

CONSERVATION NEWS
Oct-Nov 2023

General meetings: Third
Wednesday of the month:
NO MEETING in October;
15 November at 1 pm,
Caloundra Power Boat Club

Executive meetings: TBA

Executive:

President: Claire Brown

Vice-Presidents: Paul Smith
& Suzanne Aspland

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photocopying of
Conservation News



Celebrating Our 60th Year



Welcomed to Country by Bridgette Chilli, more than 40 Wildlife Qld and branch members appreciated reports from our co-branches throughout south and central Queensland and re-elected Peter Ogilvie and Des Boyland as President and Secretary of WQ at our 60th birthday celebration on 9 September...and we enjoyed cake!



President Peter spoke of WQ's major thrust to hold the Labor state government to their promise of protecting 17% of the state in national parks; currently protected areas sit firmly at 8.3%, and it is unlikely that this can be progressed before the next election. There is also little government desire to move

Advance Dates

Sunshine Coast Bioblitz 13-15 October

Mooloolah River Landcare is offering 15 bioblitz leaders (Botanists, Zoologists, Entomologists, etc) who will not only conduct community assisted biological surveys but also deliver a program of over 30 talks, walks and workshops.

Bookings at Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/722292354877?aff=oddtdtcreator>

As President Claire and Secretary Jude are taking a break in October there will be no general meeting.

Christmas Break-Up! Saturday 9 December at Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park, 10 am

Make a note on the calendar for our final bring-a-plate-to-share celebration of our 60th year.

away from tourism within national parks, despite contradictory legislation and documentation re facilities outside and inside Parks. Peter stated that local state Labor members are key to any action being taken at Cabinet level, and urged branches to direct lobbying to them.

The full President's Report and that of the Policies and Campaigns Manager Des will be available on the WQ website, with details on Expansion of the Protected Area Estate, and of campaigns re Waste and Plastic, wildlife, and marine parks. Matt Cecil, Projects Manager, works with other officers and grant funding to further work on PlatypusWatch, Glider and Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby conservation, and Richmond Birdwing and Quoll Seekers Networks. The *Wildlife Australia* magazine continues to be published with professional staff and contributors providing services at reduced fees. Out of 15 branches across the state, Sunshine Coast & Hinterland and Fraser Coast share the third highest paid membership position, after Brisbane and Bayside. Discussion on structure and governance encouraged branches to retain incorporated status in their own right as it provides protection from legal action against them or their members. We thank Head Office for financial support, and Operations Manager Janelle Devery for her help in bringing off a most successful get-together.

Guest speaker John Birbeck, retired from his responsibilities at Sunshine Coast Council, spoke of initiatives in the 1990s for an Environment Levy and its administration for natural areas acquisition, and a host of wildlife-friendly tools such as wildlife barriers and aerial road crossings, now taken for granted. John applauded the growth of Land for Wildlife properties on the Sunshine Coast (1300), a record in Queensland. Over time, other improvements to how Council does business included sediment control, wetlands as stormwater treatment facilities paid for by developers, First Nations' midden protection, ecological assessments in development applications defining fauna catchments and remnant vegetation leading to protected status, and turtle-friendly lighting. Pipeline tools include red and amber street lighting to protect reptiles, and anti-bird strike window glass.

John spoke of 'shifting baseline syndrome' where environmental knowledge is just one generation deep in any community and perhaps five years within governance, and its negative impact on continuity in planning and operations.

[Our branch is lucky in that much of its early work was documented in the publications of founder Kathleen McArthur, and current stalwarts such as Jill Chamberlain and Anne Wensley – cake-cutters above – have long memories. Elaine Green's history of pushback against excessive development over 60 years, *Piece by piece*, will remain a vital resource for environmental groups, and we hope, our councils.]

John stressed that groups such as WPSQ should use the successful work of local authorities to pressure state and

Faunawatch Outings

Second Wednesday of the Month Walks, 8 am at Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens: 11 October, 8 November

Fourth Monday of the Month walks, 8 am:

Monday 25 September, 8 am

Cahill's Scrub, Peachester
This 18-ha bushland reserve has a great mix of species.

Hopefully we will get another look at a Regent Bowerbird in the sun.

