

ISSN 1030 – 6633

*ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING  
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS*

*MELALEUCA AND ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP*

*ABN : 56 654 053 676*

*Leader : Colin Cornford*

*16 Eldorado Street*

*Bracken Ridge Qld*

*4017 Australia*

*Phone : 07-32698256*

*e-mail : [colincornford@bigpond.com](mailto:colincornford@bigpond.com)*

*NEWSLETTER NO : 30 June 2005*

*Dear Members,*

*In this part of the world we , like so many others throughout a large part of Australia , are watching the skies and hoping for some relief from the prolonged dry period . Although there have been isolated instances of heavy runoff rain during the winter months in past years it is the exception rather than the rule . Water levels in Queensland storages are still falling and we cannot realistically expect any worthwhile runoff rain until next summer . The southern part of Australia may be fortunate enough to pick up some runoff rains during the coming winter .*

*Despite the dry conditions many plants , particularly the Callistemons, have flowered out of season. In our garden the following species and cultivars have been flowering intermittently since about March - C. " Glasshouse Gem " , C. " Glasshouse Snowstorm " , C. " Dainty Lady " , C. recurvus, C. " Injune " . C. comboyensis produced its usual crop of summer/autumn flowers and is still producing a few flowers at times. C. pauciflorus is the only known Callistemon species from the Northern Territory. It is found in the Petermann and Giles Ranges, to the west of Ayers Rock and the Olgas, along rocky gullies and streams. My plant is currently being grown in a container, is approx. 1.3 metres high and has been flowering since early March. Flowers are not large , about 75 mm long by 25/30 mm wide but their bright pink colour with gold anthers makes them quite showy. They are also quite long-lasting ( up to 7-8 days ) . The Melaleuca viridiflora plants around Brisbane have produced their usual stunning display , particularly the red and burgundy flowered forms . Most of these are budding up again for another display. M. quinquenervia is flowering quite well although the ones in the drier areas are not quite as good as those in the wetter areas. The broad and narrow leaved forms of M. leucadendra have been flowering for some time and are still producing a good display , particularly the narrow leaved forms . These plants produce copious quantities of nectar which attracts a wide range of nectar feeding birds and insects . The strong perfume produced by both forms of M. leucadendra can be quite overpowering in confined spaces. M. bracteata and M. trichostachy are producing early crops of flowers whereas they usually flower in late winter and spring .*

*Callistemon* "Guyra Hybrid" has been flowering intermittently for some weeks. I pruned my *Callistemon* "Howies Fireglow" and C. "Pink Sensation" quite severely last year and both have regenerated very well. *Leptospermum* "Aussie Blossom" "Martin" (pale pink) started flowering in April and has been getting better as time goes on. We have 2 plants of the tall growing form of *Melaleuca thymifolia* (grows to about 2.5 metres). One of these was cut back to ground level 2 years ago and is now nearly back to its original height. The other was cut back to about 400 mm above ground level last year and it, also, has regenerated very well to the stage where it produced out-of-season flowers earlier this year. I have been told this tall growing form of *M. thymifolia* comes from the Barakula Forest area near Chinchilla in the Northern Darling Downs region of south-east Qld but there may be other populations of it in other areas. Should anyone know of other populations, or know exactly where it comes from, please let me know. I cut back plants of *Callistemon* "Captain Cook Pink", *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, *Meleuca pallescens* and *Callistemon* "Rose Opal" a couple of months ago as they were encroaching too much on other plants so it remains to be seen whether or not they come back.

### New *Melaleuca* cultivar

Terry Keogh, Unique Plants, Victoria Point has produced a new *Melaleuca* cultivar which is now available on the market. It is hybrid of *M. linariifolia* "Snowstorm" and *M. linariifolia* "Claret Tops" and is being marketed as *M.* "Little Red". It grows to about 1 metre in height and maintains a neat rounded shape with only minor trimming required. New growth is a deep red colour and maintained for most of the year. Colour tends to deepen during colder periods. Flowers, which are not produced in abundance, are white. I have planted 4 of these in our daughter and son-in-law's garden at Samford and, so far, they are doing well and showing good deep colour. During a recent visit to Terry's nursery he showed me a small growing form of *Leptospermum petersonii* which he is developing for the nursery trade. It has weeping branches and grows to a height of about 1.5 metres with white flowers. (details are included with permission from Terry). He hopes to have this cultivar on the market in the not-too-distant future. The plant seen at the nursery certainly gives the impression that it will be a good addition to the list of plants available for small gardens.

