

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 23

June 1980

ASBS Council

- President** Dr. John Jessop, State Herbarium of South Australia
North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000
- Vice-President** Professor Roger Carolin, School of Biological Sciences,
University of Sydney, Sydney. N.S.W. 2006
- Secretary** Ms Judy West, Herbarium Australiense, C.S.I.R.O. P.O. Box 1600,
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This publication, the official newsletter of the Society is produced four times each year and deadlines for copy are the last day of February, May August and November.

Please send contributions, preferably typed in duplicate and double-spaced to the Editor, at the address below. Items from any source and of interest to members are acceptable. Items incorporated in the newsletter will be duly acknowledged.

Please note: Next deadline is 31st August 1980

Subscriptions for 1980 due 1st January.

Members in Australia \$8.00 if paid by 31st March
\$10.00 thereafter

Overseas Members US\$12.00 or equivalent).

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George Street,
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6151

MINUTES OF AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

ADELAIDE, 14TH MAY, 1980

The meeting was held in the Botany Department, University of Adelaide with the President in the chair and 45 members present.

Minutes of 5th General Meeting as published in A.S.B.S. Newsletter accepted.

President's Report

Our Society was founded at a meeting in Melbourne in 1973, largely I believe, through the initiative and efforts of Nancy Burbidge, whom we honour this evening with our Memorial Lecture. ASBS has now reached the great age of seven years. During that short time it has acquired more than 300 members and notched up a fair number of significant achievements.

One of the parts of its work, perhaps its most important role, and one which can be understated too easily when reviewing its activities on a national level, is the work of the local chapters. The strength of such a society has to be at that level. With 11 chapters, several meeting regularly, the Society must hold well over 50 meetings a year. The conveners are to be very sincerely thanked for the considerable time they put in to making the Society so successful.

On the national level, the Society has made an extremely important contribution in informing plant systematists of activities throughout the country through the newsletter and reports such as the list of these and the Index of Current Taxonomic Research. It seems to me that the level of co-operation between botanists in different parts of the country is quite remarkable. From what I have heard from people who have seen this develop it seems that ASBS must take credit for a reasonable share in achieving this remarkable phenomenon. I call it remarkable because I know how easily suspicions and mistrust arise between people who scarcely if ever meet. I suspect that such barriers are broken down much more easily by younger people and this is one of the reasons why I feel sure that A.S.B.S. in the long term has a particular responsibility, representing as it does the whole spectrum and not just the more senior botanists as other committees often do.

This is the first year in which a major national meeting has been attempted. The Arid Australia Symposium has grown beyond all expectations since it was first proposed. Societies are only as good as the few people who take the lead, as conveners or whatever, and Bill Barker must be given all credit for what he has done for us in organizing this Symposium so well.

Of course, we need to function in many ways. Meetings and other lines of communication between taxonomists are, I believe, the most important functions, but we must also make sure that the Society achieves the sort of recognition which will enable it to influence decisions, especially of governments, which affect its members. We need the sort of publicity for our Society and for taxonomy which results from such ventures as the Arid Australia Symposium and its publication and the Flora of Central Australia.

One is for ever hearing complaints that other botanists do not have a sufficient respect for taxonomy. Universities, for example, have often discouraged taxonomy at undergraduate or post-graduate level or both. But what worries me more is that, as a group, taxonomists do not always believe in their own importance as much as they should. I am convinced that, with the large numbers of taxonomists in Australia, we should be able to publish far more taxonomic research than we do and we should be more assertive in other ways.

For example, I feel now that we have perhaps been remiss in not getting together to discuss, fully, what kind of Flora of Australia we really want. It may well be too late now, and maybe we are going to get the Flora we want in any case. But in future a more organised discussion of major programmes, perhaps in conjunction with the Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria or other appropriate bodies needs to be considered.

My hope for the 1980's is that ASBS will play a major role in promoting taxonomy in Australia and assisting in influencing its direction.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented in Mr. Lazarides' absence. Due to the much reduced Newsletter production costs and the increased subscriptions the Society's accounts will probably show a credit of ca. \$2,000 at the end of this financial year.

As overseas members are not able to participate or benefit from the Society other than through the Newsletter and since they pay higher subscriptions than members in Australia, the following motion was put to the meeting (moved B. Barlow, seconded K. Wilson): that subscriptions be the same for all members of A.S.B.S., and that the Newsletters be sent by air mail to overseas members. The motion was carried. Overseas subscriptions would have to be reviewed if costs of posting the newsletter ever exceed the subscription.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Ms West read Mr. George's report: "Five numbers of the Newsletter have been issued since the last General Meeting. Production in Perth is running smoothly, with mail deliveries usually beginning a week or so after copy is delivered to the typing firm. Production costs are lower in Perth, as can be seen from the Treasurer's report.

Receipt of articles is still the major problem. Twice the Newsletter was almost not issued, only a last minute round-up providing enough copy. Surely there are more members with something to say."

It was felt that Chapter Conveners and the Editor may need to encourage members more strongly to submit articles.

Report on 'Flora of Central Australia' 14 May 1980

The manuscript was submitted to the publishers in mid-January, as they asked. The only material outstanding at that stage were a few illustrations and a foreword. There were a few delays in providing the remaining figures, but the outstanding parts were subsequently provided. Reeds had originally planned to have the book out this year to catch the Christmas sales; to which I felt we had to agree although, as one of its aims was to mark the International Botanical Congress, a later date would have suited me better.

