

ASBS INC BUSINESS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated will be held in association with the Flora Malesiana conference to be held in Sydney from 9th to 14th September, 2001.

Council Elections

In accordance with the Society's Constitution, nominations are hereby called for all positions on the Council for the 2001-2002 term of office: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two councillors. The current Secretary, Robyn Barker is not eligible for re-election, but all other office-bearers are eligible.

Each nomination must be proposed by two financial members, and the nominee's acceptance of the nomination must accompany the nomination form.

Nominations must be made on the form included in this *Newsletter* or a facsimile of it. All nominations must be in the hands of the returning officer (Robyn Barker) by Friday 25th May, 2001.

Hansjorg Eichler Scientific Research Fund Awards

Congratulations are due to the successful applicants in the last round of applications. These were

- Bryan Mole, School of Botany, University of Melbourne for scanning electron microscopy work on *Phebalium* and related genera
- Juergen Kellermann, School of Botany, University of Melbourne for preliminary molecular analysis

work on the generic limits of Australian Rhamnaceae

- Mary Gandini of James Cook University for work on the population biology and taxonomic status of *Rhododendron lochiaie* F.Muell.

Hansjorg Eichler Scientific Research Fund Applications

Applications to the Hansjorg Eichler Scientific Research Fund will close on August 31st 2001.

Applications are welcomed from all current financial members of the Australian Systematic Botany Society. The project must contribute to Australian systematic botany, must be carried out within Australia and the applicant must be attached to an Australian research institute.

The maximum grant awarded will be \$1000. Large capital items will not be considered.

Students, recent graduates and postgraduates will be given preference. Applications will be assessed on the quality of the applicant and the proposed project. The project should be clearly defined in scope and preferably result in a publication.

The Grant Application Form is available from the ASBS Web site <http://155.187.10.12/asbs/eichler/eichler.html> from where it can be saved as an electronic file, or from the Secretary of ASBS.

NOMINATION FORM

Australian Systematic Botany Society
Election of Council members for 2001-2002

Note: 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, 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 Friday, 25th May 2001.

Secretary: Mrs R.M.Barker
C/- State Herbarium of South Australia

Plant Biodiversity Centre
P.O. Box 2732
KENT TOWN S.A. 5071

Phone: (08) 8222 9348 Fax: (08) 8222 9353

ABRS REPORT

ABRS Director

The new Director of ABRS is Ian Cresswell, who has previously served as Director Flora under the old ABRS structure. Ian has most recently been working in Montreal in the Secretariat to the Convention of Biological Diversity, developing the Global Taxonomy Initiative. He officially took up his new responsibilities from 21 December.

Staff Changes

Jane Mowatt left on January 15th, after 10 years with ABRS. She accepted a voluntary redundancy offer following the ABRS staff cuts. Her final day was 15 January. We all wish her well in the future and thank her for her years of dedicated service, and her enthusiastic advocacy for ABRS in particular, and environmental issues in general.

Publications

Marine Plants of Australia by John Huisman (joint publication with University of Western Australia Press).

This book is devoted to the benthic marine plants of Australia. Over 300 species are illustrated, mostly photographed in their natural habitat. Although this represents only a small portion of the entire marine plant flora, the majority of the species included are those that are commonly encountered. (From the *Introduction*)

The main systematic section describes Algae and flowering plants. Generic descriptions are provided, with illustrations of one or more representative species. Specific information includes type locality, distribution and a guide to further reading.

There are also chapters on the history of marine botany in Australia, uses of marine plants and collection and display.

The book costs \$82.50 and is available from UWA Press and bookshops.

Species Plantarum Flora of the World
(published by ABRS for IOPI)

Two additional parts of *Species Plantarum, Flora of the World*, were published on 26 March: Part 4 Schisandraceae by Richard M.K. Saunders (2 genera, 39 spp.) and Part 5 Prioniaceae by S.L.Munro, J.Kirschner & H.P.Linder (1 genus, 1 sp.). They are available from ABRS for \$18.70 and \$7.95 respectively, including postage and GST.

Standing Order customers receive a 20% discount on the above prices, and will shortly receive a notification of their availability and a proforma invoice. All proceeds are ploughed back into publication of future parts.

If you are not already on the Standing Order list, please consider joining. It is still possible to get a full set of published parts for an affordable price.

The next part, currently being edited, will be the first half of Juncaceae, and will cover some 250 species. The second half (about 250 spp. more) will follow very shortly afterwards.

The address for orders or enquiries is: ABRS (Publications), GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601,

Australia, or enquiries can be sent by email to the Editor at tony.orchard@ea.gov.au

Tony Orchard
ABRS Vascular Flora & Algae

[Please note that the views expressed in the letter by Alex George in the last newsletter were not necessarily those of ABRS – *Editor*]

ABLO REPORT

So, this is Spring and Winter has come and gone - supposedly. Here in England we bumble from one adverse situation or crisis to another. If it is not another train crash, then the statistics on the numbers of red lights run by train drivers reads like a script for a horror movie. Stations are closed, signal failures, landslips on the lines, flooding of stations, escalators that refuse to cooperate. And so it can go on.

Then, of course, everyone has put their foot and mouth in it. It is all under control we are assured by the Ministry, but each day there are more and more cases. After much procrastination, the Military Police have been drafted in to help! Mind you, with unseasonal dumpings of snow, to see them wander around in their white overalls and boots, dark eyes and red berets, all one needs is a carrot for a nose and it could be Christmas all over again. Except that it is raining.

Yes, it still rains here in England. Occasionally there has been this strange blue colour amongst the grey clouds.

And there have also been reported sightings of a strange bright ball in the sky. There is nobody around with a memory long enough to know what it is, but ancient legends would have it as something called a "sun". Anyway, down to business.

Christmas has come and gone. Just after the celebrations it snowed in London, There is something about the English scene in the snow that looks so much like a lot of the Christmas cards at home! Despite the season, the Gardens still maintains its attractions for visitors. Mulled wine, fruit mince pies, carols by the Palm House at night (I did feel for the musicians trying to work their fingers and keep their lips from freezing on the brass instruments). Even the last of the apple display was changed to be a seasonal thing. The artificial snow on the fruit inside the conservatory was matched by the real snow outside.

More recently, there has been a wonderful display of orchids coinciding with the annual Orchid Festival. In

excess of 25000 sprays of orchids sent in from the Gardens in Singapore, together with the Kew contribution of potted specimens, made a wonderful display which attracted thousands of fee paying visitors.

The Spring Crocus carpet (1.6 million bulbs provided by Readers Digest) with its expanse of white and deep purple and all shades in between (the geese eat the yellow flowers) was really superb. Along the Broad Walk (and in other parts of the Gardens) there are zillions of daffodils in flower. And the buds on the trees are bursting. So, soon it will all be green instead of the skeletal remains of previous year's experience.

The number of requests has remained steady. Some of these are much easier to deal with than others, as one would expect. There is a continual process of arrangement, rearrangement, filing, return of loans, preparation of loans, mounting, the build-up of specimens waiting to be data-based and filed - all of this does present its hazards when trying to locate specimens. Bagging and freezing of parts of the collections to try and control insect infestations is also another occupational hazard.

In the middle of all this has come the decision to move part of the collection (it will amount to something in excess of 250000 sheets) to the Wakehurst establishment. Kew is bursting at the seams. Which sheets or what section to shift has provided a considerable amount of discussion. The Legumes, as an entire group, was one suggestion. When the "temporary" move comes, it will make life exceedingly inconvenient. No staff will be based with the specimens and no research facilities provided at Wakehurst. Any requests for material (reference or research) will require someone from Kew going to Wakehurst, retrieving the material, bagging it and returning it to Kew for freezing before it becomes accessible (and then reversing the process when the work is finished). This inconvenience is likely to last for at least 4 years until alternative

arrangements (hopefully a new building extension) can be made. This will pose another potential difficulty for succeeding ABLOs for the next few years.

Recent visitors have included Bob Harwood (Spermacoce) and Judy West (Portulacaceae). Judy was also here at Kew as part of a Science Review Assessment team, examining the present activities at Kew and plans for the future.

There has been a degree of discussion back and forth regarding a replacement ABLO. Clearly, there remains considerable difficulty in getting volunteers. Perhaps it is time to do some lateral thinking. As part of the on again, off again scenario with regard to me staying on here in Kew until a replacement can be arranged, may I make the following comments about ABLO.

Firstly, there needs to be a significant improvement in the liaison between ABRS and the ABLO (prospective, incoming, current). An office (person) needs to have a pro-active role to ensure a smooth preparation for the incoming person and to maintain a good contact with the incumbent.

Secondly, as it seems either difficult or almost impossible for Departments to approve Herbarium staff members' release for overseas duty, and Herbaria are not given the funds to employ temporary back-up, an alternative might be: Link the ABLO position to a Post-Doctoral Fellowship. There are in place various inter-Governmental (Aus.-UK) agreements by which scientific research projects are already carried out. A Post-Doctoral ABLO study for 2 years would allow the incumbent to carry out a decent research project as well as service the ABLO role. It would also take the staffing pressure off Herbaria.

