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Vice President: Raylene Chandler 8941 8826
Secretary: Sally Jacka 8988 5654
Treasurer: Marj King 8985 6885
Publicity: Pat Rasmussen 8983 2788
Publications: Mark Raines 8928 1330
Librarian: Nina Bellairs
Public Officer: Geoff Gaskell 8945 5825
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Russell Dempster 8983 2131

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~NOVEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER~

MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. General meetings conclude by 8 pm and are followed by a guest speaker beginning at 8:15 pm. There is time for a cuppa between the meeting and the guest speaker. The venue for the meeting is Marrara Christian School, on the corner of Amy Johnson and McMillan Drives.

All welcome. Bring plants to swap, sell or have identified.

~NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER~

~GUEST SPEAKER: ~

Kevin Flockhart

“Agroforestry in the NT”

Angry trees?

Come and find out that Agroforestry is not just about pine plantations and wood chips and paper mills.

~NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP~

No Field Trip Replaced by a plant sale 8 am Coolalinga Shopping Centre, Stuart Highway

Be at Coolalinga from 8 am to help sell plants propagated by members. Contact Marj on 8985 6885 for further details. TENPS will have display boards, maybe even a potting display. There certainly will be plenty of plants to sell. You don't need to know a lot about plants just be enthusiastic about our Top End plants.

~ CHRISTMAS BREAKUP ~

Sunday November 28 at 3 pm at Berry Springs for an informative walk along the tracks there, a swim and BYO barbecue. All members, families and friends invited for a social event.

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The Daly River is one of Australia's premier Barramundi fishing destinations. Each year tens of thousands of interstate and international tourists visit the Daly River – providing economic growth to the region. Unfortunately, the Daly River region has been targeted for large-scale irrigation schemes. If the proposals go ahead the vast forests and woodlands will be cleared and billions more litres of water will be pumped from the Daly River every year. Keep up to date with efforts to prevent further damage to the Daly River at the Environment Centre website at <http://www.ecnt.org/about.html>. Remember although it is not just about fishing, it's a good way to get the story out to the average Territorian!

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

~ What's in flower this month? ~



*Melastoma polyanthum*

*M. polyanthum* grows as an erect spreading shrub, which grows up to 2 metres in height with a coarse grey scaly stem. Often found alongside a freshwater creek with *Melaleuca* species. Its ideal habitat requires abundant water and protection from direct sun. The leaves are opposite with coarse hairs found on both sides with three prominent longitudinal veins. Brilliant purple flowers 4 to 8 cm across with protruding yellow stamens stand out against the bright green leaf make this plant stand out. It grows well from cuttings and seed. (Photo: Mark Raines. Robin Falls 10/2004)



*Planchonia careya*

*P. careya* or cocky apple grows as small tree and often founding open woodland. These wispy flowers with their long multiple stamens that are pink and white although in this picture appear greener because of the light filtered through the leaves. They are nearing the end of their flowering by November. A fleshy fruit almost pear shaped fruit arising once the flowers fall to the ground. The fruit is edible when ripe and has been used by local Aboriginal people as a calendar plant. *P. careya* can be cultivated from fresh seed but is often attacked by fruit fly. (Photo: Mark Raines. Marrara Swamp 10/2004)



*Nelumbo nucifera*

*N. nucifera* or lotus lily is perennial aquatic herb arising from submerged creeping rootstock. Brilliant flowers and large round leaves emerge above the surface. The flowers are large and fragrant with usually deep purple petals, yellow centers. This example from the Mary River shows a white variation. The flowers can be visible from March to December. Seeds can be found within the central receptacle looking like a trumpet in this photo. (Photo: David Liddle. Mary River October 2004)

## ~ Summary of TENPS AGM Minutes Oct 21st 2005~

Fourteen financial members and one non-member present, three apologies. President's welcome. Minutes of previous meeting were not unavailable.

### Reports (both accepted)

The President presented a verbal report outlining the interesting speakers we have had at monthly meetings and highlights of the field trips and activities such as plant sales, plant surveys, promotion of native plants and publications. He thanks the committee members for their work over the past year.

The Treasurer presented a written report including a Statement of Income and Expenditure. However, they have not yet been verified with the auditor, All accounts etc. are presently with the auditor.

All committee positions were declared vacant. Geoff chaired the elections of new committee members. A new committee was elected.

- **President:** Dave Liddle (unopposed)
- **Vice President:** Marj King
- **Secretary:** Sally Jacka (unopposed)
- **Treasurer:** No nominations
- **Librarian:** Nina Bellairs (unopposed)
- **Publicity Officer:** Pat Rasmussen (unopposed)
- **Committee members:** Russell Dempster, Raylene Chandler, Mark Raines
- **Public Officer:** Geoff Gaskell.
- **Auditor:** Under the new Associations Act, there is no longer a requirement for TENPS to have an auditor, as total income is less than \$25,000/annum.

Following the first committee meeting there was a reshuffle of positions with Marj resigning as vice-president to take on the role of treasurer; Raylene taking up position of vice-president.

## ~ What's the TENPS Committee Meeting Up to? ~

Where we want the Society to be in 12 months from now, and 5 years from now? Strong consensus for the need to increase membership. Many ideas of directions and activities brought up. Reminders sent to past members.

