



SGAP Cairns Newsletter

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SGAP Cairns at the new lookout, top of Crystal Cascades access road.

Excursion Report - November 2018. Crystal Cascades

Stuart Worboys

The final excursion for 2018 took us to Crystal Cascades, an attractive and surprisingly diverse rainforest located in a deep gorge to the west

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Cairns Branch.

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of Cairns. Being accessible and close to Cairns, it's also a popular swimming spot, with locals and tourists alike taking advantage of the numerous cool deep pools and rapids, all oblivious to the richness of the forest above, and the bullrouts lurking in the waters below.

We commandeered a nicely shaded table for our lunch, and were joined by a couple of visitors, Ryan and Matt.

Closer to the car park, test plantings of Wet Tropics natives showed varying degrees of success.

Lindsayomyrtus racemoides, *Storckia australiensis* and *Athertonia diversifolia*, all native to wetter parts of the tropical north, appeared to be struggling in the dry conditions.

Although the forest was dry, and in many places wilted, we spotted a few things of interest. We spotted flowers on *Myristica globosa*, *Hoya potsii*, *Pipturus argentea* and *Piper umbellatum*, and fruits on *Diplocyclos palmatus* and *Pandanus gemmifer*. Further up the road, we ran into an unfamiliar tree, something that clearly didn't belong. After a little bit of searching, a flower was spotted, and we realised the odd tree was a cannonball tree - a South American native related to brazil nuts.

An unusual and distinctive vine was common along the track - *Cardiopteris moluccana*. This vine, with its broad

heart-shaped leaves, has twisted petioles and milky sap. Its closest relatives are *Citronella*, *Gomphandra* and *Ilex* (the familiar Christmas holly). Its flowers are unremarkable, but deep within they hide a mode of seed development unique in all flowering plants, and only discovered in 2016.

Our slow, botanist-paced walk reached the end of the path, where we gathered for a group photo before dispersing.

Species List

Compiled by Rob Jago and Stuart Worboys. An asterisk (*) indicates the species is not native to Australia, whilst "cult." indicates the species is native to Queensland, but not to the Crystal Cascades area.

FERNS AND ALLIES

LOMARIOPSIDACEAE

Nephrolepis oblitterata

LYCOPODIACEAE

Phlegmariurus phlegmaria

POLYPODIACEAE

Drynaria rigidula (basket fern)

Microsorium punctatum

Platynerium hillii

Pyrrosia longifolia (felt fern)

Pyrrosia rupestris

THELYPTERIDACEAE

Christella parasitica

Macrothelypteris torresiana

CYCADS AND CONIFERS

ARAUCARIACEAE

Agathis robusta (kauri pine)

BASAL FLOWERING PLANTS

LAURACEAE

Cryptocarya hypospodia

Cryptocarya laevigata

Neolitsea dealbata

MYRISTICACEAE

Myristica globosa subsp. *muelleri*

PIPERACEAE

Peperomia blanda

Piper caninum

Piper umbellatum

MONOCOTS

ARACEAE

Epipremnum pinnatum

ARECACEAE

Calamum caryotoides

COMMELINACEAE

Pollia macrophylla

ORCHIDACEAE

Dendrobium calamiforme

PANDANACEAE

Pandanus gemmifer

POACEAE

Leptaspis banksii

EUDICOTS

ANACARDIACEAE

Blepharocarya involucrigera

**Mangifera indica*

APOCYNACEAE

Alstonia scholaris

Hoya australis

Hoya potsii

Ichnocarpus frutescens

BURSERACEAE

Canarium vitiense

CARDIOPTERIDACEAE

Cardiopteris moluccana

CELASTRACEAE

Euonymus australiana

COMBRETACEAE

Terminalia microcarpa (damson)

CUCURBITACEAE

Diplocyclos palmatus

DILLENIACEAE

Tetracera nordiana (fire vine)

ELAEAGNACEAE

Elaeagnus triflora (millaa millaa vine)

EUPHORBIACEAE

Mallotus philippensis (red kamala)

FABACEAE

Austrosteenisia blackii (blood vine)

Castanospermum australe (black bean)

Falcataria toona (Macakay cedar)

Pongamia pinnata

Storckiella australiensis (cult.)

