

# FoPI Flyer

April 2010

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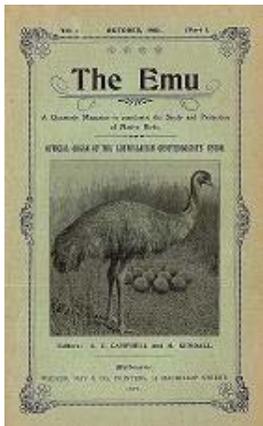
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## Our patient bird man

In the 1990's, whilst a lecturer at the University of Queensland, Dr Peter Woodall made 23 visits to Peel Island to conduct bird surveys. The results of this study were published in a paper in the "Sunbird", the journal of Birds Queensland (Queensland Ornithological Society) and formed the basis of his recent talk to FoPIA members and visitors.

Details of his study of the birds he found in the different ecosystems found on the island was fascinating. Dr Woodall provided added interest by drawing in the story of Peel's first 'official' bird watcher - lazarret patient Noel 'Laddie' Agnew. Not to take away from other's achievements, but Laddie accomplished something remarkable. Unschool ed in the sciences, and with no access to expert knowledge

or resources, identified 76 species of birds which was published in the RAOU Journal "The Emu" in 1913 and a further list was published in 1921.



An early "Emu" journal cover

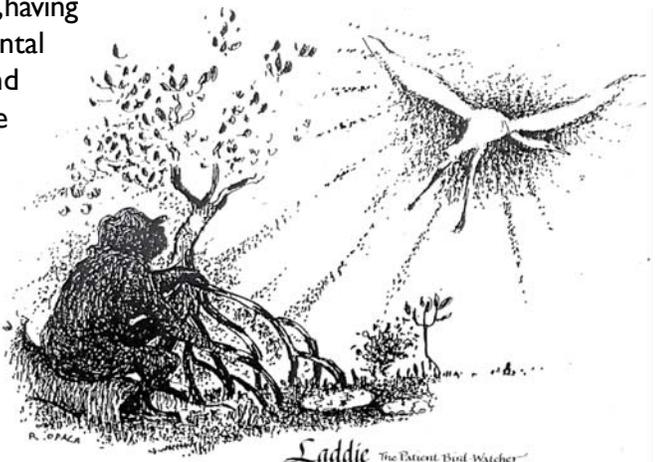
Dr Woodall compared his own observations with Laddie's and found that there were differences with some new names being added, and others not observed. The reasons for the differences can be attributed to a few reasons. While full of admiration for Laddie's meticulous lists and ability to identify birds with so few resources available, some mistakes identification were made. Some species names have also changed in the interim years with reclassifications occurring.

There is also the issue of seasonal visitors and climate effect: a number of birds not found in the latter study live in wetlands. When Laddie made his observations the mealeuca swamp on the island had water in it (which no doubt attracted certain birds to come visit the island); but the swamp was all but dry when Dr Woodall visited. Some birds may have no longer be seen, having succumbed to environmental pressures and Peel Island is perhaps too far for some neighbouring populations to fly from and recolonise the island.

An immensely informative and enjoyable talk - Thank you again Dr Woodall.



Dr Peter Woodall with Geraldine Trivett, a great niece of Laddie's



Drawing by Rosemary Opala

Dear Members

Here is are a couple of follow-ups on previously reported items - the 'thumbnail orchid' and the grape vine. I can now advise members that the 'thumbnail' orchid first reported in our March 2009 newsletter is known as ***Dockrillia linguiformis*** - see photo below. Given the meaning of it's Latin name, and shape of it's leaves, this orchid could be called a 'tongue' orchid.

It tends to flower in October, though in September 2009 Colleen Hubbert located a plant in flower on Peel Island, and with permission from QPWS, collected a specimen. I then dropped it off with Kathy Stephens of the Queensland Herbarium at Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens (Brisbane). She then advised me of the plant's botanical name, and commented that she was unaware that the orchid was on any of the bay islands.

