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## ~ November 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 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 and McMillan drives. All welcome. Bring plants to swap, sell or have identified.

#### Summary of the last Committee Meeting

- Contacting eNTITY re website up & email using local business run by Graham Saywer who is setting up systems for community based organisations
- Banka's Jungle fence requires long term maintenance and there is a need to source funding

### ~ NEXT MEETING, THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> November~

#### AGM

TENPS AGM is being held this month. Can all members please make every effort to attend by 7:30 pm. All committee positions will be declared vacant. There have been some nominations for the committee, so we forsee the AGM will not be drawn out.

After the AGM, we are privileged to have **Ian Morris** speaking. He will be showing us some more of his magnificent images and speaking about his **favourite plants**. Ian is very easy to listen to being a wonderful story teller, and the evening promises to be a good one!!

### ~ FIELD TRIP, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November~

Robin Falls is a popular permanent waterhole with locals but besides the lure of water the area is home to some of the less common woodland and riparian species. The intention is to have a look at some of the species growing up on the higher ground before heading down to the shady areas. This is a full day trip leaving from Coolalinga at 8.00 am. Final arrangements for car sharing will be organised at the AGM/General Meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to make the meeting but wish to go in the field trip phone Marj King on 8985 6885.

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

## PLANT SALE

A plant sale is to be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December outside Woolworths at Coolalinga, also on this date Greening Australia is having their plant sale, so if we cannot supply what you want there is the possibility they can help. You will find attached a flyer advertising the sale, it would be appreciated if you could spread the word.

Members who wish to supply plants need to supply a list of species with the required number of labels to Marj, preferably by the AGM, to give time to print off the labels, also if you can help out at the sale, please place your name on the roster at the AGM, or contact Russell.

## BOTANICA EROTICA EXHIBITION

This is collaborative exhibition between 8 artists and the Northern Territory Library that explores the erotic sensual aspects of botanica. Public exhibition, no admission fee.

Venue: Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, Darwin

Open: 28<sup>th</sup> November (6.30 launch) to 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## ~ OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS ~

### DECEMBER MEETING

Please note that a General Monthly Meeting will NOT be held in December! Instead, members, their partners and offspring, are invited to meet at Sunday 16 December, between the hours of 11 together. Please bring anything to eat that you share with other members. Barbecue facilities useful, and swimmers and towels are also good attractive. A relaxing and enjoyable outing is the objective so we hope members will take up this invitation.



Berry Springs Nature Park on and 3, to enjoy a Christmas lunch particularly fancy and something to are available. A chair may be options as the swimming hole is very

## ~ JANUARY MEETING, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January ~

### Moths by day, butterflies by night! Dr Michael Braby

Moths are generally thought of as being drab, dull coloured, fly at night (nocturnal) and are pests that eat your clothes and food, whereas butterflies are more widely appreciated because they are brightly coloured and more readily seen due to their day-flying (diurnal) habits. However, a number of moths from different taxonomic groups have evolved day-flying or crepuscular habits, while a few butterflies fly only at dusk. These moths are equally spectacular as butterflies, but remain poorly studied. Michael will show some of the species, and their larval food plants, likely to be seen in the Northern Territory.

## FIELD NAT'S CALENDAR

**November Meeting:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 7:45 PM. S.A.I.K.S. Seminar Room, CDU: Piers Barrow talking on Leichhardt's Grasshoppers

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

**November field trip:** Sunday November 18th at 4 PM. **Bird-watching at Leanyer Sewage Treatment Ponds.** Please let Fiona Douglas know you're coming - phone 8981 60039 or email [fiona.douglas@octa4.net.au](mailto:fiona.douglas@octa4.net.au). PAWC require notification of the numbers involved and for us to be informed of their on site of their regulations. . **Important:** it is a Power and Water Corporation (PAWC) condition of entry that everyone must wear closed-in footwear - no sandals or thongs. Meet in front of the locked gate at the very end of Fitzmaurice Drive, Leanyer (the last suburban road on the right off Lee Point Road, just before the woodland starts). As the gates to the ponds cannot be left open, please be at the meeting place punctually at 4 PM.

December 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Greg Browning on Severe Weather Events

**December Meeting.** Wednesday December 12. Garry Cook: *Cyclones as drivers of vegetation structure in tropical savannas.*

**December Field Trip.** Sunday December 16. *Day-flying moths and butterflies.* An excursion to Berry Springs, to be led by Michael Braby. Meet at 8AM at the Berry Springs bus stop, corner Stuart Highway and the road to Berry Springs.

## OPEN GARDEN

After a very successful Open Garden in August Dale Dixon is going to have another and has asked TENPS to sell plants. This is to be held sometime in March.