GENTIANACEAE

Fagraea cambagei (cult.)

ICACINACEAE

Gomphandra australiana

LAMIACEAE

Glossocarya hemiderma

Oxera splendida

Vitex queenslandica

LECYTHIDIACEAE

**Couroupita guianensis*
(cannonball tree)

MALVACEAE

Argyrodendron sp. Karnak
(P.I.Forster+ PIF10711) (cult.)

Argyrodendron peralatum

Argyrodendron polyandrum

Trichospermum pleiostigma
(Whitfield ash)

MELIACEAE

Dysoxylum arborescens

Dysoxylum oppositifolium

Toona ciliata (red cedar)

MORACEAE

Ficus septica

Ficus variegata

Ficus virgata

MYRTACEAE

Corymbia intermedia

Eucalyptus grandis

Gossia myrsinocarpa

Lindsayomyrtus racemoides
(Daintree penda, cult.)

Syzygium cormiflorum (bumpy satinash)

Syzygium tierneyanum

Tristanopsis exiliiflora

NYCTAGNIACEAE

Pisonia umbellifera (birdlime tree)

OLEACEAE

Chionanthus ramiflorus (northern olive)

PHYLLANTHACEAE

Cleistanthus semiopacus

Synostemon albiflorus

PROTEACEAE

Athertonia diversifolia (cult.)

RHAMNACEAE

Ventilago ecorollata

RUBIACEAE

Atractocarpus fitzalanii subsp.
fitzalanii

Neonauclea glabra

Psychotria dallachiana

RUTACEAE

Melicope elleryana

SAPINDACEAE

Atalaya rigida

SAPOTACEAE

Palaquium galactoxylon (Cairns pencil cedar)

URTICACEAE

Dendrocnide photinophylla (shiny leaf stinger)

Pipturus argenteus

VERBENACEAE

**Lantana camara*

VITACEAE

Cissus penninervis

Cissus vinosa

Leea novoguineense (bandicoot berry)

Tetrastigma sp. nov.



Piper caninum

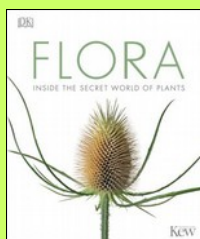


Pandanus gemmifer



The leaves of *Cardiopteris*

A Botanical Christmas Gift?



Kew Gardens, the world-renowned centre of botanical research, has recently published a beautifully illustrated text, simply titled "Flora". Not just an up-to-date botanical text, the book is approachable for the lay person, and full of interesting plant facts and gorgeous botanical art. Even better, it can be purchased in Cairns. Read more about it here: <https://www.dk.com/uk/book/9780241254806-flora>

CAIRNS SGAP EXPLORES MOUNT JOSEY, 21 October 2018



Rob Jago found a handsome *Callipteris prolifera* fern growing in a drain near the start of our walk.

Don Lawie

For our October outing, we found ourselves with a range of venues to visit so Sandy organised an online vote and Patsy's Place was favoured. Peter and Patsy provided the usual five star venue on the edge of a creek beside Annie's forest, with tables, chairs, hot and cold drinks, cakes and biscuits. Conversation ran hot with a number of topics to pursue – Yabba 2020 which we will be co-hosting plus some ideas brought back from Yabba 2018 in Warwick. Pauline proposed that we adopt Maria Hitchcock's strategy of adopting a threatened native plant, growing it on in member gardens and then introducing it to the local Horticultural Trade. The idea was favoured and Rob suggested a fern species that would be a suitable candidate. So – watch this space.

