



SGAP Cairns Newsletter

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Excursion Report - September 2018. Yellow Arrow Track

Stuart Worboys

Introduction

SGAP Cairns September excursion took us somewhere we've not been before - the recently opened Yellow Arrow walking track on the western end of Mt Whitfield. The zig-zagging 2.3 km track joins Aeroglen to the Red and Blue Arrow walking tracks, and was constructed by Council at a cost of \$1.45 million.

The weather was fine and dry, and the track quite dusty after weeks without rain. The track winds up a steep hill, starting in regrowth woodlands of *Albizia procera*, *Eucalyptus leptophleba* and *Corymbia intermedia*. Large swathes of the hillslope have been replanted in what must have been a mammoth revegetation effort (although disappointingly some locally inappropriate species, such as kauri, *Agathis robusta* and golden penda *Xanthostemon chrysanthus* have been planted). Towards the top of the hill, the track winds around huge rocks before passing into rainforest.

The Yellow Arrow track finishes at the airport lookout. From here you can proceed right onto the Blue and Green Arrow walking tracks, or head left down the hill to the Botanic Gardens and the Edge Hill cafes. The track is a fine addition to the outdoor recreational opportunities of Cairns.

Society for Growing Australian Plants, Inc.
Cairns Branch.

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2018-2019 COMMITTEE

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Val Carnie, Trudi Roberts, Tony Roberts, Coralie Stuart, Sandy Perkins and Tina Marton at the start of the Yello Arrow



Beautiful weed - *Ipomoea hederifolia*



Toechima daemelianum



Pinnae of Falcataria toona

Flora Species List

Compiled by Rob Jago and Stuart Worboys. An asterisk (*) indicates the species is not locally native.

FERNS AND ALLIES

DENNSTAEDTIACEAE

Microlepia speluncae

POLYPODIACEAE

Drynaria sparsisora

Platynerium hillii

Pyrrosia longifolia (felt fern)

CONIFERS AND CYCADS

ARACUCARIACEAE

Agathis robusta

CYCADACEAE

Cycas media

FLOWERING PLANTS - "PRIMITIVES"

ANNONACEAE

Melodorum leichardtii

Polyscias nitidissima

LAURACEAE

Cryptocarya hypospodia

Cryptocarya triplinervis

Litsea glutinosa

FLOWERING PLANTS - MONOCOTS

ARACEAE

Piprenmnum pinnatum

ARALIACEAE

Polyscias elegans (celerywood)

ARECACEAE

Calamus caryotoides (fish-tail lawyer cane)

Ptychosperma elegans

ASPARAGACEAE

Pleomele angustifolia

FLAGELLARIACEAE

Flagellaria indica

HEMEROCALLIDACEAE

Geitonoplesium cymosum

MUSACEAE

Musa banksii

ORCHIDACEAE

Dendrobium calamiforme

Dendrobium canaliculatum

Dendrobium discolor

PANDANACEAE

Pandanus tectorius

POACEAE

**Melinis repens*

Oplismenus mollis

SMILACACEAE

Smilax australis

ZINGIBERACEAE

Ammomum dallachyi

Alpinia caerulea

FLOWERING PLANTS - EUDICOTS

ANACARDIACEAE

Blepharocarya involucrigera

Buchanania arborescens

Euroschinus falcata

**Mangifera indica* (mango)

Pleiogynium timorense (Burdekin plum)

Rhus taitensis

APOCYNACEAE

Alstonia muelleriana (hard milkwood)

Dischida nummularia (button orchid)

Parsonia velutina

Tabernaemontana pandacacqui

ASTERACEAE

**Praxelis clematidea*

**Sphagneticola trilobata* (Singapore daisy)

BIGNONIACEAE

**Spathodea campanulata* (African tulip)

BURSERACEAE

Canarium australianum

CELASTRACEAE

Euonymus australiana

Hippocratea barbata (knot vine)

Salacia disepala

COMBRETACEAE

Terminalia microcarpa

CUCURBITACEAE

**Momordica charantia*

DILLENIACEAE

Tetracera nordtiana (fire vine)

EBENACEAE

Diospyros hebecarpa

EUPHORBIACEAE

Aleurites moluccana (candlenut)

