



**Associations of Societies  
for Growing Australian  
Plants**

Rainforest Study Group  
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Hello everyone, this newsletter is a rather short one as I have exams beginning in 1 week although I have to announce a **FIELD DAY** and also advise of **RENEWALS** for the Study Group. All people with a yellow sticker are in need of membership renewals. Although I will still send issue 59 without payment, but not issue 60! Cheques/Money Orders should be made to the study group, even a stamp donation if you like. Everything is looking good to finish my degree by the end of this year. I'm also going to be a father for the first time in October. The weather has finally begun to clear in the tropics after an amazing wet season; we had 1015mm in March alone. My father says that in North eastern NSW good falls also arrived however Betty Rymer of Sydney says she has received 1mm since the beginning of April; let's hope the latest cold front brought good falls down south. I have bought a digital camera so I have been having fun taking pictures. I haven't perfected its use yet, it has many buttons!

**FIELD DAY**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE there is to be a field day at LOWOOD, travel is 1 ½ hours west of Brisbane. This is an ASGAP rainforest study group event held at Peter Bevan's arboretum. Peter has an 8 year old planting of Sth Qld and NQld species. There will be lunch provided and the day begins at 9am. Please contact Peter on (07) 54261690.

I will be there and look forward to seeing Peters garden, also don't hesitate to bring any odds and ends so as to swap or give away between members and friends. Another field day is planned for the Sydney area later in the year. I'm not sure if I can make it to that one! Future newsletters could include: newly described *Syzygium* species in Australia's tropics, notes on the *Davidsonia* genus, *Hicksbeachia* species, *Lepidozamia*'s, *Eidothea* genus, *Elaeocarpus* spp. esp. *E. williamsianus* and also *Plectranthus* species.

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***Xanthostemon youngii***

is often a very hard plant to get to grow well, it doesn't seem to mind the cooler subtropics however even in the tropics specimens often grow poorly. This particular specimen photographed is growing on an embankment with excellent drainage. In the wild the plants grow on old decomposed sand dunes close to the strong trade winds of Cape York's east coast. It is becoming more available in horticulture after Yuruga nursery has began to grow it by cuttings. In the garden, I suggest deep sandy soil or well drained basalt in full sun. Plants sparsely flower when grown in the shade. Always try and obtain a straight specimen in the pot, as floppy plants have trouble growing well. Select cuttings from the top third of the tree.



*Xanthostemon youngii*: (Myrtaceae) Red Penda cultivated in Cairns. Endemic to coastal northern Cape York, in Littoral forest





*Archontophoenix purpurea*: (Arecaceae) Purple Alexandra Palm/Mount Lewis Alexandra Palm. Cultivated on the Atherton Tablelands. Very cold tolerant. In natural habitat, max often 15°C in winter. Easy to grow if given good watering in dry weather, generally dislikes tropical lowlands.



*Davidsonia pruriens* fruit in an orchard situation, being grown for wine production, Atherton Tablelands. Requires little introduction, fast growing, trees grow much larger than *D. jerseyana* however similar dimensions to *D. johnsonii*. Like full sun, dislikes low humidity dry winds. Hardy as old boots once established.

I intend to compile a longer more researched newsletter in the June-July break. I'm still very interested in hearing from people who have a garden that they want to show people, please contact me. See you Peter Bevan's field day!

Kris's helpful Hint #2: In gardens a wide genetic resource of wild populations is preferable to single seed sources, as genetic variation is an important conservative tool. Ask your nursery person if all the stock is from one tree! If so seeks plants from various nurseries in your area.



*Hollandaea sayeriana*: (Proteaceae) Sayers Oak Cultivated on the Atherton Tablelands. Endemic to the surroundings of Mt Bartle Frere-Bellenden Ker massif's, QLD. Requires a semi shaded location, cold tolerant, flowers after 5 years. Brilliant dark purple new growth, unusual seed pod. (yes, I manipulated the photo!)



A remnant *Davidsonia pruriens* (Cunoniaceae) with a *Drynaria rigidula* (Polypodiaceae) on the trunk. Many trees remain in paddocks on the Atherton Tablelands. A large genetic resource exists within farmlands.