

**ASBS**

*Australian  
Systematic  
Botany  
Society*



# **Newsletter**

No. 109 DECEMBER 2001

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## AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED

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#### ASBS Web site

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/asbs>

#### Publication dates of previous issue

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Hardcopy: 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2001; ASBS Web site: 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2001

## ASBS Awards

### Nancy Burbidge Medal 2001

ASBS Council had great pleasure in awarding the medal to Dr Judy West at the Flora Malesiana meeting in Sydney on 12<sup>th</sup> September. After the presentation prior to the Society's Annual General Meeting Judy presented the Nancy Burbidge Lecture on future directions of systematics in Australia. Members of the Society

and participants in the Flora Malesiana meeting were in the large audience.

President Barry Conn's introduction to her talk is provided in this issue, and it is hoped to be able to provide the content of Judy's lecture in the next issue of the Newsletter.

### Hansjörg Eichler Research Grants 2001

Congratulations to the successful applicants to the Eichler Research Fund for 2001:

- Xiufu Zhang (Ph. D. student at University of New England) for SEM work on the interpretation of floral and spikelet morphology in the tribe Schoeneae (Cyperaceae)
- Nikola Streiber (Ph.D. student at University of Sydney and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney) for molecular work in the Chloantheae (Lamiaceae).
- Christina Flann (Ph.D. student at the School of Botany, University of Melbourne) for molecular work in the *Euchiton traversi* – *Euchiton argentifolius* (Gnaphalieae: Compositae) complex.
- Ann Bohte (Ph.D. student at the School of Botany, University of Melbourne) for studies in the floral development and evolution in the "Ariallastrum" group of Myrtaceae.

### Membership Fees 2002

These are now due and are payable to the Treasurer, Anthony Whalen.

*Amount owing is placed on the envelope of this issue **above the Return address** at the bottom left corner, e.g. in the form "Mship dues: Full \$40".*

Chapter Conveners have helped in the past to facilitate payment amongst members by assembling and forwarding payments.

Forms to accompany your payment and for applications for new membership are loose enclosures in the envelope.

Contact Anthony if there are any issues.

## ASBS Inc. Business

### Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.

Held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 in the Maiden Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Meeting opened at 7.20 p.m. following the presentation of the Nancy Burbidge lecture by Dr Judy West. The President welcomed the 25 members present.

#### 1. Apologies

Matthew Grey, Bob Makinson, Wayne Harris.

#### 2. Minutes of the 2000 Annual General Meeting

*It was proposed that the minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting (as published in the Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter Number 104, September 2000) be accepted.*

*Proposed: Peter Jobson;  
seconded: Tim Entwisle.  
Carried.*

#### 3. Business arising from minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. President's Report (Barry Conn)**

Since our last Annual General Meeting in June 2000, the general membership and the Council of the Society have been very active in many diverse activities. As the aim of the Society is to promote the study of plant systematics, the Council always actively seeks opportunities to support symposia, conferences and meetings so that members can benefit from this form of interaction with colleagues. The Society provided sponsorship for the successful "Legumes Down Under" - 4<sup>th</sup> International Legume Conference in Canberra (July 2001). We are very pleased to be a sponsor of the current symposium, the 5<sup>th</sup> International Flora Malesiana Symposium (Sydney, September 2001). This is a great opportunity for the Society's membership to meet with colleagues working on the flora of the Malesian region. Furthermore, the Society is pleased to provide financial support to all student members of ASBS who have presented at this Symposium. We are supporting the *Robert Brown 200* conference (8-10 May 2002), *Investigator 200* (Albany, December 2001), *Encounter 2002* (Adelaide March 2001), and the Society is covering the travel expenses for Prof. David Mabberley to present public lectures in all States on Robert Brown and Ferdinand Bauer. All of these activities celebrate and promote plant systematics through a historical perspective.

The review of the Rules of the Society has been a major priority of Council. We believe that the preparation of the initial draft has been an extremely worthwhile activity that has clarified many issues relating to the operation of the Society.

The continued development of the *Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.* website has incorporated the presentation of *Numbers 106* and *107* (March and June 2001, respectively) of the *ASBS Newsletter* in portal document format (pdf). The publication of the Newsletter on the Internet provides the Society with a new opportunity to reach a significantly larger audience and provide the potential of lowering publication costs. I would like to thank Bob Hill as *Newsletter Editor* and Murray Fagg as the recently appointed *ASBS Web-editor* for their excellent contribution to publishing information from the Society.

The *Hansjörg Eichler Scientific Research Fund* continues to provide financial support to student member of the Society. I sincerely thank all members who have continued to contribute to this fund, no matter how large or small their donation. The Society has donated approximately \$13,000 to student research project since 1997. This support is a very direct and important contribution to the advancement of Australian plant systematics.

Council is delighted to have been able to present the first *Nancy T. Burbidge Medal* to Dr Judith G. West for her contribution to Australian systematic botany. I thank the current Council for their drive in getting the medal struck. In particular, I thank Helen Conn for making it happen.

I sincerely thank all members of Council for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. And, I thank all ASBS members for their enthusiastic contribution to all aspects of Australian systematic botany. It is the energy of the membership that makes the Society.

**5. Treasurer's Report (Elizabeth Brown)**

**Introduction**

It is my pleasure to present the annual financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2000. The finances of the Society are run on the calendar year so the figures being presented are for the year 01 Jan 2000 to 31 Dec 2000.

**Membership**

We have written off 34 unfinancial members who have not paid their dues since 1999 (although subsequently one of them has offered to pay the amount owing but does not wish to renew membership). 16 new members joined in 2000 (see list below), some of whom have already been welcomed to the Society and in the financial year 2001, 8 new members have joined. Three members have resigned, one of them citing the lack of activity in the local chapter as the reason. Approximately 20% of members remain unfinancial. So late payment remains a problem, as does the membership number that has declined slightly because there are so many unfinancial members.

**Table 1.** Membership of Australian Systematic Botany Society 01 September 2001 (unfinancial members in brackets).

Fee	Full	Concessional	Gratis	Total
Ordinary	204 (40)	38 (5)	0	242 (45)
Student	not appl.	35 (11)	0	35 (11)
Institutional	11 (1)	not appl.	14	25 (1)
Life	not appl.	not appl.	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>215 (41)</b>	<b>73 (16)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>304 (57)</b>

## General Fund

### *Income*

The amount of interest the Society received in 2000 was significantly better than in 1999. As people will be well aware, interest rates throughout 2000 were quite healthy and this is reflected in our income. Unfortunately, this has not continued in to 2001.

The good management of the Dampier Conference resulted in a profit of \$2120.70 to the Society. The money advanced to the Monocot Conference was returned and a further \$4030.88 was donated to The Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund. There was a slight loss on the Page Workshop.

The income received from membership subscriptions is currently under question (with the Auditors); however, the Society received \$7,940 from subscriptions during the 2000 financial year (\$1,135 less than for the previous year).

### *Expenditure*

The newsletter continues to be the main expenditure of the Society and the cost of production has continued to rise. Serious consideration needs to be given to alternative methods of production.

The increase in fees last year has matched this increase in costs. The profit from the Dampier Conference and the interest received from investments resulted in income exceeding expenditure by nearly \$5,000.

### *GST*

GST has had a relatively small impact on us financially but in other ways it has had a considerable effect. We have had to re-apply for our status as a deductible gift recipient. There should be no problems in retaining this status. Organisers of conferences need to be aware that we are not registered as a GST gathering organisation. Anyone planning a conference needs to obtain an ABN and the relevant status or work through a registered institution. Small conferences and workshops can be run through the Society as long as no GST is charged or recovered.

The situation will be kept under review.

### *Audit costs*

With an increase in the legal liability and responsibility placed on auditors it has become increasingly difficult to find people willing to audit society accounts for a reduced or nominal fee. The result is that audit fees for 2000 will be at least twice what they have been previously. I

recommend that the new treasurer start looking for an auditor as soon as possible and use any contacts they have to the fullest extent. Having the accounts move from institution to institution also creates problems in continuity and the Council need to investigate accounting and membership packages.

### *Current Assets in the General Fund*

The Society held at the close of 2000 assets of \$47,834 (\$46,894 in cash, \$940 in books).

## The Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund

The Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund continues to show healthy growth. Net assets increased from \$112,462 to \$140,434.12 in the twelve months ended 31st December 2000, more than partly due to a large donation of \$20,000. Three grants totalling \$3,000 were awarded in 2000 (although included in the 2000 accounts this money was not paid out until 2001). Applications for this year's grants closed at the end of August.

Funds are invested in a range of investment products managed by Commonwealth Investment Services a wholly owned subsidiary of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. I suggest the new treasurer always considers other investment options to ensure the best rates of return for the Society.

## Summary

The Society holds substantial assets but the cost of producing the Newsletter has the potential to rapidly reduce these funds, together with expected increases in postage costs. We continue to have a healthy balance sheet as a result of the previous accumulation of funds. The Council should give very careful thought to any activity that seriously depletes these funds.

Elizabeth Brown  
Honorary Treasurer

The following new members for 2000 and 2001 are welcomed to the Society:

- Ms R.L. Andrew, Australian National University.
- Russell Barrett, Kings Park and Botanic Garden.
- Alex Chapman, Western Australian Herbarium
- Lachlan Copeland, Department of Botany, University of New England.
- Dr Karen Edwards, School of Tropical Biology, James Cook University.
- Mohammad Fatemi, Department of Botany, University of New England
- Dr Don Foreman, Lara, Victoria (renew lapsed membership)
- Kioumars Ghamkhar, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

- Dr Neil Gibson, Wildlife Research Centre, CALM
- Robert Gibson, Dept Land and Water Conservation, Dubbo
- Juergen Kellermann, School of Botany, University of Melbourne
- Dirk McNicoll, James Cook University
- Dr Ebbe Nielsen<sup>1</sup>, Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO Entomology
- Neville Scarlett, School of Botany, La Trobe University
- Lindy Scott, Crafers, South Australia
- Kelly Shepherd, Wembley WA
- Zoe Smith, School of Botany, University of Melbourne
- Jennifer Tonkin, School of Botany, University of Melbourne
- Anthony Whalen, Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, Canberra

A question was asked from the floor re the reduction in numbers of members. There is no particular pattern to be found but one of the largest groups appears to be students who join for one year (possibly for benefits such as conference payments and the Eichler Research Fund) and then do not renew membership. There had been one resignation citing lack of activity in the local chapter as the reason. This suggests that local chapter activities are an important means of keeping the Society relevant to potential members

The Treasurer was unclear about certain aspects of the audited accounts and wished to obtain clarification from the Auditors before presenting the Financial Statement to the Membership for acceptance. Discussion ensued as to how to proceed. The following motion was put:

*The meeting authorized Council or a future meeting to accept a revised Treasurer's report, as appropriate to advice received*

Proposed: Barbara Briggs

Seconded: Karen Wilson

Motion carried.

## 6. ASBS Constitution (Bill Barker)

Proposed changes to the constitution (specifically the *Name, Object and Rules of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.*) have mostly been driven by a general need to bring Society practice in line with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* and its *Regulations*. Council has for some time been aware of the lack of transparency of these requirements through the absence of clear simple instructions passed on from Council to Council and from Office-bearers to Officer-bearers.

<sup>1</sup> Council acknowledges, with sincere regret, the death of Ebbe during 2001

Examples include time requirements for reporting on the annual auditing the books and the holding of annual general meetings in the latter part of a financial year. Other examples are

### i. Membership categories and definition

- Existing membership categories in the Rules are : ordinary, student, life members. Proposed categories are: ordinary, concessional, life members. Benefits of changing from student to concessional members are in flexibility, e.g. allowing concessional fees for those not receiving a hardcopy Newsletter and in incorporating the existing practice of giving concessions to retirees.
- Adjusting the definition of members who have the same rights and privileges according to the Rules. Currently all members under Rule 2(2) have this benefit, while elsewhere this is removed if financial. It needs to be spelt out that this benefit is applicable only to financial members and that life members are a special exception to the rule.

### ii. Dealing with part-year membership in the first year.

- We need a solution to enable new members to join through the year at a fee commensurate with Society benefits, while safeguarding against e.g. stacking for election purposes (perhaps at least half a full membership fee is required, whatever the date).

### iii. Achieving consistency in defining the roles of Members, Council, Councillors in various roles, and non-elected office-bearers (currently Editor, Public Officer)

- Existing rules give patchy coverage of this. Even members have legal obligations, though limited, under the Act. Certain obligations that are required by elected and non-elected office-bearers under the Act are not mentioned.
- The proposed solution is to make general reference in the Rules to the need to meet obligations under the Act, as ratified by Council and to provide "Schedules" as Council working documents attached to the Rules. These schedules would list key obligations of Members, Councillors (in various roles) and non-elected Office Bearers. Any changes in these obligations could then be modified by Council without recourse to the membership

### iv. Elections to Council need simplification.

- The actions after a ballot resulting in no simple majority are particularly and unnecessarily complex.

**v. Eichler Research Fund administration**

- Currently there is nothing in the *Rules* re demarcation between the Council and the *Eichler Research Fund* committee. The requirements of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 need to be considered and included or attached as a Schedule.

