



Abelmoschus moschatus ssp tuberosus

The Native Gardener

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

February 2010

General Meeting 8.00pm **Wednesday** 10th February 2010
Community Centre – Annandale Shopping Centre

Committee Meeting 7.30pm **Monday** 22nd February 2010
Tumbetin Lodge

DON'T MISS OUT!

Our first guest speaker of the year will be

John Leslie Dowe

who will present his new book

'Australian Palms – Biogeography, Ecology and Systematics'.

See article next page for details.

Our monthly outing will take place on Sunday the 14th of February. The place will be decided at the general meeting.

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

This month we are very fortunate to welcome John Dowe to speak about his new book.

Australian Palms: The Making Of The Book

John Leslie Dowe is a Research Botanist specialising in the systematics and ecology of the palm family *Arecaceae*. Since the early 1990s, he has focused on the Australian palm flora providing revisions and accounts of the genera *Archontophoenix*, *Caryota*, *Licuala*, *Linospadix* and *Livistona*, and describing over 25 new palm species. He was awarded a PhD in 2001, for research on the Australian fan-palm genus *Livistona*.

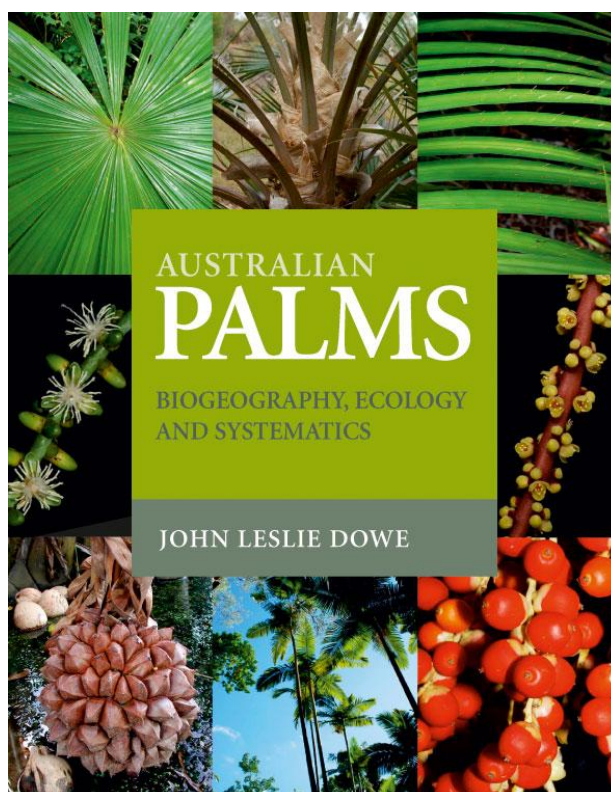
Australian Palms offers an updated and thorough systematic and taxonomic treatment of the Australian palm flora, covering 60 species in 21 genera. Of these, 54 species occur in continental Australia and six species on the off-shore territories of Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island and Christmas Island.

Incorporating recent advances in biogeographic and phylogenetic research, *Australian Palms* provides a comprehensive introduction to the palm family *Arecaceae*, with reviews of botanical history, biogeography, phylogeny, ecology and conservation. Thorough descriptions of genera and species include notes on ecology and typification, and keys and distribution maps assist with field recognition. Colour photographs of habit, leaf, flowers, fruit and unique diagnostic characters also feature for each species.

This work is the culmination of over 20 years of research into Australian palms, including extensive field-work and examination of herbarium specimens in Australia, South-East Asia, Europe and the USA.

Australian Palms is a high quality full-colour publication with nearly 400 colour photos, 72 maps, and 37 figures and tables, 304 pages all up. It is the complete reference work on Australia's native palms. It also has some revised taxonomy and new typifications.

The book was released on the 3rd of February and can be ordered through the CSIRO website at <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/6164.htm>. Its RRP is \$140. A display copy of the book will be shown at the meeting.



2010 Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at the March 10th meeting. All positions will be vacated and nominations sought. Your attendance is greatly appreciated.

Two interesting species from Mt Cleveland

These two local species were seen recently within a few metres of each other; notable because each is close to the edge of its described range, one to the North and the other to the South.



