

## November 2018 Newsletter **No. 208**

**Next Meeting – Friday 23rd November**

### Phil Esdale presents on a New Species of Comesperma



The Serpentine country at Canoona captured to interests of our Yabba guests in 2016. What happens when a dedicated member visits his research sites every fortnight for the next two years? Come and experience Phil's spectacular photos of a changing landscape and vegetation that survives soils toxic to most plants, earth scorching bushfires, a cyclone, floods – you name it. Phil has captured the rare and threatened species as we have not seen them before. As well he has researched to evidence of some fascinating plant :



insect relationships – but you will have to come along for the story!



Phil Esdale will give a talk on a yet to be named species of Comesperma. This will touch on the flora of the Canoona Serpentine region North of Rockhampton, the taxonomy of the plant, its population ecology in particular with regard to its endangered status, and strategies it has

acquired in response to fire and survival in its ecosystem.



**Meeting** is at 7:00 pm. Turn up hill at the traffic lights on Frenchville Road through the car park to the Frenchville State School Activity Centre. We hope to see you there. Bring along your labelled specimens (if you know them), some cuttings for everyone to identify and any extra native seedlings. We will be running a plant raffle so bring along your spare coins.

**Next Outing – Sunday 2nd December – Native Plants Capricornia end of year break-up**

**Eichelberger Park, Frenchville.** The Christmas break up will be held at Eichelberger Park on Eichelberger Street off Frenchville Road at 3pm. Come along and celebrate with another great year with us. Check out below what we found there on our last visit!

**Last Meeting – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Tom Cowling's talk on the algae that he has collected in Keppel Bay proved to be fascinating for the large group. His underwater photography brought the amazing range of seaweeds to life – all shapes, sizes, colours and structures. He shared countless tips for identifying features and had an uncanny knowledge of

which ones were true locals and those that were just passing through on the tide! The highlight was the framed specimens that he brought along – they would hang with pride in any art exhibition! Even better, Tom has offered to show us around when we find a suitable low tide next year and promised to share his techniques for floating specimens on to herbarium sheets to make your own masterpieces!



### Last Outing – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Last outing, a small group visited the riparian vegetation along Moore Creek adjacent to Eichelberger Park, on Eichelberger Street off Frenchville Road. The very diverse and

successful revegetation at the upstream end of the park was only discovered late in the day.



### Upcoming Events

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Feb**

**Native Plants Capricornia ‘January’ Meeting.** Michael Elgey, Curator of the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens in our guest speaker. Note that this meeting has been postponed a week due to the clash with the Australia Day long weekend.

**16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 2019**

**16<sup>th</sup> Australasian Botanic Guides Conference** is to be held at the King Park Botanic Gardens in Perth, Western Australia, preceding the ANSPA Biennial Conference. For more information, contact [kpguidesconference@gmail.com.au](mailto:kpguidesconference@gmail.com.au).

**29<sup>th</sup> Sept  
– 4<sup>th</sup> Oct  
2019**

**Australian Native Plants Society Australia Biennial Conference and Seminar** is to be held in Albany, Western Australia from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019, hosted by the members of the Wildflower Society of Western Australia.

### Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants

Earlier this month I had the good fortune to participate in a 3-day workshop in Mackay on rainforest plant identification using the soon to be released RFK7 (Rainforest Key, Edition 7) developed at the Australian Tropical Herbarium. The updated key will cover plants as far south as Mackay (and across the top end to the Kimberlies). The workshop was run by two experienced staff from ATH who developed the key and attended by 8 staff of the Mackay Botanical Gardens and 8 members of the Mackay branch of Native Plants Queensland (including the NPQ Botanical Adviser).

