

NPA News



National Parks Association of Queensland Inc.
Vol 80 No 7 August 2010

Marine Conservation
Carnarvon Ranges
Bimblebox Update

Leafy Sea Dragon

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Next NPA News Closing Date 9th August
Cover photograph - Leafy Sea Dragon off Albany
by **Tim Nichol**
Inside cover photographs - Ann Ingham
Karen Langton

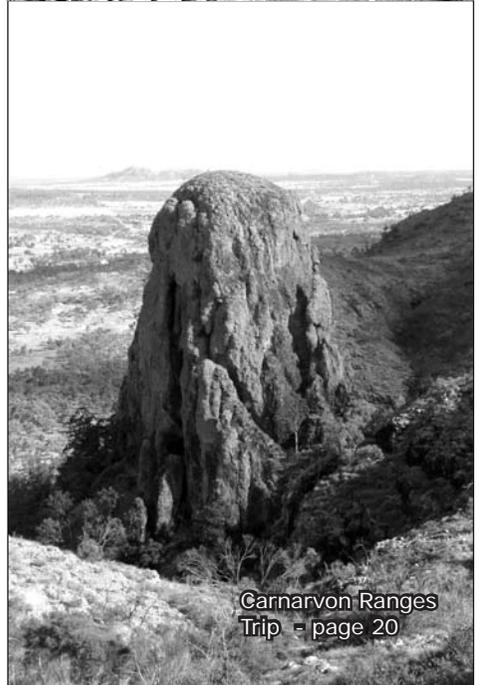
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Enoggera Walk -
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Carnarvon Ranges
Trip - page 20



From the President

Tony O'Brien

This is an exciting time for NPAQ and for National Parks in Queensland.

On the advocacy front, we are seeing the declaration by the State Government on the future of North Stradbroke Island now move to the stage of community consultation. NPAQ members have been active participants at these meetings. Additionally, NPAQ is making formal submissions and representations to the Government, putting forward our view on how to best manage the transition from an economy based around mining to one based on sustainable tourism and recreation.

By getting this transition right, and that means, in part, preserving the few remaining pristine areas on the Island for National Park protection, the State Government will be making a significant contribution to the future wellbeing of the land and people of Queensland.

We congratulate the Government on the consultation process it has undertaken, and look forward to the views of all Queenslanders prevailing in protecting this vital asset.

Our Executive Coordinator, Paul Donatiu, is back with us after his study tour overseas and we welcome him back with enthusiasm. As we work toward National Parks being elevated to their rightful place as the priority means of providing protection for the natural environment in Queensland, leading to better recreational opportunities and better climate change responsiveness, Paul's professional credibility assists in getting our message across in many avenues. This study tour will strengthen that position.

In this NPAQ News, Paul will also provide more detail on the outcomes of the Queensland State budget which provided much greater certainty for National Park acquisitions. We have written to the Minister responsible, the Hon. Kate Jones, and to the Premier, the Hon. Anna Bligh, commending them on this step forward.

There are still many challenges, not the least of which is funding for National Park management. We will continue to pursue these matters with vigour.

Thank you to the many members who have already contributed generously to our annual appeal to fund our work on behalf of National Parks in Queensland. Your Council, Executive and staff members will continue to strive for the outcomes we all seek in protecting our natural environment.

As we engage with each other and other like minded groups in this, our 80th year, we have much of which to be proud.

With best wishes
Tony O'Brien



From the Executive Coordinator

Paul Donatiu

If you made it to the June General Meeting, then you would have heard Tony summarise the environmental outcomes of the State Budget for 2010-11. So what was in it for National Parks and protected areas?

\$56m over five years from 2010-11 to acquire land for protection, particularly National Parks

This is substantially better than the \$5.8m committed in 2009-10. It also means that this figure could be trebled if the State Government successfully applies for Commonwealth funding under the National Reserve System

guidelines. And over \$160m for new National Parks means that DERM can be proactive in its selection of new Park lands. This is critical if new National Parks are going to mitigate climate impacts as corridors, mosaics or migratory stepping stones. NPAQ has been lobbying for some time for a substantial budget allocation for Park acquisitions. This commitment will certainly help the State meet its 2020 National Park target of 7.5% or 12.9m ha of National Park. Note that the most recent figures from DERM (4th June) put the Park estate at just over 8.1m ha or 4.71% of Queensland!

\$8.4m to continue the Nature Assist program for Nature Refuges in Queensland totalling \$15m over five years

As you know, the Government has also committed itself to expanding total protected area to 20m ha by 2020. This leaves 7.1m ha to be covered by tenures other than National Park. Nature Refuges are an important component of this latter figure, and have almost doubled in the last 12mths to 1.7m ha. Nature Assist (NA) is the incentive program that enables landholders with a Nature Refuge agreement on their property to access resources to protect biodiversity (fencing, herbicide, revegetation). It was unclear whether NA would continue beyond the 2009-10 year, so this is another real plus in the State Budget. Nature Refuges remain subject to resource extraction (Bimblebox is perhaps the best example) and NPAQ continues to lobby for additional protection of these lands.

BIOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE GEO-DIVERSITY IN THE DEEP CORAL SEA

Dr Robin J. Beaman
James Cook University

The RV Southern Surveyor used to be a North Sea trawler, and at 66 m long is now Australia's largest blue-water research vessel. In late 2007 while surveying the Coral Sea offshore from Cairns, our diverse science crew of geologists, geochemists, biologists and robotics engineers stared in amazement at the detailed 3D images of the seabed scrolling across the computer screens within the Operations Room. Beneath the ship, fan-shaped pulses of sound were directed at the seafloor by a multibeam echosounder, and the resulting acoustic reflections generated a digital, multi-coloured strip of the seabed several km wide comprised of millions of individual depth points.

This expedition along the outer-shelf of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and in the adjacent Coral Sea provided the first ever views of an incredibly complex seabed, which has since revealed a treasure trove of scientific discoveries.

Several years earlier, my colleagues and I had a few clues that the GBR margin was not as it seemed while studying the geomorphology, or shape, of the seabed obtained from detailed Navy bathymetric surveys. A line of barrier reefs appeared to lie seaward of the modern coral reefs in depths of between 30 to 70 m, and then a series of terraces lay outside of these deeper reefs to depths of about 110 m. Could these deeper barrier reefs actually be fossil reefs that grew during lower

sea-levels, and what could they tell us about the responses of the GBR to past environmental change?

With these questions in mind, we mounted the expedition on the Southern Surveyor, and have since confirmed that there is an almost unbroken line of fossil coral reefs that extend for over 900 km along the shelf edge. Using the detailed 3D maps generated onboard, we targeted the reefs and terraces with our trusty underwater robot, which returned with high-resolution images of the prolific soft corals and other sessile (attached) life growing within this twilight zone.

