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**ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**

MELALEUCA AND ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP

ABN 56 654 053 676

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NEWSLETTER NO. 25 December 2002

Dear Members,

It is that time of year again and Verna and I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and the New Year brings you health and happiness. We enjoyed our trip to the Top End, The Kimberley, Central Australia, South Australia and Victoria and then home via central western New South Wales. I don't whether or not the "Year of The Outback" had anything to do with the situation but camp sites were at a premium in a few places, mainly around the Top End and in central Australia. We had pre-booked sites at Uluru and Kings Canyon so had no problem there and managed to get sites in other places even though we had to shop around a bit and some were a bit crowded.

The Stockmans Hall of Fame at Longreach was, as usual, well worth the visit. Winton Outback Centre which depicts the heritage and development of the Winton district is well set up and a credit to the designers and those who put it all together. There were quite a few flowers showing along the Barkly Highway, mainly Grevillea and Acacia species but quite a few others as well. Kakadu National Park was, as usual, spectacular but there are a few sites there which are no longer accessible to the general public. The sunset cruise on Yellow Water, complete with lots of crocodiles (outside the boat), gave its usual enjoyment. Everyone in the party enjoyed Darwin. One of the members of the party was evacuated from Darwin during the wartime air raids and this was her first time back – quite a nostalgia trip. The Territory Wildlife Park near Darwin is well laid out in the various habitats likely to be encountered in the northern part of the Territory, including a well set up nocturnal house. The waterfalls in Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin, are quite spectacular and, at the time of our visit, were flowing well. Buley Rockholes, where the flow comes over a sloping rock creek bed is probably the prettiest even though it is not high. The sloping rock contains a number of sink holes which give a cascade effect and are excellent, safe swimming holes. There were a few good specimens of *Melaleuca viridiflora* (green-flowered form) in flower near Tolmer Falls. Tableland Swamp, a high level swamp area, contained a good display of *Nymphaea gigantea* (mauve flowers), *Nymphoides indica* (white flowers) and *Nymphoides crenata* (probably)

yellow flowers) Wangi Falls , with the large waterhole at the base of the falls, is the most popular spot with day visitors from Darwin.

On the road to Broome and Derby there were an excellent displays of *Grevillea pyramidalis* in a number of places and, of course, the magnificent Boab trees . Along this road there are extensive stands of *Melaleuca minutifolia* but, unfortunately , none were in flower . We came on a patch of *Cyanostegia cyanocalyx*, (common name – Northern Tinsel Flower) a small , multi –stemmed shrub about 1 metre high covered with a mass of deep purple flowers – very spectacular. The most common habitat of this species is on the sand dunes of the Simpson and Gibson Deserts but it does extend along the Great Northern Highway to about Broome. The visit to Kings Canyon was a first and we were impressed to say the least - magnificent rock formations in a wide range of colours , but a very steep, rough walking track to get to the rim of the canyon. The Desert Wildlife Park in Alice Springs covers virtually every major habitat likely to be found in Central Australia , including a mini salt lake . A number of plants of *Melaleuca glomerata* – not in flower - are evident throughout the Park as are numerous plants of *Callistemon pauciflorus*, which were flowering. *C. pauciflorus* is the only recorded *Callistemon* from the Northern Territory and is found in the Giles, Petermann and Harts Ranges near pools and waterholes and in steep rocky gorges . The flower of *C. pauciflorus* is nicely coloured, a bit similar to *C. brachyandrus* , but it is fairly small – approx 30 mm long by 20 mm wide . The Reptile Park in Alice Springs is well worth a visit to get a close view of many of the small reptiles which survive in this harsh environment . Uluru is still impressive but the number of restrictions now placed on visitors have increased . Signs around the Rock at many of the points of interest indicate that photography is not allowed . There is also a move afoot to prevent visitors from climbing the Rock.

We went into The Breakaways, north of Coober Pedy , a sandstone area which has eroded into a barren, unforgiving landscape with no vegetation of any consequence except for a few stunted *Acacia* and *Senna* shrubs and a few plants of *Diphyssa* and *Zygophyllum*, with very occasional tufts of grasses, in the few areas where soil is a bit deeper. There does not appear to be any permanent water in the area . The colours of the sandstone range through white, yellow, pink , mauve, red and dark brown . Certainly not a desirable place to get stranded !!! The impression the landscape gives is that rain is something which rarely, if ever, happens!! A lot of the filming for the “ Mad Max “ movies was done around The Breakaways. The Arid Lands Botanic Gardens , north of Port Augusta are well managed. . Total area of the gardens is 500 hectares , most of which is in its natural state . Part of the developed area contains what is claimed to a complete collection of all currently known *Eremophila* species, most of which were in good condition with many in flower in a wide range of colours. Other plants in the developed area are – *Dampiera*, *Diphyssa*, *Acacia*, *Dodonea*, *Eucalypts* , *Olearia* and *Templetonia* to name a few .

