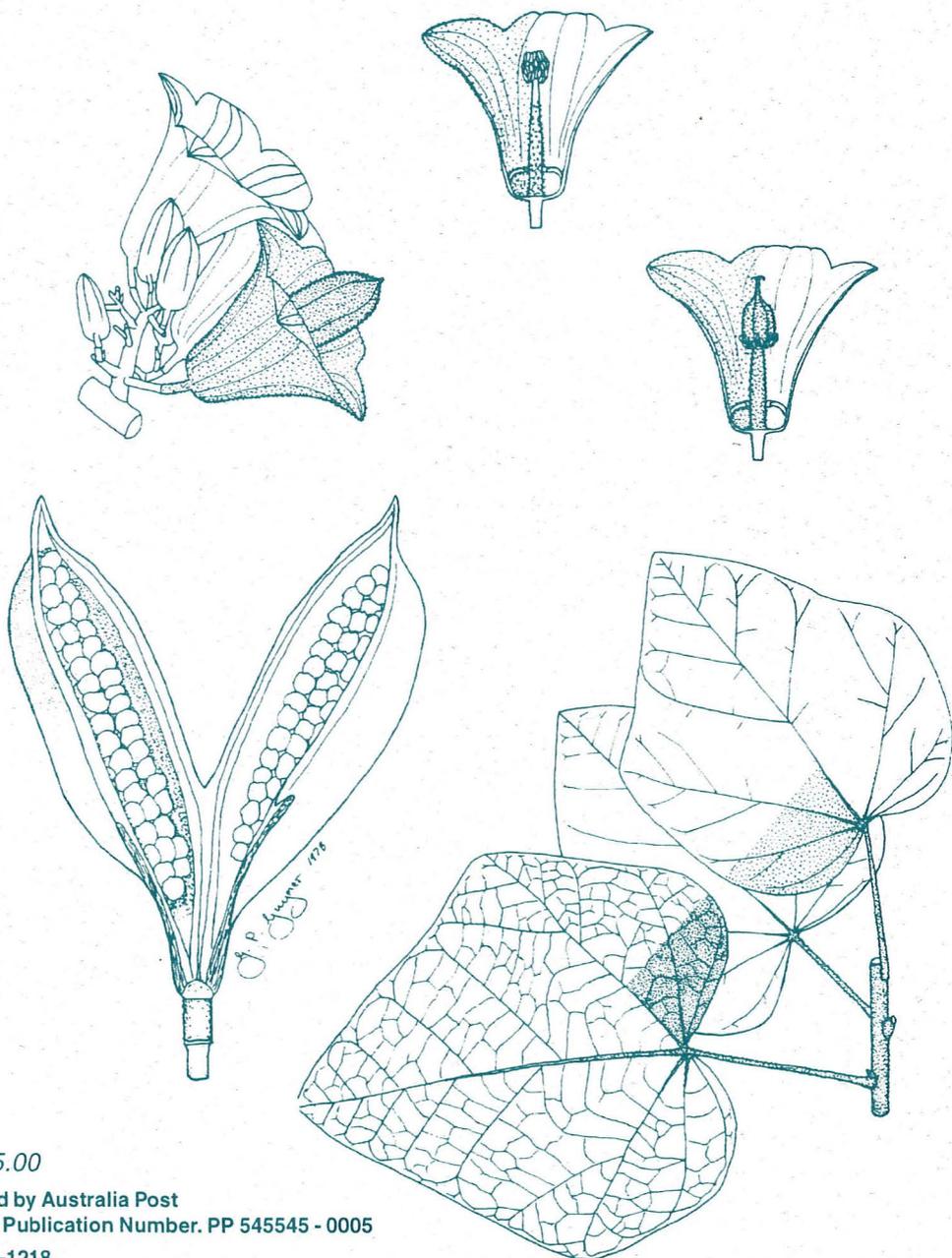




# Australian Systematic Botany Society NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

A New Year, a new President and a new cover but alas no new editors for the Newsletter!

We apologise for the delay in getting the December Newsletter out but our printer decided to go on leave - besides, with the silly season upon us we seemed to have trouble getting ourselves organised. After the report by Ian Cowie that we had been underwhelmed with Newsletter contributions we have now been inundated and

unable to include everything in this issue. A first for us as editors.

The new President assures us that he will have something to say in his "From The President" space for the next issue. This is putting him on notice.

From the editors, we wish all members a successful 1996.

## ARTICLES

### NOMENCLATURE OF THE BOAB (*ADANSONIA*)

Terry Macfarlane<sup>1</sup> and Gordon Guymer<sup>2</sup>

1. Western Australian Herbarium, c/- Dept. of Conservation and Land Management, Manjimup, W.A. 6258
2. Queensland Herbarium, Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068

In a recent revision of *Adansonia* (Bombacaceae), Baum (1995) published a new combination, *A. gibbosa* (A.Cunn.) Guymer ex D. Baum, for the Boab (or Australian Baobab) tree. This tree occurs in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and the adjacent part of the Northern Territory; it is the sole Australian representative of an otherwise African and Madagascan genus.

It has been known as *A. gregorii* F. Muell. since 1857. The new combination is based on the exhumed name *Capparis gibbosa* A. Cunn. The latter name had been cited under 'Doubtful

taxa' by Hewson (1982) in the Flora of Australia treatment of the Capparaceae. Guymer subsequently identified *C. gibbosa* with *Adansonia gregorii*, and prepared an article formalising the new combination. This paper was never published and was abandoned. However, specimens in British herbaria had been annotated with the manuscript combination, with the result that Baum became aware of the earlier epithet and published the new combination.

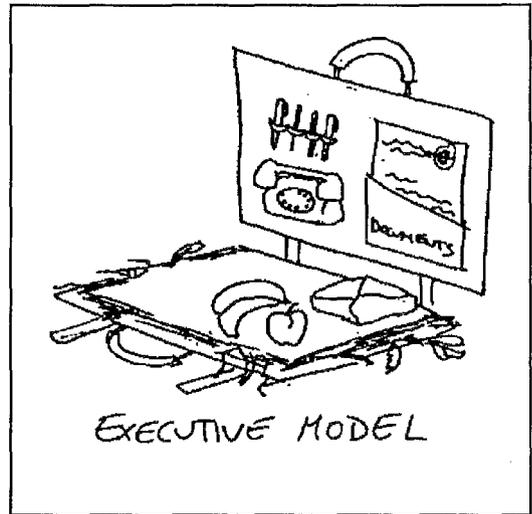
The current edition of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the Tokyo Code, permits species names to be conserved against replacement for purely nomenclatural reasons by earlier names. Indeed the preface of the Code quotes the resolution of the International Botanical Congress, which enjoins botanists to actively use the new provision to avoid disadvantageous changes. The re-naming of the Boab is a clear case of a disadvantageous change: the displaced name, *A. gregorii*, is well-established, and the displacement is based purely on the priority of the newly combined epithet.

A proposal to conserve *A. gregorii* against *Capparis gibbosa* and combinations based upon it, is now in preparation (Guymer and Wilson, in prep.). Therefore it seems advisable to await the resolution of the conservation proposal before taking up the new combination.

#### References

Baum, D.A. (1995). A systematic revision of *Adansonia* (Bombacaceae). *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 82: 440-470.

Hewson, H.J. (1982). *Capparaceae*. *Flora of Australia* 8: 207-231.



## REPORTS



**Australian  
Biological  
Resources  
Study**

### FLORA OF AUSTRALIA VOLUME 16, ELAEAGNACEAE, PROTEACEAE 1

Minor delays in the printing process have meant that Volume 16 had still not quite been published as this note was being written. However we confidently anticipate a publication date of no later than the first week of December. One Mickey

Mouse problem remains. Our co-publishers tell us that the Walt Disney organisation have managed to tie up all machine case-binding plants in Australia (there are only 3 of them) with a bulk binding contract of some 1.5 million volumes. This situation will continue until just into the new year, so Volume 16 will only be available in soft cover version until January. A few case-bound copies will be bound by hand for lodgement in libraries in late November/early December to effect publication of the 70+ new combinations and taxa in the volume.

Volume 16 will cost \$64.95 in soft cover and \$79.95 in hard cover versions, and treats 488 taxa in 522 pages, with 96 colour photographs and numerous line drawings. It should be ordered from CSIRO Publishing, PO Box 89, East Melbourne Vic. 3002 (payment by cheque, American Express, Bankcard, Diners Club, Mastercard or Visa), from AGPS Bookshops, or from other major booksellers.

## PARTICIPATORY PROGRAM GRANTS FOR 1996

The ABRS Advisory Committee met in August as usual to consider grant applications for the coming year. Offers of grants have now been made, and are listed at the end of this article. Of the 29 research grants in Flora, 12 were for renewals of previous projects, and 17 were for new projects. In addition there was the usual provision for support of the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer in Kew, and a contribution towards herbarium expenses associated with Flora of Australia loans. A total of \$954,000 was allocated to botanical projects for calendar 1996. As in past years approximately two thirds of research grant money was allocated to vascular flora, and one third to non-vascular flora.

### ABRS ON THE INTERNET

ABRS now has a presence on the Internet. Electronic copies of the last two issues of *Biologue* plus the *Bioserve Gopher* with other background information on many aspects of ABRS activities (including the Grants and Publications programs) can be accessed at <http://155.187.10.12:80/abrs/> or <http://www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/>. At this stage some categories of information on the *Bioserve Gopher* are a little skeletal (or non-existent), but it is being progressively supplemented.

