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**ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
CALYTRIX STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO.16
DECEMBER 2002**

Members this is the first newsletter as the leader of the Calytrix Study Group, but not my first newsletter as a Study Group Leader. From 1984 to 1989, I was the Study Group Leader of the Melaleuca and Allied Genera Study Group and also the Secretary of the Newcastle Group of the SGAP. A new career began at the start of 1990, which left me with little time to devote to active involvement in our native plants.

Fortunately career pressures are now much reduced and I have time to more actively devote to the study of our native plants.

I have received encouraging support from members of the Group, including Cythia and Ted Beasley, the immediate past Study Group Leaders, whom we should thank for their leadership during the term as Leaders and their continuing enthusiasm.

I have received a comprehensive set of notes and advice from Jan Sked, Study Group Co-ordinator, which proved extremely useful and a great advance on material supplied when I first became a Study Group Leader in 1984.

I have also received a box containing all past Study Group Leader material, including correspondence, slides, past newsletters etc.

I believe we are now in a position to determine which direction the Group should take, I have listed below a number of areas that I believe we should look at, I encourage input from all members.

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Propagation

Seeds, in the past members have received seed from the Group and trialled different methods of propagation of seeds, should we continue this approach? Could we also establish contacts with both Government and commercial researchers as to both seedling trials and other methods of propagation? Should we look at the degree of variability occurring in seedlings?

Cuttings, I have noticed in both newsletters and correspondence that members have exchanged cutting material before, should we encourage this? Should we only propagate cuttings of a known provenance?

Grafting, a little has been done in these areas, given the success and work done by members of the Grevillea Study Group as an example, should we try to concentrate on this area?

Cultivation

Climate, Soil, Drainage, Pests, Diseases, past members have commented on success in this area, should we adopt a more comprehensive approach with proformas supplied by the Study Group Leader?

Preservation

Botany, I intend to provide a copy of the most up to date botanical key for all members. Should we also consider field trips to identify the range and wild sources of species and forms?

Living Collections, should we collate a list of species maintained in Botanic Gardens and Arboreta? Should we assist in the maintenance of these collections?

Promotion

Nursery Trade, should we identify species, forms and hybrids currently available? Should we promote selected species or forms? Should we be involved in the active research and trial of selected hybrids, with the aim of commercial success?

Education, should we provide a speakers to SGAP and other groups to promote our Genus?

I hope I have provoked some thought and I look forward to your feedback

Financial Report

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| Cheque from ASGAP, funds held in trust for Study Group | \$529.51 |
| Subscriptions to date | \$20.00 |
| Balance | \$549.51 |