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### musings of a Newsletter Editor

The day the current edition of the Newsletter goes in the mail I heave a sigh of relief - then, the following day, wonder if they have arrived at Members' homes.

Do they get read at once, or put in the pile "to be read later".... hopefully, some day.

Two days later I look at the calendar and think "How many days until the next issue?! What letters or articles will come in? Who should I contact for an article? Will any member contribute?"

Surprise and delight when I go to the mail box and open a letter from a grower - and a picture too. Yes - Newsletter # 27 is on the way.

From **Christine Proud** of Nerang in Queensland, a photo of two of her plants in pots - a healthy, happy-looking *Ficus congesta*, approximately 4-5 years old in a large earthenware pot. Christine says "I grow my *Ficus congesta* in filtered sunlight; it is pruned twice a year if it becomes 'leggy'. I fertilise about every 3 months using Dynamic Lifter and some slow release fertiliser. At pruning time I usually 'lift' the plant and put in some more potting mix as the soil level subsides."

Christine also grows *Angiopteris evecta*, now two years old in a small pot. She alternates these pots indoors, rotating them each week - one week in, one week out.

Do any of you have pots you use indoors on a regular basis? How often do you rotate them? Where do you put them indoors? Tell us all about your plants.

### Growing orchids in containers

I wrote earlier in the year to Don and Pauline Lawrie, Leaders of the Indigenous Orchid Study Group and sent them a Newsletter #26 with Wayne Turville's article. Don has kindly sent us the following - it's something very different for us in the south.

I also quote from his letter..

"The *Sarcochilus* orchids are certainly very attractive. Pauline has had a *S.hartmanii* for some time (native to S.E. Qld/NSW) and it flowered well, gorgeous little flowers that remind me a bit of Native Violets. It succumbed to an inefficient watering regime when we had a month camping in the N.T. last year; when plants are grown out of their natural climate they don't survive as well as the locals do. Some *Sarcochilus* species grow on the Atherton Tablelands. Our scouts told us of a colony of *S.ceciliae* that had been totally destroyed by collectors some years ago and had regenerated. It was in flower in early January, growing on a rockface in an unused railway cutting in very harsh, dry country conditions.

"The article by Wayne Turville in Newsletter #26 was very good; I would think that anyone following his advice should be at least reasonably successful. Orchids are just plants, and any conscientious gardener can grow the orchids that are native to their own area and climate. **Growing plants of any sort that are foreign to one's climate will always require special conditions.** It would be silly of us to try to grow the ephemeral terrestrial orchids here where we had 300 inches (over 7½ metres) of rain last year. Even if that was a record, it is more fun to go to the Tablelands and admire them *in situ*, then come home and grow our *Dendrobium*-type epiphytes which require no effort at all here".

### ***Spathoglottis plicata* in a pot, by Don Lawrie**

"I've selected *Spathoglottis plicata* for a number of reasons: first, there is a very good photo of the plant en masse on page 25 of *Australian Plants*, December 2000. The article mentions Darwin Plant Wholesalers, and so these may be available throughout Australia. Secondly, *S. plicata* is - (dare I say it?), easy to grow. Certainly, it is easy to grow in the tropics. It is widely used as a garden plant in home gardens and in Council street plantings in the Cairns and Atherton Tablelands areas. The Tablelands can get cold - for the tropics - which leads me to think that this plant should do well 'down south' where they can be protected from the extremes of winter.

I grow *Spathoglottis plicata* in both gardens and pots. The plant is indigenous to the northern part of Cape York Peninsula, and is also found from northern India to southern China, Malaysia, New Guinea and Pacific islands. It is said to grow naturally on swamp margins but, not having seen it growing in nature I cannot vouch for this. A close relative, *Spathoglottis paulinae* grows naturally along creek margins in areas of wet season inundation, but needs plenty of sunshine. *S. plicata* in the garden does very well in any garden soil, and likes plenty of water.

In the pot: I dig the biggest specimens from the garden, at any time - but early in the year works well. They divide very easily by twisting between the hands; I always reckon that the plant tells my hands where to divide it - you just move it around a bit and it falls into the right number of bits. Too small a division will survive but will take years to flower. If you keep at least two or three mature pseudobulbs (stems) to each division you'll be rewarded with flower spikes in about two months if the weather is warm enough.