Thirdly, while I appreciate the difficulty in obtaining research funds, if the role of ABLO is seen to be important to the botanical community in Australasia and in the UK (and I have no reason to doubt this), perhaps

the Academy of Science (and any other body in Australia) should be pressured into lobbying the Government to provide adequate funding for a post-doctoral ABLO appointment, thereby hopefully relieving the funding pressure from ABRIS.

So, with those thoughts, while I gaze out at the grey skies and the 100% chance of rain promised by the weather man (yes, he is not wrong), and continue to smile at the security cameras, I will sign off for now.

Rod Seppelt

Translation of Chinese Botanical Materials

Hayden Wetzel, of Washington DC, has worked for twenty years as a free-lance translator for the Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, translating botanical materials from Chinese to English. With retirement from his full-time job approaching, he would be happy to take on work from botanists and other researchers from outside the Washington area as well.

At the Smithsonian he has worked for Laurence Rog, Richard Eyde, Thomas Soderstrom, Francis Huber, and Anna Weitzman, and has published translations in Contributions from the New York Botanical Gardens. Presently he is working on a Chinese-English-Latin word list of botanical terms, which he hopes to publish, there being no such reference presently available.

His charge is US\$6 per hundred English words, which means that the introduction and key of an article he recently completed, totalling 13 pages of the Chinese original, billed at US\$450. He has also translated specimen labels, and once reviewed the Chinese version of a paper by a Smithsonian curator to judge its fidelity to the original.

Once he has a copy of the original material, completed translations can be returned by email or on diskette.

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ARTICLES

A Wombat of a Man – Clyde Dunlop

Many readers of this newsletter would already know that Clyde Dunlop has retired as curator of the Northern Territory Herbarium (DNA). On 22 December last year many staff of the Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory and various other friends and colleagues of Clyde's gathered in the herbarium for a farewell function. The following article is a combination

of Greg Leach's speech and various notes on Clyde's career compiled by Philip Short and Ian Cowie.

Clyde was born in Brisbane on 26 January 1946 and graduated from the Australian National University with a degree in forestry. In July 1970 he took a position as botanist in the Northern Territory Herbarium in Alice

Springs.

At the time of Clyde's arrival in 1970 Alice Springs was the location of the major herbarium in the Northern Territory, with Darwin having a minor regional collection. He worked in Alice with such notables as Peter Latz, John Maconochie and Des Nelson. Within a couple of years he had the option for a move to Darwin. This was to take over the only botanical post in Darwin that was being vacated by Norm Byrnes. Unfortunately he arrived in time to experience Cyclone Tracey.

At the time Clyde moved to Darwin the flora of the Top End was perhaps the least known in Australia. There was no one who knew the Top End flora in a western scientific sense, the specialised plants of the western Arnhem Land Plateau were almost unknown and large sections of the Top End were uncollected. There were few specimens – only about 3,500 – in the herbarium, and the only major botanical reference works were Bentham's *Flora australiensis* – about 100 years old – and Ewart & Davies' *Flora of the Northern Territory*, a work published in 1917 but largely based on Bentham's earlier publication.

Clyde devoted his working life and a good proportion of his spare time to improving this situation. Through his efforts, and of course those of interstate botanists and colleagues who subsequently joined him at the herbarium in Darwin, today our checklist of the NT flora lists approximately 4,400 species, a massive increase on the 2,700 species listed in George Chippendale's checklist published in 1971.

At the time Clyde took over the running of the herbarium in Darwin the combined total of herbarium specimens for Alice Springs and Darwin was a little over 40,000. Today there are about 220,000 collections in Darwin (DNA) and Alice Springs (NT), most of these being in DNA following the removal of the bulk of the specimens from NT in 1989. The general curation of

these specimens was Clyde's responsibility.

The data-basing of the herbarium specimens in DNA and NT was commenced about 20 years ago and it is thanks largely to Clyde's activities that we now enjoy the utility of a fully databased herbarium collection – an achievement that has yet to be realised in many other Australian herbaria. Two major reference works dealing with the Top End flora (*Flora of the Darwin Region, Vol. 2* and *Floodplain Flora*) have been published under his leadership.

Clyde achieved a significant milestone of making over 10,000 personal herbarium collections – and many thousand more with the numerous colleagues that spent field time with him. This must put him into a similar iconic league as Allan Border! No fewer than 39 of these collections are type specimens.

But what of the real Clyde Dunlop?

Clyde is an intensely personal and private person and is genuinely embarrassed when confronted with accolades. He was so private about his working life in Darwin that his mother sought photographs of him at work because she did not know what he did! It takes a trip out bush for one to see something of the real Clyde.

There are very few people that can compare with Clyde in terms of his insight and knowledge of the flora of the Top End. This is an insight that does not come from throwing around quadrats and doing complex statistics. It comes from being in the field – but being in the field with your eyes open and with a very perceptive mind that reads what is in front of you. Clyde has added to that a personal time scale of observation that few of us will ever realise in one place.

Perhaps Clyde's most notable personal trait is his no-nonsense approach to things. This has applied to everything from botany and his dislike of subspecific ranks to his dislike of bureaucracy, especially formal

meetings and to keeping the menu simple on bush trips (i.e. a steady diet of Fray Bentos Steak and Kidney Pie). It has also been manifest in his essentials-only management style. Hand in hand with this no-nonsense approach has been his ability to see the big picture, to see what is important for the herbarium and botany in the NT and guide it in that direction. However, he has always been willing to let interested people have a go with the result that some former volunteers are now useful and productive members of staff.

Despite the view of many of the monastic style of living in the herbarium, Clyde has been a fiercely loyal corporate spirit to the Commission. Whenever an idea is bounced off Clyde, the response will be a rare blend of pragmatism, dry laconic humour, “hooley dooley” dunlopisms and an absolute sense of what is the right thing to do for the organisation. Anyone failing Clyde’s incredibly high standards would be relegated to being “just another poor bastard”. These standards were just expected – never imposed – and such was Clyde’s status that these standards of both behaviour and work, with very few exceptions – were always achieved. Perhaps the one time his high standards got in the way was when he initially refused to sign a somewhat inaccurate confession during a period of incarceration on Wetar Island in Indonesia.

A journalist, after having been in the field with Clyde, described him as a “wombat of a man”! This seems perhaps very unfair on wombats – it is assumed the analogy related to the stocky build of both – although one can perhaps think of other characteristics, both morphological and behavioral, that might apply. However, it is really unfair to compare the two because it is unlikely there is a wombat made that is as solid in character as Clyde.

Clyde, for most of his first ten years in the Top End the only resident botanist, frequently drove visiting taxonomists around on bush trips, loaned them his

vehicle, and often fed them and accommodated them at his home. This was always appreciated and is reflected in this list of assorted trips, tributes and highlights of his career.

June 1978

Arnhem Land sandstone plateau with Sherwin Carlquist, Tom Henshall and Peter Latz

“I ... express my thanks to these individuals, whose knowledge of Australian topography and botany proved very helpful. In particular, Mr Dunlop was very helpful not only by sharing his knowledge, but my making equipment and supplies available.”

[Carlquist, *Aliso* 9: 413 (1979).]

May 1980

“*Utricularia dunlopii*, named with great pleasure in honour of Clyde Dunlop who, by his numerous and careful collections of northern Australian *Utricularia*, has in recent years contributed enormously to our knowledge of these plants and who also, by his generous assistance and carefully planned programme, enabled me to see most of the Northern Territory species in the brief space of two weeks in May 1980.”

[Peter Taylor, *The genus Utricularia*, p. 165 (1989).]

1984

“The species is named after Mr C. R. Dunlop ... whose knowledge, collections and co-operation have been invaluable to research on the flora of northern Australia.”

[*Micraira dunlopii* Lazarides, *Nuytsia* 5 (2): 291 (1984).]

1985–1986

Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew

1988

“... in honour of Clyde Dunlop ... who has a tremendous knowledge of tropical plants and has contributed immensely to the botanical knowledge of the Northern Territory.”

[*Cheilanthes dunlopii* D. L. Jones, *Austrobaileya* 2: 470

(1988).]

1990

“... honours Mr Clyde R. Dunlop, whose collections have contributed much to further our understanding of this difficult genus.”

[*Fimbristylis dunlopia* Latz, *Nuytsia* 7: 166 (1990).]

May 1993

Imprisoned with Greg Leach on Wetar Island by Indonesian authorities.

1995

“... in honour of Clyde R. Dunlop ... a keen observer of the eucalypts of the ‘Top End’.”

[*Corymbia dunlopiana* K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson, *Nuytsia* 6: 354 (1995).]

April 1996

Gregory National Park, in charge of the 1996 Mueller commemorative expedition.

“... a wombat of a man with just the right mix of dry humour, strategic skills and inner calm.”

[Burdon, *Australian Geographic* 47: 51 (1997).]

1999

“... honours Clyde Dunlop ... who has made many important collections of this taxon and other species of *Lithomyrtus*.”

[*Lithomyrtus dunlopia* N.Snow & Guymer, *Austrobaileya* 5: 186 (1999).]

2000

“... in honour of Clyde R. Dunlop ... whose collections have brought to light many new species from the Kakadu Escarpment.”

[*Grevillea dunlopia* Makinson, *Flora of Australia* 17A: 494 (2000).]