### Two new species of *Melaleuca*

Both species described below belong to the *M. minutifolia/monantha* group

*Melaleuca sylvana* - this species was found in the Cook District of north Queensland in the Herberton area. It is an open-crowned tree, often single stemmed, with leaves 1.5 – 3.7 mm long by 0.9-1.7 mm wide. The leaf blade is glabrescent with oil glands sparse to moderately dense. Inflorescence is a short spike or head produced in the distal to median axils of seasonal growth flush. Petals are white. Stamens are in 5 bundles with white filaments. Flowers are seen in December. It has been recorded as growing in open forest, in heath and in open woodland on rhyolite or soils derived from rhyolite. The species is closely related to *M. monantha* but typically occurs on steep hillsides at altitudes above 800-1000 metres and, although the soils are poorly drained, they would rarely, if ever, be inundated.

*Melaleuca uxorum* - this species is also found in the Cook District of north Queensland in the Herberton area. It is a shrub to 1 metre high with leaves 2-4.5 mm long by 1.3- 2.7 mm wide . Inflorescence is a short head or spike with petals white flushed pink. Stamens are in 5 bundles with white filaments. Flowering period is November to February. The species is closely related to *M. minutifolia* and *M. monantha* . It is found at altitudes from 950 to 1050 metres on soils derived from acidic volcanics putatively rhyolite , often forming shrubberies on rock pavements where rainfall runoff is concentrated.

#### Taxonomic revision of the broombush (*M. uncinata*) complex in Western Aust.

*Melaleuca uncinata* is one of the characteristic shrubs of the drier woodland of southern Australia . The species was described by Brown in 1812 from material collected at Port Lincoln in southern South Australia. Excluding species utilised for cut-flower and foliage trade , *M. uncinata* is one of the few commercially important shrub species in Australian Myrtaceae. It has been widely used for brush fencing in southern Australian cities and has been used as far north as Brisbane for the same purpose. It has further potential as it produces the monoterpene 1,8 cineole( the main component in Eucalyptus oil ) and there is a report of one population producing an essential oil with a terpinen-4-ol rich profile. At present there is some interest in planting broombush in Western Australia in revegetation programmes and as an alternate cash crop. Dryland salinity management programmes are promoting the use of native species for revegetation in recharge areas to reduce water table levels. Broombush is offering potential as a sustainable cash crop for fencing, oil production and biomass for energy and charcoal production. Plants in south-eastern Australia regenerate well from the rootstock after harvesting but it has been noted that , in Western Australia , some populations regenerate after harvesting while others do not.

As a point of interest it has been noted that the Western Australian underground orchid ( *Rhizanthella gardnerii* ) is associated with the “ normal “ leaved form of broombush but has not been found to be associated with the “ narrow “ or “ long “ leaved forms .

Brief details of the new species are as follows :

*Melaleuca atroviridis* is a tree or shrub to a height of 12 metres with papery, flaking bark. Leaves are spreading-ascending to a length of 22-56 mm and a width of 0.6-1.4 mm . . Inflorescence is 6-10 mm wide with 5-27 triads and stamens in 7-11 bundles. Filaments are yellow, cream or lemon. Flowers are produced from December to February. Fruits are closely packed and do not retain individual identity. The type specimen was collected 19.5 km NNE of Goomalling in south west Western Australia . This species usually occurs on margins of saline country in light brown sandy loam , on red clayey sand over laterite, on red-brown clay over granite or on grey clayey sand at low levels in the landscape but also occurs in winter-wet fresh water habitats and at higher levels in the landscape in association with other *Melaleuca* spp, *Eucalypt* spp, samphire and *Rhagodia* spp.

