

Top End

Native Plant Society

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December 2016 Newsletter

General Meeting Times

The next TENPS meeting will be held on *Thursday January 19th 2017*. Meetings are usually held at 7:30pm on the third Thursday of each month at Marrara Christian College, on the corner of Amy Johnson Avenue and McMillans Road. The meeting is followed by a chance to chat with other members and access the TENPS reference Library over a cuppa. Bring your plants along to swap, sell or have identified. The guest speaker presentation commences around 8pm. All are welcome.

Field trips are usually on the weekend following the meeting. Details of upcoming events are provided in the newsletter, or check the TENPS website.

What's in Flower?



Calophyllum inophyllum photographed at coastal cliffs, near
MAGNT by Kasia Potocka

Natives mean more!

www.topendnativeplants.org.au

Upcoming TENPS guest speakers

January 19th: Louis Elliott - "*Sagittaria platyphylla* – detection and response to an aquatic Weed of National Significance in the Top End".

February 16th: TBA

TENPS Field Trips & other events

Saturday January 21st: An unburnt woodland ramble with Sarah Hirst. Meet at 1751 Leonino Road at 9.00am. BYO chair and umbrella!

Saturday February 18th: Tabletop Track walk in Litchfield National Park -Walker Creek to Florence Falls.

NT Field Naturalist Club Events

Meetings are held at 7.45pm on the second Wednesday of each month except January in the Function Room, Level 3, Red Precinct 1 at Charles Darwin University Casuarina Campus.

Field Trips are a great way to explore the best of Darwin area's nature spots in the company of like-minded people. These are usually held on the Sunday following the monthly meeting and often related to the topic of this meeting. Additional outings are held from time to time, and everyone is welcome.

TENPS Committee Meeting

Committee meetings are held every second month and members are most welcome to attend. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday the 1st of February at 7.30pm.

Venue: Blain Electorate Office, Oasis Shopping Centre, Palmerston.

Top End Native Plant Society 2016 President's Report

In the President's report last year I emphasised the diverse and high level of expertise we have among members, along with the contribution members make to events including talks at monthly meetings or conducting field trips. Again this year I am delighted to acknowledge the skills and experience of members and their preparedness to share their knowledge, whether formally via a slide show or talk at a monthly meeting, or informally in one on one discussion. I especially wish to thank the Committee for their contributions over the past 12 months. A community group such as TENPS is driven by the Committee and members, and the character, energy and activities of the Society reflect the efforts of those that contribute.

Top End Native Garden Openings, alias TENGO, has again been a significant undertaking by the Society this year. We held three open gardens, at Mark King's in Millner, at the Rowley family property in Girraween and at Jenni Risler's property at Howard Springs. A big thankyou to the garden owners who put many hours of work into the presentation of their gardens. I also wish to acknowledge the contribution made by our TENGO sub-committee comprising Sarah Hirst, Ingrid Nadjarian and Lana Twyford. A big thank you for the many hours of effort put in by the sub-committee.

For me, a highlight of all the events was the quality of the discussions with members of the public, reflecting the important opportunity that public events held by the Society provide to exchange views and ideas about growing plants. Events such as TENGO do afford an opportunity to promote native plants and fulfil an educational role, however, attendance was down on the previous season and the Committee have decided to replace TENGO with visits to member's gardens.

A focus on gardens without all the effort of a public event will permit an ongoing focus of education for members and the enjoyment of sharing our gardening experiences. The large effort put into TENGO has resulted in a reduced focus on monthly field trips and it is anticipated we will be in a position for a renewed effort on field activities in the coming year. In an attempt to provide a diverse and timely field schedule, all members are invited to a special planning meeting on 10th December to focus on activities for 2017. The planning session will be followed by a Xmas get together at Dripstone Cliffs.

Field trips over the last year have been interspersed with other events. In December 2015 we visited the Jingili Water Gardens at Rapid Creek for a walk before partaking of a Christmas spread. Sarah hosted us for a trip to her block at Darwin River in January. Our enjoyment of the wet season growth continued with a visit to the rainforests at East Point in February. In that month we also ran a stall at the Goyder Day celebration which was held at the launch of a new park on the site of Goyder's camp at the waterfront.

March and April had us back in the Darwin rural area with two days of weed mapping with Greening Australia on the Howard Sand Plains and a tour of Emily and Duncan's block at Girraween. In May we held a joint field trip with Greening Australia to explore the sandsheet heath vegetation adjacent to the Humpty Doo Golf Course. A great day with over 50 participants and a range of speakers addressing topics from geology to revegetation.