We did the normal tourist things in Adelaide – walked North Terrace, rode on the tram to Glenelg , visited a couple of National Trust houses etc. I visited Ivan Holliday and saw his magnificent garden which, of course, made me envious of the plants we can't grow here. The visit to the Blue Lake at Mount Gambier and the rugged coastline at Port MacDonnell, south of Mount Gambier, was well worth the time spent in that area. From Mount Gambier towards Victoria the road traverses scenic farming (mainly dairying) country with lots of Friesian cows

in extensive green pastures. The trip across The Great Ocean Road was not pleasant with a gale force, icy cold southerly wind blowing. It did, however, give a very realistic view of how violent the seas can be in this part of the world. The 2 weeks spent in Melbourne with our son and his family included a couple of day trips - one to Glenrowan (Ned Kelly fame) and another trip along The Great Ocean Road hoping for better weather but it wasn't much better than the first time.

Back to earth again!!! - The Callistemons in this area flowered very well this year and flowered on for a longer period than usual, maybe it was because there was no rain of any consequence to spoil the flowers. There are still a few Callistemon flowers about. C. "Dainty Lady" is presenting a few flowers as it does off and on throughout the year. Callistemon "Injune" is coming into flower at present while C. *comboynensis* is carrying on with its usual summer flowering. The *Maleleuca linariifolia* forest in a swampy area near us was coming into flower very nicely in early summer but the display was short-lived due to a fire which went through the area. *Melaleuca leucadendra* - both narrow and broad-leaved forms - presented two displays of flowers during the summer. We have planted a number of Callistemons, *Melaleuca* etc in our daughter's new garden over the past 9 months. All of these are growing well with many plants, although still small, having produced flowers despite the soil being a very heavy clay and difficult to cultivate or dig planting holes in. Their block has a reasonable slope from the back towards the road so surface drainage is quite good. We planted a few *Grevillea* spp. in the garden, not sure how they would handle the heavy clay but, so far, they are doing quite well. The only plants showing any signs of stress are some *Banksia collina* but, hopefully, they may recover. The Kangaroo Paws, all hybrid varieties, have provided a really good display.

LEPTOSPERMUM "AUSSIE BLOSSOM" SERIES

In Newsletter No. 21 I mentioned the new releases of *Leptospermum* spp. being sold under the name of "Aussie Blossom". I purchased one of these "Martin" to use as a demonstration item (along with quite a few other potted plants) in conjunction with a slide presentation I prepared on "Small Myrtaceae Suitable for Gardens". I planted it in our garden in about October 2001. It has reached a height of 0.5 metres with a spread of 0.75 metres and is quite dense. The label advises heavy pruning but, to date, I have restricted my pruning to tip pruning. The plant started to flower in early July this year and flowered quite heavily until late October. Flowers are pale pink about 15 mm in diameter. At this stage it appears it will be a useful addition to any garden.

MEMBERS REPORTS

Jeff Irons wrote in mid-December to advise that the west coast of England has just had its wettest autumn for 200 years - twice the normal rainfall fell in October, November was even wetter and December was wet up to the time of his letter. If only some of that rain could be channeled to Australia!!! Current minimum temperatures are around -10C getting up to around 00C during the day.

Liesbeth Uijtewaal has sent details of a *Callistemon* she has grown from seed, planted on 1/1/1999, of *C brachyandrus*. The seedling flowered for the first time this year. She has given it the name "Big Brachy" because the flower is larger than the usual flower on *C. brachyandrus*. The photo she sent over certainly indicates the flower is larger and much more open than the normal flower of this species. A nurseryman from England who recently visited Liesbeth's garden collected cuttings from the plant so it may turn up on the English market in due course. *Callistemon polandii* is coming into bud for the first time. Among the photos sent by Liesbeth are photos of *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, *Callistemon pinifolius*, *Callistemon glaucus*, *Eucalyptus caesia*, *Banksia mediam* *Banksia ericifolia*, all growing in pots and flowering very well, plus photos of a very impressive display of Australian plants at Hortfair held in Europe in November 2002 and arranged by the Australian Flower Export Council based in Melbourne.

