

PROPOSED PACIFIC HORTICULTURE PACIFIC ISLANDS TOUR

November 1 – 19, 2009

NOVEMBER 2009

Sun 01 **DEPART LOS ANGELES** in the evening. Dinner and breakfast will be served on your flight.

Tue 03 **ARRIVE SYDNEY** early morning. After completing customs transfer to your flight to Brisbane.
Upon arrival in Brisbane you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Remainder of the day free.
Accommodation: The Chifley on Lennons x 1 night
(Deluxe Room)

Wed 04 **BRISBANE TO NORFOLK ISLAND**
(B) Breakfast will be served in the hotel restaurant this morning.

Transfer to the airport by private charter coach for your 9:45am flight to Norfolk Island. Arrive Norfolk Island at 1:20pm.

AFTERNOON TOUR– NORFOLK ISLAND BOTANIC GARDENS – Viney subtropical rainforest kept close to its natural state. This is the only reserve on the island showcasing the many endemic and native species of the viney rainforest.

Trees and shrubs such as *Celtis paniculata*, *Pouteria costata*, *Lagunaria patersonia*, *Meryta latifolia*, *Meryta angustifolia*, *Cyathea australis*, *Baloghia inophylla*, *Nestegis apetala*, *Melicytus ramiflorus oblongifolius*, *Dysoxylum patersonianum* supporting vines such as *Milettia australis*, *Capparis nobilis*, *Melodinus baueri*, *Zehneria baueriana*, *Calystegia affinis*

The entrance area of the garden, more manicured than natural, is planted with natives not usually found in this area, including *Achyranthes arborescens*, *Achyranthes margaretarum*, *Euphorbia norfolkianum*, *Abutilon julianae*, *Dianella intermedia*, *Hibiscus insularis*, *Myoporum obscurum*, *Boehmeria australis*, *Coprosma baueriana*, *Phormium tenax*, around an original stand of *Cyathea australis*, *Cyathea brownii* and one *Marattia salicina*.

Dinner – proposed for a cliff top setting amongst *Araucaria heterophylla*

Thu 05 **MORNING – NORFOLK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK** – walk from the summit of Mt Pitt in the heart of the NI National Park, through forest, some natural and some rehabilitated, to Palm Glen on the southern side of the mountain slopes. A mostly downhill walk through aromatic *Dysoxylum patersonianum*, *Lagunaria patersonia*, *Nestegis apetala*, *Achyranthes arborescens*, *Meryta angustifolia*, *Coprosma pilosa*, *Freycinetia baueriana* with vines *Melodinus baueri*, *Zehneria baueriana*, *Calystegia affinis*, *Clematis cocculifolia*. As we lose altitude more palms, *Rhopalostylis baueri* are encountered, and ferns such as *Asplenium dimorphum*, *Arachnoides aristatum*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Pyrrosia confluens* and orchids including *Dendrobium macropus* and the rarer *Dendrobium brachypus*. Some very old and large *Araucaria heterophylla* are encountered on the lower steep slopes, remaining today only because their removal was too difficult. Moss-covered *Ungeria floribunda*, large *Pittosporum bracteolatum* and some pockets replanted following weed removal, which have cohorts of the colonising *Dodonaea viscosa* and many self-sown *Cordyline obtecta*. Turning off the main track towards Palm Glen, the forest changes from an *Araucaria*/hardwood combination to a much greater

concentration of *Rhopalostylis baueri*, with occasional *Zanthoxylum pinnatum*, *Exocarpos phyllanthoides*, *Pouteria costata*, and many (weedy) *Psidium cattleianum*.

Lunch at Palm Glen picnic area, adjacent to a large *Eleaodendron curtispiculum* and a short way from a very large old *Ungeria floribunda*.

