

Leader: Colin Cornford
 16 Eldorado St
 BRACKEN RIDGE
 Qld 4017
 Ph: 07-2698256

Dear Member,

Another year is rapidly coming to an end and co-inciding with that is the closing stages of what has been a good flowering season for Callistemons. They were a bit later flowering this year than is usual possibly because of the unseasonably cool weather we experienced throughout most of August. Our C 'Purple Splendour' flowered well again this year. For the first time we had a few flowers on a plant of C 'Glasshouse Pink Sensation' which was given to us by Mrs. Morgan. The flower on this plant is of mid-pink colour and about 90mm long by 40mm diameter. This plant will grow to about 3.5m in height. Also flowering for the first time was a plant of C 'Glasshouse Dainty Lady' which is growing in our daughter's garden. This plant is currently less than 1m high and produced a mass of very pale pink brushes about 75mm long to 40mm diameter. When fully grown it is reputed to grow to about 1.5m. Unfortunately with the passing of Mrs. Morgan these latter two plants probably won't get to the nursery trade although I believe she had applied to ACRA for registration prior to her death.

A couple of years ago John Wrigley gave me some cuttings of *Leptospermum macrocarpum* from which we got a number of plants. We planted one in our garden which, although it has grown very slowly, did produce one lone flower this year. We also planted one in our daughter's garden and this one has grown extremely well and is now about 1.2m high with a spread of about 2.5m. This plant flowered very well this year over a fairly long period.

I recently had the opportunity to visit some of the coastal heathland near Rainbow Beach (east of Gympie). Most of the heath-type plants had finished flowering but there was a good display of *Melaleuca thymifolia* varying in colour from pale mauve to a dark mauve-purple. There also were a number of flowering plants of *Melaleuca cheelii*. *Leptospermum speciosum* was heavily in flower as also were red and green forms of *Callistemon pachyphyllus*.

September meeting of Pinx Rivers SGAP traditionally is specimen night and you may be interested to know that between here and our daughter's garden I collected 36 specimens of *Callistemon* for display as well as specimens from a number of other genera.

New Releases

Leptospermum 'Aphrodite' has recently appeared in the nurseries round Brisbane. It is reported to grow to a height of 2.5m with a spread of 2m. I have heard it is a hybrid of *L rotundifolium* and *L spectabile*. According to the information on the label flowers are large and deep pink. The photograph on the label indicates the flowers are similar to that of *L spectabile*. Leaves are narrow-elliptical similar to those of *L spectabile*. Overall, the plant, according to the label, bears little resemblance to *L rotundifolium*. It will be interesting to see how this plant performs in a garden situation.

Two new Callistemons have been released, both of which are selections from C 'Candy Pink' x 'Tinaroo Falls' (recurvus).

Callistemon 'Rose Mist' is described as being an outstanding Callistemon for decorative use. It possesses a very dense semi-weeping habit with fine foliage giving it a softer appearance than many of the broad-leaved species. It grows 3 to 4 metres high by 2m wide. Rose red/pink flowers are produced in profusion in autumn with spot flowering throughout the year and another flush in spring. It is useful as a windbreak plant as it features a strong trunk system. Callistemon 'Rose Mist' grows in almost any situation even in heavy clay soils. It prefers full sun and with stands moderate frosts.

Callistemon 'Allyn Mist' is said to develop into an attractive columnar shrub, a marked contrast to the normal red flowering types. From a distance the flowers have a distinct orange hue which is enhanced by the mass of gold anthers. The main flowering periods for this dense 3 to 4 metre high shrub are autumn and spring. C 'Allyn Mist' has a strong single trunked habit and is tolerant of the same conditions as C 'Rose Mist'.

Book Review

The following article was forwarded by Cleveland member, Mrs. Muriel Box, who is a long-term and very talented member of the Art in Bark Association. The genus Melaleuca provides a substantial part of the medium used by members of the Association.

On Wednesday, 5th October 1994 the Queensland Museum launched a book on Bark Art by Danny Zam, Founder of Art in Bark Association of Aust (Inc). Dr. M. Greenway, an authority on Melaleucas and environmental problems gave a short introduction. The Art in Bark Association has been in existence for 21 years, over which time their art has improved, exceeding all expectations. From an early beginning of monotone colours, they have now discovered some natural colours to enhance the beauty of their pictures. From the greys, whites, creams, blacks (burned) of the outer layer of bark, to the chocolate, citrus, salmon, pinks etc. of the inner layers, together with some additives, we have a marvellous palette with which to create unique works of art - so very Australian! These wonderful trees not only have lovely flowers and provide food and shelter for koalas, possums, bats, birds and insects, they are also a rich source of tea tree oil and honey. The trees are adept, being water lovers, in the removal of nutrients and heavy metals from wastewater effluent and urban stormwater.

