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SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
INDIGENOUS CYCAD/ZAMIAD AND PALM STUDY
GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 44
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1990

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Hi friends,

If you are also in PACSOA you will know by now that the small book "Introduction to the Genus Cycas in Australia" is now a reality and all their members have one. If you want it, please contact Ted Van Ginneken PACSOA bookstore 62 Kangaroo Ave., Bongaree, Bribie Island, Qld. price is $8.50 ~~plus~~ or $10.00 posted. In a month or so I will have limited copies. ASGAP Qld. region also. Until they run out, all future issues of our newsletters will have photos of my Northern Territory ramblings.

Thanks for the financial response, I actually have two-thirds of existing members financial and that's the best ever.

I am actually trying to make this a palm issue. On my Northern Territory journey, I called in by Deluxe bus to Mat Aranga, Elsey Station and had a tropical breakfast of corn flakes and tropical fruit salad. The thermal pool is worth looking at and also a spa type dip in about 30°c water. Surrounds and pool are an oasis of Livistona rigidus palm, that huge fan leaf Livistona that starts its life by looking very like Livistona mariae. Biggest specimens I have ever seen completely enclose much of the warm pool and no crocodiles to worry about either.

Elsey Station is before you reach Katherine and in the Northern Territory dry, looks like a gigantic camping area with a tourist restaurant and souvenir shop thrown in. There is a replica of the Maluka's "We of the Never Never" homestead there.

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Between Katherine and Darwin the cycads start on each side of the road, but as I said this is about palms and the most significant was the stand of Livistona Inermis gracing a granite hillock on our right hand side. I missed it, but was later taken there.

What a really fine Livistona this is. Biggest I saw about 6 metres high. Small fans clothed almost to the palm's base, each petiole, or more precisely rachis, a distinctive pink colour. I suspect it does much better in that 30°c Northern Territory dry climate. Compares favourably with the exotic Chamerops humilis single trunk which it resembles.

Now the sand palm starts in earnest and I saw them in thousands, all through the Northern Territory. Livistona humilis, a small delightful palm growing amongst the cycads, generally about 1.5 metres high, but many about 5 metres in height. Seeds were from the apex, black and on pendant racemes.

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91 Mills St.,
WARNERS BAY.
N.S.W. 2282
23/7/90

Dear Mr. Butt,

It is many years since I was a member of a SGAP study group in those early days my interest was in Eucalypts, Banksias and other sclerophyllous Australian plants. Gradually my interest has shifted towards rainforest and in particular palms. As a result my garden which has been developed over a period of 35+ years is a mixture of the various interests.

Since building a new house in my original back garden about 10 years ago my interest in palms and to a lesser extent cycads was rejuvenated. A number of palms, tree ferns and a Lepidozamia peroffskyana had been planted in this area in the early 60's. When I retired 18 months ago I took responsibility for the establishment of a palm collection at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, a community based initiative being developed on 140 ha. of land off the Pacific Highway south of Raymond Terrace.

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My garden at Warners Bay at the north-eastern end of Lake Macquarie south of Newcastle is built in a sheltered gully on clay soil and subject to temporary inundation by a natural creek carrying stormwater from a nearby street producing substantial stormflows across the valley floor. By contrast the site selected for the palm collection at the H.R.B.G. is part of the Hunter District Water Board's tornago sandbeds. The land is generally level with a slight fall to a natural swamp on the south. A shaded zone is provided by a dense stand of N.S.W. Xmass Bush, Cheese Trees (Glochidion ferdinandii) and Corkwood (Endeandra Sieberi) about 20 m wide running east-west parallel to the swamp margin. An upper canopy of large Blackbutts, Bloodwoods and Angophora costata exists throughout the area and the adjoining open forest zone. Macrozamia communis and M. pauli-guilielimi subspecies flexuosa both occur in the area the former were common.

