

April
2011

General Meeting

8.00pm Wednesday
13th April

Community Centre,
Annandale Shopping
Centre

Committee Meeting

7.30pm Monday
25th April 2011

2 Hoya Court
Annandale

**Dates to
Remember**

Sunday 17th April.

Outing to AIMS
Meet 9am at the gates.

Future Outings

June 12th to Mt Zero
with Betsy Jackes.

July 17th and Sept 18th
to the Burra Range.

This Issue

Plants of Mt
Stuart 2

In Flower for
March 4

Keith's Tech
spot – Floral
Features 4



Abelmoschus moschatus
ssp tuberosus

The Native **Gardener**

**Newsletter of the
Society for Growing Australian
Plants
Townsville Branch Inc.**

PO Box 363, Aitkenvale, Qld. 4814.
sgaptownsville.org.au

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Committee			

Wednesday 13th April 8pm

Mark Stoneman

will address us on

***'The Rehabilitation & Interpretation of
Wongaloo Conservation Park'***

(otherwise known as Cromarty Wetlands)

plus

Keith's 'tech-spot' on 'Floral Formulas'

Many of you will remember that we were lucky to have Mark Stoneman talk to us in 2007 about his vision for the future of the Cromarty Wetlands, so we are very pleased to invite Mark back again next month for an update on this landmark environmental project.

Plants of Mt Stuart

On our last outing we explored some of the herb like plants that take advantage of the wet season to flower and fruit. The top of the cliff face is an exposed and often windy site, but in rainy weather affords the opportunity for ponds to form between the flat rocks and surrounding soil. With a mixture of enthusiasm and athleticism it is possible to find a whole world of botanic riches in and around these ponds!

Droseraceae are a family of carnivorous herbs both annual and perennial, with considerable variety and variability. The leaves are covered with stalked glands, which secrete a sticky fluid to trap prey.

The perennials produce tubers to allow them to survive over the dry months whilst the annuals rely solely on seed.

Drosera burmanni is a fibrous rooted annual, with a flat compact rosette of leaves to 3cm in diameter. Flowers are borne in racemes up to 20cm high. It ranges along the eastern seaboard from Sydney to the tip of Cape York and also throughout the Top End, as far south as the SA border.



Drosera indica is similarly extensive in its range, and is perhaps the best known of the Sundews. It is very variable but is most well known as a robust green plant with white flowers. Again it is a fibrous rooted annual plant, which continually maintains a group of erect insect trapping leaves at the top of the plant. All *Drosera* can move their insect trapping glands in order to better trap, and digest, their prey, and consequently they are classified as having an “active fly-paper trap”.

A third *Drosera*, possibly a red form of *Drosera indica* is also common on Mt Stuart currently. This is a red plant with mauve flowers.



Byblis liniflora (Bybliciaceae) occurs across Tropical Australia from the Kimberly in WA to CY Peninsular. It is also flowering now and can easily be distinguished by the different floral arrangement, and blue to purple sepals. It is also an annual, regenerating by seed only.

Bybliciaceae are distinguished by using what is classified as the “passive fly-paper trap”. The stalked glands are stud-like in shape and the flattened head produces copious amounts of viscid fluid with which the prey is caught. As the prey struggles it becomes attached to more glands, and the fluid continues to envelop the prey eventually being dissolved and absorbed by smaller glands on the leaf surface.



Utricularia caerulea (Lentibulariaceae) is another species of carnivorous plant, which inhabits wet flooded areas. In fact they need a film of water whilst they are in active growth. The distinct orchid like flower is held erect and there are no distinguishable leaves. Unlike the sundews they have no glands, but rather an extensive network of ‘bladders’ below the water, which are used to catch prey. The bladder is equipped with a small opening with a hinged door, and water is first expelled from the bladder. Water borne prey passing close by can trip the door open, flooding the bladder and drawing the prey inside.

Most of the information here came from these two indispensable sources. They can both be found in the JCU library.

