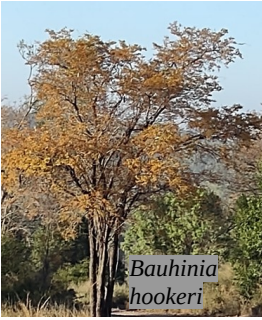


## Upper Dawson Branch WPSQ September 2024

### Springing ahead of Time (9<sup>th</sup> September)

The Calendar will never make it against Nature. By the time Spring was sprung on us on Father's Day, grass was already sprouting, a bearded dragon was sunning by the roadside and a less road-savvy snake of indeterminate species, while crossing Theodore Boulevard, sustained extensive crush injuries, and sadly died at the scene. In the scrub, plants were responding to the gentle August rain event - Bauhinias were blanketing the ground with their butterfly-shaped leaves,



*Bauhinia hookeri*

then sprouting new red ones that rapidly turned bronze, then green.

Cassia brewsteri were vying with Senna and Pretty Wattle (*Acacia decora*) to turn paddocks gold.

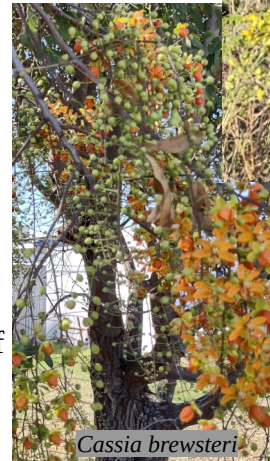
The over-powering scent of False Sandalwood (*Eremophila mitchelli*) was attracting the female Clearwing or "Big Greasy" Butterfly (*Cressida cressida*).

Her more colourful partner was equally attentive to the third flowering this year of the Native Witch Hazel (*Turraea pubescens*).

Mosquitoes and ticks were thirsting for blood, but so far most insects seem to be continuing to decline in numbers, as is the case all over the world. Makes me wonder what birds, geckoes, and the bearded dragon will be eating if they all disappear?



*Cressida cressida* on *Eremophila mitchelli*



*Cassia brewsteri*



*Cassia brewsteri*

*Senna artemisioides*



*Turraea pubescens*

And now it's 21<sup>st</sup> September, and a couple of chilly nights have come and gone in a mostly dry and hot September. The sun rose red through the extensive smoke that was predicted last month and finally came down mixed with this morning's mist over 200km from the nearest fire.

I'll be surprised if the rain collection device on "Eurombah" has been christened yet, but there is hope - the Weather Bureau is forecasting a deluge for all States next week, and we might get 10 mm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>! Another La Nina is supposed to be on the way.

In other news, the Branch was awarded at the State AGM for its "Birds of the Dawson" booklet which is on sale in both Theodore and Taroom. We are pleased to receive advice that the LNP is intending to increase staffing for National Parks if elected, something that our Branch has been advocating for many years.

There's a timely warning in this month's "Focus" about appliance batteries causing fires when put in household rubbish. I guess there are collection sites in Taroom as at IGA and TCL in Theodore.

Our next meeting will be the Branch AGM 26 October during which we plan to visit the Theodore Tennis Club where the American Open Tennis Championship trophy won by Mal Anderson is kept. Details of the day will be available from at 0427 504 560, and all who are interested in our natural and cultural heritage are welcome. © Ann Hobson 2024

