



*Society for Growing Australian Plants
Cairns Branch*

NEWSLETTER

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*SGAP Cairns Branch August Meeting
Wednesday 13 August at Cairns City Library Meeting Room*

Note Change of Venue. This meeting is in Cairns CBD

The room will be available at 6 p.m. The evening is scheduled to commence at 6.30 with a Branch meeting to discuss general business and any plants to examine and, perhaps, identify. This will be followed at about 7 p.m. by our speaker, Barry Muir, on "Our Fungal Friends". The evening will conclude at 8 p.m.

Bring a plate to share with a cuppa, and any ideas you have for excursions for the rest of the year.



Cooktown Excursion 2025

Report and Photographs

Patsy Penny

Our annual visit to Cooktown this year saw our team of six beautifying both the SGAP garden along with a sad Banks and Solander Garden.

We did achieve some improvement by spreading big piles of mulch. This happened after weeding out vines and other undesirables that have crept in during the prolonged wet.

The many native gingers were tidied up and then we planted our contributions. These were *Mackinlaya macrosciadea*, *Pittosporum rubiginosmum*, some *Castanospermum australe* (Black Bean) and a rogue *Nauclea orientalis*, which came up in a pot without being asked! The finished gardens were a big improvement. After lunch we did some potting up in the Greenhouse. As a thank you for all our hard labour Nikko invited us for a bar-b-cue near the gardens. It was a lovely way to end the day.

Next morning saw us carpooling and meeting at the Endeavour Falls Caravan Park. Nikko led our caravan of cars onto the road towards Hope Vale and then on to Elim Beach Road. Stu was in the lead vehicle with Nick and was instrumental in allowing us to stop and look!

Our first stop was at a creek crossing and proved very fruitful! Just beside the road was a (broad leaved paperbark) in full bloom both red and green-cream.



A little further exploring showed us some Dendrobiums of different species. (We had no orchid experts with us.) There were also some Ant Plants lurking in the trees. We turned off to the right along a bitumen road to the South-eastern side of Cape Bedford. This is a Community private beach and we were there under Nick's supervision.

During the many stops along the road we came across several botanical gems. Some of these were *Dendrobium rigida*, *D. bigibbum* and some Banksias and Wattles. The most stunning and plentiful was the red/orange *Eucalyptus phoenicea* in blossom.



On the way back we stopped at a small creek which had a filmy curtain of *Dischidia ovata* hanging over it like Christmas decorations.



Unfortunately, the others had to continue but Val, Sue, Peter and I continued on towards the North Eastern side of Cape Bedford. We found *Marsdenia germinata* fruiting beside the road, and when we stopped for a break, we found the intriguing *Haemodorum coccineum*. (Scarlet flowered Bloodroot)

Patsy apologised that this photograph does not do these beautiful flowers justice because, as Peter explained, the wind was so strong it would have blown a dog off its chain



Later that evening, those of us who were left rewarded ourselves with a delicious meal from the Thai restaurant! Once again, a great weekend.

Excursion for 17 August

This month we are invited to have the pleasure of visiting the property of Peter and Patsy Penny in glorious East Russell. Their land runs from the foot of the Graham Range to the Russell River. We will be able to inspect the progress of early revegetation with which we assisted, and maybe get a bit of an idea of the greater difficulty of keeping on top of “gardening” on a much bigger scale.

Patsy has in mind a couple of walks for those interested.

This excursion is to start at the earlier time of 10 a.m. to give travellers time to enjoy the day and not be too late getting home.

Penny’s house is just past the end of the bitumen on Kruckow Road. Do remember, as well as your lunch, that this is the wettest area in Queensland and that right now you would need good sun protection. However, if rain decides to bless us again in the previous week, some insect repellent could be useful.



Ed: For me in this wet area there is no such thing as a friendly fungus, but I found these in a large hole dug by scrub fowls in my giant mulch heap, recently acquired from having to have a large tree removed, and thought it might be OK to include.