**Finally** to make the document useful there is a need for improved general cross-referencing with the *Rules*, and for improved cross-referencing to *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* and its *Regulations*. Currently the lack of such references makes the *Rules* difficult to use.

Every effort is being made to end up with a more useful document which clearly spells out the obligations of the Society and its Council.

**The process for change involves:**

- a. Subcommittee to bring proposals together by end January 2002 (“4 months prior to General Meeting”):
- b. Provide Secretary with Proposed Alterations (original, proposed changes, comments)
- c. Produce a summary of issues in the Newsletter of that time
- d. Communicate proposals to all Members prior to General Meeting (provide Proposed Alterations and Issues summary) via
  - ASBS Web site
  - hardcopy to State conveners
  - hardcopy to members requesting a mail-out via response slip in prior Newsletter
  - email to Secretary
- e. Place issue on General Meeting agenda (possibly the AGM planned for May onward)
- f. Modifications to be voted on at meeting
  - Non-attendees provide proposals to Secretary, Councillors or attending Members.

**If approved**, within 4 weeks after General Meeting:

- g. Send to all Members:
  - Proposals with any modifications from the General Meeting, unless withdrawn, together with
  - appropriate Voting papers.
- h. Voting Papers to be returned between 4 and 6 weeks after distribution of papers. Approved alteration requires:
  - at least 75% of all valid votes
  - 13 or more valid votes cast

**7. Newsletter & Web Page Report (Robyn Barker)**

The June 2000 issue of the Newsletter was the last to be produced by Bob Hill. In view of the setting up of infrastructure in Adelaide, it will

continue to be produced there for the moment with Robyn and Bill Barker undertaking this task. There will be an attempt to get it back on track with respect to time since this can sometimes be crucial for meeting some of the *Rules* of the Society. The September issue is all in hand but not yet put together [subsequent events have delayed this somewhat].

The last two issues have been placed on the ASBS web page as downloadable .pdf files and members are invited to think about whether they might be willing to take the newsletter in this fashion in the future. This question is likely to be asked in a future issue of the Newsletter, possibly when the membership notices for 2002 are sent out.

The web page has got somewhat out of date and attempts are now being made to address this. In the last month or so a number of areas have been upgraded by Murray Fagg, building on the excellent basic pages put together for the Society by Andrew Lyne.

Bob Hill and Andrew Lyne are both thanked for their services to the Society in their roles of Newsletter Editor and Web Master respectively.

It was pointed out from the floor that notice would need to be given to members when a newsletter became available on the web site. It is planned that this will be done by email to members.

**8. Assistance for student members**

Four student members of the Society qualified for student assistance since they presented a paper or poster at the Flora Malesiana conference. These were John Dowe, and Ellen Weber of James Cook University, Townsville, Bernard Pfeil of the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, Canberra and Gillian Brown of ANU and University of Melbourne. They each received a cheque equal in amount to the student registration for the conference.

**9. The Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund**

Year 2000 recipients included Juergen Kellerman and Bryan Mole of University of Melbourne and Mary Gandini of James Cook University. Each received \$1000 from the Fund. Up to \$4000 is on offer this year (2001). Those members of the Society who contribute regularly to the Fund were thanked by the President.

Year 2001 recipients should be announced in November.

#### 10. Society Meetings

No official date has been set for the Society meeting next year. Activities of ASBS members in the next few months is dispersed by the various state bicentenary celebrations of the work of Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin's expeditions, beginning with *Investigator 200* in Albany in December this year. The Society is committed to the state activities by its provision of support to David Mabberley to visit each state and present lectures on Robert Brown and Ferdinand Bauer.

It has been proposed by Council that a more general, and informal "back to basics", meeting be held within driving distance of the major universities of the eastern states. The aim would be to involve students in the activities of ASBS and to expose them to the current professional botanists. One possible suggestion was Albury in September 2001.

Points made from the floor:

- student conferences have been held in ANU and there is one due to held in South Australia this year – they are not a good place to network
- the Ecological Society has a student organised conference after the academic meeting. While this is a good idea, there is a general apathy shown by students
- back up support and finances are needed
- suggested that one day particularly focussed on students as part of a larger conference was all that was necessary
- on-campus accommodation and the ability to drive to a venue considerable reduced costs.

This matter will continue to be discussed by Council.

#### 11. Palynological and Palaeobotanical Association of Australasia (Australian branch)

The constitution of the PPAA has been worked through by Bob Hill and Bill Barker and it is now up to the members of that society whether they wish to become members of ASBS.

#### 12. Any other business

David Mabberley was thanked in advance for his efforts in taking botanical history to each of the Australian states. As has already been noted, David is being sponsored by ASBS to present lectures on Robert Brown and Ferdinand Bauer in each state.

#### 13. Election Results

All positions having been declared vacant, the Returning Officer (R.M. Barker) indicated that the number of nominations received was the same as the number of vacancies. The following members were elected (without voting) to the positions indicated and took office from the end of the AGM.

President	Barry Conn
Vice President	Bill Barker
Treasurer	Anthony Whalen
Secretary	Brendan Lepschi
Councillors	Bob Makinson Andrew Rozefelds

The incoming President thanked the previous Council for their efforts, in what had been a difficult year.

Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Robyn Barker  
Outgoing Secretary  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2001

## Minutes of the extraordinary General Meeting of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.

Because of the unusual need to convene another meeting to approve the Treasurer's report, an extra General Meeting was held in Canberra on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November in the Seminar Room, Australian National Herbarium, Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, Clunies Ross St, Canberra.

Meeting opened at 5:05 pm.

The President welcomed the 17 members in attendance.

#### Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Brown tabled the Treasurers Report for 2000 (see below). Judy West moved that it be accepted. Seconded: Mike Crisp. Carried.

Meeting closed at 5:50 pm.

Brendan Lepschi  
Secretary  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2001



AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial statement of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated for the financial year ended 31 December 2000 (with limited information for the part-financial year 1 January 2001 – 7 August 2001).

**Committee Members**

The names of the committee members who held office throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Robyn Barker	Secretary
Bill Barker	Vice president
Elizabeth Brown	Treasurer
Barry Conn	President
Kristina Lemson	Councillor
Bob Makinson	Councillor
Andrew Lyne	Public Officer

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during this first half of the financial year were to promote systematic botany in Australia

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The surplus for the year ended 2000 amounted to \$ 33,771 (as summarised in the following table).

	2001	2000	1999	1998
Research Fund	<sup>2</sup> n.av.	\$ 28,120	\$ 26,149	\$ 22,110
General Fund		\$ 5,651	\$ 2,157	\$ 780
		<b>\$ 33,771</b>	<b>\$ 28,306</b>	<b>\$ 22,890</b>

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Committee.

*B. Conn* (President)

*E. Brown* (Treasurer)

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
1998–2001

RESEARCH FUND

	09 Aug 2001	2000	1999	1998
<b>Income</b>				
Donations to Research Fund	\$ 20,817.00	\$ 24,840.88	\$ 25,647.08	\$ 20,365.00
Investment income	n.av.	\$ 6,662.07	\$ 3,511.06	\$ 3,476.88
50% of profits from sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ 523.00
		\$ 31,502.95	\$ 29,158.14	\$ 24,364.88
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Research Grants	n.av.	<sup>3</sup> \$ 3,000.00	\$ 3000.00	\$ 2,250.00
Bank Charges	n.av.	<sup>4</sup> \$ 383.01	\$ 8.50	\$ 4.50
		<b>\$ 3,383.01</b>	<b>\$ 2,254.50</b>	
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for year</b>		<b>\$ 28,119.94</b>	<b>\$ 26,149.64</b>	<b>\$ 22,110.38</b>

<sup>2</sup> n.av. = not available. Since the accounts for 2001 are not complete many figures are not available at this stage

<sup>3</sup> 2000 Grants paid in 2001. Note: no grants as yet awarded for 2001.

<sup>4</sup> This includes the service fees on the Commonwealth Growth Fund (\$380.01)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
1998-9 August 2001

GENERAL FUND

	Until 9 Aug 2001	2000	1999	1998
<b>Income</b>				
Sales				
Merchandise	0.00	0.00	\$ 128.00	\$ 788.00
History books	\$ 70.00	\$ 704.50	\$ 690.00	\$ 1,000.00
Arid Australia books	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
Conifer books	0.00	0.00	\$ 151.95	\$ 420.00
		<b>\$ 704.50</b>	<b>\$ 969.95</b>	<b>\$ 2,268.00</b>
<b>Less cost of goods sold</b>				
Opening stock - merchandise	n.av.	0.00	\$ 502.00	\$ 1,319.00
Opening stock - books	n.av.	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 1,195.00	\$ 2,365.00
Closing stock - merchandise	n.av.	0.00	0.00	(\$ 502.00)
Closing stock - books	n.av.	(\$ 940.00)	(\$ 1,040.00)	(\$ 1,195.00)
		<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 657.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,987.00</b>
<b>Gross Surplus (Deficit) from Trading</b>		<b>\$ 604.50</b>	<b>\$ 312.95</b>	<b>\$ 281.00</b>
Advertising	0.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 318.39	\$ 100.00
Conferences	0	<sup>5</sup> \$ 8,044.70	0.00	\$ 12,225.32
Investment income	n.av.	\$ 1,644.15	\$ 1,336.42	\$ 1,034.81
Subscriptions to ASBS Inc	<sup>6</sup> \$ 8760.20	\$ 7,940.00	\$ 9,075.00	\$ 8,080.00
Postage recovery	0.00	0.00	\$ 143.04	\$ 69.60
Sundry income	0.00	<sup>7</sup> \$ 100.00	\$ 110.07	\$ 7.50
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 19,187.85</b>	<b>\$ 11,295.87</b>	<b>\$ 21,798.23</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Auditors remuneration	n.av.	\$ 350.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 375.00
Bank fees	\$ 29.67	\$ 43.42	\$ 51.19	\$ 47
Conference expenses	<sup>8</sup> \$ 2000.00	<sup>9</sup> \$ 4,500.00	\$ 965.00	\$ 3,750.00
Filing fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ 30.00
General expenses	0.00	0.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 12.00
Meeting expenses	\$ 692.54	0.00	\$ 1,095.00	\$ 1,399.80
Newsletter expenses	<sup>10</sup> \$ 3136.03	<sup>11</sup> \$ 7587.66	<sup>12</sup> \$ 4,133.74	\$ 4,219.75
Postage & stationary	0.00	0.00	\$ 87.10	\$ 110.95
Royalties - history book sales	0.00	0.00	\$ 1,123.68	\$ 342.43
Subscriptions (FASTS)		<sup>13</sup> \$ 1056.00	\$ 864.00	\$ 2,043.00
Transfer to Research Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ 523.00
Monocot field trip	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ 8,161.46
Newsletter Printing back issues	0.00	0.00	\$ 265.00	0.00
		<b>\$ 13,537.08</b>	<b>\$ 9,138.53</b>	<b>\$ 21,018.58</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for year</b>		<b>\$ 5,650.77</b>	<b>\$ 2,157.34</b>	<b>\$ 779.65</b>

<sup>5</sup> *Dampier Conference* (\$3120.70, including initial refund of \$1000 advance; *Rod Page Workshop* (\$1924, consisting of partial return of \$2,000 advance; *Monocots II* conference (\$3,000, refund of \$3,000 advance - see also donation to *Hj Eichler Fund*)

<sup>6</sup> Approximately 15 % of membership are late in paying dues for 2001

<sup>7</sup> Sales from existing stock that has already been written down

<sup>8</sup> *Brown 200* advance of \$2,000

<sup>9</sup> *Legumes Down Under* advance \$2,000; Investigator 2000 advance \$500; *Rod Page Workshop* advance \$2,000

<sup>10</sup> 2 issues of Newsletter - covering issues 105 & 106

<sup>11</sup> 5 issues of Newsletter - covering issues 101-104

<sup>12</sup> 3 issues of Newsletter - covering issues 97-100

<sup>13</sup> Subscription for 01 July 2000-30 June 2001 (not drawn by FASTS until Jan 2001)

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2000**  
(figures to 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2001 given where available)

	09 Aug 2001	2000	1999	1998
<b>Current Assets</b>				
	<b>Cash and Investments</b>			
<b>Research Fund</b>				
Cash at bank	\$ 692.72	\$ 692.72	\$ 694.44	\$ 21,264.77
Investments				
Cash Management Fund		\$ 44,356.63	\$ 22,412.01	0.00
Australian Bond Fund		<sup>14</sup> \$ 44,724.57	\$ 41,439.51	\$ 40,797.97
Growth Fund		\$ 50,660.20	\$ 47,916.26	\$ 22,893.86
		<b>\$ 140,434.12</b>	<b>\$ 112,462.22</b>	<b>\$ 84,956.60</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
Cash at bank	\$ 8,381.53	\$ 21,673.47	\$ 2,470.49	\$ 2,077.63
Investments				
Term Deposit A	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Term Deposit B	0.00	0.00	\$ 5,535.36	\$ 5,335.96
Cash Management Acct	\$ 28,577.86	\$ 15,220.86	\$ 18,563.87	\$ 16,341.79
		<b>\$ 46,894.33</b>	<b>\$ 36,569.72</b>	<b>\$ 33,755.38</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 187,328.45</b>	<b>\$ 149,031.94</b>	<b>\$ 118,711.98</b>
<b>Inventories</b>				
General Fund				
Merchandise	n.av.	0.00	0.00	\$ 502.00
History of Systematic Botany	n.av.	\$ 940.00	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 1,195.00
Conifer Books	n.av.	0.00	\$ 20.00	0.00
		<b>\$ 940.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,040.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,697.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>\$ 188,268.45</b>	<b>\$ 150,071.94</b>	<b>\$ 120,408.98</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>\$ 188,268.45</b>	<b>\$ 150,071.94</b>	<b>\$ 120,408.98</b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>				
<b>Research Fund</b>				
Accumulated surplus at end of year	n.av.	\$ 133,949.77	\$ 105,829.83	\$ 79,680.19
Asset Revaluation Reserve	n.av.	\$ 6,632.39	\$ 6,632.39	\$ 5,276.41
		<b>\$ 140,582.16</b>	<b>\$ 112,462.22</b>	<b>\$ 84,956.60</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
Accumulated surplus at end of year		\$ 47,686.29	\$ 37,609.72	\$ 35,452.38
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<b>\$ 188,268.45</b>	<b>\$ 150,071.94</b>	<b>\$ 120,408.98</b>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2000**

**1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

This report is a special purpose financial report in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT).

