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*ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS*

MELALEUCA AND ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP

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NEWSLETTER NO : 31 January 2006

Dear Members,

It's that time of year again – can anyone tell me where the bulk of this year went !!! We have had a fairly reasonable year with a good Christmas to top it off except for the heat – up to 36oC - which was a bit hard to take at times.

Although our rainfall for the year is down on average – 922 mm compared to average of 1100 mm - we have managed, with a bit of judicious watering , to keep the garden in good shape . The storms and showers we have been receiving over the past couple of months have really given the plants a boost and, at present, everything is looking lush and healthy.

We had a magnificent display of Callistemons during spring and early summer – one of the best we have seen for many years . The good display was not only in our garden – Callistemons in all parts of Brisbane and surrounding areas all flowered heavily . Our C. “ Ngun Ngun Red “ has carried only an occasional flower in previous years but this year it really excelled itself and was a red ball of blossom for a few weeks . All the other “ Glasshouse “ group also put on an excellent display . - some of them producing up to 3 flushes of flowers. C. pinifolius produced 4 flower flushes . The C. viminalis plants in our garden and in many other gardens around Brisbane flowered very heavily over quite a long period with some of them still producing an occasional blossom. We pruned back our C. “ Endeavour”, C. “ Guyra Hybrid “, C. “ Injune” and C. “ Captain Cook Pink “ this year as they were getting a bit straggly - I am sure they will recover . C. pauciflorus is coming into bud again and I expect to flower on for quite a long period. Callistemon “ Injune “ is budding up heavily ready for its annual New Year display which should continue for about 6 weeks or so . Melaleuca linariifolia usually flowers consistently in mid-summer with most plants in flower at the same time but ,this year , for some reason or other , they flowered over a much longer period with some plants completely finished while others hadn't started to bud. In general their display this year was not as spectacular as in previous years. Melaleuca quinquenervia started flowering as usual in February and some of them are still producing a few flowers .

Melaleuca viridiflora, in its various colour forms again provided its usual spectacular display with up to four flushes of flower on some plants particularly the dark red form. *Melaleuca leucadendra*, both broad-leaved and narrow-leaved forms, has been flowering for some months – particularly the narrow-leaved form. These plants make excellent street trees as they maintain good shape, require little or no trimming, always look neat and tidy and provide dense shade. Most of the *M. leucadendra* plants, particularly the narrow leaved forms, have been flowering off and on for some months. Some 10 years ago our local shopping centre planted a row of both forms on the western side of the car park. These are now up to 8 metres tall and provide excellent shade but, unfortunately they are too far out of the actual car park to provide shade for more than a few parking spaces. *Lophostemon nerifolia* were planted within the car park and, although they are nice plants with their masses of bright yellow flowers and neat shape, they are only about 2 metres tall and provide virtually no shade. There is a garden near us which has trimmed 2 plants of the broad-leaved form of *M. leucadendra* into topiaries about 2.5 metres tall. They are quite spectacular and, apparently, don't require a lot of trimming to maintain their shape. *Melaleuca trichostachy* and *M. bracteata* have been flowering quite well over a longer period than usual although the flowers on *M. bracteata* may not have been quite as dense as in previous years. Our *Melaleuca teretifolia* which has been in the ground for some 10 years has still shown no sign of flowering – I keep hoping maybe next year !! To digress from *Callistemons* etc we bought a grafted Geraldton Wax(white) earlier this year which is doing really well and has virtually doubled its size -- we have had no success in the past with non-grafted plants.

LEPTOSPERMUM “LITTLE LEMON SCENT “

Terry Keogh has produced another very attractive small plant as named above. It is a dwarf form of *Leptospermum petersonii* which retains the lemon-scented foliage aroma of the parent but grows only to a height of 1 metre with a spread of about 1.5 metres. It maintains a neat, dense rounded shape and rarely needs trimming. Foliage is a bright shiny green with reddish colouration on the tips of the stems of new growth. I have 2 planted here and both are doing well in our red sandy loam. I know of others planted in deep grey sand and in brown clayey soil derived from granite and these are also doing very well. Flowers are clear white to a diameter of approx. 12 to 15 mm. Terry's previous release – *Melaleuca* “ Little Red “ is proving hardy in a range of soil types in this area. They are growing well with good reddish-burgundy colouration which is maintained for long periods – in fact it is there virtually permanently. Another of Terry's releases – *Callistemon* “ Matthew Flinders “ is proving to be hardy and is performing well. It has a similar habit to C. “ Little John “ except that the leaves are not quite as greyish and the flowers, which are produced in great profusion are a brighter red colour.

