Abelmoschus moschatus ssp tuberosus

The Native Gardener

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

August 2010

General Meeting 8.00pm Wednesday 11th August

Community Centre– Annandale Shopping Centre

Committee Meeting 7.30pm Monday 23nd August

[2 Hoya Court)

Wednesday 11th August 8pm

Keith Townsend
will give a presentation entitled
"Water, Water, Everywhere"
a discussion of current environmental concerns

John Elliott
will show a selection of photographs taken at
Mt Cleveland
over the past year

Chairman	Janice Lough	4728 7302	j.lough@aims.gov.au
Vice Chairman	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			

In Flower in July 2010

Acanthaceae	*Graptophyllum excelsum*
Mimosaceae	*Acacia leptostachya*
	Acacia mountfordii
Myrtaceae	*Melaleuca (Callistemon) 'Pink Alma'*
Pittosporaceae	*Bursaria tenuifolia*
Proteaceae	*Grevillea dryandrii*
	Grevillea 'Flamingo'
	Grevillea 'Georgiana'
	Grevillea 'Honey Gem'
	Grevillea 'Ivory Whip'
	Grevillea 'Lana Maree'
	Grevillea pteridifolia (NT form & local form)
	Grevillea sessilis

A reflection on times past

The following impression was recorded by Englishman Charles Sturt (later one of our prominent explorers), as he sailed into Sydney Harbour for the first time in 1833. For those of us who enjoy the bush, no further comment is needed -

"A simple glance was sufficient to tell me that the hills upon the southern shores of the port, the outlines of which were broken by houses and spires, must once have been covered with the same dense and gloomy wood which abounded everywhere else. The contrast was indeed very great - the improvement singularly striking. The labour and patience required, and the difficulties, which the first settlers encountered in effecting these improvements, must have been incalculable. But their success has been complete: it is the very triumph of human skill and industry over Nature herself. The cornfield and the orchard have supplanted the wild grass and the brush; a flourishing town stands over the ruins of the forest; the lowing of the herds has succeeded the wild whoop of the savage; and the stillness of that once desert shore is now broken by the sound of the bugle and the busy hum of commerce."

John Glover watercolour of Townsville 1879 Castle Hill is right, Mt Elliot to the left.

Historical Note

In the process of moving storage units, several boxes of SGAP records were re-discovered, consisting of correspondence, attendance books, and miscellaneous paperwork from the past several decades.

One, which stood out, was the first attendance book, beginning with the first general meeting on 25 June 1970 and listing 13 names and addresses. The only current member on that list is **Mr. J. Donahue**.

Moving on to the 18th August 1970 we see the name of **Mr. Don Glasgow** and soon after on the 19th May 1971, **Mrs. B. Jackes.**

Congratulations to all three long-serving members, who have contributed so much to our Society over the last four decades!

It will not have escaped your attention that working from these dates, we have just passed the 40-year anniversary for our group, so……

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SGAP TOWNSVILLE!

Greg Calvert: Cyclones and Trees

We are indebted once again to Greg for bringing his usual enthusiasm and thoroughness, to this interesting topic for anyone gardening in our part of the world.

We are aware of how frequent and dangerous our cyclones can be so it is logical we should think twice about the trees we plant. How can we reap the benefits, whilst at the same time avoid the disadvantages, of having leafy gardens and suburbs?

Most importantly, trees gain their strength from well-developed roots, so watering properly to encourage deep growth is essential. Having established that general principle, which trees should we choose? Greg's experience tells him that there is no distinction between native and exotic trees. Those with an open 'architecture' such as Terminalia/Alstonia will generally give less obstruction to the wind, and trees from high energy environments, such as Melaleuca's from stream banks will give most wind resistance. Trees whose natural environment is the beach front also tend to be good survivors, with the exception of Casuarina equisitifolia. Most palms are resistant, as are Pandanus. Also good are slow-growing species, such as Mimusops, and those with high wood density, such as Argyrodendron and Gossia.

