



# URIMBIRRA

## Monthly newsletter

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MEMBER OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
NATURALISTS'  
NETWORK



*Urimbirra is an Aboriginal word meaning 'to take care of' or 'to preserve'.*

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### CONTENTS

GURULMUNDI OUTING – 23 JUNE 2018.....	By Frank and Kath Truscott	2
DOWN MEMORY LANE – JULY 1983.....	By Frank Truscott	3
GURULMUNDI BIRD LIST.....	Compiled by Leigh Plant	3
INFORMATION ABOUT BIOCOLLECT.....	Contributed by Leigh Plant	3
INFORMATION ABOUT FrogID .....	Contributed by Kath Truscott	4
CLUB NOTICES.....		4

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR URIMBIRRA CONTRIBUTIONS: SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2018**

Emailed contributions should be sent as attachments in JPEG and/or  
Word, please, not PDF or other format.

EMAIL for Urimbirra material. Send to Frank Truscott - [mongrove@bigpond.com](mailto:mongrove@bigpond.com)  
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*Our web site: <http://www.chinchillanaturalists.com.au>*

#### DISCLAIMER

Urimbirra is the journal of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club Inc. The authors of the material used in it seek to maintain the highest standards of accuracy, but if inaccuracies occur, every endeavour will be made to correct them in future editions. With the exception of official club notices, all other material in Urimbirra represents the views, opinions and records of contributing members. Such material is edited as little as possible in an effort to encourage members to contribute. The onus is placed on members to voluntarily edit and cross-check their own material, thereby easing the burden on the Publication Officer.

## **GURULMUNDI OUTING – 23 JUNE 2018**

**By Frank and Kath Truscott**

On a cool, sunny morning a small group gathered at the Gurulmundi Hall to investigate what might be flowering in this interesting area, 15 minutes north of Miles. An impromptu decision saw



us travelling only a short distance to a dam on a local reserve. The main occupation was bird watching, with the Red-capped Robins being the highlight. Water Bush *Myoporum acuminatum* and Corkwood Oak *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* were flowering (RIGHT). Frank investigated



a building that was the vehicle shed and office (LEFT) of State Forest 66 and also a selection of sawmill equipment, some of which was used at the sleeper mill at Pelham on Dogwood Creek in Barakula. The numerous, large piles of flitches and sawdust at that mill were destroyed in the 2012 wildfire along with the Dogwood Creek bridge.

We had morning tea there and enjoyed the quite balmy weather.

A brief stop at the first wildflower area provided us with only a few flowers. *Acacia leiocalyx* and *A. conferta* were the predominant flowering wattles enroute, but a couple of others (unidentified) provided a splash of colour. Broom Honey Myrtle *Melaleuca uncinata* had finished flowering some time ago and was loaded with seed, while the vulnerable Curran's Wattle *Acacia curranii* had recovered very well after the prescribed burn in that area 3-4 years ago. It was interesting to revisit this section. Last year when visiting with the Toowoomba FNC we were devastated to find that the council grader had buried most of the plants (and some of the signs!) when grading the road - another example of poor communication about the area's significant flora. The area still looks pretty terrible but some species were making a valiant comeback. With rain and a couple of years it will, hopefully, look better than ever as is usual with many native wildflowers.



It was a day of impromptu decisions as we decided to travel up a side road to see an old house that Frank had seen when working in the area a few years ago. Along the road there were plenty of *Micromyrtus sessilis* and Acacias in bud and we came upon several dense patches of the *Dodonaea boroniifolia* (LEFT), a particularly attractive Hop Bush which was developing seed pods. Urn Heath *Melichrus urceolatus* was flowering as was *Agiortia pleiosperma* (formerly *Leucopogon pleiospermus*), but not as well. A little further on we investigated a rocky area where there were still a

few small holes containing water (RIGHT). A small gorge incised the sandstone here and flowed into Juandah Creek, part of the Dawson River catchment. Here we found Brown Bloodwood *Corymbia trachyphloia*, Narrow-leaved White Mahogany *Eucalyptus tenuipes* and Queensland Peppermint *Eucalyptus exserta* around the edges of the gorge and Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata* and Smooth-barked Apple



*Angophora costata* subsp. *leiocarpa* in the bottom of the gorge. The Smooth-barked Apples were distinguishable mainly by their broken-off branches and numerous hollows. The Rock Boronia *Boronia bipinnata* was growing around the open area as was an interesting, somewhat aromatic plant (LEFT). This might be *Prostanthera leichhardtii* although George Althofer in *The Cradle of Incense* indicates that there is some confusion in the identification of several species closely related to *P. leichhardtii*.

This place would be interesting to visit after rain.



After a little tricky navigation we found the house (RIGHT). It seems that one of the gas companies had found it too and there was a donga outside along with copious quantities of barbed wire. It was in reasonable shape and had three rooms, none of which were inhabited by bats as was the case several years ago. As would be expected, the group spent a good deal of time exploring the buildings and surrounding bush. A large Queensland Ebony *Bauhinia carronii* tree had been planted at the back of the house and some palm trees a little further away. Other plants found in the area were Bead Bush *Spartothamnella juncea* (LEFT), Wilga *Geijera parviflora*, Brigalow *Acacia harpophylla*, Holly Bush *Alectryon diversifolius*, Emu Apple *Owenia acidula*, Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata*, Dog's Nuts *Grewia retusifolia*, a Senna and Wombat Berry *Eustrephus latifolius*. We enjoyed a late lunch before wandering further afield to the nearby dam and cattle yards. Highlight



was the sighting of the Golden Whistler.