No Australian Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative

pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been intentionally applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

<sup>14</sup> Based on Commonwealth Fund figures for 02 Jan 2001 (closest figure that could be obtained to 30 December 2000)

**Membership**

Membership is recorded on a cash basis.

**(a) Income Tax**

Under present legislation the Association is exempt from income tax accordingly no provision has been made in the accounts.

**(b) Asset Revaluation Reserve**

Revaluations of assets are transferred to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

**(c) Comparative Figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with the changes in presentation for the current year.

**(d) Members Funds**

In accordance with the rules of the association accumulated funds are not available for the distribution to members.

**2. Investment Income**

	07 Aug 2001	2000	1999	1998
<b>Research Fund</b>				
Interest Received				
Cheque account	\$ 4.57	\$ 2.78	\$ 17.09	\$ 1.63
Distributions				
Cash Management Trust	\$ 1040.41	\$ 1,328.79	\$ 186.01	0.00
Australian Bond Fund	\$ 868.72	\$ 3,589.18	\$ 1,780.42	\$ 2,743.00
Growth Fund	\$ 1044.87	<sup>15</sup> \$ 1,741.32	\$ 1,527.54	\$ 732.25
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 6,662.07</b>	<b>\$ 3,511.06</b>	<b>\$ 3,476.88</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
Interest Received				
Cheque account	\$ 182.97	\$ 33.12	\$ 7.62	\$ 10.57
Term deposits	n.av	\$ 825.36	\$ 606.72	\$ 518.19
		<b>\$ 858.48</b>	<b>\$ 614.34</b>	<b>\$ 528.76</b>
Distributions				
Cash Management Trust	\$ 357.00	\$ 785.67	\$ 722.08	\$ 506.05
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 1,644.15</b>	<b>\$ 1,336.42</b>	<b>\$ 1,034.81</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 8,306.22</b>	<b>\$ 4,847.48</b>	<b>\$ 4,511.69</b>

**3. Accumulated Funds**

	07 Aug 2001	2000	1999	1998
<b>Research Fund</b>				
Accumulated surplus (start)		\$ 105,829.83	\$ 79,680.19	\$ 57,569.81
Surplus / (deficit) this year		\$ 28,119.94	\$ 26,149.64	\$ 22,110.38
Accumulated surplus (end)		\$ 133,949.77	\$ 105,829.83	\$ 79,680.19
<b>General Fund</b>				
Accumulated surplus (start)		\$ 37,609.72	\$ 35,452.38	\$ 34,672.73
Surplus / (deficit) this year		\$ 5,650.77	\$ 2,157.34	\$ 779.65
Accumulated surplus (end)		\$ 43,260.49	\$ 37,609.72	\$ 35,452.38
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 177,210.26</b>	<b>\$ 143,439.55</b>	<b>\$ 115,132.57</b>

**4. Reserves**

	07 Aug 2001	2000	1999	1998
<b>Research Fund</b>				
Asset Revaluation Reserve				
Balance at beginning of year		\$ 6,632.39	\$ 5276.41	\$ 2,794.94
Transfers this year		\$ 4,425.80	\$ 1355.98	\$ 2,481.47
<b>Balance at end of year</b>		<b>\$ 11,058.19</b>	<b>\$ 6632.39</b>	<b>\$ 5,276.41</b>

**5. Members of the Committee**

The names of the committee members who have held office during the financial year are:

Robyn Barker  
 Bill Barker  
 Elizabeth Brown  
 Barry Conn  
 Kristina Lemson  
 Bob Makinson

**6. Research Committee**

The Australian Systematic Botany Society is an approved research institute. The approved membership of the Research Committee comprises:

Terry Macfarlane  
 Peter Weston  
 Barry Conn  
 Robyn Barker  
 John Clarkson  
 Tim Entwisle

<sup>15</sup> This includes payment of deferred service fees of \$ 380.01

## Independent audit report to Members

### Scope

We have audited the accompanying financial statements, being, a special purpose financial report comprising the Statement by Members of the Committee, Statement of Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet and notes to and forming part of the financial statements Australian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated for the financial year ended 31 December 2000. The committee is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the Associations Incorporations Act (ACT) and the needs of members. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT). We disclaim the assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other

disclosures in the financial report, and on the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. These policies do not require the application of all Australian Accounting Standards and other professional reporting.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### Qualification

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for the association to maintain an effective system of internal control over the receipt of revenues until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit was limited to the amounts recorded.

### Qualified Audit Opinion

Subject to the above qualification, in our opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report the financial position of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated as at 31 December 2000 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Cannings Accountants  
12 September 2001

## Editorial

### **The Newsletter going electronic, publication dates, emailing membership, and membership fees**

At successive Annual General Meetings the membership has agreed to give members the option not to receive a hard-copy newsletter, given its availability now on-line. Hopefully this will reduce costs for the Society and allow a reduction in the annual membership fee for those choosing to take the Newsletter on-line.

Council undertook to trial electronic publication and over the last 18 months, through the efforts of Andrew Lyne and Bob Hill, past issues of the Newsletter have been gradually placed on the site in the "pdf" format. This format is read by Adobe Acrobat, which is readily available for download

from the Web. It enables viewing each Newsletter with a search function and printing of individual pages or a complete copy of an issue. The printed output is the B5 of the Newsletter on an A4 page, able to be guillotined down to match a standard Newsletter. To enable both rapid viewing and quality print outputs, two files will be installed on the Web site.

With a change of editorship resulting in delays in printing, it was decided to publish the Web version of issue number 108 of the Newsletter in advance of the hard-copy version. The Newsletter was published electronically on 1<sup>st</sup> November and in hard-copy on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Publication dates of each version of the Newsletter will be now provided inside the front cover of the following issue.

Since the membership needed to be informed of the availability of the Newsletter on the Society's Web site, email addresses of members were updated as far as was possible in the time and, possibly for the first time, the membership was contacted collectively by email. The small number of messages that failed to reach their destination have been updated. It is likely that further contact will be made with Members on Council affairs (e.g. fees, Constitutional matters) using this medium.

As agreed at the last Annual General Meeting, the same membership rate will apply into next year for each member, whatever the form the member wants to take the Newsletter. The next AGM will decide whether there will be a reduction in membership fees for those who decide they do not want to receive hard copy.

#### Call for members' contributions

A big thanks to those members who provide unsolicited contributions. They are meeting the purpose of the Newsletter in the Society's affairs:

a forum for opinion, a vehicle for news from institutions and various parts of the nation and globally, conference reports, retirements and obituaries, and requests for assistance.

However, in the last few years we have had a number of retirements and deaths, some of prominent and productive systematists and associates, which have been marked locally by researched speeches or writings to which many members have no access. If published somewhere with limited distribution, it may be appropriate to include them in the Newsletter. It would be a pity that, for want of minor editing, we fail to make such materials available to a wider, undoubtedly interested, audience and realise their full historical value.

#### Inclusions of illustrations and minor items

These are very useful to make up otherwise blank space in the multiples of four pages forming the basis for printing. So don't hesitate to send something more whimsical on the chance it can be included.

## Nancy Burbidge Medal 2001

### The President's announcement

Barry J. Conn

Maiden Lecture Theatre, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2001

The *Nancy T. Burbidge Medal* is awarded to a person who has made a longstanding and significant contribution to Australian systematic botany.

On behalf of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc., it is with great pleasure that I announce that the recipient of this year's *Nancy T. Burbidge Medal* is Dr Judith G. West.

Judy completed her B.Sc. with majors in Botany and Zoology in 1970; and her B.Sc.(Hons) with first class honours in Botany in 1972 (both from the University of Sydney, New South Wales). In 1981 she graduated from the University of Adelaide, South Australia with a Ph.D. by thesis on "A taxonomic revision of *Dodonaea* (Sapindaceae) in Australia".

She has been appointed to several positions throughout her career. Her professional botanical career started with her appointment as a tutor at

the Botany Department from 1973-1977. She resigned from this position to devote all of her efforts to completing her Ph.D. This was fortuitous for me because I was appointed as her replacement and because this was the beginning of her friendship with my family and myself.

In 1980, she was appointed as a Research Scientist of the Australian National Herbarium, CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra.

During 1987-1988, she represented Australian herbaria as the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer, based at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, United Kingdom. This proved to be a very demanding year for Judy because of the extra official engagement linked to Australia's bicentenary celebration in 1988.

From 1989-1996, she was Senior Principal Research Scientist and Program Leader of the

Australian Flora Resources & Management program, CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra.

In 1989, she was appointed Director, Australian National Herbarium. She still holds this position today.

In 1994, she took on the Directorship of the newly formed Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, CSIRO Plant Industry. She has promoted plant systematic research by expanding her institution's activities in this area.

Finally, in 1999 she was granted the position of Adjunct Professor, Division of Botany and Zoology, Australian National University, Canberra.

Judy has maintained a very active and diverse commitment to many important national and international professional associations and committee. She was actively involved while still a post-graduate student.

- 1977-1980: Member of the Community Pest Plant Advisory Committee (advisory body to South Australian Department of Agriculture Pest Plant Commission).
- 1977-1980: Member of the South Australian Evaluation Panel for Australian Heritage Commission.
- 1977-1980: Executive Member of the Conservation Council of South Australia.

Judy has maintained a long and active service to the *Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.*, holding several position on Council: Secretary in 1979-1985, Vice-President in 1986-1989, and President in 1989-1992.

She has also continued to be a very active member of the Society prior to and since these terms of office.

- 1981-1982: Executive Member of the Canberra and South East Region Conservation Council.
- 1987-1989: Council Member of International Organisation of Plant Biosystematists
- 1988-1991: Member on the Committee for List of Names in Current Use International Association of Plant Taxonomists:
- 1989-1992: Editor of *Cladistics*, International Journal of the Willi Hennig Society
- 1990: Member of *Flora of Australia* Editorial Committee; Chairperson 1994-1996.
- 1991: Member of CSIRO Working Group: Biodiversity in relation to Ecological Sustainable Development

- 1993-1995: Co-chairman of Plant Conservation Task Force, IUCN Species Survival Commission
- 1993-1998: Member of the Endangered Species Advisory Committee
- 1993-1998: Member of Endangered Species Scientific Sub Committee,.
- 1994-1999: Botany Advisor (Technical Advisory Group) GEF Biodiversity Collections Project, Indonesia
- 1995-2000: Deputy Chair of Biological Diversity Advisory Council
- 1988-: Member of Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria
- 1998-: Member of Editorial Advisory Committee *Adansonia*
- 1996-: Member of the Flora Malesiana Board
- 1993-: Australian Councillor Southern Connections
- 1996-: Member of *Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee*
- 1999-: Council member of International Association of Plant Taxonomists,

#### Publications:

Judy has published on the biology and systematics of the Sapindaceae (particularly the genus *Dodonaea*), Portulacaceae, *Pultenaea* (Fabaceae) and Caryophyllaceae. She has also published on issues relating to biodiversity, biogeography and bioinformatics.

#### In conclusion:

Judy has raised the profile of Australian plant systematics through her participation on the numerous national and international associations and committees. She has promoted plant systematic research within the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research and through her membership of the *Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee*. Her vigorous championing of the importance of Australian plant systematics guarantees the significance of her representation on the *Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria*. She has played a pivotal role in the successful granting of significant financial support for the *Australia's Virtual Herbarium Project*.

On behalf of the *Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.*, I thank Judy for her long and outstanding commitment to Australian systematic botany and look forward to her continued contributions.

## Letters

### What are the roles of Floras in an electronic age?

In *ASBS Newsletter 108*, Bill Barker provided a thoughtful review of *Flora of Australia Vol. 17A: Proteaceae 2, Grevillea*. This generally positive review raised a number of points, among them the future role of Floras in delivery of botanical information, and in particular the question of electronic vs printed delivery of such information. Coincidentally, the same topics featured in discussions at the ASBS Canberra Chapter meeting on 27 November. These are very important points, and go to the heart of much of the debate (and reviews) that have so exercised ABRS in the last 2–3 years. I would like to present my personal views on this matter. I hasten to add that these views are not necessarily those of ABRS or Environment Australia management.