Eucalypts and Acacia both have bad records during cyclones but the worst offender is the introduced African Mahogany where a lack of a taproot combined with large canopy, makes them very vulnerable.

Thanks Greg!

Wikstroemia indica

Keith was interested in deciphering the origin of the name of this plant, after it was seen in fruit on Mt Stuart. This led him to the APNI, which is very detailed and at first glance confusing. He made suggestions as to its interpretation and Betsy Jackes' comments follow in brown text.

APNI – Australian Plant Name Index

Thymelaeaceae
Wikstroemia indica (L.) C.A.Mey. Meyer, C.A.A. von (1843) Bulletin Scientifique publie par L'Academie Imperiale des Sciences de Saint Petersbourg: 358 [comb. nov.]
basionym: Daphne indica L.
Meisner, C.D.F. in Candolle, A.L.P.P. de (Ed) (1857), Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis 14(2): 543
Hooker, J.D. (1859), The botany of the Antarctic voyage of H.M. discovery ships Erebus and Terror. III. Flora Tasmaniae 2(11): xlvi
Bentham, G. (1873), Flora Australiensis 6: 131
synonym: Wikstroemia shuttleworthii Meisn.
Bentham, G. in Hooker, J.D. (1873), The botany of the Antarctic voyage of H.M. discovery ships Erebus and Terror. III. Flora Tasmaniae 6: 37 Ding Hou (1962) Flora Malesiana Series I 6: 34-35
Rye, B.L. in George, A.S. (Ed) (1990), Flora of Australia 18: 131, Figs 16, 70F-G, Map 172
nomenclatural synonym: Daphne indica L.
synonym: Daphne foetida L. f.
synonym: Wikstroemia foetida(L.f.) A. Gray
synonym: Wikstroemia viridiflora Meisn. synonym: Wikstroemia shuttleworthii Meisn. synonym: Wikstroemia shuttleworthiana Meisn. nom. Illeg.

Thymelaeaceae
Daphne indica L.
Linnaeus, C. (1753), Species Plantarum 1: 357
Type: "Habitat in China."
Brown, R. (1810), Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae: 362
Meyer, C.A.A. von (1843) Bulletin Scientifique publie par L'Academie Imperiale des Sciences de Saint Petersbourg: 358
basionym of: Wikstroemia indica (L.) C.A Mey. Rye, B.L. in George, A.S. (Ed) (1990), Flora of Australia 18: 131
Rye, B.L. in George, A.S. (Ed) (1990), Flora of Australia 18: 131, Figs 16, 70F-G, Map 172
synonym of: Wikstroemia indica (L.) C.A. Mey.

Synonym =

another name which has been published for this plant. It may be a correct or incorrect name, it may be illegal, or it may have been applied to only part of the known species.

Basionym =

the first name which was published for this plant.

Nomenclatural Synonym –=

another name which has been published for the type specimen', or first named specimen.

First thing to understand is the Rule of Priority - which says that the earliest legitimate name must be used unless conserved by The Rules - at the Congress.

Second is that in the 19th century particularly - when a lot of collecting and naming went on there was poor communication. Ships, coaches etc to transport things - not the electronic age. So Cunningham could have been collecting and sent things to de Candolle in Switzerland, and Brown could have been collecting and sent things to Kew, where he later described them, and so they could have each had a specimen of the same plant - unknown to the other, which then got described separately

Third a specimen from Cooktown may look much bigger than one growing at Wilson's Prom. e.g. some of the Syzygium's look different and so these could both end up as being described as two different species, until someone got the whole range and said these two really belong together - just the natural variation and they represent extremes. If they are well separated then they may decide to make them subspecies or varieties.

1753 Linneaus - first named it Daphne indica
Correct, then as you guess his son made a mistake - we can all do that.

1782 Linneaus (the son), obviously using another specimen, then named it Daphne foetida but this was later discarded as he had based his analysis on the wrong family.
1810 Brown –
Published using the correct Daphne indica.

