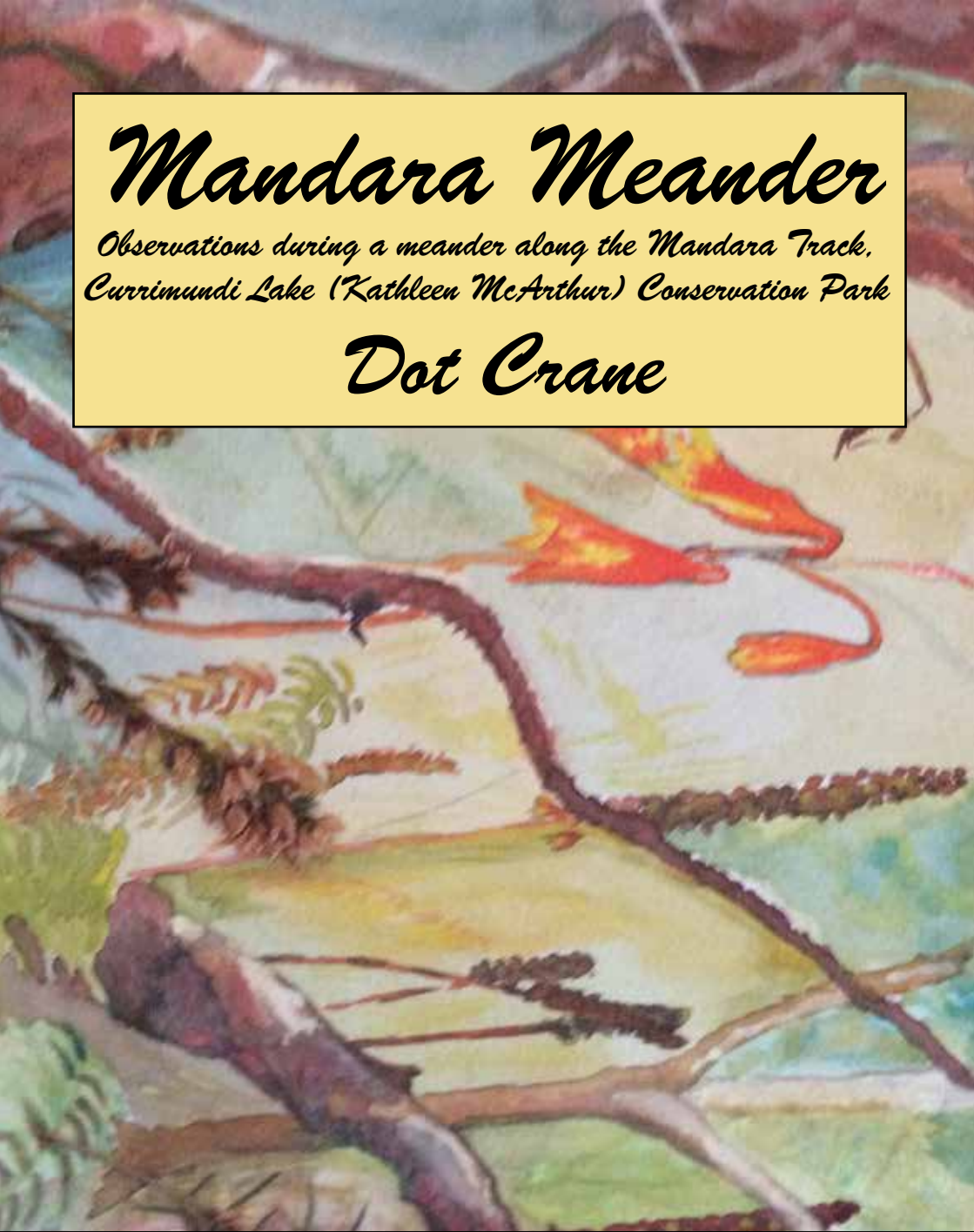


Mandara Meander

*Observations during a meander along the Mandara Track,
Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park*

Dot Crane



Published with the assistance of



Mandara Meander

Dot Crane 2017



Published with assistance from
Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc

Original artwork and photographs by Dot Crane.
Layout: Tony Moorhead

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial Share-Alike 4.0 International License. You may copy and use any part of this booklet for non-commercial use as long as you credit the author and allow others to share the content. August 2017.