The first proofs are expected in July. We should be able to manage three copies; one to be cut up for the authors; one to be shared by the Editors and; one for me to go through myself. We are to be given a fortnight for all that. Anyone not getting the proofs back in time may very likely lose out so I would advise anyone going away to make what arrangements they can to have their parts checked.

As to the contents; the following facts and figures may be of interest:-

Foreword by Dr. Lloyd Evans, as President of the Academy of Sciences which is the host body of the International Congress.

Chapters by Jim Willis and John Beard on history and vegetation; glossary of about 400-500 words; list of contributors (authors and artists); family key.

Manuscripts of 1500 pages, dealing with about 1995 species. 321 figures of about 1200 species and 18 colour vegetation photographs.

Mr. Mitchell reported that the paintings for the Central Australian Flora poster had been completed by Philippa Nikulinsky. NT Parks & Wildlife are paying for publication of the poster which will appear with different over-printing to publicize the Society's 'Flora' and as tourist poster for the NT.

The latest news I have from Reeds is, as follows:-

The work has been prepared for type-setting, with a negligible number of queries; in fact type-setting may already have started.

The cost is likely to be just under \$45, but there is quite a good chance that the various Conservation Ministers will agree to subsidize it, thereby reducing it to \$35.

Publication date is intended to be March, 1981.

There will be a 50p.c. discount for all those listed in the list of contributors, plus three free copies. But Reeds has very apologetically and, I think, understandably refused any further discount to other members.

Both the costing of the retail price and the discount question are also related to the question of royalties. A.S.B.S. offered to waive its royalties entirely. It had been decided in any case that there was no equitable way of distributing royalties to contributors and that any payments would be retained by the Society. Reeds agreed to go along with this up to a point. But they are evidently worried about the Australian Authors' Society which acts as a union in protecting authors from exploitation by publishers and book-sellers and insist that they cannot be waived entirely. So they have produced a compromise:-

Nil on the first 1500 sold; 5p.c. on the next 3500; 7½ p.c. on any others.

A.B.L.O. Reference Library

Since no result had eventuated from C.S.I.R.O. for funding of this library at the time the A.B.L.O. administration was transferred to the Bureau of Flora & Fauna (A.B.R.S.), Ms West wrote to Dr. Ride urging early consideration of the matter and also to Mr. J. Maconochie as Chairman of Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria requesting their support. At the October 1979 CHAH meeting it was decided that each herbarium would contribute towards the purchase of the books.

Mr. Maconochie reported that several books for the reference library have already been sent to Kew. He is arranging the purchase of the remaining few.

N.T. Burbidge Memorials

(i) Open-air 'classroom' in National Botanic Gardens

The Society has been given the opportunity to contribute to a Memorial for Nancy Burbidge in the form of an open-air 'classroom' in the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra.

The minimum amount required is ca. \$70.00, the cost of including the Society's name on a brass plaque.

It was felt that this was a worthwhile and long-standing memorial and that the Society should be involved. It was decided that A.S.B.S. would advance \$70.00 to the project and that an appeal be made through the Newsletter so that individual members are to contribute (the advanced \$70.00 being refunded to the Society).

(ii) Lecture

Members supported the Lecture, but they felt there was no necessity to hold it each year.

The 1980 Memorial Lecture was delivered after the General Meeting by Dr. Trevor Clifford on "Seedlings and the Australian Flora".

Bureau of Flora and Fauna (A.B.R.S.)

Dr. Jessop read the following report from Dr. A. McCusker, Assistant Director (Flora):

"Writing of the new Flora of Australia has commenced.

An Editorial Study Group which, when formally constituted, will be the Editorial Committee for the Flora, was formed in November 1979. It consists of:-

Sir Rutherford Robertson (Chairman)
Dr. Barbara Briggs
Dr. Hansjoerg Eichler
Mr. Les Pedley
Dr. Jim Ross
Mr. David Symon
Mr. Paul Wilson
Dr. Alison McCusker (Secretary)

The Flora is to be issued in volumes arranged according to the system developed by Dr. Arthur Cronquist, to be published in his forthcoming book An Integrated System of Classification of Flowering Plants. Volumes will contain an average of about 450 species each, and will be published in a sequence to be determined by the Editorial Committee. The vascular plants will occupy about 48 volumes.

The ABRS Advisory Committee has set a target of 15 years to complete the first edition. A provisional publication plan for the first 5 years (3 volumes per year) will be circulated soon.

Work is now in progress on the three volumes to be published in 1981-82:-

Volume 1 - Introductory essay;
Key to Families; Glossary
Volume 8 - Violales/Capparales
Volume 29 - Solanales (part).

It is intended that at least two of these volumes will be published in time for the IBC.

The Flora is to be based on review of the current state of knowledge including examination of specimens and supplemented, where possible, by revisionary work supported through the ABRS Participatory Program.

The Flora Section of the Bureau is still by no means fully staffed. I recently moved into the position of Assistant Director (Flora). We expect to advertise soon for an Executive Editor. Mr. Arthur Chapman, who has been fully engaged for some years in compiling the Australian Plant Name Index, will make some input to editing the Flora. Typesetting will be carried out using CSIRO's computer typesetting facilities by Bureau staff under the direction of Dr. John Busby. The Australian Government Publishing Service will be the publishers.

Two writers have been commissioned through the Participatory Program to contribute to Volumes 8 and 29, and a third is about to be commissioned. Several botanists are contributing voluntarily to Volume 1.

The Violales are looming up as a fairly serious problem and the Bureau would welcome suggestions or offers of help from members of ASBS.

Some discussion took place on the inadequate support for the Flora of Australia project. ASTEC has recommended increased funding for the Bureau in the next twelve months. It was suggested that A.S.B.S. should take action if there is no increase in the next budget allocation for the Flora.