Afternoon – tour of the Kingston/Arthurs Vale Historic area, recently nominated for World Heritage Listing. This is a tour with a historical rather than botanical focus, but remnants of the swamp species *Excoecaria agallocha* are in the area, and some smaller plants such as *Calystegia soldanella* may sometimes be found in the grass, or *Euphorbia obliqua* on the rocky shoreline. Phlox, escaped from convict-era gardens are still found amongst the rocks around beautiful Emily Bay on occasion. The lily *Crinum asiaticum* still occurs naturally in this area, and a visit to the house museum at No 10 Quality Row could be included, where a specimen garden presenting many of the island's smaller native species is kept.

Dinner – at a restaurant.

Fri 06

MORNING - NORFOLK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK – Red Road to Cooks Monument via Bird Rock (northeast side).

A more strenuous walk, when including the Bird Rock loop, which drops down to the coast and back up. Starting from Red Road a gentle incline gradually increasing takes the walker past large Norfolk Island Pines and a mixed hardwood forest. At a junction where 3 tracks meet is an area unlike any other on the island (botanically) with many *Ungeria floribunda*, *Alyxia gynopogon*, *Meryta angustifolia* and *Euodia (Melicope) littoralis*. A short way on at a knoll the Bird Rock Track drops off towards the coast. Much of the forest is similar to that experienced on previous walks but a greater number of *Exocarpos* are found in this area, and also the most occurrences of the Climbing Lily *Geitonoplesium cymosum*. After regaining the main track it breaks out of the forest and wends along the island's northeast coast where offshore stacks are seen a few hundred metres away with many nesting seabirds on them.

Lunch – at Cooks Monument where the walk ends.

Afternoon - Hundred Acres Reserve

A shorter walk through an area which was originally used by the settlers (circa 1860) as an experimental farm to test the suitability of certain ornamental and food plants for propagation on the island. Most of the exotic species are now gone, and the *Araucaria* forest there is mainly plantation style. Older trees may include some remnants of original forest and the entire area is used now as a rookery for the seabirds White-capped Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) and the White Tern (*Gygis alba*) which should be breeding there at the time of your visit. Many weeds thrive in this area which is gradually being cleared and planted with a mix of native species. Much of the ground is inundated with a weed known as Coral Berry *Rivina humilis*, but in parts there are otherwise fairly rare species such as *Parietaria debilis* which thrives on the guano from the birds high above in the pine trees.

Dinner – Island food and culture show (including dancing, singing and demonstrations in the use of native plants for making hats, baskets etc.)

Sat 07

Morning – Phillip Island

Once almost totally denuded by pigs, goats and rabbits the island is now recovering its vegetation cover partly with assistance and a great deal through the rapid growth of weed species such as African Olive *Olea europaea*, Wild Tobacco *Solanum mauritinaum*, Brazilian Pepper *Schinus terebinthifolius* and others. This is the only place where the genetic integrity of *Coprosma baueri* can be assured as the Norfolk Island plants are being hybridized with the New Zealand *Coprosma repens*, used widely on the island for windbreaks. Phillip Island is the home of *Hibiscus insularis* which can be seen in its original stand, and the place where the new species *Achyranthes margaretarum* was discovered a few years after the removal of the rabbits in 1988. During November there should be a great many seabirds on the ground and in the air as this is a rookery for 16 seabird species and is inhabited by a further 14 landbirds as well.

NB This is a very strenuous day and is dependent on the weather for the boat trip. A landing from a boat onto a wave washed rock platform is followed by a descent up a 40 foot cliff face assisted by ropes. The terrain is rough and it is hot and dry. There is hardly any flat ground on Phillip Island so almost every step is either up or down a slope all day.

Alternatively – if you decide not to include the Phillip Island trip, or the weather makes it impossible we could go off the tracks a little and go to the *Procris montana* stand at the base of a rock face in the northern part of the national park, and then into King Fern Valley on the south side of the mountain, where the giant *Marattias* have fronds 12 to 14 feet in length and few people ever visit. The track has been closed for some years and is no longer maintained by the national parks service, but I can organise us to go there.

