

SGAP Cairns

NEWSLETTER 213 AUGUST 2021

Lake Placid, July 2021

Don Lawie

Lake Placid is not a lake at all but a choke point where the mighty Barron River senses that it is close to the sea and expands with the excitement of going to the beach. The "Lake" has been a favourite picnic and swimming spot for over a hundred years but is presently in the doldrums because saltwater crocodile/s have been seen there, spoiling this once-safe swimming hole. So, we did not take our togs but instead arrived with hopes for another outing with friends, a meal together and a botanical ramble in the light rainforest abutting the Lake. These were all achieved.

A short Admin meeting sorted the re-jigged programme for the remainder of the fast-dwindling year, with a running commentary from Life Members Rob & Pauline who were distracted by focussing their binoculars on a flock of rare birds right above us.

A track, stamped smooth by the passage of bare feet dating back thousands of years, led us along the riverside towards the Barron Gorge. Some Council beautification has been done on the track with plantings of *Lomandra* sp. and *Licuala ramsayi* as well as keeping the track open. The theme for this walk is BIG – Big Rocks, Big Trees. Rob said that the weirdly shaped rocks were a result of metamorphism at some stage of the area's development. This was also the bottom of a deep sea according to my



geology book.

Trees here grow to a size beyond big. Fig trees of several species competed for whose trunk is the biggest with a massive *Ficus virens* on the shoreline a clear winner with six massive trunks leaning far out over the river. Several outsize specimens of what used to be called Mackay Cedar *Falcataria toona* loomed over the track. Rob said that the timber, although a similar in appearance to the renowned Red Cedar, was useful but brittle and caused physical reactions to people working it.

A better timber tree and one of my favourites was Cairns Pencil Cedar *Palaquium galactoxylum*. This tree grows a tall round trunk supported by flat buttresses which give the tree a rocket like appearance. The timber is

easy to work and has a beautiful sparkling-flame appearance when freshly cut. Rob and Stuart not only named trees but gave little anecdotes about each, viz *Mallotus philipinensis* Red Kamala, was collected at Endeavour River by Banks & Solander in 1770, *Harpullia pendula* Tulip Oak, is used as a decorative street tree in many places but here it was growing naturally. Gutta Percha, a product of a Malaysian species of *Palaquium* was used to armour the international subsea cable and is still use today in some dental procedures. Yes, botany is a fascinating subject.

Reeling with our newfound knowledge, we made our way back to picnic area for a cup of tea and so passed another SGAP excursion.



Impressive buttresses supporting a tree on the steep slopes of Barron Gorge (photo by Patsy Penny)



Harpullia pendula (photo by Kerry Coleman)

Lake Placid/Barron Gorge Species List

Compiled by Bob Jago

The following checklist of vascular plants recorded by members of the Cairns Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Queensland Region, during a visit 18th August 2021. The checklist is far from complete and many more species remain to be identified and recorded.

FERNS & ALLIES

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium nidus Birds Nest Fern

Dryopteridaceae

Lastreopsis poecilophlebia

Polypodiaceae

Drynaria rigidula Basket Fern

Drynaria sparsisora

Platyserium hillii Northern Elkhorn Fern

Pyrrosia rupestris Rock Felt Fern

Pteridaceae

Adiantum atroviride Common Maidenhair

Fern

Adiantum hispidulum var. *hispidulum* Rough

Maidenhair Fern

Pteris ensiformis Slender Bracken

FLOWERING PLANTS-BASAL GROUP

Annonaceae

Miliusa horsfieldii Miliusa Beech

Lauraceae

Beilschmiedia obtusifolia Blush Walnut; Hard

Bollygum

Cryptocarya hypospodia Northern Laurel

Cryptocarya laevigata Glossy Walnut

Cryptocarya rhodosperma

Cryptocarya triplinervis var. *riparia* Brown Laurel

Endiandra longipedicellata Buff Walnut

Myristicaceae
Myristica globosa subsp. *muelleri* Nutmeg
 Piperaceae
Piper macropiper Native Pepper

FLOWERING PLANTS-MONOCOTYLEDONS

Araceae
Epipremnum pinnatum Native Monstera
 * *Epipremnum pinnatum* cv. *Aureum*
 * *Philodendron bederaceum*
 * *Syngonium podophyllum*
 Asparagaceae
Lomandra hystrix Creek Matrush
 Arecaceae
Archontophoenix alexandrae Alexandra Palm
 * *Caryota urens*
Ptychosperma elegans Solitaire Palm
 Cyperaceae
 * *Cyperus aromaticus*
 * *Cyperus involucratus*
 Flagellariaceae
Flagellaria indica Supplejack
 Orchidaceae
Dockrillia calamiformis Northern Pencil Orchid
 Poaceae
 * *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*
 * *Megathyrsus maximus* var. *maximus*
Oplismenus compositus
Phragmites australis Common Reed Grass

