Dear members and other readers,

Yes, there is still a Study Group, and I am still the leader, although this issue must be about the latest I’ve ever done, mainly due to a year I never anticipated, in my wildest dreams. More about that later, for now I have some important dates for your diaries and calendars.

**SATURDAY 7th May:** Our annual Bribie Island gathering, based at the Bribie Island Community Nursery, First Avenue (see map below), from 9.00a.m. to 2.30p.m. This day is very near, but was included in the “Activities” section of the Queensland Region Bulletin, so I do hope some of the local members noted it, and can come.

**SUNDAY 19th June:** A look at Wallum plant communities of the Beerwah Scientific Area, off Roys Road, Beerwah, meeting first at Matthew Flinders Rest Area/picnic park at Tibrogargan Creek on the Glass House Mts. Road, just north of Beerburrum, at 9/9.30a.m. (cuppa & comfort stop).

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SUNDAY 7th August: Redcliffe Botanic Gardens, George St., Redcliffe. 3rd annual "What's Cooking in the Gardens?" organised by the local City Council, from around 9.00a.m. It is not yet definite that I will provide an information display stall, but just note the date in case.

TUESDAY 9th August: Combined outing with member group, the Caboolture Daytime S.G.A.P., meeting them approximately 10.30a.m. to look at bushland of interest in the Deception Bay/Narangba area. Actual meeting place to be advised, call me nearer the date, on 32899272.

SUNDAY 21st August: The annual wildflower walk organised by the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Assoc. Inc. (B.I.E.P.A.), meeting 9.00a.m. at the Q.N.P. & W.S. carpark at White Patch, which is north of the bridge, at end of built-up area (houses, etc.).

On either SATURDAY 6th or 13th August, I'll be conducting a Wallum wildflower I.D. Field Day/workshop at Mudjimba for Maroochy Greening Australia, between 9.00a.m. and 1.00p.m. More details will be available in a couple of weeks, so if you are interested, please let me know.

Noosa Parks Association is having a Wildflower WEEK this year, following the very poor weekend attendance in 2004. This year there will be displays in the foyer of the Noosa Library, adjacent to the Environment Centre at Wallace Park, Noosaville, from MONDAY 29th August to SATURDAY 3rd September. As yet, I haven't made a decision about participating.

SATURDAY 3rd September: Annual wildflower day at Currimundi Lake(Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park, northern end of Caloundra, from around 9/9.30a.m. till mid-aft. Organised by Sunshine Coast & Hinterland branch of the Wildlife Preservation Soc. of Qld., it is a lovely low-key day in pleasant surroundings under trees by the creek. The Wildlife people guide walks among the Park's wildflowers, and there are a couple of information displays, one of which is the Wallum Study Group. I never miss participating in this event.

A few details about some of these dates follow.

The Bribie Island day on 7th May now follows a pattern: On 9/9.30, morning tea (BYO refreshments, but hot water available), and social chit-chat, look around the Nursery till around 10.30a.m., when John Ward will lead a walk in a Wallum area nearby. Back to the Nursery around 12 noon for lunch, after which there will be a MEETING for members to provide any reports, results, comments, etc. on what they have been doing on the STUDY OF WALLUM & COASTAL HEATHLAND. This year this will be a very important part of the day's activities, as several members have become quite involved in projects in their areas. Or some who will be attending will be there to learn about Wallum plant communities. So by the time we sit around the table for a discussion, you will have had your chance to socialise, look around the Nursery and purchase plants, and will be ready to concentrate on BUSINESS as per the agenda I will prepare. I feel that the time has come for us to do some serious talking, especially with people coming from Tin Can Bay (City Farm Nursery), the Gold Coast (Friends of the Botanic Gardens), Redcliffe (Botanic Gardens nursery and new groundsman), Sunshine Coast Uni. student & new member, Caboolture, and who knows where else? Do you have any wildflower photos to show, books of interest, snippets from magazines, etc., specimens to identify, anything at all to contribute? Bring it along, and make this a good Wallum day.

