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RAINFOREST STUDY GROUP

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" When money talks — truth is silent. " (Traditional Buddhist saying)

REPORT ON THE MARCH BRISBANE MEETING

Jan Sked said that the outing to Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens was most enjoyable. The RF plantings are coming along very well and they have some interesting species growing. The curator arranged to have a mini bus transport our group through the Gardens, which was most welcome as the new RF area is a long way from the entry. (During the week, cars are allowed to drive through the botanic gardens, but at the weekends they are not permitted.)

THE NSW WEEKEND AT GLOUCESTER IN MARCH WAS A GREAT SUCCESS TOO

Sadly though, it was somewhat marred for the Gibians' who arranged the activity, as Toms father passed away just 2 days previously. We would have understood if the weekend had to be deferred, but Pip decided to continue on and acted as sole host, while Tom remained in Sydney to organise necessary arrangements. The Study Group extends its sympathy to the family.

Sixteen members and one visitor attended, 8 from Sydney, 7 from the nearby north while Geoff and Conny Warn travelled all the way from Wollongong. I was glad to catch up on people I'd not seen for some time, and specially pleased to meet Ian and Tamara Cox who joined our group a couple of years ago.

Tom and Pip bought the property - 150 acres of ex-cattle farmland - about 12 years ago and commenced replanting it in 1990. (Little of the original vegetation remained at that time.) They grow RF species on the Bowman River frontage and in a gully which contains some remnant RF; while on the hillsides away from the river, Eucalypts are used. RF plants are obtained from John Ross at Coramba, while the Eucs are mainly propagated by themselves. They put in 200 - 250 trees each year and prefer to grow on tube stock into 4l bags before planting out for quicker establishment. As well, 12 ha of joint venture with NSW Forestry have been established as Eucalypt plantation.

AT THE GROUP MEETING AT GLOUCESTER - IT WAS DETERMINED THAT A CHANGE TO PAST UNDERTAKINGS AND PROCEDURES BE MADE

Background - Three years ago I undertook, as editor, to publish in our N/L all comments and criticisms in an endeavour to encourage open debate and to avoid background complaining. It was, obviously, not one of my wiser decisions.

It appeared to some people at the gathering (and others who have written or personally commented) that a former member should not have been given space recently, for his extreme views and personal attack, and that future similar over-the-top attitudes be disregarded.

After some discussion, the following motion was put - **This meeting of the SGAP Rainforest Study Group affirms the current leadership of the Group and the leader's role as newsletter editor. We consider that the RFSG Newsletter should not contain any derogatory statements regarding individuals work and/ or beliefs, except as supported by reasonable factual evidence.** Moved: Susan Phillips..... Seconded: Anna Hazenveld. Passed unanimously.

Obviously I will be compelled to return any (hopefully none at all) unreasonable or unsupported criticisms to the sender, asking whether he wishes to consign them to the W.P.B. or if I do just that, on his behalf.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP IS ALMOST TOTALLY MADE UP OF MAINLAND EAST COAST PEOPLE

Analysis of the current membership list confirms that NSW dominates with just over 100 subscribers, 33 Qld people, 14 Victorians, 4 South Ozzies, 3 Sand Gropers (WA), 2 Apple Islanders (Tas) and 2 Europeans.

I would like to imagine that Queensland membership would (should) double, considering that State contains the bulk of our nations remaining RF, but I accept that they are often wary of southerners and are concerned about loss of their own destiny. What better then, to organise that the next RFSG leader be from that state? After all, the three Study Group leaders administering our Group since it was formed 20 years ago have all been from NSW. And all lived in Sydney (where I spent most of my life). Until I "saw the light".

NEW MEMBERS

Graham Caldersmith Kendall NSW Caroline Haskard Kingaroy Qld Ros & Kevin Runciman Dungog NSW
James van Bree Wahroonga NSW Mark Ziebell Bulli NSW

A warm welcome to each of you - some have been good enough to introduce themselves and tell us of particular interests in our study.

SPECIES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM THE SEED BANK

Alpinea caerulea *Alphitonia petriei* *Araucaria cunninghamii* *Claoxylon australe* *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*
Diets robinsoniana *Guioa semiglauca* *Hymenosporum flavum* *Pandorea jasminoides* *Polyscias elegans* *Trichosanthes sp.*

Recent donor - Richard Logan. Requests to Patrick Bennett 20 Belmore Crt Pine Mountain Q. 4306 with a SSAFE, please. Also available are *Gmelina leichhardtii* (White Beech) from the leader at Byabarra. I have a fair number, so tell me how many you would like if you would like to try this attractive species.

