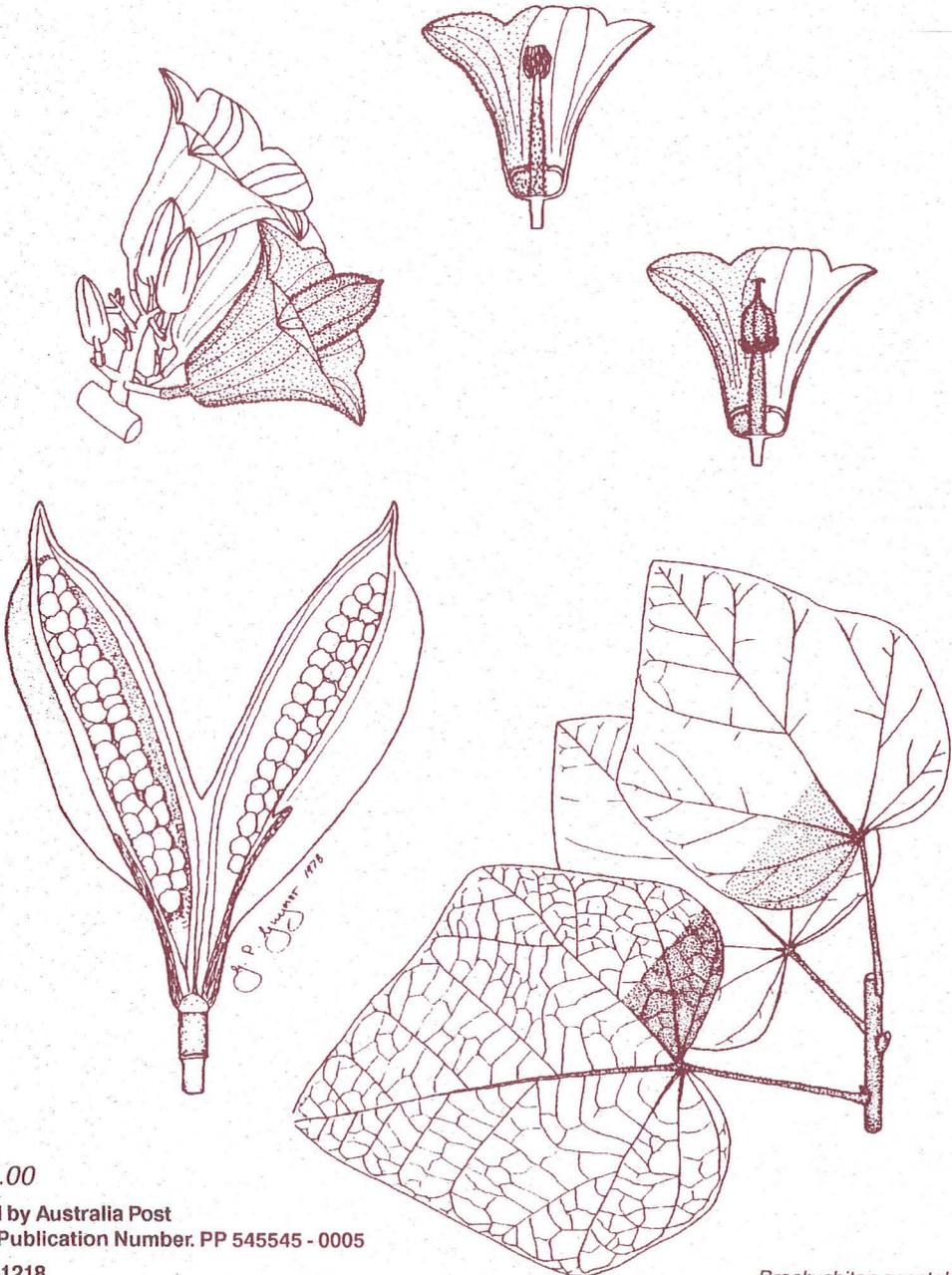




Australian Systematic Botany Society NEWSLETTER

No. 87 JUNE 1996



Price: \$5.00

Registered by Australia Post
Print Post Publication Number. PP 545545 - 0005
ISSN 1034-1218

Brachychiton spectabilis Guymer

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ARTICLES

THE USE OF WORDS OF ABORIGINAL ORIGIN FOR AUSTRALIAN HIGHER PLANTS

David E. Symon

By searching the "Census of Australian Vascular plants", Hnatiuk (1990), volumes of the "Flora of Australia" and State Herbarium journals about 210 names have been detected of apparent Aboriginal origin. In such a search, names or words of apparent European origin that might apply to Australian Aboriginals are likely to have been missed.

In most cases the author's derivation of the name has been checked but it has been difficult to trace the origins of many place names. About 38 remain untraced. Eight generic names were recognised (in chronological order). *Uldinia* Black (1922), ultimately from Ooldea and Uldilnga gabi = Ooldea Soak; *Cooperookia* Carolin (1968), from Cooperook State Forest and from Aboriginal for bend or elbow; *Whyanbeelia*, Airy Shaw & Hyland (1976) from Aboriginal name of type locality; *Wodyetia* Irvine (1983) from wad-yeti the Aboriginal name of the palm; *Yakirra* Lazarides & Webster (1984) from the Aboriginal name of the plant; *Jedda* Clarkson (1986) from Jedda Creek - origin not traced; *Budawangia* Telford (1992) from Budawang Range origin not traced; and *Wollemia* Jones Hill & Allen (1995) from the National Park and ultimately from the Aboriginal "wollumi" look about, mind your step.

Eleven names were based on tribal names. Twenty-nine names were based on the Aboriginal name of the plant of which the first was *Parinari nonda* Benthams, (1864), but see *Loranthus quandang* below.