I think the directions on the map are clear, over the bridge, along Benabrow Av. and Goodwin Drive into First Avenue and just past the sportsground on the right. If you go past the buildings you'll have to come back to where the Nursery is, on a little side service road.
It is about time that some attention was given once more to the interesting and varied plant communities within the Beerwah Scientific Area, off Roys Road, Beerwah, between the Bruce Highway and the Glass House Mountains Road (the old Bruce Highway). This Area was set aside back in the early 1900's by a far-sighted forester (the cynical will say it was probably too wet to grow Slash Pines), for the study of flora and fauna. Members of the Study Group who have spent hours there in the past can vouch for its beauty and diversity. Lately I've found a couple of people who wish to learn about Wallum, so a day at Beerwah would seem to be a good solution. Even in the cooler months, there are many plants producing flowers, especially the Banksias and Persoonias. Sunday 19th June should give us pleasant if cool weather, good for "wallowing in the Wallum". Because access has been restricted by locked gates on each entry, permits & keys are only issued to legitimate groups such as ours. But there are certain conditions - my Permit to Access covers 4 cars and 15 persons, so please contact me if you are interested in this outing.

An ideal place to meet is the Matthew Flinders Rest Area near Tibrogargan Creek on the Glass House Mts. Road, just north of Beerburrum. This will be between 9 & 9.30a.m. for morning cuppa and comfort stop, then we’ll move on to Beerwah. Bring lunch and basic excursion needs, the tracks are easy flat walking.

Sunday 7th August isn't necessarily a date for the Wallum Study Group calendar, but as I did provide a display stall last year, I am keeping it in mind for when our Redcliffe City Council gets serious about our own Day. Along with me in 2004 were the Acacia and Hakea Study Group leaders with information and plants for sale. If they decide to participate this year, I might join them, so for now there is little to tell you, except to take note in case you are looking for somewhere to go on that day.

Don Perrin of Redcliffe spoke to me about some interesting remnants of coastal bushland to the north of Redcliffe City, along the local Saltwater Creek, which has its origins at Narangba, west of Deception Bay. There is a large industrial estate here, but some wetlands and bushland still remain, and he wants me to consider the inclusion of an outing in the Study Group activities. Caboolture Daytime S.G.A.P. is a member group of the Study Group, so I contacted them about having a combined outing on their monthly meeting date. So on Tuesday 9th August they will have their meeting, and afterwards we will all meet to "go bush". Don is to check the area he spoke of, for access and parking, and will then advise me. If you are interested in looking at this bushland and its underwater storey of grasses and small plants, please get in touch with me, so I can provide you with the necessary information. Many years ago members of the Redcliffe Australian Plants Club/S.G.A.P. (now closed) visited this area, and found an amazing number of small flowering plants - Hibbertias, Patersonia, Pimelea, Trachymene, Goodenias, and Grevillea leiophylla is there.

Each year I participate in several activities organised by environmental groups between Bribie Island and Noosa, mainly wildflower walks and flower shows. They are intended to introduce members of the general public to our bushland, wetlands and Wallum, and the beautiful & diverse flora to be seen. These activities include the B.I.E.P.A. walk on Bribie Island, this year on Sunday 21st August. We are hoping for a better year than in 2004, which was so dry there were hardly any flowers to be seen. August is usually THE month for Bribie Island's Wallum wildflowers. There has always been a Wildflower Show at Coolum Beach on the 2nd-last weekend of August, but the organisation of it for the past few years has been a bit of a problem. In 2003 & 2004, the Coolum District Coastcare Group put together a wonderful Show at the Coolum Beach State School. However, with insufficient people-power this year to do the work, they aren't doing it, the responsibility rests with the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, who are usually more concerned with a financial success. At this stage, I am not including it in my calendar for this year, whereas I am
still undecided whether to be involved with the new-style Noosa Parks Association's Wildflower WEEK at the Noosa Library, instead of their usual weekend at their Environment Centre nearby. From such a long distance away, I would have difficulty with an event from Monday 29th August to Saturday 3rd September. For me, it also clashes with the Wildlife Preservation's day at Currimundi on the 3rd September, and one which I never miss, and thoroughly enjoy.