*Melaleuca concreta* is a shrub to 6 metres in height with peeling/flaking papery bark . Leaves are spreading /ascending to a length of 17-112 mm and a width of 0.9-

3.7 mm . Inflorescence is 10-20 mm wide with 4-18 triads. Stamens are 3-9 per bundle . Filaments are cream to white or yellow. Fruits are closely packed and do not retain separate identity. This species occurs in the Murchison River area of Western Australia and is found on a wide range of soil types including – brown loamy sand over laterite, red clayey sand over sandstone, brown loamy sand over limestone and grey loamy sand over sandstone. Some of other genera with which it is associated include - *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia*, *Eremophila*, *Dodonea*, *Olearia* and *Casuarina*.

*Melaleuca exuvia* is a tree or shrub to a height of 6 metres with papery bark which peels in large curls ( similar to *Minni Ritchie* but much more coarse) . Leaves are ascending and 7-30 mm long by 0.6 – 1.3 mm wide. Inflorescence is 10-12 mm wide with 3-8 triads . Stamens are 5-8 per bundle . Filaments are a distinct yellow colour. Fruits are closely packed and do not retain separate identity. The species occurs in the general area of Norseman in southwest Western Australia. It grows in a whitish sandy loam at the edge of salt lakes and drainage channels in association with *M.atroviridis*, *M. uncinata*, *M. halmotororum* and some *Eucalypts*.

*Melaleuca hamata* is a shrub or tree to a height of 5 metres with peeling/flaking papery bark. Leaves are ascending or spreading –ascending to a length of 20-82 mm and up to 0.8-1.6 mm wide. The inflorescence is 8-20 mm wide with 5-15 triads. Stamens are 3-8 per bundle. Filaments are creamy white, creamy yellow, whitish yellow, pale yellow or white. Fruits are closely packed and do not retain separate identity. This species occurs in the general area of Lake King/Ravensthorpe in southern Western Australia. It is found in a wide range of soils including – light brown clayey loam sand over granite, red brown clayey sand over granite, brown sandy clay loam , on brown loamy sand in saline drainage lines, yellow loamy sand over laterite and red clay loam with ironstone gravel in association with a number of other genera including *Melaleuca* , *Eucalyptus*, *Casuarina* , *Callitris* and *Acacia* to name a few .

*Melaleuca interioris* is a shrub to 3 metres tall with flaking papery bark. Leaves are spreading/ascending or ascending to a length of 6-56 mm and a width of 0.6-1.2 mm . Inflorescence is 7-12 mm wide with 4-9 triads. Stamens are in bundles of 4-9. Filaments are yellow. Fruits retain a significant separate identity. This species is found in Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia , New South Wales in the lower rainfall areas of these States eg. NW corner of NSW, SW corner of Qld, central and northern SA, central and southern NT and central WA. It is found on a variety of soils including red sandy soils , on fringes of salt pans, on sand over limestone and on low dunes in deep sand in association with *Acacia aneura*, *Triodia* spp, *Aristida* spp, *Crotalaria* spp and *Eucalypt* spp .

*Melaleuca osullivanii* is a shrub to 3 metres tall with flaking/peeling papery bark. Leaves are 28-73 mm long by 0.7-0.9 mm wide. Inflorescence 8-14 mm wide with 4-9 triads. Stamens are in bundles of 3-5 with creamy white filaments. Fruits are closely packed and do not retain separate identity. The species is found in the Busselton area of Western Australia . It is found on a variety of soil types - grey brown sand with *Melaleuca*, *Hakea* sedges and weeds, grey sandy loam over grey sandy clay in winter wet areas , on dark silty sand with *Melaleuca* shrubbery and samphire, on brown clay over laterite with *Melaleuca* , *Kunzea*, *Grevillea* and *Loxycarya*, on sand over clay on low rises in wetland, on grey clay with heathland, on pale grey sand over laterite, on

white sand with *Melaleuca* and pale grey sand with *Melaleuca*, *Eucalyptus calophylla* and *Hakea*. *M. osullivanii* superficially resembles *M. hamata*.