There was a small category of six names based on Aboriginal words but not directly applying to the plant eg. *Goodenia iyouta* Carolin, (1980), which refers to *Triodia* amongst which the *Goodenia* grows.

By far the largest category are names derived from localities with names ultimately of Aboriginal origin of which 150 were found. It was not possible to trace some of these, an example being *Hakea tamminensis* Gardner, 1964. Tammin and Yaraba were the most popular localities with four strikes each.

The genus with most names of Aboriginal origin is *Eucalyptus* 43, (*Corymbia* 4), then *Acacia* 17.

Individual botanists vary greatly in their use of Aboriginal words. Leading by far is F.M. Bailey 26, next J.H. Maiden (plus co-authors) 21, then L.A.S Johnson (plus co-authors) 14. Domin used 8 names as did Blakely. I did not recognise any names of Aboriginal origin used by F. Mueller.

Vitis kangaruh Hort ex DC. 1824, was an early use but apparently was not validly published. So the prize goes to Lindley (1838), with *Loranthus quandang*. However, he seems to have named the *Loranthus* after the Aboriginal name of the host.

Seven names commemorating individual Aborigines were identified. They were: *Musa charlioi* Hill (1874); *Musa jackeyi* Hill (1874) both after Aborigines with the Kennedy Expedition. *Aspidium eumundi* Bailey (1894) an Aboriginal who helped rescue survivors of the "Stirling Castle" wreck, *Paspalum galmara* Bailey (1894) another member of the Kennedy Expedition. Then an 87 year gap to *Solanum tudunungae* Symon (1981) after Tudunung gac (Mary Pantilow) an Aboriginal guide for the

author; *Pandanus nullumiae* Tucker (1986) after Mrs Nullum Marrott of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Community for assistance; and finally *Cryptocarya bamagana* Hyland (1989) after the Aboriginal who lead the settlement at Bamaga.

That three Aboriginals associated with the ill fated Kennedy Expedition were all commemorated with botanical names must be a record.

Plotting the distribution of publication

dates shows three peaks. One is between 1885 and 1900 due largely to F.M. Bailey. The second is between 1910 and 1930 due mainly to Maiden. There is then a long trough due to the Depression and War and botanical stagnation until a leap beginning in 1975 but possibly showing a fall in 1995.

These figures are unlikely to be complete but I believe show the likely patterns of the use of Aboriginal words in Australian botanical literature.

A.S.B.S. INC. BUSINESS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Christopher Puttock
Secretary, A.S.B.S. Inc.

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated will be held on 3rd October 1996 at the University of Melbourne, in conjunction with the "The 1996 Commemorative Conference & Proteaceae & Mycology" (29 September-5 October 1996). Any members wishing to place an item (or items) on the agenda should notify the Secretary (Dr Christopher F. Puttock) in writing by Thursday 5th September 1996.

and two Councillors. The retiring Secretary and Treasurer have both served three consecutive years in office and are not eligible for re-election to these positions.

Each nomination must be proposed by two members, and the nominee's acceptance of the nomination must accompany the nomination itself. Nominations must be made on the form enclosed in this newsletter or a facsimile of the same. All nominations must be in the hands of the returning officer (Dr Christopher F. Puttock) by Thursday 5th September 1996.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In accordance with the Society's Constitution, nominations are hereby called for all positions on the Council for the 1996-1997 term of office: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer,

NOMINATION FORM

(A separate nomination paper or facsimile of the same is required for each candidate)

We, the undersigned members of the Society, wish to nominate:-

.....

for: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Councillor.
(Please delete the offices that do not apply to your nomination)

First Nominator

Second Nominator

Name

Name

Signature

Signature

I hereby consent to my nomination for the position of

Signature

Date

Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by 5 pm Thursday 5th September 1996

Secretary: Dr C.F. Puttock
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REPORTS



**Australian
Biological
Resources
Study**

Agencies. The past, present and future of ABRS will be reviewed, along with other aspects of our umbrella body, the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA).

FLORA OF AUSTRALIA VOLUME 28, GENTIANALES

At the time of writing, this volume was having its final proofs checked, and was planned to be published about mid-June. The price is expected to be \$79.95 for the hard cover version, \$64.95 for the soft cover. The book can be ordered from CSIRO Publishing, PO Box 1139, Collingwood Vic. 3066.

BUDGETS

It will not have escaped your notice that with the recent change of government a new austerity has swept over Federal Government Departments and Agencies. ABRS has not been immune to this, and some efficiencies have already been put in place. One is a freeze on recruitment from outside the Australian Public Service, and this has impacted on our appointment of a specialist editor for the *Algae of Australia* series. We are now unable to proceed with the intended appointment, and planning and publication of the first volumes of the *Algae of Australia* series will be delayed for some time.

The ABRS Budget for 1996/97 is also uncertain at this stage. All Federal authorities have been told to expect reductions, but the size of these will not be known until the Federal Budget is announced in August. However it seems reasonable to expect that there will be some impact on the ABRS program.

During June and July there will also be a Review of all Programs in the Environment Portfolio, encompassing both the Department of Environment, Sport & Territories and all

FUNGI OF AUSTRALIA VOLUME 1A, INTRODUCTION - CLASSIFICATION

This volume is with the printer and expected to be in print by the end of June. It will consist of 413 pages, and has an indicative retail price of \$69.95 for hard cover and \$54.95 for soft cover. The major part of the volume is a classification of the fungi of Australia and a key to orders, with other chapters on the history of mycology in Australia, biogeography, palaeomycology and a glossary.