Afternoon – free

Options listed previously include the Glass-bottom Boat, horse-riding, time to shop, swim, snorkel or visit the Cyclorama, hairdresser, massage **or** I could arrange to visit some domestic gardens, many of which incorporate native species into their plan.

Farewell Dinner – Island home

Sun 08

NORFOLK ISLAND TO NOUMEA Depart Norfolk Island at 3:25pm. Arrive Brisbane at 6:10pm. Depart Brisbane at 8:30pm. Arrive Noumea at 11:40pm. Transfer to your accommodation.

Accommodation: Ramada Plaza (2 nights)

Mon 09

AT NOUMEA After breakfast in your hotel study plants in the area south of Noumea. Medelieine Waterfalls. Picnic lunch included. Plants include:

Neocallitropsis pancheri

Dacrydium araucarioides

Dacrydium guillaumini

Podocarpus novae-caledoniae

Retrophyllum minor

Retrophyllum comptonii

Garcinia amplexicaulis

Nothofagus codonandra

Agathis ovata

Exocarpos pseudocasuarina

Geissois magnifica

(B,L,D)

Tue 10 NOUMEA TO POINDIME Depart Noumea after breakfast. Around Amieu Mountain you'll appreciate the humid forest and its *Araucaria bernieri*, *Araucaria biramulata*, *Amborella* also Poro area. (B,D)
Accommodation: Tieti Hotel deluxe garden room

Wed 11 POINDIME TO HIENGHENE

Dubouzetia confusa (Elaeocarpaceae)
Dubouzetia elegans
many *Cunoniaceae*
Styphellia floribunda
Styphelia veillonii
Elaeocarpus
Baloghia anisomera
Baloghia brongniartii
Pittosporum gracile
Basselinia pancheri (palm)
lots of *Araucaria rulei*
Araucaria scopulorum
Agathis lanceolata
Amyema scandens

(B,D)

Accommodation: Koulinoe bungalows

Thu 12 HIENGHENE TO KOUMAC Study plants at Amos Mountain, Endemic palm tree. Breakfast and dinner included.

Cyphophoenix elegans (Palmae) Endemic palm of the North of the island
Plants near the sea : *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Barringtonia asiatica*,
Gymnostoma webbianum, *Fagraea berteriana* (ou bois tabou), *Pandanus tectorius*,
Baniam of Mahamat which grow up in a *Calophyllum inophyllum* (and under *Monseigneur Douarre* sayd the first mass arriving in New Caledonia)
Geissois racemosa (Cunoniaceae)
Mucuna

(B,D)

Accommodation: Monitel Koumac Chalet

Fri 13 KOUMAC TO KONE Maquis de Ouaco

West Coast :

Grevillea meisneri (Proteaceae)
Oxera breviculix (Labiataeae)
Phyllanthus (Euphorbiaceae)
many kinds of *Pittosporum* (Pittosporaceae)
Purpureostemon ciliatus (Myrtaceae)
endemic Rice (*Oryza neocaledonica*)
Ficus prolixa (Pacific Banyan)
Eugenia crucigera (Myrtaceae)
Cerberiopsis obtusifolia (Apocynaceae)
Oxanthera neocaledonica (Rutaceae)
many *Hibbertia*
many *Sapotaceae*
many *Araliaceae*
many *Apocynaceae*
many *Rubiaceae*

Gymnostoma chamaecyparis
Hunga gerontogea (Chrysobalanaceae)
Nephrodesmus sericeus (Papilionaceae)
Arthroclianthus (Papilionaceae)
Mezoneuron deverdiana (Caesalpiniaceae)
Pittosporum collinum
(B,D)

