



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
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Treasurer	Robert Jago	40 552 266
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Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region- Renewal \$35.00, New Members \$40, each additional member of household \$1.00

Cairns Branch Fees -\$10.00 Full Year

To access our Library for loan of books, please contact David Warmington

Dates to Remember

Cairns Branch Meetings and Excursion – third Saturday of each month.

- 15 September **Mossman Gorge.** Because of space problems at the gorge carpark, we recommend parking at the Yalanji Dreamtime Tours at the Mossman River Community, and walking up to the carpark. Meet at 9am, and BYO packed lunch.
- 20 October **Earl Hill** – have a look at the gated estate at the southern end of Trinity Beach with Janice Elder, and provide advice to the body corporate on just how to create a native garden perfect for the site.

Tablelands Branch – Sunday following the meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

- Wednesday **Dinner meeting** – A night of good cheer. Bring a plate to share. Gary Sankowsky will be showing slides. There's a prize for the best decoration, so bring along some native plants to tart up your table.
- 26 September
- 30 September Excursion to be announced.

Any queries please phone Ian Evans 4096 5770.

Innisfail Branch – The next monthly meeting will take place at the Reveg Unit Nursery on Wednesday 12th September 2007 at 5.30 pm

- 2 September **Eubenangee Swamp National Park.** The excursion is planned for Sunday 2 September. Those interested should assemble at 9.00 am at the Alice River carpark from where walks will commence.
- To get there proceed along the Bruce Highway from Innisfail towards Cairns. Just before you enter Miriwinni turn right onto the Bramston Beach Road. About 1.5 kms after crossing the Russell River take the sign-posted turn off to the right (Cartwright Road) towards Eubenangee. The carpark is situated next to the Alice River about 1.5 kms from the turn-off.

NEW FAMILIES

The Queensland Herbarium has recently issued the long-awaited *Census of the Queensland Flora*. This comprehensive coverage of Queensland's plants lists some 14 000 species of native and exotic ferns, algae, conifers and flowering plants in the state. This is about 1200 more than the last edition of the census, only five years ago.

Part of this massive undertaking by the Queensland Herbarium has been a complete revision or readjustment of many plant families, based on evidence from recent DNA sequencing work published in *Flowering Plant Families of the World*, put out by Kew Gardens. Some familiar families have been split into three or four, whilst a very few others have been lumped together. For example, the euphorbs have been split into Euphorbiaceae, Phyllanthaceae, Putranjivaceae and Picodendraceae.

In this month's list, I have tried to update species lists to reflect the new Census.

CHARLIE'S ORCHIDS

Trip report by Mary Gandini and Stuart Worboys.

Down the track to the creek was a tall thin tree hosting several orchids. The leaves were 3-nerved and looked myrtaceous. Nearby were *Rhodamnia sessiliflora* saplings so we assumed that the host tree was the same species. About eye-level was a substantial *Dockrillia teretifolia* (pencil orchid). There was no sign of buds, although it is flowering time. Further up the trunk was a fine specimen of *Dendrobium tetragonum*, again with no sign of flowers (mine have just finished). Higher still was a *Cymbidium madidum*.

Down in the creek there was a colony of *Dendrobium speciosum* (king orchids) on the steep rocky bank. The pseudobulbs were long and thin in the low light, but, the leaves were large and fleshy. September is flowering time for these orchids but there were no visible inflorescences forming. A lone *Pholidota imbricata* was among them.

A few hundred metres up the creek were more *D. speciosum* and a lone *Dendrobium*

discolor (golden orchid). Charlie said there were many more of these orchids before the area was plundered many years ago. Fortunately, it is now surrounded by private property and access is not possible.

Then the "piece de resistance" showed itself – a magnificent *Robequetia gracilistipes*. It trailed all over the top of a rock face and down the side. Its many branches were loaded with seed capsules. It must have had an excellent flowering a couple of months ago. What a sight it would have been. Even though the flowers are not spectacular, being a dull yellow, the sheer number of them on the long pendulous inflorescences would have been impressive. The plant was in top condition with all parts green and the leaves glossy and plump. There were more plants higher up the cliff. It is to be hoped that many of the millions of seeds in the capsules will find ideal conditions to germinate and produce many more plants.



Mary with Robiquetia





SGAP outing to Julatten, August 2007. (L to R) David Gandini, Ken Forno, Mary Gandini, Charlie (the property owner), Janice Elder, Wendy Forno, Barbara Collins and Ing Toh. Black Mountain looms darkly on the horizon.



