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AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 11

June 1977

A.S.B.S. Council

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| President | Prof. Roger Carolin, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006. |
| Vice-President | Dr. Trevor Whiffin, Department of Botany, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083. |
| Secretary | Mrs. Karen Wilson, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. |
| Treasurer | Mr. Mike Lazarides, Herbarium Australiense, CSIRO, Box 1600, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601. |
| Councillors | Mr. Jim Armstrong, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. Mr. Alex George, Western Australian Herbarium, Dept. of Agriculture, George Street, South Perth, Western Australia 6151. |

This publication, the official newsletter of the Society, is produced four times each year and deadlines for copy are the last day of February, May, August and November.

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

Please Note -next deadline is 31st August, 1977.

-Helen Aston's call for papers for the forthcoming
ANZAAS Congress in Melbourne, p.10.

SPECIAL NOTE / -Please return your vote for two Councillors for the 1977/9 term of A.S.B.S. Council. Votes have to be in the hands of the Returning Officer, Dr. T. Whiffin, at the address above, no later than Friday, 12th August next to be valid. Please read carefully the instructions for voting.

Editor: Mr. Rod Henderson
Queensland Herbarium
Meiers Road
Indooroopilly
Queensland 4068

Newsletter Items --- Editorial Policy

From time to time, I have had difficulty determining suitability of items for the newsletter. I have had little to guide me, since the aims of the Society are, rightly so, purposely broad and few restrictions have been placed on contributions to the newsletter. However, to maintain a maximum of interest to most members, I have had to put a limit on the length of any item accepted. Generally, anything that can be expected to occupy up to about 3½ pages of the newsletter will be accepted.

Council has also determined that no papers, as such, should be published in the newsletter due to, amongst other things, the form of publication and difficulties of citing it formally.

-Ed.

THE CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FLORA

Towards the end of last year John Jessop, Keeper of the South Australian Herbarium, suggested that A.S.B.S. sponsor the production of a Central Australian regional Flora to be produced in time for the International Botanical Congress. During November I had talks with the Adelaide chapter who were mainly concerned with the suggestion and I agreed to put it to Council. After some correspondence I considered that a majority of Council members were in favour of the project and consequently instructed John Jessop to act as editor-in-chief and to invite the following to be on the editorial committee: Alex George (PERTH), John Maconochie (NT) and myself (SYD), with power to co-opt; it is intended to co-opt Des Boyland (BRI) at our first meeting. A proviso to the editorial committee is that at least one member shall also be member of the Council. These actions were subsequently confirmed at a Council Meeting held on February 1st at Sydney University.

It is intended that a number of contributors shall prepare treatments of groups with which they are familiar and the editorial committee will concern itself with uniform style and treatment throughout the flora. To date we have an imposing list of workers who have committed themselves to preparing parts and several parts are already in the hands of the editor-in-chief. PERTH, AD, NT, BRI and SYD have all indicated their willingness to co-operate in the project. We have also a commitment for an historical introduction. The deadline for completion of scripts is December 1979.

The boundaries of the area of the flora are: 30°S parallel in South Australia continued into New South Wales to long. 144°E and northwards to the 10" isohyets in Queensland to the Northern Territory border then north to and along the 20°S parallel to the Western Australian border and then following the Carnegie District boundary. It will thus cover a significant area of the continent.

Council did discuss the relationship of the Central Australian Flora to the Flora of Australia project. We considered this to be a much longer term project and regional floras are likely to be needed before its completion. It was also felt that the Central Australian Flora project would not significantly delay the

larger one. Indeed, since manpower is to be assembled in much the same way, the experience gained in producing it should be experience gained for the Flora of Australia. Moreover, the stimulus it will generate towards the study of the inland flora should also be an asset in the continuation of the larger project.

I feel that this is the sort of activity that our Society should be engaged upon; to make a serious impact on the scientific community and decision-making authorities, we should be seen to be productive as a Society. The Central Australian Flora is the third - and largest - of such enterprises and I hope that others will follow. The Society's thanks should be extended to the Directors of the co-operating herbaria who allow this enterprise to proceed and to all those workers who are devoting their time to its production.

A report on progress will be delivered at the next General Meeting when members will be able to present their views.

R. Carolin,
President.

(Dr. Jessop is issuing bulletins at regular intervals informing contributors of progress of the project. In the last bulletin, dated May 1977, John listed the following families as still needing authors:

Papaveraceae, Rosaceae, Symphobasidiaceae, Callitrichaceae, Dilleniaceae, Guttiferae, Elatinaceae, Haloragaceae, Primulaceae, Plumbaginaceae, Oleaceae, Gentianaceae, Menyanthaceae, Apocynaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Ehreteaceae and Pedaliaceae.

Some contributors have signified willingness to share or relinquish families if others show interest in writing them up. Volunteers or others with enquiries should contact John Jessop at the South Australian Herbarium, North Terrace, Adelaide.

-Ed.)

"THE FLORA OF DIRK HARTOG ISLAND"

Dirk Hartog Island (6200 ha), which lies off Shark Bay, Western Australia, between 25°30'S and 26°15'S, has been visited and studied by a succession of visitors since 1616. It consists of Quaternary Coastal Limestone which forms rugged cliffs along much of the coast. The rainfall averages 313mm, falling mostly in winter, while average temperatures range from 11°-21°C (winter) to 22° - 32°C (summer).