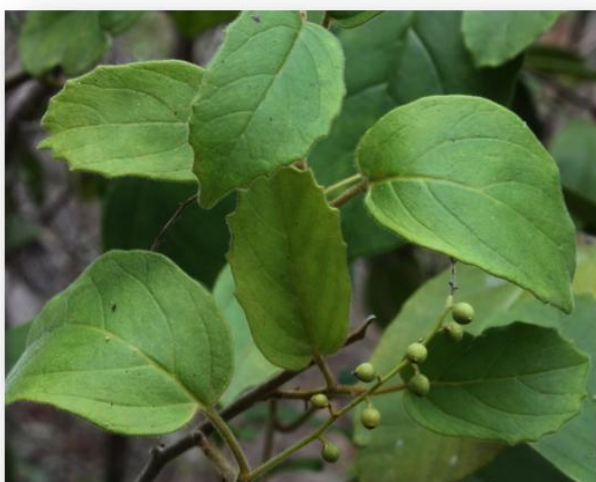
Triflorensia ixioides
Rubiaceae

Common names: Tarenna “Ka Ka Mundi”, Shiny Leaved Tarenna

Distribution: Mt Matthew near Townsville to SW Qld in vine thickets 75-600 metres.

Form: A tall dense shrub, or tree to 12m.
Flowers Sept.-Dec., Fruits April & Sept.

(From Cooper, “*Fruits of the Australian Rainforest*”)



Maesa dependens var. pubescens
Maesaceae

Distribution: Mt Elliot to Iron Range, 0-1400 metres.

A scrambling vine with hairy leaves, which are generally toothed, with distinctly hairy stems and petioles. Small greenish white flowers are followed by cream/yellow berries, which look like small gooseberries.

Flowers Aug.-Nov., Fruits any month.

(From Cooper, “*Fruits of the Australian Rainforest*”)

In Flower in November 2009

The following species were shown by our members at the November meeting:

Acanthaceae	<i>Graptophyllum excelsum</i> <i>Graptophyllum illicifolium</i>
Elaeocarpaceae	<i>Dubouzetia saxatilis</i>
Lamiaceae	<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i>
Myrtaceae	<i>Chamelaucium uncinatum</i> <i>Homorantes porteri</i> <i>Melaleuca 'Pink Alma'</i> <i>Melaleuca 'Reeves Pink'</i> <i>Melaleuca 'Taree Pink'</i> <i>Sannantha augusta</i> <i>Sannantha papillosa</i> <i>Tristaniopsis exiflora</i> <i>Waterhousia mulgraveana</i> <i>Xanthostemon verticillatus</i>
Protaceae	<i>Grevillea banksii</i> <i>Grevillea 'Georgiana'</i> <i>Grevillea 'Orange Marmalade'</i> <i>Grevillea Oriel</i> <i>Grevillea 'Strawberry Blonde'</i> <i>Hakea persiehana</i>
Rubiaceae	<i>Gardenia psidioides</i> <i>Larsenaikia ochreata</i>
Rutaceae	<i>Melicope rubra</i>
Thymelaeaceae	<i>Phaleria clerodendron</i>

John Elliott



Larsenaikia ochreata



Vitex rotundifolia

Queensland State Conference 2010

Submitted by Bev Weir, Publicity Officer SGAP, 20.01.2010

FRAGMENTS OF GREEN UPDATE

Planning for this major event on the S.G.A.P. Queensland Branch calendar is flying along. The agenda has been formulated, registration forms compiled & now all we need is for interested members to attend.

WHERE: Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre
Corner Behm's and Pimpama-Jacobs Well Roads
Norwell 4208
Phone: (07) 5546 2317

Email: admin@jacobseec.eq.edu.au
Website: www.jacobseec.eq.edu.au

WHEN:

20th – 24th September 2010

COST:

Members only Early Birds rates – deposit must be paid by 30th April

5 Day registration: \$225

Single day registration: \$50

Rates if paid after 30th April & non-members rates

5 Day registration: \$250

Single day registration: \$55

Registration includes all day trips, all conference sessions, morning & afternoon teas & lunch. A 2-course evening meal is available for \$20 for people not staying on site.

AGENDA:

Sunday 19th Sept:

For early arrivals, a train trip to Roma St Gardens will be arranged. Cost of fares, food & drink to be met by participants.

