

Top End

Native Plant Society



July 2017 Newsletter

President:
Sarah Hirst

Vice President:
Russell Dempster 0459440665

Secretary:
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Publications:
Kasia Potocka

Public Officer:

Librarian:
Ian Morris

General Committee Members:
Barry Smith

Anna Lemon

John Westaway

Webmaster:
Dave Liddle

PO Box 135
Palmerston NT 0831

Or email us:
topendnativeplantsociety@hotmail.com

General Meeting Times

The next TENPS meeting will be held on *Thursday 17th of August 2017*. The AGM commences at 7:45 pm 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?



Kapok tree *Bombax ceiba var. leiocarpum*;
Image taken by Alexander Popovich, Daly River community



Natives mean more!

www.topendnativeplants.org.au

Upcoming TENPS guest speakers

August 17th: Vidushi Thusithana –
‘Revegetation at East Point’
September 21st: Marj King – ‘Propagation
workshop’/Neutrog introduction
October 19th: Peter Christopherson & Sandra
McGregor – ‘Bush tucker and
Indigenous plant use’
November 16th: AGM; Ian Morris – ‘Nectar flow
in Northern Australia’
December 21st: TBA

TENPS Field Trips & other events

August 20th Coolmob Sustainability House
Open Day: <http://coolmob.org/shddarwin2017/>
August 27th HSP field trip and launch of ‘HSP
version 1 Field Guide’.
Come along to the Humpty Doo Golf Club
between 9.00 - 11.30 to learn more about this
biodiversity hotspot on our doorstep.
**Please find attached flier to promote this
event further below.**
September 9th Threatened Species Day
@Waterfront
September 23rd: Casuarina Coastal Reserve
Loop walk
October 21st Fogg Dam boardwalk
Meet at 8.30 at the car park before the dam
wall. Led by Sarah Hirst and Louise Becker.
October TBA – Escape Cliffs Sailing trip
November TBA: Plaxy Purich – Typhonium
praetermissum
December TBA - Christmas Party

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, and 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 4th of October at 7.30pm. Venue:
Drysdale Electorate Office, Palm Plaza,
Palmerston (next to MVR).

TENPS SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2017 AWARDED AT CDU

Congratulations to Linda Luck who is the
recipient of the TENPS Scholarship for 2017.
Linda Luck has been undertaking a research
project as part of a Bachelor of Science (Honours)
at Charles Darwin University with the aim of
diversifying management strategies for Gamba
Grass.

Her field studies have been undertaken at the
former Rum Jungle uranium mine, with a focus
on the soil seed bank of this exotic species.
Linda's work will contribute to rehabilitation
and protection from this formidable invader that
is having a huge impact on native species in the
Top End.

We look forward to Linda presenting the results
of her project to TENPS.



*Presentation of TENPS Scholarship to Linda Luck by
David Liddle.*

Upcoming TENPS guest speaker

Background of the talk (August 17th)

Presenter: Vidushi Thusithana, PhD student
from Charles Darwin University, working on a
forest rehabilitation project at East Point
Recreational Reserve, Darwin.

Topic: ‘Seedling recruitment in different aged
rehabilitated patches in monsoonal vine forest
at East Point Recreational Reserve’.

Monsoon vine forest at East Point Recreational
Reserve is an iconic community of the Top End
with important ecological and aesthetic values.
The forest was cleared during 1932 to 1963 due
to anthropogenic activity and natural
disturbances. Re-vegetation has occurred since

1974 and it has involved planting a selected group of mainly pioneer/early colonizing species. Establishment of climax species is essential for the rehabilitated patches to develop towards the structure, composition and diversity of the original forest. Climax species establishment relies on dispersal of propagules from the nearby old growth forest and survival of the seedlings. This presentation discusses whether establishment of late successional species is dispersal limited and whether the sites are developing towards the old growth forest based on climax species composition.

TENPS July field trip Lameroo beach

On a lovely Darwin dry season morning, a small but enthusiastic group of TENPS members gathered on the Esplanade. We were looking forward to exploring the Lameroo beach area and the small, but very important, area of coastal rainforest vegetation that hugs the cliffs of the Esplanade area.

Before we started, it was established that most of the group had never ventured down to the Lameroo Beach area even though we had all been living here for a long time – including one person who was born and bred in the Territory! Dave had said that we would go over the top of the cliffs so Lon had come well prepared with an impressive walking stick and nearly all of us had good hiking shoes on. However it was a relief to discover that there is a lovely concreted sloping path down to the Lameroo Beach area and therefore no heroics to go over the cliffs were needed!