## PLANT ID WORKSHOP

Two years ago a very successful Plant ID Workshop was held out at Litchfield. An event like this requires considerable organisation and forward planning but the intention is to schedule it either the last week-end in April or the first week-end in May. Dale Dixon from the Herbarium has very kindly offered his services again

## ~ PAST EVENTS ~

**PALMERSTON ESCARPMENT FIELD TRIP** – Plant List (apologies for the delay)

On 23 June, Marj and Denise took a group of TENPS members along the section of the Palmerston escarpment above Bakewell and many plants were identified for us.

<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	<i>Cycas armstrongii</i>	<i>Gyneranthus nitida</i>
<i>A. dimidiata</i>	<i>Cyclorus ? (fern)</i>	<i>Livistona humilis</i>
<i>A. holosericea</i>	<i>Cymbopogon bombycinus</i>	<i>Lophostemon grandiflorus</i>
<i>A. latescens</i>	<i>Dendrophthoe odontocalyx</i>	<i>Maranthes corymbosa</i>
<i>A. oncinocarpa</i>	<i>Denhamia obscura</i>	<i>Maytenus ferdinandi</i>
<i>A. praelongata</i>	<i>Drosera sp.</i>	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>
<i>Alphitonia incana</i>	<i>Eucalyptus bleeseri</i>	<i>Pandanus spiralis</i>
<i>Alstonia actinophylla</i>	<i>E. miniata</i>	<i>Persoonia falcata</i>
<i>B. megaphyllus</i>	<i>E. phoenicea</i>	<i>Petalostigma pubescens</i>
<i>Boronia lanceolata</i>	<i>E. tetradonta</i>	<i>Planchonia careya</i>
<i>Brachychiton diversifolius</i>	<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	<i>Pogonolobus reticulatus</i>
<i>Breynia cernua</i>	<i>Exocarpos latifolius</i>	(prev. <i>Coelospermum reticulatum</i> )
<i>Buchanania obovata</i>	<i>Ficus opposita</i>	<i>Smilax australis</i>
<i>Calygone armstrongii ?</i>	<i>Grevillea decurrens</i>	<i>Stylidium spp.</i>
<i>Calytrix exstipulata</i>	<i>G. dryandri</i>	<i>Syzygium bleeseri</i>
<i>Cochlospermum faseri</i>	<i>G. pteridifolia</i>	<i>Wrightia saligna</i>
<i>Croton arnhemicus</i>	<i>Gardenia megasperma</i>	<i>Xanthostemon paradoxus</i>

The escarpment continues on the other side of Buscall Avenue above The Chase and we are told the significant plant *E. atrovirens* is found there. Hopefully, Marj and Denise will take us along that section at some time. Thanks to both for the trip and the information and to other members of the party who contributed as well. (Felicity Middleton)

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

## Still smiling with Joyce .....

Joyce, Sally Jacka and I were out for a walk in the Churcher Wetlands at the end of Strawberry Road one day, looking for Joyce's favourite plants and anything else that took our attention. As we walked we chatted together and the question of 'how to get things done that mean getting a man in' arose, with particular emphasis on getting the right man to do the job. We swapped tales of a few experiences – and Joyce told us this story. There was something that needed to be done on her roof; I cannot recall if it was leaves that needed to be swept off or whether a branch needed to be removed from an overhanging tree, but it was something that led Joyce to 'get a man in'. She phoned a source which proclaimed itself to be very professional, and explained her need. In due course a man arrived. Joyce began to explain what was needed, when she noticed a salient fact, which brought her to an abrupt halt. This gentleman, who had come for the express purpose of mounting to the roof to work there, HAD ONLY ONE LEG! He ended up holding the ladder whilst Joyce did the job herself!

(Felicity Middleton)

## Dave Liddle's October Presentation Canberra, Coast, Caves, Clouds and Colours

Spectacular pink foliage from new growth on a plant at Black Mountain in Canberra in the season of spring in September 2007 was the first image in Dave's talk. Better known for the Telecom Tower, Black Mountain has a great diversity of plants in a woodland, protected environment. Wax Lips is a purple flowering ground orchid, one of the many species of orchids.

A Powerful Owl was roosting in the botanic gardens with a Brushtail Possum in its talons.

Floriade was on at the time of the Liddle's visit. It is an annual floral event which is absolutely spectacular. Water is scarce at the present time in Canberra, with the current drought, but for the Floriade, water is taken out of Lake Burley Griffin. The extent of the Floriade is amazing. The flowering plants aren't native, but they're very pretty.

On the way to the New South Wales coast from Canberra to Bateman's Bay, there are Spotted Gum *Eucalypt* forests with *Macrozamia* as an understorey. *Pittosporum* also is an understorey shrub. Lyre Birds were seen displaying in the coastal forest.

