

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 11. MARCH 1991.

323 Philp Ave.,
Frenchville.
Q'ld.
8/3/91

Dear Members,

Well, by now we hope you have settled into the new year, and are busy with all your plant related activities.

Rockhampton is gradually drying out and returning to normal after its successive floods. Although parts of the Kershaw Gardens were flooded for quite a long time, our area fared reasonably well, as much of it is on comparatively high ground. As we planned wetlands for the boggy bit at the foot of the ridge, those plants survived, even in the interminable rain. We have had some losses, and the arid land species such as *Acacia aneura* are looking a bit sick, but on the whole we've been fortunate. The ground is still too soggy to work on, but the slashers have been moving round the road verges this week, so we should be able to have a working bee soon.

We have been spending some of the time updating our paper work. (A seemingly never ending job!) A number of members appear to be unfinancial, in that we have no record of annual subs. having been paid for the financial year 1990/91. If a red cross appears in the square on the outside of this newsletter, then you are one of these people. If the matter has just slipped your memory, we'd appreciate your \$3 ASAP. If you paid in advance or something, please let us know so we can sort things out. Annual subs. are due in July each year, (not our choice of dates) and for 1991/92 will be \$5.

So far we have received no response to requests for slides suitable for inclusion in an audio-visual presentation, nor from any members (apart from a few of us here), willing to speak at meetings if requested. No further magazine articles have been received.

It will be great to get things moving again, so please let's hear from you.

Best wishes,

Lenore Lindsay and Rockhampton S.G.A.P.

CHANGE of ADDRESS for:
Robyn Parker: 94 Best St., Nth. Fitzroy. Vic. 3068.

EXCURSIONS.

3.2.91: Mt.Etna-Caves National Park: Washed out!

3.3.91: Mt.Etna-Caves National Park: Johannsen's Caves area:
Capparis aborea, C. ornans, Carissa ovata, Cayratia acris,
Cissus opaca, C. repens, Citriobatus spinescens, Commelina
cyanea, Cordia dichotoma, Dendrochide photinophylla, Dioscorea
transversa, Diospyros fasciculosa, D. geminata, Eustrephus
latifolius, Exocarpos latifolius, Ficus fraseri, F. microcarpa,
F. obliqua, F. opposita, F. virens var. sublanceolata,
Geitonoplesium cymosum, Hibiscus heterophyllus, Hibiscus sp.,
Opuntia sp., Passiflora suberosa, Pipturus argenteus,
Plectranthus graveolens, Pleiogynum timorense, Portulaca
oleracea, Pouteria sericea, Tetrastigma nitens.

FROM OUR FILES

23rd September, 1989.

The first anniversary of the opening of the Kershaw Gardens was celebrated with gusto on Sunday, 3rd September, 1989. The local Rotary Club co-ordinated the activities, and there was non-stop entertainment, displays, stalls, various garden tours, etc. The highlight for plant lovers was the launching of Steve and Alison Pearson's book, "Plants of Central Queensland", by Director of Parks and Gardens, Tom Wyatt.

Rockhampton S.G.A.P. manned a display of cut flowers ---- four boards, and massed exhibits, and member Ann Munster demonstrated floral art using only Australian native plants, gradually filling the marquee with gorgeous arrangements; and we also ran conducted tours of the Useful Plant Section, which is our special project.

This is coming on well, with the basic skeleton plantings established, and some ground covers and lower plantings developing.

The large area is divided into habitats, and includes Rainforest, Woodland, Dry Scrubs, Arid, Littoral, Riverine and Wetland, though naturally there are no clearcut divisions within the section. My particular interest is the Riverine/Creek Bank/Swamp/Wetland, which is the lowest and least well drained part of our area. Plantings so far include *Nauclea orientalis* (Leichhardt Tree), *Casuarina cunninghamiana*, 4 species of *Ficus*, 2 of *Cordia*, an assortment of *Melaleucas* and various palms, and on raised beds bordering the paved walkway, a grove of River Red Gums, underplanted with *Lomandra*, *Dianella* and *Myoporum*. There are bullrushes rampant on a small area of seepage, and a Nardoo lawn flourishing under the stand of Paperbarks. Eventually we hope for an integrated habitat, with appropriate underplantings, as the trees reach the stage of supplying sufficient shelter for these.

