



# Newsletter

Australasian Systematic Botany Society

No. 189, December 2021



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## Changing the rules

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## Read it cover to cover

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## From the President

*Mike Bayly*

This issue of the Newsletter is full of details from our recent AGM. Much of the recent council activity is summarised in the minutes and reports from that meeting and doesn't need to be repeated here, so I will keep this missive brief.

After more than 18 months of COVID-related lockdowns and travel restrictions, we seem to be transitioning to a more open phase of "living with COVID" as vaccination rates continue to increase, at least in Australia and New Zealand. Although the path ahead is still uncertain, let's hope we are on the way out of this thing!

The new ASBS Council, post-AGM, is only slightly changed from the last one. I will continue as President, John Clarkson as Treasurer, Kelly Shepherd and Katharina Nargar are continuing as Councillors, but Hervé Sauquet and Heidi Meudt have swapped roles, with Hervé now Vice President and Heidi now Secretary. I look forward to continuing work with this great team.

The Council will be fairly quiet over December/January as we variously take leave, do fieldwork and hopefully all recharge a bit. We will return with more news in 2022. In the meantime, I wish ASBS members all the best for the summer/festive season ahead.

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## Recent ASBS Eichler Funding News

*Heidi Meudt ASBS Vice President and Chair, ex officio of the Hansjörg Eichler Research Committee*

The ASBS Research Committee has now reviewed three applications for the 2021 Marlies Eichler Postdoctoral Fellowship, as well as three applications for the September 2021 round of the ASBS Hansjörg Eichler Scientific Research Fund. We are pleased to announce the latest recipients of research grants from these rounds:

2021 Marlies Eichler Postdoctoral Fellowship awardee

**Tim Hammer**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The University of Adelaide (Nov 2020 - Nov 2023), for the project, "Delineating the diversity of Dilleniaceae: a revisionary synthesis of *Hibbertia* for the Flora of Australia and investigations into its taxonomy, systematics, evolution and biogeography". Collaborator: Michelle Waycott.



**Above** Dr Tim Hammer



September 2021 Hansjörg Eichler  
Scientific Research Fund awardees



**Frances Guard**, PhD student at the University of Southern Queensland, for the project, "Hanging by a 'horse hair': chasing another species in the *Marasmius crinis-equi* complex from northern NSW". Supervisors: John Dearnaley, Theresa Lebel.



**Harvey Orel**, PhD student at the University of Melbourne, for the project, "Molecular phylogeny of *Flindersia* (Rutaceae) using target sequence capture". Supervisors: Michael Bayly, Todd McLay.

A full list of the winners of the Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund (1997-present) can be seen here: <http://www.asbs.org.au/asbs/hesrfund/index.html>. This page also has additional links to the resulting reports from most of the previous winners.

As a reminder, next year's Eichler deadlines are listed below:

- 14 March 2022: Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund
- 31 July 2022: Marlies Eichler Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 14 September 2022: Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund

For those intending to apply, all the important information and the application form can be found on the ASBS website. If you have any questions, please contact your new Vice President, Hervé Sauquet, at [vice-pres.asbs@gmail.com](mailto:vice-pres.asbs@gmail.com)



# Australasian Systematic Botany Society Inc.

## MINUTES

### 43rd Annual General Meeting

Zoom videoconference at 13.03-15.09 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT), 5 October 2021.

**Council present:** Mike Bayly (President), Heidi Meudt (Vice-President), John Clarkson (Treasurer), Hervé Sauquet (Secretary), Katharina Nargar (Councillor), Kelly Shepherd (Councillor).

**A total of 32 participants** attended the meeting.

**Meeting opened** at 13.03 AEDT [with 26 participants].

**Welcome and apologies:** Mike Bayly welcomed everyone to the second electronic AGM of our Society. Apologies noted: Juliet Wege, Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn, Tanya Scharaschkin, Kerry Gibbons, Gareth Holmes.

**Update on GAP:** Prof. Darren Crayn, Director of the Australian Tropical Herbarium at James

Cook University, gave a short talk about the latest progress of the Australian Angiosperm Tree of Life (AAToL, stage 1) of the Genomics for Australian Plants (GAP) initiative.

**Panel discussion on lockdown experiences:** Dr Lalita Simpson, Dr Karen Wilson, and Dr Mike Bayly shared their stories and experiences (positive and negative) of living and working through the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and associated lockdowns. Mike Bayly used a live polling tool (PollEv), used in his online teaching, to compile words best describing the experience of lockdown by ASBS members present at the meeting (Figure 1).

**Minutes of the previous AGM** were published in the ASBS Newsletter #185 (December 2020, pp. 8–9). No objections. Darren Crayn moved, Karen Wilson seconded.

#### Reports:

- *President's report* (presented by Mike Bayly)
- *Treasurer's report* (presented by John Clarkson). No questions were asked. John Clarkson moved, Karen Wilson seconded.
- *Newsletter report* (presented by Lizzy Joyce).
- *Webmaster's report* (presented by Anna Monro).
- *Facebook report* (presented by Mike



**Figure 1** Pandemic Wordcloud

Bayly).

- *Research Committee report* (presented by Heidi Meudt).
- *Student/ECR Subcommittee report* (presented by Maren Preuss).

**Update on next ASBS Conference:** Mike Bayly explained that, despite preliminary discussions with some potential hosts, we have not identified a time, location or organising committee for a conference in 2022. Mike called for potential volunteers to form an organising committee for a meeting that, given uncertainty about the covid situation, should most likely be online. However, to reserve energy for the Society's 50th anniversary in 2023, Council suggested that a full 2022 meeting could be replaced with a smaller student/ECR forum, potentially to be organised by the new student/ECR subcommittee.

**Update on proposed changes to the Rules:** JC outlined the changes to the Society's rules proposed by Council.

**General business:** no general business was discussed.

**New ASBS Council:** Mike Bayly presented the new ASBS Council for 2021-2022. Each position was filled by a single nomination. The only change from 2020-2021 is that Heidi Meudt and Hervé Sauquet are swapping their roles as Vice President and Secretary.