Index of Current Taxonomic Research on the Australian Flora

The Index was distributed in June, 1979. The next issue is being prepared by Dr. R. Johnson for the Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria with assistance from A.S.B.S. if required.

International Botanical Congress

Mrs Wilson has arranged for the A.S.B.S. dinner to be held at Sydney J University on Thursday, 27th August, 1981.

Professor Takhtajan has accepted our invitation to speak at the Dinner. It was decided that it is desirable to have a speaker to respond briefly to Professor Takhtajan.

An A.S.B.S. General Meeting will be held during the Congress. Mrs Wilson is to arrange a time. (Subsequent to the meeting Mrs Wilson reported that the Thursday evening before the Congress starts may be the best time.)

ANZAAS - A.S.B.S.

(i) Brisbane 1981

As the I.B.C. is to be held in Sydney August 1981, it was decided that participation of A.S.B.S. in May 1981 ANZAAS was not warranted.

(ii) 1982 and 1983

The problems of trying to hold meetings or symposia within ANZAAS and the general running of ANZAAS were discussed. It was decided that the Society would not break formally from ANZAAS, but that there was no need for meetings to be held in association with it every year. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Chairman of ANZAAS outlining the difficulties incurred by the Society in planning for and during ANZAAS 1980.

Given that the Queensland Chapter will not have the opportunity to organize anything in 1981 and that ANZAAS will meet in Sydney in 1982, it was agreed to ask its members (via the conveners) if they are interested in organising a 2-3 day symposium in 1982. Members felt that it may be difficult for people to get to Brisbane in the same financial year as the Congress and that there was no necessity to hold a meeting in 1982 if there appeared to be little support.

A.S.B.S. may meet again with ANZAAS in Perth in 1983.

Academy of Science Flora Committee (AFC)

Dr. Jessop summarized Mr. J. Armstrong's (A.S.B.S. representative on the AFC) written report to Council. He stated that the Committee has not yet met, and that Mr. Deeble (Director of Special Projects, Australian Academy of Science) indicated that AFC members need to request a meeting if they believe it is required. It was decided to suggest to Mr. Armstrong that a meeting may be useful in view of possible change in the Bureau of Flora and Fauna and its involvement in the Flora of Australia project.

Thesis list.

Ms West reported that the next supplement of the Thesis List should be completed by the November Newsletter.

Self-teach Botanical Latin

Mr. George has not progressed with the articles on this topic for the Newsletter. He is still intending to do them and appeals for help from botanists and Latin scholars.

Any Other Business

ANZAAS Systematic Botany Committee

The ANZAAS Council had requested during the Auckland meeting that the Committee submit a recommendation on the future of the Committee to Council at the Adelaide meeting. Those members present in Adelaide (Drs Jessop and Orchard and Mr. Chinnoek) asked Council for permission to postpone this report in view of Professor Carolin's (Chairman) accident, but no reply had as yet been received. Council is seriously considering terminating this, the last, standing Committee of ANZASS.

Next General Meeting and Incoming Council

The next General Meeting will be in Sydney during the IBC in August, 1981.

The Council for 1980-81 (the executive elected unopposed):-

President	:	Dr. J. Jessop
Vice President:		Professor R. Carolin
Treasurer	:	Mr. B. Conn
Secretary	:	Ms. J. West
Councillors	:	Dr. R. Hnatiuk Mr. A. Mitchell

2nd June, 1980

J.G. West,
A.S.B.S. Secretary

NOTES FROM AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETING

ADELAIDE, 9TH MAY, 1980

Central Australian Flora.

Dr. Jessop reported that the 1500 page manuscript containing about 1,995 species was delivered to the publishers (Reeds) by the required date in January. Complimentary comments have been received from their editor.

The first proofs are expected in July 1980 and estimated publication date is March 1981. Arrangements are being made for proof reading for which only two weeks is allowed.

Mr. Mitchell reported that the Illustrations for the Central Australian Flora Poster by Phillippa Nikulinsky have been completed. NT Parks & Wildlife is finalizing their overlay and it is hoped the poster will be ready by the end of June 1980.

Newsletter Editor's Report:

Ms West read Mr George's report, which included a plea for more articles for the Newsletter. It was decided to suggest that the Editor seek, by writing regularly to them, a review of recent developments in each relevant organization and that the chapter conveners encourage members of their group to contribute.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented in Mr. Lazarides absence. Due to the much reduced Newsletter production costs and the increased subscriptions the Society's accounts will probably have a credit of about \$2,000 at the end of this financial year. It was decided to recommend to the General Meeting that overseas subscriptions be reduced to \$10.00 (\$8.00 before March 31) and to send these Newsletter by air mail.

ANZAAS:

(i) Adelaide 1980

Council expressed its appreciation at the success of the Symposium on "Evolution of flora and fauna in arid Australia" just completed that afternoon. Special thanks to the organizing committee, and especially to Bill Barker.

(ii) Brisbane 1981

As the International Botanical Congress is to be held in Sydney August 1981, it was decided to recommend to the General Meeting that participation of ASBS in May 1981 ANZAAS would not be warranted.

(iii) ANZAAS - ASBS 1982

Council felt there was need for the Society to hold meetings with ANZAAS in the immediate future. It was decided to try to have 2 to 3 day sessions which may or may not coincide (time and place) with ANZAAS. Given that the Queensland Chapter will not have the opportunity to organize anything in 1981 and that ANZAAS will meet in Sydney in 1982 it was decided to ask them if they are interested in organizing a Symposium in 1982 in Brisbane. ASBS might meet again with ANZAAS in Perth in 1983.