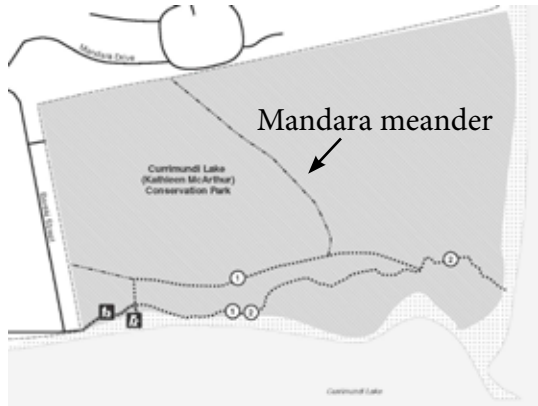
Contact the author: craneed@ozemail.com.au

Mandara Meander

The Mandara track is one of the paths that runs through Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Regional Park beside the ocean on the north bank of Currimundi Lake. The park is generally known to locals as simply 'Kathleen McArthur Park'. It is located in the suburb of Wurtulla, just north of Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

This is my backyard. I walk this track very often.

The entry point is at the corner of Mandara Drive and Jabiru Drive near a large stand of mature Melaleuca paperbark trees. Cross the coastal footpath and enter the sand track running north to south to the junction with Bareki sand path.



From mid April this year after ex-cyclone Debbie I have watched *Stylidium graminifolium* Grass trigger plants appear. There are two areas –about 10m north and south of the Ranger site marked by steel pegs; about midway along the track.



Grass trigger plants

Mandara Meander

On the path from north to south on the left side the pale blue *Dianella caerulea* –tall flax lily is usually the first flowering plant. *Melaleuca pachyphylla* Wallum Bottlebrush (red) is dotted in this area and along the Coastal pathway. This is a heavily vegetated area with some bungwall fern, reeds and knobby club rush and *Xanthorrhoea*, Wallum grass tree white; *Banksia robur*, Swamp banksia, (green fading to yellow) and *B. oblongifolia* pale yellow cones spread through quite a large area. New growth is a beautiful bronze colour. An unusual sight here early mornings are dozens of tent spider webs.



Banksia robur



Dianella



Tent spiders



Wallum grass trees

At times, the last being January this year, I found *Blandfordia grandifolia* Christmas Bells mostly single stem. They are usually in an area 20m to 90m along the track on the left side. There are two tracks here. Where

Mandara Meander

they join is the best place to spot Christmas Bells but you do have to search for them. They appeared after rain and a control burn. The area is now rather dense, there are lots of Banksias and regrowth Melaleuca and Acacia not the best for Wallum wild-flowering.

After good rain there can be *Drosera spatulata* –there are none at this time. However *D. lunata* is in good numbers at the lake end of Mandara. Also after good rain, are *Ludwigia* frogmouths with yellow flowers. After the tracks join, the area changes a little. *Melaleucas* appear often with dodder. *Burchardia umbellata* (white) Milkmaids and *Patersonia sericea*, *Iris* (mauve) there are both varieties. *Sowerbaea juncea* *Vanilla* lily (purple) appear. *Woolisia* (upright white) a few; *Aotus lanigera* Woolly A. (yellow) are in large numbers both sides of the track.



Christmas Bell



Drosera



Milkmaids and Vanilla Lily



Iris dancing in Mandara

Mandara Meander

In June the area 100m along the track was dotted with many *Conospermum taxifolium* Devils Rice (white) and *Epacris pulchella*, Wallum heath in pink and white. They flower for many months. Strangely in April the first *Boronia falcifolia* Swamp heather (deep pink) and *Sprengelia* (white) and *Melaleuca thymifolia*, Thyme Honey Myrtle (mauve) were in flower in only one area near the first of the Trigger plants. It is still dry in June so carnivorous plants aren't seen just now. The tiny orchids are struggling.



Devil's Rice



Thyme Honey Myrtle

Meander along the Mandara track (called the Firetrack in the past), slowly, as some plants are very tiny. What is in flower this week may not be seen the next. Wet conditions bring on different plants including carnivorous ones. The wide sand path is very easy to traverse. Usually *Drosera spatulata* is in great numbers, each plant is only 3 to 5 mm, the flower bright pink.

Small plants include *Laxmannia* Wire Lily (very pale pink/white); *Xyris* hatpins (yellow then brown); *Gompholobium pinnatum* Tiny flat pea flower (yellow) only a few; *Pomax* more common now flowers rarely in deep red. We have fungi and lichens. A tiny lichen blooms wonderfully in red.

Petrophile shirleyae, Conesticks are in number but rarely bloom. There are occasional *Epacris obstusifolia* (Bell Heath (white)). *Mirbelia* Wallum M. With tiny pink flowers is seen in August. *Vellaria* Wild pansy is in small numbers flowers over a long period in yellow) *Villarsia* also yellow is rare.