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## RECOMMENDED ABRS RESEARCH GRANTS FOR 1996

Note \* = new projects for 1996

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

#### Australian National Herbarium Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research

Mr LA Craven  
Systematic Studies in Australian Myrtaceae  
\$32,363 \*

Mr H Streimann  
Taxonomic Revision of the Moss Families  
Hookeriaceae and Daltoniaceae in Australia  
\$21,592

Dr JG West  
Generic Limits in Australian Rhamnaceae and  
Flora of Australia Treatment of all Genera  
except  
*Pomaderris*  
\$55,368 \*

### Australian National University

Dr MD Crisp  
Revision of *Daviesia* (Fabaceae)  
\$37,739 \*

Dr MD Crisp  
Systematics and Biogeography of  
Pittosporaceae in Australia  
\$19,813

Professor JA Elix  
Taxonomic Revision of Lichen Genus *Lecanora*  
in Australia  
\$43,000

Dr K Thomas  
Taxonomic Studies of Aquatic Hyphomycetes  
in Eastern Australia  
\$3,400 \*

Dr C Weiller  
Flora and DELTA Accounts of Subfamily  
Bambusoideae (Poaceae) and Two Arundinoid  
Genera  
\$28,081 \*

### Unattached

Dr CF Puttock  
Generic Delimitation within *Helichrysum* s.l.  
and Related Genera  
\$55,368 \*

**NEW SOUTH WALES****National Herbarium of New South Wales**

Mrs J Thompson  
Treatment of *Leptospermum* and *Neofabricia* for  
the Flora of Australia  
\$25,200 \*

**University of Sydney**

Dr MJ Henwood  
*Astrotricha*, Hydrocotyloideae and Apiaceae  
\$60,000

**QUEENSLAND****James Cook University**

Assoc Prof IR Price  
Taxonomy of Siphonous Green Algal Genus  
*Caulerpa* in Tropical Australia  
\$7,000

Assoc Prof WA Shipton  
Taxonomic Studies of Family Saprolegniaceae  
and Order Leptomitales in Tropical Australia  
\$21,961

**Queensland Herbarium**

Dr GP Guymer  
Revision of 11 Genera of Myrtoideae  
(Myrtaceae)  
\$48,407 \*

Mrs AE Holland  
Revision of *Crotalaria* L. (Fabaceae) in  
Australia  
\$18,140 \*

**University of Queensland**

Dr JA Phillips  
Taxonomic Investigations on Selected Genera  
of Dictyotales (Phaeophyta)  
\$61,312

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA****Unattached**

Mrs RM Barker  
Revision of *Sida* and *Abutilon* in Australia  
\$45,572 \*

**TASMANIA****Tasmanian Herbarium**

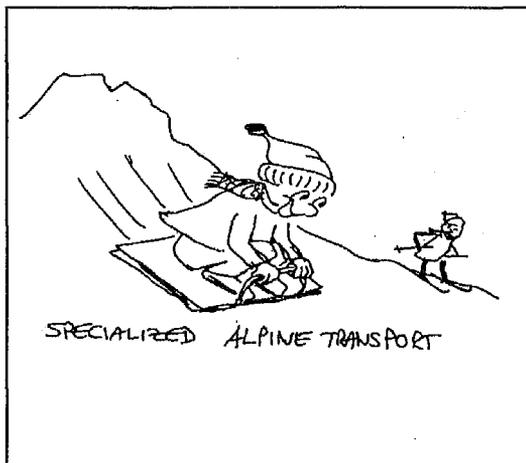
Dr WM Curtis/Mr DI Morris  
Flora of Tasmania (Dicotyledons)  
\$6,040

**VICTORIA****Institute for Horticultural Development**

Mr IG Pascoe  
Taxonomic Revision of Genus *Phytophthora*  
(Oomycota: Peronosporales)  
\$19,703 \*

**Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria**

Mr MF Duretto  
Systematic Studies in *Boronia* (Rutaceae)  
\$37,192



Dr TJ Entwisle  
Taxonomic Revision of Batrachospermales  
(Rhodophyta) in Australia  
\$5,482 \*

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**Commonwealth and Scientific Industrial  
Research Organisation, Division of Forestry**

Dr NL Bougher  
Taxonomic Revision of Truffle-like  
Cortinariaceae (*Hymenogaster* s.l. and  
*Thaxterogaster*) in Australia  
\$10,000

**Murdoch University**

Dr JM Huisman  
Revision of Nemaliales (Rhodophyta)  
\$63,652 \*

**University of Western Australia**

Dr JA Chappill/Dr EM Bennett  
Taxonomic Revision of Sterculiaceae, tribe  
Lasiopetalae  
\$54,717

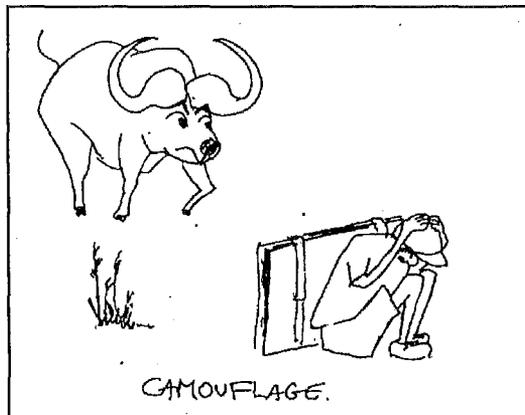
Assoc Prof J Kuo  
Taxonomic and Biogeography of Australian  
*Heterozostera* and *Zostera*  
(Zosteraceae)  
\$21,297 \*

**Western Australian Herbarium**

Mr PG Wilson  
*Correa* (Rutaceae)  
\$31,500 \*

**Unattached**

Dr AS George  
Treatment of *Calothamnus* for the Flora of Aus-  
tralia  
\$20,160 \*



**OVERSEAS**

**Landcare Research, New Zealand**

Mr PR Johnston  
Rhythmatales of Australia, Part 1  
\$4,000 \*

**University of Hong Kong**

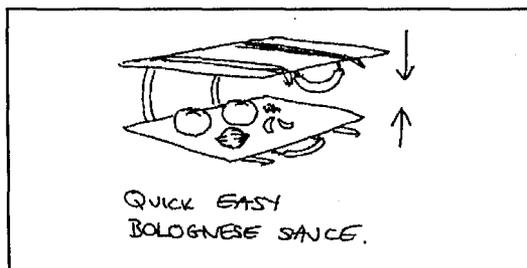
Dr KD Hyde  
Flora Accounts of Family Phyllachoraceae  
\$11,260

**Australian Botanical Liaison Officer**

\$35,000

**Herbarium Loans**

\$41,000





**Australian  
Botanical  
Liaison  
Officer**

I took over as ABLO on 1 September from Barry Conn, which is a hard act to follow (especially without Barry's extended and ever-willing family to help with sorting, filing, etc). Enquiries have been coming in steadily, lower in number so far than Barry's monthly average, but with some very lengthy ones to make up for it. In the first three months, about 42% of enquiries have been UK-origin, 56% Australian-origin, and 2% from third countries (nothing so far from New Zealand!).

The usual ABLO Library and equipment stocktake showed no serious losses, although it does bring up the question of when and how to deaccession obsolete titles. This was discussed with Tony Orchard during his visit, and a conservative process will be followed.

I have culled, augmented, and reorganised the informal travel library of maps, books and brochures that has been accumulating since Karen Wilson's tenure. This material is useful for ABLO's or visitors planning trips, whether work or recreational, in the UK and Europe generally, and saves a lot of chasing of information. I have also prepared three compact kits of maps and travel advice for short-term and first-time visitors to London.

### **E-MAIL**

With the growing use of email in herbaria, there is now a steady stream of requests from workers in the UK and Europe to the ABLO for email addresses in Australia.

It would be useful if Australian herbaria, Botanic Gardens, and university Botany Departments that do have staff on the Internet, but do not already have email details available via a World Wide Web site, could periodically forward lists of current aliases and address formulae to the ABLO. This is especially so if or when there is a change to the institutional address pathway.

Complete lists of all networked staff (in botany, flora conservation, and horticultural areas) would be helpful, with an indication of their work-area or function (e.g. Loans Officer, rainforest ecologist, database coordinator). The partial lists available through Plant Taxonomists On-Line and other sources are often not comprehensive and out of date.

UK enquirers will of course still be advised to go via heads of institutions when appropriate (e.g. for loan requests), but for more routine matters direct contact can save time for all players.

The Kew external WWW home page is located at:

**<http://www.rbgekew.org.uk/index.html>**

Kew does not currently have a list of staff email addresses on this server. For email to Kew, the general address formula is:

**FirstInitial.Lastname@rbgekew.org.uk**

There are also the usual email addresses for specific Internet purposes:

**postmaster@rbgekew.org.uk** for problems and queries relating to email at Kew.

**webmaster@rbgekew.org.uk** for problems relating to the Kew WWW server.

**spiders@rbgekew.org.uk** for comments and suggestions relating to the Kew WWW server.

**info@rbgekew.org.uk** for general enquiries for or about Kew.

Kew's email system is gradually taking hold, and use of it by Kew staff can be expected to accelerate rapidly. There are some limitations to formatting and file attachment with the current

system, but the more use is made of it the quicker it will be updated at this end. There is an occasional tendency for messages to and from Kew to sink without trace, so do not be afraid to re-send messages to the ABLO if you do not get a response.

## **NEWS FROM KEW**

### **Administrative reorganisation**

Recent administrative reorganisation has resulted in two new departments at Kew, intended to better address the medium and long-term needs of the organisation. The new Information Services Dept, headed by Gren Lucas, groups together the Computer, Media Resources, Library, and Publishing sections. Part of the brief for the new ISD is to make many more of Kew's information resources available more readily to outside users.

The second new department is People, Planning and Development, a new administrative unit with obvious functions.

Herbarium Techniques Course exported to St Petersburg

RBG Kew took its regular in-service Herbarium Techniques Course off-shore for the first time in October. The course was run in St Petersburg, in collaboration with the Komarov Botanical Institute and the Moscow State University Botany Department. Twenty-five Russian botanists attended, and seven Kew staff taught on the course, which also involved Russian presenters. The course, normally of three months duration, was crammed into an intensive two weeks, covering taxonomic and physical curation, basic approaches to databasing, specimen transaction management, fundraising, and information management.