International Botanical Congress:

Mrs Wilson has made a booking at Sydney University to hold the A.S.B.S. Dinner on Thursday, 27th August, 1981.

Professor Takhtajan has accepted our invitation to speak at the Dinner.

An A.S.B.S. General Meeting will be held during the International Botanical Congress Mrs Wilson is to arrange a time - possibly lunch time Friday, 28th August.

Academy Flora Committee (AFC):

Mr. Armstrong (A.S.B.S. representative on the AFC) submitted a written report. He stated that the Committee has not yet met, and that Mr. Deeble (Director of Special Projects, Australian Academy of Science) indicated that AFC members need to request a meeting if they believe it is required. It was decided to suggest to Mr Armstrong that a meeting may be warranted given possibly imminent changes in the Bureau of Flora and Fauna (A.B.R.S.) and its involvement in the Flora of Australia project.

Bureau of Flora and Fauna (A.B.R.S.) /Flora of Australia:

Dr. Jessop outlined the present state of public knowledge concerning the Flora project, including the resignation of Dr. Ride.

Dr. A. McCusker (Acting Director) has promised a report for the General Meeting Wednesday, 14th May, 1980.

A.B.L.O. Reference Library:

Ms West reported that several of the books for the Reference Library had already been sent to Kew. Mr. Maconochie is arranging the purchase of the remaining few.

N.T. Burbidge Memorials:

(i) National Botanic Gardens

The Society has been given the opportunity to contribute to a Memorial for Nancy Burbidge in the form of an open air 'classroom' in the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. The minimum amount required is ca. \$70.00, the cost of including the Society's name on a brass plaque. Council decided to suggest to the General Meeting that an appeal be made through the Newsletter so that individual members are able to contribute.

(ii) Lecture

Council strongly supported the Memorial Lecture but decided that it should not be held every year. It reiterated the hope that a speaker could be found in the city in which the lecture was being held. If this is not possible then travel expenses may be subsidized by the Society.

Thesis List:

Ms West reported that the next supplement of the Thesis List should be completed by the November Newsletter.

Self-teach Botanical Latin:

Mr. George has not progressed with the articles for the Newsletter, but Council presumed the project will go ahead and will remind the people involved.

Next Council Meeting:

The next Council Meeting will probably be held in Adelaide in February 1981.

J.G. West, Secretary.

13th May 1980

A.S.B.S. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 31.xii.78 - 30.iv.80

Bank balance at 31.xii.79	436.10
Subscriptions ¹	3506.00
Donations to N.T.B. Fund	54.00
Bank Interest	35.50
	<u>\$ 4031.60</u>

Expenses

Newsletters: ² 18	224.80
19	392.61
20	133.05
21	186.44
22	159.78
ICTRAF	121.57
Search reprints ³	72.60
Editorial expenses	10.00
Cheque book	2.50
Loan for Arid Australia Symposium	130.00
Total: ⁴	<u>\$ 1433.35</u>
Balance:	<u>\$ 2598.25</u>

1. This covers two years subscriptions (roughly $300 \times 8 = \$2400$ at new rate.
2. We produce four issues a year currently at about \$700.
(The old sub. and journal cost would have been more like \$1200 and \$1300).
3. BRI has still to pay \$44 for their share of these reprints.
4. A contribution to Trevor Clifford's expenses as Burbidge Memorial Lecturer has still to be added.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF ARID AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE, WEDNESDAY, 7th - FRIDAY, 9th MAY, 1980

This Symposium which was sponsored by A.S.B.S., the Ecological Society of Australia, the Australian Entomological Society and the Australian Society of Herpetologists, and held at the Australian Mineral Foundation Centre, was attended by 170 delegates.

Forty-three papers were presented covering a wide range of topics including general papers on animals, plants, past climates and more specialist papers covering the various vertebrate and invertebrate faunal (amphibians, birds, reptiles, mammals, spiders, ants, termites and colembola) and plant groups.

Papers, on the whole, were well presented and the session chairmen kept most speakers within their prescribed time limits.

Bill Barker and Judy West and the others involved are to be commended on their organisation of the Symposium. They brought together speakers from a wide range of backgrounds all of which contributed directly to the theme of the Symposium. The venue, the Australian Mineral Foundation Centre, was a modern brightly lit roomy building with a comfortable air-conditioned theatre and excellent projection facilities (although a few of the speakers obviously did not have a licence to drive the projectors!). In the \$35 cost were included lunches consisting of hot and cold dishes and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and an informal gathering with wine and cheese on Monday evening. A joint A.S.B.S./Symposium Dinner held at Stonyfell Winery on Thursday night, was attended by 130.

Progress towards publication of the Proceedings, at the time of writing, was well in hand.

I am sure that the majority of delegates would have obtained valuable background information relevant to their own speciality irrespective of whether the papers were on fauna and flora. It is noteworthy that the majority of delegates attended all sessions. The enthusiasm and response of the delegates to the Symposium is a clear indication that arid Australia is a region of great interest to scientists of many disciplines. It is hoped that perhaps another similar Symposium on this region can be convened in a few years so that scientists can get together again to further exchange information and ideas on this most fascinating region of Australia.

Bob Chinnock

THE ORGANISATION?

By George Chippendale.

Is there an ideal way to organise the work of systematic botany in Australia? Have we got it already? I'm not sure of the answer to the first question, though theoretically it is affirmative, but surely the answer to the second question is negative. Otherwise we must have advanced to writing a Flora many years ago, That is, if we think on a national basis. If we think only on a regional basis, then several States have published floras and other at least have plans, and we do have, almost the Central Australian Flora across State boundaries.

