

1SSN1030-6633

**ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**

MELALEUCA AND ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP

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NEWSLETTER NO. 18 - JULY 1999

Dear member,

We have had a fairly wet first half of the year to date. The official rainfall figures for Brisbane to the end of June are 1136 mm. - our average for the year is 1100 mm. so, as you may well imagine, it is fairly damp underfoot. The weather bureau tells us that it will stay wet until September. At least the wet weather has ensured that the *Melaleuca leucadendra* provided a good show for visitors to Brisbane for the 1999 A.S.G.A.P. biennial conference. There are not a lot of other plants in flower at present except for *Callistemon polandii* which, in its various forms, is flowering quite well. Most of the other *Callistemons* are well into bud and should look good in another few weeks. *Melaleuca viridiflora*, in its various colour forms, provided a good display during June and early July with the red form being the most spectacular. Our daughter has a *Leptospermum* 'Merinda', which is a cultivar of *L. spectabile*, in flower at present. Although it is a fairly open bush it is carrying masses of bright red flowers up to 15 mm. in diameter. Its sister cultivars are *L.* 'Aphrodite' and *L.* 'Rhiannon', both which grow and flower well in Brisbane and which also produce red flowers. These latter two produce a much more dense bush than *L.* 'Merinda'.

You have probably read the Editors request in the June 1999 (page 90) issue of 'Australian Plants' for information on the vase life of *Melaleuca* species. Should you have any information or experience, however large or small, relating to this request would you please pass it on to me for onward transmission or forward it direct to the Editor of "Australian Plants". Should there be any species which show promise it may be possible to develop methods or strategies which will improve vase life. In the long term it may be possible to develop strains which would have longer vase life as has been done with *Banksia coccinea* and other species.

NAME CHANGES

A number of name changes have occurred since the last newsletter and these are listed below :

The Callistemons of New Caledonia have been taken out of Callistemon and placed in Melaleuca.

The new names are :

Callistemon suberosum is now Melaleuca dawsonii

Callistemon pancheri is now Melaleuca pancheri

The name 'gnidioides was previously used for a Melaleuca species and this name has been retained for a new species. The plant previously known as Callistemon gnidioides is now Melaleuca sphaerodendra which is further broken down to two varieties and which will be known as - Melaleuca sphaerodendra var. sphaerodendra and Melaleuca sphaerodendra var. microphylla.

Callistemon brevisepalus is now Melaleuca brevisepala

Other species of Melaleuca growing on New Caledonia are :

Melaleuca quinquenervia, Melaleuca buseana, Melaleuca gnidioides and Melaleuca brongniartii.

Other changes are :

Melaleuca sprengelioides, which grows in Western Australia, has been transferred to the genus Beaufortia and is now known as Beaufortia sprengelioides.

A new species has been described and will be known as Melaleuca triumphalis. This species was previously considered to have affinity to M.nervosa and grows in the Victoria River Gorge in Gregory National Park in the northern part of the Northern Territory. A brief description of this plant is as follows :

Shrub to 2.5 metres with grey, tight, fissured, subpapery bark. Leaves spiral, ascending to spreading, petiole 5-15 mm. long, blade narrowly elliptic 60 – 140 mm. long, 15-25 mm.wide, veins 3-5, silvery at first due to the dense hair covering but becoming glabrate and greenish with age and with scattered oil glands. Inflorescence is a head or short spike of triads up to 65 mm. wide with 10-20 triads per inflorescence. Petals hairy, distinctly clawed, ovate or elliptic, 5-17 mm. long. Stamens 7-12 per bundle; the filaments glabrous, green (described as turning yellow with age) 19.5-24.3 mm. long.

This species is known only from the Victoria River Gorge and associated gorges in the Northern Territory. It is recorded on herbarium labels as occurring in crevices on a south facing sandstone cliff ; below cliffs at the base and to the side of a seepage area at the head of a small valley ; at the top of a scree slope near the base of an ephemeral waterfall in an area with permanent seepage ; in crevices in a gorge cliff face with the area a waterfall in the wet season. Associated plants include Baeckea, Livistona, Ficus, Eucalyptus and Ferns.

