



MEMBERSHIP
AND DONATIONS



Noosa Landcare workshops are back in 2018, in a new guise: **Landcare Linkup 2018 - Monthly Eco-conversations with Noosa Landcare**. These events are free for Noosa Landcare Members ([join here](#)) and Bushland Care volunteers.

- Thursday 15 February, 5-7pm: '**FUNGI IN YOUR SOIL**' is the first cab off the rank. Book your spot now! [Click here](#) for the flyer.
- Thursday 15 March, 5-7pm: '**WAR ON WASTE IN ACTION!**' - flyer to come (just keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#)).

Please note: by our 15 March Eco-conversation, we will move to a new event booking system. You will book yourself in and pay online before the event. We hope it will be quick, easy and clear!

For our Available Species List click on the photo
(*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*
or Yellow Buttons)

Find us on  





Welcome to our February - March 2018 E-news

The Orchard Swallowtail Butterfly

by Nicola Thomson, Administration Assistant

I do love a slice of lemon in a drink on a hot day or drizzled over a salad, and also enjoy a good "tale", so why not combine the two and talk about the magnificent Orchard Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio aegeus*).

These large elegant butterflies can be attracted into the garden or balcony with any exotic citrus or a variety of native citrus from October through to May. The caterpillars eat plants from the *Rutaceae* family, approximately 40 different plants. You can buy exotic dwarf citrus varieties these days, which are easily grown in large pots as they have a dwarf root stock, perfect for small residences. Native plants such as lime berry (*Micromelum minutum*), a small fragrant native citrus tree and pink lime berry (*Glycosmis trifoliata*) or Australian finger lime (*Citrus australasica*) are also ideal.

The caterpillars may set back a small tree however. Having good quality organic liquid seaweed and kelp can bring a citrus tree back from the 'brink of death' in no time. The caterpillars will not have much effect on a larger tree.

Female Orchard Swallowtail Butterflies lay eggs on the tips of fresh, new green leaves of their host plant, and the eggs hatch approximately one week later. Small caterpillars prefer to eat young leaves, but as they grow larger they will eat older leaves.

Initially, they will have white and brown diagonal stripes and then turn various shades of green in the later stages. Young caterpillars resemble bird droppings, as camouflage!

If disturbed, the caterpillar will reveal two bright red protrusions (known as the osmeterium) from its third eye area which emits a pungent smell to deter predators, and that includes you!

The caterpillar will eat for approximately four weeks depending on weather conditions and food availability, and will grow up to 6cm long. It will then turn into a chrysalis for approximately two

weeks in the right conditions, but can stay in that stage for up to three years, before emerging as a butterfly.

When the Orchard Swallowtail caterpillar is ready to pupate, it suspends itself by its tail and with a thread sling. It will camouflage itself according to its leaf- and bark-coloured background, generally green or brown.

The Orchard Swallowtail Butterfly has a wingspan of 10–12cm and is the second largest butterfly in our region. It will need sufficient space when emerging from its chrysalis in order to expand its wings.

The male butterfly has an arc of creamy-white spots near the tip of each forewing (front wing) and is black. Each hindwing (back wing) has a single red spot and a creamy-white patch. There are red crescents on its underside.

The female butterfly is brown to black, and the outer half of its forewing is whitish-grey. Its hindwing has a series of blue and red crescent-shaped markings, as well as a creamy-white patch.

The Orchard Swallowtail Butterfly is easy to hand-raise. The caterpillars are a juicy treat for birds, wasps and lurking tachnid flies, so collecting them right from the egg stage will bring hours of joy watching them grow into butterflies.

So whilst you are waiting patiently for your Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*) to be visited by Richmond Birdwing Butterflies, why not encourage the Orchard Swallowtail to your property and get some zest into your life.



Coming up in February and March

With Noosa Landcare:

5-7pm, 15 February: *Fungi in Your Soil*, monthly eco-conversation with Dr Sandra Tuszyńska (Environmental Mycologist) and Marina Alonso (Soil Microbiologist).

5-7pm, 15 March: *War on Waste in Action!*, monthly eco-conversation with Emma Menzies, Waste Education Officer with Noosa Council. Flyer to come.

Tag team at the Kin Kin Arboretum

by Jann Bonsall

The Kin Kin Arboretum is a unique display of native trees endemic to the area. I took my Mum and Dad there a few years ago and they were mightily impressed but suggested plant identification signs would be a good idea and helpful particularly for "outsiders".

As a member of the Kin Kin Community Group (KKCG), I talked to Michael Lyons from Noosa

And beyond:

Find a Frog in February: Help find out where our frogs are in the Mary River catchment. ALL help welcome! Includes a series of workshops and surveys in the first week of February.

2 March: Schools Clean Up Day. A fun and engaging way to teach young Australians about rubbish-related practices. Starter packs provided and learning resources available.

4 March: Clean Up Australia Day. "When the rubbish is gone, nature can carry on". Be part of the solution.

1-4.30pm, 11 March: Our Local Butterflies, with Kevin Nielsen of Cooloola Nature.

11-17 March: National Groundwater Awareness Week. Groundwater is the world's most extracted natural resource, and it supports our ecosystems. Pay it forward!

8.30-9.30pm, 24 March: Earth Hour. "Switch off to join the future".

Photo: Sandra with fungi 'chair'.



The Life of a Pavetta

Council and Phil Moran from Noosa & District Landcare. With their support, KKCG submitted an application to Council for a grant to update and replace existing signs, install directional signs and plant identification signs.

The grant was awarded. As more discussions and on-ground truthing took place, the idea of adding Quick Response (QR) codes to the identification signs arose. This meant that anyone with a QR code reader could gain greater detail from linking to the Noosa Native Plant web site.

