

SGAP CAIRNS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018
NEWSLETTER 1



Society for Growing Australian Plants, Cairns Branch

www.sgapcairns.qld.gov.au

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Inside this Issue

2017 President's Report.....	1
2018's First activity - propagation workshop.....	3
What's happening in SGAP north Queensland.....	4
Tablelands Branch.....	4
Townsville Branch.....	4
Cairns Branch.....	4

2017 President's Report

Tony Roberts

Cairns Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants had a very successful year. Most outings were very well attended.

Our first meeting of the year was held at Cairns Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre, where we discussed Cairns' Mangroves; their ecology, role in the environment and diversity.

In March we held our AGM at the home of Stuart, our newsletter editor. His garden had come quite a way since he moved in. In May a small but enthusiastic group visited Goldsborough. Rob and Don led the charge and recorded some interesting sightings. In June we revisited Munro Martin Parklands to see the progress of the plantings there.

The highlight of the year was, for me, the visit to Cooktown Botanic Gardens in July. Members made a significant contribution to the progress of the Gardens toward the 2020 celebration of the 250th anniversary of Cook's visit.

In August we ventured to Harvey Creek in search of the iconic Idiot Tree, *Idiospermum australiense*, and then in September it was off to the Cairns Esplanade to compare the Council Tree List with what was actually growing there.

October saw the Branch board an armada of tinnies and explore the Russell River from Bellenden Ker Landing to Russell Heads. We finished the year in November at Mary and David's place where we enjoyed an early Christmas lunch.

Our SGAP Cairns Facebook page and our web site continue to receive plenty of traffic.

I would like to thank our committee members for their efforts throughout the year. Everyone is doing a great job, keeping the Branch running smoothly and the members engaged. I must also thank all of our members for their support throughout the year, and hope that we can continue to get the great attendance at our outings in 2018.



February 2017 - President Tony Roberts gave a presentation about mangroves to combined Innisfail and Cairns groups.



July 2017- SGAP Cairns spent a weekend at Cooktown.



July 2017 - *Deplanchea tetraphylla* on Mt Cook.



September 2017 - survey of trees on Cairns Esplanade.



October 2017 - The oddly furry, but fragrant flowers of *Ximenia americana*, growing on the strand near Russell Heads.



October 2017 - a splendid journey down the Russell River.

2018's First activity - propagation workshop

SGAP Cairns first activity for 2018 will be a propagation workshop. Some of our most experienced propagators will share their knowledge of native plant propagation, covering topics such as marcotting, division and mounting of epiphytic orchids, and growing plants from seed. The propagation workshop will be held at the home of Tony and Trudi Roberts, 5 McCarthy Close, Brinsmead.

Tony will fire up the barbecue for lunch, so bring some sausages to cook. Also, bring your questions, and most importantly, your pot-bound orchids. Don and Pauline have requested some pot-bound orchids to use as examples in their demonstration.

TIME	WHAT'S HAPPENING
1200 – 1245	Everyone Happy New Year! Lunch and meeting
1245 – 1330	Tony Roberts Simple marcotting demonstration Discussion of fertilisers Growing palms from seed
1330 – 1415	Mary Gandini Propagation of cuttings from natives. How to select propagation material, rooting hormones and their use, suitable media for propagation of cuttings in the tropics.
1415 – 1500	Don and Pauline Lawie Mounting of <i>Dendrobium discolor</i> on timber blocks. Division and mounting of <i>Dendrobium crumenatum</i> . Care of orchids – pests and diseases
1500 – 1530	Everyone Practice session. Questions.
1530 - 1600	Cup of tea Raffle of unwanted plants



Fungi identification - walk and workshop

Hosted by Kuranda EnviroCare. Fungal photography, identification and collection basics.
9 a.m. Saturday 10 March 2018, Kuranda Recreation Centre, Fallon Road, Kuranda

Bookings essential. Book online at
<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=348758>



What's happening in SGAP north Queensland...

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.

Cairns Branch

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

Sunday 19 February 2017. First meeting and activity of the year. Propagation workshop at the home of Tony and Trudy Roberts, 5 McCarthy Close, Brinsmead. See mud map below for directions.