- Mike Bayly – President
- Hervé Sauquet – Vice President
- John Clarkson – Treasurer
- Heidi Meudt – Secretary
- Katharina Nargar – Councillor
- Kelly Shepherd – Councillor

**Meeting closed** at 15.09 AEDT [with 27 participants].

## President's Report 2021

*Mike Bayly ASBS President*

This is my first AGM report to ASBS membership as President of the Society. It has been another year of unusual circumstances with all council and society operations happening entirely online.

I'd like to start by acknowledging that it has been fantastic to work with the current Council, who are a great team doing a sterling job on behalf of the society. They have each made a substantial contribution to running of the society and I'd like to thank them individually as follows.

Hervé Sauquet (Secretary): for running a tight ship, keeping us all in line, keeping the wheels turning for society business, and being full of great ideas and sound advice.

John Clarkson (Treasurer): not only doing the

most demanding job on Council, managing our accounts and membership records, but also finding time to work on proposed rule changes that will benefit the society, and thinking ahead to plans for our 50th anniversary year in 2023.

Heidi Meudt (Vice President): doing the substantial job of managing the grants process and the Research Committee, both of which are central to our business.

Katharina Nargar (Councillor): who has been full of sage advice and this year and, along with the other members of the organising committee, brought together a historic, and very successful, first ever online conference.

Kelly Shepherd (Councillor): who has been leading the charge from the council end on

the large undertaking of moving toward a new website for the society. This year she also organised the incorporation of our newsletter to BHL as an important back-up for our newsletter content. Moving forward both, Kelly together with current webmaster Anna Monro, will be overseeing website changes.

### Website

While I'm talking about the website, I also want to acknowledge the long term support we have had, over many years, from Murray Fagg. ASBS were early adopters of an online presence, largely through Murray's efforts. As the new website transition starts, Murray has stepped back from his role and I really want to thank him, on behalf of the society, for all that he has done for us!

### Newsletter

I hope you'll all agree that the newsletter has been looking fantastic recently, thanks to the contributions of members and the efforts of the editorial team: Lizzy Joyce, Alex George, Todd McLay and John Clarkson. You might have seen in the last issue that Alex George has recently stepped down from the team and will be sorely missed. I want to thank Alex for all his hard work and put a plug in, as Lizzy will also do, that we are also looking for another member of the editorial team. If you are interested, you can either contact the Council or Lizzy or other editors directly.

### ECR subcommittee

This year we established a subcommittee to represent Early Career Researchers in the society. A key aim in establishing the subcommittee is to build better dialogue between Council and ECR members and to identify ways in which we can better support ECRs. The committee will report to Council, with key members routinely attending the regular council meetings. The subcommittee, together with council, is still in the process of defining formal terms of reference and setting objectives etc., and we are aiming to do this in a way that best suits the needs of ECRs. We have defined "ECR" fairly broadly to include students and postdocs in the early

stages of their careers (up to ~ 10 years post PhD). The current members of the subcommittee are Maren Preuss (Victoria University of Wellington), Tim Collins (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) and James Clugston (NSW). ECR members of the society can expect to hear from them in due course.

### Student travel grants

A new round of student travel grants, supported by funds from ABRS, was announced in October. With covid-related disruptions to travel over the last 18 months, we have been uncertain of how best to run this grant program, and its initiation was delayed as a result. The grants can fund expenses associated with student attendance at in-person or online conferences or workshops, in Australia or overseas, relevant to the systematics and taxonomy of plants, algae or fungi. Some funding was used to support student attendance at our recent online conference and applications are now open, on an ongoing basis for conferences between now and 31 July 2022. Information about the scheme is available at: <https://forms.gle/qzL7Rd-d6UL7LE7Fz6>

### Conference in 2022

We are still ascertaining if and in what form a society meeting or workshop might happen in 2022 and we are interested in hearing from members who might be interested in helping with this. [See separate note in the minutes from the AGM, above.]

### 2022 ASBS Council

After our annual call for nominations for council positions we received just a single nomination for each position, so we did not need to run elections. The council will continue, after this AGM, with the same members, but with Heidi Meudt and Hervé Sauquet effectively swapping their former roles as Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. This continuity will allow the team to keep up its current momentum and continue working on initiatives that are already underway. I will look forward to working with everyone for another year!



# Vice President's Report 2021

Heidi Meudt ASBS Vice President

## Grants and Reporting

This was my third and final year as ASBS Vice President and ex officio Chair of the ASBS Research Committee. A continued focus of mine in 2021 was to follow up outstanding Eichler reports. Five Hansjörg Eichler reports were published this year:

- **Alyssa Weinstein**, Australian National University: "Cryptic speciation within the genus *Drakaea*: can combining genetic analyses, floral chemistry, and pollination data provide taxonomic resolution?" (ASBS Newsletter 184, Sep 2020).
- **James Clugston**, RBG Sydney: "Identification of *Cycas* species in Australia using leaf cuticle micromorphology (ASBS Newsletter 184, Sep 2020).
- **Raees Khan**, University of Adelaide: "Biogeography, genetic diversity and evolution of the Australian endemic *Podocarpus lawrencei* Hook.f." (ASBS Newsletter 185, Dec 2020).
- **Weixuan Ning**, Massey University: "Phylogenomic analysis of New Zealand polyploid *Azorella*" (ASBS Newsletter 185, Dec 2020).
- **Bohao Dong**, The University of Waikato: "Systematics and taxonomic review of New Zealand *Pittosporum* Banks & Sol. ex Gaertn. (Pittosporaceae)" (ASBS Newsletter 185, Dec 2020).

Three Marlies Eichler Postdoctoral Fellowship reports were also published:

- **Dr Trevor Wilson**, National Herbarium of New South Wales: "A new key for Australia's Bugle Subfamily (Ajugoideae: Lamiaceae): a phylogenetically informed taxonomy assisted by next generation sequencing method" (First year report: ASBS Newsletter 185, Dec 2020).

- **Dr Bee Gunn**, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and The University of Melbourne, "Evolution of polyploidy in Australian Asparagales" (Final report: ASBS Newsletter 185 Dec 2020).
- **Dr Lars Nauheimer**, Australian Tropical Herbarium, "Phylogenomics and Taxonomy of the Donkey Orchids (*Diuris*, Orchidaceae)" (Final report: ASBS Newsletter 186, Mar 2021).