Eponomy

Cheilanthes dunlopia D.L.Jones

Corymbia dunlopiana K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson

Fimbristylis dunlopia Latz

Grevillea dunlopia Makinson

Lithomyrtus dunlopia N.Snow & Guymer

Micraira dunlopia Lazarides

Pluchea dunlopia Hunger

Sauropus dunlopia J.T.Hunter & J.J.Bruhl

Stylidium dunlopianum Carlquist

Utricularia dunlopia P.Taylor

Publications

1973

van Cuylenburg, H. R. M. & Dunlop, C. R. (1973). Land Units of the 17 Mile Plain, Melville Island, N.T. *Animal Industry & Agric. Branch, N.T. Administration, Darwin Technical Bulletin* 14.

1975

Dunlop, C. R., Latz, P. K. & Maconochie, J. R. (1975). A botanical survey of Elcho Island. *Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin* 1: 1–61.

1978

Brooker, M. I. H. & Dunlop, C. R. (1978). Three new species of *Eucalyptus* and notes on *E. tectifera* F.Muell. in the Northern Territory. *Australian Forest Research* 8: 209–217.

1979

Dunlop, C. R. (1979). Botany of Maria Island, Gulf of Carpentaria. *Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin* 2: 1–14.

Wells, M. R., van Cuylenburg, H. R. M. & Dunlop, C. R. (1979). *Land Systems of the Western Half of Melville Island, N.T.* (Report of the Land Conservation Unit, Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, Darwin, N.T.).

1980

Dunlop, C. R. (1980). *Dichromchlamys*, a new genus in Asteraceae (Astereae). *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 2: 235–239.

Dunlop, C. R. (1980). A revision of *Ixiochlamys* (Asteraceae: Astereae). *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 2: 241–252.

Dunlop, C. R. & Begg, R. J. (1980). Checklist of vascular plants, Little Nourlangie Rock, Kakadu National Park, N.T. *Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin* 3: 12–25.

1981

Dunlop, C. R. (1981). A revision of the genus *Streptoglossa* (Asteraceae: Inuleae). *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 3: 167–182.

Dunlop, C. R. (1981). *Allopterigeron*, a new genus in Asteraceae (Inuleae). *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 3: 183–186.

Dunlop, C. R. & Begg, R. J. (1981). The small mammals of Little Nourlangie Rock, N.T. I. Description of study site. *Australian Wildlife Research* 8: 51–56.

1985

Taylor, J. A. & Dunlop, C. R. (1985). Plant communities of the Wet–Dry Tropics of Australia: the Alligator Rivers Region. *Proceedings of the Ecological Society of Australia* 13: 83–127.

1986

Dunlop, C. R. & Bowman, D. M. J. S. (1986). *Atlas of the Vascular Plant Genera of the Northern Territory*. (Australian Flora & Fauna Series, no. 6). (AGPS: Canberra)

1987

Dunlop, C. R. (Ed.) (1987). Checklist of the Vascular

Plants of the Northern Territory. *Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Technical Report* 26.

1988

Dickinson, K. J. M. & Dunlop, C. R. (1988). Assessment of Kakadu Stage 3 and the Kakadu Conservation Zone for World Heritage Listing on the basis of vegetation and floristics. *Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Technical Report* 45: 55–69.

1989

Gillett, J. G., Dunlop, C. R. & Miller, I. L. (1989). Occurrence, origin, weed status and control of water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes* L.) in the Northern Territory. *Plant Protection Quarterly* 3: 144–148.

1991

Dunlop, C. R. (1991). The genus *Pleurocarpaea* Benth. (Asteraceae: Vernoniaeae). *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 14: 93–98.

Dunlop, C. R. & Webb, L. J. (1991). Flora and vegetation. In Haynes, C. D. Ridpath, M. G. & Williams, M. A. J. (Eds). *Monsoonal Australia: Landscape, Ecology and Man in the Northern Lowlands*. (A. A. Balkema: Rotterdam). pp. 41–60.

1992

Craven, L. A. & Dunlop, C. R. (1992). A taxonomic revision of *Pachynema* (Dilleniaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 5: 477–500.

Dunlop, C. R. & Done, C. C. (1992). *Eucalyptus ordiana* (Myrtaceae), a new species from the Kimberley, Western Australia. *Nuytsia* 8: 195–199.

Leach, G. J., Dunlop, C. R., Barritt, M. J., Latz, P. K. & Sammy, N. (1992). Northern Territory Plant Species of Conservation Significance. *Northern Territory Botanical*

Bulletin 13: 1–65.

1995

Dunlop, C. R., Leach, G. J. & Cowie, I. D. (1995). *Flora of the Darwin Region*. (Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory: Darwin). Vol. 2.

Dunlop, C. R., Leach, G. J., Latz, P. K., Barritt, M. J., Cowie, I. D. & Albrecht, D. E. (1995). *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Northern Territory, Australia*. (Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory: Darwin).

1996

Conn, B. J., Brown, E. A. & Dunlop, C. R. (1996). Loganiaceae. *Flora of Australia* 28: 1–2.

Dunlop, C. R. (1996). *Mitrasacme*, *Schizacme*, *Phyllangium*. *Flora of Australia* 28: 29–62, 308–315.

1997

Griffiths, A. D., Woinarski, J. C. Z., Armstrong, M. D., Cowie, I. D., Dunlop, C. R. & Horner, P. G. (1997). Biological Survey of Litchfield National Park. *Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, Technical Report* 62.

2000

Cowie, I. D., Armstrong, M. D., Woinarski, J. C. Z., Brocklehurst, Short, P. S. & Dunlop, C. R. (2000). An overview of the floodplain. In I. D. Cowie, P. S. Short, & M. Osterkamp Madsen. *Floodplain Flora. A Flora of the Coastal Floodplains of the Northern Territory, Australia*. (Flora of Australia Supplementary Series Number 10). (Australian Biological Resources Study: Canberra). pp. 1–33.

Dunlop, C. R. (2000). Asteraceae. In Cowie, I. D., Short, P. S. & Madsen, M. O. *Floodplain Flora. A flora of the coastal floodplains of the Northern Territory, Australia*. (Flora of Australia Supplementary Series Number 10).

(Australian Biological Resources Study: Canberra). pp. 180–189.

New taxa

Genera

Allopterigeron Dunlop [Asteraceae]

Dichromochlamys Dunlop [Asteraceae]

Phyllangium Dunlop [Loganiaceae]

Schizacme Dunlop [Loganiaceae]

Subgenera

Mitrasacme subg. *Schizogyne* Dunlop

Species

Eucalyptus ordiana Dunlop & Done

E. koolpinensis Brooker & Dunlop

E. kombolgiensis Brooker & Dunlop

E. lucens Brooker & Dunlop

Ixiochlamys filicifolia Dunlop

I. integerrima Dunlop

Mitrasacme aggregata Dunlop

M. clarksonii Dunlop

M. epigaea Dunlop

M. floribunda Dunlop

M. galbina Dunlop

M. geniculosa Dunlop

M. glaucescens Dunlop

M. graminea Dunlop

M. inornata Dunlop

M. kenneallyi Dunlop

M. laxiceps Dunlop

M. maritima Dunlop

M. nelderi Dunlop

M. nidulifera Dunlop

M. oasena Dunlop

M. patens Dunlop

M. retroloba Dunlop

M. scopata Dunlop

M. scritchicola Dunlop
M. secedens Dunlop
M. troglodytica Dunlop
Pachynema diffusum Craven & Dunlop
P. hooglandii Craven & Dunlop
P. praestans Craven & Dunlop
Phyllangium sulcatum Dunlop
Pleurocarpaea fasciculata Dunlop
Streptoglossa tenuiflora Dunlop

Varieties

Mitrasacme nudicaulis var. *citrina* Dunlop

New names

Mitrasacme squamigera Dunlop

New combinations & stat. novs

Subgenera

Mitrasacme subg. *Plecocalyx* (G.Don) Dunlop

Species

Allopterigeron filifolius (F.Muell.) Dunlop
Dichromochlamys dentatifolia (F.Muell.) Dunlop
Phyllangium distylis (F.Muell.) Dunlop
Phyllangium divergens (Hook.f.) Dunlop
Phyllangium palustre (W.Fitzg.) Dunlop
Phyllangium paradoxum (R.Br.) Dunlop
Schizacme archeri (Hook.f.) Dunlop
Schizacme montana (Hook.f. ex Benth.) Dunlop
Streptoglossa adscendens (Benth.) Dunlop
S. bubakii (Domin) Dunlop
S. cylindriceps (J.M.Black) Dunlop
S. decurrens (DC.) Dunlop
S. liatroides (Turcz.) Dunlop
S. macrocephala (F.Muell.) Dunlop
S. odora (F.Muell.) Dunlop

REVIEWS

Review of *Marine Plants of Australia* by John M. Huisman

(University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands. 312 pp. ISBN: 1 876168 33 6. A\$82.50)

The first "coffee-table" book on Australian seaweeds has just hit the stands, thanks to the efforts of its immensely capable author and by the amazing grace of the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) that financially supported it and the excellence of the University of Western Australia Press. The sheer amount of effort and photographic talent that went into

the book's making earn the gratitude of all of us who would like better press for our indigenous seaweeds and the important ecological roles they play on our extensive coastlines.

