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## ~ SEPTEMBER 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

We have several new members as a result of recent events. Thanks to all who have helped in organisation and attendance, In particular the committee would like to express appreciation to Marj King for all her hard work with plant sales, the garden spectacular and treasurer's work.

- Fence signage – approximately 200 sold at special events.
- Website – Now able to access but the website is written in code (HTML), so not user-friendly. Looking for a contact able to convert it to a user-friendly state for easier use by committee members.

## ~ NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER~

#### **Launch of the Joyce Stobo Memorial Library, and talk on *Boronia quadrilata*.**

Our general meeting will start as usual, at 7:30pm. At 8pm Sally Jacka will say a few words, then Dave Liddle will launch the library in the presence of members of Joyce's family, invited guests, friends and TENPS members. Champagne and nibbles have been organised!

At 8:30pm Dave Liddle will speak on *Boronia quadrilata*, which is a vulnerable NT endemic plant that grows in a very small area in Arnhem Land. TENPS helped to secure funding to enable the study of this species. Sally Jacka will also contribute. Russell and Melina have also been involved in the work.

## ~ FIELD TRIP, SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER~

The September field trip will be to Felicity Middleton's block at 9am at 190 McMinns Drive, McMinns Lagoon, then at about 11am at the Dempster's place at 117 Virginia Road, Virginia.

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

## ~ PAST EVENTS ~

### August Meeting

Sue Fraser-Adams, a builder/developer, spoke about her use of native plants in developments: the pitfalls and the triumphs. Once Sue mainly used introduced plants, but she went through a sea change in attitude three



years ago. Not only did she find our native plants beautiful, but they use much less water and required, once they were established, less care, a handy selling point for professional people.

Sue had to battle other builders who caringly “cleaned” up her land by bulldozing “Sue’s bush”, the Planning Authority which insisted on “big” plants (many natives need to be planted small), and buyers who sometimes pulled up the plants once they’d moved in.

Sue showed pictures of her latest unit developments where she’d left native plants in situ. The moonscapes left by

surrounding builders in the background (see left). Sue’s plan for Little Mindil was to build an eco-resort highlighting such plants and attracting birds, butterflies and other native fauna.

### Book Auction

Sally Jacka held a book auction during the August general meeting. It wasn’t quite the serious affair one generally sees at such events, but a lot of fun with much boisterous competition for the more desirable publications.

### August Field Trip

On Sunday 26 August a small group of TENPS members and friends met with Sue Fraser-Adams and Penni Tastula of Northern Gateway at Little Mindil next to the casino. Whilst sipping on champagne, Sue gave us some insight into the development proposal she had for the site. We were able to see the plans displayed on billboards as well as a three-dimensional model. Unfortunately the proposal didn’t win approval from the government, which is a shame as native plants and wildlife would have been a feature of this eco-friendly plan.

After some gourmet refreshments we went for a short walk around the area. We walked over to the island where some decaying pukamani poles are present, then had a walk along the weed infested cliffs on the Myilly Point side. *Myristica insipida*, *Adenanthera pavonina*, *Morinda citrifolia* and *Hibiscus tiliaceus* were some of the species observed.

Thanks to Sue for organising the afternoon, and for those who provided the refreshments.

## 2007 Open Garden Scheme Report

### Purple Patch (July)

Kristin Metcalfe had an Open Garden on the weekend of the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July at Coconut Grove. Kristin's garden contains an interesting mix of coastal and jungle plants. *Calophyllum sil* and *Calophyllum soulattri* grow near the front gate amongst 10 year old cycads. A highlight for me was the many aquatic ecosystems found in containers spread around the garden, featuring water lilies *Nelumbo nucifera* (Lotus Lily).

In the shady back garden, the *Angiopteris evecta* (King Fern) was a standout. The fronds of this fern can reach 4 metres in length. A sandstone rock garden in another section included *Pandanus basedowii* and *Hoya australis*, species which are found only in sandstone habitats.

Kristin invited the Top End Native Plant Society to have a display at her Open Garden, which was gratefully accepted. The weekend was a very successful promotion of native plants. Kristin also sold a few native plants, and tours of the adjacent mangroves were conducted by Dr Richard Willan.

Congratulations Kristin on a most successful weekend and a wonderful Purple Patch!

### Gondwana (August)

Dr Dale Dixon hosted another Open Garden on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August at Bakewell. Dale has a great garden, featuring top end native plants combined with other plants originating from Africa and South America. The weekend was a very successful promotion of native plants, as well as being a fundraiser for TENPS, as Dale had earlier invited us to provide information and to sell plants.

The small fig *Ficus liliputiana* was one of the many features of Dale's garden. It is a species that he discovered in the Kununurra / Keep River area and he named it!!

Other plants of particular interest to me included the white flowering ground cover *Heliotropium ovalifolium*, the red flowering *Abelmoshus moschatus* subsp. *tuberososis*, the purple flowering pea *Crotalaria verrucosa*, the yellow flowering peas *C. novaehollandia* and *C. crassipes*, many *Grevillea* and other proteaceous species and the yellow flowering *Cochlospermum gillivraei*. There were many more of course.....



**Thank you to everyone who helped the club in any way with the weekend.** Many members gave of their time in setting up or dismantling the display, and others promoted native plants by assisting with plant sales. Other members had grown a variety of healthy looking specimens to sell.

Besides being financially beneficial for the club through plant sales, the weekend was particularly pleasing in that we acquired several new members, and some past members rejoined. Welcome to our new members!

Congratulations Dale on a most successful weekend and a wonderful Gondwana!  
*Russell Dempster*

## 2007 Tropical Garden Spectacular



The 2007 Tropical Garden Spectacular was held at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August. We set up our shelter tent late on Friday afternoon in our allocated spot under trees, unloaded some tables and display material and set out some plants in our space. Early Saturday morning more plants were brought in, labelling was completed, the colourful display of photographs and information was assembled, and reference books, membership forms, information sheets and TENPS business cards were set out on the tables.

There was an impressive array of plants and seeds for sale, comprising of over 70 species. 354 plants were sold! The top sellers included:

*Grevillea dryandri*

*Ixora timorensis*

*Phaleria clerodendron*

*Pittosporum moluccanum*

*Verticordia cunninghami*

*Acacia simsii*

*Osbeckia australiana*

*Pleomele angustifolia*

*Psydrax odorata*

*Grevillea pteridifolia*

*Hanguana malayana*

*Phaleria octandra*

*Podocarpus grayii*

*Phaleria cleodendron*

*Suregada glomerulata*

*Banksia dentata*

*Melicope elleryana*

*Microsorium grossum*

**Thankyou to everyone who helped the club in any way with the Tropical Garden Spectacular this year.** Many members gave of their time in manning the stand, promoting native plants and educating the public enthusiastically about the benefits of going native. Others had grown a variety of healthy looking specimens to sell, some members brought in cut flowers for the display and some members took part in other aspects of the Garden Spectacular. Talks were given in one of the pavilions about growing native plants.

The 2007 Tropical Garden Spectacular was financially beneficial for the club, raising money through the sale of plants and through membership subscriptions. Welcome to all of our new members!

*Russell Dempster*



*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 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)

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