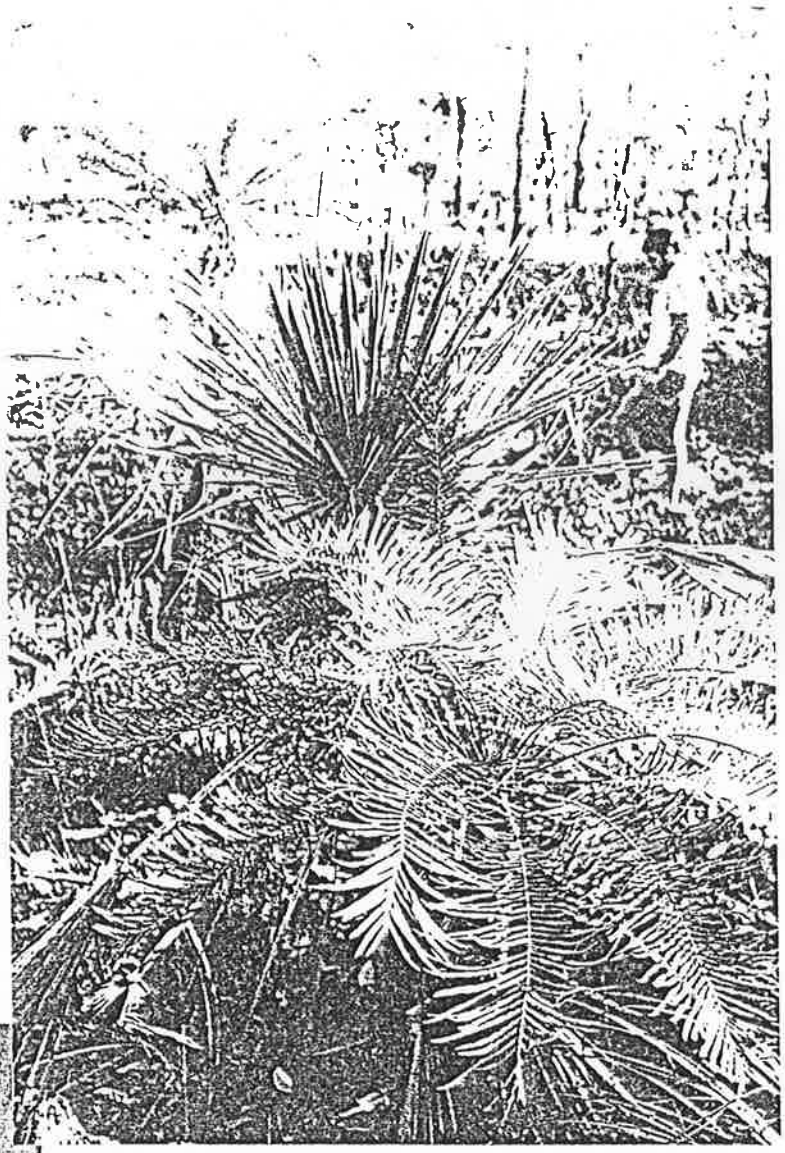
In my own garden the cover is provided by large Glochidion trees which suckered up as soon as bush fires were excluded about 35 years ago and various eucalypts although the latter have tended to die out as the rainforest was re-established. While my garden is predominantly Australian I do have a number of exotics growing including exotic palms.

