



*Society for Growing Australian Plants  
Cairns Branch*

**NEWSLETTER**

*Newsletter No 230*

*May, 2023*

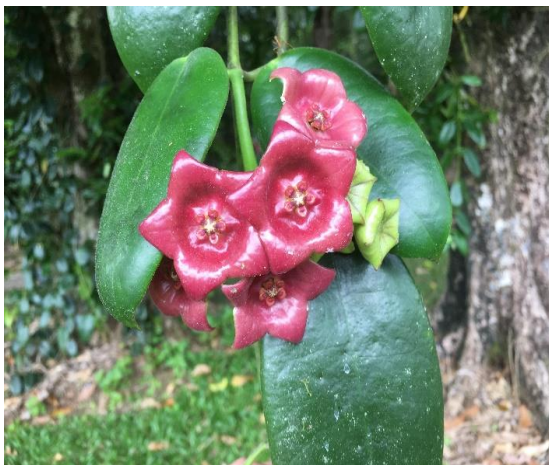
**May Excursion - 21 May  
Josey Park – East Russell  
Hosted by Patsy and Peter Penny**

Enjoy a visit to Pennies' Place where you will come up close and personal with Wet Tropics Lowland Vine Forest ,50 years post logging, and at least four Cat 4/5 cyclones! You might even meet some of the local cassowaries.

After lunch on our verandah you can join me, if you wish, in planting a tree in our revegetation paddock. The holes are dug so its just the easy part. This area adjoins wetlands along The Russell.

After this we will make our way back to the top of the steep hill where we can discover species which have sprung up in the cutting along the road.

Flowering at the moment...



*Photo: Patsy Penny*

If you have been distracted en route and feel lost keep coming down Kruckow Road till you see or

hear us.

**JOINT EXCURSION WITH  
TABLELANDS BRANCH  
APRIL, 2023**

Stuart Worboys



*All Photos: Stuart Worboys*

Tucked away in rainforest at the top of the Gillies Range is the School for Field Studies, SGAP's destination for our April excursion.

April's excursion to the SFS was a joint venture with the Tablelands Branch. It was a great opportunity to meet up with the group, catch up with old friends and check out some rarely visited upland rainforest. The SFS driveway is well hidden on a sharp corner of the Gillies Highway, about 27 km from Gordonvale. Peter Radke was kind enough to park at the entrance and point us in the right direction. The former forestry trail follows a muddy undulating ridgeline through Gadgarra National Park before coming upon the scatter of buildings that make up the School.

The School is managed by rainforest ecologist Dr David Tng. The School offers a study-abroad experience for fee-paying American undergraduate students that contributes to their final degree. It's part of a network of field

schools, situated in several exotic locations around the world, including Bhutan and Kenya.

After squeezing our cars into the limited parking space, we were ushered down to the administrative centre. The place was full of cheerful young American students, wandering this way and that as they prepared for their imminent departure. Twenty six of us crowded into one of the School's classrooms for an introduction to the site.

The 62 ha property was purchased in the 1980s by an American organisation. With a knowing laugh, David warned us of the site's many dangers- wait-a-while, stinging trees, snakes and leeches - I'm sure everyone in the room had had plenty of experience with all of these.

After smoko and the introduction, we headed back down the entrance track to check out the upland notophyll vine forest along the entrance track.



One of the first sightings was a perfectly formed *Oberonia titania* orchid, sitting in a tree fork.

A little further along, a cluster of stinging trees shaded the School's welcome sign, and standing next to the sign as if to greet the newly arrived strangers was a handsome young cassowary. The bird kindly posed for photos before strutting off into the forest again.



Further along the track we spotted all the usual suspects for forest at 800 m elevation - *Placospermum coriaceum* (rose silky oak),

*Syzygium papyraceum* (paperbark satinash), *Cardwellia sublimis* (bulloak) and *Sloanea macbrydei*, just to name a few. Many of the plants we encountered come from ancient Gondwanan lineages, and are reminders that the upland rainforests of the Wet Tropics are a literal museums showcasing the evolution of the flowering plants.

Along our walk we found plants from ancient flowering plant lineages, including six laurels (plus a few more we couldn't identify), *Daphnandra repandula* (northern sassafras), *Wilkiea angustifolia* and *Bubbia semecarpoides* (winter beech), the latter a species whose wood structure resembles pine trees more than other flowering plants. There was some argument over whether a common laurel was *Beilschmiedia tooram*, but I think the argument fell in its favour. There were plenty of trip-hazard vines to deter us from stepping off the path - *Austrosteenisia stipularis*, *Ripogonum album* (white supplejack) and *Calamus moti* (wait a while), not to mention the hungry leeches.

At lunchtime we all gathered once again in the classroom. Lunch was a good time to catch up with old friends and say goodbye to members departing for distant, new homes. Peter Radke and I thanked David for hosting us, then Peter discussed upcoming projects.