FLOWERING PLANTS-EUDICOTS

Acanthaceae
 * *Barleria strigosa*
Graptophyllum spinigerum Native Fuchsia; Qld. Holly
 * *Odontonema cuspidatum*
 Amaranthaceae
 * *Alternanthera brasiliana*
 * *Alternanthera ficoidea*
 Anacardiaceae
 * *Mangifera indica*
Semecarpus australiensis Tar Tree
 Apocynaceae
Hoya australis subsp. *tenuipes* Rainforest wax Flower
Ichnocarpus frutescens

Parsonia longipetiolata Green-leaved Silkpod
 Araliaceae
Heptapleurum actinophyllum Umbrella Tree
 Asteraceae
 * *Ageratum conyzoides* var. *conyzoides*
 * *Sphagneticola trilobata*
 * *Synedrella nodiflora*
 Bignoniaceae
 * *Parmentiera aculeata*
 *C3 *Spathodea campanulata* subsp. *nilotica*
 Burseraceae
Canarium australianum var. *australianum* Scrub
 Turpentine; Mangobark
Canarium vitiense Canarium
 Cannabaceae
Aphananthe philippinensis Native Elm
 Cardiopteridaceae
Cardiopteris moluccana
 Casuarinaceae
Casuarina cunninghamiana River She Oak
 Celastraceae
Euonymus australiana
Hippocratea barbata Knott Vine
Salacia disepala
 Clusiaceae
Calophyllum sil Blush Touriga
 Combretaceae
 * *Quisqualis indica*
Terminalia sericocarpa Damson
 Convolvulaceae
 * *Distimake quinquefolius*
 * *Turbina corymbosa*
 Cucurbitaceae
Trichosanthes pentaphylla
 Ebenaceae
Diospyros hebecarpa Scrub Ebony
 Euphorbiaceae
Alchornea ilicifolia Native Holly
Claoxylon hillii Hill's Brittlewood
Cleidion javanicum
Codiaeum variegatum var. *moluccanum*
Macaranga tanarius Blush Macaranga
Mallotus philippensis Red Kamala
Mallotus polyadenos Kamala
Mallotus repandus
 * *Pedilanthus tithymaloides* subsp. *smallii*

Fabaceae

<i>Adenanthera pavonina</i>	False Red Sandalwood
<i>Austrosteenisia blackii</i> var. <i>blackii</i>	Blood Vine
* <i>Bauhinia monandra</i>	
<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Black Bean; Junggurra
* <i>Centrosema molle</i>	
<i>Dalbergia densa</i>	
* <i>Delonix regia</i>	
<i>Falcataria toona</i>	Acacia Cedar; Mackay Cedar
<i>Mucuna gigantea</i>	Burny Bean
<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> var. <i>minor</i>	

Lamiaceae

<i>Faradaya splendida</i>	October Glory
* <i>Hyptis capitata</i>	

Malvaceae

<i>Argyrodendron polyandrum</i>	Brown Tulip Oak
<i>Trichospermum pleiostigma</i>	Whitfield Ash
* <i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i>	

Meliaceae

<i>Chisocheton longistipitatus</i>	Cream Mahogany
<i>Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum</i>	Ivory Mahogany
<i>Dysoxylum latifolium</i>	Frankland Islands

Mahogany

<i>Dysoxylum mollissimum</i> subsp. <i>molle</i>	Red Bean; Miva
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Mahogany

<i>Dysoxylum setosum</i>	Miva Mahogany
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	White Cedar

Menispermaceae

<i>Pachygone ovata</i>	Pachygone
<i>Pycnarrhena novoguineensis</i>	

Moraceae

<i>Ficus benjamina</i>	Weeping Fig
<i>Ficus hispida</i>	Hairy Fig; Boombil
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	Small-fruited Fig
<i>Ficus racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i>	Red Cluster Fig
<i>Ficus virens</i> var. <i>virens</i>	White Fig
<i>Streblus brunonianus</i>	White Handlewood

Myrtaceae

<i>Corymbia torelliana</i>	Cadaghi
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	Tea Tree
<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i>	Red Bottlebrush
<i>Rhodamnia sessiliflora</i>	Iron Malletwood
<i>Rhodommyrtus macrocarpa</i>	Finger Cherry
<i>Syzygium cormiflorum</i>	Bumpy Satinash
<i>Syzygium tierneyanum</i>	Creek Satinash; River