TENPS members on the Lameroo Beach access path

As you may be aware, Lameroo Beach is the only beach in the CBD area and was historically a popular camping area for the Larrakia people. It was also the location of the all season Lameroo baths, which were built and completed in 1922 as a safe swimming pool for the Darwin population to swim safely in as it kept out the crocodiles, but unfortunately was not as successful at keeping out the box jellyfish! After a chequered history that included a few drownings, the baths fell into disrepair in the 1950's and today only small remnants remain.

The walk through the rainforest was a perfect way to start the Saturday morning and we spent a lot of time identifying interesting trees and plants, the names of which are at the end of this article. A number of birds that visit rainforest areas were also seen as well as the not so rare shopping trolley species that seems to leap off the cliffs regularly to certain retirement.



Is this a breeding pair of shopping trolleys?

The temperature of the area drops as you walk through the area due to the denseness of the vegetation and canopy. There was so much to see and discuss that we lingered in the cool of the rainforest area before emerging onto the beach area.



Colourful rocks and plant lessons on the beach.

We then decided to be adventurous and set off along the beach area towards the deckchair cinema. Due to the vegetation along the cliffs, you cannot see any of the CBD buildings and it is hard to believe that we were so close to the middle of the city.



Huge trees hug the cliffs in places and there are several impressive specimens of *Calophyllum inophyllum* and *Ficus virens*.



This amazing Calophyllum inophyllum has slid down the escarpment but still going strong.



This speedy snail was one of the discoveries.

A reef heron and several kingfishers were seen as we meandered along the beach which, while slippery in parts, (I began to jealously eye off Lon's walking stick at times!) is a very enjoyable walk. The colour of the rocks is amazing – stripy yellows, pinks and deep reds proved distracting when you needed to watch where your feet were placed!

A great surprise was the amount of history that can be found among the rocks closer to the Deckchair Cinema area. We found lots of old broken bottles and pottery. A bottle clearly labelled 1942 was a great find and also a reminder of the history of the area.



A 1942 bottle is evidence of our history.

Unfortunately amongst the mangroves we also found reminders of more recent history, fishing lines and more recent rubbish.



Removing fishing lines

A quick scramble up the rock wall at the back of the Deckchair Cinema took us to the bottom of the Damoe Ra stairway, which we climbed rather slowly before most of the group went for

refreshments after our adventures at Alleycats, which is a short distance away.



A different kind leaf watching to end the morning ...

My thanks to Dave for leading such an interesting walk.

I have lived in the Territory for over 12 years and am embarrassed to say that I had never explored this area that is so ridiculously close to the city and I have definitely missed out on a really interesting and significant area that combines history, bird watching and a wide range of native plants and trees in a area of coastal rainforest in the heart of Darwin. It is easily accessible and the coolness of the area, thanks to the coastal rainforest vegetation provides relief from the heat. It is a gem that I would encourage you all to visit – I know I will be back!

Article by Emma Noonan

Species

Common Name

<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i>	Beauty leaf
<i>Myristica insipida</i>	Native nutmeg
<i>Pachygone ovata</i>	Vine
<i>Carpentaria acuminata</i>	Carpentaria palm
<i>Maranthes corymbosa</i>	Maranthes
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	Black wattle
<i>Terminalia microcarpa</i>	Terminalia
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	Carallia
<i>Millettia pinnata</i>	Pongamia
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo
<i>Flagellaria indica</i>	Supplejack
<i>Stenoclaena palustris</i>	Climbing fern
<i>Premna</i> sp	
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>	Beach hibiscus
<i>Buchanania arborescens</i>	
<i>Cordia subcordata</i>	
<i>Ficus virens</i>	Banyan
<i>Avicennia marina</i>	Mangrove

Rainforest Patches are Key to our Lifestyle

The coastal rainforest patch along Lameroo Beach is unique for the fact that this patch remains remarkably intact in Darwin city. Development has significantly eroded the similar 'dry' rainforest patches such as those at East Point, Kululuk and Leanyer. It is also unique in terms of its species composition as it is quite different to the other rainforest patches around Darwin such as Duke Street and Holmes Jungle which are spring fed forests.

The true value of these rainforest patches is the fact that they are such important habitat for fruit-eating wildlife such as bats and birds. Highly mobile birds like Torres Strait Pigeons and Orioles are critical for both pollination and dispersal of rainforest fruits within and between rainforest patches and also to our suburban gardens.

