

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSCYCAD & ZAMIAD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 7JULY - AUGUST 1981

Greetings once again all members whether passive or active. This newsletter has been much delayed mainly because of lack of correspondence from members to me. However as time was running out, here goes.

I feel we are in danger of dissolving as an active group if we do not write in our observances. Please communicate, even growing habits of your collections will be good as I know some of you live where no cycads grow naturally.

News to date is not very productive as I guess the greatest disappointment was the failure of our proposed trip with S.G.A.P. to our member Noel McCormack's Bundaberg property to study the little broad leafed version of *Macrozamia pauli guilielmi* that abounds there. However all is not lost and if I get enough active members to agree we can perhaps make a car trip up before Christmas just with what members of our study group I can raise. Hopefully a further bus trip can be organised in 1982. Let me know or ring me on 483515.

I bought a quantity of *Macrozamia macdonelli* seed from the source at Alice Springs and hopefully will see seedlings soon. The seed is very large, much larger than that of *Lepidozamia peroffskyiana*. If you are interested contact Rod Horner of 1 Grundy Street, Alice Springs, N.T. for seed.

Mr. Horner who is a friend of the Northern Territory botanist John Maconochie, tells me that the very controversial cycas spp. are still under survey and the possibilities are that a few known species are still suspect and may end up being suppressed. More later on this if it happens.

You probably know Mr. Maconochie through work on the cycas and I recommend his published paper on *C. calcicola* and *C. pruinosa*.

We now have a few more members to augment our group and by reports they will be active members.

Mr. A.W. Stallard,
C/- Poste Restante,
DARWIN. N.T. 5790.

Phillis Dadswell,
10 Duffield Street,
GAWLER. S.A. 5118.

Just a little local growing news. I have now had my long side fence renewed which means lots more eastern light into my psuedo rain forest. So now it seems my potted collection may wind up close along this fence where I will admit it should enjoy more light.

There can be no racist feelings however, as Australian cycas and macrozamia will have to share ground with African encephalartos, Florida zamia and perhaps a few islanders like *Cycas circinalis*.

Hoping for a bigger brighter future newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

LEN BUTT,
LEADER.

OBSERVING MACROZAMIA REIDLEI

Having first seen the beauty of West Australian Flora in September, 1977, it was always my desire to return.

Thus in the May issue of the Newsletter of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, New South Wales Region, I espied an article "West Australian Wildflower Tour, September, 20," to be led by Lyn Parry whom I know was very well acquainted with Australian Flora.

So just as the sun was rising, in company with many of the forty-eight aspirants, we left the City of Gosford with well wishes of those who were there to see us off on twenty-two days of camping and viewing our lovely native flora.

Approaching Perth by the Great Eastern Highway on the Darling Range, around Northam, I first noted the only macrozamia of West Australia, *Macrozamia reidlei*.

But, the joy of all, whilst touring Kings Park which overlooks the grandeur of the City of Perth, was photographing three glorious specimens in fruit, adjacent to the War Memorial.

So our tour took us into Geraldton via the Northern Highway, returning via the Brand or Coastal Highway where specimens were noted in various soils, amidst dry country flora.

Passing Perth to Mandurah to Augusta one noted odd specimens, but from Pemberton to Albany through the great Kauri Mauri Forests and the more moist conditions it was a treat to see many large specimens, but unfortunately none in fruit.

On our trip to the Nindethana Seed Property, I was able to purchase seed of *Macrozamia reidlei*, which have proved very fertile.

JACK HAND

CYCADS IN KEW GARDENS, LONDON

Member Brian Runnegar reports that his wife, Rosaleen recently visited Kew Gardens in London and in particular the Cycad collection housed there in a glasshouse. For any member visiting London, a trip up the Thames by boat to Kew Gardens is a must.

They have a good collection of most of the Australian cycads, some of which are now very mature plants originally collected in the early 1800's. Also of interest to cycad enthusiasts is the South African *Encephalartos* collection, particularly the *E. woodii*, of which only one plant (male) was ever found and has been propagated by a stem cutting taken in 1895. Also an *E. longifolius* collected in 1775 which has now reached full size at four metres.

Rosaleen Runnegar also reports that the exotic *Cycas revoluta* is commonly seen planted out in the warmer countries around the Mediterranean.