

## 2013 Annual General Meeting

The SGAP Cairns Branch Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 12 noon, Saturday 16 March. This year, Tony Roberts has booked the meeting room at the new Botanic Gardens visitor centre in Edge Hill. The suggested AGM agenda is:

- Opening of Meeting
- Apologies
- Confirmation of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
- Presentation of Treasurer's statement
- Election of New Executive
- Vote of thanks to outgoing Executive
- Determination of Annual Membership Fee
- Other general business. Suggested items have included a discussion of excursion destinations, Botanic Gardens project actions, and a change in meeting times.
- Closure

# SGAP Cairns

Society for Growing Australian Plants Cairns Branch



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## February meeting and excursion report – Holloways Beach

2013's first SGAP outing combined a little fun community service, meeting new people, visiting a part of Cairns most of us have never seen, and a good mosquito feeding session! The Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre is located at the northern end of Holloways Beach, where Thomatis Creek flows into the Coral Sea, and is surrounded by remnant mangroves and beach scrub. The Centre is run by the Education Department, and has a dual purpose – to teach outdoor recreational activities, and to teach practical environmental awareness.

The weather was steamy and showery, just as you'd expect in the middle of the Wet. Mosquitoes swarmed, especially around the mangroves, but smart clothing and plenty of chemicals helped deter them.

We took a walk around the relatively small site with the principal, Louise Carver, and one of the teachers, Chris White. As you might expect at this coastal site, the soils were

sandy, and supported a mixture of beach forest, poorly developed littoral rainforest, and mangroves. Some of the dominant trees included the elegant, dense *Mimusops elengi* (red coonoo), *Terminalia catappa*, some quite large *Sterculia quadrifida* (peanut tree) and *Melaleuca leucadendra*. *Polyalthia nitidissima* was found in full flower across the site (see photo on page 4), a profusion of flowers on this species unlike anything I've ever seen.

To the north of the buildings, we came across a large shrub covered in bunches of fragrant white flowers (see photo on page 4). Rob identified this as *Pydrax banksii* - yet another species named for Joseph Banks. Rob's full species list is given on page 4.

Feedback from the centre was enthusiastic and grateful. They'd love to have us back later in the year, when the mozzies aren't quite as hungry. Is anyone keen for a second visit?



# North Queensland Plants



*Sedopsis* sp. Bulimba Station (P.I.Forster+ PIF14742)

Photographs from the website of Roger Fryer and Jill Newland: [www.northqueenslandplants.com](http://www.northqueenslandplants.com)

Roger Fryer, one of the herbarium's regular volunteers has created a website show-casing some of North Queensland's more obscure and beautiful plants. Roger, formerly a Curator with Perth's Kings Park and Botanic Garden Herbarium, is now retired, and travels widely photographing and collecting along the way. The website created by Roger and his partner Jill Newland contains dozens of photographs, each backed up by a voucher specimen. The website contains photos of rarely seen groups such as trigger plants (*Stylidium*), sundews (*Drosera*) and mistletoes.



*Drosera lanata*



*Stylidium eriorhizum*

It's solved a long standing problem for me – the identity of a tiny pink succulent flower often found growing amongst rocks out west. The mystery species is *Sedopsis* sp. Bulimba Station (P.I.Forster+ PIF14742) an unnamed species in the Portulacaceae. I've reproduced Roger's photograph on this page. All photos on this page are from Roger's website:



*Decaisnina brittenii*



*Pimelea* sp. Bakers Blue Mt. (D.G.Fell DF1588)

[www.northqueenslandplants.com/index.html](http://www.northqueenslandplants.com/index.html)

# Beautiful tree species of the Wet Tropics

*Archidendron lucyi*, MIMOSACEAE

The Scarlet Bean

By Don Lawie

*Archidendron lucyi* is a small to medium tree which is endemic to the Queensland Wet Tropics, being particularly found at low altitude in high rainfall areas – such as my home at East Russell near Babinda. It is ideally suited to cultivation since although it can reach 15 metres height in the rainforest it tops out at 6 – 7 metres in the garden. Spread is commensurate with height, making *Archidendron lucyi* a shapely and attractive plant covered with flowers and fruit for much of the year in its native habitat.