Cherry

<i>Tristaniaopsis exilis</i> flora	Kanuka Box
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Nyctaginaceae

<i>Pisonia umbellifera</i>	Cabbagewood
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Oleaceae

<i>Chionanthus ramiflora</i>	Native Olive
<i>Jasminum elongatum</i>	Native Jasmine

Petiveriaceae

* <i>Rivina humilis</i>	
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Phyllanthaceae

<i>Actephila latifolia</i>	
<i>Cleistanthus apodus</i>	Weeping Cleistanthus
<i>Cleistanthus semiopacus</i>	Rusty Cleistanthus
<i>Glochidion philippicum</i>	Buttonwood
<i>Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus</i>	Pink Phyllanthus

Polygalaceae

* <i>Polygala paniculata</i>	
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Rhamnaceae

<i>Rhamnella vitiensis</i>	
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Rhizophoraceae

<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	Corky Bark
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Rubiaceae

<i>Aidia racemosa</i>	Archer Cherry
<i>Nauclea orientalis</i>	Leichhardt Tree

Rutaceae

<i>Bosistoa medicinalis</i>	Northern Towra
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* <i>Murraya paniculata</i> cv. "Exotica"	
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Sapindaceae

<i>Alectryon tomentosus</i>	Red Jacket
<i>Aryterya divaricata</i>	Rose Tamarind
<i>Cupaniopsis flagelliformis</i>	Brown Tuckeroo
<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	Daintree Hickory
<i>Harpullia pendula</i>	Tulipwood
<i>Toeckima daemelianum</i>	Cape Tamarind

Sapotaceae

<i>Palaquium galactoxylum</i>	Cairns Pencil Cedar
<i>Planchonella chartacea</i>	Dugulla
<i>Planchonella myrsinodendron</i>	Yellow Boxwood

Stemonuraceae

<i>Gomphandra australiana</i>	Buff Beech
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Urticaceae

<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>	Native Mulberry
<i>Cissus oblonga</i>	Smooth Water Vine
<i>Leca novoguineensis</i>	Bandicoot Berry
<i>Tetrastigma nitens</i>	Shining Grape

Introducing the new curator for Cooktown Botanic Gardens

Warren Worboys, Curator of Horticulture, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne Gardens

Peter Symes has been appointed the new Curator at the Cooktown Botanic Gardens. Although he will be very modest about his contributions to horticulture in general and botanic gardens in particular, I will pass on a few things about him.