#### Where did Floras come from?

Floras are essentially the utilitarian end of botanical (particularly taxonomic) research. Their origins can be traced back thousands of years to herbals, which were an attempt to codify what was known about useful plants, particularly for medical purposes. This story is well known, and I have no need to paraphrase it here.

Floras as we know them have a history of about 250 years. Most of their main components (a fully inclusive list of taxa, synonymy, distribution, bibliography and diagnostic descriptions) are apparent in Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum* (1753). From that time they have evolved as a genre, with the addition of identification keys, notes on ecology and biology, and attempts to provide phylogenetic rather than artificial arrangements of taxa. Modern Floras also usually contain copious illustrations, but this feature was also present in early herbals.

This evolutionary process has fine-tuned the presentation techniques, and must be meeting a need. There are probably more relatively recent Floras available now, or in the process of being written, than at any other time in history.

#### What do Floras deliver?

This is already partly answered above. Floras are a mechanism for delivering concise information about the plants of an area in a dense, comparable manner. The key features are comprehensiveness

(all taxa in the area under consideration are accounted for), conciseness (descriptions are diagnostic, delivering only that information necessary for unambiguous identification), comparability (related taxa have descriptions and other data which are readily comparable), identification (some means, usually dichotomous keys, are provided to allow users to identify unknowns), distribution (text, maps or both, are provided to describe distributional patterns) and biology (a concise summary of phenology, reproductive biology, ecology and perhaps other features are frequently added).

Bill recognised this in his statement that "The Flora retains its feel of being packed with detail..." which I consider a compliment, although Bill went on to put a slightly different view. Floras are designed to be used by those who require a summary overview of the plants of a region. They should provide sufficient detail to enable sure identification, and beyond that should pack as much subsidiary information as possible into as small a space as possible. Most importantly, they should provide flags to areas of uncertainty (distribution, delimitation, relationships) and to other more discursive literature. Most modern Floras do all of these things. Users of Floras do not expect to find all available information about the taxa discussed, but they do expect a tightly written, concise summary or overview of all information.

#### Floras vs Monographs

Monographs are written for a different audience. They are discursive, they can be comprehensive, and they may cover areas beyond the scope of Floras. They may also be more limited in geographical scope (they are usually delimited by taxonomic rather than geographic scope).

Monographs should provide detailed descriptions of the taxa covered, even if these descriptions run to many hundreds (or thousands) of words. They are an opportunity for a researcher to deliver data on all characteristics of a taxon, not just its diagnostic characters. They provide an opportunity to discuss in great detail variability, ecology, hybridity and other features of breeding systems, and relationships in minute detail. Nomenclatural matters can be explained in detail, particularly quirks of typification and validity/legitimacy. Increasingly, monographs provide the platform for extensive discussions of



phylogeny, with equally extensive phylogenetic trees in all their exquisite detail.

Users of monographs are a different (although sometimes overlapping) group to users of Floras. Users of monographs want detail, and are prepared to wade through many words to get it. They expect that all available information on the taxonomy (in the broadest sense) of the taxon will be provided, summarised and/or referenced.

Floras and monographs are therefore at opposite ends of a spectrum. Monographs provide the detail, Floras provide the overview. Both are necessary, each serves a different purpose. Therefore the answer to one of Bill's questions, "Can the enthusiast, let alone the general reader, afford three revisions of just one genus... " is "It depends on what the enthusiast wants." If they require the most recent overview in one easily handled volume, then they probably only need the Flora. If they want greater detail then they probably need the Flora for the most recent view, plus one of the previous monographs (which, is a matter of personal preference). The fact that three different botanists (or groups of botanists) have three different views on the taxonomy of *Grevillea* is unfortunate for users, but reflects the reality that taxonomy still has an element of art as well as science in its practice. There is no absolute truth. To criticise the messenger (the Flora) because the generals can't agree seems a little unfair.

### Electronic vs Printed Delivery

It is frequently claimed that books are out of date as soon as they are printed. Electronic delivery offers the advantage of potentially daily or hourly updates. It is not quite so frequently claimed that all websites are in fact updated daily or hourly, or even annually!

The factor of currency vs stability is an important one, and like floras vs monographs assumes different value for different users. Taxonomy is a science built, probably more than any other, on precedence. Taxonomists need to know exactly who said exactly what, and exactly when. Potentially updatable texts are in strong conflict with this ideal. On the other hand, coal-face users may be more concerned about whether the information they are using is current, rather than the date on which it was compiled.

I believe that neither entirely electronic nor entirely print-based delivery can provide everything for everyone. Electronic delivery (with or without archiving of versions) can deliver an adequate product for coal-face users, but this information may not be the traditional

Flora. In fact it may be more akin to an up-market coffee table book, because electronic delivery, as Bill correctly points out, is unconstrained by the need to be concise. One can have as many words and as many pictures as the budget will bear, although it always helps to employ an editor somewhere in the process.

There is another way, and one that I think offers a possibly better solution. Printed works are in fact perfectly updatable. New editions are produced all the time, and provide an update with full taxonomic accountability: date, author and immutable text. However they are relatively expensive to produce, and only feasible when the number of accumulated changes become large.

*Species Plantarum*, with which I am associated is facing just this problem. The solution that we will be adopting for the world flora is to produce printed accounts in the normal way, but to maintain a website on which 'electronic errata' and 'electronic updates' are posted. Those that want full taxonomic accountability can still access the original book. Those who want to know what has happened since (if anything) can check the website, where they will find information like "On p. 23 (*Eucalyptus alba*) change height from 30 cm to 30 m." or "After species 23 (p. 46) add an additional species (23a. *Eucalyptus nigra*) described by Smith, *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 45: 123-127 (2001). Description follows...". If errata or additions accumulate to an unmanageable level, then a new edition can be published. This system has the advantage that all changes are tagged in a way that makes it clear where and when they were implemented. Version archiving ceases to be a problem.

Which brings me to the crux of Bill's review:

Here is an example of the desirability of electronic publication, which would surely answer many issues of compilation, publication and purchase. The descriptions in this work are considerably shorter than the prior two revisions (with many characters of the previous works omitted and so no matching full descriptions for the work's new species and subspecies). Presumably reducing the descriptions to meet publishing standards constrained by cost of hard-copy publication is for authors and editors alike a frustrating use of valuable time. The massive duplication of effort in these three revisions and the additional effort caused by meeting different editorial criteria could have been better put to producing an upgradable electronic treatise combining the best points of all of them.

I believe there are several points where Bill is mistaken:

- Publishing standards (for the Flora) are not primarily constrained by the cost of hard copy publication. An extra 50 pages more or less over a large print run makes very little difference to the street price of the book. The publishing standards (especially the description word limit) are not just to limit cost, they are there to focus authors' attention on the essentials. As I said earlier, Floras are concise overviews. They need to be tightly written and edited to achieve this. It may be frustrating sometimes, but it is well worthwhile.
- There was not appreciable duplication of effort involved in this third publication. As Bill himself acknowledges, the *Flora of Australia Grevillea* treatment differs appreciably from the two previous ones. If Bob Makinson believed that the earlier accounts needed revision, then he would have needed to 'make an effort' anyway. The *Flora* only provided a vehicle.
- 'An upgradable electronic treatise combining the best points of all of them' sounds like a strange beast. Was this to be done uncritically by just amalgamating the two monographs? Surely not! How were the major inconsistencies to be resolved? Sounds to me like what would have been needed was some considerable period of research by a senior botanist, redescription of the taxa involved,

followed by the smoothing that only careful editing could provide. Hey! Isn't that what we did? As for electronic, *Grevillea* will be one of the first *Flora of Australia* treatments to be delivered electronically (as well as on paper) through the ABIF-Flora initiative, early next year. Maybe we can please everyone!

Despite my disagreement with some of Bill's comments, I want to repeat that I really appreciated his thoughtful review. I am sure this debate is not over yet. I believe that the final outcome may well be a continuation of Floras in something like their present form, continuation of 'popular' books for those who only need to know about a limited range of taxa, perhaps something similar on websites for those who prefer an electronic diet, and electronic Floras like ABIF-Flora and other elements that will flow from the AVH. In other words, the ideal all-purpose biodiversity information delivery system is yet to be invented, and may never be found. Just as a real screwdriver, a real saw, a real knife, a real corkscrew, real scissors and real hoof de-stoner work better collectively than a Swiss Army knife (if more bulky), then a diversified biodiversity information delivery system is more likely to suit more users, than an elaborate unitary system that attempts to service everyone.

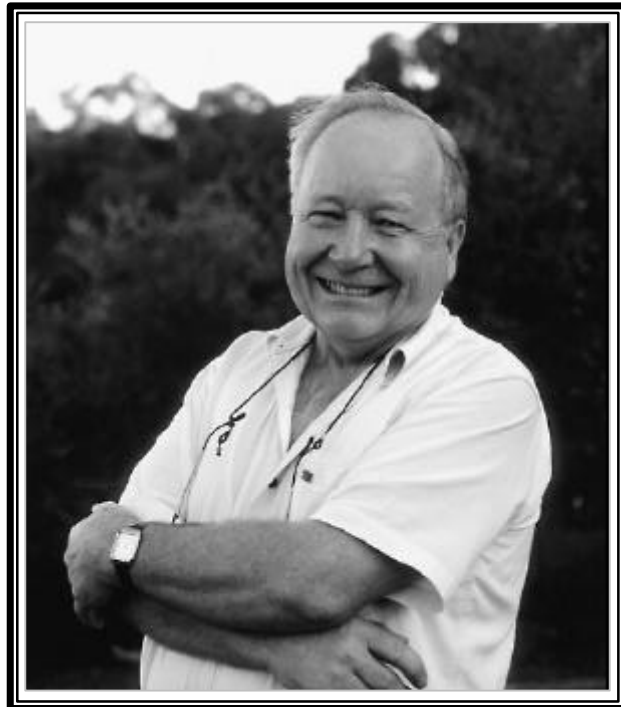
Tony Orchard  
Australian Biological Resources Study

## Deaths

### Heinar Streimann (1938 – 2001)

It is with regret that we learn of the passing of Heinar Streimann, noted New Guinea and Australian bryologist.

Ph. Murray Fagg  
© Austral.Nat.  
Bot.Gdns



## Retirements

### Munir Ahmad Abid of the State Herbarium of South Australia on the occasion of his retirement

10<sup>th</sup> August 2001

*This is a modification of a talk given to a gathering of family, friend and colleagues. Bob Chinnock and Nick Donner spoke briefly and a Power Point presentation was shown throughout with illustrations of Munir's life.*

From what must be close to the very first day Munir arrived in Adelaide on 11 March 1971 we shared experiences – experiences of the Botany Department with teaching of undergraduates, of seminars, and of the commencement of our long and full relationship with the work of the State Herbarium and particularly the people that have worked in it. I had already started a Ph.D. in plant systematics and we shared our two supervisors Hansjoerg Eichler of the State Herbarium and Con Eardley of the Botany Department in the University of Adelaide.

A few months after Munir and Rashida's arrival with a young 2 year old Kashif, Rashid was born.

They were the days when the strong ties between the Botany Department and the State Herbarium were very strong indeed. As was written by Alison MacCusker in her obituary of Sir Rutherford Robertson, who had left for ANU in 1969:

Robertson had joined forces with Hansjoerg Eichler, Keeper of the State Herbarium of South Australia, to boost taxonomic training in botany. Eichler was given honorary staff status with the Botany Department and in that capacity supervised or co-supervised a large number of post-graduate students over more than a decade. This fruitful partnership to build a taxonomic centre of excellence delivered a cohort of taxonomists who are still active in many Australian (and overseas) herbaria and universities.

It is a pity that we have lost most of that postgraduate contact here. Hopefully the new alliance in the new Centre for Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity involving the original Botany Department, now merged with Zoology in the Department of Environmental

Biology, the SA Museum, and sections of the Waite Institute will see a return of postgraduate research to the State Herbarium, with the stimulation and enrichment that goes with it.

Munir is not the first of this earlier cohort to retire. He is preceded by Paul Wilson in the WA Herbarium and Dick Schodde who became head of (animal) collections in CSIRO Wildlife.

Memories are many. Dear Con Eardley, or "Miss Eardley" as we respectfully would address her, is high in them. She had a deep concern to assist overseas and particularly Asian students, and took Munir and family very much under her wing from the start. Her nervous disposition and expression and often simplistic presentation subjected her to much ridicule amongst the students. But she was not the fool she was sometimes considered. Rather, her concern for others made her prone to being distracted. Munir will have been given lifts home with her. One instance of this is firmly planted in my mind. Through politeness I remained speechless, not once, but twice, while she slowly drove through red-lights on King William Street. For fear of our lives I plucked up the courage to point out her inattention, to which she gratefully requested that I remind her in advance of her responsibilities for the rest of the drive.

The daily routine, 1977. Ph. State Herb.SA





The Botany II undergraduate trip to Morgan in 1973. Con Eardley giving her running commentary. Ph. Bill Barker

And Munir will remember sharing a meal at the University Staff Club with Con to celebrate completing my thesis. Despite our concern throughout the evening, by the time we'd finished our three courses Con had not completed her soup.