We also ventured further offshore and surveyed an unusual cluster of bumps, or knolls, in depths of about 1200 m within the Queensland Trough, which separates the GBR shelf from the Queensland Plateau. The knolls were 200 to 300 m above the surrounding flat seafloor and were discovered to be the tips of giant debris blocks that had originated from a massive underwater landslide on the GBR margin, leaving a 600 m high scarp in the continental slope. The blocks had come to rest in the basin, and had slowly become buried in sediment except for their tips.

Deciding to sample the top of the largest knoll, we lowered a rock dredge over 1000 m to the seafloor. To the excitement of all onboard, we had discovered a cold-water coral community using the knolls as a preferred habitat. These corals differ from tropical shallow-water corals in that they lack symbiotic algae and typically exist in deeper waters below the photic (sun-lit) zone. They are fragile and slow growing, making

them vulnerable to physical damage and disturbance by deep-sea fishing. Subsequently named the Gloria Knolls, after the sonar technology used to find them, this cold-water coral habitat is a good example of the incredible geological diversity, and their associated biological diversity, found within the deep Coral Sea.

The 2007 expedition and several later expeditions have now discovered over a hundred submarine canyons and gullies incised into the steeper margins of the GBR and Queensland Plateau. Some of these canyons are over 2 km in height and which direct rivers of sediment from the shallower waters into the deeper basins. In many places, we have found the lower continental slope showing extensive scarp features, just like the landslide that created the Gloria Knolls, where the seafloor has collapsed and spread debris over vast areas of the surrounding basins. Many of these seabed features dwarf in size similar features found on land, and all are the result of ancient geological processes that have shaped the underwater landscape, or seascape, into the complex environment that we are only just beginning to see.

What is clear from numerous other studies around the world is that geology controls biology on the deep seafloor. Therefore mapping the ocean is the key to understanding the distribution of deep-sea ecosystems. In other words, map the geology and you can then understand the spatial distribution of the associated biological assemblages. For example, where slope gradients are steep, such as on scarps or exposed rock faces, there tends to be

a lack of accumulating sediment and any hard-ground substrate provides ideal attachment surfaces for sessile invertebrates. These animals are typically filter-feeders, such as corals and sponges, and can form complex biological structures that also provide micro-habitats for other creatures. In contrast, lower slope gradients tend to accumulate fine sediments that typically favour mobile animals which are deposit-feeders, such as worms and echinoderms. Areas subject to regular disturbances, such as in submarine canyons, will have different biological communities compared to areas with a different disturbance regime.

So in an effort to assist marine managers tasked with understanding the range of geo-diversity, or the key physiographic features, found in the Coral Sea, a new high-resolution digital elevation model (DEM) has been developed for the entire GBR and adjoining Coral Sea at a grid pixel resolution of 100 m. The new grid is called '3DGBR' and utilises the latest data sourced from ship-based multibeam and singlebeam echosounder surveys, airborne lidar bathymetry surveys, and satellite remotely sensed imagery.

The new grid is envisaged as a spatial tool for use by scientists and the general public, in addition to the managers, in order to help inform the current debate about the future of the Coral Sea. The new grid is currently being converted into user-friendly digital formats that can also be viewed in Google Earth, so that anyone can take their own underwater tour across the Coral Sea and discover the incredible complexity of the seabed for themselves.

Figure 1. Oblique view of the northern Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea region.

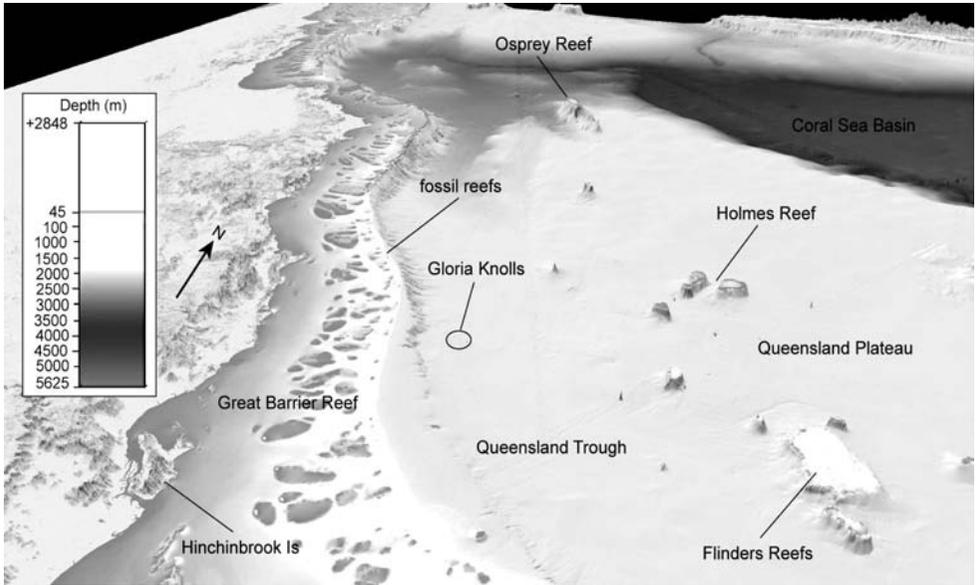
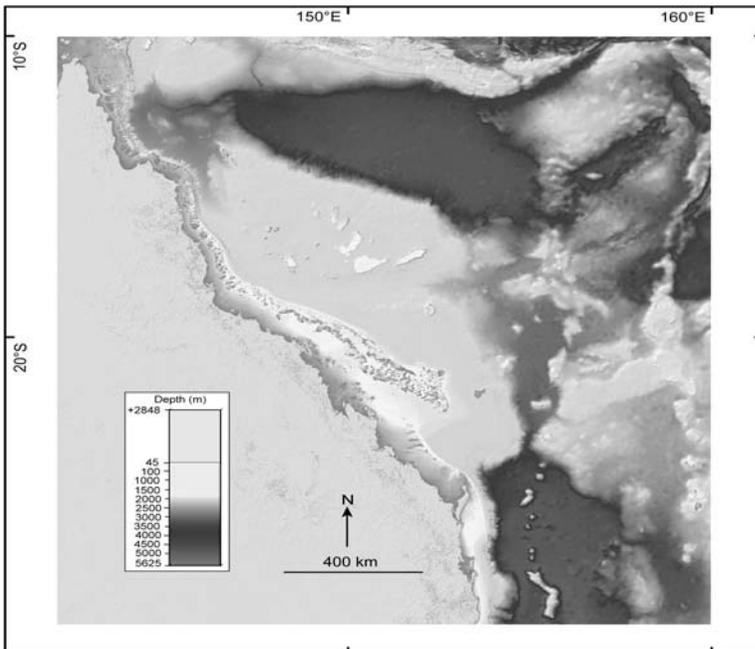