1843 Meyer - Did he then name it Wikstroemia indica?
Meyer realised that Linneaus' specimen was really a Wikstroemia and so transferred it from Daphne to Wilkstroemia.
The genus is named after Swedish botanist Wikström who published works on Daphne.

1857 Meisner - Seems Meisner came up with three names W. viridiflora W. shuttleworthii and W. shuttleworthiana
His viridiflora was based on a specimen that Wallich in India suggested the name for but it seems that Wallich was also referring to a specimen from somewhere in China - he was a missionary. The second specimen of Meisner was based on a specimen collected in Sydney - this he named shuttleworthii. It seems that W. shuttleworthiana was just a mistake. Meisner was obviously a splitter – but it indicates that the species is variable.

1859 Hooker
Just followed Brown

1865 Gray - Did he then name it Wikstroemia foetida thinking that Daphne foetida was the basionym?
Yes, Gray hadn't realised it had already been described etc but, using the specimen of Linneaus filius, recognised that this specimen should be placed in the genus

Wilkstroemia which had been described in 1833, so he transferred the son's specimen over as W. foetida (L.f.) A. Gray.

1873 Bentham
Bentham decided that both W. viridiflora and W. shuttleworthii were both actually W. indica. Bentham used the Australian specimen because Linnaeus based his on a specimen from China, so obviously Bentham assumed they could be the same. One in Sydney and one in China and possibly the specimens in Kew did look different. Bentham was very thorough and examined the specimens.

1962 Ding Hou - Just reference literature

1990 Rye (George) - Just reference literature

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

Want to know more about Australian Wildlife?

The Veterinary Anatomy discipline at James Cook University is offering an exciting role for dedicated volunteers to get involved in the preparation of wildlife material. If you have an interest in discovering what makes Australian fauna unique, this may be for you.

Volunteers will be assisting scientists in a working laboratory setting to "process" ethically sourced wildlife cadavers. The intention is to produce mounted skeletons and other associated demonstration material, which will be used to stimulate Veterinary Science students and further their education in comparative animal anatomy.

It is envisaged that the contribution of volunteers will be approximately six hours per week. At present, Wednesday will be the "Wildlife Preparation Day", and trained staff will be available to supervise volunteers.

It is essential that volunteers be prepared to work with dead and dismembered animals, in a modern laboratory, with the associated Health and Safety requirements.

For initial enquiries, or more information, please contact Sarah Swan at sarah.swan@jcu.edu.au.

Myrtle Rust Alert

Don Glasgow informs me that there has been an outbreak of this serious pest in NSW so I have collected the facts from the DPI. Full details can be found by following the link at the bottom.

Myrtle Rust has been found on the NSW Central Coast and eradication and control measures have been implemented. Surveillance efforts are also ongoing in the surrounding areas including nurseries and bushland.

Myrtle Rust (*Uredo rangelii*) is a newly described pathogen that is closely related to the Eucalyptus/Guava rusts. These rusts are serious pathogens of plants belonging to the family Myrtaceae including many iconic Australian natives like willow myrtle (*Agonis* sp.) and bottle brush (*Callistemon* sp.).

Myrtle Rust was recently detected on the NSW Central Coast on three species of native plants: *A. flexuosa* (willow myrtle) cv. 'Afterdark' and cv. 'Burgundy', *Syncarpia glomulifera* (turpentine) and *Callistemon viminalis* (bottle brush).

Overseas, it is also known to occur on *Syzygium jambos* (rose apple) and *Myrtus communis* (common myrtle).

The full host range of Myrtle Rust has not yet been determined and research efforts into the taxonomy and ecology of the pathogen are ongoing. At present, severe infestation has only been observed on Agonis 'Afterdark'.

Myrtle Rust has been found on the NSW Central Coast and eradication and control measures have been implemented. Surveillance efforts are also ongoing in the surrounding areas including nurseries and bushland.

For the full story visit:
http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_17185.htm

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	$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

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.