Munir also shares memories of our co-supervisor Hansjoerg Eichler, with his high ideals. Munir came to Adelaide an experienced taxonomist and Hansjoerg gave him the respect he deserved. "Bill" he would call me, but it was always "Mr Munir". In contrast to my own venture into the Scrophulariaceae, where I did much sifting and sorting of specimens in establishing concepts and did little descriptive work until I had experienced plants in the field, Munir began describing species as soon as he could lay his hands on the specimens. And, in finding that there was insufficient time available for the State Herbarium to provide Ludwig Dutkiewicz as an artist, he embarked on his own period as a botanical artist. Munir's comments on his line drawings: "they are not beautiful but they are accurate scientifically". I agree with the latter, but do believe that his work does have a real delight in its distinctive style. And Munir proudly recounts that on surveying the spread of his artistic talents Hansjoerg said "Mr Munir, I do not regret having you here".

Munir already had a lot of experience when he arrived in Adelaide. He started after me at a Ph.D. and is reputedly 12 years older, but John Jessop tells me that there was no record of his birth date when he was appointed. Having obtained his B.Sc. in the Punjab University in Lahore in 1960, Munir completed his M.Sc. project by 1962, rendering an account of 500 species that made up

the "Flora of Sind University new campus, Jamshoro". At the end of 1963 he accepted a Senior Colombo Plan Fellowship at the Singapore Botanic Gardens under then Director, Mr H.M. Burkill. Munir's mentors in Singapore were Dr Chew Wee Leck, an expert in Urticaceae and later to end up in NSW, and the retired Dr C.X. Furtado, a palm specialist. Munir was offered a room of his own, but he opted to continue to share with Dr Furtado, so well they got on. He remembers the rollicking return from Britain en route to Borneo of the famous E.J.H. Corner, the former Director of the Gardens and a global expert on figs, fungi, seeds and just about everything else. He is infamous for the monkeys that he trained to climb trees and throw down herbarium material. A great party was had. Munir describes him as "charismatic, jolly, friendly, knowledgeable".

While in Singapore Munir embarked on a major publication programme on Malesian Verbenaceae, the start of a lifetime of work in this family. He published accounts of *Petraeovitex*, *Symphorema*, and the large genera *Congea* and *Sphenodesma*. He returned to Sind University at the end of 1965, where he lectured for six years. He arrived in Adelaide, in 1971 having accepted the offer of a University Research Grant of \$1600. Soon after his arrival he received further offers from Sydney University under Roger Carolin (for \$3000) and also Oxford and Cornell Universities, but he chose to remain in Adelaide.

Before Munir and I had finished our doctorates, in 1973, Hansjoerg Eichler moved on to head the CSIRO's Herbarium Australiense and we were left to correspond over drafts of our manuscript.

We shared a large room, the former tea room. In the narrow walkway between the benches lining the wall and the large central area, composed of spare bench tops, made for spreading out our specimens, the elderly Mr Ising's rendition of his creationist Chenopod classification was enhanced by the ritual of laying out a mattress for his lunch-hour naps.

Munir experienced his Chloanthaceae, then often included in the Verbenaceae, for the first time in the field in 1973 when he and Nick Donner of the State Herbarium visited the deserts of Central and Western Australia. Bob Chinnock and Brendan Lay also undertook the trip and kept in loose contact. They all joined forces in the Territory with John Maconochie and Peter Latz.



The human scale: Munir on his 1973 field trip to Central and Western Australia.

Ph. Nick Donner

John Jessop took up the appointment as Chief Botanist in 1974, and the appointment of the productive Munir to a new Botanist's position in February 1975 as the first of an expansion of staff was very appropriate. For John led the State Herbarium into an era of publication, producing a new house journal and the *Central Australian Flora* and the *Flora of South Australia* and the collaborative ventures with other floras, notably the *Flora of Australia*

Munir's thesis was published in Canberra's upgraded house journal *Brunonia*, the forerunner to *Australian Systematic Botany*, and took up a whole volume. He had earlier published a paper in the first volume of the series. But most of his subsequent revisions appeared in the *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens*, including the first volume.

Munir contributed also to *Flora of South Australia*, not just in the Chloanthaceae and Verbenaceae, but in the Compositae. He has submitted his account of *Verbena* for publication and all but completed his accounts of the Chloanthaceae and Verbenaceae for the *Flora of Australia*.

Munir added to the mixed bag of nationalities that made up the Herbarium at the time. Munir had arrived while Barb Welling, Eric Jackson and David Whibley were the only Aussies present. We had

Hansjoerg and Marlies Eichler from Germany, Vilja Jaegermann from Estonia, Kosmyn Chorney from the Ukraine, Ludwig Dutkiewicz from Poland, Joe Weber and Nick Donner from Yugoslavia and John Carrick from Scotland. Bob Chinnock had arrived latterly from New Zealand, and, following Hansjoerg's move to Canberra, John Jessop from South Africa arrived as the new Chief Botanist. In 1976 I joined the staff after a couple of years in New Guinea, with Tina Eadsforth from Britain. Hellmut followed in John's footsteps, and I think only then was there a move to local blood, notably Kathie Stove, Graham Bell and Gilbert Dashorst.

A highlight for Munir was his stint as ABLO at Kew in 1979-80. There he experienced many of the names associated with global taxonomy and was reunited with Mr Burkill the former Director at Singapore.

In 1983 he went on a second memorable trip, this time to the Top End with Joe Weber. They made the mistake of camping in the same place twice in Arnhem Land and had to up camp with a fire bearing down on them at dusk the second night.

Munir has given the State Herbarium 25 years of loyal service. He is a creature of habit in his approach to his botanical work. He continues to write his manuscripts in long hand. But he has successfully adapted to the computer – he would be the first to say he is not as adept as some, but he knows enough about it to handle email basics readily and to have edited the whole of his Flora manuscripts.

Students Munir and Bill Barker with David Whibley (right), 1971-74. Ph. State Herb.SA.



He will have completed his mission as a taxonomic botanist with his forthcoming accounts in the *Flora of Australia* of the families Verbenaceae and Chloanthaceae, 26 genera in all in Australia.

Munir's loyalty and application to his missions in life also shines through in his keeping of his Islamic faith and his assistance to his compatriots. Having worked for 2-3 years as Chairman of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, he is now their elected President.

We wish Munir and his family well in his retirement. We expect him back, even if it is only to keep up with the identifications in Verbenaceae.

W.R.(Bill) Barker  
Plant Biodiversity Centre – Adelaide

## ABLO Report

*Neville Marchant commenced his 6 months term on September 4<sup>th</sup> and reports on his ABLO position for the first 3 months*

Kew Herbarium is an incredible institution. I have been fortunate to have been here before which was just as well because Rod Seppelt and I couldn't arrange any overlap period. My earlier visits, the first ones decades ago when I was a PhD student at Cambridge, made me aware of the vast collection of vascular plants, estimated to be 7 million. The three, three-tiered vaults and the north wing with a whole floor of monocots are arranged around a square and the Library occupies a whole floor above the monocots with some archival and travel sections below. I am still learning how vast Kew is in its expertise and its output.

One of the first comments I had from a colleague after my arrival was a general observation that "the Australians usually send a younger person" as ABLO. This was not meant to be an insensitive statement and wasn't taken as one because it is true. The statement gave me an opportunity to explain why I applied for the ABLO post and what I want to achieve for PERTH and thus Australian herbaria.

The first of my three ABLO activities are related to my position as Head of PERTH and learning to cope with and even take advantage of the profound changes that are taking place in the world's herbaria. Most herbaria of Europe and elsewhere have the same kind of problems confronting PERTH; reduced funding and non-replacement of curatorial and other staff. A few weeks after arriving here I received the news that Senator Hill rejected my application for ongoing funding for WA's Regional Herbaria Project. What was even more devastating was that the Weed Information Network, (WIN), didn't receive funding for its second year. I don't

believe that this was due to lack of productivity. Many Kew staff are aware and even admire the Regional Herbaria and WIN Projects that are key elements of the major thrust of PERTH to underpin conservation through linkages with the botanically informed public and conservation groups. The loss of external funding illustrates that Herbaria often have a huge task to support their role in providing information about biodiversity. The system adopted for the Regional Herbarium Project has provided a model for PERTH to globalise its efforts to obtain international collaboration as well as acquire duplicates of Types of WA taxa.

PERTH has undergone a great deal of restructuring in the recent past in order to deliver a comprehensive plant diversity information service to WA conservation. My arrival at Kew was very timely. The whole of Kew has undergone a Science Audit and is now restructuring by implementing new management programs and, very relevant to PERTH, a new staff appraisal system. The report of conclusions and recommendations of the Audit of Science Programs was undertaken on 12-15 March 2001. Australia was very well represented with Judy West and Steve Hopper, both of whom were on the 10-member Audit Team. The documentation is available on the Kew internal web and is most impressive; this is the source of my new realisation that Kew is vast in output and expertise.

The Science Audit report is comprised of 7 "volumes". Volume 2 is 62 pages long and details the 5 science programs recognised in Kew's Science Strategy (Kew, meaning the Gardens, Jodrell Laboratories, Wakehurst Place etc. as well as the Herbarium). The programs are *Collections*; *Surveys and inventories*; *Comparative Plant Biology*; *Sustainable Utilisation of Plant Resources*; and, *Conservation and Environmental Monitoring*. Volume 3 of the Audit presents 100

tables detailing statistics like Kew's output, expertise, comparisons with other herbaria, and publication output. Other volumes, including the 18 appendices, list all staff and their expertise and details of the Terms of Reference and Audit procedures.

Therefore, in response to my colleagues comment that "the Australians usually send a younger person" to Kew, I have been able to describe that I am able to learn more about making herbaria relevant and to better judge the effort PERTH in this area. Fortunately I have had ample opportunity to talk to all levels of staff and to learn about restructuring a major, international botanical institution. It is never too late to learn what to do and what not to do. Like the Director of Kew, only on a very small scale, I plan to continue my effort at PERTH to have a structure that converts data to information, maintains high staff morale with reduced resources, and, delivers systematics in a smart way and in an expanding AVH framework. Judging from comments at Kew Australian herbaria are already highly regarded as innovative and advanced. There is a great deal of interest here in the AVH and in the WA effort, now under its "umbrella", *FloraBase*. For example, I have been able to enlist the input of the world expert in taxonomy of conifers to be responsible for the currency of information delivered by *FloraBase* of members of that group of plants.

Apart from my learning from the Science Audit I am also doing herbarium taxonomy. This is the second of my ABLO activities and is the one on which I spend most time. I have almost completed some long-standing research and the preparation of final manuscripts to publish taxonomic treatments of the genera of Myrtaceae, namely *Actinodium*, *Agonis* and its segregate genera (in collaboration with Judy Wheeler), *Darwinia* and *Chamelaucium*, at long last.

The third part of my Kew program is to tackle a major impediment confronting the progress of WA taxonomy. Due to various historical factors, primarily the relatively late appearance of the WA Herbarium (1920's), there are very few "older" TYPE specimens in PERTH. For example, there are only relatively few James Drummond and even fewer Ludwig Preiss collections. The need to access Type specimens is increasing because of administrative pressure being applied to the Herbarium to formally publish the current backlog of the estimated 1200 "new" taxa.

The strategy I have developed as Manager of the Biological Information Group is to counteract the downturn in trained taxonomists by two

approaches. One is to use the databased information so that we can more easily identify and address information gaps as well as assign taxonomic study priorities. The other approach is to acquire critical plant specimens to enable a broad-based, productive taxonomic study covering a range of taxa of WA vascular flora. The long-term aim is to acquire as complete as possible sets of James Drummond, Ludwig Preiss and perhaps WA Robert Brown Type material.

A number of European herbaria have duplicate sets of Type specimens of Australian origin. I have initiated an exchange program with the Paris herbarium (P) where there are three sets of Drummond specimens, and where PERTH sends databased, barcoded specimens, the current name of which can be readily accessed through *FloraBase*.

The Paris exchange program is an innovative one that could be extended to other Herbaria. The WA material sent on exchange is duplicate material that is mounted, labelled and databased by PERTH with a barcode printed on the "Ex PERTH" label. A note on each specimen invites a researcher to consult the CALM Herbarium information system *FloraBase*, by Internet. Thus, the collections of PERTH origin in overseas herbaria are computer-linked to a duplicate in PERTH where the current name is made available.

Some institutions are unlikely to agree to exchange as they hold only one set of material desired by PERTH. In these cases, I propose to arrange for medium-term loans of selected Types; this may best be achieved on a family-by-family basis. PERTH will offer to photograph and database the Types, label each with the same barcode number, return the Type to the European herbarium where it is housed and retain the photograph for PERTH. Of course detailed comparative work will be carried out before the Type is returned. The photograph remaining in PERTH will be regarded as a duplicate specimen and its current name and other details can be access through *FloraBase*. This is an attempt at globalisation of herbarium systematics which I believe is the key to long-term survival of herbaria and plant taxonomy. The system based on barcoded duplicate specimens described above is the same as that utilised in PERTH's Regional Herbaria Project; the only problem is to convince the funding bodies, State and Federal to understand and support these initiatives!

Neville Marchant  
Kew, November 24, 2001

## ABRS Report

### New Publications

***Nature's Investigator: The Diary of Robert Brown in Australia 1801–1805,***  
compiled by T.G.Vallance, D.T.Moore &  
E.W.Groves, published on 23 Nov 2001.

