# ESQ Aroona BugCatch 2019

**2-3 March 2019**

**Aroona BugCatch 2019**: left to right: Geoff and Rosalind with Inca (dog), Liam Bromley, Caz & Brendon Trewin with Maddy, Nicole Forrest (Liam's mum), Stacey MacLean, Kathy Ebert, Amatzia Genin, Renee Rossini (QTFN), Daniela Genin, Will Arnold, Nina, Penny Mills, Chrissy Williams, Jessa Thurman, Andrew Maynard, Nellie Pease, Tommi, Poppy Pritchard, Runmeng Chen, Colleen Foelz. *Absent:* Andrew Walker, Sam Robinson. Photo: Tanya Pritchard, QTFN.

The Aroona BugCatch was declared a successful and enjoyable event. The event was organised by Penny Mills (ESQ/UQ) and Renee Rossini from Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) and UQ's Ecology Centre. The event was fully catered and held at the Aroona Homestead which is situated on 2000 hectares in the Little Liverpool Range, 70 km west-southwest of Brisbane. QTFN's aim for Aroona is to facilitate research in order to demonstrate that wildland conservation and cattle grazing can co-exist. The property has several threatened species and remnant bushland. The aim of the BugCatch was to build a preliminary invertebrate species list for the property.

Twenty-six people attended the BugCatch to look for arthropods and enjoy a weekend in relaxed company with like-minded people. Attendees included Renee Rossini and Tanya Pritchard from QTFN, several ESQ members and their families, UQ biology students, visiting scholar Dr Amatzia Genin and wife, Daniela, and Andy Walker and Sam Robinson from UQ's venom research lab (see photo above).

We surveyed two sites: one in the open eucalypt woodland adjacent to grazing paddocks, and the other in remnant dry rainforest. Malaise traps, flight intercept traps and baited pitfalls were set up at each site. Lots of direct searching took place and we ran a light sheet in the evening.

Andy Walker and Sam Robinson were on the lookout for anything venomous for their venom research. Liam Bromley collected 28 different species of spiders! Kathy Ebert collected several species of native dung beetles including the showy,

metallic *Onthophagus dandalu* and the horned *Onthophagus thoreyi.* The special *Cephalodesmius quadridens*, which cultivates its own dung substitute, was found in the dry rainforest. We also found the introduced dung beetles *Euoniticellus intermedius* and *Digitonthophagus gazella* in the paddocks.

Orthopteroids were very abundant! Jessa Thurmann and Andrew Maynard found a variety of grasshoppers, stick insects and praying mantises. Brendon Trewin surveyed the mosquitoes.

Everyone was keen to learn and helped out with great enthusiasm! Thanks to everyone who generously shared their photos - there were too many too include them all, but you can see more in Colleen Foelz's reflection on page 44.

Dung beetles: above left: the introduced *Digitonthophagus gazella;* bottom left: *Onthphagus dandalu* and above right: *Onthophagus thoreyi*.

Above: A huntsman spider, *Pediana regina* (Sparassidae). Photo: Liam Bromley.

Above: Grass stick insect, *Austrosipyloidea carterus*

Right: Glasswing butterfly, *Acraea andromacha* (Nymphalidae)

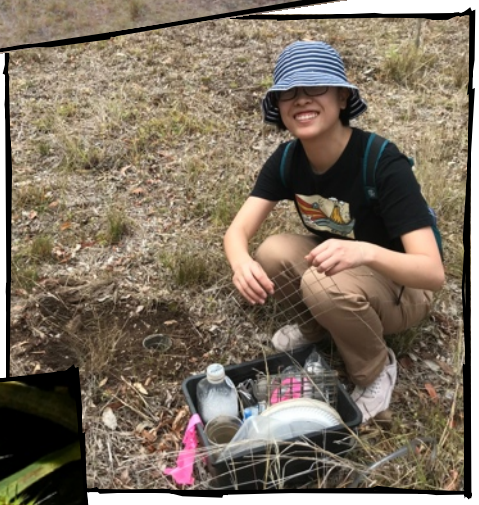
Above: Carpenter bee, *Xylocopa* (*Koptortosoma)* sp.

Jessa holds a Green Slantfaced Grasshopper, *Acrida conica*

Brendan Trewin collecting mosquitoes from a hollow stump using his electric pooter.

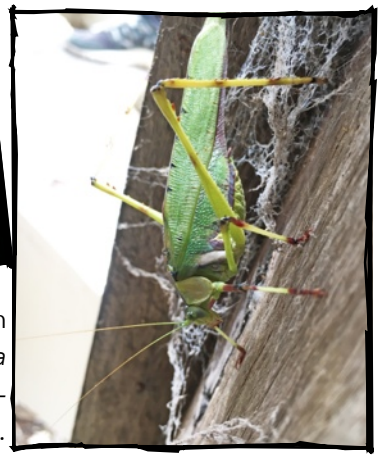
Driving across the paddocks to the rainforest site.

Collleen and Nellie survey the Malaise trap at the edge of the dry rainforest.



Runmeng helps install pitfall traps.

Penny, Liam and Stacey at the light sheet.



Above: Wattle Cup Moth Caterpillar - *Calcarifera ordinata*
Right: Bush Katydid - *Ephippitytha trigintiduoguttata.*