



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

March 1, 2019

Revealing the Mysteries of Lichens



Lichens are delicate and complex organisms.

'It wasn't until the early 1700s when scientists began using microscopes to examine cellular structures and processes that they realised that **plants and lichens are very different from each other**. Now, more than three hundred years later, we know quite a bit more about lichens, but in truth we really have only just scratched the surface of knowledge about these complicated organisms', **observes Vanessa Ryan, this week's guest speaker at Friday Environment Forum.**

Vanessa is passionate about lichens, first becoming interested ten years ago when taking photographs to construct her website about Girraween National Park, <http://www.rymich.com/girraween/> 'Girraween' is an Aboriginal word that means "place of flowers". The park preserves an abundance of native flora and fauna and is situated on the Queensland - New South Wales border in the granite landscape just south of Stanthorpe. Vanessa visits the park regularly to collect specimens of fungi and lichens for the Qld Herbarium where she now volunteers.

"What exactly are lichens and what is their role within complex ecosystems? Do we even need them?" asks Vanessa. The answers to these questions and more will be revealed when she introduces the audience to the fascinating world of lichens.

Come along to the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville from 10am to enjoy coffee and a chat, with the forum commencing at 10.30am and finishing at 12.15pm.

To learn more about the birds and insects of the Wallace Park meet **Valda and the Interpretive Birding group at 8.30am in the car park.**

All welcome.

This flower- like lichen is growing on a Frangipani tree.

