

Society for Growing Australian Plants Cairns Branch

NEWSLETTER

April 2019

Number 189



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Joint Innisfail - Cairns Branch excursion to Ella Bay, April 2018.

Annual General Meeting - March 2019

President's Report

Tony Roberts

Cairns Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants had a very successful year. Most outings were well attended.

In March we held our Annual General Meeting at the Cairns Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre. We are thankful that Cairns Regional Council makes the venue available to us.

On April 1st a small group of members climbed Mount Emerald to explore the heath vegetation that occurred there.

The 15th April saw the branch visit Ella Bay. We aimed to discover what the shipwrecked mariners from the Brig Maria might have eaten when their ship ran aground in the area in 1892.

Our May excursion took us to Emerald Creek Falls where we spent a very productive and enjoyable day identifying several hundred plants that were growing along the creek.

We revisited the local Ivan Evans Walk in June. This visit highlighted the dynamic nature of our local forests as it looked very different from our last visit.



Peaceful lagoon on Shay's Road, near Cooktown, visited in July

We once again made it to Cooktown, this year in July. Members spent the weekend collecting propagation material for the Cooktown Botanic Gardens. The endeavour took us to Archer Point, Elim Beach, Barretts Lagoon and on to some private properties.



SGAP Cairns explores the new Yellow Arrow Walk, on a perfect September Sunday.

September saw the Branch conquer Mt Whitfield via the newly opened Yellow Arrow Trail.

Patsy and Peter invited the Branch to their property in East Russell for our October excursion. It was a pleasantly cool area to visit despite the weather heating up. We added a few plants to the species list for their property.



Beautiful Brachychiton albidus photographed on Mt Alto, Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary.

In August, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy allowed us to camp on and explore Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary. In return we provided them with a list of the 124 species that we encountered, including 24 not previously recorded on the property.

The final excursion for 2018 took us to Crystal Cascades; a popular swimming spot for locals. We enjoyed exploring the diverse rainforest and the natural airconditioning provided by the numerous cascades.

We finished off the year with a Christmas Party at Tony and Trudi's house.



Our SGAP Cairns Facebook page and our web site are still popular and well visited.

I would like to thank our committee members for their efforts throughout the year.

Everyone is doing a great job, keeping the Branch running smoothly and the members engaged. I must also thank all of our members for their support throughout the year, and hope that we can continue to get the great attendance at our outings in 2019.

2019 Committee

Sandy Perkins

The committee for SGAP Cairns Branch for 2019 is as follows:

President: Tony Roberts

Vice President: Pauline Lawie

Secretary: Sandy Perkins

Treasurer: Val Carnie

Newsletter Editor (non-executive role): Stuart Worboys

Webmaster: Rick Wong

Contact details for all committee members is secretary@sgapcairns.org.au. All committee members receive emails sent to this address, not just the secretary.

We continue to meet on the third Sunday of the month, however some months differ to accommodate public holidays and special

excursions. Our calendar of events can be found here <http://www.sgapcairns.org.au/Calendar.html>



*One of the year's big discoveries - Rob Jago found the rarely recorded *Uncaria cordata* during our October excursion to East Russell. This turned out to be first record of the species from the area.*

CAIRNS BRANCH 2019 EXCURSION PROGRAM

After much discussion at last month's Annual General Meeting, a tentative excursion program was drawn up. It's an exciting program, and includes familiar haunts and places not previously visited by many in the Cairns Branch. Two private gardens are included in the list: although I've discussed a visit with both garden owners (and received approval), I won't publish details until later in the year.

Unless otherwise specified we meet at 12 noon at the designated meeting point. Bring along lunch and afternoon tea as we have a bite to eat before heading out and upon our return enjoy a cuppa. Please RSVP to secretary@sgapcairns.org.au by 3 p.m. the previous day if you are attending the excursion.

April - Barron Gorge

Sunday 29 April. See back page of the newsletter for more details.

May - Behana Creek

Sunday 19th May. Behana Creeek Picnic Park (aka Smithy Holmes Park), immediately south of Aloomba. Easiest approach from north is to turn off the Bruce Highway at the Aloomba sign at the south side of the extended Mulgrave River bridge and take a pleasant rural drive through Aloomba. Behana Creek park is a couple of kilometres south of Aloomba. If coming from the south - turn right off highway at Moller Raoad and head north.

June - Private Garden visit, Bayview Heights

Sunday 16 June (to be confirmed). SGAP Cairns branch visited this spectacular native rainforest garden on the Cairns hillslopes some years ago. Since then, the owners have expanded their plantings considerably. Details of this excursion will be provided closer to the date.

July - Cooktown

Saturday 27 July and Sunday 28 July. Generally members travel to Cooktown on the Friday returning Monday.

August - Russell Heads

Sunday 18 August. Russell Heads, hosted by Patsy Penny and family.

September - White Mountains

Dates to be confirmed. The White Mountains, of which Burra Range is part, is a 600 km drive from Cairns via Townsville. For plant enthusiasts, this is north Queensland's premier wildflower destination. Each dry season, the wattles, grevilleas, peas and myrtles of the region put on a show of colour unlike anything else you'll see in the tropics.

John Elliott (NPQ Townsville Secretary) writes: "As far as your enquiry about the Burra is concerned we would be delighted to have company on our excursions! There are more tracks now open to vehicles, [including a] large sandstone outcrop which offers some wonderful views and the opportunity to walk on top of the ridges whilst hunting for plants in the crevices.

"All of this requires more than just a 'daytrip'. But on the positive side we are all pretty optimistic that the time elapsed from the [2013] fire, and the rain that must have fallen, will have restored some of more easily accessed areas.

"Plans for this year have not been discussed [by Townsville Branch] as yet, but we normally go in June and September. I will makes sure it is considered sooner rather than later and let you know."

October - Tablelands

Sunday 20 October. It's been some years since we paid a visit to the Atherton Tablelands. Details of this outing have yet to be worked out, but Barney Springs, a private garden visit and Mt Hypipamee have

been suggested.

November - Christmas Party, Cairns

Sunday 17 November. Venue to be confirmed.

Flowering in April



Calophyllum inophyllum



Pseuderanthemum variabile



Caesalpinia bonduc



Cheilocostus potierae

New address for Townsville Branch

After several decades Townsville Branch have decided to cease using their official Post Office Box address, due to a low volume of slow mail, and a changeover to internet banking. Please note that the new official address will be the Secretary's: 2 Hoya Court, Annandale, Queensland 4814.

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Cairns Branch

Excursion and meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month (except December and January).

Sunday 28 April. Our April excursion will be delayed a week due to the Easter break. Meet 12 noon at the Barron Gorge Car Park, at the far western end of

Barron Gorge Road, Caravonica.
See map, below.

Townsville Branch

Meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8pm, Annandale Community Centre. Excursions the following Sunday. Website:

www.npqtownsville.org.au

Contact: John Elliott (Secretary)
jw-elliott@aapt.com.au

Sunday 14 April. April outing to AIMS. The purpose is to explore the littoral forest that is just

above AIMS beach.

Those who don't want to scramble about can visit the jetty, by vehicle. Then we can have morning tea in the main building
Meet at 9am at the AIMS gate.

Tablelands Branch

Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Tolga CWA Hall. Excursions the following Sunday.

Excursion officers: Bert and Chris Jaminon, 40914565.

