



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
Earlville Qld 4870

Newsletter No. 73
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Society Office Bearers

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Chairperson | Ing Toh | 40 310 551 |
| Vice Chairperson | Mary Gandini | 40 542 190 |
| Secretary | Greg Keith | 40 981 130 |
| Treasurer | Robert Jago | 40 552 266 |
| Librarian | David Warmington | 40 443 398 |

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.

17 November: Lake Morris Picnic Area. Meet at 11am for the meeting, midday for bbq lunch or 1pm for the walk. BYO bbq lunch.

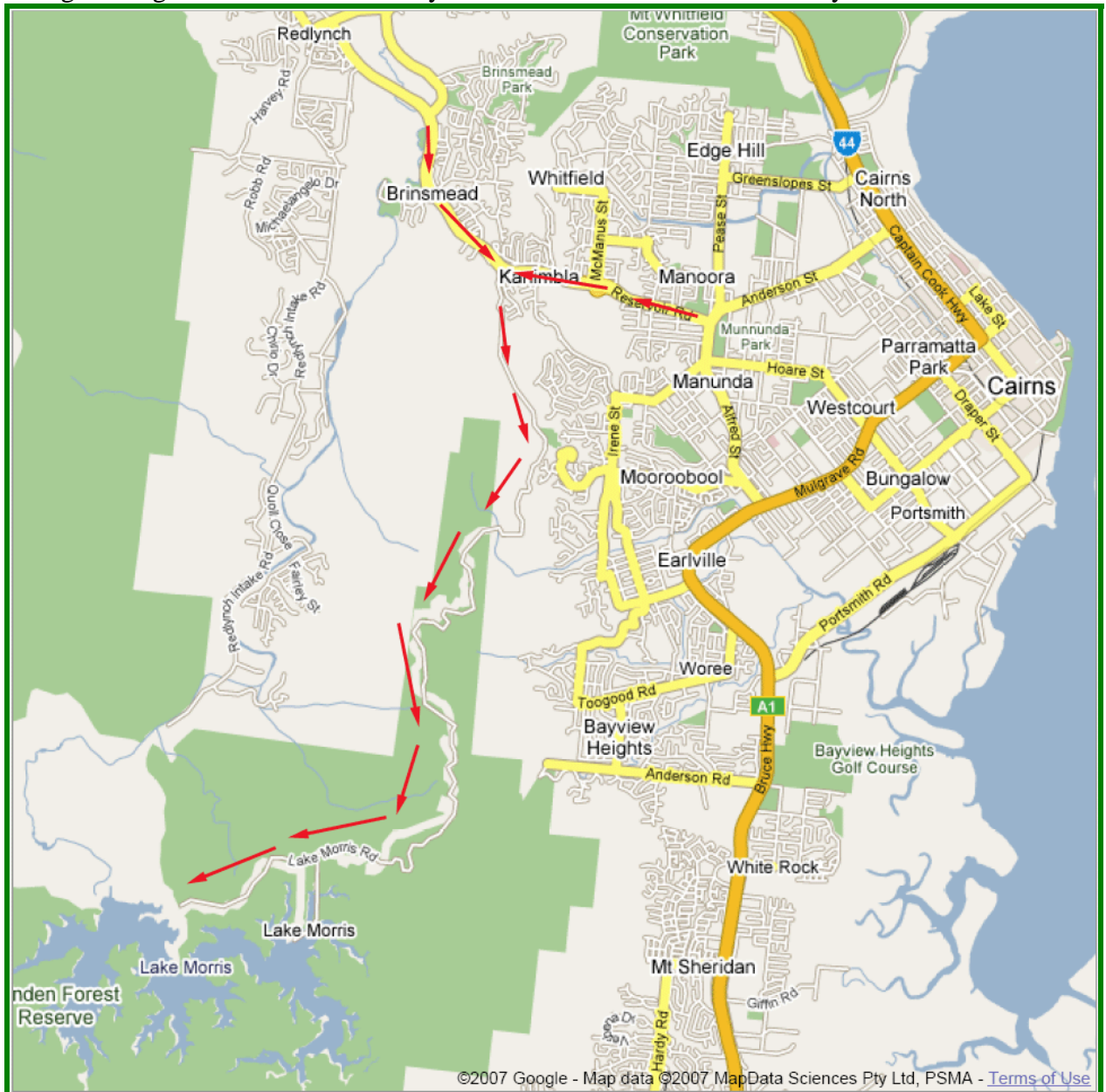
**Tablelands Branch – Sunday following the meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
Any queries please phone Ian Evans 4096 5770.**

Townsville Branch - 8.00pm Wednesday 14 November at the Community Centre - Annandale Shopping Centre. This months Guest Speaker will be Greg Wilcox who is the Regional Manager of CVA, which I understand to be Conservation Volunteers Australia. Greg runs the Savanna Nursery and is an amateur Botanist.

