



The **Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association** has hosted a wildflower walk on Bribie Island for at least 20 years, traditionally at the end of August.

In 2008, Barbara Henderson suggested BIEPA join the Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival itinerary. Barbara is a recognised expert in wildflowers (many of Barbara's photos feature in BIEPA's *Wildflowers of Bribie Island*), and she has volunteered her time at BIEPA Wildflower Walks for many years.

As a one-time resident of Bribie Island, Barbara would extoll the wonders of Bribie Island's Wallum wildflowers to those who participated in BIEPA's *Wonders of the Wallum* Wildflower Walk. BIEPA was delighted to accept Barbara's recommendation that we become part of the Sunshine Coast Spring Wildflower Festival. And..... the rest is history.....



Once this decision was made and after a number of glitches in locations BIEPA had previously hosted the Wildflower Walk, we made the decision that it should be hosted in the National Park bounded by Goodwin Drive and Cotterill Ave. This is no random choice for a permanent location to host BIEPA's annual **Wonders of the Wallum** Spring Wildflower Walk.



BIEPA won a court case in the mid 1990s to prevent council from rezoning the area (Lots 402/403) for a canal development. Thanks for this incredible win go to former BIEPA members, Len Baglow and Jack Baker, who hounded Jo Bragg (lawyer) at the Environmental Defenders Office for advice on how to argue the case in Court - see BIEPA News. August 2014 for history. And, in 2007, after much lobbying by BIEPA, Lots 402/403 were designated as National Park.

As you can see in the attached video of the wildflower walk, we are privileged to have this unique remnant of fragile Wallum heathland surviving in South East Queensland. Too often these iconic fragile examples of what remains of Queensland's natural assets and environment are not appreciated for the ecosystem services they provide or just their unpretentious loveliness. Sadly, there are those who persist with visions of more canal developments, golf courses, sterile parks, gardens and artificial lakes, shopping plazas, etc. replacing what remains of our unique natural heritage on our Island paradise which is promoted as a protected Sanctuary for flora and fauna.

BIEPA wrote to Len Baglow, who now lives in Canberra, with a link to the video of the 2017 **Wonders of the Wallum** Spring Wildflower Walk. Here is an excerpt from Len's

response: ***Thank you for forwarding on the video. It brought back many fond memories. The annual wildflower walks were one of my favourite events. I vividly recall my first one, as it fell to me and another member Doug Fraser to map out where would be the best walk for the year. A newly arrived resident of the Island from Scotland, Dr Anne Crooks, came with us. At one point, Anne asked Doug what a particular flower was. He responded, "It's a little white flower." She responded, "Aren't you going to have to be a little more specific on the walk?"***



Once again, we thank Len and Jack Baker and all those intrepid BIEPA Members of the 1990s who fought to save this small, but beautiful piece of Bribie Island.

Also, the BIEPA Management Committee can't thank the members of the Bribie Island Photography Club enough, for producing the video of the 2017 Walk, using their newly acquired drone. And a huge "thank you" to our web master, Miriam Battersby for her expertise and patience in arranging for the video to be on the BIEPA website.

The video celebrates not only the wildflower walk and those who participated, but the expanse of the unique Wallum heathland we are privileged to view not only from the ground but from the heights of the drone.

WHAT A COLLABORATION!!