

Dear Members,

Hello there, I am the new Eucalyptus Study Group leader and my name is Tony Bean. I hope I can do a good job in this capacity and keep up the high standard set by Lindsay. I shall be putting out three newsletters per year as I feel this will help to maintain interest in the group.

Many of you appear to be propagating and growing many species of eucalypts, which is good to see. However it is not essential to actually grow eucalypts to be a useful and active member of the group. Observations of trees grown in parks or arboreta are valuable, and members with no room to grow eucs. can report on trees growing in their area, and may also participate in other useful work, such as germination trials, effects of salinity on seedlings, etc.

No special skills are needed to help the group, only the ability to observe and record. Anyone wishing to undertake seed or seedling experiments, let me know as there is plenty to be learned in these areas.

In each Newsletter, I shall list 20 eucalypt species, and fervently hope that members who have grown any of those listed, or know of cultivated specimens in their area, will report their knowledge to me. I feel it is important to give specific information when you can, that is, provide figures wherever possible. This will not always be possible, but keep it in mind.

I will put together all of the information received, with the aim being the production of a rough distribution map showing where in Australia each species has been successfully grown, or may potentially be cultivated. Also, salient notes on cultivation aspects and soil types will be included. Make sure you report on your failures as well as your successes, as much can be learned from the ones that didn't grow.

The 20 species that I would like to hear about before next newsletter are :-

|              |           |            |              |
|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| abbreviata   | baxteri   | blakelyi   | consideniana |
| eudesmoides  | gillii    | grandis    | grossa       |
| jucunda      | lehmanii  | mannensis  | mitchelliana |
| pachyloma    | papuana   | parvifolia | patens       |
| pilligaensis | pulchella | rossii     | trachyphloia |

I realise that some of these may not have been grown by any of you, but on the other hand, it is useful to know which species have and have not been tried in cultivation.

The type of information needed is climate, including frost incidence and rainfall (amount and distribution), slope, aspect, drainage, soil type, growth rate, time of flowering, flowering period, insect and fungal problems, any fertilization or supplementary watering carried out. Also in your opinion, what is the main factor restricting the cultivation of the species in question in your area.

VARIATION IN EUCALYPTUS FRUITS, No 1, - BLOODWOODS

In the bottom of the envelope, you will find a eucalypt fruit, and a large seed. The fruit belongs to the Brown Bloodwood (E. trachyphloia) while the seed is from another bloodwood, the Marri (E. calophylla). The Bloodwoods form a very distinctive group; similar in habit, bark, leaf and particularly fruit. E. trachyphloia and E. jacobsiana have the smallest fruit of the group, but some of the tropical species may have fruits up to 5 cm long. Most of the 32 species have smooth egg-shaped fruits, some having a rim at the top. A few, notably E. cliftoniana and E. torelliana are globular, while E. ptychocarpa fruits are conspicuously ribbed. The valves are always deep inside the fruit, and difficult to see. Because of their size and tendency to occur in large bunches, bloodwood fruits are eminently suitable for dried arrangements, and will last for years.

Bloodwood seeds are large compared to most other eucalypt seed, and over half of them have "winged" seeds. The seeds of E. calophylla are not winged, but have the distinction of being the largest seeds of the genus, being up to 16mm long.

I propose to include the genus Angophora in the Eucalyptus Study Group. Most of you will be familiar with the Angophoras or "Apples", but for those who aren't, it is a small genus of seven species, very closely related to the eucalypts, largely native to N.S.W., but also occurring in Qld and with minor extension into Victoria. Most of the species are ornamental and showy flowerers, and well worth cultivating. The genus is too small for it to be ever studied by a separate group, so it is up to us to give them consideration. I hope this proposal meets with the approval of most members. As there is no Angophora seed in the seedbank at all, any donations I receive will be gratefully accepted.

EUC. NEWS \* \* \* \* \*

All of you are undoubtedly familiar with the catastrophic "dieback" of eucalypts on the New England Tableland of N.S.W., although probably some of you have not witnessed it first-hand. I can assure you it is a most depressing sight, and a stark reminder of the delicate balance of nature that can be so easily upset by man. Anyway, according to a recent newspaper article, the drought which has occurred over the last few years in the area seems to have halted dieback. Years of below average rainfall has had considerable impact on the pasture grasses, and this has depleted the population of the Christmas beetles and the chrysomelid beetles, which ravage eucalypt foliage in plagues. "Trees that showed symptoms of dieback a year ago have grown full crowns, while others that seemed lost show signs of recovery."

I hope to hear from all of you over the next few months. Next newsletter (March) I shall talk about Seed Collection and Extraction and hopefully include some extracts from members letters. Also next time I will publish the revised seedlist.