Accommodation: Koiambo Hotel

Sat 14 NOUMEA TO BRISBANE Enroute from Kone to Tontouta Airport study plants at Bourail, Roche percee, Turtle Bay and take a walk to discover the dry forest. (only 1% of dry forest in New Caledonia now) Plants include:
Une Malvaceae, l'Acropogon bullatus
Une Cycadaceae, Cycas seemannii
Des Araucaria columnaris
Depart Noumea at 6:30pm. Arrive Brisbane at 7:55pm.
Upon arrival in Brisbane transfer to your hotel. (B)
Accommodation: Quality Inn Airport Heritage x 1 night

Sun 15 BRISBANE TO LORD HOWE ISLAND
Continental breakfast will be served this morning.
This morning, transfer to the airport for your flight to Lord Howe Island. Depart Brisbane at 9:00am. Arrive Lord Howe Island at 12:05pm
10 minute bus ride to Pinetrees; settle in to rooms.
3.30pm Introductory walk around settlement to see the layout of the settlement and an introduction to the seabirds with the White terns nesting in trees above the main road. On to the town centre (1 cafe, Post Office, 3 shops, Public Hall)
5.30pm introductory slides on Lord Howe Island World Heritage values of flora and fauna plus some of the tracks we will walk on this stay.
7.30pm dinner at Pinetrees (CB,D)
Accommodation: Pinetrees

Mon 16 AT LORD HOWE ISLAND
Breakfast 8.30am
9.30 am Depart for walk to Transit Hill. A gentle climb to 400 feet above sea level. Here there is a viewing platform for 360 degree views around the Island. A good introduction to the flora of the Island - see endemic plants plus those related to plants from Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia.
12.30 lunch at Pinetrees
2.00pm bus south and walk to Little Island. A flat 1 mile walk on a four wheel drive track, through palm forests and tall banyan groves to the base of the mountains. Also see the endemic Woodhen - a flightless bird rescued from extinction by a captive breeding program in the early 1980's.
5.30pm audiovisual talk on flora of Lord Howe Island - learn what the plants of LHI are, and how they arrived on the Island.
7.00pm dinner at Pinetrees (B,L,D)

Tue 17 AT LORD HOWE ISLAND
Breakfast 8.30am
9.45 am depart by bus to jetty for ferry to North Bay- just a ten minute boat inside the calm lagoon waters.
Morning - several short walks to look in detail at plants, birds and geology.
Picnic lunch at North Bay
Afternoon - short walk to look at seabirds and a guided snorkel trip inside the lagoon.

Depart 4.00pm
Dinner 7.30pm at Pinetrees
after dinner optional short walk to see the "Muttonbirds" (B,L,D)

Wed 18 LORD HOWE ISLAND TO SYDNEY

Breakfast 8.30am

9.30 am depart for Island palm nursery tour. see how the world famous Kentia palm is propagated from seed, and a range of other LHI plants.

11 am - walk 10 minutes from the palm nursery to the museum for a guided tour of the History and the Environmental galleries by the museum Curator.

Transfer to the airport for your 2:10pm flight to Sydney.

Upon arrival in Sydney transfer to your hotel. (B)

Accommodation: The Grace Hotel
(Superior Room)

Thu 19 DEPART AUSTRALIA

Breakfast will be served in the hotel restaurant this morning. Free until time to transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

PRICE: \$5930.00 per person, double occupancy. (This is an estimated price based on the exchange rate as of March 2008 and minimum 16 participants)

Airfare estimated \$3500.00 (group booking from Los Angeles)

PRICE INCLUDES:

MAINLAND AUSTRALIA

- Accommodation
- Breakfast
- Transfers

NORFOLK ISLAND

- Accommodation
- Touring and entrances as per itinerary
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Transfers
- Local botanical guide throughout

NEW CALEDONIA

- Accommodation
- Daily breakfast and dinner, 1 lunch
- Touring and entrances as per itinerary
- Transfers
- Local botanical guide throughout

LORD HOWE ISLAND

- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring and entrances as per itinerary
- Transfers
- Local botanical guide throughout