

MARCH - APRIL, 1982LEADER: L.P. BUTTASSISTANT: BRIAN RUNNEGAR

Greetings to old and new members.

So far I have only received six subscriptions to date for 1982 (a condition which must improve if you wish this newsletter to continue).

Response to my questionnaire last newsletter was poor, but my real thanks to the few stalwarts and newer members who answered me and a warning that if co-operation is not forthcoming this study group must fold.

Please, I require one letter no matter how brief from all members to assure me that your interest still exists.

This issue we publish a full list of members even those unfinancial in the hope of response. The hope of a "get together" outings must fade if we cannot even get correspondence.

LIST OF MEMBERS 1982

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Two interesting letters from enthusiastic group members are here enclosed.

Further to my last report on the zamiads I have just returned from a brief trip to one enthusiast in Gympie who kind of caught the "cycad" bug from my last two visits.

John now has a fine representative collection of the cycas and rarer macrozamiads taken within the bounds of his recent travels.

Really large and hardy Cycas from Mt. Perry, showing good growth and variation of leaf colour in rachis and pinnae. Needless to say my camera was running hot at the shutter!

Please note I do not call these Cycas media, as I feel a location is far better than guessing the species.

Here also I saw the best large caudex collection of the true Macrozamia pauli guilielmi to pass my viewers. Many had male and female cones present, all had been planted with caudices above the ground for the present. The effect was truly great. These plants had been saved from properties before the farmer could eradicate them. These varieties had the typical thin pinnae of the Rainbow Beach areas. I also saw a few wide pinnae types as occur around Elliott River, Bundaberg.

However most rewarding sight for me and my camera was the group of macrozamia platyrachys, some with three or four fronds. These were taken from a private sector within the Blackdown area and are the most interesting zamiads seen to date.

Platyrachas has wide pinnae, as wide as L. hopei and the rachis is about 60cm. long and arches over in a falcate bend. Altogether a most rewarding experience to see them first hand.

970 Upper Brookfield Road,
UPPER BROOKFIELD. QLD. 4069.

16th December, 1981.

Dear Len,

Thank-you very much for the latest newsletter I will endeavour to answer your questionnaire to the best of my ability. Here goes!

During the past five years I have been growing Cycad seedlings. The seeds of Australian varieties are swapped with other enthusiasts from Africa, America and Mexico. Of the Australian native cycads I have grown *Macrozamia miquellii*; (Upper Brookfield variety, Rockhampton-Byfield variety, and a variety from Frazer Island) *Macrozamia moorei*, 2 varieties *communis*; *M. pauli-guilielmi* (Bundaberg) *M. fawcettii* from seed. Also *Lepidozamia peroffskyana*, *Macrozamia macdonnellii*, *Bowenia perrulata*, *Cycas media*, *Cycas armstrongii*, were grown from seed.

My particular favourite species in the Australian genera are *Bowenia spectabilis* and *serrulata*. During 1981 we have seen *M. fawcettii*, *M. miquellii*, *L. peroffskyana* (Mt. Glorious) growing in habitat. I have never tried to pollinate any of my cycads, and I have never tried rooting offsets although I have transplanted a *M. miquellii* with fronds approx. 6 feet long with success.

My seeds obtained this year of *M. macdonnellii* still have not rooted. I sent some to Keith Boyer in New Zealand and Cynthia Giddy, South Africa and Dan Bliss, Texas, U.S.A. so it will be interesting to see how they go with them.

The *Bowenia* seed I brought from the forestry are rooting beautifully. They should be very useful for swapping with overseas varieties.

Please find enclosed \$2.00 as my subscription fees for 1982.

Len all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Kind Wishes,
Margaret Telfer.

Dear Mr. Butt,

Thank-you for Newsletter No. 8 for the Cycad Group. All information on Cycads is most welcome, and I'm sure that all the group, as well as many others will look forward to the publishing of your book on "Cycads of Australia". I will be glad to have some tips of growing cycads from seed. So far they have not germinated for me! I recently brought home a few seeds of *Cycas media* from Cairns. I hope for some good results. Maybe you have seen the tall specimen of this tree growing in Centenary Park in Cairns which was dug up from the Calvary Hospital grounds and transplanted in the park! This tree is estimated to be 1,000 years old and is flourishing! I noticed many stands of, I think, *media* growing in the Cairns area: some behind beach fronts, and mostly in rocky hillsides. I dug up a small one and brought it home and it has sent up a long healthy frond. I have planted a few varieties of small bare rooted plants that I purchased from a nurseryman in Coffs Harbour. I have planted them among trees and they are growing rather slowly. This present wet season may help them along. I also have a few varieties in pots. So far I haven't found any species growing in this area around the Laidley Creeks. I haven't any very large plants as yet, though there are larger plants growing in a private garden in Laidley and Gatton, so the district should suit them.

My garden consists of many types of plants and trees, both Native and others, and I love indoor plants and Bromeliads.

May the study group flourish and try and endeavour to be less passive as you suggest.

With kind regards.

Mary Zillman.