After lunch we explored a little more, bumping the species count up to 84 (including a few cultivated trees). Exercised and enlightened, we jumped in our cars and made the windy trip back down to the coast.

### *Proposed program for 2023*

May	East Russell
June	Cairns Central Cemetery
July	Cooktown
August	Josephine Falls
September	Conference
October	Landcare, Gordonvale
November	Either Tablelands on indoors Perhaps a Branch visit to Ellis Rowan exhibition at the Art Gallery
December	Christmas Party

## ARISTOLOCHIA TAGALA

Don Lawie

Early in 2022 some friends planted a tray of Aristolochia seeds to mark their visit. The seeds were of unknown but local provenance, fairly fresh, and they germinated well. My daughter Marion and I planted them in a variety of suitable sites; the vines grew well but slowly and I turned to other activities.



Photo: Don Lawie

In mid April this year, 2023, I was delighted to see a strong Aristolochia vine climbing the inside wall of my shadehouse. In a very short time the vine flowered and it presently, mid-May, has many flowers and immature fruits. The vine is, almost beyond doubt, Aristolochia tagala, a species that is known to grow in my area – rainforest south of Cairns (East Russell).

The base of the leaf has widely separated lobes, the tip is acuminate, the veins are recessed on the lamina and those at the base have intricate whorls of small veinlets. The flowers are a dark maroon colour, about 2 – 3 cm long and just 0.3cm wide, looking like some sort of agricultural implement. There is an ovoid swelling at the base of the flower which grows into a green spherical fruit about 5 cm diameter.

I hastened to look at our other plantings and was excited to see that we have plenty of flowering vines. But: where are the butterflies? We normally have a plethora of beautiful butterflies, in particular the blue Ulysses and the Cairns Birdwing (Ornithoptera euphorion) .

Ulysses are well catered for with a large Melicope elleryana in front of the house and now we have feeding stations awaiting the Cairns Birdwings. Both the Ulysses and the Birdwings have been seen in smaller numbers than usual so far this year but I am hoping for the imminent cool weather to entice them out to display their beautiful colours.

The Cairns Birdwing is dimorphic with the big females having a dark black wing, patches of yellow-gold and a red that would adorn a rajah's turban. The male is narrower, a flying beauty of green and black. They are all invited to our garden for a feast.

## MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that both Regional and Branch subscriptions are due. Both can be paid on line. Region: from the NPQ website select pay membership.

Branch fees are \$10, details BSB 034-167 a/c 850790 and quote Regional receipt number, OR pay cash at an excursion.

## *Cairns Branch*

President	Stuart Worboys
Vice President	Rob Jago
Secretary	Helen Lawie
	<a href="mailto:Secretary@sgapcairns.org.au">Secretary@sgapcairns.org.au</a>
Treasurer	Val Carnie
Webmaster	Tony Roberts
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Lawie
	<a href="mailto:lawiepm@gmail.com">lawiepm@gmail.com</a>

STUART'S PLANT LIST FOR THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES

FAMILY	SPECIES	NATURALISATION STATUS	NCA STATUS
Anacardiaceae	Mangifera indica	Naturalised in QLD	cultivated
Annonaceae	Uvaria leichhardtii	Native to QLD	
Araceae	Alocasia brisbanensis	Native to QLD	
Araceae	Pothos longipes	Native to QLD	
Araliaceae	Hydrocotyle acutiloba	Native to QLD	
Araliaceae	Polyscias elegans	Native to QLD	
Araucariaceae	Agathis robusta	Native to QLD	cultivated
Areaceae	Calamus moti	Native to QLD	
Atherospermataceae	Daphnandra repandula	Native to QLD	
Combretaceae	Terminalia microcarpa	Native to QLD	
Cornaceae	Alangium polyosmoides	Native to QLD	
Corynocarpaceae	Corynocarpus cribbianus	Native to QLD	
Cucurbitaceae	Trichosanthes odontosperma	Native to QLD	
Cunoniaceae	Ceratopetalum succirurbrum	Native to QLD	
Cunoniaceae	Gillbeea adenopetala	Native to QLD	
Cunoniaceae	Pullea stutzeri	Native to QLD	
Cunoniaceae	Schizomeria whitei	Native to QLD	
Cyatheaceae	Alsophila cooperi	Native to QLD	
Cyatheaceae	Alsophila rebecca	Native to QLD	
Dilleniaceae	Tetracera nordtiana	Native to QLD	
Elaeagnaceae	Elaeagnus triflora	Native to QLD	
Elaeocarpaceae	Elaeocarpus grandis	Native to QLD	
Elaeocarpaceae	Sloanea macbrydei	Native to QLD	
Escalloniaceae	Polyosma rhytophloia	Native to QLD	
Euphorbiaceae	Macaranga inamoena	Native to QLD	
Lamiaceae	Callicarpa pedunculata	Native to QLD	
Lauraceae	Beilschmiedia tooram	Native to QLD	
Lauraceae	Cryptocarya grandis	Native to QLD	
Lauraceae	Cryptocarya mackinnoniana	Native to QLD	
Lauraceae	Cryptocarya putida	Native to QLD	
Lauraceae	Endiandra sankeyana	Native to QLD	

