

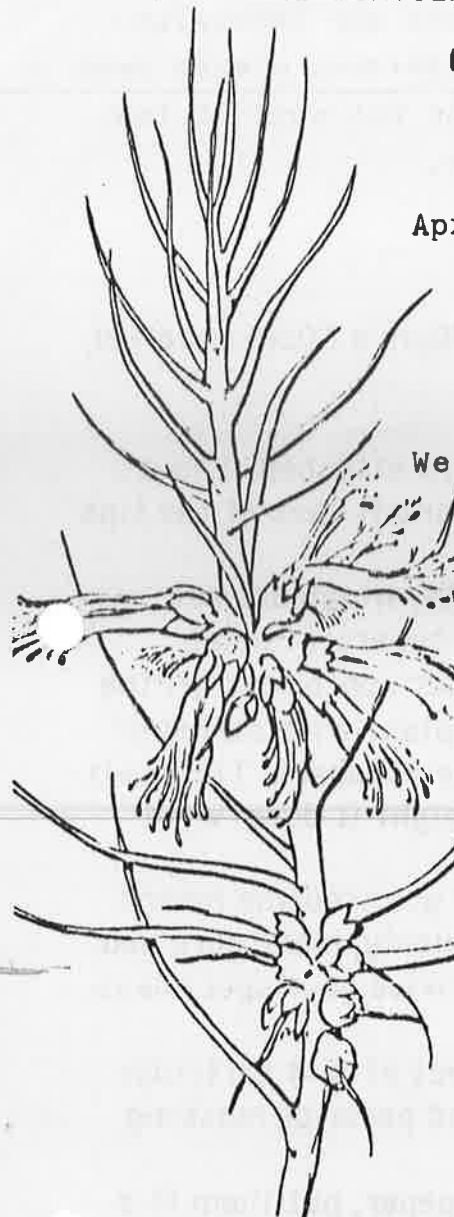
## ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

## CALOTHAMNUS

Number 13

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We were very grateful to receive a \$50 donation from N.S.W. Region. This has come at a great time as I hope to be sending Calothamnus cuttings home from W.A. when we visit that state later in the year as well as collecting seed. Some will also be used for film to use for slides for the audio-visual. As I don't expect to be home to work out a balance sheet at the end of June, I think it would be a good idea to have one in this newsletter.

Income	Expenses
Brought forward. \$17-39	Photocopying \$10-00
Memberships. 24-00	Postage 11-46
Donations. <u>84-00</u>	<u>21-46</u>
125 -39	Cash on hand. <u>103-93</u>
	125-39

While our Study Group has been running on a shoestring I haven't had a separate bank a/c, but depended on the bookwork. With such a lot of donations coming in I have opened a separate a/c with St. George Building Society. If the money stays in for a while we will even make a bit of interest!

I would like to thank all those who sent very welcome donations & subs. Also all who have written since our last newsletter.

Jan Sked from Queensland is our new Study Group Co-ordinator. I will miss Barbara Daly as I was lucky enough to be near her route to Queensland, so it was great to see her.

It has been decided to expand the brief of our Study Group & make it the Calothamnus & Allied Genera Study Group to include Beaufortia & Eremaea. I know absolute nothing about these so if anyone has any information please share it with the rest of us. I certainly hope that we can make a success of these additions. While in W.A. I will be looking out for Beaufortia & Eremaea as well as Calothamnus for photos & anyone who can give me any information at all. I would also like to know of your opinions of this expansion.

It would also be a good idea if we were to upgrade our herbarium. So could everyone who has *Calothamnus*, *Beaufortia* or *Eremaea* please send me a dried specimen (flowers, seeds & leaves), even if not sure of the species. Following information from Correa newsletter.

### Drying Specimens

You will need two pieces of masonite or chipboard, 30cm x 30cm or larger  
plenty of newspaper

1. Cut two or three stems with leaves and flowers attached. Leaves should be typical of the mature plant, not the small ones at the tips only
2. Lay them flat between folded newspaper sheets, which are set between the boards. Each plant should be in a separate sheet.
3. Label each specimen with a small sheet of paper containing all the information required. Attach the label to the plant with string or tape. (Just in case the label falls out of the newspaper). Tie a belt tightly around the boards and newspaper or weight it down with heavy books.
4. Change newspaper every two or three days. If your routine means that you might forget to change the paper regularly, make sure you drill holes in your boards to allow air in otherwise your specimens could rot.
5. When each specimen is dry, lay it flat on a sheet of A 4 cartridge paper, and attach it with thin strips of gummed paper or masking tape. Glue your label in one corner.
6. Wait until all your specimens are mounted on paper, put them in a plastic bag inside a large envelope. Some stiff cardboard would help to keep the envelope from being bent. Post to me

Information required with each specimen.

Name of plant, species if known, or known as.

Source where collected or where obtained if garden specimen.

If from bush, locality, soil type, habitat. (sea shore, roadside etc.)

Also a little bit about the plant, how big it grows, growing in open or shade & anything else you may like to add.

Collector's name, address, phone number.

I know that this will be a longterm project, but I hope that everyone will help out.

Dennis Cooper from Busselton in W.A. has sent us some seed of *Calothamnus graniticus*, which grows near him. It grows right to the beach & stands a lot of seaspray. The shrub grows to 2 metres & nearly

the same width. I would be very interested to see if this species would be suitable for growing near the sea or even coastal areas in the east. Any volunteers? Actually we need people from different climates to try this species, so we can get a wide view of its possibilities.

Although Pat & I will be leaving for our holiday next week (weather permitting) there will be a special box for Calothamnus Study Group mail so I will be able to get right on to sending out seed which has been asked for while we are away. Intend getting home at the beginning of November with loads of slides, photos & seeds!

As I mentioned a long time ago, we have extremely heavy frosts here at Woolomin which has made it impossible to grow Calothamnus at home. The Arboretum, being near a large dam, has a slightly warmer micro climate which is the reason that I can grow them so well there. So I have been growing Calothamnus quadrifidus hirsutus, homalophyllus (prostrate form), & torulosus in large ceramic pots. These have not only survived, but are growing well, the C. quadrifidus hirsutus even flowering.

So I think we can draw a few conclusions from this:-  
Calothamnus, or rather the three species mentioned, can survive very low temperatures if grown in slightly sandy soil. The soil here is heavy alluvial which must hold the cold for longer.

I was also worried that the wet, cold winter might have effected my Calothamnus, but no adverse effects at all. So this shows that Calothamnus will grow in much colder & wetter places than has been expected. Of course none were in badly drained, or boggy areas so I think that when I get home I will be brave & try some of these areas. It hurts me a bit to plant something where I think it will die, but it is the only way to find out.

Goodbye for now, hoping that I come home to a pile of correspondence!

regards

Barb.