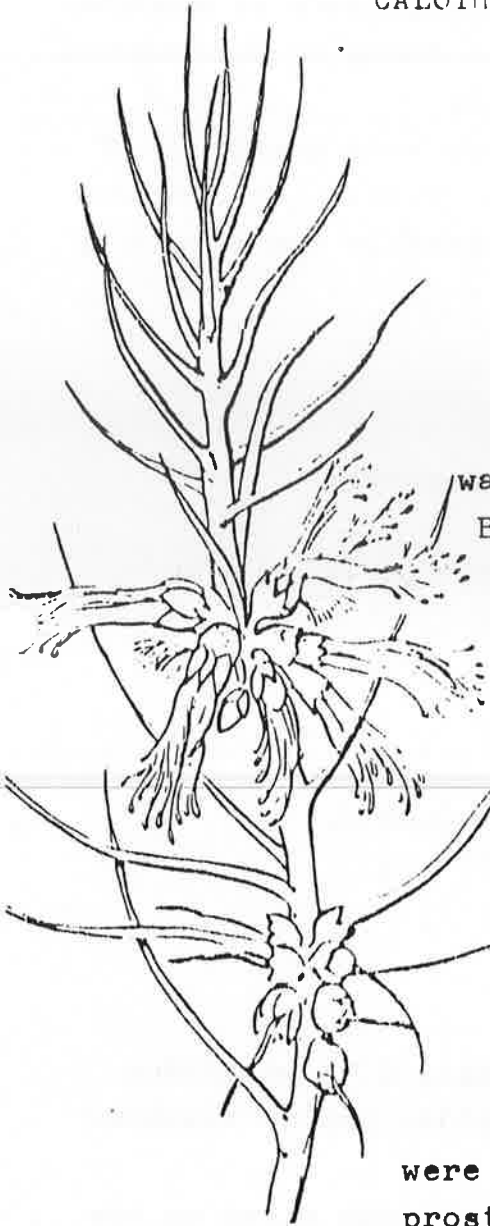


ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
 CALOTHAMNUS & ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER Number 17

Leader: Barb Graham,
 Nundle Rd.,
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July, 1992.



Earlier this year I was in South Australia and was lucky enough to be able to stay with Kaye Bartlett who took me to see some of the wonderful gardens in the Murray Bridge area, all with really great Calothamnus growing.

One surprising thing was seeing so many different forms of *Calothamnus quadrifidus* and three of *Calothamnus rupestris*. Kaye had a magnificent bush of *Calothamnus rupestris* well over 3 metres high, very wide & dense with quite large seed pods & longish leaves. Later we saw a much smaller one, also with smaller leaves and seed pods, then a medium sized one with pink flowers!

But the different forms of *Calothamnus quadrifidus* were just amazing, ranging in height from nearly prostrate to over 3 metres, so many different leaf sizes, some leaves terete, others flat, from furry to nearly smooth & a few with lovely red new shoots. I feel that we should make some distinction between the different forms, more about this later.

There were also some *Calothamnus villosus* seen on our garden visits & they looked as if they could really be *C. villosus* but haven't flowered yet. So when they do we will find out and hopefully find out the seed source.

I am very happy to have been able to see these beautiful and interesting gardens and see how well *Calothamnus* grow in different situations. Of course in this area the soil was mainly sandy, but I've also seen many growing in much heavier soils. One useful thing I noticed, was that although *Calothamnus* will grow quite happily in part shade, they really do much better in full sun.

-* * * Now for my S.O.S. * * *- Coul I have as many ideas as possible on how we could differentiate between the various forms of Calothamnus species, especially C. quadrifidus & C. rupestris.

Also when Calothamnus are flowering well could you send pressings of a flowering stem of any species & forms you have. Please include seed capsules and a description of the shrub and if possible the source of the seed (or plant).

<u>Present seed bank:-</u>	species name only.
chrysantherus	homolophyllus
blepherantherus	homolophyllus prostrate
borealis	pinifolius
gibbosus	quadrifidus
gilesii	robusta
gracilis	rupestris
graniticus	rupestris pink
	villosus ??

Please send a stamped, addressed envelope with requests.

Cuttings.

Addresses are in last month's newsletter.

Rhoda Jeavons. Calothamnus asper, prostrate C. quadrifidus
with golden yellow flowers.