So there you are, some dates for Wallum involvement and enjoyment, you can decide which ones you'd like to be part of. You will always learn something, and if the weather & flowers cooperate, a Wallum day of any sort is sheer pleasure.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE 2004 WALLUM YEAR:

It wasn't the most appealing year for Wallum wandering, very dry with the flowers suffering. In May, Geoff & I had a couple of days at the Sunshine Coast, and I was able to show him where I do most of my "work". We spent a morning at the Sunshine Coast Airport Wallum, then looked over the Mudjimba Wallum Wildflower Rescue Garden, where I was disturbed at the extent of the dodder, Cassytha filiformis, covering the plants in the area where sand from the Marcoola units development site was spread in 2001. As dodder had been present at that site, seed was obviously in the sand, and had germinated. Removal & control will be difficult if not impossible, as there simply isn't the workforce, paid or volunteer, available to do the work needed on the dodder or other invasive plants in the Wildflower Garden.

There were the usual displays with an extra one at the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens' "What's Cooking" Open Day on August 1st. August & September are always busy months, and 2004 was no exception: Redcliffe Botanic Gardens on Sunday 1st; the BIEPA Wildflower walk at Bribie Island on Sunday 15th, with very dry conditions ruining the flowering; Noosa Parks Assoc. Wildflower Weekend over Sat. 21st & Sun. 22nd, with extremely low attendance by the public a disappointment, but the company of Tin Can Bay artist Maree Prior making it a pleasant weekend with us sharing accommodation; the Wildflower Show at the Coolum Beach State School, with lots of activities organised by the Coolum District Coastcare Group; the most enjoyable annual Currimundi day on Saturday 4th September, with grey storm clouds mid-afternoon making for speedy pack-up and departure; a Wallum weekend with the Maroochy G.A. Wallum I.D. workshop at Mudjimba and a walk in Mooloolah River National Park on Saturday 25th September, then an outing to Emu Mountain and its plants on the Sunday. On Monday 13th September I gave a talk on "Wallum plants in the home garden" at the S.G.A.P. Qld. Region General Meeting at Mt. Coot-tha Gardens Auditorium, using plant specimens from my own garden.

The BIG EVENT of 2004 was a trip to Newcastle, N.S.W., in July, to speak to their A.P.S. group about "Wallum". Unfortunately it was a cold night, and the date clashed with a big football game, so attendance was less than usual. Travelling alone it took the best part of 3 days getting there, with overnight stops at Ballina and Kempsey. I ventured off the highway to get to Red Rock, a (still) quiet little spot north of Coff's Harbour, and found it barely changed since I first saw it back in 1989 on my way home after a NSW State Conference at Bonny Hills. Stopping for lunch by the river, I found Viola hederacea beneath the spreading Melaleucas, and collected a piece of Dianella congesta for my home garden. I hope Red Rock is never discovered by developers, it is so lovely just as it is now.

At Newcastle I stayed 3 nights with Study Group member Barbara Burke, who gave me a couple of whirlwind tours of local wildflower spots. One in particular, on the advice of Banksia Study Group leader Cas Liber, was to Catherine Hill Bay to see a very lovely form of B. spinulosa, low-growing on windswept slopes looking out to sea. Then there was a spiky Hakea whose pink flowers were down inside the stems & foliage. Elsewhere, a path led through heathland vegetation
similar to some of our south-east Queensland Wallum areas. A.P.S. Newcastle has
their meetings at the Shortland Wetlands Centre, but Barbara took me back there
one morning for a daytime look at the Centre and its grounds. It is something any
community could be proud of, catering for all sorts of flora and fauna interests.
Returning home, I again had 2 overnight motel stays, at Urunga and Ballina. I
called on 2 Study Group members, whose gardens vastly differed from each other.
Barry Kemp at Boambbee, near Coffs Harbour, has a garden in typical suburban style,
while Sue Williams, just north of Lennox Head, has the sort of "garden" many of
us would love to have - 100 acres of genuine untouched coastal heathland. Just
enough space has been cleared for the house and some open ground around it, the
rest is natural heathland with wide tracks through it, plus some Melaleuca wetland.
I can't list all of the plant species there, but would love to go there again, to
have more time to look around it more thoroughly.
It was a marvellous trip, I saw lots of country, but would have liked to have been
able to take more time to do it, and to look at more along the way. But I had much
to do back home, and couldn't dally.