It is because of these rainforest patches that Darwin residents enjoy such a wide variety of birds in their gardens; a privilege not found in most other capital cities where feral bird species often dominate.

Lameroo Beach rainforest is not only intact; it is also exceptional due to its easy accessibility to locals and visitors alike. That it is located in the city centre and can be accessed by a path/ramp off the well-used Esplanade parkland leading through the forest to the beach makes this strip of rainforest unique; especially as, once you enter to forest, the sight and sounds of the city seem far away.

The Lameroo Beach rainforest is also made vulnerable by its proximity to the city. It is important that we do not forget the tranquillity and habitat value of this area for birds as our city continues to grow in future. We hope that any development on the coastal escarpment and in particular the Lameroo Beach rainforest should be sensitive to the uniqueness of this area.

by Sarah Hirst

Upcoming Howard Sand Plains Field Day, Please share with your family, friends and encourage them to come along:



Typhonium taylori

Top End
Native Plant Society

Greening Australia



Utricularia holtzei

Howard Sand Plains Field Day

Humpty Doo Golf Club

Sunday 27th August

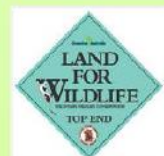
9.00am – 11.30am

This event will launch the new Sand Sheet Heath Field Guide, a useful tool to help users identify the plants that are key to the biodiversity hotspot in Darwin's rural area that is the Howard Sand Plains Site of Conservation Significance.

- Visit this habitat and it's incredible biodiversity
 - Trial the Field Guide on site
- Learn more with informative Guest Speakers



The Field Guide will be available as a free download from the TENPS website.



Coolmob Sustainability House Open Day

Another upcoming event is the Coolmob Sustainability House Open Day to be held on Sunday August 20.

TENPS will be hosting a stall at one of the 5 open houses and will have native plants for sale along with advice on using native plants in your garden. If you would like to assist on the stall volunteers are welcome. For more information (addresses will be available shortly) please visit:

<http://coolmob.org/shddarwin2017/>

Seeking expressions of interest for sailing trip in the first week of October

Louise Becker is kindly offering to take members on a trip to Escape Cliff (near the mouth of the Adelaide River) with an option to continue on to Cobourg Peninsula. This trip would be between 3-10 days, depending on the participants and agreed destination. Numbers are limited so please let us know asap if you would be interested in this trip.

Memberships are due!

A reminder to all our members that 2017/18 memberships are now due. Payment details are shown on the membership form, below. Thank you to those who have already renewed, we appreciate your ongoing support. If you will not be renewing your membership, please let us know so we don't send further reminders. If you think we could improve the society for you, we would also love to hear your feedback. Email us at: topendnativeplantsociety@hotmail.com

It was decided at the Committee Meeting this week to initiate a roster to share the responsibility of providing the tea/coffee and snacks at meetings (purchases will be reimbursed by TENPS on provision of receipt). The rostered person(s) will be responsible for:

- bringing milk and snacks (feel free to make something ☺) to the meeting
- filling and turning on the hot water urn
- collecting and setting up cups and tea/coffee equipment from the designated cupboard
- reporting items for replacement (tea/coffee/sugar) by the next person on the roster.
- It will also include overseeing the washing up and putting away afterwards (there is always a number of volunteers to help with this) so is really just ensuring things are left tidy at the end of the evening.
- Dave Liddle and Russell Dempster have already volunteered for the August and September meetings - thank you both!
- If you attend the monthly meetings and are willing to assist, please nominate 1 or 2 preferred months for the remainder of this year (Oct/Nov) or next year. Meetings are, as always, on the third Thursday of each month except December.
- Once finalised, the roster will be circulated to the volunteers and published in the newsletter on an ongoing basis.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (DUE 1 JULY)

Please accept my subscription/renewal for membership of the Top End Native Plant Society

☐ New membership ☐ Renewal

Name/s.....

Email address

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).

If you DO NOT have email access and would like to receive the newsletter (black & white available only) by post please tick the box. ☐

Postal Address

Post Code.....

Payment Due \$..... (\$20.00 per member/family, \$15.00 unwaged)

TO PAY ONLINE: Bank: People's Choice Credit Union BSB: 805050
Account Name: Top End Native Plant Society Account Number: 61225276
Please include your name in the transfer reference.

Or MAIL TO: TENPS Secretary, PO Box 135, Palmerston NT 0831

Signature Date/...../.....

TO:

Sender:



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