

# SGAP Cairns

NEWSLETTER 215 OCTOBER 2021

## *East Russell, October 2021*

Helen Lawie

It was a warm and sunny day as Don and Pauline welcomed SGAPers for our September outing. Garlands of hoyas were flowering and march-flies attacked to confirm it was indeed Spring. (Newish member) Jenny's return was greeted, with her contribution as enthusiastic as ever.

We enjoyed our lunch sharing observations of seasonal flowers from Val's Brushtail Barringtonia *Barringtonia calyptrata* seen along the Esplanade to Patsy's Pencil Orchids, *Dendrobium calamiforme* spotted along both sides of the Russell River. With Don electing to sit out our rainforest walk; we also deferred the monster raffle. So, Members, come prepared for October's raffle with gorgeous native ferns, orchids and more on offer. Many of them would be perfect for a tropical suburban garden.

Michelle and Norm, with son Beau, are the owners of the newly established Babinda Rainforest Farmstay. Located at East Russell the property borders World Heritage listed National Park and has a permanent creek. It is along the bank of this creek and up to a clearing in the rainforest that they plan to create a botanic walk for their guests. Our task to name trees of interest began immediately and signposts proclaiming Kuranda quandong *Elaeocarpus bancroftii*, native nutmeg *Myristica globosa*, and tree ferns *Cyathea cooperi* etc were quickly hammered in.



As we had not progressed more than 10m from the cars Michelle suggested we might need to pace ourselves in order to distribute the sign posts a little further!

Then came some more challenging ID's. With heavy hitters, Bob, Stuart and Don away, we each pitched in pointing out buttresses, painterly tree trunks, fallen fruit of potato vine (*Oxera splendida*) and seed pods (match box bean *Entada phaseoloides*). However it was Patsy who came to the fore. Conferring with Pauline whenever she could be distracted from orchids *Bulbophyllum baileyi*, Patsy assembled a comprehensive species list. The owners were also receptive to advice to identify and remove invasive pest tree *Harungana*

*madagascariensis*. And they were relieved to hear that the multiple ginger species running wild throughout the property were native.

Past the swimming hole, fan palms *Licuala ramsayi*, velvety randia *Atractocarpus hirtus* and *Lepidozamia* a freshly fallen jungle giant (Spur Mahogany *Dysoxylum pettigrewianum*) was a fascinating encounter. Covered in epiphytes now brought into viewing range, several Johnstone River Maidenhair ferns *Asplenium laserpitiifolium* were discovered and we admired their lace like foliage. Don and Pauline have a splendid example of one in their garden and it requires particularly attentive watering in the dryer months. Michelle and Norm have found bioluminescent



mushrooms growing on the rainforest floor however they remained elusive on our visit, no doubt due to feral pig activity clearly observed in the soft earth.

We returned to the campground for afternoon tea in the picnic

shed. Our hosts generously provided tea and coffee and an array of delicious homemade goodies. Our outlook from here included several mature exotics planted by previous owners including *Bismarckia nobilis*, and Rain Tree *Albizia saman*. But it

was a friend to butterflies, the native *Cerbera manghas* that caught our eye, with its lush bright green leaves and prolific flowers. Then with warm thanks and an invitation to return soon, our visit came to an end.



A fallen tree provides a rare insight into the epiphytes that live high in the forest canopy. Visible in this one tree are *Pothos longipes*, *Asplenium laserpitifolium*, *Epipremnum pinnatum*, *Freycinetia*, *Hoya*, and *Rhaphidophora*.

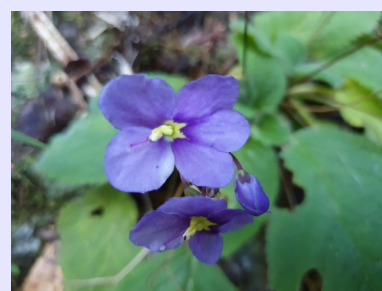


The frangipani like flowers of *Cerbera manghas*.

## NEW SPECIES OF BOEA DESCRIBED FOR QUEENSLAND

*Boea hygroskopica* (pronounced bee-ya), the rock violet, is an attractive little herb often seen attached to seasonally damp rock faces in drier rainforests and woodlands of the tropical north. In the wet season, it produces lovely little purple flowers, similar in appearance to its relative, the African violet, *Streptocarpus*. In the dry season, they wither away to almost nothing, but as soon as the rains come, they resurrect the dried leaves and start life again. Another species, with white flowers, *B. kinnearii* is restricted to wet mountain rainforests from Bartle Frere to Thornton Peak.

Recently, a third species has been recognised from the Iron Range, differing from *B. hygroskopica* in (amongst other things) having bent stamens, hairy petals and flowers that are presented upside down. In honour of that odd final character, the species has been named *Boea resupinata*. A fully illustrated description of the species by Bruce Gray and Frank Zich was published in the Queensland Herbarium's *Austrobaileya* journal on 15 September ([https://www.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/209600/zich-and-gray-boea-resupinata-austrobaileya-v11-56-66.pdf](https://www.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/209600/zich-and-gray-boea-resupinata-austrobaileya-v11-56-66.pdf)).



