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~ July 2008 NEWSLETTER ~

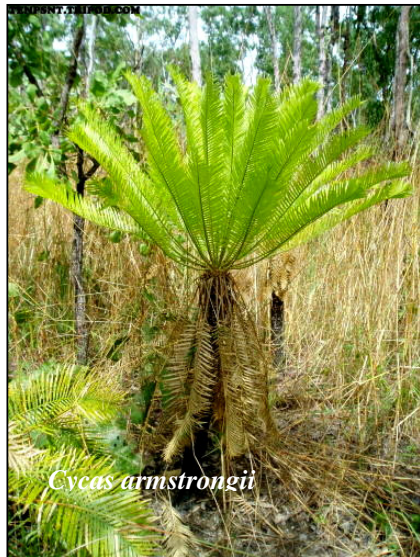
MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Following the TENPS general meeting, the speaker will commence at 8pm. Tea & coffee are available during the meeting. The venue for the meeting is Marrara Christian College, on the corner of Amy Johnson Avenue and McMillans Road. All welcome. Bring plants to swap, sell or have identified.

~ NEXT MEETING - Thursday 17th July ~

Dale Dixon – Native Plant Identification Workshop – Unfortunately this has had to be postponed again. It is planned to hold this at a later date.

Dr Dale Dixon, the director of the Northern Territory Herbarium, is now also the Acting Deputy Director of the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT and as a consequence of the promotion has to travel interstate next week.



So to continue the theme but not replace the Workshop a very basic plant session

will be held to try and apply words that are written in books to plant samples at hand. In other words, not just relying on pictures to try and identify features. This meeting will be a practical one and you are asked to bring along samples of plant leaves

and/or flowers you would like to try and identify. Please note features like form (tree/ shrub etc) bark type etc. Also if you have a hand lens or a copy of Brock – “Native plants of the Top End” can you bring those along as well.



~ NEXT FIELD TRIP- Saturday 19th July ~

The field trip is to Holmes Jungle on Saturday morning, exact meeting time and place will be discussed at the general meeting. If you cannot attend the general meeting but wish to come along on the field trip Phone Marj on 8985 6885 for details.

WHAT IS YOUR COMMITTEE DOING ???

- Brainstorming for a project that TENPS can fund such as a school or community project
- Website redesign will commence July/August
- Confirmed a site at the Tropical Garden Spectacular 9-10 August 2008 and preparing for the TENPS plant sale stall
- Continuing our collaboration on talks and activities with Field Naturalists.
- Working to obtain ongoing maintenance funding for fencing at Bankers Jungle.
- Considering a fund-raising event at the Deckchair Cinema during the Dry season. We will keep you posted.
- Next committee meeting will be held at 7.30 Tuesday 22nd July at Chris Burns electorate office in Moil Shopping Centre. Members are very welcome to attend committee meetings if they wish so to do.

~ Notes from GENERAL MEETING – June ~

Apologies for the absence of notes. These will be included in the August newsletter.

~ June FIELD TRIP ~ Black Jungle Spring (Kakadu National Park) Melina McDowell

Apologies for this rather short report-back...I thought it might be easier to fill you all in on the field trip through a series of photos :)

It was a rather late start to our walk but luckily an overcast morning...



Crossing the water using a bridge built by Matt...



to get out of the savanna & into the wet jungle (by then the sky had cleared but luckily it didn't get too hot :)



It was a day full of photos (I'm guessing you had noticed that much) of plants and insects (most of my insect photos didn't turn out but nevertheless heaps of fun at the time)...

It was a day full of the sounds of Iaaarn :)

and Paperbark Play



We also went on a fern hunt... we didn't find the *Christella* but found a number of other ferns including a little beauty called *Lycopodiella cernua*.



All in all a fairly long but enjoyable day :)

Black Jungle Spring (Kakadu National Park) Plant List

NB. (fl) = Flowering and (fr) = fruiting

Poaceae *Bambusa arnhemica* (Bamboo)

Asteraceae *Blumea* (?)

Euphorbiaceae *Breynia cernua* (fr)

Rhizophoraceae *Carallia brachiata*

Araceae *Colocasia esculenta* (Taro)

- There are various varieties of this species [From ANBG website].

Moraceae *Ficus congesta*

Moraceae *Ficus racemosa* (Cluster Fig)

Flacourtiaceae *Flacourtia territorialis*

Flagellariaceae *Flagellaria indica*

Flagellariaceae *Glochidion perakense*

Verbenaceae *Gmelina schlecteri*



Livistona rigida

Asclepiadaceae *Gymnanthera nitida*

Rubiaceae *Ixora timorensis* (fl)

Leeaceae *Leea indica*

Leeaceae *Leea rubra*

Scrophulariaceae *Lindernia* sp. (fl)

- There are 15 species of *Lindernia* awaiting formal investigation and description in the NT [From ANBG website].

