



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
Earlville Qld 4870

Newsletter No. 68
JUNE 2007

Society Office Bearers

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|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Chairperson | Ing Toh | 40 310 551 |
| Vice Chairperson | Mary Gandini | 40 542 190 |
| Secretary | Greg Keith | 40 981 130 |
| Treasurer | Robert Jago | 40 |
| Librarian | David Warmington | 40 443 398 |

Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region- Renewal \$35.00, New Members \$40, each additional member of household \$1.00

Cairns Branch Fees -\$10.00 Full Year

To access our Library for loan of books, please contact David Warmington

Dates to Remember

Cairns Branch Meetings and Excursion – third Saturday of each month.

16 and 17th June Cooktown – see below.

Tablelands Branch – Sunday following the meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

16 and 17th June Cooktown – see below

29 July TBA

Any queries please phone Ian Evans 4096 5770.

Cooktown Excursion – June 2007

The next excursion will be our annual week-end trip to Cooktown. This will be on the week-end of the 16th and 17th June. Accommodation is available at the Peninsula Van Park. There will be plenty of camp sites but anyone wanting a cabin should book in advance. Diane's got a hundred bales of hay for us to spread this year – so dress for hay carting!!! Sunday we will head out to Isabella Falls, on the Battlecamp Road.

Nada from Tablelands SGAP advises “*This is always a very enjoyable event with nightly gatherings which offer scope for the entertainers in our midst. Bring along your funniest yarns and jokes. Wonderful feeds of fish from the café on the wharf can be enjoyed either there or back at the park. Breakfast at another café on the water is also tops. The Cooktown Markets are often on that Sunday, so if you are prepared to rise early, you can go to the markets first and then have breakfast at the above mentioned café.*”

Cooktown Excursion (cont.)

The Peninsula Caravan Park is located at 64 Howard Street. Turn left off Hope Street (the main road into town) and continue down the hill pretty much to the end of the street. Book by 'phone on 4069 5107 or fax 4069 5255.

Trip Report

David and Mary Gandini's garden, 19 May

It's been a few years since Cairns Branch of SGAP visited David and Mary Gandini's garden, a large rambling affair of interesting natives and unusual exotics overlooking the suburb of Earlville. A small group of us (2) gathered on the Gandini's balcony, and after a cup of tea we headed out for a wander.

Like any good garden, over the years it has progressed and grown and changed. It suffered badly in Cyclone Larry (though not as bad as some of our members from a little further south), but is recovering well. Many of Mary's magnificent collection of orchids have suffered during the dry conditions of the recent times. However, some of the dry-adapted species in the garden are magnificent – a beautiful *Neofabricia myrtifolia* (4) grows near the back boundary, the magnificent Cape York endemic *Hoya macgillivrayi* drapes one of the shadehouses, and next to the fishpond is probably the only cultivated specimen of the as yet undescribed flat-leaved grass tree (3), *Xanthorrhoea sp.* (Cape Bedford M.Gandini AQ601576).

The Gandini's are also fortunate to have a healthy *Lithomyrtus obtusa* (1). Mary advises that this species, with its delicate pink flowers and soft attractive foliage, is exceptionally difficult to cultivate, and modestly notes that it's probably due more to luck than skill that she has this specimen in her garden.

We took advantage of the Gandini's barbecue facilities to fry a couple of snags for lunch, then finished off our wanderings with a walk through the small, cyclone damaged rainforest that has been cultivated on the steep lower slopes of the property. Despite the damage, the forest contains a healthy diversity of large native trees, which support an equally healthy population of hungry mosquitoes.

Thank you David and Mary for the guided inspection tour of your property.



New Books

Two new books have been brought to our attention this month through the state newsletter. They're both excellent publications, and deserved a repeat mention here.

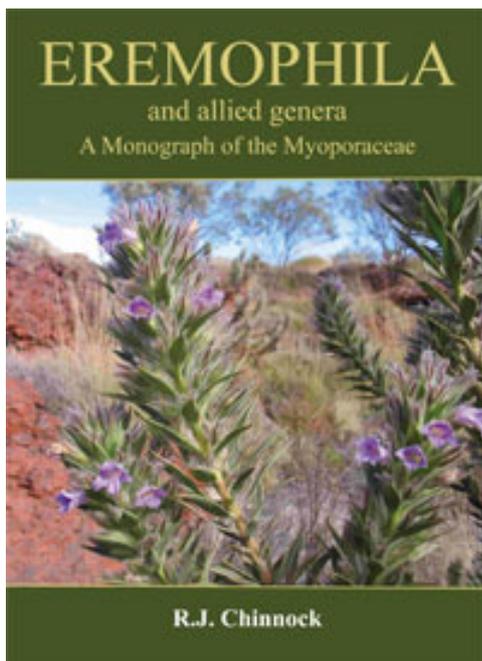
Plants of Capricornia

A substantial gap in the published literature of the Queensland flora is being filled by the publication of *Plants of Capricornia* by Rhonda Melzer and Joel Plumb.

The authors were prompted to begin work on the book *Plants of Capricornia* approximately ten years ago because of the poor coverage provided by available plant books for Central Queensland, and in particular the Rockhampton - Capricorn Coast areas. The book has finally come to fruition, with assistance from the Capricorn Conservation Council.

Advance orders are now being taken for this book (to be published in September), which can be purchased through the Capricorn Conservation Council (PO Box 4011 Rockhampton, 4700, 'phone 4927 8644). Prices are \$50 for the soft cover edition, \$80 for the hard cover, with \$11 postage and packing.

EREMOPHILA and Allied Genera



This book is the result of thirty years research by Dr R.J.(Bob) Chinnock, the world authority in the family Myoporaceae, in which he has produced a new classification of the family resulting in the delimitation of 3 new genera, 94 new species and 37 new subspecies, and a revised infrageneric classification of the genera *Eremophila* and *Myoporum*. Treatment of species includes a detailed description as well as analytical drawings, notes on distribution, ecology, conservation status and relationships.

The book has 672 pages, 335 colour plates, 300 maps and 325 line illustrations. The retail price is \$99.95, and it can be purchased from Rosenberg Publishing Pty Ltd, Box 6125 Dural Delivery Centre, NSW, 2158, or online at www.rosenbergpub.com.au/handleProduct.asp?id=63&catid=7

Errata

Last month's newsletter presented an article by Irene Champion from the Mackay Branch. I should have noted that the article is primarily addressed to Mackay Branch members, especially the final section: "Application for *Cerbera dumicola* plants".

Also, Irene points out there is a glaring error in the taxonomy section. The North Queensland endemic, *C. inflata*, should not have been included with the 2 species that DO occur outside Australia, *C. floribunda* and *C. manghas*.

If you have any book reviews, pictures, notes on growing tropical Australian plants or trip reports you'd like published in this newsletter, please send them to me: Stuart Worboys – email worboys1968@yahoo.com.au