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MARCH 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 MARCH 18TH ~

~ GUEST SPEAKER: BARRY SEABROOKE

DARWIN IRRIGATION SUPPLIES~

At our March meeting a representative from Darwin irrigation Supplies will be sharing information on what to use and what not to use in relation to irrigation systems for blocks ranging from large rural to small suburban. This should be a very interesting and informative meeting where you can get all your questions answered about what is best for your situation. Come along for another interesting meeting!

~ MARCH '04 FIELD TRIP ~

Field Trip: Working Bee on the Microcitrus gracilis Conservation site, corner of Sayer Road and Stuart Highway, McMinn's Lagoon Sunday 21st March 9:00am. We'll need to do a general tidy up and weeding of this area in order to get rid of the wet season grasses. Bring along gloves, sunscreen, hats, cold water, mattocks and whatever else you think might be helpful. If we have lots of helpers it shouldn't take that long and we can be finished by mid morning.

~ APRIL '04 FIELD TRIP ~

We are planning a trip to Litchfield Park over the Easter weekend. Accommodation is available at Woolanning Homeland Christian College in the very picturesque surroundings of Petherick's rainforest. Cost of accommodation will be approximately \$110 per family for the weekend. We need to have some ideas of numbers of people attending in order to facilitate the planning. Please let Russell Dempster (8983 2131) know by the March 21st if you would like to participate in this activity.

APRIL MEETING 15TH ~ GUEST SPEAKER: DAVE LIDDLE~

Dave will be talking on Cycads at our April meeting. Dave is well known to most TENPS members and has recently completed his PHD on cycads. More info next newsletter.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 30th March at Geoff Gaskell's home at 7:30 p.m. Your input is always welcome at Committee Meetings. Please contact a Committee member prior to the proposed meeting if you have any contributions to make.

~ IN MEMORY OF GRAHAM YOUNG ~

Graham Young died on 18 February in St George's Hospital, Sydney after a long struggle against cancer. Graham was a long standing member of TENPS who served as committee member, Vice President and finally President in 2000-1, before he left Darwin to travel and live in Queensland. He was also the NT Government Entomologist and world authority on *Mastotermes darwinensis*, also pioneering the use of alternative insecticides - soaps and oils- that presented a physical rather than a chemical threat to pest insects. Among the plants, he was skilled at propagating our native *Grevilleas* for which he had a special affection. It was Graham who recognised the significance of our local *Citrus (Microcitrus) gracilis* and quietly inspired the Society to do something about preserving a small strip of this peculiar plant's habitat at Sayer Road and his quiet strength in supporting TENPS opposition to extractive mining of this fascinating small reserve, was crucial to its success. It was always a pleasure to go on field trips with Graham - his keen observation and love of plants and insects meant that fellow plant lovers always saw something unusual and fascinating. Field trips were never quite the same after he left.

Alison Worsnop

2004 GARDEN SPECTACULAR

As a Society we anticipate participating in the Tropical Garden Spectacular to be held early in August at the Botanic Gardens. We encourage people to propagate native plants **now** so that by August they are a reasonable size and able to be sold at the Spectacular. This event has always been a great way to promote the use of Top End native plants in local gardens and we encourage your participation in this event.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART EXHIBITION

A photography and Art Exhibition/Competition will be held during September this year to help raise the profile of National Threatened Species Day (September 7th) within the Northern Territory. The theme is "Territory Treasures - threatened species and their habitat in the Northern Territory". People of all ages and school levels are encouraged to enter. Works can include (but not limited to) sculptures, photographs, paintings, drawings, posters and banners. Works may address threatened species, their habitat or threatening processes. Works will be on display at the Darwin Entertainment Centre Gallery and the Territory Wildlife Park.

If you have any further questions about the exhibition or about threatened species in the NT please contact Jarrad Holmes (Northern Savannas Threatened Species Network Coordinator) on 08 8941 7554 or email jholmes@wwf.org.au

FLORA OF AUSTRALIA ONLINE

The following email was forwarded to us by one of our members, Anja Zimmermann and we have included it in the newsletter for your information.

The Australian Biological Resources Study is pleased to announce the Flora of Australia is now online

Flora of Australia online delivers the landmark publication series Flora of Australia to a potentially vast audience. This comprehensive, scientific resource demonstrates the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring Australia remains a world leader in taxonomy and managing, presenting and using biodiversity knowledge. This online resource is a result of collaboration between the Australian Biological Resources Study and national and international botanical communities and institutions.

This is a world first for delivery online of an interactive, flora resource at a national level with a flexible, user-defined search interface. Clients can customise data delivery to suit their own needs. Information is available for a wide range of uses, such as school projects, habitat information for land managers, identification keys for naturalists, or species lists for environmental impact statements and land surveys. The information links to electronic distribution maps and much of the line art from the books. Around 8,500 taxa have been published so far in the Flora of Australia book series, and to date 4,500 of these are available in Flora of Australia online.

There are three web sites for the information and their addresses follow:

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/abif/flora/49/>

(Flora of Australia volume 49: Norfolk, Lord Howe and surrounding Islands);

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/abif/flora/50/>

(Flora of Australia volume 50: the remaining Oceanic Islands);

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/abif/flora/main/>

(Information for over 50 families extracted from the following nine volumes of the Flora of Australia book series: 3, 11A, 11B, 12, 16, 17A, 17B, 35 and 48).

We hope you share our excitement about this new development and that you find the Flora of Australia online to be a useful resource. We would be pleased if you would bring this news to the attention of your friends and colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Mary Colreavy
Director, ABRIS

TENPS WEBSITE

Our thanks to Mark Raines who has set up a website for TENPS at <http://tenpsnt.tripod.com> Mark would appreciate any contributions from members - photographs, planting tips, lists of bird attracting plants for home gardens - anything that members would think will enhance the website and be informative for the general public as well as members. You can email contributions directly to Mark at rain0021@optusnet.com or to the tenps email address tenps@austarnet.com.au Check out the website and see what you think!

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 18TH

**~ GUEST SPEAKER: BARRY SEABROOKE
DARWIN IRRIGATION SUPPLIES~ ”**

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

TO:

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