The plant will continue to grow in the pot and will need to be divided again, as Wayne Turville says in Newsletter #26 - when the plant is ready to split the plastic pot. I use 125mm so-called Orchid Pots, which have better drainage than ordinary pots and are squatter in shape, but I've seen nurseries using tall narrow pots that I assume are meant to push the single stem therein to mature and flower.

Standard commercial potting mix is quite suitable for this orchid; it's probably better to just regard it as another potted plant and forget the hype and mystique that is sometimes associated with orchids. A loose, well-draining mix is best, with daily watering unless the weather is cold. (It rarely is here!) I fertilise my pots with some Organic Life pellets which break down over a period of time and supply all that this plant needs. Any similar fertiliser will do, but if using such things as Aquasol, Thrive or Nitrosol, don't use them at more than half the stated strength. And also, don't use them when the plant is coming into flower since they are high in nitrogen. Campbell's "A" at the recommended strength is good to use as a foliar/stem spray weekly when the stems look mature, to help initiate flowering.

The usual flower color is a bright purple. Each stem produces about half a dozen flowers at a time, with more on the way so that a good plant will remain in flower for a couple of months. Variations in color range from pale pink and a very pale white form which prefers to grow in the garden but can be grown successfully in a much larger pot. This also applies to the other species, *Spathoglottis paulinae* which is not nearly as attractive as *s. plicata*.

**Pests:** practically none, except for the little Black & White Tit butterfly (*Hypolycaena danis*). This pretty little insect is only found in the tropics, and plays havoc with my Spaths. It lays its eggs on the flower buds and the pin head size dots quickly become voracious monsters the same size and color as the bud. They can destroy an inflorescence in an afternoon, so a constant watch has to be kept for them when the plant is flowering, and the eggs picked off before they hatch.

*Spathoglottis* like plenty of light to flower, and are pretty tough. They are a delight in the garden en masse, but in a pot can be left indoors for over a week to delight the eye and brighten the room.

Pauline is the main orchid grower here and I just grow a few easy ones for fun. A friend is a market stallholder and stocks a few flowering Spath pots of mine to give the stall some color and I get some pocket money to buy flash new pots and a ute-load of potting mix occasionally, a good arrangement.

*Are Members growing other orchids in pots? Do tell us about them. - ed.*



### **Late summer in New Zealand**

On a recent visit to South Island I was delighted to see a growing use of indigenous flora in gardens, amenity planting in community parks, buildings and also in pots and containers. One recent garden magazine had an excellent article with good illustrations using NZ flora - great to see and read about.

One particularly striking plant was the red Cordyline in a large blue ceramic pot. *Astelja chaitmica* - Silver Spear, is a big, bold plant with silvery leaves; *Astelja banksii* remains compact longer, making an ideal pot plant. They enjoy being pot-bound and are happy in sun or shade in an open potting mix.

*Pachystegia insignis* (Marlborough rock daisy) with handsome silver foliage and large white daisy-like flowers, blooms from December onwards and was seen in containers and open gardens in several places. These plants need very little food and prefer to be starved.

Another tough plant for sunny areas in a large container is *Coprosma* 'Karo Red'. This was used with *Scleranthos biflorus* (yes, the same lovely green cushion plant as ours). The colors looked good - copper red and green together. The bronze tussock grasses are a delight but seen so rarely in the wild nowadays. I saw them being sold in nurseries and at a Saturday market in Nelson (north of South Island) where I chatted with the stallholder who was delighted that New Zealanders are beginning to realise that some of their native flora make excellent plants to grow in a private garden. I was impressed with the wide range of Hebes and their lovely colours of white, pink, mauve and deep bluey-

purple - not just the rather ordinary plants we mostly see here. They make excellent plants for coastal gardens, but should be pruned regularly to keep the bushes neat and compact.

I was fascinated by the plant *Sophara prostrata*, 'Dwarf Kowhai'; this plant has an appealing, naturally-twisted shape with small leaves making it an excellent plant for bonsai. A recent visiting expert demonstrating his art in bonsai from Asia, fell in love with it.

