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**ASGAP PALM & CYCAD STUDY GROUP**  
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**Mea culpa :** Again a late newsletter, I fear. No water-tight excuses, but I have had a few distractions like my outside office needing major re-styling after a termite attack, & the house itself getting a new roof, all in the last 6 weeks.

**Membership matters :** Asgap, the federal body of all the SGAP & APS state & territory societies, has decreed that all study groups shall list all their members, & only allow full membership to members of one of it's constituent societies. So I here list all members, with addresses for individuals, but not for groups within ASGAP. I expect I can count most non-members as associates, & send them newsletters, as they provide information that is useful to the study group (e.g., as with botanists, or field reports from others).

[1] **GROUPS :** The Western Australian Wildflower Society.  
APS in SA, Victoria, Tasmania, NSW (includes copies for the editors of 'Australian Plants' & 'Native Plants'), Canberra, Blue Mountains, Maroondah (Vic.), & Foothills Group (P.O.Box 65, Boronia3155).  
SGAP (QLD Region).

[2] **INDIVIDUALS :** Dean R. Reid, 9 Fourth Avenue, Woodville Gardens, SA 5012.

- MR A. Don Stallard, 5 Pembroke Street, Bicton 6157.
- Drs. Ann & Geoff Long, 561 Foxground Road, Foxground 2534.
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- Harry Franz, M.S. 652, Goomeri 4601.
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- Ian Waldron, P.O. Box 134, Jimboomba 4280.
- James van Bree, % Junction Road, Wahroonga 2076.
- Avril & Lance Denby, 100 Ross River Road, Mundingburra 4812.
- Leza Bennetts, P.O.Box 232, Bangalow 2479.
- Sandra T. Clarke, 335 Power Road, M.S.115, Widgee 4570.
- Peter Haynes, 101 Rickards Avenue, North Knoxfield 3180.

**Subscriptions** for 2002-2003 are now due. I have placed a tick in the 1-line table below to show what my records indicate for each person. You are paid up to.....

2002-2003	2001- 2002	2000-2001	1999-2000	1998-1999	>2002-2003

**Financial matters :** The starting balance for 2001-02 was \$ 33-50.

Income : subscriptions	\$ 195
forward subs.	10
TOTAL	\$ 205
Expenses : photocopying	47
postage	89-60
paper	32-70
TOTAL	169-30

Hence new balance (for start of 2002-2003) is 33-50 plus 35-70, thus \$ 69-20.

**Books :** Two major books on cycads have recently appeared. To save repeating myself, I here include the review of "Cycads of Australia" by myself, from the June 2002 SGAP QLD 'Bulletin'. PACSOA are selling it at \$65 including postage, & SGAP-QLD & myself at \$47 plus postage. PACSOA are also selling the new book by well-known American cycad enthusiast Loran Whitelock ; 'The Cycads' at

\$125 including postage. This book is glowingly reviewed by Roy Osborne on pages 20-21 of the January-March issue of 'Palms & Cycads' (No. 74). It has 374 pages & 505 colour plates, plus line drawings. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, USA, the ISBN is 0-88192-522-5. I haven't got around to buying one yet, but I will, despite the price. (And the Aust. \$ looks like recovering a bit; maybe Amazon.com will become more competitive.)

The same issue of 'Palms & Cycads' contains the description, by Paul Forster from the Qld Herbarium, of 'a new blue-leaved (*Cycas cupida*) species from central Queensland'. It is found to the south of Charters Towers, & the 'Palms & Cycads' article contains 6 colour plates, while a slightly fuller scientific description is given in *Austrobaileya* 6:153-160. The new species is in Ken Hill's series *Cainsianosae*, with the species closest to it in morphology being *C. couttsiana* & *C. desolata*. Leaves of *C. cupida* seem to hold their blue colouration well as the leaves age, like *C. cairnsiana*, but it is not as intense.