How to get there

Lake Morris/Copperlode Dam is located 25km (15.5 miles) inland from Cairns city. Take the Brinsmead-Reservoir Road and look for the signposted turnoff. The road is narrow, winding and without guardrails so watch out for cyclists, runners and wildlife on sharp corners. Once at the car park, make your way to the picnic area above and behind the toilet block.

This gathering will be our last for the year. The next will occur in February 2008.



Route map to Lake Morris/Copperlode Dam

Trip Report for last month's excursion, 20 October at Earl Hill, Trinity Beach

Text by Ing Toh

Photos by Andrew Picone

The October SGAP outing started from the veranda of Jan Elder's house. Situated as it is halfway up Earl Hill at Trinity Beach there was a commanding view to be had out towards Double Island. What was surprising was the presence of rather well developed native forest communities in an otherwise urban setting. The vegetation included the vine forest gully running down the hillside bordered on the drier hill crest by open eucalypt forest and skirted at the foot by beach scrub and mangroves.

The track down the hillside passed through a forest of Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*), Milky Pine (*Alstonia scholaris*), Mackay Cedar (*Paraserianthes toona*) and *Bombax ceiba*. Native Olives (*Chionanthus ramiflora*), White Cedar (*Melia azedarach*), *Macaranga tanarius*, Red Kamala (*Mallotus philippinensis*), Celery Wood (*Polyscias australiensis*) and *Archidendron lucyi* formed a subcanopy layer with Whipvine (*Flagellaria indica*), Bloodvine (*Austrosteenisia blackii*), Cockspur vine (*Maclura cochinchinensis*) and a native Pepper (*Piper* sp.) twining throughout. Native gingers (*Alpinia caerulea*), maidenhair ferns, Flax Lilies (*Dianella bambusifolia*) and the interesting rainforest grass *Leptaspis banksii* were common along the path down the hillside to the beach.



Leptaspis banksii



The Crew

Several exotic species were common including Mango (*Mangifera indica*) trees, Paw Paws (*Carica papaya*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Stinking Passionvine (*Passiflora foetida*) and Turkey Berry (*Rivina humilis*). The track ended at the southern end of Trinity Beach where it meanders along to the rocky headland past one of the biggest Matchbox Bean (*Entada phaseoloides*) vines I have seen. No walk would be complete without orchids or snails so our respective connoisseurs, Don and Barbara managed to draw our attention to a golden orchid (*Dendrobium discolor*) in full bloom and also to a pretty white snail *Leptopoma pellucidum* perched on a leaf at eye level.

The highlight for me was the young Osprey that decided to drop in for a snack of fish on a branch overhanging the beachside track. To round off the walk there was a cool breeze and a good view off the headland.

