



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
Earlville Qld 4870

Newsletter No. 82
October 2008

Society Office Bearers

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Chairperson | Ann Mohun | 40 394 942 |
| 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 (\$29.00 concession), 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 at Yorkeys Knob in the swampy bits behind the primary school in the tertiary dunes... There will be additional information sent out by email when known.

Tablelands Branch – Sunday following the meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
Any queries please contact Chris Jaminon 4095 2882 or hjaminon@bigpond.com

Also of Interest

JCU Public Lecture Series 2008

Life in the Fast Stream – a natural history of Wet Tropics Rivers, Prof. Richard Pearson

From over 30 years experience in the Wet Tropics, this illustrated talk reviews biodiversity, its origin and maintenance, and its resilience in the face human impacts such as agriculture, water extraction and climate change.

Wednesday 8th October, 5.30 – 7.00 pm. Crowther Theatre, James Cook University, McGregor Road, Smithfield. RSVP Sue Kelly 40421456 or susan.kelly@jcu.edu.au

Trip Report: Mount Lewis

By Robin Smith

On Saturday 20 September 2008 a small group of Cairns SGAP members visited Mt Lewis. It was cool and started out overcast. The areas we visited were mostly about 900 – 1000 m above sea level.

It turned into a search for ferns. Over 50 species were found. When SGAP went to Mount Lewis on 15 September 1985 there were 31 species located. However despite the bountiful number of species located in our recent trip we didn't find all of those species located in the 1985 trip. Missing from our latest list were 10 species: -

- *Asplenium polyodon*,
- *Blechnum nudum*,
- *Ctenopteris maidenii*,
- *Davalia repens*,
- *Elaphoglossum* Mt Lewis sp.
- *Hymenophyllum javanicum*,
- *Oenrichia tripinnata*,
- *Pteridoblechnum neglectum*,
- *Cephalomanes elongata*, and
- *Vittaria elongata*,

That would make a total of at least 60 species in the area. However we didn't go very far up

Species List

Adiantum silvaticum
Amphineuron queenslandicum (right)
Angiopteris evecta
Arthropteris submarginalis
Arthropteris palisotii
Asplenium australasicum
Asplenium nidus
Asplenium simplicifrons
Belvisia mucronata
Blechnum articulatum
Blechnum cartilagineum
Blechnum orientale
Blechnum patersonii

Mt Lewis – that may account for the 10 missing species.

I took photos. I just kept clicking away at the *Platycterium bifurcatum*. They were plentiful and in my mind picturesque.

Andrew took down a list of the fern species that we identified.

Mt Lewis is a special and different place. There are ferns found there which do not occur on the mountains closer to Cairns. There are stands of tree ferns right beside the road. Particularly impressive were the great number of healthy *Cyathea robertsiana*. These like particularly moist and sheltered places. Other *Cyathea*s, particularly *C. rebecca* were beside the road in huge numbers. Ferns like sheltered roadside cuttings. These manmade environments have been a boon to pteridomaniacs like myself because ferns love to colonise them – particularly if the cutting consists of heavy red volcanic soil which is so common in north Queensland mountains. The other positive is that they are so accessible. However places with furious traffic like the Kuranda Range are a problem. I have never been game to stop and get out to check the ferns there.

Robin Smith



Blechnum sp.
Bolbitis quoyana
Christella sp.
Colysis ampala
Colysis sayeri
Crypsinus simplicissimus
Cyathea cooperi
Cyathea rebecca
Cyathea robertsiana
Cyathea woollsiana
Davallia pyxidata
Doodia media
Dicranopteris linearis
Diplazium dilatatum
Drynaria rigidula
Goniophlebium subauriculata
Grammitis sp.
Grammitis wurunuran
Huperzia phlegmaria
Lastreopsis munita
Lastreopsis sp.
Lindsaea obtusa
Lycopodiella cernua
Lygodium reticulatum
Macrothelypteris polypodioides
Marattia oreades
Nephrolepis cordifolia
Ophioglossum pendulum
Pellaea falcata
Platynerium bifurcatum
Platynerium hillii
Platynerium superbum
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris pacifica
Pyrrosia longifolia
Pyrrosia rupestris
Selaginella longipinna



Arthropteris palisotii



Arthropteris submarginalis



Davallia pyxidata in the fork of a *Eucalyptus grandis* in wet sclerophyll forest.



Cyathea robertsiana (left) is common along the road cuttings along the higher altitude sections of the Mount Lewis Road.

Along the trail (right).



Editorial Comment

I was trying to get my hands on a 2007 Census of the Queensland flora so I could make sure all the names were spelt correctly and up to date. This, I think, should be the policy of the newsletter. However, I couldn't get one from a library so I have used the old but still very useful *Australian Ferns and Fern Allies* by Jones and Clemesha (1980). So any old names or spelling mistakes are my fault.

Also, I won't get a chance to do the next newsletter as I'll be away for October. I think Tony will be back then. Enjoy Yorkeys Knob.

Cheers
Andrew.