Codiaeum variegatum

Macaranga involucrata var. *mallotoides*

Macaranga tanarius

Mallotus philippensis

Mallotus polyadenos

Tragia finalis

FABACEAE

Acacia celsa

Acacia flavescens

Acacia mangium

Acacia oraria

Acacia polystachya

Albizia procera

Archidendron hendersonii

Austrosteenisia blackii (blood vine)

Castanospermum australe

**Centrosema molle*

Derris sp. Daintree (D.E.Boyland+ 469)

Falcataria toona (Mackay cedar)

**Maniltoa lenticellata*

(handkerchief tree)

LAMIACEAE

Gmelina fasciculiflora

**Mesosphaerum suaveolens* (hyptis)

Oxera splendida (October glory)

Plectranthus foetidus

LECYTHIDIACEAE

Planchonia careya (cocky apple)

MALVACEAE

Argyrodendron polyandrum

Hibiscus tiliaceus

**Sterculia shillinglawii*

MELIACEAE

Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum

Melia azedarach (white cedar)

MORACEAE

Ficus benjamina

Ficus opposita (sandpaper fig)

Ficus racemosa

MYRTACEAE

Corymbia citriodora
Corymbia intermedia
Eucalyptus drepanophylla
 (narrow-leaved ironbark)
Eucalyptus leptophleba
Eucalyptus tereticornis (forest red gum)
Lophostemon suaveolens
Melaleuca leucadendra
 **Psidium guajava*
 **Syzygium cuminii*
 **Xanthostemon chrysanthus*
 (golden penda)

NYCTAGINACEAE

Pisonia umbellifera

OLEACEAE

Chionanthus ramiflorus (northern olive)
Jasminum didymum

PASSIFLORACEAE

**Passiflora suberosa* (corky passionfruit)

PHYLLANTHACEAE

Cleistanthus apodus
Glochidion harveyanum

PROTEACEAE

Grevillea baileyana

RUBIACEAE

Aidia racemosa
Atractocarpus fitzalanii
Cyclophyllum multiflorum
Ixora timorensis
Pavetta australiensis
Tarenna dallachiana

RUTACEAE

Acronychia laevis
Melicope rubra
Micromelum minutum

SAPINDACEAE

Castanospora alphanthii
Diploglottis diphylostegia
Ganophyllum falcatum (Daintree hickory)
Guioa acutifolia
Jagera pseudorhus
Toeckima daemeliana
Toeckima erythrocarpum

SAPOTACEAE

Planchonella myrsinocarpa

URTICACEAE

Pipturus argenteus

VERBENACEAE

**Lantana camara*

VITACEAE

Cissus oblonga

Cheap native plants at the Cairns Tip Shop

Tina Marton

I wanted to let everyone know that the Cairns Refuse Tip Buyback Shop at Portsmith is selling some very cool native plants. What especially caught my eye is that very soon they will be selling *Acacia racospermoides*. (After our Cooktown trip, I thought the fact that someone was selling young plantlets of *A. racospermoides* would interest lots of people (I am definitely keeping my eye out for when they are released), as it is a really spectacular wattle, and one that was standout on our trip to Cooktown/Hopevale in July.



Acacia racospermoides

WARWICK YABBA

Sharren Wong, and Don and Pauline Lawie, attended the Warwick Yabba in September. They've kindly provided some interesting stories and ideas from the Yabba, which I've printed below.

Meeting overview

Sharren Wong

The Yabba was an interesting meeting and there was quite a lot of interest in the Cairns meeting in 2020 and the Cooktown connection. We did quite a lot of public relations and promoted ourselves so hopefully there will be a good following in two years time.

I also took notes on what worked and what could be done differently. I am sure Pauline and Don will have lots of ideas.

Will look forward to chatting with anyone who wants to be part of the planning committee as we discussed at the Mitchell River camp site in August. It could be a lot of fun but will need advance planning. I asked Laurie and Bob, the main organizers, for any outlines on what the expectations are and needs to be done in organising the event and they are going to revise their notes and send that information on to us.



Girraween National Park, one of the sites visited by Yabba participants. Image by Tatiana Gerus.