Arecaceae *Livistona rigida*

- Livistona rigida* grows to 10 – 20m high (so taller than *L. humilis* or Sand Palm at a max of 5m) and is fairly restricted, growing in dense stands beside lowland freshwater streams and associated monsoon forest. The leaves are a slightly shiny grey-green colour [from Brock].

Onagraceae *Ludwigia octovalvis* (fl)

Cucurbitaceae *Luffa* sp. (either *L. aegyptiaca* or *L. graveolens*) (fl)

Lycopodiaceae *Lycopodiella cernua* (formerly *Lycopodium cernuum*)

Myrtaceae *Melaleuca leucadendra*
(Weeping Paperbark)

Rutaceae *Melicope elleryana*

Polypodiaceae *Microsorium scolopendria*

Rubiaceae *Nauclea orientalis*
(Leichhardt Tree)

Pandanaceae *Pandanus spiralis*

Araliaceae *Schefflera actinophylla* (Umbrella Tree)

- This species is native to the Top End & northern Qld however is an environmental weed in southern Qld & northern NSW



Cyperaceae *Scleria* sp. (fr)

Fabaceae *Sesbania formosa* (fr)

Smilacaceae *Smilax australis*

Sterculiaceae *Sterculia holtzei*

- relative of *S. quadrifida* (Peanut Tree)

Loganiaceae *Strychnos lucida*

Myrtaceae *Syzygium nervosum*

Combretaceae *Terminalia latipes* (fr)

Combretaceae *Terminalia microcarpa*

Rubiaceae *Timonius timon*

Meliaceae *Vavaea amicorum* (or *V. australiana*)

- Vavaea australiana* is a taxonomic synonym of *Vavaea amicorum* (i.e. both names *V. amicorum* & *V. australiana* were applied to the same species, however *V. amicorum* was the name given first. Hence this is the correct name for this species)

Myrtaceae *Xanthostemon eucalyptoides*

Myrtaceae *Xanthostemon psidioides*

Brief description of some Families:

Due to my interest in learning more about plant families I went through the plant list that Russell collated from the Black Jungle Spring field trip and found the family of each species (from Brock or the Australian National Botanic Gardens website → <http://www.anbg.gov.au/win/index.html>). I have hence discovered there were a large variety of families represented on this trip! So below is a very brief description of a handful of these families :) [Information as found on Wikipedia → <http://www.wikipedia.org>]

Asteraceae

Asteraceae (also known as **Compositae**) is known as the aster, **daisy**, or sunflower family. Asteraceae are most usually herbs, but some shrubs, trees and climbers do exist. They are generally easy to distinguish, mainly because of their characteristic inflorescence.

Cyperaceae

The family **Cyperaceae**, or the **sedges**, is a taxon of monocot flowering plants that superficially resemble grasses or rushes.

Euphorbiaceae

The **Spurge** family (**Euphorbiaceae**) is a large family containing many herbs, although some species within this family, especially in the tropics, are also shrubs or trees. Some are succulent and resemble cacti.

Moraceae

Moraceae is a family of flowering plants commonly known as the mulberry or **fig** family. It is widespread in tropical and subtropical regions, less common in temperate climates. Included are well-known plants such as the fig, banyan, breadfruit, mulberry, and osage-orange.

Myrtaceae

Examples of plants in the **Myrtaceae** or **Myrtle family** are myrtle, clove, guava, feijoa, allspice, and eucalyptus. All species are woody, with essential oils, and flower parts in multiples of four or five.

Poaceae

Plants of the **Poaceae** (or **Gramineae**) family are usually called **grasses**.

Rubiaceae

Rubiaceae is a family of flowering plants, variously called the madder, bedstraw, or coffee family. Other common plants included here are gardenia, cinchona, sweet woodruff, partridgeberry, gambier, ixora, and noni.

WHAT'S IN FLOWER? ~



ABOVE: *Banksia dentata* and
RIGHT: *Hibiscus meraukensis* in
Litchfield National Park (Tjaetaba Falls

This tooth leaved Banksia (*Banksia dentata* or Swamp banksia) is the only Banksia in the Top End. It grows between 5 and 7m tall and usually flowers from December - April although may flower in months either side (this photo taken in early May). Fruits from July – September, tolerates poor soils and seasonal waterlogging.

Hibiscus meraukensis is an annual shrub (1-2m high) from the Malvaceae family. It has coarsely-hairy stems & highly variable leaves (in size & shape). The flowers are solitary & may be white or pink with maroon or purple centre. This shrub flowers from March to May (flowers being quite large ... 7-10cm across!!). Fruits are May to July.



Most information gathered from Brock, however Mitrasacme info from Brennan (Wildflowers of Kakadu).

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Photos of flowers, plants, gardens, vegetation ... ☺

If you are willing to have your photographs included in newsletters please forward to Melina McDowell melinajmcdowell@yahoo.com.au

~ EVENTS ~

World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED), commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. TENPS had a stall at WED to promote our services and the benefits planting native plants. Many groups with an environmental focus were also present. Unfortunately, crowds were small and the day was very quiet.

