this page.



Lomandra elongata flowers
Marcus High Dunes, Noosa National Park

The Blandfordias seem to flower there during the winter months too and there's always something interesting there for Wallum watchers including magnificent views from high on the dunes.

This area is scheduled for a walk in the program of the **Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival** on Friday, 23 August later this year.

Reminders

Check the details of our next excursions on page 6.

If you live in south-east Qld check the program of free walks in the Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival at - www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



Thyasnotus tuberosus Jeanette Martin

Do any of you have interesting things happening in your gardens? **Have you compiled a list of your Wallum plants yet?**

Articles and photos are always welcome for others to read and learn about as we try to be the first to successfully grow *Boronia falcifolia* or a species equally challenging.



Blandfordia grandiflora flowers
Marcus High Dunes, Noosa National Park



Dillwynia floribunda flowers
Marcus High Dunes, Noosa National Park