



*Society for Growing Australian Plants
Cairns Branch*

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No 258

March, 2026

President Stuart Worboys
Vice President Rob Jago
Secretary Tony Roberts
Secretary@sgapcairns.org.au

Treasurer Val Carnie
Webmaster Tony Roberts
Librarian Coralie Stuart
Newsletter Editor Pauline Lawie
lawiepm@gmail.com



Apart from the coffee and decadent accompaniments the following minutes encapsulate a Report of February's meeting. Our next meeting is our AGM. More on that follows.

Although these minutes were sent to all Branch members, as was agreed to at the February meeting, they and other information is included here to ensure those present at this month's meeting are up to speed.

February 2026 Meeting SGAP Cairns -Limberlost Nursery - Freshwater 15 Feb 2026

Present: William Cadman, Sandy Watts, Pauline Lawie, Helen Lawie, Stuart Worboys, Val Carnie, Rachel Platte, Rob and Bianca Jago, Trudi and Tony Roberts.

Apologies: Patsy Penny, Liz Lovatt, Tina Redmond.

Meeting Minutes. Stuart opened the meeting at 10.52

Monthly Excursions: Discussed if monthly excursions to remain on 3rd Sunday of the month. Agreed that the current day, 3rd Sunday of the month was still preferred.

Monthly Excursions: Discussed if monthly excursions should commence earlier, suggestion was 10am.

Agreed to trial 10.00 start for excursions. It was agreed that any superfluous activities should cease at this time to allow the activity to commence on time.

Cooktown 2026: Agreed to commit to Cooktown on the weekend of 10-12July. (Ed. More later)

Bimonthly Wednesday evening Meetings (Stratford): Suggested that programmed meetings be ceased and instead trial ad-hoc meetings when opportunities arise.

Agreed to trial Ad-hoc meetings. Suggested presenters: Barry Muir, Cadel Boyce and Barry Jago.

Marketing and Promotions: Discussed current Facebook presence and the perceived need for a Marketing and Promotions focussed Committee Member to regularly contribute to Social Media with Branch information. Also considered, providing a plant identification service on Facebook. Discussed presence on a broader range social media platforms including Instagram.

Actions: Tony to add Rachel as administrator of Facebook Group, Rachel to create Instagram Account and add contributors.

Welcome Letter and Flier: Discussed printing Flier on glossy paper and distributing

Actions: Tony to forward electronic versions to Stuart and Rachel, Rachel to print, Val to coordinate distribution. (Need to delegate purchase of glossy paper)

Meeting Minutes: Agreed to send meeting minutes to all members once agreed correct by committee.

Cairns Garden Club Request: Discussed SGAP Cairns continued sponsorship of special prize and request from Cairns Garden Club. "Is SGAP willing to change Class 22099 to read "Any Other Native Shrub, Tree or Vine in Flower or Fruit"?"

Agreed to continue sponsorship and the rewording of Class 22099.

Treasurer's Report: Val presented her report. Discussed banking information requests to validate our accounts.

Agreed Branch commenced 19th March 1980. (Ed. Required by Bank)

Excursions 2026:

Mar: AGM Brinsmead 10.00 - Tony

Apr: Property at Mareeba - Rachel

May: Boulders - Rob

Jun: Irvinebank/Stannery Hills – Stu (proposed joint excursion with Tablelands Branch)

Jul: Cooktown – Stu (proposed joint excursion with Tablelands Branch)

Aug: Harvey Creek - Rachel

Sep: Daintree - Stu

Oct: Stratford Nursery – Tony (Melanie)

Nov: Mason Street – Paul Theuson - Tony

Dec: Christmas Party at Edge Hill Bowls Club (06Dec)

Meeting Closed 12.22

Details of where to meet and when for the Boulders and Cooktown outings conclude this newsletter.