Don displayed a large range of SGAP/Native Plants Queensland brochures supplied by Queensland Region. They will be of use to members and as handouts to interested gardeners – supporting Sharren's report in the October Newsletter. Also on display was a large poster showing trunks and barks of large South East Queensland trees. Don suggested that our branch could produce a similar publication featuring trees of the FNQ Rainforest. More planning needed but the basic idea was accepted. Perhaps a field-friendly format with a ring binding?

And then – off to the forest in a small convoy of 4WD vehicles along a couple of kilometres of a track culminating in a recently re-opened old logging track. The track meanders around the base of the hill named Mount Josey which is of importance since it has a survey Trig Point at the 153 metre summit (in about 1977 I guided an Army Survey Party up Mt Josey where they put in markers as part of updating the out of date Topographic map).



Cauliflorous fruits of *Ficus variegata*

We had an up close experience with the lowland vine forest revealed by the new track. Some orchids were seen – *Thrixspermum* and *Pomatocalpa* notably, and there will be more species in the upper canopy. Some giant trees lined the track, *Ficus* species with their large, contorted buttresses, Quandongs, *Elaeocarpus grandis*, a large Cassowary Satinash, *Syzygium graveolens* (with their seed appearing in a couple of cassowary scats). An ancient Johnstone River Hardwood, *Backhousia bancroftii* represented the stands of this desirable timber species which once covered a large amount of land in the vicinity. I was told by two separate timber cutters of the almost pure stands of "Johnstone", a result, apparently, of the fact that Johnstone seed has a long viability. The cutters said that they lie in wait for a major event like a cyclone then spring up and suppress any other trees in the area. Fact? We will not see such stands again.

October Glory vine, *Oxera splendida*, flowered early this year and were dropping their potato-like fruit already in late October. Candle Nut, *Aleurites moluccensis*, grew larger than usual and I noted some big Leichhardt Trees, *Nauclea orientalis*.

So far, the walk was what would be expected until Patsy and Peter led us off a side track to a swampy area. Rob and Stuart lingered on the margin as the others left, scoping the canopy. Rob's eyes focused on a hooked vine up high, his memory banks went wild and he became very excited. He had sighted a rare vine in the family *Rubiaceae* named *Uncaria cordata*. This vine has only been sighted three times; once by C.T.White over a hundred years ago, again many years ago near Mena Creek, and on Bellenden Ker many years ago by a younger R.L.Jago. Rob and Stuart were ecstatic – this was an important discovery and they went to considerable effort to obtain a specimen for the Herbarium.

We returned to Annie's Forest in an ebullient mood, to celebrate with tea, coffee and the tale re-told. What a finish to a day spent with friends in our beautiful and bountiful rainforest.

Innisfail Branch

Meetings at 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 Stitt Street, Innisfail.

Contact: innisfail@npq.org.au

Townsville Branch

Meetings at 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November, in Annandale Community Centre.

Excursions the following Sunday.

Contact: johnelliott@sgaptownsville.org.au

www.sgaptownsville.org.au

Tablelands Branch

Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Excursion the following Sunday.

Contact: Chris Jaminon on 4091 4565 or email hjaminon@bigpond.com

Cairns Branch - Next Meeting

Sunday 9 December 2018 - Christmas Breakup at the home of Tony and Trudi Roberts, 5 McCarthy Close, Brinsmead (see map). To get there from Cairns City, follow Reservoir Road through Brinsmead, where it becomes the Redlynch Bypass Road. Pass Glenoma Park, then turn right at the lights. Just before the Freshwater Christian College, turn right onto Loridan Drive. Take the second left onto Adam Drive, which ends at Hobson Drive. Turn left onto Hobson, McCarthy Close is the second on the right.

Bring a plate, meat for the barbecue and your togs! Also:

- ideas for Yabba 2020, such as accommodation (including conference facilities), catering and transport.
- we'll be running a raffle, so if you have any prizes you'd like to donate, please bring them along.