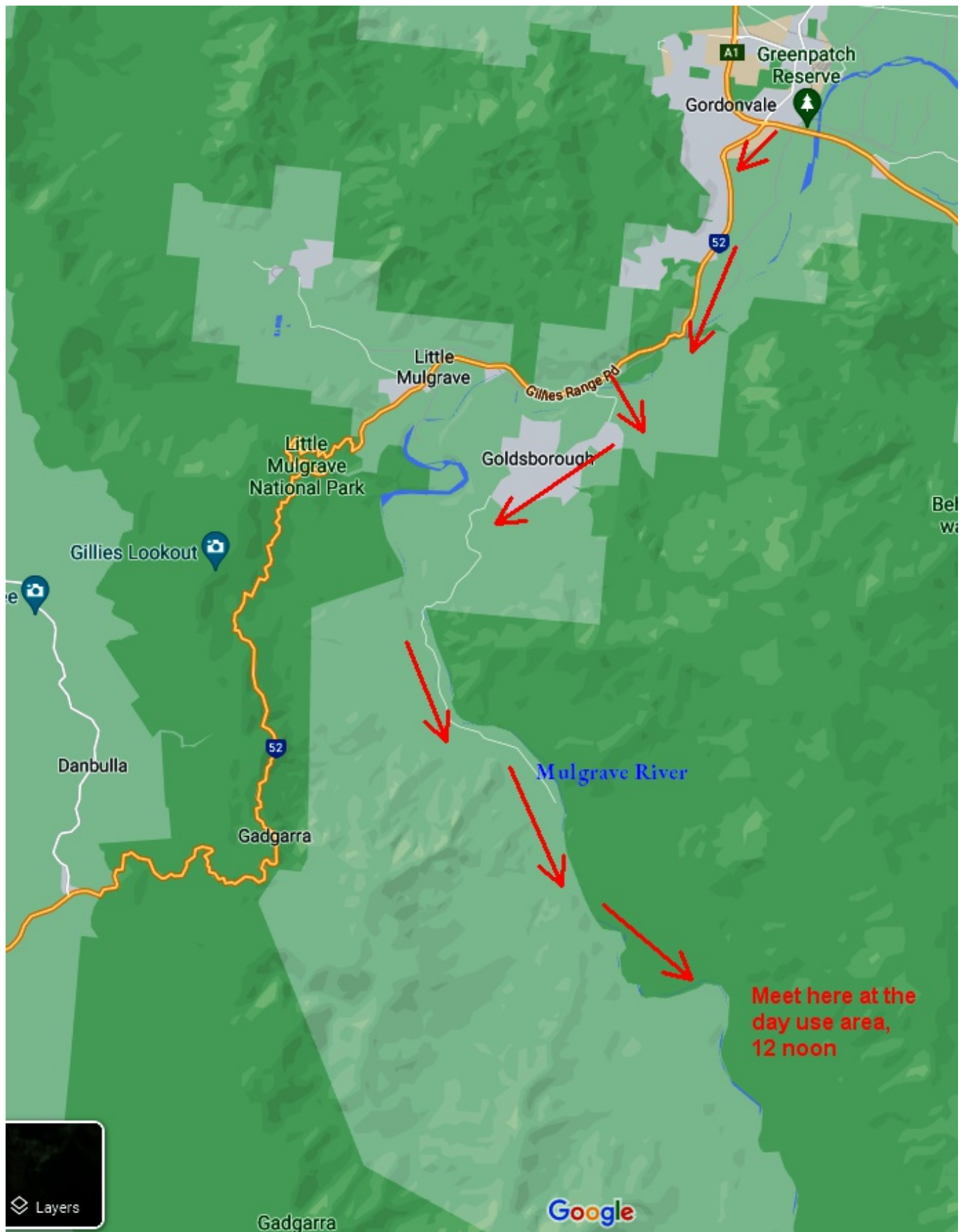
Peter has been the Curator at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Gardens for quite a few years now and was previously an active horticulturalist in the Melbourne team, totalling over 30 years of horticultural experience.

He has been very active with, and a committee member of, the Victorian Branch of the Botanic Gardens Australia and New

Zealand (BGANZ) organization and several of its sub-groups. He was the principal driver and author of the Living Collections Strategy, Melbourne Gardens, 2019 - 2039, the RBGV Melbourne Landscape Succession Strategy (looking at replacing senescing exotic tree species with native and exotic trees which will be better adapted to the forecast climate changes 30 years plus from now) and has also been the driving force behind the inaugural international botanic gardens Climate Change Summit Climate Change Alliance and an ongoing advocate for the Alliance.

I suppose all this boils down to him being a really valuable asset for the Cooktown Botanic Gardens and to make things even better, he is a really nice guy, unassuming in his approach, but has a broad experience.

I hope you will make Peter welcome up there, he already has some visions for continuing to develop the collections at CBG, especially ex situ conservation of rare and threatened species, and is keen to introduce himself to the flora of the region.



Kearney's Falls - how to get there. (1) At Gordonvale, turn right on to the Gillies Range Road. (2) About 6 km along the Range Road, turn left on to Downing Road and cross the Mulgrave River at Peet's Bridge. (3) Continue past the Goldsborough rural residential area and proceed along the road all the way to the Goldsborough campground.

What's Happening...

Cairns

15 August, 12 noon: Goldsborough Valley and Kearney's Falls. See map on previous page for directions. Meet at the day use area, near the toilets. The Kearney Falls track starts with an easy ascending section, but becomes a bit more difficult with stone steps to negotiate. Might be slippery if wet.

19 September: Russell Heads (dependent on tides)

17 October: Kuranda

21 November: Guest speaker: Stuart Worboys on the Tropical Mountain Plant Science project. Venue to be advised.

5 December: Christmas breakup at 18 Manila Close, Mt Sheridan.

Tablelands

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

Excursion officer: Peter Radke, 0418 719 748.

Townsville

11 August, 7p.m. Meeting of Native Plants Queensland - Townsville Branch at Oonoonba Community Hall (Shannon Street Oonoonba).

15 August, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Outing to Wongaloo Wetlands Open Day. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RAMSAR convention, this will be a public event. How to get there: take the Bruce Highway south from Townsville, and drive approx. 8 kms past the AIMS turnoff. Turn left into Cromarty Siding Road and continue to the car park which will be signposted.



Flower of the Critically Endangered Rhodamnia longisepala, found on the Windsor Tableland.

SGAP Cairns Branch 2021-2022 Committee

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