



## Society for Growing Australian Plants Cairns Branch

# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No 247

February, 2025

President           Stuart Worboys  
Vice President     Rob Jago  
Secretary           Helen Lawie  
[Secretary@sgapcairns.org.au](mailto:Secretary@sgapcairns.org.au)

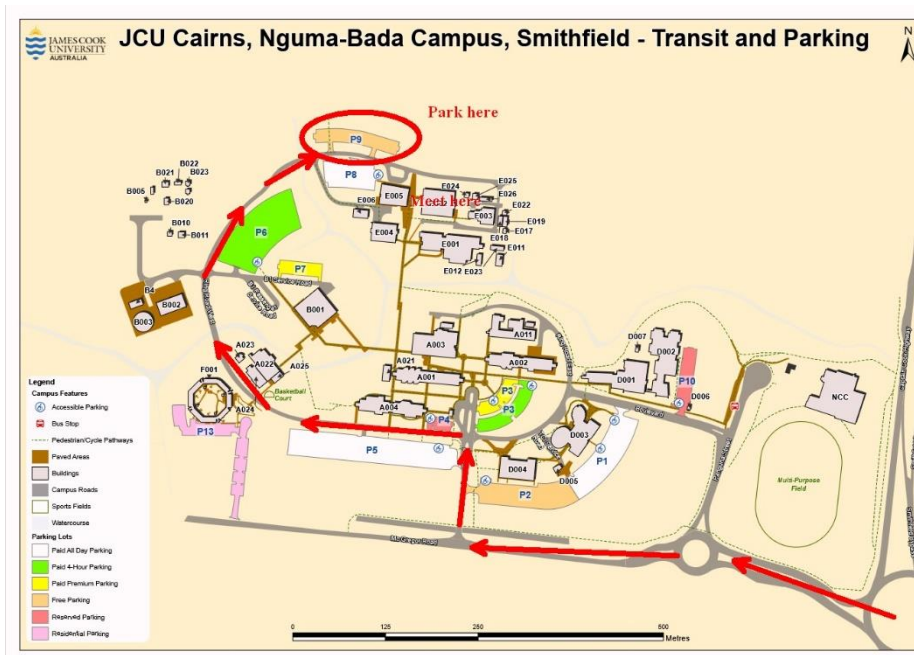
Treasurer           Val Carnie  
Webmaster         Tony Roberts  
Librarian           Coralie Stuart  
Newsletter Editor   Pauline Lawie  
[lawiepm@gmail.com](mailto:lawiepm@gmail.com)



*Excursion Sunday, 16 February, 2025.*

*SGAP Cairns Branch - Excursion Sunday 16 February 2025*

President Stuart will lead us on a tour of the collection of the Australian Tropical Herbarium at James Cook University, Smithfield. We are to meet at 12 noon at Moka Bar Café. Stuart says the cafe will be closed, so bring your lunch as you can't buy coffee and cake. As well, there's plenty to see around the campus and the adjoining Smithfield Conservation Park.



To get to James Cook University, drive north from Cairns city along the Cook Highway. Pass through the Smithfield Shopping Centre roundabout and continue to the next roundabout at MacGregor Road. Turn left here. Follow MacGregor Road, pass through another smaller roundabout, then take the next right into the university campus. Avoiding car park entrances take the first turn left. This will take you in a big sweeping semicircle, past the octagonal multistorey

student accommodation, across a bridge, past the library car park, then across another bridge. After the second bridge, turn right into the car park. Walk back across the road to building E2.

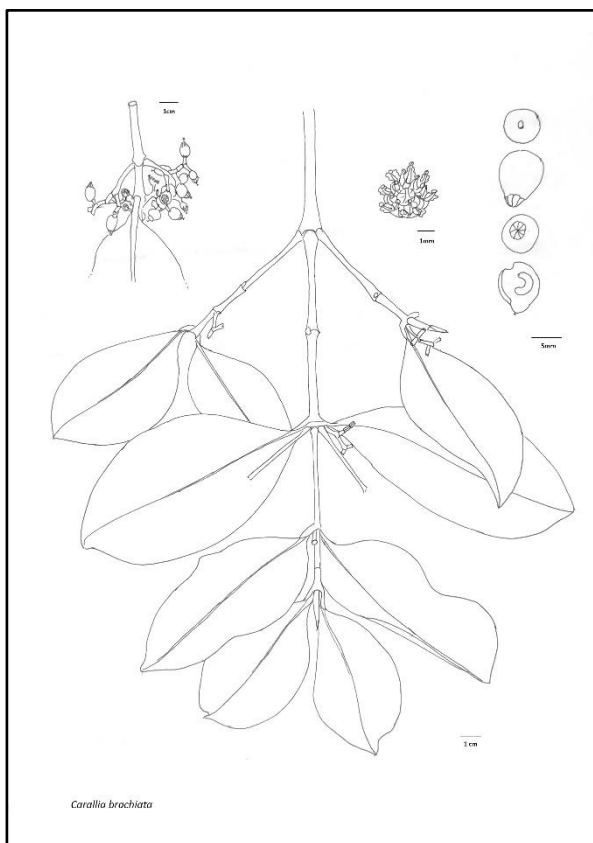
What are the suggestions for where to hold our AGM next month

Ed. When sending a recent newsletter, I asked our members to contribute and was delighted to receive the following

## *Carallia Brachiata*

Leesa Carlisle-Brown

As an artist I observe changes through the flowering and fruiting season by sketching, photographing and making colour studies. Magnifying equipment and a digital microscope made viewing tiny flowers easier!



*Carallia brachiata*, a member of the family Rhizophoraceae, is native to Australia. It also grows in parts of Asia and India. Some common names are the Freshwater mangrove, Bush currant, Corky bark and Billabong tree (among others). It is a straight tree with a slender trunk, foliage starting about 1.5m high. The bark is rough with a lumpy texture and branches extend out at a downward angle giving it an elegant appearance.

Flowering starts any time from July to September. The tiny flowers have many stamens, 14-16 on the ones observed. A white petal adorns every second stamen, with the alternate one sitting in front of part of the calyx. The stigma and style are creamy yellow.



Flowering attracts many winged visitors, with many diurnal moth species coming to feed from the flowers, the 'Zodiac' moth, *Alcides zodiaca*, being in the greatest number.

Fertilised flowers start to bulge into bright green fruit. They ripen through pink to red to a dark burgundy, and fruit can be seen at various stages of maturity all at once.

The leaf edges are smooth and often curled over creating a shelter underneath. I have seen larvae pupating in this space with silky thread attached to hold the curled edge closer.

Overall it is an attractive tree with glossy leaves, dark green on the upper surface and bright light green underneath. The alternate branching style shows a mixture of both greens.



*Pholidota Imbricata* Photo Patsy Penny

*Here follows a quiz for the fungi lovers among us.*



Patsy Penny took these photos on 13 February 2024 on their East Russell property. At least something loved all the rain.