Figure 2. Mercator projection map of the new '3DGBR' grid for the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea



PROTECT OUR CORAL SEA CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Imogen Zethoven, Coral Sea Campaign,
Pew Environment Group

Since Barry the Wrasse, spokesperson for the Protect our Coral Sea campaign, last appeared in the NPAQ newsletter (November 2009), he has been criss-crossing the country and turning up in all sorts of unexpected locations. As many NPAQ readers will know, Barry the Wrasse features on a 30 second TV commercial, which shows many of his marine friends in the Coral Sea. Barry has appeared on Qantas in-flight entertainment, on the giant screens at Big Day Out festivals and has recently been seen in the Famous Faces column in the Sunday Telegraph (4th July 2010).

Joining Barry are the voices of over 28,000 supporters who have written letters to federal MPs, calling for the establishment of a very large, world-class, highly protected marine park in the Coral Sea, right next to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP).

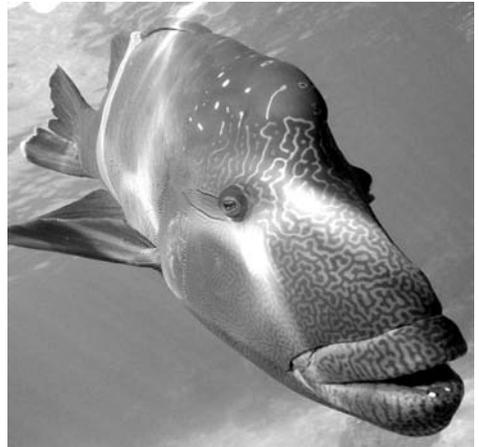
The public momentum is having an effect. In May 2009, the Federal Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett, declared a Coral Sea Conservation Zone over 972,000 sq. km. The declaration provides interim protection while the area is being assessed for inclusion in a Commonwealth marine park.

In March this year, Minister Garrett released a map of Commonwealth waters offshore of Queensland and New South Wales, which his Department will assess for potential marine park declaration. The Coral Sea Conservation Zone is included in this new map.

Next year a draft plan for this region will be released, followed by 90 days of public consultation. A final plan will be approved before the end of 2011.

A place is more than its biodiversity. It's also what it means to people: its history and its stories. The most important story about the Coral Sea is the Battle of May 1942. The Japanese planned to take Port Moresby by sea. Australian and U.S. forces fought back and the Japanese retreated north. The Battle of the Coral Sea turned the tide of the War in the Pacific.

Three U.S. ships lie on the seafloor of the Coral Sea, within what are now Australian waters. No Australian lives or ships were lost, however, over 200 Americans died on the USS Lexington. Many more Japanese lost their lives. In honour of those Australians who fought there, and to keep their story alive, the campaign commissioned a short film about the Battle. Watch it here: www.protectourcoralsea.org.au/news-media (scroll down to April 2010).



Barry the Wrasse has become a famous face of ocean conservation (TC)

To recognize World Oceans Day, the Protect our Coral Sea campaign, in concert with other ocean park campaigns in the U.K., France and U.S.A., released a global science statement in support of very large parks in the ocean. The statement is signed by over 250 scientists from 35 countries. It calls for the scale of management to match the scale of important ecosystem processes, such as dispersal and migration of many species. The following day (June 9, 2010), The Age editorial supported the need for stronger ocean protection and said of the Coral Sea: "One large park would be bigger and better." We couldn't agree more.

Be a part of making the Coral Sea the world's largest marine park: sign our e-petition and send a letter to your federal MP: <http://www.protectourcoralsea.org.au/act-now>.

LARGE MARINE SANCTUARIES WOULD BENEFIT THE ECONOMY – NEW REPORT SHOWS

Darren Kindleysides, Australian Marine Conservation Society

The Australian Marine Conservation Society is part of Save our Marine Life (SOML), an unprecedented alliance of Australian and international conservation groups campaigning to protect our big blue backyard in south west Australia.

The stunning blue seas from Kalbarrie in Western Australia to Kangaroo Island in South Australia have less than 1% protection, yet they contain highly endemic species, 90% of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

The SOML alliance recently commissioned a landmark study which shows that large marine sanctuaries would benefit WA's economy considerably. Large marine sanctuaries would lead to significant growth in tourism revenue, injecting \$55 million per year into the WA economy, from the south west's eco-tourism industry, which includes whale, dolphin and seal watching. The study emphasized that this growth would continue as the region's popularity grew.

Produced by the Allen Consulting Group, The Economics of Marine Protected Areas found that marine sanctuaries would generate long term economic prosperity for WA with a more diverse economy and healthier fish stocks outweighing the short term costs of establishing sanctuaries.



Albany Coast Headland (Kate Davey)

The study also highlighted the value West Australians place on a healthy marine environment. A detailed economic study shows that the value the public places on protection of WA's marine environment could be as high as \$200 million each year.

The study also demonstrated that marine sanctuaries are likely to result in more stable catches for fishers and provide insurance against stock depletion, with more sustainable catch rates. This is because sanctuaries act as buffers against fluctuations in fish stocks due to environmental changes or poor fisheries management.

The beauty of the study is that – whilst conducted in the south west – it's findings have wide reaching implications. It builds a strong economic case for the creation of a network of marine sanctuaries throughout the State, Territory and Commonwealth waters including here in Queensland.

Over the course of the next 12 months, the Federal Government is aiming to create a network of marine protected areas throughout Commonwealth waters, as part of the somewhat dry-sounding but critically important 'Marine Bioregional Planning Process'. This process has been in train for several years, and represents a remarkable opportunity for Australia to create a globally significant environmental legacy.

To seize that opportunity the Australian Government must establish highly protected sanctuaries for marine wildlife. The willingness or otherwise of government to protect the most important areas from fishing and oil and gas development will be a key test of its environmental performance in the year ahead.

As this study shows, there are strong economic arguments for creating marine sanctuaries. These sit alongside and support the imperative

of biodiversity conservation. Marine sanctuaries are one of the basic building blocks, the cornerstone of any strategy to protect the oceans and to rebuild the health of marine ecosystems.

If Australia is serious about marine conservation, we must get it right and deliver world-class protection for Australia's world-class marine environment through the Marine Bioregional Planning process.

To view the full report visit: www.allenconsult.com.au. To learn more about campaigns underway to create marine parks around Australia's coastline visit www.marineconservation.org.au.



