

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS (QLD REGION INC.)

CAIRNS BRANCH

JULY 1990. NO.103

Our meetings are held in the first year centre, Trinity Bay High School, Hoare Street, Manunda. Committee/General Meeting begins at 7.00pm. Guest Speaker 8.00pm. Supper follows and visitors are most welcome.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 7th AUGUST.



Sticherus

RECENT ARRIVALS.

Three new members joined recently; Amanda Pratt, Leo Vaccaneo and Joan Newton. Welcome to the club.

GUEST SPEAKER

This month Theo has found for us a native fern enthusiast, Robin Smith. Robin's talk will cover the whole spectrum of ferns from their ecology through to their cultivation for use in our gardens or shadehouses. Bring in any species that you would like identified and maybe he will be able to help.

EXCURSION

Bob Jago has been asked to do some short bush-walks for the Mena Creek Festival which is to be held on 11-12th August. The walks are of a short duration and will be on the Sunday (12th) from 9-11. If SGAP members are interested in attending for the day other attractions will also be available; live music, pottery w/shops, cane basket weaving and hat making. There will be a cover charge of \$12 per adult, children free if accompanied by an adult. This can be discussed at the next meeting and another alternative found if necessary.



Polystichum



Psilotum



Pteris



Pyrrosia

CHAIRMAN.....Dave Warmington (5024820)
 HON. SECRETARY.....Elaine Pike (5II422 B.H.)
 TREASURER.....Peter Robbins (535036)
 NEWSLETTER.....Helen Moody (554982)
 LIB. & SALES.....Frances Boyd (552550)
 EXCURSIONS.....Bob Jago (552266)
 PUB. OFFICER.....Theo Utzinger (545266)
 DISPLAYS CO-ORD.....Dave Warmington
 TUCKEROLOGIST.....Graham Pike (5II422 B.H.)

EDITOR'S SPOT.

Welcome to issue No. 103. This month has been very busy for us, beginning with our FOG display, followed by the July meeting, a walk along Behana Creek and then our display for the Cairns Show.

Congratulations to Mary, Val and the rest of the team for their successful Gardens Festival. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the day was the relaxed atmosphere and the chance to look at displays without feeling crowded or rushed. Our display attracted attention throughout the day, in fact information was often flowing both ways as people contributed their knowledge of the fruits and seeds on display. Thank you to Bob Jago for his very interesting and popular talk and to all the helpers on the day. Apparently book sales were good but plant sales were down.

Another thank-you, this time to Keith and Lindsay Fisher for their slides of plants from the Northern Territory. As usual we saw some eye-catching specimens and colourful flowers from a wide range of plants that included, ferns, cycads and palms as well as the plants we tend to associate with the Territory.

Theo, in Dave's absence, volunteered to organise the Show display and chose the theme of Butterflies and their Food Plants. Many thanks to Theo and the small band of helpers and plant suppliers who helped out with this display. I believe we had a few calls as a result.

My brief look around on Wednesday night also revealed that Mary Gandini, Bianca Jago, Graham Bennett and David Robbins had all won prizes for their native flowers. David's Banksia plagiocarpa also had a few ribbons surrounding it. Congratulations everyone, maybe we should all flood the flower section next year with our entries.

In case you missed it, the floral emblem for Cairns is Tapeinocheilos anasse (formerly queenslandiae) - a suggestion was made at the last meeting that we begin to propagate some.

Ken O'Keefe had an encounter with a tar tree recently - and lost. Hope you are feeling better now.



PLANT SWAP.

We had nearly a dozen plants on the table this month, a good effort that also generated a lot of interest with our large attendance.

<u>Leptospermum</u> ex Lamb's Range	<u>Phaleria</u> sp.
<u>Archidendron</u> <u>lucyi</u>	<u>Xylopi</u> <u>maccredai</u>
<u>Pseudovaria</u> <u>mulgravea</u>	<u>Thespisia</u> <u>populnea</u>
<u>Pittosporum</u> sp.	<u>Crinum</u> <u>pedunculatum</u>

The above are just a few of the plants that were on the table. Graham Bennett brought in an interesting member of the Gesneriaceae family, a Didymocarpus sp., that prefers to live in full shade and often in running water. In cultivation, it would probably only survive in a pot. Although in the same family as the Boea hygrosco피아 the plant is more herbaceous in form and has flowers that resemble the exotic Columnea sp. (Goldfish plant).

Graham's plant also had flowers that differed in colour from the usual described species.

SLIDE/VIDEO PRESENTATION.....DAVE WARMINGTON

A request from the Townsville Branch of SGAP, for slides of flora from our area brought forward the suggestion of producing a video of these slides.

It would therefore seem appropriate that we select material from the rainforest lowlands area, maybe from the coastal areas to the mountains. Although a very diverse species range, a selection of the dominant vegetation types could present an impressive display.

I am prepared to act as the co-ordinator at the Flecker Botanic Gardens to receive your slides which should be labelled with the correct name as well as your own name to ensure safe return.

FLOWERING THIS MONTH.