The role of the Herbarium is to maintain a catalogue of Queensland plants, rather than propagate or grow plants. As this orchid had not previously been known to grow on Peel Island - staff at the Herbarium will now be able to update their records to show a more extensive habitat range. They will also remove the flower from its cutting and preserve it in a solution for further study. - see photo below.

The grape vine which we've been tending at the lazaret for a number of years now has a name - "Isabella" (see next page for more details).

Colleen (our gardening expert) and Peter Hubbert took photographs of the leaves and tendrils of the vine and sent to the Sirromet Winery for assistance with identifying the grape variety.

Their chief wine maker then forwarded all the details to the QUT (Qld University of Technology) resulting in them concluding that our vine is known as ***Vitis labrusca* "Isabella"**.

Regards,

Scott  
Working bee coordinator

**Anecdote** - *Rhonda Bryce says that she visited her cousins in North Rockhampton during school holidays in the early 1950s and Uncle Maurice had well established Isabella grapes in the back yard growing over a long trellis set up for shade. She remembers how easily the skin slipped off but the ripened dark grapes were still a bit on the sour side for us kids.*

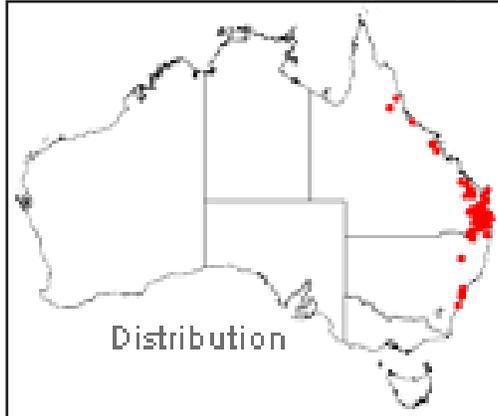
 <p>Distribution</p>	<p><b>Name meaning</b></p> <p><i>Dockrillia</i> – after Alick Dockrill, a contemporary Australian orchidologist</p> <p><i>linguiformis</i> – from Latin ‘lingua’ (tounge) and ‘formis’ (shaped), referring to the shape of the leaves.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2006/dockrillia-linguiformis.html">www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2006/dockrillia-linguiformis.html</a></p>
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Photo: Scott Fowle Oct 2009

## Peel's grape vines

Now that we know the name of 'our' grapes - *Vitis labrusca* "Isabella" - we are able to find out a bit more about this variety, though so far we have no clues as to who brought it to the island or when.

According to information available on the internet ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabella\\_\(grape\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabella_(grape))) this grape (*Vitis*) variety was thought to have been developed - whether by accidental polination, or design is unknown - in the United State in the early 1800s. The vines were heavily imported into Europe at that time, and obviously some of them made it here to Australia.

It is a high yeilding grape, with large well formed clusters of fruit. The skin is dark purple when ripened, with a tender green-yellow flesh. It is a 'slip skin' variety which means the skin separates easily from the fruit.

As well as being suitable for cold conditions (such as Japan and upstate New York), 'Isabella' is able to withstand tropical and sub-tropical conditions. Plantings can still found in countries such as Portugal, Ukrain, various locations in the southern hemisphere such as Brazil. And Peel Island!

Colleen Hubbert has successfully propagated a cutting from the island, and true to its form it produced a bountiful crop. Those of us who attended FoPI's first meeting of 2010 were treated to Colleen's home made scones served with some of the grape jelly she made from her vine.

Here is her recipe - thanks Colleen.



Above - Colleen Hubbert tending a vine grown very successfully from a cutting taken (with permission) from a plant on Peel. Top right - her harvest this season. Photos: Peter Hubbert.



