

REDCLIFFE & DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY FOR GROWING  
**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**



Hon. Secretary,  
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NOVEMBER 1995.

As secretary of one, and leader of the other, I have planned this coming weekend at the Beerwah Field Study Centre, Roys Road, Beerwah, as a joint excursion for the two groups. This particular date was chosen to coincide with the flowering of the local Christmas Bells - Blandfordia grandiflora, which were at their peak last year at the end of November, and into December.

The Scientific Study Area within the Beerwah section of the Beerburrum State Forest is used by the DPI/Forestry for experimental burns, and is divided into "blocks" of varying sizes. Different time spans are trialled, to determine a suitable pattern for the several plant communities in the Area, and the Christmas Bells are concentrated in and around one such "block".

So if you haven't seen many (or any) Christmas Bells in the wild, take this opportunity to experience their beauty. Here at least, they aren't in an area currently destined for clearing and developing. And there will be other Wallum plants in flower at this time of year, to illustrate that there is always something to see through the seasons.

The Wallum Study Group has been observing regeneration of the areas burnt by Forestry in August 1994, and will continue to study the effects of fire on Wallum plants. This will be done in coordination with DPI/Forestry records. As entry to the Scientific Study Area is restricted, a weekend such as this is a marvellous opportunity to visit on the Study Group's permit, held by me, and allowing members access, either on foot or by car.

The weekend was originally planned as the Redcliffe & District SGAP's break-up excursion, but as 8 members (and yours truly) belong to the Wallum Study Group, I decided to invite nearby members of the Study Group to come along too.

Beerwah Field Study Centre was originally the accommodation for State Forest workers, but was then leased to the Estuarine Research Group until John Shuttleworth became too ill to manage the Centre. The Australian Littoral Society, now the Australian Marine Conservation Society, took over the lease a few years ago, and its proximity to both the region north of Brisbane, and the Sunshine Coast, makes it an ideal "base" for our two groups. The Wallum areas also have a more permanent future, allowing us to use them for our studies. The two cottages can sleep 18-20 persons, and there is ample space for camping in either tents or vehicles.

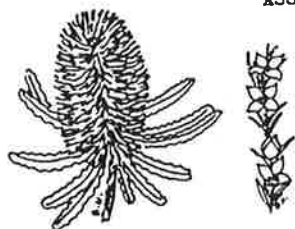
There is a new environment-friendly amenities block, full kitchen facilities, hot & cold water. You bring your own bedding - sleeping bags/sheets & blankets and pillow-cases, and your food. Crockery and cutlery is provided, and cooking utensils, there is a stove and fridge.

Cottage accommodation is \$8 per person overnight, camping is \$5, and there is a day-use fee of \$2. So if you decide to come for the whole weekend it will cost you \$12 or \$9. I'll be staying overnight on Saturday, and will be delighted if a few others could see their way to do the same. My usual Beerwah "company", Sue Gallagher, will be away on Naturesearch business, and will miss this weekend, and it will be a bit lonely on my own. For overnight stayers, there could be some "entertainment" by way of some slides, or it will be an opportunity to sit and chat. The cottages have a covered "BBQ" area, and we can light a fire in there, if the night is cool.

I'm told the mossies are in force in the bush, with some at the buildings, so bring your repellent, and mossie coils or citronella candles, if you want to.

If this rain (lovely, isn't it) keeps up into the weekend, you can stay home, just phone me to check, preferably during Friday.

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS



Wallum (Coastal Heathland)  
Study Group

Leader: Barbara Henderson.

The format for the weekend will be fairly relaxed and informal. We will look at the Scientific Study Area (and the Christmas Bells) in the morning on both Saturday and Sunday, and on Saturday afternoon, if that is the only time that some members can be there. Then there will be time for social chit-chat, which we all enjoy but never have enough time for, and perhaps some general discussion about what the Branch and Study Group members would like the groups to do in future.

I hope to use an hour or so after lunch on Saturday for the members of Redcliffe & District SGAP to deal with correspondence and important business, thus freeing the following Tuesday's night meeting for a more social break-up evening and supper. Could those coming to Beerwah on the weekend please let me know, and on which day or days? Knowing this will enable me to organise some timetable for the two days. As well, I need to have some idea of numbers, for the Centre's Co-ordinator regarding accomodation. I will be home each night this week except Friday (Qld. Region's Council meeting), and you can always phone me early in the mornings. If Geoff answers the phone, please just tell him if you are coming or not, thanks. Phone number is (07) 32899272.

Each day will begin around 9.00a.m., but come earlier on Sunday if you like. You can leave for home at any time, or bring the evening meal and stay late or overnight on Saturday. Don't feel like cooking? Beerwah township has good take-aways, and bakery.

As mentioned before, bring mossie repellent, and sunscreen for daytime. The way the weather is looking at the moment, you'll also need raincoats, umbrellas and gumboots. The gumboots could be needed in the Christmas Bell area, following this rain, and as the Wallum vegetation can be rough on legs, wear long pants for protection, these can also protect you from mossie attack.

Water bottle and notebook might be handy, plus binocs, cameras, field guides to birds, other reference books, and anything else you feel is necessary.

This is the final date for the Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group (note the slight change in the title, will explain in the next newsletter) for 1995, as your leader has to go into recess for Christmas for a few weeks. A newsletter is in the pipeline, with news about the Conference at Ballarat, and the Victorian wildflowers. If there is a red dot in the corner with the Study Group heading, it means that you haven't yet paid the 1995-96 subscription.

Redcliffe & District SGAP has their break-up supper evening next Tuesday, the 28th, don't forget to bring a plate of eats, and a few garden flowers to show. I'll be showing some slides of the Blackdown Tableland, and Rockhampton's Kershaw Gardens, as a little preview for next year's State Conference at Rockhampton.

There is a final "date" on Saturday 9th December, at the Wallum Project, using the George Street entrance. Bring a picnic lunch, and be there at 12 noon, as Don Perrin would like to speak to us about the Project and plans for its future. Don has often hoped to discuss it at meetings, but there never seems to be enough time to go into sufficient and satisfactory detail. So we agreed that it would be more fitting to have any discussion at the Wallum Project itself, where Don has everything at his fingertips, so to speak.

Then we go into Christmas recess, to resume on Sunday 21st January 1996, with a garden visit starting at 9.30a.m., followed by social lunch and discussion of the activities programme for 1996. This get-together will be held at the Prince Edward Parade, Redcliffe, home of Arthur and Marie Higgs.

Hopefully, a final 1995 newsletter will reach members before Christmas, as lots of interesting things have happened recently.

Till then, I hope to see you at Beerwah next weekend. Now I must away and go out to do some grocery shopping to stock-up just in case the creek comes up, and I get "rained in", as the local saying goes. Wouldn't that be lovely!

Yours in S.G.A.P.,

Barbara H.



BONNY MILLS  
1989.

