



AGHS Queensland Branch Newsletter

November 2020

Qld Branch Report

Our year began positively with plans to celebrate 40 years of the Society's commencement and to continue offering members short self-drive tours to gardens and areas of interest. A trip to the Mackay Region was also planned to coincide with our decision to fund rebuilding of a pergola and commission replacement of trees at nearby Greenmount Homestead, as Queensland's contribution to the AGHS 40th Anniversary project.

A thoroughly enjoyable Christmas party was held at the gorgeous home and well-considered garden of members Dr David Bedford and Jennifer Steurzel. Although all 2020 events were cancelled, we are planning to gather for a Christmas party at Mt Tamborine Botanic Gardens – members will be notified soon of the date in late November.

The funding and building of the Greenmount project is proceeding, managed by John Taylor. John also supported member Wendy Lees in her efforts to make the Toowoomba council aware of the implications of constructing a car park adjacent to two bunya pines planted near an earlier Town Hall that predates the current Toowoomba Town Hall (see 'Toowoomba bunya pines' article on page 6).

The committee has maintained communications. Currently our policy is to hold any events at public places and should they need to be cancelled due to COVID-19 we shall not have inconvenienced members who may be generously offering their home or garden as a meeting spot. The social function of the Society is something members have greatly missed due to the pandemic. We look forward to a less restricted 2021.

Ann Wegener, Branch Chair



French lavender and flowering cherry tree, Hobart, in my Tasmanian garden.

AGHS QUEENSLAND BRANCH
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John Taylor and Helen Mackay

gardens and gravesite had been vandalised and the bunyas removed; however, Bidwill's headstone has been restored and a replica erected by the now Fraser Coast Regional Council in Queens Park close to Hill's bunya.

On Bidwill's death there was a move to transfer his plants from Tinana to the Sydney Botanic Gardens, but on inspection, Charles Moore, by now Director of Sydney Botanic Gardens, decided it was not worth the expense (Mabberley 2001). Moore, with Walter Hill, compiled a list of the plants in the garden. This list was forwarded to the Colonial Secretary Sydney, Edward Deas Thomson, received 27 May 1854 (file 54/666, Colonial Secretary). A facsimile copy of Moore's list, 'Plants New or Valuable Growing in Tinana Gardens', is reproduced here. It is notable that the list comprises exotic plants with potential commercial horticultural value but does not include any indigenous plants that might have resulted from Bidwill's extensive collections around Wide Bay and its environs. Whether Bidwill had not planted any native species of horticultural or forestry potential (e.g. *Macadamia*, *Agathis*, *Araucaria*, and *Eucalyptus*) or whether Moore considered them unworthy of inclusion, we shall never know. Moore's list formed the basis of our compilation (see next pages), in which we provide as best we can determine, the currently accepted botanical names, common names and uses for Bidwill's plants on Moore's list. In compiling this list we consulted and cross-checked with several websites on the internet, including *The Plant List* (Kew/Missouri Gardens, <http://www.theplantlist.org/>), GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility, <https://www.gbif.org/>) and Wikipedia, as well as hard copy sources, including J.C. Willis, *A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns* (Airy Shaw ed., 8th edition 1973, Cambridge University Press).

References

- Archer, T. (1988). *Recollections of a Rambling Life*. Booloorong Publications, facsimile of original 1897 edition.
- Blake, T. (2002). 'This noble tree': J.C. Bidwill and the naming of the bunya pine. *Queensland Review*, 9(2), 39–46.
- Campbell Petrie, C. (1975). *Tom Petrie's Reminiscences of Early Queensland*. Lloyd O'Neil P/L, facsimile of original 1904 edition.
- Mabberley, D.J. (2001). Bidwill of the bunya. *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, 18, 31–45.



John Bidwill's grave at Tinana. Photo, Paul Ryan.



John Bidwill's replica headstone in Maryborough with the Hill bunya pine. Photo, Paul Ryan.

