

Leader - Doris Phelps, Loxton North. 5333.

REVISED MEMBERSHIP LIST.

This includes a number of new members and those who have renewed their sub. Would others who wish to continue receiving the newsletter please send their \$2?

- Mr. & Mrs. P. Brennan, Murphy's Creek Road, Toowoomba. 4350.
Mrs. I. Champion, 20 Swift Street, Slade Point. 4741.
Mr. L.J. Daniels, Research Station, Box 201, Biloela. 4715.
Queensland Region SGAP, Box 809, Fortitude Valley. 4006.
Mrs. M. Rodgers, M/S Diddillabah road via Nambour. 4560.
Judge J.P. Shanahan, 69 Spencer Street, Rockhampton. 4700.
Mr. P.W. Thompson, 121 Vulture Street, West End. 4101.
- Mrs. A. Black, 1 Lindsay Avenue, Valentine. 2280.
Mr. G.R. McClure, c/- P.O. Kurrajong Heights. 2774.
Mr. C.G. Cousins, 28 Brighton Avenue, Toronto. 2283.
Mrs. U. Gaff, Barden Road, Gilgandra. 2827.
Mr. H.S. Infield, 22 Leguna Crescent, Forster. 2428.
Mr. S.K. King, Skyline Road, Goonellabah. 2480.
Mrs. A. Robertson, c/- P.O., Marran. 2593.
Mrs. D.G. Speirs, RMB 306 "Kal Lal", Arianah Park. 2684.
Mr. Graeme Tees, 26 Dawn Crescent, Mt. Riverview. 2774.
Mr. D. Tongway, P.O. Box 491, Deniliquin. 2710.
- Janis Bennett, Lot 22, Ranoch Court, Riddell's Creek. 3431.
John C. Coath, 1 Daphne Court, Bayswater. 3153.
Mrs. J. Cunningham, Lot 1, Hoyles Road, Pakenham Upper. 3810.
Mr. J. Egan, Chestnut Hill, Menbulk Road, Kallista. 3791.
Mrs. C. Hughes, "Little Hills", Koonwarra. 3954.
Mr. A. Lacey, 46 Swan Street, Eltham. 3095.
A.W. & P.A. Stark, 384 Rainbow Valley Road, Park Orchards. 3114.
Mr. J. Topp, Native Plant Nursery, Lot 58, Cranbourne Road.
Cranbourne. 3977
- Mr. F. Lucks, 31 Walter Road, Bassendean. 6054.
- Mrs. J. Closs, 7 Vyella Court, Austin's Ferry. 7001.
Mr. R.W. Cooper, R3D 263 Smarts Road, Upper Mt. Hicks, Wynyard. 7325.
Tasmanian Region SGAP, Box 1353P, Hobart. 7001.
- Mr. D. Bennier, Peake. 5301.
Mr. J. Clayson, Box 2, Tantanoola. 5280.
Mr. L.H. Couch, Box 53, Echunga. 5153.
Mrs. L. Couzens, Cockatoo Valley. 5351.
Mrs. L. Cramond, Box 560, Mt. Gambier. 5290.
Mrs. P. Dadswell, 10 Duffield Street, Gawler. 5118.
Mr. N.D. Jolly, Louth Bay, P.O. Pt. Lincoln. 5606.
Mr. A. Langham, 22 Attunga Street, Sheldow Park. 5158.
Mrs. C. Lithgow, Parrakie Group SGAP, Parrakie. 5301.
- Portland Group SGAP, Box 470, Portland. 3305.

SEED EXCHANGE

The seeds listed below are available if you send a stamped envelope. Remember, when asking for seed, that hybrids, such as the first five listed, may not be reliable when grown from seed. If you want to be sure of retaining all the characteristics of the species, propagation should be from cuttings. However, it is fun to grow from seed too. Who knows, you might come up with something even more exciting than the parent plant. (But don't call them by the name of the parent if you are selling or giving them away, unless you inform the recipient that they are seedlings. It goes without saying that anyone in the nursery business should propagate hybrids and cultivars from cuttings only.)

Seeds:- Callistemon 'Endeavour', 'Compacta', 'Guyra hybrid', citrinus 'Splendens', polandii x 'Tinaroo', 'Berundah', 'Injune', 'Tinaroo', subulatus, violaceous, phoeniceous, speciosus, formosus, pallidus (maroon form), rigidus, paludosus, linearis, sieberi, salignus rubra, viminalis, macropunctatus, polandii, citrinus, polandii (maroon form), pachyphyllus (red, green, and white), and a species with small red brushes from Blackdown Tableland (Q).

* Does any member have seed of *C. chiholmii*, *C. pityoides*, or *C. shiressii*, which could be sent in for the seed exchange? I have had requests for these but have none to send. Seeds of other species will also be gratefully received, particularly the less common ones. When collecting seed, remember that the more mature pods are the best.

From Mr. L. J. Daniels, P. O. Box 201, Biloela, 4715.