This year, I also achieved the following goals as Vice President: to get all the Vice President files organised, updated and uploaded into the ASBS Digital Archive; to suggest changes to the Eichler webpages in preparation for a new ASBS website; and to keep up to date with the Eichler reports from recent Hansjörg and Marlies Eichler grant winners. It is my hope that these modest achievements will make life a bit easier for the incoming Vice President!

## ASBS Research Committee

The 2021 ASBS Research Committee remained unchanged from 2020, comprising:

- Heidi Meudt (Chair, *ex officio*), Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
- Joanne Birch, University of Melbourne, Australia
- Murray Henwood, University of Sydney, Australia
- Sarah Mathews, Louisiana State University, USA
- Katharina Nargar, Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns

I would like once again to extend a huge thankyou to the members of the Research Committee, who provide a massive service to the Society and its members. This year they reviewed 12 applications over three grant rounds. As several of the members of the Research Committee have served since 2015 or 2016, Council has started a

process of recruiting and vetting several new members to the Committee, which is ongoing at the time of the AGM.

### Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund Grants

This year we had two rounds of Hansjörg Eichler Research grants, targeted primarily at students and non-salaried researchers, but of course any ASBS members are welcome to apply. Six applications were received for the March 2021 round, two of which were funded, totalling AUD\$9,800. This was the second round in a row that we received six applications.

- **Francis Nge**, postdoctoral researcher, The University of Adelaide, for the project, 'Systematics, evolution, and diversification of *Isopogon-Petrophile* (Proteaceae) and allies'; Collaborators: Prof. Michelle Waycott, Dr Kevin Thiele.
- **Miriam Slodownik**, PhD student, The University of Adelaide, for the project, 'Environments and adaptations of Tasmanian fossil plant survivors (52 mya) after the end-Cretaceous mass extinction - Chapter 2: Connecting the Mesozoic and Cenozoic fossil records of Gondwanan south polar floras'; Supervisor: Prof. R.S. Hill.

The September 2021 round garnered three applications, and at the time of the AGM, these are still being reviewed by the Research Committee.

### Marlies Eichler Postdoctoral Fellowship

This year, for the second year in a row, saw three excellent applicants for the single yearly round of the Marlies Eichler Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Committee funded one of these applicants for AUD\$10,000 per year for two years:

- **Tim Hammer**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The University of Adelaide. Project: "Delineating the diversity of Dilleniaceae: a revisionary synthesis of *Hibbertia* for the Flora of Australia and investigations into its taxonomy, sys-

tematics, evolution and biogeography". Total amount awarded: \$20,000 AUD.

The number of high quality applicants for both the Hansjörg Eichler and Marlies Eicher grant schemes was for the second year in a row very high (3 each year), and the competition was once again very intense.

As a final note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my three years as ASBS Vice President, and I hope my humble efforts have made a difference to the Society. What I will miss most about being VP is interacting with the wonderful members of the ASBS Research Committee, as well as all the Eichler applicants and recipients. It was an honour to be able to read about the innovative and excellent plant systematics projects being proposed by our members, especially by our students and postdocs. I won't miss having to make difficult funding decisions, such as having to choose between two or more very high quality proposals. Being ASBS VP means being on the forefront of the Eichler grant rounds, which has helped keep me up to date with the latest methods in our field. From now on though, I'll just have to keep up with this research – like all other ASBS members – at ASBS conferences and in the Eichler reports when they eventually come out in the ASBS Newsletter.

# Treasurer's Report 2020/21

*John Clarkson ASBS Treasurer*

## 1. Introduction

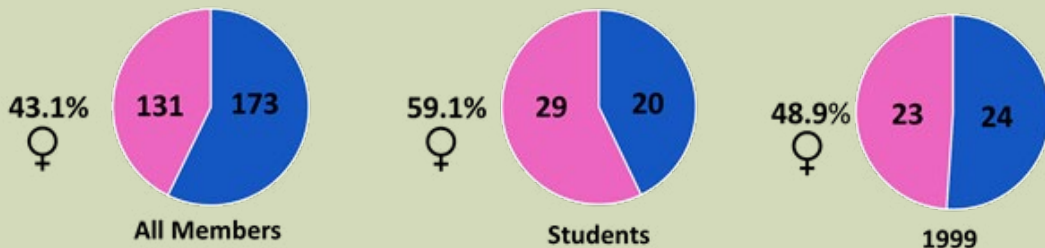
I am pleased to present the financial statements of the Australasian Systematic Botany Society Inc. (ASBS) for the year ended 30 June 2021 (Appendix 1). The finances of the Society are run on a financial year basis with data reported on a full cash basis.

Philippa E. Whitting of McKinnon & Co. Atherton audited the accounts. Her report to members is attached as Appendix 2.

## 2. Membership

Table 1 summarises the number of members at the end of September 2021. Since the last report, 25 new members have been ad-

mitted to the Society and 8 members have resigned. Council is acutely aware of diversity in the Society and attempts to keep a close eye on this — particularly gender equity (Fig. 1). Overall, women make up 43% of the membership but female student members continue to outnumber males. Just for interest, I had a look at the oldest membership database I have access to. In 1999 (22 years ago), male and female student members were nearly equal. Thirteen students from 1999 are still active members of the Society: 6 women and 7 men. Although the 72% attrition rate is abysmal, one would hope this at least reflects equal employment opportunities for women.



**Figure 1** Gender balance in the Society membership as of 1st October 2021 (left and centre) compared with 1999 student members (right).