An attractive plant for a pot or hanging basket is *Pratia angulata*, trailing out of the container with small white flowers for months on end. (Pretty pink buds, too.)

John and I did enjoy some magnificent New Zealand gardens and came home impressed with their flair for design, use of plants (from all over), and herbaceous borders which reminded us of our childhood. Quite the favourite garden was a new house built on the Kenepuru Sound, overlooking the water with natural bush surrounding the house, a large decked area facing north catching lots of sun and full of colourful pots made by the owner - herself a well-known potter in New Zealand.

### Pat's Pots

After a busy time in February and March sorting out pots; deciding what to take, throw out and give away, both the plants and the Webbs are settling into their new environment - a challenge for us all!!

I gave away several *Dendrobiums*; and found a happy and welcoming home for my *Allocasuarina crassa*. The area we have here in Berwick is very small and many of the pots are now growing along the south wall of the unit.

By the time this Newsletter comes to you it will be winter. Here we are enjoying a lovely autumn; not enough rain but sunny days, but being closer to the hills we are enjoying a *different* autumn this year. To put you in the picture, I'm putting in an article John wrote for the Garden Design Study Group about our new garden - this provides the setting for my container plants quite clearly.

My hollowed-out logs with various *Chrysacephalum spp.* were left behind at Balnarring, but quite a number of pots were transferred here to our small garden, including various *Brachyscome*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Hibbertia dentata* and a *Blechnum nudum*. What to grow in our patio is taking me a while to ponder whilst I watch the winter sun and 'feel' the microclimate. It is mid-May and already we have had two nights down to 2°. I feel it will be colder here in winter and hotter in summer than at Balnarring. We are 20km inland from Western Port and in the high part of the village. (We can see Arthur's Seat on the Mornington Peninsula - 50 km away - from our front door). I am quite sure this is not the spot for *Dendrobiums* but I have only kept two plants. They are very well cared for at the moment, being brought into our porch each night - but I think that after the spring they will have to go.

On the patio I have several ferns; and to give a different texture I have a *Cordyline stricta* which is waiting for a larger, more attractive, pot. (It came from the garden in Balnarring where it was growing two to three metres high).

In containers on the western bed I have sown three pots with *Rhodanthe manglesii* for spring colour, so far the seedlings are coming along well. By summer, the plants in this bed will all be growing well (I hope). It will then be far too hot a spot for pots/containers, but I would like a small sculpture so I shall be keeping my eyes open at the local markets.

I am enjoying my few bonsai and they are currently outside the study window in the patio. I have bought an *Acmena smithii* var. *minor* (Lilli pilli) with a view to putting it into an attractive container or maybe another bonsai. I am aiming/planning to have a *Backhousia citriodora* in a container, but because it is liable to frost damage when young, I may have to wait for the village greenhouse to be replaced - it was burned down by vandals the week before we moved in. Much disappointment as John and I were hoping to 'winter' a few plants there, including my 'special' *Lobelia membranacea* and to try a few orchids - maybe next year, we hope! I'll keep you posted.



### snippets from around the country



(April 2) Barbara Melville went with her husband to West Australia last year (I think it was during the Olympic Games). Her letter is full of her travels to various spots, enjoying the flora of this State. It brought back happy memories of our holiday there some years ago.

Quoting Barbara "One highlight for us was the drive out of Toodyay to Bindoon - the numerous *Lechenaultia biloba* along the roadside - there were lots of other flowers too, but oh! the *Lechenaultias*!"

"Another highlight of the trip was our stay at Hi Valley Farm near Budgingarra. Joy and Don Williams run a sheep/wheat farm, but Don was one of the enlightened when he acquired the 5000 acres 40 years ago. He did not clear the land totally; they have their own natural bush containing thousands of special plants, many rare and endangered. They work closely with CALM". (WA Dept of Conservation and Land Management).

Back to Barbara's containers.....

"So with all our holidays you can imagine the state of my container plants. My biggest disappointment was the *Tetrateca* which did not appreciate that three young people each thought another was looking after the watering! More recently, my *Lechenaultia formosa* did not cope with all the rain and heat a few weeks ago.