Awaiting further membership surveys.

A number of sub-committees will pursue various activities. Additional people may wish to become involved; if you want to get involved please don't wait to be asked, remember the Society is what we collectively make it.

- Constitution update – Geoff Gaskell, Marj King, Mark Raines.
- Cultivation – Russell Dempster.
- Library – Nina Bellairs.
- Program planning – Dave Liddle, Sally Jacka
- Promotional materials – Raylene Chandler.

- Submissions & Grants – Geoff Gaskell, Raylene Chandler.
- Web development – Mark Raines.

Submit comments on plans for the proposed residential subdivision at Lee Point.

Submit application for environmental grant, by 5/11/04, possibly for fencing to protect *Ptychosperma* jungles.

Russell Dempster' phone number to be placed in the phone book as contact for TENPS.

Auditing and submission of audited financial statements review.

Plant labels; purchase a new printer or computer.

Next meeting 7.30 pm on 30 November at the Liddle's 56 Savannah Drive Leanyer – all members welcome to attend.

## ~ My Family ~

A number of members have mentioned that they would like to learn about plant families, for example, what are the characteristics that prompt rapid recognition and make the challenge of identification to genus and species much easier. A good way to learn is a bit of personal research and then to share the information between us. That way we can all learn from each endeavour of others. This can be reinforced by grouping plants in their families on field trips.

In the long term we can collectively build up a record for many families, perhaps even posting the information on the TENPS web site. I would like to see a short article in forthcoming newsletters with each month compiled by a different member. Of course there are books written about some families so we need to be succinct and focus on the more relevant and interesting snippets of information. I think we should limit the written articles to one A4 page. This could be complimented by a few illustrations if available, which can either be printed with the article or used as fillers if the newsletter editor is looking to plug some gaps. It would be useful to have a consistent format; this will help presentation on the web and finding our way around the articles.

I suggest the following headings and a number of subtopics, however please don't feel constrained to these as information will vary between families and the article is not meant to be a book! The headings and subtopics are included as prompts rather than must fill-in.

### Family Name

- Gymnosperm/ Angiosperm, Monocot/ Dicot

### Characteristic Features

- Flowers, leaf arrangement
- Common life forms eg annual, perennial, tree, shrub etc

### Diversity

- Number of genera and species, worldwide, Australia, NT, Top End (NT and/or Top End being the most relevant information)

### Distribution

- Pantropical, SE Asia and Oceania etc
- In NT eg widespread, restricted to Arnhemland plateau

### Ecology

- Typical habitat in NT or elsewhere eg *Myrtaceae* in Top End savannas, heathlands, rainforest
- Dominance eg *Myrtaceae* prominent in the Australian landscape
- Biogeography
- Keystone taxa eg *Moraceae* are incredibly important for frugivorous birds in the Top End
- Notable insect or animal interactions

### Use

- Ethnobotany in the NT
- Other use, eg important source of timber, contains important food crop plants
- Cultivation

### Other

- Other interesting snippets eg antiquity or fossil record

### References

- Information sources
- Compiled by: Month Year

Please let me know which Family you would like to write about and for which months newsletter. I will kick-off by preparing a Family summary on *Podocarpaceae* for the December newsletter. Perhaps once one has been done, this can be used as a template for further accounts. I am happy to provide an electronic copy to anybody that's interested. Suggestions for improvement are welcome.  
*Dave Liddle*





## *Nelumbo nucifera*

FROM A PHOTO BY DAVID LIDDLE

~ More Top End flowerings during November ~



*Grevillea pungens*

*G. pungens* is a small shrub with spreading arching branches. This specimen has taken a liking to this native verge in Leanyer. The dark green prickly leaves are highlighted by the apricot-coloured inflorescence. The nectar brings in a variety of birds. Normally found in open woodland with a preference for sandy soil. This plant can be cultivated from both cutting and seed.

(Photo: David Liddle Leanyer September 2002)



*Amorphophallus paeonifolius*

*A. paeonifolius* is certainly one of the more unusual Top End natives in flower at the moment. This herb arises from an underground tuber, flowering before producing leaves. The flower may be up to 40 cm high, a prominent conical bladder-like appendage surrounded by a large purplish bract. You may smell the plant before it is seen as may blow flies which are attracted by a rotting odour. It is found in coastal vine thickets and monsoonal forest usually in close proximity to freshwater streams. (Photo: David Liddle Leanyer November 2002)

~ Plants currently flowering in Marj's and Raylene's gardens ~

*Acacia dunnii*  
*Acacia gonocarpa*  
*Acacia hippuroides*  
*Acacia limbata*  
*Acacia nuperrima*  
*Acacia translucens*  
*Acacia yirrkallensis*

*Cordia subcordata*  
*Crotalaria verrucosa*  
*Curcuma australasica*  
*Ervatamian pungens*  
*Erythrina variegata*  
*Grevillea aurea*  
*Grevillea dryandri*

*Grevillea pungens*  
*Heliotropium ovatifolium*  
*Ixora tomentosa*  
*Verticordia cunninghamii*  
*Vitex rotundifolia*  
*Xanthostemon psidioides*

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

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Mike Clarke or Kevin Flockhart**  
**“Agroforestry in the NT”**

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

**TO:**

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