NEW CALLISTEMON

The September 2005 issue of “ Growing Australian “, the journal of APS Victoria, contained an article about a new *Callistemon* discovered by Neil Marriot near the Mackenzie River in the Victorian Wimmera district. It occurred over a distance of some 10 km and is growing in association with *Callistemon rugulosus*. Many specimens of this new species are the size of a small tree. Neil intends to

name the new species *Callistemon wimmerensis* ms (Wimmera Bottlebrush) .
Flowers are mauve-pink and appear about a month later than those of *C. rugulosus*

CALLISTEMONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

John and Heather Angrave operate a nursery at Tonbridge in Kent , England .
My first contact with John and Heather was in 1994 when they were seeking seed of *Callistemon* species to establish a collection of these plants . Their collection has been extended to include a number of *Melaleuca* species also . Most of the plants spend their lives in containers and over winter in a poly tunnel although a large number are planted outside. Many of the plants are propagated by semi-hardwood cuttings under mist but they have trouble keeping up with demand and regularly import tube stock from a number of nurseries around Brisbane and Monbulk near Melbourne .

Species being grown outside include -

Callistemon citrinus , *pallidus* , *pearsonii* , *pinifolius* , *pityoides* , *salignus* , *seiberi* , *subulatus* , *citrinus* " Angela " , *citrinus* " Burgundy " , *citrinus* " Horse Paddock " , *citrinus* " Mauve Mist " , *citrinus* " Splendens " , *citrinus* " White Anzac " , *pachyphyllus viridus* , *pachyphyllus* " Pink Champagne " , *pallidus* " Candle Glow " , *pallidus* " Father Christmas " , *pearsonii* " Rocky Rambler " , *pinifolius* " Sockeye " (a hybrid raised by John and Heather from seed – salmon/orange in colour) *sieberi* " Injune " ? , *sieberi* " Millie Marsden " , *subulatus* " Packers Selection " , *subulatus* " Phil May " , *viminialis* " Perth Pink " .

Melaleuca gibbosa , *incana* , *pustulata* , *spathulata* , *squarrosa* , *thymifolia* .

As well as the species listed above being grown for sale the following species are also being grown for sale –

Callistemon comboynensis , *flavovirens* , *formosus* , *glaucus* , " Happy Valley " , *linearis* , *pachyphyllus* , *phoeniceus* , *polandii* , *rigidus* , " Running River " , *teretifolius* , *viminialis* , *viminialis* " Kings Park Special " , *viminialis* " Little John " , *viminialis* " Red Clusters " , *viminialis* " Wilderness White " , " Candy Pink " , *Malawi Giant* " , " Purple Splendour " , " Taree Pink " .

Melaleuca alternifolia , *armillaris* , *armillaris* " Pink form " , *citrina* , *decussata* , *elliptica* , *fulgens* " Hot Pink " , *fulgens* " Purple " , *fulgens* " Apricot " , *fulgens* var. *steadmanii* , *huegelii* , *holosericea* , *hypericifolia* (red and orange forms) , *laterita* , *macronychia* , *nesophylla* , *nesophylla* " Little Ness " , *pulchella* , *thymifolia* " Cotton Candy " .

Heather advises that the strain of *M. incana* being grown has very attractive grey foliage and this , together with the apricot form of *M. fulgens* are popular plants with the buying public.

The nursery also carries a few *Calothamnus* and *Leptospermum turbinatum* and *L. spectabile* and would like to extend their range to include *Eremophila*, *Hypocalymma*, *Leschenaultia* etc.

MEMBERS REPORTS

Paul and Barbara Kennedy travelled by car to Western Australia to attend the Perth conference and in the process toured the south-west of Western Australia and then travelled inland to Meekatharra, the Gasgoyne Region including Mount Augustus and the Kennedy Range and, lastly, the Cape Range at Exmouth before heading down the coast via Shark Bay, Kalbarri and the Eneabba area. The west had received good winter rains so there was an abundance of wildflowers.

