



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
Earlville Qld 4870

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Society Office Bearers

Chairperson	Tony Roberts	40 551 292
Vice Chairperson	Mary Gandini	40 542 190
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Treasurer	Robert Jago	40 552 266

Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region- Renewal \$30.00, New Members \$35, each additional member of household \$2.00 **Student** - Renewal \$20 New Members \$25.00, **Cairns Branch Fees** - \$10.00 Full Year

To access our Library for the loan of publications, please contact David Warmington
Newsletter Editor: Tony Roberts travelling_botanist@yahoo.com.au

Dates to remember

Cairns Branch Meetings and Excursions – third Saturday of each month.

NEXT MEETING AND EXCURSION

20 Nov Lake Eacham at 1200. This will be our final outing for the year.

Tablelands Branch Excursion– Sunday following the meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Any queries please contact Chris Jaminon 4095 2882 or hjaminon@bigpond.com

Townsville Branch

General Meeting Please contact John Elliot: jw-elliott@aapt.net.au for more information

November

We will meet at Lake Eacham at 1200. The exact location will be between the carpark and the lake. We will have our Christmas lunch and a brief meeting prior to botanising around the lake.

October Excursion Report

By Don Lawie

The Boardwalk connects Barron Falls Road to the Falls Railway Station via an elevated walkway which is cleverly constructed so that the descent and return climb can be easily accomplished. There are explanatory "talkboards" along the way with info on various topics and some larger than life, realistic sculptures of some of the wildlife of the area.

The walkway varies from ground level to, at times, an elevation of at least ten metres above ground where it crosses minor waterways. Viewing from the walkway is sometimes with the mid-canopy at eye level or below, thus affording an interesting change from the usual ground-view perspective.



Barron Falls Railway station

Vegetation is not quite typical foothills rainforest. The elevation is not enough to present real upper-level plants and most of those that I recognised are familiar sights around home (at 10 metres elevation). There were quite a few Eucalypt-type trees scattered about, all well-developed and perhaps a remnant of the time when the area was open forest. Quite large specimens of Red Mahogany (*Eucalyptus pellita*) were

frequent and of interest to me since this species is the main one planted as forestry plantations in the Babinda/Innisfail area. A large plantation near home was devastated by Cyclone Larry, destroyed and re-planted, and it was good to be able to see what the little trees have the potential to become in time. A small *pellita* had been felled near the boardwalk and the trunk showed solid timber with no apparent delineation between sapwood and heartwood so it is clear that this is a good timber tree.

The other eucalypt was *Corymbia torelliana*, Cadaghi, native to the Kuranda rainforest and capable of growing to immense size though the few I saw were quite small. This species seems to be the shade tree of choice in Caravan Parks throughout Queensland. It is a quick grower, a good bird attractor and makes good shade. It also is subject to whimsical discarding of large limbs and thrives in most climates to the extent that it is a declared weed in the Ipswich area. I had a Cadaghi in my front hedge that had grown to a large tree and it went with Larry.

Looking down on treetops gave a new appearance to the beautifully symmetrical crown of plants such as *Cyathea cooperi*, and eyelevel viewing of vines such as a giant Bloodvine *Austrosteenisia blackii* which looped across the boardwalk and was named in a nearby Talkboard. As the walk came to a patch of groundlevel, the Orchid Ladies' day was made with the discovery of a primitive terrestrial orchid, *Apostasia wallichii* approx 12cm in height and flowering profusely. This was followed by numerous other specimens of this orchid and as far as I know it was the only representative of the Orchidaceae family seen.



Apostasia wallichii

Not so with Ferns: Robin Smith was in his element, naming weird names and photographing specimens, which ranged from very big tree ferns to tiny filmy ferns with a name longer than their fronds.

Vines were also omnipresent and I was glad when Steven put names on a couple of old friends from home: *Geitonoplesium cymosum* which somewhat resembles a large-leafed Wombat Vine *Eustrephus latifolius*. Also a vine which has lived for years beside a creek near home, *Hypserpa laurina* which regularly flowers and produces pretty red fruits

The view of the falls from the Railway Station was magnificent with the Barron River in good dry season flow after recent rains. Not so the view of various exotic weeds and garden escapees immediately in front of the platform area.



Barron Falls

The company was as usual very convivial with sparkling repartee and shared knowledge bouncing among the dozen or so members and visitors. Light rain was no encumbrance and I'm sure that we all enjoyed another outing in the Treasure Trove that is our Cairns' backyard.