FUNGI OF AUSTRALIA VOLUME 1B, INTRODUCTION - FUNGI IN THE ENVIRONMENT

This book, containing the balance of the essays for the introduction to the series, is at an advanced stage of editing, and is likely to go to the printer in July/August. The essays in this book look at fungi in Australia habitat by habitat, summarising

existing knowledge and where necessary extrapolating from knowledge of overseas fungi to suggest what might be found here when the research is done. This is a fascinating volume, which points out again and again the ubiquity of fungi, the key role they play in virtually all ecosystems at both a macro and a micro level, and the enormous gaps in our knowledge of the Australian taxa. It is likely to be of a similar size and price to Fungi 1A.

**FUNGI OF AUSTRALIA VOLUME 2A,
CATALOGUE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF
AUSTRALIAN MACROFUNGI 1**

Frantic editing has been taking place on this volume, the manuscript for which became available just in time to squeeze it into the 1995/96 financial year. This is the first in a planned 3-part volume written by Tom May and Alec Wood, which provides an APNI-like listing of names published for the Australian macrofungi, together with an exhaustive list of literature references to Australian usage of each name. This first part covers about 5000 names and provides full publication details, synonymy and bibliography. The taxa covered in part 1 are the Agaricales, Aphyllophorales (*p.p.*), Boletales, Cantharellales, Gauteriales, Hymenogastrales, Melanogastrales, Phallales (*p.p.*), Podaxales and Russulales. The book, of about 350 pages, is expected to go the printers in mid-June, with publication about September.

**FLORA OF AUSTRALIA
SUPPLEMENTARY SERIES NUMBER 5**

The next in our Supplementary Series, *The Marine Benthic Flora of Southern Australia Rhodophyta Part IIIB, Gracilariales, Rhodymeniales, Corallinales and Bonnemaisoniales* by Bryan Womersley and co-authors is in press, and expected to be published by late June. This volume is slightly smaller than the weighty Part IIIA, but still runs to nearly 400 pages, and contains the same kind

of meticulously presented detailed information on these important groups. This book, like all in the Supplementary Series, is entirely an ABRs publication, and should be ordered from ABRs (Flora), GPO Box 636, Canberra ACT 2601. The price will be \$46, with additional for postage (\$8.50 within Australia, \$19 overseas surface mail).

**FLORA OF AUSTRALIA
SUPPLEMENTARY SERIES NUMBER 6**

Another volume in this series is also going to press in late May, with publication about the end of June. This is *Leaf and Cuticle Atlas of Australian Leafy Lauraceae* by David Christophel & Andrew Rowett. It is intended to be a companion volume to *Flora of Australia Volume 2*, due to be completed later this year, which contains the taxonomic treatment of Lauraceae. It differs from most previous ABRs publications in being entirely devoted to plant anatomy, but should be useful to taxonomists in providing a whole new suite of characters to play with. It obviously will also be a key reference for palaeobotanists, as it contains descriptions as well as micrographs of venation and cuticle patterns for all known native Lauraceae in Australia (excluding *Cassytha*). The book will be available from ABRs for \$40 plus postage (postage and address as for Supplementary Series 5).

CHECKLIST VS CENSUS

There have recently been a couple of reviews of our Supplementary Series No. 4, *Bibliographic Checklist of Australian Non-Marine Algae*, by S.A. Day *et al.* in which the reviewers were critical because the book was not what they were expecting. As the forthcoming *Fungi Volume 2A* will be similar in many respects, it is timely to explain just what these books are intended to achieve. One thing that they are not, is a Census of their respective fields. This is made quite clear by their titles, and by the Introduction in each case.

In the Flora Section of ABRS we are now beginning the move away from consideration of the relatively well-known vascular flora to the cryptogamic flora, and to other non-vascular groups. When we began planning for the *Algae of Australia* and the *Fungi of Australia* it was immediately obvious that few, if anyone, had a clear idea of the numbers of taxa of these groups in Australia. Ideally we would have liked to have produced a Census of Algae and a Census of Fungi for the country, setting out the accepted ("correct") names for algae and fungi, and a list of all their synonyms. However it soon became apparent that this was not possible, because for many groups few or no serious taxonomic studies had been carried out. All we have in these groups is a collection of reports of occurrences, of very mixed authority, of a scattering of taxa, many with poor or no voucher material preserved. These reports are distributed through the scientific and semi-scientific literature, as well as residing in the "grey" literature - reports of government and non-government organisations, theses, etc. To evaluate and provide reliable names for all these taxa will be the stuff of future ABRS granting initiatives and non-ABRS-initiated research by others, and when this is done a series of Censuses will be possible. In the meantime we need the first step, a list of all names that have been used in Australia, irrespective of reliability, and an index to the literature where these names have appeared. In due course all of these names will need to be accounted for in the *Algae of Australia* or *Fungi of Australia* taxonomic treatments, either as accepted names, synonyms, excluded names or *nomina incertae sedis*.

The book by Day *et al.* provides this first, critical step, to bring together in one place all (or most) of the scattered literature records. The authors went one step further, in providing indications of some of the synonymy, but made no claim to being comprehensive in this respect. They further acknowledged that some of the records were reasonably reliable, while others were based on not much more than "hearsay" evidence or best guesses of identity, often by crude matching with northern hemisphere taxa.

However, it is undisputable that these records do exist in the literature, and will have to be accounted for eventually. A culled list, based on an idiosyncratic assessment of likely reliability, would have been irresponsible and worse than useless.

ABRS will undoubtedly publish more of these "Bibliographic Checklists" or "Catalogues and Bibliographies", and will do so believing that they serve a very useful purpose as the first stage in the multi-step process of cataloguing our biodiversity. After the bibliographies will come more critical checklists, censuses and finally floras and revisional papers. The process is cumulative, with each successive researcher building on the work of the last. With many of the cryptogamic groups the starting point is much earlier than was the case with the vascular flora, but we will eventually get there, step by step.

