

Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region Inc)

Cairns
PO Box 199
Earlville QLD 4870

Newsletter No. 103
September 2010

Society Office Bearers

<i>Chairperson</i>	Tony Roberts	4055 1292
<i>Vice Chairperson</i>	Mary Gandini	4054 2190
<i>Secretary</i>	David Warmington	4044 3398
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<i>Library</i>	David Warmington	For loan of publications, contact David during business hours on 4044 3398.

Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region- Renewal \$30.00, New Members \$35, each additional member of household \$2.00 Student - Renewal \$20 New Members \$25.00, Cairns Branch Fees - \$10.00 Full Year

Dates to remember

Cairns Branch Meetings and Excursions – third Saturday of each month. Website - www.sgapqld.org.au/cairns.html

NEXT MEETING AND EXCURSION: 18 September – Upper Harvey Creek.

16 October - Barron Falls Boardwalk, Kuranda.

Tablelands Branch – Meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the QCWA hall, Tolga. Excursions on the Sunday following the meeting. Website - www.sgapqld.org.au/tablelands.html

NEXT MEETING AND EXCURSION: 26 September Mt Lewis (weather dependent).

Any queries please contact Chris Jaminon 4095 2882 or hjaminon@bigpond.com

Townsville Branch - Meets on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November, in Annandale Community Centre at 8pm. Excursions the Sunday following the meeting. Website - www.sgaptownsville.org.au/

Any queries please contact John Elliot: jw-elliott@aapt.net.au.