Reefs provide shelter for many marine species (Wildlife Adventures)

UPDATE ON BIMBLEBOX NATURE REFUGE

Paola Cassoni

The owners and managers of Bimblebox Nature Refuge, a property in central-west Queensland threatened by open-cut and underground coal mining, are inviting other nature refuge landholders to sign the **petition to protect nature refuges threatened by mineral interests**. The petition can be downloaded from: www.bimblebox.org or from the NaRLA website: www.naturerefuges.com/petition.pdf.

Queensland has a woeful record when it comes to biodiversity and conservation, and the current mining boom could make it a lot worse. The World Commission on Protected Areas has stated that increasing the size of national parks in Queensland will not be enough to save the states' biodiversity. Private conservation areas are obviously going to play crucial role.

Because so much land of high conservation value is privately managed, landholders are encouraged and assisted in the hard work of protecting our natural assets as a matter of public interest. But despite being acknowledged for its high conservation value, much of this land is vulnerable to massive disruption. If extractable minerals are found these sanctuaries along with the time, trust and knowledge of the people involved,

may be sacrificed for the temporary gain of an industry that has a sorry record and a dubious future.

TAX-DEDUCTIBILITY AND DONATIONS TO THE NPAQ

Ted Van Riel

NPAQ Treasurer

Many donations have been received in response to the appeal letter which President Tony O'Brien sent out to members in early July. The donations are a wonderful show of support for the activities of the NPAQ which include the promotion, preservation and good management of national parks in Queensland. Our legal advisers Hopgood Ganim have provided the following advice about tax deductibility for publication to members: "The NPAQ is a Deductible Gift Recipient endorsed by the Australian Tax Office.

The advocacy activities which the NPAQ carries out are ancillary to and consistent with the aims and objectives of the NPAQ. Donations made to the NPAQ to support its advocacy work will normally be tax-deductible provided the donation is made for the general use of the NPAQ in pursuing its aims. Donations that are made for specific purposes or with 'strings attached' may not be tax-deductible.

CHANGES TO QUEENSLAND'S PROTECTED AREA ESTATE

2009 - 2010 FINANCIAL YEAR

update from 22/4/10 published in June NPANEWS

Name	Status	Addition ha	Reduction ha	Current Area ha	Date
National Park Scientific					
National Parks					
Barron Gorge		4.82		2824.82	4/06/2010
Bowling Green Bay		228		58128	4/06/2010
Castle Tower		1611		8511	4/06/2010
Claremont Isles		14.9		63	7/05/2009
Cliff Island			37.8	0	7/05/2010
Dularcha		326		464	4/06/2010
Eungella		25		59865	4/06/2010
Girringun		1460		208550	4/06/2010
Glass house Mountains		2117.4		3037.4	4/06/2010
Japoon		13.4		24799.4	4/06/2010
Kuranda		0.513		26880.51	4/06/2010
Macalister Range	New	5563		5563	4/06/2010
Mooloolah River		39.585		926	4/06/2010
Paluma Range		361		76371	4/06/2010
Pumicestone	New	164		164	4/06/2010
Sandbanks			2.3	8.4	7/05/2009
Saunders Islands		42.727		61.327	7/05/2010
Sir Charles Hardy Group		2.63		131.63	7/05/2010
Tewantin	New	1299		1299	4/06/2010
National Parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) CYPAL					
Alwal	New	42510		42510	28/05/2010
Marpa	was Cliff Is	37.8		37.8	7/05/2010
National Parks Recovery					
Tewantin	New	672		672	4/06/2010
National Park nett increase this report		56452.675	40.1		
National Park nett increase 22/4 report		123192.88			
Total 09-10		179645.55		0.1%	
QLD TERRESTRIAL ha		172694961			
Conservation Parks					
Calliope			23.81	698.19	9/10/2009
Glass House Mountains	New	678.44		678.44	4/06/2010
Mon Repos			0.1578	44.9	4/06/2010
Morgan Park	New	284.5		284.5	4/06/2010
Mouth of Baffle Creek 2		10.4		322.4	4/06/2010
Woondum	New	2.5		2.5	4/06/2010
Resources Reserve					
Morgan Park			284.5	0	4/06/2010
Coordinated Conservation Area					
Forest Reserve					
Basilisk	New	2210		2210	4/06/2010
Beerburrum 1			1661.64	3.36	4/06/2010
Beerwah			804.785	38.215	4/06/2010
Macalister Range			5562.89	51.95	4/06/2010
Maleny			369	0	4/06/2010
Mooloolah			326	7	4/06/2010
Noosa			60	0	4/06/2010
Tewantin 1			1844.44	40.56	4/06/2010
Tewantin 3			66.6	0.4	4/06/2010
Woondum 3			2.5	0	4/06/2010

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: MACADAMIAS

I was interested in the article "Wild Macadamia nuts need safe haven" in July NPA News, and applaud the thrust to protect more of the rainforest in which the four southern species occur.

However, the suggestion that all cultivated macadamias derive from a very small number of wild specimens has to be suspect. The Hawaiians put a lot of effort into breeding and commercializing macadamias. I was a spectator in one small aspect of collecting wild *Macadamia germplasm*, this time in North Queensland in the 1950s.

The most widespread 'Macadamia' in NQ was identified through the 1900s as *Macadamia grandis*, but was reclassified as *Catalepidia heyana* in the last few years. It occurs in the Wet Tropics Rainforests, and is recorded from the Bellenden Ker locality between Gordonvale and Babinda.

I transferred in August 1956 to the Sugar Experiment Station (SES) at Gordonvale. This is the main cane breeding centre for the Queensland sugar industry, and had good contacts with other sugar research organizations around the world. This included the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association (HSPA) Experiment Station in Honolulu, owned by a small number of large companies which grew and milled the state's cane crop. Significantly, they also had large landholdings so diversified into other crops.

Nuts from an *M. grandis* tree in lowland rainforest beside Fishery Falls

Creek (near Bellenden Ker) had been collected by or for the Hawaiians earlier in the 1950s, by someone (identity unknown to me) but accompanied by the SES Plant Breeder. A few months after my arrival in August 1956, he was asked by HSPA contacts to collect more nuts as germination had been very poor in the previous batch. Knowing my interest in rainforests, he asked me to come with him. We collected a goodly number of nuts in reasonable condition, and he sent them off to HSPA. I never heard any more about it.



Macadamia trees under threat? (DERM)

The point of this story? If the Hawaiians were willing to put effort into collecting wild *M. grandis germplasm* from NQ, with its not very prepossing nut, what other undocumented collections would have been made from the four SQ *Macadamia spp*?