CHEAP FLORAS

The Australian Government Publishing Service (AGPS) published all ABRS books until a couple of years ago. Currently they are running a half-price sale on all the ABRS titles that they published, and which are still in print. This includes the *Flora of Australia*, *Fauna of Australia*, *Flora & Fauna Handbooks* and *Zoological Catalogue*, but excludes those published by CSIRO Publishing. The books are available by mail order from AGPS Mail Order Sales, GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601, or over the counter at the Government Info Shops (formerly Government Bookshops) in the capital cities (and agencies at Parramatta, Townsville, Geelong and Albury). There is a toll free number for enquiries (132 447), and an Internet Home Page on <http://www.agps.gov.au>. This is a genuine sale, with some real bargains, and runs only until 31 July 1996, or while stocks last. Please note that this is a more-or-less disinterested public service announcement - I (and ABRS) get no commissions or kick backs at all - honest!

Tony Orchard
Executive Editor
ABRS Flora



**Australian
Botanical
Liaison
Officer**

models for the period of interest (-30Mya to present) were aired, and data presented on the distributions, and postulated geological correlates, of a number of plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate families and genera. Taxa with centres of origin and diversity in Australia are the most informative for the area. If any single message was coming strongly from the geologists, it was that continuity of emergent land surfaces in the area (particularly for the tectonic terranes) has probably been less than many taxonomists tend to assume, and that we need to be prepared to consider models of relatively recent distribution as an alternative to mid-Tertiary rafting.

A long, cold, dry English winter has given way to a late, cool English Spring. Daffodils have been and gone, and it's a bumper year for bluebells at time of writing. Spring is also the time of the Chelsea Flower Show, an extravaganza of garden design, spectacular temperate flowers, and high fashion (your ABLO wore a fetching umbrella, boots, and a demure little raincoat).

Like most ABLOs, I find myself in the last few months of my tenure, having done a fraction of what I'd planned, and torn between wanting to stay longer and looking forward to going home. Must say though, I am looking forward to a good (and safe) beef steak!

SOUTH-EAST ASIA BIOGEOGRAPHY WORKSHOP (AND ANIMATIONS).

In early March, the Natural History Museum and the South-East Asia Research Group of the Dept of Geology, University of London, held a joint two-day workshop on "Biogeography and Geological Evolution of South-East Asia".

The meeting was well-attended, and brought together a good mix of geologists, biogeographers, and marine and terrestrial taxonomists. The two or three main geological

Abstracts of the meeting are available from the SEA Research Group Web site at: <http://glsun2.gl.rhbnc.ac.uk>

Of particular interest at the meeting were demonstrations of two computer animations of Cenozoic tectonic history, one for the SE Asia area (from India and South China to New Guinea and northern Australia), and one for the SW Pacific (Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, and the eastern end of the island arc). Both are potentially very useful for teaching in biogeography and for just thinking about distributions in the area.

"Animated SE Asia reconstruction 0—50 Ma", can be downloaded from the SEARG Web site shown above, where retrieval and installation instructions are given. It will play on any PC or Mac that can run Microsoft powerpoint, although you do not need to have this loaded; a viewer program comes with the animation. You will need 8 Mb of free disk. Reconstructions are shown at 1M year intervals, and come with the proviso that the crustal blocks shown were not necessarily above water. The modelling is in a paleomagnetic reference frame, and is according to the preferred model of Robert Hall; it conflicts in some areas with alternate models (Pigram and others), which postulate a more complex series of island arcs and interactions with the Australian plate. A printed poster summarising the model in

six diagrams is available (also on disk in Coral Draw). To order this, or for further information on the animations, contact (email): robert.hall@gl.rhbc.ac.uk

Robert Hall at SEARG is interested in developing links with taxonomists working on groups in the SE Asian/Australasian region, and in hearing of biological distributional data which may have a bearing on reconstruction of the geological history (e.g. Australoid taxa with peripheral distributions northwards). A loose link group between Hall at Royal Holloway and several Kew botanists is looking at the possibility of publication of a collection of papers on the topic.

The second animation is "A Plate Tectonic Reconstruction of the Southwest Pacific 0—100 Ma", by C.Y. Yan and L.W. Kroenke, [in Berger, T., L.W. Kroenke, L. Mayer, et al., Proc. ODP, Sci. Results, 130: College Station, TX, 697-709, USA]. This reconstruction is in a hot-spot reference frame, and so is not entirely concordant with the previous. It does however cover the rifting between Australia, New Zealand, and New Caledonia, although not in great detail and still with large question marks over the degree of land emergence on the Lord Howe Rise and across the Queensland Plateau.

The animation consists of separate file for 'backwards' and 'forwards' directions in time, in two readable/executable files which can be run on any IBM-compatible PC that has a VGA monitor and at least 324Kb available memory. These files may be executed directly from your PC hard disk, providing you have about 9.0 Mb of disk space available (18 Mb for both files). SW Pacific Reconstruction is available over the Internet by anonymous ftp. Instructions (with thanks to Robert Hall) are:

Go to: ftp kiawe.soest.hawaii.edu
(or internet number 128.171.151.16)
Enter "anonymous" at the name/login prompt.
Enter your email address at the password prompt.