There are five vegetation types: tall open heath, low closed/open-heath with hummock grasses; low very open-heath; hummock grassland; and low open-shrubland. The known indigenous flora totals 258 species in 167 genera of 67 families. Of the named species, 77 are South Western, 61 Eremean and 102 common to both. The island is floristically transitional between the South West and Eremean Botanical Provinces but with a leaning to the South West. Thirty six species, mostly of European origin, have become naturalised.

Abstract of a talk delivered to the Perth Chapter, 25th January 1977,
by Mr. A.S. George.

A YEAR AS AUSTRALIAN BOTANICAL LIAISON OFFICER AT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
KEW (U.K.)

A. Kanis

Your editor has asked me to write something in connection with my recent posting in Kew. So far Mr. G.M. Chippendale (FRI) is the only one of my predecessors who has communicated some of his experiences while over there in the A.S.B.S. Newsletter (No. 2 : 3-5, July 1974). I agreed, after some hesitation, that another account may be of interest to the members, although it may not contain new information for everyone.

A.B.L. Officers are appointed for about twelve months, at least they have been for several years, though extensions of a few months have been granted occasionally. They are chosen by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, nowadays on the advice of the Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria, from nominated professional plant taxonomists in the various State and Commonwealth Government herbaria. The criteria for selection are (a) suitability for the liaison function and (b) a proposed personal research programme for which a period of study overseas is appropriate. In accordance herewith the tasks of the appointee are twofold: (1) providing an information service for plant taxonomists, particularly those in government herbaria and universities in Australia, and (2) carrying out a personal research programme. I proposed to use sources of information in Europe towards a revision of the Australian Amaranthaceae (excl. Ptilotus) as my major interest while posted.

I left with a fair idea of what to expect in the larger European herbaria with their strong traditions. Among others, I had already spent a short time at the herbaria of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the British Museum (Natural History) in 1967. Nonetheless, it was a very worth-while experience to work in what is possibly the largest botanical establishment in the world for a longer period. As liaison officer at Kew, one is treated much more as a member of the staff than as a visitor, having virtually the same access to collections and library as well as services like typing, photography, mail dispatch, processing of loans, etc. Above all, I experienced a very friendly attitude of the resident staff at all levels towards an ephemeral colleague as I was. It did not take me

very long to feel quite at home, an experience certainly shared with several A.B.L. Officers of various dispositions over the years.

Perhaps not all readers are familiar with the organisation of the Kew establishment, which is divided into a number of sections: (1) the famous historical gardens, including Wakehurst Place south of London, (2) the museums, (3) the Jodrell Laboratory (General Botany), (4) the herbarium, and (5) the library. Although liaison officers can, and sometimes do, visit or use each of these sections, they are housed in the large building of herbarium and library where most of their work is normally done. The first director of Kew, W.J. Hooker, was allowed to keep his collections and books in a Georgian mansion on Kew Green near the present main entrance to the gardens. Over the years this building was extended with wings of 3 or 4 floors and of an open plan type, finally enclosing a rectangular courtyard. Three of the wings are largely occupied by specimens of Dicotyledons, whereas the most modern one houses the Monocotyledons, Conifers, Pteridophytes and Fungi, as well as possibly the best plant taxonomic library in the world. Additional offices were also included in the last extension, so that most professional staff members now have their own. The bays in the wings are still occupied by assistants and the many visitors that always work at Kew. Modifications have also been made to the older parts in recent years and further changes are planned for the interior of the old mansion ("Hunter House"). I was the first A.B.L.O. having the use of an office for about half my term, but as far as I know there are plans to accommodate future ones more permanently in this way.

I hardly need to remind the reader that knowledge of the Australian flora before Cook's first voyage was negligible. During the following hundred years or so, nearly all research about our flora was done in Europe and of course largely in the United Kingdom. Kew played a dominant role in this regard since its establishment in 1841 till at least the period in which Bentham's "Flora australiensis" was written (1863 - '78). Botanical research wholly carried out in Australia started with Ferdinand Mueller in the 1850's, but Kew continued to contribute substantially to our knowledge till well into the 20th Century.

Kew is not quite so well off for literature and collections from the period 1770 - 1840. For that reason I paid regular weekly visits to the British Museum (Natural History), where the collections of Banks & Solander are kept as well as Robert Brown's original set of plants gathered during Matthew Flinders' explorations. Brown's "Prodromus florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae van-Diemen" (1810 - '30) is doubtlessly the most important single work on our flora from that period. The B.M. library is also an excellent one for botany, surpassing the one at Kew for older works and journals not strictly botanical in their coverage. Mr. Chippendale already remarked that regular contact is appreciated by the friendly and helpful B.M. staff.

Other collections in the British Isles of particular interest to Australians are at the Linnean Society of London (J.E. Smith, 1759-1828), the University of Cambridge (J. Lindley, 1799-1865) and Trinity College in Dublin (W.H. Harvey, 1811 - '66), but I only consulted the first one of these. A further institute

worth a visit is the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, where the third largest herbarium in the U.K. is maintained. Although it is not particularly relevant to our region, it contains many important Asian specimens. The living collections, including those of two gardens in southwestern and northwestern Scotland respectively, are quite impressive. I combined a short working visit to Edinburgh with a very interesting family holiday in Scotland, where we found a culture rather contrasting with that of London and southern England.