**Table 1** Membership of ASBS as of 1st October 2021 (non-financial members in brackets)

Fee	Full	Concessional	Gratis	Total
Ordinary	181 (10)	n/a	0	181 (10)
Student	n/a	49 (7)	0	49 (7)
Retiree	n/a	64 (0)	0	64 (0)
Unemployed	n/a	7 (0)	0	7 (0)
Institutional	4 (0)	n/a	14	18 (0)
Life	n/a	n/a	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>185 (10)</b>	<b>120 (7)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>322 (17)</b>

The following new members have been admitted to the Society since the last AGM:

Matthew Adeleye	Australian National University
Damien Andrew	University of New England
Rachel Atkins	University of Adelaide
Zoe Bloesch	James Cook University
Santiago Martin-Bravo	Pablo de Olavide University
Craig Edwards	University of Queensland
Tara Evans	University of Adelaide
Stephanie Goedderz	Australian Tropical Herbarium
Jie Huang	Guangxi University
Andrew McDougall	University of Adelaide
Kali Middleby	James Cook University
Andrew Orme	National Herbarium of New South Wales
Gary Palmer	Ecology Australia
Dale Perkins	Australian Tropical Herbarium
Antonio Rayos	University of the Philippines Los Banos, The Philippines
Shelley Rowntree	University of New England
Vanessa Ryan	Queensland Herbarium
Carlo Sarion	University of Auckland, New Zealand
Miriam Slodownik	University of Adelaide
Ruby Stephens	Macquarie University
Megan Thomas	University of Adelaide
Fanie Venter	Australian Tropical Herbarium
Rainer Vogt	Alan Herbarium, New Zealand
Tombo Warra	Bulolo University College, Papua New Guinea
Heidi Zimmer	Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research

## Annual membership fees for 2022 are due on January 1

Fees remain unchanged at \$45.00 for ordinary members or \$25 for students, retired or unemployed members. Payment can be made by credit card by contacting the treasurer, John Clarkson, at [treasurer.asbs@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.asbs@gmail.com) or by direct credit.

Account details are:  
Australasian Systematic Botany Society BSB: 06 3243  
Account Number: 00901958

A membership renewal form is available at: <https://asbs.org.au/membership.html>

### 3. Management of Funds

#### 3.1. General Fund

The General Fund finished the financial year with a surplus of \$17,856. This is considerably higher than the surplus for the 2019/20 financial year, however, it includes income and expenditure associated with ASBS2021 *Virtually*, the Society's very successful annual conference. The conference will return a modest profit which will be reported next financial year. The Society also received the second tranche of funding (\$8,250) from the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) to administer a small grant scheme aimed at providing financial assistance to postgraduate students to attend Australian or international conferences and workshops relevant to the field of taxonomy and systematics. The Society now holds funds totalling \$16,500 for this purpose. Details of when and how the grant will be offered have been on hold pending a relaxation of the COVID-19 travel restrictions, but Council intends to call for applications soon.

Assets in the General Fund are still held as either cash at call or in reasonably short (6-9 months) term deposits. With interest rates as low as they are (0.60-0.86%), the Society is receiving very little income from the considerable funds it currently holds in the General Fund.

Income from membership fees remains close to the 5-year running average and I remain loath to recommend an increase in membership fees while the Society is well placed financially and has reported a surplus in all but 2 years since 2005. There are no plans for any major increase in expenditure in the year ahead and the Society is well placed to celebrate its upcoming 50th anniversary.

#### 3.2. Research Fund

The Society continues to offer up to \$40,000 each financial year to support research projects in plant systematics. Projects supported include Hansjörg Eichler Research Grants (\$20,000) and the Marlies Eichler Postdoctoral Fellowships (\$20,000). The Research Fund Grants awarded in the 2020/21 financial year totalled \$39,800. The Research Fund ended the year with a surplus of \$75,861, more than

double the surplus reported for the previous financial year. As global markets recovered from the initial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the unit value in the managed fund rose steadily throughout the year from \$0.9897 on 1 July 2020 to close at \$1.0460 on 30 June 2021 having reached a high for the year of \$1.0467 two weeks earlier. As a result, the Colonial First State managed fund finished the year with an unrealised capital gain of \$15,069 compared to an unrealised loss of \$48,073 in 2019/20.

The Society was also successful in claiming a refund of Franking Credits totalling \$17,676.92 paid on the managed funds in financial years back to 2003/04. If tax statements for CommSec investments for the 2001 to 2006 financial years can be located, the Society will be able to claim further refunds totalling somewhere between \$2,000 to \$2,500. All attempts to locate the documents have failed but hopefully they will turn up in the Society archives in MEL.

This financial year, 69 members made donations to the Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund totalling \$9,795. All donors, including the following members who agreed to having their names recorded publicly, are thanked for their generous support.

The Research Fund has entered a new phase in its management — one that was set in train back in 2017 when the current investment portfolio was set up. The plan then was to exhaust funds held as cash about the end of 2019 but, with donations received, interest earned, and the successful claim for franking credits, the cash reserves have lasted longer than expected. Relying initially on cash reserves was designed to allow the managed fund to mature and it has performed as planned (Fig. 2). By reinvesting all dividends, the initial investment of \$1,046,243 has grown in 4 years to \$1,256,042. Sufficient cash remained in the CBA cheque account to fund the first round of Eichler Grants in 2021 but it will be necessary to draw on the Colonial investments from October 2021 and the Society will be more exposed to the fluctuating unit value.

#### 3.3 Ethical Investments

At previous Annual General Meetings there



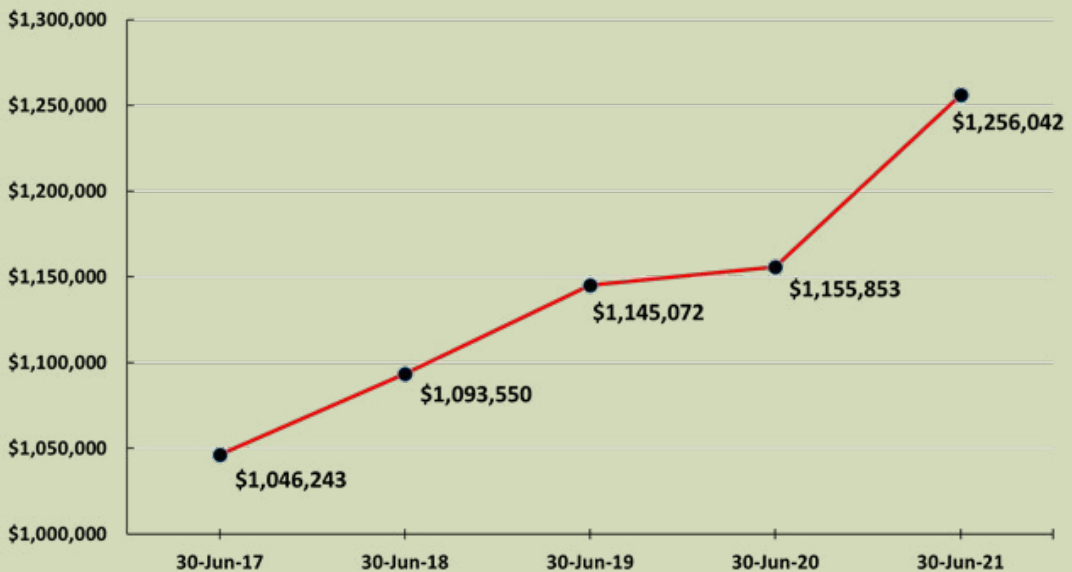
have been questions on ethical investing, so I have been exploring various options, particularly how Colonial First State is performing in this area.

