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AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 13

December 1977

A.S.B.S. Council

- President Prof. Roger Carolin, School of Biological Sciences,
University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006.
- Vice-President Mr Rod Henderson, Queensland Herbarium, Meiers Road,
Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068.
- 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 Alex George, Western Australian Herbarium, Dept. of
Agriculture, George Street, South Perth, Western Australia,
6151.
- Dr John Jessop, South Australian Herbarium, North Terrace,
Adelaide, South Australia 5000.

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 28th February, 1978.

- subscriptions for 1978 are due 1st January. (Members in Australia \$6 or \$4 if paid by 31st March 1978. Overseas Members US \$8 or equivalent).

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

Minutes of 4th General Meeting of the
Australian Systematic Botany Society, 30 August, 1977

Meeting held at 8.00 p.m. in the Botany School, University of Melbourne.

Apologies from Rod Henderson, Karen Wilson, Jim Armstrong, Alex George.

1. Minutes of 3rd General Meeting as published in the ASBS Newsletter were accepted on the motion of G. Scott, seconded J. Beard.
2. President's report was given by the President, R. Carolin, and received on the motion of T. Orchard, seconded T. Whiffin. G. Scott requested that those members and universities who had contributed to the list of graduate theses which is being compiled by ASBS Council should be sent copies of the finished list. The President stated that this would be done.
3. Treasurer's report was presented in typescript form to all present and was received on the motion of G. Scott, seconded R. Filson.
4. Report of newsletter editor was presented by the President. On the motion of M. Todd, seconded G. Keighery, the report was received and a vote of appreciation to those people who do the work of producing the newsletter (particularly R. Henderson and K. Wilson) was passed.
5. Reports from local chapters. No reports as such were given, but a general consensus of opinion showed that the chapters all seemed to be functioning reasonably successfully.
6. Flora of Australia. Recent developments involve:-
 - i. The suggestion by H.J. Eichler that a monographic series could be published via the medium of existing state herbarium journals and the forthcoming Commonwealth journal "Brunonia".
 - ii. The recent government appointment of ABRS as a permanent body with the production of a Flora of Australia as one of its charges.

In view of these recent developments the President outlined an overall suggestion for an "undirected flora of Australia", i.e. a continuing series of monographs which would gather together all revisions of Australian plants which were done on an Australia-wide basis. Any such revisionary study could be presented before publication to an editorial panel which would determine if it was suitable for inclusion in a Flora of Australia series. Each suitable article could then be published in any herbarium journal of the Australian commonwealth or states, and

would be headed "Contributions toward a Flora of Australia" together with a serial number. ABRS should become responsible for purchasing reprints and making these available where wanted. A necessary step is the standardisation of size of all herbarium journals, and a willingness to do this has already been shown by Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland. The meeting was generally in favour of the suggestion and Council is to forward the idea on to wherever it sees fit.

7. Australian Botanical Liaison Officer Hj. Eichler stated that at this stage, support for the BLO was still forthcoming from CSIRO. A. Kanis pointed out that although a copy of each page of the ASBS newsletter is sent to Kew library this was insufficient as the ABLO is regularly approached for information concerning Australian botany and botanists and requires a copy permanently at hand. It was moved, A. Kanis, seconded Hj. Eichler, and carried that a copy of each future issue of the ASBS newsletter should be sent to the ABLO for permanent retention there for successive officers. A. Kanis also indicated that a small library of major reference books should be established for the ABLO.
8. Central Australian Flora J. Jessop reported that a rough outline sample draft had been circulated. Compilation of a basic list of species and their distribution is causing some trouble, but about 2000 species are involved. There are volunteers for writing up about 99% of the species; J.H. Willis will write an historical introduction on exploration of the area; an ecological chapter is anticipated. Material is to be in hand by the end of 1979.
9. International Botanical Congress. The President said that the ASBS hoped to have the Central Australian Flora completed and published in time for the IBC in Sydney in 1981, and asked if members felt that the Society should play any active part in the Congress. B. Briggs indicated that she and all other members of the committee for the Systematic and Evolutionary Botany section of the Congress had met during the present ANZAAS and were formulating a programme for the section. They hoped for a wide-ranging and balanced result, and suggestions would be welcome. She suggested that if the ASBS wished to organise a function in its own right then a dinner or informal function may be appropriate. R. Seppelt suggested a tour of Central Australia to complement the Central Australian Flora but it was felt that this may not be successful if the season was poor. Other suggestions and comments were made, but the matter was left for decision at a later date. Possibility of a dinner was favoured. Members felt that holding a general meeting of ASBS at the Congress may not be advisable as ASBS Congress participants would prefer spending time with overseas visitors.
10. Australian Customs Act Regulation 13A. This regulation applies to the export of type specimens of insects, and it has been feared that it was also to be applied to plant types. However, this did not now appear to be the case so no action was necessary.