In 2004 my private life claimed much of my time, for various reasons. It is also
why there has been no newsletter since April 2004. My husband Geoff suddenly had
a problem with an enlarged prostate in late April/early May, necessitating instant
surgery to correct the condition. This was my birthday present, but all went well
with no complications, and was followed by 8 weeks of what we termed "unpaid long
service leave". Six months earlier, my brother had received a copy of our Sked
family tree from someone in N.S.W., and along with other family (my first husband's
and Geoff's mother's) interests at the tire, I got caught up in things other than
Australian native plants. And I found out that the schools my parents had attended
(Moore - my father, and Toogoolawah - my mother) were having Centenaries, in October
2004 and April 2005 respectively. In June, Geoff and I spent a weekend with his
son & family, who farm at Toogoolawah (in the Brisbane Valley), and for me it was
the perfect opportunity to lend family photos to the 2 schools, if they were of any
use for the Centenaries. With Toogoolawah done in the morning, I went off to Moore
after lunch, and while there, went to have a look at the house my Sked grandfather
built around 1912 when they came out from Scotland. Just up the road was a little
place for sale, it looked interesting enough to show Geoff on our way home on Sunday,
and we looked over it the next weekend with the agent. Well, I bought this house,
for us to retire to, and a very busy time followed. To repay the bank loan, I had
to sell my house at Redcliffe, a house I dearly loved, but which wasn't being used
as it deserved, and which we would never live in. We then embarked on the task of
shifting furniture & effects from Redcliffe to Moore at every chance, intending to
be able to stay there for the school's Centenary in October. With a 6-week contract
on Redcliffe signed at end of January, I then really had to get moving, so nothing
else got done until late March. What did we do then? We sold our slashing business,
which has entailed some bookwork, and I am only now starting to attend to all of the
very neglected plant work and paperwork. Then during the past month, Geoff has had
quite a few doctor and hospital appointments - they've all come at the same time.
Hopefully, things will start to even out a bit from now on, and I might be
able to catch up at last. We have decided that for now we have done enough
towards eventual total retirement. Instead of Geoff being at the beck and
call of customers, he will now work by choice, and be able to take some
time for himself. We will have to live between our 2 residences, but I
hope to spend more time at Moore gradually. Samsonvale will remain as
our base for a while yet, I have to recover from the past hectic year
before we make any further moves.

For a start, a native garden at Moore will have me on a learning
curve, as I will experience winter frosts for the first time.
What I have planted so far has survived the summer, with a few
losses. I'm not rushing into planting, but have added quite a few
Callistemons to what was there, they seem to cope with the frosts.
Acacias and some Grevilleas might be safe too, but I doubt that I'll
have much of a Wallum garden.
This Study Group is now in its 13th year, and where are we with cultivation, and propagation of Wallum plants? Most of my work has been done with "rescues", and not a lot of trialling with propagation. This past year, I've done nothing, but there are still quite a few of my "rescues" surviving in totally opposite—conditions to those natural to them. This is in spite of some rather erratic care over the years. I still think there are many small Wallum species which would be just wonderful in cottage-type gardens, but there is still a long way to go to success with some of them.