Robequitia gracilistipes close up

Although appearing quite isolated, the creek, a tributary of the Mowbray River, has been visited in the past by orchid and tassel fern pillagers, and more recently by campers, as evidenced by a Lynx deodorant can. The rats had discovered this piece of litter, and chewed a reasonably sized hole through the metal. One imagines the squeak of surprise when the hungry white tail rat punctured this can and got liberally doused with perfume.

Rats had also taken a shine to some large, woody brown seeds which we found lying next to the track. A small nick in the bark of the parent tree bled milky sap – a good clue to the family (**Sapotaceae**). Checking the Coopers' *Fruits of the Rainforest* we concluded the big chestnut-like seeds came from *Pouteria castanospora*.



Pittosporum venulosum

A curious Acacia pointed out by Charlie along the track proved to be *Acacia polystachya* with unusually ironbark-like bark.

PLANTS OF THE TROPICS

Wombat Berry - *Eustrephus latifolius*
The following is adapted from the ASGAP website: <http://asgap.org.au/e-lat.html>

Eustrephus latifolius is the sole member of the genus, and is now placed in the Laxmanniaceae, related to *Cordyline* and *Lomandra*. It is usually a reasonably vigorous twining plant but may also occur as a scrambling ground cover. The leaves are lance-shaped to about 80 mm long and have conspicuous longitudinal veins. Flowers are about 15 mm diameter and occur in spring in the upper leaf axils. They are usually white or pale pink with very hairy petals. The flowers are followed by orange berries containing a number of shiny, black seeds. The fruits usually remain on the plant for many months.



Wombat berry *Eustrephus latifolius*

Geitonoplesium cymosum was formerly considered closely related, but is now placed in a separate family, Hemerocallidaceae, alongside the blue flax lily *Dianella*. In the

field, it differs in having flowers without hairy petals and with black fruits.

Wombat berry is hardy in a range of soils and climates and is best if grown in a semi shaded position. It tolerates extended periods of dryness once established. It is not excessively vigorous and is unlikely to become a problem by smothering other plants. With a little judicious pruning to excessively energetic shoots, it makes an attractive and hardy indoor plant.

The fleshy roots of the plant are edible.

Propagation is best carried out from fresh seed.

Thanks and goodbye

This newsletter is my last for the Cairns SGAP. I leave for the Sunshine Coast on 22nd September after 13 years in Cairns. Thanks everyone for your input, the opportunity to learn from you all, and most importantly, your friendship.

Who wants to put their hand up to do this job now??!! Let me know and I will forward the template for the newsletter.

Happy gardening,

Stuart Worboys

SPECIES LIST FROM JULATTEN EXCURSION

Ferns and Fern Allies

ADIANTACEAE	<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>	
	<i>Taenitis pinnata</i>	Morse Fern
POLYPODIACEAE	<i>Belvisia mucronata</i>	
	<i>Drynaria rigidula</i>	Basket Fern
PSILOTACEAE	<i>Psilotum nudum</i>	Whisk Fern
SCHIZEACEAE	<i>Lygodium reticulatum</i>	Climbing Maidenhair
SELAGINELLACEAE	<i>Selaginella australiensis</i>	

Conifers

ARAUCARIACEAE	<i>Agathis robusta</i>	Kauri
PODOCARPACEAE	<i>Podocarpus grayae</i>	