To set the stage for the discussion which follows, a short history of the current investment strategy is in order. The current investment strategy dates from June 2017. It was developed with the assistance of the Financial Advisory Standing Committee and a financial planner from the Commonwealth

Bank (CBA). The Society approached CBA for several reasons. It had been dealing with the bank since the Society was formed in 1973; I was Treasurer at the time (in 2017), and I could meet face-to-face with an adviser less than 100m from my office; and Council was happy with the advice CBA had provided when the initial investment strategy was set up in 2003. Bearing in mind the time and experience future treasurers might have to manage the Research Fund, expecting the Treasurer to manage a share portfolio was never going

### Donors to the Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund 2021

Michael Bayly	Gareth Holmes	Yolanda Metti	Kevin Thiele
Frank Bedon	John Hosking	Peter Michael	Nanette Thomas
Chris Betteridge	Betsy Jackes	Pina Milne	Stephen van Leeuwen
Joanne Birch	Laurie Jessup	Andrew Mitchell	Helen Vonow
Margaret Brookes	Richard Jobson	Daniel Murphy	John Walker
Jeremy Bruhl	Bronwen Keighery	Maggie Nightingale	Barbara Waterhouse
Christine Cargill	Greg Keighery	David Orlovich	Juliet Wege
John Clarkson	Pauline Ladiges	Ruth Palsson	Judy West
Darren Crayn	Teresa Lebel	Caroline Pannell	Peter Weston
Murray Fagg	Terry Macfarlane	Matt Renner	Molly Whalen
Robert Gibson	Sarah Mathews	Carolyn Sandercoe	Annabel Wheeler
Laurie Haegi	Merran Matthews	Kelly Shepherd	Karen Wilson
Frank Hemmings	Bill McDonald	Philip Short	Peter Wilson
Alison Hewitt	Dirk McNicoll	Paulo Cesar Baleeiro Souza	Nicholas Yee
Roger Hnatiuk	David Meagher	Ian Telford	



**Figure 2** Year on year growth in the value of the Colonial First State managed fund. It is important to keep in mind that past performance is no indication of future growth.

to be an option and term deposits could not guarantee the returns needed. It was essential that the Society engage a reliable fund manager. Another important consideration was that no matter where future Treasurers might be based, it would be an advantage if they could have easy access to meet face-to-face with an adviser. Colonial First State, one of the largest fund managers in Australia and a subsidiary of the CBA, met this requirement. The investment strategy was approved by Council, all of whom, were at the conservative end of the investment spectrum. At the time, no specific consideration was given to engaging a fund manager purporting to offer only ethical investment options. Council opted to follow the recommended strategy for 5 to 6 years by which time future Councils might be willing to consider a slightly higher risk profile and move to a more diversified portfolio with a slightly stronger focus on growth.

Ethical investment is sometimes referred to as sustainable or responsible investment. On their web site (Web Ref. 1), the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia (RIAA) summarises the main approaches that investment managers will use when building an ethically based portfolio for a client.

**Negative screening:** This is the simplest, and most traditional method. It involves screening out industries, or individual companies so that the investors have no stake in them, e.g., gun manufacturers, gambling, or a company like Bravus (formerly Adani) which is working to build the Carmichael thermal coal mine in Queensland.

**Positive screening:** A positive screen is the opposite; it identifies companies who are doing good work and invests in them, e.g., renewable energy, health care, or a company like Tesla.

**ESG integration:** Investors who take an ESG approach will analyse a potential investment and consider different Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors. They will then use this information to inform selection of companies and the 'weight' (amount owned) of a particular company in a portfolio, as well as how they engage with a company they are invested in, e.g., if an investor is going

to invest in an oil company, an ESG approach will help find the oil company that has a superior environmental performance and treats its employees well.

**Company engagement & shareholder action:** Companies listen to their investors, particularly when they are big investors such as banks and super funds. These investors will meet with companies to discuss major issues that they feel the company can improve. If no action is taken, or replies aren't sufficient, an investor can choose to file a resolution. If enough investors get behind the resolution, it will be voted on at the company's annual investor meeting and it could very well become part of company policy.

**Impact investing:** Impact investors seek out companies whose business operations are focussed on solving some of the world's biggest challenges. These are companies that have impact at the core of their mission, and they produce an impact report that measures their social or environmental impact, e.g., Goodstart Early Learning, or Streat café.

Colonial First State is a member of the Responsible Investment Association of Australia. It has a policy on Responsible Investment (Web Ref. 2) and discusses its approach to this in detail on its web site (Web Ref. 3). I read the policy and spoke to one of their investment consultants. It would appear that Colonial has or is adopting most of the approaches to ethical investing promoted by RIAA.

Colonial conducted surveys of members' opinions about responsible investing in 2017 and 2020. There were a number of different opinions but 75% of those who responded to the 2020 survey associated responsible investing with ethical, environmental, or socially positive behaviours. For example:

- 85% want no landmines or nuclear weapons,
- 83% want no native logging and deforestation,
- 69% want no gambling,
- 61% want no fossil fuels,
- 59% want no tobacco products.

