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Felicity Middleton 8988 1840

**PO BOX 135 PALMERSTON NT 0831**  
<http://tenpsnt.tripod.com>

## ~ MAY 2007 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 begins at 8pm. Tea & coffee are available during the meeting. The venue is Marrara Christian College, on the corner of Amy Johnson and McMillan drives. All welcome. Bring plants to swap, sell or have identified.

#### Summary of the last Committee Meeting

- 1.1. Joyce Stobo Library will be opened in September by Dr. Dale Dixon. He will talk about portulacas.
- 1.2. Cultivation - plants for sale at Garden Spectacular, and for Dale Dixon's open garden. People should list what plants they are planning to grow so we don't end up with heaps of the same species.
- 1.3. Grants & projects – Raelene's husband who works at a hospice is interested in planting a garden with grant money. TENPS perhaps could act as consultants and suggest who to get grants from. Members offered some ideas to obtain money.

## ~ NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY ~

In response to the last meeting we shall continue the theme of seed collection and propagation, and this month's meeting will cover seed treatment, planting and potting-on. Marj King will co-ordinate members' collective knowledge, in what should be a very informative session. This will be a practical session so if you wonder why your seeds don't grow or they sprout but don't survive, this session should help.

## ~ FIELD TRIP- SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MAY ~

Members have shown an interest in visiting gardens where native plants are grown so Raylene Chandler – (Ph 8941 8826), Marj King - (Ph 8985 6885) and Jane Burford (8985 4741) have offered to "open" their gardens on Saturday morning. We will start at Jane's place at 9am, move onto Marj's place and then Raylene's. Details will be given out at the meeting or phone one of the above.

## ~ FUTURE EVENTS ~

Cyclone Monica which crossed the NT coast in April 2006 was the most intense cyclone to have been recorded in the southern hemisphere. Unlike Cyclone Larry which recently crossed north Queensland, no substantial funding has been allocated to understanding Monica's impact and implication for northern Australia. This is because the cyclone did not severely affect any major population centres. Nevertheless,  
Meeting the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at Marrara Christian School Library

Cyclone Monica has deforested about 7000 km<sup>2</sup> degrading wildlife habitat, altering hydrology, altering fire regimes and increasing the potential for invasion of weeds particular exotic grasses. When the logs of the fallen trees burn, they will release about 77 000 Gg of CO<sub>2</sub>, roughly equivalent to the annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Australian transport sector. Cyclones could be a hitherto unrecognised driver of vegetation dynamics within 100 to 150 km of the coast across northern Australia. Examination of the spatial patterns of fallen logs will improve the understanding of wind patterns as the cyclone decayed overland. This has important implications for improved protection of the built environment in cyclone affected north Australia.

Garry Cook from CSIRO will be presenting the findings to date of his research into the impacts of Cyclone Monica on vegetation.

### **World Environment Day**

Come and celebrate our unique environment at the **World Environment Day Expo** at the Museum and Art Gallery NT, Fannie Bay, on **Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Relax on the lawns adjacent to the sea and be inspired by the environmental work being undertaken by different groups and agencies in Darwin, across the Top End, and around the NT.

Special features include:

- Information stalls and displays with lots of great ideas and resources
- Workshops on key NT environmental issues
- Lunchtime forum with Prof. Ian Lowe about Australia's environmental challenges
- Live music by local artists
- Food and drinks (served with eco-friendly ware)
- Children's area with lots of environmental activities
- .....and much more!

Stalls and events run from 10.30am to 5pm. See [www.ecnt.org](http://www.ecnt.org) for more details, or call the Environment Centre on 89811984.

## **~ PAST EVENTS ~**

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### **May General Meeting**

Suggestions:

- Encourage members to take photographs of their native gardens for presentation at general meetings.
- Perhaps visit different private gardens as an excursion.
- Any library books to be returned to sort out catalogue.
- Fence plaques on people's fences to show they are supporters of NT native plants.
- Next general meeting if people want to help catalogue the library they can arrive anytime after 4pm

### **Marj King's talk – Seed Collection**

Collecting seeds is all in the timing!

*Grevillias*

- Overall these are difficult to collect and germinate
- Hollow seeds or seeds with holes in will not grow
- Do not pick when green – they will not ripen
- Seeds ripen at different stages. Only about 1/3 of the seeds in a flower spike will be ripe at any one time.
  - Solution – tie a shade cloth bag around the seeds (on the plant). This will hold the seeds as they ripen and fall.