Note: You can see that Patrick has just a few species in stock which means two things. (a) Members are ordering well now. (b) He could do with more donations to increase supplies before the spring rush.

ARAUCARIA BIDWILLII - BUNYA PINE - HIT THE SYDNEY PRESS' HEADLINES IN FEBRUARY

Geoff Warn, our Bunya specialist sent this report from APS Online N/L. He suspected, quite correctly, that I am not 'online' yet. "At NSW Forestry's Cumberland SF in n.w. Sydney, a combination of factors - heavy rains, an extended pine growing season and 'a genetic disposition to gigantism' resulted in the largest Bunya pine cones seen at the forest for 50 years. Some weighed in at 10kg and, as they occur many metres above ground and are shed unpredictably, it doesn't require a vivid imagination to picture the damage they could do if they plummeted onto an unsuspecting passer-by below! In one day 37 cones were shed from the forest's plantation.

Bunya pines are native to mountains in SE and (?) northern Qld. but are widely cultivated elsewhere. The nuts are edible and were a rich source of food for the Aboriginies of SE Qld. They generally have their heaviest falls every 3 years. "During the Bunya season the Aboriginies would temporarily set aside their tribal differences and gather in the mountains for great Bunya nut feasts." Geoff had heard that they had actually closed the forest to the public during the danger period.

He concluded "I cooked up a Banana and Bunya Nut cake on the weekend. Unfortunately you couldn't really taste the nuts, except for the larger pieces. Also, those bits on the outside cooked (nearly) rock hard, so again, you must be careful of your teeth! I've tried freezing the shelled nuts this time so they may keep better. Unless roasted they tend to go off fairly quickly."

THE SPECIAL INTERESTS OF OUR MEMBERS ARE PRETTY DIVERSE

At Gloucester, our lunch and evening conversations covered recent activities of those attending, so I pass 'on what I believe are interesting snippets. Geoff Warne has expanded his culinary trials from mainly Bunya nut variations he told of earlier, to things such as mint (*Prostanthera*) flavourings, and savoury uses of RF fruits. He brought along dried lilly pillies - *Syzigium australe* and *S. leuhmannii* mixed with *Ficus coronata* that we all enjoyed. The mix seemed to have been lightly 'peppered' but Geoff assured us that the flavour was natural and that they were simply dried in a small electric dehydrator. Highly recommended.

Ian and Tamara Cox are on Sydney sandstone, not terribly suitable for a large range of RF species, so they concentrate on the fern group. They have the added bonus, though, that a colony of the rare and endangered little frog, *Pseudophryne australis* the Red-crowned Toadlet, is thriving on their block.

Conversely, Betty Rymer who lives in that general area has had her original habitat so modified by development and associated drainage and run-off that she finds that RF species now thrive on much of their land. and is able to grow a wide range of trees and understorey. They help also to minimise colonisation by the many local weed species which the changed habitat favours.

Carol and Trevor Dean are on a sandstone ridge and as you may recollect, their garden suffered severely from bushfires some years ago but much time and effort, and nature itself to some extent, have restored their RF garden pretty well. Trev is particularly interested in moths and hopes to get up here to 'Booyong' in spring with Bart Hacobian, to check on a species that has as its larval host *Scolopia braunii*, the lovely Flintwood as well as identify some of the other moth varieties here.

Martin & Anske Hazenveld are regenerating a large section of the Hastings River by excluding cattle from much of their forested land, and gradually getting rid of weeds that had increasingly occupied areas used as pastures and which had been overstocked previously. It is their intention to manage the property in a sustainable, productive and reasonably profitable manner. Piet van Haeff is doing pretty much the same, though on a somewhat smaller scale, and as well has an extensive mainly RF garden that has been previously described. A special interest of his is the raptor (birds of prey) group where he is one of a relatively small group of individuals recording sightings of these birds for an ongoing survey.

Helen & Allan Joyce, as well as having 5 acres of mostly earlier cleared land grow RF plants and Waratahs, and are keen on promoting our Group to others by arranging and manning displays publicising RFSG and RF generally.

Susan Phillips, as well as her encouragement and involvement in a local school's Landcare and regeneration efforts (briefly described in the previous N/L.), does regular walks and tours through a TAFE recreation activity and NP&WS as a seasonal ranger. She has informed many local people, as well as tourists, on the beauty and importance of nature especially RF habitats, inspiring some of the participants themselves to become more involved.