*Boea hygroskopica*



*Boea kinnearii*

# What's Happening...

## Cairns

Please email  
[secretary@sgapcairns.org.au](mailto:secretary@sgapcairns.org.au)  
if you will be attending any  
of these events.

**Sunday 17 October:** 12 noon.  
Kuranda Riverwalk. Meet at the  
roundabout at the bottom end of  
Therwine Street (see map) for a  
walk along the Barron River.

**Saturday 6 November:** 10 a.m.  
Special event. Exhibition of the  
botanical works of Bill Cooper at  
the Cairns Regional Gallery. Meet

10am at Perottas for a coffee  
and/or cake, before proceeding  
to the exhibition.

**Sunday 21 November:** 12 noon:  
Talk by Stuart Worboys on the  
award-winning tropical mountain  
flora conservation project. Venue  
to be decided.

**Sunday 5 December:** 12 noon.  
SGAP Cairns Branch - Christmas  
breakup. 17 Manilla Place, Mt  
Sheridan. Bring a plate to share.

## Tablelands

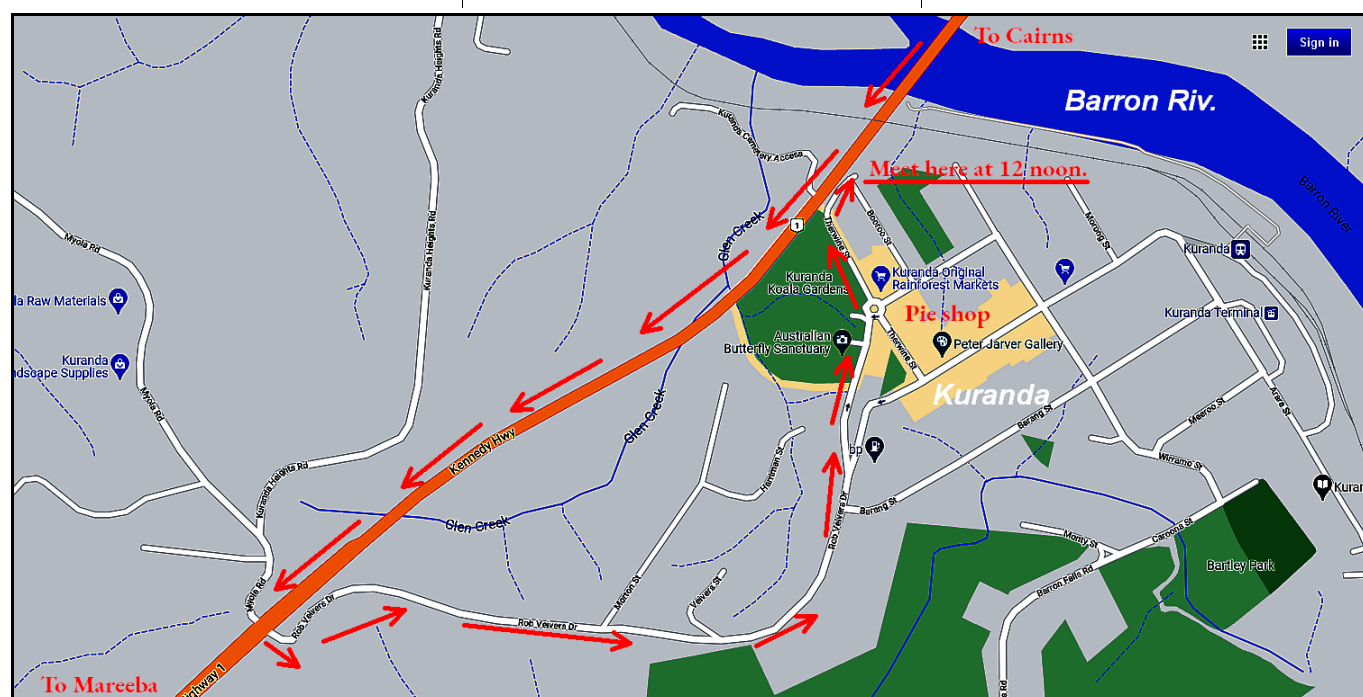
Meetings on the 4th Wednesday  
of each month at 7:30 pm, Tolga  
CWA Hall. Excursions the

following Sunday.

**Sunday 31 October:** 9:30 a.m.  
Explore the Clohesy River area.  
Meet at the start of the Clohesy  
River Road, corner of Kennedy  
Highway. For more information,  
call the excursion officer: Peter  
Radke, 40914565.

## Townsville

Due to COVID restrictions, the  
October meeting has been  
cancelled.



## SGAP Cairns Branch 2021-2022 Committee

President: Don Lawie  
Vice-President: Patsy Penny  
Secretary: Matt McIntosh ([secretary@sgapcairns.org.au](mailto:secretary@sgapcairns.org.au))  
Treasurer: Val Carnie  
Webmaster: Tony Roberts  
Newsletter Editor: Stuart Worboys ([worboys1968@yahoo.com.au](mailto:worboys1968@yahoo.com.au))