With regard to Mr. Whiffen's study into known species of Callistemons, there appears to be at least two undescribed species from eastern central Queensland. One is the small red-flowering species from Blackdown Tableland, about 100 miles west of Rockhampton. The other is a deep pink-flowering species with some affinity to *C. polandii*, which is growing at the foot of Mount Wheeler, between Rockhampton and Yeppoon.

There are also a number of undescribed, unnamed species on the tributaries of the Burdekin River behind Townsville. Two of these, known as *C. 'Ewan Road'* and *C. 'Running River'*, are grown in cultivation. These names denote the area they are found in.

The callistemons of the Burnett and Dawson River areas need investigation. The forms from along these rivers and their tributaries are all called *C. viminalis*, but there is considerable variation in type, with some being small trees while others are shrub types.

From John Egan, Chestnut Hill, Monbulk Road, Kallista, 3791.

Do you recommend any species as a tub specimen? It is an experiment I would like to try, because many could look quite attractive.

(The only species I have seen growing in large containers is 'Captain Cook'. These are in the median strip in the main street of Murray Bridge, S.A. They seem to be reasonably happy, but would no doubt be better in a less exposed position. D.P.)

From Ida Jackson, 7 Centenary Avenue, Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, 5223

I wonder if Andrew Burnett has tried *C. macropunctatus*. I've seen specimens growing on our north coast on top of the cliffs, only about 2 feet high, and flowering abundantly. They were old bushes that had been dwarfed by the wind. We have two bushes growing in our garden. They are about 12 years old and get the overflow from one of the rainwater tanks in winter. They are subject to high winds and have very little protection, except the tank, which would protect them from westerlies, but they are now taller than the tank and flower abundantly in spring. We are barely half a mile from the coast.

From Irene Champion, 20 Swift Street, Slade Point, 4741.

Further to Andrew Burnett's inquiry for *Callistemon* species for coastal conditions. The Qld. Dept. of Forestry lists *C. citrinus*, *pachyphyllus*, and *rigidus* as salt tolerant species. We have sandy coastal soil here, and although we aren't right on the seafront (3 blocks back) we do get quite a lot of wind. All three of these species are growing successfully either at our place or that of a neighbour. All of my bottlebrushes are quite young but a green *pachyphyllus* less than a metre high has already produced a number of lovely flowers. A *viminialis* which is exposed to the wind has suffered considerably from wind burn as well as caterpillars.

Mackay City Council have successfully planted *pinifolius* and *salignus* as street trees. Mackay is a coastal city, but I don't know just how much wind the particular streets would be exposed to.

Another S.G.A.P. member here at Slade Point, though not close to the seafront, has a very large stand of very successful *C. polandii* and *C. tinaroo* dazzlers. These have been planted alternately and quite closely along her boundary line, are less than 6 years old, and are quite large and flower very well. I am also trying these two in my exposed front yard along with *pinifolius* and *linearis*, but as yet they are too young to be of study value.

From John C. Coath, 1 Daphne Court, Bayswater, 3153

Re Andrew Burnett's question. I am fortunate enough to have a block at Merricks on Westernport Bay and find that many species of *Callistemon* are doing very well especially, as you suggested, species with narrow foliage. We are in a fairly sheltered position which I suspect is an advantage. *Callistemon sieberi* with its pale yellow brushes and fine foliage is proving to be a little gem, especially as it is flowering for such a long time. It began flowering at Easter and is still flowering during the last week of May. *Callistemon pinifolius*, *C. rigidus*, and *C. subulatus* are also growing very successfully.

At home in Bayswater I have quite a number of *Callistemons* growing. One of the joys of using *Callistemons* in the landscape is in growing them in different colour combinations. One of my favourites is growing *C. 'Reeves Pink'* next to *C. pinifolius*. They flower at the same time, the soft pink brushes of 'Reeves Pink' mixing beautifully with the lovely lime-green brushes of *pinifolius*.

From Jeanette Cunningham, 1 Hoyles Road, Pakenham Upper, 3810.

Your newsletter of April mentioned a taxonomic revision of Callistemon. Perhaps this study will provide me with an answer to the question of whether there are any naturally occurring Callistemon around southern-central Victoria where I live. Despite much looking locally in flora reserves, roadsides, and tracts of natural bushland in this area, I have not seen a plant which I could identify as a Callistemon, although a great many species of other Australian plants are abundant. I am devoting the front garden area to local species of natives and would be pleased to know of any Callistemon that could be legitimately included.

From S.M. Reynolds, "Old Duninald", Paterson 2421.

I suppose I have two or three hundred callistemons. Varieties:- *C. viminalis*, *citrinus*, *violaceus*, *phoeniceus*, *speciosus*, *salignus* (red and white), *sieberi*, *pallidus*, *chisholmii*, *brachyandrus*, 'Gawler hybrid' ('Harkness'), 'Hannah Ray', 'Captain Cook', 'Endeavour', and in the seed bed, *C. polandii*.