Brian Egan

News and Information

Council meeting July 2010

2020 vision: During the absence overseas of Executive Coordinator, Paul Donatiu, on his Churchill Fellowship [welcome back Paul!], work has continued on further preparation of the case to support NPAQ priorities for additions to the National Park estate across Queensland. Rob Hitchcock tabled a graph at the Council meeting that shows that the rate of increase in the National Park estate and in the wider protected area estate up to 30 June 2010, continues to be well below what is necessary for the Government to meet its 2008 commitment to increase the National Park estate to 7.5% and total protected areas to 20 million hectares by 2020.

Annual winter appeal: As at the Council meeting approximately \$9,000 had been received from members in response to our annual winter appeal. The purpose of the appeal was to obtain additional funds to maintain our advocacy work to help the Government to deliver the promised increases. Council thanks all members who have contributed to the appeal.

North Stradbroke Island: NPAQ has welcomed the recent Queensland Government announcement that 50% of North Stradbroke Island will be National Park by the end of 2011, and that 80% will be National Park by 2027. One matter NPAQ has put to the Government is that, while the need for a transition period is recognised, remaining pristine areas should not be mined pending transition to National Park.

Cuthbertson Bequest: The final amount of the bequest to NPAQ from the estate of former NPAQ member Jim Cuthbertson has now been received, with the total bequest amounting to \$186,082. This amount is held in a separate invested fund in accordance with the Will.

Outings Committee quarterly report: Outings Convenor Ron Owen attended the Council meeting and reported that during the April – June quarter, 15 activities were held including the Easter Camp at Boonoo Boonoo, and two extended outings to the Carnarvon Ranges, as well as day walks and other activities.

Council minutes: Council minutes for the years Oct 2001 – Sept 2003, Oct 2003 – Sept 2005, Oct 2005 – Sept 2007, and Oct 2007 – Sept 2009 have now been bound, and the four bound volumes are held in the NPAQ office. Council expressed its thanks to Ruth Read who undertook the task of compiling the volumes ready for binding.

NPAQ COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER

The July NPA News contained information on the Council, and included a nomination form for the Council elections to be held at the Annual General Meeting on September 15. Nominations must reach the Secretary at the NPAQ office by Monday 16 August. If you would like further nomination forms or other information please contact the office.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be convened on Wednesday 15 September 2010 at 7.45pm at the Botanic Gardens auditorium, at the foot of Mt Coot-tha. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the Annual Report and financial statements, and to elect Council members as necessary. The Annual General Meeting is expected to be brief and will be followed by the usual monthly general meeting.

General Meetings

Wednesday 18th August 2010

CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAMS

Al Mucci,
General Manager-Life Sciences
Dreamworld, Gold Coast

Auditorium
Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens
7.30pm for a 7.45pm start

Forthcoming Activities

REMINDERS:

Mt Barney Lodge

Fri 6th to Sun 8th August 2010 (June)

Moreton island weekend

Fri 27th to Sun 29th August 2010

Don't miss out on this great trip!
Send in a nomination form with your payment to outings and ring Ann Ingham to reserve your place on 07 3397 7144. (June and July)

REVEGETATION BOOMBANA/JOLLY'S LOOKOUT Saturday 21st August 2010

Meet:

At 9.00 am at the roadside parking area adjacent to the commencement of the walking tracks at the turn off to Jolly's Lookout Picnic Area (UBD 135 K1)

Bring:

Gardening gloves, protective clothing, eye protection, insect repellent, water, morning tea and lunch.

Leaders:

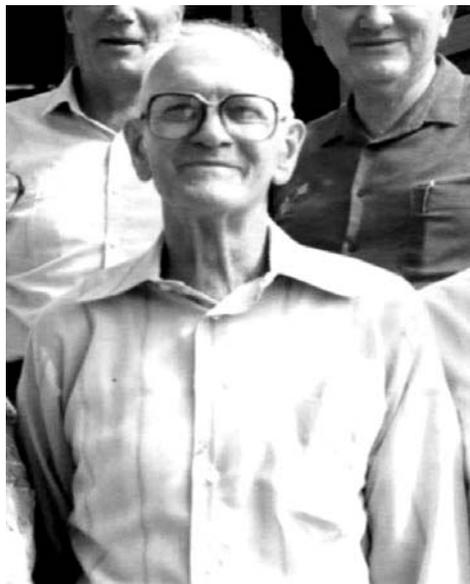
Angus McElnea (07) 3202 6363
Ruth Read (07) 3870 9436

KEITH JARROTT MEMORIAL DAY WALK MT MATHESON CIRCUIT Sunday 22nd August 2010

Keith Jarrott was Honorary Secretary of NPAQ for an incredible 42 years from 1946 to 1988. He did a prodigious amount of work for NPAQ and continued his involvement until his death in July 1999. We honour Keith and his legacy to us in this memorial walk in an area he loved - Main Range National Park.

We'll walk from Pioneer Picnic Area along the trail to the summit of Mount Matheson, which has good views to Mt Mitchell, Mt Cordeaux and along the ramparts to Mt Castle. We will carry on to the old Spicer's Gap Road and then to Governors Chair for more extensive

views before returning to our starting point. Total distance is only 8-9 km and this is a walk that everyone can enjoy.



Keith Jarrott, 42 years as Hon Secretary
(photo: NPAQ archives)

Meet:

9:00 am for a 9:15 am start from the Picnic Area, which is just past the Spicers Gap Campground. More detailed directions are available from the leaders.

Bring:

Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, water, hat, wet weather gear, and first aid kit, plus \$3 NPA fee.

Grading:

S34DW

Nominations:

By telephone to the **Leaders:**
Ron and Jan Davis. ph: 3345 3801

**BIRD WALK
BERRINBA WETLANDS
BROWNS PLAINS
Sunday 22nd August 2010**

This is a first visit for our bird group. Berrinba Wetlands is an old sand mining area. The Wetlands are fed by a number of drainage lines and Scrubby Creek, which flows from west to east eventually flowing into Slacks Creek. The Wetlands provide deep water habitat for waterbirds and shoreline habitat for waders. Good flat walking tracks throughout the wetlands.

When I visited Berrinba Wetlands in June I saw all three species of Fairy-wrens and two Comb-crested Jacana.

Meet:

7.30am at **The Interpretive Centre Parking Bays**, Wayne Goss Drive, Berrinba Wetlands.

Directions:

Wayne Goss Drive, Browns Plains (Berrinba Wetlands) leads off Browns Plains Road UBD 241 C18

Bring:

Hat, insect repellent, sun screen, water, binoculars, morning tea and \$3 NPAQ fee.

