

# SGAP Cairns

NEWSLETTER 209 APRIL 2021

## *Don and Pauline Lawie elected life members*

Stuart Worboys

March's Annual General Meeting was well attended. Matt and his partner kindly opened their house for the occasion. Matt conducted tours of the garden and shadehouse, both tightly packed with botanical oddities. A barbecue and generously laid table meant that everyone was well fed, and perhaps a little sleepy and off-guard, prior to the challenges that lay ahead.

The AGM went as per usual, with people desperately ducking and weaving to avoid positions of power and responsibility. But with few gentle words of persuasion, the executive positions were filled.

There was a surprise item on the agenda: Don and Pauline were nominated for life membership of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Cairns Branch. When a vote was called, the result was a unanimous "Yes". Congratulations to you both: we are thrilled to recognise your contribution over three decades to the organisation.

### **A thank you from Don and Pauline**

It was the surprise of the century for us to be honoured with Life Membership of Cairns Branch SGAP on Sunday. We are aware that it is not conferred lightly and we feel humbled to be elevated to the same level as such legends as Mary and Bob. We



have had 29 years of membership of SGAP and in that time we have met so many people who have astounded us with their knowledge and their ability to pass on that knowledge.

My initial aim was to be able to walk into the rainforest which surrounds our house and name every tree and shrub; of course I can't do it yet, but I have made much progress, thanks to the patient repetition of such people as Rob Jago and many others from both Cairns and Tablelands branches. Some of these are no longer with us

and we have been enriched by being able to learn from Len Lawler and Tony Irvine, to name just two.

We will do our best to continue their good work and pass on what knowledge we have so that the botanical marvel in which we live can be understood by all who want to do so.

To be made life members of an association whose members we admire and respect is indeed an honour.

Thank You all from Don & Pauline.



# *Rivers of Gold*

Don Lawie

Pauline and I drive regularly from Babinda to Gordonvale to volunteer at the Mulgrave Settlers' Museum there. Some years ago we noticed that the creek lines in the mountains on either side of the highway were delineated by a golden carpet of colour formed by the simultaneous flowering of the Golden Penda, *Xanthostemon chrysanthus*, trees. Pendas love to have their roots in flowing water and they flower profusely as a result of continuous



heavy rain.

This year –on Wednesday 7 April 2021 – we observed the best Rivers of Gold that we have ever seen. We have looked for years without reward but this year was the best we

have ever seen. The accompanying photo by Pauline was taken a couple of days later and the best flowering was fading but the Rivers can still be seen.

We live in a botanical wonderland.





# *Cairns Council's TreePlotter*

Cairns Regional Council are inviting people to be part of their TreePlotter street tree mapping project. TreePlotter is a tree database used by Council to map and monitor the street trees and park trees in the region. People can use the database to find a tree, learn its species name, find out what animals and birds call the tree home and other details.

With an estimated 500,000+ trees in the Cairns region's parks and streets, mapping them all is a big job. Council's arborists, contractors and volunteers have plotted more than 30,000 trees already. Council has opened TreePlotter to citizen scientists so everyone can contribute. Anyone can add a favourite tree or new planting to the database. You will need to register to add trees to the database. To register, you must create a username and type in your email address. No password is needed, but you will need to make a note of your username. More information about TreePlotter can be found at:

<https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-environment/trees-land-pests/tree-database-treeplotter>

## *FLORA SURVEYS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY*

**Matt McIntosh**



*Drosera falconeri*, which was a major target of mine for the trip that I found around Berry Springs just before having to fly out. This seen and is a fast favourite.



What is likely to be a *Typhonium praetermissum*. We had to survey for this species and ended up finding hundreds of them in the Howard had finished so only leaves were about.