Funding for the course was mainly from a Darwin Initiative grant, which has also allowed production and wide distribution of a

Russian-language edition of Kew's Herbarium Handbook. Kew staff who were involved feel the course will help reduce a feeling of isolation among Russian botanists, and will perhaps also assist their ability to raise funds and their public-relations profile in their difficult economic circumstances.

## **KEW INVOLVEMENT IN IBGCC**

Some 15 Kew staff participated in the International Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress held in Perth in September. Their report-backs have been enthusiastic, and all felt that Kew was able to both demonstrate its own involvement and to gain from expertise of other participants. Kew participants were particularly interested in some of the more esoteric propagation techniques on offer.

## **POISON PLANT DATABASE LAUNCHED ON CD-ROM**

Two CD-ROM versions of a Database of Poisonous Plants in Britain and Ireland have been issued by RBG Kew, in association with the Medical Toxicology Unit of Guys and St Thomas Hospital Trust. One version is geared to the general public, schools and the horticultural industry, while the other is designed exclusively for medical professionals. Both versions cover more than 2,000 species likely to be encountered in the wild or in cultivation, and feature an interactive key and digital images of plants and plant parts.

The dataset is maintained in DELTA format, with a customised front-end. For technical information about data-content or the engine, contact Dr Elizabeth Dauncey at RBG Kew. For purchase or publishing information, contact Andrew Evans at HMSO Electronic Publishing Sales, HMSO Publications Centre, PO Box 276 London SW8 5DT, UK (fax: (0)171 873 8200).

## NEW APPOINTMENT IN GYMNOSPERMS

Mr Alios Farjon has been appointed to a new research position in Gymnosperms, the first such position at Kew for some years. He will commence in February 1996, following completion of a revision of *Pinus* in Mexico and an associated field-guide.

## JIM WILLIS REMEMBERED

A number of older Kew staff and Associates who remembered Jim Willis from his time here as Liaison Botanist (1958-9) or in other connections, have expressed their regret at his passing.

## SCIENCE VISITING GROUP, & COMPUTER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

A great deal of staff activity at Kew is going into preparations for the arrival of a major review team, known as the Science Visiting Group, in late January 1996. This is one of two forms of periodic review process initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries, Kew's parent ministry.

The team will comprise mainly scientists, including some from overseas, and will conduct a detailed peer review of all projects and science-related operational areas (including scientific aspects of Living Collections, Information Services, and Education). Kew management sees the report of the SVG as a critical factor in securing staffing levels and funding, both internal and external.

Foreign liaison officers are not required to make any formal submissions to the SVG, but will have an opportunity to meet with them to register the nature of the work done and its value to Kew and the overseas institutions.

As part of the preparations for the SVG, a small team of scientific staff have been developing a draft program for future computerization strategy, including specimen-item registration, specimen and nomenclatural databases, and transaction (loans, etc) management systems. The prospect of databasing specimen information for 8,000,000 sheets is daunting, and complete label-data capture is not viewed as a major priority at this stage. Nevertheless, Kew is nerving itself for the plunge towards a new level of computerization. Complimentary noises are regularly made about the various Australian systems and standards.

## AUSTRALIAN VISITORS TO KEW

September 11-16, Alex George (W.A.) visited en route to the Madrid IOPI meeting, and used the opportunity to examine *Synaphaea* (Proteaceae) specimens for the Flora of Australia treatment, and to discuss issues in Western Australian *Grevillea*.

October 23-26, Chris Puttock (CANB) visited for discussions with Kew staff re Rubiaceae, Flora of New Guinea and Flora Malesiana, and Malesian project proposals.

In October, Margaret Christian (ANCA Norfolk Island office) visited for discussions with Peter Green on the flora of Norfolk Island, and to examine herbarium specimens of two presumed-extinct species from there.

October 7-11, Tony Orchard (ABRS) and Karen Wilson (NSW) visited following the Madrid IOPI meeting, for various discussions and herbarium work.

November 23, Faye Davies (CANB) made a short visit, during which she was able to compare specimen mounting procedures used at Kew with those in use in Canberra.

December 1, Jim Armstrong (W.A. CALM) visited during discussions on CITES and the Biodiversity Convention, and for library work on Rutaceae.

## OTHER NEWS

### Banks Archive Project

This is scarcely news, having been underway since 1990, but as far as I can tell it has not previously been reported in the ASBS Newsletter.

The Banks Archive Project is jointly administered by the Natural History Museum and The Royal Society. It has as its objective the recreation of Joseph Banks' prodigious correspondence, in transcription form, from the various repositories in the UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere, and its publication in a series of approximately 20 thematic volumes. Volume 1 will relate to Indo-Pacific correspondence 1768-1820,

including documents relating to Australian botany and European settlement.

Banks' correspondence is known to comprise well in excess of 15,000 individual letters, of which perhaps one-third were penned by Banks and the rest by his (more than 3,000) correspondents world-wide. The archive will maintain a machine readable database of texts, stored in hardcopy transcript, microfilm, or electronic form.

The Director of the project is Dr Harold Carter, contactable part-time at the Natural History Museum, London; alternatively enquiries can be made to the NHM's Director of Library Services.

Bob Makinson  
ABLO  
email: ablo@rbgkew.org.uk

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## INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON TAXONOMIC DATABASE (TDWG)

A summary of the report of the tenth Annual meeting At the Real Jardin Botanico-CSIC, Madrid

4-6 October, 1995

Compiled by F. Pando with the assistance of Scott Peterson

TDWG Secretariat Real Jardin Botanico-CSIC  
Plaza de Murillo, 2 28014 Madrid, Spain

Francisco Pando opened the meeting and the participants were welcomed by Maria Teresa Telleria, Director of the Real Jardin Botanico. Richard Pankhurst gave a brief history of TDWG

and a review of utilising standards in taxonomic databases. He discussed the utilisation of hard copy books versus electronic versions and the possibility of moving forward into an electronic environment. The various existing TDWG standards were then discussed.

**Bases de datos en America Latina:** Patricia Davila reported on the efforts to obtain information on the taxonomic databases pertaining to Latin America. Forms were completed by data holders, though the information regarding Brazil was rather incomplete. The databases pertaining to plants was incorporated into the IOPI Database of Databases that is accessible on the IOPI Home Page (<http://life.csu.edu.au/iopi/iopi.html>).

**Geography:** Sue Hollis asked for persons interested in participating in the subgroup for revising the standard to provide their name to her or Richard Brummitt. Sue talked about the possibility of making an electronic database

available that would include the gazetteer. Standardising lower levels was discussed. Sue and Dick indicated that this was a subject of earlier discussions in the first edition and found that these entities were too variable around the world. The county level in the U.S. was a unique situation that was not replicated globally. Dick reviewed the current list of specific changes that have been proposed.

**Action:** Since the standard is being used widely, a new subgroup will be formed to act as consultants for the new version. This new version will take into account political changes while maintaining the scheme and basis.

**POSS:** Harriet Gillett discussed the POSS standard in connection with the new IUCN threat categories and showed a review of the WCMC database housed in BG-BASE. Walter Berendsohn moved that the revised POSS standard be adopted by TDWG. Paco Pando seconded and suggested that Harriet forward the document to Ellen Farr to begin the editing process.

**Action:** The secretary will contact the TDWG Standard Editor, Ellen Farr, to begin the editing process.

**Barcodes:** The chair for the subgroup, Rusty Russell, was not present and had not provided the meeting with the history of the subgroup. Paco Pando reviewed the use of the barcode at *Real Jardín Botánico*. Symbology 39 has a restricted ASCII set of about 128 characters (both letters and numbers). This stimulated discussions from institutions, such as the BM and P (J.-N. Labat). Robert Huxley stated that barcode ensures that the accession numbers are read correctly and is efficient for processing loans. Barcode equipment is inexpensive and is relatively foolproof. BM (Charles Hussey) and B (Walter Berendsohn) commented upon the hierarchy for barcodes, such as a barcode being assigned to an incoming lot, then assigning another to a set within the lot, then one to each individual. Different approaches were discussed.

**Action:** Rob Huxley will contact Rusty Russell to produce a report from the information gathered by the conveners via questionnaire and other means. This group will promote a discussion that will result in a technical report. People interested in being part of the subgroup: Stephen Jury, Jean-Noël Labat, Paco Pando & Richard Pankhurst.

**Descriptors:** Richard Pankhurst circulated a minimum DELTA data set that was produced by the work group. He indicated that there was no universal agreement on what was important. After much work, the length of the current draft list seems rather unsuitable for what is demanded from a descriptor list. It is too short to describe a plant properly or even to differentiate plant families. On the other hand, it is too long to be implemented in a database to allow queries such as "how many endangered trees are in ...". Various persons pointed out that the minimal data set was too minimal. Walter Berendsohn suggested that we need to discern between taxonomic data sets versus general descriptors of plants. It was agreed that a short list intended as a simplified plant life form classification is what should be addressed by this subgroup.

**Landscape & Vegetation:** Mike Lock reviewed the activities of this subgroup. Its aim had been to produce a global scheme for Vegetation and Habitat description, avoiding local or vernacular terms. Several drafts had been produced and discussed at TDWG meetings, and had been published in the *Newsletter of the British Ecological Society*. Very few responses had been received and it seemed likely that global agreement would be impossible. In view of this, he recommended that the group should be formally wound up, and this was agreed.

**Accessions:** W. Berendsohn (convener) reviewed the history of the subgroup. It was started at Las Palmas Meeting (1989) by James Beach, who prepared a data element list. This list underwent successive revisions in the following years. Robert Haynes (Univ. of Alabama) substituted Beach during the Xalapa Meeting

(1992). Walter suggested that the "list approach" is a 'dead-end', since it does not take into account the structure of the data. He proposes to use modeling techniques to formulate a standard for accessions data. Data are divided into several areas and hierarchical data structure diagrams (as elaborated in the Common Data structure for European Floristic Databases project) are prepared for each area. Hierarchical diagrams are used for communication and easily "translated" into entity relationship diagrams or element lists.

