

WHAT'S FLOWERING THIS MONTH!



Verticordia cunninghamii by John Brock

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Top End Native Plant Society (TENPS) general meetings are held 7:00pm on the third Thursday of the month at Knuckey Lagoon Recreational Reserve on 110 Brandt Rd, Knuckey Lagoon NT 0828, Australia. This Month: THE ARTIST AS AN OBSERVER OF NATURE

We are extremely privileged to welcome esteemed and award-winning artist and naturalist Alison Worsnop for a special presentation and discussion.

So come for tea, coffee and a treat at 6.30 pm, with a 7.00 pm presentation start. As Alison invites us to “take a closer look” at a couple of her award-winning artworks featuring Top End native plants from her wetland/woodland block in Humpty Doo. An artist and naturalist, Alison brings together two worlds, the careful observation of nature and the creative expression of art, offering us a unique bridge of insight and perception into the landscape around us. “Join in a discussion about my artistic methods, small discoveries and larger questions.” Alison Worsnop.

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TENPS (TOP END NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY) COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Plaxy Purich

(0435027116)

Vice President: Sean Stieber

Secretary: Johanna Stieber

Treasurer: Graham Zemunik

Librarian: Richard Boyne

Webmaster: Amanda Lockwood

General Committee Member: Claire Hewitt

Publications: Vacant please enquire

Publicity: Vacant - please enquire

Public Officer: Dave Liddle

 **NEXT MEETING: 17TH SEPT**
6:30 CUPPA 7PM SPEAKER START



www.topendnativeplants.org.au



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VISIT OUR FACEBOOK FOR INFO ON OUR NEXT EVENTS AND SALES!

PO BOX 135 PALMERSTON NT 0831 | EMAIL US: TOPENDNATIVEPLANTSOCIETY@HOTMAIL.COM

JULY FIELD TRIP REPORT – MITCHELL CREEK CATCHMENT

On the 18th of July members of TENPS met at Hawker Park, Zucolli to learn about sites managed by the Palmerston Conservation Group (PCG).

The PCG was formed in 2024 as a community group within Landcare NT. The focus of its recent work has been the Mitchell Creek Catchment. Mike Clark lead this walk and talked about the history of the park and what the PCG has been doing there with the help of Larrakia Rangers and Crown Land Management.

The remnant vegetation of the park is mainly *Pandanus*, *Melaleuca* and *Acacia*, all growing in the wetter areas. A few weeks prior to the field trip, members of the PCG and a team of volunteers planted tubestock of native trees in an area of Hawker Park that was recently cleared of weeds (mostly gamba grass), in order to stabilise the soil and eventually form a canopy. Here's a list of the species that were introduced to the site:

Acacia lamprocarpa

Brachychiton diversifolius

Breynia cernua

Carallia brachiata

Corymbia polycarpa

Corymbia foelscheana

Erythrophleum chlorostachys

Melaleuca viridiflora

Timonius timon

Wrightia pubescens



Brachychiton megaphyllus by R.B



Eucalyptus tectifica by R.B



Templetonia hookeri by R.B



Acrostichum speciosum by R.B

Some notable native plants in flower were *Templetonia hookeri*, *Brachychiton megaphyllus* and *Crotalaria novae-hollandae*. The latter had become very abundant this year after the weeds were removed. We also spotted a large *Eucalyptus tectifica*. We then went to another site where Mitchell Creek runs parallel with Roystonea Avenue. There's a retention pond infested with *Mimosa* and *Hymenachne*, most of it was sprayed earlier this year. We walked along the creek for sometime learning about the proposed developments in the area and at what native plants were in the area. A highlight was the fern *Acrostichum speciosum*, which can handle brackish water and is commonly called 'mangrove fern'.

Just like the Palmerston Escarpment, the vegetation along Mitchell Creek is both beautiful and ecologically valuable. Unfortunately in the weeks after the walk, people lit multiple illegal fires that caused a lot of damage! But it's good that the PCG is monitoring and protecting it, while raising awareness of these issues with the local government and residents.