As for the Yabba itself, we visited 4 very

different gardens of various local members over the three days. We visited one local conservation area and two National Parks for walking and observing the area and flora, and we had two lectures by different ladies who are passionately involved in local communities in and near the area. One spoke about what they are doing in and with the local council in the Granite Belt area, to look after and conserve rare, endangered and areas of botanical sensitivity and interest. The other from New South Wales spoke about conservation issues with a broader context and what could be done in local areas to promote and protect rare species, with a more political mind set.



Queen Mary Falls (seen in flood in 2011), visited on Sunday 23rd September. Image by Tatiana Gerus

Over the weekend we also had some discussion about low membership concerns. An idea that had quite a lot of appeal and made good sense to me, was to advertise our meetings to a wider range of like minded groups, not just our own members. Even if people attend as a one off or irregularly and don't actually become members at the start, they are still increasing attendance at events and may eventually join or at least become aware of the group and engage with us and prove to increase our networking.

Can we ensure that a native plant does not become extinct?

Pauline Lawie

Maria Hichcock, OAM and life member of the

Australian Plants Society, gave the Bill Tulloch Memorial Lecture at the “Yabba” held at Warwick in September, 2018. Maria’s extensive qualifications to present this lecture can readily be seen on her website. The emphasis of her lecture was on rare and threatened species.

The take home message was that rare, threatened, and even thought extinct species are sometimes being grown in a private garden. Maria encouraged every SGAP Branch to select such a local species, grow it in their gardens, then promote it to commercial nurserymen, thus ensuring that it does not become extinct.

I would like to suggest that our Cairns Branch take up the challenge and that Rob Jago is just the man to tell us what plant to select.

More from Warwick Yabba

Pauline Lawrie

Don and I found ourselves seated opposite Lawrie Smith and his gracious wife, Carmel, at dinner on the first night of the Yabba. Lawrie was keen to engage us in conversation about the proposed Cairns adventure in 2020 and very soon took in our opinions on the vagaries of the weather in June and how little of interest might be in flower. He was soon networking and suggested that August would be better with which we agreed.

I then took the opportunity to discuss with him the Geoff Simmons Bequest. This bequest was made in 2006 by Geoff Simmons (an early Native Plants Queensland member), “to use for the purpose of encouraging or providing for the collection and distribution of seeds from plants native to Queensland”. I mentioned my obsession – passed on from Len Lawler – with Cooktown orchids, the Native Plants Queensland and State floral emblem. My previous approaches had not accorded with the original stipulation of collection of seed for propagation. Lawrie said there was still \$200 000 waiting for distribution, he knew

Geoff and felt sure he would prefer the parameters be altered than have the money doing nothing.

Just about everyone who goes to Cooktown wants to buy a Cooktown orchid.

They are not available. The laws applying to the collection of other native plants differ for orchids; one cannot take cuttings and propagating from seed requires specialist knowledge and equipment.

Stuart is pretty sure that if we can get permission from private property owners, we would be able to collect [As orchids, threatened plants and some other groups like cycads, have added layers of legislated protections, you will need a protected plant harvesting licence - SJW] . If this is so, Don and I are prepared to travel wherever we can get that permission .

We would like to collect both seed capsules and plant material with the object of propagating Cooktown orchids for sale at the Cooktown Botanic Gardens. The Geoff Simmons Bequest will pay for fuel and accommodation for such travel. We then need to write a convincing application explaining the necessity for commercial involvement to propagate from seed.



Dendrobium bigibbum, (Cooktown Orchid) growing in dry rainforest near Coen.

Hibbertia in North Queensland

Betsy Jackes

Hibbertia was named after George Hibbert (1757-1837) an English merchant and amateur botanist. They are a group of about 200 species; the number will probably increase as more research is done, particularly by Hellmut Toelken (South Australia) and Kevin Thiele (Western Australia). Most species form small shrubs but several such as *Hibbertia scandens* are vines or scramblers and there is the occasional small tree. Species of *Hibbertia* are commonly known as guinea flowers.



Hibbertia banksii, a common species on Cape York.

Leaves are alternate, shape ranges from linear, linear lanceolate to lanceolate, elliptical and obovate. A variety of hairs and scales are normally present; collectively they are known as the "indumentum" and range from simple to stellate hairs and peltate scales. Leaf shape and distribution of the indumentum are useful in identifying species. Flowers are usually solitary. The flowers have 5 obovate yellow, rarely orange, petals which typically have a notch at the apex. There are usually more than 10 stamens, these may be evenly distributed around the ovaries and styles or may be mainly on one side. Staminodes or sterile stamens may be present. The fruit is capsule-like consisting of usually 2-5 follicles which are loosely adhering, a reddish aril

covers most of the brown seeds.

