

Second Letter from Boyakka Bilby



Greetings from Outback Queensland where it's raining ! Yes raining! The best rain in 4 years they say, around 90mm (3 1/2 inches). It's like the poet Dorothea Mackellar said about my country, Australia,

*"I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!"*

It's tough living as a Bilby – droughts and floods and you don't know what's next!

Now I've heard that some of the overseas IWCS members have made definite plans to attend the Charleville meeting. Good on ya! There will be room for even more members to join this once in a lifetime opportunity

With the festive season over and the New Year rolling out, it's time to start planning, if you haven't already, your outback Queensland Australian meeting in Charleville. What are you waiting for? Get on to Uncle Harry's email and get started. Harry Dennis, the lead dog, can send you the latest program and help get you registered
[<dennispastoral@bigpond.com>](mailto:dennispastoral@bigpond.com)

At the centre of your visit to Charleville is, of course, the 2016 IWCS International meeting from Monday September 12 to Saturday

September 17, 2016. The inland woods of Australia will be at the centre of the meeting. As Boyakka Bilby I'm proud to promote a whole realm of Australian inland trees.

You may not know that we Bilbies live secretive lives in isolated deserts across Australia. We're nocturnal animals with poor eyesight and rely on our senses of hearing and smell to find food. We need the trees to support our diet of bulbs, seeds, fungi, fruit, grubs, termites, spiders and lizards.

Here's some info about one tree around my home in Charleville:

Emu apple. A great wood to turn although being so hard it can be hard on tools. It is red with a pale sapwood. If you are lucky you may be able to acquire a piece that 'burled up' where a piece of Mistletoe attached itself resulting in two different woods growing together. An infusion of the boiled wood is said to give energy for long walks through the desert by putting the drinker of the infusion hallucinate and into a trance.

Wilga

Emu apple

Mulga

Poplar box

False sandalwood

Silver ironbark

Native orange.

And my personal favourite, the Boyakka

This really is a wood collectors meeting.

There will be an amazing range of these timbers and more set up at the beginning of the meeting, giving plenty of time on Monday September 12 to lay your bets for the live auction on Friday September 16. For a full list of the inland timbers available at the meeting email Uncle Col the woodman, Col Martin that is cmartin@icr.com.au

Woody activities on Monday will include local 4-wheel drive tours into the further outback, an indigenous tree walk to get you settled in for the first day.

Tuesday sees us for a Big Day Out at Robert and Jenny Crichton's Maryvale station where we get out in the 'bush' to appreciate the environment in which the Australian timbers grow.

On Thursday there will be the Annual Meeting and the first of the Australian style IWCS Wood and Craft Auction led, for the 24th year, by auctioneer David Munzberg and the remarkable auction team.

On Friday more Wood & Craft Auction.

Craft demonstrations, guest speakers, show and tell, specimen swaps and sales, and the silent auction will be peppered throughout the week.

And that's not all! Apart from the woody stuff, there are the local attractions in the amazing remote community of Charleville. A few attractions before, during and after the meeting for you to experience:

- * At **The Royal Flying Doctor Visitor Centre** you can see the inside workings of the flying doctors which people of the Outback rely upon.

- * **The Bilby Experience**. See me live and learn about the Bilby captive breeding program which works to ensure our survival.

- * At **The Cosmos Observatory** astronomy guides help to see hidden star clusters, coloured stars, planets, nebulae and more. This can be your chance to discover the wonders of the Southern hemisphere night sky. There is even a tour that highlights the Aboriginal night sky and the stories that Aboriginal people used to navigate across the terrain and know when seasonal changes would occur.

- * Did you know that during World War II, Charleville was the sight of a top secret USA Base. Up to 3500 airmen were stationed there. **The Convoy Tour** reveals what the big secret was!

To get a hold of Charleville's long list of attractions go to

www.charlevillequeensland.com

Until next time, "See ya!" BB