Compilation showing current names and uses of plants growing in Tinana Gardens

Bidwill's name	Current accepted binomial	Common name	Uses	Family
Chrysophyllum cainito	<i>Chrysophyllum cainito</i>	Cainito, star apple	Fruit	Sapotaceae
Jatropha manihot	<i>Manihot esculenta</i>	Cassava	Root crop	Euphorbiaceae
Artabotrys odoratissimus	<i>Artabotrys odoratissimus</i>	Kantili-champa	Fruit	Annonaceae
Anona reticulata	<i>Annona reticulata</i>	Custard apple	Fruit	Annonaceae
Cherimolia	<i>Annona cherimola</i>	Cherimoya, custard apple	Fruit	
Squamosa	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	Sweetsop, sugar-apple	Fruit	
Inocarpus edulis	<i>Inocarpus edulis</i>	Ivi, rata, tahitian chestnut	Fruit (nuts)	Fabaceae
Psidium montanum	<i>Psidium montanum</i>	East African guava	Fruit	Myrtaceae
guineense	<i>Psidium guineense</i>	Brazilian guava	Fruit	
pomiferum	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Common guava	Fruit	
littorale	<i>Psidium cattleianum</i> <i>var littorale</i>	Strawberry guava	Fruit	
pyriferum	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Common guava	Fruit	
Poupartia mangifera	<i>Dracontomelon dao</i>	Dao, wild mango	Fruit	Anacardiaceae
Spondias dulcis	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>	Otaheite apple, ambarella	Fruit	Anacardiaceae
acuminata	<i>Spondias pinnata</i>	wild (forest) mango	Fruit	
Cocos nucifera	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut	Fruit	Arecaceae
Michelia champaca	<i>Michelia champaca</i>	Champak	Timber, flowers, ornamental	Magnoliaceae
Mangifera indica	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Mango	Fruit	Anacardiaceae
Eugenia uniflora	<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>	Brazilian cherry	Fruit	Myrtaceae
Dillenia speciosa	<i>Dillenia indica</i>	Elephant apple	Fruit	Dilleniaceae
Terminalia catappa	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Beach almond	Fruit, timber, ornamental	Combretaceae
benzoin	<i>Terminalia bentzoe</i>	Benzoin	Medicinal from bark	
bellerica	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i>	Beleric, bedda nut	Medicinal from seeds, foliage for fodder	
Achra sapota	<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	Sapodilla	Fruit, chicle from stem sap	Sapotaceae
Apricots in variety	<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	Apricot	Fruit	Rosaceae
Figs do	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Fruit	Moraceae
Pineapples do	<i>Ananas comosus</i>	Pineapple	Fruit	Bromeliaceae
Tamarindus indica	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Tamarind	Fruit, seed oil, timber	Fabaceae
Passiflora ligularis	<i>Passiflora ligularis</i>	Sweet granadilla, grenadia	Fruit, cut flowers	Passifloraceae
quadrangularis	<i>Passiflora quadrangularis</i>	Giant granadilla, grenadine	Fruit, beverage base, ornamental	
Musa chinensis	<i>Musa acuminata</i>	(Wild) banana	Fruit; base for breeding banana cultivars	Musaceae
coccinea	<i>Musa coccinea</i>	Scarlet banana, red-flowering banana or red torch banana	Ornamental; fruit though not commonly eaten	
fei and a great number of varieties	<i>Musa × troglodytarum</i>	Fe'i (alt. Fehi or Féi) bananas	Fruit	
Nephelium longana	<i>Dimocarpus longan</i>	Longan	Fruit and other minor uses	Sapindaceae
Nephelium glabrum	<i>Nephelium lappaceum</i>	Rambutan, hairy lychee	Fruit also medicinal uses and dyes, oil and a useful timber	
Opuntia cochinillifera	<i>Opuntia cochenillifera</i>	Prickly pear	Food (fruit and leaves); other	Cactaceae
Ficus indica	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly pear	Food (fruit and leaves); other	
Tuna	<i>Opuntia tuna</i>	Tuna; prickly pear	Food (fruit and leaves)	

Compilation showing current names and uses of plants growing in Tinana Gardens (continued)