‘Carnivorous Plants of Australia’ Vol 3 by Allen Lowrie

‘Flora of Australia’ Vol 8

Australian Tropical Plants version 4

Zodiac Publications, Upgrade of Australian Tropical Plants version 4 is now available. This DVD has been produced by Gary and Nadia Sankowsky and details are available on their website www.rainforestmagic.com.au



In flower for March

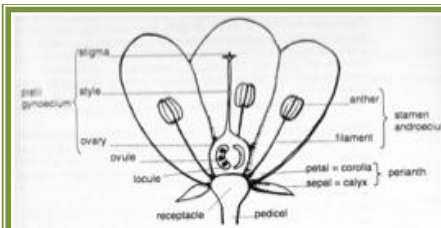
Mimosaceae	<i>Acacia leptoloba</i>
Myrtaceae	<i>Synantha papillosa</i> <i>Xanthostemon chrysanthus</i>
Proteaceae	<i>Grevillea decora</i> <i>Grevillea dryandrii</i> <i>Grevillea 'golden lyre'</i> <i>Grevillea 'ivory whip'</i> <i>Grevillea pracina (grafted)</i> <i>Grevillea venusta</i>
Rubiaceae	<i>Gardenia psidioides</i>



*Xanthostemon
chrysanthus*

@ <http://anpsa.org.au/APOL30/jun03-14.html#item2>

Keith's Tech Spot – Floral Features 2



Firstly the
“come over and see me”
bits

Sepals – all the sepals of a flower together are known as the **calyx**. They are leaf-like appendages which enclose the growing flower bud, protecting it until the flower opens, and then usually remaining as a base for the flower and sometimes the fruit.



Petals and Perianth



- **Petals** – all the petals of a flower are known as the **corolla**. They are the next whorl following the calyx, and are usually brightly coloured to assist in attracting a pollinator. They are often shaped to accommodate the features of the pollinator :eg. Tubular to encourage butterflies or long-beaked honeyeaters to reach for nectar at the base.



- **Perianth** – In some flowers the calyx and corolla are not separate or distinguishable from one another. They are then known as the **perianth**.
- Some flowers do not have either sepals or petals – eg. Eucalypts.



Male and Female Parts



Now for the male bits

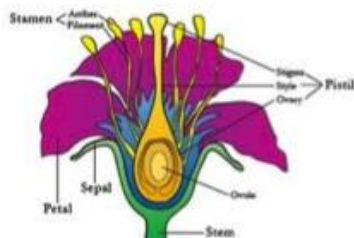
Anther – This is the pollen producing and dispersal unit. It is held on a stalk called the **filament**, and the anther and filament together are known as the

stamen or androecium.

The stamens are usually shaped and held in such a way that pollen will be readily picked up and dispersed by the favourite pollinator.



And now the female bits



Carpels are the female reproductive parts of a flower – there may be one or more carpels and together they are known as the **Gynoecium or Pistil.**

