

SGAP Cairns

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Newsletter 126

Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc., Cairns Branch
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Christmas Breakup

WHAT: SGAP CAIRNS BRANCH CHRISTMAS BREAKUP

WHERE: THE OLD VISITOR'S CENTRE, FLECKER BOTANIC GARDENS

WHEN: MIDDAY, SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2012

WHAT TO BRING: A PLATE TO SHARE

Upcoming Activities

SGAP CAIRNS BRANCH
OUTING

3rd Saturday of the month

Christmas breakup at Flecker Botanic Gardens. Meet at midday (not the usual 10 am).

SGAP TABLELANDS BRANCH
OUTING.

*Sunday after the 4th
Wednesday*

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

TOWNVILLE SGAP

Meets on the 2nd
Wednesday of the month,
February to November, in
Annandale Community
Centre at 8pm, and holds
excursions the following
Sunday.

The humidity's rising and the dry heat of October is giving way to storms and showers. Christmas must be on the way!

This year's Christmas breakup will be held behind the old Visitor's Centre at the Flecker Botanic Gardens in Edge Hill. For those that have not been there before, enter through the gate on McCormack St, and walk through into the nursery area. There's a map of the site in the last page of the newsletter. We'll be gathered in the under-cover area.



Starting at midday, the plan is to start off with a regular meeting, then have lunch. If people are interested, I can show some photographs of flora and landscapes from my recent trip to southern Spain. Weather permitting, we'll finish off the afternoon with a walk over to the Banks and Solander garden near Centenary Lakes.

September excursion report

Barbara Collins and Liz Lovett

We had a very interesting SGAP at Ann's place at Kamerunga, even though there was only four of us visiting. We were fortunate to have Rob's expertise though and over morning tea he gave us a fascinating insight to few particular plants with amazing characteristics, and remarkably some very late discoveries by renowned botanists. After a quick circuit of

Ann's planted garden, we headed up the hill past some old gold mine workings on the slope, where there were a couple of plateaus carved out with views of the surrounding Freshwater valley and northwards to the coast. The spur we were on was nestled between two gullies which run during the wet. As conditions were particularly dry from an absence of regular rain over several months there was a thick carpet of dry leaves, so any progress became a scramble in the steeper parts.

Back down the hill and after a later than usual lunch, we again toured Ann's garden and Rob explained the seeds and flowers of the rampant herb that doubled as ground cover on the front lawn.



Lying down on the job. Rob discovers Apiaceae in Ann Mohun's lawn.

Trees noted during the day included *Syzygium alliligneum*, or onionwood – so-named because it incorporates bark into its timber in successive rings, making a cross-section of the timber look like an onion. The bark incorporated into the timber makes the wood valueless, so that some of the largest trees you'll see in the logged areas of the Wet Tropics are onionwoods. Another tree with an interesting story was *Backhousia hughesii*, commonly called limewood or stonewood. When injured, this tree produces a sap that hardens into stonelike masses, rendering the timber difficult to cut. In the online rainforest key, Bernie Hyland notes "Trees of this species when wounded produce an [exudate](#) which hardens to form a grey stony mass. Hence the name Stonewood. These stones can be produced inside the tree and were the

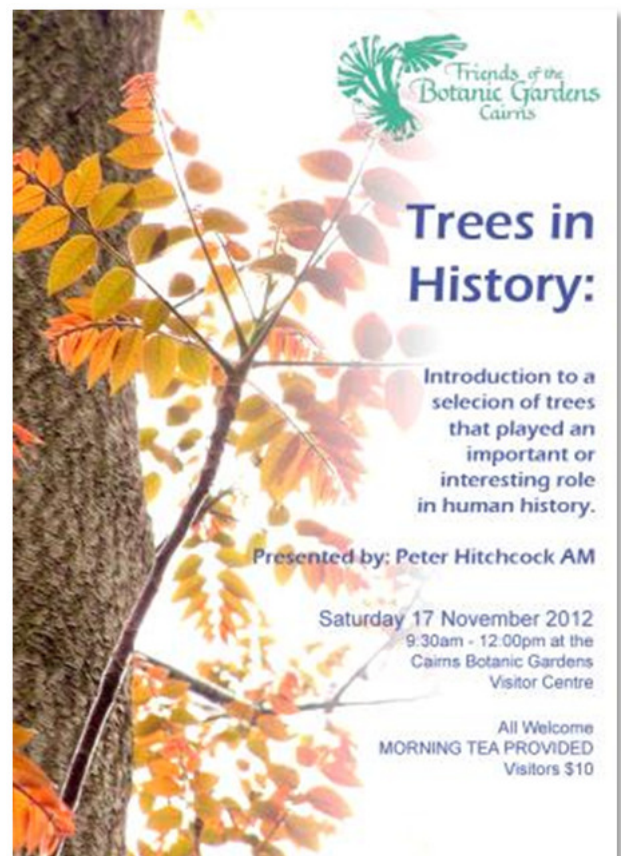
subject of numerous profane comments from timber cutters who encountered them with a freshly sharpened chain saw."

Thanks Ann for an enjoyable day.

Plant Cuttings

Friends of the Botanic Gardens activities

On the morning of Saturday 17th, Friends are running an interesting talk on "Trees in History", to be delivered by Peter Hitchcock. You may be interested to attend this talk, before joining us for lunch!



What's in Flower?

Barbara Collins

Barbara currently has a beautiful native hibiscus flowering in her garden. It may be *Hibiscus heterophyllus*.



Hibiscus from Barbara's Garden.

Articles Please!!!

If you have any original articles, or an idea for an article, please send them through.

Suitable material includes:

- Excursion reports
- Book reviews
- How to grow a particular species of native plant
- Advice of name changes
- Photos of plants in your garden that are flowering or fruiting.
- Photos and stories of interesting plants with horticultural potential.

Edge Hill/Flecker Botanic Gardens map

