



Society for Growing Australian Plants Cairns Branch

Newsletter 165

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EXCURSION REPORT - JUMRUN CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

Stuart Worboys

October's outing commenced under grey skies and passing showers. A small group met at the car park on Barron Falls Road, well equipped with ponchos, raincoats and umbrellas. I'd left a waterproof-paper notepad in my bag, which proved quite useful for noting down the observed plants in the drizzle.

Jumrun Creek wends its way through a reserve in the middle of Kuranda. Despite more than a century of settlement and disturbance, the small reserve here protects a surprisingly well developed rainforest. The Jumrun Creek Walk is popular with tourists, as we saw on Sunday, and they have a strong chance of seeing Bush Turkeys or goannas.

Botanically, the nature trail was a bit quiet. We started off picking up the fallen flowers of *Gardenia ovularis*, some still with a faint scent. Vines were common, with native relatives of the philodendron (*Rhaphidophora australasica* and *Epipremnum pinnatum*) noted. *Hoya pottsii* was on the

culm of flowering. We passed four types of *Calamus*, including the aptly named Vicious Hairy Mary (*Calamus radicalis*). Sadly, Graeme Carnie was feeling a bit sore, and had to retreat back to the car.

Along the creek, weeds seemed to have found their way into the forest, including the ubiquitous Singapore Daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) and Fire Spike (*Odontonaema tubaeforme*).

The walk ended with a steep climb up the hill which led us directly into a fine coffee shop. We all enjoyed an *al fresco* refreshment and chat. In the meantime, Val was on the phone to Graeme, who was able to pick us up and take us back to the start of the walk.



The beautifully patterned leaf of the fern, Colysis ampla



Native Grape: Cissus vinosa



Hoya pottsii



Myrsine subsessilis subsp. *cryptostemon*

Jumrun Nature Trail Species List

Compiled by Stuart Worboys and
Mary Gandini. More species in
the text!

Ferns and allies

ASPLENIACEAE

Asplenium nidus (birds nest fern)

BLECHNACEAE

Blechnum cartilagineum (cartilage
fern)

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE

Ophioglossum pendulum

POLYPODIACEAE

Colysis ampla

Drynaria rigidula (basket fern)

Platynerium hillii (elkhorn fern)

Pyrrhosia longifolia (felt fern)

PTERIDACEAE

Vittaria elongata (ribbon fern)

Basal flowering plants

ATHEROSPERMATAEAE

Doryphora aromatica (northern
sassafras)

LAURACEAE

Cryptocarya mackinnoniana
(Mackinnon's walnut)

Neolitsea dealbata (bollywood)

MONIMIACEAE

Austromatthaea elegans

Palmeria scandens

PIPERACEAE

Piper hederaceum

WINTERACEAE

Bubbia semecarpoides

Monocots

ARACEAE

Pothos brownii (pothos)

Rhaphidophora australasica

ARECACEAE

Archonothophoenix alexandrae
(Alexandra palm)

Calamus australis (hairy mary)

Calamus moti

Linospadix minor

CYPERACEAE

**Cyperus involucratus*

FLAGELLARIACEAE

Flagellaria indica (supplejack)

ORCHIDACEAE

Cymbidium madidum

PANDANACEAE

Freycinetia excelsa (climbing
pandan)

Pandanus monticola

Eudicots

ACANTHACEAE

**Odontonema tubaeforme* (fire
spike)

APOCYNACEAE

Alstonia scholaris (milky pine)

Hoya pottsii

Melodinus australis (bellbird vine)

ARALIACEAE

Polyscias australiana

ASTERACEAE

**Sphagneticola trilobata*

BIGNONIACEAE

Pandorea pandorana (wonga vine)

CLUSIACEAE

Garcinia warrenii (native
mangosteen)

CONNARACEAE

Connarus conchocarpus

CUNONIACEAE

Davidsonia pruriens (Davidson's
plum)

DILLENIAEAE

Tetracera nordtiana (fire vine)

ELAEOCARPACEAE

Aceratium sp.