In 1975 my big lagoon was very low, so around the banks I planted about 300 *Eucalyptus robusta*, *ovata* and a few *camaldulensis*, several of the swamp *melaleucas*, about 100 *Casuarina glauca* and *cunninghamii*, and to fill in, several *Callistemon viminalis* and *citrinus*, and one non-native, a crepe myrtle. These were planted in August, and made magnificent growth by March, when we had a terrific flood. All trees were covered for 6 days, and all had water at varying depths around them for four months. Everything died except one *Luc. camaldulensis*, the crepe myrtle (which must have good drainage, they say), and the callistemons, which since then have been flooded twice, with water two feet around them for three months last summer, and they flourished!

From Graeme Tees, Dawn Crescent, Mt. Riverview, 2774.

Mt. Riverview is in the lower Blue Mountains west of Sydney. Callistemon do well here, surviving and thriving despite quite humid summer conditions which often kill established plants of other genera. I have *C. 'Endeavour'*, 'Reeves Pink', 'Harkness', 'Captain Cook', 'Mauve Mist', 'Hannah Ray', *citrinus alba*, *speciosus*, and *pinifolius* all doing well. Maximum age, 3½ years.

A number of species occur naturally in the Blue Mts. but I have not located all of them yet. According to Beadle's "Flora of the Sydney Region", *C. sieberi*, *paludosus*, *pallidus* and *citrinus* are to be found. The latter is the only one I have found so far.

From Aileen Black, 1 Lindsay Avenue, Valentine, 2280.

One thing that I find very successful when planting natives on into the garden, is a very weak solution of Formula 20 (3 drops to a bucket only) in the hole, and to water them in with. It just seems to get them over the initial shock of transplant.

We use the same solution to fill our display bottles at the Annual Exhibition. It works wonders with acacias, which normally shrivel up on the first day. Now we find we can keep the balls fluffy for three days.

(As I find that some callistemons do not keep very well in water, I thought it was worth passing on Aileen's hint. D.P.)

From Jan Simpson, 7 Boyce Place, Chifley, A.C.T. 2606

Our garden is clay over shale. Depth of soil varies. We spread 5 cwt. of gypsum on it 7 years ago. All told, the block slopes in three directions, as we sit atop a N/S ridge of Mt. Taylor, open to hot summer and cold winter winds. We are very well drained naturally, and also have loose rock-edged terraces. Here are the results of my growing callistemons.

Callistemon 'Dawson River' weeping form. Planted out into clay broken down by gypsum, in Autumn 1978. Sarlon shade-cloth on frame used as frost protection winter '78. Top 6" frost burnt. Lower branchlets 3 ft. high in Autumn 1979. (Frost was a month later than usual this year.) No blossoms yet. Has Had 4" tanbark mulch this hot dry summer. Frost protection given May '79.

C. 'Endeavour' A beautiful plant with branches close to the ground and large scarlet brushes twice a year, October and May. Planted Oct. 1975 as a 1 ft. high, two-branched shrub, in gravelly clay broken with gypsum. Pebble mulch. Flowered Oct. 1976 at 15" high, twice in 1977-78, and May 1979. Sarlon cloth frost protection in first two winters. Some tips burnt. Autumn 1979, now 4 ft. by 5 ft. wide. Somewhat drooping.

C. subulatus Planted Easter 1979 at 2 ft. high with six branches, in sand added clay broken with gypsum. Pebble mulch. No flowers yet. (Example seen in Canberra Bot. Gard. was beautiful.)

Callistemon (bought as violaceus but suspect). Thick wide leaves on grey side of green. Drooping branches far apart. Now tied to fence to give height of 4 or 5 ft. on some branches. Planted at 9" Jan. 1976. August 1977 threw out many branches from base. Summer 1977-78 grew all over. Flowered Nov. 1978, one week after C. 'Endeavour'. Brushes 3" long 2" wide, mauvish purplish colour. No frost troubles. Grown in clay broken by gypsum.

C. violaceus 'Claret' Fine-leaved, multi-branched, from cutting planted January 1976. By Autumn 1979 still only 2 ft. high. Very dry position given little added water. No frost troubles. Grown in extremely dry gravelly clay. No flowers yet.

C. 'Captain Cook' Bad form. Flowers small, very few, early Dec. Plant healthy but attacked by web-making caterpillars. Is five years old and will be replaced next spring. Seems to be an example of a nurseryman keeping a small weak seedling, instead of a cutting from a good plant.

Callistemon 'Hannah Ray'

Two members have mentioned C. 'Hannah Ray'. I have not heard of it before. Could someone who has it please send a description?

Damp-off.

I have had one report of seedlings damping-off in the container. The member who reported this thought that it may have been due to her having used peat-moss in her soil mixture. It then occurred to me that I had been having some damping-off trouble, and I too had, for the first time, used peat-moss in my seedling mix. It may be just co-incidence, but in case it was the cause of the problem, I will not use it in seed-pots in future.