Leader:

Geraldine Buchanan (07) 3349 1109

**DAY WALK
WILSONS PEAK & KINNANES
FALLS
Saturday 4th September 2010**

We will climb Wilsons Peak from Teviot Gap then follow the well-cleared rabbit fence very steeply down to the east. From just past the first saddle we head north down Wilsons Creek valley to the Falls. For about 2km there is no track, knee-high grass obscures boulders and the debris from burnt eucalypts and there is some scrub and steep side-slopes too. Marvellous scenery, and overall it is a downhill walk.

Limit:

15

Walk Grading:

M66DW

Meet:

7.45 am at the carpark before the steep climb to Teviot Gap.

Directions:

From the leader if necessary; carpooling is encouraged.

Bring:

2-3 litres water; morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, weatherproof jacket, first aid kit and \$3.00 NPAQ fee.

Nominations:

By email to the leader, or phone except between ~ 5-18th Aug.

Leader:

John Findlay ph: 3378 2647
jfi71567@optusnet.com.au

GREAT QUEENSLAND BUSHWALK

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Sunday 5th September 2010

The great Queensland Bushwalk as we recall it from a couple of years ago, no longer exists. However, The

Catholic Bushwalkers have combined with our own Outings Leaders to offer the General Public a similar opportunity along the same format, in our magnificent Outdoors on Sunday 5th September.

Greg Endicott (Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club) and NPAQ experienced Leaders Sue Carpenter, Anne and Barry Ingham, and David Jones, will be organising walks at The Matheson Trail (Spicer's Peak), The Boondall Wetlands, Lake Manchester, and Daves Creek (Binna Burra). These locations should all be familiar to you, having been on our program in previous years.

The activity is primarily designed to involve new people in enjoying what we have experienced over many years. However it does not preclude you, our own members, in participating on the day. You are most welcome - you could well be of great assistance to the leaders.

On this occasion, the usual day outing fee will not apply, as an incentive for potential members. The outings nomination form will also differ, because participants will need to indicate their activity preference.

Specific outlines, and requirements of the respective walks will be advertised in media outlets in coming weeks.

All participants need to nominate through the NPAQ office by phone (3367 0878) or e-mail (outings@npaq.com.au).

Once collated, the information will be forwarded to the respective leaders who, in turn, will advise applicants in ample time of the walk directions and instructions.

For further information, contact

Facilitator:

Ron Wallace ph: 3266 1359

DAY WALK

DAVES CREEK CIRCUIT

Sunday 5th September 2010

This is the most botanically diverse walk in Lamington National Park, passing through rainforest, mallee scrub, heathland and dry eucalypt forest, and affording spectacular, panoramic views from a number of lookouts. In addition a short detour will take us to the Molongolee Cave. Along the walls are ferns and lilies which rely on a constant trickle of water for their survival.



Daves Creek Cliffs (PD)

An optional climb up Surprise Rock affords good views of Mts Merino and Hobwee, the Springbrook Plateau, the Numinbah Valley and across to the Gold Coast. We should see some superb wildflowers at this time of the year, and the chance of hearing the melodious call of Alberts lyrebirds and seeing wedge tailed eagles soaring on the thermals.

Limit:

30

Distance:

12 kms

Walk Grading:

M23DW

Meet: Car Park at Binna Burra at 8.45 for a 9am departure.

Bring:

At least 1.5 litres of water each, sunscreen, insect repellent, first aid kit, morning tea and lunch.

Road Directions:

From Brisbane take the freeway to the Gold Coast exiting at the second Nerang exit. Drive up ramp and turn right at the lights at the top. This takes you over the freeway and curves away to the right down a hill. Follow this road into Nerang and follow the signs to National Parks, turning left at the traffic lights. About 11.5kms along this road turn right into Beechmont Road.

Go through Beechmont and follow the signs to Binna Burra which is about 35 kms from Nerang. Allow about 1.75hrs for the 100km trip from Brisbane.

UPDATE
GIRRAWEEEN N.P. TRACKWORK
Monday 6th to Friday 10th
September 2010

Note that the dates have been brought forward by a week so not to clash with the Annual General Meeting. Refer to June issue of NPA News for other details. NPA fees will not apply. However, please send nominations to the office on the standard form. Full details will then be provided by the leader.

Leader:

Ron Owen ph: 3345 3423
or e-mail: rowen@comcen.com.au

BIKE RIDE
SUNRISE OVER MORETON BAY
Saturday 11th September 2010

We will be riding from Shorncliffe to Redcliffe via the new bridge. Watch the sunrise and enjoy a bbq breakfast.

Meet:

5am at Shorncliffe station carpark.

Bring:

Bicycle, helmet (and wear it), bike lights, \$3 NPAQ fee, at least 1 litre water, byo bbq breakfast.

Nominations: Phone Margot at NPAQ Outings office.

Leader:

Geoff Sear ph: (07) 3807 2604
(evenings) or email:
geoffreysear@hotmail.com

DAY WALK
MT BANGALORE
Saturday 11th September 2010

Come on this very varied walk and see great views of Main Range, stand atop sheer cliffs and walk below towering cliffs. Although there are no tracks on Mt Bangalore, most of the walking is relatively easy. There is an early start, so there is plenty of time to enjoy the scenery and a couple of optional side trips. The total height gain is only about 500 m. There should be wild flowers.

Limit:

18

Walk Grading:

M55DW

Meet:

Meet at the car park at 7.10am ready for a 7.30am start.

Directions:

Road directions from the leader at the August meeting or by phone or email. Access is from the Carney's Creek Road.

Bring:

2 – 3 litres of water, 2 morning teas, lunch and 1 afternoon tea, rain coat, winter warmies, first aid kit, \$3.00 outing fee. (We should not need a torch, but bring it anyway!)

Nominations:

by phone to the leader/Margot by 3rd September.

Leader: Ruth Palsson ph 3359 7447
(between 5.00pm and 9.30 pm)

Activity Reports

CARNARVON RANGES OUTING

12th to 25th May 2010

Mick and Joan Barry

After a great deal of uncertainty as to whether or not the trip would be held because of the heavy rains that had twice flooded the Nogoia River in Salvator Rosa National Park, the participants met at the "Meadowbank Farm Stay" on the evening of 12th May 2010.

The proprietors of "Meadowbank", Don and Pat Tite, were very welcoming and provided a fire on each of the two nights and the morning of our stay.

On day two, the group travelled with Don and Pat for an inspection of their other heritage property, Mt Abundance. It was mentioned during the inspection that Roma's first post office was located in the Mt Abundance residence. After lunch Don provided a guided tour of his museum collection. The group were impressed with the extensive range of articles he had collected over the years.