In June members teamed up with the Environment Centre NT for a "Meet the Creek Tour". The Atlas Moth host plant *Litsea glutinosa* was a focus of a trip to the Territory Wildlife Park in July. In August we ran a stall and presented talks at the Garden Fair held at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. Again we ran a stall at the Pop Up Zoo for Threatened

Species Day in September. Later in the month the Ebsworth's hosted our visit to their block at Darwin River. The progress that Peter and Jude have made in managing weeds on their property is inspirational. Areas that were heavily infested with exotics a few years ago are now dominated by native species.

Wangi Falls was the focus of our field excursion in October to take advantage of the new season's growth of the monsoon rainforest species, along with a great swimming hole!

We have our annual plant sale at Coolalinga later this month and the November field trip is to Darwin River Dam.

In similar fashion to the variety of field activities, a diverse array of topics was covered at monthly meetings. Rod Baker talked about Green Plum, *Buchanania obovata*, fruit production. Pilbara conservation was the focus by Mike Clark from Greening Australia. Brydie Hill from the Flora and Fauna Division of the NT Government told us about the current review of the list of threatened species in the NT and welcomed members to contribute to the discussion about threatened plants. We heard from Sean Bellairs of Charles Darwin University about the work done by Yeresha Hearth, a recipient of the Top End Native Plant Society Scholarship, on re-establishment of native vegetation following disturbance on the Howard Sand Plains. Nick Cuff from the NT Herbarium took us on a tour of sandmass vegetation of Cape York Peninsular. Sandy landscapes appeared again with a talk about central Australian deserts by Dave Liddle. This provided a contrast with the mountains of New Guinea that featured in a talk on the Kokoda Trail by Zig Madycki. Russell Dempster led us on a walk on the Jatbula Trail between Nitmiluk and Leliyn. Zig returned with a talk on wildflowers at Lesueur National park in Western Australia. Tonight we will round off a diverse and informative series with a talk by Ian Morris.

Previous interest and efforts to draw attention to a heritage listed Milkwood, *Alstonia*

actinophylla, in Foelsche Street came to fruition this year with implementation of a management plan commissioned by the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment.

TENPS provided a submission in response to an Environmental Protection Authority Environmental Quality Report addressing the Howard Sand Plains that was tabled in Parliament in December 2015. The Minister for the Environment announced the adoption of option 2 from this report in August which is a significant step forward in looking after the vegetation of the Howard Sand Plains. On the theme of the sand sheets, the Society was successful in obtaining a grant from Territory Natural Resource Management to produce a field guide for plants of the sandsheets, which is due for completion by June 2017.

Other submissions this year have included comment on: unapproved land clearing beside Boulter Road in the Rapid Creek catchment; the Litchfield Sub-regional Land Use Plan; sand mining by Boral; rezoning at Noonamah Ridge; and Dr Allan Hawke's Review of NT Assessment and Approval Processes.

On the educational front the Society supported the award of a Scholarship to Anna Miller, a Charles Darwin University student studying rock wallabies in Litchfield National Park.

The Society has participated as a member of the Australian Native Plant Society of Australia and the increased contact with the national body has resulted in TENPS members hosting activities with visitors from other jurisdictions this year.

As I mentioned at the start, all these activities only occur because of the willingness of members to contribute and I was very pleased to see Ingrid Nadjarian recognised at the Chief Ministers' Volunteer Awards via a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to TENPS.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate appreciation to all those who make things happen in our Society and look forward to many more events in 2017.

Report by TENPS President – Dave Liddle

November Field Trip: Darwin River Dam

Only a few people ventured out on a wet Sunday for the field trip on November 19th. Those that did enjoyed a very pleasant stroll up to and along the Darwin River Dam wall and back and with the rain gone it was a perfect cool and overcast morning.



It was still quite early in the year for some plants to be flowering, but this *Gymnanthera oblonga* vine (below) was one of the species identified from our walk.





Article and photographs by Sarah Hirst

More information on *Gymnanthera oblonga*
available at <http://eflora.nt.gov.au/factsheet?id=387>

WEED ALERT and simultaneously an introduction to the upcoming (January) TENPS talk:

WEED ALERT *Sagittaria platyphylla* **DARWIN AND RURAL AREA**

Sagittaria (*Sagittaria platyphylla*) has been found in the Darwin area. This is the first known occurrence of *sagittaria* in the Northern Territory.

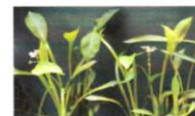
Sagittaria is a Class C (not to be introduced into the Northern Territory) weed and is a Weed of National Significance. *Sagittaria* can have serious impacts on the natural environment, and in particular on wetlands and in drainage channels.