On the way to Meekatharra they passed through the old mining town of Cue. Just north of Cue are a number of depressions - normally dry but full of water this year - with *Melaleucas* growing around the perimeters of the depressions which Paul took to be *M. uncinata* but which, on closer examination, is probably *M. stereophloia*. At the foot of Mount Augustus a *Melaleuca* with small short leaves, growing in a sandy creek bed, is probably *M. cardiophylla*. The large catchment of the Gasgoyne and Murchison Rivers between Meekatharra and Gasgoyne Junction (500 km) is mostly gibber plain covered with *Acacia* scrub and with *Eucalyptus* species lining the watercourses. The Gasgoyne River was crossed at Yinnetharra Station on the Cobra - Gasgoyne Junction Road where a *Melaleuca* with long linear leaves - probably *M. linophylla* - was seen.

From the Gasgoyne Region Paul and Barbara headed north to Exmouth and the Cape Range. The Cape Range has a very hard rock cap and is difficult to walk on but the discomfort is outweighed by the host of flora which it carries - *Grevillea*, *Melaleuca*, *Calothamnus*, *Hakea*, *Eucalyptus* and a number of plants which Paul could not identify. From Shark Bay the Useless Loop road (an interesting name for a road - I wonder where the name originated !!) was taken and on the red sandhills along this road specimens of *M. eulobata* and a red and green flowered *Calothamnus* was found. At the same location *Euc. roycei*, *Verticordia grandis*, *Grevillea rogersoniana*, *Acacia* Spp. *Adenanthos acanthaclada* (which doesn't look like an *Adenanthos*) and a host of other plants.

The *Melaleucas* in the Kalbarri area had not started to flower but *M. longistaminea* ssp *spectabilis* was in flower in the Howatharra Hills north of Geraldton. The only *Melaleuca* found in flower in Mount Lesueur National Park was *M. coronicarpa* with sharp, pointed leaves and white flowers.

Melaleucas which flowered in Paul and Barbaras garden during 2005 are as follows -

Ml. depressa, *ryeae*, *wilsonii*, *violacea*, *sapientes*, *teretifolia*, *uncinata*, *urceolaris*, *pentagona*, *pulchella*, *pungens*, *radula*, *hypericifolia*, *megacephala*, *nematophylla*, *brevifolia*, *calycina*, *ciliosa*, *coccinea*, *concreta*, *cordata*, *decussata*, *elliptica*, *fulgens* ss, *steadmanii*, "Georgiana Molloy", *gibbosa*, *glaberrima*, *stypheoloides*, *suberosa*, *scabra*, *holosericea*, *incana*, *laxiflora*, *glomerata* and *groveana*. Nearly all of the 32 *Callistemons* in their garden

flowered as well as many of the Calothamnus . Calothamnus gilesii was in flower at the time of this report (late December) .

Our thoughts are with Neil and Wendy Marriot from Stawell in Victoria whose garden was quite severely damaged in the fires of late 2005. Fortunately the house and nursery and the immediate surrounds and buildings were saved but most of the Grevillea garden (which, I imagine contained a large population of Grevillea spp) , the Eucalyptus arboretum and the rain forest arboretum have been destroyed . New plantings near the nursery and most of the Acacias appear to have survived.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Although I provided a Membership list with NL 30 there was an inadvertent omission from this list and there have been a few new members and renewals since then so this list should be right :

*ASGAP, c/- M. Slattery, P.O. Box 135E, East Devonport TAS 7310
APS, Tasmania, P.O. Box 818, Kingston, TAS., 7051
APS Victoria, P.O. Box 357, Hawthorn Business Centre, VIC 3122
APS South Aust, P.O. Box 304, Unley, SA 5061
APS Keilor Plains Group, P.O. Box 115, Niddrie VIC 3042
APS Blue Mts Group, P.O. Box 23 Glenbrook NSW 2773
APS NSW, P.O. Box 744, Blacktown NSW 2148
APS Maroondah INC, P.O. Box 33 Ringwood VIC 3134
APS Bairnsdale Dist, P.O. Box 1036 Bairnsdale VIC 3875
APS Armidale Dist, P.O. Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350
Aust. National Gardens Library, G.P.O. Box 1777, Canberra City ACT 2601
APS Fleurieu Group, P.O. Box 584, Victor Harbor SA 5211
ANPS Canberra Region, P.O. Box 2127 Civic Square ACT 2601
APS Tamworth Group, P.O. Box 288 Tamworth NSW 2340
Ms. K. Bartlett, " Winpara " , Jervois SA 5259
J. Burrell, 101 Pearce Road, Booyong NSW 2480
Mrs. B.N. Buchanan, 1256 Benalla-Whitfield Road Myrree VIC 3732
Mrs D.E. Cassidy, 21 Edinburgh Road, Blackburn South VIC 3130
Mr. L. Craven,, Aust Nat Herbarium G.P.O. Box1600 Canberra ACT 2601
Mr. H. Debono, Parc Des Veyssieres , 606 Ave Raymond Rolland , 83700 Saint Raphael, France
Mrs . S. Gwilym, 44 Livingstone Road, Eltham VIC 3095
Ms. B. Gale, 150 Grant Street , Alexandra VIC 3714
Mr. A. Griinke , 27 Jannusch Road, Toowoomba QLD 4350
Mr I. Holliday, 29 Tennyson Street, Tranmere SA 5073
Mr. J. Irons, " Stonecourt " 74 Brimstage Road, HESWALL Wirral CH60 IXG England
Mrs. M. Ingall, P.O. Box 1295 Gosford NSW 2250
Mr. B. Jahnke, 11 Goldsbrough Road, Taringa QLD 4068
Mr. P. Kennedy, Johnsons Lane, Strathmerton VIC 3641
Mr. E. Knight, 15 Valantine Road, Birkdale QLD 4159
Mr. D. Lightfoot, 36 Arundel Court, Surrey Hills VIC 3127*

