

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSMELALEUCA & ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP

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NEWSLETTER NO 13 - NOV 1996

Dear Member,

Well, I have finally got around to putting pen to paper to produce another newsletter. I'll start off by saying that I would like to include the Kunzea genus in the "Allied Genera" part of the Group. More about that later on.

New Cultivars

I recently had the opportunity to browse through a copy of "Plant Variety Journal", the publication which lists all the plants for which Plant Breeders Rights have been granted. Two new Callistemon names caught my eye. The first was Callistemon 'Lemon, Lime and Dry', the second was Callistemon 'Great Balls of Fire'. There was no description of these plants but the imagination could run riot with such names.

Sunraysia Oasis Botanic Gardens

In Sept 1996 I received a letter from the President of the above Gardens Committee inviting this Study Group to participate in a new project which will feature Australia's unique and beautiful arid-zone heath land and salt-adapted plants. A major part of the plants to be grown will be from the 250mm rainfall zone.

The Botanic Gardens site covers 152.3 ha, much of which is covered with a red, sandy loam of a calcereous and high pH nature which combines near perfect drainage with good moisture retention.

I have replied to the President and indicated that I would like to see a Melaleuca etc. section within the gardens but distance precludes me from taking an active physical part in the project. I have offered them seed of any species held in the seed bank.

There may be some Study Group Members within striking distance of Sunraysia Gardens, near Mildura in Victoria, who may be prepared to donate some of their time to propagation, supervision of planting etc. of various species. If so, please let me know so I can advise the Committee accordingly.

Other Allied Genera within Myrtaceae

There is a considerable number of poorly known Genera within the Myrtaceae family and I would like to know if any of these are being grown in gardens.

Some of these are:

Angasomyrtus - One species only in Australia - Native to Norseman, Esperance, Lake King areas of Southern W.A.

Asteromyrtus - Seven species recognised from Northern Australia e.g. Cape York, Gulf Country, Arnhem Land.

Beaufortia - Eighteen species recognised from S.W. W.A.



Eremea - Fifteen species recognised from S.W. W.A.

Homalospermum - One species from S.W. W.A.

Neofabricia - Three species from Cape York. *Neofabricia myrtifolia* is reliable in growth and flower production in Brisbane.

Pericalymma - Probably only two species but more investigation is required. The genus is restricted to Southern W.A.

Phymatocarpus - Two species from S.W. W.A. *Phymatocarpus porphyrocephalus* was recently noticed on sale at a nursery in Toowoomba and it may be O.K. in the drier atmosphere of that area.

Regelia - Six species from S.W. W.A.

Have you tried to grow any of the species from the above-mentioned genera? If so, please let me know regardless of whether they lived or died. If the latter please let me know how long they survived, whether or not they flowered and what size they reached.

Melaleuca, Callistemon and Leptospermum in Toowoomba

The October '96 Grevillea Study Group meeting was held at the home of Rex and Dawn James at Highfields (near Toowoomba). As well as a good display of Grevilleas the garden also grows a number of species from other genera. Prominent were:-

Leptospermum 'Aphrodite' - A small shrub approx 800mm high by 1 metre wide and completely covered with pink-red flowers up to 15mm in diameter.

Melaleuca teretifolia - This is the red flowering form and is approx 2m tall by about 1.5m wide. Large clusters of bright red flowers covered most of the upper half of the plant.

Leptospermum rotundifolium - Two colour forms being grown. One is a pale mauve whilst the other is a much darker mauve. Both plants are approx 2m tall and about 3m wide. The most part of the branches of both plants were covered with flowers.

Melaleuca cordata - This plant has had to battle its way upward through adjacent shrubs. It is about 2m tall but despite the competition it has had to face, it was flowering profusely.

Melaleuca huegelii - The purple-bud form of this is being grown successfully and on the day of visiting was just breaking into flower. The plant is about 1m tall but quite open and spreading to some 2 metres.

Callistemon sp - This plant is some 1.5m high by 2.5m wide. It had almost finished flowering but had obviously carried a large amount of flowers. The colour of the few remaining flowers was a delicate pale mauve and with brush size of 100mm x 40mm.

Callistemon Flowering Times

Over the past 12 months or so I have been keeping a check on what Callistemons are flowering in our garden at various times of the year. The attached table shows the results which indicate that spring is the predominate flowering period for Callistemons.

Feature Garden

The garden featured in this Newsletter belongs to Ralph and Margaret Hickling who are long-time members of S.G.A.P. Margaret is adept at craft work and has incorporated lots of Australiana into her designs. To say that the views of the garden and surrounding countryside, from the verandahs of their new home, are spectacular would be an understatement.