Lenore Lindsay (For Rockhampton S.G.A.P.)

THE FOOD CROP POTENTIAL OF SOME AUSTRALIAN SUBTROPICAL FRUIT AND NUT SPECIES

J. Brett Robinson⁺, Michael Delaney⁺ and Peter Hardwick⁺⁺

⁺North Coast Agricultural Institute, Wollongbar 2480.

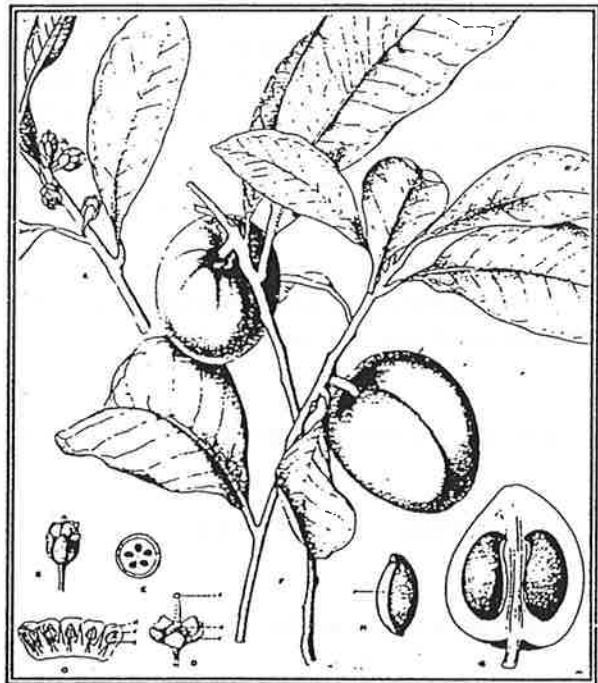
⁺⁺Wilderness Foods, P.O. Box 201, Byron Bay 2481.

The food crop potential of Australia's flora has been almost completely overlooked by modern science. Many species were recognised by Aborigines and early settlers as excellent food plants. However, only two species of *Macadamia* have received significant attention from science and industry.

Today the scene is changing rapidly. The mass media have drawn attention to the flora, flavours and personalities in the "bush tucker" scene. We are continually labelled in the various media as the Bush Tucker Men. And while it is easy to pass this off as media hype, it indicates the degree of familiarity of the public with the Bush Tucker concept and is a very positive factor as far as promotion and development of the industry goes.

In this paper we describe and discuss four promising species of native fruit and nut trees from the humid subtropics. These are the Davidson's plum *Davidsonia pruriens*, the black apple *Planchonella australis*, the red bopple nut *Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia* and the small-leaved lilly pilly *Syzygium leuhmannii*. It should be emphasised that several other species also have significant potential.

The Davidson's plum bears fruits the size of plums which each contain two small seeds. They have a tart plum-like flavour. The black apple bears fruit more like big, black plums than apples. They are soft, dark and usually sweet (occasionally astringent) in flavour when fully ripe. Red bopple nuts have cream-coloured kernels which are a little larger than almonds in bright red husks. The flavour is similar to *Macadamia tetraphylla*, though the texture is somewhat coarser. The small-leaved lilly pilly bears masses of cherry-sized pink berries. The flesh is pale and oily/mint flavoured. The edible seed has a cinnamon or delicate ginger flavour.



Black apple Planchonella australis

(from J. H. Maiden, 1907. *The Forest Flora of New South Wales*, Vol. II. NSW Gov't. Printer)

We estimate and discuss the horticultural potential of each of the species from factors such as natural distribution, climate tolerance, flowering and fruiting habits, susceptibility to pests and diseases, potential yield and marketability of the produce. At this stage, some of the species are very poorly known and we can only make educated guesses at their performance.

At the Tropical Fruit Research Station, Alstonville we are trialling these and a number of other species. The research plots also serve as a demonstration area. This research has been supported by the Rural Credits Development Fund.

ASTARTEA FASCICULARIS: is growing in half a double set of laundry tubs with one water tube. A stalky, top heavy plant .4m high, with all the growth in the top quarter. Have not tried it in a drink as yet.