Again a team effort, engaging Stephanie Haslam from Noosa's Native Plants, Phil Moran, Michael Lyons, Paul Ryan and Jim Hill who worked together over a long period of time to produce the tags, which were installed on 30th January!

The signs have been designed and constructed in a collaboration between Jo-Anne Bourke, Rachel Bennell and Natalia and Duncan Broadhead. They will be installed on 10th February with help from members from KKCG, after which the Kin Kin Arboretum will be visible and 'on the map' for tourists and locals to explore and enjoy.

Dad's impressed and I'm sure Ma would have been delighted to see 'mission accomplished'. There will be a Stage 2, so keep your eyes open for an ever-evolving, information-sharing Arboretum.

Photo: Michael and Phil installing tags.



Behold the mighty Echidna!

by Phil Moran, General Manager

Pavetta australiensis (Pavetta) is a small tree, more commonly a shrub occurring from the McPherson Range in New South Wales up to the Torres Strait in Queensland. It likes dry rainforest, and is remarkably hardy. It is renowned for its beautiful white flowers, which are quite showy and perfumed. It is in the same family as the gardenia (*Rubiaceae*) so the perfume is not surprising! This plant is a very good butterfly and moth attractor ...

Caterpillars that are known to feed on Pavetta include:

- Moth (*Macroglossum hirundo*)
- Coffee hawk moth (*Cephonodes hylas*)
- Gardenia hawk moth (*Cephonodes kingie*)
- Aussie White-brow Hawk Moth (*Gnathothlibus erotus*)

I have three at home. Recently I noticed that one of them looked 'dead'! With all the rain, I did not think this likely, so had a closer look. The plant was fine, albeit with no leaves left at all! A further search revealed the cause ... not culprit. It was a caterpillar.

Many of our native plants are host plants for insects, particularly butterfly and moth larvae. Larvae are often species specific, whereas adult butterflies in particular feed on a variety of flowers to get nectar. The 'damage' may look serious, however it is in fact a gentle pruning, and the plant will come back after the caterpillar has hatched and flown away ... until egg time.

See series of photos to illustrate the point. * Now, I am not sure which larvae this is ... I reckon it is a Hawk moth, but as to which one, maybe a reader can let me know?

* [Click here to see all photos.](#)

by Ered Fox, Nursery Manager

Echidnas are often active at night and not so common in the daylight hours. This one is smaller than the largest specimen at our place.

Echidnas (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) can grow up to 45 cm long. They seem to be rather common in our yard, with at least 15 sightings or more a year and evidence of their aggressive diggings (for ants) left each morning.

Echidnas are one of only two egg-laying mammals. These are referred to as monotremes. The Echidna's closest relative is the rather quirky Duck-billed Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*). They both share a primitive evolution. They don't have a fully-formed teat, rather a bare patch of skin where the milk is exuded through a sweat gland.

Australia has the Echidna only - that is, no porcupines, hedgehogs or tenrecs to confuse us!

Echidnas exist Australia-wide and can be found anywhere with ground cover and ants. Indications of their presence can be shed quills, droppings which are long (up to 13cm), cigar-shaped, smelly, clay-like and filled with shiny ant remains.

Some people may find Echidnas a little annoying (digging up lawns), but if you are lucky enough to have them, you must have a decent habitat nearby.

Note: I have friends who plant trees in the newly excavated holes dug by the Echidna. Sounds like a cool idea ... as long as they are not repeat offenders and re-excavate the newly-planted trees!

Native Plant of the Month

Elaeocarpus obovatus

(Family: *Elaeocarpaceae*)

(Pron: Eel-ee-ah-CAR-pus ob-ar-VAR-tus)

Hard quandong

This medium to large attractive rainforest tree to 30m (shorter in cultivation) is found in dry and littoral rainforests of NSW and Qld.

It is hardy and adaptable, but prefers some shelter and moisture at first, to do well. It can be fast-growing with good rainfall.

In large trees, the **trunk** is strongly buttressed. The **leaves** are alternate, glossy green above and dull below. The delicate-looking **flowers** are creamy-white, fringed and lamp shade-like, appearing September to November. Small bright blue **fruits** follow, ripening from January to March. They are eaten by many species of birds, especially rainforest pigeons and fruit doves.



Hard quandong is also a host plant for larvae of the Fiery Jewel butterfly.

Propagation: germination is very difficult, but cuttings strike readily.

We currently have *Elaeocarpus obovatus* in stock. [Click here](#) for our nursery opening hours and current Available Species List.



Weed of the Month

Impatiens walleriana Balsam, Busy Lizzie

This soft, herbaceous plant is a native of eastern Africa. A popular garden plant, it thrives in damp, shady situations and is regarded as an environmental weed in Qld and NSW. In Qld, where it mainly invades creek systems and other moist areas, it is ranked among the top 200 most invasive plant species. Dense infestations suppress native seedlings.

It is an annual, or occasionally perennial, shrub 30-80cm tall. The thick, green **stems** are semi-succulent. **Leaves** are 3-11cm long, mostly alternate. The **flowers** appear throughout the year, ranging from white through to pink and purple, with five showy petals 1-2cm long. The **fruit** is a swollen capsule about 1.5cm long that explosively ejects seeds.

Dispersal: the seed is spread by water, wind or dumped garden waste. The stems can also take root if detached from the rest of the plant.

Control: Hand-weed, taking care not to disturb the explosive seed pods (to prevent their dispersal). Bag and bin the entire plant.

Native replacement species:

Blue flax lily (*Dianella caerulea*)

Native iris (*Patersonia spp.*)

Native violet (*Viola banksia*)

Swamp water fern (*Blechnum indicum*)



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