

INTRODUCTION

Firstly, a word of explanation. It may seem strange to issue two newsletters at the same time. However, issue No. 1 is intended primarily to send to prospective members and, because of this, most of the information contained therein is not new to most existing members.

These newsletters will not be produced on a regular basis but will be published when there is sufficient information to pass on (perhaps four times per year).

I would like to point out right at the start that I have no botanical or horticultural qualifications. My role is to pass on information received from members and various authorities and to keep members advised of the availability of propagating material. Those who have questions or require advice—please ask; I will attempt to find out the answer for you.

Contributions to the newsletter or comments on any material published will be most welcome.

THE GENUS BEAUFORTIA

In line with other study groups, I will publish in future newsletters descriptions of each species. Initially I consider that a general description of each species might be in order and the list below gives brief details extracted from various sources.

As most members will be aware, the genus *Beaufortia* is a member of the plant family Myrtaceae and is closely related to the genus *Melaleuca*. There are sixteen species (all western) and several varieties. The species are:—

- anisandra*....1m x 1m; crimson, purple flowers in summer, autumn.
- bracteosa*....1m x 1.5m; crimson to dark red flowers.
- dampieri*....0.75m x 1m; red flowers.
- decussata*....1.5 to 2m x 1m; stiff foliage, scarlet brushes in autumn.
- elegans*....1.5m x 1.5m; mauve, purple terminal flowers in summer.
- eriocophala*....0.75m x 1m; small foliage, red brushes in autumn.
- heterophylla*....0.75m x 1m; fine foliage, brilliant red flowers in spring.
- incarna*....1 to 2m x 1m; grey foliage, deep red flowers in spring.
- interstans*....1m x 1m; maroon, purple flowers.
- macrostemon*....1 to 2m x 1m; deep red flowers in spring.
- micrantha*....0.5m x 0.75m; purple, red flowers.
- orbifolia*....1.5 to 2m x 1m; red/green flowers in summer, autumn.
- purpurea*....0.75m x 1m; crimson flowers in summer.
- schauceri*....0.75m x 1m; fine foliage, pink flowers in spring.
- sparsa*....2m x 2m; orange, scarlet flowers in autumn.
- squarrosa*....2m x 2m; brilliant red flowers in spring, autumn.

SEED BANK

As mentioned previously seed is not easy to obtain. Any members who have access to seed (even a few capsules) are requested to make it available. Some seed was obtained through SGAP N.S.W. region and this has been distributed free. I have obtained additional supplies through commercial sources and, as shown in the financial statement below, have just about depleted the group's funds in doing so. In order to recoup some of the expenditure it will be necessary to make a charge for the seed (at least initially). The charge is 20 cents per packet...this is much less than the cost price. When ordering please enclose payment, a 20 cent stamped envelope and list order of preference. The seed available is:—

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|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <i>B. anisandra</i> | <i>B. decussata</i> | <i>B. elegans</i> |
| <i>B. heterophylla</i> | <i>B. micrantha</i> | <i>B. schaueri</i> |
| <i>B. sparsa</i> | | |

B. decussata is supplied in capsule as it does not shed seed and the supplier recommends just sowing the capsules on the surface of the seed raising mix (i.e. do not bury the capsules).

PLANT EXCHANGE

Members who produce plants surplus to their needs are requested to make them available to other members. Let me know of the surplus plants available and I will arrange distribution through the newsletter.

CUTTING EXCHANGE

Would members who have established plants from which cutting material could be made available please let me know.

PHOTOGRAPHS

I hope to build up a collection of photographs of all species and

