

9 DEC 1985

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

ISSN 0311-5338

CALOTHAMNUS STUDY GROUP

Leader -- Barb Graham
Nundle Rd.,
Woolomin.
NSW 2340

NEWSLETTER NO. SIX. -----NOVEMBER, 1985

Please forgive me for taking so long to get this newsletter prepared, but while my father was dying of cancer I wanted to spend as much time as possible with my parents which necessitated quite a few long trips.

Rhoda Jeavons has had some interesting results with her Calothamnus. They have not had any adverse reaction to the persistent showery weather during the winter or the very heavy rains in the spring, but the tips tend to die back after spells of humid or warm wet weather. They are *C. asper*, *quadrifidus* & *vallidus* & luckily shoot again just behind the dead area almost immediately. Rhoda lives on the central N.S.W. coast. She has also found that *C. quadrifidus* germinate well in midwinter in her area. We need a member or two from Queensland to see if they are effected by more humidity.

Val Maher has unfortunately lost her prostrate Calothamnus sanguineus (an accident with some dogs), but now has a prostrate *C. quadrifidus* with bronze tipped foliage. This should be an interesting one to get cuttings from when it gets larger.

Talking about cuttings, Val accidentally broke a limb from her *C. homolopholus* so broke it into three pieces & had two grow by just sticking the pieces in the ground next to the parent plant. On the whole the Calothamnus seem to be easy to grow from cuttings, especially from young wood. Rhoda has offered cuttings for anyone interested. She has *C. asper*, *quadrifidus* & *validus*. I have *C. torulosus*. For people sending cuttings the best way is to wrap each species separately in damp newspaper, then in a plastic bag & send either in a jiffy bag or parcel.

Here is our financial situation for this year.

Carried forward	\$13-39	Stationery	\$3-40
Memberships	26-	Postage	5-61
Donations	11-		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	50-39		9-01

Leaving us with a total of \$41-38.

I would like to have a collection of photos of the different Calothamnus. If anyone has a lot they could photograph I could send a suitable film to be used when most of the flowers are out. If you only have a few that could be taken I could send you the price of the photos.

Another thing I would like to add to is our Herbarium that Kaye Bartlett started. We have *C. chrysantherus*, *gilesii*, *homolophyllus*, *pachystachyus*, *pinifolius*, *quadrifidus*, *validus* & *villosus*. So if any-

to add to the collection.

When I was at the Herbarium at Sydney Botanic Gardens I was lucky enough to score a copy of a few pages of a book describing the *Calothamnus* species, so should be able to help with any identifying (I did say should, there's no guarantee!). Samples of the flower, leaves & seed cases would be needed.

Our seed bank has *Calothamnus* ⁱⁱ~~crysantherus~~, *gilesii*, *homolophyllus*, *pinifolius*, *quadrifidus*, *torulosus* var. *leptophila*, *validus* and *villosus*. Let me know if you need any.

During last winter I lost *C. pinifolius*, *quadrifidus*, *homolophyllus* & *villosus*, but a couple of *C. quadrifidus*, as well as *C. gilesii*, *torulosus* & *villosus* which were a bit sheltered have survived & are flowering well even though they are very small. We do get very heavy frosts here, so it looks as though most *Calothamnus* can withstand most frosts even when young, but need to be protected for their first winter in the extremely cold places, especially on the heavier soil types.

Just to recap on the aims of the group; we wish to find out which species of *Calothamnus* will grow in the humid areas of the eastern coast, which species will tolerate frost, (and ways to counteract frost effects), different growth patterns in the eastern states from Western and South Australia, best species to grow in gardens. The second last aim is the reason for wanting photos of both flowers & bushes. I have been told that in the Eastern states the flowers are less conspicuous as they are deeper into the bush than in their native areas. So if I could have as many remarks as possible on this subject I would be grateful. Actually even though the flowers on *Calothamnus torulosus*, *villosus* & *gilesii* & *quadrifidus* are well inside the shrub they are still spectacular in my area.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas break and all the very best for the New Year.

Regards,

Barb