



## Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch  
PO Box 199  
Earlville Qld 4870

Newsletter No. 74  
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### Society Office Bearers

|                         |                  |            |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>Chairperson</b>      | Ing Toh          | 40 310 551 |
| <b>Vice Chairperson</b> | Mary Gandini     | 40 542 190 |
| <b>Secretary</b>        | Greg Keith       | 40 981 130 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>        | Robert Jago      | 40 552 266 |
| <b>Librarian</b>        | 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 Excursions – third Saturday of each month.**

That's it for this year folks. Have a safe and happy time till next we meet!

**NEXT MEETING** will be at the Cairns Botanic Gardens, in the staff amenities area, on Saturday Feb 16th 2008 at 1200. Lunch and meeting will be followed by a walk through some of the Botanic Gardens' mangrove areas.

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



Anyone recognise the species?



## Plant Me Instead

We finally heard from Ellen with respect to the Plant Me Instead project. She informs us that the project did not attract NHT funding this year but they have been advised to resubmit the proposal for the next round. Other sources of funding are also being sought

## 2008 SGAP Cairns Branch Theme – Mangroves of the Greater Cairns District

Greg

At our last meeting of the year on the 17<sup>th</sup> November at Lake Morris the idea of focussing SGAP trips for next year around the theme of Mangroves of the Cairns District was discussed.

The origins of the idea around Mangroves was to build on a project that had already been commenced by SGAP Cairns Branch previously on publishing a mangrove identification book. With the recent publication of a Mangrove book by Norm Duke (Australia's Mangroves) this need was seen as less important. However Tony identified that there is no real comprehensive database, recording species locations for the Cairns district. This was highlighted recently by Parks Staff, who had no knowledge of Mangrove Apple (*Sonneratia alba*) growing in the Cairns region when in fact it is very prevalent.

Whilst the exact details of what the finished product might be have not been finalised it was discussed that the project would involve surveys at key locations across the Cairns region that would record species diversity. The collection of relevant points on a GPS that could be utilised by suitable GIS applications such as MapInfo or ArcView was also seen as a possible product. This data could be used by Council or other planning organisations to identify significant mangrove habitat. It was discussed that the data collected could be added to the Cairns

Botanic Gardens database and this would be accessible to the general public.

It was discussed that there would be at least three areas to concentrate on:

- Gardens/ Tanks area
- Bund wall (East Trinity)
- Airport

It was also proposed that a SGAP funded boat trip may be a good way to survey the Barron River and Redden Island mangrove habitats.

The potential for SGAP Cairns branch to take this idea on as a theme for next year will be discussed in more detail at the 2008 meeting which will be on the third Saturday in February at the Cairns Botanic Garden. At this meeting we will be seeking to refine the project to identify the final product (database or brochure or both) and identify potential sites for field trips for next year

## Trip Report - Christmas Meeting at Lake Morris

Mary

Well, not really Christmas, but our last meeting for the year because the third Saturday in December is too close to the big event. It was supposed to be a BBQ but as cyclone Guba was hanging around up the top of Australia it was raining in Cairns. Copperlode Dam (Lake Morris), being one of our water sources up in the mountains, would be wetter than the city and not provide not enough BBQ shelter, so we opted for lunch in the coffee shop. A wise move as it drizzled most of the day. After lunch and our monthly meeting, we set off for the other side of the dam wall, armed with raincoats and umbrellas. Up hill all the way and down hill all the way back, we mostly walked in light rain. As delegated plant recorder, I insisted on flowering or fruiting plants only. Little did I realise that so many plants doing just that would still make a long list. However, two rare and threatened plants, *Cleistanthus discolor* and *Niemeyera* sp. Mt Lewis, were neither flowering nor fruiting.