ANACARDIACEAE	<i>Blepharocarya involucrigera</i> <i>Euroschinus falcatus</i> <i>Rhus taitensis</i>
APOCYNACEAE	<i>Alstonia muelleriana</i> <i>Hoya pottsii</i> <i>Melodinus australis</i>
ARACEAE	<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i> <i>Pothos longipes</i> <i>Rhaphidophora australasica</i>
ARALIACEAE	<i>Polyscias australiana</i> <i>Polyscias elegans</i> <i>Polyscias mollis</i> <i>Polyscias purpurea</i> <i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>
ARECACEAE	<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i> <i>Calamus australis</i> <i>Calamus moti</i> <i>Calamus radicalis</i> <i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>
ARISTOLOCHIACEAE	<i>Aristolochia acuminata</i>
ASPLENIACEAE	<i>Asplenium australasicum</i> <i>Asplenium nidus</i>
ATHEROSPERMACEAE	<i>Doryphora aromatica</i>
BIGNONIACEAE	<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>
CARPODEACEAE	<i>Abrophyllum ornans</i>
COMBRETACEAE	<i>Terminalia sericocarpa</i>
CONNARACEAE	<i>Connarus conchocarpus</i>
CUNONIACEAE	<i>Caldcluvia australiensis</i> <i>Geissois biagiana</i> <i>Gillbeea adenopetala</i>
CYATHEACEAE	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i> <i>Cyathea rebecca</i> <i>Cyathea woollsiana</i>
DENNSTAEDTIACEAE	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>
DILLENACEAE	<i>Hibbertia scandens</i> <i>Tetracera daemeliana</i> <i>Tetracera nordtiana</i>
ELAEOCARPACEAE	<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i>
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Sloanea langii</i> <i>Croton insularis</i> <i>Homalanthus novoguineensis</i> <i>Macaranga involucrata</i> var. <i>mallotoides</i> <i>Macaranga subdentata</i> <i>Mallotus polyadenos</i> <i>Rockinghamia angustifolia</i>
FABACEAE	<i>Austrosteenisia blackii</i>

	<i>Castanospermum australe</i>		<i>Syzygium endophloium</i>
	<i>Derris</i> sp. (Daintree)	OLEACEAE	<i>Chionanthus ramiflora</i>
FLACOURTIACEAE	<i>Scolopia braunii</i>		<i>Olea paniculata</i>
FLAGELLARIACEAE	<i>Flagellaria indica</i>	ORCHIDACEAE	<i>Apostasia wallichii</i>
GLEICHENIACEAE	<i>Dicranopteris linearis</i>	PANDANACEAE	<i>Freycinetia excelsa</i>
HEMEROCALLIDACEAE	<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	PHYLLANTHACEAE	<i>Breynia cernua</i>
	<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>		<i>Glochidion harveyanum</i>
JOHNSONIACEAE	<i>Tricoryne anceps</i>		<i>Glochidion philippicum</i>
LAMIACEAE	<i>Faradaya splendida</i>	PIPERACEAE	<i>Piper hederaceum</i>
LAURACEAE	<i>Beilschmiedia bancroftii</i>	PITTOSPORACEAE	<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i>
	<i>Cryptocarya grandis</i>		<i>Pittosporum rubiginosum</i>
	<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	POLYPODIACEAE	<i>Colysis ampla</i>
	<i>Cryptocarya laevigata</i>		<i>Drynaria rigidula</i>
	<i>Cryptocarya mackinnoniana</i>		<i>Microsorium punctatum</i>
	<i>Cryptocarya murrayi</i>	PROTEACEAE	<i>Platycterium hillii</i>
	<i>Cryptocarya vulgaris</i>		<i>Cardwellia sublimis</i>
	<i>Endiandra hypotephra</i>		<i>Grevillea baileyana</i>
	<i>Endiandra wolfei</i>		<i>Musgravea heterophylla</i>
	<i>Litsea bindoniana</i>		<i>Placospermum coriaceum</i>
	<i>Litsea leefeana</i>	RHAMNACEAE	<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>
	<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>		<i>Alphitonia whitei</i>
LAXMANNIACEAE	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	ROSACEAE	<i>Rubus alceifolius</i>
LYCOPODIACEAE	<i>Lycopodiella cernua</i>	RUBIACEAE	<i>Atractocarpus fitzalanii</i>
MALVACEAE	<i>Argyrodendron peralatum</i>		<i>Atractocarpus sessilis</i>
	<i>Argyrodendron polyandrum</i>		<i>Tarenna dallachiana</i>
MELASTOMATACEAE	<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> subsp.	RUTACEAE	<i>Timonius timon</i>
	<i>malabathricum</i>		<i>Brombya platynema</i>
MELIACEAE	<i>Dysoxylum papuanum</i>		<i>Flindersia acuminata</i>
	<i>Dysoxylum pettigrewianum</i>		<i>Flindersia bourjotiana</i>
	<i>Melia azedarach</i>		<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i>
MENISPERMACEAE	<i>Hypserpa laurina</i>		<i>Flindersia pimenteliana</i>
MIMOSACEAE	<i>Acacia mangium</i>	SAPINDACEAE	<i>Melicope elleryana</i>
MONIMIACEAE	<i>Palmeria scandens</i>		<i>Arytera pauciflora</i>
MORACEAE	<i>Ficus congesta</i>		<i>Cupaniopsis foveolata</i>
	<i>Ficus fraseri</i>		<i>Guioa acutifolia</i>
	<i>Ficus septica</i>		<i>Guioa lasioneura</i>
MYRISTICACEAE	<i>Myristica globosa</i> subsp. <i>muelleri</i>		<i>Mischocarpus lachnocarpus</i>
MYRSINACEAE	<i>Myrsine subsessilis</i> var. <i>cryptostemon</i>		<i>Sarcopteryx reticulata</i>
MYRTACEAE	<i>Corymbia torelliana</i>		<i>Toechima erythrocarpum</i>
	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i>	SCHIZAEACEAE	<i>Lygodium reticulatum</i>
	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	SMILACACEAE	<i>Smilax australis</i>
	<i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i>	ULMACEAE	<i>Trema orientalis</i>
	<i>Rhodamnia sessiliflora</i>	VISCACEAE	<i>Notothixos subaureus</i>
	<i>Syzygium cryptophlebium</i>	VITACEAE	<i>Cissus reniformis</i>
		ZINGIBERACEAE	<i>Leea indica</i>
			<i>Alpinia caerulea</i>

