



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
Earlville Qld 4870

Newsletter No. 76
APRIL 2008

Society Office Bearers

Chairperson	Ann Mohun	40 310 551
Vice Chairperson	Mary Gandini	40 542 190
Secretary	Greg Keith	40 981 130
Treasurer	Robert Jago	40 552 266

Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region- Renewal \$39.00, New Members \$44, 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.

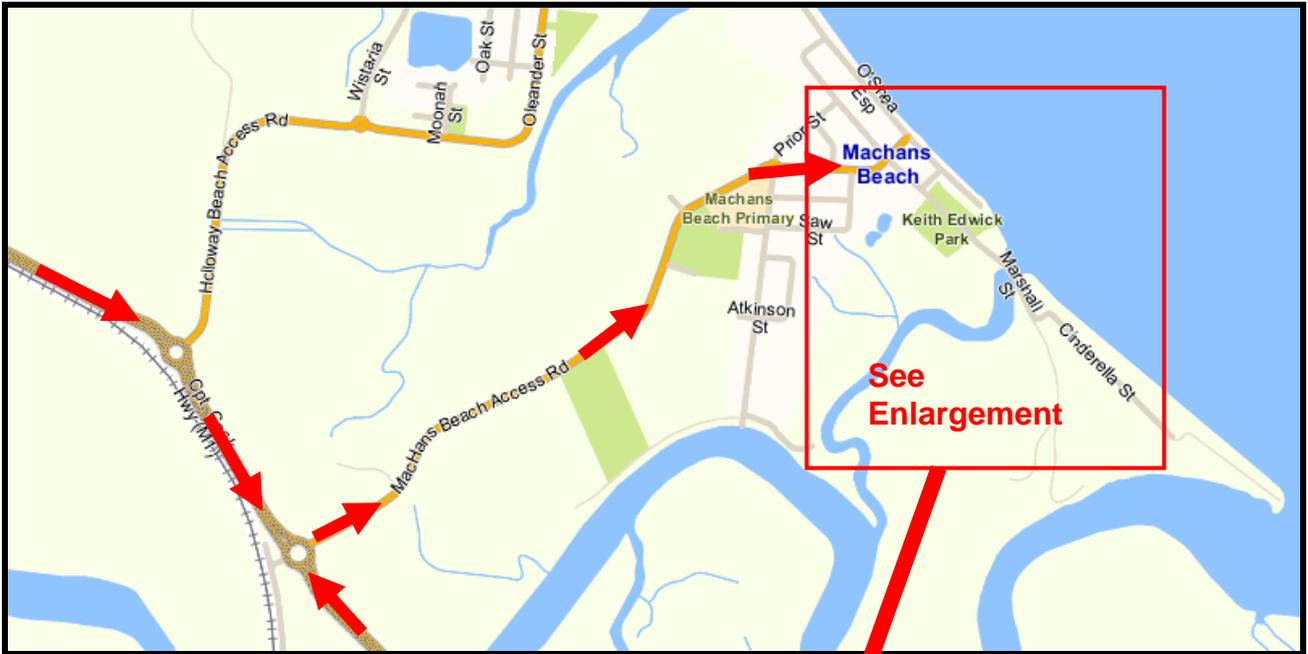
NEXT OUTING will be held at Redden Island on 20th April. **We will meet at the coffee shop on the southwest corner of Marshall St and Machans Rd at 1200.**

Directions below

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

How to get there

Head out along the Captain Cook Highway and turn at the Machans Beach roundabout toward Machans Beach. Follow Machans Beach Access Road through the roundabout. The second street on the right is Marshall St. and the coffee shop is on the southwest corner.



Trip Report

Our March General Meeting and the 2008 AGM were held at Anns place in Redlynch. The advertised excursion was postponed due to prior heavy rain and continuing showers.

Chairperson's Annual Report

March 2008

Society for Growing Australian Plants, QLD
Region Cairns Branch

Fellow Cairns SGAP members, welcome to the 2008 AGM. Thank you all for your ongoing support in the past year. A special thanks to Greg Keith who despite his title of Secretary has done virtually everything else including looking after the treasury. Thanks to our reluctant newsletter editor, Tony Roberts who has added his unique style to the newsletters and also to all those who contributed interesting articles, photos and trip species lists to the newsletter. Thanks to Stuart Worboys for having prepared the newsletters in 2006 and part of 2007 and we wish him fruitful times in his new abode on the Sunshine Coast.

