



SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS (QUEENSLAND REGION) INC

CAIRNS BRANCH
PO Box 199E
EARLVILLE Q 4870

NEWSLETTER

June 1998

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

Chairperson	Mary Gandini	54-2190
Vice Chairperson	Tony Lawless	39-1115
Secretary	Rob Jago	55-2266
Treasurer	Dusty Bennett	54-1448
Assistant Treasurer	Mary Gandini	54-2190
Librarian	Val Clarke	55-4817
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Collins	55-9385
Display Co-ordinator	Bianca Jago	55-2266
Guest Speaker	Mary Gandini	54-2190
Publicist	Tony Lawless	39-1115
Tuckerologist	Vacant	

NEXT MEETING - JUNE 17TH

Rob Jago will give an account of the Windsor Tableland Trip.

COMBINED TABLELAND AND CAIRNS SGAP OUTING

June 14th

Irvinebank & Watsonville : Meet at 10am in front of the Tin Pannekin at Herberton

MAY/JUN FLOWERING:

Gardenia scabrella	Banksia integrifolia	Plectranthus spp
Elaeocarpus bancroftii	Sterculia quadrifida	Grevillea dryandri
Grevillea bermuda station	Harpulia rhyticarpa	Xanthostemon formosus
Harpullia arborescens	Schelhamera	Spathoglottis plicata
Pseuderanthemum variable	Abelmoschus moschata	Hoya pottsii
Phaleria clerodendron	Gardenia actinocarpa	Grevillea pteridiifolia

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Gandini

Looks like we may be in for a warm wet winter - no doubt the effect of El Nino which will bring drought to other parts of Australia. The worst El Nino was in 1982-1983 when Australia experienced very severe drought, bushfires (Ash Wednesday) and extensive farm losses.

In normal years (La Nina) cold water travels up the Pacific coast of South America to the equator and crosses the Pacific from east to west getting warmer on the way and associating with the south east trade winds which in turn drag the water westwards. This causes an air circulation. The air warming as it reaches Australia (and Indonesia in particular) and rising above Indonesia to cross the Pacific from west to east then descending near Peru. This is called the Walker Circulation.

Fluctuations in the intensity of this circulation result in the Southern Oscillation, the strength of which is proportional to the difference in pressure between Indonesia and the eastern South Pacific. The Southern Oscillation Index is a measure of the pressure difference between Tahiti and Darwin. It is very high when the Indonesian pressure is low. This means the western Pacific is wet and dry stable conditions occur in South America. When the SOI is low, Indonesia is dry and South America warm and moist. When it is very low (negative) we have the infamous El Nino. Warm water occurs off Peru. The trade winds are less intense and there is a reduction in motion west across the Pacific. Upwelling of cold water off South America is reduced and sea temperatures rise as warm water moves easterly causing underlying cold water to sink deeply. This eastward spread occurs as pulses close to the equator taking 2 - 3 months to cross the ocean. The water level rises in the eastern Pacific and moves poleward.

So it is not all doom and gloom for us here in Cairns - we will still get some rain. But remember to remain water-wise or you will be paying for it with cold, hard cash. Did you get your excess water bill? **Now for some housekeeping.**

As we have no tuckerologist, it has been decided that everyone should take a turn at this noble profession. If you do not volunteer at meetings then victims will be chosen alphabetically. It is not a hard job. All it entails is taking home the cups for washing then bringing them back next meeting with a carton of milk and a couple of packets of biscuits unless you are a pastry cook (then you can bake a cake). If you cannot attend the meeting please arrange for someone else to do the job.

The plant raffles that raised a few dollars at meetings have failed by the wayside. Please try to grow a few seeds or cuttings so we can have raffles again. We don't all have the same plants in our gardens and you may have one that is desired by someone else.

We had to dip out of Tropical Garden Expo this year because of lack of plants and bodies to organise and set up the show. After seeing the displays that were low key this year in comparison to some of the previous spectaculars we could have easily set up our static show display. It was a missed opportunity to attract public interest.