Elaeocarpus angustifolius (blue
quandong)

Sloanea langii

EUPHORBIACEAE

Homalanthus novoguineense
(bleeding heart)

FABACEAE

Austrostenisia stipularis (blood
vine)

ICACINACEAE

Apodytes brachstylis

MENISPERMACEAE

Hyperpa decumbens

MORACEAE

Ficus variegata

MYRTACEAE

Syzygium cryptophlebium

Syzygium kuranda (Kuranda
satinash)

Syzygium tierneyanum (river
cherry)

PASSIFLORACEAE

Passiflora kuranda

PRIMULACEAE

**Ardisia crenata*

PROTEACEAE

Cardwellia sublimis (northern silky
oak)

Musgravea heterophylla

Opisthiolepis heterophylla

RHAMNACEAE

Alphitonia whitei

RUBIACEAE

Gardenia ovularis

RUTACEAE

Brombya platynema

Flindersia iffaiiana (Cairns' hickory)

THYMELAEACEAE

Lethedon setosa

VITACEAE

Cissus penninervis

Cissus vinosa

YABBA AT ROCK- HAMPTON 7 – 9 OCTOBER 2016

By Don Lawie, Cairns Branch

Pauline and I drove our ute/slide-on caravan just over 1,000 kilometres to the venue at Parkhurst, a northern suburb of the City of Rockhampton. We booked in to an en-suite van site, very comfortable. Action commenced with a Friday evening “get to know you” barbecue and we mingled, renewed old friendships and rapidly made new ones.

The venue was Parkhurst Hall, a one-time dance hall still with the original wall seating and redolent of memories of my youth spent in such halls on Saturday nights.



Parkhurst Hall, Yaamba. Photo: Google Streetview

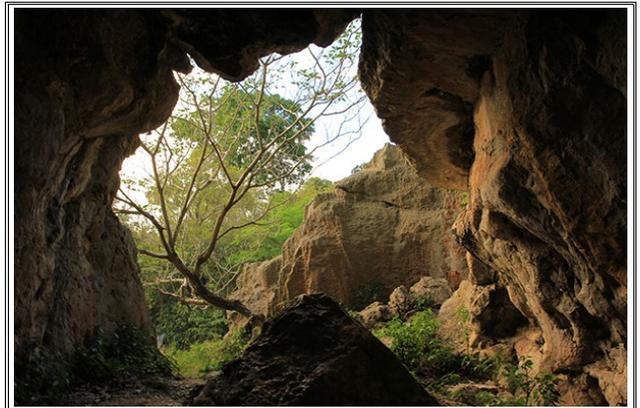
Catering was first-class and it remained so throughout the weekend with an abundance and variety of provisions, cheerful cooks, delectable finger food, and perfect timings for breaks from botanising to refreshing.

Region President Ian McMaster chaired a meeting of members at which the subject matter often strayed but Ian “masterfully” brought it back on track. A number of items were sorted, including constitutional amendments and the difficulties of obtaining collecting and propagating permits for native plants. A lack of suitable applicants for the Geoff Simmonds Bequest was put in context by a sensible comment by Glenn Leiper: seed collecting trips often need to be repeated and some travel and accommodation cover would take the financial pressure off individual members.

An 8 o’clock departure on Saturday morning, fifty-plus conventioners in a comfortable bus expertly handled by Driver John who excelled in every way.

We travelled north to the “serpentinite country” – named for the unusual geology of the area which was fully explained to us along with an excellent geological printout authored by Bob Newby. A display of the serpentinite rocks and endemic plants on the back of a ute gave us an idea of what to expect. The area had been recently burnt, making progress easy and we wandered, botanised, conjectured and called for help from the experts. We were each supplied with a plant list plus

coloured photos for the various stops, making I.D. a possibility. One of the lists was compiled by Ann McHugh, an old friend from Orchid Study Group days, with whom we were hoping to re-connect but Ann is having health problems and we sincerely wish her well.