I can remember suggesting at a meeting of the old Systematic Botany Committee at ANZAAS in Sydney in 1962 that a system of exchange of botanists between States by personal arrangement would be beneficial in giving individuals more of a feeling for more of Australia. A number of State hands went up in mild horror....."they are paid by the State!" In more recent times there has been a rather loose arrangement whereby botanists from remote localities might spend periods in larger herbaria. What is remote these days? This is only a one-way swap, but still ruled by availability of funds and, I think, rarely if at all used.

While I was the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew (July 1972-August 1973), I was made aware that British and European botanists were conscious and critical that Australian systematic botany was most unfortunately divided administratively into separate States, and further that this was in large measure preventing effective development of taxonomic research in Australia. There has, of course, been some relaxing of travel and research across State boundaries, but not enough and also, recent economies have largely halted this. The Specht Report (Aust. J. Bot. Suppl. Series No. 7, 1974) showed the separateness of thinking in the States, with a number of species being endangered in one State while being known to common in an adjoining State.

The States are only geographic parts of Australia and it is convenient to give service to the public on a regional basis, but research for a Flora is a national concern and should never be artificially divided by State boundaries.

Having worked originally in Sydney Botanic Gardens in the NSW Herbarium, I am acutely aware of the essential service given to the public in identifications, and later I gave a similar service in the Northern Territory. I do know the need for this service, and I realise the added duties in forensic and environmental matters have added to the work in State herbaria. This work must continue.

But, is systematic botany a State function? Could it be carried out just as well by the Australian Government? Just suppose that all State herbaria were united under one entity, say, a Systematic Botany Institute of Australia. Call it whatever you like, but if they were all under one control (= Canberra), how could it work? Don't say that this would be just another monolithic structure, but think of it more as a means to further work on Australian plants. Don't think of all our present selves, for we'll all pass by. Think of an Australia-wide botanical organisation which could do more than separate States.

I don't believe I can suggest an absolutely ideal way of organising us all, but I do believe that uniting the herbaria would be a step towards an ideal. If such were possible.....and I'm aware of the political difficulties.....then I would see all the present herbaria and personnel staying where they are, but with possibilities for the personnel to exchange for short or long times. This could be by personal arrangement to suit individual or family circumstances. It might indeed be valuable for every botanist to arrange some swaps on a regular basis.

Already, some herbaria have systems of division of labour, with so-called routine work being done by some and with research work being done by others. Those on routine work, under a wide scheme, could be the newer graduates, but they must have the opportunity to transfer to research work. Experience in the routine work can be most beneficial in research work.

A few extra things might be considered. I would like to see most working taxonomists meet at an official conference, say biennially. Where? Why not Canberra? But anywhere would do.....Broken Hill, Port Augusta, Mt. Isa, Norseman, Katherine, Mildura or Burnie. The purpose of such a conference would be for all to subscribe to planning of research by discussions and recommendations, not just from the "heavies" but from all.

Many specimens of value to Australia are in overseas herbaria. While at Kew I saw much duplicated historic material and established that with the proper approaches and the provisions of Australian workers, some duplicates could be selected for eventual donation to Australia. This could be part of the aims of a national body.

Undoubtedly, all existing herbaria need more people and more money, and they should not have to compete with one another for such. It is just possible that with one Organisation these problems could be overcome.

So, you may perceive that I have written this in a hurry to catch the May deadline, and you might also see that I am searching for an ideal, perhaps not finding it, but trying to get nearer to it in thoughts, at least.

George Chippendale

USE OF HERBARIA AT LINN

By Rod Henderson

During my term as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, England, I visited the Linnean Society of London rooms in Burlington House in Piccadilly to consult the herbaria of Linnaeus and Smith, to answer queries I received from botanists in Australia and for my own research. Collectively these herbaria have been given the acronym LINN.

On later visits I was asked by staff to bring to the notice of botanists in Australia if I could, the types of enquiries they could handle and what, to them, were unreasonable requests.

The Society is continually receiving from workers throughout the world, requests of a botanical nature which just can't be met either because of lack of facilities or because of the rules of the Society. If these requests are made with due consideration of the situation, Society staff do their utmost to oblige. I promised to do what I could to ease this situation with regards requests received from Australia. To fulfil this promise and for the edification of botanists generally in Australia, I thought a few statements in our ASBS newsletter would be appropriate.

No doubt many botanists, particularly members of the Society, are fully aware of what can and cannot be done but obviously this is by no means common knowledge.

The Linnean Society of London is Britain's oldest biological society, having been founded in London on 26th February, 1788 by Doctor (later Sir) James Edward Smith and six of his associates. Four years earlier he had purchased from Linnaeus's widow Linnaeus's collections of plant, bird, fish, insect, shell, coral and mineral specimens, his extensive annotated library of some 1600 volumes and his manuscripts and papers relating to almost every aspect of his scientific work including about 3000 letters. It was however only after Smith's death that the Society became owner of all this valuable material except for the birds. This was accomplished not by gift, but by its purchase from Smith's widow in 1829 for the then vast sum of 3150 pounds. It took 32 years for the Society to settle the debt incurred for this purchase.

Today, while maintenance of the Linnean library and specimens is but one of the Society's commitments and activities, it is nevertheless among the most important on account of the continuing international relevance of these collections to biological nomenclature.

Amongst the other material held by the Society is Smith's personal herbarium, which though perhaps not as important as that of Linnaeus, is still of considerable importance at least as far as Australian botany is concerned. It also was acquired by purchase from the Smith estate.