I would think these responses would be similar to the opinions held by many ASBS members. One of the key takeaways from

the survey was the large change in the consideration of climate change risk amongst Colonial First State investment managers. In 2017, less than half of the Colonial First State investment managers surveyed said they considered climate change to be a risk to their investments, with only 18% measuring the carbon footprint of their portfolios. This has changed dramatically. Now, 96% of managers say they believe climate change is an investment risk, with more than half measuring the carbon footprint of the portfolios they manage. Colonial First State claims to be playing its part in limiting climate change in line with the Paris Agreement and supporting responsible global transition to net zero emissions by 2050. This change in focus is reflected in the trend of carbon intensity over time for several funds managed by Colonial First State (Fig. 3). An emission intensity is the emission rate of a given pollutant relative to the intensity of a specific activity; for example, grams of carbon dioxide released per megajoule of energy produced. Weighted Carbon Intensity is the recommended measurement for asset owners like Colonial First State set by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.

#### 4. Summary

My recommendation is to leave the Colonial First State managed fund unchanged at least for another one or two years and in that time continue to monitor Colonial's ongoing approach to responsible management.

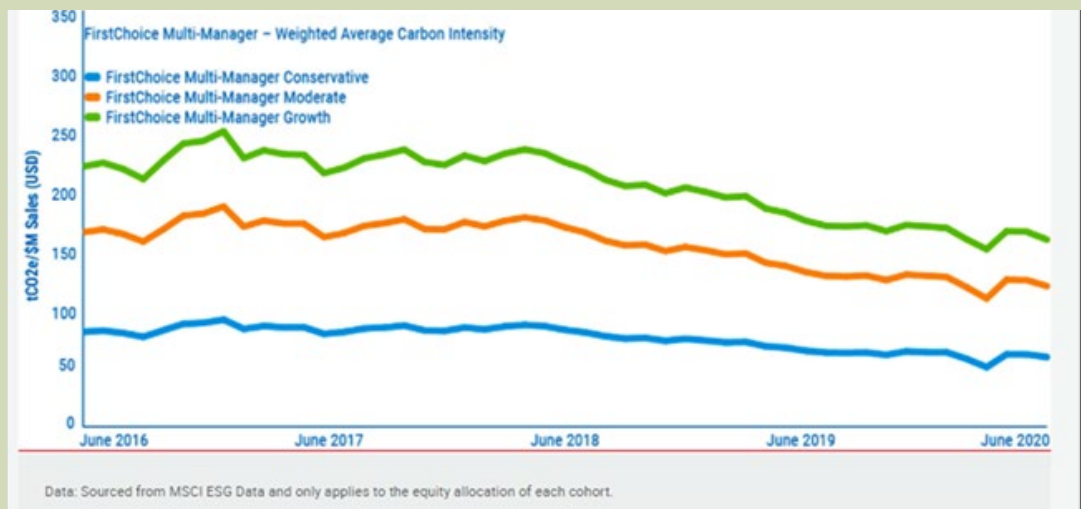
The Society remains in a sound financial position, and I recommend that membership fees remain unchanged.

#### References

**Web Reference 1.** Responsible Investment Explained. Responsible Investment Association Australasia. <https://responsibleinvestment.org/about-us/>

**Web Reference 2.** Colonial First State's Responsible Investment Policy. <https://www.cfs.com.au/content/dam/colonial-first-state/docs/about-us/trustee-documents/Member-RI-Policy-Flyer-FS7457.pdf>

**Web Reference 3.** Colonial First State's approach to responsible investing. [https://www.cfs.com.au/personal/overview/intelligent-investing/intelligent-investing/responsible\\_investing.html](https://www.cfs.com.au/personal/overview/intelligent-investing/intelligent-investing/responsible_investing.html)



**Figure 3** The trend in weighted average carbon intensity expressed as tonnes of carbon per US \$M sales for three Colonial FirstChoice managed funds. Note: comparable data was not available for the FirstChoice Wholesale Conservative Fund which ASBS holds.

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Appendix 1 Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

**Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2021**  
**Australasian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated**  
ABN 22092454279

2020-21 Financial Report

**Council's Report**

Your Council members submit the financial statement of the Australasian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2021.

**Council Members**

The names of the Council members who held office throughout the reporting period and at the date of this report are:

President	Michael Bayly	Elected November 2020
Vice President	Heidi Meudt	Elected March 2019
Secretary	Hervé Sauquet	Elected November 2019
Treasurer	John Clarkson	Elected March 2019
Councillor	Kelly Shepherd	Elected November 2020
Councillor	Katharina Nargar	Elected November 2019

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the society during the reporting period were to promote systematic botany in Australasia.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the reporting period.

**Operating Results**

The operating results are as set out here under:

	Year ending June 2021	Year ending June 2020
General Fund	\$17,856.21	\$5,138.94
Research Fund	\$73,770.39	\$30,583.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$91,626.60</b>	<b>\$35,721.94</b>

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Council on:

*M. Bayly*

.....  
Michael Bayly (President)

5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

*J. Clarkson*

.....  
John Clarkson (Treasurer)