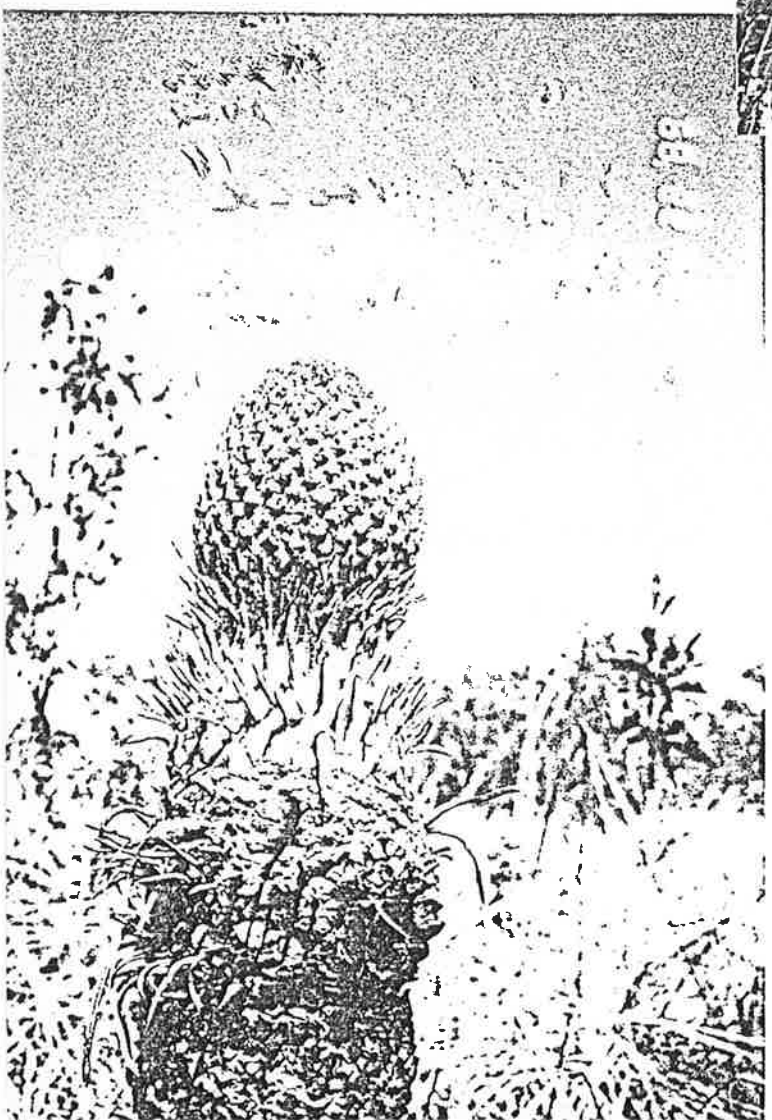
I enclose a list of the Australian palms I have growing at Warners Bay (in the ground) and have added some notes and some photographs of my garden. I also enclose some plans of the palm garden I am developing at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens showing the species of palms planted in the last two years.

Yours sincerely,

Don Morris.