SPECIES SHOWN AT PINE RIVERS S.G.A.P. MEETINGS

I have been through the records of specimens shown at Pine Rivers S.G.A.P. meetings over the past 5 years from the genera Callistemon, Melaleuca, Kunzea and Leptospermum and list the results below :

CALLISTEMON

January

'Ebor', 'Pink Champagne', 'Mr Foster' 2 x unnamed species

February

'Ebor', 'Desmesne Pink', 'Glasshouse Country', 'Mr. Foster', 'Pink Champagne', polandii, 'Injune', 'Chinchilla', subulatus, 'Candy Pink'.

March

'Pindi Pindi', 'Jenny Wren', 'Mr. Foster', recurvus, 'Injune', 'Captain Cook', polandii

April

recurvus, polandii

May

'Reeves Pink', 'Pindi Pindi', 'Dawson River', 'Glasshouse Country', 4 x unnamed species

June

pachyphyllus, citrinus, 'Little John', 'Mr Foster', polandii, viminalis, 'Glasshouse Country', 'Pink Champagne', 7 x unnamed species

July

pachyphyllus, viminalis, 'Mr Foster', recurvus, 'Prestige Pink'

August

'Mr Foster', polandii, 'Pindi Pindi', viminalis, viminalis seedling ?, recurvus, comboyensis, pachyphyllus, 'Wild River', citrinus

September

'Captain Cook', salignus, viminalis, 'Eureka', 'Endeavour', 'Little John', 'Jenny Wren', 'Mr Foster', citrinus alba, pachyphyllus, 'Mauve Mist', 'Western Glory', 'Adina', pearsonii, 'Angela', 'Dawson River', 'Glasshouse Country', 'Prince of the West', 3 x unnamed species, 'Taree Pink', pityoides, 'Wilderness White', 'Austraflora Firebrand', 'Eldorado', 'Glasshouse Beauty', 'Glasshouse Gem', 'Howies Fireglow', 'La Grande Vermilion', 'Glasshouse Ngun Ngun', 'Rose Opal', 'Wild River', salignus, 'Demesne Pink Parfait', 'Kings Park Special', 'Prolific Pink', 'Purple Splendour', citrinus, recurvus, 'Prestige Pink'

October

'Dawson River seedling', 'Braeside', 'Packers special', 'Western Glory', 'Little John', 'Desmesne Rowena', 'Endeavour', 'Guyra Hybrid', 'Mauve Mist', citrinus alba, pearsonii, 'Genoa River', 'Wollumbin', 'Taree Pink', 'White Anzac' (another name for citrinus alba), 8 x unnamed species, 'Happy Valley', 'Angela', 'Dawson River', 'Injune', 'Mr Foster', pachyphyllus, pityoides, pinifolius, 'Pink Champagne',

November

viminalis, recurvus, 'Mr Foster', pachyphyllus, 'Mr Foster x Mrs Foetel', 'Wilderness White', pinifolius

MELALEUCA

January

thymifolia

February

'Snowstorm', lateritia

March

'Snowstorm', quinquenervia, viridiflora

April

viridiflora

May

viridiflora

June

groveana, lateritia, viridiflora, thymifolia

July

No specimens recorded for July

August
fulgens

September
fulgens, neglecta, nodosa, pallescens, incana, armillaris, stypheloides, lateritia

October
lateritia, irbyana, erubescens, nodosa, pallescens, hypericifolia, linariifolia, thymifolia

November
stypheloides, irbyana, lateritia, thymifolia, erubescens, hypericifolia

KUNZEA

February
1 x unnamed species (white flowers)

September
obovata, graniticola, baxteri

October
baxteri, opposita, ambigua, capitata

November
1 x unnamed species (white flowers)

LEPTOSPERMUM

June
'Pink Cascade',

September
1 x unnamed species (white flowers), 'Pink Cascade', polygalifolium 'Cardwell', 'Pink Cascade', speciosum, polygalifolium

October
1 x unnamed species (white flowers), rotundifolium, madidum, 'Aphrodite', 'White Opal',

November
'Pink Cascade', whiteii, amboinense, luehmannii, brachyandrum

The results indicate that Callistemons are the most widely grown of the genera listed above. The number of Grevillea specimens shown far exceeds the total number of specimens from the four genera listed above.

