



SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
(QUEENSLAND REGION) INC

CAIRNS BRANCH
PO Box 199E
EARLVILLE Q 4870

NEWSLETTER

May 1997

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

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Guest Speaker/Publisist	Mary Gandini/ Tony Roberts	54-2190/ 55-1292
Tuckerologist	Des Boorman	45-2777
Assistant Tuckerologist	Denise Hooper/Michael Fabian	53-5403

NEXT MEETING - MAY 20

GUEST SPEAKER

Kim Morris - National Nursery Forum

will briefly discuss with SGAP the possibility of a display for the Tropical Garden Expo
at the Cairns Convention Centre

Gary Werren - NQ Joint Board

will present Consideration of plants for selection for revegetation in catchment
areas.

COMBINED TABLELAND AND CAIRNS SGAP OUTING

SUNDAY 18TH MAY

Meet at Tin Pannekin Museum Park - Herberton 10am

* Baal Gamon at Watsonville*



Guest Speaker - John Lane
Daintree Rescue Program

John is also on the board of the Wet Tropics Authority and came well prepared for an interesting and comprehensive delivery.

The Daintree is a unique wilderness area, an international tourist destination, and also a rural residential, pastoral and agricultural area. This requires unique management controls in order to preserve and protect unique flora and wildlife and the value as a visitor resource whilst providing both livelihood and recreation for residents. Basically the National Park area is bordered by the CREB track in the west to Bloomfield encompassing the coastline back to the Daintree river, high ranges with altitudes of 1374m and lowland rainforest.

The region suffers from habitat fragmentation, feral pigs and domestic animals, visitor impact (the area is visited by some 300,000 people each year) traffic and pest weeds.

The pond apple which overran waterways is one that was targeted for eradication.

The "Buy Back" program was introduced as land had been subdivided and sold as residential lots and was an attempt by the Government to restore wildlife corridors and to repurchase strategic blocks by voluntary resumption. It was important to preserve as much habitat and restore large degraded areas to a more pristine state. Protection of Cassowary habitat was paramount.

The program also provides for advice to landholders for planning, earthworks, botanical and heritage values, pig trapping, revegetating and rehabilitating degraded areas.

John produced a map of the categorisation of vegetation patterns dictated by altitude, rainfall and soil types.

The program also provides for vegetation audits on freehold properties and liaises with the Dept of Environment in relation to visitor sites - upgrading roads, pathways and walking tracks, toilet facilities and picnic areas, car parking and interpretive strategies.

Twelve of the world's 19 primitive plant families are found here. **Austrobaileya scandens** has a waxy flower to attract beetle pollinators. There are lots of epiphytes, orchids and ferns and palm forests of **Licuala ramsayi**. More than 20 species of Mangrove inhabit the river estuaries and forests of paperbark **Melaleuca leucadendra** are common in the swamps and also groves of **Dillenia alata**.

The Rescue Program has purchased 100 hectares of forest bordering Noah Creek where at least 26 rare plants are found and our largest remaining stand on rainforest on beach sand.

Editorial
Barb Collins

Thanks to the members who donated plants for the raffle, rambutans for us all to share - the piklets and jam for supper and our hardworking Secretary Debbie, Librarian Val and President Rob and Tony who got all the essence of this newsletter to me for this issue.

Meeting News: April

Your 1997 fees are also now due and payable !

The April meeting had a good turn up of 13 members - Apologies from Trudi Roberts.

Guest Speaker - John Lane: Program Manager of Daintree Rescue Organisation

Tony Roberts advised that his guide book for **Gondwanaland** had been submitted to the Botanical Gardens.

White Rock School project - Memorial for Helen. The area is ready for landscaping and SGAP will plant.

Cairns Show - SGAP will participate in July.

Tropical Garden Expo - Participation was initially deemed too expensive and members were divided about benefits and presence there at the Cairns Convention Centre. This issue will be further discussed.

Outing - Val gave an account of the day in Innisfail at Warrina Lakes

Display - Flowers brought in by Bianca included *Syzygium oleosum*, this very pretty shrub was a form from Hinchinbrook Isl which had attractive red stems and small dark leaves - *Dianella caerulea*, *Lagerstroemia archerana*, *Phaleria octandra*, *Gardenia scabrella* and *Orthosiphon aristatus*.

Rob had red flowers from *Strongylodon ruber* from Cape Tribulation.

April Flowerings

<i>Lagerstroemia archerana</i>	<i>Callistemon polandii</i> (Cape Flattery)
<i>Gardenia scabrella</i>	<i>Orthosiphon aristatus</i> <i>Phaleria octandra</i>
<i>Dendrobium bibibbum</i>	<i>Xanthorrhoea pumilio</i>

Hitchhiking Shell

One of Nature's oddities is the manner in which a species organises its dispersal.... small marine bivalve molluscs caused some excitement when discovered in 1988 by oceanographic research vessel Franklin trawling off NSW in 1600m. These **Mytilids** were 'sprouting' from the fibrous end of *Nypa fruticans*. Other examples were trawled from over 2000m further east into the Qld trough. *Nypa* palm nuts float for considerable periods and have been found off central Japan. Another research vessel "Kapala" trawling in 1000 m off Ulladulla NSW brought aboard a coconut *Cocos nucifera* bearing 2 species of shells. In both cases the host nuts were far from their existing range.