Tom and Pip Gibian, as well as repairing the damage to the 160 acres from its past almost total clearance of vegetation for a very short term and no doubt uneconomic farming of cattle, also live in a sandstone part of Sydney, where they have run a successful small native plant nursery specialising in *Grevillea* for many years, easing the pressure from their calling as medical practitioners.

Subsequent to my preparing this resume, GEOFF WARN wrote with his comments on the weekend activity.

"Something that always impresses me about the APS is the incredible amount of knowledge around the place and what a classic example it was up at Gloucester. You with your knowledge of propagation techniques, RF wines and frogs; Beryl on jams; Piet on National Parks procedures and regeneration; Trevor and Carol on moths, insects and anything else that moved; Tamara on fire regimes; Ian on grevilleas; Betty on ferns; Helen and Allan growing waratahs; Martin and Anske on timber plantations; Pip also growing plantation timbers and her knowledge of local politics; Susan on regeneration and funding. Many members doubled up as bird experts and of course most had an intimate knowledge of RF plants. It was interesting too, comparing comments about particular plants such as leaf variation, habit, size, etc, due to the different areas the members were familiar with. So much to take in! So much to talk about. The RFSG really does cover a wide range of topics!"

"On the Sunday, most people headed off on their own directions, while Trevor & Carol, Conny & I drove up to Gloucester Falls via Rawdon Vale. A nice drive mainly through farmland, but up in the hills, a bit of tall Euc. forest with rainforested gullies still retained intact. Following Trevor on the road has its dangers - not that he's a bad driver, he just kept slowing down to take a closer look at things" (Geoff, you want to go out with a bird group some time!). Winding up to the Falls themselves, we rounded a corner and almost ran into him as he had stopped in the middle of the road. A sizeable diamond python was lying on the side of the road. We moved the cars to a safer position, took some photos, and then encouraged the critter off the road and back into the scrub. The road goes through State Forest into the National Park, through some good euc forest, RF and beech forest, with great views of the valleys as the cloud was rolling in. On top of the plateau (amidst the fog) the trunks of snowgums *E. pauciflora* were at their best, being autumn, and showed some great colours. The Joyce's and Cox's were there also. It's a nice, fairly easy walk through a variety of habitats though there wasn't much in flower and the falls are a bit difficult to see. The weather didn't look like clearing so we left, leaving Trev and Carol who were keen to do the beech forest walk. Plants included *Atherosperma moschatum*, *Banksia integrifolia* ssp 'A', *Eucalyptus fastigata*, *E. pauciflora*, *Lycopodium deuterod'nsium*, *Nothofagus moorei*, *Persoonia media*, *Poa sieberiana* var. *sieberiana*, *Prostanthera lasianthos*, *Tasmannia purpurascens*, *Trochocarpa species 'A'.*"

RICHARDS GARDEN AT WOLLONGONG IS PRETTY CROWDED BY NOW

"Currently I am Rainforesting the backyard; it's difficult to select plants when there are so many beautiful species to choose from and insufficient room. Have nearly finished selecting the larger canopy plants and am now starting with the shrub layer (with a few climbers in). Yet to come to groundcovers and smaller tufties and clumpers. I still have the path and a water feature in the front garden to do - but I just can't decided how to do the water set up. I would like to put in a pond flowing into a creek/ cascade into a bottom pond".

The weather around here lately has been very changeable, heavy rain followed by blue sky, then within minutes a storm rolls in and it pours. Thirty minutes later no rain and stinking hot and humid." (This was in March.) "Perhaps Ms Gaia is mighty upset she has an imbalance? That is an overpopulation of just one species; one that is rather intelligent yet lacking a real long term vision and a major problem that it can't learn from its past mistakes. Yet this species is a superb predator with an ability to overpower any opponent except its own species. This species must realise its place in the ecosystem, or be selected for extinction - - - by itself.

The species I'll leave that for each of you to figure out. (It's not a plant.)

FURTHER COMMENT ON PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER TOPICS

Eupomatia laurina. Des Tuck found Elwyn Hegarty's information most interesting, and appreciates her report. Judith Brass says that the plant emits an ether like chemical and reminds us that ether was used as an anaesthetic. Julie Ho was also interested in the various comments on the species and added that she thinks the perfume delicious and would like to grow *E. bennettii* to compare.

