



*Abelmoschus moschatus ssp tuberosus*

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# The Native Gardener

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

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## November 2009

**General Meeting**      **8.00pm**      **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009**  
Community Centre – Annandale Shopping Centre

Date and place for our yearly Christmas/get together party will be decided at the meeting.

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Our speaker for this meeting will be

**Jackie Ryan**  
of **Superior Photos**  
who will talk about  
**“Capturing the Moment”**  
all aspects of digital photography

Jackie will be able to answer all those difficult questions. This is particularly useful for those of you who want to contribute to the website.

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## Outing to Alligator Creek - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 9am

We will start from the car park and follow the river bank which trees will provide us with shade. With the little bit of rain we had lately and the rainy forecast for the next few days, surely we will see some interesting changes since last time we went there in August.

Don't forget to take all the necessary with you (don't forget your mozzie repellent) as well as morning tea (and your camera to put into practice what you'll have learnt Wednesday!). You may also want to take your swimmers for a refreshing dip in the swimming holes after our walk.

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<b>Committee</b>	Greg Calvert		<a href="mailto:gregor_calvert@hotmail.com">gregor_calvert@hotmail.com</a>

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## 'Horticultural Guide to Australian Plants'

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For a small donation to SGAP coffers, I have available nine sets of the 'Horticultural Guide to Australian Plants', chiefly put together by Merv Hodge, Queensland Region. Most of the sets have not even been opened – I had them as a reserve.

Also available most copies of Australian Plants back to at least 1960.

I will bring 'the sets' to the next meeting unless an offer comes in before then.

Betsy Jackes

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## In Flower in October 2009

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Caesalpiaceae	<i>Cassia queenslandica</i>
Myrtaceae	<i>Melaleuca minutifolia</i>
Proteaceae	<i>Grevillea baileyana</i> <i>Grevillea insignis</i> <i>Grevillea 'Strawberry Blonde'</i>
	<i>Hakea persihana</i>
Rutaceae	<i>Melicope rubra</i>



*Melicope rubra* - fruits

Jane McLean

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## ***Darlingia darlingiana* – (Brown Silky Oak) - how did it get this name? Proteaceae – Part 2**

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This plant was first described as *Helicia darlingiana* and then subsequently as *Darlingia spectatissima*. So why is it now known as *Darlingia darlingiana*?

Well, the genus *Helicia* was described in 1790 and in 1865 Ferdinand von Mueller decided that the specimen in front of him collected by Dallachy from Rockingham Bay (which is in general the Cardwell to Tully area) belonged to the genus *Helicia* and so he named it *Helicia darlingiana* after Sir Charles Darling, the Governor of Victoria. It was quite common in these days to recognise patrons, actual or hopeful, maybe some would call it a form of bribe or thank you for services rendered. Think of a current example of *Gossia*!

Then later Mueller described the genus *Darlingia* as being distinct from that of *Helicia*, on the basis of the number of ovules and differences in leaves. It would appear that either he had forgotten he had already described it as a *Helicia* or he wanted to give it a more appropriate name because the inflorescence really stood out, it can be spectacular. So he published the name *Darlingia spectatissima* validly in the Journal of Botany, British and Foreign. I don't know what specimen he used for this name as he doesn't indicate it in the publication, but later that year he published it again but based this time on the specimen of Dallachy's according to Lawrie Johnson This second publication was in the Fragmenta Vol 5

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page 152, so this meant the one specimen collected by Dallachy, now had two names and the second one was the same as one already used. Hence the second one is considered to be illegitimate as it is superfluous.

Now the the Rules of Botanical Nomenclature enter the picture. The Rules state "that the earliest validly published name must be used" etc etc. Hence the name '*darlingiana*' had to be used and the person who recognised this and made this transfer was the late Lawrie Johnson from the Sydney Herbarium. Thus the valid name for this species reads with the authority as *Darlingia darlingiana* (F.Muell.) L.A.S.Johnson. This indicates that Mueller gave the name '*darlingiana*'. and Johnson transferred it to the genus *Darlingia*. The authority is the key to the literature referring to the name of the species.

The Govt. Botanist of Queensland F. Manson Bailey in 1899, used the name '*spectatissima*' and described two varieties, one of which is now known as *Darlingia ferruginea*. '*Ferruginea*' being the varietal name given by Bailey.

