



MEMBERSHIP  
AND DONATIONS



## Noosa & District Landcare 2017 Workshop Series



*With our thanks for your interest, partnership and support for our local environment this year.*

*We wish you all a very happy and healthy festive season!*

*From the Noosa Landcare team*

**Our Monthly Workshop Series is finished for 2017.**

**Thank you for your enthusiastic support throughout this year's program.**

**The 2018 Workshop Series Calendar will be available in the new year ... watch this space!**

**Erratum:** *Our apologies for a mistake in the October-November 2017 E-news; the botanical name of 'Weed of the Month' should have been Setaria sphacelata.*

Find us on  

For our Available Species List click on the photo  
(seed of Sterculia quadrifida or Peanut Tree)





## Welcome to our December 2017 - January 2018 E-news

### Last Noosa Landcare event a real treasure

by Phil Moran, General Manager

Noosa & District Landcare's (NDLG) last environment workshop series event for the year was held at the Rural Futures Centre (RFC) on Thursday 16 November. Not a Powerpoint slide in sight, and a great night was had by all.

NDLG was very pleased to have Uncle Eugene Bargo present and entertain the packed house. Eugene is a proud Goreng Kabi man, who has amassed a great deal of indigenous and general knowledge, which he shared with us. His storytelling ability is quite remarkable. Eugene kicked off the evening with tales of his early years growing up, with strong influence from his father and other elders. He absorbed this traditional knowledge and is passing this on to both his people, and to the chosen ones at NDLG's environment evening.

Eugene has had a very colourful life. These days he spends his time in 'Floristry', growing native plants on his property at Blacksnake, west of Gympie. He had brought with him a great variety of different plants, and supplemented this collection by touring the grounds of the RFC before the talk with his well-used secateurs to collect more!

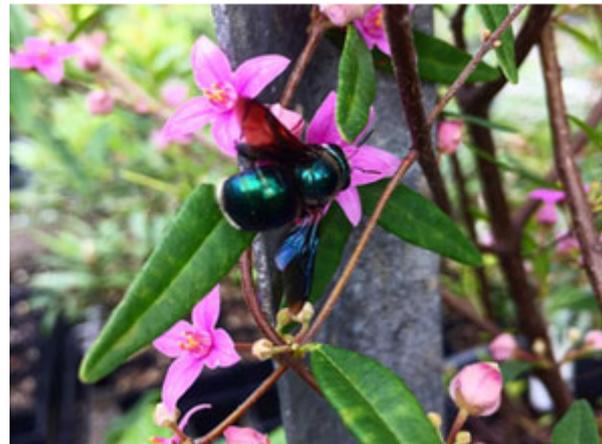
Each plant has its own story. Medicinal uses to dreamtime stories accompanied each species. Did you know that the Crinum lily (*Crinum spp.*) when cut will stem bleeding? As Eugene explained, indigenous peoples often scarred their bodies in ceremonies; this plant was used to stop the bleeding.

He then began making bunches of native flowers whilst continuing his stories. Eugene's creations were, as they are in the commercial world, much sought after! He sells his native flowers around Australia and overseas. The demand is high. This is despite Eugene being told by the big wigs in Sydney and Melbourne earlier in his floristry career that native flowers would not sell! Eugene's passion and respect for country was on show. We all enjoyed the evening, and this was a great way to finish our environment series for 2017.

Stay tuned for next year's series line-up, which will be on our website early in the new year.

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With thanks to our partners:



## Coming up in December and January

### With Noosa Landcare:

**7.45-11am, 2 December: Cooroy Creek Rainforest Planting.** Come and get muddy and help us to seal off the frog lunker (artificial frog habitat) on Cooroy Creek (pictured above), so the animals who use it are protected and secluded from public view. [All details here.](#)

### And beyond:

**5 December: World Soil Day.** The World Soil Day campaign aims to connect people with soils and raise awareness on their critical importance in our lives.

**9 & 10 December: Introduction to Holistic Management workshop** in Pomona. For farmers, gardeners, food producers, foodies and permaculture people. Learn how to work with nature to help improve your soil and quality of life, and grow your profits at the same time. [Click here](#) for information and registration.

**12-13 December: Using Manures & Composts Workshop & Field Day** with agronomist David Hall, in Kenilworth. This workshop focusses on incorporating manures and composts into agricultural systems to boost on-farm production and improve soil health. Full

## From flower to flower

by Ruby McMullen, Trainee

Recently I took this photo in Noosa Landcare's production nursery in Pomona. It is a native female Peacock Carpenter Bee, scientific name *Xylocopa bombylans*, pollinating a famous *Boronia keysii* (Noosa Council's emblem).

Before I took this beautiful photo, I'd seen the same bee numerous times in the same place within the nursery, in the *Boronia keysii*, but it would never sit still for long. However, on this day, I was completely determined to capture a photo. No-one could say they'd seen a bee like this one before, so I had to go and research it. Even though these bees are common in Noosa, it is still amazing to see one in real life.

The Peacock Carpenter Bee gets the name 'carpenter' from the way they use their jaw to burrow into soft wood to make their nests; and the name 'peacock' from their bright green-blue metallic colour, which at some angles can appear purple. The natural distribution of the bees is from Cape York in Northern Queensland, down the eastern coast to the Sydney region.

