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## **FEBRUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER**

### **MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS**

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. We attempt to conclude the General meeting by 8:00pm and this is followed by a Guest Speaker beginning at 8:15 pm. There is time for a cuppa inbetween the meeting and the guest speaker. The venue for our meeting is Marrara Christian School, on the corner of Amy Johnson and McMillans Drive. All welcome. Bring plants to swap, sell or have identified.

### **COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS**

**~ NEXT MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH ~**

**~ GUEST SPEAKER: COLIN WILSON ~**

“What’s Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for Leichhardt’s Grasshoppers?” Colin Wilson, from the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, will present a Powerpoint presentation on Leichhardt’s Grasshoppers. Come along to our first meeting of 2004!

**~ FEBRUARY ‘04 FIELD TRIP ~**

Field Trip: Our first Field Trip for the year is planned for Saturday 21st February to the Churcher Wetlands. Meet at 9:00am at the Wetlands, corner of Pioneer Drive and Power Road, McMinns Lagoon (between Howard Springs and Humpty Doo) Joyce Stobo, our local expert on small plants will be our guide for this excursion.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS/FORWARD PLANNING**

The committee is looking is in the process of planning our future meetings. They hope to have speakers to present both sides of the Daly River Land Clearing issue. for our March meeting (18th March) If anyone has other ideas for guest speakers or field trips please let a Committee member know so that planning and organization can take place.

### **NOVEMBER 2003 FIELD TRIP**

In November we ventured down to Andrew and Lyn Kernick’s block “Yawula” at Lowther Road early on Saturday morning, 22nd November, to look for the rare orchid, *Pachystoma pubescens*. Unfortunately we didn’t locate any of this particular species of orchid but we did find other plants which we were able to the Kernick’s species list for their property. Unfortunately, at the time of printing/emailing we do not have a complete species list for the Kernick’s block. This may be forthcoming in a future newsletter.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2002-2003

This has been another busy and successful year for the Top End Native Plant Society. Once again we held monthly meeting followed by a Field trip except over the Christmas holiday season. Our years events are summarized below:

- November 2002: Guest Speaker: Joyce Stobo "Small Flowering Plants"  
Field Trip: Robin Falls
- December: No Meeting  
Christmas Break Up at Riyala, Noonamah
- February 2003: Guest Speaker; Anja Zimmerman "Flora of Christmas Island"  
Field Trip: Channel Island
- March 2003: Guest Speaker: Dick Williams "Tropical Savannas"  
Field Trip: Dempster's Block, Virginia Road, Virginia
- April 2003: Guest Speaker: Member's Night  
Field Trip: Litchfield Park (over the Easter Weekend)
- May 2003: Guest Speaker: Strider "Study of Burnt and Unburnt Woodland"  
Field Trip: Charles Darwin Park
- June 2003: Guest Speaker: Dr David Bowman "Fire and it's Effects"  
Field Trip: Darwin River (Phil Hickey's Block)
- July 2003: Guest Speaker: Ian Morris "The English Company Islands"  
Field Trip: Northern Territory University
- August: Guest Speaker: Sean Bellairs "Seed Dormancy and Germination"  
Field Trip: Meehan's Block (Stow Road, Howard Springs)
- September 2003: Guest Speaker: Nicky Link "Answers in Genesis"  
Field Trip: Holmes Jungle
- October 2003 Guest Speaker: Don Franklin "Bambusa arnhemica"  
Field Trip: Casuarina Costal Reserve

Two major plant sales were organized throughout the year. These were held in March and August. The March sale was held prior to a General Meeting and was supported by Greening Australia. The August sale was held at the Tropical Garden Spectacular in the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. Many members contributed their plants, their time to be at the stall and their enthusiasm in order to promote local native plants. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to help our Society make these plant sales a successful venture, not only financially but in the promotion of our Society.

A working bee was organized in March in order to continue the weeding and maintenance of the *Citrus gracilis* site at Sayer Road. This has been a long term project for TENPS in an effort to help in the conservation of this species.

(continued next page)

The major expenditure of the Society during the year was purchasing a Digital Camera to record Field Trips, make publication of the newsletter more interesting and capture images of native plants with view to a possible future publication and/or making displays for Plant Sales.

The success of the club depends on individuals who volunteer their time and effort and I would like to thank everyone and especially the committee for their generous contributions throughout the year.