When I started writing this report all I could think of was grey skies and rain we currently live under. However on reviewing our 2007 newsletters I noted that we covered quite some ground both new and old as well as many interesting backyards. Indeed our year of field excursions started out under blue skies at Emerald Creek where, despite masterful misdirection in the previous newsletter, most people made it to the falls and were treated to some great dry country flora. This years Cooktown Botanical Gardens working bee was able to report visible progress of the gardens. A trip to Mossman Gorge in October was most successful with the guidance of Greg Keith to a giant isolated Kauri Pine. Mary and David Gandini graciously hosted an outing in their orchid riddled backyard. We also had tea and got to see the splendid views from Jan Elder's veranda and, to explore her backyard where the vineforest meets the sea. Another interesting backyard we visited was the farm of Charlie Taylor at Julatten. His property

backs onto National Park forming the head of the Mowbray River where the vegetation there is very reminiscent of the Kauri dominated vineforest at Kuranda. The year was brought to a close with the Christmas breakup party held at Lake Morris where the overcast skies hinted at the rain we have had. I trust this coming year will be equally interesting and pleasant.

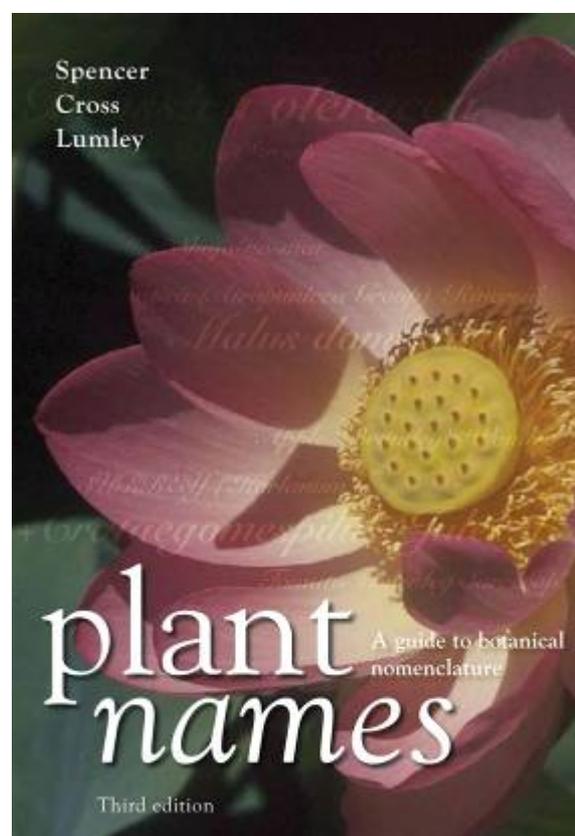
Thank you all for attending this AGM.

Book Review

Plant Names

A Guide to Botanical Nomenclature

Third Edition



From the CSIRO PUBLISHING web site

“Description

Plant Names is a plain English guide to the use of plant names and the conventions for writing them as governed by the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* and the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*. It covers the naming of wild plants, plants modified by humans, why plant names change, their pronunciation and hints to help remember them. The final

section provides a detailed guide to web sites and published resources useful to people using plant names.

The book incorporates the latest information in the most recently published Botanical and Cultivated Plant Codes, both of which are technical scientific publications that are difficult to read for all but the most dedicated botanists and horticulturists. From botanists to publishers, professional horticulturists, nurserymen, hobby gardeners and anyone interested in plant names, this book is an invaluable guide to using the potentially confusing array of scientific, commercial and common names.

Features

- Introduces the world of plant names in an easy-to-read style
- A recommended format for plant labels that avoids confusion
- An extensive resource list of books and websites to help with plant names

Contents

Acknowledgements
Foreword
Foreword to the Third Edition
Introduction to the Codes of Plant Nomenclature

Part 1 – Wild Plants

Common names
Latin names, the binomial system and plant classification
The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature
The botanical hierarchy
Name changes

Part 2 – Cultigens

The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants
Marketing names (trade designations)

Part 3 – Using Plant Names

Writing plant names
Pronunciation

Part 4 – Plant Name Resources

Books and websites to help with plant names
Accurate lists of botanical names”

“Plant Names: A Guide to Botanical Nomenclature”, houses a wealth of information for everyone interested in horticulture, botany or just plants in general. It explains the importance of plant names, both scientific and common, in language decipherable by the most lay of gardeners. Importantly, in these days of monumental plant name changes, the text explains why these changes are necessary and lists many resources where up to date plant names can be found. This publication is a must-have for all gardeners, horticulturists and botanists.