The ftp prompt (ftp>) should appear; enter as follows:

```
ftp> cd pub/kroenke
ftp> ls -l (list files)
ftp> get readme (copy readme file - useful info)
ftp> binary (set to binary mode)
ftp> get BACKWARD.EXE
      (copy the BACKWARD.EXE file)
ftp> get FORWARD.EXE
      (copy the FORWARD.EXE file)
ftp> bye (exit ftp)
```

After you receive the files, check their size to ensure they are the same as they were in the pub/kroenke directory (FORWARD.EXE is 8912810 bytes, BACKWARD.EXE is 8912606 bytes). You also may have to rename the files from BACKWARD.EXE and FORWARD.EXE (all uppercase) to backward.exe and forward.exe (all lowercase) before you download to your PC; for reasons best known to the little gods of computing they run better from lowercase. To run the reconstruction, type: forward <CR> or backward <CR>. To halt the reconstruction press the spacebar key. To continue the reconstruction press <CR>. To quit press the escape key. Enjoy!

The SW Pacific reconstruction is also stored in GIF files in a subdirectory called GIFFILE. Files MG000.GIF through MG999.GIF contain the reconstruction frames in 0.5 Ma increments. Files MGBTITLE.GIF, MGAUTHS.GIF, MGSUPP.GIF, and MGLABEL.GIF contain the title, author, support, and label frames, respectively. Software is available which will display, animate, or convert these files to various formats, including SUN RASterfile (ras) and Macintosh PICT picture file.

LINNEAN SOCIETY PREMISES UNDER THREAT.

Moves by the British Government to sell off its real estate, which were threatening the tenure of several learned societies at Burlington House,

London, appear to have receded over the last few weeks.

The Societies affected include the Linnean Society of London (founded 1788), The Geological Society (1807), the British Astronomical Association (1890), the Royal Society of Chemistry (1841), and the Society of Antiquaries (1707). They all occupy premises, originally provided by the state, in Burlington House on Piccadilly. Their libraries are used for research by thousands of scholars, their members are active in universities and academic institutions around the world, and their central location and commitment to science education means that their rooms provide meeting space and an administrative base for scores of societies, both amateur and professional.

The threat arose from the winding up of a Government property holdings company, and the sale of as much real estate as possible before government departments assume direct responsibility for their assets — and before the expected pre-election tax cuts. As part of this process the Government began investigating the tenures at Burlington House, and suggested that if the societies wished to continue in occupation they should buy the Government out, at a collective price of 10 million pounds. The societies have few assets other than the items of historical heritage which are their main *raison d'être*. In the case of the Linnean Society, the main asset is the irreplaceable library. Central London prices make the finding of other premises for the societies, singly or together, extremely unlikely.

The Society of Antiquaries was well placed to launch some urgent research on the legal issues, which revolve around the archaic articles of tenure, and whether these do or do not amount to a 'species of freehold' tenure. Many of the original documents are lost or obscure, but the societies now have built a strong case, with a supporting QC's opinion, that they do indeed have a form of freehold. They have rejected arbitration as a

means of settling the dispute and are awaiting the Government's next move with a fair degree of confidence.

NEWS FROM KEW.

KEW ARCHIVES CLOSED.

The Kew Archivist, Cheryl Piggott, has departed for another position, and due to staff shortages in the Library the RBG Archives are closed to visitors until a replacement is appointed. This is unlikely to be before about September. Special cases seeking access before then should forward a letter from the appropriate Pope or reigning Monarch well in advance of any intended visit, to request dispensation.

KEW HERBARIUM TECHNIQUES COURSE TO MALAYSIA.

Kew has taken its Herbarium techniques course off-shore again, this time to the Forestry Research Institute at Kepong, Malaysia. Three Kew staff attended. Participants came from Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak. There seems to be a market for this sort of thing.

KEW GARDENERS STRIKE OVER PERFORMANCE PAY.

Problems with assessment for performance pay for horticultural staff led to the first strike by Kew gardeners in 200 years, a one day stoppage on March 8th. The issues included the extent to which it is possible to measure performance and productivity for the full range of activities undertaken by horticulturalists, in a consistent and meaningful way that ties in with performance-based pay scales. The union ran picket lines and claimed a 95% turn-out by its members, although many staff are not in the union. Gardeners' pay rates currently start at 8,800 pounds/year (about

\$A18,000), and the gardeners' union, GMB, had claimed that some staff could get increases of as little as 0.9%. Management pointed out that actual pay increases last year averaged 6.5%. Negotiations since the strike have resolved the dispute with the lowest paid gardeners to get a minimum 2.6% increase.

£1.4 M FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY MUSEUM

Following on the lottery grant windfall of 21 million pounds for the Millenium Seedbank, RBG Kew has been awarded a grant of 1.4 million pounds from the National Heritage Lottery Fund towards restoration of the old Economic Botany Museum, more than half the sum needed. The revamped building will house exhibitions, including some which will allow display of economic botany specimens and objects that have been out of public view since 1989. The building will also provide classroom and office space for the Education section.

RUBIACEAE GRANT

RBG Kew has been awarded a private sector (Leverhulme Trust) grant of nearly 100,000 pounds over three years for biodiversity inventory and research on Rubiaceae in Malagasy (Madagascar). The family has approximately 800 species on the island, most of them endemic. The grant will fund collecting and processing of specimens initially, with follow-on publications to perhaps include identification manuals. Kew already has close collaborative links with Malagasy institutions in joint work on palms, orchids, and legumes.

SCIENCE VISITING GROUP REPORT ISSUED.

RBG Kew's recent scientific review (see ABLO Report in last ASBS Newsletter), conducted by a

body known as the Scientific Visitors' Group, has made its draft report, to which Kew is now responding.

The SVG report reaffirms the 'core mission' of botanical systematics, and broadly supports the range of scientific activities that Kew conducts under that aegis. It also indicates support for the Millenium Seed Bank project, which brings with it two new taxonomic positions.