Barbara Buchanan has forwarded details of the *Hypocalymma* species she has growing in her garden. The natural soil in her garden is a red clay:

Hypocalymma robustum - this was one of Barbara's favourite flowers when growing up in Perth because of its beautiful perfume. It was very common in the bush in the Darling Ranges. Unfortunately this species does not grow as well at Myrree as Barbara would hope. Flower colour of this species is pink. Similar comments apply to *H. angustifolium* which do not grow as well as they do in W.A. The flower colour of *H. angustifolium* is predominantly white with a pink tinge but there is a pure white flowered form.

Hypocalymma strictum - is growing in a small bed of introduced sand and is presently less than 0.4 metres high. It tends to look straggly and woody for most of the year but flowers intermittently throughout summer. Flower colour is pink

Hypocalymma speciosum - has been tried on a number of occasions but has not been successful.

Hypocalymma xanthopetalum - is now 5 years old and has reached a height of 0.5 metres. Although it flowers well it tends to look straggly for most of the year, possibly because it is receiving less sun than previously. Flower colour is yellow. (Editors Note) - we had a plant of *H. xanthopetalum* growing in our garden, in red sandy loam, for a number of years. It flowered almost continuously but it eventually suffered the same fate as Barbara's specimen - too much shade

Hypocalymma sp. - this plant produces pink/white flowers with an apple blossom effect during autumn. Leaves are quite small being some 12 mm long by 6 mm wide

Hypocalymma cordifolium - is growing well in a sunny spot with no added water. A previous plant of this species, growing on the southern side of the house in full summer sun, complete winter shade and well watered grew very well but was removed during a rework of the garden.

Editors Note - we presently have a specimen of *Hypocalymma linifolium* growing in our garden which, although it has not yet flowered, is growing well and is presently some 0.5 metres high . It , hopefully, should produce yellow flowers

Lorraine Haig has 3 specimens of *Hypocalymma angustifolium* , two of which are approx. 9 years old and growing in raised beds which receive afternoon sun. The other plant is 2 years old and growing well in a shaded site . With occasional deep waterings all plants flower well .

LEPTOSPERMUM AS CUT FLOWERS

The following articles relate to work carried out in New Zealand in relation to production of suitable species of *Leptospermum* for the cut flower trade and to experiments aimed at increasing vase life of various species.

Article 1

“ *Leptospermum scoparium* Forst. has an ideal form for a cut flower , but its use is limited by a short vase life. Flowers on cut stems typically wilt within 4-6 days of harvest. A breeding programme was initiated to develop cultivars with improved characteristics for commercial production , focusing on post-harvest life . A survey was conducted of 38 cultivars of *L. scoparium* as well as 16 other species of *Leptospermum* , 3 of the closely related genus – *Kunzea* – and 1 intergeneric hybrid between *L. scoparium* and *K. sinclairii*. The vase life of the *L. scoparium* cultivars studied varied from 1 to 6 days, with a modal value of 4 days. *L. scoparium* “ *Crimson Glory* “ has been successfully hybridised to *L. rotundifolium* “ *Jervis Bay*” . The F1 progeny of this cross lasted from 4 to 9 days in a vase with a modal value of 6.5 days.”

Article 2

“ Post harvest stem treatments and vase-solution treatments were assessed to determine the basis of the short vase life of detached *Leptospermum scoparium* stems . Stem cutting or heat treatments had little effect on water uptake or vase life . 8-hydroxyquinoline sulphate (HQS) delayed the decline in water uptake and leaf moisture content , and extended the vase life by 1-2 days. Cycloheximide (CHI) also extended the vase life by 2 days . However , the water uptake pattern and changes in leaf moisture content were different from those observed with HQS. Although the rate of flower senescence was similar , CHI treatment resulted in a marked reduction in the rate of decline of water uptake and loss of leaf moisture content . Silver thiosulphate pulse treatments had little effect on flower senescence . Sucrose reduced the rate of flower senescence and when combined with HQS extended the vase life from 3 to 9 days , This suggests that the short vase life of *L. scoparium* is the result of both the sugar status and water relations of the cut stems “

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS IN ENGLAND

Trevena Cross Nurseries in Cornwall specialise in southern hemisphere plants , notably South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and South America . This part of Cornwall does not get as cold as some other parts of the United Kingdom with average coldest frosts in the region of minus 4 to minus 5 degrees C. Their main problem is that they get lots of wind and rain as they are 1 mile from the coast in an exposed position. They carry a fairly good range of Callistemon and Melaleuca plants as well as Beaufortia sparsa.

