



SGAP Cairns Newsletter

November 2018 Number 185

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Tea and cake before heading out into the wild

Excursion Report - October 2018. East Russell

Stuart Worboys

Our October excursion plans were thrown out at the last minute, and after an email appeal and vote, Patsy and Peter Penny threw open their doors to our little group.

With Christmas only a few weeks away, the days are heating up and we were glad to find a nicely laid table in the shade of tall mesophyll rainforest. The picnic spot, although frequently underwater during wet season floods, was distant enough from the Russell River that mud geckoes could be forgotten.

Society for Growing Australian Plants, Inc.
Cairns Branch.

www.sgapcairns.org.au
secretary@sgapcairns.org.au

2018-2019 COMMITTEE

President: Tony Roberts

Vice President: Pauline Lawie

Secretary: Sandy Perkins (secretary@sgapcairns.org.au)

Treasurer: Val Carnie

Newsletter: Stuart Worboys (worboys1968@yahoo.com.au)

Webmaster: Tony Roberts

It was a pleasure to see David Barrow, who ventured across the river from Mirriwinni to join us. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch as we discussed our Christmas breakup and the upcoming 2020 Cairns Yabba. Dessert was a delicious semolina and berry cake - not too sweet and marvelously moist. Thanks to the cook for that one!

We set off on our excursion - an exploration along a recently recut path on the north-western side of the Graham Range. The Johnstone River hardwoods (*Backhousia bancroftii*) on the property were once harvested by the Kruckow family and processed at their Mirriwinni Mill. Near one of the property's houses, Patsy showed us an *Alloxylon flammeum* (or was it *A. wickhamii*?) planted by her sister 22 years ago.

The path took us past flowering *Hornstedia* and more *Phaleria clerodendron* (the delightfully named "scented daphne") than I've ever seen, all of it just a day or two from breaking into massed flower. The rare vine *Piper mestonii* was in fruit, showing off glossy red fruits. Here and there, a little herb, like a bonsai *Melastoma* showed off its pale mauve flowers. This plant, *Tristemma mauritianum*, was the first thing I learnt was edible in the rainforests of northern Queensland, and I still look for their hot pink apple-

flavoured fruits when out bush. Patsy called them "juicy apples".

But the highlight of the day came right at the end - eagle-eyed Rob Jago spotted an unusual vine high in the canopy - it was *Uncaria cordata*, a species known from only two localities and less than ten collections. Rob's find was both a new locality for the species, and it's northernmost known occurrence in Australia. After half an hour of effort, we managed to bring down a good specimen of the stubborn vine, which will be pressed for future study.

We arrived back at the car to find everyone but Don had headed back for afternoon tea. That seemed like a good idea, so we jumped in the car and drove back to the clearing to join the crew.

Species List

Compiled by Rob Jago and Stuart Worboys. An asterisk (*) indicates the species is not locally native.

FERNS AND ALLIES

ANGIOPTERIDACEAE
Angiopteris evecta (king fern)

CYATHEACEAE
Cyathea cooperi (tree fern)
Cyathea woolsiana

LOMARIOPSIDACEAE
Lomariopsis kingii

MARATTIACEAE
Ptisana oreades

CYCADS AND CONIFERS

ZAMIACEAE
Lepidozamia hopei

BASAL FLOWERING PLANTS

ANNONACEAE
**Annona glabra* (pond apple)
Cananga odorata (ylang ylang)

LAURACEAE
Endiandra montana

PIPERACEAE



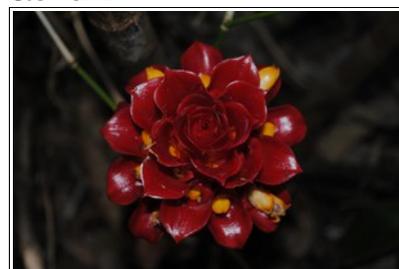
Piper mestonii

MONOCOTS

ARACEAE
Rhaphidophora hayi

ARECACEAE
Archontherocephalus alexandrae
Calamus moti

COSTACEAE



Tapeinochilos ananassae
(backscratcher ginger)

CYPERACEAE
Scirpodendron ghaeri

ORCHIDACEAE

Pomatocalpa macphersonii

PANDANACEAE

Freycinetia excelsa

SMILACACEAE

Smilax aculeatissima

ZINGIBERACEAE



Alpinia modesta



Hornstedtia scottiana

DICOTS

APOCYNACEAE

Melodinus australis

ARALIACEAE

Polyscias mollis

ELAEOCARPACEAE

Elaeocarpus grandis

EUPHORBIACEAE

Aleurites rockinghamensis

Macaranga polyadenia

Rockinghamia angustifolia

HYPERICACEAE

**Harungana madagascariensis*

ICACINACEAE

Gomphandra australiana

LAMIACEAE



Oxera splendida (potato vine)

MELASTOMATACEAE

**Tristemma mauritianum*

MELIACEAE

Dysoxylum pettigrewianum

MORACEAE

Ficus variegata

MYRTACEAE

Backhousia bancroftii (Johnstone

River hardwood)

PROTEACEAE

Alloxylon flammeum

RUBIACEAE

Atractocarpus hirtus

Uncaria cordata

RUTACEAE

Medicosma fareana

Melicope elleryana

SAPOTACEAE

Niemeyera prunifera

SALICACEAE

Casearia dallachyi

SAPINDACEAE

Diploglottis smithii

SIMAROUBACEAE

**Quassia amara*

THYMELAEACEAE



Phaleria clerodendron (scented daphne)

VITACEAE

Leea novoguineense (bandicoot berry)

Primitive Technology

A north Queensland chap has become a bit of an internet star with his online video channel and web-log "Primitive Technology". Using only materials available on his forested block (and a lot of careful research), he smelts iron, grows yams, moulds ceramic tiles for his roof and makes lime from rainforest snail shells. The videos of his hobby are modest, but well made and enthralling. Find them at <https://primitivetechnology.wordpress.com/>

Innisfail Branch

Meetings at 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 Stitt Street, Innisfail.

Contact: innisfail@npq.org.au

Townsville Branch

Meetings at 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, February to November, in Annandale Community Centre.

Excursions the following Sunday.

Contact: johnelliott@sgaptownsville.org.au

www.sgaptownsville.org.au

Tablelands Branch

Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Excursion the following

Sunday.

Contact: Chris Jaminon on 4091 4565 or email hjaminon@bigpond.com

Cairns Branch - Next Meeting

Sunday 18 November 2018 - Crystal Cascades, Redlynch Intake Road, Redlynch.

Meet at the carpark at the end of Redlynch Intake Road at 12 noon. From here we'll find a place to sit for lunch, then take a walk up the path along the creek.

Please confirm your attendance to Sandy - secretary@sgapcairns.

Sunday 9 December 2018 - Christmas Breakup at the home of Tony and Trudi Roberts, 5 McCarthy Close, Brinsmead (see map). To get there from Cairns City, follow Reservoir Road through Brinsmead, where it becomes the Redlynch Bypass Road. Pass Glenoma Park, then turn right at the lights. Just before the Freshwater Christian College, turn right onto Loridan Drive. Take the second left onto Adam Drive, which ends at Hobson Drive. Turn left onto Hobson, McCarthy Close is the second on the right.

Bring a plate, meat for the barbecue and your togs!

Also ideas for Yabba 2020 - accommodation (including conference facilities), catering and transport.