5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

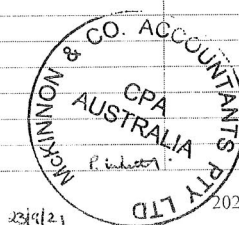


2020-21 Financial Report



**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
**Australasian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>General Fund Income</b>		
<b>Cheque Account</b>		
Conference	-	2,073.15
Copyright Agency	452.76	64.30
Donation to Eichler Fund	9,795.00	8,990.00
Subscriptions	10,215.31	12,675.00
ABRS Student Travel Grant	8,250.00	8,250.00
Sundry income	400.00	1,008.94
<b>Conference Account</b>		
Transfer from General Fund	-	3,000.00
GAP Workshop fees	740.00	-
Sponsorship	3,000.00	-
Registrations	16,035.21	-
Refund of deposits paid for ASBS 2020	250.00	815.00
<b>Rabobank Accounts</b>		
Investment income	1,642.98	2,535.79
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>50,781.26</b>	<b>39,412.18</b>
<b>General Fund Expenses</b>		
<b>Cheque Account</b>		
Council expenses	99.00	2,205.43
Auditor's remuneration	1,595.00	1,672.00
Bank charges, credit card fees	271.92	329.67
Postgraduate workshop sponsorship	-	2,500.00
Student travel assistance	-	1,728.00
Decadal plan/Taxonomy Australia	-	5,500.00
Miscellaneous expenses	45.00	1,425.82
Newsletter costs	3,585.64	1,699.49
Burbidge Medal	33.49	1,764.68
Transfer to Conference Account	-	-
Transfers of Donations to Research Fund	9,795.00	11,058.15
Transfer to Conference Account	-	3,000.00
<b>Conference Account</b>		
Conference platform hosting	17,050.00	-
Welcome reception	-	500.00
Dinner	-	815.00
Field trip	-	50.00
Bank charges, credit card fees	275.00	25.00
Refunds	175.00	-
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>32,925.05</b>	<b>34,273.24</b>
<b>General Fund Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>17,856.21</b>	<b>5,138.94</b>



23/6/21

2020-21 Financial Report

<b>Research Fund Income</b>		
Transfers of Donations to Research Fund	9,795.00	8,985.00
Proceeds from Silent Auction	-	2,073.15
Investment Income – Colonial Wholesale Investment		
Distributions	93,172.13	68,808.40
Management Cost Rebates	1,045.46	860.40
Investment Income – Term Deposit	67.67	478.25
Franking Credits	17,676.92	-
Miscellaneous Income	3,005.06	-
Transfer from General Fund		-
<b>Total Research Fund Income</b>	<b>124,762.24</b>	<b>81,205.20</b>
<b>Research Fund Expenses</b>		
Bank Charges	2.50	-
Management Fees	11,189.35	10,814.20
Hj. Eichler Research Grants	19,800.00	19,970.00
Marlies Eichler Fellowships	20,000.00	19,838.00
<b>Total Research Fund Expenses</b>	<b>50,991.85</b>	<b>50,622.20</b>
<b>Research Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>73,770.399</b>	<b>30,583.00</b>
<b>Current Year Surplus</b>	<b>91,626.60</b>	<b>35,721.94</b>



**Balance Sheet**  
**Australasian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated**  
**As at 30 June 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>General Fund</b>		
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
General Fund: Cheque Account	24,525.45	18,837.43
General Fund: Rabobank HISA	10,169.27	10,155.35
Conference cheque account	13,172.15	2,646.94
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>47,866.87</b>	<b>31,639.72</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
Rabobank Term Deposit 1	64,192.04	63,239.41
Rabobank Term Deposit 2	53,681.50	53,005.07
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>117,873.54</b>	<b>116,244.48</b>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>165,740.41</b>	<b>147,884.20</b>
<b>Research Fund</b>		
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Research Fund: Cheque Account	13,016.60	11,145.45
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>13,016.60</b>	<b>11,145.45</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
Colonial Wholesale Investment	1,256,042.16	1,155,853.27
Commonwealth Term Deposit	0	11,129.00
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>1,256,042.16</b>	<b>1,166,982.27</b>
<b>Total Research Fund</b>	<b>1,269,058.76</b>	<b>1,178,127.72</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,434,799.17</b>	<b>1,326,011.92</b>
<b>Member's Funds</b>		
Accumulated Surplus	1,326,011.92	1,338,363.57
Current Year Earnings	93,717.52	35,721.94
Unrealised Capital Gain/Loss	15,069.73	(48,073.59)
<b>Total Member's Funds</b>	<b>1,434,799.17</b>	<b>1,326,011.92</b>



2020-21 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**Australasian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the members. The Council has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1031: Materiality. No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**(a) Membership**

Membership fees are recorded on a cash basis.

**(b) Income Tax**

Under present legislation the Society is exempt from income tax and accordingly no provision has been made in the accounts.

**(c) Comparative Figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with the changes in presentation for the current year.

**(d) Members Funds**

In accordance with the rules of the Society, accumulated funds are not available for distribution to its members.

**Research Committee**

The Australasian Systematic Botany Society is an approved research institute and is registered as a charity by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

The approved membership of the Research Committee comprises:

Heidi Meudt (Chair)	<i>Ex officio</i>
Sarah Matthews	Appointed March 2015
Joanne Birch	Appointed March 2016
Katharina Schulte	Appointed March 2016
Murray Henwood	Appointed March 2016



23.9.21

2020-21 Financial Report

**Statement by the Members of the Council  
Australasian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated  
For the year ended 30 June 2021**

The Council has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Council:

1. The financial report as set out on pages 1 to 6 presents a true and fair view of the Society's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Society will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:

*M. Bayly*

President .....  
Michael Bayly – President

*John Clarkson*

Treasurer .....  
John Clarkson – Treasurer

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021





## Appendix 2 Auditor's Report



McKinnon & Co Accountants Pty Ltd  
1/11 Vernon Street, Atherton  
PO Box 279, ATHERTON QLD 4883  
Telephone (07) 4091 1244  
Fax: (07) 4091 3202

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS  
ABN 65 010 329 576

Email: [accountant@mckinnonandco.com.au](mailto:accountant@mckinnonandco.com.au)  
Web: [www.mckinnonandco.com.au](http://www.mckinnonandco.com.au)

### **INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT** **TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALASIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INC.**

#### **Report on the audit of the financial report**

##### **Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the **Australasian Systematic Botany Society Inc.** (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at **30 June 2021**, the income statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and management's assertion statement.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial report of the Association presents fairly in all material respects in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* (as amended by the *Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2007*)

##### **Basis for qualified opinion**

###### **Qualification- Segregation of duties**

Such is the scope of the Association, it is not practical that internal controls can be constantly in place to provide a high degree of assurance that cash monies are fully accounted for. This qualification is not unusual for a small Incorporated Association.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### **Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting**

We draw attention to note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the applicable legislation. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

##### **Responsibility of management and those charged with governance**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the association's financial reporting process.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Philippa Whitting**  
**Director**

1, 11 Vernon Street, Atherton Q 4883

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2021

# Proposed Changes to the ASBS Rules (Part 1 of 2)

John Clarkson ASBS Treasurer

## Introduction

In a previous Newsletter (Clarkson 2021), a number of changes were foreshadowed that would have to be made to the Society's Rules following amendments to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and to allow the business of the Society to proceed in the face of future lockdowns and travel restrictions brought about by issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Council has been working steadily on the changes. As you might imagine, this is not something that can be rushed. A change in the wording of one place can have flow on effects elsewhere in the document. Council is now in the position where it can outline the changes that will be proposed. It has opted to canvass the changes in the Newsletter before setting in train the formal process required to change the Rules. Members are invited to provide comments or feedback to proposed changes to the Secretary at [secretary.asbs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.asbs@gmail.com) with a copy to [treasurer.asbs@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.asbs@gmail.com) or speak directly to John Clarkson.