The plant list is as follows :

Beaufortia sparsa, Callistemon citrinus , C. linearis, C." Perth Pink " , C. pityoides, . C. "Red Clusters " , C. rigidus, C.salignus, C. salignus rubra, C. sieberi , C. speciosus, (now C. glaucus) , C.subulatus, C. viminalis, C. viridiflorus, Melaleuca armillaris, M. bracteata, M. decussata, M. fulgens, M. incana, M. laterita . In addition to these they also carry a large range of Acacia species

Prices range from 7.5 pounds sterling to 8.5 pounds sterling which is approx \$AU22.00 to \$AU 24.00 for plants in 4 litre pots

BITS AND PIECES CORNER

A large staghorn which had been growing on a Callistemon viminalis in our garden for many years recently died . It was at a height of approx. 2 metres above ground level where the tree trunk was some 350 mm in diameter . When I removed it , with some difficulty, I found that the tree had sent out a mass of roots (a giant layering operation ?) into the staghorn root mass which was , quite likely , the cause of its demise.

The Agricultural Science student I have been corresponding with in Pisa, Italy for the past couple of years has completed her studies. She has advised me that she received a final score of 106/110 . She obtained the maximum score of 13 points for her thesis which was written on " Callistemon". She is currently working at the Pisa University carrying out studies on the tolerance of Callistemon species to salty soils . We may get some feedback on this subject at some future date.

As with many other parts of Australia, our rainfall was very much below average for 2002. I recorded a total of 510 mm compared to the annual average of 1100 mm but many parts of Australia are worse off than we are here.

Sawflies – these insects are wasps, but the common name of sawflies has been applied to them because of the characteristic saw-like egg-laying apparatus of the female. The larvae of various species of sawfly may damage trees and shrubs . Some of the common species of sawfly are :

Callitris sawfly (Zenarge turneri)

The larvae of these is about 10-20 mm in length and are green in colour . They feed on native Callitris spp and on some introduced Cupressus spp.

Callistemon sawfly (Piergophorous sp.)

The larvae of these feed on Callistemon spp and may cause complete defoliation. They can be easily identified by the sword-like appendage on top of the abdomen

Leaf-blister sawfly (Phylaceophaga eucalypti)

The larvae of this species is capable of inflicting severe damage to the leaves of several species of Eucalyptus . They feed between the upper and lower layers of the leaf until the leaf appears blistered

Spitfire/steel blue sawfly (Perga affinis)

This is the most common of the sawflies which feed on eucalyptus trees . The larvae are most conspicuous when they cluster around branches during non-feeding times and can reach 70 mm in length. When disturbed, they raise their heads and abdomens and regurgitate, from their mouths , a thick yellowish fluid with a strong Eucalypt odour -- a defence measure

Control

On small trees the best method of control is to remove the clusters of larvae and destroy them . Should it be considered that spraying is necessary the insecticide carbaryl is probably the best to use . The use of a systemic insecticide may be necessary to control a severe infestation of leaf-blister sawfly

PRUNING CALOTHAMNUS

Lyn Thompson , study group liaison officer for NSW APS has requested information on how to prune a Calothamnus which has grown very tall and leggy . I have not had any experience with pruning of these plants as they are not widely grown in Qld and where they are grown they rarely get large enough to warrant pruning . If any member is able to assist Lyn please contact her at P.O. Box 38, Woodford N.S.W. 2778.

THE GENUS BAECKEA

Over the past few years some of the plants previously known as Baeckea have undergone several revisions. The species from eastern Australia, presumably Qld, NSW and Vic. , are now spread over 5 genera namely - *Ochrosperma*, *Triplarina*, *Babingtonia*, *Baeckea* and *Euryomyrtus*. I have no information as to whether or not the South Australian and Western Australian species have undergone revision and, if so, what the current position is with their status.

