

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS (GLD REGION INC.)

CAIRNS BRANCH

SEPT. 1990. NO. 105

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 2nd OCTOBER

NEW MEMBERS.

K. Austin and G. McIlwain are the latest additions to our group. Welcome to the both of you.

EXCURSION DETAILS

Sept. 23rd 10.00am Meet at the top of Mansfield Street (along Balaclava Rd., turn right into Irene St. then first left.) for a short walk along Chinaman's Creek. This area contains rainforest but is also very rugged with lots of boulders and is not recommended for children and the not so fit.

CORRESPONDENCE

A thank you letter was received from the Melbourne Wild Flower Show for the lovely flowers that were sent to them. Many thanks to those who donated some.

A \$200 cheque was received from the Gardens Expo Tropical Gardens Promotion for the May Expo. Graham Pike has volunteered to attend a meeting of the above organisation at the Hilton where a Garden Festival Week may be organised for next year. This week will include the Expo and Friends of the Garden Festival on consecutive weekends with the garden competition and guided tours held in the week between them. Sounds like a good idea that will require heaps of work and volunteers.

CHAIRMAN.....Dave Warmington (502482)
 HON. SECRETARY.....Elaine Pike (511422) 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 (511422) B.H.

OCTOBER'S MEETING.....DAVE WARMINGTON.

The next meeting of the SGAP will be used as a means to constructively look at our Branch and its associated aims, objectives and current and future projects.

The present structure of our meetings ie. guest speaker and committee meetings combined has resulted in important issues being quickly discussed and quite often dismissed totally. To resolve this and try to bring our plans together there will be no Guest Speaker at this meeting, instead we will discuss some of our important projects such as Copperlode Dam/Crystal Cascades and the Rare and Threatened Plant Section at Flecker Botanic Gardens. These are the types of meaningful projects that will stimulate the aims and objectives of our Branch.

COMINOS HOUSE

Around mid-October labour (OURS) will be required for the establishment of the gardens around our new meeting venue. A definite date is yet to be finalised but Dave will probably be supervising EVERYBODY'S efforts. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK. Perhaps we could fit in a barbeque afterwards.

AGENDA FOR OCTOBER'S MEETING

Definition of this meeting

- A clearly formatted meeting to obtain maximum results in the time available.
- To assess our current situation as seen by the majority of members and Committee.
- To stimulate and generate new ideas in our approach.
- The setting of new objectives and aims if necessary.
- The allocation of priorities to these aims.
- Detailing objectives for the individual office bearers will be discussed and produced at a later meeting for approval.

Procedure of the meeting

- Handing out of aims and objectives of SGAP.
- Explaining the aims and procedure of this meeting
- Well prepared and detailed current situation reports and present objectives from all office bearers.
- Current situation with our ongoing projects; Copperlode Dam/Crystal Cascades, Video, Rare and Threatened Plants and Cominos House. DAVE W.
- Prepared speeches by members, outlining their reasons for belonging to SGAP; their satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the current activities suggestions, outlining of desirable objectives, etc. Please notify Chairman before the meeting

of your participation. MAX. time is 5 mins.

- Open forum for general discussion. Time limit applies.
- Tea and coffee.
- Summing up by the Chairman including objectives and aims, both new and old, their priority and setting out a time schedule for our projects.

DONATION

Cairns Development Nursery have given us forty Syzygium pseudofastigata in 1.5 l bags and approximately 1m high. Any suggestions as to what we can do with them.

WEEDS

The Rural Lands Protection Board has provided us with some copies of their booklet "Noxious Plants of Queensland". They are free and Elaine has some spares.

PLANT SWAP. What happened?

FLOWERING THIS MONTH.

Tropical Grevillea spp., Callistemon spp., Melaleuca dealbata, Syzygium leuhamii, Dendrobium spp., Leptospermum "Pacific Beauty", "Pink Cascade", Dillenia alata, Pandorea spp., Faradaya splendida, Tecomanthe hillii (not strictly a native), Euc. torelliana, Hardenbergia retusa, Syz. wilsonii, Viola hederacea, Gehnia sp.

A MEMBER'S POINT OF VIEW.....THEO UTZINGER

Since it was my glorious idea of proposing this mid-term general meeting (rumour has it that I ran out of speakers), I'd better explain what brought me to this.