Leaves are compound with leaflets to 15 cm length, ovate/elliptic shiny green with prominent veins. The leaves are not dense and this affords a dappled shade beneath the tree. Flowers are fluffy, white, “shaving brush” type, 5 cm long in dense panicles to 20 cm long on both trunk and branches.

If the flowers alone are not sufficient attraction, the fruit are a big bonus extra. Cooper describes them as: “Diameter approximately 100mm, axillary, terminal, ramiflorous and cauliflorous. Seeds several, approximately 17mm long. Fruit not edible.”



The fruit are a large Bean type, curved and almost circular, bright scarlet outside and orange inside, contrasting with the shiny black seeds – what bird could resist them? Cooper also says that the smooth surface of the fruit distinguishes *Archidendron lucyi* from other *Archidendron* species.

CSIRO reports that the blaze “has an odour resembling rotten tomatoes”. I have found that seed germinates readily without any pre-treatment, and reach a two leaf stage within a fortnight of planting. Jones describes the tree “a marvellous ornamental with showy flowers and large colourful fruit.”

*Archidendron lucyi* is certainly worthy of a place in “Beautiful Tree species of the Wet Tropics”.

#### References

- Cooper, W. and Cooper, W. (1994) *Fruits of the Forest*. GEO.
- Hyland, B.P.M. and Whiffin, T. (1993) *Australian Tropical Rainforest Trees*. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.
- Jones, D.L. (1986) *Ornamental Rainforest Plants* Reed Books
- Pers.com. P & P Penny, East Russell.