In 1801, at the age of twenty nine, Robert Brown was chosen by Sir Joseph Banks as the botanist to accompany Matthew Flinders in the *Investigator* on the first circumnavigation of the Australian continent. The voyage was to extend over 5 years, and Brown used his time well, assembling substantial collections of plants, animals and minerals. He kept a diary of his observations on the natural history, the appearance of the country, and the peoples they met. Brown returned to England with his scientific reputation established, becoming one of the leading botanists of his time.

This book provides the first complete transcript of his diary, a key Australian historical and scientific document. The transcription is supplemented with a detailed interpretation of Brown's notes, and supporting extracts from the journals of Flinders, Good, and other contemporaries.

The book is essential reading for botanists, zoologists, geologists, anthropologists, historians, and all those who just enjoy tales of adventure and discovery.

Size: 250 x 175 mm (B5), xii + 666 pages  
Binding: Section sewn, full colour hard cover  
Illustrations: 4 half tones, 33 colour plates, 41 text maps, endpaper map.  
Index, Bibliography  
ISBN: 0 642 56817 0

The book is available from ABRS (Publications), GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601, for \$82.50 (including GST, post & packing) within Australia, or A\$97.20 (overseas). A brochure and order form should be included in this newsletter.

### ***Allan Cunningham – Australian Collecting Localities,***

by S.Curry, B.R.Maslin & J.A.Maslin, published on 3 Dec 2001.

Allan Cunningham was one of Australia's foremost botanist explorers. During his 17 years in Australia, he was responsible for collecting more than 3000 specimens of plants

and exploring much of eastern New South Wales and southern Queensland.

The purpose of this publication is to provide precise locality information for the numerous localities visited by Allan Cunningham between December 1817 and April 1822 when he was the botanist accompanying Phillip Parker King on his hydro-graphic surveys of the Australian coastline. This information will facilitate the curation of Cunningham's plant specimens, which are distributed among herbaria worldwide, and will assist those who wish to revisit his collecting localities.

Also provided is a synoptic, chronological listing of Cunningham's entire itinerary for the period of his stay in Australia (1816–1839).

Size: 250 x 175 mm (B5), vi + 90 pages  
Binding: Section sewn, soft cover  
Illustrations: 40 text maps.  
Index, Bibliography  
ISBN: 0 642 56817 0

The book is available from ABRS (Publications), GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601, for \$27.50 (including GST, post & packing) within Australia, or A\$32.75 (overseas). A brochure and order form should be included in this newsletter.

### ***Book Launch***

Both of the above books were successfully launched by Dr David Mabberley at the Investigator 200 Symposium in Albany, WA, on 10 December. This is a very nice conjunction of events. The conference was timed to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the first Australian landing of the *Investigator* expedition (of which Brown was botanist/naturalist) at King George Sound. Just 20 years later, Allan Cunningham also landed at King George Sound, as part of the Phillip Parker King voyages. King and Cunningham had been sent to complete the *Investigator* surveys, curtailed when the *Investigator* became unseaworthy. As King was the natural successor to Flinders in terms of mapping the coastline, so Cunningham was a worthy successor to Robert Brown as a major and influential botanist of the Australian flora. The two books thus are complementary in many ways.

However, it should be noted that while the Brown book is a full transcription of his diary, the Cunningham book contains only locality



*Nature's Investigator* celebrities at the Albany launch: (from left) Helen Vallance, representing the late Tom Vallance, co-authors Eric Groves and David Moore, and David Maberley who launched the book.  
Photo: Tony Orchard.



Authors Suzanne Curry and Bruce Maslin at the Albany launch of *Allan Cunningham – Australian Collecting Localities*.  
Photo: Tony Orchard.

information and maps. Publication of the full Cunningham diaries awaits another day. We were particularly fortunate that the biographer of Robert Brown, David Maberley, agreed to launch the two books. His knowledge of Brown is unsurpassed, and his biography, *Jupiter Botanicus*, provides an important perspective on Brown, the man, and the context for his diaries.

### Coming soon

*Verticordia. Turner of Hearts*, by Elizabeth George, to be jointly published by University of Western Australia Press and ABRs, is scheduled for publication in Spring 2001. It will be distributed by UWA Press.

*Flora of the South West. Bunbury-Augusta-Denmark* by Judy Wheeler, Neville Marchant & Margaret Lewington, to be jointly published in two volumes for the Western Herbarium by ABRs and University of Western Australia Press, is expected to be available in late Summer.

Both publications will be distributed by UWA Press. For details watch their website <http://www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au/>.

### Flora of Australia on the WWW

Some of you will be aware that Helen Thompson has been working with Greg Whitbread, Jim Croft and others on a mechanism for delivery of *Flora of Australia* on the Web. This initiative, as part of the Australian Biological Information Facility – Flora (ABIF-Flora) is now about to bear fruit. The system was discussed at the Biodiversity Knowledge Management Forum in Sydney in November. We have developed an XML-mediated system that will transform *Flora of Australia* text into a relational database, and deliver it in a queryable form via the WWW. The test bed has been the Proteaceae volumes of the *Flora*, plus some older volumes. Jim Croft demonstrated work that he has been doing on the Australian fern flora (*Flora of Australia* vols 48, 49 and 50), as part of this project. It is hoped that the first live parts of ABIF-Flora will be available on the ABRs website early in 2002.

### **Species Plantarum – Flora of the world**

For some 5 years I have been involved in developing the mechanism for writing and publishing a world vascular flora, under the auspices of IOPI. This initiative, *Species Plantarum*, has been quite successful, with an Introduction (including Instructions to Authors) published in both English and Chinese, and 5 family treatments in print. The project is managed by an international Steering Committee of over 40 botanists. The most recent meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Sydney on 13–15 November as part of the Biodiversity

Knowledge Management Forum, and I wish to thank Karen Wilson and her helpers for a superbly organised meeting and follow-up field trip. The main business discussed was two-fold: development of mechanisms to spread the editorial load in the short to medium term, and development of a funding proposal to put *Species Plantarum* on a sound, long term financial footing. Considerable progress was made on both fronts.

Tony Orchard  
Deputy Director, ABRS  
Dec 2001

## Meeting Reports

### Flora Malesiana

Cairns, Sydney September 2001

*In the absence of a report of the meeting we are grateful for the following pictures. Eds.*



Flora Malesiana conference and fieldtrip activities (clockwise from top left): a, Testing the Australian rainforest key in north Queensland. b, Judy West presents Osia Gideon, representing the University of PNG Herbarium, with a copy of the rainforest key. c, A tour of the Aboriginal trail in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. d, Kevin Thiele at an interactive key workshop (Trevor Whiffin, pioneer in this area, to his right).  
Photos: Jim Croft

## Deep Morphology towards a renaissance of morphology in plant systematics

An International Symposium at the Institute of Botany, University of Vienna  
Thursday 18- Sunday 21 October 2001

The topic for this symposium was initially suggested by Tod Steussy, professor of Systematics at the Institute and current editor of *Taxon*. The symposium was well attended, with about 110 people listed in the Abstracts. Vienna is the venue for the next (15<sup>th</sup>) International Botanical Congress and if the success of this meeting is anything to go by, all augurs well for the IBC.

On the day before the formal presentations there was a floristic excursion to the Wienerwald and the Pannonian vegetation near Perchtoldsdorf just south of Vienna. I discovered this was a good way to try and acclimatise to the local conditions after three consecutive flights from Brisbane, in addition to gaining some knowledge of the local flora. The excursion was ably led by Prof. Manfred Fischer (University of Vienna), who was extremely knowledgeable on every aspect of the flora as well as exhibiting a great enthusiasm for sharing his expertise. An enjoyable luncheon with local cuisine at a county restaurant in a *Pinus nigra* forest was provided and we returned to the Institute in time for registration and reception.

The two days of formal sessions were divided into four sessions, after an introductory talk by Anton Weber (Univ. of Vienna) on the nature of morphology and the rationale for the symposium. The essence of this talk was that although systematics and phylogenetics are flourishing on the molecular front, there is a corresponding decline in use of morphological data. Comparison of gesneriad genera *Monophyllaea* and *Wytockia* illustrated the difficulty of applying morphological data to the relative phylogeny of these genera because of problems with homology. Morphology can be examined from different perspectives; essentially the morphology of the morphologists as well as the morphology of the systematists. "Deep morphology" is probably an amalgamation of morphology and typology.

The four sessions of oral presentations are summarised below.

### **Genetics and development of morphological features and implications for use as systematic markers**

Five papers in this session covered a range of topics on the developmental and genetic basis of

morphological characters. It included aspects on new methods for determining the genetic basis of morphological characters (Konrad Bachmann & Oliver Gailing, Institut für Pflanzengenetik, Gatersleben), developmental genes (Victor Albert & David Oppenheimer, University of Alabama), architectural studies (Pamela Diggle, University of Colorado), floral developmental features and molecular data (Peter Leins, University of Heidelberg), and developmental and molecular genetic analyses (Stefan Gleissberg, University of Mainz).

### **Homology, and how to deal with it**

The only paper in this session (David Williams and Chris Humphries, Natural History Museum, London) overviewed the accounts of homology over the last century, with the conclusion that character transformation is unessential for systematics. They discussed the distinction between homologues and homology, ancestor-descendent relationships and character transformation series.

### **Improving morphological character information for assessing relationships**

From the point of view of a practising herbarium systematist dealing with morphological characters and character states I found this session the most interesting. Peter Stevens (University of St Louis, Missouri) attempted to focus on the very practical issues of how to use morphological characters in phylogeny reconstruction. What are appropriate data? What is the best way to support a well-supported phylogeny? What is the cheapest way to produce a well-supported phylogeny? What is the best way of understanding the evolution of form? What to advise a student? Is morphology of value in phylogenetic analysis? Other issues raised were data combination, circularity and the concept of data versus metadata. The latter characters are those that can be referenced to a framework of illustrations and/or graphs that are deposited in institutions as a "Morphbank" in the same way as GenBank functions at present. Stevens argues that the lack of such metadata results in morphological analyses and discussion on evolution of the groups concerned being seriously compromised. Furthermore he contends that if the characters are formally structured as metadata the

same characters can be more easily used for different groups. This standard coding would facilitate the combining of groups. Overall “morphological characters are difficult to circumscribe, relatively few in number, and can be very expensive to obtain; morphology-only trees may well show depressingly little phylogenetic structure that has strong support. Fitting morphological variation to a well-supported molecular tree allows the possibility of a more sensitive understanding of the evolution of plant form than phylogenetic analysis of the same variation may provide.”

Peter Endress (University of Zurich) presented a paper discussing what a “complete” morphological phylogenetic analysis should entail. Prior to this though he mentioned the applications of morphology to other areas of botany other than phylogenetics, such as alpha-systematics (classical revisions and floras), comparative morphology and evolutionary developmental biology (the “evo-devo” approach). He pointed out that botany lags behind zoology in development of new concepts in evolutionary morphology. Some of the classical characters used in the past really consist of different elements or modules, and in order for morphology to have real value in phylogenetic analyses in the future it will be necessary to refine these morphological matrices.

Other papers presented in this session were entitled *Phylogeny, ontogeny and inferences of morphological diversity* by Larry Hufford and Michelle McMahon (Washington State University), *Potentials for plants systematics from biomechanics* by Thomas Speck (Universität Freiburg) and Nick Rowe (Université Montpellier) and *Where molecules and nanostructures meet: cuticle micromorphology and plant classification* by Christoph Neinhuis and Wilhem Barthlott (Universität Bonn).

#### **Defining and determining the adaptive and ecological roles of morphological features**

The first paper in this session was by Pieter Baas (National Herbarium Nederland), Steven Jansen (Instituut voor Plantkunde, Belgium) and Elisabeth Wheeler (North Carolina State University), with the title *Ecological adaptations and deep phylogenetic splits – evidence and questions from the secondary xylem*. The authors show that while adaptations of wood anatomy shows widespread homoplasy in many cases, in other situations anatomy “characterises a number of ancient clades as well numerous later divergences within ecologically diverse clades.” The two final papers in the session were *Analysis of structure and function in pollen grains: the*

*sporoderm* by Michael Hesse (University of Vienna) and *How can better understanding of adaptations yield better use of morphology in plant systematics* by Thomas Givnish (University of Wisconsin).

The overview paper by Tod Stuessy, *New potentials for morphological data in plant systematics*, suggested that “the objectives of plant systematics be viewed within the context of (1) constructing classifications; (2) revealing and constructing phylogeny; and (3) understanding the process of evolution.” He presented a theoretical overview of “deep morphology” by defining different types of morphology (developmental, process, theoretical, ecological, functional, constructional, biomechanics, reconstructability analysis and morphometrics). Furthermore he suggested that morphology be regarded as including all structures of organisms from the genome through to macromorphology and that different types and levels of morphology are suited for answering questions from each of the basic areas of systematics defined above.

