

**QNC LONG EXCURSION - SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**BIMBLEBOX NATURE RESERVE and CUDMORE NATIONAL PARK**  
**South Galilee Basin via Alpha Township, central Queensland**

**Dates for the excursion**

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 (5 nights) at Bimblebox Nature Reserve.
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September - overnight in Alpha to enable restocking and refueling.
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (5 nights) Cudmore National Park.

**Expression of Interest applications close 5pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**

**Location**

The 2023 long excursion will visit two properties in the southern Galilee Basin, north-west of the township of Alpha which is about 2 hours' drive west of Emerald. Bimblebox Nature Reserve (BNR), about 50km north-west of Alpha, is an almost 8000 hectares of privately-held conservation reserve featuring uncleared, intact woodland with a significant pocket of biodiversity, will be visited first, followed by Cudmore National Park (Cudmore), which is about 100km north-west of Alpha.

The township of Alpha is about 1000 km from the northern suburbs of Brisbane, with only about 50 km difference in the distance between driving via Roma or via the Wide Bay Highway.

Both properties preserve many habitats of largely intact remnant vegetation representing a surprising range of ecosystems; the variety of species is impressive, and they are especially notable for their plants and birds. The geography at Bimblebox Nature Reserve is largely flat, whereas Cudmore National Park has sandstone escarpments with the elevated sections being accessible by 4wd.

More information about each property can be obtained through the internet via these links:

<https://bimblebox.org/about/>, and  
[https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0021/167016/cudmore-rpms.pdf](https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/167016/cudmore-rpms.pdf)

**Access Road Conditions for Bimblebox and Cudmore**

Both properties are accessed via well maintained dirt roads; however, with greater than 10mm of rain in a single event, these roads become slippery and boggy. Water is absorbed quickly but significant rainfall will likely curtail excursion activities.

**Bimblebox Nature Reserve: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2023**

1. Bimblebox is privately owned, and the owners have set a limit of 20 people for the camp, therefore, we require all people interested to complete and return an Expression of Interest.
  - a. As a condition of attendance, the Bimblebox owners require a waiver of liability from all participants prior to entering the property. That form is attached to this information and must be signed and returned along with your Expression of interest.
2. There are basic camping facilities at Bimblebox.
  - a. Campers are required to bring their own supply of potable (drinking) water. Limited water for washing will be available.

- b. There is a basic shower room, and campers will need to bring their own solar-warmed shower bag and/or submersible pump and bucket, and as much as possible bring and use their own water.
  - c. There is a single long-drop toilet, and the club will also take and use one of its toilets.
  - d. There is a long outdoor table which will have a tarpaulin cover, and this will be for communal activities and gatherings.
3. Vehicles
- a. In order to protect tracks within the property the owners require car-pooling and for vehicle speeds to be kept to a minimum, and for only high clearance 4WD's to be used on property tracks.
  - b. People with 2-wheel drive or low clearance all-wheel-drive vehicles could drive to the property and park in the area where the camper trailers will camp, which is a 5-minute walk from the main camp location. Another option is to leave the vehicle in Alpha and travel to Bimblebox with other club members in a high clearance four-wheel-drive. These arrangements must be made by the individual.
- 4. Due to the necessity to have 5 or 6 high clearance 4WD's available, preference for this camp will need to be given to attendees who have such a vehicle and are already carrying share riders, and/or are able to carry extra passengers whilst at the property.
  - 5. You will see from the above that this is in some ways an unusual camp for us and is a bit more demanding in its organisation. Even so, it is an exceptional location and contains a surprising range of ecosystems: the variety of species is impressive, and it is notable for its birds and plants.
  - 6. In lieu of payment of camping fees to the property owners, they have requested in-kind assistance from campers in the form of one hour weeding per day.
  - 7. The day-to-day leaders for the Bimblebox Nature Reserve camp will be Greg and Annie Neill, with assistance from Terry and Sally Johnsen.
  - 8. Due to the special nature of Bimblebox Nature Reserve, a wait-list will be kept from expressions of interest received should someone withdraw from the camp.
  - 9. The Bimblebox owners have requested assistance in identifying many of the native grasses on the property. They have given permission for specimens to be preserved in a plant press for later assistance with identification by people with expertise in native grasses.

### **Cudmore National Park: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

- 1. Cudmore National Park does not have limits on the number of people who can attend, and the facilities are also basic.
- 2. The Rangers have given permission to use limited facilities at the Rangers homestead, including two bedrooms with 2 single beds in each room, and the shower and toilet. The club will also take and use one or two of its toilets. There is a large, covered courtyard and table which will be used as a communal area, and for gatherings.
- 3. Campers are required to bring their own supply of potable (drinking) water, and limited tank water will be available for hygiene washing, but not for clothes washing.
- 4. Due to occasional steep gullies along the tracks within the national park, only high clearance 4WD's are to be used on tracks, and car-pooling is encouraged.
- 5. People with 2-wheel drive or low clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles could drive to camping area at the Ranger's homestead, or they might prefer to leave their vehicle in Alpha and travel to the national park with other club members in a high clearance four-wheel-drive. These arrangements must be made by the individual.
- 6. Due to the necessity to have 5 or 6 high clearance 4WD's available, preference for this camp will need to be given to attendees who have such a vehicle and are already carrying share riders, and/or are able to carry extra passengers whilst at the camp.

7. The leaders for the Cudmore National Park camp will be Terry and Sally Johnsen.

### **Alpha Township**

1. There are two places to camp in Alpha, either the well-appointed Caravan Park in town, or the free camp behind the vehicle wash-down facility. Showers and toilets, drinking water, and a Dump point, are available at no cost near at the wash-down facility. A cattle watering trough outside the Cemetery, 5 minutes' walk from the free camping area, attracts a wide range of birds in the evenings and morning. People are to make their own decisions and arrangements for staying overnight in Alpha.
2. The Spar Supermarket is closed on Sunday, reopening Monday morning.

### **Further information**

1. The book "Plants of Central Queensland" authored by QNC member Eric Anderson AM, would be a useful resource for this excursion.
2. Additional information relevant to this excursion will be provided to those who submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). Receipt of this additional information does not mean that an expression of interest has been accepted as a Registration.
  - a. The organizing team will acknowledge receipt of your EOI, and they will also let you know if you have been accepted as Registered for the excursion, or if you are on the waiting list for the excursion.
3. QNC camping fees of \$2 per adult per night will apply for the 5 nights camping at Bimblebox, and for the 5 nights camping at Cudmore.
4. Club members are welcome to submit an expression of interest only for Bimblebox Nature Reserve, or for Cudmore National Park, or for both locations.

### **Expression of Interest – Details**

1. If you are interested in attending any part of this long excursion, please complete the Expression of Interest application form and email it to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au), with **GALILEE BASIN** as the subject.
2. If you are interested in attending the Bimblebox Nature Reserve camp, please also complete the Accident Waiver and Release of Liability agreement and email it along with your completed Expression of Interest, to [excursion@qnc.org.au](mailto:excursion@qnc.org.au)
3. **Expression of Interest applications close 5pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**