Meet the Locals

Time for a change in direction with this section of the newsletter. So far in “Meet the Locals” we have focussed solely on flowering plants, so I thought that it might be time to look at some of our fern species.

Australia hosts around 390 native fern species, of these, 65% are found in the Wet Tropics. In a fern survey of Mt Whitfield Conservation Park, conducted nearly 10 years ago, over 20% of Australia’s native fern species were recorded. With a “promising” Wet Season approaching, Mt Whitfield’s fern population (along with the mosquito population) should start looking healthy again.

Of the 80 odd ferns found within the park, the largest and possibly most spectacular, is the King Fern *Angiopteris evecta*. The King Fern population does take some finding, being on the bank of the upper reaches of the creek that exits the park at the top of Mason St Stratford. It is not far beyond the spectacular waterfall on the same creek.

Although the Queensland Herbarium places *Angiopteris* in its own family, Angiopteridaceae, most other institutions and authorities appear to place it in the Marattiaceae with *Ptisana* (eg. ANBG & APG III). I will treat it as such here.

Marattiaceae is a family of large ferns currently containing about six genera. Only two occur on mainland Australia *Ptisana* and *Angiopteris* both of which occur on Mt Whitfield. The genera in Australia are characterised by erect, unbranched rhizomes with large, stipule like persistent leaf bases. The [fronds](#) are 2 pinnate with swellings (pulvini) at the junctions of the frond divisions. The [pinnules](#) are leaf-like and toothed.

The Marattiaceae of Mt Whitfield: Two species of from the Marattiaceae occur on Mt. Whitfield; they are placed in different genera, *Ptisana* and *Angiopteris*.

***Ptisana oreades* (Syn. *Marattia oreades*)** Potato Fern, is an erect fern, often with a short “trunk”. The [fronds](#) can grow to 4m long with a [stipe](#) to 750mm and hold up to 6 pairs of [pinnae](#). The [pinnules](#), up to 31 pairs per [pinna](#), have toothed margins. And can grow to 250 x 45mm

The [sori](#) occur, along the veins close to the margin, as elongated [synangia](#) that open along a central suture.

The Potato Fern occurs in eastern Qld, from sea level to about 1200m in elevation, in rainforest, usually along waterways.





Angiopteris evecta King Fern, is an erect fern, often with a “trunk” (to 2m in height). The **fronds** can grow to 6m long with a **stipe** to 2m. Each **frond** can have up to 9 pairs of **pinnae** up to 1.5m long

The **pinnules** (29 – 40 pairs per pinna) have only slightly toothed margins (more obvious toward the tip) and grow to 300mm x 20mm.

The **sori**, occur along the veins close to the margin, made up of 10-15 sporangia.

The King Fern occurs from the Northern Territory to northern NSW in rainforest. It is found to about 300m in elevation, usually along waterways.

GLOSSARY

Frond – The leaf of a fern

Indusium (pl=indusia) – Outgrowths of tissue covering and protecting sorus/sori in some ferns.

Pinna (pl=pinnae) – Primary division of a pinnately divided frond

Pinnule – Leaflet (usu ultimate segment)

Sorus (pl=sori) – Group of sporangia

Sporangium (pl=sporangia) – Spore case (in which spores are produced.

Stipe – The frond stalk (= petiole)

Synangium (pl=synangia) – Sporangia fused into an organ with several compartments.