CORREA ALBA: is in the other section. A stalky plant .45m high, but growth is coming from all the length of the stalk.

GREVILLEA "HONEY GEM": 1.1m tall, in an open bed in full sun. The nectar is very sweet, rather like weak honey.

SYZYGIUM LUEHMANNII: .5m high x .4m wide, in full sun in a washing machine bowl sitting in a tray. Pink young growth.

FICUS CORONATA: I have 2 plants in an open bed in semi-shade, .35m and .55m tall. They have only been in the ground one season but are growing well.

DIOSCOREA TRANSVERSA: Struggling to survive.

CISSUS HYPOGLAUCA: Has really gone wild. Growing in semi-shade along the side of the garage wall, I am constantly cutting it back, and I believe that the roots may be in the cool earth under the garage floor. It is watered by a spray line, but I am thinking of plugging off the spray nozzles that water the plant. Can anyone please give me some advice on growing this plant?

EUSTREPHUS LATIFOLIUS: is growing in the same area, and beginning to show buds.

In an open garden bed in full sun are:-

LOMANDRA LONGIFOLIA.

WAHLENBERGIA SP.

GLYCINE TABACINA: A twining plant that gradually climbs up its neighbours. I have found the taste of the tap roots rather earthy.

DIANELLA CAERULEA: My clump is .7m in diameter and is beginning to set fruit. The blue flowers on long stalks are a welcome addition to the garden.

SCAEVOLA CALENDULACEA: The clump is 1m wide, and the fruits, as I remember them last year, had a mealy apple taste.

NASTURTIUM: This is an exotic plant, but I have found the leaves add flavour to salads and sandwiches. In my early school days, my Grandmother used to make us kids sandwiches with bread, dripping, salt, pepper and nasturtium leaves, which we enjoyed.

Food: Fr: fruit. Fl: flower. L: leaves. Sh: shoots T: tubers. R: roots. Bu: bulb Nu: nuts. Ne: nectar. S: seeds Lb = leaf base. Ba: Bark psB: pseudo bulb

x introduced 0 = months when conspicuous fruits may be seen † indicates main month of flowering

References (listed by number)

LIFE HISTORY SEASONALITY CHART
fill in the gaps with information from personal observations and research.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Food	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	References
<i>Acacia longifolia</i> var. <i>sophorae</i>	Coast wattle	S. Fl.						†	†	†	†	†	0	0	8
<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	Apple Berry "Wondarman's"		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	6
<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Prickly Currant Bush	Fr.	0	0											
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Flax lily, Black-anther Flax Lily	Fr.	0	0	0							+	+	+	3
<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	Wombat Berry, Yam.	T						0	0	0	0				1, 17, 18.
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Rusty Fig or Port Jackson Fig.	Fr.													
<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>	Scrambling lily	Sh.													
<i>Hedycaria angustifolia</i>	Native Mulberry	Fr.	0	0											2
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Matrush	Lb.S.									+	+	+	+	3
<i>Microseris scapigera</i>	Native Yam, Yam Daisy, Native Dandelion.	R.	†	†							+	+	+	+	3
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Water Cress	L									palatable-mild				
<i>Persoonia linearis</i>	Geebung	Fr.													
<i>Rubus rosifolius</i>	Native Raspberry	Fr													
<i>Sambucus gaudichaudiana</i>	Native Elderberry	Fr													
<i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i>	Botany Bay Greens	L	†	†	†							†	†	†	3
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp.	Blue bell	Fl.	†	†	†	†						†	†	†	3
<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>	Sassafras, Yellow Sassafras.	Tea(Ba)							+	+	+				10
<i>Banksia</i> spp.	Banksia, Native Honeysuckle.	Ne	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	6
<i>Macadamia tetraphylla</i>	Macadamia Nut.	Nu			0	0	0	0	0			†	†	†	10
<i>Anguillaria dioica</i>	Early Nancy, Blackman's Potatoes	Bu							†	†	†	†	†	†	3
<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	Rock Lily, Rock Orchid	psB										†	†	†	10

WARNING: ALWAYS CHECK REFERENCES FOR