

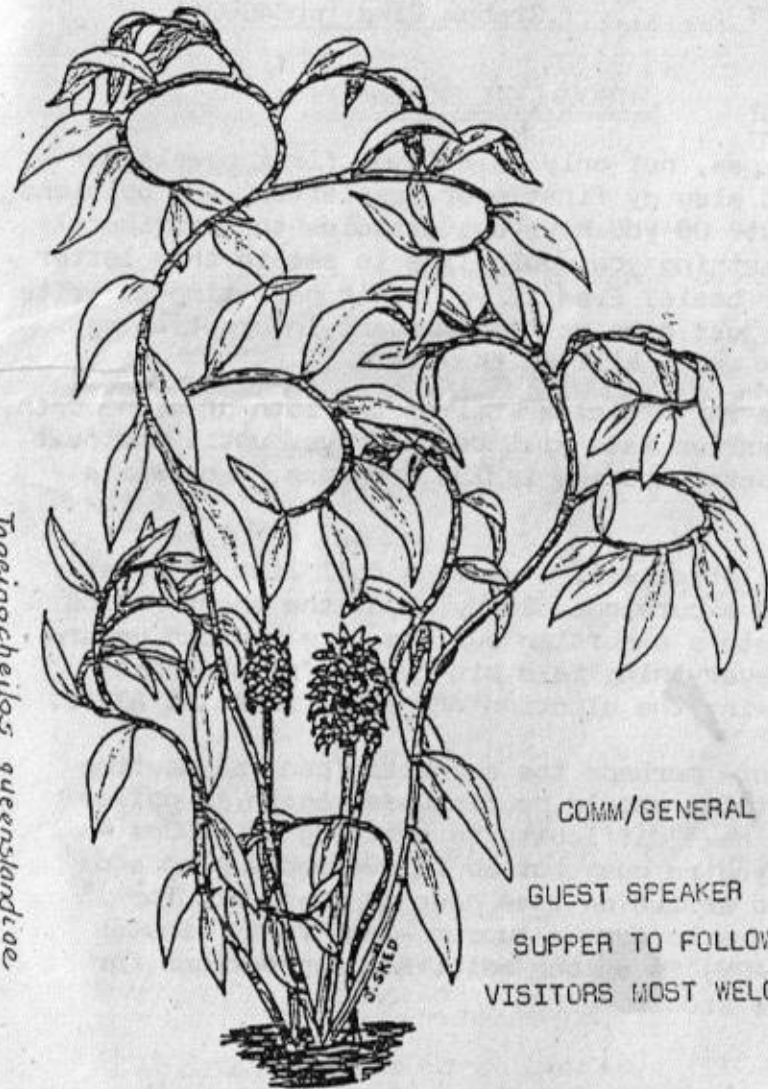
SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS (QLD REGION INC.)

CAIRNS BRANCH
MARCH, 1990.

Our meetings are held in the first year centre, Trinity
Bay High School, Hoare Street, Manunda. Dates for 1990
are as follows;

3-4
1-5
5-6
3-7
7-8
4-9
2-10
5-11
4-12

Tapeinochelios queenslandiae



COMM/GENERAL MEETING
7.00pm

GUEST SPEAKER 8.00pm

SUPPER TO FOLLOW

VISITORS MOST WELCOME.

CHAIRMANDavid Warmington
 HON. SECRETARYElaine Pike (ph 546994)
 TREASURERPeter Robbins (ph 535036)
 NEWSLETTERHelen Moody (ph 554982)
 LIBRARIAN & SALESFrances Boyd
 EXCURSIONSBob Jago (ph 552266)
 PUBLICITY OFFICERTheo Utzinger
 DISPLAYS CO-ORDDavid Warmington
 TUCKEROLOGISTGraham Pike (ph 546994)

EDITOR'S SPOT

Well, here goes, not only is this my first newsletter for SGAP but also my first ever newsletter. Any opinions on the layout? Do you have any articles to contribute? Is there something you would like to see in this letter on a regular basis? Even if you don't have time to write the article just give me the relevant information eg. name of book and I will do the rest.

The deadline for articles will be the 16th of each month, those that arrive late will be held over until the next issue. My postal address is 137 Progress Road, White Rock, 4868.

April's newsletter will include a full list of guest speakers and excursions. Sorry about the short notice for this month's excursion but I'm sure you can understand that everything is a bit rushed for the first month following the election of new officers at AGM's.

A final point- perhaps the committee/general meeting commencement time should be discussed again. I notice many people have difficulty in arriving by 7.00pm - yes I know you're busy but so is everybody else and those who do arrive on time have to then wait for enough members to form a quorum - and forty minutes (as at the AGM) is a long wait. Any suggestions for solving this problem?

SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR AGM.

Dave thanked all his fellow committee members as well as those who helped out in any way over the past year. The year was reasonably successful, financially and in other ways eg, excursions and displays.

Dave must have enjoyed himself, not only is he chairman for 1990, he is also our Displays Co-ordinator.

FLOWERING THIS MONTH.

melaleuca symphyocarpa

" *sp. aff symphyocarpa*

" *viridiflora* (Weeping burgandy form)

Orthosiphon aristatus

Athertonia diversifolia

Darlingia ferruginea

Grevillea dryandri

banksii

"Honey Gem" (Tropical hybrid)

"Pink Surprise"

"Misty Pink"

"Coconut Ice"

Baeckea "Mt. Tozer"

Eucalyptus ptychocarpa (Note the different shades available)

" *phoenicia*

Callistemon "Baroondah Station"

"Condy Pink"

Lagerstroemia archereana

Berningtonia acutangular

MARCH EXCURSIONGRAHAM PIKE.