*Betsy Jackes*

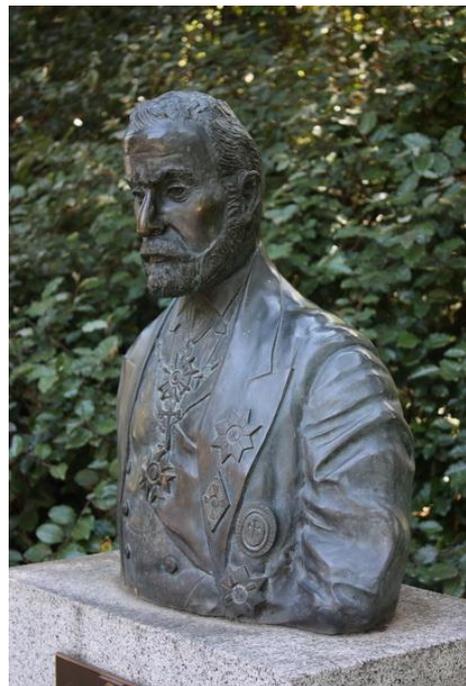
Just to add a little background to the above, members will recall that John asked in the last newsletter if anyone could give an explanation of how this name came about. I thought I would try to find out but I'm afraid the intricacies of nomenclature defeated me – hence the great explanation above by Betsy. It is interesting however to note some of the history behind this.

Charles Darling was appointed Governor of Victoria in 1863. Ferdinand von Mueller had been Victorian Govt. Botanist since 1853. John Dallachy was appointed Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens in 1849, but in 1857 Mueller was appointed Director, and Dallachy, Curator with a reduction in salary from £400 to £300. Despite this their friendship appeared to endure as Dallachy continued to collect for Mueller. In 1864, reportedly at Mueller's request, he joined Dalrymple's expedition to set up a settlement at Rockingham Bay, and in fact settled in the Cardwell area with his family and continued to collect for the Victorian herbarium.

Ferdinand von Mueller was an extremely prolific taxonomist and was responsible for many papers and publications naming at least eight hundred Australian plants. Rather than repeat details here a good description of his works is available at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand\\_von\\_Mueller](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_von_Mueller)

*Keith Townsend*



Baron von Mueller

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A very big thank you is extended to Don Glasgow for last month's talk on the plants he has grown.

As a dedicated gardener and onetime nurseryman, Don has planted and raised a huge variety of species on his large allotment down in Kelso, and has always been generous in sharing his knowledge with us. Don also makes a huge contribution to our meetings by regularly bringing in samples of his flowering plants.

Thanks also to Greg Calvert for putting together a slide show for us.

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Seen flowering now at Alligator Creek is *Syzygium australe*, Myrtaceae, otherwise known as Creek Cherry, Brush Cherry, and Creek Lilly Pilly.

Despite our current dry spell, there is still plenty to see if you take the time to look. Alligator Creek is dry at present but the plants along the bank continue to thrive, presumably benefiting from ground water, and the odd pool.

According to Cooper and Cooper in *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*, this tree can attain a height of 24 metres, although in general it is considerably smaller, and can be found along the east coast from the Bloomfield River to Nowra NSW, mainly along watercourses.

Join us at Alligator Creek on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> to see what else we can find.



**Membership Application or Renewal Form**

Membership Year is from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March  
(Initial half yearly membership is available for those joining around October)

Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

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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.

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**Society for Growing Australian Plants Townsville Branch Inc ABN 32 302 397 597**  
**Membership Fees:**

Ordinary Member	\$50.00
Student Member	\$40.00
Renewal	\$45.00
Renewal (Student)	\$35.00
New Member (Half Year from Oct. 08)	\$27.00
Additional Household Member	\$2.00
Australian Plants Journal only	\$21.00

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<b>Commitee Meetings 2009</b>	<b>General Meetings 2009</b>
26th Jan	11th Feb
23rd Feb	11th March
30th March	8th April
27th April	13th May
25th May	10th June
22nd June	8th July
27th July	12th August
24th August	9th September
28th September	14th October
26th October	11th November

**The Society for Growing Australian Plants promotes**  
**the conservation of Australian native flora**  
**by encouraging its introduction into gardens.**

