

On Exhibition Wednesday the Nats enjoyed a day naturalising in the Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate, administered by the Ipswich City Council.

16 Nats attended including new member Chris. After a chilly start of 4 degrees the day quickly warmed up and we headed off in two groups from the Flinders Plum picnic area. Cathie led the first group of five, which ambled slowly up Sandy Ck returning to the picnic area for morning tea and lunch. Many birds were heard and seen with Greg and Janine recording 34 species, see [eBird trip report](#). The group also recorded 79 plant species; these being 8 ferns, 7 monocots, 63 dicots and one gymnosperm the ubiquitous hoop pine. The group were also able to add a number of new species to the rather extensive existing list.

The second group of 11 led by myself were making a day of it, heading further up Sandy Ck to Scott's Scrub for lunch and returning in the afternoon, probably around 11km all up (certainly felt like it!)

The first section was alongside Sandy Ck through an old farming property which had extensive hoop pine and scattered dry scrub species such as silver croton *Croton insularis* and hairy bird's eye *Alectryon tomentosus*. Some of us up front were treated by seeing a redneck wallaby near the track, which kindly posed for photos. Further on we saw the root parasite shrub *Exocarpus cupressiformis* being parasitised itself by the mistletoe *Viscum articulatum*. Morning tea was had at an old farm dam with not much in the way of birds and insects, but it had a very healthy weed population, with large specimens of the giant devil's "fig" *Solanum chrysotrichum*, wild tobacco *Solanum mauritianum* and the smart weed *Persicaria orientalis* which is native to both Asia and Australia.

From the dam a short off-track section took us uphill through spotted gum with blady grass understorey to reach the ridge track on the divide between the Bremer and Logan catchments. It was along this track Annie discovered hidden in a small bush a spider with distinctive elongated egg sacs. Penny identified it as the magnificent bolas spider *Ordgarius magnificus*. Although belonging to the orb web family, this particular species catches its prey by emitting a pheromone attractive to male moths, then lassoing them using a sticky bolas on a silk thread!

As we continued south along the divide the vegetation changed from sclerophyll forest into the "dry rainforest" of Scott's Scrub. The development of the scrub was possibly due to the area having more fertile volcanic soils compared to sedimentary soils lower down. Many were keen to see the endangered Flinders' plum *Planchonella eerwah* which we saw in due course. This tree was about 8-10m high with red plum like fruit. Other trees of note were the peanut tree *Sterculia quadrifida*, the scrub wilga *Geijera salicifolia* which was in flower and two species of *Flindersia*: crows ash *F. australis* and

leopard ash *F. collina* which were rather appropriate for the location. Also flowering was the wonga vine *Pandorea floribunda* with creamy yellow flowers.

Finally, around 1.00 pm we reached our lunch spot at the pig trap, which must be a record for the Nats - 5km in four hours! As herding Nats is a bit like herding cats.

After lunch we headed back to the cars taking a fairly steep track down through the scrub, then passing through a grove of the grey gum *Eucalyptus biturbinata*. This is more of a southern species and not that common around the Brisbane area.

Many thanks to Cathie for leading the “easy” group and to Barry, Ron and Tony for their botanical knowledge. Also, thanks must go to ICC for preserving such a biodiverse and scenic area and opening it up for the public to enjoy.

David Bouchard



The “Easy” group (Cathie Duffy)



Flinders Peak from Scott's Scrub (Greg Neill)



Spotted pardalote (Annie Neill)



Magnificent bolas spider egg sacs (Annie Neill)



Red-necked wallaby (Annie Neill)



Silver leaved Croton (Ron Carr)



Flinders plum (Greg Neill)



Mistletoe parasitising a root parasite (Tony Bean)