The Society is a private organization funded by members' subscriptions, special grants and other funds. While there is a small permanent staff employed by the Society, many of its affairs are handled in an honorary capacity by committees of dedicated members. The permanent staff includes the Librarian and the Executive Secretary but not a botanist or a photographer. Mr. T. O'Grady, who was for many years the Executive Secretary retired in mid-1979. His successor in the position is Miss Young. Mr. G. Bridson continues as the Librarian.

As far as its herbaria are concerned, the Society is committed only to their maintenance and safe-keeping. Having no botanist or anyone else with specialized botanical knowledge on the staff, there is little use in writing to the Society asking for technical information about individual specimens or an opinion as to the status each may have with respect to nomenclature.

Such requests, if they must be made directly, should be addressed to one of the honorary Curators. Index Herbariorum - Herbaria of the World, 1974, lists Mr. L. Forman at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Dr. W.T. Stearn care of the British Museum (Natural History) as two such officers. It should be remembered, however, that these are voluntary officials who have their own research programs and responsibilities to their home institution, and hence should not be bothered unnecessarily. Any accredited botanist with queries can solve many of his problems himself by visiting the Society's rooms by appointment with the Secretary and examining the specimens himself. Visitors should note that there is little in the way of equipment available for examining specimens and nothing for photographing them. Apart from a dissecting binocular microscope a visitor then should take with him all equipment he expects to use to study the specimens.

For botanists in Australia, getting to Burlington House often presents serious problems because of the distance and costs involved. The situation is further complicated by the Society's rules which limit loan of its specimens to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K) and the British Museum (Natural History), London (BM), only. This rule is strictly adhered to. There is, therefore, no point in writing to the Society requesting specimens be sent on loan to anywhere in Australia, as some botanists have done. On the very rare occasions when a specimen is allowed to be taken to K or the BM, I found that it had to be carried in transit personally by a senior Society member and, for its safety, remained under the direct control of a Society Curator while there.

Because of the location of the Society's rooms, rarely, if ever, is there any need for its specimens to be loaned to K or BM for any of the usual botanical observations.

For the botanist in the antipodes, all is not lost. Both the Linnean Herbarium and the the Smith Herbarium are on microfiche and these are available in at least one locality in Australia (Sec ASBS Newsletter 19; 10, June 1979). The Adelaide Herbarium (AD) has facilities for providing photocopies from microfiche but the Queensland Herbarium (BRI) has no such equipment. For special cases BRI can provide a black and white negative taken from the fiche. As the Linnean Society has no photographer or photography facilities there is no point in writing to it and asking for photographs of specimens to be sent.

If access to microfiche can't be found or if the fiche is found inadequate to answer queries, there is still one further possibility.

We in Australia are lucky enough to have the A.B.L.O. at Kew who is able to examine these precious specimens on our behalf and can photograph selected sheets or parts of sheets in close-up for us. But here don't ask or expect the A.B.L.O. to carry out research on the specimens and provide a taxonomic answer or opinion on them. Requests to the A.B.L.O. should be in the nature of, for example, checking the presence or absence of some structure, measuring the length, breadth etc. of some organ, determining whether the veins in the leaf stand out on the lower surface or not or providing a photo of the sheet and fertile parts in close-up. The A.B.L.O. is provided with a 35 mm camera to take photos of specimens for enquiries from Australia.

I do suggest that before requests are sent overseas, the enquirer should read something on the nature of Linnaeus's method of working (in publications by W.T. Stearn) and consult the published catalogue to his herbarium by S. Savage to determine what it contains.

The microfiche of Smith's herbarium is accompanied by a fiche of a manuscript catalogue of what it contains.

In summary then, if a researcher concerned with typification of Australian plant names needs to consult the Linnean or Smith herbaria at LINN, he or she should attempt to see a microfiche of the sheet(s) concerned, if a visit can't be made to the Society's rooms in London. If a fiche can't be viewed or the fiche is unsatisfactory in some respect, then a request may be referred to the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for an examination to be made and/or a photograph to be taken.

I believe this system, if followed, will result in satisfaction for all concerned.

R. J. Henderson
Queensland Herbarium

MAJOR CHANGES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

There has been a major re-organisation of the Department of Primary Production in the N.T. under whose aegis the Botany Section (and Herbaria of the N.T.) operates. This re-organisation, effective from 13 May 1980, will have a major influence on botanical staff levels, and servicing in the N.T.

Peter Latz and technical assistant, Mrs. Dorothy McKey, (both Alice Springs) have been redeployed to the Plant Industry Branch to undertake a pasture ecology program across the N.T.

Madeline Rankin (Darwin) has been redeployed to the Weeds Section to undertake weeds research.

The remaining botany staff are transferred to a multidisciplinary Research Services Branch. Current staffing levels are now:

Darwin

Science 2 - Clyde Dunlop

T.A. - Sandra Cousins

Alice Springs

Science 1 - Andrew Mitchell

T.O. - Tom Henshall

T.A. - Lois Ulyatt

John Maconochie remains the Senior Scientist (Botany) for the N.T., based in Alice Springs. Tom Henshall's physical location has still not been finalised, but he is expected to remain in Alice Springs.

There have been various proposals over the past few years to transfer Botany staff, in toto, to the N.T. Conservation Commission (National Parks Authority) or, in part, to the Museums and Art Galleries Board of the N.T.

Obviously, with the loss of a third of its staff, herbarium priorities in both Alice Springs and Darwin will have to be re-ordered. It is also expected that the increased work load for routine duties will reduce research time considerably.