Meetings are not held in December so no records for that month are available.

CALLISTEMON, MELALEUCA, KUNZEA AND LEPTOSPERMUM

I have finally completed the task of compiling all the information extracted from members reports over the period 1990 – 1997 into a readable form (at least I hope it is readable by other people) and it is available at \$10.00 per copy . It comprises some 95 pages and lists all the species which have been reported on over the seven years mentioned. Details included are soil types, geographic locations e.g latitude and longitude , elevation above sea level of the rainfall station nearest the subject property, average annual rainfall, average daily minimum temperatures, average daily maximum temperatures, the months per year when highest rainfalls are usually received, the incidence of frosts , some brief comments on the limited amount of work which has been conducted on grafting of species from the subject genera, drainage conditions (where known) and fertiliser usage (again where known).

Should you like to obtain a copy of this publication please let me know .

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees for 1999-2000 were due on July 1. Application for renewal of membership fees is attached. The absence of a renewal form indicates that your membership for 1999-2000 is current.

SLIDE PROGRAMMES

Slide programmes showing various species of Callistemon (120 slides) , Melaleuca (125 slides) and Leptospermum (40 slides) are available for loan to any interested member or group . I will pay the outward postage and expect the borrower to pay the return postage. Postage costs are around \$5.00. The slide sets are accompanied by a written description of the plants depicted in each of the slides. In most cases the description includes the derivation of the specific epithet, the natural habitat of the plant and the size to which the plant may be expected to grow.

MELALEUCA OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

I include here descriptions of some Melaleuca species from Northern Australia which are not readily available and with which some of you may not be familiar.

Melaleuca cornucopia :

A smooth-barked, generally erect shrub ranging in height from 1 to 3 metres with alternate leaves, hairy when young but becoming smooth and fairly stiff with age. Leaf size varies from 3 to 9.5 cm. long by 0.4 to 1.2 cm. wide. White flowers are produced in dense narrow spikes up to 75 cm. long on which the flowers open progressively from the

base end. Flowering time is recorded as being from June to February. Its natural habitat is sandstone escarpment, in mixed shrubland on the plateau, slopes and rocky outcrops and in sandy pockets. This species is endemic to the sandstone escarpments of Western Arnhem Land and Kakadu National Park. It was first described in 1984.

This plant grows fairly well in Brisbane but its flowering habit is a bit irregular. I know of two plants in Brisbane, both from cuttings of the same plant and both now 6 years old. One of these has only grown to some 1.5 metres and flowers regularly while the other has reached a height of some 3.5 metres and has never produced a flower.

Melaleuca argentea :

A tall spreading tree to 20 metres with slender, pendulous branches and silvery-green foliage and with creamy-white to grey soft papery bark. Leaves are alternate, silvery and silky hairy when young varying in size from 5 to 14 cm. in length and 0.6 to 2 cm width and becoming silvery grey-green with age. Flowers are cream to greenish-cream in cylindrical spikes up to 3 cm. long and usually in groups of 4 or more terminally or singly in upper leaf axils. Flowering time is usually June to October with some flowering as late as November. The natural habitat of this species is along freshwater creeks and rivers in deep sandy and sandy loam soils often with part of the root system submerged. It is found throughout the northern parts of Qld, N.T. and W.A. and extends into Papua and New Guinea.

This species grows well in Brisbane where it is often used as street trees and for planting in large parks and gardens.

Melaleuca viridiflora var. attenuata

A medium-sized tree to some 3 metres in height with creamy to grey papery bark. Leaves are dull green in colour and range in size to 18 cm. long by 8 cm. wide. Flowers are cream to yellowish-cream and are produced in terminal spikes up to 15 cm. long during June to August. The natural habitat of this species is adjacent to ephemeral swampy areas around the base of Cape York in north Qld in sandy soils which remain moist for some time after rain.