# Checklist of Plants from the Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre

By Rob Jago

## FERNS

### Aspleniaceae

*Asplenium nidus*  
Birds Nest Fern

### Polypodiaceae

*Drynaria rigidula*  
Basket Fern

*Drynaria sparsisora*

*Platynerium hillii*  
Northern Elkhorn Fern

*Pyrrosia longifolia*

## FLOWERING PLANTS- DICOTYLEDONS

### Aizoaceae

*Sesuvium portulacastrum*  
Sea Purslane

### Anacardiaceae

*Euroschinus falcatus* var.  
*falcatus*  
Blush Cudgerie or Pink Poplar

*Pleiogynium timorense*  
Burdekin Plum

### Annonaceae

*Polyalthia nitidissima*  
Canary Beech

### Apocynaceae

*Alyxia spicata*  
Chain Fruit

*Cynanchum carnosum*

*Dischidia nummularia*  
Button Orchid

*Gymnanthera oblonga*  
Harpoon Bud

*Sarcostemma viminale* subsp.  
*brunonianum*  
Caustic Vine

*Tabernaemontana orientalis*  
Eastern Gondola Bush

### Asteraceae

\*C3 *Sphagneticola trilobata*  
Singapore Daisy



*Psydrax banksii*

### Avicenniaceae

*Avicennia marina* subsp.  
*eucalyptifolia* Grey Mangrove

### Burseraceae

*Canarium australianum* var.  
*australianum*  
Scrub Turpentine; Mangobark

### Caesalpinaceae

*Caesalpinia bonduc* Nicker Nit

### Capparaceae

*Capparis lucida*  
Coastal Caper

### Caryophyllaceae

*Polycarpaea corymbosa*

### Casuarinaceae

*Casuarina equisetifolia* subsp.  
*incana*  
Horsetail She Oak

### Celastraceae

*Maytenus fasciculiflora*

### Clusiaceae

*Calophyllum inophyllum*  
Beach Calophyllum

### Combretaceae

*Lumnitzera racemosa*  
White Flowered Black Mangrove

*Terminalia catappa* Sea Almond

*Terminalia muelleri* Little Sea  
Almond

### Ebenaceae

*Diospyros compacta*  
Australian Ebony

### Euphorbiaceae

*Excoecaria agallocha* Milky  
Mangrove

### Fabaceae

*Abrus precatorius*  
Gidee Gidee

*Zornia dyctiocarpa* var. *filifolia*

### Lamiaceae

*Clerodendrum inerme*  
Sorcerers Flower's

\* *Hyptis suaveolens*  
*Hyptis*

### Lauraceae

*Cryptocarya exfoliata*

### Malvaceae

*Hibiscus tiliaceus* Cottonwood

*Thespesia populnea*  
Pacific Rosewood

### Menispermaceae

*Tinospora smilacina* S  
nake Vine

### Mimosaceae

*Acacia crassicaarpa*  
Brown Wattle

*Acacia oraria*  
Coastal Wattle

*Acacia polystachya* Ellis Beach  
Wattle

\* *Leucaena leucocephala* subsp.

*leucocephala*  
*Leucaena*

### Moraceae

*Ficus opposita*  
Sandpaper Fig

### Myrtaceae

*Corymbia tessellaris*  
Moreton Bay Ash; Carbeen

*Lithomyrtus obtusa*  
Beach Myrtle

*Melaleuca leucadendra*  
Tea Tree

### Oleaceae

*Jasminum elongatum*  
Native jasmine

*Jasminum simplicifolium* subsp.  
*australiense*

Native Jasmin

### Opiliaceae

*Cansjera leptostachya*

### Proteaceae

*Persoonia falcata*  
Northern Geebung

### Putranjivaceae

*Drypetes deplanchei*  
Grey Boxwood

### Rhamnaceae

*Alphitonia excelsa*  
Red Ash

*Colubrina asiatica* var. *asiatica*  
Serpent Vine

### Rhizophoraceae

*Ceriops tagal* Yellow Mangrove

### Rubiaceae

*Aidia racemosa*  
Archer Cherry

*V Myrmecodia beccarii*  
Ant Plant

*Psydrax banksii*  
Canthium

### Santalaceae

*Exocarpos latifolius*  
Native Cherry

### Sapindaceae

*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*  
Tuckeroo

*Jagera pseudorhus* var.  
*pseudorhus* Foambark

### Sapotaceae

*Mimusops elengi*  
Red Coondoo

### Sterculiaceae

*Sterculia quadrifida* Peanut tree

### Vitaceae

*Cayratia maritima* Coastal Water  
Vine

*Clematicissus opaca*

## FLOWERING PLANTS-MONO- COTYLEDONS

### Commelinaceae

*Commelina ensifolia*  
Sailor's Purse

### Cyperaceae

*Cyperus javanicus*

### Dioscoreaceae

*Dioscorea bulbifera*  
Cheeky Yam

### Hemerocallidaceae

*Dianella caerulea* var. *vannata*  
Blue Flax Lily

### Orchidaceae

*Dockrillia calamiformis*  
Northern Pencil Orchid



*Polyalthia nitidissima*



# Upcoming Events

## CAIRNS SGAP

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March

12 noon. Annual General Meeting, Cairns Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre, Collins Avenue, Edge Hill (see map).

Bring lunch, and suggestions for excursions.

## TABLELANDS SGAP

Meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> **Wednesday of the month.**

Excursion the following Sunday.

Any queries, please contact Chris Jaminon on 4095 2882 or email [hjaminon@bigpond.com](mailto:hjaminon@bigpond.com)

## TOWNSVILLE SGAP

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Wednesday of the month**, February to November, in Annandale Community Centre at 8pm, and holds excursions the following Sunday.