There was a time, way back in the mid-19th century, when one of the best botanists of his day, William

Harvey, laboured long over engravings to produce artistically outstanding colour illustrations of Australian seaweeds for the delectation of both scientists and non-specialists, the latter of whom then tended to be gentlemen of wealth and leisure much devoted to an aesthetic appreciation of all the wonders of Nature. Even after photography had been around for decades, those earlier works of beauty went unemulated, with the first decent compilations of colour seaweed photos for any world region (it happened to be Japan) not appearing until the 1960s and books of good underwater shots from the Hawaiian Islands not compiled until the late 1970s and the Caribbean Sea until 1989 (Littler *et al.*).

Australia has been well served by its underwater natural-history photographers, particularly through the likes of Neville Coleman who has recorded its fish and invertebrates in some of the best pictures that have probably been taken by anybody anywhere (e.g., Coleman 1994). The seaweeds that feature in his numerous books, however, usually form backdrops to the marine invertebrates, fish or mammals that are his real targets, only rarely being illustrated as subjects in themselves and then mostly in the form of a few spectacular subtidal "forest" species such as *Ecklonia* and *Macrocystis* kelps. But although Australia has one of the greatest diversities of macroalgae in the world, its subtidal seaweeds got off to a highly inauspicious start when it came to the recording of their living appearances. In the mid 1970s there was an outfit called the Oceans Society of Australia that used to run a yearly conference of films and speakers at Monash University during the Queen's Birthday weekend. The organisers once approached me to see if I'd author an illustrated non-technical article on seaweeds for Volume 1, Number 1 of their new commercial magazine *Oceans*, so I threw together a few of our early underwater attempts for an article called "Undersea Plants" (Kraft 1976). I've had an eyewitness account of the response of Dr Bill Magruder, then soon to be co-author of a fine book of underwater seaweed pictures from Hawaii (Magruder &

Hunt 1979), on his first sighting of this modest offering. After flying into an apoplectic rage that anything so awful could actually have seen print, he advised his colleagues to unload all their Kodak and Nikonos stock on the grounds that Kraft's woeful effort would set those industries back to the stone age. The demise of *Oceans* with Volume 1 Number 2 has never been directly attributed to my article so far as I know, but I'm pretty sure that's what Magruder would be thinking.

The next Australian seaweed pictorial to appear on the scene was a welcome contrast to Kraft's attempt in the form of Bruce Fuhrer's book (written in collaboration with Monash University colleagues) *Seaweeds of Australia* (Fuhrer *et al.* 1981). Fuhrer was a professional photographer with several impressive works on flowering plants and fungi to his credit who had worked out the lighting and filters needed to get lovely pictures of fresh seaweeds floated out in trays. For commercial reasons the publishers gave his book, as they later have John Huisman's, a title indicating Australia-wide scope, but in Fuhrer's case the pictures mostly involved species washed up on the beaches where he spent his vacations, primarily at Port MacDonnell just over the Victoria/South Australia border. As a result there are some marvelous photos of things that are actually vanishingly rare, like *Gigartina wehlliae*, which in some 30 years I've only ever seen once, and the uncommon *Ptilota hannaefordii* that has an only slightly wider geographical distribution. Fuhrer's was a work definitely ahead of its time as it was soon remaindered, but within a few years demand was such that it was briefly reissued. It's still a rare prize to be sought in second-hand bookshops and church-fête jumble stalls.

During the late 1970s and the 1980s a number of people in Australia, most notably John Huisman himself, were quietly amassing libraries of high-quality underwater seaweed shots with the idea of someday finding publishers. The first to produce (in 1997) a compilation of *in-situ* macroalgal photographs was Graham Edgar, whose book *Australian Marine Life: the Plants and*

Animals of Temperate Waters has just been reissued (2000) and contains a chapter of some 180 colour-illustrated seaweed species to go with a more extensive coverage of invertebrates. Here the slant is toward southeastern elements of the biota, particularly from Tasmania where Edgar was based, but the photos are excellent and cover a large number of things likely to be encountered in the shallow sublittoral all across southern Australia. Hot on its heels has now come John Huisman's book, with its larger-format illustrations of both temperate and subtropical species mostly photographed in Western Australia but distributed, quite a few of them at least, across much of the southern coasts of the continent as well. John's work has the advantage of being exclusively focused on marine plants, with correspondingly more distributional, taxonomic and morphological information given than Edgar set out to provide. As a result, his book can be judged more critically and appreciated more deeply by phycologists themselves, although the intended audience goes far beyond that small coterie to include marine zoologists, environmentalists and field naturalists generally.

Judging from reviews that have already appeared in the *Australasian Society for Phycology and Aquatic Botany Newsletter* and the international journal *Phycologia*, John's book scores high marks from his colleagues, who appreciate the breadth of his coverage (over 200 genera, 300 species), the aesthetic quality of the photographs and drawings, and the bibliographic references to sources of detailed information about each of the entities treated. I can only echo the praises of previous reviewers in all of these regards. The last-mentioned feature is a first for a book of this kind and a major triumph in its execution. It's impressive to see how many of the references (15) are to original research published solely or jointly by John himself, and how many of the genera (6) and species (14) bear the Huisman authorship (in a taxonomic, not a theological sense). Two of the species illustrated in the book, one red and one brown, are named for the first time and validated according to the botanical rules in an appendix at the back, which is a neat bonus

for those wondering how that basic operation is carried out.

The photographs themselves are mainly superb and convey some interesting collateral information. For example, most of us would say that no marine plants surpass the red algae for intricacy and beauty, yet when it comes to *in-situ* photographic splendour the greens and browns more than hold their own, as do the cyanobacteria and marine flowering plants that are given their own small chapters in *Marine Plants*. I'd say that John's *Padina*, *Styopodium*, *Platythalia* and *Scytothalia* photos, among many other browns, are particularly fine, as are those of greens such as *Caulerpa articulata*, *C. longifolia*, *Halimeda cuneata* and *Penicillus nodulosus*. This fact -- that species of browns and greens are impressively photogenic -- also struck me in Graham Edgar's book, where both groups are especially well done. Nevertheless the reds have some spectacular representatives in *Marine Plants*, even though they might not all be household names even to phycologists. *Dotyophycus abbottiae*, *Trichogloea requienii*, the two *Asparagopsis* species, *Amphiroa anceps*, *Glaphrymenia pustulosa*, *Curdiea irvineae*, *Gracilaria blodgettii*, *G. caniculata*, *Epiphloea bullosa*, the cover illustration of *Asteromenia peltata*, *Chrysymenia kaernbachii*, *Hemineura frondosa*, *Martensia fragilis*, *Exophyllum wentii* and *Leveillea jungermanniioides* are particular favourites of mine, although the list of good shots could be expanded to many times this number. Not only that, John has a graphic flair that the rest of us all envy, so that his line drawings with their meticulous stippling (I wonder what the total number of dots is; keep in mind that these were all done by hand, not computer-generated) are prize artworks in themselves and serve to make clear important distinguishing features that the photos don't show.

How well does the book fulfill the aim of serving as a field guide to the identification of our marine plants? OK, maybe it would be arguably hard to identify the likes of *Acrosorium minus* from the photo on page 146

or *Bostrychia tenella* from page 156, but then nobody's really apt to pack this book into the field by coating its pages in plastic for easy underwater reference. Plenty of the pictures are highly diagnostic of the species portrayed, but of his several aims I like John's third the best: "...to illustrate the striking and unusual beauty of many of these plants." To me he gets a 10 on the success of that endeavour.

John's "Introduction", "History" and "Uses" chapters contain some diverting and interesting factoids for contemplation. I never knew that Sydney's Coogee Beach apparently takes its name from a Koori word for the foul odour of rotting seaweeds, or that our heroic 19th-Century Irish visitor Harvey pressed 700 algal specimens in a single day at Albany, an achievement roughly on a par with Sir Donald Bradman's best-innings run score. It's a nice chiasm that John treats some 300 species in his book, which just happens to be the number illustrated in Harvey's five volumes of Australian seaweeds published between 1858 and 1863 and which still set the highest of standards for macroalgal illustrative work. For me, however, the most interesting piece of cryptic information appears on page 18 at the end of a "how-to" chapter on pressing seaweeds. There, in an example showing what sorts of things to write on an herbarium label, we learn that Dr Huisman collected the red alga *Coelarthrum cliftonii* in December of 1922. Now I've yet to meet a botanist who started seriously picking up algae before his late teens or early 20s, but even granting that John was always a precocious youth and maybe began a bit earlier than most, that would still make him somewhere between 88 and almost 100 years

old today. In that case I can vouch from personal knowledge that he's as remarkably preserved as any of the algae in his herbarium and, particularly as I know for a fact that he's just about to become a father, would still be an inspiration to us all even were he a much younger man, say only in his 40s. From "Undersea Plants" of 1976 to *Marine Plants* at the start of the new millennium, we underwater botanists have come a hugely long way in Australia, and John is to be congratulated for being the one to exonerate us and take us so far.

