

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS  
 CALOTHAMNUS & ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER Number 20

Leader: Barb Graham,  
 Nundle Rd.,  
 Woolomin,  
 N.S.W. 2340

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We have had an absolutely wonderful Spring, a few days of rain followed by fine, sunny weather being repeated often. So I added a few more plants to our collection. Kaye had two very well grown *Calothamnus tuberosus* so planted one in her collection & gave me one to put in the Arboretum collection. I put it fairly high on the hill in a very rocky place, so hope it does well. As we have run out of hay for mulch, I cut a large square of old carpet, cutting a large x in the middle for the plant & weighing the corners down with rocks. Hopefully it will get covered with leaves etc. but if not I will cover it, but this is only for cosmetic purposes. I do hope that these two grow well, as they are such magnificent & unusual plants. (Descriptions in N.L.s no. 10 & 14 )

I also planted out some of Rhoda's Special Cal. *quadrifidus* and *asper*. Bill gave us a beautiful, large plant of *C. homolophyllus*, as the smaller ones planted died in the hot, dry weather, so hope this one survives this summer. The *C. graniticus* finally gave up, but the subsp. *leptophyllus* is growing wonderfully, so after a few tries I would say that it is the most hardy of the two subspecies. Kaye's collection is really marvelous, most of them coming from natural areas, which makes it valuable as a cutting resource. Seeds could be hybridised with so many species growing together. As well as the ones growing in her plantation she also knows of many others growing in friends large gardens, so when all of these are listed we will have an extensive living collection which I can assure you is still growing.

I brought both seeds & cuttings home from Kaye's of *Eremaea purpurea*, the cutting grown plants doing very well, even though it took a few days for me to get them home & a couple more before I could get them in a pot. They withstand hot, dry weather without watering and our frosts haven't harmed them at all. After reading of the great difficulty of germinating

the seed I was a bit nervous about trying them, but as the seed was just coming out of the capsules, I put them in straight away & had good success with them. *Eremaea* are such a lovely shrub, some quite small, I think we should be trying many species. Graham has had great success with them.

I will try to get some seed for the seed bank, but it would be good if I could have a list of people willing to send seed out to other members to see if the freshness of the seed does make any difference. I hope to have a few names for the next newsletter.

My trip on the Canning Stock Route last winter was really spectacular, such wonderful country & to make it even better there had been a lot of rain before we left so the flowers were outstanding, endless miles of the greatest floral display, mostly shrubs. Some of the magnificent rock outcrops looked like perfectly landscaped, enormous rockeries. Great excitement when I came to huge expanses of *C. aridus*, so I gathered lots of seed capsules (not a lot of seed in them, probably too old) but no flowers. Eventually found a couple of very dried flowers. After discussion with Kaye we felt that this plant was probably not a *Calothamnus*, even though the shrub looked like it was, but could have been *Lamarchea sulcata*. Guess we'll never know unless someone else goes into that area & gets some more clues.

Graham has had a good flowering, some of the plants for the first time, including the *Calothamnus rupestris* which is about 5' x 5' & nicely shaped.

*Eremaea beaufortioides* had a lot of flowers while *E. fimbriata* had a few, both for the first time. They are about 3' high x 5' wide, very healthy & very, very bushy with 'hundreds' of lateral & vertical branches. Both will be getting a severe pruning to keep them bushy. *Eremaea violacea* has many flower buds & grows more steadily so doesn't need pruning. It is about 60 x 60 cm.

As Graham had predicted, the *Regelia velutina* on the nature strip did have a few flowers with more to come. It is about 1 metre wide by 2.5 m. high. The one in the garden unexpectedly had 2 red flowers. This one is 4' wide x 6' high. Graham is going to prune both of these. The few that I have seen of these have been tall, rather narrow shrubs, so attractive with their silvery leaves & lovely red flowers.

In its fourth year *Beaufortia incana* had flowers for the first time, not profusely, but quite a number. It is 80cm high & 50cm wide. Both the *B. schaueri* flowered plentifully & been pruned back. *B. macrostemon* & *elegans* are flowering, *B. macrostemon* profusely. While the big *B. elegans* is only just breaking out.

It is really wonderful to hear of such successes & all this news will be

used to update the species records. By the way Graham lives in Bateman's Bay in N.S.W.

Rhoda has four new additions, one *C. homolophyllus* and three *C. graniticus*, a;; doing well, especially one of the *C. graniticus*, reminds her of a Yeti with its two very upright main stems & lovely shaggy leaves. She has pruned two of the *C. graniticus* (not the one referred to) and the *C. homolophyllus* and they are growing well. I will be interested to know if the *C. homolophyllus* keeps its prostrate form. It is not a species that seems to grow here. When the weather gets very hot & dry it keels over. Rhoda also sent some photos of her *C. asper* in the garden, they were such nice photos that I was going to put one in the newsletter, but it didn't copy too well.

Lyndal from Queanbeyan was pleased that all of their *Calothamnus* are proving more frost resistant than expected. *C. validus* only gets tip burnt & the *C. asper* which was bought in autumn hasn't been affected at all this winter, but of course it was a very mild one. They haven't had any trouble with insects or mould. Lyndal has a beautiful garden with some flat spots on the side of a very well drained hill and plenty of the lovely natural bush around & through it. Two new additions are a yellow form of *C. quadrifidus* and *C. villosus* Badgingarra. I will be interested to hear of their progress & to see if the *C. quadrifidus* is low growing or an upright shrub. I hope that the *C. villosus* is that species as we still haven't anyone with a positive identification of one of these growing. We're still waiting to see if the hopefuls have four or five staminal bundles. *C. villosus* has the five, and according to the key has not got furry leaves.

Lyndal has also developed a useful record sheet for her *Calothamnus*. It was a bit too wide for me to copy it all, but only missed out on the collum to say if there was a slide of that sp. I will send an amended copy to those who have *Calothamnus* growing.

Bill has an excellent book, *Bottle Brush, Paperbarks & Teatrees* by Wrigley & Fagg which contains a description & drawing of all of our Study Group species as well as excellent photographs of many of them. Of course such a useful & beautiful book has to be very expensive, but maybe if local libraries get enough requests they will get one in stock.

I have had a few enquiries about the Dulegal Arboretum, so will give a description. It is a native plant Arboretum, on the banks of Chaffey Dam, which is one of the water supply dams for Tamworth as well as supplying water for irrigating. It was started by the Tamworth Branch of the