43 posters were presented at the poster display by authors from 26 countries (15 European, 4 South American and the U.S., 3 Asian and Australia, 2 African) at two separate poster sessions. My presentation, *Grass phylogeny and classification – conflict of morphology and molecules*, focussed mainly on the new grass classification of the Grass Phylogeny Working Group (GPWG) in *Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard.* 88: 373-457 (2001), where a single most parsimonious tree from mainly molecular sequence data sets revealed there to be weak support of morphological synapomorphic characters for this classification. In addition I examined recent cladistic based classifications of some individual groups (the genus *Triodia*, the danthonioid genera and the tribe Andropogoneae) where molecular and morphological data have produced conflicting results.

My overall impression from all the presentations at the Deep Morphology Symposium is that we have made considerable progress in the methodology of revealing the phylogeny of organisms, using the whole spectrum of morphology in the sense of Steussy. On the other hand one also feels that in many other areas we have only just scratched the surface, particularly in our understanding of characters and character states and our comprehension of homologous characters and their application to developmental studies.

The conference dinner at the Salmbräu Restaurant near the University was a smorgasbord of standard Austrian cuisine and music provided by

a Tyrolean quartet. It set the scene for an enjoyable relaxed evening after the heavy content of the preceding two days of papers and posters.

The IAPT General Business Meeting took place on the evening of the first day of the symposium. Plans to make the journal *Taxon* more appealing to a wider audience were briefly outlined, with a larger format journal size and double column text as from 2002. The meeting was followed by the presentation of the Engler Silver Medal to Professor Walter Lack, Director of the Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum, Berlin for his prolific output of bibliographic botanical publication in the last few years, culminating in *Ein Garten Eden*, a spectacular account of the publications of botanical illustrations in the Austrian National Library, with the text in German, English and French.

On the final morning Professor Lack took a large number of interested delegates on a tour of a display of the botanical illustrations used to compile his book, and displayed at the Austrian National Library. Of particular interest was the

*Codex Aniciae Juliannae*, dating from before 512 and representing the oldest version of the writing of Dioscorides. It is considered the most important manuscript preserved in Austria and has been included in UNESCO's "Memory of the World" list. Other publications of interest were *Herbarium vivae eicones* by Otto Brunfels (1532), the *Codex Fuchs* (1536-1566) with the oldest European illustration of *Zea mays* painted around 1540, *Systema naturae* by Linnaeus (1735), and *Illustrations of Australian Plants* by Banks and Solander (1900-1905).

For photographs of the symposium, the poster session, conference dinner, IAPT general business meeting and Engler medal presentation as well as a pdf download of the abstracts, see <http://www.botanik.univie.ac.at/iapt/>

The formal lectures of the symposium are to be published in a future issue of *Taxon*

Bryan Simon  
Queensland Herbarium

## Investigator 200

Albany, 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December 2001

Day 1, the Sunday, was occupied with bus tours to the areas where botanical collections were made by Robert Brown and Peter Good. Numbers were larger than expected and it was raining heavily early in the day but the rain eventually stopped and a good bonding time was had by all. The Western Australian Wildflower Society and their guides on the buses are to be thanked for organising the day. Lunch and the morning tea supplies were much appreciated and more than made up for the lack of more explicit Robert Brown botanical knowledge apparently experienced on a couple of the buses.

Days 2 and 3 were allocated to the conference at the Esplanade Hotel at Middleton Beach.

The welcome to attendees by political and Aboriginal representatives was followed by the launch by David Mabberley of the two books mentioned in the ABRs Report. These were *Nature's Investigator: The Diary of Robert Brown in*

*Australia 1801-1805*, compiled by T.G.Vallance, D.T.Moore & E.W.Groves and *Allan Cunningham - Australian Collecting Localities*,



David Mabberley (above)  
and Alex George  
at Albany.  
Ph. Tony Orchard



by S.Curry, B.R.Maslin & J.A.Maslin (see p. 22). It was great to see both of these long-standing projects finally completed with products of which all the contributors should be proud.

Miriam Estensen led off the conference proper, promising to give us the dirt on Matthew Flinders, but somehow not quite exposing anything reprehensible in his life (perhaps it will be in the book to be published in 2002). This was followed by Nigel Rigby of the Maritime Museum in Greenwich with a discussion on the *Investigator* and the preparations it underwent for the voyage, Michael McCarthy of WA Museum placed Flinders' visit in context with respect to earlier visitors to the WA coast and David Moore (British Museum) discussed preparations for the voyage by the scientific party. John Rourke, Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens in South Africa, discussed the opportunistic plant collections and places of collection at the Cape, providing some

speculation on the method of collection. In the final session of the first day, David Mabberley presented his lecture on Ferdinand Bauer – this lecture being sponsored by the Austrian Government. Ellen Hickman completed the day with a consideration of Bauer's painting techniques.

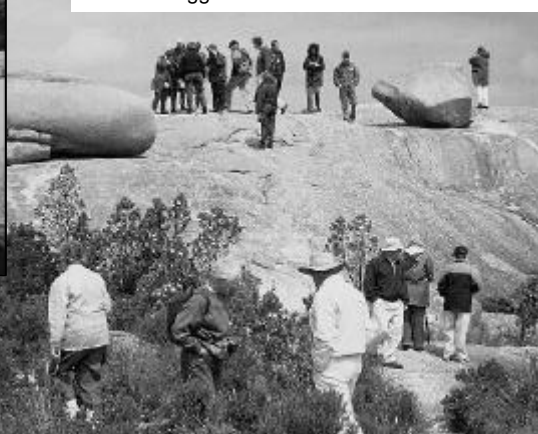
The second day began with a session on the collections which were made by the scientific party within Western Australia. Angus Hopkins of CALM discussed their collecting localities and the number of collections made, followed by Greg Keighery, also of CALM, on the plants they saw and described and their relevance today. John Dell of the Department of Environmental Protection gave a thorough survey of the collections of animals from their stay in Western Australia. In the next session Eric Groves dealt with the Robert Brown collections in the BM and their history, followed by David "It's all in the



The bus back to Perth. Included are: Eric Groves and David Moore from the BM, and ASBS members Sophie Ducker, Barbara Briggs and Neil Gibson. Ph: Eric Groves.



Above: Learning of King George Sound exploration, on Vancouver Road above Frenchmans Bay. Right: A conference busload on Brown's collecting locality at Stony Hill, west of Bald Head. Photos. Bill Barker



book" Moore on the Robert Brown papers in the BM.

This was followed by the launch of the Brown database, a list of all of Brown's collections within the British Museum, with their label data. This is accessible through Florabase.

Kay Steen and Alex George gave a background on the artist, William Westall, who apparently found nothing to be inspired by in the whole of New Holland and Mark Webb (Kings Park) a background to the gardener, Peter Good.

In the final session of the day Mabblerley presented his ASBS sponsored lecture on Robert Brown. Sophie Ducker very succinctly described this as a "superb lecture", a feeling shared by the audience. David has set himself a high standard for the rest of his ASBS-sponsored lectures around Australia.

The conference was completed with an overview by Valerie Milne of Albany in which she discussed what the voyage of the *Investigator* meant to the Albany region. Valerie indicated that the symposium was valuable for bringing information back to the community, a fact that we as scientists often forget. Too often we can be

criticised for gathering information from the local people without actually feeding it back to them in a form in which they can understand – a criticism which is paralleled by Aboriginal communities towards scientists.

The larger numbers than expected (230) led to a very crowded meeting hall and possibly diminished sales for the Western Australian artists whose delightful work was hung around the walls of the meeting room. Similarly the book sellers with their wide range of wares on WA wildflowers were rather squashed and it was not easy to peruse the books, but they seemed to do a roaring trade. And it was so cold in Albany that a few resurrected odd-sized ASBS *Xanthorrhoea* jumpers sold out quickly.

All states are doing something different and so comparisons should not be attempted, but this Western Australian recognition of the bicentenary of Robert Brown's visit to their shores was truly educational and enjoyable in a relaxed and delightful venue. The organisers, Alex George, Alex Chapman and Kristina Lemson particularly, and many others behind the scenes, are to be congratulated.

Robyn Barker  
Dec 2001

## Coming meetings

### Victoria's plants first revealed: Robert Brown in Port Phillip 1802 a symposium (18 April 2002) to celebrate Victoria's first botanist.

The School of Botany, The University of Melbourne, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne are hosting an afternoon symposium and keynote lecture to celebrate the bicentenary of Robert Brown's historical visits to the shores of Port Phillip Bay. Brown has been described as the greatest collector of Australian plants. During his three and half years of travel around the coasts of Australia (December 1801-May 1805) he collected some 3,400 plant species. Brown arrived at Port Phillip on the *Investigator*, captained by Matthew Flinders. On that occasion, Brown came ashore for one week, ascended Arthur's Seat, studied the heathlands of the Mornington Peninsula and visited Swan Bay (J. Willis, *Muelleria* Vol. 1 1955). He later spent a second week in the area around Sorrento.

Our symposium will be held on 18th April 2002 in Melbourne (KPMG Conference Room, 161 Collins Street, Melbourne) and is entitled: "Victoria's plants first revealed: Robert Brown in

Port Phillip 1802". Speakers will include David Mabblerley, Helen Hewson, Winty Calder, Mark McDonnell and James Grimes. Laureate Professor Adrienne Clarke from the School of Botany and Dr Philip Moors, Director of the RBG will introduce the program. Talks will cover Robert Brown the man and his history, Brown's artist Ferdinand Bauer, the significance of Brown's collections and his contribution to botany, and past and present glimpses of the vegetation of the Mornington Peninsula and the Melbourne urban area.

Registration will cost \$35 for the full program, \$20 for students and \$15 for the keynote lecture (6.15 pm), including refreshments. A brochure will be available in early 2002, but if you would like to register an expression of interest or get further information email Pauline Ladiges at [p.ladiges@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:p.ladiges@unimelb.edu.au) or Jim Ross at [jim.ross@rbg.vic.gov.au](mailto:jim.ross@rbg.vic.gov.au).

## LucID workshops

**February 2002  
Sydney and Canberra**

Lucid training courses in Sydney and Canberra, Australia

Following the successful Lucid training course held in Brisbane earlier this year, further courses are planned in Sydney (Wednesday, 20 February, 2002) and Canberra (Thursday, 21 February, 2002). Each one-day course is aimed primarily at those who have only recently started building Lucid keys, including hands-on experience of scoring, using sets and dependencies and attaching multi-media, including HTML. The course will also provide a forum for experienced users to discuss more advanced topics and will

include discussion of the new options that will be available with the release of Version 3 (Java).

If you are interested in receiving further information on either of these courses, please email [enquiries@lucidcentral.com](mailto:enquiries@lucidcentral.com) or contact us by mail, phone or fax:

Lucid Workshop  
Centre for Pest IT and Transfer  
Level 5 Hartley-Teakle Building  
The University of Queensland  
St Lucia, Brisbane, Qld 4072  
Tel. 61-(0)7-3365-1854  
Fax. 61-(0)7-3365-1855/53

# Federation of Australian Scientific & Technological Societies (FASTS)

Dear Presidents of Member Societies

## 1. President's report

On November 19, I formally took over as President of FASTS for the next two years. This follows an immensely successful two years in which the Presidency was shared by Sue Serjeantson and Peter Cullen.

Our first task is to establish an agenda with a new Government and a new Minister.

Twelve months ago the tide was running our way. The Government was moving to respond to reports from the Chief Scientist and the Innovation Summit, and the Opposition was talking up its intention to re-energise science, research and higher education.

It seemed as though election 2001 was going to be a case of "Backing Australia's Ability" versus "Knowledge Nation", with the question of Australia's national investment in these areas the major topic of discussion.

We were to be disappointed. These issues were barely discussed in an election dominated by a series of international and domestic crises.

The present situation offers interesting challenges. The new Government's agenda does

not appear to be crowded, and I believe they will be receptive to new ideas.

The Opposition has consciously tried to renew itself. The Leader, Deputy-Leader and half the members of the Opposition front bench are all new to their positions, and they will be looking closely at why "Knowledge Nation" failed to fire the Australian imagination.

The State Governments also offer interesting possibilities, with an increasing recognition of the capacity of science and research to generate new jobs and new industries at a regional level.

Australian scientists and technologists have two priceless contributions to make to politicians in Australia - ideas and solutions. Both these qualities are in short supply, and add to the importance of our regular contacts with Parliamentarians at national and regional level.

## 2. New Ministers and Shadow Ministers

Brendan Nelson and Peter McGauran are the Ministers with responsibility for Science in the new Government. Brendan Nelson is Minister for Education, Science and Training and is a member of Cabinet; and Peter McGauran is Minister for Science.

This is a strong team, with Brendan Nelson bringing a much-needed new perspective to



Education and Higher Education. Peter McGauran was an energetic and accessible Minister for Science in the first Howard Government, and his return will be welcomed.

The Opposition is represented by Deputy Leader Jenny Macklin, who opted for Shadow Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Science over the shadow Treasury position. She will be supported by Senator Kim Carr, as Shadow Minister for Science and Research.

I have been in touch with all these people, and also Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja as leader of the Democrats and spokesperson for science.

### **3. Council**

Council this year was an opportunity to have a wide-ranging discussion on strategy and issues to take up at Parliamentary and bureaucratic levels. Our agenda and our approach has to be refocused in the light of the election, and the contributions from our Member Societies were particularly welcome.

Members will be invited to support three major activities this year: a forum at the National Press Club in mid-year; "Science meets Parliament" Day at the end of the year; and to comment and contribute ideas to the new edition of the FASTS' policy document.