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

SGAP CAIRNS BRANCH Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Present: - As per the Attendance Book

Meeting Opened: - by Chairman Ing Toh who welcomed all Members and visitors.

Apologies: - As per the Attendance Book

Minutes from last years AGM: - Read by Ing Toh.

Ing Toh moved that the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting as read were an accurate record. Ann Mohun seconded the motion with all present voting in favour.

Business arising from the last meeting: - Having life members Bob Jago and Mary Gandini made permanent signatories to SGAP Cairns bank accounts

Correspondence In: - None

Out Going Correspondence: - None

Matters Arising from Correspondence: - None

Chairpersons Report: -

Ing Toh read the annual report of the Chairperson. Ing Toh moved that the Chairpersons Report be accepted and Mary Gandini seconded the motion with all present voting in favour.

Treasurers Report: -

Ing Toh read the interim Treasurers report and moved that the treasurers report be accepted and this was seconded by Tony Roberts with all present voting in favour.

Secretary's Report

Ing Toh read the secretary's report and moved that the report be accepted which was seconded by Trudy Roberts and all present voting in favour.

Election of New Office Bearers: - Ing Toh declared all positions vacant and vacated the Chair. The Members present then elected Glenyss Argæet to take the Chair and supervise the election of the new Office Bearers.

Chairperson: - Nominations were called for this position. Ann Mohun was nominated by Barbara Collins. Ing Toh seconded the nomination. **Ann Mohun** accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed for a further term as Chairman of the branch.

Ann Mohun then resumed the Chair for the election of other office bearers.

Vice Chairperson: - Nominations were called for this position. Mary Gandini was nominated by Ing Toh. Tony Roberts seconded this nomination. **Mary Gandini** accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed to the position.

Secretary: - Nominations were called for this position. Tony Roberts nominated **Greg Keith**. Barbara Collins seconded this nomination. All present voted in favour.

Treasurer: - Nominations were called for this position. Ing Toh nominated **Bob Jago**. Barbara Collins seconded this nomination. All present voted in favour.

Newsletter Editor: - Nominations were called for this position. Mary Gandini nominated Tony Roberts. Trudy Roberts seconded this nomination. **Tony Roberts** accepted this nomination and was elected unopposed to the position.

General Business: -

1. Ing Toh raised the issue of lack of use of the library over several years and asked for a vote for the position of Librarian to be made redundant. All present were in favour of this motion.
2. Andrew Picone volunteered to help Tony Roberts prepare Newsletters in his absence. This was gratefully accepted.
3. To have Ann Mohun, Bob Jago and Mary Gandini formally recognised as signatories by the banks holding SGAP Cairns accounts.

AGM Meeting Closed: - 1:40 by Ann Mohun who thanked everyone for their attendance.

SGAP CAIRNS BRANCH Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Present: - Tony Roberts, Trudy Roberts, Ing Toh, Andrew Picone, Ann Mohun, Barbara Collins, Mary Gandini, Glenyss Argæet (guest)

Meeting Opened: - Meeting opened 1.30 by Chairperson Anne Mohun who welcomed all present.

Apologies: - Greg & Sarah Keith, David Gandini and Don & Pauline

Minutes from last meeting - Minutes from the last meeting were read by Ann Mohun, Seconded by Tony Roberts

Business arising from the last meeting: - Pay \$50 for Cairns Show Association

Correspondence In: - Westpac Bank Statement
Bill for PO Box

Newsletters
SGAP Qld Bulletin & The Graptophyllum (Mackay Branch Newsletter)

Out Going Correspondence:
None

Matters Arising from Correspondence:
Still need to donate \$50 to the Cairns Show Association for 2008 for the sponsor of the Native Plant Section.

General Business: -

1. Ideas for field trips

In addition to the following trip ideas previously discussed:

- Thala Beach
- Reddon Island
- Daintree River Mangrove Tour (Peter Cooper)
- Machans Beach Esplanade
- Admiralty Island
- Bundwall Trinity Inlet
- Airport Mangrove Boardwalk

These additional trips were raised:

- Fitzroy Island (day or overnight)
 - Boulders / Goldsborough
 - Pete's Falls
 - Cape Tribulation (if buyback properties still available for visit)
2. Need to pay \$50 to Tablelands SGAP for our share of an Orchid contribution to Cooktown Bot. Gdns.
 3. Brought to attention of people that they are to pay for their subscription to the State SGAP branch individually

Actions

- Get Ann, Bob and Mary as bank signatories

Meeting Closed: 2.10pm by Ann Mohun who thanked everyone for their attendance.