Crystal Ball

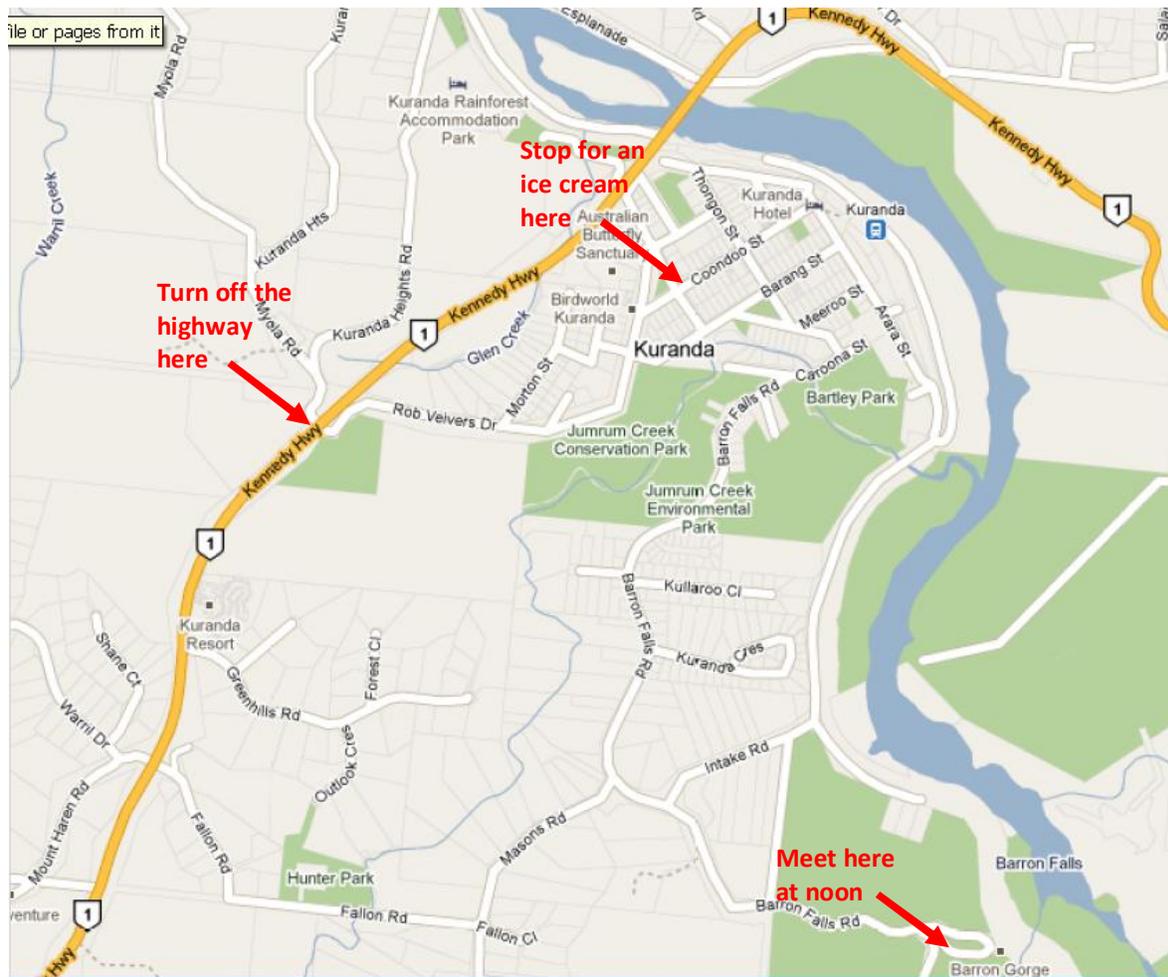
November – Ellie Point

December – Botanic Gardens

October

Meet at the Barron Falls Lookout Carpark (Kuranda) at 12 noon on Saturday 16 October. If you're unsure of directions, see the map on the following page.

October Excursion - Barron Falls Lookout Carpark. How to get there.



News flashes

Banks and Solander garden at the Flecker Botanic Gardens. SGAP hope to collect plants for this garden from the area around Cape Grafton visited by Banks and Solander. David Warmington has sought the assistance of the Yarrabah Council in organising this, and is currently awaiting a reply concerning a visit to the Yarrabah DOGIT area. It is hoped that a reconnaissance trip will be organised later this year, with a more formal collecting trip following on from this.

Sandy Lloyd is now curator of the Cooktown Botanic Gardens.

Stuart Worboys, as part of his work with the Australian Tropical Herbarium, is currently running a series of plant identification workshops. The aim of these workshops is to teach the skills needed for rainforest plant identification, and to familiarise people with the new sixth edition of the CSIRO Key to Rainforest Plants. More details can be obtained from Stuart, or online at alumni.jcu.edu.au/SSLPage.aspx?pid=362.

Following on from our annual working bee at the Cooktown Botanic Gardens in June, Pauline and Don received a letter from the Cook Shire CEO, reproduced on the following page.

Don and Pauline Lawie
PO Box 230
BABINDA QLD 4861

Dear Don and Pauline,

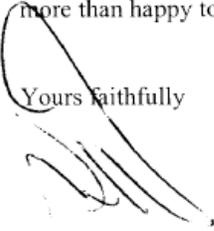
Thank you for your letter dated June 30th last year. Firstly, let me apologise that a reply has taken so long. It seems that your letter arrived during the period between one parks supervisor leaving and the appointment of the current one.

I am pleased to hear that the gardens staff have been both enthusiastic and helpful. I understand that your most recent visit, in June this year, was also success and that a number of new plants were added to the collection, in addition to your assistance with various other tasks within the gardens.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all the members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants for the contribution you have made to Cooktown's Botanic Gardens over the years. I know that the staff value your input and your knowledge, and look forward to the association continuing into the future.

If you need a point of contact regarding future visits or other matters relating to the Botanic Gardens, I know that the Parks and Gardens Supervisor, Jim Doidge would be more than happy to liaise with you, phone 4069 5672 or 4069 5444.

Yours faithfully


Stephen Wilton
Chief Executive Officer

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Melaleuca fluviatilis Barlow

Common Name: River Tea Tree

Etymology: The species epithet is derived from the Latin word *fluviatilis*, which means pertaining to rivers

Melaleuca fluviatilis is an attractive tree to 30 metres tall with a stem to 90 centimetres diameter at breast height; bark papery; foliage with a conspicuous weeping habit, new growth silver-grey becoming greyish – green with age. Leaves 45 – 180 mm. long, 5 - 19 mm. wide, both surfaces hairy when young, becoming glabrous with age; Inflorescence a spike (bottlebrush) of 8-18 well-spaced triads, spike up to 40 mm. dia. & to 100 mm. long, stamens 3-9 per bundle, 10-19 mm. long, green, cream, white or yellow.





west of Dimbulah but extends east to Mareeba.