Ochrosperma

In 1987 Trudgen placed 3 Baeckea species into the new genus , Ochrosperma . In 1995 and 1997 , Bean expanded and revised Trudgens work to recognise 6 species in the genus , 5 of these occurring in eastern Australia

Current names are:

<u>New Name</u>	<u>Former Name</u>
Ochrosperma adpressum	Baeckea sp. " Mt Minda "
Ochrosperma citridorum	Baeckea citriodora
Ochrosperma lineare	Baeckea linearis
Ochrosperma oligomerum	Ochrosperma monticola , Baeckea sp. B

New species

Ochrosperma obovatum

Triplarina

In 1995 Bean placed some species of Baeckea previously placed in Baeckea camphorata into a reinstated genus – Triplarina . Triplarina is an endemic Australian genus containing 7 species in New South Wales and Queensland , occurring mainly in sheltered positions on shady slopes , gorges or creek banks , all except T. paludosa occurring within 80 km of the coast

Species of Triplarina in eastern Australia are :

<u>New Name</u>	<u>Former Name</u>
Triplarina imbricata	Baeckea camphorata
Triplarina nowraensis	Baeckea camphorata
Triplarina paludosa	Baeckea sp. " Stony Creek Falls "
Triplarina volcanica	2 subspecies -- subsp. volcanica subsp. borealis

New Species

Triplarina bancroftii	Restricted distribution in south-east Qld
Triplarina calophylla	Known from 2 localities near Bowen, Qld
Triplarina nitchaga	Known from 2 localities in the Ravenshoe area , Qld

Babingtonia

Bean reinstated the genus Babingtonia in 1997 for a large group of species previously included in Baeckea . Babingtonia was named by Lindley in 1842. 12 species are listed for eastern Australia Babingtonia species are found on hill and mountain sides on shallow soils although some species are found on deeper soils on creek banks and in valleys

Current names for Babingtonia species are :

New Name

Babingtonia behrii
Babingtonia crenulata
Babingtonia cunninghamii
Babingtonia densifolia
Babingtonia juncunda
Babingtonia squarrulosa
Babingtonia tozerensis
Babingtonia virgata complex

Former Name

Baeckea behrii
Baeckea crenulata/ Baeckea crenatifolia
Baeckea cunninghamii
Baeckea densifolia
Baeckea juncunda
Baeckea squarrulosa
Baeckea sp. " Mt Tozer "
Baeckea virgata

New Species

Babingtonia granitica
Babingtonia odontocalyx
Babingtonia prominens
Babingtonia silvestris

Baeckea

Bean published a paper in 1997 concerning the Baeckea species in eastern Australia and in Malesia and south-east Asia now remaining in Baeckea and describing 3 new species from Qld and NSW. There are 12 species of Baeckea in eastern Australia with one species, B. frutescens, extending through Malesia to southern China. Baeckea species are usually found in swamps and heathlands except for B. brevifolia and B. kandos which are found in sandstone areas.

Species still called Baeckea

Baeckea brevifolia
Baeckea diosmafolia
Baeckea frutescens
Baeckea gunniana
Baeckea imbricata
Baeckea latifolia
Baeckea leptocaulis
Baeckea linifolia
Baeckea utilis

Former Name

Baeckea brevifolia
Baeckea diosmafolia
Baeckea frutescens, includes B. stenophylla
Baeckea gunniana var. gunniana
Baeckea imbricata
Baeckea gunniana var. latifolia
Baeckea leptocaulis
Baeckea linifolia
Baeckea utilis

New Species

Baeckea kandos
Baeckea omissa
Baeckea trapeza

Euryomyrtus

In 2001 Trudgen reinstated and revised the genus Euryomyrtus which consists of 7 species , 2 of which are found in eastern Australia . In addition to several new species , the revision places the well-known Baeckea ramosissima into Euryomyrtus

New Name

Euryomyrtus denticulata
Euryomyrtus ramosissima

Former Name

Baeckea denticulata
Baeckea ramosissima

The Babington virgata complex

The group of plants previously known as Baeckea (now Babingtonia) virgata occurs in many parts of eastern Australia and is well-known in cultivation , with many forms and variations . The shrub known as Babingtonia virgata was first collected in New Caledonia in 1774. Bean considers this species to be different from the Australian members of the complex and proposes that the name Babingtonia virgata be restricted to this species, found only on New Caledonia and neighbouring islands . So, naturally occurring Australian plants until now included in Babingtonia virgata must be placed into new species. Bean describes 8 Australian species. They are shrubs with small leaves and small white flowers, mainly in summer, occurring variously on creek banks, in open eucalypt forest or on rocky outcrops, always on sandy or skeletal soils with low nutrients. The 8 Australian species proposed by Bean are :

Babingtonia angusta - a shrub to 2.5 metres, found in 2 areas – North Qld from Atherton to Townsville and south-east Qld and north-east NSW... A selected form of this species is in cultivation as Baeckea sp “ Clarence River “ .