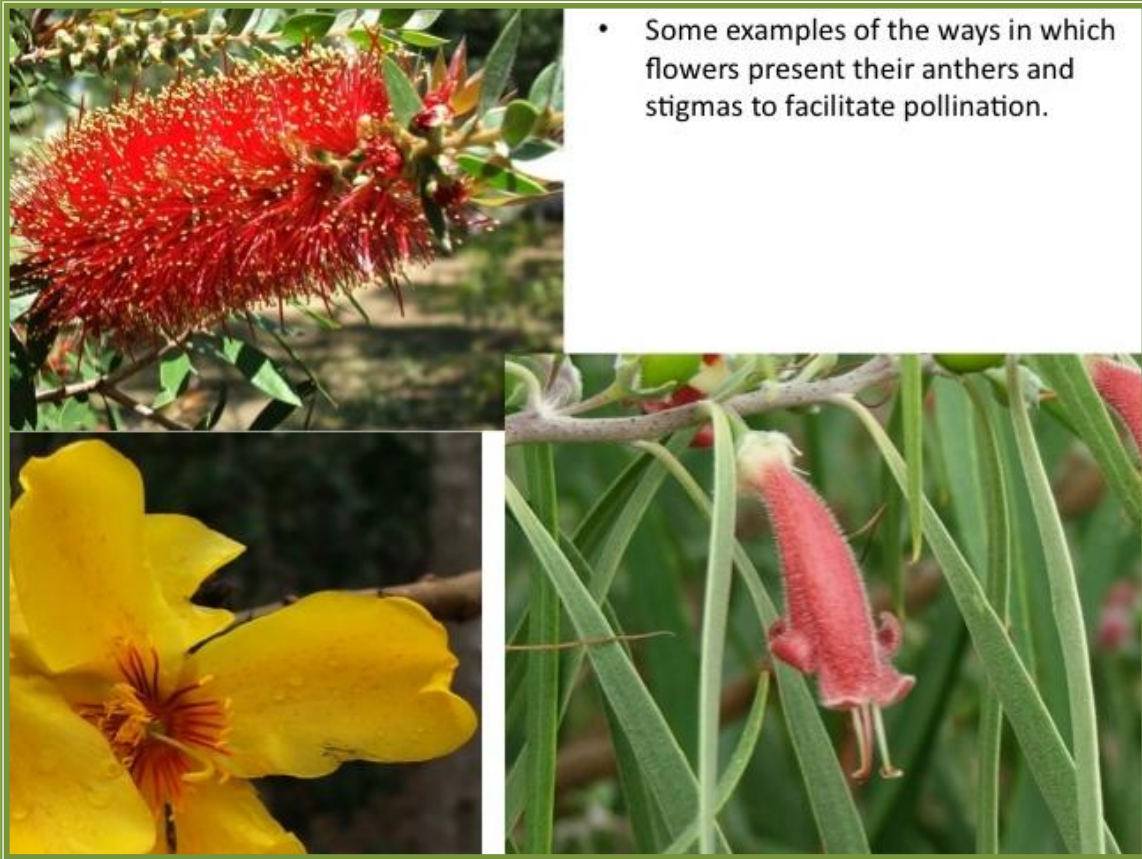
Each carpel has three parts –

Ovary at the base which is where the seed develops.

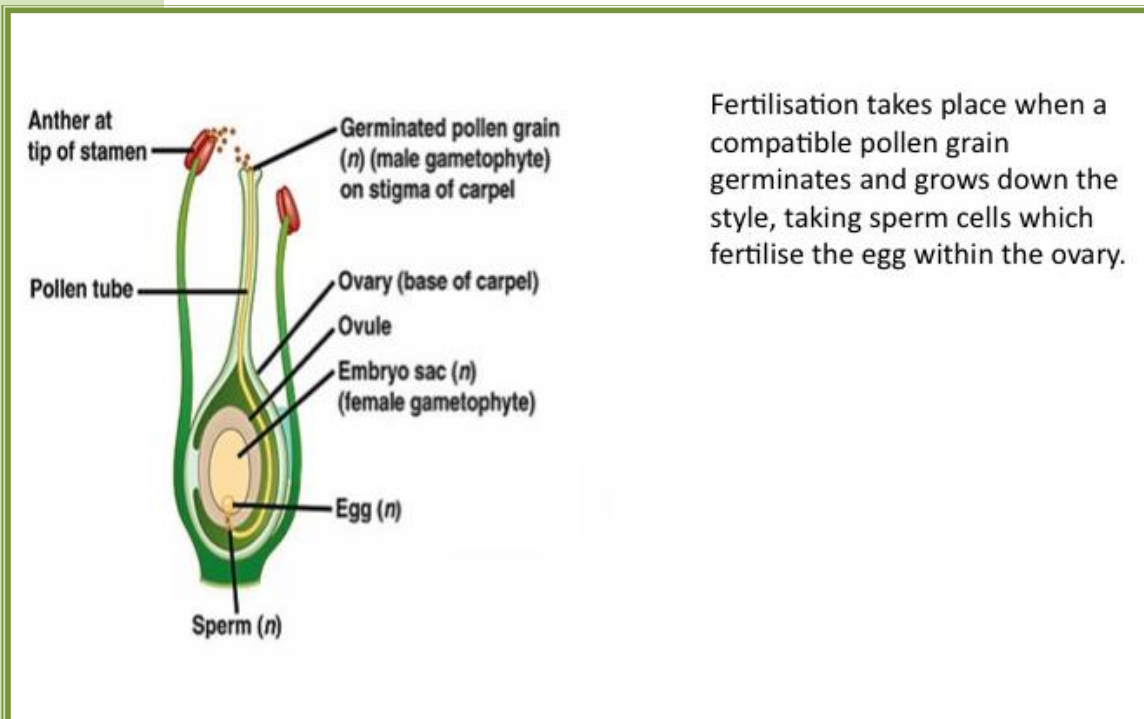
Style, the stalk at the top of the ovary.

