

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSCYCAD & ZAMIAD STUDY GROUP NO. 26SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1986

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In the field of cycad and zamiad study this is to say the least, a very interesting time. Information drifts in of new sightings every month, and although some will turn out to be merely forms of known plants, the possibilities of a new one is always there.

Mrs. Bosworth speaks of a very blue fronded cycas in the Marlborough, Qld., districts and this is worth noting because of the keen perception of the finder, knowing her enthusiasm with these species.

Ken Adcock of Bentley W.A. sent my 2 really good photos of *Macrozamia riedlei* taken on the Jurian Bay road. He reports that he is doing studies and measurements on 8 plants at Jurian and 8 plants at Canning Vale. Such enthusiasm is a real shot in the arm to a study group.

Keep up this good work, Ken.

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Most exciting news the last twelve months is the possibility of a new species. This first came from Stan Walkley of Burpengary and Mr. Dawes of Mission Beach. Both had large specimens of a blue fronded cycas bluer than the usual sheen that appears on cycas. Since then I photographed one at Xmas and published the photo in "Queensland Gardener" - September issue, under the common name "Glen Idle". Later in June '86, I found out the whereabouts of this plant and obtained official verification it really existed.

A rather remote property near Hughenden, Qld., is the habitat, and the owners are fencing it off from cattle and also putting a fire - break around the area. According to the owner the colony is large and the plant vary in height up to 10 metres, the one mentioned having 80 fronds on the plant.

The fruit of the mature seed is purple. I am also informed that American visiting cycad enthusiasts are describing the plant in America. However as it is an indigenous species I reckon we should do this here in Australia. The so far accepted name is "Glen Idle Blue".

My most enthusiastic active member has just sent me a very interesting letter on his travels amongst our cycadales and I include it here, as well as ask, Don Stallard what he also knows of *Cycas Glen Idle Blue*?

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26 July, 1986

D. Stallard,
16 Margaret St.,
STUART PARK. 5790,
DARWIN. N.T.

Hello Len,

Thanks Len for the recent Palm Study newsletter along with the reminder regarding S.G.A.P. subscriptions which are way overdue.

Since last writing the pursuit of our Cycad colonies has stepped up with a trip over to N. Queensland taking in the Gulf region.

Sightings of a *Cycas* sp. just north of Townsville near the beach at Toolakea; along the Bruce Highway either side of Ingham and just north of Cairns on the Cook Highway have no doubt been documented. I have yet not checked their names.

Returning back along the Chillagoe road at a site near Dimbulah a fine stand of *Cycas mosaic* the hillside. Again as yet not checked.

Carrying on through Burketown enroute to the N.T. border and eventually Bonoloola the first sightings of *Cycas angulata* were made some 200 kms over the border and 70 odd kms. before Bonoloola. In all my trekking around Africa, the Pacific Islands and Western Australia I have never come across such an impressive species. Not only does it stand some 8 or 9 metres tall the density of their growth is exceptional. An area (just by chance an Aboriginal Station Reserve), surrounding the homesteads at Manangoora is a magnificent representation of this species. I have included some photographs for your examination although

naturally they do not do justice to the impressiveness of this stand.

I would be particularly interested if anybody else may have visited this area from the East Coast to confirm their splendour.



CYCAS ANGULATA

This sighting has inspired me to do something about preserving such fine stands of plant life so consequently I have, along with other species, made application for this area to be registered in the "Register of Significant". Although there is no guarantee that this area will be retained at least an effort has been made and recorded that the location is of special significance.

