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~ June 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 19th June ~

Ian Morris - Naturalist. "The Bush Foods of Arnhem Land"

A look at the way the Yolngu & Bininj People of northern Arnhem Land have sustainably managed & seasonally harvested the food resources of their natural environments & some implications for modern management. Time for questions at the end.

Ian Morris's love affair with wildlife and the territory began as a boy. His Aunt and Uncle were Methodist missionaries on Elcho Island and used to bring the local people to visit him in Sydney. He eventually moved to Elcho Island and became a teacher about 40 years ago and has lived in the territory ever since. He feels compelled to share his passion with Northern Australia ...

www.abc.net.au

~ NEXT FIELD TRIP- 21st June ~

The field trip will be on Saturday the 21st June to Black Jungle Springs in Kakadu National Park on the old Jim Jim road, before you get to the South Alligator River, so a 4-wheel drive vehicle is not required. Ian Morris will be leading the trip. Meet at Bark Hut Inn at 9 a.m. and/or organise car pooling at the monthly meeting. Bring a hat, drink, lunch, insect repellent and sunscreen.

WHAT IS YOUR COMMITTEE DOING???

- Brainstorming for a project that TENPS can fund such as a school or community project
- Awaiting a quote for redesigning of website
- Seeking ongoing funding for fence maintenance at Bankers Jungle;
- Applying for a sales area at the Tropical Garden Spectacular 9-10 August 2008.
- TENPS will be providing a letter of support to the Friends of Fogg Dam submission to the Adelaide River Parks plan of management review

~ Notes from GENERAL MEETING – April ~

What is Global Warming?: Climate Change Projections : Impacts for Australia : Impacts for the NT
Robin Knox – COOLMob

Carbon dioxide for planet Earth is like salt for us. We cannot live without it, but too much is poison.

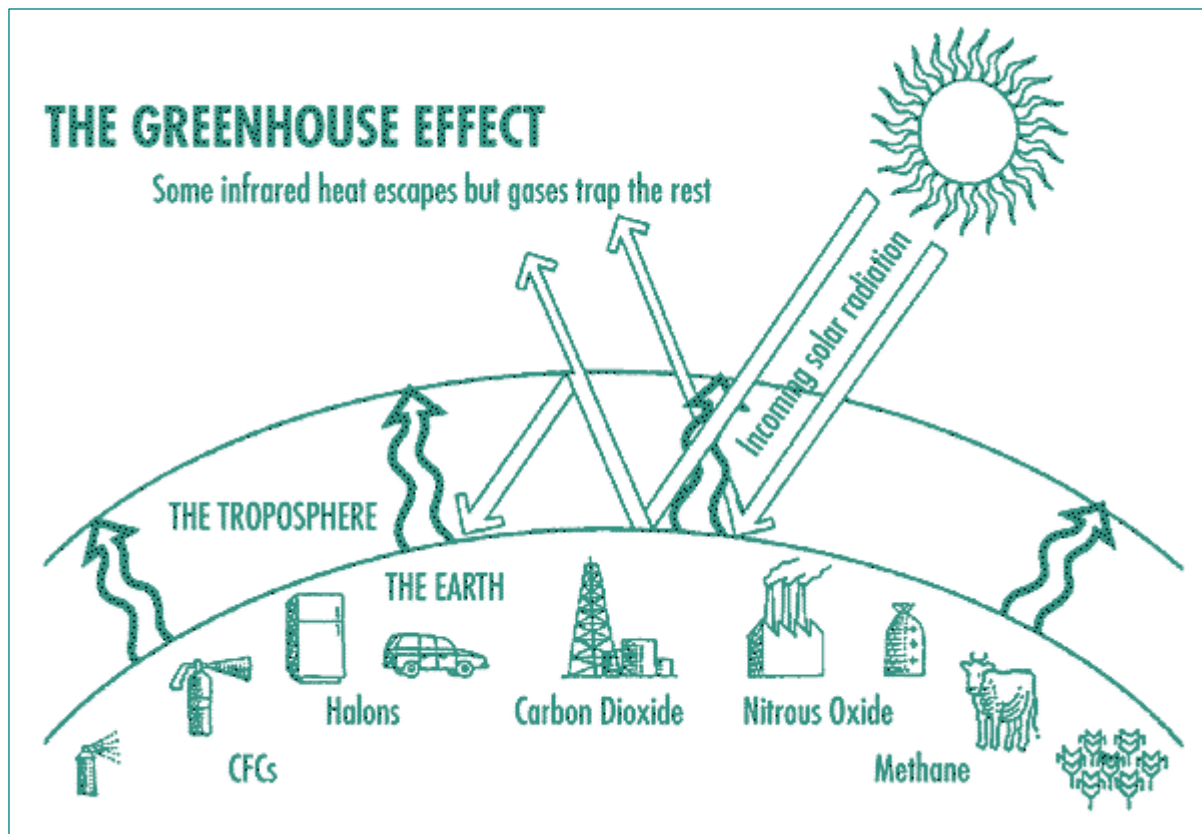


Figure 1. The Greenhouse Effect. Adapted from an information sheet on global warming (also known as climate change or the greenhouse effect) produced by the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory

What is Global Warming?