On Friday 14th the group travelled to Mt Moffatt via Injune and Womblebank. At Injune the opportunity was taken to reprovision, to visit the Information Centre and to refuel at the local fuel depot.

At Mt Moffatt the camp was established at the West Branch camping area. This is a very pleasant open area with a double composting toilet and bore water on tap. In addition fire rings were located at various positions around the camping area. It was here that we met with the NPAQ through walkers who were undertaking the Great Walk from Carnarvon Gorge. That night the two groups socialised around a camp fire.

On Saturday, the two groups combined and met the Ranger Mike Spinaze. He explained about the Mt Moffatt National Park and the various programmes being undertaken in relation to feral animals, conservation and tourist management. After the talk Mike led the group on a visit to a feature known as The Mansions. This involved a drive of approximately 8 km and a walk through bush and dry creek beds. This proved to be an interesting area of soft sandstone of different pastel shades and eroded formations. That night, in appreciation for transport provided to The Mansions by the 4WD group, the through walkers invited all to share social interaction around their campfire.

On Sunday the through walkers departed to complete the circuit walk to Carnarvon Gorge and the 4WD group undertook a 5.8 km walk which took them past The Chimneys, The Tombs and The Duchess. From here we travelled to the Dargonelly camp ground for lunch and inspection of the rock hole. After lunch we continued to Marlong Arch, Kookaburra Cave,

Lot's Wife and Marlong Plain before returning to the camp site for happy hour around a camp fire.



Marlong Arch in the Carnarvon Gorge (MB)

The next day saw the group undertake a 12 km walk along the Great Walk track towards the Consuelo Range.

The final day at Mt Moffatt involved a 4WD trip to Rotary Shelter Shed, Top Shelter Shed, Mahogany Forest and Head of Carnarvon Creek. Following lunch, the group travelled to the sites involved in the Kenniff Brothers murder of the police officer and the property manager. While we did not find the murder site, we visited the incineration site and what is now known as Kenniff's Cave.

Day eight was taken up with travelling via Injune to the Lonesome Homestead where we camped for three nights. The next day the group travelled to Beilba National Park where we visited the camping area adjacent to the homestead. We then proceeded to travel a side track which took us to a point that overlooked the Baffle

Creek gorge. At this point the main views were those of the escarpment. The group then travelled to where we hoped to see the confluence of the Dawson River and Baffle Creek, but unfortunately, the lookout point did not provide the opportunity for such a view.

The next day we travelled to the camping ground for Lonesome NP and then followed the track to view the candlesticks formation. Time was spent viewing and photographing the various escarpments throughout the park. That afternoon we followed a track to a location where we had views of the Dawson River escarpment.

After leaving Lonesome National Park we drove through the Arcadia Valley to Lake Nuga Nuga National Park. That afternoon we walked to where the lake was overflowing into the Brown River and were able to view water lilies, some bird life and hundreds of trees that had been drowned when the lake had formed. We were treated to some interesting views of the sunset as we gathered around the "pig".

On Sunday the 23rd we travelled via Rolleston on our way to Springsure. After lunch we inspected the Staircase and a hand hewn section of roadway which had been constructed by Chinese labourers on the original road to Springsure.

This was followed by a visit to the Staircase lookout which provided views of the area through which we had just travelled.

On Monday afternoon the group visited Minerva Hills National Park and Mt Zamia, stopping at each of the lookouts. We then walked the track to the Skyview Lookout. Great views and photo opportunities presented themselves at each of the lookouts.

Unfortunately, rain commenced overnight and continued for much of the next day. Most members of the group took the opportunity to travel to Fairbairn Dam near Emerald. Rob Hitchcock was a source of good information as he has had a close association with dam construction.

On the evening following the visit to Fairbairn Dam, the group met at the Springsure Hotel/Motel for an evening meal.



The group enjoy an evening meal together (MB)

In the light of information that there was another rain front moving across in the next couple of days, together with a warning from the police that we needed to be very careful if we decided to travel the road to Tambo and/or Salvator Rosa, it was decided to end

the trip at Springsure. In conclusion, Mick and Joan would like to thank all members of the group for their good humour, co-operativeness and contributions to the overall outing.

TOOLOONA CREEK CIRCUIT

29th May 2010

Dave Jones

Ten members enjoyed a cool, overcast but rain-free day on this delightful circuit, which crosses Tooloona Creek.



The group got rather muddy but still enjoyed the day! (DJ)

A number of lyrebirds were heard as we headed off for morning tea at Triple Falls. The track was as muddy as anyone could remember, which made for hard going in places. The falls were spectacular after heavy rain, however.

The sun emerged fitfully as we lunched at the Wanungara Lookout. We enjoyed superb views over Limpinwood Valley toward Byron Bay and Mt Warning with Mts Merino and Hobwee off to the east.

We returned tired, muddy and cheerful

for a well earned beverage at the end of the day. Thanks to all for their excellent company.

**BOOMBANA
JOLLY'S LOOKOUT REVEGETATION
PROJECT,**

19th June 2010

Angus McElnea

The chill of winter had hit the mountain and it was noticeably cooler at Jolly's Lookout than in Brisbane as we alighted from our vehicles. The silver wattles beside the road had yet to burst into flower—they are usually in full bloom at this time of year.

The cool weather had not dissuaded our hardy band of volunteers, with a large contingent gathering at the car park. Ranger Matt dropped off some gloves, as well as joining us to clear some Lantana along the Thylogale track. We spied a small patch of Lantana in a rainforest area just before the gully where we'd been working for the past few months, however this small patch ended up spreading out into a solid and extensive infestation throughout the adjoining open Eucalypt forest. What had started out as a short diversion ended up fully occupying most of us until lunch-time, with much more Lantana still remaining. After morning tea a small group of us continued along the main track, removing regrowth and eventually reaching the limits of our previous clearing efforts.

Most of our volunteers needed to leave at lunch, so after this Ruth and I went on a reconnaissance mission to see what

lay ahead of us on the Thylogale Track. From a previous mission last year, we knew there was a very extensive patch of Lantana that extended from a corner on the track and down a slope for a couple of hundred metres. What we weren't prepared for was the almost solid and continuous expanse of Lantana beside the track, extending from this infestation all the way back (for at least 800m) to where we were currently weeding. The good wet season and high temperatures over summer have meant that the Lantana has grown prolifically. It will be a case of all hands on deck over the next few months if we are going to put a dent in this outbreak.

In more promising news, we found that there had been very little regrowth in and around the Eugenia track (the track we have been working on the last few years). This track no doubt would be much like the Thylogale track if it had not been for our efforts there over a number of years. In all, the 10 eager workers completed 33 hours of weeding.