Regarding mode of operation, the subgroup will communicate as much as possible by Internet and email, and Walter will make available in internet several CDEFD diagrams for discussion by the subgroup. It was agreed to tackle the botanical collections first, and later to expand the scope of the subgroup to incorporate other biological collections.

**Action:** W. Berendsohn will prepare a draft for discussion in six months time.

**Authors:** Changes being incorporated and will be put on the web in a years time.

**Reinventing TDWG:** Communication, Initiative, Resources.

A good deal more communication and advertising of the activities of TDWG is needed. (Junko Shimura, Harriet Gillett)

**Actions:**

1. **Adrian Rissone and Robert Huxley offered to set a TDWG Listserv at the Natural History Museum (London).**
2. **Set a WWW Home page, offers by Scott Peterson and WCMC.**
3. **Relaunching of TDWG Newsletter edited by Mike Lock.**
4. **Preparing a summary of the meeting to put in journals and listservers: Journal of the Linnaean, Taxon, Herbarium News, Taxacom, (for Zoological Journals, contact Charles Hussey).**

**The role of TDWG** will shift from creating new standards towards maintaining and updating the existing ones.

Problem: procedure for approval/endorsement of subsequent versions of standards Currently, there is no provision in the TDWG Constitution to deal with this situation.

**Actions:**

- 5. **A provisional procedure: "TDWG will automatically approve new editions of existing standards data lists, where there has been no change to structure and to the philosophy and method of data gathering" is voted and approved, with no vote on the contrary, internally until next annual meeting.**
- 6. **A formal proposal for Constitution amendment will be prepared by the executive committee in order to be considered in the next TDWG meeting.**

**Electronic version of the standards:** It was agreed that electronic versions of the published and endorsed standards be prepared. Sir John Burnett will convene a new subgroup for exploring and gathering information regarding copyright of electronically publication and distribution. People interested in this issue, or with information in this matter should contact the convener.

**Proposal for TDWG to endorse the IUCN threat categories**

Harriet Gillett, will dispatch booklets to the secretary who will distribute them to the membership in order to vote the proposal in the

next TDWG Annual meeting, as required by TDWG Constitution.

**ITF version 02.00** has been prepared by BGCI. This new version comprises a mayor revision of the first one, and the authors expect to publish it during 1997, ten years after the publication of ITF Version 01.00.

### Zoological standards

Charles Hussey agreed to prepare a report on zoological standards so that TDWG could expand its activities beyond plants.

### Election of Officers:

*New executive committee:* Chairperson: Stephen Jury. Secretary: Francisco Pando. Treasurer: Scott Peterson. Continental Secretaries: Sue Hollis (Europe), Patricia Koleff (South America), Patricia Davila (North America), Junko Shimura (Asia), Barry Conn (Oceania). Newsletter Editor: Michael Lock.

## HERBARIUM DATABASE/ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MEETING

2 - 4 November 1995, National Herbarium of  
New South Wales

W.R. Barker & B.J. Conn

A workshop was organised to enable Information Technology staff of Australasian herbaria to discuss several important issues which are particularly relevant to herbaria. Each session was introduced by a short talk, followed by discussion. The workshop provided an opportunity not only to share ideas, but also to share solutions to technical difficulties. Several recommendations were presented to CHAH for their consideration.

Although a full report of this workshop will be presented in the next issue of the Newsletter, the topics discussed were:

Information Systems in Botany (Jim Croft); Specimen Databases (Ken Hill); Interchange of data (Alan Brooks); Validation standards & procedures (Alex Chapman); Database of Plant Names (Greg Whitbread); IOPI (Karen Wilson); Mapping (Bill Barker); Discussion on ownership of data (General discussion); Electronic Loans Management (Alan Brooks); Client server applications (Peter Bostock).

### List of participants

#### AD:

Bill Barker (billb@adam.com.au)

#### BRI:

Peter Bostock (pbostock@ozemail.com.au)

#### CANB:

Jim Croft (jrc@anbg.gov.au);  
Pennie Honen (pennie@pican.pi.csiro);  
Greg Whitbread (ghw@anbg.gov.au)

#### MEL:

Geraldine Jones  
(entwisle@botany.unimelb.edu.au);  
Joan Thomas (entwisle@botany.unimelb.edu.au)

#### Museum of New Zealand:

Joanna Newman (joannan@aotahi.govt.nz)

#### NSW:

Alan Brooks (Convenor) (alan@rbg.syd.gov.au);  
Elizabeth Brown (elizabet@rbgsyd.gov.au);  
Barry Conn (barry@rbgsyd.gov.au);  
Dianne Godden (dianne@rbgsyd.gov.au);  
Ken Hill (ken@rbgsyd.gov.au);  
Karen Wilson (karen@rbgsyd.gov.au)

#### PERTH:

Alex Chapman (alex@calm.wa.gov.au)

#### UNE:

Jeremy Bruhl (jbruhl@metz.une.edu.au);  
Gordon White

## FASTS TOPICS

FASTS is now sending advance electronic copies of their newsletter to editors of member Society Newsletters. As ASBS has rejoined FASTS we have decided to incorporate a few items of interest so ASBS members have some direct contact with issues that FASTS is working on.

### The Earth Sciences Museum

Following representations from Professor Chris Powell (President of the Australian Geosciences Council) and from the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, FASTS has written to the Treasurer of NSW about the fate of this Museum.

The Earth Sciences Museum is a prime source of information about the geological sciences and a valuable educational tool. Late in August the NSW Government abruptly announced that Government support was to be withdrawn and that it would close in a month.

FASTS spoke to the acting director of the Museum, Museum staff, and the offices of both the NSW Treasurer and the NSW Minister for Resources. It became apparent that it was impossible to save the existing building in the Rocks area of Sydney, but that we could act to preserve continued public access to the displays and collections formerly housed in the Museum.

FASTS and AGC action to date has been to seek assurances from the Government about the future of the exhibits. The latest information is that the collections will be split between the Australia Museum in Sydney and the Department of Mineral Resources. The future of the exhibitions has not yet been settled. Expressions of interest are to be called from organisations with an interest in housing these displays. Further information from the FASTS office.

### “Unsung Hero of Australian Science”

The success of this Award makes the Australia Prize pale into insignificance!

The two recipients so far, Dr Carolyn Mountford of the University of Sydney (1994 Award) and Dr Bobbie Vaile of the University of Western Sydney (1995), have both attracted significant media coverage for their work.

The Award is made by the Australian Science Communicators and publicises the achievements of Australian researchers whose outstanding work has not yet received recognition through normal professional channels.

It costs nothing to administer and the prize is an original artwork scroll. The Australia Prize by contrast costs about \$140,000 to administer, to which must be added another \$300,000 in prize money. The media has avoided it like the plague.

Perhaps time for the Minister and his Department to re-examine Australia's richest prize?

FASTS Office:  
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ACT 2600

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Fax: 06-282 2953  
Email: [fasts@anu.edu.au](mailto:fasts@anu.edu.au)  
Executive Director: Toss Gascoigne

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## FLORA MALESIANA

An informal network, the Australian Flora Malesiana Contributors Working Group (AUSFM), has been established. The Australian commitment to Flora Malesiana, including groups contributed by and/or co-ordinated by Australian botanists, at present amounts to over 10% of the FM Project. Contributors are: Barlow (Loranthaceae, Viscaceae), Chambers (Blechnaceae), Chinnock (Psilotaceae), Conn (Urticaceae - co-ord.), Conran (Agavaceae, Bromeliaceae, Commelinaceae - co-ord.,

Cyanastraceae, Smilacaceae p.p.), Craven (Myrtaceae p.p.), Guymer (Myrtaceae p.p.), Hartley (Rutaceae), Hay (Araceae - co-ord.), Hill (Myrtaceae p.p.), Johnson (Casuarinaceae p.p.), Pedley (Fabaceae-Desmodieae), Puttock (Rubiaceae - co-ord.), Symon (Solanaceae), K. Wilson (Casuarinaceae p.p.), P. Wilson (Myrtaceae - co-ord.). Minimised estimated non-recurrent costs of realising this commitment (i.e. field-work and illustration) amount to in excess of \$300,000.

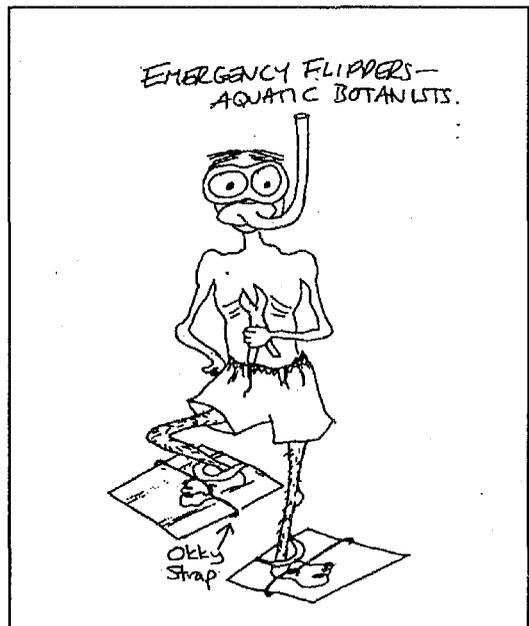
The 3rd International Flora Malesiana Symposium took place at Kew in July. Judy West was elected Australian (sic) representative on the Board of Directors of Foundation Flora Malesiana. The conference provided an opportunity for some of us (Chinnock, Conran, Conn, Hay, West) to get together. Funding, needless to say, remains a major obstacle and Judy, as Australian board member, promised to take an active role in seeking funds for Australian contributions to FM. The conference, besides the expected range of interesting and not so interesting papers and posters (Proceedings are in the pipeline), somewhat lacked resolve. However, one clear message was the urgent need for several upward gear changes in the approach to fund-raising and training. This has resulted, as a first step, in the production (by L) of a full colour brochure outlining the project and offering examples of sponsorship opportunities. With some modifications, such materials will be useful to us in the Asia/Pacific region. John Conran is leading the way in Australia in developing opportunities for botanists in the Malesian region to receive post-graduate training at the University of Adelaide. Hopefully this will provide impetus to similar developments in other states.

