

Leader: Colin Cornford  
 16 Eldorado Street  
 Bracken Ridge  
 Qld 4017  
 Ph: 07) 32698256

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and that the first half of 1998 has treated you kindly. We had a long spell of hot weather with humidity in the 70% - 80% range which becomes very uncomfortable but which has, thankfully, eased off to a more reasonable temperature.

There is not a great deal of flowers around at present. *Melaleuca quinquenervia* is producing its third flush of flowers for the season. *Callistemon 'Guyra Hybrid'* has just finished flowering. It flowers intermittently throughout the year except for the mid-winter period. *Callistemon 'Pink Alma'* has just finished flowering and is budding up again. It also flowers intermittently throughout the year with a heavy flush of flowers in spring. *Callistemon 'Glasshouse Gem'* has a few flowers at present which it often has at this time of year. *Melaleuca thymifolia* is flowering fairly well at present. The red form of *Melaleuca viridiflora* is providing a good display at present. I consider this to be an excellent plant for smaller gardens in areas that get little or no frost. It grows to around 4 metres but rarely spreads more than 1.5 - 2 metres. If left unpruned, it will usually retain its foliage almost to ground level and it flowers over the whole area of the tree. Even when not in flower it is quite attractive with its pale paper-bark trunk and branches and its thickish, greyish-green leaves. Unfortunately, for some reason or another it is almost impossible to find it in nurseries at this time. One of the reasons may be that, in order to ensure the colour form, it has to be propagated by cuttings which can be slow to strike. Our daughter and son-in-law have just moved into a new house and we have been trying to find plants of this species but, so far, without success.

I noticed that some of the *Melaleuca leucadendron* trees are starting to come into flower, particularly the narrow-leafed form and which usually flowers before the broad-leafed form and which will probably flower again around late Spring or early Summer.

The red form of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* has been flowering well. This is not a common plant but well worth growing. It grows larger than *Melaleuca viridiflora* and can get to around 6-7 metres with a spread of around 4 metres.

Another plant that has been flowering is *Melaleuca sp aff. cornucopia*. Flowers on this plant are creamy-white and about 70 mm long by 30 mm wide. Again, it is not common but would be a useful plant for small gardens as it only grows to around 3 metres high with a spread of around 2.5 - 3 metres. It generally starts to flower around February and continues flowering until May to early June.

#### SEED LIST

Please make the following corrections to the seed list that was forwarded with newsletter No. 15.

- M. diosmafolia* should read *M. diosmifolia*
- M. thricostachya* should read *M. tricostachya*
- M. fulgens var corrugata* should read *M. fulgens ssp corrugata*
- M. filifolia* has reverted to its previous name of *M. nematophylla*
- M. holosericea* is now *M. smartiorum*
- M. oldfieldii* is now *M. smithiorum*

#### LEPTOSPERMUM LIVERSIDGEI

You will probably recall an article in the last newsletter relating to the mosquito repellent capabilities of this plant and that I would keep you informed as to its success or otherwise.

The first plant I purchased, which was in a 200 mm pot, about 0.75 m high and cost me \$15 lasted 4 weeks before it turned up its toes. I bought a second, smaller plant and potted it on into a very friable mix. It lasted 7 weeks. I don't intend to buy any more. I have obtained a few seed of the species so I will try growing some of my own to see what happens. Has anyone else tried it? If so, please let me know the results.

#### **CULTIVATION OF KUNZEA SPP**

A few members have submitted reports on the Kunzeas that they are growing. We need more!!! Plant descriptions have been obtained, where necessary, from "Bottlebrushes, Paperbarks and Teatrees" by J.W. Wrigley and M. Fagg.

##### **SARAH CALDWELL – TENTERFIELD NSW.**

Soil is well-drained, brown clay loam. Severe frosts are experienced.

- K. ambigua (pink)* - Shrub to 5 m, flowers in Spring
- K. ambigua (prostrate)* - White flowers in Spring
- K. baxteri* - Shrub to 3 m, red flowers in Spring
- K. capitata* - Shrub to 1.5 m, mauve flowers in Spring
- K. parvifolia* - Shrub to 1.5 m, mauve-pink flowers in Spring

Although the soils on this property are generally well-drained, *K. baxteri* and *K. capitata* do not like the wet conditions produced during prolonged wet periods. *K. baxteri* can be affected by severe frosts.