Notes: This large fast growing tree is suitable for use in amenity plantings in suitable soils in situations where its size and large spreading surface roots will not cause problems. An avenue of this species can be viewed at the northern end of Oliva Street, Palm Cove. *Melaleuca fluviatilis* is often confused with *Melaleuca argentea*, which has persistent hairy silvery foliage and shorter stamens.

References: Craven, L.A. & Barlow, B.A.; New Combinations in *Melaleuca* (Myrtaceae); *Novon* 7:113-119 (1997).

R.L. Jago

Distribution: Endemic to Queensland from Cape York Peninsular south to Gladstone west to Croydon & Forest Den National Park near Torrens Creek and Biloela, usually in riparian situations. Common along streams to the

August trip report

Our August excursion took us to Redden Island in the Barron Delta, a low sandy isle made up of and mangrove muds, located at the far southern end of Cinderella Street, Machans Beach, the island is covered by woodland, and has been set aside as a reserve by the Cairns Port Authority.

About eight of us partook of lunch before heading into the reserve for our walk, including Bob Jago, Barbara Collins, Mary Gandini, Pauline and Don Lawie, and David Warmington. We were also fortunate to be joined by David Slatyer, a Machans Beach local and member of "Friends of Redden Island". We were briefly distracted on this walk by a happy successful fisherman who was hefting a huge barramundi, well over a metre in length. We wished him well and proceeded onwards.



Near the entrance we noted plantings which unfortunately included a number of species not endemic to the island (although they were Wet Tropics endemics). We followed a path that took us across the island to the Barron River, then up the middle through *Corymbia tessellaris* woodland.

Keen-eyed Mary was the first to spot orchids – a mass of flowering golden orchids *Dendrobium discolor* in the fork of a *Corymbia tessellaris*. Further on, we came across a patch of *Melaleuca leucadendra*-dominated woodland where we were able to see dozens of ant plants and tea-tree orchids (*Dendrobium foelschei*) close up (see photo). Later, we wandered off track to poke around some mangroves (the tide was out), and were able to see dozens of leafless, spider-like *Chiloschista phyllorhiza* clinging to the rough bark of the mangroves with their photosynthetic roots.

Unfortunately none were in flower at the time of our visit. On the other side of the mangroves we found ourselves in a small area of littoral rainforest. Whilst wandering through here we were able to add a few species Bob had not previously recorded for the island. Bob's list is attached to the end of this newsletter, with new species underlined.

Next month's trip is to upper Harvey Creek. Don and Pauline Lawie have arranged access to a property on the northern banks of the creek. Lying on the footslopes of Queensland's second highest mountain and in one of Australia's wettest locality, this promises to be a diverse and beautiful patch of rainforest.

Redden Island Species List (R.L. Jago)

Species found on this trip, but not previously recorded, are underlined.