References

- Coleman, N. 1994. *Discover Underwater Australia*. National Book Distributors & Publishers, Sydney. 168 pp.
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- Fuhrer, B, Christianson, I.G., Clayton, M.H. & Allender, B.M. 1981. *Seaweeds of Australia*. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Sydney. 112 pp.
- Kraft, G.T. 1976. Undersea plants. *Oceans* 1: 28-33.
- Littler, D.S., Littler, M.M., Bucher, K.E. & Norris, J.N. 1989. *Marine Plants of the Caribbean. A Field Guide from Florida to Brazil*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Blue Ridge Summit, PA. 272 pp.
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Gerry Kraft

School of Botany

University of Melbourne

CONFERENCES

Systematics and Evolution Conference – Melbourne, Australia Second Announcement – Registration and call for papers

The Society of Australian Systematic Biologists (SASB) and the Australasian Evolution Society (AES) will hold a joint conference at the University of Melbourne and Museum Victoria, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA, 16-18 July 2001.

Highlights will include:

- Symposium on Short-range endemism in the Australian biota
- Workshop on Opportunities for digital publishing of systematics in Australia
- Discussion session on the Phylocode
- Conference dinner at the new Museum Victoria including viewing of the forthcoming Darwin to DNA exhibition and Gareth Nelson speaking as "When I was alive, by Alfred Russel Wallace"

Plenary speakers will occupy each morning session, followed by concurrent sessions with ample opportunity to accommodate special themes or the interests of research groups. A training workshop in the basic techniques for preparing scientific illustrations for publication will also be offered on the weekend preceding the conference.

The organisers hope for the widest possible participation and until 1 May 2001 registration fees in AUD are \$180 or \$80 for students (not including conference dinner).

The conference websites

(<http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/about/conferences/sasb2001.htm> or

http://www.zoology.unimelb.edu.au/aes/aes_2001.html)

have now been updated with further details, including downloadable registration form and call for papers. With the Fifth International Crustacean Conference (<http://www.unihouse.org.au/ICC5/index.htm>) also at The University of Melbourne in the preceding week there is good reason to come to Melbourne in July.

Please contact the organisers with your ideas for special sessions, and watch the conference websites for updates as the scientific program is finalised. We look forward to seeing a wide representation of systematic and evolutionary biologists in Melbourne.

Robin Wilson

Society of Australian Systematic Biologists

<http://www.science.uts.edu.au/sasb/>

SECOND CIRCULAR

5th International Flora Malesiana Symposium Sydney, Australia 9-14 September 2001

For more complete information, please see the Symposium website at the following URL:

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/fm/circular2.htm>

Below is given information about:

1. the Symposium venues, contact details, paper and poster submission, organising committee, etc.
2. the provisional program and Mini-symposia
3. the registration form

The Organising Committee hopes that you will be able to come to the Symposium in Sydney. We also hope that you will be able to present a paper or poster.

If you need further information about the overall Symposium, please contact the relevant person listed below.

Please pass this message on to those of your colleagues who may be interested in the conference.

1. SYMPOSIUM VENUES, CONFERENCE DETAILS, PAPER & POSTER SUBMISSION, ETC.

Venues and dates:

The Symposium will take place in Sydney from 9–14 September 2001, with the main sessions in the Domain Theatre of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and workshops in various rooms in the National Herbarium of New South Wales. Both venues are situated within the parkland of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and the adjacent Domain.

The Queensland workshops will be based at Atherton, and take place from 4 September 2001 and the pre-conference excursion 5–8 September.

Deadlines:

Early Registration — 30 April 2001

Abstracts for Papers and Posters — 30 June 2001

Manuscripts for publication in the Proceedings —
21 Dec 2001

Addresses for registration:

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/fm/fm.html>

or Dr Barry Conn, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. Fax: +61-2-92412797.

Enquiries/contacts:

General: fmv@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Sydney symposium: Dr Alistair Hay,

Tel: +61-2-9231 8181

Email: Alistair.Hay@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Queensland workshops: Dr Judy West,

Tel: +61-2-6246 5113

Email: Judy.West@pi.csiro.au

Queensland Field Trip: Mr John Clarkson,

Tel: +61 7 4048 4745

Email: john.clarkson@dnr.qld.gov.au

Mail and email address for submitting abstracts:

Dr Peter Wilson, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. Fax:

+61-2-9241 2797

Email: Peter.Wilson@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Addresses for proposing papers, posters and workshops additional to those proposed in response to the First Circular:

Dr Barry Conn, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. Fax: +61-2-92412797.

Email: fmv@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au.

Web: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/fm/fm.html>

TRUBLE-SHOOTING

Problems with using conference website or email address: Barry.Conn@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Fax: +61-2-9241 2797

Difficulties with accommodation bookings:

Alistair.Hay@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Fax: +61-2-9251 4403.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr Barry Conn, Mr Lyn Craven, Mr Jim Croft, Dr Alistair Hay (co-chair), Dr Rogier de Kok, Prof. David Mabberley, Dr Judy West (co-chair), Dr Peter Wilson, Mr Frank Zich

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Prof. Mien Rifai, Dr Ruth Kiew, Dr Saw Leng Guan

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2. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMS

QUEENSLAND WORKSHOPS

Interactive Identification Systems (1-4 September) — a training workshop in the techniques involved in the development of interactive identification systems will be held at Atherton in the north Queensland annex (QRS) of the Australian National Herbarium, 1-4 September. This will be a hands-on workshop covering the underpinning science through to incorporation of graphics in identification systems. It includes tuition from botanical experts, including rainforest specialists, as well as those who have developed software packages and designed

appropriate graphics. There will be a small charge of AU\$45 to cover computer hire and morning and afternoon teas and lunches. Maximum number of places is 25. Accommodation is not included, but arrangements will be made for cheap options.

Lauraceae (4 September) — convened by Henk van der Werff (Missouri Botanical Garden) and Bernie Hyland (QRS), will take place over the day of 4 September. It will cover aspects of Lauraceae research, including generic identification and planning for FM accounts. There will be no charge for this workshop.

SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOPS

Workshops in Sydney are being organised on the following topics (convenors names in brackets. Note: in some instances the convenors are provisional at this stage). Emphasis is intended to be on progress with accounts for *Flora Malesiana* and local floras in uncompleted major groups and on strategies for delivering flora information beyond the flora volumes for families currently at and near completion. Proposals for additional workshops (fmv@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au).

Pteridophytes

(Josephine Camus — j.camus@nhm.ac.uk;

Barbara Parris — bsparris@voyager.co.nz;

Jim Croft — jrc@anbg.gov.au)

Rubiaceae

(Chris Puttock — cputtock@bishopmuseum.org)

Myrtaceae

(Lyn Craven — craven@pi.csiro.au)

Urticaceae

(Barry Conn — barry.conn@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)

Verbenaceae/Lamiaceae

(Rogier de Kok — rogier.deKok@pi.csiro.au;

Barry Conn — barry.conn@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)

Araceae

(Peter Boyce — p.boyce@rbgkew.org.uk)

Pandanaceae

(Matthew Jebb — MJebb@EALGA.ie)

Palms

(John Dransfield — j.dransfield@rbgkew.org.uk)

Zingiberaceae

(Mark Newman — M.Newman@rbge.org.uk)

Orchids

(Mark Clements — mac@anbg.gov.au)

SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

Symposium sessions in the form of mini-symposia are being organised on the following subjects (Convenors and email contacts in brackets. Note: in some instances the convenors and key speakers remain provisional).

Proposals for additional papers are welcomed.

Bioinformatics — sponsored by IAPT (Barry Conn — Barry.Conn@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au, Jim Croft — jrc@anbg.gov.au); a combined symposium, workshop and demonstrations. Key speaker: Reed Beaman (Sydney). Topics include Interactive Keys, Biogeographic Interpolation, BioRAP, Flora Malesiana Website.

State of Botany in Malesian countries (Marco Roos — Roos@nhn.leidenuniv.nl); reports from Malesian countries on resources, infrastructure and progress; progress report on Flora Malesiana.

Pteridophytes (Josephine Camus — J.Camus@nhm.ac.uk, Barbara Parris — bsparris@voyager.co.nz, Jim Croft — jrc@anbg.gov.au). Taxonomy, systematics, floristics, biogeography and other aspects of the ferns and fern allies of Malesia. Key speaker: TBA

Palms and Malesia (John Dransfield — j.dransfield@rbgkew.org.uk). Systematics and biology. Key speaker: Bill Baker (Kew).

Rubiaceae and Malesia (Chris Puttock — cputtock@bishopmuseum.org, Christian Puff — Christian.Puff@univie.ac.at) Systematics and biology. Key speaker: TBA

Orchidaceae and Malesia (Mark Clements — mac@anbg.gov.au) Systematics and biology. Key speaker: Phillip Cribb (Kew).

Ecology/Biodiversity (Stuart Davies — sjdavies@mailhost.unimas.my) Evolutionary ecology and biodiversity distribution patterns. Key speaker: TBA

Stakeholders (Judy West — Judy.West@pi.csiro.au, Alistair Hay — Alistair.Hay@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au). Perspectives on Malesian systematics and floras from outside the systematics community. Key speakers: Tony Whitten (World Bank); Ian Cresswell (ABRS/GTI).