##### **IVAN HOLLIDAY – ADELAIDE S.A.**

Soil is limestone marl and sand. There are no frosts.

- K. ambigua (Wilson's Promontory form)*
- K. ambigua* - Shrub to 5 m, white flowers in Spring
- K. baxteri* - Shrub to 3 m, red flowers in Spring
- K. newbeyii*

##### **BARBARA BUCHANAN – MYRRHEE VIC.**

Soil is red clay. There are frosts.

- K. affinis jucunda* - Shrub to 2 m
- K. baxteri* - Shrub to 3 m, red flowers in Spring
- K. pulchella* - Shrub to 3 m, red flowers in Spring
- K. muellerii* - Shrub to 0.5 m, yellow flowers in Spring
- K. ericifolia* - Shrub to 5 m, cream flowers in Spring
- K. parvifolia* - Shrub to 1.5 m, mauve-pink flowers in Spring
- K. opposita* - Did not survive
- K. 'Badja carpet'* - Did not survive
- K. ericoides* - Shrub to 4 m, white flowers in Spring
- K. micrantha* - Shrub to 2 m, mauve-pink flowers in Spring
- K. obovata* - Shrub to 3 m, mauve-pink flowers in Spring
- K. capitata* - Shrub to 1.5 m, mauve flowers in Spring
- K. pomifera* - Shrub to 1 m, white flowers in Spring
- K. recurva 'Apricot'* - Shrub to 2 m
- K. baxteri + pulchella*

##### **JACK VAN DAM – BERRY NSW**

- K. ambigua* - Shrub to 5 m, white flowers in Spring
- K. cambagei* - Prostate to 0.2 m, creamy-white flowers in Spring
- K. capitata* - Shrub to 1.5 m, mauve-pink flowers in Spring
- K. sp aff capitata*
- K. muellerii* - Shrub to 0.5 m, yellow flowers in Spring
- K. parvifolia* - Shrub to 1.5 m, mauve-pink flowers in Spring

## OTHER SPECIES

Other species from the "Allied Genera" which are being grown include the following.

### IVAN HOLLIDAY

On clay soil.

*Beaufortia orbifolia* - Shrub to 3 m, bi-colour red and yellow-green flowers in Spring  
*B. schauerii* - Shrub to 1.5 m, mauve-pink flowers in Spring

Species which were unsuccessful on the clay soils were the *B. heterophylla* and *B. eriocephala*.

On sandy soils.

*B. elegans* - Shrub to 3 m, white to mauve flowers in Spring  
*B. interstans* - Shrub to 1 m, purple flowers in Spring  
*B. purpurea* - Shrub to 1 m, mauve-purple flowers in Spring  
*B. micrantha* - Shrub to 0.7 m, mauve-pink flowers in Spring  
*B. squarrosa* - Shrub to 1.5 m, red flowers in Spring  
*B. decussata* - Shrub to 1.5 m, red flowers in Summer  
*B. sparsa* - Shrub to 3 m, vermilion flowers in Summer and Autumn is grown in the higher rainfall areas in the Adelaide Hills.

*Ereamea beaufortoides* - Shrub to 2.5 m, orange flowers in Spring

*Phymatocarpus maxwellii* - Shrub to 2.5 m, pinkish-mauve flowers in Spring

### SARAH CALDWELL

*Beaufortia squarrosa* - Shrub to 1.5 m, red flowers in Spring, not affected by frost

*Regelia megacephala* - Shrub to 3.5 m, mauve flowers in Summer, subject to severe frost damage

### BARBARA BUCHANAN

*Phymatocarpus maxwellii* - Shrub to 2.5 m, pinkish-mauve flowers in Spring

*P. porphycephalus* - Shrub to 1 m, pinkish-mauve flowers in Spring

*Calothamnus gilesii* - Shrub to 4 m, red flowers in Spring

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Subscriptions for 1998/1999 are due on July 1. Australian membership fees remain at \$5.00 p.a.. Overseas membership fees have been reduced from \$15.00 to \$12.00 p.a..

## MEMBERS REPORTS

Reports from our members have been very light on since the last newsletter. Any articles are welcome, regardless of length.

## SLIDE SETS

The Melaleuca, Callistemon and Leptospermum slide sets, with written commentary, are available for loan to individual members or groups.

Keep safe and well. Happy Gardening.

Regards for now,

  
Col Cornford.