Remember that the show set-up replaces the July meeting on Tuesday evening. Bring flowers, fruits, foliage and plants - anything that makes a display. Friends of the Botanic Gardens festival is Sunday 6 September. We will be having a stall and display. Please! Please! Start potting something. This is our only fund raising event and we need the money to pay the rent for our meetings. Remember that we pay for the plant you grow so you are not out of pocket. We really need some keen growers. Have a go!

Sunday 14 June is excursion day. Tony is taking us to a new area near Irvinebank and Watsonville. Meet at 10 am at the Tin Pannikin Museum at Herberton. We always have a great day. It is a chance to meet other people particularly Tableland members and it is an opportunity to learn some dry country plants.

May meeting was very interesting with our guest speaker telling us all about *Idiospermum australiense* one of the primitive flowering plants from the Daintree and also the Bellenden Ker ranges. If you know any potential guest speakers or you have talents, please come forward.

See you next meeting.

S.G.A.P.-Cairns Branch
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held Education Centre Tuesday, 17 March 1998

Present As per attendance book

Apologies As per attendance book

Meeting Opened 8pm

The minutes of the 1997 AGM were read. It was moved by Dusty Bennett that they be adopted, seconded by Tony Roberts. Carried.

**Business Arising from
1997 AGM**

Membership subscriptions to remain the same.

Rob Jago thanked all outgoing Committee Members and informed us he is unable to stand for re-election as Chairman. His 1998 Report will be submitted to be printed in the next Newsletter.

The Treasurer's Report was tabled.

Election of Office Bearers

Tony Roberts declared all positions were now vacant and new nominations were called for.

Chairperson: Mary Gandini nominated by Tony Roberts, seconded by Tony Lawless. Tony was elected Chairperson.

Vice Chairperson: Tony Lawless nominated by Val Clarke, seconded by Rob Jago. Tony was elected Vice Chairperson.

Secretary: Rob Jago nominated by Val Clarke, seconded by Jim Hill. Rob was elected Secretary.

Treasurer: Dusty Bennett nominated by Mary Gandini, seconded by Val Clarke. Dusty was elected Treasurer.

Librarian: Val Clarke nominated by Mary Gandini, seconded by Dusty Bennett. Val was elected Librarian.

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Collins nominated by Dusty Bennett, seconded by Mary Gandini. Barbara was elected Newsletter Editor.

Displays Co-Ordinator: Bianca Jago nominated by Tony Roberts, seconded by Barbara Collins. Bianca was elected Displays Co-Ordinator.

Guest Speaker: Mary Gandini nominated by Tony Roberts, seconded by Bianca Jago. Mary was elected Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator.

Publicist: Tony Lawless was nominated by Dusty Bennett, seconded by Mary Gandini. Tony was elected as Publicist.

Tuckerologist: ALL

General Business:

Mary welcomed new Committee Members

Business Arising:

Val is to order Butterfly book from Qld Region for resale - 20 books to be ordered

Combined outings with Tablelands Branch will be continued

Report on plantings at White Rock School, done in Memory of Helen Moody. All relevant parties thanked.

Visit to Chris Cobb's home (past Guest Speaker) to view orchids. Plant donated to Club Sale

Correspondence:

Mail tabled by Dusty.

Meeting Closed:

9 15pm

Guest Speaker - Rob Hinxman gave us part two of his Bush Food talks: with many books and slides to enhance his fruit and foliage display.

APOLOGY

We apologise for the missing newsletters for April and May. In April I was absent in Sydney to attend the 2nd National Shell Show. One of the asides was a visit to Barrington Tops outside Newcastle and a very pleasant walk through the giant Antarctic Beeches, Treeferns and the Burruga hanging swamp.

The new Office bearers are still finding their way, but we will eventually get the minutes reported, Rob's Presidents report and catch up on the outings and the guest speakers.

Barb Collins