The Bulb Planter. Judith Brass finally tracked one down and posted it to me so that I could directly describe it to members. So here goes, me not being a technical type either but..... The body is steel, 11cm long, tapered - 75mm at the top and 55mm at its base. It's in 2 halves rivetted at the top and which expand by squeezing the plastic handle; the idea being to press the planter into the soil around the seedling or bulb by a circular action, and removing the plant intact in its surrounding soil. You would then either place the undisturbed seedling into a pot for growing on, or else deposit it into another spot already prepared to receive the transplant. Just squeeze the handle and the whole lot comes out 'in one lump'. It is of reasonably solid construction, but you wouldn't use it in dry compact soils too often and expect it to last. But like Judith, I found it effective for it does not set back growth of a transplant, as often happens after digging out with a trowel. This was purchased from Target.

Fruit Bats or Flying Foxes - avoiding crop losses. Judith mentions that it has been found that planting Eucalypts which flower at the same time as fruit crops ripen markedly reduces fruit loss. (This has been confirmed by Rhoda, and also by a friend who made the same claim many years ago, in her case she found that Bottle Brush supplied sufficient nectar to occupy the bats while her fruit was ripening.

Judith also said that she recently heard that the connection between Lyssa virus and Flying Foxes has been disproved but the media seems loath to publish this. As well, it has been claimed that at least two Lyssa related deaths have been connected to horses, but nobody seems to be suggesting that we get rid of all the horses in the country. Adding, maybe they are blamed because 'vampire' bats are major carriers of rabies in other countries?

On Insect identification. She says a second edition of "Insects of Australia" was published in the early 1990's. It is in two volumes and has more colour plates, but is expensive.

'Saturaid' I think it is a gel extracted from Bran and purified. I used to buy a treated bran to use as a water storer as a product called Terrasorb, though I have not been able to get it for about 10 years. (J.B.)

Archidendron grandiflorum. "Two or three weeks after repotting (in Feb.) it had grown over 30cm so I decided to plant it out. I am amazed at how quickly this species has grown. It appears to have no intolerance to phosphorus as I used as mix Native Osmocote (2-3% P), Healthy Earth fertiliser (>3% P), Decco Saturaid, and Water Storage crystals. At planting time, I found the soil to be water repellent so added Coprapeat and Saturaid to the immediate soil area and thoroughly mixed it in. Fingers crossed for this beauty to grow and flourish" (Richard L.)

Weed invasion. "With the bird population increasing lately I have been finding many more species popping up. An example would be *Omalanthus nutans* not to mention that tree I can't mention.... Camphor laurel. In one weeding I removed 33 *Ochna serrulata* (Mickey Mouse Plant). 1 *Lantana camara*, 3 Camphors as well as the usual wind dispersed species. With the *Ochna* season over I guess that will end that for a little while but the lovely innocent Camphor laurel is just getting ready to feed our native and exotic birds. I couldn't believe that bit about the Camphors last N/L. Sure they make great timber, but not in our country. How about growing them where they belong?" (R.L.)

Butterflies and food plants - Orange Palm Dart and Palm species. Just acquired a Carpentaria Palm, seeing the *Archontophoenix* got decimated by Palm Dart caterpillars. But they did leave the *Linospadix*, *Laccospadix* and Triangle Palms alone. Maybe they are genus specific, will have to find out. (R.L.) Perhaps readers may have the answer already from earlier experiences?

Broad Mite on young plants. Richard had a reply from Rhoda that he should try Pest Oil (DC Tron) on affected plants - there has been another outbreak on *Acmena smithii* and various exotics. He will try it out but wonders about getting good coverage, and the effects of this oil on some species. Have noticed that *Pilidostigma rhytisperma* gets affected by the pimply psillid at work and home.

Weeds. (This problem will, sadly, never end.) National Weed Strategy has been in the (rural) news., This in-between 'core' and 'non-core' commitment is finally being implemented. 'Core' because it probably will be implemented, 'non-core' because it had not been even commenced 3 1/2 years after it was announced. \$24 million. Farmers organisations critical of constant delays.

Getting your garden into balance. Jo McNab was excited to find that a Noisy pitta (a beautiful RF bird - its call 'Walk-to-Work, Walk-to-work') had taken up residence in her now well established RF area and wonders whether it deliberately settled there because it recognised it as acceptable habitat.

A DISCUSSION LIST NOW SET UP ON THE INTERNET IS AUSTRALIAN RAINFOREST

Richard Logan has done this and it is great. It is located at <http://australianrainforest.listbot.com/> And the discussion list can be used by sending e-mail to australianrainforest@listbot.com, but you must be a member of the list to send e-mail. If anyone in RFSG wishes to join this list they can contact him at C.J.Logan@bigpond.com and he will send an invitation to join. Invitations have already been sent to a few people in the group that he has e-mail addresses for, plus a couple of outsiders.