The work also took me on a 6 weeks tour of 10 continental herbaria in 7 countries: Paris (P: early French collections from Australia and many others cited in DeCandolle's "Prodromus"), Geneva (G: Hb. DeCandolle), Zurich (Z: S.W. Pacific), Florence (F: Hb. Webb incl. Hb. Labillardiere; Hb. Beccari - Malesia), Vienna (W: Hb. Ferd. Bauer), Prague (PR: Hb. K. Domin), Munich (M: Amaranthaceae), Hamburg (HBG: Hb. A. Dietrich), Berlin (B: various) and Leiden (L: various, esp. Malesia). I spent most of my time there trying to locate specimens and literature for colleagues in Australia as well as for my own research. In all these places I was given the necessary help and one is usually received in a friendly and hospitable way, but one should be self-reliant to a certain degree. I travelled mostly on Sundays and by boat and train, where possible with the convenient Trans Europe Expresses. This allowed me to see something of the various landscapes while having a necessary break from work. Other tourist activities had to be restricted well and truly to the short evening hours.

The potential benefits from a liaison office at Kew are obvious for plant taxonomic research in a country like Australia. Many early collections, including types, are lacking here and our botanical libraries are inevitably incomplete. A posting as A.B.L.O. provides some of our botanists with a chance, in many cases a unique one, to work for a longer period in a botanical research centre of international importance and with access to many indispensable sources of historical information. A useful exchange of ideas is possible with resident colleagues and one has the opportunity to meet many visiting botanists of various nationalities. It makes good economic sense also that one Australian botanist posted at Kew should assist colleagues in his home country, as these do not have ready access to the sources of information overseas.

Before requesting information or other assistance from the A.B.L.O. one should be satisfied that Australian sources have been exhausted and one should always submit as much information as possible to facilitate familiarization with the problem concerned. Assistance given can be categorised as follows:

1. Search for rare or otherwise difficult literature
2. Search for bibliographic data
3. Information on itineraries of collectors from field books and maps
4. Identification of handwritings, especially on old labels
5. Location of specimens, especially types
6. Photography of important specimens
7. Comparing specimens (always provide keys or questionnaires!)
8. Advice on nomenclatural matters, usually through mediation.

It is very likely that the A.B.L. Officers as well as those who send in requests are all members of the A.S.B.S. and the Newsletter is therefore a potential medium for relevant announcements. Members probably realise, however, that the A.B.L. Office is not a Society responsibility but a government one, run by professionals for professionals. This does not necessarily mean that others can not ask for assistance if they have a reasonable request of a relevant nature, but it should be channelled through the Head of one of the government herbaria. Students should always submit their requests through their supervisors in the various botany departments of the universities. These procedures should ensure that the A.B.L.O. is not approached unnecessarily, as one should have enough time left over for one's own research. One should endeavour to divide the time equally between liaison and private study, the two main tasks.

Those who qualify for a posting as A.B.L.O. should try for nomination at a suitable stage in their career. One can only decide for oneself whether it would warrant the domestic upheaval of going overseas for a year, but the experience gained is certainly very valuable. It is important that one leaves well prepared, as it is not so rewarding to do work at Kew that could have been done back home. One's time is usually too fragmented for a thorough study of much new material on which taxonomic decisions are normally based. The ideal stage is reached when one has a draft manuscript of a revision of floristic treatment that only needs completion from nomenclatural (types!) and bibliographical (rare Publications!) aspects. One should not think of the posting as a sabbatical year, as the liaison work should be given priority and may well take up more time than anticipated.

Kew is regarded as one of the desirable living areas of greater London and rightly so. Housing is the A.B.L.O.'s own responsibility and may be a little difficult upon arrival, but an acceptable solution is usually found. One's predecessor may be of assistance in this respect and the staff members at the herbarium are often privately helpful. One is allowed to stay in a hotel at government expense for the initial six weeks anyway, and this can be extended if necessary. There is a choice of schools in the area, private or government assisted as well as traditional or more modern, at least at primary level. It is of course a problem that English and Australian school years do not coincide, but this is not insurmountable for younger children. Government financial support is such that one should not suffer any hardship because of the posting, certainly not if one can let a private home at reasonable terms in the meantime.

I am willing to answer questions concerning work or conditions of the A.B.L.O. to the best of my knowledge, but the Heads of Australian Herbaria may circulate official information in due course. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to reading about the experiences of my successors.

INTERNATIONAL LEGUME CONFERENCE 1978

An international review conference on the broader aspects of classification and utilization of legumes will be held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, between 24th July and 4th August 1978. The conference is sponsored by the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in conjunction with the Phytochemical Society, the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Reading.

The principal objective of the botanical programme in the first week is an improved classification of Leguminosae s. lat. The agronomic programme is directed partly towards compilation of a "Manual of Legume Crops". Sessions in the second week will be devoted to selected general topics including growth form, ecophysiology, adaption and yield, nutritional value, resistance to pests and diseases, nitrogen nutrition and fixation, and consideration of such factors as genetic diversity, classification, adaption and breeding in selected groups.

Australia is expected to be represented by at least seven scientists five of whom are A.S.B.S. members (A. Lee, B. Maslin, L. Pedley, M. Tindale and L. Watson). Two overseas members (H. Irwin, New York, and C. Stirton, South Africa) are also expected to attend.

-Ed.