As well as the plants listed in Margaret's report they have also planted a large range of Grevillea spp, many of which are grafted, and which provide a magnificent display during late winter and spring.

The property has a frontage to Mary Smokes Creek which carries a permanent supply. Garden water supplies are now drawn from this source. A small rainforest area has been planted adjacent to the creek but frosts have wreaked havoc with some species.

Thanks to Margaret for her report on the garden which is given below.

"Developing a Garden at 'Mirrabooka'

At the end of August our Leptospermum 'Pacific Beauty' was a magnificent sight. Two shrubs formed an orb 2.3m x 4.4m of white flowers interspersed with a delicate tracery of green leaves and unopened buds. It overshadowed its immediate neighbour a L. 'Pink Cascade'.

Earlier, approx May-June, L. 'Pink Cascade' was intimidated by its other neighbour Callistemon 'Pink Alma'. The plethora of flowers plus their hue prompted most visitors to enquire the name and availability of this eye-catching shrub.

Our 3½ plus acre block is situated approx 100ks - a 1 hour's drive - north west of Brisbane on the Caboolture-Kilcoy Shires boundary. It is part of an ex-dairy farm and is mainly composed of granite overlain by a sandy topsoil of varying depth which becomes very wet after rain and can bog the unwary.

Our garden began with a lot of hole digging 4 years ago. As the gardens were shaped and mulched, the young plants gradually settled into the rural lifestyle. Each plant was given a full bucket of water when planted and left to the whims of nature. We had no other choice as we were in the midst of a prolonged drought and had only one small rainwater tank for our personal needs.

A garden plot 4m away from the 'Pacific Beauty' is home to a L. rotundifolium as well as a L. 'Mimosa Creek'. During its lifetime the rotundifolium has produced one solitary flower and provided a nesting site while this year the 'Mimosa Creek' put on a creditable showing. Another reluctant bloomer is L. 'Copper Glow' whose flower production is zero. In another location L. 'Cardwell' although only 60cm high was a mass of white blossoms. L. petersonii and L. 'Ballerina' made a good showing despite their small size while L. 'Aphrodite', L. leuhmanii and L. longifolium have yet to delight the beholder.

Callistemons are one of the dominant mass plantings. These include:-

'White Anzac'	'Mauve Mist'
'Candy Pink'	'Dawson River'
'Angela'	'Eureka'
citrinus 'Burgundy'	'Ewan Road'
'Glasshouse Country'	'Blush Pink'
'Glasshouse Snowball'	salignus 'Pink Parfait'
'Glasshouse Ngun Ngun Red'	'Wild River'
'Lavender Showers'	pachyphyllus red
'Injune'	pachyphyllus pink
'Cerise'	pachyphyllus green
'Wilderness White'	'Kings Park Special'
'Western Glory'	'Emu Creek'
'Purple Splendour'	'Koreelah Creek'
'Rose Opal'	subulatus pumila
'Captain Cook'	'Boulia'
salignus -white & red	'Severn River'
'Happy Valley'	'Fairy Floss'
polandi - dwarf	'Mr. Foster'
'Endeavour x polandii	polandii - broad leaf
viminalis - red & pink	'Bundara Sunrise'
'Hannah Ray'	'Perth Pink'
'Taree'	'Wollumbin'
nipifolius	

Some of the above have done surprisingly well, others look better after rain and some struggle with grim determination to survive.

But the prize for 'Triumph over Adversity' must go to *Melaleuca laterita* 'Robin Red Breast'. About 2½ years back, it survived a translocation. A backhoe was used to scoop it up and deposit it in a new position. We feared for its survival, but life was a breeze for this small shrub which rewarded us with a token flower. About six weeks ago, during the construction of our home, one of the tradesmen's cars had an altercation with this innocent melaleuca. This resulted in a vertical split 23cm long down the middle of its slender trunk. Today, although split in two, it still holds tenaciously onto life.

Our melaleucas are mainly planted on a drainage ditch which can run for three weeks or more after heavy rain. They include:-

armillaris	stypelioides
'Revolution Green'	quinquenervia
decussata	tamariscina
nodosa	aff. cornucopia
leucadendra fine leaf form	viridiflora
leucadendra broad leaf form	

and a grafted *filifolia* (not yet flowering)

At present we have only three *Kunzeas*. Two *K. graniticola* which are regular bloomers and one *K. baxteri* which has delighted us with its brilliant brushes.

