

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS (QUEENSLAND REGION) INC

CAIRNS BRANCH

P O BOX 199
EARLVILLE
Q 4870

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1991 No.109

NEW MEETING DATE

NEW MEETING VENUE

We have moved to COMINOS HOUSE in Greenslopes Street, opposite Centenary Lakes.

The meeting date will now be the THIRD Tuesday of each month and the NEXT meeting is set down for TUESDAY, APRIL 16 at COMINOS HOUSE at the usual time 7.45 p.m.

CALENDAR DATES

APRIL 7	Cairns Branch EXCURSION
APRIL 16	Cairns Branch MONTHLY MEETING Guest Speaker: Peter Shanahan "Pests on Native Plants"
	Pests & Diseases Workshop
MAY 17,18,19	TROPICAL GARDEN EXPO - SGAP Plant Sales & Display
MAY 17-25	CAIRNS TROPICAL FLORA FESTIVAL- SGAP Presentation p.m. - venue Botanic Gardens
JULY 17-19	CAIRNS SHOW - Static Display

YOUR COMMITTEE

President	Valerie Robbins	53.5036
Vice-President	David Warmington	50.2482
Secretary	vacant	
Treasurer	Helen Moody	55.4982
Newsletter Editor	Valerie Robbins	53.5036
Librarian & Book Sales	Frances Boyd	55.2550
Excursions Officer	Andrew Mitchell	
Publicity Officer	Theo Utzinger	54.5266
Displays Co-ordinator	appointed as required	

POSITION VACANT: SECRETARY - Please apply immediately!

TREASURER'S NOTES (Helen Moody)

TWO important items to note:

1. At our last meeting Branch Membership Fees were raised to \$10.00 per family. As mentioned in the last Newsletter this was necessary to recover costs associated with Newsletters and hire of venues for our meeting.
THIS FEE IS DUE NOW!

2. No doubt you have received your latest Bulletin with a yellow Qld Region (renewal) membership form attached. The money is due by April 1 & can either be sent direct to Brisbane or given to me with the yellow form completed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER: Peter Shanahan, Interpretive Officer, Flecker Botanic Gardens will give a talk & slide presentation on "Pests on Native Plants" followed by a "Pests & Diseases Workshop" so bring along your magnifying glass - two if you can!

Venture out into your wilderness whether this be the back yard (or your neighbours!), the local park or 'down the creek' and collect some specimens of:

- bugs, beetles & butterflies and if possible a sample of their destructiveness
- leaf & stem diseases
- fungal disorders
- anything you think interesting.

Peter and your fellow SGAP members will endeavour to 'solve' the problems and discuss environmental factors, controls, etc.

If you collect leaf specimens over the w/end or earlier keep them in a plastic bag in the fridge so we can still recognise the exhibit!

EXCURSION - SUNDAY, APRIL 7 9.30 am SHARP

Meet northern end of Holloways Beach at the Holloways Beach Environment Education Centre where David Warmington will lead you into:

- interesting estuarine habitats
- dunal vegetation
- mangrove eco systems, and
- other delights!

The object is to identify species for an interpretative walk for the Education Centre.

After the walk a BBQ is planned - BBQ facilities are there so BYO the rest, including Aeroguard!

Phone David (50.2482) or Val (33.1655) & let us know you will be there & if staying for the BBQ.

As this is our first excursion for the year please make a special effort to come along.

Meet Andrew, our new Excursions Officer later in this Newsletter along with proposed excursions!

TROPICAL GARDEN EXPO

<u>DATES:</u>	Friday, May 17	5.00 pm - 9.00 pm
	Saturday, May 18	9.00 am - 7.00 pm
	Sunday, May 19	9.00 am - 5.00 pm

<u>SPACE:</u>	SALES AREA:	Outdoors 4m x 3m	\$100
	DISPLAY AREA:	close by (tba)	free

Theo Utzinger has agreed to be Expo Co-ordinator for this year so those with plants 'For Sale' and/or 'Display Only' please contact Theo.

We need to put on a good show - to encourage people to use native species. This EXPO is our opportunity to do this. If we supply lots of quality plants with heaps of varieties sales will be good - remember, this is also a fund-raising venture for the Club!

we need HELPERS - active and passive

we need SALES PEOPLE

we need CUT FLOWERS & ARRANGERS

we need lots of help - please register your help with Theo now - he has lots of jobs, please tell him what you would like to do or ask him for a job!