"My success at the moment is a *Callitris oblonga*; it has been growing slowly for about four years in a 30cm pot. On our return from holidays it had had an unexpected growth spurt - it has actually sent roots into the ground. Maybe its telling me it needs more feeding or a bigger pot??"

What did you do Barbara? Did you prune it's roots and repot it, or are you leaving it in situ? Do let us know - ed.

## from Toowoomba SGAP Group newsletter, March 2001

I read an article by Dawn James in which she says: "Do you live on a town block and aspire to growing rainforest plants? Do you wish to grow *Boronias*, *Blandfordia*, *Pimeleas* and not had success? It could very well be that pots are the answer to your problems. I have run very short of space and some lovely species are thriving on my front patio".

Dawn is having great success with *Promnopytis ladei*, a slow grower; *Syzygium australe* (dwarf form); *Graptophyllum spinigerum*, *Brachychiton acerifolius*, *Curcuma australasica*, (when the pot bulges - pot on!); *Phyllanthus brassii*, and *Harpullia* sp. Quite a selection, and many of these species new to me.

Dawn continues "They adorn my front patio, my back patio and any shady corner near the house. All these plants have saucers to suit their size and these are kept full for capillary watering. I allow the saucers to dry out once a week. I have used this method on a trial basis and am more than pleased".

She concludes her article "Never be disappointed, try again. Even if it is a potted garden".

*I am always delighted to see potted gardens, or groups of pots on patios and verandahs. In New Zealand in March I was impressed with their artistic use of potted plants and many more indigenous species than I had seen on previous visits.*

*I think the ASGAP Biennial Conference will inspire us all with the use and growing of Australian plants in pots/containers. Many Canberra Region members are growing plants in pots to loan to the Society in the many Conference displays. They will look terrific in late September/October - I look forward to seeing it all. -ed.*

### **New breed Lechenaultias** (from W.S.W.A. Newsletter, Feb. 2001 by Hazel Dempster, Pots Plants Group, CAPS)

Wildflower Society members have had an active role with the progress and development of the new breed of Lechenaultias recently released by Kings Park as a part of the *Centre for Australian Plants* programme. The members' expertise and advice has been called upon while acting on the committee of the Pot Plant Group.

Wildflower purists may not entirely agree with the hybridising and manipulation of our native plants to produce new varieties, but horticulturally-minded members can only be in awe of the possibilities.

When confronted by the rainbow of colors of all the new Lechenaultia releases presented at the launch in December, members were pleased by the results.

The plants are available in garden centres and are presented in colourful pots and labels under the following names:

- "Kings Park Emily" - masses of tubular flame red flowers to 15cm
- "Kings Park Lola" - large crimson flowers to 30cm
- "Kings Park Hot Lips" - white with red tipped tubular flowers to 15cm
- "Kings Park Spirit of Suffrage" - rich purple flowers to 40cm

They create colourful displays as bedding plants, especially in raised gardens, containers and hanging baskets in sunny to lightly shaded areas. They are best treated as biennials with a light pruning after flowering and slow-release fertiliser twice a year with regular water as required.

This release is the first of an innovative breeding programme which is in place, and we can be guaranteed that over the next few years gardeners can expect many more exciting new releases from the *Centre for Australian Plants*.

### **Plants in Pots Interest Group "Fertiliser Project"**

I have recently (April) heard from Lorna George in Glenning Valley, NSW. Many of you know that Lorna has been Co-ordinator of this Group - a part of the Central Coast District Group which Lorna tells me has grown a lot in the last few years.

The Interest Group met in March to reassess and discuss their activities. They are a small group which meets three times a year in various members' homes, looking at various issues they encounter in growing Australian plants in containers, sharing both their success and failures.

This year the Group is embarking on a project to test plant responses to different fertilisers. Members have been given four 15cm pots with the same commercial brand of potting mix, but unknown to members (except Bruce Wallace). Each member has been given a particular fertiliser (commonly available) and will use that fertiliser only, according to the maker's instructions. Names of the fertilisers were put in separate envelopes and participants chose an envelope - no chance to choose one's favourite brand! And each member has planted four *Correa* "Dusky Bells" plants. Lorna sent me a copy of the Record sheet they are using. I'm sure it will be an interesting exercise. Good luck to them all!

