



# SGAP Cairns Newsletter

July 2018      Number 181

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## *Excursion Report - July 2018* *Ivan Evans Walk, Bayview* *Heights*

Don Lawie

### Introduction

The value of re-visiting previous walk sites was made clear to us on this expedition. The Ivan Evans Walk, named after an early landholder, runs from the top of Toogood Road in the Cairns suburb of Bayview Heights, across a spur and can be accessed from north or south. Distance is 1.2 km with a steep climb to a lookout (usually obscured by plant growth) located 0.7 km in from the north entrance. Vegetation is rainforest/vineforest, more dense on the southern section.

Cairns SGAP has visited Ivan Evans from both north and south previously and on this occasion we went from the north entrance with some going as far as the lookout. Landform was steeply inclined slopes between small watercourses which were just trickling. In a month or two this apparently desolate area will be green again, just another piece of rainforest. Weather had been dry for a while and the difference between this walk and the previous visit was quite astounding. Instead of the lush green of closely sown under, middle

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Cairns Branch.

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### 2018-2019 COMMITTEE

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and upper storey rainforest we were presented with a stark, surreal landscape of weirdly contorted large framework trees, their bare trunks supporting a network of vines ranging from small twiners e.g. *Parsonsia* and Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana*, to massive specimens of Matchbox Bean *Entada phaseolides*, Burny Bean *Mucuna gigantea*, Jucunda Vine *Neosepicea jucunda*, October Glory *Faradaya splendida* (now called *Oxera splendida*).



*Corymborkis veratrifolia* (Gary Wilson).

The vines looped about one another in their determination to climb to the canopy, some retaining their “spring” shape from when they once twined about a supporting young tree, others snaking along the bare ground before finding a support. The air was clear with no direct light and there was little sound. Major supporting trees were species of fig, most notably *Ficus variegata* which had developed strange bulbous unbalanced trunks – adding to the feeling of unreality. Another fig noted was *Ficus albipila* which Dr Bob told us had the best buttress timber for making shields and was reserved for exclusive use of the leaders of the aboriginal groups who once inhabited this area.

The Meliaceae family was well represented with a large number of species of rainforest Mahogany – *Dysoxylum* genus, all large trees, and including *Dysoxylum alliaceum* Buff Mahogany after which the genus is named. *Dys* meaning unpleasant and *xylum* - wood, referring to the specific name meaning “onion-like”. When the tree is fruiting the fallen fruit emit a strong, oniony, smell which makes it easy to find.

Red Cedar *Toona ciliata*, was the target of the first white men to explore much of the rainforest in the Cairns area, and there is still a good number of them along the Ivan Evans Walk. Sizes we saw ranged from mature trees to growing shrubs which prompted Bob to surmise that “somewhere up there” is a giant, old parent Red Cedar that regularly broadcast its seed. What fun it would be to find it! Another well represented timber tree was Java Cedar *Bischofia javanica* and a stand of the two “cedar” trees growing in close proximity allowed us to compare and contrast these giants of the jungle. Not to be outdone, there were some large specimens of Milky Pine *Alstonia scholaris* and Damson plum, *Terminalia microcarpa*, and for contrast, a just-emerging colony of the root parasite *Balanophora fungosa* was found by Sean. The bulbous female flower heads with their circlet of male flowers were just above ground and they will be joined by many hundreds of sister plants as the cool weather progresses.

This was a trip to remember, brought to life by the boundless knowledge of our guru Dr Bob Jago. Thanks, Bob, and thanks for the comprehensive plant list.

P.S. Pauline the Orchid Lady has taken me to task for omitting the orchids. She writes “You could mention the Cinnamon Orchid, *Corymborkis veratrifolia*, an evergreen so different from other ground orchids that they caused the usual shakes of the head of those seeing them for the first time. Will be worth an end of year visit when they are flowering. A small ground orchid *Zeuxine* may also be visible then – Bob has seen myriads of these in the area.



## August Excursion - Brooklyn Station

Tony has recently received a reply from Andrew Francis, the Manager of Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary. It seems our suggested camping excursion to Brooklyn on the weekend of August 18-19 has been given the OK.

Andrew will probably provide us with a camping location near Mt Alto. We will need to provide Andrew with some information:

1. Number attending
2. Type of Cars (and I expect if you are bringing a camper etc.)

Please advise [secretary@sgapcairns.org.au](mailto:secretary@sgapcairns.org.au) if you will be attending no later than 1 August.

### What is Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary?

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy is Australia's largest private owner of land for conservation. Its Brooklyn Sanctuary covers 60 000 ha, and supports a greater diversity of wildlife than any other single property in Australia. More than 290 bird species, 86 mammal species and 140 reptiles and frogs make Brooklyn a true "hotspot".

## Cape Bedford Sand Dunes

Some photos from our June trip to Elim Beach; part of a "reconnaissance mission" for the 2020 Banks and Solander celebration planning.



*The beautiful lemon yellow flowers of Acacia racospermoides highlight its waxy white stems.*



*Eucalyptus phoenicea*



*Ecotrosia leporina*





*Dazzling white dunefields and Melaleuca-lined beaches of Elim Beach*



*Labichea buettneriana*, a rare shrub restricted to the area from Hopevale to Cape Flattery.



*Vandesina retusa* (left), a rampant vine, and *Boronia alulata* (right), a delicate subshrub, both common in the dunes.

| Innisfail Branch   | Townsville Branch   | Tablelands Branch   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Meetings at 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 Stitt Street, Innisfail.</p> <p>Contact: <a href="mailto:innisfail@npq.org.au">innisfail@npq.org.au</a></p> | <p>Meetings at 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November, in Annandale Community Centre.</p> <p>Excursions the following Sunday.</p> <p>Contact: <a href="mailto:johnelliott@sgaptownsville.org.au">johnelliott@sgaptownsville.org.au</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sgaptownsville.org.au">www.sgaptownsville.org.au</a></p> | <p>Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Excursion the following Sunday.</p> <p>Contact: Chris Jaminon on 4091 4565 or email <a href="mailto:hjaminon@bigpond.com">hjaminon@bigpond.com</a></p> |

## *Cairns Branch - Next Meeting*

### **14-15 July 2018 - Cooktown Excursion**

Those arriving in Cooktown on Friday evening should head to the Cooktown Big4 Caravan Park. The Big4 Caravan Park, also called the Cooktown Holiday Park, is located at 46 Charlotte Street, about 200 m west of Cooktown's only roundabout. Contact Tony Roberts on 0417 857 996, or Rob Jago on 4055 2266 to confirm campsite location.

The crew will meet up at Rob and Bianca Jago's site for a planning meeting and Cook Shire safety induction. **The meeting will finalise times and meeting points for the weekend's activities. This is compulsory for all participants in weekend activities.** The inductions will be followed by refreshments.

**Saturday 14 July.** Activities to include:

- morning drive down Archer Point Road
- afternoon visit to private property on Trevethan Creek
- barbecue dinner catered by Cook Shire (location to be advised. BYO cutlery and crockery).

**Sunday 15 July.** Activities to include:

- visit to the lily lagoon on Shay's Road, about 4 km past the Cooktown Airport on the Endeavour Valley Road.
- early barbecue lunch (Cook Shire to cater. BYO cutlery and crockery).
- drive to Elim Beach, with stops along the way to admire the local flora.
- evening - free time. If you're visiting any restaurants, remember to book ahead.