Branch Meeting Sunday, 15 March, 2026, AGM

Branch Meeting Sunday, 10.00 a.m. 15th March 2026, AGM, to be held at the home of Trudi and Tony Roberts at 5 McCarthy Close, Brinsmead. Our hosts will then make their home available for a barbecue lunch* and a dip in their pool. Parking on McCarthy Close could be limited, however there is plenty of parking nearby. Do NOT park on the footpath, PLEASE. *Food for the BBQ will be supplied, so if you are

coming please bring a share plate of salad or sweets to complement the BBQ and forward an RSVP and any dietary requirements to secretary@sgapcairns.org.au

The minutes of our last AGM are included here to facilitate the smooth running of the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAIRNS BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

Date: 16 March 2025

Venue: Mulgrave Settlers Museum, Gordonvale

Members Present: Helen Lawie, Rachel Platte, Val Carnie, Bianca Jago, Tony Roberts, Rob Jago, Stuart Worboys.

Visitors: Tina Marton, Peter Radke, Renee Vertuato.

Apologies: Patsy Penny, Pauline Lawie, Colwyn Campbell, Kate Barnes, Trudi Roberts.

Meeting Opened: Welcome by President Stuart Worboys.

Minutes of the Last AGM: The minutes of the last AGM of the Cairns Branch of SGAP held on 17 March 2024 were summarised by Helen Lawie. H Lawie moved that the minutes be accepted as read; seconded by Tony Roberts.

Chair's Report: S Worboys presented a summary of excursions in the past year. He gave thanks to Val Carnie for role as Treasurer, H Lawie for role as secretary, and Pauline Lawie for role as newsletter editor. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Val Carnie presented the Treasurer's report. Bank statements of our accounts were circulated and balances noted. A summary of Income and Expenses to 28 February was circulated. V Carnie thanked the members and H Lawie in her role as secretary.

Bank Account: \$1320.57

Term Deposit: \$6007.22

Term Deposit has benefited from the changes made and interest earned was improved. The annual date of maturation has changed to 24 April.

V Carnie moved that Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by H Lawie.

Election of New Committee: S Worboys, Branch Chair for 2024 declared all positions vacant. Tina Marton called for nominations to fill vacant positions.

Chair: S Worboys nominated S Worboys. T Roberts seconded the nomination with all members voting in favour.

Vice Chair: T Roberts nominated R Jago. H Lawie seconded the nomination with all members voting in favour.

Treasurer: V Carnie nominated V Carnie. S Worboys seconded the nomination with all members voting in favour.

Secretary: H Lawie nominated T Roberts. Bianca Jago seconded the nomination with all members voting in favour.

Newsletter Editor: P Lawie nominated herself with all members voting in favour.

Web Master: Tony Roberts nominated himself with all members voting in favour.

Executive Committee for 2025

Chair: Stuart Worboys Phone: email: worboys1968@yahoo.com.au

Vice Chair: Robert Jago Phone: 4055 2266 email: robert.jago1@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Val Carnie

Secretary: Tony Roberts Phone: 4055 1292 email: secretary@sgapcairns.org.au

Newsletter Editor: Pauline Lawie Phone: 4067 1577 email: lawiepm@gmail.com

Web Master: Tony Roberts Phone: 4055 1292 email: travelling_botanist@yahoo.com.au

General Business:

Decided quorum for AGM: quorum for AGM will be 25% of members, inclusive of 2 members of the previous executive. Moved by S Worboys, seconded by V Carnie.

Decided for contingency reasons an additional signatory should be added for bank accounts: Current signatories are R Jago and V Carnie, who will stay on. T Marton asked if Stuart Worboys would like to be added as a signatory, and he accepted. Thereby three members will be signatories for the accounts (as noted below), with any two members to sign. Moved by H Lawie, seconded by V Carnie.

Action required: V Carnie to investigate and advise process to add S Worboys on as signatory to the following accounts with online access:

Westpac Community Solutions One BSB 034 -167 Acc 850 790

Westpac Term Deposit acc BSB 034-167 Acc 544400

Branch Membership: No change to annual branch fees, \$10/household. Moved by H Lawie, seconded by V Carnie.

Web Fees: Fees for domain name, hosting of website. Agreement V Carnie to kindly pay them and be reimbursed, as per the payment cycle. (We continue to be very grateful for the care Val takes with this, and each treasury task conducted on behalf of SGAP Cairns. HL)

Facebook: Cairns branch indeed does have a Facebook page. Discussion regarding algorithmic requirements. T Roberts and S Worboys currently contributors. H Lawie to be added.