### **4. Universities – one great unresolved issue**

The university sector remains one of the great unresolved issues in Australian public life.

A decline which began 15 years ago is continuing. The pressure on academics to perform more tasks is increasing, as their salary levels are steadily sliding down the ladder on international competitiveness. The quality of infrastructure declines as funding pressures increase.

Neither major party seems willing to tackle the issue.

It is time for a national review of the university sector, with genuine discussion on what Australians want from their universities, and how much they are prepared to pay to achieve it.

### **5. CSIRO – First test for Government**

CSIRO's triennium funding is due for renewal this year. Both the CEO and the CSIRO Staff Association have put the case for an additional \$100 million per year. This will rebuild CSIRO's core capacities after a decade of Government thinly slicing away at its budget. It will also enable renewed efforts by CSIRO effort to commercialise its results.

### **6. New Executive**

The Board meeting on November 19 elected a new Executive. Successful candidates were: President: Professor Chris Fell, Vice-presidents: Dr David Denham AM, Professor Rob Norris, Secretary: Dr Peter French, Treasurer: Associate Professor John Rice, Chair of Policy Committee: Dr Ken Baldwin

The Executive has co-opted Jan Thomas to join the Executive for the next twelve months, in the role of past Vice-President. Peter Cullen is unavailable to serve as past-President.

### **7. New Board**

Aquatic Sciences (Dr Alan Butler CSIRO), Biological Science (Assoc. Professor Melissa Little UQ), Chemistry (Professor Chris Easton ANU), Earth Sciences (Mr Mike Smith Geo Instruments Pty Ltd, NSW), Food & Agricultural Sciences (Mr Ian Longson Dept of Agriculture, WA), Mathematical Sciences (Ms Judy Mousley Deakin University), Medical Sciences (Professor David Tracey UNSW), Physical Sciences (A/Professor John O'Connor University of Newcastle), Plants & Ecological Sciences (Professor Snow Barlow U. of Melbourne), Technology Sciences (Mr Len Ferrari Consultant, NSW)

Ian Longson has joined the Board as member representing the new Food and Agriculture sector.

### **8. "Science meets Parliament" Day 2002**

"Science meets Parliament" Day is a landmark event in Australian political circles.

Scientists are still the only group to organise a mass visit to Parliament, and a wonderful opportunity to put our case for increasing the national investment in science and research.

Over time this event will build up relationships and confidence between our sector and Parliamentarians. Increasingly MPs will see us as a group which has both ideas and solutions, two priceless assets to them.

I will be seeking the advice of the new Science Minister about the best dates for SmP 2002. We expect to run the event October or November 2002.

This would be an excellent time to run your Society's Council meeting, and then go on to make a strong contribution from your discipline to Parliamentarians.

### **9. Occasional papers**

The Parasitology Society is about to launch an Occasional Paper "Parasitology in Australia: an Investment in Human and Animal Health".

The paper warns that Australia's capacity to respond to parasitic diseases affecting humans and animals is being eroded by lack of national investment.

It points out the level of danger to Australia - 267 soldiers from the INTERFET force in East Timor returned with malaria, even though they were issued with the standard anti-malarial drug doxycyclin.

Other Members Societies might consider a similar publication. Guidelines are available from our office, and FASTS offers considerable support with printing and publicity. A copy of the paper will be sent to all Members upon publication, and it will be available electronically at the FASTS web site: [www.fasts.org](http://www.fasts.org)

### **10. FASTS is growing**

We now have 57 Member Societies. If you know of any non-Member Societies, please encourage them to join. Refer them to our office for information on the benefits and costs of membership.

A full list of Members is on our web site. The most recent are:

- Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology
- Institute of Australian Geographers
- The Society for Reproductive Biology

Communicated by  
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## **Funding sources**

### **Eureka Prizes**

The Australian Museum is proud to announce the launch of the 2002 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes - Australia's pre-eminent and most comprehensive national science awards. The 2002 series is the biggest ever - an extraordinary 16 prizes worth almost \$160,000. Can I please ask for your help in publicising the Prizes - and encouraging entries in all awards?

Three new prizes are launched in 2002: the \$10,000 Australian Catholic University Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics; the \$10,000 Institution of Engineers Australia Eureka Prize for Engineering Journalism; and the \$10,000 Pfizer Eureka Prize for Health and Medical Research Journalism. In addition, Brian Sherman will sponsor the long-running prize for environmental research.

These join established prizes for environmental and science journalism; environmental education programs; industry commitment to science; critical thinking; promotion of science; secondary school biological and earth sciences; engineering innovation; biodiversity and scientific research; and science book authorship.

In an exciting and newsworthy development, the 2002 Australian Museum prize for industry will

bring not only prestige and distinction to the winner but also permanent recognition, as the winning company will have a new species named after them through the Australian Museum's Immortals Program.

The Eureka Prizes are an extraordinary cooperative partnership between the federal government, the NSW state government, educational institutions and a range of private sector organisations and companies. Individuals and organisations play a critical role in maintaining the vitality of the program by identifying suitable candidates for these prestigious awards.

Information on the full range of prizes on offer in 2002 and entry/nomination forms is available from the Australian Museum's webpage at <http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka>. Entries in most prizes close on Friday 17 May 2002, with winners to be announced in August 2002 at a gala award ceremony during National Science Week.

Roger Muller  
Eureka Prizes Secretariat  
Australian Museum

## Ebbe Nielsen Prize

While this notice is likely to be too late for applications, we have included notes on this annual award for future reference. ABRIS had distributed this notice around Australian systematics institutions.

The Australian Government invites nominations for the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) 2002 Ebbe Nielsen Prize.

The prize is awarded annually by the GBIF Governing Board to a promising researcher (normally within five years of the receipt of his/her PhD) who is combining biosystematics and biological biodiversity informatics research that supports the objectives of GBIF in an exciting and novel way. The Prize of US\$35,000 is awarded to allow the recipient to engage in such research in biodiversity outside his/her country of residence for a period of 3-6 months.

However the use of the funds will be at the discretion of the recipient.

The primary selection criterion is scientific excellence as evidenced by the nominee's research and publication record and in particular the innovation shown in combining biosystematics and biodiversity informatics research in their field of activity.

Closing Date for nominations is 7th January 2002.

More detailed information on the Ebbe Nielsen Prize and the nomination process can be obtained at <http://www.isr.gov.au/science/ist/EbbePrize/ebbeprize.html> or by contacting:

Ian Cresswell, 02 6250 9506,  
ian.cresswell@ea.gov.au or  
Anthony Bennie, 0262136498,  
Anthony.Bennie@isr.gov.au

## ASBS Annual General Meetings and Burbidge Lectures

Month/ Year	Venue	AGM No.	Title (with associated meeting or organising societies)	Burbidge lecturer
Aug 1973	Perth	1	With ANZAAS	-
Jan 1975	Canberra	2	<i>Modern methods in Plant Taxonomy</i> (with ANZAAS)	-
May 1976	Hobart	3	<i>Plant Biogeography</i> (with ANZAAS)	-
Aug 1977	Mel- bourne	4	<i>The cytogenetic stimulus to taxonomy</i> (with ANZAAS)	-
Jan 1979	Sydney	5	With ANZAAS	S.L.Everist: <i>The role of herbaria in Australia today</i>
May 1980	Adelaide	6	<i>Evolution of the Flora and Fauna of Arid Australia</i> (jointly with Ecological Society of Australia, Australian Entomological Society and Australian Society of Herpetologists)	H.T.Clifford: <i>Seedlings and the Australian flora</i>
Aug 1981	Sydney	7	With International Botanical Congress	-
May 1983	Perth	8	<i>Systematics &amp; Biogeography of Myrtaceae</i> (with ANZAAS)	B.J.Grieve: <i>History of key to Flora of temperate WA</i>
May 1984	Canberra	-	Cladistics, Systematics and Phylogeny (with ANZAAS)	-
Feb 1985	Thredbo	9	<i>Origin and Evolution of Australasian Alpine Biota</i> (with Australian Pollination Ecologists' Society)	H.E.Connor: <i>The effect of Australian dicotyledons on the taxonomy of the Angiosperms</i>

*Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter 109 (December 2001)*

<b>Month/ Year</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>AGM No.</b>	<b>Title (with associated meeting or organising societies)</b>	<b>Burbidge lecturer</b>
Feb 1986	Thredbo	-	<i>The systematic status of large flowering plant genera</i>	-
Aug 1986	Brisbane	10	<i>Evolution &amp; systematics of Australian tropical flora</i> (with Ecological Society of Australia)	D.E.Symon: <i>The diversity of Solanum fruits: a world survey</i>
May 1988	Melbourne	11	<i>Development of systematic botany in Australasia</i>	J.H.Willis: <i>Melbourne: a focal point for early botanical activity</i>
Jun 1989	Sydney	12	<i>Plant systematics in the age of Molecular Biology</i>	R. Schodde: <i>Origins, radiations and sifting the Australian biota: changing concepts from new data and old</i>
Aug 1990	Canberra	13	<i>Indo Pacific Biogeography; at the crossroads</i> (post Willi Hennig Society conference)	R. Carolin: <i>There is one thing greater than armies: an idea whose time has come</i>
Aug 1991	Hawaii	-	<i>Biogeography and Phylogenetics of Pacific Flora</i> (with American Botanical Society)	-
Nov 1991	Auckland	-	<i>Systematic and Ecological relationships of South Pacific floras</i> (with NZ Botanical Society)	-
Mar 1992	Sydney	14	(AGM not held with a conference)	-
Jan 1993	Hobart	15	<i>Southern Temperate ecosystems-origin and diversification</i> (jointly with Southern Connections and Ecological Society of Australia)	E.Truswell: <i>Vegetation change in the Australian Tertiary in response to climatic and phytogeographic forcing factors.</i>
Oct 1993	Perth	-	<i>Systematics, Evolution and Conservation of the Western Australian Biota</i>	-
Jul 1994	Kuranda	16	<i>Origin and evolution of Flora of Monsoon Tropics</i>	G.A.M. Scott: <i>Cryptogams: the better investment</i>
Sep. 1995	Canberra	17	Workshop: <i>Analysis of cladistic data: morphological and molecular.</i>	-
Oct 1996	Melbourne	18	<i>Beyond the Floras/ Proteaceae/Fungi</i>	P.Y.Ladiges: <i>Biogeography after Burbidge</i>
Sep 1997	Adelaide	19	<i>Systematics: advancing knowledge and conservation of Australia's biodiversity</i> (with Society of Australian Systematic Biologists)	Dr L.A.S. Johnson was asked but had to decline because of ill-health. He died before the meeting was held
Sep 1988	Sydney	20	<i>Monocots II</i> (International meeting)	M. Bennett, Kew: <i>Genomic organization and systematics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</i>
Dec 1999	Perth	21	<i>Dampier 300</i> (with Society of Australian Systematic Biologists)	Andrew Burbidge: <i>Conservation of the biota of the South-West Botanical Province of Western Australia</i>
Jun 2000	Sydney	22	Roderick Page workshop on <i>Historical Associations</i>	-
Sep 2001	Sydney	23	In association with <i>Flora Malesiana symposium</i>	Judy West: <i>Future directions of systematics in Australia.</i>

## ASBS Publications

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

Edited by P.S. Short. A4, case bound, 326pp. ASBS, 1990. \$10; plus \$10 p. & p.

For all those people interested in the 1988 ASBS 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**

ASBS 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.

### **Send orders and remittances (payable to "ASBS Inc.") to:**

Katy Mallett  
ASBS Sales  
ABRS  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia

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

Edited by W.R. Barker & P.J.M. Greenslade. ASBS & 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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From outside Australia: add the country code 61 and omit the leading zero of the area code

### AD

tel: (08) 8222 9307  
fax: (08) 8222 9353

### CANB

tel: (02) 6246 5108  
fax: (02) 6246 5249

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### MBA

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### NSW

tel: (02) 9231 8111  
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*These listings are published in each issue. Please inform us of any changes*

## AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED

### 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 a "Membership Application" form and forwarding it, with the appropriate subscription, to the Treasurer. Subscriptions become due on January 1 each year.

The ASBS *annual membership subscription* is \$40(Aust.); full-time students \$20. Please make cheques out to *Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.*, and remit to the Treasurer. All changes of address should be sent directly to the Treasurer as well.

### 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 the Editors at the address given below. They should *preferably* be submitted as: (1) an MS-DOS file in the form of a text file (.txt extension), (2) an MS-Word 97 or earlier version .doc file, (3) a Rich-text-format or .rtf file. Send on an MS-DOS disk or as an email message or attachment. *Non-preferred* media such as handwritten or typescripts by letter or fax are acceptable, but may cause delay in publication in view of the extra work-load involved. Contact the Editors on *images*; their inclusion may depend on space being available.

The *deadline* for contributions is the last day of February, May, August and November. All items incorporated in the Newsletter will be duly acknowledged. Any unsigned articles are attributable to the Editors.

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.

### Advertising

Advertising space is available for products or services of interest to ASBS members. Current rate is \$100 per full page, \$50 per half-page or less, with a 20% discount for second and subsequent entries of the same advertisement. Advertisements from ASBS members are usually exempt from fees. Contact the Newsletter Editors for further information.

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