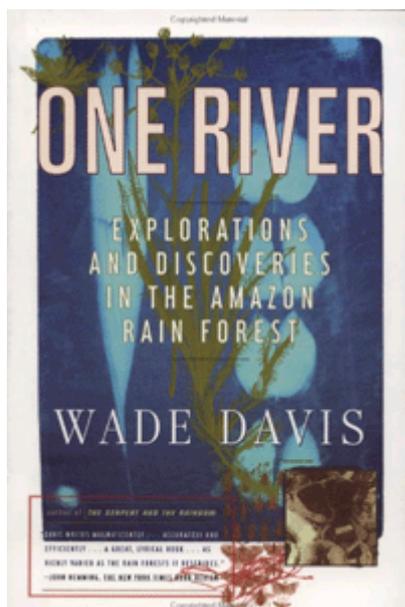
## Plants of Lake Morris

| SPECIES   | FAMILY            | FLOWERING | FRUITING |
|---|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| <i>Abrophyllum ornans</i>                         | CARPODEACEAE      | #         |          |
| <i>Aceratium magalospermum</i>                    | ELAEOCARPACEAE    |           | #        |
| <i>Acronychia acronychioides</i>                  | RUTACEAE          | #         | #        |
| <i>Alpinia caerulea</i>                           | ZINGIBERACEAE     | #         |          |
| <i>Apodytes brachystylis</i>                      | ICACINACEAE       |           | #        |
| <i>Archirhodomirtus beckerii</i>                  | MYRTACEAE         | #         |          |
| <i>Breynia stipitata</i>                          | PHYLLANTHACEAE    | #         |          |
| <i>Calamus australis</i>                          | ARECACEAE         |           | #        |
| <i>Cardwellia sublimis</i>                        | PROTEACEAE        | #         |          |
| <i>Casearia costulata</i>                         | FLACOURTIACEAE    |           | #        |
| <i>Castanospermum australe</i>                    | FABACEAE          | #         |          |
| <i>Cissus penninervis</i>                         | VITACEAE          | #         |          |
| <i>Citronella smythii</i>                         | LEPTAULACEAE      | #         | #        |
| <i>Commersonia bartramia</i>                      | BYTTNERIACEAE     | #         |          |
| <i>Commersonia macrostipitata</i>                 | BYTTNERIACEAE     | #         |          |
| <i>Cordyline canniifolia</i>                      | LAXMANNIACEAE     |           | #        |
| <i>Cyclophyllum costatum</i>                      | RUBIACEAE         | #         |          |
| <i>Cyperus polystachyos</i>                       | CYPERACEAE        | #         |          |
| <i>Dianella atraxis</i>                           | HEMEROCALLIDACEAE | #         |          |
| <i>Davidsonia pruriens</i>                        | CUNONIACEAE       |           | #        |
| <i>Elaeocarpus angustifolius</i>                  | ELAEOCARPACEAE    | #         |          |
| <i>Elaeocarpus grahamii</i>                       | ELAEOCARPACEAE    | #         |          |
| <i>Elaeocarpus largiflorens</i>                   | ELAEOCARPACEAE    | #         |          |
| <i>Ficus pleurocarpa</i>                          | MORACEAE          |           | #        |
| <i>Ficus septica</i>                              | MORACEAE          |           | #        |
| <i>Flagellaria indica</i>                         | FLAGELLARIACEAE   | #         |          |
| <i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>                          | CYPERACEAE        |           | #        |
| <i>Gardenia ovularis</i>                          | RUBIACEAE         |           | #        |
| <i>Glochidion sessiliflorum var. pedicellatum</i> | PHYLLANTHACEAE    | #         |          |
| <i>Glochidion sumatranum</i>                      | PHYLLANTHACEAE    | #         |          |
| <i>Grevillea baileyana</i>                        | PROTEACEAE        | #         |          |
| <i>Hibbertia scandens</i>                         | DILLENIACEAE      | #         |          |
| <i>Lepidium sp.</i>                               | BRASSICACEAE      | #         |          |
| <i>Linospadix minor</i>                           | ARECACEAE         | #         |          |
| <i>Lomandra hystrix</i>                           | LAXMANNIACEAE     |           | #        |
| <i>Macaranga involucreta</i>                      | EUPHORBIACEAE     |           | #        |
| <i>Mallotus paniculatus</i>                       | EUPHORBIACEAE     | #         |          |
| <i>Mallotus polyadenos</i>                        | EUPHORBIACEAE     |           | #        |
| <i>Megahertzia amplexicaulis</i>                  | PROTEACEAE        |           | #        |
| <i>Melastoma malabathricum</i>                    | MELASTOMATACEAE   | #         |          |
| <i>Mischocarpus grandissimus</i>                  | SAPINDACEAE       |           | #        |
| <i>Morinda umbellata</i>                          | RUBIACEAE         | #         |          |
| <i>Oberonia titania</i>                           | ORCHIDACEAE       | #         |          |
| <i>Parapachygone longifolia</i>                   | MENISPERMACEAE    | #         |          |
| <i>Parsonsia latifolia</i>                        | APOCYNACEAE       | #         |          |
| <i>Passiflora foetida</i>                         | PASSIFLORACEAE    | #         | #        |
| <i>Pavetta australiensis</i>                      | RUBIACEAE         | #         |          |
| <i>Piper novae-hollandiae</i>                     | PIPERACEAE        | #         | #        |
| <i>Pitaviaster haplophyllus</i>                   | RUTACEAE          | #         | #        |
| <i>Pittosporum rubiginosum</i>                    | PITTOSPORACEAE    |           | #        |
| <i>Pittosporum wingii</i>                         | PITTOSPORACEAE    |           | #        |
| <i>Placospermum coriaceum</i>                     | PROTEACEAE        | #         | #        |
| <i>Polygala sp.</i>                               | POLYGALACEAE      | #         |          |
| <i>Polyosma hirsuta</i>                           | ESCALLONIACEAE    |           | #        |
| <i>Polyscias australiana</i>                      | ARALIACEAE        | #         |          |
| <i>Praxelis clematidea</i>                        | ASTERACEAE        | #         |          |
| <i>Rhodomyrtus pervagata</i>                      | MYRTACEAE         | #         |          |
| <i>Sarcopteryx acuminata</i>                      | SAPINDACEAE       |           | #        |