11. Nancy Burbidge Memorial. The question of providing a memorial to Nancy Burbidge was discussed at length and the suggestions considered were:- provision of a painted or photographic portrait of her for hanging at Herbarium Australiense; dedication of an issue of Brunonia; establishment of a fund for providing financial assistance to students of systematic botany; a memorial lecture or series of lectures. A consensus of opinion was taken and it was then moved H. Aston, seconded R. Smith and carried, that the ASBS Council should establish a Nancy Burbidge Memorial Fund with a view to providing either a memorial lecture or series of lectures or else providing financial assistance to students working in Australian systematic botany.

12. Incoming Council. The incoming council for 1977/79 term is:-

President	- R. Carolin
Vice-President	- R. Henderson
Secretary	- K. Wilson
Treasurer	- M. Lazarides
Councillors	- Alex George
	John Jessop

T. Whiffin reported that only 42 members had voted in the election for councillors, and five of the votes were invalid. G. Keighery commented on the complicated method of voting and suggested that a more attractive method should be adopted in order to ensure voting by a much larger number of members. He suggested that votes could be handed in at chapter meetings. The matter is to be taken up by Council.

13. Next General Meeting. It was felt that meeting at the next ANZAAS in New Zealand would not be suitable. Council is to decide on venue.

The meeting then concluded with the Presidential Address "The Old Systematics" delivered by R. Carolin.

Thanks are due to Helen Aston for acting as Minutes Secretary.

SECRETARY

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

Financial Statement for period 31.12.75 to 31.12.76

RECEIPTS

Bank Balance at 31.12.75...\$1021.98
Subscriptions.....\$1223.24
Bank Interest.....\$ 37.09

EXPENDITURE

Newsletter (4) printing
and postage.....\$ 802.11
Letterheads & Newsletter
Covers.....\$ 270.10
Taxonomic Report.....\$ 131.10
Newsletter Draft Typing.....\$ 10.40
Editorial Postage.....\$ 10.00
Rubber Stamps (2).....\$ 9.20
Bank Balance as at 31.12.76 \$1049.40

TOTAL: \$2282.31

TOTAL: \$2282.31

MEMBERSHIP

	ACT	NSW	NT	Q	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	OVERSEAS+	TOTALS
Aug. 1973										113
Dec. 1974										211
May. 1976	44	42	5	28	33	7	26	43	20	248
Aug. 1977	44	42	5	32	45	5	30	51	24	278

(+ Overseas = UK 1, Africa 1, NZ 5, USA 8, Netherlands 1, PNG 4, Institutional 4)

LOSS (deceased) 2

UNFINANCIAL STATUS

ACT	12 (2)	TAS	0
NSW	7	VIC	3 (1)
NT	0	WA	15 (6)
Q'LD	4 (1)	OVERSEAS	14 (6)
SA	3		

TOTAL 58 unfinancial for 1977 (including 16 unfinancial for more than 1 year)

TREASURER

"Travels in Africa for the Study of the Genus Protea

R. Br. (Nom. cons.)" - Dr J.S. Beard.

The genus Protea is the South African national floral emblem. While resident in South Africa, I had agreed on the preparation of a major illustrated monograph with Prof. H.B. Rycroft, Director of the National Botanic Gardens, Kirstenbosch, who was to be responsible for the - 70 spp. found in the Cape Province, while I would do the rest, also about 70, which spread all over Africa south of the Sahara. Unfortunately, by the time my work was finished, Prof. Rycroft had not completed his revision of the taxonomy of the Cape species, but this has now been taken over by Dr John Rourke since he became head of the Kirstenbosch herbarium, and a fresh start on the project has been made.