By Richard Boyne



The retention pond and Richard Boyne



By Richard Boyne


September Field Trip

GREENANT CREEK IN LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK Sat 19 Sept

Russell Dempster will lead a walk at Greenant Creek to the top of the Tjaetaba Falls in Litchfield, between Wangi and Tolmer Falls.

The walk is a 2.7km return track that starts at the picnic area near the carpark. It follows the creek upstream, climbs steeply up (a little) to Tjaetaba Falls Lookout, then up to some small pools above the falls where you can swim.

We will meet at the Bendigo Bank, Coolalinga at 8:00 am on Saturday, September 19 for carpooling opportunities. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen and walking shoes, along with bathers and a towel, if you'd like a refreshing swim at the top. Also bring a bite to eat if you choose to stay a little longer.



AUGUST SPEAKER REPORT – CLAIRE HEWITT, EUCALYPT IDENTIFICATION USING THE EUCLID KEY

The presentation was delivered by Claire Hewitt, an experienced ecologist and botanist with extensive knowledge and practical experience in eucalypt identification. Claire introduced us to EUCLID, an online identification tool that can also be downloaded and used in the field. Her experience was evident in the way she explained the identification process and demonstrated how the key could be used to distinguish between different eucalypt species.

She explained that identification relies on a combination of characteristics, including the shape, size and arrangement of leaves, juvenile and adult foliage, buds, flowers, fruit or gumnuts, bark characteristics and the overall form of the tree. Following the demonstration, we were provided with numerous eucalypt specimens and given the opportunity to work through the key and identify the specimens ourselves.

Although the key initially appeared relatively straightforward, the activity showed that accurate eucalypt identification can be quite challenging. Not all identifying features are necessarily available on a specimen at the same time; for example, a tree may not be flowering or producing fruit, while bark characteristics can vary with age and environmental conditions. Botanists may therefore need to consider several characteristics together and compare specimens carefully. Another challenge is that eucalypts can hybridise, meaning that some individuals may display characteristics of more than one species and do not always fit neatly into a single identification. This highlights why field identification requires careful observation, experience and an understanding of variation within species.

I found Claire's presentation particularly effective because she explained what could initially seem like complicated botanical concepts in a clear and easy-to-understand way. Her instructions were straightforward to follow, and the practical exercise gave us confidence to use EUCLID ourselves to identify the eucalypts in our backyards. Overall, the presentation was hugely successful and greatly appreciated by those in attendance, and it demonstrated how EUCLID can be a valuable tool for botanists and anybody undertaking vegetation and ecological assessments on their own property.

For those wishing to download the key,
<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid/text/intro/index.html>

By Plaxy Purich



Corymbia ptychocarpa buds by Claire H



Eucalyptus bigalerita buds by Claire H



Corymbia ptychocarpa tree by Claire H

BECOME A MEMBER!

Member discounts for plant sales.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Due annually on 1st July each year)

The Top End Native Plant Society is a community group aimed at **PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING THE APPRECIATION, CONSERVATION AND STUDY OF FLORA NATIVE TO THE TOP END AND THE DIVERSE HABITATS OF THIS FLORA.**

The Society is active in the propagation and cultivation of Top End native flora. Visitors are welcome to meetings held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm Knuckey Lagoon Recreational Reserve, speaker starting soon after. The venue is on 110 Brandt Rd, Knuckey Lagoon NT 0828, Australia. Guest speakers are a feature of meetings and field trips are undertaken each month to a diverse array of habitats.

New Membership ☐

Renewal ☐

Membership fees are:

Individual Waged: \$35.00

Family Waged: \$45.00

Individual Unwaged: \$15.00

Family Unwaged: \$20.00

Payment: \$_____

Family name:_____

Name/s: _____

Email address:_____

Postal address:_____

To pay online:

Bank : Bendigo Bank

Account Name: Top End Native Plant Society

BSB: 633 000

Account: 207 974 247

Note: Please include your name in the transfer reference and email the information in this form to topendnativeplantsociety@hotmail.com

Or pay in person at meetings or events where cash or card will be accepted.