AUSTRALIAN PLANT NAME INDEX - PROGRESS REPORT

Once again the preparation of the Australian Plant Name Index (a part of the Australian Biological Survey - Flora of Australia Project) has necessitated a trip to Sydney and Brisbane in search of literature.

The Index is progressing rapidly and now includes some 41,000 names covering the majority of the literature up to the 1950's; however, some hard to obtain literature has still to be covered for this period. Searches in Kew and various European libraries have exhausted all the names mentioned in the index of Bentham's *Flora Australiensis*, except for one, an *Acacia*, the literature for which may well have been lost or destroyed. This search has resulted in a large number of plant descriptions being photocopied by Andrew Kanis when at Kew as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer. Much of this literature, which includes many very rare *Index Semina* etc., is gradually being incorporated into the library at the Herbarium Australiense.

A check against *Index Kewensis* has still to be made, and it has been decided to include all the Australian names given in I.K. whether valid or not, with appropriate comment such as 'nom. nud.', 'pro syn.', 'nom. invalid', etc.

At present it is hoped that the Index (which includes all names from Genetic to subforma for both the Spermatophyta and Pteridophyta) will be ready

for publication in from 2½ to 3 years.

Arthur D. Chapman,
Canberra.

POSITION VACANT

TASMANIAN HERBARIUM

CURATOR OF TASMANIAN HERBARIUM

Applications are invited from persons with an appropriate degree preferably at a doctoral level or with equivalent experience. Herbarium experience in curation of collections and experience in plant taxonomy are essential. Duties will include providing an identification service, and research on the flora of Tasmania.

Salary would depend on qualifications and experience but the starting salary would be in the range \$15,000-\$18,000A.

Applications giving personal details, qualifications and experience, and the names of two referees should be sent to the Director, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, G.P.O. Box 1164M, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001, not later than 30 June 1977. Further details on request.

Botanist, National Herbarium of N.S.W.
Royal Botanic Gardens
Sydney

Salary: \$9729 - \$13309 with progression to \$16543
subject to certain conditions.

Qualifications: Essential: Degree with major in Botany.
Desirable: Experience in taxonomic
botanical research.

Duties: Advisory work, curation and either research
in taxonomic botany or the preparation of
botanical handbook floras.

Enquiries: Dr B.G. Briggs, Assistant Director (Sydney 27-4347).

Closing Date: 29th June 1977.

THE ASBS AT ANZAAS

The preliminary Congress Circular (Section 12: Botany) for the forthcoming ANZAAS Congress in Melbourne is unfortunately rather astray in its presentation of the ANZAAS activities being organised by the ASBS. As a follow-up to my communication in the last newsletter (p.8) I can now give this further information:-

Monday, August 29, p.m. - session of contributed papers.
Tuesday, August 30, a.m. - symposium entitled "The cytogenetic stimulus to taxonomy".

These day-time sessions are for all ANZAAS members, not just members of the ASBS. The annual meeting of the ASBS is to be held during the ANZAAS period, on Tuesday, August 30, in the evening.

Would all persons wishing to present papers at the session of contributed papers please notify me as soon as possible, giving their name, title, institute and title of the proposed paper. My last appeal brought three responses but more volunteers are required. Thank you,

(Miss) Helen I. Aston
Convener,
ASBS programme for ANZAAS

Address: National Herbarium of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria, 3141.

ABBREVIATED MINUTES OF THIRD A.S.B.S. GENERAL MEETING, HOBART 1976

The third General Meeting was held in Hobart at 8 p.m. on 11th May 1976, with the President in the Chair. There were 35 members present. Apologies were received from Dr. Curtis and Mrs. Wilson.

MINUTES: the abbreviated minutes of the second General Meeting were circulated and accepted after a minor alteration was made to wording.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: the President reported that the period since the previous General Meeting had again been one of consolidation, with the main point of contact for members being the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: the Treasurer presented a financial statement pointing out that it had not yet been audited. He also presented a membership table showing the membership at May 1976 as 248, with 63 unfinancial.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Henderson reported that 4 issues of the Newsletter had appeared since the previous General Meeting. Production of these has been handled by Science House Pty. Ltd. He outlined his method of dealing with contributions according to date of receipt of article, its length, its topicality, and the limited size of the newsletter.

The President announced that Council had decided to form a Newsletter Committee consisting of the Editor plus a member in Sydney who could liaise with Science House.

LOCAL CHAPTER REPORTS: informal reports were received from all chapters.

TAXONOMIC PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: the report of this committee will be published as a supplement to the Newsletter, with a deadline set for receipt of comments or suggestions.

INDEX OF CURRENT TAXONOMIC RESEARCH ON THE AUSTRALIAN FLORA: this Index is to cover all current research on the Australian flora, including lower groups. Discussions will be held with the Heads of Herbaria on the possibility of combining their respective data and producing a single Index covering overseas workers as well as those in Australia.

AUSTRALIAN BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES STUDY: the President reported that contact with the Interim Council had been maintained.

OTHER BUSINESS: nil.

INCOMING COUNCIL: the President announced the results of the election, and commented that about 20% of the votes were informal. He thanked Council members for their co-operation during his 3 years as President.

Dr. Eichler moved a vote of thanks to the President and to Council. This was carried by acclamation.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Secretary

NEWS

The research Medal of the Royal Society of Victoria for 1976 has been awarded to Professor Ray Specht of University of Queensland. He won the award for his work on the ecology of plant communities in Australia and Papua, New Guinea. Congratulations from the Society.