*Austrobaileya* 6 (2001) also contains an article by David L. Jones, Paul Forster & Ish K. Sharma, pages 67-94, revising the *Macrozamia miquelii* group. Since the authors disagreed on some of the species descriptions of Ken Hill in the *Flora of Australia* vol.48 (pp. 597-661), they have re-described the group, which consists of *M. miquelii*, *M. mountperriensis*, *M. longispina*, *M. macleayi*, *M. douglasii*, *M. cardiacensis* & *M. serpentina*. The new species, *M. macleayi* & *M. serpentina*, have been excised from *M. miquelii*, which the authors consider to be restricted to the Port Curtis District, from near Mt. Lacom to north of Byfield. The southern part of the 'old' *M. miquelii* becomes *M. macleayi*, with a distribution from Mt. Colosseum near Miriamvale to Brisbane (very common in parts of Brisbane Forest Park). It is very close to the 'new' *miquelii*, which has 'duller, thicker-textured leaflets & larger female cones.' *M. serpentina* occurs in the Leichhardt & Port Curtis Districts, between Marlborough & Yaamba. It has a subterranean caudex, & has smaller & fewer leaves than *M. miquelii*, & also smaller leaflets, cones & seeds. An allozyme (via electrophoresis) analysis of 6 (the *serpentina* samples went missing) of the species showed all were closely related, with the single *cardiacensis* sample a little less so.

This same issue of *Austrobaileya* contains a paper by John Dowe (once Curator of the Townsville Palmetum) & Anders Barfod; 6:167-174, describing *Livistona* sp. Cooktown as *L. concinna*. It differs from *L. benthamii* in having leaves which are light green on both surfaces, & the lamina has a broad central area where the segments are fused. Two new species from New Guinea are also described. *L. surru* & *L. tothur* are both solitary palms, from the West Sepik & Madang Provinces for the former, & from the Onake Mountains in West Sepik Province for the latter. *L. tothur* has a silver glaucous bloom on the abaxial surface of its leaf lamina, & orange-red fruit to 43 mm diameter. *L. surru* has a leaf lamina with almost equal colour on both surfaces, & orange-red fruit to 65 mm in diameter. In New Guinea, unlike Australia, most *Livistona* spp. are narrowly distributed & relatively rare.

## Cycads of Australia

by Ken Hill & Roy Osborne

Published by Kangaroo Press, Sydney

For the short version, this book is excellent, and the first to cover this subject since 30 or so new species (of the 69 described here) were named in recent years. It is written by two experienced botanists and cycad enthusiasts who have seen virtually all the species in the wild, and all the photos were taken in the field, either by them or by members of SGAP or PACSOA (Palm & Cycad Societies of Australia).

Ken Hill is a senior botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and has over the last 15 years or so revised the genus *Cycas* in Australia, the Pacific Islands and Asia. Roy Osborne studied cycads at the University of Natal for 20 years or so, then migrated to Australia about a decade ago, when he became commercially and scientifically involved in Australian cycads.

The book is similar to "The Grevillea Book" in having a colour shot of each species (and subspecies where relevant) in habitat, plus close-ups of cones, seeds and fronds in many

cases.

It commences with 17 introductory pages of which 2 deal with cycad relationships world-wide, 2 with cycad anatomy and morphology, 3 with reproduction and seed dispersal, 3 with hybrids, 2 with aboriginal and Islander usage and cycad toxicity, 2 with conservation and 3 with cultivation. All of these are comprehensive, clear, and marvels of compression.

Then there are 95 pages on the species, 1 page of books for further reading, 1 page on cycad-oriented websites, 1 on cycad-oriented societies and a 1-page index to species. There is no glossary as such, but the terms used, many more or less specific to cycads, are defined fully in the introductory pages.

The 69 species covered are arranged in families (Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae, Zamiaceae), and within families arranged in groups of related species, and not alphabetically (a sure sign of a professional botanist!). Each species or subspecies has a location map, notes on

distribution, habitat descriptions usually including soil, topography and climate details, conservation status (rarity etc.), a list of the main distinguishing features, and notes on any other unusual features.

The book is almost error-free (a typo at p. 63 needs 'Bowenia' deleted from the heading), up to date, and a great improvement on any other general book dealing with Australian cycads.

While being printed, a couple more rather insignificant-looking *Macrozamia* species have been described and named, and I expect a few more yet to come. Also, *M. machinii*, which is recognised as a separate species by the Brisbane Herbarium but not by the Sydney one, has been omitted, but a note on it is on p.103. I supplied some of the slides for

the book, and so know that more photos had been planned, and many included are much reduced in size, due to financial constraints. What remains is still excellent.

An entire book could be written on cultivation of cycads, so that section is necessarily less than complete. However, the habitat notes give a useful guide in most cases. The lists on p.16 of cycads for various garden applications are correct as far as they go, but many other species could be listed in most categories. In particular, the list of cold-hardy cycads could be greatly extended, by *Macrozamia moorei*, *M. fearnsidei*, *M. lucida*, *M. miquelii* and many more.

(Reviewed by Kerry Rathie)