The first South African plant of which there is a known record is actually a Protea (P. neriifolia). A specimen was figured by Clutins at Antwerp in 1605 under the designation "Carduus generis elegantissimi". Owing to its geographical situation the Cape flora became known quite early and most of the Cape species of Protea had been described by the close of the 18th century. The name Protea (from the Greek god Proteus) is due to Linnaeus himself in the folio edition of Systema Naturae, 1735. Involvement in that period, however, resulted in immense taxonomic confusion which is not fully resolved even now. The principal generic names in the family have had to be made nomina conservanda because of this situation. The subtropical and tropical species of Protea became known much later and largely escaped the earlier confusion except for P. gagedi Gmel. (P. abyssinica Willd.) which was discovered by Bruce in the course of his travels to discover the source of the Nile and was described and figured in two stylised plates under the local name Gagedi, in his book of 1790. There is no type specimen, so that the type consists of the two plates and the description. Fortunately only one taxon of Protea has ever been discovered in northern Ethiopia, and the application of the name is not in doubt.

Confusion in the tropical area of the genus mainly resulted from the multiplication of names by British, French, Belgian, German and Portuguese workers in the separate colonial Territories, so that there has had to be considerable reduction to synonymy. Some species show quite little variation even throughout an immense range of thousands of kilometres, whereas others are considerably variable. The aggregate species concept was employed in P. welwitschii where 12 species were reduced to a group of 7 subspecies. In a number of cases, uncertainty surrounds the relationship of some sympatric suffrutescent and arborescent forms which need to be studied in cultivation.

Throughout the talk an account of some of my travels was given and a number of slides were shown illustrating species, their habitats, and scenery in the parts of Africa where they are found. Examples of the colour plates which had been printed for the illustrated monograph by Lura Ripley were also exhibited.

The above is an abstract of a talk delivered to the Perth Chapter on 5th April, 1977.

References

Beard, J.S. 1958. The Protea species of the summer rainfall area of South Africa. Bothalia 7: 41-63.

_____ 1963. The genus Protea in tropical Africa.
Kirkia 3: 138-206.

COMMITTEE OF HEADS OF AUSTRALIAN HERBARIA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The fifth annual meeting of the Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria met in Adelaide on 6 and 7 October. Members who attended were:-

Dr J.P. Jessop (AD), Chairman
Dr B.G. Briggs (NSW)
Dr D.M. Churchill (MEL)
Mr G.M. Chippendale (FRI)
Dr J.W. Green (PERTH)
Dr H.J. Eichler (CANB)
Mr A.B. Court (CBG)
Mr J.R. Maconochie (NT)
Dr R.W. Johnson (BRI)
Mr D.R. Gregg, Director, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (HO) (Observer).

ABRS

Much of the time was devoted to important discussions of the role of the Australian Biological Resources Study, which had recently been given the status of an established programme. The value of these discussions was greatly enhanced by the attendance of Dr W.D.L. Ride (Director, ABRS) for part of the meeting, who asked CHAH for its views on several aspects of ABRS's work.

Among proposals made by the Committee was one that The Academy of Science Standing Committee on the Australian Flora should be asked to act as an advisory committee to ABRS on matters relating to a Flora of Australia. This Committee, when it last met, included members from all state herbaria, CSIRO and several other taxonomists, and is believed to have the confidence of the Australian taxonomic community.

Other topics concerning ABRS included suggestions for members of the principal ABRS Advisory Committee, a new name for the organization, and priorities in vegetation mapping. Dr Ride intends that herbarium collection label data should be stored in a computerized data retrieval system and suggestions were made for the order in which herbaria should be processed: start with the smaller collections.

Revisional series

Another important topic was a proposal that Australian taxonomic revisions be reprinted from journals and bound in a uniform series under a title such as 'Revisions towards a Flora of Australia' (see ASBS Newsletter 12:4). This project was strongly supported and a subcommittee set up (with Dr Eichler as Convener) to lay down guidelines and to make other necessary arrangements to get it off the ground as quickly as practicable in consultation with ABRS.

Australian Botanical Liaison Officer

It was noted that CSIRO recently decided to continue to support this post which is, for many government botanists, the only opportunity to spend a fairly long time on botanical work overseas and which has provided essential data to botanists both in Australia and in Britain. It remains to be seen whether ABRS will ultimately take over CSIRO's portion of financial support for the position.