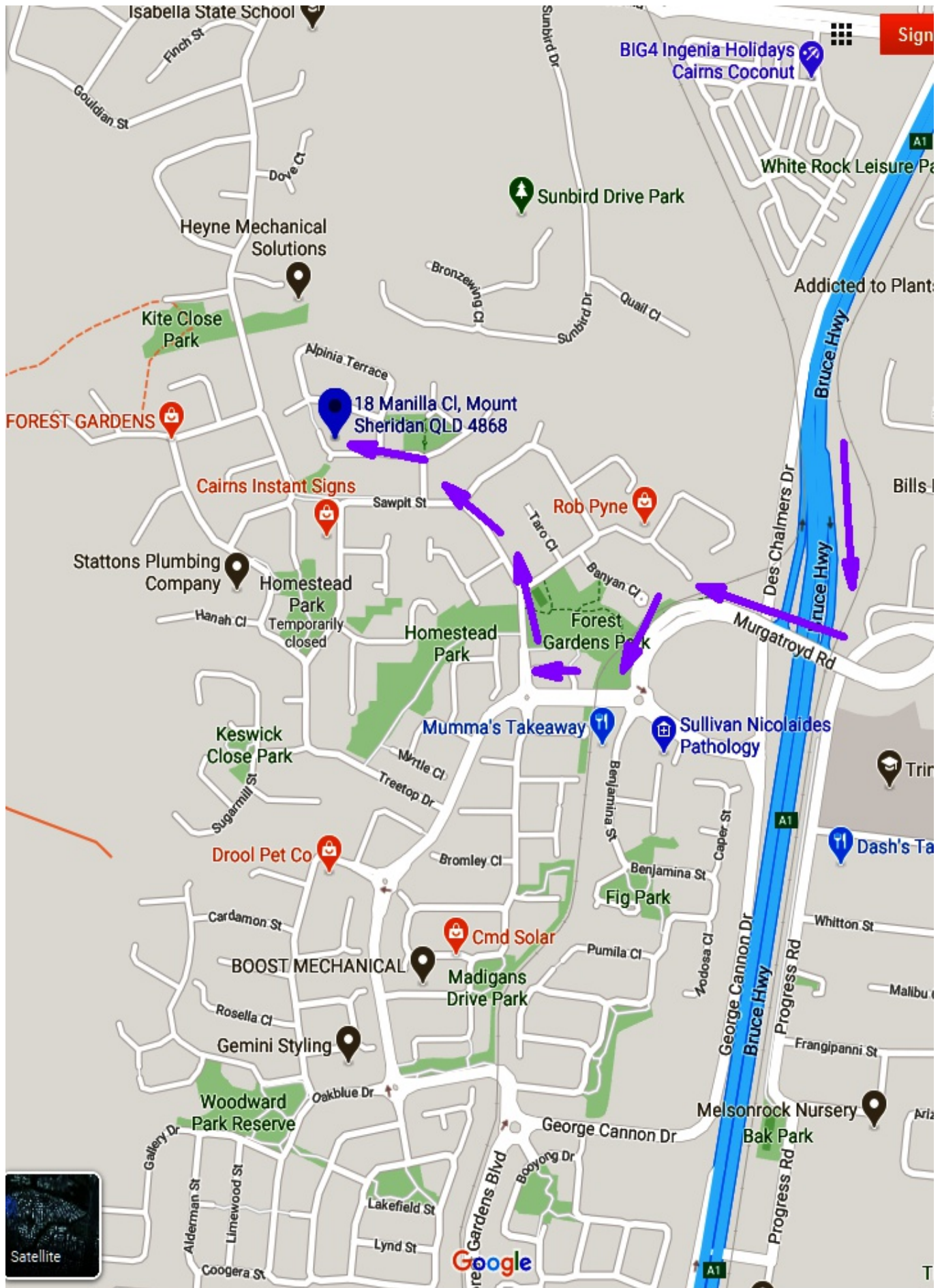


*Black-footed Rock-wallaby having breakfast at the Alice Springs Botanical Gardens. The Purple-necked Rock-wallaby, a species listed species so it was another target for me. However, seeing them for the first time like this wasn't exactly how I'd envisioned seeing them.*



*What is potentially Drosera darwiniensis. One of the many drosera species incidentally found during the trip.*





# *What's happening...*

## Cairns

**Sunday 18 April.** Our excursion this month is a suburban walk in the southern Cairns suburb of Forest Gardens. A former member, Anton van der Schans, vegetated a creek line – Sawpit Gully – when the suburb was being planned. He re-created a walk from the tip of Cape York to the bottom of the Peninsula by planting plants of the relevant areas along the creek line. They have grown well, some have been lost, and I have been unable to get a plant list so this month we will make our own.

Meet 12 noon at the home of Mark Olsen and Helen Lawie, 18 Manilla Close Mt Sheridan (see map, previous page). Their house is just a few hundred metres from the walk's start.

Become familiar with Council's TreePlotter (see page 3), and register as a user so we can test it out on the walk.

## Tablelands

Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Tolga CWA Hall. Excursions the following Sunday.

Excursion officer: Peter Radke, 4091 4565.

**Friday 4 June - Monday 7 June.** Cooktown, Elim Beach and Battlecamp Road. Reminder to contact Peter Radke as soon as possible if you are interested.

## Townsville

**Wednesday 14th April.** Meeting of Native Plants Queensland - Townsville Branch at Oonoonba Community Hall, Shannon Street Oonoonba.

**Sunday 18 April.** Excursion to Bluewater Gorge. Head north on the Bruce Highway and cross over Bluewater Creek. Take the first left turn after crossing the bridge onto Forestry Road. And then pull over in front of the SES building immediately on the left. From there we will 'convoy' out to the foot of the Gorge. Allow 30 mins travel from Townsville CBD and aim to be at the meeting place at 8.30am

**Saturday 19, Sunday 20 June.** We are planning an outing to the Burra Range in conjunction with the Mackay NPQ Branch. The idea is that members from Mackay will drive up to Charters Towers on Friday 18th and stay for three nights in a motel, making two long day outings to the Burra.

### SGAP Cairns Branch 2020-2021 Committee

President: Tony Roberts

Vice-President: Don Lawie

Secretary: Matt McIntosh ([secretary@sgapcians.org.au](mailto:secretary@sgapcians.org.au))

Treasurer: Val Carnie

Webmaster: Tony Roberts

Newsletter Editor: Stuart Worboys ([worboys1968@yahoo.com.au](mailto:worboys1968@yahoo.com.au))