"I better let you know what a list is ??? A list is like a forum where one person sends an e-mail and it is then distributed to everyone on the list. It can be a great way to disseminate and collect info as long as people contribute. Sounds familiar?"

'AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL RF TREES AND SHRUBS' - CD ROM COMPUTER IDENTIFICATION

Richard obtained this from the CSIRO (ISBN 0 643 06047 2) by Hyland, Whiffin, Christophel, Gray, Elick & Ford. "The package is a menu driven, computer based key for tree & shrub species north of the Tropic of Capricorn from closed forests excluding mangroves and closed forests on dunes by the sea, covering 1733 species." I omit the technical details but Rich reckons the CD is easy to master and it is easy to identify a species from merely a portion of the plant, while the options for seedling ID are also rather good. There are a large number of pictures, including photos, pictures from 'Fruits of the RF', X-Ray photos of leaves and fruit. Though not all species have pictures, 99% appear to have leaf X-Rays which are very helpful". As it will take a more sophisticated set up than is available here at Booyong, I must leave it to the technocrats to fill me in.

His rating.... "Not for the person without an understanding of botany or a good botany book - but an excellent package for those with a botany background. Tried keying out *Syzygium papyraceum* from what I know of its characteristics and got it first time." (Ed. A print-out of *Prunus turneriana* forwarded as an example, listed 145 characteristics which could be considered when keying in some of the distinguishing features. Pity there is not a similar identification kit for the south east region of our continent.

SUCCESS WITH RF SPECIES CUTTINGS THE SIMPLE WAY

Jan Sked says that despite not having much in the way of facilities - just a small shade house which is normally used to rest recently potted on seedlings prior to hardening up in the open - she tried a few species recently. *Medicosma cunninghamii*, *Syzigium alatoramulum*, *Sambucus australasica*, and *Rhododendron lochiaie* seem to have taken well. *Ficus coronata* though isn't responding at all, while *Mallotus claoxyloides* are just hanging on and may get a small percentage to come away. "I put cuttings in pots of sand and coir peat (4 to 1) and water by hand, a very much hit and miss effort. I have tried some of the softer understorey species, such as *Orthosiphon aristatus*, *Hypoestes floribunda*, *Deeringia amaranthoides*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, and heaps of *Plectranthus spp* with great success."

"In the garden, our *Diploglottis campbellii* fruited for the first time. As it is way up in the canopy I cannot see when it flowers or fruits. The only way I knew was finding some fruits on the ground. They are lovely - three-lobed capsules, 6cm in diameter and a lovely pale green so it is almost impossible to see them in the canopy. However, when they fall on the ground they split open and reveal the three large black seeds enveloped in a fleshy red aril, that really stands out. The aril tastes OK, but I think I prefer *Diploglottis australis* for flavour. Anyway I planted all the seeds that I could find."

GROWING RF SPECIES AT MT. RIVERVIEW (BLUE MOUNTAINS NEAR SYDNEY)

Des Tuck tells of the present stage of his garden. "I wrote some time ago of the slowness of *Diploglottis sp.* - since the demise of El Nino and the resultant worthwhile rain, plus mulch, mulch and more mulch, and fertilizer, I am finally getting reasonable growth. *Athertonia diversifolia* has also responded well and is now 2.5m high and growing steadily. My sole *Toona ciliata* (Red Cedar) was leaping out of the ground until affected badly by Tip Moth, so have sprayed with Rogor hoping this fixes the problem. Had a similar problem with a *Dysoxylon mollissimum* which has been badly knocked back by a tip borer.

However, in general, the garden is going reasonably well, good steady growth from - *Davidsonia pruriens* (var. *pruriens* and var. *jerseyana*); *Polyscias elegans*; *P. murrayi*; *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*; *E. grandis*; *Euodia elleryana*; *Ficus coronata*; *Glochidion ferdinandi*, *Brachychiton discolor*; *Caldcluvia paniculosa*; *Cinnamomum oliveri*; *Jagera pseudorhus*; *Cuttsia viburnea*. *Evodiella muelleri* is approx. 2.5m in height and has set seed for the first time, so with a bit of luck I may be able to germinate some in due course.