***Melaleuca scalena*** is a shrub to 3 metres tall with peeling papery bark. Leaves are ascending to a length of 19-85 mm with a width of 0.8 – 1.5 mm. Inflorescence is 8-15 mm wide with 5-14 triads. Stamens are in bundles of 3-9 with whitish yellow or pale lemon yellow filaments. Fruits are closely packed. This species is found from the Wyalkatchem-Mount Walker district southwards to the Woodanilling – Dumbleyung district in south-west Western Australia. It is found on a variety of soils but mainly on sandy loams - grey loam sands with grasses, light brown sandy loam over laterite, brown sandy clay loam over granite, yellow brown gravelly loam with mallee *Eucalypts*. It has been noted that plants of this species often appear unthrifty when compared to other species of the broombush group. It is found growing in association with members of other genera including *Eucalyptus*, *Santalum*, *Acacia*, *Casuarina*, and *Gastrolobium* to name a few.

***Melaleuca stereophloia*** is a shrub which varies in height from 1 to 4 metres with persistent fibrous bark. Leaves are ascending or spreading-ascending with a length of 11-44 mm and a width of 1-2.2 mm. Inflorescence is 8-15 mm wide with 4-13 triads and with yellow, cream, creamy yellow, creamy white or yellowish white filaments. Fruits are closely packed. It occurs in the Carnarvon Basin – Cue district southwards to Wongan Hills – Manmanning district in the northern parts of south – west Western Australia. It is found on various soils - grey loamy yellow sand over sandstone, red brown sandy clay loam ( over granite? ), on red clayey sand with a number of *Eucalypt* species, red brown clayey sand over granite with *Melaleuca*, *Callitris*, *Acacia* and *Borya* species, on brown sandy clay loam and grey clay loam.

***Melaleuca uncinata*** is a shrub to 4 metres with peeling papery bark. Leaves are ascending or spreading to a length of 19-56 mm and a width of 0.8 – 1.2 mm. Inflorescence is 9-15 mm wide with 4-19 triads. Filaments are pale greenish –cream. This species is found in the Munglinup-Norseman-Mount Ridley district of Western Australia and in the Eyre Peninsula area of South Australia. but it is possible that it extends to western Victoria and south-western New South Wales. It occurs on a wide variety of soil types and in conjunction with a wide range of species from other genera including *Eucalyptus*, *Brachychiton*, *Eremophila*, *Melaleuca*, *Casuarina*, *Acacia* to name a few. Soil types where this species is found include - red sandy clay loam, red clay loam with ironstone gravel brown, clay sandy loam over granite and grey brown loamy sand.

***Melaleuca vinnula*** grows as a shrub to 2.2 metres with peeling papery bark. Leaves are ascending or spreading-ascending with a length of up to 19-50 mm and a width of up to 1.1 – 2.8 mm. Inflorescence is up to 9-14 mm wide with 6-16 triads. Filaments are a distinct yellow. Fruits are closely packed. This species is found in the Coorow-Tampu district south-east to the Wyalkatchem- Mukinbudin – Southern Cross district of south-west Western Australia. It occurs on a variety of soil types including red clayey sand, red brown clayey sand over granite, brown clay sand and in conjunction with a number of species from other genera including *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca*, *Acacia*, *Callitris* and *Casuarina*.

*Melaleuca zeteticorum* grows to a height of up to 2.5 metres with hard and fibrous or papery and peeling bark. Leaves are spreading-ascending and up to 10-29 mm long by up to 0.9-1.5 mm wide. Inflorescence is up to 7-13 mm wide with 5-13 triads. Filaments are a distinct yellow. Fruits are closely packed. It is found in the Dowerin-Cunderdin-Beacon area eastwards to the Coolgardie-Norseman district. It is found in a wide range of soil types growing in conjunction with a wide range of species from other genera including *Eucalyptus*, *Grevillea*, *Melaleuca*, *Acacia*, *Alyxia*, *Eremophila*, *Dampiera*, *Hibbertia* and *Callitris*. Some of the soil types in which it is found are - red sandy clay loam over granite, greyish white sand (saline?) in river channels, orange brown sandy loam, gravely sand on road verges, red loam over quartz and pale grey brown loam.