Meeting point: The end of Harold Place at Peachester

23 October, 8 am

Kawana Forest, Meridan Plains

This walk is part of the Climate Watch trail. We will start in Kurrajong Park before walking into Kawana Forest. With the open grasslands to the west, big eucalypts and the wallum section it should bring a good mix of species.

Meeting Point: Meet at the picnic shed in Kurrajong Park, with parking along and next to Kurrajong Crescent, Meridan Plains.

27 November, 8 am

South River Park, East, South River Drive, Mooloolah Valley

After another two years of re-growth it will be interesting to see how the area is progressing.

Meeting point: By the playground on South River Drive, Mooloolah

federal government, and also keep on the front foot to out-think developers. Regarding planning schemes, input from community groups is vital, with local government knowledge reducing over time due to staff turnover, and the state not much better.

In relation to increasing urban density, John considered that large district recreational parks will be needed to supplement beaches, and that sanctuaries for Koalas (eg, at Reesville and Mooloolah Range) may be required to overcome deaths by dogs, pools and roads. Regarding parks and gardens, and private gardens, he feels that these embody a 19th century 'Victorian' mentality. He calculates that there are 20,000 hectares of urban, commercial and industrial spaces on the coast, and that 10% revegetation with native plants in these areas could create wildlife habitat and contribute to human wellbeing.

Backyards for Biodiversity, John's new venture, aims to see 50% of backyards providing habitat for wildlife. His recommended reading is Tom Heap's *39 Ways to Save the Planet*, a recent book on current and developing technologies and social change towards mitigation of global warming.

John's full presentation will be available on the WQ website.

In **Branch Reports**, **Bayside's** reflected the 'shifting baseline syndrome' in their comment, '...all our elected representatives, with a few exceptions, appear to ignore community concerns from residents who have a wealth of experience to offer and yet we are being "stonewalled".' The main issue is of course Toondah Harbour, where it is 10 years since the priority development was announced, and although 28,000 submissions were made recently to the developer's EIS, the developer has not responded with an updated version, and there is no time limit.

Brisbane branch has focused on education – with a free lunch that brings in the members, and made submissions on the proposed Lumina Light Show at Mt Coot-ha as well as Toondah Harbour.

Capricorn branch likewise uses activities as drawcards for involvement, and educates regenerative farmers in the rehabilitation of Semi-evergreen vine thicket (SEVT), also being planted around Mt Etna to rehabilitate cover destroyed in fires since 2018, working with QPWS. Turtle hatchling awareness, mangrove and samphire ID for better management of the Yeppoon Inlet for boat and jetty owners are success stories, however Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey has succumbed to lobbying from the 'BCF Brigade' and facilitated access onto dunes by huge 4WD vehicles, with bollards flattened by winched vehicles.

Cassowary Coast Hinchinbrook branch advocates networking as the key the future of WQ branches, and works with the Regional Council nursery (food trees for Pied Imperial Pigeons, Cassowary and Mahogany Glider), and participates in the work of the Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee

Next WPSQ Branch planning session: There will be a follow-up to our event earlier in the year, at the November meeting when we will plan activities and roles for 2024.

60 Years

The link to *When the mind opens the flowers bloom: Kathleen McArthur (1915-2000) – Queensland wildflower artist, author, environmental educator and conservation advocate: a selection of paintings, writings and photographs* on the Wildlife Qld website is still a work in progress and will be sent out to members as soon as we can.

(covering the GBReef, Wet Tropic rainforests, Cape York Peninsular and the important Einasleigh Uplands). Two short videos were produced on the Mahogany glider and on recovery teams, with much other work focussing on the recovery of the Glider. 'Meet the Neighbours' brochures assist residents to get to know their wildlife.

Increasingly focusing on opposing loss of essential habitat from development, the **Fraser Coast branch** runs monthly Nature Walks attended also by members of the community, seasonal Backyard Bioblitzes, and celebrated WQ's 60th with a Walk on the wild side – guided walks, speakers and a barbecue. Submissions supported the Federal Environment Minister in her refusal of Clive Palmer opencut mines in Queensland, and legal action against a hotel licence that threatens wildlife including loggerhead and green turtles, shorebird waders and squirrel gliders.