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- To determine if seeds are any good, break one in half, and if it is white inside, it has the potential to grow. If a couple of the seeds are good on the one plant, the chances are that most of the others are good. This applies to all grevillias

*Acacias*

- Most acacias have pods. Wait until the pods are ripe (brown), and some split
- Afternoons usually best time to pick pods
- Seeds should look plump, not hollow
- Some species pods will split open and drop seeds as ripens, so you can miss collection.
- If there are many seeds, the lighter ones will not grow. Drop in water and the heavy ones fall to bottom.
- Colour of seed is important. Refer to books to know what colour the seeds should be

*Eucalypts /Melaleuca (Myrtaceae)*

In the Top End there is a relatively short window to collect seed (down south there is a lot of time)

- Most gumnuts (except swamp bloodwood) open and fall out quickly
- Cut the gumnut in half. If the inside feels damp, then it is not ripe
- There is a lot of chaff inside the gumnut and a few seeds
- Large seed size, more hardy, higher survival rate

*Hibiscus (Malvaceae)*

- Produce pods with similar seeds that drop out

***Some seed pods***

The eye brows are *Acacia stigmatophylla*

The ears - *Acacia multisiliqua*,

The eyes - *Grevillea decurrens*

The moustache - *Acacia nuperrima*

The mouth - *Acacia decurrens*



**Field Trip to Fogg Dam, 18 March.**

by Sally Jacka

Although not many of our members made it to the Fogg Dam excursion, it was successful in that we were able to make a start on a plant list (see below) to contribute to data being collected by Friends of Fogg Dam (FOFD) members of FOFD and NT Field Naturalists' Club showed a keen interest in the plants.

<b>Fogg Dam Excursion Plant List</b>	
<i>Acacia auruculiformis</i>	<i>Acacia holosericea</i>
<i>Acacia lamprocarpa</i>	<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>
<i>Ampelocissus acetosa</i>	<i>Amyema sp.</i>
<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i>	<i>Bombax ceiba</i>
<i>Breynia ceruna</i>	<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>
<i>Carpentaria acuminata</i>	<i>Clerodendrum costatum</i>

<i>Commelina agrostophylla</i>	<i>Commelina ensifolia</i>
<i>Corymbia bella</i>	<i>Crinum angustifolium</i>
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardiodes</i>	<i>Dioscorea transversa</i>
<i>Exocarpus latifolius</i>	<i>Ficus hispida</i>
<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	<i>Gymnanthera oblonga</i>
<i>Leea rubra</i>	<i>Livistonia benthamii</i>
<i>Lophostemon lactifluus</i>	<i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i>
<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	<i>Melaleuca cajuputi</i>
<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>	<i>Nauclea orientalis</i>
<i>Nymphaea violacea</i>	<i>Opilia amentacea</i>
<i>Pandanus spiralis</i>	<i>Phyllanthus amaris</i>
<i>Protasparagus racemosus</i>	<i>Smilax australis</i>
<i>Strychnos lucida</i>	<i>Syzygium nervosum</i>
<i>Tacca leontopetaloides</i>	<i>Terminalia microcarpa</i>
<i>Timonius timon</i>	<i>Trema tomentosa</i>

The walk was followed by an informative discussion about FOFD – their vision and aims. FOFD have made impressive progress toward establishing a valuable organisation. Their vision is to: *To put Fogg Dam on the map and in the hearts and minds of people.*



They intend to promote, protect and enhance the ecological, cultural and aesthetic values of Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve and assist visitors to enjoy, understand and appreciate this unique place

Their objectives are to:

- (a) protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of the Reserve.
- (b) provide information about the natural environment of the Reserve and wetlands.
- (c) improve visitor facilities and provide input into visitor management.
- (d) support the protection of historic and cultural information.
- (e) encourage community involvement and provide input into the Parks and Wildlife Management Plan for Fogg Dam.

If you are interested in joining FOFD or want further information, check out their web site [www.foggdamfriends.org](http://www.foggdamfriends.org) or contact Heather or Jeremy on 8988 5599 or email: [eden@foggdam.com.au](mailto:eden@foggdam.com.au)

## Other Matters

This rock was found on the side of Finn Road, between Palmerston and Berry Springs. It appears to bear the fossil of a plant. Anyone wish to have a stab at identifying it?

*Denise Lawungkurr Goodfellow*



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

**TO:**

**~SUBSCRIPTION FORM MEMBERSHIP DUE 1 JULY 2007~  
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:

Name/s (Please print all family member names).....

.....

Postal Address .....Post Code .....

Telephone (work)..... (home) .....

Email address.....

Newsletters are now available by email (Acrobat Reader required to read files).  
If you would like your newsletter sent by email please tick the box.

Payment Enclosed \$..... (\$20.00 per member/family, \$15.00 unwaged)

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

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