

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

CALOTHAMNUS STUDY GROUP

Leader: Barb Graham,
Nundle Rd.,
Woolomin.
N.S.W. 2340NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWO -- August, 1983

Our study group is slowly taking shape. I have been very pleased to hear from all the people who have written.

The seed bank is starting to come into being thanks to seed from Steve Wilkes and Kaye Bartlett. I have also bought quite a few species seed so will have to charge 25¢ a packet to help cover costs. Kaye has collected seed while on trips to the northern parts of W.A. and has many Calothamnus growing well. If anyone lives close enough she has said that they could go to her for seed.

Here are the seeds which are now available. Please send me a large self address-^{stamped}ed envelope with your request.

Calothamnus blepharospermus,	pinifolius	torulosus var leptophila
chrysantherus	quadrifidus	validus
gracilis	rupestris	villosus
gilesiihomolophyllus	sanguineus	
	totulosus	

This newsletter seems to be made up of lists, but I thought it would be useful to have a list of members in case anyone would like to get in touch with other members.

Mr. Adrian Nicholas, 12 Oval Ave., Woodville South, S.A. 5011

Mrs. H.C. Jeavons (Rhoda), R.M.B. 2500, Kulnwa, Gosford, N.S.W. 2250

Lyndal Thorburn, 5 Yanda St., Waramanga, A.C.T. 2611

Val Maher, 2 Langley Rd., Cranbourne Sth., Vic. 3977

Jo Walker, 16 Blundell St., Queanbeyan, N.S.W. 2620

Mrs Phyllis Dadswell, 10 Duffield St., Gawler, S.A. 5118

Kaye Bartlett, "Winpara," Jervois, S.A. 5259

Werribee Group, P.O.Box 363, Werribee, Vic. 3030

With this newsletter I am sending a report sheet for Calothamnus you already have growing or plant in the future. I have tried to keep it as simple as possible while getting the information necessary to gather a picture of each species.

As a matter of interest I am involved in the establishment of an Arboretum on the shores of our local dam. This is a very new project but it will allow me plenty of room to plant each species that I can. We are in a very severe frost area, so they will really be tested for this aspect. Another handy thing is that the Arboretum has contact with the Sydney Botanical Gardens, so if we are in any doubt about identification of any species I will be able to send to the Herbarium for help.

I am very glad that I recently bought "Flora Australiensis" which describes most species of Calothamnus.

Adrian has two Calothamnus growing successfully, sanguineus and validis. The first does not get quite enough sun and is a bit leggy. Three years old it is about 20" tall, flowers well with "black-crimson" flowers.

The second is to Adrian's mind one of the most ornamental of our Australian plants. It is growing on the northern side of his house. Even in the hot dry summers it looks bright and fresh. It seems to be a delightful shrub as it flowers intermittently all year round, but mostly in winter, spring with bright red flowers. The numerous branches take a 90° turn about every 6" so looks like a giant Bonsai. It is about 3' tall & 5' across so is a superb ground cover. There have been no trouble with insect or fungus attacks. This seems to be generally true of most Calothamnus.

Rhoda's C. aspera is an attractive greyish upright shrub. During the drought it has had very little water without any bad effect.

If anyone cannot take a very active part in the study group they are still very welcome and will get the newsletter and the knowledge that we will eventually accumulate about this very hardy and lovely genus. But those who can participate can send for their seeds as soon as they like and I will have a questionnaire prepared