### Members Reports

Warren and Gloria Sheather live at "Yallaroo" which is located some 25 km west of Armidale on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales on a windswept hill at an altitude of 900 metres where they are subject to a few frosts and dry periods (what's new about dry periods !!!). Their aim was to grow a wide range of plants from various parts of Australia. They propagate most of their own plants and they are planted very close together - usually 2 or 3 specimens in each planting hole. Planting holes are spaced 50 to 75 mm apart and the dense planting allows plants to protect each other and creates havens for small birds and animals. *Melaleucas* and their allies figure prominently in the plantings. There is presently some 300 *Callistemons* being grown as well as *Leptospermum*, *Kunzea* and *Calothamnus*. Some of the *Callistemon* species and cultivars being grown are - *comboynensis*, *flavovirens*, *pallidus*, *pungens*, *pityoides*, *pinifolius*, *polandii*, *rugulosus*, *salignus*, *subulatus*, "Hannah Ray", "Firebrand", "Candy Pink", "Endeavour", "Kings Park Special", "Rocky Rambler" and "Taree Pink".

*Melaleuca* species being grown include - *alternifolia*, *armillaris*, *blaerifolia*, *cardiophylla*, *decussata*, *elliptica*, *ericifolia*, *erubescens*, *fulgens*, *gibbosa*, *glomerata*, *huegelii*, *hypericifolia*, *incana*, *lanceolata*, *laterita*, *macronycha*, *micromera*, *radula* and *wilsonii*.

Warren and Gloria consider the Western Australian species to be of particular interest. For further information on their garden and plantings visit their website at [www.yallaroo.com.au](http://www.yallaroo.com.au).

Brenda Galey lives at Alexandra in Victoria and is using Australian plants as bonsai specimens as well as in her garden. *M. blaerifolia* and *M. micromera* were planted but, unfortunately, they dried out and were lost. A *Leptospermum* sp. (species name unknown) with silver foliage and pink/green peeling trunk is also used as a bonsai specimen. (Editors note: it sounds as though it could be *L. brachyandrus*) Other bonsai species are *Callistemon rugulosus* and *viridiflorus*. Plants being grown in containers, hollow logs or wine barrels of sand are - C. "Little John", *Regelia inops*, *Eremaea violacea*, an orange flowered *Eremaea* (specific epithet unknown), *Beaufortia schauerii*, *B. squarrose*, *B. purpurea* and a "Blue" flowered *Thryptomene* which Brenda says is more of a mauve colour. Plants being grown in the garden are - *Callistemon* "Captain Cook" (in a container), C. "Hannah Ray", *violacea*, a pink form from South Aust. and C. "Endeavour", *Calothamnus*

*quadrifidus*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *K. baxteri*. *Melaleuca lateralis*, *M. nematophylla*, *M. aspalathoides* and *M. nesophila* flowered this year.

Reminder - If you have any information, no matter how small, do not hesitate to send it to me as every bit helps to further our knowledge of the subject genera.

### Vale – Charles Loxley

Charles, who lived at Willmott in N.S.W., was a member of this group for many years and although he was not a frequent correspondent it was always good to hear from him. Lyn Thompson, who advised me of his passing, said he was a remarkable man with a wide knowledge of Australian plants and, even though he found it hard to get to meetings etc, as he lived in an area with few members, he was always willing to make the effort. Lyn said she had frequent telephone conversations with him which were always enjoyable and informative.

### Membership fees

Membership fees for the 2005/2006 year are due on July 1. If there is no membership application form attached to this newsletter you are financial for the coming year. Membership fees will remain at \$5.00 for Australian members and \$12.00 for overseas members.

### Financial Statement

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance at 7/9/04	\$577.42	Reg. Post- slides	\$8.35
Membership fees	\$143.00	Petty Cash	\$56.50
Bank interest	\$1.85	Photocopy N.L. 29	\$47.95
		Postage N.L. 29	\$51.95
Total	\$722.27	Printer Ink	\$97.88
		G.D.T.	\$1.80
Less expenditure	\$264.43	Total	\$264.43
Total	\$457.84		
Balance as per bank statement 6/6/05	\$457.84		

### Membership List

Membership list for the financial year – 2004/2005 - is as follows :

