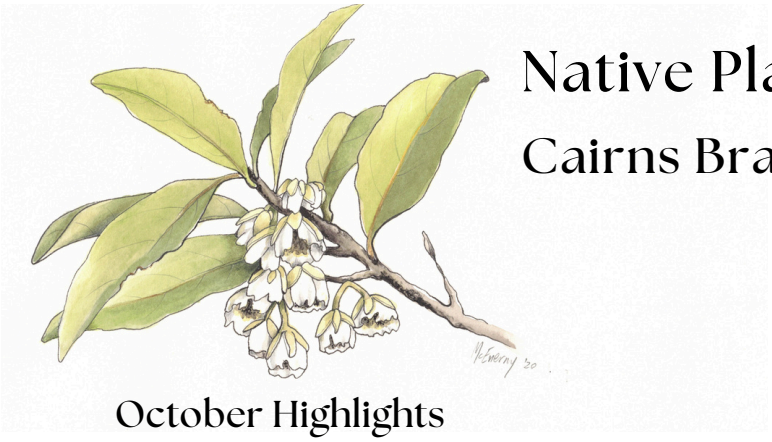
NEWSLETTER NO 266



Native Plants Queensland
Cairns Branch

November 2026

October Highlights

Plant identification at Cattana
Sandy Watts

October's excursion took us to Cattana Wetlands, where we were treated to a perfect overcast day for exploring. The day began with a leisurely stroll around the lake, spotting plenty of familiar favourites in flower or fruit, including *Atractocarpus fitzalandii, Cordyline manners-suttoniae*, *Syzygium tierneyanum* and, one of my favourites, *Barringtonia calyptrata*.

Our walk also prompted some interesting observations about plant selection. We noticed a number of non-native species that appear to have been mistakenly planted within the wetland, including *Dillenia suffruticosa* from SE Asia and elkhorns, species unknown but not local.



***Cordyline manners-suttoniae* distinguished from *C. cannifolia*, by it's longer pedicels (7-12mm compared with 2mm)**

Next Excursion

Tony & Trudi's Place
5 McCarthy Close, Brinsmead
15 November 2026, 10am
Plant Identification Workshop No2.

rsvp:
secretary@sgapcairns.org.au

Upcoming Excursions

December: Christmas party
Edge Hill Bowls Club
Sunday 6 December
rsvp by 14 November.

SGAP Library

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Rob shared an interesting observation. The lake was once surrounded by a variety of native sedges, some of which were quite rare. Sadly, these have now all but disappeared. We suspect this may have been collateral damage from the poisoning of salvinia, which according to the CRC sign, had recently been treated.

Following our lakeside exploration, we found a lovely shady spot to enjoy lunch before turning our attention to the start of our plant identification workshop.

The first session focused on leaf characteristics, from leaf arrangement to domatia! The workshop was enjoyed by everyone, regardless of their existing botanical knowledge. It was a relaxed and engaging opportunity to share observations, learn from one another and build confidence in identifying plants.

All in all, a lovely day combining exploration, learning and an appreciation of the plant life at Cattana Wetlands.



Barringtonia calyptrata

Upcoming events

Please note our November excursion has changed. Tony and Trudi will be hosting the group to undertake the second installment of our plant identification workshop. We also hope to have further information on the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, native garden project (near Greeenslopes St).

Christmas Party

The date has been set!!! Sunday 6 December, Edge Hills Bowls Club. Please bring along something to raffle and cash. RSVP to secure your spot.

To make it easy you can RSVP to both events by **Saturday 14 November**, secretary@sgapcairns.org.au