LIVISTONA HUMILIS
AND CYCAS ARMSTRONGII
ENTANGLED.
STUART HIGHWAY

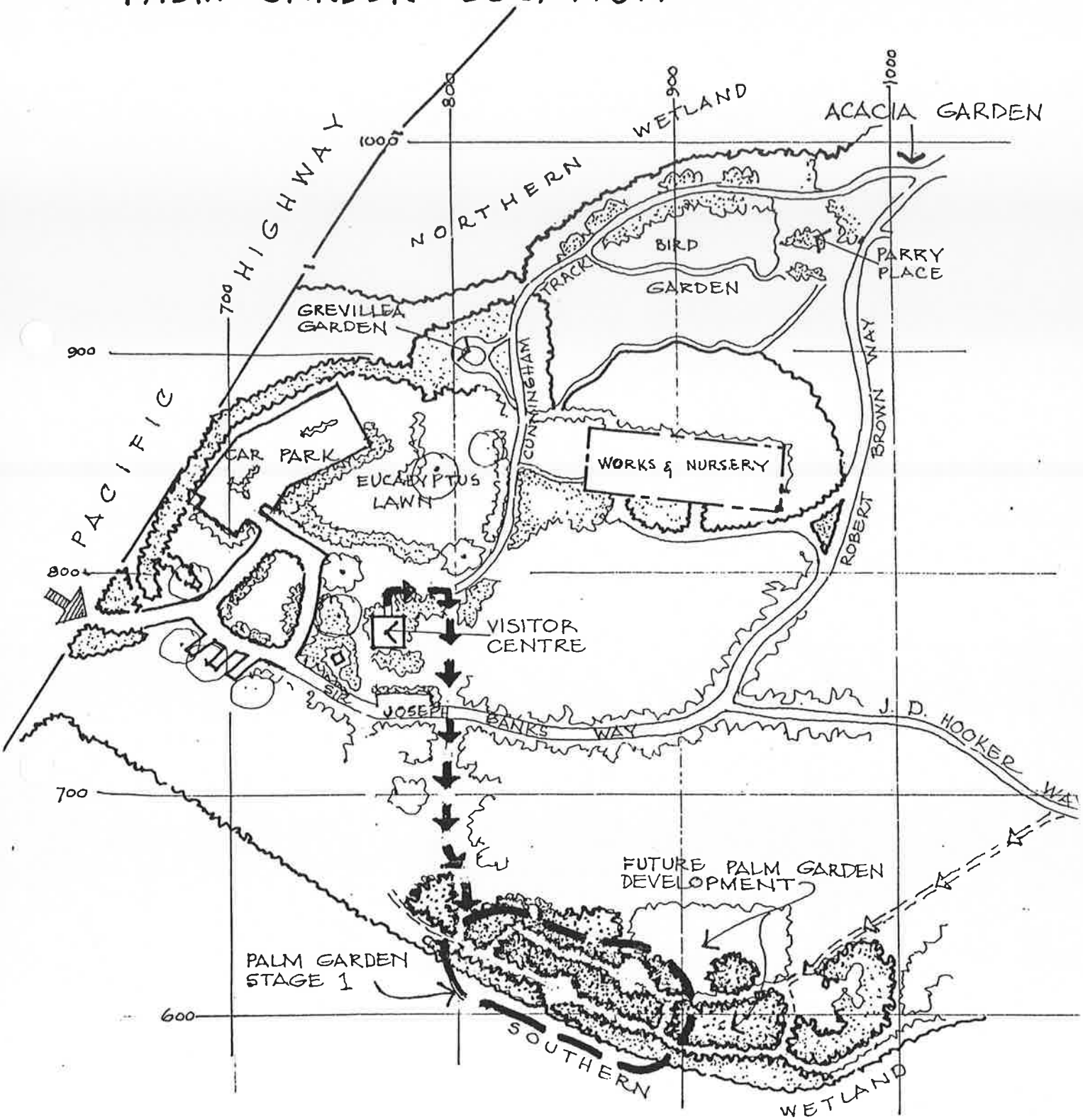




CYCAS ARMSTRONGII
MALE CONE IN HABITAT.

HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS

PALM GARDEN LOCATION



Don Morris Hon. Curator

Australasian Palms Growing at 91 Mills Street Warner's Bay.
December 1987

	No. of Specimens	Natural Occurrence
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	(18+)	N.S.W. Some 10 m high planted 1962-65
Archontophoenix alexandrae	(2)	Q.
Archontophoenix Mt. Lewis	(2)	N.Q.
Arenga australasica	(1)	Cape York N.Q.
Calamus caryotoides	(1)	N.Q.
Calamus hollrungii	(1)	Cape York N.Q.
Carpentaria acuminata	(2)	N.T. Very slow
~~Caryota rumphiana~~ died 1st winter	(1)	Cape York N.Q.
Hedyscepe canterburyana	(2)	Lord Howe Is.
Howea belmoreana	(2)	Lord Howe Is.
Howea fosteriana	(1)	Lord Howe Is.
Laccospadix australasica suckering single specimen planted about 1965. 3 m high flowered 1989	(2)	Atherton & Mt.Lewis N.Q.
Licuala ramsayi	(1)	Cape York - Tully N.Q.
Linospadix aequisegmentosa slow	(s)	Mountains N.Q.
Linospadix apetiolata still in pots	(s)	N.Q.
Linospadix minor Growing well	(2)	N.Q.
Linospadix monostachya Some 25 years old up to 2.5 m tall	(4)	Port Macquarie, Q. and N.S.W.
Livistona australis planted 25 years up to 10 m high	(4)	N.S.W.
~~Livistona decipiens~~	(s)	Fraser Is. Q.
Livistona Cape River	(2)	N.Q.
~~Livistona mariae~~	(s)	MacDonnell Ra. N.T.
Livistona muelleri	(1)	Cape York N.Q.
Normanbya normanbyi one transplanted 10 yrs ago now 4.5 m high	(3)	N.Q.
Ptychosperma elegans	(2)	Cape York - Fraser Is Q.
Ptychosperma macarthurii	(1)	Cape York N.Q. N.T.
Rhopalostylis baueri	(1)	Norfolk Is.
Rhopalostylis sapida	(1)	New Zealand
Wodyetia bifurcata	(1)	Melville Ra. Cape York N.Q.

Cycads

Bowenia spectabilis	Atherton Q.
Lepidozamia peroffskyana	Taree N.S.W. Q.
Lepidozamia hopei	Q.
Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi flexuosa	