There are some members who are experimenting with any method they can, to germinate seed, propagate with cuttings, and grow Wallum plants in garden situations. At the Tin Can Bay City Farm (Community Nursery) Helen Schubert and Susie Pickin don't give up, while on Bribie Island, at the Community Nursery, John Ward keeps on trying, with some pleasing results. Don Perrin at Redcliffe Botanic Gardens nursery has succeeded in growing Pultenaeas myrtoides, retusa and villosa from seed, and is placing them around various gardens. While these three are not strictly wet Wallum species, they are found in the adjacent coastal woodlands.

On the Gold Coast, John & Bonni Reichelt converted a large area of their backyard into a "Wallum" of which John is very proud. They started with a couple of trailer loads of plants rescued from the "endangered" Ningi Wallum several years ago.

Bonni has provided me with a report on this "Wallum", copies of which I will have at the coming Bribie Island day on May 7th, as I don't have space in the newsletter to include it in its entirety. Bonni is also strongly involved with the Gold Coast "Friends of the Botanic Gardens" and holds regular propagation sessions at their Nerang home & garden. There are probably other members also doing their bit of propagation & cultivation, and I would like to hear about their efforts.

Those I've mentioned will all be coming to the Bribie Island day on 7th May, and their reports will be an important part of our meeting "business". Toorbul's Dot Brown is a long-time Wallum gardener, and will be at Bribie with us, and is one more member who has much to contribute.

For those who aren't able to participate on May 7th, any information you can offer will be gratefully received, so please send me anything you have, no matter how little it may be - it will all help. After all, we are supposed to be making a study of the Wallum & coastal heathland plants, to see if we can increase the number of which can be used in gardens.

Bonni's report also included colour pictures of their "Wallum" in progress, and I will have them with me at Bribie Island. I'll have photos of the small-plant garden I've developed over several years on a little bank at the entrance of our backyard, which is where all visitors arrive. The basic plant used (or rather, it has spread itself) is Chrysocephalum apiculatum, which was originally sharing the bank with a few different coloured Brachyscome multifida (not really heathland, I know), but the little Yellow Buttons contrast beautifully with the mauve daisies.

Not following any particular pattern, I've planted various small plants among these two - pink, white, mauve and purple Scaevolas, a couple of pink Grevillea leiophylla and its cultivar 'Pink Midget'. Both white & pink Pimelea linifolia have been added, a small deep purple Hovea, white Platysace lanceolata, yellow Goodenias, bluebells happily self-sow, as do purple Viola betonicifolia, and always bright & cheerful, several Hibbertias. H. vestita is a must with its large flowers, but other species add interest with different foliage and smaller flowers. While these plants aren't all strictly Wallum or coastal heathland, they are an example of how we could use a blend of different Wallum species to provide a most attractive wildflower garden in a small space.

So this year we are looking for some information and results of our trials and experiments. Relocation is being used in some places, but is that the best way to cultivate Wallum plants? Collecting seeds and getting them to germinate need a lot of time and dedication.
In the cultivation notes I mentioned Hibbertias several times. Well, they are one of my favourite genera among Australian wildflowers, and really deserve a place (or two or more) in every Australian native garden. Western Australia has the bulk of the species, lucky people, but south-east Queensland and further south into New South Wales and Victoria give the keen Hibbertia seeker many rewards. When I attended the 2002 Fred Rogers seminar in Victoria, I was able to call in at the Kuranga Native Nursery for a couple of hours. Their display of Hibbertias on sale and in flower was a "Wow" factor, but my photos didn't do the scene justice. I wished I could have brought home a big box of the plants, but my doubts about their survival in this climate outweighed the cost involved. However, I did give in, and I purchased some plants in little square tubes, these being able to go in my cabin luggage, with care. Of these, Hibbertia riparia is still alive, and produces flowers from time to time. But I must watch for infestation of that white scale which tries to cover the tips of the stems.