Things of interest

ABC weather pix Update

There are a number of specifications for photographs on ABC Weather pix. These include:

- Should be at a resolution of at least 1280 x 1024 pixels
- Need to be sent as .jpg
- Should be in LANDSCAPE orientation, not portrait
- Photos should have been taken in the Northern Territory and can feature anything that might suggest the Territory
- Have a short description attached to them
- Have the photographer's name, address and telephone contact number attached to them

For the full list of specifications contact weatherpixnt@your.abc.net.au or 8943 3186

~FUTURE EVENTS ~

July

East Point Breezeway Landcare Inc's Fundraising Quiz Night

Date: Friday, 18 July 2008 at 7pm

Venue: Gardens Park Golf Links Clubhouse

Tables: 8 People

Cost: \$20 Per Head

Supper: Pizza + Salad

Drinks: Bar Facilities

Questions By Deadly Treadlies!!!! Prizes!!!!

Bookings: Contact Helen Haritos On 8981 2077 Or Hharitos@Bigpond.Net.Au

Please Circulate – The More The Merrier!

August

Tropical Garden Spectacular - August 9th - 10th, 2008

The NT Tropical Garden Spectacular is the industry's largest event and greatest promotional opportunity. TENPS has a stall at the garden spectacular, which we promote and sell top end native plants. **Anyone thinking of providing plants for sale contact Marj King for any labels that you require.**

Please consider volunteering a short spell at the TENPS stall. This will provide you with free entry to the spectacular and also help us out considerably. It is not necessary to have extensive knowledge of the plants as there is usually an experienced member present to answer any tricky questions!

General Meeting Thurs August 21st.

Ian Cowie from the Northern Territory Herbarium, will be the speaker on the Floristics of East Timor.

Field Trip August Sat 23rd. Channel Island.

Meet at the end of the Channel Island bridge at 9am.

Channel Island is significant for both its natural and cultural heritage values. Located in Darwin Harbour, Channel Island leprosarium provides evidence of the official policy of enforced segregation of diseased people. It also offers an insight into the experience of this compulsory isolated group. Set amongst the mangroves, the natural environment of Channel Island is significant as a teaching site for its geological features, mangroves and for the rocky reef with coral between the island and the mainland. The Channel Island Field Study Centre, the board walks through the mangroves, the geological features and the reef are all interesting learning resources.

September

Field Trip September Sat 20th Fogg Dam.

Coordinated with friends of Fogg Dam. TENPS to run a guided walk. This is a great opportunity to also see plenty of birdlife. Further details to be provided.

NT Threatened Species Art and Photography Exhibition



The NT Threatened Species Art competition is on again!! The competition is held each year as part of National Threatened Species Day - September 7th - the day the last Tasmanian tiger died in captivity at Hobart Zoo in 1936.

The theme this year is 'threatened species, their habitats and their threats in the Northern Territory'.

Open to all ages and all mediums (painting, sketch, sculpture, photography etc).

Entries close: 22nd August 2008.

For more information contact the Northern Savannas TSN Coordinator on (08) 8941 7554 or

savannas@wwf.org.au

Field Naturalists Diary:

July meeting. Wednesday July 9, 7:45 PM. Blue 1.03 (=22.03, Business Building), CDU.

Simon Ward. "Threatened species research in the Northern Territory"

More than 200 species are threatened or extinct in the NT. Many of these have been adversely affected by introduced predators, competition with introduced grazing animals, over-harvesting, marine pollution or changes in fire regime. A few species are so restricted in distribution, either naturally or as a result of severe declines, that intensive management is required. Among them is a suite of species, for which so little is known of their ecology that research need to be undertaken in order to develop management regimes for their recovery.

Simon Ward is the threatened species manager for the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts. His talk will cover some of the activities NRETA is undertaking to ensure threatened species management is supported by scientific research.

July field trip. Saturday July 19. Threatened and other plants on Mt Bundy.

This half-day excursion will be led by Herbarium botanist Ian Cowie. Meet at 8:30AM at the Mary River National Park information bay beside the Arnhem Hwy (left hand side as you travel out from Darwin). Allow plenty of time to get there. Bring lunch, drinking water, robust footwear, sunscreen, hat etc. We will walk into the Mt Bundy Hills but be back at the information bay for lunch. This should be a fascinating morning.

August 2008 meeting. Wednesday August 13. Annual General Meeting. Gay Crowley: Botanical stories from Vietnam.

September 2008 meeting. Wednesday Sept. 10. Mark Ziembicki: Stuffed mammals.

October 2008 meeting. Wednesday October 8. Peter Dostine: The Flock Bronzewing.

November 2008 meeting. Wednesday Nov. 12. Don Franklin: Slow boat on the Mekong.

For more information contact: Don Franklin & Christine Maas eucalypt@octa4.net.au or 8948 1293

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

TO:

~SUBSCRIPTION FORM MEMBERSHIP DUE 1 JULY 2008~

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Signature Date: .../...../.....

Meeting the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at Marrara Christian College