Sagittaria is a highly invasive aquatic weed that can:

- form dense monocultures in water to 1 m deep
- choke wetlands and waterways
- adversely affect aquatic biodiversity
- impact on aquatic recreational activities
- reduce the visual amenity of waterways
- produce up to 20 000 seeds

Plants were discovered and found to be sold at both Darwin and Palmerston Bunnings. These plants were misidentified on the label as:

Aquarium Plant
Melon Sword
(*Echinodorus osiris*)



If you have seen this plant or bought one from Bunnings, please contact the Weed Management Branch immediately on 8999 4567

DO NOT DISPOSE OF THIS PLANT YOURSELF



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For full tour details contact :
Nicky Zanen, Publicity Officer, ANPSA
Email nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk
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TENPS Annual Plant Sale

The annual TENPS Plant Sale was held at Coolalinga on Saturday 26. A good variety of plants were grown and supplied by 5 TENPS members.

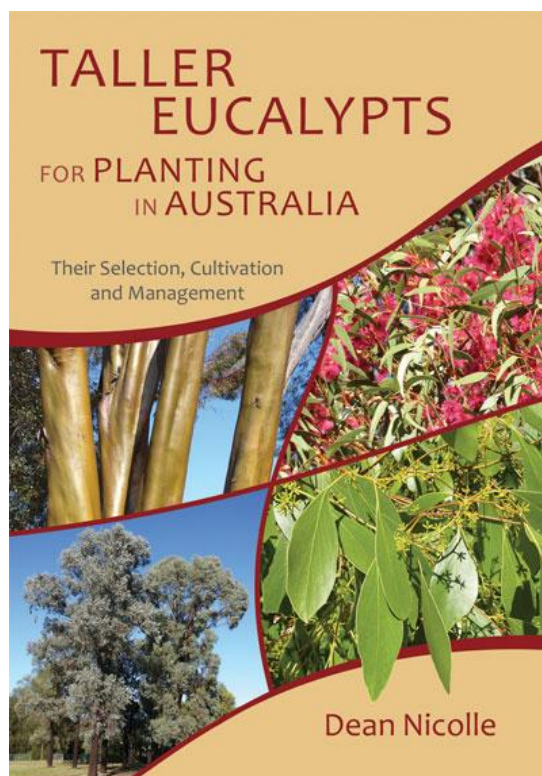
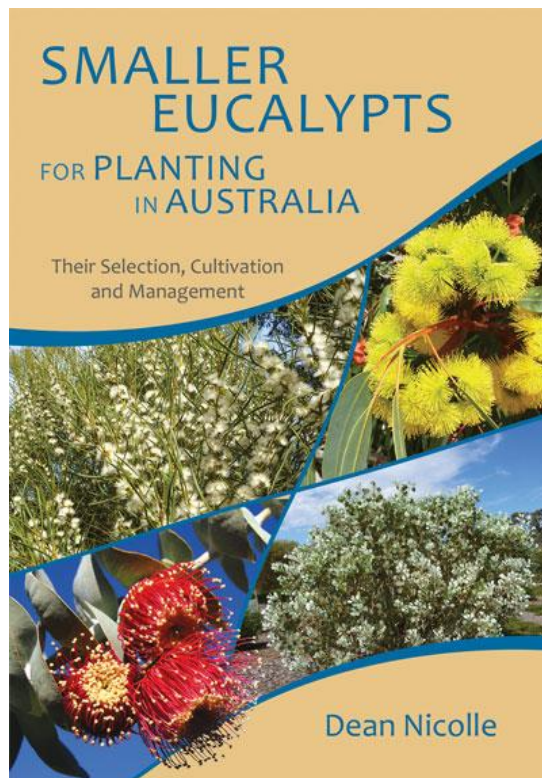


Sales started slowly but picked up as the morning progressed and overall it was a very successful day.



New opportunities that may be of interest:

Two books recently written and published by Dean Nicolle (2016) that may interest Top End Native Plants Society's members – "Smaller Eucalypts for Planting in Australia" and "Taller Eucalypts for Planting in Australia". Excellent review in "Growing Australian" [December 2016]
Further publications details available at:
http://www.dn.com.au/Eucalypts_for_Planting.html



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☐ New membership ☐ Renewal

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Please Note: The electronic edition of the newsletter will be uploaded to the member's page of the website each month and members will be notified by email (Acrobat Reader is required).

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Account Name: Top End Native Plant Society Account Number: 61225276
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Or MAIL TO: TENPS Secretary, PO Box 135, Palmerston NT 0831

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