The March excursion is a trip to Lake Eacham on the 25th (Sunday). Meeting time is 10am at Lake Eacham Parking Area.

Firstly we will look at the Rainforest plants (planted by Nat. Parks) near the car park. At 10.30 we will travel to the Nat. Parks Nursery where Nigel Tucker will show us around the nursery and the arboretum. This contains plantings of: Lauraceae, Prot^eaceae and Moraceae.

If there is sufficient time we will walk around the lake to finish off the day. There are barbeques, tables etc. in the area. Bring your togs.

The leader will be either Rob Jago or Graham Pike.

See separate sheet for more info.

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR MARCHELAINE PIKE.

TROPICAL GARDEN EXPO - members decided that to pay for two displays areas at \$120 each was too expensive. We will pay for one sales area and endeavour to get one display area next to the sales area free of charge. Some form of fund raising is required to keep Cairns Branch viable but to outlay such a large amount for not a great return is not practicable. There are other venues during the year - Enviro Fair and Botanic Gardens Festival on July 1st. where SGAP can set up stalls for selling plants.

RARE AND THREATENED PLANTS at Centenary Lakes - water is now available to the area. SGAP members are urged to get involved in planning this area. Contact Dave Warmington at the Flecker Botanic Gardens.

NOTICE BOARD / DATES TO REMEMBER.

MARCH 22 TAFE Theatre at 7.30pm, Audio-visual on Tully-Millstream hydro scheme.

MARCH 27 TAFE Theatre at 7.30pm, Tony Irvine talks on R/forest rafts in canopy research based on his recent trip to French Guiana.

Both talks are FREE and put on by the TROPICAL RAIN-FOREST SOCIETY.

AUSTROBAILEYA (pub. by Qld. Herbarium) is now available to those interested at \$20 per copy, one copy per year. See BOB JAGO for details and forms.

SGAP RAINFOREST STUDY GROUP is back in action. M/ship is \$3 per year. For more details see your latest BULLETIN page 8.

OUR COVER

TAPEINOCHEILLOS QUEENSLANDIAE.

Drawing by Jan Sked, Pine Rivers.

Family: Costaceae (ex Zingiberaceae).

Derivation: Tapeinocheilos - from the Greek "tapeinos" mean, base, humble, and "cheilos" a lip, because of the shortness of the labellum;
queenslandiae - Queensland (locality).

Common Names: Backscratcher Ginger, Pineapple Ginger.

Tapeinocheilos queenslandiae is a tall plant with one or several leafy, soft-wooded stems spiralling upwards from an underground rhizome to 1-3 m high. The leaves are soft, bright green, to about 20cm in length. The flower spike rises from the base of the plant on a thick, straight stalk up to 90cm high and consists of small, bright yellow flowers held within a multitude of brilliant crimson bracts, forming a showy, cone-like structure up to 30cm long and 15cm across. Flowering usually takes place in summer, with the flowers opening progressively from the base of the spike and fading after pollination, but the bracts remain for many months.

This is an understory plant of the tropical coastal rainforests, from Mossman to Innisfail, and grows in moist situations, often near springs and seepage areas. It requires shade and ample moisture, cannot tolerate frost, and makes an excellent container plant. Propagate from seed or division.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Frances was reelected as our Librarian/Sales Officer and will be busy updating the borrowing system and providing a list of books we have available for loan.

The latest additions are two copies of AUSTROBAILEYA courtesy of Trinity Bay High School. More details next issue.

SWAPS, HINTS, REQUESTS COLUMN.

Is a place for this column warranted? Let me know if you are having difficulty in obtaining seeds, getting them to germinate, have a surplus, need cuttings, or are looking for something in particular and I will publish your request etc. I feel this would be a good way for our longer serving members to pass on information to the beginners (and vice versa).

PUBLICITY OFFICERTHEO UTZINGER.

The Guest Speaker for April's meeting will be Peter Woodman, a well known and prolific local landscaping operator. The topic chosen is appropriately named: COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPING AND ITS USE OF NATIVES.

As a follow up to Eugene Herbert's introduction late last year into the aspects of landscape planning, this talk will cover the practical side of landscaping. Of special interest will be to what extent native plants are used and the criteria on which they were chosen. The talk should conclude in an open forum discussion when we can promote specific plants or share some of the knowledge we all have on natives used in landscapes. I promised Peter that our many experts in the various fields will be present and that there will be a lively and fruitful discussion. Please don't let me down.

A NEW FACE IN THE COMMITTEE

G'day, I am Theo. I thought that as your new Publicity Officer it would be appropriate for me to introduce myself and outline my intentions in this position.

Personal details: Theo Utzinger
Ph. 545266 a/h 556285 b/h
Age 34, married, no kids.
Occupation: Nursery Manager
Recreational Interests: native flora and fauna, gardening, reading nonfiction literature, eating good food and wine, cultures of the world, going bush, etc.

The function of the Publicity Officer is to organise speakers for our regular meetings and advertise these in the local media. My intention is to select a wide variation of topics and create interest among the members so as to attend and participate in as many meetings as possible. Topics can be selected as a lead up to or as a follow on from excursions, or to provide more information for projects in which we are involved. To realize my aim I will need your support, please let me know of your particular areas of interest or even better why you are a member of SGAP. Publicity is communication, to communicate to the outside is my business, but communication inside the branch is your business too. I hope to meet and have a chat with you during one of the next meetings. By the way, I am the guy with the beard and glasses.

Cryptic clues for the topics of the speakers already booked: THE CULTIVATED NATIVE, USING A DIRIGIBLE, THE ELUSIVE NATIVE, THE CAPTIVATED NATIVE.

Good luck and cheerio, Theo.