Val Maher Calothamnus graniticus, but only a few as her
bush is not large enough to take a lot.

Barb Graham Calothamnus quadrifidus hirsutus, C. quadrifidus
which is a spreading shrub about 1½m high

Kaye Bartlett Large form of Calothamnus rupestris.

I am sure that we will have many more cuttings available later on, hopefully some Eremaea & Beaufortia as well.

Graham Eastwood has had some good flowering with his Beaufortia and Eremaea. Beaufortia schauri, elegans, macrostemon & purpurea flowered well, the B. purpurea being a very vigorous, over a metre tall and quite a bit wider. Eremaea flowered for a good two months. Graham prunes his Calothamnus, Beaufortia and Eremaea regularly and says that they flower much better when the bush isn't growing.

Val Maher was very thrilled to see some buds on her *Calothamnus graniticus* at last. This shrub is only a metre high with lovely bright green bundles of foliage atop bare stems.

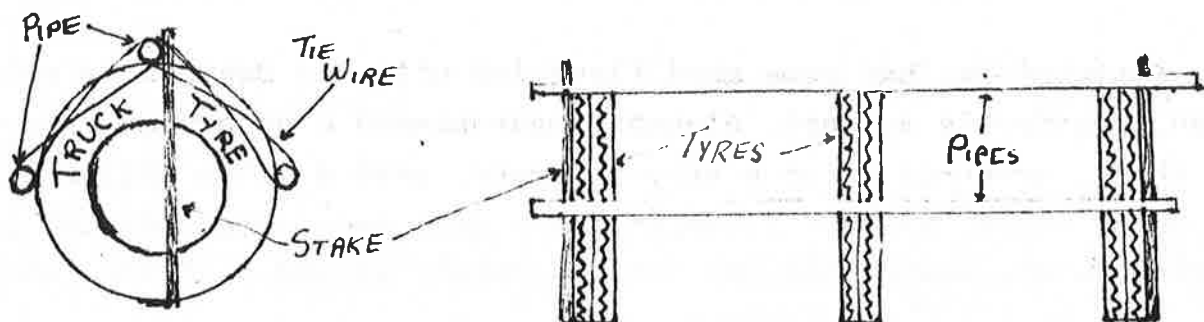
I am preparing an area at the Dulegal Arboretum for a *Calothamnus* collection, but it will be a long time before it comes anywhere close to the size of the one that Kaye has. At the Arboretum, the area is on a rocky slope with some very large Red Stringy Bark trees scattered about. Hope to start planting in the spring as there are some very good plants that were given to the Group by the very generous South Aust. people.

At the Arboretum we use Forestry Grow Tubes on all our young plants for up to a year, but I find that we have to watch *Calothamnus* plants very carefully as they can get fungal infections easily in the humid micro environment inside the tubes. For most other plants the Grow Tubes are a wonderful idea, keeping rabbits away from the small plants, stopping wind & frost from drying out the ground around the plant, collecting moisture such as mist or dew to run onto the ground near the roots.

As I have said before, the winters here are a bit hard on most young *Calothamnus* plants. Probably also for the Allied Genera as well. So I have made an area to protect them (& other s as well). After one winters protection most are O.K. This protection consists of three large truck tyres with three old pieces of galvanised pipe. One along the top and the other two on each side about a third the way down.

These are tied to each other with strong wire & a small steel post at each end to hold tyres upright.

two layers of strong, clear plastic cover this with bricks holding the plastic on the ground, back and front so that I can lift it up to work with the plants (there are always weeds). I have left the ends open to allow some fresh air through. Also discovered another benefit as little Thorn Bills fly in to get small insects! This used to be in full sun but some of my larger shrubs have grown a bit too big and are shading it partially. But so far the plants are still doing well. As warmer days are coming now I lift up one side of the plastic as it gets too humid for *Calothamnus* otherwise.



Here is our balance sheet for the year between June 30 '91 to July 1 '92
 Subs are now due, thank you to all who have already paid & those who
 have also sent a donation. I will have to stop sending newsletters to
 those who are a couple of years behind in their subs.

Income		Expenses	
brought fwd.	147-84	Paper	10-
subs	26	Photocopy	25-90
donations	82	postage	55-51
interest	7-74	FID	6
	<hr/>	slide films	35-
	263-58		<hr/>
		In bank	137-11
			<hr/>
			263-58

All the best

Barb