Melastoma affine
Hibbertia banksii
Clerodendron floribunda
Belamorphia fungosa
Xanthostemon chrysanthus
Acacia montfordia
Callistemon polandii
Syzygium cormiflorum
Banksia spinulosa
 " integrifolia
 " plegiocarpa
Dillenia alata

Archidendron hendersonii
Acacia crassicarpa
 " paniculatum
Deplanchea tetraphylla
Eucalyptus phoenicea
 " ptychocarpa
Grevillea pteridiifolia
Hoya australis
 " macgillivrayi
Neofabricia myrtifolia
Leea indica
Melaleuca symphocarpa



NEW BOOK RELEASES

Ferdinand Bauer: The Australia Natural History Drawings
 by Merlene Norst, Lothian Books, Melbourne. I2Ipp \$29.95

If your only knowledge of Bauer is that he gave his name to the genus Bauera, here is your chance to learn something new. This man accompanied Flinders on his circumnavigation of Australia in 1803, producing many fine drawings and paintings and contributing much to the early scientific work done in this country - and then on his return to England he slipped into obscurity. This book undoes some of our neglect of this man as well as presenting many of his detailed drawings and paintings.

Banksias, Waratahs and Grevilleas and all Other Plants in the Australian Protaceae Family. by J.W. Wrigley and M. Fagg, Collins, Sydney. 584pp. \$75.00

This extensive work includes some drawings, many photos, distribution maps and cultivation notes; its main flaw seems to be its lack of keys and other quick identification aids.

Ferns of Queensland: a handbook to the ferns and fern allies by S.B. Andrews. GDPI publication.

Queensland has 80% of Australia's ferns ie. nearly 400 species so a publication of this nature is long overdue. Each species is represented by at the least a line drawing of its diagnostic features as well as providing aids to make identification as simple as possible. Alternative names used over the last 100 years are also given.

The first two reviews are condensed from those given in the 1990 Autumn edition of ANH. "The Cairns Post" reviewed the fern book in the 17/7/90 edition.

BEHANA CREEK EXCURSION

Sunday was an excellent day for walking, overcast, not hot and sticky and many plants in fruit. Rainforest and sclerophyll species were present and due to the lack of burning in recent years the former is encroaching into the latter.

The two Neolitsea ie. dealbata and brassei were growing close together which resulted in our learning to distinguish between them.

Hibiscus meraukensis was flowering near the intake gate, Adenia heterophylla and Cerallia brachiata both had caterpillars nibbling away on their leaves, Yarrabah wattle was growing near the creek at the car park and ferns, orchids, hoyas and other vines were in evidence along the creek. Rob Hinxman and Rob Jago provided some background history of the area and aboriginal names for some of the plants. A particularly well formed Melastoma affine was also in flower along the track.

The light-hearted moment of the day came from the two boys who gave imitations (out of ear-shot) of their dads discussing plants at a SGAP gathering.

SOME FERN TERMINOLOGY.

bulbil: A small bud on the surface of some ferns which can develop into a plantlet

crozier: The young uncoiling fern fronds, fiddlehead, often edible

dimorphic: Occurring in two forms, often referring to the fertile and infertile fronds.

glabrous: Hairless, smooth

glaucous: Covered with a powdery bloom, giving a whitish blue lustre.

indusium: The membrane covering the sorus.

sorus (sori): A cluster of sporangia on the fronds of a fern.

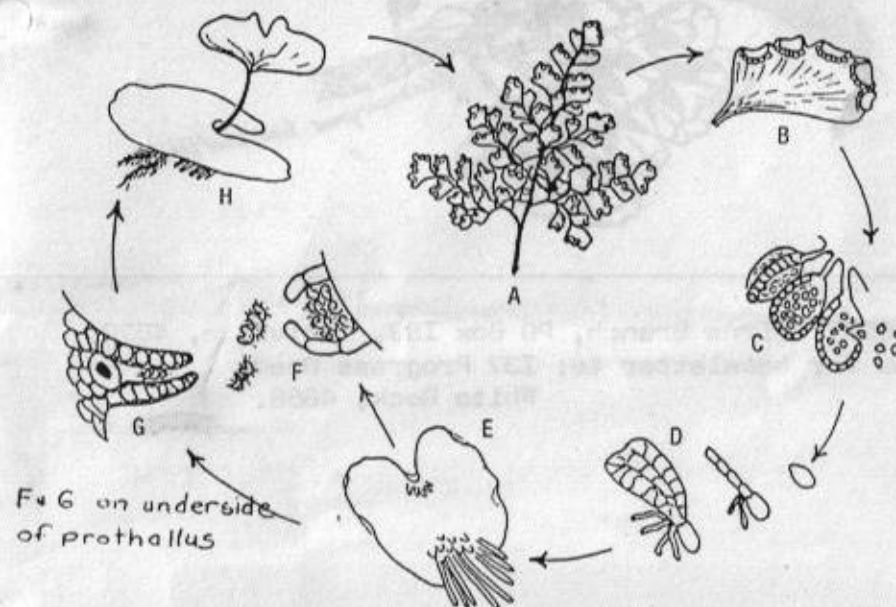
sporangium: An organ which produces spores (pl. sporangia)

spore: A minute reproductive cell, similar to a seed in flowering plants.

syngonium: Two or more sporangia that are fused.

The soral arrangement of ferns is often quite distinct between genera and provides a useful identification aid.

THE LIFE CYCLE OF FERNS.



A The mature fertile frond of an *Adiantum* species, Maidenhair Fern.

B A fertile pinnule showing the sori along the outer margin. The sporangia are protected by marginal flaps.

C The sporangia highly magnified at maturity with spores being ejected.

D The young developing prothallus (gametophyte).

E A mature prothallus (underside) showing the rhizoids which are for anchorage and moisture absorption.

F The antheridia (male) releasing spermatozoids.

G The archegonia (female) containing the egg to be fertilised.

H A young *Adiantum* (sporophyte) still attached to the prothallus with a juvenile frond and a root system developing.