Mr. S. Everist, past Director of the Queensland Herbarium, is Australian co-ordinator for the US-Australian Symposium on Poisonous Plants to be held at Logan, Utah from 19-24 June. After attending the symposium, Selwyn will pay a short visit to London, England to sight-see and renew botanical acquaintances.

Bernie Hyland, QRS Atherton, who recently visited Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, found Bogor herbarium contained very many specimens pertinent to Australian botany. Unfortunately while visitors are accorded full co-operation, correspondence from overseas botanists is rarely attended to.

David Hassall, University of Queensland, recently returned from a private trip to U.K. and Europe, found material at K & BM of much value in his studies in Euphorbiaceae.

Dr. M. Crisp, Dr. R. Elyard and I. Telford of Canberra Botanic Gardens recently completed an extensive field trip collecting seed, cutting material and herbarium specimens on a wide traverse of sub-tropical Queensland.

Members may be interested to hear that Miss Margaret Stones, the Botanical Artist, has been awarded an M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA NEWS

Bill Barker resigned from the staff of the Lae Herbarium in mid-1976. He is now with the State Herbarium of South Australia.

Miss Mickie Benjamin, a B.Sc. graduate from UPNG, joined the staff of the Division of Botany in late 1976. She is the first national to enter this branch as a professional botanist. She has undertaken revisionary work on Aristolochia, a genus here associated with larvae of the Birdwing butterfly genus Ornithoptera.

Barry Conn has since late last year been attached to the P.N.G. Forestry College, Bulolo, as a lecturer in botany. He has continued his research in Neubergia and Geniostoma (Loganiaceae) and is becoming interested in Hoya (Asclepiadaceae) and Myrsinaceae.

Norman Cruttwell, formerly at the Anglican mission station in Agaun, in the Milne Bay Province, is now rector of the Anglican Church in the Town of Goroka. He is continuing collecting activities in the Eastern Highlands.

David Frodin is currently preparing an illustrated guide to the plants of Motupore Island, an island research station of UPNG some 22km S.E. of

Port Moresby in Bootless Inlet. There is a substantial amount of monsoon scrub on this island of 19 ha in addition to the usual eucalypt woodland covering the ridge which is up to 60m.a.s.l. With a total fire ban effective over many years this scrub is slowly expanding. Many of the characteristic endemic species of the Port Moresby region are represented here.

Abraham Kembi is now attached to the P.N.G. Office of Environment and Conservation at the new central government office building at Waigani. He is assisting in the preparation of new legislation relating to flora conservation.

Kal Kerenga, who has nearly completed his B.Sc. work at UPNG, has joined the staff of the Forestry College, Bulolo, as of February 1977. He is assisting with the teaching of botany and ecology and is also acting as a residential warden.

Dr. Pieter van Royen of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, paid an extended visit to P.N.G. in 1976. With varying field associates, including this writer, he collected on Mt. Victoria, Mt. Amungwiwa (SW. of Wau), Mt. Wamtakin (NE. of Telefomin), and in the Finisterre Ranges above Wantoat. He is continuing work on his alpine flora of New Guinea.

Two research vessels of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, the "Kallisto" and the "Dimitri Mendeleev", called in Port Moresby over the long vacation period, 1976/77. Aboard the latter were a number of botanists taking part in environmental studies and in collecting material for their home institutions. Many of them were from the Komarov Botanical Institute in Leningrad and the Kholodnii Botanical Institute in Kiev. Dr. Gennadij Yakovlev (Leningrad) and Dr. Blum (Kiev) were interested in Leguminosae and lichens, respectively. Dr. Vladislav Alexeyev, who accompanied us on a short field trip in the Port Moresby area, represented the Soviet All-Union Botanical Society, of which he is scientific secretary.

Dr John-Fritz Veldkamp, of the Rijksherbarium, Leiden, made a visit early in 1977 to collect at two new repeater-station sites for the telecommunications network: the summit of the Buggers Range ("Zentralkette") on the boundary between the Western Highlands/Enga Provinces and the East Sepik Province, an area never before examined at so high an altitude, and an area to the N.W. of Mt. Hagen (mountain). The preliminary results have indicated that the flora on the Buggers Range is relatively poor; but interesting rhododendrons as well as one unusual new Schefflera species were collected. Paul Kores accompanied John-Fritz on part of this trip.

Professor Donald Walker, accompanied by Julian Ash and Leslie Rymer, all of A.N.U. arrived finally in late April 1977 to initiate a major coring and vegetation-study project at Lake Trist, SE. of Wau (as well as Lake Kutubu in the Southern Highlands). However, just as work was commencing, the whole Lake Trist project had to be suddenly called off due to local political problems. It is evidently being delayed for several months, and in the meantime a short trip to Lake Kutubu would be made. The circumstances of this sudden crisis are too

involved to relate here, but the present writer has never heard of anything like it. Julian participated in the inaugural meeting of the Society (Botanical Society of PNG) in 1975.

Dr. J.P. and Mrs. B.S. Croxall are currently visiting the country for a few weeks, after having been delayed at Brisbane by the recent air traffic controllers' strike. While here they were also delayed by the Air Niugini pilots' stop-work! They are based at Cambridge (England), where Barbara is working in the Herbarium of the Botany School. Barbara previously visited Port Moresby in 1971. She is a specialist in ferns, and is currently studying Grammitis.