On behalf of our Study Group I have forwarded \$60 to the Interest Group towards their expenses. I look forward to sharing with you the results of this project in future Newsletters.

A "thank you" to Lorna who has been so supportive in my role of leader, since I took it up in 1998. I always look forward to her letter telling me about their Group. I enjoyed visiting Central Coast last June (2000), when all members made me most welcome (see Newsletter 24 July 2000).

## Shrinking the Garden (John has written this article for the Garden Design Study Group)

"Garden design" has taken on a whole new meaning for us - our home is in a Retirement Village with established gardens throughout its 18 acres - our area of garden is measured in square feet rather than the one third of an acre we had at Balnarring.

Fortunately our unit had been vacant for six months when we moved in - the previous resident had been enthusiastic but over time, our area had been quite neglected. So we didn't feel guilty about making fairly radical changes. A number of exotic plants were quickly removed - though we have left a few which will "make a statement" while our new plantings establish.

The front of our unit faces west - beautiful now in the autumn (the sunsets have been magnificent), but no doubt, very hot in summer. We have a paved patio also facing west, but which will get winter sun when the deciduous trees next door shed their leaves. It is screened by a six foot fence of spaced vertical timber which gives us filtered light. It will be quite shaded in summer.

There are various pieces of "common land" - that is, the responsibility of the village gardener. But with 230 units in the Village he is quite happy if we do a little judicious work.

Our main objective in planting our front flower bed was to give a little height - say a metre - to screen the garage and carpark which are set about a metre below the level of our unit. We don't want to obstruct any of the sky. The main plant in this area is a *Grevillea* "Moonlight" as a focus. Lower are *G. aquifolium* and *G. gaudichaudi*. Between these we have planted a variety of *Brachyscomes*, *Bracteantha viscosa*, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* and *C. apiculatum*. At the moment, a number of Pat's container plants fill the gaps - *Lechanaulitia biloba*, a dwarf *Adenanthos* and three pots of *Rhodanthe manglesii* seedlings.

The long narrow bed at the side of the unit is dominated by a *Camelia* and an unidentified conifer (shock, horror!). Pat has planted a number of ferns and *correas*, *Goodenia ovata*, *Epacris gunnii*, *E. longiflora* and *Brachyscome segmentosa*. The conifer will disappear in the spring to be replaced by a *Correa bauerlenii* (Chef's Hat). Our Huon pine, still in a pot after 13 years (not the same pot) is also parked in this bed and is looking very happy in this position.

In the "common garden" areas near us, we are gradually introducing Australian native plants - so far *Brachysema lanceolata*, *Rhagodia nutans*, *Thryptomene calycina*, *Grevillea lanigera* (prostrate), and a few *Anigozanthus*, *Dianella*, *Hibbertia* and *Scaevola*. Our pergola supports a *Hardenbergia violacea* and we have designs on a spot for another *Hardenbergia* or climbing *Kennedia*. As you can see, overplanting is the name of the game for the Webbs!

There seems to be only one other Australian garden in the Village, though there are some *Grevilleas*, *Correas*, *Brachyscomes*, *Alyogyne*s as well as *Eucalypts* and *Allocasuarinas* scattered around the perimeter and along some of the pathways. We are looking forward to seeing our little patch developing.

PS We are helping another new resident with her rather overgrown area and have dared to suggest some Aussies to fill the gaps!

### welcome to Tam Kendall, Mitcham, Victoria

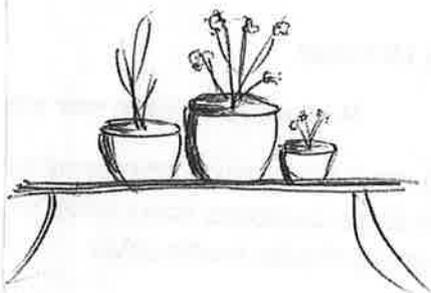
Tam writes - "My main interests centre around *Eucalyptus* species and I am attempting to grow a variety of arid mallee types here in Melbourne. They are all seedlings of a few centimetres high and this will be their first winter...Fingers crossed. My idea is to grow small-form *Eucalyptus* for tubs and maybe bonsai... Fools rush in, etc!