|  |              |   |   |
|--|--------------|---|---|
| <i>Scaevola enantophylla</i>                     | GOODENIACEAE | # |   |
| <i>Schefflera atcinophylla</i>                   | ARALIACEAE   | # | # |
| <i>Smilax glycyphylla</i>                        | SMILACACEAE  |   | # |
| <i>Solanum mauritianum</i>                       | SOLANACEAE   |   | # |
| <i>Symplocos cochinchinensis ssp. thwaitesii</i> | SYMPLOCACEAE |   | # |
| <i>Tabernaemontana pandaqui</i>                  | APOCYNACEAE  | # |   |
| <i>Tetracera nordtiana</i>                       | DILLENIACEAE | # |   |
| <i>Trema orientalis</i>                          | ULMACEAE     | # |   |
| <i>Waterhousia unipunctata</i>                   | MYRTACEAE    | # |   |

## Book Review

### One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest



#### FROM THE BACK COVER:

*"In 1941, Professor Richard Evans Schultes took a leave from Harvard and disappeared into the Amazon, where he spent the next 12 years mapping uncharted rivers and living among dozens of Indian tribes. In the 1970's he sent 2 prize students, Tim Plowman and Wade Davis, to follow in his footsteps and unveil the botanical secret of coca, a sacred plant known to the Inca as the Divine Leaf of Immortality. A stunning account of adventure and discovery, betrayal and destruction, **One River** is a story of two generations of explorers drawn together by the transcendent knowledge of Indian peoples, the visionary realms of the shaman, and the extraordinary plants that sustain all life in a forest that once stood immense and inviolable."*

A REVIEW: While not technically a biography, this is the story of Timothy

*Plowman, a young ethnobotanist who died while looking for medicinal plants in the South American rain forests. The author, who explored with Plowman in 1974 and 1975, tells a vivid story of adventure, Amerindian culture, and, to a lesser extent, the social and political climate surrounding Harvard in the 1960s and 1970s. Plowman was the brilliant protégé of Richard Evans Schultes, one of the world's leading authorities on hallucinogenic plants and the Amazon rain forest. The author mixes the backgrounds and travels of the two men with sociology of South American tribes and their sacred plants. Because use of hallucinogenic plants is described, this is not a book for young people. For adults, it's a fascinating story of ethnobotanical exploration and an excellent real-life tale of science out of the laboratory, and only peripherally the sad story of a brilliant life lost to AIDS (Plowman contracted the disease as a result of pretrip inoculations). It also reveals the effects of development on the dwindling rain forests and their endangered cultures. **Laura E. Lipton**, Center for Urban Horticulture, Seattle*

This is probably the most enjoyable botanical novel I have ever read. It is a true adventure story to rival anything Indiana Jones did. It is also an historical account of the lives and Amazonian travels of three dedicated ethnobotanists spanning almost 50 years.

This book is a must-read for anyone interested in ethnobotany, the Amazon jungle or botanical expeditions.

**If you have any book reviews, pictures, notes on growing tropical Australian plants or trip reports you'd like published in this newsletter, please send them to me: Tony Roberts – email [travelling\\_botanist@yahoo.com.au](mailto:travelling_botanist@yahoo.com.au)**