Non-vascular Cryptogams (Rogier de Kok — Rogier.deKok@pi.csiro.au). Overviews of various major groups. Key speaker: TBA

Ethnobotany (Glen Wightman — glenn.wightman@nt.gov.au, Lyn Craven — craven@pi.csiro.au). Current research in Malesian ethnobotany. Key speaker: TBA

Special paper Michael Heads — University of Goroka, Panbiogeography and Malesia.

Open sessions of contributed papers. These will consist of various papers on systematics and biology of Malesian plants not fitting into the above mini-symposia.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

Rosemary Wise (rosemary.wise@plant-sciences.oxford.ac.uk) and botanical artists from NSW, all outstanding professional scientific illustrators, have proposed to conduct a practical workshop on techniques of botanical illustration, beginners to advanced. If there is enough interest expressed, this workshop will be conducted all day on Thursday 13 September. There will be a charge of AU\$45. The maximum number of places is 18.

ABSTRACTS FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

Abstracts (in English) will be published for talks and posters and made available at the symposium. They should be sent as .rtf (rich text format) files or as plain email messages (with italics indicated by using `<I>...</I>` or, if those options are not feasible, typed clearly.

Use the following format:

First line: Title — in upper case letters

Next line: blank

Next line(s): Author's name(s), address(es)

Next line: blank

Subsequent lines: text of abstract. No more than 300 words long. Plant names should be in italics or underlined.

Send abstracts by 30 June 2001 to:

Flora Malesiana 5, Dr Peter Wilson, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia Fax: +61-2-9241 2797
Email: Peter.Wilson@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

POSTERS: Posters should be no more than 1.2 m x 1.2 m in size.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS: Papers arising from presentations will be published, subject to peer review, as a symposium volume in the *Plant Diversity in Malesia* series. The deadline for submission of manuscripts is 21 December 2001. Publication is scheduled for 2002. Manuscripts should be handed to any member of the organising committee at the Symposium or sent to Dr Peter Wilson at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney (at the address above) as Word files as email attachments or on diskette.

PRE-, MID- AND POST-CONFERENCE EXCURSIONS, SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACCOMPANYING PERSONS PROGRAM

There will be a pre-conference excursion in Queensland, through vegetation of the tropical monsoon eucalypt forests to the wet tropical rainforests, from 5–8 Sept 2001, immediately following the Queensland workshops. This excursion will return to Cairns in time for delegates to reach Sydney on 9 September. There are 25 places on this excursion, which will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis. The cost will be AU\$850 (GST included). Registration should be paid together with symposium registration. For information about the excursion contact John Clarkson directly: Fax: +61-7-4092 3593
Email: john.clarkson@dnr.qld.gov.au

This four-day excursion by four-wheel drive bus starts from Cairns on Wednesday 5 September. Day 1 begins above the World Heritage-listed rainforests of the wet tropics as you are carried 7.5 km from Cairns to Kuranda aboard Skyrail, a canopy cableway. The trip then proceeds to Cooktown via the inland highway where the stark contrast between the eucalypt-dominated communities of the monsoon tropics and the rainforests of the wet tropical coast will be evident. The evening will be spent in Cooktown in a motel overlooking the Endeavour River. Aboriginal involvement with the flora will feature strongly in day two. Firstly, a visit to Elim Beach to examine the plant communities developed on an extensive Quaternary dune field, then finishing the day on the sandstone escarpments at Laura. At both sites

Aboriginal traditional owners will accompany the tour. The route for the day passes through eucalypt and *Melaleuca* woodlands of Lakefield National Park. Day three will be back in the rainforests of the wet tropical coast, returning to Cairns via the Cape Tribulation area and the Daintree River with an opportunity to view some of the relictual angiosperms that characterise this flora. The final day will be spent on the Atherton Tablelands where the theme of the day will be the link between soil, climate and forest type. You will have the opportunity to visit the sites of important palaeobotanical studies which have done much to illustrate the changes which have occurred in forest types in this area over the past several thousand years.

The price includes shared accommodation and all meals from pickup on the Wednesday morning to the morning of Sunday 9 September except for dinner on 8 September. Overseas visitors should note that Cairns is an international airport. If they wish to visit the Great Barrier Reef, they should arrive at least a day early.

WELCOMING RECEPTION: The Directors of the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research and the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Judy West and Frank Howarth, will welcome participants to the symposium in the National Herbarium of New South Wales on the evening of Sunday 9 September 2001. No cost to participants.

There will be an excursion to Mount Tomah in the Blue Mountains, West of Sydney, mid-conference on Wednesday 12 September and post-conference on Saturday 15 September. Mt Tomah is a basalt cap over sandstone and has diverse vegetation together with panoramic views of the wilderness of Wollemi National Park. The excursion includes a fully guided bushwalk through the Mount Tomah Conservation Area, a tour of the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden (the cool-climate garden of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney) and lunch. Places are limited to 30 each day. Cost is Au\$90 including bus from and to Sydney. Wet and/or cold

weather clothing and strong walking shoes will be required.

There are almost limitless options for sightseeing and entertainment in Sydney. For this reason, a structured accompanying persons' program has not been organised. Persons accompanying symposium participants are advised to visit the Tourism New South Wales website at <http://www.tourism.nsw.gov.au>. The Royal Botanic Gardens is situated on the harbour in the centre of Sydney. Immediately adjacent are the State Library, the Sydney Opera House, the State Parliament building and several other places of interest. There is very easy walking access to buses, the city railway, the harbour ferry terminal at Circular Quay, and to the Central Business District, cinemas and theatres.

CONFERENCE DINNER: The conference dinner will be an informal, Australian-style evening meal on Tuesday 11 September 2001. The food provided will be halal, as will all food provided at official symposium functions. The cost is included in registration.

EXHIBITION AND COCKTAIL PARTY: An exhibition, entitled 'Tracing the Wallace Line', of large paintings and installations by the Australian artist John Wolseley will be on show at the Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery in Sydney during the Symposium. It will be an exciting artistic interpretation of Malesian biogeography. The artist has travelled extensively in Malesia and will give a talk at the Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery on the evening of Thursday 13 September 2001 when the Gallery will host a cocktail party specially for symposium participants. No cost to participants.

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ACCOMMODATION

There are several hotels* within walking distance of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, and many more which are only a short taxi, bus or train ride away. Sydney receives many visitors at this time of the year (spring).

RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION WELL IN ADVANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. Prices include GST and are current at the time this circular was prepared. They may vary slightly.

We have block-booked accommodation at special rates at The Y on the Park, a hotel near the Gardens about 15 mins walk away and on bus and train routes to the Gardens and Art Gallery of New South Wales. Participants intending to use this accommodation should reserve it directly with the hotel. A deposit will be required.

The Y on the Park 5–11 Wentworth Avenue, Sydney NSW 2010, Tel: +61-2-9264 2451. Fax: +61-2-9285 6288. Email: y-hotel:zip.com.au. Website: (incl. Electronic booking) <http://www.ywca-sydney.com.au/ywca-yhotel.htm>

Twin share deluxe AU\$119 per room per night

Twin share budget AU\$84 per room per night

Single budget AU\$61 per room per night
Dormitory budget beds (four per room) Au\$26 per person per night.

This is fairly basic but clean and modern accommodation. There is a cafe, but no room service. Internet facilities are available. There are numerous restaurants nearby. The block bookings will be held until 30 April 2001, after which the rooms will be released.

The following hotels and serviced apartments are recommended on the basis of their location in very close proximity to the Y on the Park — 1–2 minutes walk. They are in higher price brackets and we have not block booked.

The Sydney Marriott Hotel 36 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010 Tel: +61-2-93618400. Fax: +61-2-93618484.

Email: sydneymarriott@mirvachotels.com.au Website: <http://www.Marriott.com>

Standard deluxe room AU\$246 (Sunday–Thursday); AU\$190 (Friday–Saturday)

Hyde Park Plaza Suites 38 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010 Tel: +61-2-9331 6933. Fax: +61-2-9331 6022.

Email: reservationhydeparkplaza@mirvachotels.com.au
Website: <http://www.mirvachotels.com.au>

Studio (one room) apartment AU\$180 per night

One bedroom apartment AU\$212 per night

Two bedroom apartment AU\$284 per night

Three bedroom apartment AU\$388 per night

Other accommodation can be found directly by participants through the Tourism New South Wales website at <http://www.tourism.nsw.gov.au>. The site has a database of accommodation searchable by accommodation type, location and cost. Descriptions of the accommodation and reservation details are given.

UPDATED ACCOMMODATION NEWS

Koala Closure!

The Oxford Koala Hotel and Apartments, recommended in the printed version of the 2nd Circular, has informed us that it *may* be going to close at about the time of the symposium. They are still taking reservations, and will give 30 days notice in the event they do close, but we now suggest that this hotel is NOT used.

A substitute in the same area is

The Travelodge Wentworth Avenue,
Corner Wentworth Avenue & Goulburn St,
Sydney, NSW 2010

Tel: (61) 02 8437 5332

Fax: (61) 02 8437 5345

Email: reservations@travelodge.com.au

Rate: AU\$119 per person per night.

Brand new mid-range accommodation.