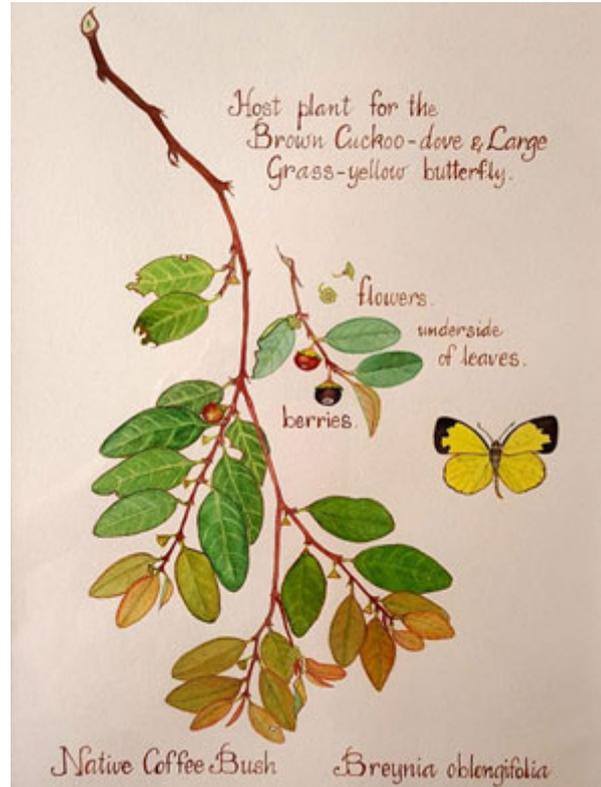
The bees have a stinger which is said to be relatively painful, however does not last long. They are not known to sting very often.

The bees can be seen from spring to autumn, commonly on pea flowers from the Fabaceae

day workshop followed by a half-day field day. [Click here](#) for more information and bookings.



family such as Native Sarsaparilla (*Hardenbergia violacea*). They also like flowers of *Banksia*, *Xanthorrhoea*, *Pultenaea*, *Leptospermum* and *Aotus* species.



## Maintaining the connection

by Matthew Noffke, Nof Architects

From a young age I enjoyed being outside. The soil, water, trees, wind and waves made me feel something that I could not entirely explain. I felt as though I was connected to something, something much larger than myself, something that made me feel, joy.

A number of years ago I purchased a nature refuge near Lake Cootharaba from a wonderful lady who, to my surprise, appreciated our endemic environment just as much as I did. The property is entirely vegetated, with multiple vegetation types that change in relatively short distances. This variation is a product of the low, seasonally inundated wet eucalyptus forest that runs through the centre of the property, creating gentle slopes that are orientated towards the North, East and South.

[Click here](#) to read the complete story...

## Botanical illustration - a whole new world

by Lyn Willett, Noosa Landcare Member

It was on a cool afternoon ramble up the steep, grassy slope of our back paddock below Mount Pinbarren that I caught a glimpse of a tiny purple flower waving gently in the breeze. Tucked away in a tuft of grass, I discovered that it was none other than the dainty Arrow-leaved Violet, *Viola betonicifolia*. Impressed by its perfection, I plucked a flower, a leaf and a bud. "Ahh!" I thought to myself, "I wonder if I can catch its delicate beauty on paper."

Sometimes in our lives there are moments that determine our destiny; thus, this was my "Ahh-ha" moment! A closer look through my magnifying glass, my constant companion, transported me into a whole new world of botanical wonder!

[Click here](#) to find out more...

## Native Plant of the Month

### *Hibbertia scandens*

(Family: Dilleneaceae)

(Pron: Hee-BERT-ee-ah SCAN-dens)

#### Snake Vine

"*Hibbertia*": after George Hibbert, a British patron of botany;  
"*scandens*": climbing.

This plant is a hardy and fast-growing climbing or scrambling vine 2-5m long, which occurs naturally from Southeast NSW to Northeast Qld. It will tolerate a broad range of climates and conditions (except extreme cold) including exposure to salty winds, wet soils, dense shade and mountain gullies. It prefers good drainage.

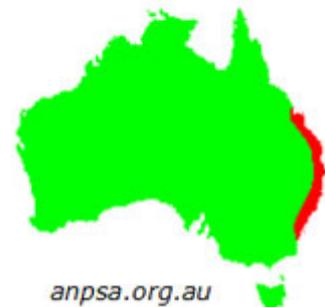
The **leaves** are dark green and thick, 3-9cm long and 1-3cm wide. The large golden **flowers** 5-7cm in diameter, appear most of the year. It flowers best in full sun.

**Uses:** can be grown safely around livestock (who are not attracted to them) and children; excellent screening plants on fences or trellises (noting that it can smother smaller plants); provides a dense groundcover; good for erosion control; native bees are attracted to the pollen, butterflies to the flowers, and birds and insects to the seeds.

**Propagation:** easy from cuttings; less easy from seed.

We currently have *Hibbertia scandens* in stock.

[Click here](#) for our nursery opening hours and current Available Species List.



## Weed of the Month

### *Thunbergia alata*

#### Black-eyed Susan

This native of tropical and southern Africa has become widely naturalised in the coastal districts of eastern Australia and south-western WA. It is regarded as an environmental weed in Qld and NSW, occurring in waterways, urban bushland, forest margins and roadsides, among other sites.

**Stems** are slender, green and hairy when young. The egg-shaped **leaves**, up to 8cm long and 4-5cm wide, are arranged oppositely with mostly hairless upper sides and undersides with hairy veins.

The **flowers** are easy to recognise: orange to yellow with a black

throat and appear throughout the year, but most abundantly in spring and summer. The **fruit** is a hairy capsule with a rounded base 5-11mm across that contains the **seeds**, and an elongated beak 9-15mm long. (See image of the immature fruit, right.) The seeds are about 4mm across.

**Control:** [Click here](#) for control of small and larger infestations.

**Native replacement species:**

*Pandorea jasminoidea* (Bower of Beauty)

*Hardenbergia violacea* (Native sarsaparilla)

*Tecomanthe hillii* (Fraser Island Creeper)



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