

## TREES OF CAIRNS CITY

September's excursion set out to complete a tour of Cairns city started in March this year. In March, we looked at the trees of the southern end of the city – September's goal was to look at the trees growing at the northern end of town.

We met at midday by the war memorial on the Esplanade. David and Mary grabbed a table in the shade of an old *Calophyllum inophyllum*, one of the grandest and most cyclone resistant of our coastal trees. They bravely held the table against the backpacker hordes until Coralie, Tony and Trudi arrived.

A fine pair of mature native trees were visible from our lunch spot – *Dillenia alata* and *Carallia brachiata*, both festooned with felt fern (*Pyrrosia longifolia*). After a pleasant lunch we wandered up to the Cairns Civic Theatre Gardens, passing attractive examples of *Syzygium fibrosum*, *Syzygium luehmannii* and *Adenantha pavonina* along the way.

The gardens of the Cairns Civic Theatre are home to some of the most interesting and rarely planted trees in Cairns. Near the corner of Grafton and Florence Street, a group of beautiful small leaved paperbarks (possibly



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*Melaleuca foliolosa*) has been planted adjacent to a tall, slightly dirty *Corymbia torelliana*. Further down Grafton Street, a stunning *Parinari nonda* shades the memorial garden of Michiko Okuyama, awfully murdered in Cairns in 1997. Dotted around the gardens are other well-established natives – *Intsia bijuga*, *Guettarda speciosa*, *Euroschinus falcata*, and *Syzygium bamagense*. There were lots of palms too, but we chose to ignore those because nobody knew what they were.

One of the great features of tropical gardens is the abundance of epiphytes which appear on mature trees. Our walk found no shortage of attractive natives filling the trees. The ferns *Pyrrosia rupestris*, *Pyrrosia longifolia*, *Platynerium hillii* and *Drynaria rigidula* were common. There were even a few orchids – *Cymbidium madidum*, *Dendrobium discolor* and some very large *Dendrobium teretifolium* flowering for our pleasure.

We proceeded down to the Cairns Hospital, where we had been asked to identify a few trees near the eastern entrance. Here we found a tiny patch of native rainforest, occupied by pigeons and smoking health workers. Shading this pleasant picnic spot were a couple of impressive *Terminalia microcarpa* and their smaller cousins, *Terminalia muelleri*. We

also noted *Ficus benjamina*, *Archontophoenix alexandrae*, *Euroschinus falcata*, and *Tamarindus indica*.

We then completed the loop walk by following the coast path down along the Esplanade. Along the strand there are a few typical beachside natives that have been planted, or allowed to grow, by Council staff – *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Clerodendrum inerme*, *Heritiera littoralis*, *Scaevola taccada*, *Melaleuca leucadendra*, *Mimusops elengi*, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* and *Deplanchea tetraphylla*. We finished our walk with a well-earned ice cream cone from Muddy's Café.

If you're interested in finding out a little more of the street trees of Cairns, a marvelous little booklet has been put together by Fran Clayton. "*The Fabulous Flowering Trees of Cairns City. A Walking Guide.*" illustrates the best of the native and exotic trees growing around town. The revised edition was published in 2013, and is available from Limberlost Nursery, or directly from the author (franclayton@bigpond.com).

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# Help Needed - Banks & Solander Beds

As foreshadowed in the last newsletter, **7 September** is now confirmed as the planting day for the Banks and Solander beds at the Cairns Botanic Gardens.

The plan is to plant and mulch the beds on 7 September. There are about thirty plants to go in, as well as relocating some *Dendrobium discolor* orchids from a nearby tree.

The 7<sup>th</sup> of September is also Carnival on Collins Day. This is the perfect opportunity to engage with the public, and maybe win a few members. We'll be setting up a table and have banners advertising our organisation.

We'll need help with:

- Setting up in the morning (0830) and packing up after planting

- Staffing the desk
- Planting
- Mulching
- Providing native flowers or potted plants for display

If you're available to help on the day (even one hour would be great), please let Tony or Stuart or Boyd know by email –

t.roberts@cairns.qld.gov.au

worboys1968@yahoo.com.au

boydlenne@hotmail.com

Boyd and Tony have organised the gardening tools. You'll need to bring:

- gloves
- drinking water
- sandfly repellent
- covered shoes

Hope to see you!

PS Do any of you fine people have some stockings we could use for tying the golden orchids to their new home? Bring some along on the day.

Absolutely critical to the naming of all living organisms, is the "type specimen". The type is the key reference specimen against which all members of a species are compared. If they match the type (or the written, published description of the type), then the name used for the type can be applied. In day to day use of plant names, we don't really have to give much thought to type specimens, but without them, biology would be a mess.

Usually types are hidden away in museums and herbaria. Many Australian type specimens are held in Britain – not much help to the local research community. Conversely, the type specimens held in the Australian Tropical Herbarium are difficult to access for researchers based in Europe. But a recent grant has enabled the herbarium to purchase camera equipment with which to take high resolution images of our types, which will be available on the web to researchers around the world.



Left: Mulching the Banks and Solander Beds at Cooktown Botanic Gardens, June 2007.

High resolution image of the type specimen of *Chionanthus axillaris*, collected by Banks and Solander and held in the British Museum.

# AUGUST 2014 EXCURSION – THE STREETS OF CAIRNS



*Scaevola taccada* (Cardwell Cabbage)



*Syzygium fibrosum*



Magnificent *Deplanchea tetraphylla* (Wallaby Wireless or Golden Bouquet)



Enormous dome shaped *Ficus benjamina* in the Esplanade gardens, outside Cairns Hospital.



Hidden *Cymbidium madidum* flowers



*Dendrobium teretifolium* and *Dendrobium discolor*, growing together in a mango in Munro Martin Park



*Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (tuckeroo)



# Upcoming Events

## CAIRNS SGAP

### Sunday 7 September

8:30 am. Planting and Stall at the Cairns Botanic Gardens – coincides with Carnival on Collins. Meet at the Banks and Solander beds at 0830.

Bring morning tea, water, gloves, sandfly repellent .

### Sunday 21 September

12 noon. Excursion - lower Lamb's Head Track. Directions:

- Drive toward Mareeba from Cairns.
- Turn left on to the Davies Creek Road. The turnoff is 22.8 km from the Barron River bridge at Kuranda.
- Continue along Davies Creek Road, past the picnic and camping areas, all the way to the end. The road passes through woodlands and ends in rainforest next to a clear creek.



[www.sgapcairns.org.au](http://www.sgapcairns.org.au)

## TABLELANDS SGAP

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

Excursion the following Sunday.

Any queries, please contact Chris Jaminon on 4091 4565 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

### 20 September 2014

1 – 3 pm. Talks at the Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre to mark Biodiversity Month. Sponsored by the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

### 2-4 October 2014

2014 BGANZ Queensland Regional Conference, Cairns Botanic Gardens.

## SGAP CAIRNS 2014 COMMITTEE

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