Global warming, also known as climate change, is occurring because levels of key greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) are rising as a direct result of human activity. In particular, rapid increases in atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have occurred in the last 150 years because of an increase in the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas. Landclearing has also made a significant contribution to the build up of greenhouse gases.

These gases are like a 'doona' keeping the Earth warm. Radiation from the Sun, which has been reflected off the surface of the Earth, is prevented from completing its outward journey back into space.

As we put more and more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere it causes a 'double doona' effect, with serious environmental consequences. During the 20th century, the Earth warmed by about 0.6°C in response to this rising greenhouse pollution, with the 1990's being by far the warmest decade on record. Australia warmed by 0.7°C from 1910-1999. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has said that this rate of change is significantly faster than what would have occurred naturally.

Since 1950, with more cars on the roads, more factories and more electricity generation, greenhouse gas emissions have accelerated dramatically. Australia has one of the highest rates of greenhouse gas emissions per capita in the world. At current rates of increase, CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere could more than double by the end of this century.

Climate Change Projections

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international body of over 5000 scientists, predicts that unless greenhouse gas pollution is substantially reduced we can expect a further increase in global temperature of between 1.4 and 5.8°C by 2100 (relative to 1990). The CSIRO made very similar climate predictions for Australia. By 2070 average annual temperatures are likely to increase by between 1 and 6°C over large areas of the continent.

It should be pointed out that these projections do not take account of specific measures that might be undertaken to reduce greenhouse gases. It is our actions that will largely determine whether the actual temperature in 70 years time is closer to the top or bottom of the predicted range. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which sets emissions targets for industrialised countries, is seen by many in the international community as an important first step along the road to a stabilised climate.

Impacts for Australia

A temperature change of a few degrees might not seem like much but very small changes can have huge impacts on the planet's physical processes and the life cycle of almost all living things – including humans. Exotic animal and weed species that are more able to adapt to climate change will proliferate at the expense of less adaptable Australian native species. There is likely to be an increased risk of forest fires in many parts of Australia, alpine habitats are likely to be diminished in size and rivers are expected to experience lower flows in areas of decreased rainfall. Coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef, already a problem, is expected to worsen.

There will be potentially serious health and economic impacts for people as well:

- Farmers will need to adapt to vastly different agricultural conditions, including water shortages in drought-prone areas.
- Climate-related deaths from extreme weather events are likely to rise.
- There will be rising insurance premiums as more and more communities, particularly in rural and remote Australia, are affected by droughts or disastrous flooding and severe storms.
- Beachfront housing will come under particular threat from rising sea levels, which the IPCC predicts will rise by between 0.8 to 8cm per decade over the course of the century.

Impacts for Northern Territory

According to a report by the CSIRO commissioned by the NT Government, some of the potential impacts of climate change for the Top End include:

- The temperature in the Northern Territory may rise from 0.2 to 2.2°C by 2030 and 0.8 to 7.2°C by 2070.
- Changes in extreme temperatures are predicted.
- The Darwin region is likely to experience an increase in Dry season rainfall, while the rest of the Territory is likely to experience less rain overall.
- An increase in the intensity of tropical cyclones and storm surges.
- Sea levels may rise 5-15cm by 2030 and 10-15cm by 2070 which will have impacts on coastal settlements, mangroves and wetlands.

- Impacts on our health include increases in heat stress, injuries related to floods, cases of diarrhoea requiring hospitalization and risk of Dengue fever.
- Temperature changes and changes to the length of the Dry season will have severe impacts on some species.

Information taken from: <http://www.coolmob.org/html/climate.html>

~ WHAT'S IN FLOWER? ~



Grevillea angulata

Seen in the open forest habitat, this grevillea is an attractive bush 1-4 metres high with prickly, holly-like leaves. It flowers periodically and has a decorative display of a considerable amount of flowers on the bush.

It can be cultivated from seed or tip cuttings, grows in sunny, well drained sites and is hardy and fast growing. Responds well to pruning.

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

~FUTURE EVENTS ~

June:

Friends of Fogg Dam

The Friends of Fogg Dam draft submission to the Adelaide River Parks plan of Management review. The area covered by the review includes Fogg and Harrison Dams, Lambells Lagoon and Black Jungle plus lots of the flood plain. It contains info on the Woodlands to Waterlilly and Monsoon Forest Walks that may be of interest to Top End Native Plants Society members, particularly the proposal initiated by Strider that the Monsoon Walk become a heritage trail.