Gold Coast & Hinterland branch extends its range by participation in various local community groups, including the Fire Ant Prevention Coalition, a Community Alliance (for better planning), the River Keepers Group (re the Rakali and its nests on the Nerang River), the SWAG group re water mining in the Springbrook World Heritage Area, and the Stop the Quarry at Oxenford adjacent to the Coomera River against extended extraction for another century.

Scenic Rim branch has finished tree-planting and protective fence erection under the Landcare Bushfire Recovery Grant program, and hope to compare species' presence or absence now with the situation in five and 10 years. Their big event was the Wildlife Expo in Boonah, highlighting koala and brush-tailed rock-wallaby conservation, glider and quoll research, Landcare and Land for Wildlife, sustainable wildlife tourism, and more. Presentations included the history and poetry of Judith Wright, WPSQ founder and Scenic Rim resident for 20 or more years. Activities included sketching wildlife and a wildlife puzzle trail for families.

Toowoomba branch has attracted new members from citizens concerned at the TMR proposal for a North-South bypass highway around Toowoomba cutting through significant wildlife habitat.

Monthly walks continue with **Townsville branch** members and non-members in areas close to town. Infestations of Yellow crazy ants were the focus of a field trip with the Invasive Species Council and attendees were shown first hand on an Alligator Creek property how the ants kill and repel wildlife. Mahogany gliders camera-trapping continues; gliders have been detected 5 km south of Ingham. The branch, along with Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees and a James Cook University PhD student set out 20 cameras in the Ollera Creek area.

The **Upper Dawson branch** brings in experts to inform locals of environmental values, demonstrated at the successful Butterfly weekend, recording 24 species on the Butterflies Australia app. Submissions were made in response to threats to wildlife and biodiversity, and on the advice of Dr Matt Currell of RMIT, SANTOS's proposal to discharge CoalSeamGas

How's your membership?

It was clear from the discussions at the AGM that membership and active participation in branch work comes down to a few (who love what they do of course).

Your membership fees (\$12.50 - \$45) allow for the smooth running of our branch and Head Office. The scientific expertise that defines WQ's excellent submissions to government comes from passionate volunteers, but equally from dedicated paid part-timers who provide the administration and state-wide communications to all branches via the website and Facebook.

If you haven't received an emailed or posted reminder from Head Office about an overdue membership, please give them a ring (07) 3844 0129 or email wpsq@wildlife.org.au. All memberships are paid to Head Office, and funds are disbursed to branches.

Water into the Dawson River was not approved and a full EIS is to be carried out. Goals include supporting the Council in its Advanced Cat Management Strategy, contributing to wildlife databases, and inviting a friend to outings.

Updates from August & September Meetings Point Cartwright

In a comfortable vote of 7 to 3, Sunshine Coast Council approved the Masterplan for Pt Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park, despite pressure from the active dog-walking lobby. The beach and rock shelves on the north will be out of bounds to dogs in order to protect local and migratory shorebird habitat. Not all of the protections put forward by Quentin on behalf of WPSQ have found a place in the Plan, however, it is a more positive outcome than expected.

The regulatory aspect (amendments to local laws) to enforce dog exclusion from defined areas is now available for public comment until **30 October**, and WPSQ urges members to make a submission to counter misinformation from some in the dog lobby:

<https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/proposed-amendments-local-laws-pt-cartwright>.

If you'd like to refresh your memory of our submission on the master plan, prepared by Quentin, refer to your August-September *Conservation News*, also found on the Wildlife Qld website: <https://wildlife.org.au/about-us/our-branches/sunshine-coast-and-hinterland-inc>.

And you may like to check other documents that were recently emailed to members on 28 September. They cover Sunshine Coast Council's thorough breakdown of key regulatory considerations used in their decision to restrict dogs in certain areas (looking at the Local, State and Commonwealth statutes, and how they are applied in the Plan) — a clear presentation of Council's intended compliance with regulations regarding the protection of shorebirds and other fauna; and the *Courier-Mail* article in which environmental author and educator Dr Sarah Pye said the move to restrict access for dogs at Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park 'had nothing to do with dogs...I'm a dog-owner, I love my dog and love taking my dog for walks, however, my dog is not endangered and there are a lot of species at Point Cartwright that are endangered...'