### ~ Colleen's Grape Jelly ~

- 1 kg green or blue grapes, crushed
- 1 Lemon
- 1 cups white wine
- 5 Cardamom seeds
- 750 g cooking apples
- Sugar (see below for qty)

1. Mix together the grapes and white wine in a large saucepan. Simmer for an hour or until the grapes are pulpy.
2. Slice the apples, lemons and cardamoms, then simmer for 20 minutes or until the apples are very soft.
3. Pour into a jelly bag and allow the juice to drip into a bowl for at least 12 hours.
4. Measure the juice and pour into a clean saucepan.
5. For every 2 1/2 cups (625ml) of juice add 500g (1 lb) sugar. Stir over a low heat until the sugar is dissolved, stirring constantly.
6. Bring to the boil and boil rapidly for about 10 minutes or until the jam has reached the setting point.
7. Pour into warm sterilised jars and seal immediately.

## ***The old Anglican church - then and now***

With the recent interest shown in the churches which were on Peel Island, it is timely to have some information on the old Anglican Church. The building was moved to Moreton Island where it is still located, but no longer functions as a church.

Kathy Brinckman kindly sent Peter Ludlow these two photos of Peel's Anglican church as reconstructed by Frank Boyce at Kooringal on Moreton Island.

Frank originally painted it all blue (as per the side door) and hence it was named 'The Blue House'. Peter thinks the roof no longer has such a steep pitched roof. It looks like the entry portico is no longer part of the structure.

Next page is a picture showing the remaining galvanised iron huts which were provided (reluctantly by the authorities) to the 'coloured' patients. There can be no argument that compared with the accommodation provided to other patients, these were of a very poor standard. Doubly so when they housed people who were unwell and generally away from the support of their families.

*(cont'd over)*



Circa 1950s. Photo courtesy of the Gabriel Collection



Photos courtesy: Karen Brinkman

## The iron huts



Source Jason Stack 2003

It is interesting to consider the way the government also provided for others elsewhere. Peter Ludlow reports:

*"Recently, while I was guiding a tour group around the Lazaret buildings, I was told by one of the group that the galvanized iron huts used by the 'coloured' patients were common among Queensland's poorer outback pioneers.*

*He told me that railway gangers used them because they were easily dismantled and transported. Life was much tougher for our pioneers than it is today, and working conditions without strong Trade Union support were much more basic."*

Peter Ludlow 16.1.2010

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## *Events diary*

### **Exhibition opening**

*"going to the gums. . . the Lazaret on Peel Island"*

**15 May 2010 - 2.00-4.00 pm**

**Conference Centre, Fort Lytton National Park**

Hosted by the Friends of Peel Island Assoc with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, all are welcome.

Mr Fred Bruinsma from the Qld Leprosy Mission will give the opening address.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Event coordinated by Mette Juel and Rhonda Bryce any inquiries to Mette - [friendsofpeel@gmail.com.au](mailto:friendsofpeel@gmail.com.au)

Dear Members,

We've had a great start to 2010. The weather had been good to us for the February and April working bees however, due to cyclone Ului, the March weekend was cancelled.

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup> –21<sup>st</sup>.** Peter & Colleen Hubbert, Brian Isaac and myself attended this weekend. On the Saturday, the broken pane of glass, due to the earlier bird strike in the Rec Hall,

was replaced. Garden at the rear of the Nurses quarters was weeded and mulched, the grape vines were attended to as well. Some Cats claw was also cut and poisoned. Then on Sunday, a new clump of grape vines were located and an area around them was cleared, fenced and wire strung up for the attachment of the vines. This new area is approx 40 m from the exiting vines.

The Rose cutting that Colleen had propagated earlier and planted in the other square last October is doing well, it has grown to about 500 mm in height now.

**April 17<sup>th</sup> –18<sup>th</sup>.** Harry & Karilyn Beiers, Brian Isaac and myself were over on Peel this weekend. The Saturday morning was spent in the cemetery, not so many logs/branches this time to clear away, however most of the time was spent raking leaves away from the grave sites and repositioning the grave markers that had fallen over and buried. Then the afternoon was taken up with us cleaning up the campsite areas and the beach of all broken glass and bottles, Al cans, ropes, plastic bags timber and any other foreign objects etc. In the end we filled up the rangers spare trailer with all the rubbish. See photo.