Barry Conn organised a workshop on the 'Documentation of the flora of New Guinea'. Although there was keen interest, with almost 60 people in attendance, no recommendations were achieved. Clearly, the international systematic botany community is fully committed or is already over-committed to flora projects

within the region and elsewhere. Nevertheless, the lingering concern is that the people of the New Guinea area not only need the flora to be fully documented, but they also need to gain the skills to maintain and develop such documentation. Discussions between LAE and NSW (Conn) are continuing to explore options for continuing the 'Handbooks of the flora of Papua New Guinea' series with increased indigenous participation.

Research permits for field work in Indonesia remain extremely time-consuming to obtain (ca. 12 months). A suggestion that the process could be streamlined by the involvement of the FM administration was impracticable according Pieter Baas. Collaborators in Flora Malesiana wanting to do fieldwork for their contribution will not be exempted from the US\$45-60 per day fee in the Indonesian counterpart system.

Alistair Hay  
Co-ordinator, AUSFM



## REVIEWS

### **BUSHFIRES & BUSH TUCKER: ABORIGINAL PLANT USE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.**

P.K. Latz  
IAD Press, Alice Springs, 1995, \$49.95.

It is fair to say that Peter's friends and colleagues have been looking forward to this book for some years. Here it is at last, the authoritative book on Aboriginal plant use in Central Australia. The book contains 400 pages and is divided into four main chapters: The desert of Central Australia, Desert People, Fire and Plant use, all this taking 70 pages. While the chapter on fire is brief it contributes to our knowledge of a burning landscape in an area where both extensive and intensive use of fire is surprising to many people. Then follows a preface to the plant list, and the list of 250 species discussed in detail, all illustrated by line drawings or in colour. Botanical names, family, Aboriginal names, and a paragraph or two of description and uses are given. This is the guts of the book and occupies 220 pages. These pages are followed by a number of appendices covering varied topics such as species with Aboriginal names but of minor importance, a table of nutritional value; medicinal plants, plants used other than for food, a list of plants used elsewhere but not researched and several pages of references for each of the plants discussed. Plant names are given in seven Aboriginal languages. The book ends with a glossary, bibliography and index.

Peter's lifetime experience in the area and intimate knowledge of Aboriginal lore and practice has resulted in a book well written with the minimum of jargon.

The book is well produced and designed and has been a pleasure to read. It is likely to remain the authoritative work on plant use in the area for a long time to come. A minor lack might be any comment on what plants the white population uses and whether any native plants have been adopted by them. This in view of the fashionable use of bushtucker in the southern States.

It is unreasonable to have expectations of agriculture developing in the Central Australian region but I would have liked a few comments on the potential of native species whose relatives were domesticated elsewhere, for example *Panicum*, *Setaria*, *Eragrostis* or *Yakirra*.

The book is a must for all interested in Aboriginal ethnobotany and a must for bush tucker enthusiasts.

David E. Symon

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### **THE CULTURE OF FLOWERS**

Jack Goody, C.U.P. 1993, 462 pp, B & W and Colour plates. See also *Taxon* 44(1995)145.

Despite its title, this fascinating book is not about how to grow flowers or make gardens. It is a wide ranging ethnobotanical survey of the uses made of cut flowers and potted plants from Graeco-Roman times to modern China. Flowers are used abundantly in polytheistic religions and the malign effects of monotheism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam with their emphasis on 'the word' or 'the book' their monasticism, iconoclasm and puritanism dealt such a blow to European

flower culture that it took 1,000 years to recover. The debate between utility and aesthetics, from Roman stoics to Mao's China still continues, though 'the market' is winning out at the moment.

The survival of the rose as the prominent flower in Europe, the 'four Gentlemen of flowers' in China and the relative absence of flowers for ritual in Africa are all dealt with. You can learn about the virtue of flower girls - mostly dubious - in China as well as Europe. The artificial creation of the 'Language of Flowers', whether you give odd or even numbers of flowers as a gift, Americanisation of the foreign mind (even in floriculture!).

Australia gets one sentence. The index is somewhat inadequate for the wealth of contents but the bibliography of over 700 entries and footnotes on almost every page will daunt the staunchest bibliophile.

It is solid but gripping reading. Botanical names are at a minimum and marigold and lotus and no doubt others, mean different species in different contexts.

Recommended for all with a wide ranging interest in the botanical world.

David E. Symon

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## NOTICES

### **ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE: THE 1996 CONFERENCES**

30th September to 5 October, 1996

The next ASBS conference (Beyond the Floras) will be held at the University of Melbourne as part of a busy week of conferences and meetings organized by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. As most of you are now aware, 1996 is an important year for the Royal Botanic Gardens. It marks the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Gardens, and the 100th anniversary of the death of Australia's greatest nineteenth century scientist, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. Mueller was Victoria's first Government Botanist and first Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and he established the National Herbarium of Victoria.

To celebrate these two milestones, a two-part conference will address the diversity and impact of nineteenth century science in Australia (The Scientific Savant in Nineteenth Century Australia: a Celebration of the Life, Times and Legacy of Ferdinand von Mueller) and consider the future of systematic research in Australia (Beyond the Floras). ASBS members are encouraged to present papers or posters in either part, but particularly Beyond the Floras.

A number of events will be held in conjunction with The 1996 Commemorative Conference, including two conferences of interest to ASBS members: Proteaceae: A Symposium on the Biology of Proteaceae and Mycology Before the Floras.

A call for registration and papers will be sent out to everyone on our mailing list in January, and included with the March issue of the ASBS newsletter. All abstracts and early-bird registration

trations must be received by 31 May 1996. For further information phone the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne on 03-9252 2300 and ask for the appropriate contact person.

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## **THE SCIENTIFIC SAVANT IN NINETEENTH CENTURY AUSTRALIA**

A Celebration of the Life, Times and Legacy  
of Ferdinand von Mueller

30 September and 1 October

Ferdinand von Mueller (1825-1896) epitomised a particular kind of scientist in nineteenth century Australia. He had diverse scientific interests, including botany, geography, pharmacy, forestry and horticulture. In addition he participated in the cultural life of the German-Australian community. He came to Australia as a foreigner and maintained international, particularly non-British, links throughout his life. The influence of these connections is apparent in his Romantic philosophy and religious ideas. This conference, marking 100 years since his death, will present papers which explore the life of Mueller and his fellow savants such as Leichhardt, the Hookers, Darwin and Humboldt, and their careers of exploration, discovery and patronage in Australia.

### **Proposed sessions**

1. The Scientific Savant
2. International and Intercolonial Connections
3. Scientific Philosophies
4. The Scientific Botanic Garden

### **Invited speakers**

Dr James Moore (The Open University, England) "The Scientific Savant in nineteenth century Australia"

Dr Sally Gregory Kohlstedt (Program in History of Science and Technology, University of Minnesota) "Natures Advocates: Informal and Formal Introductions to Science a Century Ago".

Dr Peter Stevens (Harvard University) "Divergent taxonomic theories among 19th century botanists".

Ms Juliette Hobbs (Museum of New Zealand) "Joseph Hooker and the exercise of patronage in the Antipodes".

**Contact:** Helen Cohn.

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## **BEYOND THE FLORAS**

3 October to 5 October

By the year 2000, a large number of regional and State floras will have been completed, including the Flora of Victoria, and the Flora of Australia project will have made substantial progress. These much-needed treatments of our diverse plant life will replace outdated publications, and will form the standard references for identifying Australian plants for the foreseeable future. With much of this floristic work complete, long-committed institutional resources and personnel will be available to pursue other research directions. A new era is dawning for systematic botany in Australia and we must assess the future of this discipline in the twenty-first century. Papers will address the roles of systematic botany, including maintenance of systematic botany as a modern science, contributions to industry and the business sector, developing an appropriate public understanding of the discipline, interaction with other scientific disciplines, and relevance and responsibility to the wider community.

**Proposed sessions**

1. Current Aspects of Vascular Plant Relationships
2. Orphan groups (non-vascular plants)
3. Vascular Plant Floristics, Biodiversity & Conservation
4. Applied Systematics Research
5. Dissemination of Systematics Information

**Invited speakers**

Dr Bob Andersen (Bigelow Laboratory, Maine), "What to do about Protists".

Dr Mark Chase (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), "Molecular data for systematics: collaboration and pooling".

Dr Peter Crane (Field Museum for Natural History, Chicago), "Land plant relationships"

Professor Michael Donoghue (Harvard University, Cambridge), "The role of phylogenetic biology in the discovery and description of diversity".

Professor David Hawksworth (International Mycological Institute, London), "Orphans in botanical diversity".

Professor Philip Garnock-Jones (Victoria University of Wellington), "New Zealand systematic botany after the Floras".

Dr Chris Humphries (Natural History Museum, London), "Conservation of biodiversity".

Professor Pauline Ladiges (The University of Melbourne), "Nancy Burbidge Memorial Lecture".

Dr Lauri Martinelli (CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne), "Dissemination of systematics information".

Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), "Beyond the Floras & public lecture on similar topic".

Dr Judy West (Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, Canberra), "Floristics and biodiversity research in Australia: the twenty-first century".