FERNS & ALLIES

Adiantaceae

Cheilanthes tenuifolia Rock Fern

Polypodiaceae

Drynaria rigidula Basket Fern

Drynaria sparsisora

Platyserium hillii Northern Elkhorn Fern

GYMNOSPERMS

Cycadaceae

Cycas media subsp. *banksii* Cycad Palm

FLOWERING PLANTS- DICOTYLEDONS

Aizoaceae

Sesuvium portulacastrum Sea Purslane

Anacardiaceae

Buchania arborescens

Euroschinus falcatus var. *falcatus* Blush Cudgerie or Pink
Poplar

Pleiogynium timorensis Burdekin Plum

Semecarpus australiensis

Annonaceae

Polyalthia nitidissima Canary Beech

Apocynaceae

Alyxia spicata Chain Fruit

Alstonia muelleriana Hard Milkwood

**Catharanthus roseus* Periwinkle

Cynanchum carnosum

Dischidia nummularia Button Orchid

Gymnanthera oblonga Harpoon Bud

Ichnocarpus frutescens

Secamone elliptica Corky Milk Vine

Tabernaemontana orientalis Eastern Gondola Bush

Araliaceae

Polyscias elegans Celerywood

Asteraceae

**Emilia sonchifolia*

Epaltes australis

**Praxelis clematidea*

Pterocaulon sphacelatum

**Sphagneticola trilobata*

**Tridax procumbens*

Emilia

Praxelis

Singapore Daisy

Tridax Daisy

Burseraceae

Canarium australianum var. *australianum* Scrub Turpentine

Caesalpiniaceae

Caesalpinia bonduc

Nicker Nit

**Cassia fistula*

Cynometra iripa

Wrinkle Pod Mangrove

Capparaceae

Capparis lucida

Coastal Caper

Celastraceae

Elaeodendron melanocarpum

Black Olive Plum

Maytenus fasciculiflora

Cleomaceae

**Cleome aculeata*

Chenopodiaceae

Suaeda australis

Combretaceae

Lumnitzera racemosa

*White Flowered Black
Mangrove*

Terminalia arenicola

Beach Almond

Terminalia muelleri

Little Sea Almond

Convolvulaceae

Evolvulus alsinoides

Tropical speedwell

Ipomoea pes-caprae

Goat's Foot Morning Glory

Merremia dissecta

**Merremia quinquefolia*

Cucurbitaceae

Diplocyclos palmatus

Ebenaceae

Diospyros compacta

Australian Ebony

Euphorbiaceae

Antidesma bunius

Red Kamala

Mallotus philippensis

Microstachys chamaela

Fabaceae

Dalbergia candenatensis

Dalbergia

Derris trifoliata

Coastal Derris

Milletia pinnata

Pongamia

Vigna marina

Dune Bean

Zornia dyctiocarpa var. *filifolia*

Flacourtiaceae

Scolopia braunii Flintwood

Lamiaceae

Anisomeles malabarica

Clerodendrum inerme

Clerodendrum longiflorum

**Hyptis suaveolens* Hyptis

Premna serratifolia

Lauraceae

Cassytha filiformis Dodder laurel

Lecythidaceae

Planchonia careya Cocky Apple

Loranthaceae

Amyema conspicuum

Lythraceae

Sonneratia alba Pornupan Mangrove

Malvaceae

Hibiscus meraukensis

Hibiscus tiliaceus Cottonwood

Thespesia populnea Pacific Rosewood

Meliaceae

Aglia elaeagnoidea Coastal Boodyarra

Melia azedarach White Cedar

Xylocarpus granatum Cannonball Mangrove

Xylocarpus moluccensis Cedar Mangrove

Memecylaceae

Memecylon pauciflorum

Menispermaceae

Stephania japonica

Mimosaceae

Acacia crassicarpa Brown Wattle

Acacia flavescens Red Wattle

Acacia leptocarpa Swamp Wattle

Acacia mangium

Acacia oraria Coastal Wattle

Acacia polystachya Ellis Beach Wattle

Moraceae

Ficus opposita Sandpaper Fig

Myrsinaceae

Aegiceris corniculatum River Mangrove

Myrtaceae

Corymbia clarksoniana Clarkson's Bloodwood

Corymbia tessellaris Moreton Bay Ash

Eugenia reinwardtiana Beach Cherry

Lithomyrtus obtusa Beach Myrtle

Melaleuca dealbata Red Tea Tree