During the past five years we have seen our bush block convert from grazing land into the beginnings of a beautiful and peaceful garden. This has been done exclusively by the manual efforts of my husband Ralph, who now occasionally permits himself the luxury of surveying 'what still has to be done' from his squatter's chair on the verandah.

It would be remiss of me if I did not express our gratitude to the Group's Leader Colin Cornford and his wife Verna for the advice, encouragement and help they have unreservedly given to us. As a number of our plants were purchased from the now defunct Redlands Special School Nursery our thanks also go to Ted Knight and his helpers. These dedicated and generous people gave their time and expertise to help preserve one of our most precious national assets - our native flora."

Visit to Girraween National Park

Verna and I spent a week at Girraween N.P. on the Granite Belt of S. Qld during October. Girraween has long been regarded as one of the better wildflower areas in Australia and we couldn't have timed our visit better. There were flowers everywhere - yellow pea flowers in many varieties, including *Pilteneia*, *Bossiaea*, *Davesia*, *Oxylobium*, *Dillwynia* etc., masses of white *Pimelea*, pink *Boronias*, orchids including blue sun orchids and the rarely seen climbing orchid, *Calytrix*, *Phebalium* and *Dodonea* to mention a few. *Callistemon ptyoides* was just coming into flower whilst the other *Callistemon* spp which grow in the Park - *C. flavo-virens*, *C. pallidus* and *C. linearis* were in bud but not in flower. A fairly wide range of *Leptospermum* spp grow in the Park including *L. arachnoides*, *L. brevipes*, *L. minutifolium*, *L. neoangliae*, *L. polygalifolium* and *L. trinervium*. Most of the *Leptospermum* spp were in flower. The only *Melaleuca* sp listed in the Park is *M. alternifolia* which grows along the creeks but was not in flower. *Kunzea obovata* was heavily in flower. Most of the plants noted were around 600-800mm high but in places their prolific pink-mauve flowers created an attractive border to the walking tracks.

While we were there we did a day trip to Tenterfield and Bald Rock National Park. We also visited Mole River Native Plant Nursery on the Tenterfield-Texas Road. As well as the nursery the surrounding gardens at this nursery are well worth a visit. A good specimen of *Leptospermum* 'Copper Sheen' was heavily in flower as was *Callistemon*

phoeniceus 'Pink Ice', Melaleuca violacea, Melaleuca pulchella as well as a range of species from other genera.

Kunzea sp.

As noted previously I have decided to include Kunzea in the 'Allied Genera' part of the Study Group. It is not a widely grown genus in Qld. If you are growing any Kunzea spp please let me have the details of what you have growing or have tried.

The general description of Kunzea states:

"Shrubs. Leaves mostly alternate, rarely opposite, entire. Flowers sessile or rarely pedunculate in upper axils or in terminal heads, rarely in spikes, bract 1 per flower, broad, bracteoles 2 per flower, sometimes several bracts imbricate around head, hypanthium ovoid or globular, sepals 5; petals 5, small; stamens, numerous, in 1 - several series, longer than petals, filaments filiform, anthers versatile, opening by longitudinal slits, connective with smaller globular gland; ovary 2-5 - locular, ovules 2 - many per loculus. Fruits loculicidal capules, crowned by persistent calyx.

About 30 species, all endemic in Australia.

Kunzea spp grown around Brisbane area include:

Kunzea baxteri - grows and flowers well in well-drained, sunny locations.

Kunzea graniticola - grows and flowers well in a wide range of conditions.

Kunzea ambigua - Both the white and pink forms grow and flower well in a wide range of soil types and conditions.

Kunzea 'Badja Carpet' - This has been tried in a number of locations but has been generally unsuccessful although a few specimens are surviving in dryish sites.

Kunzea obovata - Has been tried but, generally, has not been successful.

Kunzea pulchella - This has been grown fairly successfully in a few well-drained dryish locations.

Leptospermum 'Scarlet Cascade'

In a previous newsletter I mentioned that I had purchased a plant of L. 'Scarlet Cascade'. This has grown quite well and is now some 600mm in diameter and staying quite prostrate. It has been flowering off and on since August. It has never had a lot of flowers at any one time but there is usually a few in evidence. Flowers are about 10mm in diameter and a fairly dark red in colour..

Members Reports

Unfortunately, Members Reports are a bit light on this time.

Barbara Buchanan reports that she obtained a fairly good germination from the Leptospermum polygalifolium (red form) seed from the seed bank and she advises that there is a variation in stem and leaf colour, some showing quite a lot of red. The seed was amongst the seed I received when I took up leadership of the group so I have no knowledge of what the "red" refers to, whether it is stems, leaves, buds or flowers.