Street Flowerings

Everyone must have noticed the spectacular flowering of Golden Penda in the streets of Cairns - it has been proclaimed Cairns' floral emblem.

The Cairns Post, Friday, May 9, 1997 - Page 11



Cairns' golden emblem

A NATIVE flowering tree that has brought the city's streets to life with its brilliant yellow blossoms in recent weeks has been adopted as the new floral emblem of the greater Cairns area.

The Golden Penda, which was the emblem of the former Mulgrave shire before its amalgamation with Cairns city in 1995, has been chosen over the Torch Ginger, which has been the city's emblem.

The choice was unanimously endorsed at Monday's general council meeting after the issue was raised by Cr Bob Burgess.

Flecker Botanic Gardens curator David Warrington yesterday said the Golden Penda, a rainforest species, was possibly the most spectacular of the Far North's native trees.

FLOWER power... the city's new floral emblem, the Golden Penda, is admired by Friends of the Botanic Gardens member Coralie Stuart. The Friends of the Botanic Gardens will hold a fundraising plant cent sale at the gardens tomorrow from 10am to 2pm. Picture: Michael Watt

Field Trip - Warrina Lakes

Val Clarke

We had a very enjoyable day and we were lucky to dodge the showers. It was however very wet underfoot.

We had morning tea in the large undercover function centre then strolled (SGAP pace) along the paths, off the paths and around the man made lakes.

Xanthostemon chrysanthus was in bloom, fringe water lily *Nymphoides indica* and bladder wort *Utricularia gibba*.

Pandanus monticola was fruiting. Other trees included *Grevillea baileyana*, *Normanbya normanbyi*, *Syzygium fibrosum*; *S. wilsonii* spp *wilsonii*; *S. forte* and *S. papyraceum*; *Castanospermum australe*; *Ficus benjamina*; *Deplanchea tetraphylla*; *Acemena smithii*, *Meliocope elleryana*; *Neolitsea dealbata*; *Acmena hemilamora*; *Omplanthus novo-guineensis* and *Podocarpus greyii*.

At lunch break we tried Jean Long's jam. This was made from Herbert River Cherries - *Antidesma bunius* that Rob Hinxman had brought to the March meeting. It was a lovely deep red colour and quite tangy to taste.

After lunch we walked through the Bill Markwell Botanical Gardens.

Facilities

Warrina Lakes For your enjoyment

Covering approximately 50 hectares, just minutes away from the heart of Innisfail, the Warrina Lakes complex has so much to offer.

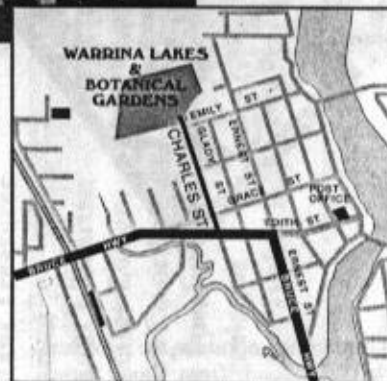
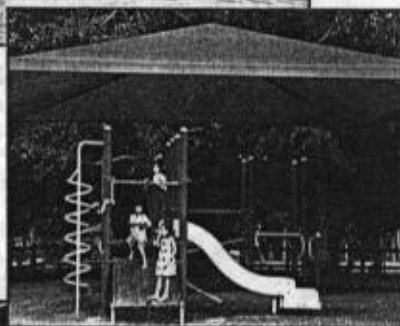
Man-made lakes, playing areas, shaded children's play area, landscaped swimming pool and spa, gas barbecues and gazebos dotted throughout the complex provide ideal settings for relaxation.

Centrepiece is a large, attractively designed timber Function Centre. This entertainment area contains a kiosk, kitchen, bar, toilets, seating and raised stage.

The Function Centre is available for hire and is ideally suited for events such as weddings, meetings, parties, concerts.

Boccé and volleyball equipment is also available for hire.

The complex is interlaced with walkways, meandering through open parkland, lakes, wooded areas and rainforest trails. All this is backdropped by majestic Mount Bartle Frere, Queensland's highest mountain.



Graphically Speaking, Innisfail

Open 7 days a week
Monday to Friday 9am to 6.30pm
Weekends and Public Holidays 10am to 6.30pm

For bookings and enquiries contact
Customer Services at the Johnstone Shire Council
Phone: (070) 30 2222

Warrina Lakes

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A joint project by
Wet Tropics Management Authority
and
Johnstone Shire Council

WET TROPICS  WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Walking Trails & Facilities