



ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

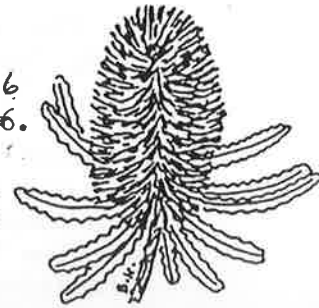
WALLUM and COASTAL HEATHLAND STUDY GROUP

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Leader: *Mrs. Barbara Henderson,*
M.S. 1063 Farrow Road,
SAMSONVALE. Q. 4520.
Ph. 07 - 3289 9272.

NEWSLETTER NO. 7.

1996
JULY ~~1996~~.



Hello, members,

I am still alive and well, just sadly dragging the chain with this newsletter. But this is it! It won't be very big, that will come later, when I have caught up a bit more. The past year has been extremely busy, with some family matters having to take precedence over my S.G.A.P. work at times.

Since August 1995 (the last issue), several new members have joined our ranks, but they must be wondering when they will receive their money's worth. They will, very soon, but for now I would like to welcome the following new students of Wallum and Coastal Heathland.

Joyce Henry, Corrimal, N.S.W.
Fred & Joy McKew, Logan Village, Qld.
Deborra Kirwan, Caboolture, Qld.
Barbara Burke, Barnsley, N.S.W.
Rhys & Julie McGregor, Terrigal, N.S.W.
Ian Waldron, Jimboomba, Qld.
Kaye Pedwell, Wamuran, Qld.

Barbara Odgers, Kenmore Hills, Qld.
Les & Mary Bell, Carindale, Qld.
Ida Jackson, Kingscote, S.A.
Cheryl McLeod, Wamuran, Qld.
Lynette Reilly, Runaway Bay, Qld.
Morton Kaveney, Ocean Shores, N.S.W.

While I have had contact with the Queensland members, and they know that the Study Group is certainly active, those new members from other States must be feeling somewhat neglected. However, I will include comments from the letters which came with their new memberships.

Ida Jackson is my first South Australian member, and lives on Kangaroo Island, which has some wonderful heathland, I have been told. She has offered descriptions of their coastal heath, seeds and cuttings, and agrees that the Wallum and Coastal Heathland species are extremely difficult to cultivate. I am now determined to go to the 1997 A.S.G.A.P. Conference at Adelaide, as there is a post-Conference tour to Kangaroo Island - I do hope it takes in some of the island's heaths.

Lynette Reilly is a member of the new (re-formed) Gold Coast Branch of S.G.A.P. Qld. Region Inc., and tells that there is a Wallum Environmental Park not far from their home, and that she is trying to grow smaller Wallum shrubs, but it is difficult to find sources of such plants.

Morton Kaveney is from an area of northern New South Wales just to the north of Byron Bay, through which I travelled in March, on the way to spend a weekend at the coast near Grafton, with members of Armidale and Glen Innes S.G.A.P. Groups.

I will deal with correspondence from members more fully in the next issue. It is always interesting to receive news from members, and means that the newsletter is not always full of my own opinions and news. Please keep some notes coming in.

Barbara Burke and Rhys & Julie McGregor joined the Study Group while we were all at Ballarat last September/October, and with others, we enjoyed the delights of the Grampians heaths, and the coastal wildflowers of the Gippsland region. In both areas I noted some species which also occur in our south-east Queensland Wallum, and I understand that a few extend into Tasmania.

I feel terrible, after such a long silence, at including a reminder that all Study Group membership renewals are now due. If you have a green tick at the top of the first page, your membership is current, and there is no need to renew until next June.

The fee has remained at \$5.00, and cheques are to be made out to: "ASGAP Wallum Study Group", and posted to the address on the letterhead.

Progress in the cultivation of coastal heathland plants is still very slow, as you will see in the enclosed June update. I am still trying more cuttings - recently of a couple of interesting *Persoonias* which grow in my favourite part of the Sunshine Coast. One is a round-leaved form which grows as a low shrub, quite an attractive plant for a garden, the other has long thin leaves, and is slightly taller in its habit. Whether they are forms of *Persoonia cornifolia*, or hybrids between *P. cornifolia* and *P. virgata*, I don't know, but all grow in the same area. Seeds of *Acacia complanata*, a really beautiful wattle, have a poor germination rate, and only 3 succeeded from about 30 planted. However, I am delighted at the sight of around a dozen seedlings of *Acacia juncifolia*, about half so far of what I planted. Time is my main enemy, as there are so many things I want to do, must do, but run out of days and weeks. The wildflower peak is almost upon us, and when that arrives, there are displays, flower shows, wildflower walks and talks to do.