Mt Etna cave. Photo: John Agusteyen, Qld Government

After a morning tea break at Yaamba we went to the limestone cave area of Mount Etna, a triangular monolith which was previously mined by a cement company but is now National Park. We inspected a re-vegetation project under the control of Cassandra Bouna, who explained the history of the project and their *modus operandi* – which is certainly working well. Healthy young trees, shrubs and vines are thriving over a wide area. A walk to a bat cave was followed by lunch at The Caves, then a plant walk where Neil pointed out the many species of plant which co-exist in this dry rainforest. Cyclone Marcia did much damage in 2015 and there was ample evidence of it here.

Back to Parkhurst, travelling via Trachyte Plug country, the geology of which was revealed by Neil as well as an intriguing dissertation on the way in which salt sea air, wind and soil all

interacting with a delicate plant cover. The barbecue cooks again put on a first class spread for dinner and people circulated and chatted freely. The Bill Tulloch Memorial lecture was the feature of the evening, presented by bursary recipient Leslie John Lowe who focused on native use of medicinal plants.



A 7 am bus departure on Sunday, travelling to the vast Blackdown Tableland, with en route commentary by John McCabe, drawing our attention to land forms, vegetation and land uses, making the long trip an interesting journey. A steep climb led to the stunning view from the lookout, morning tea, then on to Mimosa Creek for a circular walk along a well defined path. Here, a real treat was revealed: numerous specimens of a saprophytic, leafless, climbing orchid *Erythrorchis cassythoides* were in flower.

This orchid was worth the whole weekend for Pauline and I; we had read of how it can grow up to five metres in height by clinging to a suitable tree and was impossible to propagate. We looked, photographed and marvelled at this remarkable plant.

A late lunch, a walk along Mimosa Creek, then the bus trip back to Parkhurst, farewells to friends old and new and the Yabba was done.



Erythrorchis cassythoides - Climbing Orchid

QUEENSLAND'S BEAUTIFUL PLANTS

Erythrorchis cassythoides

The Climbing Orchid, or Black Bootlace Orchid, is a very large climbing orchid endemic to the Australian east coast. Its distribution extends from Royal National Park, south of Sydney to the Blackdown Tableland, west of Rockhampton. Taxonomically,

it is closely related to the familiar north Queensland rainforest orchid, *Pseudovanilla foiliata*, and falls within the Vanilloideae subfamily of the Orchidaceae. Unlike our *Pseudovanilla*, *Erythrorchis* occupies drier eucalypt woodland habitats.

Erythrorchis lacks chlorophyll, and it was long thought to be a saprophyte (meaning it fed on decaying plant material). However, we now realise that saprophytic orchids are actually parasitising woodrotting fungi, and would best be called a "myco-heterotroph".

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cairns Branch

Meetings and excursions on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

20 November 2016 – 12 noon.
Christmas breakup/ barbecue at Tony Roberts' place. BYO meat (fire on site), drinks, cossies. Bring a salad or sweet to share. Bring a plant or something to raffle... and coin to buy the winning tickets.

Where? 5 McCarthy Close, Brinsmead. Be warned! The streets of Brinsmead take their inspiration from Canberra - winding and complicated and full of random roundabouts.

1. Driving north from Cairns City, turn right into Loridan Drive opposite Cool Waters Caravan Park.
2. Continue along Loridan Drive until you cross the cane rail. Take the first right into Hobson Drive.
3. Follow Hobson Drive for some distance until the hills of the Whitfield Range start closing in on either side.
4. McCarthy Close is a left hand turn, the second street past Adam Drive.

Tablelands Branch

Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Excursion the following Sunday. Any queries, please contact Chris Jaminon on 4091 4565 or email hjaminon@bigpond.com

Townsville Branch

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

See www.sgaptownsville.org.au/ for more information.



SGAP CAIRNS BRANCH 2016 COMMITTEE

President: Tony Roberts (t.roberts@cairns.qld.gov.au)

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