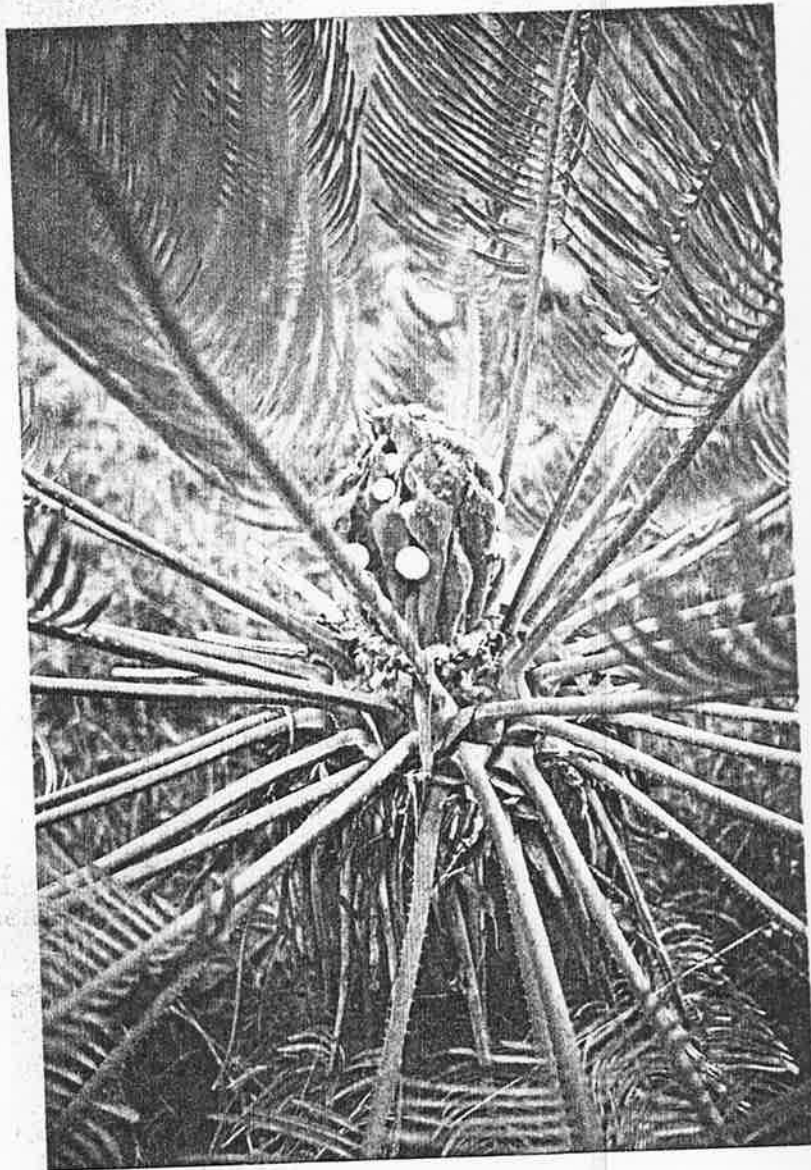


CYCAS SP 'GLEN IDLE BLUE'

It is the responsibility of the Government if the area should be lost for future generations.

I think it is important that we act now as a recognised Group to make as many applications of significant areas of Cycads before the interpretation of a "Significant Tree" is changed and we lose recognition of some fine examples of Cycads.

Initially we need to define what a "significant area" is particularly as some of our cycad species cover massive areas and the "Categories of Significant" may not be covered. Whether one can obtain significance for an entire species or just for an area which best represents this species is for us to present.



CYCAS - DIMBOLAH SPECIES

Keeping in mind and determining from the "authorities" what the difference is between a "protected" species (which I take it most of our Cycads are) and a "significant" species.

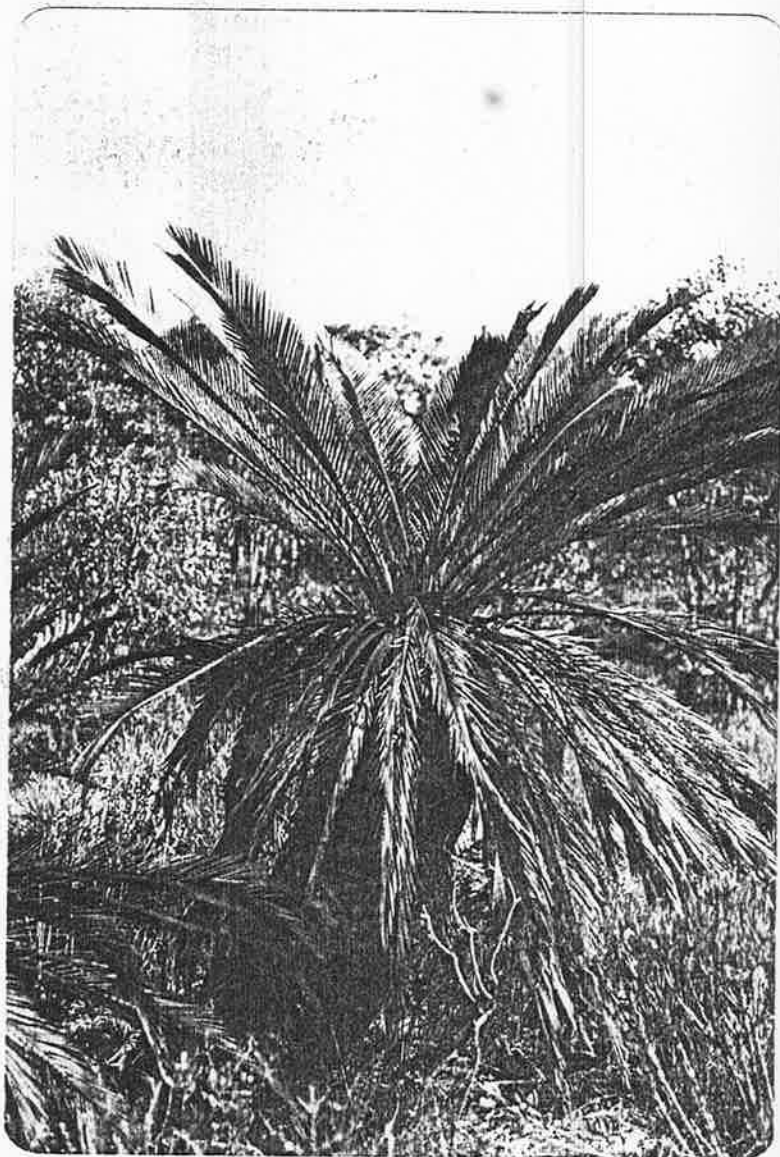
If I can help in some way regarding the above just let me know - I intend covering the Top End as best I can - if nothing else I shall keep the assessors busy and hopefully pleasantly surprised at our ancient growths.

Of course the same should apply for our palms.

Meantime I shall be heading out into the Western Top End once more to check distributions and introduce some friends to our Barramundi.

For the time - - - my regards.

Don stallard.



MACROZAMIA RIEDLEI.