

NUMBER 5 - - MAY 1978INTRODUCTION

I apologise to members for the long delay between this & the previous Newsletter. Originally the intention was that the Newsletters be produced at irregular intervals but averaging four per year. It has not been possible to maintain this rate for a number of reasons including cost of postage, availability of material and time. I would not like members to feel that the time interval between Newsletters is an indication of lack of interest on my part. I will continue to produce Newsletters when appropriate and collate material received from members. Progress in an undertaking like this is, however, slow.

Only two comments were received on the proposal to extend the Group's activities to include *Regelia*, *Phymatocarpus* & possibly *Calothamnus*. At this stage I have decided against getting involved with these other genera but may consider the proposal again later.

CALL FOR FUNDS

As indicated in the financial statement at the end of the Newsletter, the Group is now in the "red" as regards funds. This has been largely brought about due to advance payment for seed. As a result it will be necessary to ask members to contribute an additional \$1 towards the cost of running the Group. This should be sufficient for another 12 months at least. Please note that this call for funds does NOT apply to members who have joined since January 1978.

The membership fee should be forwarded as soon as possible to ensure continued receipt of the Newsletter.

SEED BANK

Seed is 20 cents per packet....some is very limited so please indicate alternatives.

Species available are: *amisandra*, *decussata*, *heterophylla*, *incarna*, *micrantha*, *orbifolia*, *schaueri*, *sparsa*.

In addition to the above the following species are on order (date of receipt uncertain); *eriocephala*, *purpurea*, *squarrosa*. I am also hopeful of receiving seed of *B. bracteosa*.....further details in the next Newsletter.

GRAFTING EXPERIMENTS

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, I would like the Group to undertake a project on the grafting of *Beaufortia* onto suitable rootstock.

I recently contacted Canberra Botanic Gardens to obtain advice on methods etc. They have used *Kunzea ambigua* as a rootstock for Myrtaceae genera and feel that this species should be suitable as a rootstock for *Beaufortia*. *K. ambigua* is, of course, readily available, extremely hardy & strikes ridiculously easily from cuttings. Details of C.B.G. grafting methods (on *Prostantheras*) can be obtained from the C.B.G. booklet "Growing Native Plants" Vol. 7, 1977 which should be available at Australian Government Bookshops (cost is \$1.15). The N.S.W. Dept of Agriculture also gives brief details of grafting methods in the "Royal Botanic Gardens, Bulletin-No. II" which is available free of charge from the Department.

Those who wish to participate in the project will need access to *Beaufortias* to use as the scion... there does not seem to be any reason why this material could not be obtained by post in a similar manner to cuttings (see previous Newsletters for details of persons who are willing to supply cutting material).

The most immediate job is, of course, striking of sufficient plants of *K. ambigua*. If anyone has difficulty in obtaining cutting material of this plant please let me know. It may well be that another rootstock may be more suitable and some members may like to look at hardy species of *Melaleuca* or *Calothamnus*, for example.

It would be appreciated if members who are going to attempt the grafting project would let me know. C.B.G. recommend spring or autumn as the best times for grafting. After grafting plants should be placed under fairly heavy shade at a temperature of approx. 25°C under a misting system or where they can be watered several times a day.

MEMBERS NOTES

There seems to be a general reluctance on the part of members to forward information on their experiences (both good & bad). This makes it difficult for me to make any assessment of members needs. It is only by exchange of information that our understanding of propagation requirements & methods of cultivation in various areas will increase.

In the last Newsletter I asked members to supply slides & foliage

specimens....not one response was forthcoming despite the fact that there are a reasonable number of members growing *Beaufortias* successfully. If members are not satisfied with the progress of the group or have suggestions on how it might be improved, I would be only too happy to hear from them.

ANNUAL FLOWER EXHIBITION...GAMBERRA REGION

I have received a letter from the Canberra Region indicating that it is proposed to set aside an area at the 1978 exhibition for a display indicating the activities of Study Groups and I have been asked if the *Beaufortia* Group would be interested in participating. I have not yet made any decision on the matter although I am inclined to the view that the group is not ready to put on any display at present. At a minimum it would be necessary to show as many photographs of the various members of the genus as possible accompanied by a description of each species. As mentioned above, I do not have access at present to many photographs at all. If members can assist in providing photographs or have any other ideas for a suitable display, please contact me as soon as possible. The exhibition will be staged on 21-22 October.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the group:
 S.G.A.P. Canberra Region, P.O. Box 207, Civic Sq., A.C.T.; 2608.
 Western Australian Wildflower Society (Inc.), P.O. Box 64, Nedlands, W.A., 6009.
 Mrs. S.G. Chinner, 'Derribong', Piccadilly Rd., Crafers, South Aust., 5152.
 Parrakie Area Group, S.G.A.P., Parrakie, South Aust., 5301.
 (Hon. Sec. Mrs. C.J. Lithgow)

An updated membership list will be issued with the next Newsletter.

QUESTIONNAIRES

I had hoped to issue a questionnaire concerning cultivation methods with this Newsletter. To do so, however, would have caused further delay. The questionnaire will definitely accompany the next Newsletter.

Anyone who requires additional copies of Questionnaires Nos. 1 & 2.... please let me know. (These are the ones dealing with propagation from seed and cuttings).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (1 November 1977 to 30 April 1978)

The following statement does not include the cost of preparation & postage of this Newsletter.

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Brought forward	\$25.30	Correspondence	\$11.29
Membership fees	\$ 5.00	Stationary	\$ 1.85
Donations	\$ 1.00	Seed purchases	\$33.30
Seed sales	\$10.60		
Totals	\$41.90		\$46.44
Balance	- \$ 4.54		

FINALLY

The worst time for growing the more difficult native plants in Sydney is undoubtedly the January-March period. It is in this period that high humidity & heavy rains generally occur. This year the rain was slow to arrive but certainly made up for any delay in late March. Failures in this period have included small plants of *B. decussata*, *amisaandra*, *sparsa* & *incarna*. However, all is not yet lost as small plants of *B. purpurea*, *orbifolia*, *schaueri* & *micrantha* are still doing well. If at first you don't succeed.....

Best Wishes.....

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