Environmental Offsets

Environmental offsets, proposed under new State Government policy, are intended to provide a counterbalance to approved clearing of native vegetation. Essentially, any clearing will require offsets through the revegetation or rehabilitation (or both) of an appropriate site. At this stage, there are three specific issues being addressed; native vegetation in general, mangroves and koala habitat.

Clearing native vegetation is offset through land rehabilitation. This will result in revegetation of a site which will also receive formal protection. The amount of revegetation required will be commensurate with the size and significance of the vegetation cleared. For example, a new piece of infrastructure such as a road or pipeline passing through endangered ecosystem would require greater offsets than equivalent impacts within a more common ecosystem of less concern.

Clearing mangroves will require rehabilitation of another degraded mangrove site of equivalent or greater area. Further south, offsets will be sought through revegetation that provides links between fragmented koala habitat. In all instances the offsets are required to be near the site where the clearing has occurred.

This policy, according to the State Government, will not allow any more clearing than can currently occur under existing planning controls. The proposed offsets are intended to provide better outcomes and ensure that, with regard to any proposed development, options that avoid and minimise clearing have been adequately investigated. If there is no other option, clearing may be approved.

According to the discussion paper published in October 2007, the intent of this policy is to assist the State Government in meeting the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). Depending on the significance of the vegetation and the level of impact, local or state government referral authorities will be involved in assessing any application to clear vegetation. They will also approve the environmental offsets that are proposed by the proponent (probably with the help of a consultant). This is generally how things work now and local governments already seek offsets for losses of vegetation. However, a state-wide policy will establish a more consistent approach and, if Queensland's offset policy takes the form of those introduced into Victoria and New South Wales, will place a far greater onus on the proponent to consider avoiding clearing vegetation in the first place.

This is relevant to SGAP because it will mean more areas will be replanted and returned to 'vegetation'. At this stage the discussion paper is thin on detail but one would assume the aim of revegetation will be to replant areas with species that would have once occurred at that site (not just some broad-brush approach using a bunch of rainforest species). This increase in obligatory revegetation required of developers and service providers will increase the number and potentially the diversity of native species currently being cultivated.

It may also result in more native species being used for landscaping in new developments. In addition, as the policy is based on a system of avoidance and minimisation, maybe there will be less clearing.

I would provide a URL address but the EPA has pulled the discussion paper from the internet

claiming that it is obsolete. It was open for comment until 30 November 2007 but I would have thought it would have been helpful to leave it there. If you want to look at the discussion paper I can email it to you. Its only 487 KB. It's unclear when the State Government will have this policy up and running and I've no doubt that there is serious opposition coming from the pro-

development lobby. It took about three years for a similar policy to be properly implemented in Victoria.

Andrew Picone

A Different Perspective: SGAP Mangrove Outing– 16TH FEB 2008

The Mangrove boardwalk near the Cairns Airport was completed 20 years ago, so it was with this in mind that our group descended amid the threat of heavy showers and amongst the ravenous hordes of midgies and mozzies!

The showers fortunately held off and this proved a fortuitous time to traverse the 2 boardwalks which transect the differing zones of mangrove forest as many species were flowering and fruiting.

Our group's primary focus on this excursion was to identify the dominate species in the zones traversed to establish signage as an adjunct to the present generalized information boards.

We chose the northern boardwalk first, and this loops alongside a tidal creek.

The landward zone here was altered by the formation of the airport access road, but species preferring this habitat have established themselves in the interim. A bank of fruiting *Avicennia* and white flowering *Lumnitzera* lined the carpark, and a couple of stubby Club mangrove *Aegialitis annulata* were evident.



This first walk traverses the sparse high salinity zone of salt pan before entering the *Ceriops* thicket. These were resplendent with their slim erect pinkish trunks and, tight but well developed ornamental flanged buttresses. Each was festooned with mature propagules which also littered the boardwalk.

The clarity of the zonation diminished and became confused with *Bruguiera*, *Xylocarpus* and *Rhizophora* as we emerged on the creek bank. Nice specimens of the Spiny Ant Plant, *Myrmecodia* adorned a few trees here and a few sparse Golden Orchids and pendulous Pencil Orchids could be spotted by a discerning eye.

The southern walk once again traversed the *Ceriops* thicket, before entering the tall forest of *Bruguiera* and *Rhizophora*. A surreal world here, where *Rhizophora stylosa* is very evident with distinctive looping pneumatophores and array of aerial roots descending from its lofty branches.