So far as is known, this species has not been tried in cultivation but it would be expected that it should be successful.

Melaleuca minutifolia

This plant is usually a multi-stemmed, bushy plant to some 3 metres in height with similar or slightly larger spread and with papery, grey-white bark. As the specific epithet suggests leaves are very small, ranging in size from 0.1 to 0.3 cm. long by up to 0.1 cm. wide. Leaves, which are stalkless and closely packed on the stems, are dark green with pointed tips. The white flowers are small and produced on cylindrical spikes up to 1 cm. long. Flowers are produced terminally or towards the ends of the branches. Flowers are

usually produced from September to December. The natural habitat of this species is usually in open woodland in dry regions and commonly forms stands in flats or shallow depressions in seasonally inundated gravelly or sandy clay loams. This species occurs mainly at the base of Cape York and in the northern parts of the N.T. and W.A.

The species has been tried in gardens in Brisbane but with only very limited success.

Melaleuca foliolosa

This is a small tree growing to a height of up to 8 metres and having a papery bark. Leaves are 0.5 cm to 1 cm. long by 0.5 cm. wide, are completely stem-clasping and are dark green in colour. An interesting facet of this plant is that, while young, stems are rounded but, as they age, stems become more angular until they are almost square in cross-section. Flowers are white or creamy-white and are produced terminally or near the ends of branches. Although the individual flowers are small they are reputed to be attractive to nectar-feeding birds and insects. The natural habitat of this species is in the northern part of Cape York where it grows in light sandy soils formed on sandstone or similar and occasionally in swampy areas.

I know of one plant of this in Brisbane which, although it grew slowly, produced flowers regularly and, when last seen, was some 2.5 metres high.

Other species which grow in northern Australia include *M. dealbata*, *M. cajuputi*, *M. nervosa* and the 8 or so species of *Asteromyrtus* which were previously included in *Melaleuca*. Any these species would make excellent additions to any garden.

KUNZEA AND LEPTOSPERMUM

I would like to obtain any information that any members may have on their experience with growing of *Kunzea* species regardless of whether or not that experience has been successful. My experience with *Kunzea* species is limited as only a couple of species will survive here and then, only in favourable areas. Surely there must be a number of species being grown in southern areas of Australia.

I also submit the same request for information on the *Leptospermum* species being grown by members. I have received a fair bit of information on these species in the past but it is probably time this information was updated and any new information passed on to me for future use.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Receipts		Expenditure	
Balance at 2 -12 -98	\$624 - 05	Petty cash	\$50 - 45
Membership fees	\$138 - 12	Photocopy NL 17	\$21 - 60
Bank interest	\$0 - 55	Postage NL 17	\$26 - 85
Total	\$762 - 72	Printer ink	\$17 - 10
Less Exp	\$144 - 50	Post NL 1-15 to U.S.A.	\$27 - 60
Total	\$618 - 22	G.D.T.	\$1 - 50
		Total	\$144 - 50
Balance as per bank statement 14-6-99	\$618 - 22		

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The list below shows members who were financial as at 30-6-1999