This Gondwanan genus is very easy to recognize but it can be difficult to identify the species. Species are found chiefly in Australia but also in Madagascar, New Guinea, New Caledonia and Fiji, but the greatest concentration is in Western Australia. While some such as *Hibbertia scandens* are widespread others are relatively localized. Habitats vary from rainforest to dry semi-arid environments.



Hibbertia exuciates in the White Mountains National Park. This population has been recognised as distinct from the southern populations, and will be renamed..

Phenology: Flowering chiefly in spring and summer but there are usually some flowers present throughout the year, petals close at night and will fall off easily. Most species examined appear to have no nectar so rewards for potential pollinators are the staminodes and the pollen. Pollination appears to be chiefly by beetles with honey bees visiting to collect pollen. Birds are recorded as dispersing seeds of *Hibbertia scandens*.

Germination of seeds is slow and initially requires the embryo to develop. When the seed is shed the embryo is a tiny 'blob' which needs to develop to form the various structures before the root/radicle can emerge. This enforced dormancy helps the plant to germinate when conditions are suitable. This may take several years, those adapted to dry habitats seems to need several wet/dry cycles. Smoke water increases the germination rate but other factors are involved.

Bundaberg's Vera Scarth-Johnson Reserve

Ann Mohun

I went to the Vera Scarth-Johnson Reserve at Coonaar south of Bundaberg in mid September with my daughter, when the Wallum was in bloom. I had been about 6 months before, when it was hot, dry, dusty sand, and scrubby, and, of course not a bloom in sight. A big difference this September!

Signs at reserve describe the environment and the contributions of the reserve's namesake, as follows:

Who is Vera Scarth-Johnson?

The reserve is named in honour of a botanical collector, artist and conservationist who lived nearby from the 1940s until 1972. Vera Scarth-Johnson loved Australian native plants, illustrated and published two books on Wallum wildflowers, and sent many plant specimens to the Queensland Herbarium. In 1995, Vera was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to art and the environment. She regarded the stand of Cypress pine (*Callitris cupressiformis* [*Callitris rhomboidea*]) in this reserve as locally significant and was motivated to secure its protection. Her most fervent wish was to give future generations the opportunity to experience the beauty and complexity of this wildflower reserve.

Wallum

The majority of vegetation in this reserve is known as "Wallum". This is an Aboriginal word for the *Banksia aemula* plant, which is often the tallest plant in this type of vegetation. It grows on deep, nutrient-poor acidic sandy soils and is adapted to fire. Like many other coastal ecosystems, wallum has been extensively cleared for development, particularly in South East Queensland, and is mapped by the Queensland Government as "of concern" vegetation.



?Pultenaea



Acacia hubbardiana - Prickly Moses

Flowering in October



Pavetta australiensis - Photo by Ann Mohun



Dendrobium smiliae - Photo by Patsy Penny



Dendrobium smiliae - Photo by Patsy Penny



Variegated *Castanospermum australe* - Photo by Patsy Penny



Triunia montana - Photo by Stuart Worboys

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: innisfail@npq.org.au</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: johnelliott@sgaptownsville.org.au</p> <p>www.sgaptownsville.org.au</p>	<p>Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Excursion the following Sunday.</p> <p>Sunday 28 October. Next excursion is Mount Lewis. Unfortunately I think the bulk of the orchid flowering was early again this year but there is always something to see at Mount Lewis. Meet at the Mount Molloy free camping / rest area just before the Julatten intersection, from 9:30 am for 10 am departure.</p> <p>Contact: Chris Jaminon on 4091 4565 or email hjaminon@bigpond.com</p>

Cairns Branch - Next Meeting

Unfortunately our planned inspection of the East Trinity Reserve cannot go ahead, as no-one is available on Sunday to provide an access key and site-specific induction.

Other possible sites in the area are:

- Browns Bay and False Cape
- Mt Yarrabah Track
- Ross and Locke on the Gillies Highway.

Are there any other suggestions?