Are you interested in this art form? Contact Art in Bark Assoc (Inc), 167 Pickering Street, Enoggera, Brisbane. Ph. 3542055. Correspondence classes are also conducted. Danny Zam's book on Bark Art is also available at the above address.

Seedling "dormancy"

A number of members have requested information on how they can get plants to progress quickly past the seedling stage. A number of methods have been presented. Two of the recent ones are reproduced below for your information.

The first is from Lyn Craven from the Australian National Herbarium.

"A friend of mine, in an effort to shorten the period to first flowering of Vireya Rhododendron seedlings, took cuttings of minute seedlings (plants about 2mm tall). Obviously there is only one cutting per plant. The cuttings were struck in live sphagnum and grown on, flowering in 18 months as opposed to 3, 4, 5 or more years. Vireya rhodos are likely to become 'dormant' in the small seedling stage, possibly due to suboptimal growing conditions, and they can stay in this state for some years. Seedling cuttings are one way of overcoming this, as well.

Gwyn Clarke of the Calytrix SG tried this technique with Calytrix as she found that the tiny seedlings were very prone to damping off. I cannot remember what type of mix she used as a medium for striking the cuttings; from memory she did not use Sphagnum. The advantage of Sphagnum is that it has an antibiotic effect, the

disadvantage is that delicate roots might be difficult to separate from the Sphagnum (if necessary) at potting up time. Gwyn's rooted cuttings, although tiny, apparently were much more tolerant of soil pathogens. It may be that the initiation of adventitious roots is accompanied by such a different balance/quantity of hormones that greater immunity to nasties is the result.

Perhaps slow Melaleuca seedlings will respond successfully to this treatment also. Note that a razor blade or scalpel should be used to take the cuttings.

The Vireya Rhododendron seedlings were taken as cuttings when they had about 2 or 3 true leaves. At this stage, they would be about 3-4 mm tall. The cut is made below the cotyledons. My memory is inadequate for recalling as to whether or not the cuttings were under mist; I suspect not, Vireyas strike readily in a close frame with hand misting (by hose or hand sprayer) once or twice daily. (In Canberra I use bottom heat also.)

Melaleuca seedlings may be a little 'soft' for handling in this type of propagation. The Vireya seedlings are relatively robust. Still, it may be worth a try. Especially for those who are having their seedlings stand still after germination."

I wrote to Gwyn Clarke of Calytrix SG some time ago but, to date, have not received a reply.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who trials the seedling cuttings method.

The second article is from Jack Van Dam of Berry N.S.W.

"I have an unheated glasshouse (winter temperature is around 0 C) and I grow seeds and cuttings year round, although mainly in spring and autumn. My seed/cutting mixture is perlite, vermiculite, sometimes a small amount of sifted peat and I mix this in a small concrete mixer with water and some fish emulsion added to keep it damp. I sow in punnets for the bog method and I use the lids of foam vegetable boxes to hold them. When the seeds in the punnets get big enough to handle I pot them into small pots about six pots at a time. This ensures that if the first lot dies I can keep on going till the seed punnet is empty (or I have about a dozen good healthy plants).

When big enough, I plant into square tubes till they are well grown, then into bigger pots or the garden. The potting mix I use for the first two pottings on is:

1 bag of cheap potting mix
Same amount of washed river sand
1 ice cream container dynamic lifter (fine)
1 ice cream container perlite
1 ice cream container vermiculite

When potting on to bigger pots I use the same mixture but I also mix in some Nutricote (purple) for native plants. For any that have died I mix in the potting mix for later use. I mix a lot of soil early in the season so that it can mature before use and find this is a well drained mix. I find the small hand operated concrete mixer a boon. Fish emulsion and water keeps it all damp but not wet. However do not over-fertilise but remember that the mixture I use is sterile to begin with so some added nutrition is a must. The maturing is the key to healthy soil.

One thing I have found is that worms in the potting mix are a disaster. Some time ago I mixed a batch and added well matured, pulverised cow manure which I collected myself from the paddocks. They must have contained worm eggs which hatched in the pots and I found that a good 90% of plants, small and large which had died had one or more worms in the mix

Seed Bank

Stocks of seed of the following species is either in short supply or exhausted. Should you be able to provide seed of any of these it will be appreciated.

