



Abelmoschus moschatus ssp tuberosus

The Native Gardener

Newsletter of the
Society for Growing Australian Plants
Townsville Branch Inc.
PO Box 363, Aitkenvale, Qld. 4814.

June 2010

General Meeting 8.00pm **Wednesday** 9th June 2010
Community Centre – Annandale Shopping Centre

Committee Meeting 7.30pm **Monday** 28th June 2010
Tumbetin Lodge

Our speaker for this month will be

Scott Fry

Senior Project Officer
Great Barrier Reef Catchments Programs

who will give a talk titled

'Mangroves'

No outing this month

Outing to Burra Range / White Mountains National Park – 4th of July 2010
See details next page

Chair	Janice Lough	4728 7302	j.lough@aims.gov.au
Vice Chair	Rex Grattidge	4729 0270	rgr57487@bigpond.net.au
Secretary	John Elliott	4728 7302	jw-elliott@aapt.net.au
Treasurer	Keith Townsend	4755 2098	noeltownsend@bigpond.com
Newsletter Ed.	Iris Dodd		iris@y7mail.com
Librarian	Rex Grattidge	4729 0270	rgr57487@bigpond.net.au
Committee	Greg Calvert		gregor_calvert@hotmail.com

Outing to Burra Range / White Mountains National Park

Meet at the Annandale Community centre (where our meetings are held - at Annandale Central Shopping Centre, across the road from the Army Base) at **6.45 am** for a 7.00am departure. We then travel independently (shared lifts by arrangement) to the Burra and meet up again at the lookout on the highway at 10.00am. (time for a cuppa). The lookout is 28.8 kilometres from Pentland or 10.8 kilometres after crossing Warrigal Creek. Travel time is 2.75 to 3 hours.

After 4 to 5 hours of 'wishing we could grow that' we usually leave between 2pm and 3pm in order to get back to Townsville in daylight. You need to bring your own food and water - toilets are now available at the truck stop near the microwave tower.

Please register your interest at the next meeting or by email to Keith or John, especially if you require a lift!

Betsy Jackes "Guide to Plants of the Burra Range" still available for \$5 by prior request.

Message from the QLD Regional Branch

At the Region Conference being held at Jacob's Well in September, provision has been made in the program for a branch discussion session on the Wednesday. This will be open to any members to attend, and it is hoped that all Queensland Region branches will be represented by at least one member. It would be most valuable if the branch representative was one of the branch executives. Branches are invited to offer suggestions of topics for discussion at this session, and an agenda will be sent to everyone before the conference, so that ideas can be canvassed with all branch members, and the members present can present the views of other members of the branch.

In order to assist particularly the branches more distant from the SE Region, Council has now decided that travel assistance will be offered to one delegate from each branch, by the payment of a return economy class airfare, and/or rail fare or 40c per km for vehicle travel for shorter distances. As the branch would be benefiting from the results of this discussion session and the general interaction with other members during the conference, it could also be appropriate for the branch to assist with other expenses that would be incurred by the member representative in organising his/her attendance at the conference.

A Region Conference is a wonderful opportunity for members from different areas of the state to exchange ideas, and Councillors look forward to this opportunity to meet members from the various branches in the Region.

If you are interested in attending this conference please contact John Elliott.

In flower in May 2010

Acanthaceae *Graptophyllum excelsum*

Proteaceae *Grevillea decora*
Grevillea 'Golden Lyre'
Grevillea 'Ivory Whip'
Grevillea 'Lana Maree'
Grevillea praeina



Grevillea decora →

Last month's talk by Dr Betsy Jackes - Epacridaceae

At our April meeting we were very pleased to invite Betsy Jackes to give a very well illustrated talk on the Australian heaths, classified until recently as Epacridaceae. We soon learnt that due to reclassification these have now been placed in the more worldwide Ericaceae, subfamily Styphelioideae.

There are around 40 genera in this classification, mostly small shrubs which have the distinguishing feature of having leaves with “pseudo-parallel” or “palmate” venation. The main veins radiate from the base of the leaf and as the leaves of the species are usually small, this gives the appearance of the veins being parallel. The leaves will also have a sharp point.



Many of these plants can have prolific and colourful flowers, with a distinctive ‘bell’ shape. Local species include:



Melichrus urceolatus



Acrotiche aggregata



Leucopogon cuspidatus

These three are all listed as native to the immediate Townsville region, and *Leucopogon cuspidatus* (Northern Beard Heath) is listed as vulnerable. It would be interesting to hear of sightings from members, or from anyone with experience of them in cultivation.

Seen recently on Mt Stuart, two lesser known natives of our region, identified by our members.

Wikstroemia indica

Thymelaeaceae

Settlers Bootlace, Tie Bush, Stringbush

Distribution: From China through to south-East Asia to Australia (NSW, QLD and NT) and the Pacific Islands.

Habitat: common on rocky, dry hillsides and edges of rainforest

Small shrub, mostly to 1.5m high, glabrous or branches sparsely hairy, later smooth and shiny. Red/orange fruit and leaves are toxic if ingested.

The tough stringy bark is a rough and ready string if torn off in thin strips, hence the name Tie Bush.

Used in Chinese herbal medicine as a laxative and to treat asthma.

Interesting to note that this species is considered as an invasive species in some islands in the Indian Ocean where it has been introduced.



Flemingia involucrata

Fabaceae

Distribution: India, China through to South East Asia and Australia (QLD, NT, WA).

Habitat: slopes and disturbed grasslands

Erect perennial herb or shrub, to 1.5 m high. Flowers pink, purple, blue.

Membership 2010

This is the final notice for membership subscriptions which were due on 1st April this year. This will be the last newsletter you will receive if you don't renew your subscription.

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:

Postal Address:

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

For those who wish to pay electronically the details are

Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account 113462386

Please ensure that you quote 'Membership' and your name so that we can correctly allocate the payment.

Committee Meetings 2009	General Meetings 2009
25th Jan	10th Feb
22nd Feb	10th March
29th March	7th April
26th April	12th May
31st May	9th June
28th June	14th July
26th July	11th August
23rd August	8th September
27th September	13th October
25th October	10th November

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