Lauraceae	<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	Native to QLD	
Leguminosae	<i>Austrosteenisia stipularis</i>	Native to QLD	
Leptaulaceae	<i>Citronella smythii</i>	Native to QLD	
Meliaceae	<i>Aglaia ferruginea</i>	Native to QLD	
Menispermaceae	<i>Carronia protensa</i>	Native to QLD	
Monimiaceae	<i>Wilkiea Angustifolia</i>	Native to QLD	
Moraceae	<i>Maclura cochinchinensis</i>	Native to QLD	
Myodocarpaceae	<i>Delarbrea michieana</i>	Native to QLD	
Myristicaceae	<i>Myristica globosa</i> subsp. <i>muelleri</i>	Native to QLD	
Myrsinaceae	<i>Embelia grayi</i>	Native to QLD	
Myrtaceae	<i>Gossia dallachiana</i>	Native to QLD	
Myrtaceae	<i>Rhodomyrtus pervagata</i>	Native to QLD	Endangered
Myrtaceae	<i>Syzygium hedraiophyllum</i>	Native to QLD	
Myrtaceae	<i>Syzygium papyraceum</i>	Native to QLD	
Ochnaceae	<i>Brackenridgea australiana</i>	Native to QLD	
Orchidaceae	<i>Cymbidium madidum</i>	Native to QLD	Special least concern
Orchidaceae	<i>Oberonia titania</i>	Native to QLD	Special least concern
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum rubiginosum</i>	Native to QLD	
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum venulosum</i>	Native to QLD	
Podocarpaceae	<i>Prumnopitys amara</i>	Native to QLD	
Polypodiaceae	<i>Drynaria rigidula</i>	Native to QLD	Special least concern
Proteaceae	<i>Alloxylon wickhamii</i>	Native to QLD	
Proteaceae	<i>Athertonia diversifolia</i>	Native to QLD	cultivated
Proteaceae	<i>Bleasdalea bleasdalei</i>	Native to QLD	
Proteaceae	<i>Buckinghamia celsissima</i>	Native and naturalised in QLD	cultivated
Proteaceae	<i>Cardwellia sublimis</i>	Native to QLD	
Proteaceae	<i>Carnavonia araliifolia</i>	Native to QLD	
Proteaceae	<i>Grevillea baileyana</i>	Native to QLD	
Proteaceae	<i>Helicia australisica</i>	Native to QLD	
Proteaceae	<i>Helicia nortoniana</i>	Native to QLD	
Proteaceae	<i>Opisthiolepis heterophylla</i>	Native to QLD	
Proteaceae	<i>Placospermum coriaceum</i>	Native to QLD	
Ripogonaceae	<i>Ripogonum album</i>	Native to QLD	
Rosaceae	<i>Rubus queenslandicus</i>	Native to QLD	
Rubiaceae	<i>Atractocarpus hirtus</i>	Native to QLD	
Rubiaceae	<i>Psychotria</i> sp. (Utchee Creek)		

	H.Flecker NQNC5313	Native to QLD
Rutaceae	<i>Acronychia acidula</i>	Native to QLD
Rutaceae	<i>Flindersia bourjotiana</i>	Native to QLD
Rutaceae	<i>Medicosma fareana</i>	Native to QLD
Rutaceae	<i>Melicope jonesii</i>	Native to QLD
Salicaceae	<i>Casearia costulata</i>	Native to QLD
Sapindaceae	<i>Cupaniopsis flagelliformis</i>	Native to QLD
Sapindaceae	<i>Guioa lasioneura</i>	Native to QLD
Sapindaceae	<i>Mischocarpus lachnocarpus</i>	Native to QLD
Sapindaceae	<i>Synima cordierorum</i>	Native to QLD
Sapindaceae	<i>Toechima erythrocarpum</i>	Native to QLD
Smilacaceae	<i>Smilax australis</i>	Native to QLD
Symplocaceae	<i>Symplocos hayesii</i>	Native to QLD
Tectariaceae	<i>Arthropteris palisotii</i>	Native to QLD
Vitaceae	<i>Cissus penninervis</i>	Native to QLD
Vitaceae	<i>Cissus vinosa</i>	Native to QLD
Zingiberaceae	<i>Alpinia modesta</i>	Native to QLD
Zingiberaceae	<i>Pleuranthodium racemigerum</i>	Native to QLD