I kept a record of a year's flowering of my garden collection, from November 2003 to October 2004. Hibbertia vestita hardly misses a month, along with H. scandens. Of the former I have plants from several sources: my daughter's Burpengary block (collected 1989); the former Marcoola, Sunshine Coast wildflower field - 2 forms from the years between 1993 & 1997 (it was finally cleared for housing early 1998); one propagated by me from a Marcoola "rescue", and a very good form; purchases from Fairhill Nursery at Yandina, S. Coast. This species must gradually become a more widely-grown garden plant. H. scandens is more beachfront than actual Wallum, but should be in most gardens, despite its unusual scent. I would recommend it to be used to twine and climb among the lower twiggy branches of Leptospermums, Baeckees and Melaleucas, as these lose their leaves and begin to look "daggy". I have one on a Baeckea virgata (that was its name back when I planted it 24 years ago), and the large green leaves and big bold yellow flowers are gradually covering the bare twigs of the "host" plant. It is lovely to look down on from the window above. In that backyard "cottage" garden of mine, this Hibbertia is a ground cover, blending with all the other plants, and "falling" down the slope. So it is a most versatile species.

In my survey, Hibbertias acicularis and aspera only missed a couple of months with flowering, while a northern Qld. species H. velutina, flowered Dec., Jan., Feb., Apr., May, June & August. It is in a lightly shaded area, and would possibly flower more with more sunlight. I think Hibbertias need a decent amount of sun to produce their best, but it is very hard to get everything into the sun, with the number of trees I have (planted back in the days when I was a mere learner). A few years ago, I purchased a plant from Jan (Glazebrook) Cox's stall at the Spring Flower Show, the name of which I wasn't sure until more consultation with Jan after it grew into an amazing plant which produced around 200 flowers at one count. In a very open spot in one of my gardens, it spread out to around 80cm. x 40cm. All those flowers were back in late 2002, so in 2003 at the Flower Show I had no hesitation recommending it to someone. It subsequently developed a lot of dead leaves and stems, mostly to one side, and I thought once again I am being punished for boasting. Careful pruning of the dead material cleared the way for new growth, but it hasn't grown back as far across as before. It is still quite a neat little plant now, and has given me the pleasant legacy of 8 more plants scattered around, and all healthy. It happens to be Hibbertia diffusa, and has great potential.

Another H. diffusa came to me courtesy of husband Geoff one day in September 2003, when he brought home a bunch of little yellow flowers and leaves from a slashing job he had done at Mt. Pleasant, north-west of Dayboro. The plants he found were about a metre high, understorey of Eucalypts and other vegetation. My wildflowers were admired in a vase until the petals all dropped, but I took 16 cuttings, of which 3 grew. They are surviving my erratic care, and I have planted one in my new garden out in the country, a couple of weeks before Easter. We've been busy, and visits...
to our new home haven't been as often, so watering has only been done 3 times, plus a little bit of rain. That little Hibbertia diffusa has had its head up high the whole time, but winter will be the real test, as frosts can be severe - I don't think I will be growing many Wallum plants, but I'll still try some. A second plant of this H. diffusa was given to Don Perrin for the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens, the third staying here with me, as a reserve. The tiny flowers of Hibbertia acicularis appeared in Dec., Jan., Feb., April, Aug., Set. and October. There is another species with similar tiny flowers, but the foliage has a completely different arrangement. Both are found in the open wet Wallum, but the latter also occurs on the coastal hills & dunes and drier places. All of the species I have mentioned are performing well for me, and I must find time to do some propagation of them, and get them out to other members. Whilst there is no active Hibbertia Study Group, I will continue to include this section in our newsletter, but it cannot possibly cover the enormous number of Hibbertias we have. I can probably only deal with those I am most familiar with - those of south-east Wallum and coastal forests, whereas there a lot more in New South Wales, several very attractive, and mostly not in cultivation. So when you are out & about, and see a Hibbertia, take a cutting or two (staying within the law, of course), and see if you can grow them. As well, collect a specimen for identification, noting the location carefully. Take 2 specimens, one for the Herbarium, and one for your own reference. Some members of the Study Group have indicated that they are happy to include the study of Hibbertias, as, like me, they are fans of this brilliant genus. Thanks for your support, but don't forget to pass on any relevant information. In our busy daily lives, we don't always manage to do everything we mean to, I am also at fault in that respect, so I understand when there is not a lot of input from you, the members of this Study Group. That's all from me in this issue on Hibbertias, now I want to hear from you.