Russell Dempster  
President  
Top End Native Plant Society.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Next Committee Meeting, Tuesday 2nd March at the Dempster's, Virginia Road at 7:30 p.m. Your input is welcome. Please contact a Committee member prior to the proposed meeting if you have any contributions to make.

At the last Committee Meeting Raylene Chandler was co-opted to the Committee. It was also decided by the Committee at this meeting to share the Secretarial duties amongst the current committee members.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

8th February 2003

### **Re: Audit and financial statements for year ended 30 September 2003**

Neil Leek, Chartered Professional Accountant, has audited the Top End Native Plant Society accounts for the financial year ended 30 September 2003. A copy of the audit was lodged as required at the Territory Business Centre on 13th January 2004.

A copy of the audit's balance sheet is attached for members' information. A full copy of the audit will be available for members at the February 2004 General meeting. A couple of minor amendments exist from the financial statements lodged at the AGM due to minor errors by the treasurer.

There was in fact a surplus of \$1357.68, not a deficit as reported in the draft statements at the AGM. This was due to incorrect placement of the capital item of the digital camera as income-expenditure, instead of within the balance sheet.

The current liability showing in the audit balance sheet is due to an overbanking error in August 2003, which had not been repaid by the end of financial year.

**Jennifer Cooke**  
Treasurer

## Top End Native Plant Society of the NT Incorporated

### Balance Sheet As at 30 September 2003

Society funds	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
Opening balance		9374.11	6101.68
Plus surplus / deficit for year		<u>1357.68</u>	<u>3272.43</u>
<b>Total Member Funds</b>		<b>10731.79</b>	<b>9374.11</b>
Represented by:-			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank – cheque account		<u>4359.12</u>	<u>5043.43</u>
Total current assets		<b>4359.12</b>	<b>5043.43</b>
Fixed assets			
Library & press		2988.80	2988.80
Shade and shelter		275.00	275.00
Trolley		380.00	380.00
Garman GPS/car adaptor/cable		543.90	543.90
Aquapacs x2		70.00	70.00
Urn		72.98	72.98
Digital camera		2100.00	0.00
Storage boxes		<u>31.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total fixed assets		<b>6462.67</b>	<b>4330.68</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>10821.79</b>	<b>9374.11</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Due to overbanking error in August 2003		<u>90.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<b>90.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>10731.79</b>	<b>9374.11</b>

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Following the AGM in November 2003 we had a discussion about the Objects of the Top End Native Plant Society. Below are the points raised at the discussion (in dot form)

### **OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE:**

#### **1: The appreciation, conservation and study off flora native to the Top End:**

- Guest speakers at Monthly meetings and field trips
- Newsletter
- support and contribution to research and conservation of rare species e.g Sayers Road
- library
- education of members on taxonomy. and location of species

**2: The propagation and cultivation of Top End Native Flora on both private and public land.**

- Plant sales
- Members plants to meetings
- providing advice on propagation and planting of suitable species.
- Propagation of specific species

**3: The establishment of National Parks, flora reserves other protected areas and Botanic Gardens.**

- Input into draft management plans
- Explore concept of a decentralized botanical garden concept

**4: The strengthening of laws for the conservation of Australian native flora and its habitat.**

- Provide submissions to government on matters of plant conservation concern.

**5: The recording and publication of information on Top End Native Flora and its benefits**

- Create public awareness of native plant conservation issues
- Make contributions to the herbariums

**6: The establishment and maintenance of association with organizations being compatible with objects.**

- Circulate newsletters to other compatible organizations
- Arrange joint activities
- Input into draft management plans
- Explore concept of a decentralized botanical garden concept

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH  
GUEST SPEAKER: COLIN WILSON**

“WHAT’S DINNER, BED AND BREAKFAST FOR LEICHHARDT’S GRASSHOPPERS?”

**SENDER: TOP END NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
PO BOX 135 PALMERSTON  
NT 0831**

**TO:**

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM - MEMBERSHIP DUE 1ST JULY 2004  
TOP END NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY. PO BOX 135 PALMERSTON NT 0831**  
Please accept my subscription/renewal for membership of the Top End Native Plant Society  
My details are as follows:

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Address: ..... Post Code .....

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Newsletters are now available by email ( Acrobat Reader required to read files) If you would like your  
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