CAIRNS TROPICAL FLORA FESTIVAL - MAY 17-25

- . Grand Opening Weekend - Tropical Garden Expo
May 17, 18 & 19
- . Nightly Botanic Seminars - 7.30 p.m. at
"The Gardens Restaurant"
where one of our members will give
a talk on behalf of SGAP
- . Concert for the Family at Centenary Lakes
Saturday evening, May 25
- . Day Tours - six to choose from
- . Tropical Flora on show daily at Orchid Plaza

1991 CAIRNS SHOW - JULY 17-19

. We will be producing a static display in the Horticultural Pavilion and calls for help will be made once the EXPO & the FLORA FESTIVAL are over but in the meantime please give some thought to a THEME - one suggestion has been 'Bush Tucker', another 'Membership Drive'. Give your thoughts and offers of help to the Committee.

. The Cairns Show Association has written looking for involvement in several areas, some of which are:

- . taking of entries
- . collecting entry fees
- . organising stewards
- . sponsorship for prize money

If you can assist please contact Val Robbins.

BIRDS & NATIVE PLANTS STUDY GROUP

A copy of this Group's Newsletter (ask Fran Boyd, our Librarian for it at the next meeting) has been received to give members an opportunity to read it & understand what the group is doing. This Study Group "...covers a much wider range of subjects.. than do other Study Groups & caters for many different aspects of growing Australian plants. ..gives the bird-watchers among us a chance to indulge in our 2nd favourite subject - whether that be plants or the birds which use them." Membership is \$5.00 due June, issues 3 newsletters per year - write to Barbara Henderson, Birds & Native Plants Study Group, MS 1063 Farrow Rd, Samsonvale @ 4523.

PREVIOUS MEETING

From the AGM.... The President's Report - 1990-91
I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have held office bearing positions for the last term. The commitment of these people has enabled the Society to function through their attendance to correspondence, newsletters, publicity & financial matters. Appreciation is also expressed to other members who have been responsible for helping in our various displays & events throughout the year.

I would like to offer my apologies for not being present for the 1991 AGM. I will be attending a Conference at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra concerning ex situ plant conservation in Australia. The aim of this will be to form an integrated Plant Conservation Strategy for Australia. This will be very relevant to SGAP as well as the Botanic Gardens considering the fact that plans are progressing towards the establishment of a Rare & Threatened Native Plant Section for the Botanic Gardens. This project has been offered to SGAP, however little involvement has been forthcoming. It is not too late as species collection has not yet begun and this is where the expertise of our Society will be invaluable in sourcing out the necessary material.

Projects which have been undertaken and very commendable include the Lake Morris Tree Identification Programme, whereby trees were labelled and identified. This will require regular maintenance and up-grading and should be a responsibility of SGAP. Last year SGAP was involved in the Tropical Garden EXPO, Environment Day, The Cairns Show & the Botanic Garden Festival. These are important events for SGAP for publicity and fund raising. Membership is not strong, neither are our financial resources. For the Society to be successful we need more members and financial resources to be able to promote our aims and objectives. During the previous term of office as President I also held the position of Displays Co-ordinator. However, I will be unavailable for these positions in the future due to other commitments. I intend to remain an active member & retain a close link between SGAP and the Flecker Botanic Gardens.

I thank you for your support during the 1990/1991

AUSTRALIAN CULTIVAR BOOKLET

The Australian Cultivar Registration Authority has recently produced a booklet on cultivars called "Garden Varieties of Australian Plants", Vol.1. Contains 35 pages listing some 28 species & their colour plates. A5 size booklet. A copy of the booklet can be viewed at the next meeting (it was at the last meeting) Price \$1.20 - see Fran, Librarian

HAVE YOU HEARD OF MELIOIDOSIS ??

"Meliodosis is a tropical disease of man (rare) and animals caused by a bacillus that lives in the subsoils of Northern Australia, South East Asia and tropical Africa. The bacillus appears on the surface during the wet season and enters the body by contaminating cuts and wounds or by the inhalation of surface water that has entered creeks and rivers.

It cannot be contracted directly from infected patients or animals.

The serious form of the disease causes a variety of symptoms, the important ones being high fever, muscle aches, vomiting, diarrhoea, chest pains, cough and pustular rash. This variety in Australia is almost entirely associated with pre-existing depression of health due to chronic alcoholism, diabetes and other diseases or with medical treatment that interferes directly with the body's defence systems. Examples of such conditions are leukaemia, lymphoma and AIDS as well as certain drugs used in the treatment of other medical conditions.