Monday 20th. Sept:

The official welcome from Qld. State President will be followed by talks by Graham mc Donald on local geology & Glenn Leiper on mangrove communities. In the afternoon there will be a tour of the local mangrove area and the grounds of Jacob Wells Environmental Education Centre. The evening talk will be the Bill Tulloch Memorial Lecture given by Bill McDonald from the Qld Herbarium.

Tuesday 21st. Sept.

Day trip to Tamborine Mtn., with visits to rainforest areas and gardens. The evening talk will be on “Plant Refugia” by Paul Donatiu.

Wednesday 22nd. Sept.

The day begins with a talk about the Redlands given by Craig Doolan from the Redlands Council. The rest of the day will be taken up by a range of workshops, including propagation, grafting, basket making, and flower arranging with native flowers, book publishing & collating your photos into a book. The evening will be study group displays, as well as sales of native plant related products and books.

Thursday 23rd. Sept.

Day trip to see gardens, wetlands and bush areas in the Logan area. The evening talk will be on “Rare Plants of South East Queensland” by Lui Weber.

Friday 24th. Sept.

We will travel to Indigiscapes in the Redlands area. On the way we visit Springwood Environmental Park and J. C. Trotter Park. We will also visit two private gardens. Local plants will be available for sale from Indigiscapes. We will return to Jacobs Well to close the Conference and farewell those not going on the post Conference trip to North Stradbroke Island.

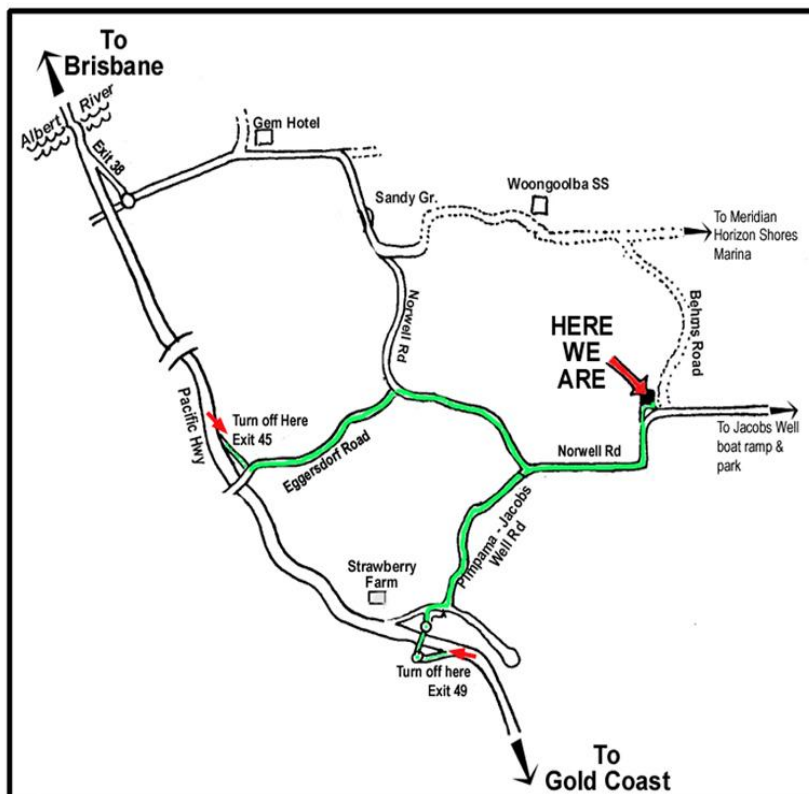
ACCOMMODATION:

The following accommodation options are available in close proximity to the conference venue:

- Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre (conference venue) has dormitory accommodation for \$40 per night, includes bed, breakfast and dinner, phone (07) 5546 2317 for more information.
- Jacobs Well Tourist Park has huts and camp sites, phone 1800 444 474 for more information.
- Dreamtime Caravan Park is in upper Coomera, phone (07) 5573 1664 for more information.
- McNevens Logan Park Motel is in Loganholme, phone (07) 3209 8830 for more information

TRANSPORT:

The Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre is situated off the Pacific Highway in Norwell.



Trains run from Brisbane on the Gold Coast Robina line to Ormeau station, a shuttle bus can be arranged from train or accommodation.

POST CONFERENCE TOUR - NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND
Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th, leaving Monday 27th September 2010.