Cancellations of registration must be received in writing by Dr Peter Wilson (NSW). Refunds, in AU\$, will be made after the conference as follows:

- For cancellations before 31 July 2001: full refund less \$100 administration charge.
- For cancellations after 31 July 2001: no refund.
- Refunds of deposits on cancelled accommodation bookings must be handled directly with the hotel concerned.

Table of registration rates (10% GST — Goods and Services Tax — inclusive)

FULL REGISTRATION

EARLY RATE (by 30 April 2001) AU\$275

LATER RATE (after 30 April 2001) AU\$350

STUDENT (full time) Supervisor must authenticate student status on registration form

EARLY RATE (by 30 April 2001) AU\$150

LATER RATE (after 30 April 2001) AU\$200

DAY RATE AT SYMPOSIUM AU\$70 per day for a maximum of two days

REGISTRATION FORM

Fill out and return to the Flora Malesiana Symposium Treasurer (See bottom of form for address). Registrations received by 30 April 2001 will pay a reduced rate. Please note that if members of a family are registering for the symposium, each must complete a separate registration form. If accompanying partners wish to attend only the dinner or excursions, then a single form may be used.

Please type or use upper case printing throughout.

Title:
(Prof. Dr Mrs Ms Mr Other)

First name(s)

Family name(s)

Preferred name for name tag

Address for correspondence

.....
.....
.....

.....
.....

Phone

Fax

Email

Welcoming reception I/We will be attending the welcoming reception on the evening of Sunday 9 September

YES

NO

'Tracing the Wallace Line' Exhibition I/We will be attending the exhibition and cocktail party on Thursday 13 September

YES

NO

Symposium workshops

I intend to go to the following workshops ;

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Bioinformatics | YES | NO |
| Orchids | YES | NO |
| Zingiberaceae | YES | NO |
| Myrtaceae | YES | NO |
| Palms | YES | NO |
| Pteridophytes | YES | NO |
| Araceae | YES | NO |
| Pandanaceae | YES | NO |
| Rubiaceae | YES | NO |
| Urticaceae | YES | NO |
| Verbenaceae/Lamiaceae | YES | NO |
| Lauraceae (North Queensland 4 September) | YES | NO |

In the following tables, please tick or circle as appropriate:

Registration Fees (including 10% GST)

Full registration Received by 30 April 2001 (AU\$ 275)

Received after 30 April 2001 (AU\$ 350)

Student (full time) Received by 30 April 2001 (AU\$ 150)

Received after 30 April 2001 (AU\$ 200)

Day registration Number of days @ AU\$ 70/day

Conference dinner (Included in registration for participants)

No. of accompanying persons attending @ AU\$70 per person (incl. 10% GST): AU\$

Special dietary requirements (note: meat provided will be halal):

 vegetarian gluten-free other

Queensland interactive identification systems workshop

No. of Persons (@ AU\$45 per person)>= AU\$

Botanical illustration workshop

No. of Persons (@ AU\$45 per person)>= AU\$

EXCURSIONS

Pre-conference Queensland (ex Cairns)

No. of Persons (@ AU\$850 per person) = AU\$

Mid-conference Blue Mountains (ex Sydney)

No. of Persons (@ AU\$ 90 per person) = AU\$

Post-conference Blue Mountains date (ex Sydney)

No. of Persons (@ AU\$ 90 per person) = AU\$

PAYMENT DUE AU\$

Registration fee

Queensland workshop

Excursion(s)

Botanical illustration workshop

Dinner for accompanying person(s)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

METHOD OF PAYMENT (payment must be in Australian dollars)

If paying by personal cheque it should be drawn on an Australian bank; people wishing to pay by cheque should otherwise get a bank cheque drawn in Australian dollars. Cheques should be made payable to Flora Malesiana Symposium, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

If paying by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Bankcard or American Express only), please complete the following details:

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Address of cardholder

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Card number _ _ _ _ _

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Signature of cardholder _____ Date: __ / __ / 20__ (day/month/year)

STUDENT CERTIFICATION

Full-time students wishing to register as a student delegate must have their Supervisor or Head of Department complete this section.

I certify that _____

is a full-time student in my Department.

Signed _____

Name _____

Title _____

Date __ / __ / 20__ (day/month/year)

Mailing and Fax address for registration and payment:

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Dr Peter Wilson
Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney,
Mrs Macquaries Road,
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

Fax: +61-2-9241 2797

#####

Royal Society of Queensland
Annual Theme Program

DNA and Society

27 April: Tom Loy - "Prehistoric DNA".

24 May: John Mattick - "Human Genome Project".

June/July (date to be confirmed): Justice Michael Kirby on "DNA and ethics"

17 August: Dr Georgia Chenevix-Trench - "DNA of breast and ovarian cancer"

28 September: Peter Gresshoff - "What is GM food".

2 November: John Pearn - "Eliminating human disease: DNA mutations – the enemy's weapon".

30 November: Julia Playford – AGM and Presidential address on DNA and conservation.

Venue: Queensland Herbarium

Time: 6.15pm for wine and cheese

7.00pm for talk

Cost: \$5 for members - \$7 non-members

All Welcome

No need to book please just come along on the night

NEWS FROM FASTS

New funding round for CRC

The announcement of a new round of research ventures between Australian industry and Australian scientists is a vote of confidence in the ability of science to provide answers and generate new industries.

In the announcement the Government has released the names of the nineteen Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) that were successful in the recent funding round.

Dr David Denham, Vice- President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), said the funding round was hotly contested.

"This represents a growing maturity in the relations between science and industry," he said.

"The CRC Program is making an excellent contribution to Australia's research capacity. It encourages interaction between research teams from universities, industry and government."

"Australian scientists do plenty of excellent work but not all of it is picked up by industry and other end-users."

"With the CRC process, the people who are most likely to use the research become part of the process of planning the research. This means the potential of the research can be realised."

"FASTS has consistently argued for an expansion of the CRC Program in submissions to Government, to the order of \$50 million per year."

He congratulated the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources Senator Nick Minchin and the Government for their strong support for the CRC Program.

Dr Denham said the announcement today did not represent any new funding for the CRC Program. It remains steady at about \$140 million per year.

2000 Selection Round - Successful Applications by Research Sector

MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

1. CRC for Construction Innovation
2. CRC for Functional Communication Surfaces
3. CRC for Innovative Wood Manufacturing
4. CRC for Railway Engineering and Technologies

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

5. CRC for Smart Internet Technology
6. CRC for Technology Enabled Capital Markets

MINING AND ENERGY

7. CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development
8. CRC for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration
9. CRC for Predictive Mineral Discovery

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL BASED MANUFACTURING

10. Australian Sheep Industry CRC
11. CRC for Innovative Dairy Products
12. CRC for Sustainable Aquaculture of Finfish
13. CRC for Value Added Wheat

ENVIRONMENT

14. CRC for Australian Weed Management
15. CRC for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity
16. CRC for Tropical Savannas Management
17. CRC for Water Quality and Treatment

18. CRC for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases
19. CRC for Diagnostics

Further details of successful applicants are available on:

<http://www.minister.industry.gov.au/minchin/releases/2001/january/cmr002%2D01.doc>

MEDICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A Sea-Change for Science

Australia's scientists welcome with enthusiasm the Prime Minister's announcement of a land mark increase in the national investment in scientific research and the innovation system.

Professor Sue Serjeantson, President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), said that injecting national funds into this area was the best mid to long-term investment Australia could make.

"We have re-entered the race to be internationally competitive," she said. "This marks a sea-change in Government thinking."

"It is a clear sign that the nation has recognised that investment in science and research is the surest way to creating the new sustainable industries of tomorrow, and the new high-pay, satisfying jobs that go with them."

"This is a great start. It drives home the message that science means business."

"This is a huge vote of confidence in Australia's scientists and engineers."

Professor Serjeantson praised the package as "an astute mix", combining encouragement for industry to innovate, new laboratories and facilities, and support for basic research, the power-house of science.

She hoped these measures would reverse the brain drain of Australian scientific talent overseas.

"Australian scientists can look forward to better links with industry, improved chances of winning national funding for research, and a gradual improvement in their libraries and laboratories."

"This is the first win for science in a decade. Recognition may have come late, but it's no less welcome for that."

President's Report (Sue Serjeantson) FASTS Board Meeting, February 23, 2001

Science and technology have come to the forefront of the national agenda for the first time in more than a decade. Recognition of the pivotal role of innovation in the nation's prosperity has come late, but is no less welcome for that.

The Prime-Minister's Innovation Action Plan will boost the nation's investment in research by three billion dollars over the next five years. By the fifth year, the investment will be an extra one billion dollars per year.

As the Prime-Minister said, this is an important 'first step' in Backing Australia's Ability.

There is a sea-change in recognition that intellectual capital is at least as important as labour and capital in ensuring the social, economic and environmental well-being of the nation. Admittedly, Australia has come to this realisation a little later than some other countries, but we have not missed the bus. There are fleets of buses leaving, and we want to drive them! This is the message we gave to the Prime-Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.

The Innovation Action Plan would not have been possible without the work of FASTS' member societies. The unified voice of scientists and technologists, together with those of business, have been critical in ensuring the implementation of the Chief Scientist's recommendations. Of Robin Batterham's 20 recommendations, 18 have been adopted, and the other two implemented in a modified form. The Batterham report strongly reflected FASTS proposals, as the attached table shows.

