

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
CALYTRIX STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO.13.
JANUARY 1999

Dear members

I did indicate in our last newsletter that we were getting on top of a new computer and program, computer one, Ted nil, our ISSN No went to the place where computers stash files to confuse and confound all human operators

Our efforts to grow Calytrix have been more rewarding this year all the plants in the foam boxes that are elevated off the ground have survived both heavy late frosts and hot conditions i.e. 38 deg.C. as the boxes are against a solid brick wall the air temp. must be much higher than the recorded temperature. We think that one of the problems we have now is the plants need so much care with watering and fibrous roots quickly fill the pots even after potting up. We aim to try plants in larger containers and indeed have already planted a small cutting grown *C. depressa* along with *verticordias* and *leschenaultia* sp. in a ½ tub, these all seem to require the same conditions and we hope the floral display will match the effort required to set it up.

A visit from Gwyn & Geoff Clarke. in Spring resulted in Gwyn taking cuttings from most of our Calytrix these were growing well and had semi hard growth just about right for rooting. Most of the cuttings rooted, some very early, Gwyn & Geoff are very experienced propagators and have a heated bed and misting system with good air movement around the cuttings, They also root cuttings in a small poly house.

We have now changed over to a new cutting mix. Very simple 50% vermiculite 50% perlite. This mixture is sterile fresh from packing. Do not pack this mix tightly around cuttings to allow air to get to roots while rooting takes place, Cynthia is very pleased with early results and is putting in more Calytrix Sp. to try and get them rooted before Autumn. Any attempt to grow plants in this mix must include trace elements and plant nutrients.

While Cynthia responds to all letters received A.S.A.P. there is information contained that is of interest to all which I have extracted and acknowledge members as follows

Lloyd & Lorraine Carman 15/7/98 S.A.

Grown mostly in raised beds of sandy soil

Calytrix aurea fld.well for 2yrs then died back to single growth (cuttings taken and rooted)

C. alpestris pink buds white fls. Pruned by 1/3 after flowering mid July This plant receives extra overflow water Now in bud 2m.x 2m.

C. tetragona :- pale pink fls. lean and upright form to about 1.m.

C. tetragona (syn. *sullivanii*) :- white fls. lean and upright form to about 2.m.

C. fraseri :- about 2yrs.old & 30 cms. high

Their experience is that *Calytrix* like a sandy well drained soil, staking may be required in areas exposed to strong winds. They live on the slopes of the Mount Lofty Range with strong and variable winds

Norma Boschen 14/12/98 Vic.

Norma details the loss of her *Calytrix fraseri* on repotting. Its my belief that *C. fraseri* can be very temperamental subject to rot around the main stem. We do not find cuttings easy either however when it flowers that's a different story altogether.

Esma & Alf Salkin 25\6\98 & 10\12\98 Vic.

Cuttings *Calytrix tetragona* (syn.*sullivanii*)

C. tetragona (syn. *sullivanii*) prostrate

C. angulata

C. glaberrima

The above Esma has grown from cuttings with ease

C. leschenaultii

C. harvestiana

These two are proving to be a little more difficult. However I'm sure Esma will get on top of these more reluctant to root species.

Esma also has cutting grown seedlings of *C. leschenaultii* & *C. fraseri*

A detailed account of Esma's seed growing experiments was included. The one sure thing is at the moment no one will get rich growing *Calytrix* from seed. We will include a full account in our next newsletter.

Mabs Maddern. S.A.

Mabs tried seed between rounds of smoke impregnated paper. This resulted in seed rotting. However seeds planted in a sand and peat mix may be doing better, these were treated with smoke water obtained from W.A. placed against a southern iron fence, made bird proof and neglected. Mabs is trying to get seed from other sources.

Calytrix as bonsai

On our June meeting Guest Speaker Roger Hnatiuk former Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens gave a talk on Australian plants to be used in bonsai brought in many fine and old examples. He mentioned Calytrix tetragona, Cynthia & I got quite excited having enough trouble to keep plants alive never mind bonsai them. Roger had not brought this particular plant in for viewing. He did however bring it in some two meetings later with a height of 20cm. and a canopy of 30cm. not a leaf or stem could be seen for the star like white flowers, the calyx heads after flowering is finished. would also provide just as interesting a display Just the end result of a decade and half of patient cultivation.

Financial Report.

INCOME

	\$ - c.
Balance in Bank 17/11/1997	413 - 15 .
Subscriptions	<u>110 - 00</u>
TOTAL	523 - 15

EXPENDITURE

	\$ - c.
Postage	37 - 45
Stationary	4 - 45
Seed	49 - 50
G.ST	- 64
Petty Cash (in hand)	<u>9 - 64</u>
TOTAL	101 - 64

CASH IN BANK at 18/1/1999 \$421 - 47

The dreaded red spot indicates an unfinacial position hoping to hear from you

Our thanks to all who have rejoined us in our in our hopes to lean more about Calytrix..

Current Members List.

BEASLEY T.& C. 39 Simpson St. Watson. A.C.T. 2602
BOSCHEN Norma. R.M.B. 1415. Warracknabeal. 3393.
CARMAN Lloyd & Lorraine. 6 Dale Rd. Edenhills. S.A. 5050.
GLAZEBROOK Jan. 87 Daintree Drive. Logan Village. QLD. 4207.
MADDERN Mabs & John. 28 North Parade. Strathalbyn. S.A. 5255.
McDOWALL Max & Regina. 10 Russell St. Bulleen. Vic. 3105.
RATHIE Dr. Kerry. 5 Salston Rd. Greenbank. QLD. 4124.
SALKIN Esmā & Alf. 38 Pinewood Drive. Mt. Waverley. VIC. 3149.
WALKER Jo. 29 Poppet Rd. Wamboin. N. S. W. 2620.
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S.G.A.P. Canberra. P.O. Box 217. Civic Square. A.C.T. 2608.
S.G.A.P. Geelong. P.O. Box 50. Corio. VIC. 3214.
S.G.A.P. Maroondah. P.O. Box 33. Ringwood. VIC. 3134.
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S.G.A.P. QLD. Region. Inc. P.O. Box 41. Lawnton. QLD. 4501.
S.G.A.P. TAS. Region Inc. G.P.O. Box 1353P. Hobart. TAS. 7001.
S.G.A.P. VIC. Inc. 11, Davies St. Baccus Marsh. VIC. 3340.
S.G.A.P. S.A. Region. Inc. P.O. Box 304, Unley. S.A. 5061.
WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF W.A. Inc. P.O. Box 64. Nedlands. W.A. 6009.
A.S.G.A.P. P.O. Box 151. Bulleen. VIC. 3105.

Seeds are available as before plus *C. carinata*. viability is poor, however a few seedlings have resulted, growing on has also not been a huge success.

This year we are trying REGEN2000 SMOKEMASTER. Ours came from The Eremophila Study Group Weekend EX. Society for Growing Australian Plants S.A. Region. More Details after trial. The seed goes in during next week.

Lots of luck growing plants. Love to hear from you.

Cynthia & Ted.