Stigma, at the top of the style, where the special receptive tissue allows compatible pollen to germinate.

Anther Presentation and Pollination



- Some examples of the ways in which flowers present their anthers and stigmas to facilitate pollination.

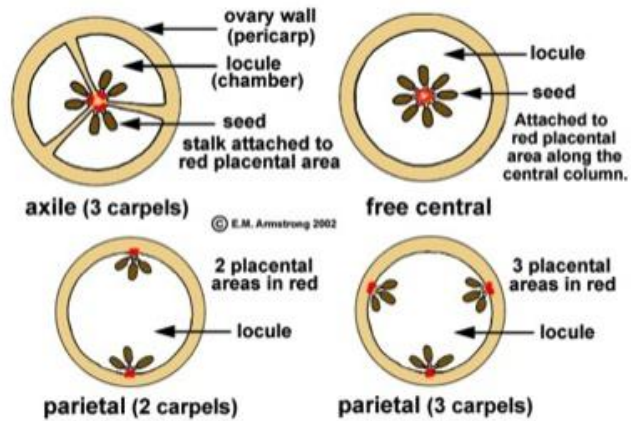


Carpel arrangement and an Hypanthium

Carpels – different ways of determining the number of carpels making up the gynoecium.

NB: The number of carpels usually equals the number of lobes on the stigma.

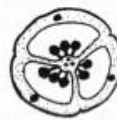
The number, type and arrangement of Carpels is a convenient factor in classification and identification of plants.



syncarpous carpels fused



T.S. Ovary parietal placentation



T.S. Ovary axile placentation



apocarpous carpels free



T.S. Ovary 3 free carpels



An interesting example of a hypanthium.

Green sepals, white petals, stamens fused and arising out of the hypanthium wall until they burst into a star-like formation.

Note the difference in flower colour – this plant flowered orange until I dug it up and brought it to town with me, now it is yellow – soil difference?



Membership Fees

Members are reminded that membership fees are now due. Fees are shown on the last page of this newsletter and may be paid by electronic transfer, post or at a monthly meeting.

Australian Plants Journal

Another reminder that the Australian Plants Journal is no longer part of your membership fee, and you need to subscribe direct if you wish to continue to receive it. Full details and a subscription form were printed in the centre pages of the March 2010 Issue.

Keith.

Field Days

The Townsville and District Garden Club will be holding their 'Field Days' at the Orchid Society building on 30/31st July. We have been invited to contribute a display, and this will depend on whether we can find any volunteers who might like to advertise the activities of SGAP and perhaps sell some of our books.

Any takers?

Future Outings

- **June 12th** to Mt Zero with Betsy Jackes.
- **July 17th and Sept 18th** to the Burra Range.

Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc.
P.O. Box 363 Aitkenvale, Qld. 4814

Membership Application or Renewal Form

Membership Year is from 1st April to 31st March
(Initial half yearly membership is available for those joining around October)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Fee: \$_____

If claiming full time student fee please quote Student No.....

Additional household members may be registered for a nominal fee
of \$2.00 per person but they will not receive newsletters or magazines.

Society for Growing Australian Plants Townsville Branch Inc ABN 32 302 397 597
Membership Fees:

New Ordinary Member	\$45.00
New Student Member	\$35.00
Renewal Ordinary	\$40.00
Renewal Student	\$30.00
New Member (Half Year from Oct. 2010)	\$25.00
Additional Household Member	\$ 2.00
Queensland Bulletin subscription only	\$30.00

If paying electronically please quote 'Membership and your name'
Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 A/C 113462386

The Society for Growing Australian Plants promotes
the conservation of Australian native flora
by encouraging its introduction into gardens.