With Geoff and I so busy in our private lives the past year, there has been little action with the Study Group. I managed to fit in my usual Sunshine Coast activities during August and September, plus a few other things, but I missed out on producing a newsletter during that time. I was "wearing 3 hats" this time last year, and finding that I couldn't stretch as far as I had been doing. The three hats belonged to this Study Group, the Redcliffe & District S.G.A.P. (secretary), and Lone Member Liaison Officer of S.G.A.P. Qld. Region. As the Study Group was my "baby" from 1992, I wouldn't give it up unless I was totally incapable, and the Lone Member Liaison Officer has never been a demanding position, but looked like an interesting challenge. However, the branch at Redcliffe, and covering the Sandgate area also, had been in decline for several years, and had such a low level of members that we just couldn't do everything we wanted, and needed to do. So a final decision was made in August 2004, to close the branch. It was a sad decision, as it was in its 31st year of operation as the only Australian native plant interest group in Redcliffe, a highly urbanised small city immediately north of Brisbane. While the branch didn't exactly have a turbulent life, there had been several changes of name and status over the years, and the latest project it was involved with - the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens - wasn't always smooth sailing. The balance of funds of $396.51 was transferred into the Study Group account, and is intended to be used to produce educational material and descriptive leaflets on the vegetation of Wallum and other coastal wildflower communities of this region. Should the branch re-open within a reasonable time, an appropriate donation would be made from the Study Group. There are many remnant pockets of Wallum-type vegetation in this area north of Brisbane which I'm sure would interest members. At present our bank balance stands as $2066.20, but I have to be reimbursed for the production of the last 2 newsletters - Nos. 18 & 19, but funds will remain healthy. Renewal subs. will be due at end of June, $5.00 as usual.
FROM MY MAILBOX, which is just one of about 16 at the junction of Pringles & Farrow Roads. It now sits on a black stump, since the lovely old tree it was once attached to, caught alight in a bushfire back in September 2003. Since we have sold the slashing business, it will need re-painting, when Geoff gets round to it.

And what has arrived in the past year? Please don't be offended if you have written, and I miss you out.

My best correspondent is a Wallum "wanderer" from way back, from days at Coochie Mudlo, then with the late Kathleen McArthur at Caloundra. After living on the Coast for many years, she is now back nearer her beloved "Coochie" in the Redlands Shire and Southern Moreton Bay. Nowadays she doesn't ramble (physically) as much she once did, but she keeps me informed about her part of S.E.Q., and writes articles, with illustrations, for the "Wildlife Magazine" of the Wildlife Preservation Soc. of Qld., and for the S'shine Coast Environment Council's "Eco Echo". She belongs to the Botanical Artists of Qld., and with her permission, I am using a couple of her drawings in this newsletter.

The Melastoma and the Hibbertia. Some of you might know Rosemary Opala, a quiet lady with extensive knowledge of Wallum, and admirable skills with drawings of many things coastal, as well as the Wallum plants. I hear from her following each newsletter, and have been chastised for not producing them more often, and making them shorter. This newsletter's feature flower is the lovely Native Lasiandra or Blue/Black Tongue. Twenty or more years ago, it was Melastoma polyanthum, then changed to M. affine, until a few years ago, when it was declared to be Melastoma malabathricum subsp. malabathricum! No wonder some of us resort to common names! Rosemary thinks, as I do, that it is a dreadful name, and is sure that Kathleen would have been "outraged". Anyway, Melastoma whatever has been used in the planting of local native plants along the verge of the northern Caboolture by-pass, and around Christmas, it was "blooming" beautiful, in full flower for a few weeks. By the way, this northern by-pass is a secret known only to the locals - recently constructed, but unfinished, it has no signage until you are almost on it, near the Caboolture Showgrounds. But if you do find it, you will see that a lot of local species have been used.