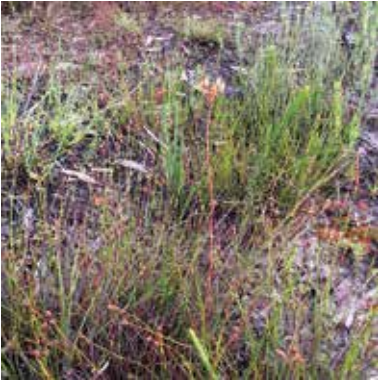
Mandara Meander



Lichen in red bloom



Xyria



Wet wallum



Sundew - carnivorous



Sundew and Smokebush



Wild Pansy

Mandara Meander

There are many yellow flowers. Hibbertias; *Hibbertia vestita* is common off the track. In mid-May the first blooming of Prickly wattle begins. It is a very useful plant for our variegated wrens. others are *Dillwynia* chaffy swamp pea, *Goodenia* and *Bossiaea*.



Hibbertia vestita



Prickly wattle in May

Pimelea linifolia Rice Flower (white) is in flower as is Devils Rice, *Trachymene* and Wild Parsnip (a neat white circle). *Haemodorum* Bloodroot (deep red then brown) is spaced throughout the area. *Dampiera* (deep blue), flowers later. Hyacinth orchids are few but at times in large numbers especially at the Mandara - Bareki corner.

There is a rare and endangered plant, the Mt. Emu sheoak, *Allocasuarina emuina*.

Mandara coastal footpath creek: *Euodia* pink; Bog primrose yellow; Mandara boggy: *Selaginella*, curly wig, comb fern, coral fern.



Euodia



Curly wig with elbow orchid

Mandara Meander

Bareki club moss, and tiny lichen in pale green with tiny red dots at times; unknown foliage! maybe screw orchid. Finally a flower. *Arthrochilus huntianus* Elbow Orchid!



Elbow Orchid (left, flat to ground)



Lomandra multiflora

Lomandra multiflora has tiny cream flowers;

The Mandara - Bareki corner has a wide range. even though it has been damaged since last August. Tricorne (white or yellow daisy); *Diplobium punctatum*, Hyacinth orchid (speckled deep pink to purple –tall), *Thelymita* Sun Orchid (small) *Metallica* (blue) last year buds did not flower. Many hyacinth orchids appear: Mt. Emu sheoak. (damaged). *Dianella* beach, *Dampiera*.

Lichen and mosses are usual in Bareki. *Cladonia* in red flower is a tiny delight

Carnivorous other than trigger and all tiny. Mandara - Bareki corner has the best display after good rain.

Drosera spatulata, *D. Pygmaea*; *D. peltata*; *Utriculata*, bladderwort; seen after good rains. *Comesperma defoliatum*, Fairy aprons. Rarely seen. Until April there are none of these in 2017.

Flowering in white this May is *Melaleuca quinquinervia*, from 9mm high to 3 m high. There are perhaps too many of them to allow the flowering of regular wallum plants. Wire bush, Queensland Wax Flower, wild rice and rice flowers are all in white. *Epacris* is mainly white with pink tinges. Brown and white-cheeked honeyeaters love them as do bossy Rainbow lorikeets. You can be showered with pollen if you go

under a flowering paperbark filled with foraging lorikeets.



Carnivorous Drosera in full bloom



Paperbark flowers - May

Observed over several years is the tiny Sun orchid, *Thelymitra*; last season there were quite a few in bud sth end of Mandara track but none flowered

It is rare to find *Midyim*, the plant that reminds us of Kathleen McArthur and her work on saving this Environmental Park. The park, which is over 50 hectare on the north bank of Lake Currimundi was used by the Army in the war years. *Midyim* grows prolifically on the Bareki and Heath tracks, even along the western Coastal footpath. The flower is small and white and usually in great numbers. The fruit is a small white ball marked with purple dots and is tasty.



Midylin fruit



Iris and Sun orchid

Mandara Meander

This Mandara meander has many small plants of the more usual wallum flowers. This area attracts small white-cheeked and brown honeyeaters; they breed in this wallum. Quail hide in the low growth. Occasionally a rail is seen. Willy wag tails delight. Fairy wrens inhabit the area to the west of Mandara - Bareki corner. There are many larger birds including wattle, friar with rainbow lorikeet pale headed rosellas, Miner birds and brush turkeys staying near the pathways. Rainbow bee eaters hunt in Mandara all year round.

Rare and endangered is the Glossy Black cockatoo. They visit all areas of Kathleen McArthur Park at times although the heath track is their preferred habitat.

Tawny frogmouths live and breed in the park. One pair that bred close to pathway were observed from when the chicks were two days old.

Butterflies include White Caper, Blue Tiger and Jezebels.



Brown honeyeater on banksia



Rainbow bee eater



Glossy black cocatoo in sheoak



Glossy black cocatoo plaque in Noel Burns park, Wurtulla



Tawny frogmouths



Blue tiger butterfly



Common Jezebel butterfly