

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
 CALYTRIX STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 15.
 FEBRUARY 2000

Hello Members,

Apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter. Sadly this will be the last newsletter we will be producing for this Group. We have tendered our resignation to the Study Group Coordinator as through ongoing health problems we have been advised to lighten some of our commitments. We will still maintain our interest in the genus but find great difficulty in locating a reliable source of material of the genus differing from our own plants.

Two letters were received from members Lloyd & Lorraine Carman giving results from seed which is as follows.

All seed were treated with smoked water. All germinated to a limited degree except *C. aurea*. Best results were from *C. leschenaultii* (there were more seeds.) of which 3 germinated the others 1 each. A month after potting them on only 2 *C. leschenaultii* survived & finally 1 managed to be planted out into the garden.

Lloyd commented that he thought this was a learning experience and saw a need to address :- (1) increased drainage, (2) reduce organic content, (3) try and keep potted plants on the dry side.

Lloyd requested more seed and cuttings if available and we sent a parcel of seed and cuttings plus two very small bare rooted plants. To keep the roots cool and damp we packed the roots of these two plants into small self seal plastic bags along with a medium of 50% vermiculite 50% perlite this medium was just damp not wet resulting in Lloyd & Lorraine's letter below

Letter dated 23/11/99

Extra seed sent had not yet germinated, The cutting material and rooted plants had a mixed journey the rooted *C. aurea* was still in its self sealed bag planted in the cold frame and doing well. The *C. variabilis* self sealing bag was open on arrival, the plant had dehydrated, as were the cutting material of *C. tetragona* Gippsland form, Lloyd states that these will most likely fail. The three other species :- *C. depressa* (violet form), *C. "Gold Starflower"* & *C. tetragona "Samaria Wells"* form were O.K. and still looking healthy in the cold frame (*"Gold Starflower"* this is most likely *C. depressa* yellow form - Ed.)

A plant of *C. smeatoniana* planted in spring had rotted and died with the spring rain (We also have lost this *Calytrix* through too much water Ed.) Cuttings were taken of *C. fraseri*, *C. glaberrima* and *C. involucrata* after potting up, the rooted cutting were given two applications of a mix of Seasol and Nitrosol with excellent results

The best *C. smeatoniana* we have seen was in the Wimmera Vic. growing on a huge bed of sand as a rounded low plant, a mass of flowers The plant had some shelter from strong winds but exposed enough to get a touch of frost. The sand would be poor in nutrients however the owner of this sand bed was a very experienced grower indeed and would be fully aware of any special needs of plants, The bed had a large number of difficult to grow species of Australian natives

We also have a yellow flowering *C. angulata* this one for us flowers the latest of all our *Calytrix* late Spring to early summer

Our results this spring and summer have been mixed , We have only just started to take an interest in plants again. However, one interesting event was an attempt by a mouse to set up home in one of our polystyrene boxes, Cynthia had heard noises from one of the boxes which on investigation revealed a nearly completed nest, this mouse had good taste . The nest comprised of mainly Calytrix aurea, plus material of other plants in the vicinity. The C. aurea had been almost completely denuded of vegetation & looked almost beyond redemption. It may be that the mouse did us a good turn as it is now supporting 15 really robust shoots. This suggests to me that the old wood in the centre of a plant may have more viability than we realise.

At one of S.G.A.P. Canberra's propagating bees in Dec. one of the plants that I propagated was C. fraseri, this plant had excellent growth the cuttings however were very small the small side shoots 3 to 4 mm looked too good to discard so I resolved to try them at home. Gwyn Clarke informed me earlier this year that the cuttings in her care had rooted so on examining the tiny cuttings we had I was pleasantly surprised to see that at least 50% had made good roots 2-3 cm. long. We used no heat just a polystyrene box covered with glass & shade cloth. These have been potted up and whilst I expect some losses just maybe we will rear one or two to maturity.

MEMBERSHIP LIST.

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 Complimentary Lyn Craven. & Kings Park Botanical Gardens.

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

	\$ - c
Balance in Bank @ 18/1/1999	421 . 47
Subscriptions	135 . 00
Petty Cash Bght. Fwd.	<u>9 . 64</u>
TOTAL	<u>566 . 11</u>

EXPENDITURE

	\$ - c
Postage	28 . 85
G.F. Tax	<u>. 01</u>
TOTAL	<u>28 . 86</u>

	\$ - c
CASH IN BANK @ 15/1/2000	530 . 94
Petty Cash	<u>6 . 31</u>
TOTAL	<u>537 . 25</u>