



*Society for Growing Australian Plants
Cairns Branch*

NEWSLETTER

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Our June excursion will be to Peter McNeill's property on the side of Green Hill, via Gordonvale. Having replanted parts of the property over many years Peter has learnt about the different soil types on the flat ex-cane paddock, and Green Hill slope itself, and how they affect the success of native trees. It will be interesting to hear him reflect on growing conditions after an unusual Wet Season while we explore the property.

Address is: Lot 102 Green Hill Rd, Green Hill. From the Bruce Highway follow Pine Creek- Yarrabah Rd, turning Right onto Greenhill Rd. Drive past two houses close to the turn off. Next you will see Peter's tree lined driveway on the left directly opposite the cattle yard Follow the driveway up to the house.



There are many people who could be considered to be unsung heroes in the plant world and one such is Barry Jago

Barry Jago - The Man

By Patsy Penny

You may not recognize this quiet and humble man but you may have marvelled at the many of his close up photographs which appear in The Australian Tropical Rainforest App.

Barry grew up in Babinda in the heart of the Wet Tropics. He is part of a large family who loved the bush and spent time wandering the rainforest clad mountains that are now part of Wooroonooran National Park. He was six years old when he first climbed Mt Bartle Frere carrying his own knapsack ! Barry developed a love of bird watching but, after being disappointed in his photographs, he sought help with a renowned herpetologist looking for frogs at night and creating close up photography.



Barry became a member of SGAP (there was no local group at that time) during his apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner. This enhanced his interest in plants and he gleaned as much information as he could from the publications as there was very little around describing tropical rainforest plants. He became enthralled by well known native flowering plants such as grevillea and banksia. A trip to WA to take in their wildflowers armed him with renewed enthusiasm for the flora around his home. He became interested in what was happening in his local environment. At this stage he began marcotting local rainforest trees. He found this was the quickest and easiest way to acquire the flowers and fruit from the rarer species.

His initial plan was to obtain identification of the plants he photographed. He realised that the botanists needed more for a positive identification, so he began collecting specimens and pressing them. He sent them off to the CSIRO Herbarium in Atherton. In time he has sent about 2,000 samples to Atherton. When this herbarium closed, he continued with his task by sending direct to the Queensland Herbarium in Brisbane. He has sent over 1,000 samples there. And in doing so he committed them to his memory.



In addition to his former accomplishments, he began to utilise his trade skills to create wooden life size replicas of local rainforest fruits. The colours of these rainforest gems are accurate for time of collection - they change rapidly with age. He also makes jewellery using small replicas of the same fruit.



Now he tries to improve his photos and update where he can so he is continually taking photos of flowering plants around the district.

Because of a medical condition Barry is unable to hold a driver's licence so he has accomplished all his photography on his mountain bike. More recently he has extended his knowledge to smaller plants, such as grasses and herbs, which he is better able to access in the lower rainforest and fringes. Barry says there are enough species in this small district around Babinda to keep him busy for the rest of his life.

Here are Barry's latest photographs:

Endiandra anthropogorum