Flowering Plants

APOCYNACEAE	<i>Alstonia muelleriana</i> <i>Alyxia ruscifolia</i> <i>Hoya australis</i> <i>Melodinus australis</i> <i>Parsonsia velutina</i>	Hard Milkwood Hoya
ARALIACEAE	<i>Mackinlaya confusa</i> <i>Polyscias australiana</i> <i>Polyscias elegans</i> <i>Polyscias purpurea</i> <i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	Ivory Basswood Celerywood
ARECACEAE	<i>Calamus australis</i> <i>Linospadix minor</i>	Hairy Mary
ARGOPHYLLACEAE	<i>Argophyllum lejourdanii</i>	
ARISTOLOCHACEAE	<i>Pararistolochia deltantha</i>	Native Dutchman's Pipe
ASTERACEAE	* <i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Bluetop
BALANOPHORACEAE	<i>Balanophora fungosa</i>	
BIGNONIACEAE	<i>Neosepicaea jucunda</i> <i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Jungle Vine Wonga Vine
CELASTRACEAE	<i>Hedraianthera porphyropetala</i>	
CLUSIACEAE	<i>Calophyllum sp.</i> <i>Garcinia warrenii</i>	
COLCHICACEAE	<i>Schelhammera multiflora</i>	
CUNONIACEAE	<i>Pseudoweinmannia lachnocarpa</i> <i>Pullea stutzeri</i>	Hard Alder
CYPERACEAE	<i>Gahnia aspera</i>	
DILLENIACEAE	<i>Hibbertia scandens</i> <i>Tetracera nordtiana</i>	
ELAEOCARPACEAE	<i>Elaeocarpus bancroftii</i> <i>Sloanea langii</i>	Kuranda Quandong
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Croton triacros</i> <i>Macaranga inamoena</i> <i>Macranga subdentata</i> <i>Mallotus polyadenos</i>	
FABACEAE	<i>Austrosteenisia sp.</i> <i>Mucuna gigantea</i>	Blood Vine
FLAGELLARIACEAE	<i>Flagellaria indica</i>	Flagellaria
GENTIANACEAE	<i>Fagraea cambagei</i>	
HEMEROCALLIDACEAE	<i>Dianella atraxis</i>	
LAURACEAE	<i>Cryptocarya mackinnoniana</i> <i>Cryptocarya murrayi</i> <i>Cryptocarya vulgaris</i> <i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	Mackinnon's Walnut Murray's Laurel Bollywood
LAXMANNIACEAE	<i>Cordyline cannifolia</i> <i>Eustrephus latifolius</i> <i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	Wombat Berry
MELIACEAE	<i>Aglaia meridionalis</i> <i>Dysoxylum klanderii</i> <i>Dysoxylum oppositifolium</i>	
MENISPERMACEAE	<i>Hypserpa decumbens</i> <i>Hypserpa laurina</i>	

MIMOSACEAE	<i>Acacia celsa</i> <i>Acacia flavescens</i> <i>Acacia polystachya</i>	Brown Salwood Wattle
MONIMIACEAE	<i>Tetrasynandra pubescens</i> <i>Wilkiea sp.</i>	Tetra Beech
MORACEAE	<i>Ficus destruens</i> <i>Trophis scandens</i>	Rusty Fig
MYRSINACEAE	<i>Myrsine subsessilis</i> <i>Myrsine variabilis</i>	
MYRTACEAE	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> <i>Melaleuca viminalis</i> <i>Rhodamnia spongiosa</i> <i>Syzygium tierneyanum</i> <i>Tristaniopsis exiliiflora</i>	Water Cherry Watergum
ORCHIDACEAE	<i>Bulbophyllum baileyi</i> <i>Cymbidium madidum</i> <i>Dendrobium discolor</i> <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> <i>Dendrobium tegraronum</i> <i>Dockrillia teretifolia</i> <i>Pholidota imbricata</i> <i>Robequetia gracilistipes</i>	Golden Orchid King Orchid Spider Orchid
PANDANACEAE	<i>Freycinetia scandens</i>	Climing Pandan
PASSIFLORACEAE	<i>Passiflora sp. Kuranda</i>	
PHYLLANTHACEAE	<i>Breynia stipitata</i> <i>Cleistanthus discolor</i>	Fart Bush
PITTOSPORACEAE	<i>Bursaria incana</i>	
PITTOSPORACEAE	<i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i>	
POACEAE	* <i>Urochloa mosambicensis</i>	Sabi Grass
PROTEACEAE	<i>Buckinghamia celsissima</i> <i>Carnavonia araliifolia</i> <i>Grevillea baileyana</i>	Ivory Curl
RHAMNACEAE	<i>Alphitonia whitei</i>	
RIPOGONACEAE	<i>Ripogonum album</i>	Supplejack
ROSACEAE	* <i>Rubus alceifolius</i>	Raspberry
RUBIACEAE	<i>Atractocarpus fitzalanii</i> <i>Atractocarpus sessilis</i> <i>Gardenia ovularis</i> <i>Tarenna dallachiana</i>	
RUTACEAE	<i>Acronychia laevis</i> <i>Flindersia bourjotiana</i> <i>Flindersia iffaiiana</i>	Queensland Silver Ash Cairns Hickory
SAPINDACEAE	<i>Arytera pauciflora</i> <i>Cupaniopsis foveolata</i> <i>Guioa acutifolia</i> <i>Mischocarpus exangulatus</i>	
SAPOTACEAE	<i>Pouteria castanosperma</i> <i>Pouteria chartacea</i>	
THYMELEACEAE	<i>Lethedon setosa</i>	
VERBENACEAE	* <i>Lantana camara</i>	
VITACEAE	<i>Cissus penninervis</i> <i>Tetrastigma nitens</i>	Shining Grape