Current Taxonomic Research

Over the past few years the Committee has produced three editions of a catalogue of Australian taxonomic projects and it was resolved to produce a further edition for the International Congress. ASBS, which has been collaborating and which is planning a somewhat similar catalogue for 1979 (see ASBS Newsletter 12:2) has been asked to participate in its preparation.

Standard Distribution Recording System

Dr Churchill has been developing a grid system for recording distribution in Australia. The basic unit is the $1.5^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ area as defined by the 1:250 000 map series and each designated by a two-letter reference system. Using a small number of figures, these units are then subdivisible to various levels of accuracy. While it is probably not possible to produce a system which will suit every distribution recording requirement, it is believed that this system will be of considerable value. Dr Churchill has undertaken to have it published in "Muelleria".

20 Oct 1977

J. Jessop

FLORAS

Will a new Flora of Australia ever see the light of day? Faced with a similar goal, a group of dedicated professionals overcame almost insurmountable problems to produce a flora of Europe. This is how they did it.

Brief History of the Flora Europaea Project

The need for a consolidated, modern Flora of Europe had been acknowledged for a long time, and many discussions had taken place to consider ways in which such a Flora could be produced. It was obvious in these discussions that it was beyond the capacity of one person to write a European Flora within any practical timetable; and that some kind of cooperative scheme was needed, but early attempts to achieve this foundered. At the International Botanical Congress in Paris in 1954 the problems associated with writing such a Flora were again discussed in one of the formal sessions, but these discussions closed on a note of gloom and regret that no feasible scheme could be envisaged. Some of the participants adjourned to a small cafe opposite the Sorbonne and continued the discussion with the aid of appropriate refreshment. In contrast to the earlier meeting, the longer the session went on the less formidable the task seemed, and the session closed with complete unanimity that the Flora could be written and that the group involved in the discussion would do it.

Even at that stage it was clearly appreciated that for the Flora to be a success it must have the support of a substantial proportion of the senior and experienced taxonomists in Europe, yet these were already fully committed with their own researches. It was therefore necessary to devise some method of using the personal knowledge of many specialists in a way which did not impose unacceptable burdens on them. The basic idea of an author preparing an account, which, after editing, should be submitted to Regional Advisers in as many countries as possible was developed early in the discussions. Similarly it was soon realized that, for the work to have any coherence, strict editorial policies would be needed. By the end of 1955 the initial group involved agreed that the stage had been reached when a formal committee should be established, and this committee first met in January 1956. The minutes of this meeting are headed: "Meeting to consider the Organisation of a European Flora - Held at Leicester 4 January 1956". These minutes show how far the thinking had gone since the early concepts had been formulated in Paris in 1954. The functions of the Editorial Board, the Advisory Editors, the Regional Advisers, etc., were outlined, and lists of people who should be invited to help were prepared. It is perhaps indicative of the wide acceptance of the urgent need for a Flora of Europe that almost everyone invited agreed to help and almost all have continued to do so.

At that first meeting the basic form and style of the Flora were agreed, even down to the order in which the individual characters of the plant should be described. Sample treatments of Gentiana by Tutin and Digitalis by Heywood had already been prepared. These were discussed at length, and it was agreed that revised versions should be prepared and that these be printed and circulated as specimen pages.

The optimism which launched the project is reflected in two of the minutes of that first meeting:

'A period of about 10 years was envisaged for the preparation of the MSS.' (It has taken 21 years!)

'It was agreed that a sum of money (5-6,000) would have to be found.'
(The British Science Research Council grants alone now total more than 150,000!)

But in essentials the Flora has followed closely the plans outlined at that first meeting and set out in a small handbook entitled The Presentation of Taxonomic Information - a short guide for contributors to Flora Europaea published in 1958 with a supplement in 1960. The guide became widely known as the 'Green Book' and soon assumed an importance all of its own.

It was emphasized at the first meeting that: 'While it was agreed that the editorial board should be based on the British Isles and Ireland so as to make fairly frequent meetings, close collaboration etc. possible, every attempt should be made to avoid an insular outlook.' It was felt that this could best be ensured by having periodic gatherings in different parts of Europe of all involved in the Flora. Although all the subsequent meetings

(Copenhagen and Arhus) in 1965 which provided an opportunity to review progress and to see what improvements could be made in the Flora and in the Organization.