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, Sunshine Coast Public Transport project

The first of the Stakeholder Interest Group (SIG) meetings for Transport and Main Roads' Sunshine Coast Major Projects (public transport) was held at TMR offices in Maroochydore on Tuesday 12 September. SIG members included representatives from Koala Inc, TAPP, eCollaboration, SCEC and WPSQ, along with TMR project staff.

Quentin, as our representative, reports that as this was the

SCEC's new President:
WPSQ welcomes Sunshine Coast Environment Council's new president Sally Jensen, elected at their recent AGM.

first SIG meeting, it was largely a meet-and-greet, with limited engagement on issues. The projects being considered by the TMR SIGs are to be limited to four public transport outcomes (no roads):

- The B2N Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Project
- The Direct SC Project - Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line (CAMCOS corridor)
- The SCPT - Sunshine Coast Public Transport Project (Formerly Mass Transit)
- The East West Network (referred to as the bus network)

In relation to the SCPT, TMR staff indicated that they wanted to focus only on Stage 1. Concerns were raised about the lack of clarity on the form of the SCPT and preferences were expressed about addressing Stage 1 and Stage 2 concurrently.

The TMR team indicated they were interested in discussing environmental constraints to the SCPT project and that they wanted to get hold of up-to-date comprehensive species data for the affected areas.

Overall, Quentin reports that the meeting was unsatisfactory. The scope of environmental investigations and assessment already conducted by TMR was unclear. The detail on the alignment, engineering and design aspects of the projects was not provided. The breadth and depth of environmental issues discussed were far too limited. A request to adopt a set of environmental principles to guide deliberations was rejected by TMR. Broader questions on climate change, energy, emissions, acoustics, vibration, construction issues, liveability and sustainability were raised by participants as essential considerations for the SCPT projects under consideration by TMR, despite not being addressed by TMR during the meeting.

TMR indicated it was unlikely that a follow-up meeting would be held this year. WPSQ will communicate our concerns re big picture planning to TMR following an approach to SCEC and to OSCAR.

Shelly Beach to Moffat Beach Study

Council has received approval for its proposed action from the Federal Department of Environment under the EPBC Act, however, as the date of the response was extended, and Council is still waiting for a State government approval, the main works under the pilot project cannot now begin until after the turtle nesting season (1 October to 30 April next year).

Ben Bennett Bushland Park/Caloundra Transport Corridor Upgrade (CTCU)

The Stakeholder Interest Group (SIG) is still waiting on the project team for the requested content of fauna and flora surveys conducted by consultants since 2014, while TMR and Sunshine Coast Council have not yet released their detailed

Good Reads

Recommended by John Birbeck, guest speaker at the AGM:

39 Ways to Save the Planet, by Tom Heap, Witness Books, 2021 – also a series of BBC Radio 4 podcasts.

Here are bite-sized discussions with innovating engineers, climate scientists, educators, biologists and entrepreneurs about ideas and achievable solutions – from controversial (small nuclear, carbon capture & storage) to intriguing (rewilding the Arctic), and the immediately practical (dry cultivation rice, seagrass restoration), in the pursuit of carbon dioxide and methane reduction to save the planet.

design. WPSQ is concerned that the project footprint released in August has not confirmed the inclusion of fauna fencing. The next SIG meeting is in early November.

The awareness-raising event organised by various groups against the scale of the CTCU welcomed around 120 people over a period of a few hours, and provided tours of the proposed footprint of four lanes.

The petition against compulsory acquisition of the last property in Oval Avenue is here:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=3914&fbclid=IwAR2OQTPY9PKr-VM3Hf7yXIUtYmerwvx7bWx8R-bMBr65VGUv9I5TNpKJVQg>

Keep in touch with wildlife in the park via the Friends of Ben Bennett Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofbenbennett>

The **Save Yaroomba campaign** has been restarted following developer Sekisui's lodgement of a new application, and we voted to donate \$200 to their campaign to raise \$60,000.

Treasurer's Report

Judy notes that sales of books of over \$100 at wildflower walks and a donation from the Probus Club will be included in the October report.

The next Council Faunawatch grant has not yet been received, and to tide us over we've used over \$1400 of our funds on surveys this financial year, to be reimbursed once the grant comes in.

Faunawatch

While waiting on funds from Council's grant, surveys continue on Land for Wildlife properties. Healthy Land & Water is to fund surveys at Bells Creek.