Rhizophora mucronata joins in with its tangle of high stilt roots and the sediments here are far more fluid and subject to most tidal influence. It is a real alien looking entity in this world and the atmosphere resonates with the almost musical plopping and snapping sounds of the underworld creatures.



Reaching the boardwalk end, where we knew specimens of *Sonneratia* grew, we found the canopy had now grown taller and access to the tower closed. We distinguished the trees amongst the melee of root systems, by their absence of prop roots and canopy foliage where it could be discerned. Unfortunately an extension to this walk to view the City of Cairns and Trinity inlet would require destruction of a substantial section of forest, but restoration of use of the tower would be an asset.

This ecosystems is interesting because of their high endemicity of Mangroves and the individual characteristics they possess which help to distinguish the species. Thanks to our principals, Rob, Mary, Tony and Greg for sharing their expertise.

Ref: Lear and Turner, 1977 'Mangroves of Australia '
Barbara



Public lecture series

12 March

Census of marine life in Antarctica

Dr Rob Beaman

The Census of Antarctic Marine Life. This talk will showcase the rich underwater imagery collected by a recent Antarctic research expedition to highlight the incredible diversity of marine life in this remote and extreme environment.

16th April

Are colour signals beautiful in the eye of a butterfly?

Prof. Ron Rutowski

To humans, butterflies are some of the most beautifully coloured animals on Earth. But how do other butterflies see these colour signals? Do they pay attention to them? The latest information about colouration and vision in butterflies will be presented to answer these questions. This reveals a great deal about how organisms other than humans see each other and their world.

14th May

Advances in satellite imaging of tropical environments

Prof. David Gillieson

Ever-present cloud masks the landscape of the wet tropics as seen from space. Now, next generation radar remote sensing satellites and airborne sensors are providing us with incredible detail, making it possible to see through the clouds map and monitor vegetation health and cyclone damage patterns and even individual trees.

18th June

The future of our coastal cassowary populations

Dr Nicky Moore

Climate change is predicted to increase the intensity of cyclones in our region. With this in mind, what can we learn from the impact of Cyclone Larry on the Mission Beach cassowary population? Can we use this information to help us predict the future for the coast cassowary population?

16th July

Australian Tropical Herbarium

Dr Darren Crayn

The Australian Tropical Herbarium is a new joint venture between CSIRO, JCU and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency. It boasts an unsurpassed collection of preserved specimens of North Queensland's flora and a state-of-the-art molecular bioscience laboratory. Together these facilities allow biologists studying different aspects of plant science to work together to discover and document the unique flora of north Queensland.

6th August

Wildlife in Australia's Tropical Rainforests

Dr Martin Cohen

Australia's tropical rainforests contain more plants and animals than any other area in the country - many of which live nowhere else. Dr Martin Cohen - an expert in the region's wildlife - presents this informative talk featuring award-winning photography combined with information on many of the rainforest's rare and threatened animals. Martin also presents current research into the impacts of climate change on the biodiversity of this unique wildlife.

17th September

Creative use of mobile technologies in remote African villages

Dr Nic Bidwell

What do we need to do to design computer technologies that are appropriate for the lives of rural Africans? Nic will describe her experiences this year in living in remote villages in southern Africa and designing interactions with technology to support healthcare, rural enterprise and community sustainability.

8th October

Life in the fast stream - a natural history of Wet Tropics rivers

Prof. Richard Pearson

Richard Pearson has enjoyed over 30 years studying the unique biodiversity of Wet Tropics rivers. In this illustrated talk he reviews the extent of this biodiversity, its origin and its maintenance, and assesses its resilience in the face of human impacts such as agriculture, water extraction and climate change.

12th November

Business and the Environment: Enemies or Allies?

Prof. Chris Cocklin

This presentation will provide an overview of major environmental challenges such as climate change and water scarcity. It will then consider the role of business in helping to address these challenges.

3rd December

Agroforestry: what is it and what does it offer to Tropical Queensland

Dr Jonathan Cornelius

Over the last twenty-five years or so, "agroforestry" has increasingly been seen as part of the solution to many of the problems facing communities in the tropics. But what really is agroforestry... And what does it offer to developed regions like Tropical Queensland?



All lectures start at 6PM
Enjoy light refreshments from 5:30pm

All lectures are held at the Crowther Theater, James Cook University, Cairns Campus
For more information contact Susan Kelly on 40421456 or susan.kelly@jcu.edu.au