



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
Earlville Qld 4870

Newsletter No. 87
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Society Office Bearers

Chairperson	Tony Roberts	40 551 292
Vice Chairperson	Mary Gandini	40 542 190
Secretary	Ing Toh	40 310 551
Treasurer	Robert Jago	40 552 266

Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region- Renewal \$40.00, New Members \$45, each additional member of household \$2.00 **Student** - \$35.00, **Cairns Branch Fees** -\$10.00 Full Year

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

Dates to remember

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

NEXT MEETING will be at Yuruga Nursery. Please meet at 10:30am **Saturday 18 April.**

Yuruga Nursery's retail operation has the biggest selection of native plants in north Queensland, but there's a lot more happening behind the scenes. www.yuruga.com.au

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

Townsville Branch General Meetings are the second Wednesday each month. Contact John Elliot: jw-elliott@aapt.net.au

Also...



Buy Fresh – Buy Local: Launch of the Cairns Farmgate Market – Saturday 18 April 2009. The Pier at the Marina, Cairns.

“This market will provide an opportunity for Far North Queensland’s regional growers to showcase their produce and goods, to the local community and visitors alike.”

Visit: <http://www.nstda.org.au/> for more info.

Student Tree Planting at Yorkeys Knob State School

All the 200 students at Yorkeys Knob State School took part in a tree planting activity on the school grounds on Wednesday, 25th February, under the direction of their Principal, Mr. Rod Kettle, assisted by Mr. Chris Dennis, the grounds man, and three members of the Bunnings (Smithfield) staff: Merv (the store manager), along with Dawn and Chris from the Bunnings nursery section. Also present were myself, Steve Wettenhall, the member for Barron River, the Cairns Post reporter and one from WIN news.



The idea for the activity came into being after Lisa O'Mara was rung in her capacity as a Land Care Officer, to sign a funding application to Australia Post by the school, for a Junior Land Care grant. She suggested the school get SGAP out to identify flora in the coastal wetland area adjacent to the school and attached to it. Chris Dennis took Lisa on a tour of the swamp area at the time. A visit by SGAP members last November was hosted by the school with guidance provided by Chris. This was followed up by discussion between myself and Chris and Rod Kettle about the development of the bush land as an environmental learning centre for the students, and discussion among SGAP members, with the possible inclusion of SGAP members as advisors. Greg sent the school Rob Jago's very extensive plant list of the area as a guideline.

The aim of the current planting on the grounds is to create a wildlife corridor to the coastal bush land. As well as the Junior Land Care grant, Bunnings offered dollar for dollar support, as well as providing the very welcome service of digging holes, setting out the trees and supervising and advising the students on how to plant the trees properly. Mad About Plants donated \$100.00. In all,

over 100 trees were planted in a period of two hours.

All the students participated with in their respective grades, in pairs of twos. Each pair was given a tree to plant, which they then tagged with their particular names. Mr. Kettle

emphasized that it was another way to give them ownership of their school and its grounds, a very strong and obvious feature of their student culture. He explained to each group the environmental importance of the activity and the benefits it would

bring to the school and the local area.

It was a delightful activity. The students appeared to enjoy it very much, and to take it seriously. Unfortunately, Lisa, being ill and unable to attend, missed a great day involving the children in an awareness of the importance of maintaining and improving their local environment.

Ann Mohun

SGAP Cairns Branch AGM & General Meeting

Rob & Bianca Jago's Place

On Saturday 15 March 2009 we had our AGM. Minutes not yet available. This was then followed by a general meeting. The minutes for this meeting aren't available yet either.

Walking around Rob and Bianca's garden – Stuart Worboys



New Federal Rainforest Policy

On October 10 2008, the Commonwealth Government listed *Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia* as a critically endangered ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

Details of this listing including a new policy document, listing advice from the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC), species lists and an indicative map can be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=76&status=Critically%20Endangered>

The Commonwealth's new policy (right), *Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia* (policy statement 3.9), provides a broad overview of the endangered community. This includes hints on how the community can be identified by the non-expert, colour plates of key species and discussion on equivalent communities described by state government agencies (such as Queensland's regional ecosystems).

It also discusses the distribution of the community and, according to this document, this is from Princess Charlotte Bay south to Lakes Entrance in Victoria's East Gippsland. Of course, spanning such a vast latitudinal spread, there will be enormous floristic differences. The policy provides a couple of pages of colour plates profiling various expressions of this rainforest community throughout its range.

There is also discussion on a number of the EPBC listed threatened species that depend in part or whole on littoral rainforest. Over 70 nationally threatened species (EPBC listed) can be found in littoral rainforests which includes plants, birds, mammals and frogs, including several species from the wet tropics.

Littoral rainforest has declined and, in many instances continues to decline because of historical clearing for agriculture and mining, continued coastal development, weeds, feral animals, fire, tourism and visitation pressures, climate change and natural disturbance according to the TSSC's advice to the Minister.

The TSSC, in preparing their advice for the listing process, acknowledged the occurrence of littoral rainforest further north on Cape York and across to the Kimberly coast but have delineated the listing to only cover rainforests from Princess Charlotte Bay southwards.



Listing under the EPBC Act will ensure greater funding goes towards restoration projects by community groups or regional NRM organisations.

Andrew

New Parks Supervisor for Cook Shire

Those of you who take part in the annual working bee at Cooktown Botanic Gardens might be interested to know that Cook Shire are looking for a new Parks and Gardens supervisor. The advertisement reads: "*Cook Shire Council is seeking a highly energetic and self motivated person to oversee the day to day operations of the Parks and Gardens team and activities. The successful applicant must possess excellent leadership and communication skills, combined with formal qualifications in horticulture and a minimum of 5 years supervisory experience in a local government environment preferred.*"

It'll be interesting to see who gets this position. I'd imagine this role will have a lot to do with the Cooktown Botanic Gardens, and I look forward to meeting them at the working bee this year.

Stuart

SGAP Cairns Branch Tentative Excursion List

Month	Location
April	Yuruga Native Nursery
May	Ella Bay National Park
June	Cooktown Botanic Gardens
July	Josephine Falls
August	Fitzroy Island
September	Chillagoe
October	Mt Windsor
November	Yarrabah

This list is tentative and a couple of places require some prior approvals to arrange. Also, Cooktown, Chillagoe and Mt Windsor are best undertaken as extended trips. Further information will be provided closer to the date. It was also agreed at the last general meeting that the nominator of a place makes the necessary arrangements or investigations enabling us to visit.

If you have any book reviews, pictures, notes on growing tropical Australian plants, interesting photos or trip reports you'd like published in this newsletter, please send them to andrew.picone@jcu.edu.au



Some more photos by Stuart from Rob and Bianca's Garden following the AGM/general meeting in March