Mr David Symon, of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Adelaide, is at last reported supposedly touring the country in search of Solanum.

Dr. Bernard Verdcourt writes from Kew that the basic MS. for the handbook to the legumes of New Guinea (A.S.B.S. Newsletter 7, p.11) has been completed; there are a goodly number of new taxa and many other changes in the offing. He has made use of previous manuscripts by Miss Amshoff in the Netherlands (written during the war and actually set up in type but publication was stopped by the Nazis) and Pieter van Royen.

Mr. J.S. Womersley paid a brief visit to Lae in April 1977 while in the cruise liner "Oriana".

D. Frodin

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Beadle, N.C.W. (1977). Students Flora of North Eastern New South Wales. Part III Angiosperms: Families 84-106. University of New England: Armidale. Price - \$7 + 60c postage.

This is the third part of a planned six part series on the flora of north eastern New South Wales. Part III includes such large families as the Euphorbiaceae, Mimosaceae (including 124 spp. of Acacia), Fabaceae and Myrtaceae (including 108 spp. of Eucalyptus). The family Sterculiaceae was contributed by Mr. G.P. Guymer and the sub-family Myrtoideae by Mr. J.B. Williams.

---Gordon Guymer.

Burdet, H.M. (1976). Cartulae ad botanicorum graphicem, IX. Candollea 31 (2): 319-360. Number 9 in a series commenced in 1972 to reproduce at actual size, handwriting of certain botanists connected with the herbarium at Geneva (G).

This issue contains details on botanists whose names commence with "Le" to "Ma". Of interest to Australian botanists as several are of botanists well-known in botany of Australian plants.

De Buhr, L.E. (1977). Sectional re-classification of Drosera/subgenus Ergaleium (Droseraceae). Aust. J. Bot. 25 (2): 209-218.

Kraft, G.T. (1977). Studies of marine algae in the lesser-known families of the Gigartinales (Rhodophyta) II. The Dicranemaceae. Aust. J. Bot. 25 (2): 219-267.

Stone, I.G. (1977). Some morphological and anatomical features of the monotype genus Bryobartramia Sainsbury (Musci). Aust. J. Bot. 25 (2): 141-157.

Eichler, H.J. (1977). Guidelines for the Preparation of Botanical Taxonomic Papers. C.S.I.R.O. Australia. Useful guide for any author dealing with botanical topics.

-Ed.

Nuytsia, Vol 2 No. 3 1977. Bulletin of the Western Australian Herbarium. This issue contains three papers as follows and the index to volume 1 accompanies it.

Orchard, A.E. Taxonomic Revisions in the family Haloragaceae II. Further notes on Haloragis, Haloragodendron and Gonocarpus.

Maslin, B.R. Studies in the genus Acacia-G. Miscellany.

Maslin, B.R. & Whibley, D.J.E. The identity of Acacia Leiophylla Benth. (Mimosaceae).

Nuytsia, Vol 2 No. 2 was published on 25 May 1976.

-Ed.

Pettigrew, C.J. & Watson, L (1977). On the classification of Caesalpinioideae. Taxon 26 (1): 57-64. Computer analysis of data from Caesalpinioideae points to two major groups in the sub-family. The results are more in line with updated versions of Bentham's classification than with Hutchinson's.

Henderson, R.J.F. (1977). Typification of Dianella Lam. ex Juss. (Liliaceae). Taxon 26 (1): 131-137.

-Ed.

"Current Plant Taxonomic Research in Australia 1975 - 76" compiled by Dr R. Johnson has been published. Copies have been sent to several herbaria and universities throughout Australia.

-Ed.

Johns, R.J. Common forest trees of Papua New Guinea. Port Moresby: Office of Forests, 1975+. (This illustrated series, intended for the Forestry College, Bulolo, is issued in parts; at this writing, part 9 (of a projected 13) has been reached and the remainder should be released before too long. Price: K1.50 per part.)

Havel, J.J. Training manual for the Forestry College, vol. 3(2): Botanical Taxonomy. Illus. Port Moresby: Office of Forests, 1975 (issued 1976). (This long-awaited work, mostly completed by 1965, has finally been published; it covers major tree species. Price: K5.00. There is an accompanying manual of terminology).

Womersley, J.S. 1976. Plant collecting for anthropologists, . . . in Papua New Guinea. (Botany Bull. 2.) Rev. ed. (This familiar work is with us again, dressed up in a bright orange cover. Price: K2.00.).

Womersley, J.S., and McAdam, J.B. Forests and forest conditions in the territories of Papua and New Guinea. Reprinted 1975. Port Moresby: Office of Forests. (An unchanged reprint, with a new foreword, of this well-known work. Price: K3.50.).

Australian UNESCO Committee for Man and Biosphere. Report of symposium on ecological effects of increasing human activities on tropical and sub-tropical forest ecosystems, University of P.N.G., 1975. Canberra: A.G.P.S., 1976. (Available to researchers from the Australian UNESCO MAB Committee, P.O. Box 826, Woden, A.C.T., 2606; otherwise from the A.G.P.S., Canberra (no catalogue number!) for A\$5.00).

Paijmans, K. (ed.). New Guinea vegetation. Canberra: CSIRO/A.N.U. Press, 1976. (Includes chapters by M.M.J. van Balgooy on phytogeography and J.M. Powell on ethnobotany; the latter is well worth reading. Price: A\$16.95).

