

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS (QLD REGION
INC.)

FEB.1991 No.108

Our meetings are held in the first year centre,
Trinity Bay High School, Hoare Street, Manunda.

The March meeting will be held on 05-03-91 and
will begin with the AGM at 7.45pm. Supper fol-
lows.

GUEST SPEAKER. There will be no visiting guest
speaker this month. Theo is arranging for some of
our members to give short talks.

EXCURSION. None planned for this month due to
the vagaries of our weather.

NOTICE BOARD.

I recently received a letter from Australian
Journals of Scientific Research stating that
"A revision of Syzygium and allied genera" will
probably be reprinted this year - at long last as
it has been out of print for a few years.

Three sets of cards from the Endeavour River Gal-
lery - along with information on the same are
still available for sale. See Elaine Pike if you
wish to purchase a set.

We still have SGAP T-shirts for sale ranging in
price from \$5.00 for child sized to \$7.00 and
\$7.50 for adults. Graham Bennett is currently
looking after them.

COMMITTEE FOR 1990.

- CHAIRMAN.....Dave Warmington (502482 BH)
- HON. SECRETARY.....Elaine Pike
- TREASURER.....Peter Robbins (535036)
- NEWSLETTER.....Helen Moody (554982)
- LIB. & SALES.....Frances Boyd (552550)
- EXCURSIONS.....Bob Jago (552266)
- PUB. OFFICER.....Theo Utzinger (545266)
- DISPLAYS CO-ORD.....Dave Warmington
- TUCKEROLOGIST.....Graham Pike (511422 BH)

EDITOR'S SPOT.

Welcome back to SGAP for 1991! February's meeting saw an enthusiastic group of members and visitors gather for an excellent talk on Cycads - "the 4 wheel drives of the plant world" to quote our speaker Richard Lear. Richard has extensive botanical knowledge of these plants but still achieved an interesting and entertaining talk at our level of knowledge.

His talk also included many references to what are now exotic species but as these plants have been around since ancient times when the topography of this planet was vastly different, they are perhaps more native than our natives.

If you are interested in more information the SGAP publication, "Australian Plants" December, 1984, Vol 13, No. 101 has some excellent articles illustrations and photographs.

As you know, next month is our AGM, please give some thought as to how you can help. Some members of the committee are DEFINITELY NOT available for re-election.

Our meetings at TBHS now attract a charge of \$5 per hour ie, \$15 for the night. Our sources have told us that Cominos House will be available for April's meeting (at this stage however our meeting night clashes with that of the Shutterbugs - a problem the Cominos House Comm. is discussing at a meeting on 25-02-91) and although we will probably have to pay for use of its facilities at least we will have a permanent home for our books and displays equipment.

At present the cost per 10 newsletters per member per year is \$5.80 with the Branch membership levy set at \$5.00. As you can appreciate newsletter costs plus fees for use of facilities will mean a cost increase to each member. Mackay Branch is trialling a bi-monthly newsletter, perhaps this could be considered as part of a solution for our costs.

If any member noticed anything interesting happening to their trees or gardens during the cyclone and would like to write an article for the newsletter, it would be most welcome.

I recently received a letter from a friend who has been back-packing through Nepal, India and Thailand. Some observations were interesting:
The largest commercial forests in Northern Thailand are Australian eucalypts.
Grevillea robusta and Callistemon viminalis are used extensively as street trees in Nepal.
In the centeal park of Katmandu, the largest trees are Eucalyptus grandis.
Carpentaria acuminata are used as street palms in Calcutta.

As this is my last newsletter I would like to say how much I have enjoyed doing them. It is my

study and P & C Committee work that precludes me from continuing in this position. Best wishes to my successor.

TROPICAL GARDEN EXPO.

It's that time of year again - time to start growing plants for our sales, that is! What have YOU started to grow and when can YOU volunteer a few hours over that weekend? Please remember to collect and save any interesting plant material and any photos would be most welcome.

SWAP TABLE.

Phaleria octandra, *Banksia oblongifolia*, *Casuarina nana*, *Glochidion harveyanum*, *Pittosporum rubiginosum*, *Mischocarpus exangulatus*.

We also had a flower of *Buckinghamia celsissima* and a seed pod of *Archidendron lucyi*.

FLOWERING THIS MONTH.

Xanthostemon chrysanthus looked marvellous but had their flowering period shortened by rain. Also trying to bloom were *Lagerstroemia archeriana*, *Melaleuca viridiflora*, *Archidendron hender-sonii*, *Callistemon viminalis* "Wilderness White", C. "Boorundah Station", *Abelmoschus moschatus*, *Curcuma australasica*, *Viola hederacea*.