The party split off after returning to the main road and Smiths and Truscotts returned home via Welshes Road and Barakula Forest. We made a brief stop at the bottle dump (LEFT), speculating about their origins. There were many acacias in heavy bud and we plan to return in late July to see them flowering. Next stop was Tin Hut where we wandered around the last building and admired the massive Spotted Gums (RIGHT).



The rest of the trip was pretty uneventful, but the *Acacia semilunata* and *A. spectabilis* will be spectacular this year, providing we get a little rain. We had over 30mm of rain a month ago, so hopefully Barakula will put on a show!

### **DOWN MEMORY LANE – JULY 1983**

By Frank Truscott

The July meeting, a “domestic” night was held on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Guest Speakers were Chris and Mary Cameron who gave a presentation on their trip to Cape Tribulation.

The Outing was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in “The Peak” area south of Baking Board. The plants were having an “out of season” flowering. They visited Tyler’s Hill and, amongst other things, saw the very large Bottles that grew there. As a result of the considerable rainfall, the Sand Flies were well represented. Smiths had recently been on the recce for their western trip and had plant specimens to show. The range of Acacias and Cassias impressed the group. They climbed to the top of Tyler’s Hill and the plant highlight was the white-flowered *Prostanthera lithospermoides* but they saw quite a few other good ones.

### **GURULMUNDI BIRD LIST**

Compiled by Leigh Plant

Apostlebird	Noisy Friarbird	Sittella
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Noisy Miner	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Currawong	Pardalote	Striped Honeyeater
Finch	Peaceful Dove	Torresian Crow
Golden Whistler	Rainbow Bee-eater	Weebill
Grey Fantail	Red-capped Robin	Willie Wagtail
Jacky Winter	Rufous Whistler	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Laughing Kookaburra	Silvereye	

### **THIS INFORMATION ABOUT BIOCOLLECT WAS SENT TO LEIGH PLANT BY HER BROTHER WHO WORKS AT GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY**

#### **What is ‘BioCollect’?**

BioCollect is a sophisticated, yet simple to use tool developed by the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) in collaboration with over 100 organisations which are actively involved in field data capture. It has been developed to support the needs of scientists, ecologists, citizen scientists and natural resource managers in the field-collection and management of biodiversity, ecological and natural resource management (NRM) data. The tool is developed and hosted by the ALA and is free for public use. Website: <https://www.ala.org.au/biocollect>

## THIS INFORMATION ABOUT FrogID WAS CONTRIBUTED BY KATH TRUSCOTT

While travelling in the car I often listen to Radio National and was intrigued by a show in which Jennifer Cork from the Australian Museum was identifying frogs from listener-submitted audio recordings.

Mobile phone users in the country and city are being asked to help scientists map Australia's frog population. By recording local frog sounds and sending them to the Australian Museum for identification, the public will contribute to a better understanding of how many frogs are out there and which ones are endangered. Australia's frogs are especially vulnerable because of a combination of climate change, pollution, introduced species, and urban development.

The website has lots of interesting information including links to the app required to become involved in recording your own frog calls. They are also on Facebook!

<https://www.frogid.net.au/>

The following post was copied from the website.

POSTED BY JENNIFER CORK ON NOVEMBER 08, 2017

What is FrogID?

Australia has over 240 known species of frog, almost all of which are found nowhere else in the world. Some species are flourishing, like the Striped Marsh Frog. But others have declined dramatically since the 1980s, and four have become extinct.

FrogID is a national citizen science project that is helping us learn more about what is happening to Australia's frogs. All around the country, people are recording frog calls with nothing more than a smartphone.

With the data obtained through FrogID we are able to track the Cane Toad and identify where frogs are thriving and where they aren't. And by matching calls to weather and habitat, we are learning more about how different frog species are responding to a changing environment.

This information could be crucial in saving Australia's frogs.

## CLUB NOTICES

**July 20th** CWA rooms. Management Meeting 6 p.m. General Meeting 7.30. Truscott's photos from the Galapagos Islands.

**July 21st** Outing— Local area. Meet at Truscott's place at 1 p.m. We will visit Handonis lane in Barakula and return via Ballon and Burncluith Road. Weather permitting we might have Pizza, a bonfire and astronomy at Truscott's afterwards.

**August 17th** CWA rooms – 7.30pm General meeting. Guest speaker: Denver Kanowski with his Papua-New Guinea presentation.

### **LEN HUBBARD'S RARE WATTLE OUTING**

#### **September 1st - 2nd**

To get the best display time of acacias during dry times is very difficult. They appear to be later this year.

- A. Acacia leiocalyx often starts to bloom in late April. Last week 4th June, found one tree with two tails.
- B. All other species well budded.
- C. This outing is not so much as to see every wattle that grows here but to look at a few rarer species that persist in this area e.g. long phyllode variety of *A. rigens*, *A. lauta* and *A. lineata*.
- D. SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER: Meet at the park in KOGAN 9.00 a.m. To Goranba Lane, Tara, Crossroads, Chinchilla. Full day trip.
- E. SUNDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER: Meet at the Tourist Information Centre Chinchilla at 8.30 am. To Nudley Forestry, Ballon, Chinchilla. Full day trip.
- F. Those who wish to get back to Brisbane Sunday afternoon can exit Nudley Forestry earlier in the afternoon via Jandowae and Dalby.
- G. CONTACT: Len, Joan Hubbard. 07 46627065.

**September 21st** CWA rooms. Management Meeting 6 p.m. General Meeting 7.30. Guest Speaker: Truscott's Ecuador photos.

**No September outing** - The 2018 ANN get-together is on in Victoria

**October/November.** Spicers "Hidden Vale" near Grandchester as a possible outing.