In the early stages it can be easily confused with a number of less serious conditions and the danger is a late start with the correct treatment. Anyone directly exposed to surface water who develops a severe illness should urgently obtain full medical assessment.

Prevention is avoidance of or full protection from surface water, especially in the wet season and ensuring that people with any of the above risk factors are not in the field."

Extract from

REPORT ON SPEAKER FROM LAST MEETING

A general talk on Banksias was given by yours truly, the first of our own "Members' Talks"

Topics covered in the talk were:

- . History - Distribution - Ecology
- . Description Bark - Leaf - Flowers - Seed
- . Cultivation
- . Propagation
- . Fertilising - Pests & Diseases
- . Banksia Study Group (SGAP)

The following Banksias in pots were on display & later donated to the Raffle:

- . *Banksia dentata*
- . *B. ericifolia*
- . *B. integrifolia* var. *aquilona*
- . *B. integrifolia* var. *integrifolia*
- . *B. oblongifolia*
- . *B. plagiocarpa*
- . *B. robur*
- . *B. serrata*
- . *B. spinulosa* var. *spinulosa*

Mature foliage of each species and their cones were also on display.

Members joined in on the discussion and much knowledge was shared.

MEET OUR NEW EXCURSIONS OFFICER

Hello SGAP,

My name is Andrew, your new Excursions Officer for the coming year. I promise you that as never before in the field of human jungle & swamp exploring will so many owe so much to us few. They will not go wanting. No sacrifice will be too much. We will meet them on the beaches, in the forest & at people's houses.

Well before my famous last words become famous last words I suppose you really want what I am about. I graduated from James Cook Uni. in Townsville with a degree in Botany. Since then I have contributed my skills to many local companies including Botanic Gardens, landscapers, nurseries, tourists resorts. I am currently semi responsible for a nursery industry resource catalogue called Plantsearch. I look forward to a big future in tropical horticulture.

The following are some Excursion ideas. Please think about the ones which appeal to you or you would like more info about & let Andrew or the Committee know:

- . Wangetti Beach, the other end
- . Wangetti Beach, the swamps
- . Eubenangee Swamp
- . The Babinda Boulders
- . The Mulgrave River - Goldsborough Track
- . Mount Bartle Frere, the western face
- . Mount Haig
- . Yorkeys Knob's hidden jungle islands
- . Rex Lookout, up the hill
- . SFA at the crest of the Gillies
- . Beyond Copperlode Dam
- . Kewarra Beach foreshore
- . Wonga Beach & the Daintree Mouth
- . Mount Baldy at Atherton
- . The Gillies Range trail
- . Pine Creek
- . The Palmerston
- . Downy Creek
- . Yarrabah - led by Rob Hinxman

How about Mount Baldy for the next Excursion?

WHAT'S FLOWERING AT WATSONVILLE Contrib. Helen Moody
Last Sunday was a beautiful day on the Walsh River (down Bischoff Mill Rd) near Watsonville. The weather was fine & warm, the creek & river were running at normal flow with evidence that the water had been raging through the area in the preceeding weeks.

In the clayey soil of the river banks the resurrection ferns were looking quite green & healthy amongst the grasses.

The only Grevilleas in flower were *G. dryandri*. I only managed to find 2 plants & as usual the flower was the biggest part of the specimen. The Grass trees (even growing in the river bed) had developed their flowering spikes & were a constant source of food for insects & birds.

Bossiaea armittii had yellow flowers on the end of its strange flattened strap like leaves.

As usual *Helichrysum newcastlianum* was in flower along the roadside and I found 2 clumps of *Polycarpea spirostylis* also in flower. This is an attractive little plant with red stems & pink/white flowers - no more than 25cm high. It is supposed to be an indicator for copper.

I noticed one specimen of *Gastrolobium grandiflorum* (Poison Pear) in flower. It is an attractive plant with its greyish foliage & deep red/maroon pea shaped flowers.

The quinine bush *Petalostigma banksii* & *Callitris columellaris* both had seed pods on them. In the latter species pods were noticed on plants no more than 1m high.

The perfume from the various Acacias in flower was quite delightful - I wish I could tell you the names but unfortunately I did not have my reference book with me & did not pick any specimens.

No Eucalypts were flowering (that I noticed anyway) but I did glimpse a lone *Abelmoschus moschatus*.

While this area is not as rich in numbers of attractive flowering species as the Jumna Creek area it is still worth a visit and is a great place for a picnic.

00-00

Many thanks Helen for this interesting article.
I would appreciate members contributing to the Newsletter - Please send articles to the P.O Box number listed on the front page.