In the days of simply being a member, I quite enjoyed rolling up at 7.30 (it is such a convenient time isn't it) and listening in on the proceedings of the committee. Usually they would have just started themselves but the proceedings never really interested me (who in his/her right mind expects committee proceedings to be interesting). I mainly attended for the ever interesting talks that started at eight or thereabouts.

Foolishly, I scratched my head when the Public Relations office was declared vacant and the members were scanned for a new victim at election time at the last AGM, (Old Chinese Proverb, do not pick nose and scratch head at AGMs and Auctions). Well, I took my job seriously, twisted arms and dragged wildly screaming speakers by the hair to the rostrum. Dutifully I would create little write ups (the only time I got some use from my wordprocessor) and pester the media with them.

This works fine and to my amazement there are people turning up at every meeting - I must be lucky. However I started to take this business of public relating very seriously. These displays over the last few months have given me ample opportunity to get in touch with the masses - I can honestly say that I converted a few and led some stray ones back to the flock. On one of those displays I actually came across the AIMS OF THE SGAP poster. Well, this is wonderfully idealistic stuff I thought but then after further contemplation, it didn't seem to be so far fetched.

The interest in the community is there, the need to educate and assist is there. True, we have limited amounts of funds and manpower but on the positive side we have an incredible pool of knowledge (mainly the old

guard), commitment, enthusiasm and new ideas (the young turks). All we really have to do is combine these elements with a well defined strategy. Don't get me wrong, this doesn't mean that we have to do more, all I simply suggest, is that we make an effort once, come up with a plan and then with the same resources we'll be able to achieve more. I think we can do it, do you?

NEWSFLASH

Graham Pike has been voted in as our CAFNEC representative.

EDITOR'S SPOT.

Well, another month has just flown by, there are only three left in the year now and I hope they have a bit of rain in them, we certainly need some.

I have been told that I missed an interesting meeting this month with Margaret giving an informative talk with lots of audience input. I should be able to put a list of suitable Callistemon plants for the area in the next newsletter for those who missed the meeting.

As you have learned by now, there will be no guest speaker next month, instead YOU will be given the opportunity to speak so please make the most of it and indicate to David or Elaine that you wish to do so; brickbats, bouquets or even a few suggestions will be most welcome. I definitely think some re-organising is in order, no doubt you have noticed this from previous comments in past newsletters. The committee is to be commended for trying to rectify the problems and keep everybody as happy as possible.

Perhaps one of the problems we have to overcome is how to cater for the diverse needs of the people in the group. Just by listening and talking to other members, I think that every person in SGAR has a different need

of knowledge about plants and different information to contribute to the group so if you feel you are missing out PLEASE use the opportunity to say so. There is room for everybody and it would be a shame to drive members and visitors away.

My apologies for not being able to do the follow up article to last month's - this time it was going to be on pollination but as you can see I have run out of room.

Following is the label of a plant that I recently purchased. I do not know if it will succeed up here so I intend to keep it in a pot but after reading the story I could not resist buying it and trying to do my bit. How sad that people have destroyed its habitat and how fortunate that there was a native plant enthusiast in the area.

CALLISTEMON 'ROCKY RAMBLER'

Callistemon 'Rocky Rambler' is the smallest of the *C. pearsonii* family, which are all endemic to Blackdown Tablelands. Like *Callistemon* sp Mimosa Creek and sp Rainbow Falls (now *C. pearsonii*), 'Rocky Rambler' is a very hardy, prostrate shrub, that has been growing in the gardens at Fisher's Nursery for over 14 years. The area where the parent plant was found, a place called Horseshoe Lookout, was cleared for a picnic area, and with that clearing came cars and erosion. The parent plants have not been seen since the late 1970's. As far as is known, the plant in this garden is the only one remaining, until the release of 'Rocky Rambler'.

Blackdown Tablelands is found 160 km west of Rockhampton. It is a sandstone tableland rising 600 m above the plains of central Queensland, and is now a national park. A very informative book has been written about the flora of Blackdown Tablelands, called 'Plants of Central Queensland', by Steve and Alison Pearson. Steve Pearson, ranger at Eungella National Park, is a former park ranger of Blackdown Tablelands.

Callistemon 'Rocky Rambler' grows to approx. 30 cm high. Flowers red with gold tips. Ideal for attracting birds.