Meeting closed: Chair S Worboys declared the meeting closed at 1.45pm.

Minute taker: Helen Lawie



The following information is from the constitution of our Branch

Committee Members' Responsibilities

President: • Chair ordinary meetings.

- Cast the deciding vote in a tied vote.
- Prepare an Annual Report of Branch activities and submit it to the Regional Secretary before the 31st March.

Vice President: • Fulfil the roll of the Chair in their absence.

Treasurer: • Table a Financial Statement of the Branch at ordinary meetings.

- Prepare an annual Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and table it at the branch AGM.
- Maintain a register of financial members from year to year.

Secretary: • Keep meeting minutes and table said minutes at the following meeting.

- Collect correspondence and action as necessary.
- Compose and distribute correspondence as required by the committee.
- Advise the Regional Bulletin Editor of the times, places and, if possible, subject matter of meetings for publication in the Native Plants Queensland Journal.
- Upon election of the new committee, notify the Regional Secretary of the names and contact details of those elected, by post, email or fax.

Newsletter editor: • Liaise with Treasurer to keep membership up to date.

- Timely publication of Newsletter.
- Forward newsletter to Queensland branch.
- Write articles for the Native Plants Queensland Journal and forward them to the editor.

Webmaster: • Keep the website current; newsletters, calendar, committee etc

- Periodically check functionality of the entire site and repair any problems, broken links etc.
- Maintain secretary@sgapcairns.org.au forwarding



Opportunity to learn more about Cycads

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Friends of the Botanic Gardens Cairns will be hosting speaker Cadel Boyce, who will discuss "Conservation of Cycads in North Queensland". The talk commences at 7 p.m. at the Botanic Gardens Visitors Centre in Collins Avenue, Edge Hill. Admission is \$10.

NPQ Cairns and Tablelands Branches - Opportunities for joint activities in 2026

Stuart Worboys

Right from their inception, nearly 50 years ago, the Tablelands and Cairns Branches of Native Plants Queensland have maintained a friendly working relationship. Nowhere is this more obvious than in our joint annual working parties at Cooktown Botanic Gardens. Mostly our individual branches stay local, but it's worth remembering that our membership of the State organisation gives us reciprocal rights, and the ability to participate in the activities of branches outside of our own.

Last weekend, Tablelands branch took a trip out to Watsonville, and I tagged along to check out the Tablelands flora, and discuss possibilities for joint activities this year (already mentioned at our last Cairns Branch meeting). The following is a list of suggested activities for this year.

There are joint activities, but also Tablelands has kindly invited Cairns branch members to join their Quaid Road trip in March and the Chillagoe trip in April.

Please confirm your attendance with Peter Radke pandaradke@gmail.com (Tablelands

excursions) or with Tony Roberts secretary@sgapcairns.org.au (Cairns excursions).

Sunday 29 March Tablelands Branch

Tablelands Branch to drive the Quaid Road, stopping to look at vegetation communities along the way. The drive ends at Hartley's Creek Crocodile Farm, only a short drive from home for Cairns members. Meet 10 a.m. at Mareeba Information Centre. Contact Peter Radke (pandaradke@gmail.com) for more information.

Sunday 19 April Cairns Branch

Property at Mareeba

Sunday 26 April Tablelands Branch

Tablelands NPQ to venture to Chillagoe. Contact Peter Radke (pandaradke@gmail.com) for more information.

Sunday 17 May Joint Cairns/Tablelands

excursion to Babinda Boulders. Meet 10 a.m. at the picnic ground carpark, near the toilets.

Sunday 21 June Joint Cairns/Tablelands

excursion to Stannary Hills and Irvinebank. Meet 10 a.m. at Darby Camp Children's Park, William Street, Herberton.

Friday 10 July to Sunday 12 July

Joint Cairns/Tablelands activity.

Cooktown Botanic Gardens annual working party. Dates are locked in with Curator, Nikko Menzel. I will work with Nikko to confirm campsites and with Brandan Espe in Townsville to request rare Cape York plants for planting. I understand *Neofabricia myrtifolia* plants are also on the list.