Schumann, K. and Lauterbach, C. Flora der deutschen Schutzgebiete in der Sudsee und Nachtrage. 2 vols. in 1 (reduced format). Lehre, Vaduz: J. Cramer, 1976. (Historiae naturalis classica, 99.) (The long-awaited reprint of this virtually unobtainable work. At DM. 300, it is unfortunately extremely expensive. Available from Koelt, KRYPTO, Wheldon & Wesley, or S-H Service Agency).

In addition to the above, the results of the Australian Universities' expeditions to Irian Jaya, with contributions by Geoff Hope and others, has been published by A.A. Balkema at Cape Town and Amsterdam (price not known, but being made available here for K10.00). Also, the results of the investigations by Peter Grubb and Peter Stevens near Marafunga (Eastern Highlands) have been (or are to be) published in the A.N.U. Biogeography series, as also Roger Hnatiuk's studies on the climate of Mt. Wilhelm.

It is also expected that the first volume of the Handbook Flora of Papua New Guinea, being produced by Melbourne University Press, will appear shortly, as it has reportedly passed page proof stage.

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Publications issued by the P.N.G. Office of Forests can best be obtained from the Sales Section, Office of Forests, P.O. Box 5055, BOROKO, Papua New Guinea; orders should be accompanied by a bank draft in P.N.G. kina (going rate: K1 = A\$1.12 approx.).

-David Frodin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Need for a Flora of Australia"

The account in the Newsletter of March, 1977, p. 16, of the meeting of the Canberra Chapter, chaired by Mr. George Chippendale, at which the late Dr. Nancy Burbidge and I spoke, leaves the reader with the completely false impression that I was expressing my own opinion concerning the "Need for a Flora of Australia" (Nancy specifically asked for this rather than "Australiensis"). I had been asked to be the Devil's advocate for the contrary view and my arguments were marshalled in full consultation with Nancy before the meeting. While my own views on the way in which we should proceed to get a new Flora have been expressed on previous occasions (and differ somewhat from those of the Academy Committee), my support for a new Flora is not in question. Indeed, as far back as 1958 I was a member of Professor Wood's Committee which started the quest and my enthusiasm for the recommendations of that Committee has never wavered. There are those who will recall that they included an insistence on the requirement for special funds to train the additional taxonomists who were seen to be needed to carry out the task of producing the Flora. During his visit to Australia, Professor Clapham gave similar advice.

I would be glad if you would print this letter which I hope will clear up any mis-understanding concerning my viewpoint on the "Need for a Flora of Australia".

Professor D.J. Carr,
Australian National University,
Canberra.

.....

"The Central Australian Flora"

I feel compelled to protest over the decision of the council to accept sponsorship of the Central Australian Flora. While it is undoubtedly a fine project, I cannot accept that the council can make long lasting decisions of such major importance without first consulting its members, and I feel the constitution does not give council member powers to accept sponsorship of such a project. It is also insulting to ordinary members not to be consulted on such decisions.

G.J. Keighery,
King's Park and Botanic Garden,
PERTH

CHAPTER NEWS

PERTH

Meetings of the Perth Chapter in 1977 have been stimulating and generally well-attended so far, with from 15-30 members present at each. To date the following topics have been discussed:

| | | |
|----------|--|--------------------|
| 25th Jan | 'The Flora of Dirk Hartog Island' | Mr. A.S. George |
| 1st Mar | 'The Vegetation of Wongan Hills' | Mr. K.F. Kenneally |
| 5th Apr | 'Travels in Africa for the study of the genus <u>Protea</u> ' | Dr. J.S. Beard |
| 26th Apr | 'Cytoevolution and taxonomic relationships in the scaleleaved triggerplants (<u>Stylidium</u> section <u>Squamosae</u>)' | Mr. D. Coates |
| 17th May | 'Deficiencies and Prospects in Botanical Collecting in Western Australia'. A discussion seminar with short contributions as follows: | |

'Introduction' Dr. R. Hnatiuk
'Rare and poorly collected species: Monocotyledons' Mr. G.J. Keighery
'The Perth Region: a neglected area' Dr. N. Marchant
'General collecting in local areas: the Fortescue District' Mr. M. Trudgen

The Convening Committee has requested abstracts from speakers in 1977 with the aim of publishing these in the Newsletter for the general interest of all members of A.S.B.S.

At the last mentioned meeting on 'Botanical Collecting in Western Australia', it was decided that the topic should be further discussed at a future seminar with the aim of identifying areas of priority (geographical, taxonomic, ecological) in the State deserving urgent attention. A motion was also passed to the effect that:

'The Perth Chapter of the Australian Systematic Botany Society should

inform the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Conservation and Environment of the urgent need for the employment of a Plant collector at the Western Australian Herbarium. Evidence and data supporting this request should be appended to this submission.'

Stephen Hopper,
Convener.

(Abstracts of one of these talks is published in this newsletter and others will appear in future issues -Ed.)

MELBOURNE

Programme of current activities

April 18 "Floristic Mapping in Victoria" Dr. Paul Gullan, National Herbarium of Victoria. (8.00 p.m., National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.) Paul's talk provoked much discussion on the problems of vegetation mapping of an area the size of Victoria.

July 4 "Variability in Eucalyptus viminalis" Dr. Pauline Ladiges, Botany Department, University of Melbourne. (8.00 p.m., Seminar Room, Botany Department, University of Melbourne).