**Contact:** Tim Entwisle  
(entwisle@botany.unimelb.edu.au)

**PROTEACEAE**

A Symposium on the Biology of Proteaceae

30 September to 2 October 1996

The diverse flowering plant family Proteaceae is a vital component of many southern hemisphere ecosystems including those of Australia, South Africa, South and Central America, New Caledonia, Madagascar and Malesian territories. Considering the broad distribution of family members and the extensive research from all biological fields, one of the goals of this symposium is to provide a forum for an open exchange of ideas among scientists and naturalists interested in Proteaceae. Such a forum will provide the potential for collaborative exchanges that will direct future research initiatives and lead to an increase in our knowledge about the natural history of this strange, unique and sometimes bizarre flowering plant family.

**Proposed sessions**

In order to allow participants the greatest access to the work of their colleagues, there will be four non-overlapping oral sessions. The oral sessions will contain invited talks from the following fields: Paleobotany, Systematics, Physiology/Anatomy/Morphology, and Ecology. A non-overlapping poster session will be exhibited on the evening of October first.

**Proposed speakers** (to be confirmed)

Dr John Rourke (Kirstenbosch, South Africa)  
Dr Lawrie Johnson (RBG, Sydney)  
Dr Barbara Briggs (RBG, Sydney)  
Alex George (Australian Herbarium, WA)

Dr Sara Hoot (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)

Dr Jeremy Midgley (University of Cape Town, South Africa)

Dr Richard Cowling (University of Cape Town, South Africa)

Dr Gerard Jacobs (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa)

Dr Gert Brits (Fynbos Research, Elsenberg, South Africa)

Dr Peter Bernhardt (University of St. Louis, Missouri)

Dr Josi Rubens Pirani (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil)

Dr Elizabeth Barrera (Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Santiago, Chile)

Dr Luise Hermanutz (Memorial University, Newfoundland)

Dr David Lyon (Cornell College, USA)

**Contact:** Andrew Douglas  
(a.douglas@botany.unimelb.edu.au).

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## MYCOLOGY BEFORE THE FLORAS

The first Australasian Mycological Conference

2 October 1995

While botanists debate the future 'beyond the floras', the task of cataloguing the vast mycoflora of Australasia has just begun. Exciting new developments in the region are the commencement of the Fungi of Australia series and the formation of an Australasian Mycological Society. The theme of the Conference is the systematics and ecology of Australasian fungi, particularly the indigenous mycoflora, but contributions on other aspects of mycology in Australasia will be welcome.

The Conference will be the occasion of the inaugural general meeting of the Australasian Mycological Society.

**Contact:** Tom May.

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## NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

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## SPECIES 2000

Indexing the World's known Species

Paul Kirk.

International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) in co-operation with ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS)

*Species 2000* has the objective of enumerating all known species of plants, animals, fungi and microbes on Earth as the baseline dataset for studies of global biodiversity. The names of these species provide the crucial link both in the communication of biodiversity information, and in accessing the data of pure and applied biological disciplines. The objective is to facilitate the creation of global master species databases, by augmenting existing taxonomic databases and where appropriate establishing new systems.

Implementation of *Species 2000* will involve: forming a federation of existing taxonomic databases, establishing a user access framework and common gateway to member databases using electronic (eg. Internet) and non-electronic media, stimulating the establishment of global master species databases for all groups of organisms, by accelerating the completion of existing systems and developing new ones, working to an ultimate goal of providing a computer based index of all known species, developing procedures both to maintain the databases and to update the taxonomy, cooperating with international nomenclatural authorities in stabilising nomenclature. The *Species 2000* programme will thus provide a clearing house for taxonomic data on the world's known species.

*For further information contact:*

Species 2000 Secretariat Biology Department,

University of Southampton, Southampton, SO16 7PX, UK.

Tel: +44 1703 592444; Fax: +44 1703 594269;  
Email: sp2000@soton.ac.uk

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## CSIRO SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

### 1995 Concessional Price List

The concessional rates for subscriptions to CSIRO journals for 1995 are listed below. Note that these are available only to **financial members** of A.S.B.S. Please note that CSIRO have decided that they will deal directly with subscribers for renewal of CSIRO journal subs. However, new subscriptions must be paid for through the Society. Please note that **overly late orders will not be accepted.**

Those members wishing to subscribe should send the appropriate subscription money by **January 5, 1996** if possible; this will allow CSIRO time to process the details before the first issues of the new year are published.

**NOTE:** the Treasurer will only accept late journal subscriptions until February 2, 1996.

### Send you subscription money to:

Dr P.G. Wilson  
Treasurer, ASBS Inc.  
National Herbarium of New South Wales  
Royal Botanic Gardens  
Sydney NSW 2000

Please include this with the payment of your 1996 subscription to the Society.

Journal	Concession	Full Rate
Aust. J. Agricultural Research	\$140	\$280
Aust. Journal of Botany	\$125	\$250
Aust. Journal of Chemistry	\$265	\$530
Aust. J. Exp. Agriculture	\$125	\$250
Aust. J. Marine & Freshwater Res.	\$140	\$280
Aust. Journal of Physics	\$160	\$320
Aust. Journal of Plant Physiology	\$140	\$280
Aust. Journal of Soil Research	\$145	\$270
Aust. Journal of Zoology	\$125	\$250
Australian Systematic Botany	\$130	\$260
Invertebrate Taxonomy	\$160	\$320
Reprodn, Fertility & Development	\$140	\$280
Wildlife Research	\$125	\$250
Publ. Astronomical Soc. Aust.	\$ 70	\$140
Single Back Issues	\$ 25	\$ 50

## NEWS FROM THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE

macrofungal data from a single locality collected by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Sapphire will identify and collate this material, and then calculate a suitable sampling frequency for estimating macrofungal diversity.

### FERDINAND MUELLER FELLOWSHIP

Dr Jim Grimes of The New York Botanical Garden has been selected as the first Ferdinand Mueller Fellow. He will spend up to 4 months at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne in the second half of 1996. His research program includes the study of inflorescence morphology and development in living and preserved material of *Acacia* subgenus *Phyllodineae*. At the very least you will be able to meet him at the 1996 Commemorative Conference (30 September to 5 October)!

### SUMMER STUDENTSHIP

Over the Christmas period, potential honours student Sapphire McMullan will spend eight weeks working with Tom May on a fungal taxonomy/ecology project. Tom has six years of

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Notices for the following workshop and conferences have been received and may be of interest to ASBS members:

#### WORKSHOP: DISSEMINATING BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION

24-27 March, 1996, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Netherland. Organised by European Science Foundation. First circular current. Contact for topics: Wouter Los, Zoological Museum Amsterdam, P.O. Box 94766, 1090 GT Amsterdam, Netherlands. Fax: +31 20 525 5402. E-mail: los@bio.uva.nl

**CONGRESS: NATURAL HISTORY  
COLLECTIONS - A RESOURCE FOR THE  
FUTURE.**

Second world congress on the preservation and conservation of natural history collections. 20-24 August 1996, Cambridge, U.K. Second circular issued Oct. 1995. Contact: Administrator, 2nd World Congress, Dept of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Madingley Rd, Cambridge CB3 0EZ, Uk. Fax: UK (0)1223 60779.

**CONFERENCE: SYSTEMATICS &  
BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.**

27-30 August, 1996, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Organised by the Linnean Society. Contact: C.R. Tyrie, Department of Botany, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB, N. Ireland. Fax: +44 (0)1232 681885. E-mail: crt@belumreg.demon.co.uk

**PERSONAL NEWS**

**OBITUARY**

**JAMES H. WILLIS**

One of our great Australian botanists, James Hamlyn Willis D. Sc., AM, known to his many friends and colleagues simply as "Jim", has passed away in his 86th year. His death on 10 November 1995 followed a severe cerebral haemorrhage less than two days previously.

Those who knew Jim personally will undoubtedly remember him with both affection and admiration. An unassuming, caring, generous, cheerful and jovial man, he extended friendship and help to all around him. His energy and drive seemed to have no bounds and his enthusiasm for botany and all aspects of natural history was infectious. He inspired the hundreds of others whom he met or worked with, or accompanied in the field. The honorary lectures and talks he gave to scientific, natural history, conservation, horticultural, church and other service and community groups were both popular and legion. Requests for them never ceased, and only a few weeks before his death he

delivered the opening address at the conference of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, held in Ballarat.

Born in Oakleigh, Victoria, on 28 January 1910, Jim spent most of his boyhood years in north-west Tasmania before moving back across Bass Strait for secondary schooling at Melbourne High School, followed by a forestry course at Creswick and receipt of the Diploma of the Victorian Forests Commission. He then served as a forestry officer in varied forest districts around Victoria from 1931 to 1937, always studying the flora and fauna around him and excursions after plants at every opportunity. In October 1937 he was able to leave forestry, which was never his real calling, and commence his long and distinguished career of 34 years as a taxonomic botanist with the National Herbarium of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. From there, he retired voluntarily on 28 January 1972, his 62nd birthday.

While at the National Herbarium of Victoria, Jim studied part time at the University of Melbourne and gained his B.Sc. (with honours) in 1940. He researched and collected not only flow-

ering plants but lower plant groups also, particularly fungi and mosses. During 1958 - 1959 he was seconded for 14 months as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew Herbarium, England, revelling in this experience. In 1961 he was promoted to the position of Assistant Government Botanist, and for the last 15 months of his service was also Acting Director of both the Herbarium and Gardens. Through his wide interests, prolific correspondence and avid reading, together with his quite phenomenal memory and capacity for meticulously compiled biographical, historical and floristic data, he became a veritable storehouse of knowledge to be drawn upon by amateurs and professionals alike. Both his time and his knowledge would be given willingly to those seeking help.

In all, Jim has described 64 plant species, about two-thirds of these with sole authorship, several varieties, and made many new combinations. He has published approximately 883 books, papers and reviews. Amongst these, his two volume "A Handbook to Plants in Victoria" (1962 & 1972) marked a milestone for Victorian botany, replacing A.J. Ewart's outdated "Flora of Victoria" (1931). It was his "Handbook" that formed the major thesis for his D.Sc. from the University of Melbourne, received in 1974 for published works.