Aside from the *Eucalyptus* I have a few plants in pots, *Lechanaulitia formosa* (red), *Eremophila nivea*, *Stylidium* sp., *Brachyscome graminea*, *Isopogon formosa*, *Hoya australis* and some palms whose names escape me and may not be Australian, along with a couple of varieties of bamboo.

I've tried to grow a number of plants in pots over the years but I tend to kill them with over/under watering and lack of other care.

Also I have not been that good with the aesthetics and tended to have a jumble of pots of different sizes and materials lined up in a row. Now that I have developed more of an interest in growing plants in pots, for reasons such as hardiness, maintenance and "specimen" plants - such as the *Lechanaulitia formosa* (red) and *Eremophila nivea* - I am paying more attention to combinations and arrangement."

The latter part of Tam's letter raises an interesting topic, arrangements of containers - lets have some views of members about this. She grows her pots in semi-shade; some pots on a balcony getting more light - ed.





## TWO POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:



### letter from Geoff. Simmons, Eimbah, Queensland

There is no difficulty in accepting that species of the Australian flora are desirable subjects for growing in containers. But how easy is it to team these plants with pots that also have an Australian motif? Garden centres, nurseries and businesses selling only garden pots are packed with terracotta pots and ornaments especially from Asian countries. Also, it is not unusual to see such items that originate from Mexico and South American countries.

But are there pots with Australian themes? Antique shops may have objects of glass or pottery with kangaroos, emus or Australian flowers painted, etched or embossed on them. In the field of containers, does anyone think that koalas or gumnuts are desirable to show off an Australian plant? Perhaps there are Australian potteries that produced such containers in the past or some that are manufacturing them at the present time. If so, their output is not very apparent in retail outlets. Perhaps members could be on the lookout for containers featuring an Australian theme and report the fact, to give more awareness to this aspect of selecting a container.

What matching should there be between the Australian plant and its container?

### Fashion statement - White on White, plus Green

Whilst doing a little window-shopping in Armadale, Victoria, recently, we noticed the rear courtyard of a small clothing boutique that is a fashion statement in its own right.

The fence has been painted white; there are a couple of white planter boxes and a number of 30cm pots, all sparkling white and grouped in threes.

Along the fence, a lemon tree has been espaliered, looking very happy and healthy, its glossy leaves contrasting with the white background. The pots and planter boxes have mostly foliage plants, but the few flowers in bloom are white cyclamens. The overall effect is spectacular - and ideal for a small courtyard space.

If one wanted to use Australian plants, there are a number that would look well in this situation, for instance; *Correa bauerlenii* (Chef's hat correa), *Correa reflexa* (yellow/green form), *Backhousia citriodora* for the planters, or *Alyogyne hugelii* (white form).

I spent the evening thinking about it - reminding me of the lovely courtyards of Cordoba in Spain.

Those of you with balcony or courtyard gardens, what plants would you use?

### Kuranga Bush Telegraph newsletter.

I have just received the June edition - its always fun to read and of course to plan our next trip to the Nursery - known to all Melbourne native plant growers as well as many country visitors. (Do call in and visit if you are near Melbourne. It is in Ringwood, about 25km from the city.) There are always some interesting plants, ideas for display and some great containers and garden ornaments.

As I wrote about orchids earlier in this Newsletter, I was interested to see:

#### "Critters from Mars landing soon"

"If all goes to plan, expect to find some delightful Greenhood orchids available for sale now. These are delicate ground-dwelling (terrestrial) orchids and may be grown in the ground or a container."

Kuranga produce a free pamphlet on successful cultivation of their 'little green men' - I shall be visiting quite soon.

Another interesting paragraph was on *Cryptandra amara* - "we display it floating in a shallow container of water and the delicate wiry foliage with tiny white, rounded buds is just glorious; interspersed with floating *Hardenbergia comptoniana* with its deep bluish flowers it looks particularly striking". The dwarf form is apparently an excellent plant for a hanging basket or container plant having a neat mounding habit of growth.

