

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSCYCAD AND ZAMIAD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. VI.MARCH/APRIL 1981.

So far this year the special year of study has only been among certain members. The few who do correspond with me and send slides and contribute material receive my grateful thanks.

So come on fellow members let me have at least one letter with just a little of your observations. While I am on this band-waggon, just an observation that quite some few dues are really overdue.

The S.G.A.P. Conference at Longreach would have been an ideal get-together for us all as one of the lecture subjects was "Western dry area Cycads".

However I was the one lone member on this excursion.

My thanks go out to several non-group members whose interest on that trip warrants that perhaps they should be members of the study group also.

Again I voice the request that if you are in or around the areas where cycads grow please use that camera close-up, or cut a frond and send it to me. If I get enough frond material I can post it to a taxonomist in Alice Springs to ascertain identification. If you will do this, a label stating height of plant and area found is necessary also.

Further to this there is a likelihood that S.G.A.P. excursions will be spending a week-end outside Bundaberg in September 1981. We hope to stay on our member Noel McCormack's property to study and perhaps collect a seedling or two of his broad pinnaed *Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi*?

This is an opportunity none of us should miss, so please, if interested, get in touch with Laurie Smith of Pine Rivers S.G.A.P. branch as soon as possible.

Would like to report that the lecture "Western Cycads" given on 19th April at the S.G.A.P. conference was well received by those present. As some members are sheep/cattle graziers this is very encouraging indeed.

Slides were shown, and the genera mentioned were West Australian, Northern Territory and Queensland. No reference was given to New South Wales cycads at this talk, because interest had to be maintained in conference material that might be later viewed by Longreach to the coast members.

Macrozamia moorei at Springsure.

My grateful thanks to David Hockings who was our firm right arm (botanically) on the conference bus trip. David knew just where to expect to see *Macrozamia moorei*.

Once I scrambled off that bus and floundered across a rise of tall yellow grass just to get a lone shot of one, and this against the sun. The jog back to the bus exhausted me, but I soon recovered when we topped a rise and there on each side and down into a large gully was *Macrozamia moorei* in all its glory.

Some had seedling cones about to burst and spill their fruit, others just stood like so many sentinels on the sloping terrain.

This time all the camera-bugs joined me and many shots were taken. One huge specimen growing beside a eucalypt nearly formed an S with its trunk. Maybe the eucalyptus roots had confined its trunk growth at an early age?

David Hocking took pinnae specimens and showed us the needle sharp spine present on the pinnae of this particular *macrozamia*. He mentioned that he once punctured an eye-ball with one and had a few weeks eye trouble.

Mrs. Bosworth of Victoria Estate, Ingham sent down some excellent slides of cycas growing in her area. This is the thing we want done, and they proved a valuable asset at the conference lecture.

Latest news from our lone American member Judith Jones of Seattle is that the sawing off of caudices on the cycads and the regeneration of roots after this is firmly established in the U.S.A.

She reports seeing in Costa Rica the trunks of the exotic *zamia* machete-ed and re-rooting on the humus of the jungle floor.

Another writer mentions Copper sulphate being used to seal the cuts and the sawn trunks placed in sand and perlite to-root.