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OCTOBER 2003 NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. General meetings conclude by 8:00pm and are 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 NOVEMBER 20TH ~

~ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS EVENING ~

The next meeting is our Annual General Meeting and will be held on Thursday November 21st at 7:30 pm. The main Agenda item is the Election of Office Bearers for the coming year. followed by a General Meeting. Afterwards, we will have a members evening. This is a chance for you to share anything interesting that you have discovered in relation to plants, tips that you might have that would benefit other members, to bring in cuttings, leaves, flowers etc of plants that you would like to have identified. A plant sale (see list later in the newsletter) will be a part of the evening.

~ NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP ~

We are venturing down to Lowther Road, Virginia to the property of Andrew and Lyn Kernich. You'll find them at "Yawula" 351 Lowther Road. (You can either go down Virginia Road, turn left at the end or come down to Bees Creek and get to Lowther Road via Fred's Pass Road. As the weather is warming up, we are planning an early start - meet at 7:30am at the Kernicks's place The purpose of this field trip is to see if we can rediscover a rare orchid, *Pachystoma pubescens*, which has previously been reported as growing in the vicinity.



~ DECEMBER ACTIVITIES ~

We will conclude our TENPS activities with a Christmas Breakup at Berry Springs on Saturday December 6th at 3:00pm. It will be BYO everything -something to throw on the BBQ, etc. Have a swim, or a walk around and take some time out to enjoy this beautiful area.

DECEMBER 2003/JANUARY 2004

Please note that there is no scheduled meetings or newsletters in December or January. We are planning an abbreviated newsletter in early February to inform members of upcoming events. The next Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb 3rd at 7:30 pm

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP REPORT - CASUARINA COSTAL RESERVE

We met members of the Casuarina Coastal Reseve Landcare Group for a pleasant Sunday afternoon walk for the October field trip. Although it was a typically sweltery build-up day, it wasn't too bad down at the beach. It was a particularly good time to visit as many plant species were either flowering (fl) or fruiting (fr). Some very large Orange-footed Scrub Fowl mounds were seen, as well as a Pheasant Coucal and some beautiful Mistletoe Birds. Plant species observed included the following:

Abrus precatorius	(fr)	Hibiscus tiliaceus	(fr)
Acacia auriculiformis		Ipomoea pres-caprae	(fl)
Albizia lebbek		Ixora timorensis	(fl,fr)
Alphitonia excelsa		Litsea glutinosa	
Alstonia actinophylla		Livistona benthamii	(fr)
Bombax ceiba	(fr)	Mallotus nesophilus	
Brachychiton diversifolius		Micromelum minutum	
Brachychiton megaphylla	(fr)	Miliusa brahei	
Canarium australianum	(fl)	Mucuna gigantea	(fr)
Capparis sepiaria	(fl)	Myristica insipida	
Capparis umbonata	(fl,fr)	Nauclea orientalis	
Carallia brachiata	(fr)	Petalostigma pubescens	
Carpentaria acuminata	(fr)	Planchonia careya	fl,fr)
Cordia subcordata		Pleomele angustifolia	
Cryptocarya cunninghamii		Polyalthia australis	
Cupaniopsis anacardioides		Pongamia pinnata	(fl,fr)
Cycas armstrongii		Smilax australis	
Diospyros calycantha		Sterculia quadrifida	
Drypetes deplanchei		Syzygium eucalyptoides	(fl)
Exocarpos latifolius		Syzygium nervosum	(fl)
Ficus hispida	(fr)	Tarenna dallachiana	
Ficus opposita		Termialia ferdinandiana	(fl)
Ficus scobina		Termialia microcarpa	
Ficus virens		Wrightia pubescens	
Flagellaria indica			
Fluegea virosa	(fl)		
Ganophyllum falcatum			
Glycosmis trifoliata			
Grevillea decurrens	(fl,fr)		
Gyrocarpus americanus	(fr)		

~ Welcome and Farewells ~

We welcome the following people who recently joined TENPS for the first time: Jane Burford, Mireille Santoni and Nancy Quin. At the same time we say farewell to Anita Jansen who is moving to Mackay in Queensland. We wish her well in her endeavours there.