Jim's outgoing nature and the patience and courtesy he extended to everyone from visiting international celebrities to the "man-in-the-street" endeared him to many. He was an active member of some 16 scientific, natural history, conservation and horticultural organisations, and formed close friendships with naturalists whose keenness matched his own, giving them every encouragement. He never sought fame or status, but various honours came his way in recognition of the value of his contributions to science and the wider community - for example, his award of the Australian Natural History Medallion in 1960, the Royal Society of Victoria's silver medal for research in 1973, his appointment as an honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Science, Monash

University in 1974, his appointment as a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London (Honoris causa) in 1976, and most recently, to the delight of family and friends, his award of the AM, Member of the Order of Australia, in June 1995.

In 1933 Jim married Mavis Howie who, like himself, was a keen bush-lover and a caring Christian person. She has been the great mainstay in Jim's life. Together they have supported their local community in the Melbourne suburb of Brighton, raised two sons and three daughters and delighted in their 15 grandchildren and 4 great-grandsons. Mavis continues to reside at Brighton.

**Note:** For a greater appreciation of Jim's life and work refer to the biographical sketch and list of publications in *Muelleria* 3(2): 69-88 (1975). A fuller obituary will appear in the 1996 issue of the same journal and it is hoped that an updated list of publications will be placed in the 1997 issue.

Helen Aston  
National Herbarium of Victoria

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## JIM WILLIS FELLOWSHIP FUND

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne is establishing a Fellowship to commemorate the numerous and varied contributions to natural history by the late Dr James Hamlyn Willis AM, a distinguished former member of staff.

The Fellowship, to be known as the Jim Willis Fellowship, will be awarded annually and will be used primarily to support the training of post-graduate students in plant and fungal systematics.

Mr Roger Riordan, Managing Director of Cybec Pty. Ltd. and a life-long friend of Jim Willis, is

very generously donating \$20,000 to ensure that fund-raising for the J.H. Willis Fellowship gets off to a good start.

Many friends of the late Jim Willis in the community will wish to contribute towards building an appropriate capital sum for this purpose to commemorate the achievements of this remarkable man.

All donations are most welcome. Payment should be made to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra 3141. Donations of \$2 and over are fully tax deductible.

National Herbarium of Victoria  
Jim Ross

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## ASBS INC. BUSINESS

### AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INC

Seventeenth General Meeting

Minutes of the 17th General Meeting  
Australian National Herbarium, Canberra, ACT

Thursday 28 September 1995  
Meeting opened at 6.00 pm

#### 1. Attendance:

16 members were in attendance at the General Meeting: Mike Crisp presiding.

#### 2. Apologies:

John Clarkson, Tim Entwisle, Rod Henderson, Jo Palmer.

#### 3. Minutes of the 16th General Meeting held in Kuranda, 4 July 1994.

It was proposed that the minutes of the 16th General Meeting (as published in the *Aust. Syst. Bot. Soc. Newsletter* 80: 35-39) be accepted as a true record of that meeting (moved Bryan Simon, seconded David Morrison). Unanimously carried.

#### 4. Business arising from minutes :

Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS)

Dr Toss Gascoigne, who is the executive director of FASTS, had been invited to present to the meeting the current position of FASTS. Dr Gascoigne presented a brief historical perspective of FASTS, and the recent reorganisation. He specifically mentioned that FASTS had published a document about science policy to present to government and that the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology had had agreed to attend the November FASTS Council meeting. A clear impression was made that FASTS was now in a good position to better represent scientific societies.

At this point Dr Gascoigne left the meeting.

Further discussion re: FASTS

Mike Crisp reported on the withdrawing of ASBS, along with several other societies, from FASTS. This had sent a strong message to FASTS with respect to our interests and to the general feeling that our society was not getting value for its dollars. During this year it is apparent that FASTS has had a major overhaul and is now considered to be better equipped to be an effective lobby group to government.

The Council gave the recommendation that ASBS rejoin FASTS, with further review at the next Annual General Meeting.

**Motion:** That the Australian Systematic Botany Society rejoin FASTS (moved Mike Crisp, seconded Lyn Craven). Unanimously carried.

#### 5. **Presidents Report:**

The presidents report was presented by Mike Crisp. This report appears in the previous issue of *Aust. Syst. Bot. Soc. Newsletter* 84: 1-2.

#### 6. **Treasurer's report**

Peter Wilson tabled the Treasurer's report.

##### a) **Hansjoerg Eichler Research Fund**

The funds will be transferred into a fixed term deposit with the interest becoming available for use. This interest will be set aside for disbursement of awards. A question of where this investment was to be made was raised as a matter of concern in respect to environmentally sound practice. (also see 10 below)

##### b) **Annual Subscriptions**

Following the increase in the subscription in 1994 the council believed that the financial position was sufficient to continue without an increase in membership subscriptions particularly in the light of the increase in membership numbers over the past year.

**Motion:** That there be no increase in subscription in 1995-6 (moved by Peter G Wilson, seconded by D Morrison). Unanimously carried.

The Treasurer tabled the Auditor's Report as a true statement of the ASBS Inc. financial accounts (seconded by Gordon Guymer). Carried.

A vote of thanks was given by Mike Crisp to the Treasurer for his efforts over the past year.

Peter reminded the meeting that this will be his third term as Treasurer. Suggestions of who might be our next Treasurer would be welcomed by Council.

#### 7. **Newsletter Editors' report**

Ian Cowie presented a verbal report

##### **Discussion:**

Ian Cowie requested that contributions for the next issue (December) need to be sent in early to meet deadlines. He said that the supply of copy for publication was 'underwhelming'.

The number of copies of the Newsletter to be produced was discussed and where the additional copies should be kept. It was decided that this would be an editorial decision because of print-run cost considerations. A small number of extra copies are currently distributed by Katy Mallet, ABRS and the remainder by the editor.

The meeting expressed its congratulations to Greg Leach and Ian Cowie for building on the excellence of the Newsletter over the past year.

#### 8. **Society Meetings**

##### **Canberra Workshop 1995**

Mike Crisp reported that the meeting, with 35 attending, was currently in progress with every indication of a successful outcome.

##### **Melbourne 1996**

Tim Entwisle had previously communicated the change of dates of the '1996 Commemorative Conference' to 30 September-6 October. Organisation for this is going smoothly. The Council has decided to offer limited assistance to financial student members. An application form will be placed in the Newsletter in 1996.

##### **Adelaide 1997**

This will be a joint meeting of the ASBS and the Ecological Society with emphasis on application of systematics to ecology.

**Sydney 1998**

This meeting will be in with association with the Monocot conference.

**9. Fund Raising Activities**

Nothing reported to the meeting.

**10. Hanjoerg Eichler Research Fund**

Peter Wilson reported that he had spoken to the Australian Taxation Office about tax deductibility for the Research Fund. Gordon Guymer is going to look into the proper channels for applying for tax deductibility.

It was reported to the meeting that the Council is now investigating the appropriate mechanism to offer grants.

**Other business**

Jim Croft has created a Word Wide Web homepage for ASBS and various documents and articles can now be accessed there. It was decided that formulation of a general brochure about the Society should be dropped in favour of developing the Web page to a stage where it can be publicised.

**Elections**

The following were elected unopposed:-

President: Gordon Guymer  
 Vice president: Tim Entwisle  
 Secretary: Christopher Puttock  
 Treasurer: Peter Wilson  
 Councillors: John Clarkson  
 Robyn Barker

Membership officer: Andrew Lyne (ex-officio member of Council)

Gordon Guymer gave a vote of thanks to the retiring president, Mike Crisp.

Meeting closed 7.15 pm

---

**TREASURER'S REPORT****Membership**

At the end of 1994, the active membership stood at 356. This was made up as follows:

Gratis members (most herbaria, ABLO, a few others)	16
Institutional members	17
Student members (full-time students)	41
Ordinary members	282

**INCOME****Subscriptions**

As in the past, subscriptions were the Society's major source of income. At \$8,276, this was only slightly up on the figure for the same period in 1993. Late payment of subscriptions seem to be a perennial problem for treasurers. As of the end of last week there were still many members unfinancial for 1995; this is despite us having printed written reminders on the carrier-sheets of Newsletters sent to unfinancial members. The Treasurer does not have time to send out reminders to everyone, but I have taken some opportunities to remind people via e-mail or in other correspondence. As I said last year, late subscription payments mean back-issues have to be sent out individually at regular postage rates which is an extra expense for the Society and also creates extra work for our ASBS sales officer, Katy Mallett, who usually sends them out.

**Conference**

Last year's Monsoon Tropics conference was very successful and we received an immediate return of \$3,000 from the it (repayment for a ASBS float of \$2,500 plus part of Tim Entwisle's fares); members should be aware that a further substantial sum (over \$5,000) has more recently been paid into the Hj. Eichler Research Fund when the conference account was closed.

**ASBS Merchandise and Book Sales**

Merchandise sales were down on 1994, with only \$288 received. Book sales were slow with only about 9 copies of the 'History of Systematic Botany in Australia' book being sold. However, there were continuing sales of both the Arid Australia and Alpine books, with the Society's holdings of the latter now exhausted.

31.12.1990	\$15489.44
31.12.1991	\$20018.17
31.12.1992	\$16677.78
31.12.1993	\$10971.66
31.12.1994	\$14372.35

Note, however, that the auditor's fee has yet to be paid (was listed as though paid but this is offset as an accrued expense under 'Current Liabilities') and that the income figures were boosted by the \$3000 return from the Kuranda conference.

**EXPENDITURE**

As usual, the major item of expenditure is the Newsletter and still uses over 75% of our subscription income. In 1994, printing costs were down on the previous figure but postage costs were about double. Last year I reported that postage for the Newsletter was now covered by the conditions of PrintPost and that this would probably result in an increase in postage costs; this has now been shown to be the case. Fortunately, postage is a relatively minor component of our Newsletter-related costs and other overheads were low so that our total Newsletter costs actually fell slightly for the year.