Melaleuca	pentagona	polygaloides
	pulchella	striata
	tricophylla	uncinata
	teretifolia var 'Georgeana Molloy'	conothamnoides
Callistemon	phoeniceus	
	rigidus	

Melaleuca & Allied Genera Register

I received a fairly good response to my request in the last newsletter for details of plants being grown by members. I have started to sort it out and have covered most of the Melaleuca species. I still have a way to go with Callistemon and Leptospermum spp.

Pangarinda Arboretum

The Pangarinda Arboretum Committee is working towards the establishment of an arboretum on 75 acres of sandy ground at Wellington East, South Australia under the auspices of the District Council of Meningie who have title to the land. The initial 12 acre area is being vermin-proofed to allow planting to begin. Planting is probably underway as initial plantings were proposed for autumn 1994.

Any assistance which can be offered in the form of monetary or physical support, supply of suitable plants or seed will be appreciated by the Committee. Should you be able to assist please contact:

Kaye Bartlett
Secretary
Pangarinda Arboretum Committee
c/o "Winpara"
Jervois S.A. 5259

Members Reports

Byron Williams, Kew, sent in a comprehensive report on the Callistemons he is growing. Some of his plants are interesting with a few in his list that I had not previously heard of:

C 'Hamiltons Hybrid' - purchased from Austraflorea Nursery in the early 1970's. It grows to 1.5m x 1.5m with dark red flowers, 100mm x 40mm, held erect in clusters. Flowering time is October.

C 'Deery' - purchased from Austraflorea Nursery at the same time as the one above. This plant usually flowers in November. Colour is, according to Byron, best described as a lipstick pinky red, shorter but wider than the flower on 'Hamiltons Hybrid'.

C 'Jenny Wren' - this hybrid of C viminalis originated in Jan Sked's garden at Lawnton (N of Brisbane). Byron tells me it is thriving in Melbourne and flowers heavily each year. Flower colour is dark red.

C 'Gilesii' - This plant is now known as C pungens. It is interesting to note that Byron says this plant does not normally flower well in Melbourne's cooler spring weather. It is generally a poor flower producer in Brisbane which we put down to the weather being too warm. However, this year after a prolonged cool to cold winter and general lack of rainfall plants in Brisbane are flowering well.

C 'Evelyn Rice' - is reputed to be a hybrid of C 'Harkness' and C 'Beroondah Station'. Byron's plant is 0.5m high at 3 years old with purplish-red brushes.

Trevor Gilbert of Dubbo recently conducted a survey of 2.5 km of median strip plantings planted by the local Council some 2 years ago. The plantings are a mixture of *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Callistemon*, *Melaleuca* and *Leptospermum* spp. *Callistemons* made up 12% of the total planting and have suffered the highest loss rate at 20%. *Melaleuca* spp mostly *incana*, *hypericifolia* and *laterita* had a loss rate of 14%.

Jeff Irons, England sent over magazine cuttings showing photographs of the Australian Exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show as organised by the Duchess of Hamilton. Jeff spent the week of Chelsea at the Australian Garden which, he tells me, created a lot of interest among visitors. One of his anecdotes is about a grand dame of English gardening telling someone that a particular flowering plant was a rare red-flowering gum. Jeff reckons we would have called it a bottlebrush. Jeff's part of England suffered a cold winter which resulted in poor flowering of the *Callistemons*. Jeff also tells me that this year for the first time he cut *Melaleuca squarrosa* and found it to be a good cut flower. It doesn't drop its stamens like most of the *Callistemons* do. Has anyone else had experience with this or other species as a cut flower?

Derrick Arnall forwarded his usual newsy, welcome letters. His letters earlier this year said they were suffering severe drought with another poor maize crop although South Africa has apparently had good rain. An interesting item in one of Derrick's letters is that, in Malawi, *Melaleuca leucadendra* flowers in February. In Brisbane, at least, it usually doesn't start to flower until about mid-April and then flowers on into winter.

Feature Garden

I thought I would keep it in the family and feature the garden belonging to our daughter and son-in-law, Naomi and Ray Hopsick at Alexandra Hills. When they bought the property 3 years ago it was 2 years old and there had been a half-hearted attempt to develop a garden in the front of the house with *lantana*, *prostrate juniper*, *tibouchina*, *azaleas*, *gardenia* to name a few. (All no-nos to Australian plant nuts.) A retaining wall had been built along the front fence line.