OCTOBER MEETING REPORT - BAMBUSA ARNHEMICA

Don Franklin gave members of the society a very interesting insight into *Bambusa arnhemica* at our October meeting. His presentation, entitled 'Life, Mass-flowering and Death in a Long-lived Tropical Bamboo', is a product of three and a half years of a PhD project on the ecology and management of the Top End Bamboo.

The study was initiated because of concerns about the harvest of bamboo shoots from wild stands. It was soon realised that very little was known about the plant. The taxonomy had to be sorted out.

Bambusa arnhemica is a member of the "woody" bamboos, a huge group of between 1000 and 1500 species in more than 100 genera. There are approximately 300 species in China, 80 in India, while 3 occur in Australia.

Our local species has quite a restricted distribution in the western Top End around Darwin and on the Tiwi Islands. It is native and endemic to our region. *Bambusa arnhemica* is clumping, mainly riparian, growing between 12 to 18 metres in height. Culms (stems) are often 8 centimetres in diameter, sometimes to 13 centimetres.

Reproduction in bamboo can be both **clonal** (vegetative) and **sexual**. Some species alternate modes in a cycle which may last centuries. *Bambusa arnhemica* may have a 45 year cycle. Infrequent flowering is usually followed by die-back and even death of the parent plant.

In clonal reproduction, each offspring is genetically identical to the parent. Each clump contains a number of culms, each connected by a rhizome. Each rhizome has its own root system, which supports a complete culm, branch and leaf set called a ramet. The first ramet is small. Progression to adult size may take 10 years or more. New ramets emerge the same size as the parent and elongate, not branching until they reach virtually full height. Growth rates tested by Don ranged from 15-23 cm per day in the first year and then to 30 cm per day in the second year. The world record for ramet growth is 1.2 m in a day by a Japanese Bamboo.

Bambusa arnhemica flowers without much leaf cover. Flowers are wind pollinated. The anthers and stigmas are exposed simultaneously so self-pollination does occur, but the majority of seedlings are the product of outcrossing. Anthesis is episodic and synchronised across large numbers of plants. The seeds are a large grain and they lose viability after about 3 months, being dropped mainly in November. Not all areas where there are stands of *Bambusa arnhemica* mass-flower the same year. Flowering 'waves' occur.

Don speculated as to why and how this mass-flowering occurs..... A very interesting and enlightening study Don, thank you for your excellent presentation.

GREENING AUSTRALIA ARBOR DAY PLANT SALE

Saturday 29th November 9:00am - 3:00pm

at Greening Australia,

Tiger Brennan and Dinah Beach Roads

Large Variety of Shrubs and Trees,

Suitable for the Backyard or the Rural Block

Tube Stock Available 20% Discount for Greening Australia Members

TENPS LIBRARY

Don't forget that TENPS has a variety of books and articles that can be borrowed by members. We encourage you to make use of this resource. Borrowing is simple, just sign out each book and your name will be crossed off when the book is returned. The Library Trolley is "rolled out" at each meeting. Nina is our librarian - any queries can be directed to her. Thanks go to Sue Harlow for donating a book to our trolley "Manual of Tropical and Subtropical Fruits" by William Peperoe. This is a Facsimile of the 1920 edition and well worth taking a look at. Thanks Sue!



TENPS PLANT SALE NOVEMBER 20TH AT THE NEXT MEETING PLANTS AVAILABLE INCLUDE:



Grevillea heliosperma	Various Accacia species	Glycosmis trifoliata
Sureglada glomerulata	Leea rubra	Phaleria octandra
Terminalia ferdinandiana	Pittosporum moluccanum	Algia rufa

If you have plants that you would like to sell,
please bring them along to the AGM.

Everyone is welcome to bring plants to sell.

The above list is by no means final but is there to give you some idea of what we know will be available at the meeting.

We had originally planned to have a major plant sale at the
Palmerston Craft Fair

but because the fair has been cancelled, this is no longer possible.

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20TH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS EVENING**

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

TO:

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM - MEMBERSHIP DUE 1ST JULY 2003
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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