The Editorial Committee has throughout met at regular intervals and there have been few meetings at which there has not been at least one long discussion on comments sent in by a Regional Adviser or an Advisory Editor. It is impossible to over-estimate the value of such comments. There are probably no botanical manuscripts which have been submitted to the critical appraisal of so many experts prior to publication. When mistakes or errors of judgement do appear in a published account, it is an indication of the complexity of the taxonomic problems and of condensing the descriptions of 13,000 species into a work of reasonable size.

At the outset of the project it was realized that substantial sums of money would be needed to provide for secretarial and research staff, travel, and, not least, paper! Volume 1 alone involved the stencilling and distribution of over 200,000 sheets. The first two years were very difficult; Research Councils were naturally hard to convince that the massive support needed would be justified. Fortunately the small grants initially received were supplemented most generously by private benefactors. These enabled the developing organization to complete successfully what would now be called a 'feasibility study', which then convinced the appropriate bodies that the project deserved support. This the Science Research Council of the United Kingdom has done in a most generous and understanding fashion, which has allowed the scientists to concentrate on writing the Flora without needing to be diverted on to the time-consuming task of fund-raising. Even when the economic climate changed and the work was taking longer than forecast, Research Councils from other countries rallied to the support of what was now a project which it was internationally agreed must be supported to its completion.

There have been six meetings of the organization in different countries in Europe, eighty meetings of the Editorial Committee, and scarcely a day has passed during the last fifteen years without an envelope containing accounts of genera in various stages of preparation arriving on the desk of a Regional Adviser in some country in Europe. Volume 1 appeared in 1964, Volume 2 in 1968, Volume 3 in 1972 and Volume 4 in 1976, and the fifth and final volume will be handed to the publishers, Cambridge University Press, at this meeting.

There must be very few instances of such successful international cooperation involving so many countries over so many years. This alone we believe would justify Flora Europaea.

(Symposia) have had serious scientific programmes, the opportunities for informal discussions and the personal friendships which have developed as the result have been vital for the success of the Flora.

The first of the international meetings was in Vienna in 1959. No one who was there will ever forget the opening session. Most were relative strangers to each other, the Editorial Committee was very conscious of how much hinged on the success of this first meeting, and many of the more senior representatives were only too well aware of previous abortive attempts to prepare a Flora of Europe. There was an undoubted feeling of tension in the newly refurbished room of the Naturhistorisches Museum with its clinically white walls and gilt chairs with red plush velvet. After the formal welcome Professor Tutin, in his capacity as Chairman of the Editorial Committee, rose to launch the project. His opening quotation, 'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread', has entered into the history or the folk-lore of Flora Europaea, and there is no doubt that the instant clamour for translation and the attempts to do this, united the meeting and the participants in a way no other speech could ever have done.

The intervening years between Vienna and the completion of the manuscript for Volume 1 in 1962 saw many long and heated arguments. Continental colleagues may find it hard to understand the depth of feeling associated with the decision to follow the revised Englerian sequence rather than one of those more popular in the Anglo-Saxon world. On the other hand the decision as to whether Latin or English should be used for the published Flora produced surprisingly little heat; a vote showed equal support for both languages, and in the event commercial advice decided that the publication should be in the English language.

Much of the early work of the Editorial Committee was concerned with trying to get uniformity of treatment of accounts prepared by many different authors. Often it was felt that some authors knew too much and others too little. To this there was often added the problem of resolving conflicting comments sent in by advisers. Ultimately the editors had to prepare the final manuscript guided at times primarily by the desire to get a sense of unity into the Flora - and there always was the cry 'try and stick to the timetable'.

Advance copies of Volume I were on show at the Edinburgh International Botanical Congress in 1964, and this did much to convince the botanical world that THE FLORA was a reality, and to boost the morale of so many throughout Europe who had worked so long with apparently so little to show for their work and faith in the project. Inevitably many users, as they read Volume 1, sought information in the Flora which was not there. Some omissions were deliberate policy, others reflected inaccurate or absent information, still others were the result of conscious decisions by authors or editors in order to conform to the agreed format and size of the Flora. Many of these problems were discussed in detail at the meeting in Denmark

Congratulations to Selwyn Everist who recently was awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree from Queensland University. Though in retirement, Sel still lectures part-time to students in the Veterinary Science faculty of that University.

NOTICE

PLANT TAXONOMIC LITERATURE IN AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES

In 1973 Dr Nancy Burbidge undertook, as part of the Academy of Science Flora Project, to update and expand her Select List of Publications in Systematic Botany available in Australia (Canberra, CSIRO Division of Plant Industry Report no. 14, 1951).

