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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 October 16th ~

~ Guest Speaker: ~ Don Franklin

The next meeting will be held on Thursday October 16th at 7:30 pm. Following our General Meeting, Don Franklin is our featured Guest Speaker. Don has been involved in a wide range of wildlife surveys and ecological research in the NT over the last nine years. He is currently studying the ecology and management of the Top End Bamboo *Bambusa arnhemica* and will share with us his finding to date. Put this date in your Diary and come along to our October meeting to learn more!

~ October Field Trip ~

October Field Trip Saturday 18th Meet at Casuarina Costal reserve at 3 o'clock. Come along for a walk/tour and check out what there is to see in the area. We will be joining with the Casuarina Costal Reserve Landcare Group for this Field Trip.

~ November 20th Annual General Meeting ~

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on 20th November. In accordance with our constitution, all Committee Positions will be declared vacant. If you would like to nominate someone for these positions, or you are willing to stand, please let any of the committee members know as soon as possible. If we have an indication of who is willing to fill these positions prior to the meeting, it makes everything easier. Remember, it is YOUR society! Following the Annual General Meeting we will have a members evening. This will be a chance to share with others what you have learnt, view photos taken on our digital camera, bring along slides or interesting photos that you have to share with others and generally have a time to "chat". These evenings are always informative so make the effort to be there and contribute in whatever way you can.

December 2003/January 2004

Please note that there is no scheduled meeting or newsletter in December. 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 and/or a walk around and take some time out to enjoy this beautiful area. January is also a month off, although a newsletter is scheduled to let you know about February's planned activities.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP REPORT - HOLMES JUNGLE (RUSSELL DEMPSTER)

We met in the top car park overlooking Holmes Jungle for the September field trip as the track-laying for the Alice Springs to Darwin railway was nearing completion at Berrimah. A hardy *Canarium australianum* was fruiting in the centre of the car park. Aboriginal uses of this species were many and varied. They included the seeds being eaten and the wood being used to make canoes and pipes, while the bark was prepared for a variety of medicinal purposes.

At the bottom car park near the entrance to the jungle itself, *Terminalia grandiflora* was flowering profusely. These slender trees have deeply fissured grey trunks and pendulous branchlets. The creamy-green flowers are much larger than the flowers of all other Australian *Terminalias*.

At the entrance to the jungle a strong, sweet fragrance pervaded the area. *Terminalia microcarpa* was responsible (formerly *Terminalia sericocarpa*). These deciduous *Terminalias* form magnificent stately specimens with deeply fissured black trunks, and they are common in monsoon forest associated with permanent fresh water. *Terminalia microcarpa* has sympodial branching, that is, the new branchlets come out from underneath.

The yellow trunks of *Calophyllum soulattri* featured inside the enclosed canopy. This species, like the other *Calophyllums*, has fine parallel veins on its leaves. The rounded, narrow oval leaves, as well as the yellow trunk on mature specimens, distinguish *Calophyllum soulattri* from *Calophyllum sil* and *Calophyllum inophyllum*, and in Australia *Calophyllum soulattri* is restricted to the Northern Territory.

Other species which feature at Holmes Jungle include *Acacia auriculiformis* (Black Wattle), *Barringtonia acutangula*, *Carallia brachiata*, *Carpentaria acuminata*, *Ficus hispida*, *Ficus racemosa* (Cluster Fig), *Glycosmis trifoliata*, *Horsefieldia australiana*, *Melaleuca* species, *Melicope elleryana* (formerly *Euodia elleryana*), *Sterculia holtzei* and *Vavaea australiana*. Some Mango trees were also in evidence, left over from Mr. Holmes' occupation of the area.

Overall we all enjoyed a pleasant leach free morning walk.

T.E.N.P.S LOGO

You may have noticed on last months newsletter that in place of our normal logo I had a photo (cutout) of *Gevillea longicuspis*. Over the last few months the Committee have been looking at the option of updating our current logo. On this months newsletter we have an option that was developed as a possible new logo for TENPS and recommended by the Committee at our last meeting. The Committee has been looking at different options because a) our current logo is somewhat outdated and b) we do not know where the original copies are and so we have been working with photocopies of photocopies. The updating of our logo will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting in November. What do you think? Have your say - either by email to tenps@austarnet.com.au or at the AGM.

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY OCTOBER 16TH
GUEST SPEAKER: DON FRANKLIN**

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

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