In other news from the N.T., both John Maconochie and Andrew Mitchell recently returned from overseas trips. John spent 6 weeks in the U.K. with some time at Kew, while Andrew was in the U.S., and visited the Smithsonian, Phoenix Desert Botanic Gardens, and Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson. Peter Latz has almost completed his manuscript on Food Plants of the Desert Aborigines.

Andrew Mitchell, N.T.

The manuscripts of R.A. Salisbury at the British Museum (Natural History)

While checking the manuscripts of Richard Salisbury at BM in April this year, I noted the following entries relevant to Australian flora. Salisbury's notes are in English or Latin, written in pencil in a small, fine hand. In many cases they are accompanied by fine pencil sketches and dissections. The list is not exhaustive.

Vol. I	p. 7	Hibbertia
	p. 57	Bursaria, Billardiera
	p. 83	Lasiopetalum
	p. 99	Crocea, Boronia
	p. 100	Correa
Vol. II.	p. 110	Pomaderris
	p. 112	Dodonaea
	p. 134	Kennedia, Hardenbergia
	pp. 143-146	Acacia
	p. 164	Bauera
	p. 168	Drosera
	p. 171	Byblis
	pp. 178-9	Melaleuca, Leptospermum
	p. 180	Callistemon
	p. 181	Melaleuca, Angophora
	p. 182	Eucalyptus, Tristania, Psidium
	p. 184	Eugenia
Vol. III.	pp. 221-247	Stylidium
	p. 248	Velleia, Goodenia
	p. 249	Scaevola, Goodenia, Brunonia
	pp. 306-307	Epacridaceae
Vol. IV.	p. 346	Logania
	pp. 381-382	Villarsia, Limnanthemum
	p. 413	Anthocercis
Vol. V.	pp. 491-502	Westringia
	p. 502	Prostanthera
	p. 524	Petrophile, Persoonia, Braeium, Xylomelum
	p. 525	Lissanthe, Hakea, Grevillea, Lomatia
	p. 526	Embothrium
	p. 527	Telopea
	p. 528	Rymandra, Knightia
	p. 542	Santalum, Exocarpos
	p. 549	Casuarina
Vol. VI	p. 564	Macrozamia
	p. 589	Corybas
	p. 650	Anigozanthos
Vol. VII	p. 697	Patersonia
Vol. IX	p. 830	Blandfordia

A.S. George, PERTH

BRYOLOGY IN AUSTRALIA

Interest in bryophytes in Australia as experimental material, and studies of their taxonomy, cytology and ecology have increased during the last fifteen years. This is clear from publications such as Scott & Stone's Mosses of Southern Australia, Ilma Stone's continuing series on new and interesting mosses, Rod Seppelt's taxonomic studies, cytological work of Helen Ramsay, ecological publications of George Scott and associates, physiological studies of Pat Selkirk.

Future works nearing completion include mosses of South Australia by D.G. Catcheside, Hepatics of Victoria by G.A.M. Scott (keys already circulating) Census of New South Wales mosses by H.P. Ramsay and papers on Tasmanian bryophytes by D.A. Ratkowsky are expected to appear during the next twelve months. All this activity is helping to fill the gap so obvious 15 years ago in our knowledge of the bryoflora of Australia.

Studies in this area and related sub-antarctic areas (P. Selkirk and R. Seppelt were recent visitors to Macquarie Island) is not only confined to Australians. There is a growing interest in world-wide revision of moss genera usually commencing with local northern hemisphere species but extending now to Southern Hemisphere species in genera e.g. Orthotrichum (Lewinsky) Hypnum (Ando), Macrocoma (Vitt) or families Mniaceae (Koponen) to mention only a few. This is very encouraging with the prospect of further stimulation in 1981 from visitors to the Botanical Congress.

Recently a short informal newsletter is being circulated twice a year to interested people within Australasia to keep them in touch.

Anyone interested in receiving the informal Australasian bryological newsletter should contact H.P. Ramsay, School of Botany, University of New South Wales, Kensington, 2033 or P. Selkirk, School of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, North Ryde, 2114.

H.P. Ramsay - P. Selkirk.

RECENT WORK ON LICHENS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dr. David Richardson and his research assistant Roxanne Sawitzky have spent the last five months at the Western Australian Herbarium, Perth. They re-curated the entire lichen collection adopting the system used by the National Herbarium of Victoria which has the largest collection of lichens in Australia. The lichens were mounted on cards fitting into small, shallow, open cardboard boxes. Up to eight of these were then placed in larger boxes with lids. This system has an advantage over the traditional method (using herbarium packets) in that a series of specimens can be viewed quickly and compared.

The new book 'Lichens of South Australia' by R.B. Filson and R.W. Rogers (Government Printer, South Australia) proved of great value for determining any species. Others were identified with the help of Mr. Rex Filson and the collections at the National Herbarium of Victoria. This herbarium was visited in May following a recent meeting of the Australian Association for Lichenology held at Adelaide.

Dr. Richardson and Roxanne made two quite extensive collecting trips. The first was inland to the Kalgoorlie area and north to Yeleerie where Mr. Bob. Biggs was most hospitable.

The second trip, to the south of the State, was lichenologically the more interesting. Dr. John Green and Mr. Ray Cranfield acted as guides for the Albany and Ravensthorpe portions of the trip respectively. As a result of the collections made by Dr. Richardson and Roxanne, as well as those by other botanists at the herbarium, the PERTH lichen collection has grown from approximately 300 to 800 specimens. To date over 200 different species have been determined, many of these being new records for the state. An annotated list of the lichens in the W.A. Herbarium will appear shortly in Western Australian Herbarium Research Notes.