So, the financial position is not overly strong and the Society cannot afford excessive expenditure. Council has resolved, now that the Research Fund is in a healthy condition, that the interest from the Term Deposits should once again be paid into the cheque account.

**Our other main expenses are:**

1. Donation/membership of National Biodiversity Council (\$500)
2. Conference expenses: these appear high on the financial statement, however all but \$1234 is accounted for by AIDAB grants and the conference returns.

As the financial position seems relatively stable, I am not moving for an increase in Membership subscription levels for 1996. This may have to be revised next year.

**ASSETS**

A new category relating to asset sales has appeared on the Financial Statement. The 'Cost of goods sold' entry covers the difference between the income received and the 'at cost' value of the assets to the Society.

Members are reminded that the Society will benefit from any increase in number of members and through increased sales of books and merchandise.

Peter Wilson  
Hon. Treasurer, ASBS Inc.

**FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Society had a surplus for the year of \$18291 but \$14044 of this was research fund income or donations. However, the Society's cheque account balance has risen for the first time in the last few years as shown by these comparative figures:



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INC. RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1994

31ST DECEMBER, 1993

31ST DECEMBER 1994

#### RECEIPTS

0	Advertising in Newsletter	75
329	Donation to Research Fund	13,180
	<b>Interest received</b>	
363	- Cheque account	255
668	- Term Deposit	527
109	- Research Account	165
	<b>Sales</b>	
481	- Book Sales	417
889	- Merchandise incl. Newsltr	288
8,122	Subscription to ASBS Inc	8,276
1,525	Subscription CSIRO Journal	3,385
500	Repayment Sthrn Conn. Conf.	0
100	Donation Monsoon Conference	0
0	Sponsorship-AIDAB	4,700
0	Symposium Refund	3,000
50	Sundry Income	150
-----		-----
13,136	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	34,418

#### PAYMENTS

533	Auditor's remuneration	300
28	Bank charges	57
4,740	Conference Expenses	5,463
0	Cost of Goods Sold	221
0	Donation (Biodiv. Council)	500
25	Filing fees	27
6,245	Newsletter Expenses	5,328
171	Postage	39
3,714	Provision for Stock Writedown	0
0	Refund-AIDAB	347
4,338	Subscriptions (CSIRO Jnl)	3,270
0	Travel and accommodation	574
-----		-----
19,794	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	16,126
-----		-----
(6,660)	<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	18,291
=====		=====

**AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INC.**

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1994

31ST DECEMBER, 1993

31ST DECEMBER, 1994

**MEMBERS' EQUITY**

(6,660)	<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	18,291
40,239	Retained surpluses at the beginning of the financial year	33,579
-----		-----
40,239		33,579
-----		-----
33,579	<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>51,870</b>
=====		=====

**CURRENT ASSETS**

## Cash

9,574	Bank a/c - cheque	14,372
4,510	Bank a/c - research fund	18,537
10,000	Term Deposit	10,000
1,400	Term Deposit	1,400
	<b>Inventories</b>	
2,858	*T-shirts, sweat shirts, mugs	2,715
252	*Books - Evolution F & F	238
4,986	*Books - History Syst. Bot.	4,922
-----		-----
33,579		52,184

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

0	Accrued expenses	315
-----		-----
0		315
-----		-----
33,579	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>51,870</b>
=====		=====

## A.S.B.S. PUBLICATIONS

### **History of Systematic Botany in Australia**

Edited by P.S. Short. A4, case bound, 326pp. A.S.B.S., 1990.

Members \$30; non-members \$50. Postage \$10.

For all those people interested in the 1988 A.S.B.S. symposium in Melbourne, here are the proceedings. It is a very nicely presented volume, containing 36 papers on: the botanical exploration of our region; the role of horticulturalists, collectors and artists in the early documentation of the flora; the renowned (Mueller, Cunningham), and those whose contribution is sometimes overlooked (Buchanan, Wilhelmi).

### **Systematic Status of Large Flowering Plant Genera**

A.S.B.S. Newsletter Number 53, edited by Helen Hewson. 1987. \$5 + \$1.10 postage.

This Newsletter issue includes the reports from the February 1986 Boden Conference on the "Systematic Status of Large Flowering Plant Genera". The reports cover: the genus concept; the role of cladistics in generic delimitation; geographic range and the genus concepts; the value of chemical characters, pollination syndromes, and breeding systems as generic determinants; and generic concepts in the Asteraceae, Chenopodiaceae, Epacridaceae, *Cassia*, *Acacia*, and *Eucalyptus*.

### **Evolution of the Flora and Fauna of Arid Australia**

Edited by W.R. Barker & P.J.M. Greenslade. A.S.B.S. & A.N.Z.A.A.S., 1982. \$20 + \$5 postage.

This collection of more than 40 papers will interest all people concerned with Australia's dry inland, or the evolutionary history of its flora and fauna. It is of value to those studying both arid lands and evolution in general. Six sections cover: ecological and historical background; ecological and reproductive adaptations in plants; vertebrate animals; invertebrate animals; individual plant groups; and concluding remarks.

### **Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter**

Back issues of the *Newsletter* are available from Number 27 (May 1981) onwards, excluding Numbers 29 and 31. Here is the chance to complete your set. Cover prices are \$3.50 (Numbers 27-59, excluding Number 53) and \$5.00 (Number 53, and 60 onwards). Postage \$1.10 per issue.

Also available are sweaters (\$25), t-shirts (\$15), mugs (\$8 each, or \$42 for a six-pack), and scarfs (\$20).

**Send orders and remittances (payable to "A.S.B.S. Inc.") to:**

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AUSTRALIA

# A.S.B.S. INC. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED**  
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991)



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Subscriptions for A.S.B.S. membership for 1996 are due on 1 January, 1996. If you have already paid your subscriptions for 1996, please ignore this *pro forma* notice. The *Australian Systematic Botany Newsletter* will not be sent to unfinancial members. Correspondence concerning membership and subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer at the address below.

Subscriptions for 1996, including the *A.S.B.S. Newsletter*, are:

Ordinary/Institutional ..... \$35.00  
Full-time Student ..... \$15.00

In addition, your contribution to the HJ. Eichler Research Fund would be most welcome. Please return the form below with your 1996 subscription, plus any arrears, voluntary contributions to the Research Fund or payment for CSIRO journal subscriptions, with any address corrections, to the Treasurer at the address shown below. Your cheque should be made payable in Australian dollars to: Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....  
.....

1996 subscription .....

Arrears (for years ) .....

Voluntary donation to research fund .....

Subscription to CSIRO journals  
(see page 21) .....

Total (cheque enclosed for this amount) .....

Return to: Dr. P. Wilson  
Honorary Treasurer, A.S.B.S. Inc.  
National Herbarium of NSW  
Royal Botanic Gardens  
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia.

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Phone: (06) 250 9442 T. Orchard; (06) 250 9443 G. Shaughnessy

This list will be kept up to date, and will be published in each issue.  
Please inform us of any changes or additions.

## The Society

The Australian Systematic Botany Society is an incorporated association of over 300 people with professional or amateur interest in botany. The aim of the Society is to promote the study of plant systematics.

## Membership

Membership is open to all those interested in plant systematics. Membership entitles the member to attend general meetings and chapter meetings, and to receive the *Newsletter*. Any person may apply for membership by filling in an "Membership Application" form and forwarding it, with the appropriate subscription, to the treasurer. Subscriptions become due on January 1 each year.

## The Newsletter

The *Newsletter* appears quarterly, keeps members informed of Society events and news, and provides a vehicle for debate and discussion. In addition, original articles, notes and letters (not exceeding ten published pages in length) will be considered.

Contributions should be sent to one of the editors at the address given below. They should preferably be submitted as:- an unformatted word-processor or ASCII file on an MS-DOS or Macintosh diskette, accompanied by a printed copy; as an unformatted word-processor or ASCII email file, accompanied by a fax message reporting the sending of the file; or as two typed copies with double-spacing if less than one page.

The deadline for contributions is the last day of February, May, August, and November.

All items incorporated in the *Newsletter* will be duly acknowledged. Authors alone are responsible for the views expressed, and statements made by the authors do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc. *Newsletter* items should not be reproduced without the permission of the author of the material.

## Notes

A.S.B.S. annual membership is \$35 (Aust); full-time students \$15. Please make cheques out to A.S.B.S. Inc., and remit to the treasurer. All changes of address should be sent directly to the treasurer, as well.

Advertising space is available for products or services of interest to A.S.B.S. members. Current rate is \$100 per full page, \$50 per half-page or less. Contact one of the *Newsletter* editors for further information.

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## Cover

Gordon Guymer

## CONTENTS

### Editorial

.....	1
-------	---

### Articles

Nomenclature of the Boab .....	1
--------------------------------	---

### Reports

Australian Biological Resource Study .....	2
Australian Botanical Liaison Officer .....	6
International Working Group on Taxonomic Database .....	9
Herbarium Database - Information Technology meeting .....	12
FASTS .....	13
Australian Flora Malesiana Contributors Working Group .....	13

### Reviews

Bushfires and Bushtucker .....	15
The Culture of Flowers .....	15

### Notices

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, 1996 Conference .....	16
Email addresses .....	19
Species 2000 .....	20
CSIRO Journal subscriptions .....	20
News from RBG, Melbourne .....	21
Conference announcements .....	21

### Personal news

Obituary - James H. Willis .....	22
Jim Willis Fellowship .....	22

### ASBS Inc. Business

Annual general meeting minutes .....	24
Treasurers Report .....	26
Auditors Report .....	28

### A.S.B.S. Publications

.....	30
-------	----

### A.S.B.S. Chapter Conveners and Herbaria Phone Numbers

.....	32
-------	----