We should not under-estimate the impact of 180 scientists from across the country converging on federal parliament last November, delivering the Batterham report. This has helped make investment in science and technology a non-partisan affair, even in (or should I say, especially in) an election year. Your support for the FASTS' Science Meets Parliament Day was critical in getting the message across the line.

The Innovation Action Plan is about more than research dollars. It is about Australia's value system. It is about valuing our scientists and technologists. Status took a heavy knock after the Dawkins' reforms, and in the following years when our universities and research institutions were under-valued. This situation is being reversed. There is a ground-swell of realisation in the community that we must value and reward our intellectual capital. You have helped bring about this sea-change.

When Robin Williams asked the PM on the Science Show what factors had led to his 'conversion' to science and technology, he replied that the presentations to the Prime-Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council had been important. He said that the positive response to the Government's increase in research funds for the National Medical Research Council (NHMRC) had been another important factor. Some FASTS' member societies have sent a positive note to the PM, noting the 'important first step' that has been taken by the Commonwealth Government.

We need the continued support of our member societies for the Innovation Action Plan, to ramp it up and top it up! Michael Lee, Shadow Minister for Education, committed to this last Friday 16 at the Go8 Forum.

The PM will Chair the Implementation Committee for the Innovation Action Plan. This is extremely important, because it means that the Government means business and is not engaged in a 'smoke and mirrors' exercise. FASTS will keep a close watch on this, to maintain a sense of urgency in investment in R&D and to ensure early development of guidelines for the various programs.

Lessons must be learned from implementation of the "doubling" of funds for the NHMRC, announced in May 1999. As the first step in "doubling" the funds, the Commonwealth Government announced enhanced investment of ten million dollars in medical genomics in the 1999 budget. It was not until March 2000 that NHMRC announced its Medical Genomics Program and called for expressions of interest for projects that would help build Australia's biotechnology base, through large-scale DNA sequencing projects. Successful applicants were advised this month!

The pace of technological change is frenetic and international competition will not wait for us to sit in peer review committees for two years in order to

distribute ten million dollars! FASTS will be working for rapid implementation of the Innovation Action Plan.

FASTS tries to maintain a careful balance between bleating from the sidelines and being in the mainstream of science policy development. Our membership of the Prime-Minister's Science Engineering and Innovation Council is part of this. Our Executive Director, Toss Gascoigne, ably assisted by Robyn Easton, works hard to ensure we punch above our weight. But nothing could be achieved without the input of volunteers, including Ken Baldwin as Chair of FASTS' Policy Committee, our two Vice-Presidents, Jan Thomas and David Denham,

members of the Board, and the Presidents of our member societies.

This year FASTS will be focused on implementing the Innovation Action Plan, on how to ramp it up and top it up, and on ensuring this becomes a non-partisan issue that stays on the agenda through any changes in Government over the next five years.

The community, and the Government, has sent a strong message to us that our scientists and technologists are valued. We shall continue, through FASTS, to promote respect for the achievements of our member scientists and technologists.

Comparing FASTS, Batterham and the Innovation Statement

The table below compares FASTS' "Billion Dollar" list (April 2000), with the recommendations in Dr Batterham's "A Chance to Change", and the final figures in the Innovation Statement (January 2001). All figures in \$millions.

| | FASTS April | Batthm Nov | Innovat Jan |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Double funds to the ARC large grants | 500 | 660 | 736.4 *4 |
| Improve laboratories and libraries in universities | 500 | 275 | 583 *5 |
| New scheme for major national research facilities | 300 | 400 | 155 |
| Retraining, HECS relief for science and maths teachers | 100 | 264 | 130 *6 |
| Assist libraries with electronic subscriptions to journals | 50 | 5 | |
| Measures to stimulate careers for younger scientists | 250 | 38.6 | Yes (in ARC) |
| Tax credits to stimulate innovative companies | 1,250 | Uncosted | 128 |
| Additional funding for the CRC Program | 250 | 150 | 227 |
| Priority environmental projects | 200 | | *1 |
| Boost funding to science agencies (CSIRO, AIMS, etc) | 350 | *2 | Indirectly |
| New commercialisation stimulants | 100 | 175 | 775 *7 |
| Increase funding to awareness programs, especially industry | 100 | *3 | |
| University salary levels for NHMRC and ARC fellowships | 50 | No | Partly through ARC |
| Overdue university salary increases (scientists' share) | 1,000 | nil | nil |

- *1 funded through other initiatives eg salinity
- *2 no direct dollars except access to ARC grants, new funds for CRC, commercialisation
- *3 affected by (3) above
- *4 includes doubling ARC project grants, Federation Fellowships, Doubling ARC postdocs, Improving ARC salaries and establishing centres of excellence in biotechnology and IT
- *5 includes infrastructure and expanded RIBG
- *6 re-badged as fostering S&T skills in schools
- *7 includes expanded R&D Start and COMET, Innovation Access Program, Pre-Seed Fund and New Industries Development program

Summary:

The recommendations in the Batterham report add up to about 75 per cent of what FASTS recommended.

Expenditure in the Innovation Statement is about 58 per cent of what FASTS recommended in its total package. This proportion rises to 76 per cent, when measured against the issues in the FASTS package the Government chose to address (\$2.9 billion of the \$3.8 billion we recommended).

FASTS elects an interim president

Professor Peter Cullen is to become President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) again.

He has been elected by the Board to serve as President until the Council meeting in November 2001. Professor Cullen takes up the position at the end of March.

Current President, Professor Sue Serjeantson has written to the Board to say she will be resigning to become Executive Secretary of the Australian Academy of Science.

Professor Cullen previously served as President from November 1997 until November 1999.

"I am delighted to be able to serve Australian science again as President of FASTS," Professor Cullen said.

"This is an election year, and the level of our national investment in science, research and higher education is coming under question both nationally and internationally."

He said Australia needed bodies like FASTS, to play a strong role in keeping science issues on the national agenda.

He congratulated Professor Serjeantson on her new appointment.

Professor Serjeantson said she was reluctant to leave the Presidency of FASTS at such an important time.

"FASTS and the Academy of Science have an excellent working relationship, and in many ways we are fighting the same battles," she said.

"My new position has a different focus, but our broad agenda on the appropriate level of the Australian investment in science and research are similar."

Professor Chris Fell will begin his two-year term as President of FASTS later this year in November.

Media release from FASTS

This is the list of the 33 Australian scientists whose work has been most frequently cited over the last 20 years, in descending order by number of highly-cited papers.

Professor Graham D. Farquhar
Professor Peter Hall
Dr. Bruce A. Peterson
Professor Donald Metcalf
Professor Ken C. Freeman
Professor Michael A. Dopita
Professor Jeremy R. Mould

Professor Nicos A. Nicola
Dr. Richard N. Manchester
Professor Colin L. Masters
Professor Suzanne Cory
Dr. Paul J. Fraser
Professor J. Malcolm Oades
Professor Bruce A. Stone
Professor Malcolm T. McCulloch
Professor Michael S. Bessell
Professor David R. McKenzie
Professor Donald J. Birkett
Dr. Roger Powell

Professor David H. Green
Dr. L. Paul Steele
Dr. Bruce W. Chappell
Professor Warrick J. Couch
Dr. Jeffrey N. Ladd
Dr. Neil C. Turner
Professor John O. Miners

Professor Matthew V. Vadas
Professor Jerry M. Adams
Professor Barry J. Marshall
Professor Michael V. Swain
Dr. Matthew Colless
Dr. Richard W. Hunstead
Professor Richard M. Pashley

University funding: a 21st Century mirage?

There is increasing concern within scientific circles that hopes of much-needed investment in the university sector is receding in the face of domestic political pressures.

The President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), Professor Sue Serjeantson, said that sudden economic downturn and new spending measures by Government have added to anxiety in the sector.

"The science community appreciates the measures in the Innovation Statement announced by the Prime Minister of January 29," said Professor Serjeantson. "We described it as a useful first step, and it does set Australia on a path."

"But we need other steps to be taken, and the first is restoring core funding to the university sector. The situation has been deteriorating over several years and needs a long-term commitment."

"We have been pinning our hopes on new announcements in the Budget in May. Now it seems that Australia's future as a modern economy is being placed in jeopardy by political pressures."

"As the projected Budget surplus recedes, where does that leave the universities and Australia's long-term future?"

She said the health of the university sector, in its dual roles as a research and training body, was under increasing strain.

"The Government has placed huge pressure on the sector without providing any real solutions. The sector is subject to increasing expectations without being provided with the resources to meet these expectations."

"It would be useful, for instance, to have broad national agreement on what Australia expects of its university sector, and base the level of funding on this role. How many universities do we need, and how should we share scarce resources between them?"

She said that this sort of discussion is best led by Government.

Professor Serjeantson said she had written to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Beazley, asking him to release details of his plans for science, research and the universities.

"This would widen the discussion. We need a mature and intelligent debate about how science and research are going to fit into our national priorities," she said.

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. \$10; 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 horticulturists, 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*.

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 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.

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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.

Special arrangement: To obtain this discounted price, post a photocopy of this page with remittance to: Peacock Publications, 38 Sydenham Road, Norwood, SA 5069, Australia.

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