Back to Rosemary, she wrote of a white form of Melastoma now available, known as M. affine var. Allesandra (that is on the label). At first, it was only at Fairhill, probably at other nurseries now, and supposedly originated near Ewen Maddock Dam, near Landsborough, south of Caloundra. I am now growing the white and 2 pink Melastomas, but the white form seems to need more frequent watering.

Rosemary has been busy with small exhibitions, one at the local Council Gallery, and was pleasantly rewarded when a couple of her mangrove studies were purchased for the Council's environmental collection.

From Lyn & Merle Thompson, in the Blue Mts., N.S.W., came a brilliant & beautiful postcard "Kwongan Connections" - Valuing the Biodiversity of the West Midlands (W.A.) Region. "Kwongan" is the W.A. name for coastal heathland. With the postcard were 2 photos of "Kwongan" at Hi-Vallee Farm, and at Kalbarri Coastal Gorges. Thanks muchly Lyn & Merle, for the thought and the cards.

Jackie Williams, a Mudimba Wildflower Garden volunteer and Wildlife carer, sent me photos of the Garden, and from the Wallum I.D. workshop and Mooloolah River National Park walk in September 2004. While not a Study Group member, Jackie is just another of the many sincere Wallum volunteers on the Coast.

More photos from Kate Thynne, one of Kathleen McArthur's daughters, this time of some Currimundi's wildflowers in September & October 2004 - Burchardia umbellata (Milkmaids), Drosera spatulata (Sundew), Banksia robur, Dipodium punctatum or variegatum (not sure which, wants me to check - Hyancith Orchid).
Sun Orchid

Personally, I receive newsletters from: Noosa Parks Assoc. Inc., lately with depressing news of continuing loss of significant Wallum for more roads and business development. The Noosa Junction swamp has lost part to new roadworks, so fewer yellow Christmas Bells.

"Bush Hands" from the Maroochy Council's Environment Branch, is received in exchange for this newsletter.

The B.I.E.P.A. Inc. (Bribie Island) monthly newsletter keeps me up-to-date with the good and the bad from my old childhood home. Like all of our popular coastal beauty spots, it is being "loved" to death.

Moreton Island Protection Committee concentrates wholly & solely on that Island, and continues to work steadily towards their goals.

I've been a member since 1980, and on a trip there many years ago, I admired their work done with plantings of local species near the facilities at the Cape.

You can see that my mailbox is capable of holding plenty of mail, so please make good use of it, with some news for me.

The Wallum I.D. workshop run by Greening Australia Maroochy at Mudjimba (or another venue, unsure as yet) will now be on Saturday August 6th. If interested, enquiries to Nick Willis on 0419025736, or at the office on 07 54757359.

Do you ever look out for, and purchase cards with wildflowers on them? I found one with a beautiful picture of Stylidium graminifolium (Trigger Plant) on the front, on a stand at the front of our local "Bargain City". There are many others available, by a variety of artists, one Sunshine Coast person being June Kelly, who produces some dainty pictures. One I have of Hibbertia scandens, by Jennifer R. Ephraim, is lovely enough to frame, if it were a large picture.

I have explained why the past year went by with no contact from me. The tiny township of Moore will be somewhat distant from the Wallum of the Sunshine Coast, but it already takes me over an hour to reach even Caloundra or Bribie Island, the southern end of the Coast. I have found that I can get to Caboolture easily in an hour, so perhaps I won't be as disadvantaged as it may seem, to keep up with my Wallum activities. Meanwhile, I am happy to report that I have found wildflowers in my Moore back block. Murdannia grahami and Hypoxis hygrometrica appeared after there was a bit of rain not long after I took possession. Geoff immediately received instructions not to mow wherever I placed sticks of rocks as markers. Across the road out front, on the verge and on the ex-railway line property, I was delighted to find Chrysocephalum apiculatum and bluebells.

Well, as Peter says: "That's your blooming lot till next time." Perhaps I've missed a few things, they'll have to wait until next issue, which I do hope will be at a respectable interval.

Be seeing you, Barbara H.