The report does however call for target dates to be set for completion of the major regional Flora projects that Kew is involved with in South America, Africa, and Madagascar, the SVG apparently feeling that Kew is a little too involved in this side at the expense of primary taxonomic research. There has been some debate among staff about whether there is a real conflict of resources here or not.

The SVG report also calls for Kew to increase its collaboration with other institutions, nominating some of the other major herbaria in Europe and North America. Kew's response to the report points out that this is an overly 'northern' approach to collaboration, and that in fact Kew does have considerable and formal collaboration with indigenous institutions in several of the countries concerned, though not necessarily with other 'northern' herbaria also working in those countries.

The SVG lends support to current levels of funding for Kew, and in the staff meeting it was reported that Kew is the only one of 74 British 'Grant-in-Aid' (government funded) institutions that did not have a cut in its direct grant-in-aid baseline level last year.

Another issue addressed was staffing, in relation to the increasing ratio of short-term to permanent appointments, a trend that affects most scientific institutions in the UK and which is unlikely to be reversed. Also raised was the issue of loss of institutional knowledge when staff members with unique personal expertise retire; management

agreed that there is a need to identify susceptible areas well ahead of time and to make 'understudy' appointments in advance of such retirements.

Bob Mackinson

NEWS FROM FASTS

WORKING WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT

The Government is walking a thin line. It came to office promising new standards of honesty and probity, and saying that all election promises would be honoured. Now there are strong messages coming out that these promises are being reviewed, in light of the \$8 billion "black hole".

Ministers are confirming nothing and denying nothing, using the standard line of all Governments that things will be made clear on Budget night. And in some cases it seems that Ministers are trying to cause the maximum disturbance and uncertainty in their portfolio areas - the University sector is one such case. Minister for Science Peter McGauran has charted a safer path. FASTS has found him open to suggestions and ideas, even if he is not able to give pre-Budget commitments. Other science groups have also been impressed with his handling of the portfolio to date.

But as FASTS said to Minister McGauran last week, the real judgement will have to be reserved until Budget night, when the S&T community finds out how successful he has been in protecting his portfolio against the economic rationalists in Treasury and Finance.

THE NEW MINISTERS

FASTS has put several matters to Minister Peter McGauran, including a completely new approach

to the funding of R&D by industry, and FASTS' views on how responsibilities between ASTEC (now ASETEC), PMSEC and the Chief Scientist should be divided.

We have opened discussion on how scientists and technologists could play a part in the development of Australia, through involvement in the 42 Regional Development Organisations. These matters will be picked up in talks with Senator Grant Tambling, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development, and Minister McGauran, together.

CAREERS FOR SCIENTISTS

The limited career path for younger and middle-ranking Australian scientists existing on "soft" funding is a matter of continuing concern. We have discussed this with Minister McGauran, and recommended that ASETEC undertake a proper examination of the causes and solutions. One change which would help younger scientists would be to increase the size and duration of grants, and couple this with review process earlier in the term of the grant so that they would have more notice of the extension or termination of programs.

FASTS ANNUAL COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER

The FASTS Council will meet on November 21 in Canberra. Each Member Society is entitled to send one voting representative. The Minister for Science and Technology, the Hon Peter McGauran, has accepted our invitation to address Council. It is a valuable opportunity for Member Societies to have input in the formulation of FASTS' policy, and to make sure the concerns of ordinary members are understood.

NEW POLICY DOCUMENT

The revised FASTS Policy Document will be launched at Parliament House on Tuesday June

18 at 11 am, with formal presentation to Minister Peter McGauran. An invitation will shortly be sent to all Member Societies as well as relevant MPs and prominent representatives of science and technology organisations.

will have the opportunity to comment on the outcomes.

FASTS: THE SECOND DECADE

FASTS has established three new sub-committees under a 19 point plan adopted by the Board to prepare a revised Constitution, a revised Policy Document, and to analyse ways to ensure a strong membership and adequate funds to support its activities. Member Societies

FASTS ON THE WEB

The FASTS Web page contains all the basic information, including a list of Member Societies, contact points, the Policy Document, relevant speeches by politicians, newsletter and copies of our media releases.

The Web address is:

<http://bimbo.pharmacol.su.oz.au/fast/fastshome.html>

REVIEWS

'FLORA OF AUSTRALIA' VOL. 16: ELAEAGNACEAE, PROTEACEAE 1.

This is another volume in the excellent "Flora of Australia" series. This volume, which provides the first modern overview of the species of this important family in Australia, will be immense useful: even in South Africa my copy has been in some demand

The introductory chapters make for interesting reading, providing a broad background to the family. The review of the affinities of the family by Andrew Douglas provides a good overview to the subject. Douglas summarises the published information very well indeed: the temptation to proceed beyond the published information must have been strong. I for one would have liked to have the information summarised as a diagram, a 'hypothetical cladogram'. This would have been of great assistance to those cladists who

cannot think in any other mode than trees, and would have eased the non-cladists into a tree-thinking mode as well. The complete treatment of the family, including the non-Australian members, also greatly improved this chapter.

The chapter on the morphology is also excellent, written by the person who arguably knows most about the morphology in the family, but written for the non-morphologist. The chapter on the fossil record is somewhat long. This is clearly a result of the excellent Australian fossil record for the family, and the pivotal role which the family has played in unraveling the history of the Australian flora. I would have liked to have seen a bit more on the non-Australian fossil record - but that is my southern African bias coming out again. By contrast the chapter on the pollinators is rather short, and could have been developed more by including examples from further afield. Nonetheless, the tabulation of observed pollinators will be extremely useful. It is impressive how much use is made

commercially of Proteaceae! Curiously absent is a chapter on the ecology of Proteaceae, especially considering how much work has been done in Western Australia on their ecology: from the work on fire-survival adaptations, to the evolution and costs of serotiny.

