



Society for Growing Australian Plants Cairns Branch

Newsletter 153

September 2015

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SEPTEMBER 2015 EXCURSION

Babinda Boulders is the venue for our September 2015 excursion. This month, we've planned something out of the ordinary – to make this a gathering of SGAP members and friends from across the north.

Invitations were sent out two weeks ago to members (including Townsville and Tablelands branches) and botanically minded friends as far away as Townsville. For such a big gathering, we'll start a little earlier than usual: 10 am, with people gathering at the Babinda Boulders picnic area before heading off on a botanical walk through the rich lowland rainforest.

We'll finish up with a barbecue (sausages, burgers, marinated tofu, basic salads and bread) which is free for SGAP members, and \$5 for non-members, at the picnic area. Boyd has offered his utility to transport equipment, and Stuart and Coralie will assist with catering. Any offers of help on the day are welcome!

This is an opportunity to get to know the wider community of people who are into the conservation and propagation of native plants. Who knows, we may even get some new members!

LAMB'S HEAD, 2015

Stuart Worboys

There's no trip report this month, so here are some photos from our walk up Kahlpahlmin Rock (or Lamb's Head) on 29 August.

As always, the vast granite outcrops at the peak are awash with glorious King Orchids. For the sharp eyed, there are numerous other beautiful flowers to be seen along the tough 4 hour climb.



Magnificent king orchids (Dendrobium speciosum) growing amongst a clump of resurrection plant (Borya septentrionalis) and button daisies (Coronidium rupicola) on the exposed face of Kahlpahlmin Rock.



Hovea ?densivellosa



Dendrobium ?adae growing on rocks near the summit.



Delicate ground orchids - Caladenia carnea



BEAUTIFUL TREES OF THE WET TROPICS

Deplanchea *tetraphylla* – The Golden Bouquet Tree

Stuart Worboys



I first encountered the golden bouquet tree at Noah Creek in the Daintree, way back in 1994. I was pleasantly surprised to see large and elegant yellow flowers scattered on the forest floor. A little research uncovered the source of these flowers – a robust, handsome tree called *Deplanchea tetraphylla*. *Deplanchea* in honour of Émile Deplanche, a French physician

news seems to spread quickly throughout the wallaby population, who then assemble to partake of the apparently tasty fare.”²

Deplanchea tetraphylla widespread in coastal forests from Hinchinbrook Island to southern New Guinea. It's the only Australian representative of the south-east Asian genus containing

family containing many spectacular flowering trees and vines – *Spathodea campanulata* (African Tulip), *Tebebuia* and *Tecomanthe hillii* (Fraser Island Tecomanthe) are frequently cultivated examples.

I've not seen any advice on cultivation of this species, but given their abundance around the streets of Cairns assume they must be pretty straightforward to grow. They are also recommended for planting in Townsville⁴. The specimen in my garden at home was nursery bought and planted directly into the slaty clays of the Redlynch hillslopes, with a little bit of root pruning and tickling to loosen the rather tight root ball. Soil preparation involved some heavy work with a pick and half a bag of aged cow poo. Post planting watering was minimal. After just a few months in the ground, the specimen has produced two nice flowering panicles.



and natural historian¹, and *tetraphylla*, reflecting the whorls of four leaves that occur in the mature tree. *Deplanchea* also goes by the name of “wallaby wireless”, reportedly because “ wallabies are fond of the fallen flowers of this species and once the flowers fall, the

about eight species and which extends as far as the Malayan Peninsula³. It belongs to the family Bignoniaceae, a widespread tropical

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89mile_Deplanche

2 http://keys.trin.org.au:8080/key-server/data/0e0f0504-0103-430d-8004-060d07080d04/media/Html/taxon/Deplanchea_tetraphylla.htm

3 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deplanchea>

4 Lokkers, C. 2000. *Draft Revegetation Strategy for the Townsville City Council Region*. Report for Townsville City Council. http://www.soe-townsville.org/data/revveg_strat.pdf.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cairns Branch

Meetings and excursions on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

20 September 2015

Babinda Boulders botanical bash and barbecue. See front page for more details.

To get there, travel 60 km south from Cairns along the Bruce Highway. Turn right at Munro Street, which takes you straight through the main shopping centre (the bakery will be open!). Munro Street becomes Boulders Road – continue another 6 km until the road ends at the Boulders Reserve. See you there!

18 October 2015

To be advised.

15 November 2015

End of year break up at the Cairns Botanic Gardens. An invited speaker from the Australian Tropical Herbarium will discuss the development and release of the new online Fern Key.

Tablelands Branch

Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Excursion the following Sunday. Any queries, please contact Chris Jaminon on 4091 4565 or email hjaminon@bigpond.com

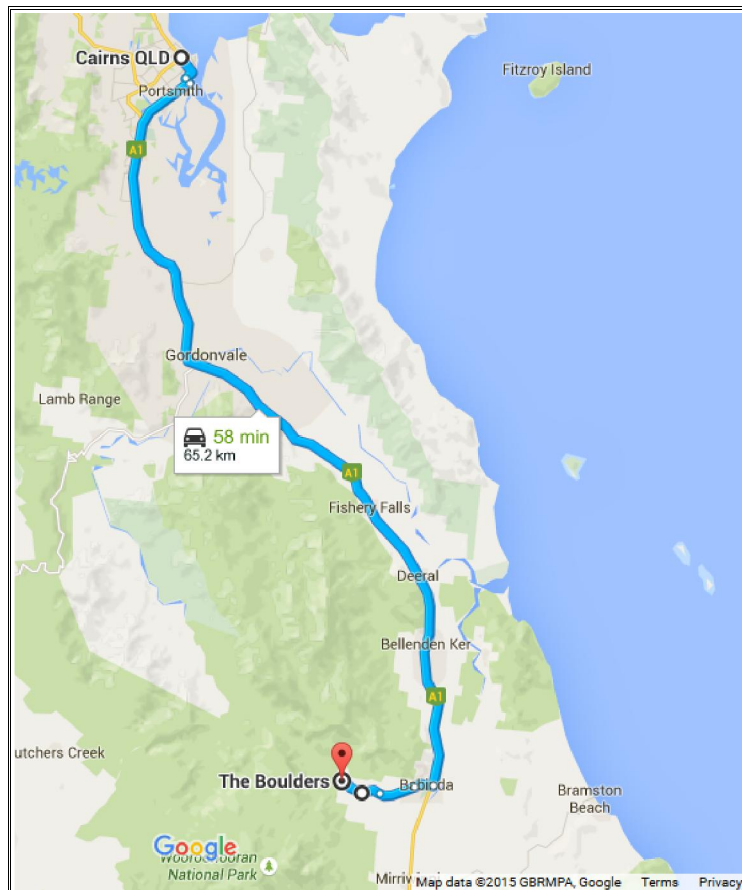
Townsville Branch

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

20 September 2015

SGAP Townsville is heading to see the spectacular spring flowers at Burra Range, some 250 km inland along the Flinders Highway. Watch an online video of last year's trip here: open.abc.net.au/explore/24397

See www.sgaptownsville.org.au/ for more information.



SGAP CAIRNS 2015 COMMITTEE

Chairperson Boyd Lenne

boydlenne@hotmail.com

Vice-chairperson Pauline Lawie

Treasurer Stuart Worboys

Secretary Coralie Stewart

Newsletter Stuart Worboys

worboys1968@yahoo.com.au

Webmaster Tony Roberts