On Sunday the weather was closing in, however Harry and Brian braved the showers and put in



five more wooden posts for the Banana and Paw Paw compound, while Karilyn did a splendid job on cleaning the inside of the female hut, No 82. This is in despite, of the wardrobe being infested with ants.

Meanwhile while the others were battling the elements and the ants, I was under cover on the verandah of the Nurses quarters sanding back the dinning table legs and top in preparation for painting and staining etc.

Even though the March weekend had been cancelled, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, Peter Hubbert, Brad Cahoon and my self spent the day at the Fort Lytton workshop making up the two wooden support bases for the replica carvings. We mounted and bolted the Kangaroo and the Pineapple onto them, then transported the replicas in Peter's trailer and positioned them in front of the Museum, one either side of the entrance, all in preparation for the official launch of the Museum in May. See Photo's

Therefore, in general a good start for the 2010 working bees and an excellent effort by all the members who have assisted so far this year.

Regards, Scott  
Working Bee Coordinator



Goshawk dazed and grounded - QPWS 2010 to Horseshoe Bay. This led to a number of issues with trashed camp areas and illegal fires, which took some time for my crew to clean up. For the first time we also had some graffiti – with the historic stone causeway getting “tagged” by a local enthusiast. The graffiti has now been removed and we hope to tag any future offenders with an infringement notice.

However as the vessel count was reportedly approaching 500 boats on the Sunday, we take the perspective that it was only a minute percentage of visitors who caused any issues at all. We are planning on undertaking more coordinated patrols with our marine park colleagues to create a greater presence there during future peak visitation periods in the future.

Over the last weekend we relocated the last totem (the pineapple) off the island for preservation works. The fence post it sat on remains, so we have the original location locked down. The proposal is to put it on display with the rest of the collection at Fort Lytton once we have received advice on its condition and treatment.

Finally an unusual visitor gate crashed its way into the Recreation Hall over the weekend. What I believe to be an immature brown goshawk smashed through one of the northern windows and survived with little perceived damage. The bird was a little slow and we weren't sure as to how long it was in the hall for, however it flew off with little difficulty to take refuge in a nearby mango tree. Hopefully a happy ending for all and a good sign for the year ahead.

Roland, Feb 2010  
Ranger in Charge  
Heritage Parks Unit

# Collection of second hand items for Fiji

Colleen and Peter Hubbert, key members of FoPIA, are organising another collection of much needed second hand items for the Ralete School (1106) - see photos - and Orphanage in Fiji.

Goods collected are being generously shipped to Fiji without charge by “**Pack and Send**” Capalaba. Please deliver your donations to the “**Pack & Send**” premises only during the month of **May 2010**. Their address: Shop 7 – 8 Redland Bay Road, Capalaba Phone: 1300 668 000.



## The items most needed are:-

- Blankets, doonas & linen (sheets, all sizes, pillow slips, towels in reasonable condition)
- Clothing, all sizes, men, women & children
- Educational toys
- Girls skirts (not short) and boys shorts
- Jig saw puzzles (wooden – cardboard disintegrates too quickly)
- Kitchen utensils, including pots, pans/ ladles/used Tupperware
- Library bags
- Nappies, cloth only
- School books in English up to year 7
- Shoes including thongs, crocs, sneakers, sandals
- Sporting goods, rugby balls, (pump to go with), tennis balls, racquets, badminton sets etc.
- Stationery, exercise books, pens pencils, felt tips, erasers, rulers, backpacks
- Toiletries, soap, toothpaste etc.
- Urn – 240 volt

Colleen and Peter are regular visitors to Fiji and see firsthand the needs of the Fijian people and sincerely thank donors for their assistance. For any additional Information they can be contacted on 3824