Kuranga Newsletter continues "We've grown it in a wide, shallow container with the more upright form of *C. amara* and the effect is breathtaking. The little, white pin-head sized buds are splendid and are held on the plant for some time. Once these open a second display of small tubular bells results".

According to Elliot & Jones, only a few of the approximately 40 species of *Cryptandra* are cultivated to any extent, *C. amara* being the most common. Volume 3, page 120 mentions 3 variants. This plant is found in the wild in all states except West Australia.

They do like well-drained potting mix and show a preference for partial sun locations

**STOP PRESS: The Greenhood orchids have now landed at Kuranga.**



**from *The Weekend Australian***

In the Weekend Australian there is a regular small paragraph headed "BALCONY" - tips for apartment dwellers. Rarely do I see an Aussie plant mentioned but on a recent occasion I was delighted to note "*Something different but incredibly effective for sunny balconies are Kangaroo Paws*". They recommend the "Bush Gems", being compact, drought hardy and with a long flowering period in a wide variety of colors. "*When the pot becomes crowded, divide the plants by cutting through the clumps. Repot half and give the rest away*".

This reminded me of a magnificent tub (half wine cask) I saw a couple of years ago on a friend's patio in full sun, a mass of dwarf golden yellow Kangaroo paws - a treat for a hot spot.

**editor's bit**

Winter now, and a very different climate for each of us in this large country. In a letter from Lorna George in early May, she reported 30cm of rain in two weeks on the mid NSW coast. In the whole of May here in Berwick (Victoria) we had 10.5mm. This is our fifth year of lower rainfall than in many parts of the state and water supplies are dwindling. The Cardinia Reservoir near us is scary. Does this stop people hosing down their car? Don't hold your breath. We hope for a wet winter.

I hope to meet some of you in September at the Canberra Biennial Conference of ASGAP. Whenever I read about the plans for the Conference they look most interesting and exciting.

**Time for renewal of subscriptions on July 1st. It remains at \$8.00 (\$10.00 overseas). Do please send yours in soon.**

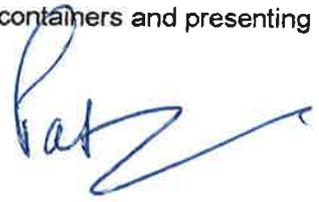
And with your subscription it would be a good time to write a paragraph (or a few) for the next Newsletter. As you can see, this issue is a bit sparse with Members' contributions. I do need to have your ideas, criticisms, discussion etc. - see Geoff Simmons' paragraph on page 6. Geoff is always a great one to get us thinking laterally.

**Some ideas of topics for you to write about:**

- What fertilisers do you use for your containers, and how often do you use them?
- Do you use a watering agent in the summer, like "Wettasoil", "Saturade" or water-holding crystals in your potting mix?
- Tam mentions in her letter on page 5 an interesting topic - arrangement of containers. Lets hear your ideas, what do you do; what do you think looks good?

I am becoming increasingly aware how important it is in a small area to have a few containers and presenting them thoughtfully - more on that subject in November.

Cheers until next time.



**SUBSCRIPTIONS  
now due for year 2001-2002**

*Closing date for contributions to next Newsletter - 30 October*



**for those who have not noticed our new address which appeared in the February Newsletter, it is**

**99 Fiddlers Green  
Gloucester Avenue  
Berwick, Vic., 3806**

*(By the way, I notice that I put the wrong phone number on the previous Newsletter. It is now correct. Sorry - John)*

Australian Plants for Containers Study Group  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
for period 1 July 2000 to 30 April 2001

Held at Australian Unity Building Society at 1 July 2000 **\$458.29**

**RECEIPTS**

Subscriptions	218.00	
Interest	<u>5.36</u>	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>223.36</b>

**EXPENSES**

Printing 3 Newsletters	144.31	
Stamps	38.00	
Phone/fax	6.45	
Office supplies	45.45	
Gov't taxes	0.17	
Contribution towards Plants in Pots Interest Group Fertiliser Project		<u>60.00</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>294.38</b>

Transferred to Advantage Credit Union 12 May 2001 **\$387.25**