David Richardson, PERTH

HONOURS FOR RICA ERICKSON

Mrs. Rica Erickson, author of "Orchids of the West", "Triggerplants", "Plants of Prey", "The Drummonds of Hawthornden" and numerous other papers and books, has recently received two honours in Western Australia. In April she was awarded an honorary Doctorate by the University of Western Australia. On 3 June she was one of 5 people to receive Citizen of the Year awards during the State's annual Foundation Day celebrations. These honours are well-deserved by Rica, whose enthusiasm, thorough research and quiet determination have done so much for botany and history.

A.S. George

NANCY. T. BURBIDGE MEMORIAL - NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, CANBERRA

At the suggestion of the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association A.C.T. and with the approval of the Canberra National Memorials Committee, a memorial to Dr. Nancy T. Burbidge is being constructed in the National Botanic Gardens. It takes the form of an amphitheatre, constructed of stone and timber, with seating for about 50; and is located towards the side of the Eucalyptus lawn halfway up the Gardens. It will be used by school groups and others visiting the Gardens.

Other organizations supporting the project financially are the National Parks Association A.C.T., Australian Federation of University Women and the Royal Society of Canberra. Nancy was active in all four organizations so far mentioned.

The proposal has the support of Dr. Burbidge's family as being a fitting tribute to the continuation of her work in promoting the study and understanding of our native flora.

ASBS entered the discussions at a fairly late stage, and it was agreed after consultation with National Executive that we should support the Memorial. Our contribution was to cover at least the cost of adding the Society's name to the memorial plaque, at that time estimated at \$70. This figure has proved to be ample. It has since been decided that the \$70 be paid directly from Society funds as soon as possible so that work may proceed.

Members who wish to contribute toward this Memorial should send their contributions directly to the Treasurer, Mr. Barry Conn

Department of Botany
University of Adelaide
ADELAIDE. S.A. 5001

It is suggested that any excess should be retained by the Society towards its own N.T. Burbidge Memorial Lectures. However, any contributor may ask that the whole of his/her contribution be applied to the amphitheatre. Any additional contributions would help to defray the costs of its construction.

Estell M. Canning
Canberra Chapter

CHARLES GARDNER MEMORIAL

A memorial to the late Charles Gardner, Government Botanist of Western Australia from 1929 to 1960, was unveiled at Tammin on 8 September 1979 by his nephew Walter Gardner. The ceremony was part of Tammin's celebrations for the sesqui-centennial year of the State. The memorial is in form of a rough-hewn granite obelisk and bears a plaque inscribed "Shire of Tammin. This group of Eucalyptus gardneri, Blue Mallet, was planted in 1976 in recognition of the work of a former resident of the Shire, Charles Austin Gardner, Government Botanist 1929-1960". Surrounding the obelisk is a group of Eucalyptus gardneri Maiden.

The Gardner family settled on a farm at Yorkrakine near Tammin soon after migrating from Lancashire in 1909. Although Charles' love of plants was already established, it was further fostered by the natural vegetation encountered around the farm. Several members of the family still farm in the region.

A.S. George

MEMORIAL WINDOW TO MATTHEW FLINDERS

A stained glass window in memory of Matthew Flinders was dedicated in a special service at the parish church of St. Mary and the Holy Rood, Donington, on Friday 14 March 1980. Among those present were the Acting High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia and the State Agents-General in London. There is now great interest in Flinders at Donington, his birthplace.

Like the memorial window in the Seafarers' Chapel in Lincoln Cathedral, the new window features Flinders flanked on the left by Joseph Banks and on the right by George Bass. All three were Lincolnshire men.

The window was given by the Commonwealth of Australia and Australian States, The Lincolnshire and Humber Arts Association, and the parishioners of Donington.

A.S. George

BENTHAM'S HOUSE

George Bentham's home at 25 Wilton Place, Knightsbridge is currently (24 May 1980) for sale. I was unable to get the price before leaving London but hope to do so shortly.

Perhaps a location for a team to write the new Flora of Australia?

A.S. George

JOSEPH BANKS' LONDON HOME

The site where Joseph Banks (and later Robert Brown and David Don) lived, on the south-western corner of Soho Square, is now occupied by a block belonging to 20th Century Fox Ltd. An inconspicuous plaque on the building reads.

"Sir Joseph Banks 1743-1820 President of the Royal Society Robert Brown 1773-1858 and David Don 1800-1841 Botanists lived in a house on this site. The Linnean Society met here 1821-1857."

A. S. George

CANBERRA CHAPTER NEWS

The programme so far this year has been:

- February 26: A film show. We saw -
 A South African film on their flora
 A British film on the High Simien in Ethiopia - mostly zoology, but some botany.
 A British film about the Royal Expedition to Chiloe in Chile, including botany.
 It was also of interest to see how other people organised their expeditions.
- March 26: Dr. John Turnbull, of the CSIRO, Division of Forest Research, spoke about
 "Geographic variation in Eucalyptus cloeziana, and its implications for forestry".
- May 28 The General Meeting of the Chapter. A new committee comprising
 Dr. Michael Crisp : Convener
 Craigh Marsden : Secretary
 and Dr. David Coates was elected unopposed.
 The meeting discussed a number of matters including affiliation with ANZAAS, the Nancy T. Burbidge Memorial, an excursion to Kioloa (on the South Coast) during the October long weekend, and Rutidosos leptorrhynchoides.

Estelle M. Canning

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 * WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE OTHER CHAPTERS?
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 * DO THEY HAVE NO NEWS?
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