Babingtonia bidwillii - a shrub or small tree to 5 metres high, occurring in coastal areas of Qld from Shoalwater Bay (north of Rockhampton) to just north of Brisbane.

Babingtonia brachypoda - a shrub to 4 metres high found in a few places in Qld – Rolleston , Woorabinda, Theodore.(the area known as the Dawson Valley - Ed.)

Babingtonia collina - a shrub to 3 metres high , in eastern areas of N SW and Qld from Dorrigo to Yandina with some isolated populations further north .

Babingtonia crassa - a shrub to 2.5 metres high, in the eastern end of the northern Tablelands of NSW, from east of Armidale to Barrington Tops.

Babingtonia papillosa - a shrub to 1.5 metres high, known only in 2 populations (20 plants in one , 2 plants in the other) , both in Bowling Green Bay National Park, south of Townsville..

Babingtonia pluriflora - a shrub to 4 metres high, in the south-eastern coastal areas and adjacent ranges , from Port Stephens NSW to Bairnsdale Vic.. Originally named Camphoromyrtus pluriflora by Mueller in 1855.

Babingtonia similis - a shrub to 2 metres high from the Brisbane area to near Newcastle NSW.

SOIL WETTING AGENTS

The following article appeared in Global Garden – www.global-garden.com.au and is reproduced here with their permission and with permission of the author – Dr P. May, Deputy Head of Campus, University of Melbourne – Burnley College. It may be of interest to members.

1. What do soil wetting agents do ?

Soil wetting agents are designed to overcome water repellence in soils. Sandy soils, soils high in organic matter and potting mixes are the most likely to become hydrophobic. When these types of soils are watered with a hose, the water simply rolls off and is not absorbed. This can be a trap for gardeners who think they have watered their plants when, in fact, the water has simply rolled to the sides of the pot and out the drainage holes without wetting the soil at all. So “well-watered” pots can often be seriously drought stressed.

Soil wetters help to overcome the effects of waxy organic coatings on the surface of the soil and the surface of organic matter so allowing the water to penetrate and be absorbed.

What soil wetters do not do is to change the structure of the soil. They do not improve soil as such. Slow rates of water infiltration can also be the result of factors such as soil compaction and heavy clays. Soil wetters will not solve these problems and other strategies need to be employed. These include cultivation, the addition of organic matter and/or gypsum, or the use of “clay-breaking” products which affect the chemical composition of the soil so that particles clump together and create pore spaces through which air and water can move.

It is important to do what you can to avoid allowing soil and potting mixes to dry out to the point where it becomes hydrophobic

2. How do soil wetters work?

Basically they work by making water wetter. Soil wetters are essentially the same as detergents. They reduce the surface tension of the water and allow it to wet the waxy surface of the soil particles allowing water to move into the soil through the pores. Soil wetting agents belong to a class of chemicals called surfactants. There are different kinds of wetting agents/surfactants and they are used for different purposes. In horticulture, as well as soil wetting, surfactants are used to allow various products such as herbicides, fungicides and fertilisers to spread out over the leaf blade of plants and be more readily absorbed by the leaf tissue. These “spreaders” are designed to work quickly but do not last long.

3. Are wetting agents environmentally damaging ?

For soil wetting agents to work effectively, they cannot be too readily bio-degradable or their effectiveness will be very transitory. Ordinary washing up detergent , for example, will promote water penetration in soil but the effect would last only a few days . (In “ Growing Media for Ornamental Plants and Turf “ (page 31) , Handreck and Black describe washing up detergent as “useless “ for soil wetting and also warn that many standard laundry detergent powders contain levels of chemicals such as sodium and boron which can be damaging to plants and that these should not be applied to soils.) Commercial soil wetting agents will continue to work for a considerable period , but they will eventually be degraded by soil micro-organisms. However, detergents can interfere with the life-cycle of some aquatic organisms, and care should be taken to prevent run-off of these products into streams, and excess product should not be washed down gutters. Concentrated detergents can be poisonous , so need to be used and stored with caution. Always read and follow the directions the label.

4. Is there any advantage in using granular rather than liquid soil wetters ?

Granular products are easier to use than liquid products and can be readily incorporated into potting mixes . With granular products, the soil wetting agent is incorporated into granules of either clay or organic material such as coir. The wetting agent is then leached out gradually whenever the granules are watered or when it rains.