I found the chapters which dealt only with Australian examples frustrating, in that they did not deal with the family as a whole: so much of the family is Australian that it would almost make sense to treat the treatment as of the family as a whole, rather than just a regional account with the ends that reach beyond the Australian continent lobbed off. But, that is the tension inherent in any regional flora account . . .

The taxonomic treatment claims to be conservative, to follow the classic Johnson and Briggs taxonomy. Yet many new changes are proposed, prominent of which are the publication of two new monotypic subfamilies (Bellendenoideae and Eidotheoideae) in the absence of a phylogenetic analysis. Monotypic taxa are difficult to support. They have to be sister to another taxon, and the argumentation for inclusion or exclusion from this taxon cannot be based on monophyly arguments. Thus there is rarely a phylogenetic reason for establishing a monophyletic taxon. If they are 'highly specialised' rather than 'primitive', then their 'sister-taxon' become paraphyletic. Since 'specialisation' is interpreted via the rooting of the cladogram, a notoriously inaccurate procedure, this reversal of interpretation cannot always be excluded. There remain only two reasons for recognising monotypic higher taxa: ignorance, when we do not know where to place the taxon and thus put it into a 'temporary' taxon; and distance arguments, when the group is too different from its sister for 'comfort' (whatever that may be). Both the new subfamilies appear to be based on the ignorance argument.

The taxonomic treatment follows the standard Flora format. Typification and nomenclature are

compact and brief; my only quibble is the dropping of the exclamation mark to indicate which type specimens had actually been seen. The brief descriptions, though frustrating to people wishing to extract morphological information from floras, are suitable for identification. I do appreciate the more detailed ecological notes, and the often long discussions on the variation in the species, and the reasons why some groups are recognised while others are not. I do, however, find the maps aggregated near the end of the volume frustrating. Some layout arrangement whereby they are kept with the species descriptions would make them so much easier to use. I would strongly recommend that future volumes include cladograms, where these are available, to indicate the relationships among the species in the genera, or the genera in the tribes, etc. These could fit easily in the 'discussion' section following the generic treatment, and would take up minimal additional space.

This is a beautifully produced volume, which is a pleasure to use. The colour illustrations are good, the line drawings informative, the printing excellent and on good paper, and I failed to find typos. The producers are to be congratulated on putting together such an excellent volume!

H.P. Linder, Bolus Herbarium, University of
Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700,
South Africa

NOTICES

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE THE 1996 COMMEMORATIVE CONFERENCE 29 SEPTEMBER TO 5 OCTOBER

'The 1996 Commemorative Conference' is to be held in conjunction with 'Proteaceae: a Symposium on the Biology of Proteaceae' and 'Mycology: the First Australasian Mycological Conference'. 'The 1996 Commemorative Conference' includes two parts: 'The Scientific Savant in Nineteenth Century Australia: a Celebration of the Life, Times and Legacy of Ferdinand von Mueller' and 'Beyond the Floras'.

ASBS is supporting, and will meet in conjunction with, 'Beyond the Floras'. See you there!

REGISTRATION

Registrations will be accepted up to the start of the conference but we recommend registering as soon as possible ('early-bird' registrations closed 31 May). Please try to register by 23 August. Brochure and registration forms available from Michael Sullivan (details below).

Note one error on the registration form. The Queen's Hall reception—which promises to be a gala evening and terrific value—is on Wednesday 2nd October (not Tuesday).

PAPERS AND POSTERS

Abstracts were due 31 May. If you missed this deadline but want to contribute a paper or poster please contact Tim Entwisle immediately (inclusion will depend upon space being available

in the program). The session topics are a guide only and should be interpreted as broadly as possible.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

ASBS will provide some travel assistance for students presenting talks or posters. Eligible students should complete the appropriate part of registration form. The amount of assistance provided will depend on distance travelled, and will not cover full expenses. The money will be made available at, or soon after, the conference.

FURTHER INFORMATION

HOMEPAGE:

<http://www.science.unimelb.edu.au/botany/www.confand/conference.html>

REGISTRATION FORMS & BROCHURE:

Michael Sullivan, ph: 03-9344 4490,
fax: 03-9344 6122,
email: m.sullivan@pb.unimelb.edu.au.

PROGRAM:

Tim Entwisle, ph: 03-9252 2313,
fax: 03-9252 2350,
email: entwisle@botany.unimelb.edu.au

PROTEACEAE CONFERENCE:

Andrew Douglas, ph: 03-9252 2361,
fax: 03-9252 2350,
email: adouglas@ariel.ucl.unimelb.edu.au

MYCOLOGY CONFERENCE:

Tom May, ph: 03-9252 2319,
fax: 03-9252 2350.

CONFERENCE NOTICE

World Heritage Tropical Forests Conference -
Science for Better Management and
Understanding.

Cairns 2-6 September 1996

An opportunity for natural scientists, social scientists, forest conservation managers, traditional land owners, government policy makers, tourism operators and the community to better understand and protect some of the world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage sites.

Contact: Nathalie Looyen
World Heritage Tropical Forests Conference
P.O. Box 1280
MILTON
Qld 4064
tel (07) 33690477
fax (07) 33691512

CORRIGENDUM

Laurie Adams has picked up an error of omission in his article "Parnassum Botanicum Revisum". On page 9 under **I. Starting Points for Valid Publications of Names**, the date 1 May 1753 should have included Spermatophyta.

REMINDER

ASBS Sales have a limited supply of 'Ecology of the Southern Conifers', edited by Neal Enright and Robert Hill, for sale at a reduced price to members.