When I say that I have been very busy, I don't know where last year went, and here is 1996 more than half gone. The A.S.G.A.P. Conference and tours were wonderful, and I thoroughly enjoyed what I saw of Victoria's wildflowers and gardens. They have such a different climate from ours, and so many lovely flowering native shrubs compared with what we have in sub-tropical southern Queensland, that I came home feeling quite envious. A \$10 gift voucher from SGAP Victoria, to Kuranga Nursery, was a terrible temptation, with all those beautiful flowering plants on show at that nursery. Of course, we all spent it, and more, on plants quite unsuitable in our climate, but some are still going. I have a special feeling for *Hibbertias*, so a few of them came home with me, and most are still alive. *Patersonia occidentalis* must like Queensland, it seems to be doing better in the garden than my local *Patersonias*! While at the Conference, I attended the Study Group leaders' meeting, where it was clear that the term "Wallum" needs more promotion and explanation. I did make a slight change to the name of our Study Group, replacing the brackets around "Coastal Heathland" with the word "and", which links the two names together better. After all, they are one and the same plant community, just that up here in sunny Queensland we use the term "Wallum" which comes from our *Banksia aemula*, which is known as the Wallum *Banksia*. Another comment was that this Study Group has "bitten off a large mouthful" (my own interpretation), in choosing to study such a wide range of plants. How many Study Groups would be needed to study each genus in the coastal heathland? So I said we would concentrate on whatever plants we could, and perhaps we would receive some feedback from other Study Groups such as *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Hibbertia*, and so on, which are dealing with plants which occur in the coastal heathlands.

In March, with another Study Group member for company, I had an eight-day trip into northern New South Wales and the New England region. The basic purpose was to speak to SGAP Armidale, but a weekend at the coast east of Grafton was included, so that we could look at the plants "in person" so to speak. It was a lovely weekend, there were quite a lot of flowers to be seen, and the heathland area near Wooli has possibilities for a future Study Group weekend, as there was a Caravan Park nearby. Slides and a talk at Armidale on the following Tuesday allowed me a couple of days there, so I was shown some of that region's wonderful sights.

There have been a few local outings, but it has been a rather quiet programme so far. Local (and visiting?) Group members might like to note these dates coming up: Sunday 21st July, and Saturday 27th July, for excursions on the Sunshine Coast. See accompanying map for locations, and some details in the June Bulletin for the former.

The outing on Sunday 21st July has been organised by the Sunshine Coast Branch of SGAP, and is to the Mooloolah River National Park, which is a large example of our Wallum heath. They have made the meeting place fairly simple, at the former toll site, so you just turn off on to the Sunshine Motorway just past the Ettamogga Pub Tourist Complex near Sippy Downs. The Redcliffe & District SGAP visited this Park last year in May, and quite enjoyed the day, and found lots of interesting plants. For extra details, contact the Sunshine Coast Branch secretary on (074) 485721.

On Saturday 27th July, the Logan River Australian Plants Society has organised an excursion to Wallum areas near Coolum Beach and Peregian Beach, and I will join them as guide. For this day, we are meeting at 9.30a.m. opposite the Coolum Beach State High School in Havana Road, just north of Coolum Beach township. From there we will climb (it is very easy) little Emu Mountain, where many of the heath plants are somewhat stunted, and where an overview of the Coast between Coolum and Peregian can be obtained. From there we will drive to Emu Swamp, to look at the wildflowers, and to enable everyone to see the places I often speak about, and show slides of. Lunch will be eaten somewhere suitable along the way, and the afternoon will proceed as desired by those who come and stay the distance. As I will probably stay with friends on the Coast overnight Saturday, I will be available to show many of the Wallum areas I know, as long as there is someone remaining (and some energy left).