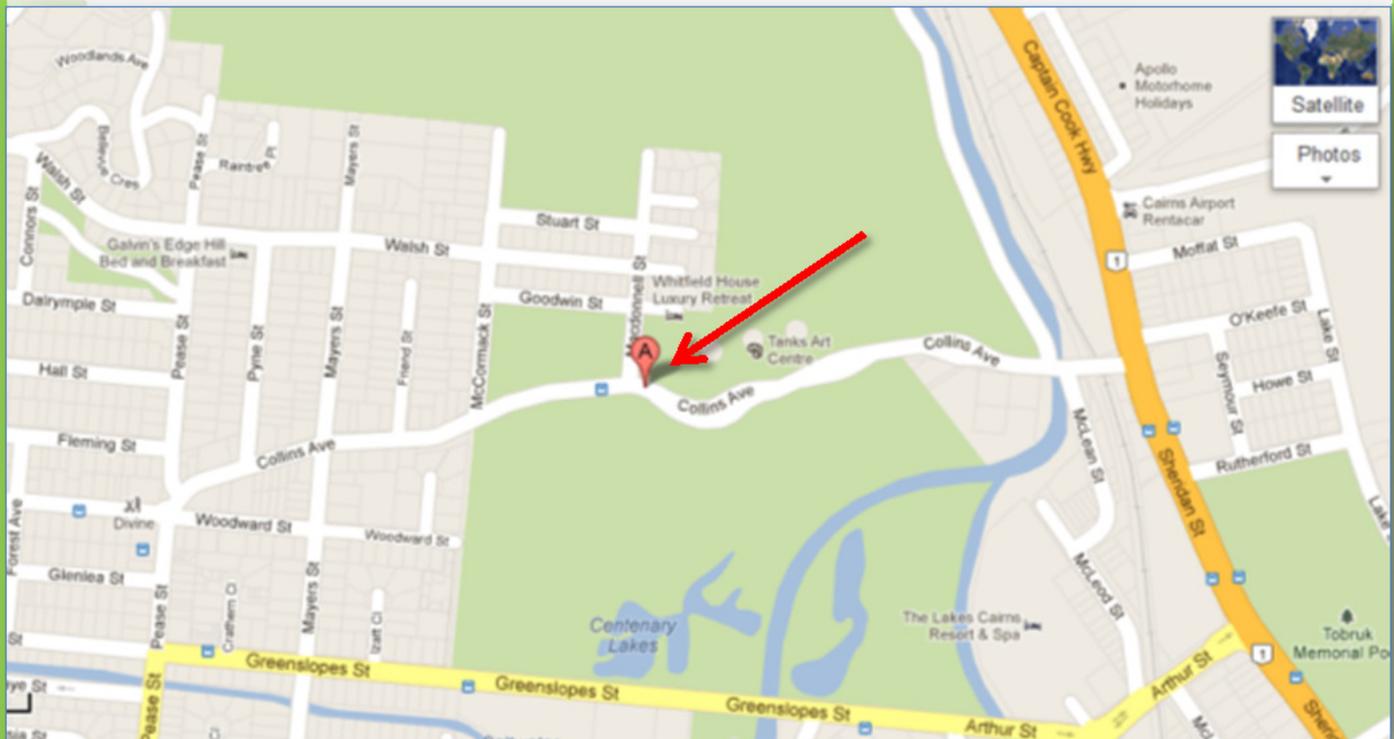
See [www.sgaptownsville.org.au/](http://www.sgaptownsville.org.au/) for more information.

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

### 10-16 August 2013

ANPSA Biennial Conference, Sunshine Coast. Held every two years, this is the conference of our national parent organization.

See [www.sgapqld.org.au/anpsa2013.html](http://www.sgapqld.org.au/anpsa2013.html) for more information.



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### SGAP CAIRNS 2012 COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Rob Jago
Vice-chairperson	Mary Gandini
Treasurer	Stuart Worboys
Secretary	Boyd Lenne
Newsletter	Stuart Worboys
Webmaster	Tony Roberts