Melaleuca squarrosus is growing in the floor of a gully which, according to Barbara, must be growing in liquid mud. L. continentale and Kunzea ericoides define most of the drainage lines on their property although the Kunzea ericoides is spreading rapidly and appears it may become a pest.

Two plants of Melaleuca 'Green Globe' were cut to ground level by the 1995 winter but fared better in 1996. One of these plants is an attractive round ball about 15 inches in diameter. Barbara intends to keep them trimmed and see how they perform.

Melaleuca 'Golden Gem' does not like the frosts and has not shown much growth.

David Widdop has forwarded a comprehensive list of Melaleuca and Leptospermum species being grown by him and which will be added to the rest of the information being compiled. David is also compiling a set of Callistemon slides for use at S.G.A.P. Group Meetings. Apparently he has a comprehensive set of Correa slides which have been shown to a number of groups. David also advises that, due to unusually wet winter and spring seasons over the past five years he has lost a large percentage of his eremophila plantings which normally do well there. David lives at Corowa, N.S.W.

Derrick Arnall's letters are always welcome even though it takes about a month for my letters to get to him and about the same time for his reply to come back. Derrick says that his Callistemons didn't flower as profusely this year as in past years and he advises that he has had a high death rate of seedlings of M. decora, lanceolata, nervosa and thymifolia. All is not gloom however as many of Melaleuca species being grown are doing very well. Derrick's property is located on a similar latitude to Cairns in North Qld and although it is at an altitude of approx 1000 metres frosts are never experienced.

Melaleuca Cuttings

Arnold Reick has advised that he has cuttings available of the red, pink and apricot forms of Melaleuca fulgens ssp fulgens and also cuttings of M. huegelii. Should you be interested in obtaining any of this cutting material please contact Arnold at P.O. Box59, Rosewood. Qld. 4340 or at telephone 0754641316.

Melaleuca Slide Collection

Thanks to the generosity of Ivan Holliday the slide collection has increased by 25 to a total of 112. Thanks Ivan. The slide collection together with a written description of slides is available for loan to groups or individuals for the cost of return postage.

Membership Fees

Membership fees for 1996/97 were due on 1st July. A red X on the front of your newsletter indicates that fees for 1996/97 have not been received. Fees remain at \$5.00 per annum.

Internet

Brian Walters, editor of "Native Plants for N.S.W." (The N.S.W. Region Journal), has been busy on his computer and has written a Callistemon page and a Melaleuca page as well as a number of other items relating to Australian flora. If you have a computer with Internet access the Society's home page is at <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~vsgap/index.html>

Financial Statement

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance at 15/2/96	\$489.87	Petty Cash	\$54.75
Membership	139.83	Photocopy N.L. 12	37.80
Bank Interest	16.30	Postage N.L. 12	28.80
		Rainfall Records	17.00
	\$646.00		\$138.35
Less Expenditure	138.35		
	\$507.65		
Less GDT	1.25		
	\$506.40		
Balance as per Bank Statement 28.10.96	\$506.40.		

*Murray
chris finds and
a happy new
year Reg and
Col*

Flowering Months

Plant	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D.
Callistemon												
'Glasshouse Gem'									X			
'Glasshouse Country'									X			
'Glasshouse Beauty'									X			
'Glasshouse Ngun Ngun'									X	X		
pachyphyllus (pink)									X		X	X
pachyphyllus (green)									X			
pachyphyllus (var viridis)									X			
viminalis pink									X			X
'Captain Cook' pink									X	X		
'Mr. Foster'				X	X		X	X	X			
recurvus (seedling)								X	X			
viminalis	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
viminalis X pachyphyllus (Bundara Sunrise)				X				X	X	X	X	
comboynensis				X	X						X	X
salignus										X		
'Adina'				X	X		X			X	X	X
'Guyra Hybrid'	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
'Endeavour'				X	X				X	X	X	
'Western Glory'										X	X	
'Injune'	X											X
'Eureka'									X	X		
'Eldorado'								X	X	X	X	X
'Rose Opal'									X			
'Austraflora Firebrand'								X	X			
'Purple Splendour'							X	X	X			
pearsonii							X	X				
polandii					X							
pinifolius					X				X	X		
'Little John'								X	X	X	X	
subulatus pumila							X	X	X			
'Glasshouse Pink Sensation'									X	X		
'Howies Fireglow'									X	X		
'Glasshouse Dainty Lady'									X			
citrinus 'Angela'										X	X	