**GRANDCHILDREN'S DAY
SPRINGBROOK N.P.**

Sunday 20th June 2010

Ron Owen

The lack of support for this event was disappointing with only four grandchildren attending.

With help from Fiona Cornish and Frank Freeman, we walked the 4km Purling Brook Falls circuit in the morning and the 4km Twin Falls circuit

in the afternoon, with lunch being at The Settlement Day Use Area. While the region had received good rains all year, there was not a lot of water flowing over the waterfalls and tracks were not unduly muddy.

Fiona conducted several short games prior to lunch and a 'pass the parcel' game with small prizes after lunch were all well received. After returning to the Tallanbana Picnic area at the end of the afternoon walk, the children were presented with 'Certificates of Participation' and a bag of sweets to take home. The day ended with coffee and drinks at a local cafe. Most interestingly, the children requested a repeat for next year.

If we are to win the National Park cause, we must get young children involved at an early age and expose them to the pleasure that can be derived from spending time in parks, and talk of the need to preserve significant tracts of land, not only for future generations but to save our world and its peoples from environmental disaster.

DAY WALK ENOGGERA DAM TO GOLD CREEK DAM

26th June, 2010

Athol & Maria Lester

A group of 15 members enjoyed a challenging day navigating from Enoggera Dam to Gold Creek Dam and return. Traversing through a wide variety of interesting vegetation types, the route is not well known and infrequently used. Despite being

only a short distance from suburbia, the upper reaches of Enoggera Creek seem like an untouched wilderness.

Since the end of the drought, lantana has made a strong recovery and makes the going difficult in some places. Not to be defeated, we managed to circumvent the worst and find the old track. In one area of rainforest where the canopy is so dense the ground level is quite open, we enjoyed morning tea at the base of a large fig with spectacularly curved buttress roots. We also managed to find the remnants of the Mt Aurum mine - one of a number of unsuccessful efforts to extract some gold in the 1930s.

Plentiful birdlife on the dams provided interest for the birdwatchers, as well as the usual bellbirds, parrots, wrens and whip birds in the forested areas.

Apologies to those who missed out on this walk due to the number limits, but keep watching the short notice walks for a repeat session some time soon.

BIRD WALK OXLEY CREEK COMMON

27th June 2010

Geraldine Buchanan

Thirteen members and three guests met at the Oxley Creek Environment Centre. Some were fortunate to see a beautiful sunrise after a partial eclipse of the moon the previous night. By the time the walk commenced at 7.30am, the sun had disappeared!

The highlight of the morning was seeing eight Brown Quails scurrying in and out of the undergrowth and a pair of Black-fronted Dotterel's mating!

Bird List (59 Species)

Australian Brush Turkey, Brown Quail, Black Swan and Cygnets, Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Spotted Dove, Common Bronzewing, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Australian White Ibis, Black-shouldered Kite, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Black-winged Stilt, Black-fronted Dotterel, Masked Lapwing, Galah, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Laughing Kookaburra, Superb Fairy-wren, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Striated Pardalote, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Brown Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird (h), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler(f), Little Shrike-thrush, Australian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Spangled Drongo, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie Lark, Golden-headed Cisticola, Silvereye, Welcome Swallow, Common Myna, Mistletoebird, Double-barred Finch, Red-browed Finch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin.



Pelicans were amongst many species seen on this trip (KL)

VOLUNTEER NEWS

NPAQ is very proud of the volunteers that contribute to the organisation in many ways. Be it on the Council, working on the revegetation project at Boombana, or mailing out the monthly newsletter.

If you would like to become one of our valued volunteers please get in touch. **You might have a skill** that you would like to offer and we also have positions where we can train you.

Current positions available are:

Join our Mail Out team

Once a month we need members to help pack the newsletter ready for mailing. We even provide cake, tea and coffee!

Help create our Newsletter

If you are great with computers, join the news team who put together our monthly publication. Training is available for the design package we use.

Be part of the Archives Group

Every week, members are involved in storing and archiving valuable material that NPAQ holds.

Speak to members on the phone

Are you good at communications? We need help to encourage members to keep their fees up to date. Work from home or come into the office.

For more details of volunteer work please contact Karen Langton on 07 3367 0878 or email admin@npaq.org.au

Hope to see you soon!

New Members

NPAQ welcomes as new members:

Anne Campbell	Ashgrove
Brian Ebzery	Albany Creek
Kim Folland	Everton Park
Alana Caple	Chuwar
Phillip Wilkinson	Chuwar
Graeme Frankham	Boyne Island
Pamela Frankham	Boyne Island
Jim Hann	Jindalee

Vale

Two of our NPAQ members have lost their husbands recently:

Paul Palsson husband of Ruth and
Bob Harslett husband of Jean

Our thoughts are with these members at this sad and difficult time in their lives.

Donations

NPAQ thanks the following for their generous donations:

Alan Clarke, Alan Don, J & J Randle, Richard Lahey, Joanne Haddock, P & S Hopkins, Kim Folland, D & S Whybird, Ruth Read, R & L Wood, J & S Brownsworth, B & A Gross, SIMO, W & G Heath, Geoff Goadby and Merle Gynther, Una Webster, G & P Frankham, Jan Selwood.

Photographs

KL	Karen Langton
PD	Paul Donatiu
JS	Jim Stebbins
DJ	David Jones
MB	Mick Barry
TC	Tyronne Canning

Back cover: Rainbow Bracket Fungi by Yvonne Parsons

Waterfall in Springbrook NP (PD)



PATRON

Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AO, Governor of Queensland

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	Angus McElnea	(07) 3202 6363	
Social Sub-Committee	Wendy Bell	(07) 3300 2473	

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Bunya Mountains Natural History Association Inc
Fraser Island Defenders Organisation Ltd
Green Mountains Natural History Association Inc
Lake Broadwater Natural History Association Inc
Lamington Natural History Association Inc
Moreton-Stradbroke Minjerribah Moorgumpin Elders-in-Council corp
Moreton Island Protection Committee
Noosa Parks Association
Queensland Frog Society Inc
Queensland Ornithological Society Inc (Birds Queensland)
Stradbroke Island Management Organisation Inc
Tamborine Bush Volunteers
Tamborine Mountain Natural History Association Inc

Aims of the National Park Association of Queensland

The preservation of existing National Parks in their natural condition and the reservation of suitable areas; The extension and good management of the system of National Parks in Queensland; Education of the public regarding the importance and value of National Parks; Cooperation with the authority administering National Parks and with other organisations with aims similar to our own; The promotion of appropriate legislation dealing with National Parks and other Protected Areas.

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