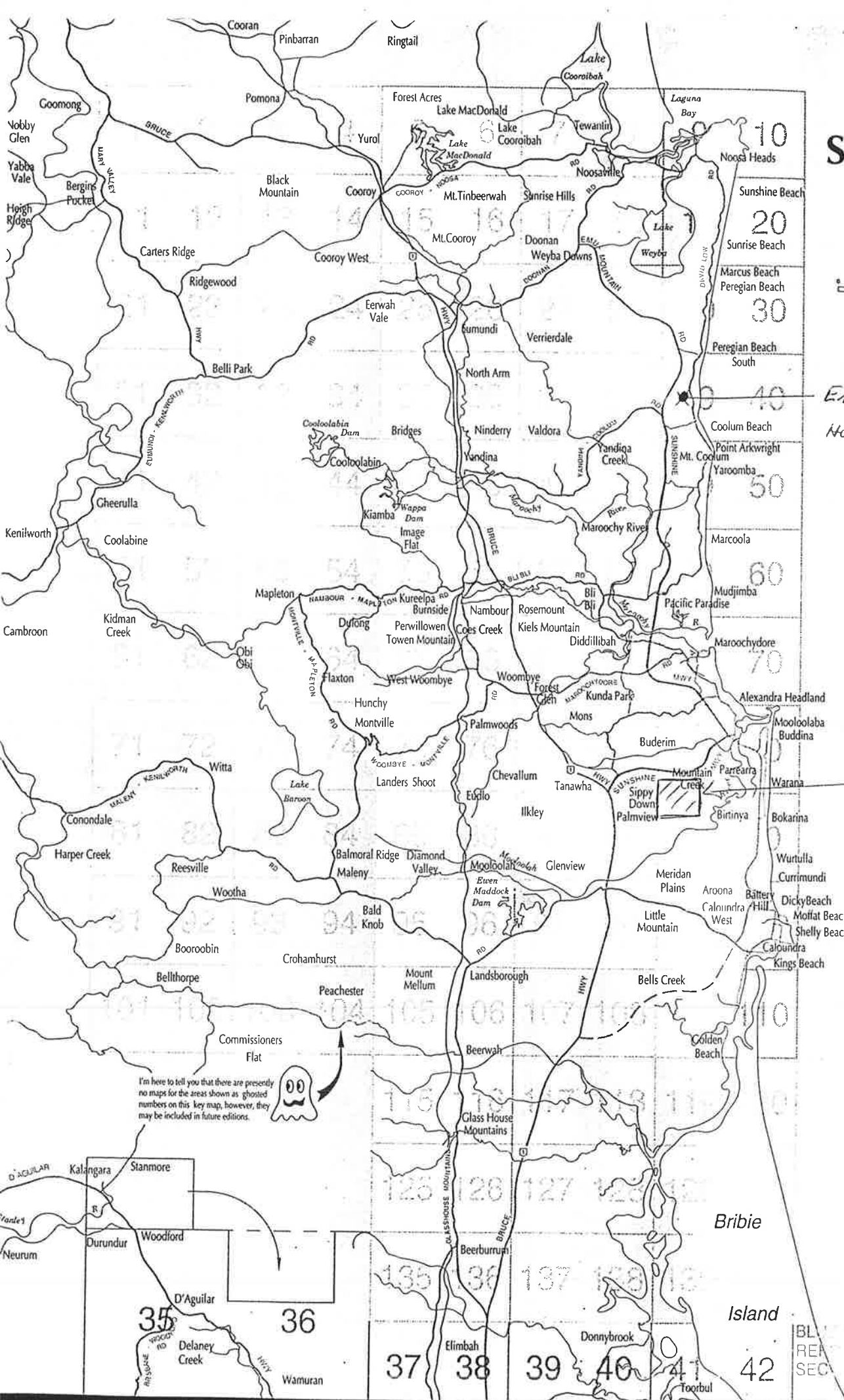
I recently went to Melbourne for a Study Group leaders' workshop, to put together a manual of guidelines for the assistance for new (and possibly old) leaders. With only six leaders present, we quickly got to work, and within the allocated time of a full Saturday, and Sunday morning, we were able to discuss all suggestions, and put together a rough draft. This will be put into a "first draft" for further examination by those leaders who were present, or who sent a report, before a second and "final draft" will be drawn up. Quite a lot of points were discussed, and I must admit it gave me lots to think about, apart from my delayed newsletter. While in Melbourne, I had a spare day, so contacted someone whom I had met last year, she found another lady who took me out for a day in the Dandenongs, which was most pleasant, although only a few flowers were out. This sort of contact is one of the features I appreciate as a member of S.G.A.P., and I continuously try to point out this and other membership benefits available to us, through the Society. I would always be happy to hear from any Study Group members visiting south-east Qld., at any time. In fact, I did hear from one of the new members earlier in the year. Barbara Burke and her husband were in Brisbane for a few days, so she phoned me, and came here to visit for a couple of hours - it was a delight for me to show her around my gardens, and to renew the friendship made at Ballarat.

As I mean to do another newsletter (I think I am catching up just a little bit) in the next few weeks, I won't include too much about future happenings, except to say that August and September will be busier, around this part of Australia. Perhaps I should mention that the annual Wildflower Show at Coolum Beach Civic Centre will be held on Saturday 24th August, from 10a.m. until 4p.m. I received a phone call this week from one of the organisers, who is looking for persons to help as guides on the bus trips to local wildflower areas. While a bit of knowledge of the Wallum flowers is needed, the work is not too onerous, buses leaving Coolum on the hour from 11a.m. - there are usually three trips. I will be at the Wildflower Show with our display, but will be helping with one bus trip.

On the next day, Sunday 25th August, there is the annual wildflower day at the Bribie Island Bicentennial Gardens, again with a display by our Group. However, I will be leading an excursion at Noosa for the Pine Rivers S.G.A.P., and therefore unavailable for Bribie Island. Other Study Group members have indicated that they will help, so contact me if you are available for either day.

And don't forget the annual Study Group weekend at Beerwah Field Study Centre, on Saturday 31st August and Sunday 1st September, with the Wildflower walks on the Sunday. Any interstate members in Queensland on any of these dates is more than welcome to join us. Contact me for any details, we'd love to see you.

Barbara H.




SUNSHINE COAST KEY MAP
 SCALE 1:280,000
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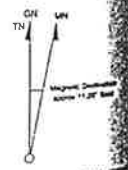
Emu Mountain
Hawana Road

Coral

Mooloolah
R. Nat. Park

Sea

I'm here to tell you that there are presently no maps for the areas shown as 'ghosted' numbers on this key map, however, they may be included in future editions.



TRUE NORTH, GRID NORTH AND MAGNETIC NORTH ARE SHOWN. DIAGRAMMATICALLY, MAGNETIC NORTH IS CORRECT FOR 1980. MOVES EASTERLY APPROX. 0.025° EACH YEAR.

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