Mount Duras is about 180 metres above sea level, and Pigeon House Mountain can be seen from the top. Cook saw this in 1770 as he sailed up the New South Wales coast. The top of the mountain looks like a pigeon house.

From the coast the Liddles travelled to Moreton National Park in the Budawang Range inland from Ulladulla, the other side of Pigeon House Mountain. They walked through part of this park, backpacking for three days. As it was spring, there were many herbs, shrubs, creepers, orchids and grasses flowering. They passed through cool temperate rainforest in drizzling rain, but also had a couple of days of sunshine.

There was fantastic scenery and gorges, with heath country at the top of the escarpment and magnificent views looking back toward the coast. *Eucalyptus triflora* is a rare tree growing on Pigeon House Mountain. Dave compared this landscape and the rare species which grow in localised areas with the rare and restricted species that grow in the sandstone escarpment country in the Northern Territory.

Thanks Dave for a very interesting illustrated talk, and for stepping in at the last moment when our intended speaker couldn't come.

(Russell Dempster)

## October Field Trip to Banka's Jungle – home of the threatened *Ptychosperma macathurii* (f. *bleseri*)

A couple of years ago thanks to the efforts of Dave Liddle and TENPS, funding was secured to fence an area of Banka's Jungle on Koolpinya Station to protect this threatened palm. In the early nineties a fence was erected around this area, but due to a lack of maintenance became ineffectual in totally excluding cattle from the area.

A small group consisting of Dave, Russell, Barry and myself met at the car park at Howard Springs Nature Reserve. Dave filled in Barry on the details while I shot off to fill up my vehicle with fuel, originally thinking with only 4 people it wouldn't be required, but Dave's work vehicle could only take one passenger.

The track into Bank's Jungle passes close to the Koolpinya homestead as it heads out towards the Adelaide River Floodplain through some open woodland country, where the lack of burning off is very noticeable, and onto sandy/loamy country where there were cattle in considerable numbers. We passed through several gates before stopping at the original fence. I was very surprised to see running water in the creek, as 2 years ago when I had been out there it was completely dry.



We gathered up measuring poles, an axe (part of the fence maintenance to cut off fallen limbs), water bottles and lunch and headed towards the gate in the "new" fence, but hadn't gone far when an orchid was spotted in a large *Nauclea orientalis* tree. Dave identified this as *Chiloschista phyllorhiza*. Some time was spent trying to get the ideal photo before moving onto the task in hand, which was to survey the existing palms and search for new ones.

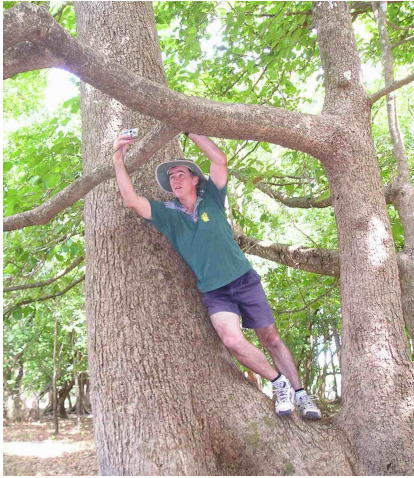
Starting along one side of the fence we did a line search looking for the palms. When one was found this was checked against past records and the height and number of stems flower/seed bracts were recorded. We did a little fence maintenance by removing fallen trees and tightening up the wires as we went. More than half the area was covered before stopping for lunch. Beside the palms, a tree of significance inside the fence is a very large *Nauclea orientalis*, which has been used by a sea eagle for nesting for a number of years. Littered on the ground below are quite a number of turtle shells.

The survey inside the fence was finished and we then did a sweep around the outside looking for more palms, but no more were found. This area has some well-worn cattle paths through it and it gave us an opportunity to see the difference the fence has made. There are definitely more small plants inside the fence, and the results of our survey show this hasn't stopped one of the recorded palms from dying (due to it being knocked over by the tree that had been immediately next to it), but several of the others have grown.



The dual fence system seems to work well as the first one limits the actual numbers of cattle in the area directly surrounding the main fence. A major issue is fence maintenance. Staff from Parks and Wildlife have been out and removed fallen trees on the fence, but a long term solution for maintaining the fence is required as there are limited funds in the Parks and Wildlife coffers.

(Marj King)



This is the effort one has to go to a photo but also can you spot the difference between the palms in Banka's Jungle.

*Ptychosperma mcarthureri*  
*Livistona benthanii*  
*Carpentaria acuminata*



**Prepare for the wet, get your native plants  
now!**

# Plant Sale



**Where:** Coolalinga, out the front of  
Woolworths

**When:** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007

**Time:** 8am-12pm

*Note that membership subs were due on 1 July, 2007.*

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

**TO:**

**~SUBSCRIPTION FORM MEMBERSHIP DUE 1 JULY ~  
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: ...../...../.....

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