A.S.G.A.P. c/- P.O. Box 41 Lawnton Q 4501.  
A.P.S. Tasmania, P.O. Box 818, Kingston Tas. 7051  
A.P.S. Victoria, P.O. Box 357, Hawthorn Business Centre, Vic. 3122  
A.P.S. Keilor Plains, P.O. Box 115, Niddrie, Vic. 3042  
A.P.S. Blue Mountains Group, P.O. Box 23, Glenbrook NSW 2773  
A.P.S. NSW, P.O. Box 744, Blacktown, NSW. 2148  
A.P.S. Maroondah, P.O. Box 33, Ringwood, Vic 3134

*A.P.S. Bairnsdale District Inc, P.O. Box 1036, Bairnsdale, Vic 3875*  
*A.P.S. Armidale , P.O. Box 735, Armidale, NSW 2350*  
*A.P.S. Fleurieu Group, 1 Oxford Avenue, Victor Harbor, Vic 5211*  
*A.N.P.S. Canberra Region, P.O. Box 217, Civic Square, ACT 2601*  
*A.P.S. Tamworth, c/- P.O. Box 288, Tamworth, NSW 2340*  
*K. Bartlett, " Winpara", Jervois, SA 5259*  
*J. Burrell, 101Pearce Road, Booyong, NSW 2480*  
*B.N. Buchanan, RMB 1590, Myrree, Vic 3732*  
*D.E. Cassidy, 21 Edinburgh Road, Blackburn South, Vic 3130*  
*L.Craven ,Australian National Herbarium, G.P.O. Box 1600 , Canberra ACT 2601*  
*H. Debono, Parc Des Veysieres, 606 Ave Raymond Rolland, 83700 Saint Raphael,*  
*France*  
*S. Gwilym, 44 Livingstone Road, Eltham, Vic 3095*  
*B. Galey, 150 Grant Street, Alexandra, Vic 3714*  
*I. Holliday, 29 Tennyson Avenue, Tranmere, SA 5073*  
*L. Haig, 24 Wellington Street, Richmond, Tas 7025*  
*J. Irons, Stonecourt, 74 Brimstage Road , Heswall, Wirral CH60 IXQ England*  
*M. Ingall , P.O. Box 1295, Gosford, NSW 2250*  
*B. Jahnke, 11 Goldsbrough Road , Taringa , Qld 4068*  
*P. Kennedy, Johnsons lane, Strathmerton, Vic 3641*  
*E Knight, 15 Valantine Road, Birkdale, Qld 4159*  
*D. Lightfoot, 36 Arundel Crescent, Surrey Hills, Vic 3127*  
*P. Lightfoot, 64 Ridgeway Road, New Lambton Heights, NSW 2305*  
*B. Leggett, 3 Talavera Street, Carindale, Qld 4152*  
*M. Moir, RMB 261A, Margaret River, WA 6285*  
*L. Mathews, P.O. Box 12 , Koraleigh, NSW 2735*  
*J. Mahoney, 275 Whites Road, Mount Duneed, Vic 3216*  
*S. Shugg, 6 Ferris Street, Kambah, ACT 2902*  
*SGAP Qld Region, P.O. Box 586, Fortitude Valley, Qld 4006*  
*W & G Sheather, " Yallaroo " , 1898 Bundarra Road, Yarrowyck, NSW 2358*  
*L. Uijtewaal-De-Vries, Dries 22, 6086 A W Neer, The Netherlands*  
*B. Williams, P.O. Box 513, Kew, Vic 3101*  
*J.W. Wrigley, P.O. Box 1639, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450*  
*Wildflower Society of Western Australia, P.O. Box 64 , Nedlands , WA 6909*  
*A Wilson, 13631 Old Camino Road, San Diego, California 92130, USA*  
*D.H. Widdop, 66 Banff Street, Corowa, NSW 2646*

### Slide sets

*Slide sets of Callistemon, Melaleuca and Leptospermum and Associated Genera are available for loan to groups or individuals. The group pays outward postage by registered post and the borrower is expected to return the sets by the same means.*

*Moderate to heavy rain is predicted for here tonight ( June 14 ) so here 's hoping the weather forecasters are right although they have been known to make minor errors in the past !!!*

*Regards for now*