Species List

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Litsea glutinosa</i> | * <i>Mangifera indica</i> | <i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i> |
| <i>Mallotus philippinensis</i> | <i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> | <i>Crinum pedunculatum</i> |
| <i>Platynerium hillii</i> | <i>Alternanthera sp.</i> | <i>Asplenium australianum</i> |
| <i>Ixora sp</i> | <i>Archidendron lucyi</i> | <i>Alpinia caerulea</i> |
| * <i>Duranta repens</i> | <i>Piper novaehollandiae</i> | <i>Castanospermum australe</i> |
| * <i>Plumeria obtusa</i> | <i>Pipturus argenteus</i> | <i>Maclura cochinchinensis</i> |
| * <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> | <i>Dendrocnide moroides</i> | * <i>Megathyrus maximus</i> |
| * <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i> | <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> | <i>Austrosteenisia blackii</i> |
| * <i>Cycas revoluta</i> | <i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> | <i>Terminalia catappa</i> |
| * <i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i> | <i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> | <i>Ficus microcarpa</i> |
| * <i>Zingiber spectabilis</i> | <i>Oplismenus sp.</i> | <i>Canarium australianum</i> |
| <i>Codiaeum variegatum</i> | <i>Leptaspis banksii</i> | <i>Entada phaseoloides</i> |
| * <i>Bryophyllum sp</i> | <i>Cupaniopsis flagelliformis</i> | <i>Clerodendron inerme</i> |
| <i>Toechima daemelianum</i> | <i>Ptychosperma elegans</i> | <i>Terminalia arenicola</i> |
| <i>Ficus benjamina</i> | * <i>Syngonium apodophyllum</i> | <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> |
| <i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i> | * <i>Pityrogramma Calomelanos</i> | <i>Millettia pinnata</i> |
| <i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i> | <i>Asplenium nidus</i> | <i>Sarcostemma viminalis</i> |
| * <i>Rivina humilis</i> | <i>Dianella bulbifera</i> | <i>Terminalia muelleri</i> |
| <i>Paraserianthes toona</i> | <i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i> | <i>Avicenna marina</i> |
| <i>Bombax ceiba</i> | * <i>Lantana camara</i> | * <i>Catharanthus roseus</i> |
| <i>Flagellaria indica</i> | <i>Melia azedarach</i> | <i>Ficus opposita</i> |
| <i>Chionanthus ramiflora</i> | <i>Albizia procera</i> | * <i>Passiflora foetida</i> |
| * <i>Passiflora suberosa</i> | <i>Thespesia populneoides</i> | <i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> |
| <i>Macaranga tanarius</i> | <i>Acacia oraria</i> | <i>Alphitonia excelsa</i> |
| <i>Polyscias australiensis</i> | * <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i> | * <i>Melinis repens</i> |
| <i>Ixora klanderi</i> | <i>Dendrobium discolor</i> | <i>Abroma molle</i> |



Abroma molle



Sarcostemma viminale

Book Review - Australia's Mangroves

In response to discussions at the last meeting with regard to progress on the Mangrove Project, I chased up some members involved and determined that we still have a way to go. David has many photographs but unfortunately they are transparencies.

While wading through the web for local information on mangroves (in an effort to get the project back on track), I stumbled across a recent publication by Norm Duke, *Australia's Mangroves*.

The Official Spiel



Author: Norm Duke

200 pages, 225 x 155 mm

Publisher: University of Queensland

Publication date: December 2006

Australia's Mangroves is the authoritative guidebook to the mangrove plants found in Australian coastal waters – covering all 'mangrove' States and Territories.

Mangroves are a common coastal habitat occupying more than 18% of the Australian coastline. The book helps demystify this often misunderstood habitat, showing the diversity and special attributes of plants and animals that live there, plus the many benefits and services they provide.

The book is designed to be practical and easily portable with over 500 colour photographs, supplemented with clearly illustrated keys including the 'wheel', an innovative water-proof field key. There are also detailed botanical descriptions, distribution maps, and flowering/fruited charts.

Features

- Includes a water-proof identification key for field use
- Descriptions of 41 Australian plant species
- Illustrated keys for easy identification, plus full distribution maps
- More than 500 colour photographs
- State & Territory sections with local specialist contributions

This book is well presented with a systematic layout and many colour illustrations. The taxonomy is up to date and the keys make mangrove identification much easier than it has ever been.

The first 61 pages introduce us to mangroves, their diversity, adaptations, origins, use and importance. I found some of the information here a tad superfluous, such as listing mangrove flower colours and bark types but I guess those sections are aimed at the younger reader.

The second part looks at mangroves in the states and territories of Australia. These chapters give an overview of mangrove diversity and distribution at a state level.

The third part is dedicated to species identification and description. The keys are well designed and mostly, easy to use. The descriptions cover preferred estuarine location, distribution, appearance, derivation of the nomenclature, form, foliage and dispersal propagule. Each species has a “species feature” illustrated which will help expedite identification in most cases.

The included water-proof field key is a great idea. Printed on a plastic disc, it is compact enough to fit in a (large) shirt pocket and hold enough information to identify all 41 Australian mangroves.

A couple of issues to be aware of with this publication:

- The book houses numerous errors from spelling to pagination, though most are obvious and will not lead to serious problems.
- The taxonomy does not fully agree with that of the Queensland Herbarium.
- The book is ring bound and some care must be exercised when turning pages to avoid damage
- The price \$50-55, a bit expensive in my opinion.

The publication of this book may change the focus of our Cairns Mangrove Project. There is no longer a need for a general mangrove publication, however the diversity and distribution of mangroves in the Cairns region is still not well documented.