Faunawatch data in 1 second degree spaces as per state mapping is available via Paul from the state database WildNet:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/species-information/wildnet>

Faunawatch walks:

The wildflower walks took precedence over a Faunawatch walk in August, however September's walk at Cahill's Scrub at Peachester recorded 56 bird species, with treetops full of tweets from Scarlet and other honeyeaters, the ground scattered with Variegated fairy wrens and the forest hiding a Woompoo pigeon. We also spotted a large Lace monitor, Brown ringlet butterflies and heard a Tusk frog in the almost dry creek, and enjoyed a welcome morning tea.

See Side column for upcoming Faunawatch walks.

**Weeds never sleep:
weeding opportunities
continue in 2023**

Join a BushCare group near you, including **Roving groups** to cover – in the Caloundra area – Sharyn Bonney, Ben Bennett, Jill Chamberlain reserves and more. Check out the Council's BushCare website.

Here are some monthly sessions closest to southern-based residents, most commencing at 8 am, with weeding and planting for a couple of hours followed by a welcome morning tea and chat:

Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Reserve: 1st Wednesday (run by National Parks & Wildlife)

Watson Environment Park (Shelly Beach): 1st Friday (Thursday if Friday is a public holiday)

Golden Beach (now at Bells Creek): 2nd Thursday

Tooway Lake: 2nd Friday

Shelly Beach Foreshore: third Saturday

Enquiries to
sunshine@wildlife.org.au

Response

Regional Inter-Urban Break/SEQ Plan

Building on Sue's detailed response in our submission to the EPBC (Federal Department of Environment) regarding Stockland's proposed residential development at Aura South (Hall's Creek), our focus was on the Northern Inter-Urban Break in a submission to State government on the Southeast Queensland Plan. The submission also includes information put together by SCEC, TAPP and the combined lobby PORIUBA:

'While recognising the potential need for additional urbanisation of agricultural and pastoral lands within both local authority areas, we believe that, given the proposed increase in population density, the protection of areas and species of national significance within the Moreton and Sunshine Coast Regions is critical, as expressed in the draft Plan Section 2.3: "Protect, restore, and manage regional biodiversity values and the ecological processes that support them from inappropriate development".

We believe that this inter-urban greenspace and the remaining large areas of remnant bushland and resident wildlife are in critical need of increased protection. The Sunshine Coast and Noosa local authority areas have been globally recognised as biodiversity hotspots. It is critical that this updated Plan protects our unique native wildlife for future generations. The rush to housing cannot come at the expense of remnant forest, wetland and other critical habitats.

This particularly applies within Pumicestone Passage catchment locations containing or adjoining highly sensitive Wetlands of State Environmental Significance, Moreton Bay Marine Park, RAMSAR wetlands of Pumicestone Passage and Moreton Bay, Pumicestone National Park, Glasshouse Mountains First Nations culturally significant landscapes, nationally significant European historical landscapes and regionally significant scenic amenity.'

and:

'Pre-emptive clearing and application lodgement

Changes in Bioregional planning and subsequent local government planning scheme adjustments will take considerable time to implement. With such changes potentially taking up to a year or more, we are concerned that the prospect of greater and necessary protections on the horizon will prompt early lodgement of development applications to both federal and state governments, and pre-emptive clearing and habitat destruction by some developers.

Serious consideration needs to be given to how the State could introduce a clearly defined, temporary moratorium on clearing during this period to avoid wanton destruction of critical habitat. Alternatively, or additionally, investigate how the State could work with Local Governments to allow them to introduce Temporary Local Planning Instruments (TLPis) or other measures to similar effect.'

Events

Wildflower Festival

Well supported by the community once again, booked-out walks were held in Ben Bennett (for children as well as adults), Isobel Jordan and Kathleen McArthur reserves, and despite little rain, the flowers performed well. Thanks to guides Sue, Jude, Jenny, Dee and Helen, with much-appreciated assistance from botanist Ann Moran and author Allan Carr, and Claire for registrations and sales. Many walkers signed up for our newsletter.

Jenny and Jude led an additional walk for Currimundi Probus in Ben Bennett on 25 August at their request.



Jude and Jenny explain how this tree became old and knobbly, as children and parents explore Ben Bennett with a special map for young people designed with Prue Oswin, Active Transport Engineer and also opposed to the CTCU.