Bidwill's name	Current accepted binomial	Common name	Uses	Family
Tacca pinnatifida South Sea arrowroot	<i>Tacca leontopetaloides</i>	South Sea arrowroot, pia	Root crop, flour/starch, fibre, medicinal	Dioscoreaceae
Maranta arundinaceae –	<i>Maranta arundinacea</i>	Arrowroot, maranta, West Indian arrowroot, obedience plant, Bermuda arrowroot, common arrowroot	Root crop, flour/starch, fibre, gum/resin, ornamental potted plant	Marantaceae
Zingiber officiale	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Ginger	Food, beverage, medicinal	Zingiberaceae
Saccharum officinarum – sugar cane	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	Sugar cane feedstock	Sugar, ethanol, animal	Poaceae
Oranges in variety	<i>Citrus × sinensis</i>	Orange	Food and flavourings; essential oils.	Rutaceae
Lemons in variety	<i>Citrus × imon</i>	Lemon	Food and flavourings; essential oils.	
Shaddocks	<i>Citrus maxima</i>	Pomelo	Fruit; juice	
Peaches in variety	<i>Prunus persica</i>	Peach	Fruit; juice	Rosaceae
Nectarines in variety	<i>Prunus simonii</i>	Nectarine	Fruit; juice	
Loquats in variety	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	Fruit; juice	

Note: All citrus trees belong to the single genus *Citrus* and remain almost entirely interfertile. This includes grapefruits, lemons, limes, oranges, and various other types and hybrids. As the interfertility of oranges and other citrus has produced numerous hybrids and cultivars, and bud mutations have also been selected, citrus taxonomy is fairly controversial, confusing or inconsistent. Other citrus called 'lemon' include hybrid varieties and cultivars (e.g. Meyer lemon).



Early settlers in Australia recorded many forms of the name used by Indigenous peoples, including *Banza-tunza*, *Banua-tunya*, *boonya*, *bunyi*, *bahnua*, *bon-yi*, *banya bunya*, *bunniya*, *bunya-bunya*, and *bonyi-bonyi*. These trees were sacred to Aboriginal tribes, who would travel to the Bunya Mountains to celebrate and feast on the bunya nut. The superficial similarity of these names suggests that Indigenous people knew it by much the same name throughout its range, with the variants attributable to variant phonetic spellings. A similar variety applies to the native name for the edible nut, *yenggee* or *jenggi* (Huth 2002). The bunya pines shown above were planted by Walter Hill between 1858 and 1867 on the riverside of Brisbane City Botanic Gardens to honour the death of John Carne Bidwell, who is commemorated in the scientific name of these pines – *Araucaria bidwillii*.

Reference

Huth, J. 2002. Introducing The Bunya Pine, A Noble Denizen Of The Scrub. *Queensland Review* 9(2): 7–20.

Toowoomba bunya pines

John Swarbrick

The two tall bunya pine trees in Neil Street just south of James Street, Toowoomba are among the oldest – if not the oldest – planted trees in Toowoomba. They stand on the eastern side of Neil Street just inside the fence of the Holden dealer's parking area, but are in fact public trees on public land, since they are growing in small but unmarked set-backs from the footpath. They appear to have been planted about 1870 in the grounds of the second Toowoomba Town Hall. The trees have been neglected by Toowoomba Regional Council for many years: the base of the northern tree is surrounded by the canopy of a large and spreading Chinese elm (*Celtis sinensis*), while the base of the southern tree is overgrown with other trees both cultivated and weedy.

The northern bunya pine tree is single trunked, 25 m tall with a canopy width of 13 m, and is 1.0 m thick 1.5 m above the ground. The southern bunya pine tree is double trunked, 23 m tall with a canopy width of 11 m, and is 1.4 m thick 1.5 m above the base. Both trees are well formed and very healthy, and both trees show the flattened dome-shaped tops of mature bunya trees and the growth of ever-elongating secondary branches, which is typical of mature bunya pine trees. The bases of both trees are thickly mulched by fallen branches, which must help to keep the soil around the trees cool, moist and fertile.

This site on the south-eastern corner of James and Neil Streets was initially occupied by Toowoomba's first and second town halls. The first town hall was a modest timber structure built in 1862, designed by William Binsted and erected by Friedrich Stein for £435. It was built on tall wooden stumps in a lightly timbered paddock surrounded by eucalypt trees, with a plain post and rail wooden fence. No doubt horses were grazed and traps were parked under the trees around the hall. The first town hall only stood for eighteen years before being demolished to make way for its successor.

The second town hall was a much grander affair, built of brick with an upper storey, high arched windows and a tower. It was designed by AF Myers and built in 1881, but like its predecessor only lasted a short while before being demolished in 1906. Photographs of the second town hall show that the grounds had been levelled and trees planted – the avenue of London plane trees that still remains along much of James Street were well grown by 1906 – and the two young bunya pine trees shown in the photographs sit inside the fence on its eastern side.