Proceedings of a symposium at the ASBS conference in Hobart in 1993. Twenty-eight

scholars from across the hemisphere examine the history and ecology of the southern conifers, and emphasise their importance in understanding the evolution and ecological dynamics of southern vegetation.

Recommended retail price: \$79.95. Special offer to ASBS members: \$60 plus \$12 p&p.

ASBS Sales can be found at ABRS, Franklin Building, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, or by post to :

Katy Mallett
ASBS Sales
GPO Box 636
Canberra, ACT, 2601.

ADELAIDE EMAIL ADDRESSES

News from Robyn Barker that AD has moved into the electronic age with staff now having their lives permanently altered by connection to email. They are all of the same format i.e.

rbarker@btg.lands.sa.gov.au

Just the names change. These are expressed as follows: bbarker, lhaegi, jjessop, htoelken, bchinnock, amunir, gbell.

Robyn Barker

SEaweEDS OF QUEENSLAND

A Naturalists' Guide

Queensland has one of the most attractive coastlines in the world, with sandy beaches, rocky shores, coral reefs and offshore islands. Increasingly, residents and visitors want to be able to "put a name" to what they see in this fascinating environment. Corals, fish and other marine animals are becoming more familiar. Now there is the opportunity to learn to recognise the plants of this marine habitat - the seaweeds.

Seaweeds of Queensland is by Dr Alan Cribb, a lecturer and research scientist with more than 45 years of experience in studying seaweeds and other plants. The 130 pages are lavishly illustrated with 168 colour photographs; these, with the notes indicating important features of the plants and their habitats, will enable the reader to identify most of the prominent seaweeds along our shores and coral reefs.

The book is published by The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc. which has encouraged the study, appreciation and preservation of the State's flora and fauna for ninety years.

SEaweEDS OF QUEENSLAND

Price \$15.00 plus postage and packing \$3.00.

*Cheques should be made out to the Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc.
Enquiries ring (07) 3365 2300 or (07) 3374 1978.*

To: The Queensland Naturalists' Club Inc.
c/o Dr P.F. Woodall
Dept. of Anatomical Sciences
The University of Queensland, Qld 4072

Please forward..... copies of the **Seaweed of Queensland** to:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Encloses is a cheque for \$

PERSONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM DARWIN HERBARIUM

Phone numbers in the Northern Territory are in the process of change. Numbers will have an extra 2 digits by prefixing all existing numbers with 89. The area code for the Northern Territory will

be 08. Numbers have been corrected on the backpage of this Newsletter.

Philip Short has arrived to take up the position of botanist in the Herbarium. His new phone number is (08) 8999 4514. He may have unwittingly also stepped into some extra duties such as editor of the newsletter.

FOR SALE

Ewart, A.J. *Flora of Victoria*. University Press, Melbourne. (1930)

von Mueller, F. *Key to the System of Victorian Plants*. Government Printer, Melbourne. (Vol. I, 1887-1888; Vol. II, 1885). Binding poor. Vol. II autographed "Ferd. von Mueller, Christmas 1886".

Godfrey, M.J. *Monograph and Iconograph of Native British Orchidaceae*. University Press, Cambridge. (1933). Excellent condition, original dust jacket; 57 coloured plates.

Wallace, Alfred Russel. *Geographical Distribution of Animals*. Vols I and II. Macmillan, London. (1876).

Gould, J. Original print, framed, "*Phalangista fuliginosa* Ogilby" Tasmanian brush-tailed possum. From *The Mammals of Australia*. London (1863).

Telephone John Thomson at (02) 8742435 after 7.30 pm on week nights, or any time during week ends.

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.
\$30 plus \$10 p. & p.

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 contributions is sometimes overlooked (Buchanan, Wilhelm).

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.

The 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.

Ecology of the Southern Conifers

Edited by Neal Enright and Robert Hill.

ASBS members: \$60 plus \$12 p&p; non-members \$79.95.

Proceedings of a symposium at the ASBS conference in Hobart in 1993. Twenty-eight scholars from across the hemisphere examine the history and ecology of the southern conifers, and emphasise their importance in understanding the evolution and ecological dynamics of southern vegetation.

Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter

Back issues of the *Newsletter* are available from Number 27 (May 1981) onwards, excluding Number 29 and 31. Here is the chance to complete your set. Cover prices are \$3.50 (Number 27-59, excluding Number 53) and \$5. (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:

Katy Mallett
A.S.B.S. Sales
Flora section A.B.R.S.
G.P.O. Box 636
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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:

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1996 subscription

Arrears (for years)

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Subscription to CSIRO journals
(see Newsletter 85:20-21)

Total (cheque enclosed for this amount)

Return to: Dr P. Wilson
Honorary Treasurer, A.S.B.S. Inc.
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SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000.
Tel: (02) 231-8131

Darwin

Clyde Dunlop
Northern Territory Herbarium
Parks & Wildlife Commission of the N.T.

Telephone and Fax Numbers for Major Australian Herbaria

International dialing sequence from outside Australia:-
add the Australian country code 61 and omit the leading zero of the area code.

AD Ph: (08) 228 2311 Fax: (08) 223 1809	BRI Ph: (07) 3896 9321 Fax: (07) 3896 9624	HO Ph: (002) 202 635 Fax: (002) 207 865	MBA Ph: (070) 921 555 Fax: (070) 923 593
CANB Ph: (06) 246 5108 Fax: (06) 246 5249	CBG Ph: (06) 250 9450 Fax: (06) 250 9599	MEL Ph: (03) 9252 2300 Fax: (03) 9252 2350	NSW Ph: (02) 231 8111 Fax: (02) 251 7231
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ABRS

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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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Gordon Guymer

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