Jude reports on successful wildflowering at Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park:

'After last year's rain dramas and this year's dry and warm autumn and winter, we had been worried that an earlier-than-usual flowering season would have not left much on display, but the Park always has something lovely to show us.

It was an 'Iris morning' with plenty of the smaller *Patersonia fragilis* along the side of the main fire-break track, along with white Rice Flowers and three-horned Devil's Rice, blue Flax Lillies, and the tiny Wire Lillies. Further along was a mass of golden Guinea Flower *Hibbertia linearis* and white Woombye Bush *Phebalium woombye* but not much Wedding Bush this year. The intense midnight blue of low-growing Wallum *Dampiera Dampiera sylvestris* stood out in contrast, and we came across just two spikes of mauve-blotched Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium punctuatum*, and then emerging spikes of the Wallum Grass-tree *Xanthorrhoea fulva*.

But the best was saved for the Swamp (Mandara) track, with deep pink Wallum Boronia *Boronia falcifolia*, white star-

Caloundra and other members will be sad to hear that Graeme Bowden, owner of the **Bookshop at Caloundra**, is retiring. We hope he finds an equally committed new owner. Graeme has kindly promoted our publications and the cards of Kathleen McArthur for many years, always giving the spiel on the work of Kathleen, especially to interested visitors. He hopes that we may continue sales in the bookshop into the future.

shaped Sprengelia, blushing Milkmaids *Burchardia umbellata*, mauve Vanilla Lillies *Sowerbaea juncea*, white bell-shaped Common Heath *Epacris obtusifolia*, and bright yellow Spike Goodenia *Goodenia stelligera*.

We were fortunate to have the company of Allan Carr, who had brought copies of his excellent illustrated Field Guide to the Native Plants of Bribie Island and SE Qld, which is available for sale at the Bookshop at Caloundra in Bulcock Street, or from our branch: sunshine@wildlife.org.au.'

WildHeART Student Art Prize 2023

The Branch has 'Gold' status as a donor for prizes, through our contribution and that of several members. Claire and Jill attended the grand opening of excellent artwork from across the state, and set up a display for WPSQ.

Sunshine Coast Council's Welcome to Shorebirds on a windy cool evening at Golden Beach was supported by the branch in the company of TAPP. Thanks to Jenny, Jennie, Robyn (and Don), Claire, Carla and Jude who distributed Wildlife Australia magazines, bookmarks and leaflets. Contact was made with a member of the Qld Wader Study Group who had been a member of WPSQ in the 1970s, and who is currently conducting water-based shore-bird surveys in the Passage with results to be shared with Council.

Petitions & Points of Interest

Name the Platypus chocolates (beautifully made by Maleny Chocolates) and win a prize! Buy their chocolates and 10% of sales will go to Wildlife Qld's Platypus Watch.

<https://mailchi.mp/wildlife/chocolateplatypuscomp?e=d3cb999e4e>

Next time you're in Maleny, look for the (real) platypuses in the Obi Obi just below the boardwalk.

Queensland Conservation Council is calling for stronger mechanisms to protect **Koalas** in Queensland subsequent to the State Government changing their status to Endangered. Their petition, closing on 22 October is at:

https://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/protect_endangered_koalas.

Textile recycling = CO2 reduction, hydro-mulch for land reclamation: Queensland-based textile recycling business BlockTexx:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qi_kDShj6U

The Climate Council, together with **Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action**, is urging the Federal government to pause all polluting fossil fuel project approvals until the national environment law, the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act* (Cth), currently under revision, is stronger: [Sign our joint petition with Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action](#)

Flowers with Sue Aspland

Sprengelia sprengelioides is found in Currimundi (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park, where this photo was taken, and in wallum country along the coast and south to Bribie Island. Allan Carr writes in his handy and easy-to-carry *A Field Guide to Native Plants of Bribie Island and Nearby South-east Queensland*:

‘Slender shrub to 1m in wet wallum heathland and on the edge of melaleuca wetlands.

Leaves alternate, crowded and stem-clasping to 12mm x 6mm with sharp point on rounded tip.

Flowers white to 15mm, terminal or upper axillary with 5 pink to mauve stamens from Aug to Nov.

Fruits flattened globular capsules to 3mm across.