The property is 724m² in area with a steep rise from the road to the back fence. Most of the original topsoil is gone except for a strip along the back fence and part of the back side boundaries. The original soil profile comprises 150-200mm of grey silty loam underlain by a medium, slightly crumbly red clay which is in turn underlain by heavy red clay. Even in its highly disturbed state the soil is fairly easy to work and accepts water quite well.

A level pad had been excavated for the house site and behind this and 1 metre above it a further level pad had been excavated between here and the back fence. There was very little development at the rear of the house except for a few trees which had been planted but not maintained. The *azaleas*, *gardenia*, *iris* etc. were growing along the front of the house and were retained. The rest of the front yard plants except for a leopard tree (*Caesalpinia ferrea*), a *Baeckea* sp Mt. Tozer, a low growing form of *Tibouchina* and a couple of cycads were removed. On the left hand side of the block *Grevillea* 'Forest Rambler', 'Honey Gem', 'Misty Pink', 'Robyn Gordon' and 'Superb' were planted together with *Callistemon citrinus* 'Angela', C 'Dainty Lady', *Bauera rubiodes*, a *Baeckea* sp and *Leptospermum* 'Pink Cascade' and 'Pacific Beauty'. There is a pathway along the side the garden along the front of the house and in another garden on the street side of the pathway a number of *Callistemons* 'Mr. Foster', 'Ngun Ngun Red', 'Eldorado', *viminalis* pink, *polandii* dwarf and *pearsonii* plus a grafted *Grevillea patentiloba*, a *Melaleuca thmifolia* and 'Cotton Candy', *Eucalyptus ptychocarpa* and *Xanthostemon chrysanthus* have been planted. These gardens have been well mulched.

The first job in the back yard was to build a retaining wall to stabilise the excavation batter behind the house. The levelled area above the house pad had been cut in a half moon shape which left a higher area around the boundary. The levelled area was tidied up and grassed. The higher areas were planted with a variety of shrubs. Some of these are *Callistemon* 'Wollumbin (flowers consistently)', 'Wildfire', 'Eldorado', 'Snowdrift' (large white brushes), *Salignus* red, *pearsonii*, 'McIntosh', 'Little John'; *Grevillea johnsonii* (grafted), 'Bundara Beauty', 'Shirley Howie' (original dead but replaced by self-sown seedlings), 'Canterbury Gold', 'Sunrise'; *Banksia* 'Giant Candles' and *spinulosa* var *collina*; *Baeckea virgata* dwarf; *Micromyrtus ciliata*; *Swainsona*

galegifolia; Westringia fruticosa and a sp from Central Qld; Kunzea graniticola; Barklya syringifolia; Melaleuca filifolia, laterita, viridiflora, quinquenervia (red), calothamnoides, cornucopia, thymifolia, linariifolia (dwarf).

A Grevillea robusta, Liquidamber, Murraya paniculata and a tree fern (Cyathea cooperii) had been planted by the previous owners and were retained.

Ground cover plants introduced include Rulingia hermannifolia, Grevillea 'Royal Mantle', Pultenea villosa x spinosa, Scaevola 'Mauve Clusters' and 'Purple Fanfare'.

Plants which have regenerated from the original vegetation of the area include Westringia eremicola, Cassinia laevis, Lomandra multiflorus (in great profusion), Goodenia rotundifolia, Hardenbergia violacea.

Four Grevillea seedlings ('Misty Pink' type) have appeared. All have flowered in different shades ranging from very pale pink to dark pink.

Many of the larger growing plants are 2 - 2.5m high now with the smaller growing ones also well developed. September/October this year saw a very good display with almost every plant in flower to some degree.

How about some of the members out there sending in details of their gardens for inclusion in future newsletters. I'm starting to run out of gardens that I can use.

Financial Statement

Receipts

Expenditure

Balance at 6/6/96	\$500.76
Membership	\$185.42
	\$686.18
Less expenditure	39.60
	\$646.58
Less SDT	0.25
	\$646.33

Seed \$39.60

Balance as per Bank Statement 8/9/94 \$646.33

Membership

Membership Fees were due on 1st July. A red X on the front page of your Newsletter indicates your subscription for this year has not been received.

Stop Press

I have just received a letter from Kaye Bartlett, Pangarinda Arboretum Committee with copy of the chairperson's report. Their first application for a grant was unsuccessful but the second resulted in a grant of \$3603.00 from "One Billion Trees".

Direct seeding of windbreaks has been completed. Acacias made up the majority of seed but included in the mix were Melaleuca lanceolata, Leptospermum coriacea and Callistemon rugulosus. Hundreds of Acacias have germinated and they wait with interest for results of the balance of the seed.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Regards.

Col Courtyard