Visit North Stradbroke Island at the peak wild flower & whale watching time. Tours include a perched lake, tidal wetlands, fresh water wetlands, heathland, woodland & rocky headlands.

We will be staying at the University of Queensland Moreton Bay Research Station. There are 7 rooms with 2 sets of bunks, 1 room with 2 single beds plus en suite & the VIP house with a variety of good bedding which sleeps 9. Cost \$225 includes full board & transport.

SGAP Membership fees – Total Membership Fees for Region and Branch

Members will note some changes to the fee structure this year due to the fact that the Australian Plants Journal is no longer to be included in the overall fee structure. Production of the Journal is well behind schedule and can no longer be related to a financial membership year.

Members who are financial to 31/3/2010 will in due course receive all journals to the March 2010 issue and after that will need to purchase the Journal separately if required. There will be further advice on this at a later date.

The new fees for the year beginning 1/4/2010 are

Renewal Ordinary Membership	\$35
Renewal Full Time Student Membership	\$25
New Ordinary Membership	\$40
New Full Time Student Membership	\$30
New Half Year Ordinary Membership (from 1/10/2010)	\$25
To include additional family member	\$ 2
Queensland Bulletin subscription only	\$30

The Australian Plants Journal subscription is available from the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd. only after production of the March 2010 issue.

Keith Townsend

Interesting news about new species identified

Article taken from the Kew Botanical Gardens' website. <http://www.kew.org/news/kew-new-discoveries.htm>

Following in the footsteps of their famous predecessors such as Sir Joseph Banks, Sir Joseph Hooker and Charles Darwin, Kew's taxonomic botanists continue to explore and study the world's plant and fungal diversity, making on average 200 new discoveries every year. This work has never been more relevant than in the current era of global climate change and biodiversity loss – especially as we count down to the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

The list of new species covers a fascinating range of plants and fungi, from tiny wood-rotting fungi less than a millimetre thick to massive trees reaching over 42 metres into Cameroon's rainforest canopy –*Berlinia korupensis* has seed pods measuring a massive 30 cm in length! Also featured are 24 new palms, 13 species of orchid and seven new species of wild coffee. The new species were found in a wide range of locations across the world - the largest haul (62 new species) came from Borneo, whilst one was discovered in a glasshouse here at Kew!

Kew's Director, Professor Stephen Hopper, says, "It is not widely known that 2,000 new plant species are discovered worldwide each year. Kew's botanists make a very significant contribution to this total. These new discoveries highlight the fact that there is so much of the plant world yet to be discovered and documented. Without knowing what's out there and where it occurs, we have no scientific basis for effective conservation. It is vital that these areas of botanical science are adequately funded and supported. As part of our Breathing Planet Programme we are committed to accelerating the discovery and classification of plant diversity, and finding solutions for their conservation."

Professor David Mabberley, Keeper of the Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives adds, "Achievements like this year's bumper crop of new species discoveries are only possible because of Kew's international collaborative network. We are currently working with 100 countries throughout the world."

To many British gardeners the eucalyptus is a fast growing monster; casting shade and debris... usually in the neighbour's garden. In Australia, however, the over 900 species of eucalypts are integral to the landscape and culture and come in all shapes and sizes. It seems fitting, therefore, that the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Director, Professor Stephen Hopper, an Australian himself, has recently described two fantastic new species in southwest Australia.

"You might expect that the plants of Australia are already well-known, but these kinds of finds are far from unusual, especially in the southwest"

Professor Hopper discovered *Eucalyptus sweedmaniana* with his colleague Luke Sweedman, after whom he named the plant. It is a dwarf in comparison to most eucalyptus species, forming a low-growing mallee (shrub) around 1m high. It survives the bush fires that are common in the area by dying back to a woody underground rootstock, known as a lignotuber, from which it can resprout later.

The second new species (*Eucalyptus brandiana*), although larger than *E. sweedmaniana*, isn't so lucky; it lacks a lignotuber and is killed by fire. Both species are known from just a few hundred plants each and are in need of conservation. However, both have potential as ornamentals in Australia (and perhaps elsewhere), which could provide a welcome backup plan to secure their futures.

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:

.....

.....

.....

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

Committee Meetings 2010	General Meetings 2010
25th Jan	10th Feb
22nd Feb	10th March
29th March	14th 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.