THE HARRIS' GARDEN AT TOMWIN (Nthn NSW) IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED

Noelene and Bob have sent details of their garden, and RF species they feature. "We really enjoy reading the N/L and catching up on what other growers are achieving. We have a particular interest in laurels, specifically *Endiandra* species and currently have all but one of the NSW species (*E. crassiflora*) though still have about 5 of the Qld. species to collect. As we are taking a trip to Nth Qld in June, we are hoping to access a few more. We are taking 4 weeks to drive from Tomwin to Cooktown, spending most of the time around Mackay (Eungella and Finch Hatton), Atherton and the Daintree.

After 4 years we are starting to propagate from our own seed. We have done a few previously such as *Davidsonia pruriens* (Davidsons plum), *Achirhodomyrtus beckleri* (Rose myrtle) *Caldcluvia paniculosa* (Rose leaved marara) and *Randia chartacea* (Narrow leaved gardenia). This year we have harvested *Rhodomyrtus trineura* (Native guava) and *Cryptocaria rigida* (Forest maple). These have all germinated and will be useful understorey plants as our canopy species are pushing up fast and leaving space underneath. We recently sowed some *Syzigium wilsonii* which have yet to germinate - these are a quite tasty fruit to eat.

We have also had some success with propagating from cuttings. Some of the *Austromyrtus spp* have done well, also *Gardenia scabrella*, *Ficus sp.* *Green Island* (a prostrate fig), and just one *Alloxylon pinnatum* the Dorriggo Waratah. One of our Dorriggo Waratahs appears to be setting fruit which is quite exciting. It flowered for the first time this season; it was purchased as a seedling 4 years ago and is now about 5 metres tall.

There are quite a few other plants at fruit at present (early April) and we may have excess seed of some e.g. *Randia chartacea*, *Delabrea michiana* (Blue nun), *Polyscias elegans* (Celerywood). We haven't yet tried to propagate the last two and believe that celerywood is difficult to germinate in pots so plan to leave it to germinate under the parent tree and then attempt to transplant the seedlings. We have 2 growing beneath that tree from last years flowering, even though we'd not noticed that it was in flower at the time.

All in all it has been a great growing year with the consistent rain. This means weeds also. We look forward to the cooler months because the weeds slow down. Our main worry with sending seed to our seed bank is that some RF seed must be fresh when planted. Happy growing!"

(Ed. Over to you Patrick. What do we do about this difficulty ?

PLANT NAME CHANGES - THERE ARE MANY RECENT REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS

Two extensive lists were published in Qld. 'Bulletins' in December 98' and March this year. Jan combined both lists under 'Taxonomic Changes to Qld Plants' sorted by old name, then listing new/ current name and family and very kindly forwarded a copy for RFSG records. And there are heaps, just on 13 pages. My estimation is that around 650 species are affected, though as mentioned previously many are of varieties or forms, or were lumped under the name of area of discovery until they were properly examined botanically and by taxonomists. More than 10% retained their name, but were moved into a different family classification.

If other state herbaria are as industrious as Qld, we will all be in bags of bother learning, say, 3,000 or more new species and altered names and then having to grow at least one of each in our gardens to help us remember them.

BOSISTOA PENTACocca IS PATCHY BOTH IN DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH

Don sought information on this plant in the previous N/L; Garry Daly said that he has had mixed results over several years growing it. "One specimen was planted out in 1997 and another in '98. The 1997 plant was put into a good spot and has grown very leggy, I suppose it has grown from about 1.5m to 5m in 2 years! It is now branching and thickening up. The other was put in a drier area and was set back by a dry period; it is still alive but had been badly damaged. Another specimen is still in the shadehouse and has been putting out diseased/ deformed growth over the past few years. In temperate Nowra, this species can grow rapidly when given the right conditions."

He added "I have planted out a few Turnipwoods *Akania lucens* and a *Rhodospaera rhodanthema*. The *Alpinea caerulea* from FNQ which has red under the leaves, has flowered and is in fruit just one year after planting from tubestock. Good rain over Easter will allow me to plant out more advanced stock soon enough to be reasonably established by winter."

(Ed. I referred to Floyd's description of the *Bosistoa* and noted the habitat as 'A tree of water courses in coastal RF' and 'in patchy distribution from the Clarence in NSW to Mackay Qld.' Fairly common in the Richmond River area and also recorded in NSW at Clarence R., Toonunbar SF, Border Ranges, Big Scrub FR, Wilsons Creek, Booyong, Ballina, Mt Warning and several other northern areas 'as a small tree with a dense crown'. Also, 'ornamental with attractive new leaves'.