REMINDER.

The "Bush Tucker" man, Les Hiddens is back on the ABC on Friday nights at 8.00pm. One of the first plants he introduced to us this year was *Curcuma australasica*, not as a food plant but as a contraceptive used by the Arnhem land aborigines. Exactly which part they used and its method of

preparation is uncertain. It is in the Zingiberaceae family along with *C. longa* an Indian species whose dried and ground up rhizome yields a dye and the spice tumeric - obviously not a contraceptive.

C. zedoaria another species from the East yields a perfume and tonic and *C. angustifolia* from East India yields arrowroot. Curcuma is the latinized form of the Arabic word kurkum which means tumeric.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Committee Meeting for this month will be held at the Botanic Gardens on 26-02-91 at 5.30pm.

ANOTHER OFFERING TO HORTICULTURE?

Three trees at the N-E end of Glenoma Park looked most spectacular when in full flower just recently. They are *Homalium circumpinnatum* (pron. ho-MAY-lee-um) from the family Flacourtiaceae. Australia has 3 of the 200 spp. in this genera, two of which are endemic. *H. brachybotrys* occurs at the Gilbert and Walsh Rivers, *H. vittense* (= of Viti ie. Fiji) occurs along our Northern and Central coasts, Fiji and New Caledonia.

The species *H. circumpinnatum* occurs only in the Cairns area, its common name being dog bane or shuttlecock flower. The flowers are very tiny, only 3-4mm across but developing in long racemes that are arranged in groups. The total effect is that of a curtain - a beautiful sight and a tree that has horticultural potential. I have been told that the seed is very minute and difficult to collect.

INFORMATION PLEASE!!

Does anyone out there have any further information on or specimens of *Galbulimima belgraveana* (pron. gal-bew-lee-MY-ma) from the family Himantandraceae. The genus is named for its fruits resemblance to that of a galbulus which is a cone with fleshy cone scales; mima is from the Latin for mimic.

There are 2-3 spp. in the world of which Australia has one, occurring in SE. Qld at Kin Kin and Eumundi and on the Atherton Tableland. Common names are Pigeonberry Ash and Magnolia Ash, the tree being used for cabinet making in the past.

References in Jones: Ornamental Rainforest Plants in Australia describes the tree as 12m in height, dense and bushy in habit, the young shoots being bronze coloured due to the presence of scales. Leaves are shiny, dark-green on the upper surface and rusty to gold beneath. Flowers appear from Aug. - Nov. in the axillary buds, are approx. 2.5cm across and have prominent stamens. Globular red fruit 2cm. across ripens from Mar. - June. It is a species with primitive botanical features and is very decorative due to its flushes of new growth and the appearance of the underside of the leaves.

References in this and the preceeding article were also obtained from AUSTRALIAN PLANT GENERA by James A. Baines, published by SGAP, 1981.

SOME COMMON LATIN PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES WITH THEIR MEANINGS.

angusti-	narrow L.	-ans	becoming
brachys-	short	-anthemon	flower
caly-	calyx	-anthos	flower
carpo-	fruit	-carpa	fruit
cyano-	dark blue	-carpum	fruit
erio-	woolly	-cola	inhabitant of
erythr-	red	-ella	diminutive
glauc-	silvery, blue-green.	-ensis	native of
	"bloom"	-escens	becoming or somewhat
gymno-	naked, bare.	-folia	leaf
lepi-	a scale	-idium	diminutive
macra-	large	-ola	diminutive
macro-	large	-opsis	appearance, view, form of
mel-	black	-osus	abounding in
micra-	small	-phylla	leaf
micro-	small	-phyllum	leaf
neo-	new	-sperma	seed
steno-	narrow Gk.	-spermum	seed
pachy-	thick	-stemon	stamen
phyton-	plant Gk.		
xantho-	yellow		

OTHER COMMON BOTANICAL WORDS ARE:

formosus - beautiful; fruticosa - bushy or shrubby; brownii - after Robert Brown the naturalist who accompanied Flinders; conferta/confertus - brought together, crowded (leaves); cordatum - heart shaped leaves; foetida - stinking; graveolens - strong-smelling; hederacea - like Ivy.

FROM: DICTIONARY OF BOTANICAL NAMES compiled and illustrated by Don Perrin, produced by Green Data Projects, QLD.