Like its predecessor (and many other modern keys) it is a computer based system based on the Lucid platform in which you select from a wide range of characteristics both vegetative and reproductive. The display on the computer screen shows your progress and consists of four windows: features selected; features discarded; species remaining; species eliminated. All species are linked to a photo gallery and a data sheet. There is also

a help facility to illustrate characters and a couple of short-cut features once you have narrowed down the options (eg what diagnostic feature to look for a particular species). The characters can be entered in any order as this is a multi-entry key rather than a dichotomous key. As with all these sort of keys the rule is: if in doubt, leave it out.

The third day of the workshop was field based and focussed on the identification of common plant families. ATH staff had a version of the key on their phones and were able to check details in the field. A surprising find for the day was the giant matchbox bean vine just out of Mackay. It is planned to release the key publicly in December and a phone app will be available for approx. \$10 early in the new-year. In summary, an excellent course and an excellent product.

Acknowledgements: The course and key was made possible by support from ATH, JCU, CSIRO, WTMA, MRBG and NPQ Mackay. Contributed by Bob Newby.

### Tondoon Botanic Gardens celebrates 30 years!

Tondoon Botanic Gardens in Gladstone celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary last month with a light show *Luminous*, tree plantings and markets.



Brent Braddick demonstrates how to plant a tree while Richard Johnson looks on 23 October 2018, the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tondoon Botanic Gardens.

Volunteer for over 40 years at Tondoon - Ruth Crosson plants *Macadamia jansensii* for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tondoon Botanic Gardens.



The Bonsai Display and sale at Tondoon Botanic Gardens on 21 October 2018.

## Website Update

Helen Gallehawk has been doing some serious work on the backend of the Native Plants Capricornia website to build a database to manage all of our plant data and photos. Should be quite exciting and efficient to manage lots of data. [www.nativeplantscapricornia.org.au](http://www.nativeplantscapricornia.org.au).

## What's in flower in CQ

This month, we are asking readers to take a guess at what was in flower this month. Check out the photos and hints below.



Spotted on the upper creek bank of an *Eucalyptus crebra* woodland. Widely distributed throughout Central Queensland.

Close up of the flower.



Shrub to 80 cm high found in sandy soils north of Blackwater.

Close up of the flowers.



Common tree found west of Rockhampton, growing in sandy soils.

Close up of the flowers.



Juvenile species found present to 2.5 m tall. Small yellow flowers, opposite leaves. Found in shallow sandy soils on an old tableland where the landscape had been subject to relief inversion. This tableland was once a low-lying area surrounded by mountains which have since eroded leaving their remnants within the soil profile.

### Kakadu Blue – New Cosmetic Oil

This month a contribution from Lenore Lindsay who has shared some information about a new oil developed from the bark and wood of the Australian Cypress (*Callitris intratropica*). The oil is called Kakadu Blue and is created through the process of hydro-distillation. In Arnhem Land, *C. intratropica* is known as the Mosquito and Sandfly tree because of the repellent properties of the smoke. It is bluish in colour and smells medicinal woody. It is reported to have properties similar to tea tree oil, being anti-pyretic, anti-bacterial, anti-viral and anti-inflammatory, but not edible. For more information, head to this [link](#).



## CQUni Cares Appeal

Our donation of \$500 was made in the first week of the 2018/19 appeal and as such will form part of the money that will be matched by an external contribution from the Scott Williams Foundation. The cover letter indicated our request that if possible the funds be directed to support a student studying plant sciences (Agriculture, Science, Environmental science) and therefore be compatible with our state by-line: Cultivation, Conservation and Education. Thank you to Shirley Hopkins for championing this matter. Contributed by Bob Newby.

## New Native Plants Capricornia Website!

The talented Plantasy Web development team from CQUniversity are busy putting the finishing details to our new WWW site ready to hand on to us to 'populate' with lots of information on native plants. Take some time to check it out here: [www.nativeplantscapricornia.org.au](http://www.nativeplantscapricornia.org.au).



Did anyone notice the new logo on the letterhead of the newsletter? Check it out and let us know what you think. Email: [nativeplantscap@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantscap@gmail.com). It was designed by Plantasy Web Development who have also developed our new website.



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