August 29) The A.S.B.S. will be arranging two half-day sessions of the
to) ANZAAS Congress to be held in Melbourne during this period.
September 2) One session will consist of contributed papers on various taxonomic topics, and the other session will be a symposium on "The cytogenetic stimulus to taxonomy".

October 3(Monday) Details later
or 4(Tuesday)

November 7(Monday) Details later

Convener: Miss H.I. Aston
Secretary: Miss M.A. Todd
National Herbarium,
South Yarra. 3141.

SYDNEY

- 20 April - Mr Basil Saraphis, lecturer Hawkesbury Agricultural College, spoke on "Aspects of the Biology of Dawsonia".
- 14 June - Dr Peter Valder, Sydney University Botany Department presented a most interesting historical account of "Sociology and the Garden, 1800 to the Present".
- 12 July - Dr Erik Lassak, Chemist at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, will speak on "Chemotaxonomy".

Later

- Programme- Miss Jane Mowatt, post graduate student, Botany Department University of Sydney will speak on "Autecological Studies and taxonomy".
- Mr Paul Hattersley, also a post graduate student at Sydney University will discuss "Photosynthetic Pathways and the Systematics of Grasses".
 - A/Prof. Roger Carolin will give a talk entitled "Plants and Politics".
 - We are planning a discussion panel to compare "Species Concepts in Botany and Zoology".

Don Blaxell &
Chris Betteridge

BRISBANE

Programme for the remainder of 1977

- 14 June - "Biogeography of the Australian Grasses" by Dr. H.T. Clifford, Botany Department, University of Queensland, and Mr B.K. Simon, Queensland Herbarium.
- 9 August - "A numerical Study of the Vegetation and Floristics Along a Brigalow Transect in Central Queensland" by Dr. R.W. Johnson, Queensland Herbarium.
- 11 October- "The Flora of Far South-Western Queensland" by Mr. D. Boyland Queensland Herbarium.

The Meetings will be held in the Tea Room (G38/40) of the Botany Department, University of Queensland, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

VISITORS WELCOME

Note: At the meeting of 9 August, nominations will be called for, and Committee members elected for 1977-78. The Committee comprises two persons, one representing the University, and the other from any other institution.

Bronwyn Ashley
(for the Committee).

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

With the departure of Bill Barker who acted as the last rapporteur (A.S.B.S. Newsletter 8, July 1976 and earlier), it has fallen to the undersigned to report on the Society's activities as well as on other news from Papua New Guinea.

Botanical Society

Fourth meeting: This was held in late September at Bulolo, with Bob Johns as the convener, and appears to have been successful. Emphasis was placed on field trips rather than contributed papers. As I was not at this meeting, a fuller account cannot be given at this time.

Fifth meeting: This has been organised for the weekend of 28-29 May 1977 in Bulolo, and features the following programme:

Saturday, 28 May:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| J. Croft: | <u>New Guinea ferns: centre of diversity?</u> |
| R.J. Johns: | <u>Diversity of rainforest: stability or instability?</u> |
| F. Arentz: | <u>Is plant quarantine necessary? The potential import and export of plant pathogens in Papua New Guinea.</u> |
| J. Simpson: | <u>Edible fungi in Papua New Guinea.</u> |
| B. Conn: | <u>Are effective objectives relevant in science education in Papua New Guinea?</u> |
| M. Galore: | <u>Future and functions of the National Herbarium.</u> |
| I. Whyte: | <u>Results of a regeneration survey in the Gogol.</u> |
| D.G. Frodin: | <u>Vegetation and general features of the upper Ok Tedi region, Star Mountains.</u> |
| W. Moi and R.J. Johns: | <u>Vegetation of the Telefolmin area, Star Mountains.</u> |
| J. Powell: | <u>Use of systemic insecticides in plantations.</u> |

Sunday, 29 May:

Field trip to Aseki (Anga Plateau, west of Bulolo). Collections of plants and observations in mid-montane Nothofagus-Pandanus communities.

Additional meetings for 1977 have been tentatively scheduled for Goroka in September and Wau in November.

David Frodin
Herbarium, University of Papua
New Guinea.

A.S.B.S. Council Elections 1977-1979

An election is necessary to fill the two (2) Councillor positions on Council. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer have been filled unopposed.

PLEASE READ THESE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY!

At the last election, many voting papers failed to comply with the instructions intended to preserve secrecy and had to be ruled invalid.

Please fill in the ballot paper at the bottom of the page, detach it and place it in an unmarked envelope. To preserve secrecy, that envelope should be sealed individually inside another envelope and have the sender's name and address and "Ballot Paper" written on the back flap. This should be mailed as instructed below. To save postage costs, several "double-enveloped" ballot papers may be mailed inside a larger third envelope, provided that each separate ballot paper is treated exactly as outlined above.

Send ballot papers to the Returning-Officer, Dr. Trevor Whiffin, Department of Botany, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, 3083, by FRIDAY 12 AUGUST, 1977.

The new Council will be announced at the General Meeting to be held during the ANZAAS Congress in Melbourne.

- + Brief details on the Nominees for the Councillor positions are as follows:-
A.S. George is a Botanist at the Western Australian Herbarium, Perth.
L. Haegi is a Botanist at the Waite Institute of Agricultural Research, Adelaide.
J.P. Jessop is Keeper of the South Australian Herbarium, Adelaide.
A.S. Mitchell is an officer of the Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs.