The northern (top) and southern bunya pine trees across Neil Street from St Patrick's Cathedral, which is visible behind the northern tree. Note the vehicles parked under and close to the northern tree and the gravelled driveway close to the southern tree.

The site on the corner of James and Neil Streets was too small for the needs of the third town hall, which was built in Ruthven Street in 1900 and is still in use. Following the demolition of the second town hall in 1906, the site was occupied by a new building housing the Toowoomba South Boys' State School.

The Toowoomba South Boys' State School was later demolished, and the site on the corner of James and Neil Streets is now occupied by the Holden car dealership's extensive parking space. The two small areas of public land on which the two bunya trees grow are separated from the Neil Street footpath by a continuous metal fence, which makes them appear to be private land and part of the parking area, with vehicles parked close beneath the northern tree and an unsealed driveway close below the southern tree. Both of these must be causing considerable soil compaction around the bases of the trees. It is important that these two public trees be properly fenced to show that they are growing on public land, and if possible arrangements made to move vehicle parking and the driveway further out from the bases of the trees. Despite this both trees appear to be very healthy.

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

AGHS member Wendy Lees sent these photos of Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers this year – the new building shown right and below is an information station and the design is based on the original glasshouse located in that position.





Australian Garden History Society Photo Competition 2020

As part of the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of its establishment, the Australian Garden History Society invites entries in our inaugural Garden History Photo Competition (closing date 15 January 2021).

Entries should reflect the aims of the AGHS and could range from a 'historical property or landscape' to garden history in the making:

to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes

Entry is open to any person (entrants under 18 require approval of parent or guardian) anywhere in the world (AGHS membership is not required). Images submitted must be taken by the entrant.

Participants are invited to submit one digital photograph only (in colour, black and white, sepia) along with a brief description (up to 150 words) that describes the subject and how it illustrates 'garden history' in one or more of the following categories:

Garden view or cultural landscape – Photographs may include building or hard landscaping, including public landscaping and places like cemeteries. If a private house or garden (other than your own), you must obtain permission of the owner, and confirm this when submitting. Street views, as well as long-distance shots of houses and images of public buildings, parks and National Trust properties, can be accepted without 'owner permission'. Indicate if the image is of a National Trust (or similar) property on the entry form (See Rule 5).

Still life composition (garden tools, books, sheds, flowers, etc). This category can include cyanotypes.

A gardener or gardeners taken under COVID19. This is our chance to capture gardeners during the extraordinary circumstances of 2020. To submit images that show identifiable faces, you must obtain permission from the person(s) photographed.

The lawn (can include lawn maintenance equipment) is a special category for 2020, as part of the celebration of the proposed Australian Museum of Gardening (Carrick Hill, South Australia) exhibition 'The Blade', which is scheduled to tour in Australia in 2020 and 2021.

Garden history imagined – Entrants can use various photographic tools (e.g. filters) to make composite pictures, cyanotypes etc that capture the competition theme.

See the latest AGHS E News for the links to the competition rules and entry form.



Photos taken by Graham Hesse while touring the state of Vermont, USA during the Fall, October 2019.

AGHS 41st Annual General Meeting

Sunday 15 November 2020, 9am for 9:30 am via ZOOM online.

Due to delays in finalising the 2019/20 Annual Report this year's AGM has been rescheduled to Sunday 15 November 2020. The 2019/20 annual report, meeting agenda and financial audit will be in the next E news and posted on the AGHS website when available.

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by a presentation from our Patron, Professor Tim Entwisle:



Managing living collections and landscapes in a (climate) changing world

Tim will talk about how Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is responding to climate change, particularly its impacts on the stunning botanical landscape of Melbourne Gardens. In 2016, RBGV released a world-first Landscape Succession Strategy, its response to the changes in climate expected in Melbourne over the next 70 years. Then in 2018, RBGV launched the international Climate Change Alliance for Botanic Gardens to share experiences and help other gardens adapt their landscapes. The objective at RBGV is to manage change so that the look and feel of the existing landscape is retained (and further improved), and we keep and add plants and plant collections to deliver on the mission of RBGV.

[Link to ZOOM Meeting – Open from 9 am Sunday 15 November 2020 \(see link in latest E News.\)](#)