5. Can soil wetters damage the foliage of plants ?

Because soil wetters break down the waxy cuticle that protects leaves , some product labels users to avoid applying the product to foliage . If in doubt, ask the manufacturer for clarification. Doing a test patch before a general application of a product is also a wise practice . Further information on soil wetters is available at <http://www.agcsa.com.au/atm/articles/vol21/wetagt.htm>

SLIDE SETS

The slide sets , Callistemon, Melaleuca and Leptospermum, are still available for loan to groups or individuals. Thanks to Ivan Holliday for the additional Melaleuca slides he has provided . During the time the slide sets have been available they have been borrowed by a number of groups from various parts of Australia.

PRESENTATIONS TO GROUPS

During the time I have been leader of the group I have given talks to, and/or provided slide presentations to all SGAP groups within the Brisbane area, in most cases on more than one occasion . I have visited Toowoomba group on 3 occasions and Armidale group, in NSW, on 2 occasions plus 1 visit to Longreach , Qld, group when that group was active. In addition to these presentations I have attended meetings of a number of garden clubs in the Brisbane area to give addresses on various aspects of Australian plants.

SEED LIST

A current seed list is attached . There is no limit to the number of varieties of seed which may be requested at any one time

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following is a list of financial members as at June 30 2002 :

Aust. National Botanic Gardens, GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT 2601
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Mrs. B.N. Buchanan, RMB 1590 , Myrree , Vic 3732
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Ms. K. Bartlett, " Winpara ", Jervois, SA 5259
Mr. J. Brophy, 32 Cowper St., Randwick, NSW 2111
Mr L. Craven, Aust National Herbarium, GPO Box 1600 , Canberra, ACT 2601
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Mr. H. Debono, Parc Des Veyssieres, 606 Ave Raymond Rolland, 83700 Saint Raphael, France
Ms. S. Disney, 161 Francis St, Leichhardt, NSW 2040
Mr. T. Gilbert, 9 Mengarvie St, Parkes, NSW 2870
Mr. I. Holliday, 29 Tennyson Ave , Tranmere, SA 5073
Mrs. L. Haig, 24 Wellington St., Richmond , Tas 7025
Mr. J. Irons, Stonecourt, 74 Brimstage Road, Heswall, Wirral, CH60 1XG, England
Mrs. M. Ingall, Po Box 1295, Gosford, NSW 2250
Mrs L. Johnston, " Grevillea Park " 11 Milner Place, Thornlands, Qld 4164
Mr. B. Jahnke, 11 Goldsbrough Rd, Taringa, Qld 4068
Mrs. E. Jacobs, 377 Cambridge Rd, Montrose, Vic 3765
Mr. E. Knight, 15 Valantine Rd, Birkdale, Qld 4159
Mr. P. Kennedy, Johnsons Lane, Strathmerton, Vic 3641
Mr. P. Lightfoot, 64 Ridgeway Rd, New Lambton Heights, NSW 2305
Mr. C. Loxley, 142 Captain Cook Drive, Willmot , NSW 2770
Mr. D. Lightfoot, 36 Arundel Cres, Surrey Hills, VIC 3127
Mrs. M. Moir, Olive Hill Farm, RMB 261A, Margaret River, WA 6285
SGAP NSW , PO Box 744, Blacktown, NSW 2148
APS Vic, PO Box 327 , Hawthorn Business Centre, Vic 3122
APS Tas, PO Box 75, Exeter, Tas 7275
APS Blue Mountains Group, c/- Mr. C. Farrugia, 12 Grandview Ave, Seven Hills, NSW 2147
SGAP Keilor Plains, PO Box 115, Niddrie , Vic 3042
ANPS Canberra Region, PO Box 217, Civic Square, ACT 2601
APS SA, PO Box 304, Unley, SA 5061
SGAP Geelong Inc, PO Box 2012, Geelong, Vic 3220
SGAP Qld Region, PO BOX 586, Fortitude Valley, Qld 4006
APS Armidale Group, PO Box 735, Armidale, NSW 2350
APS Fleurieu Group, 177 Rosetta Village, Maude St, Victor Harbour, SA 5211
APS Tamworth Group, " Callemindah " , RMB 490, Tamworth, NSW 2340
APS Glen Innes Group , PO Box 114 , Glen Innes, NSW 2370