Melaleuca leucadendra Tea Tree

Rhodomyrtus macrocarpa Finger Cherry

Cultivated *Syzygium forte* subsp. *forte*

Oleaceae

Chionanthus ramiflora Northern Olive

Jasminum elongatum Native Jasmin

Jasminum simplicifolium subsp. *australiense* Native Jasmin

Opiliaceae

Cansjera leptostachya

Passifloraceae

**Passiflora foetida* Stinking Passion Fruit

Phyllanthaceae

Breynia cernua Fart Tree

Flueggea virosa subsp. *melanthesoides* White Currant

Glochidion benthamianum Bentham's Buttonwood

Glochidion harveyanum var. *harveyanum* Harvey's

Buttonwood

Phyllanthus virgatus

Polygalaceae

**Polygala paniculata*

Portulacaceae

**Portulaca pilosa* subsp. *pilosa* Coastal Pigweed

Proteaceae

Persoonia falcata Northern Geebung

Putranjivaceae

Drypetes deplanchei Grey Boxwood

Rhamnaceae

Alphitonia excelsa Red Ash

Colubrina asiatica var. *asiatica* Serpent Vine

Rhamnella vitiensis

Rhizophoraceae

Bruguiera gymnorhiza Orange Mangrove

Rhizophora stylosa Stilt Mangrove

Rubiaceae

Aidia racemosa Archer Cherry

Atractocarpus fitzalanii subsp. *fitzalanii* Brown Gardenia

Cyclophyllum multiflorum Marko

Myrmecodia beccarii Ant Plant

Tarenna dallachiana subsp. *dallachiana* Tree Ixora

Rutaceae

Micromelum minutum

Santalaceae

Exocarpos latifolius Native Cherry

Sapindaceae

Allophylus cobbe

Cupaniopsis anacardioides Tuckeroo

Dodonaea lanceolata var. *subsessilifolia*

Ganophyllum falcatum

Guioa acutifolia Glossy Tamarind

Jagera pseudorhus var. *pseudorhus* Foambark

Sapotaceae

Mimusops elengi Red Coondoo

Pouteria obovata Yellow Boxwood

Solanaceae

**Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*

Sparrmanniaceae

Grewia retusifolia

**Triumfetta rhomboidea* Chinese Burr

Sterculiaceae

Heritiera littoralis Looking Glass Mangrove

Sterculia quadrifida Peanut tree

Thymeleaceae

Wikstroemia indica

Ulmaceae

Celtis paniculata Silky Celtis

Verbenaceae

**Stachytarpheta cayennensis* *Snakeweed*

Violaceae

Hybanthus enneaspermus

Vitaceae

Ampelocissus acetosa *Native Grape*

FLOWERING PLANTS- MONOCOTYLEDONS

Amaryllidaceae

Crinum angustifolium

Crinum pedunculatum *Swamp Lily*

Proiphys amboinensis *Cardwell Lily*

Commelinaceae

Commelina ensifolia *Sailor's Purse*

Cyperaceae

Cyperus bulbosus

Cyperus javanicus

Cyperus pedunculatus *Pineapple Sedge*

Cyperus scaber

Fimbristylis ferruginea

Dioscoreaceae

Dioscorea bulbifera *Cheeky Yam*

Dracaenaceae

**Sansevieria trifasciata* *Mother-in-laws Tongue*

Flagellariaceae

Flagellaria indica *Supplejack*

Hemerocallidaceae

Dianella caerulea var. *vannata* *Blue Flax Lily*

Orchidaceae

Chiloschista phyllorhiza

Dendrobium discolor *Golden Orchid*

Dockrillia teretifolia *Pencil Orchid*

Geodorum densiflorum *Pink Shepherd's Crook*

Pandanaceae

Pandanus cookii *Cook's Pandan*

Poaceae

Allopteroopsis semialata *Cockatoo Grass*

Capillipedium spicigerum *Scented Top Grass*

**Cenchrus echinatus* *Mossman Grass*

Cynodon dactylon *Mangrove Couch*

Eragrostis spartinoides

Eriachne pallescens

Heteropogon triticeus

Imperata cylindrica *Blady Grass*

**Melinis repens* *Red Natal Grass*

**Sporobolus jacquemontii*

Sporobolus virginicus *Saltwater Couch*

Whiteochloa airoides

Taccaceae

Tacca leontopetaloides *Native Arrowroot*