Many Australian botanists and librarians were asked to contribute information on their library holdings and the response was so overwhelming that a book of over 500 pages was compiled and is now in press.

Plant Taxonomic Literature in Australian Libraries, compiled by Nancy T. Burbidge and edited by Alison McCusker, will be published jointly by CSIRO and ABRIS in the second quarter of 1978.

The book will retail at approx. \$15 but is available to ASBS members at a pre-publication price of \$10.

ORDERS, ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT, SHOULD BE SENT TO

CSIRO Editorial and Publications Service,
P.O. Box 89, East Melbourne, Vic. 3002.

CLOSING DATE: 1 MARCH 1978

Order your copy now!

Alison McCusker

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NEWS

Mrs Karen Wilson returned at the beginning of November from a five months trip to Europe. She worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the British Museum of Natural History, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, before spending three months at the Museum National d Histoire Naturelle in Paris studying Cyperus and related genera.

Dr Tony Orchard, Auckland, has been appointed Curator of the Tasmanian Herbarium, Hobart. Tony takes up his new position early in the new year. Congratulations from the Society.

Mr Lawrie Haegi has been appointed as a botanist at the New South Wales National Herbarium, Sydney. He took up the position vacated by Mr Nick Lander who now is a botanist at the Western Australian Herbarium.

Mr John Maconochie, Alice Springs, returned from his term as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer, Kew in time to attend the Heads of Herbaria meeting in Adelaide last October.

Bruce Maslin, the present A.B.L.O., writes that he and Mr. Paul Wilson (PERTH) attended the Flora Europaea Final Symposium at Cambridge (see above) in early September. Because of the current activity in Australia regarding our own Flora, he considered aspects of the Cambridge conference relevant.

Bruce was able to record with reasonable clarity some of the proceedings, and the tapes were returned to Perth with Paul Wilson. Bruce included an index as to what talks were recorded and was sure they would be available to anyone wishing to hear them.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Buttrose, M.S., Grant, W.S.R. & Lott, J.N.A. (1977). Reversible curvature of Style Branches of Hibiscus trionum L., a Pollination Mechanism. Aust. J. Bot. 25:567-570.

Absence of effective pollination causes stigmatic lobes to curve downwards to contact anthers. This is a self-pollination mechanism.

Hopper, S.D. & Campbell, N.A. (1977). A Multivariate Morphometric Study of Species Relationships in Kangaroo Paws (Anigozanthos Labill. and Macropida Drumm. ex Harv.: Haemodoraceae). Aust. J. Bot. 25:523-544.

The authors argue for recognition of 2 genera with 2 sections in Anigozanthos, and A. bicolor, A. gabrielae and A. viridis as distinct species.

Madison, M. (1977). A revision of Monstera (Araceae). Contr. Gray Herb. 207:3-100.

M. deliciosa is widely cultivated as an ornamental in Australia.

Byrnes, N.B. (1977). A Revision of Combretaceae in Australia. Contrib. Qld Herb. 20: 1-72.

Terminalia arenicola and T. savannicola are described as new and T. supranitidifolia is given as the new name for T. discolor F. Muell. non Sprengel.

An index to species names mentioned in all twenty contributions is given on pages 73 to 88 in Contribution 20 above, which was published on 20 September 1977.

The first number of Volume 1 of the Queensland Herbarium's new journal "Austrobaileya" was published on 1st December. This journal replaces "Contributions from the Queensland Herbarium". This first number contains the following nine papers.

LIBRARY FUND APPEAL

Some members will be aware of the existence of the Sydney Science Centre and of its involvement in the production of our newsletter. Others will know of the existence of the Royal and Linnean Societies of New South Wales and that they jointly own the Science Centre.

The following letter has been received from the Chairman of Science House Pty Ltd., (Prof. N.G. Stephenson);

"The Royal and Linnean Societies of New South Wales have invested all their funds in this very worthwhile, two and one half million dollar project and obtained the remaining monies required by means of a substantial loan from the Commonwealth Bank. The very purpose of the Centre, namely to provide the best in services and facilities at low cost for scientific and professional organizations such as ours, is deserving of support from us all. Major financial assistance from either the Federal or State governments has not been made available nor is it likely to be and therefore I feel we must help ourselves.