Mr. P.V. Lightfoot, 64 Ridgeway Road, New Lambton Heights NSW 2305
 Mrs. B. Leggett, 3 Talavera Street, Carindale QLD 4152
 Mrs. M. Moir, RMB 261A, Margaret River WA 6285
 Mrs. L. Mathews, P.O. Box 12, Koraleigh NSW 2735
 Mr J. Mahoney, 275 Whites Road, Mount Duneed VIC 3216
 Mr . P. Phillips, 35 Homestead Way, Sunbury VIC 3429
 Mr. G. Roche, 36 Brown Street, Maryborough VIC 3465
 Mr. S. Shugg, 6 Ferris Street, Kambah ACT 2902
 SGAP QLD Region , P.O. Box 586, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006
 Mr & Mrs W. Sheather, " Yallaroo " 1898 Bundara Road Yarrowyck NSW 2358
 Mrs L. Uijtewaal-De-Vries, Dries 22, 6086 A W Neer The Netherlands
 Mr. B.D. Williams, P.O. Box 513, Kew VIC 3101
 Mr . J. Wrigley, P.O. Box 1639, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
 Wildflower Soc. Of W. A., P.O. Box 64 Nedlands WA 6909
 Mr A. Wilson 13631 Old El Camino Road, San Diego, California 92130 USA
 Mr D.H. Widdop, 66 Banff Street, Corowa NSW 2646

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| <u>Receipts</u> | | <u>Expenditure</u> | |
|--|----------|---------------------|----------|
| Balance at 6-6-05 | \$457.84 | Photocopy NL 30 | \$24.00 |
| Membership fees | \$255.40 | Postage NL 30 | \$33.20 |
| | | Reg, post- slides + | |
| Total | \$713.24 | stamps | \$15.80 |
| | | Reg. post- slides | \$10.80 |
| Less Expenditure - | \$107.15 | GDT | \$1.20 |
| | | Petty cash | \$22.15 |
| Total - | \$606.09 | | |
| | | Total - | \$107.15 |
| Balance as per bank statement - 6-6-05 | | \$606.09 | |

Interest paid on the account for the 2004/2005 year was included in the previous financial statement

SEED LIST

Seed list as published in December 2004 still applies . Should you require a further copy of this list please let me know and I will forward one to you

SLIDE SETS

Slide sets of Callistemon (125 slides) , Melaleuca (137 slides) and Leptospermum(48 slides) and Associated genera(42 slides) are available for loan to groups or individuals . The associated genera with Leptospermum includes - Kunzea , Beaufortia, Regelia , Calothamnus , Thryptomene, Micromyrtus, Darwinia , Verticordia , Homoranthus and Neofabrica . The study group pays the outward

cost of postage by registered mail and the borrower is expected to return the slides by the same method.

I must apologise for the late issue of this N.L .but my health has not been as good as it could have been over the past few months, involving a few hospital visits and lots of medication so I have been adding bits to the newsletter as I have felt up to it I hope you enjoy it and, remember, don't forget to forward any info you may think could be of interest to other members .

I hope you have a happy and healthy New Year

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'P. L.', written in black ink.