Prue Adamson of Parks and Wildlife is undertaking the review. It would be best for you to email any comments directly to Prue Adamson at Prue.Adamson@nt.gov.au

Prue is wanting input for her consultations with different groups throughout the year. I understand we will have another chance at the end of the consultation phase to put in a final submission.

www.foggdam.com.au

July

General Meeting 17th July.

Plant Identification. Dr Dale Dixon, the director of the Northern Territory Herbarium, will be the speaker. Bring some plants along that you would like identified. This will be followed up with Dale leading a field trip to Litchfield Park for plant identification in the field on Sunday 22nd of July. The venue for this is to be confirmed.

August

General Meeting August 21st.

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

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

Attracting over 10 000 visitors each year the NT Tropical Garden Spectacular is the industry's largest event and greatest promotional opportunity. With the assistance of the George Brown Botanical Gardens, Nursery and Garden Industry NT presents an incredible showcase of tropical landscaping and lifestyle. There are displays, entertainment, themed gardens and overall ambiance are of a very high standard. Timed to capture the perfect end-of-dry-season conditions, this event is a "must-see" for everyone.

TENPS has a stall at the garden spectacular, which we promote and sell top end native plants.

Anyone thinking of providing plants for sale should think about it now, as its not far away.

Contact Marj King for any labels that you require.

Things of interest

ABC weather pix



Long time member, Pat Rasmussen decided she was tired of the endless sunsets and such that preface presentation of the weather following the 7 pm news on ABC television. Pat believes it provides a good opportunity to draw attention to the beauty of our native flora and contacted ABC management to sound them out with the idea. She was told that suitable photographs of appropriate subjects would be welcomed. Consequently, we are inviting members to make available for this purpose any of their better photographs.

Landcare is a great community organisation of groups committed to caring for the environment. These groups look after an area of vegetation through planting, watering, weeding and general maintenance. It is a fantastic way to get out there in your local community and enjoy your area. If you are keen to get involved contact the Landcare coordinator on 8999 3423.

The Landcare groups of the NT:

Darwin Urban Groups

Casuarina Coastal Reserve
Knuckey Lagoon Recreation Reserve
Ludmilla
Rapid Creek
National Trust (Dashwood Crescent - City)
East Point Breezeway

Outer Darwin

Coomalie
Cox Peninsula

Litchfield Landcare Groups

Darwin River
Holtze
McMinns Reserve
Lambells Lagoon
Livingstone Reserve
Taminmin High School (Woodside Reserve)
Girraween
Friends of Fogg Dam

Field Naturalists Diary:

June meeting. Wednesday June 11, 7:45 PM. Room 22.03 (Business Faculty Bldg.), CDU.

Colin Trainor. *"Bird exploration on Damar Island, Banda Sea, Indonesia"*

In this talk, Colin will discuss an expedition in 2001 to remote Damar Island (198 km², c. 100 km from nearest island) in the Banda Sea. The main aim was to collect ecological information on the endemic Damar Flycatcher *Ficedula henrici* which was until then known only from collections in 1898 (one of the last Asian birds left to be "rediscovered"). Some background motivations and logistics for the visit will be given, which involved 15 days of travel by boat and ship. Damar retains about 70% forest cover: good populations of about 40 resident bird species were recorded. This included the Damar Flycatcher, which was elusive but quite common, and a further 12 globally restricted-range species (species with small global distributions of less than 50,000 km²).

Colin completed his B.Sc.(Hons.) on reptiles and his M.Sc. on mammals, both at Charles Darwin University. He then turned ornithologist, working for the BirdLife International Indonesian Program surveying birds in the central portion of the Indonesian archipelago. He is now undertaking a Ph.D. study of the response of fauna to environmental variation and land use in Timor-Leste (East Timor).

June field trip. Sunday June 15. Bird Billabong (Mary River National Park) - birdwatching, butterflies and general field trip. Meet at the Billabong car park at 8.30 AM. No toilets available.

Directions: take the Arnhem Highway towards Kakadu. About 41 km past the Adelaide River and before crossing the Mary River, turn left off the highway at the sign to Bird Billabong, then left again off the side road. The road to the carpark is unsealed but suitable for 2WD vehicles.

Bring the usual: hat, water, sunscreen, binoculars, camera, lunch, chair etc.

Contact Sheryl Keates 8948 1794 for more information.

July 2008 meeting. Wednesday July 9.

Simon Ward: *Threatened species research in the NT.*

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~

Please accept my subscription/renewal for membership of the Top End Native Plant Society

My details are as follows:

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.....

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Newsletters are now available by email (Acrobat Reader required to read files).

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