Mr.D. Arnall, P.O. Box 12, Mangochi, Malawi, Africa
Aust National Botanic Gardens, G.P.O. Box 1777, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601
Mrs B.N. Buchanan, R.M.B.1590, Myrree, Vic, 3732
Mr. R Blauman, Box 5597, Sun City Centre, Florida, 33571, U.S.A.
Mr.L. Craven, Aust National Herbarium, G.P.O. Box 1600, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601
Mrs D, Cassidy, 101 Johnston Street, Collingwood, Vic 3066
Mr. H Debono, 12 Allee des Chasseurs, 78230, LE PECQ, France
Mr A.F. Dench, 1150 Werombi Road, Werombi, N.S.W. 2570
Mr T. Gilbert, 51 Gilbert Street, Dubbo, N.S.W. 2830
Mrs B. Galbraith, 15 Wyang Glen, Cranebrook, N.S.W. 2749
Glen Innes Aust Plant Society, P.O. Box 114, Glen Innes, N.S.W. 2370
Mr I. Holliday, 29 Tennyson Avenue, Tranmere, S.A. 5073
Mr & Mrs R. Hickling, 16 Mary Smokes Creek Road, Kilcoy, Qld 4515
Mr S. Hibbert, 18 Railway Street, Nudgee, Qld 4014
Mr M.Hoersch, 3/8 Darebin Boulevard, Reservoir, Vic 3073
Mr J. Irons, Stonecourt, 74 Brimstage Road, HESWALL, Wirral CH60 IXQ, England
Mrs M. Ingall, P.O. Box 619, Bourke, N.S.W. 2840
Mrs L. Johnston, 11 Milner Place, Thornlands, Qld 4164
Mr B. Jahnke, 11 Goldsbrough Road, Taringa, Qld 4068
Mr E. Knight, 15 Valantine Road, Birkdale, Qld 4159
Mr P. Lightfoot, 64 Ridgeway Road, New Lambton Heights, N.S.W. 2305
Mr C. Loxley, 142 Captain Cook Drive, Willmot, N.S.W. 2770
Mr D. Lightfoot, 4/39 Wattle Road, Hawthorn, Vic 3122
Mrs H. Morrow, P.O. Box 151, Bulleen, Vic 3105
Mr D. Randall, 25 William Street, Cobram, Vic 3644
Mr K. Rathie, 5 Salston Road, Greenbank, Qld 4124
S.G.A.P. N.S.W. Region, P.O.Box 744 Blacktown, N.S.W. 2148

S.G.A.P. Vic Region, 11 Davies Street, Bacchus Marsh, Vic 3340
S.G.A.P. Maroodah Group, P.O. Box 33, Ringwood, Vic 3134
S.G.A.P. Tasmanian Region, G.P.O. Box 1353P, Hobart, Tsa 7001
S.G.A.P. Blue Mts. Group, P.O. Box 23, Glenbrook, N.S.W. 1773
S.G.A.P. Keilor Plains Group, P.O. Box 115, Niddrie, Vic 3042
S.G.A.P. Canberra Region, P.O. Box 217, Civic Square, A.C.T. 2608
S.G.A.P. South Aust Region, c/- 2 Birdwood Street, Netherby, S.A. 5062
S.G.A.P. Geelong Inc. , P.O. Box 50, Corio, Vic 3214
S.G.A.P. Queensland Region, P.O. Box 586, Fortitude Valley, Qld 4006
S.G.A.P. Armidale Group, P.O. Box 735, Armidale, N.S.W. 2350
S.G.A.P. Bairnsdale Group, P.O. Box 1036, Bairnsdale, Vic 3875
S.G.A.P. Tamworth Group, 56 Panorama Road, Tamworth, N.S.W. 2340
Mr I. Tiley, 'Buln Gherin ', R M B 454, Beaufort, Vic 3373
Ms K. Targett, 169 Wyee Road, Wyee, N.S.W. 2259
Wakiti Nurseries, (P & D Shiells), Mason Court, RSD Shepparton, Vic 3631
Wildflower Society of W.A., P.O. Box 64, Nedlands, W.A. 6009
Mr I. Waldron, P.O. Box 134, Jimboomba, Qld 4280
Mr B. Williams, P.O. Box 513, Kew, Vic 3101
Mr D. Widdop, 66 Banff Street, Corowa, N.S.W. 2646

I realise that some groups have changed to 'Australian Plants Society' but, at this stage, I have no record of such groups. If you can let me know the current title of your group when forwarding your membership fees I will amend my records accordingly

I hope your gardens continue to flourish but before I close I have one request . I am out of seed of the following so if you can assist with supplies it would be appreciated :

Melaleuca adnata, calothamnoides, ciliosa, conothamnoides, groveana, micromera, platycalyx,

Leptospermum luehmannii, sericeum, turbonatum

Regards



Col Cornford