W & G Sheather , " Yallaroo " , Bundarra Road, Armidale, NSW 2350
 Mr I. L. Tiley, " Buln Gherin " , RMB454, Beaufort, Vic 3373
 Mrs. L. Uijtewaal -de-Vries, Dries 22, 6086 A W Neer, The Netherlands
 Wildflower Society of WA, PO Box 64, Nedlands, WA 6009
 Mr. B. Williams, PO Box 513, Kew, Vic 3101
 Mr. D.H. Widdop, 66 Banff St, Corowa, NSW 2646
 Mr. A. Wilson, 13631 Old Camino Road, San Diego, California, 92130 USA

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance as at 11-03-2002	\$726.61	Smoked Vermiculite	\$23.45
Membership Fees	\$286.28	Registered Post (slides)	\$15.15
Vermiculite sales	\$4.00	Petty Cash	\$26.25
Bank Interest	<u>\$0.59</u>	Registered Post (slides)	\$10.65
		Printer Ink	\$40.00
Total	<u>\$1017.48</u>	Photocopy NL No. 24	\$42.00
Less Expenditure	<u>\$193.60</u>	Postage NL No. 24	\$34.00
	<u>\$823.88</u>	GDT	<u>\$2.10</u>
		Total	<u>\$193.60</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement 09-12-2002	\$823.88		

I hope 2003 brings plenty of rain to those areas which need it so desperately and that your gardens continue to flourish

Regards



Col Cornford

SEED LIST- December 2002

MELALEUCA

acuminata
adnata
alternifolia
arcana
argentea
armillaris
bracteata
calycina
cardiophylla
citrina
coccinea
conothamnoides
cordata
cornucopia
cuticularis
dealbata
decora
decussata
densa
diosmafolia
diosmatafolia
eleuterostachya
elliptica
ericifolia
fabri
fulgens
fulgens var. corrugata
gibbosa
glabberima
glomerata
halmatororum
huegelii
huegelii(purple bud)
hypericifolia
incana
lanceolata
lateritia
laxiflora
leucadendra (broad-
leaved form)
linariifolia
linariifolia (Snowstorm)
linophylla
macronychia
megacephala
microphylla
minutifolia
nematophylla

MELALEUCA

nervosa
nesophila
nodosa
pallescens
pauperiflora
pentagona
pulchella
pungens
quinquenervia
radula
rhapsiophylla
sapientes
scabra
scabra (tall form)
scabra (dual colour)
sieberi
spathulata
sp. aff. cornucopia
sp. aff. globifera
sp. aff. microphylla
spicigera
squamea
squarrosa
striata
stypheleoides
suberosa
subfalcata
systema
tamariscina
teretifolia
thymifolia
thymoides
thyoides
tricophylla
tricostachya
uncinata
undulata
viminea
violacea
viridiflora (red)
viridiflora (burgundy)
wilsonii

CALLISTEMON

" Adina "
chisholmii
citrinus
comboynensis

CALLISTEMON

" Endeavour "
flavo-virens
" Guyra Hybrid "
linearifolius
linearis
" Mr. Foster "
"Mrs. Foetel "
pachyphyllus (green)
pachyphyllus (red)
pallidus
pauciflorus
pearsonii
phoeniceus
pinifolius (green)
pinifolius (red)
pityoides
polandii
polandii (broad-
leaved form)
polandii (Pyramid form)
" Purple Splendour '
" Pygmy Pink "
recurvus
rigidus
rugulosus
salignus (white)
shiressii
sieberi
sp. aff. acuminatus
sp. ex Malawi
sp.
sp. (red)
sp. (red)
sp. (Mt Mee)
teretifolius
viminalis (Malawi Giant)
violaceus
viridiflorus

LEPTOSPERMUM

arachnoides
blakeleyi
continentale
coriaceum
epacridoideum
erubescens
glaucescens
grandiflorum

LEPTOSPERMUM

lanigerum
laevigatum
luehmannii
minutifolium
neglectum
nitidum
obovatum
" Pacific Beauty "
polygalifolium
polygalifolium(pink)
riparium
rotundifolium
rupestre
scoparium (Mt Field)
scoparium (Apsley Tas)
scoparium var. eximium
semibaccatum
speciosum
spectabile " Rhiannon "
spinescens
suarrosum

CALOTHAMNUS

asper
chrysantherus
gilesii
quadrifidus
rupestris
sanguineus
vallidus
villosus

KUNZEA

ambigua
baxteri
capitata
parvifolia
pomifera
recurva

REGELIA

cymbifolia
inops
velutina

PHYMATOCARPUS

maxwellii