You will be aware of the inflationary trends which have occurred over the period in which this project has been undertaken and will appreciate that these have added an additional financial burden on the Societies.

The Societies have launched an appeal to enable them to maintain their libraries (now united). Most ASBS members may not be aware that these libraries, now housed in the Science Centre, are extremely valuable sources of old reference works - many are available there which are not held anywhere else in Australia.

I urge all members to give this appeal their personal support. Donations in excess of \$2.00 to the funds have been made tax exempt. Will you please give what you can, making out your cheques in favour of "The Royal Society of N.S.W. Library Fund" or "The Linnean Society of N.S.W. Library Fund", as you wish, and forwarding your donation to me for correlation and despatch to the Centre.

The Premier of New South Wales, Mr Neville Wran, Q.C., M.L.A., has consented to be the Appeal's Patron and I am sure that with your assistance the Centre can be helped to continue maintaining a most valuable assistance to the community."

R.C. Carolin

results of several years work on "The Flora of Far South-western Queensland". Several communities were discussed in terms of their dominant and minor species and these were related to habitat differences. The informative talk was illustrated by slides.

The next meeting of the group will be held in February but details have yet to be finalized.

Bryan Simon and Cheryl Scarlett

Convening Committee

CANBERRA

The general meeting was held on Wednesday, September 28. The new Committee was elected:

Convenor: A. Gillison: Land Use Research, CSIRO.
Secretary: E. Canning: CBG.
and : G. Chippendale: FRI.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on two recently published papers:

Stewart, D.A. and Barlow, B.A. (1976): Intraspecific polyploidy in Ptilotus obovatus (Amaranthaceae).

Polhill, R.M. (1976): Genisteae (Adans.) Benth. and related tribes (Leguminosae).

The first was introduced by A. Kanis, and the second by T. Macfarlane.

On Wednesday, October 26 M. Lazarides (CANB) talked about the flora of Arnhem Land. Mike had been involved in an impact study on the Alligator River area, and presented an excellent in-depth study of the flora of that area.

Our first excursion for some time was held on Sunday, November 13, and was led by M. Crisp (CBG). We explored the "Big Hole" and "Marble Arch" in the Wyanbene Cave Series in the Upper Shoalhaven Valley, as well as looking at the vegetation of adjacent areas. We were also treated to a display of abseiling in the "Big Hole" - there were numerous cavers about.

At the meeting on Tuesday, November 22, a subcommittee of four people was formed to plan administration of a Nancy Burbidge Memorial Fund. The meeting concluded with two short talks on current research work, viz.,

Blake, S.T. - Four new species of Eucalyptus.

Andrews, S.B. - Miscellaneous notes on Australian Pteridophytes, I.

Henderson, R.J.F. - Notes on Solanum (Solanaceae) in Australia.

Philipson, W.R. - The deletion of Pentapanax Seem. from the flora of Australia.

Pedley, L. - Notes on Leguminosae, I.

Blake, S.T. - Allosyncarpia ternata, a new genus and species of Myrtaceae subfamily Leptospermoideae from Northern Australia.

Byrnes, N.B. - The genus Verticordia in Northern Australia.

Pedley, L. - Polycarpaea (Caryophyllaceae) in Australia.

Lavarack, P.J. - Notes on Queensland Orchidaceae, I.

Journal of Arid Environments

Academic Press is to publish a new journal under the above title. It is aimed to be multidisciplinary and provide a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue. The journal will publish papers containing the results of original work, and review articles within the general field described by its title. It will be wide in scope, and will include physiological, ecological, anthropological, geological and geographical studies related to arid environments. Reviews of relevant books will also be printed. Enquiries in Australia initially may be addressed to Prof. W.V. Macfarlane, a member of the Editorial Board, at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Glen Osmond, South Australia 5064.

- Ed.

CHAPTER NEWS

BRISBANE

The final meeting of 1977 for the Brisbane Chapter was held on the 11th of October. Mr Des Boyland of the Queensland Herbarium presented

Mrs Edna Watson, Botany Department, S.G.S., A.N.U.:

"Variation and Diversification in local
populations of Bulbine bulbosa (R. Br.) Haw."

Miss Estelle Canning, CBG:

"Studies on Waxes on the Surfaces of Leaves and
Phyllodes of the genus Acacia Miller."

Estelle M. Canning