Where changes are proposed, the current rule and the amended wording are given with the changes underlined. A full copy of the current Rules can be found on the ASBS web page at <https://asbs.org.au/forms-files/ASBS-Rules-2012-10-22.pdf>.

The changes proposed fall into 5 broad groups:

- A. Provision for members to attend general meetings, including the annual general meeting by electronic means;
- B. Matters relating to the design of the logo;
- C. Replacement of gender pronouns;
- D. Rules requiring 4 months notice; and
- E. New rules imposed by changes to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*.

Changes involving the first 4 groups (A to D)

are discussed here. The final group (E), the changes imposed by changes to the Act, will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

- A. Provision for members to attend General Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting by electronic means

## Discussion

Amendments to the Rules adopted in 2012 allowed members of Council to attend Council Meetings (Rule 19(5)) and General Meetings of the Society (Rule 26(2)) in person or by electronic voice communication. The technology available at the time precluded extending this to the membership at large. At the time, because Council felt that members should have the opportunity to interact with Councillors face-to-face at least once a year, the requirement for at least 4 incumbent members of Council or Council members-elect to be present in person to establish a quorum at the AGM was retained (Rule 23(5)).

Travel restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic could have meant that it would have been impossible to secure a quorum for the 2020 Annual General Meeting. Realising that many societies could be in a similar situation, Access Canberra amended the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* (the Act) to allow committees to hold general meetings via methods of communication other than in person. This was previous only available to associations that made provision for meetings via alternative communication methods in their rules. This provision in the Act was to expire on 8 October 2021 but has been extended however it will not remain in effect indefinitely and it would be prudent to take this opportunity to include this provision in

the Rules.

Technologies that allow virtual or hybrid meetings are now widely available. Council has been holding video or telephone meetings for some time and the Society held its 2020 Annual General Meeting electronically on 8th November 2020. The AGM, attended by 60 members from all Australian states and New Zealand, clearly demonstrated that such meetings can be held successfully.

The changes proposed here will ensure the Society can function if travel restrictions are imposed in the future. They will also allow members, who otherwise might not be able to attend in person, an opportunity to participate in Society meetings.

The wording proposed is in line with that adopted for Rule 19(5) in 2012.

### Proposal 1

That Rule 23(5) dealing with establishing a quorum at an Annual General Meetings be changed from:

'Thirteen (13) members (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) present in person, including a minimum of four (4) incumbent Council members or Council members elect present in person, constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of an annual general meeting.'

to:

'Thirteen (13) members (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting), including a minimum of four (4) incumbent Council members or Council members elect, present at the meeting either in person or in electronic voice communication with the other members at the meeting place, constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of an annual general meeting.'

### Proposal 2

That Rule 26(2) dealing with establishing

a quorum at a General Meetings changed from:

'Thirteen (13) members (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) including a minimum of four (4) incumbent Council members constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting. At a general meeting, other than an annual general meeting where subrule 23(5) applies, members must be present in person with the exception of incumbent Council members who may be either present in person or in electronic voice communication with the other members at the meeting place.'

to:

'Thirteen (13) members (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting), including a minimum of four (4) incumbent Council members or Council members elect, present at the meeting either in person or in electronic voice communication with the other members at the meeting place, constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of an annual general meeting.'

## B. Matters relating to the design of the logo

### Discussion

From time to time, since the expanded geographic focus of the Society was formally recognised in the name change adopted in 2011, there have been suggestions that perhaps a new logo might be appropriate. Reference to a *Xanthorrhoea* featuring in the design of the logo appeared in the Rules for the first time in 2003. At the time, one of the proponents of the amended Rules (Barker 2003) explained that the change introduced then was intended to provide a method for changing the Society logo. However, while the wording adopted certainly achieves that, it also prevents replacement of the *Xanthorrhoea* with an image that might better represent the Society's new geographical

focus.

There is some debate whether reference to the logo forms part of the Rules or is merely a preamble to the Rules. The fact that this section also stipulates the name and object of the Society supports the former.

### Proposal 3

That the wording of the section referring to the logo be changed from:

'The logo of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated features *Xanthorrhoea* (a Grass Tree) according to a design set by resolution of a general meeting.'

to:

'The logo of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated can only be changed by resolution of a general meeting.'

## C. Gender pronouns in Rules

### Discussion

The gender pronouns he/she and his/her appear in four Rules. There is no need for gender to be specified and some minor edits can render the Rules gender neutral. The following changes will be put forward as a single proposal. The word changes proposed are underlined.

### Proposal 4

That the gender pronouns in Rules 9, 14, 36 and 40 be reworded to remove the gender pronouns he/she and his/her as indicated below.

Rule 9 dealing with disciplining members from:

'(5) Where Council passes a resolution under subrules 9(1), 9(2) and 9(3) the Secretary shall, as soon as is practicable, cause a notice in writing to be served on the member –  
(e) informing the member that it is his or

her responsibility under subrule 38(3) to provide to the meeting the address for notification of the decision of Council in accordance with subrule 9(7) where it differs from that in the register of members.'

to:

'(5) Where Council passes a resolution under subrules 9(1), 9(2) and 9(3) the Secretary shall, as soon as is practicable, cause a notice in writing to be served on the member –

(e) informing the member that it is the member's responsibility under subrule 38(3) to provide to the meeting the address for notification of the decision of Council in accordance with subrule 9(7) where it differs from that in the register of members.'

Rule 14 dealing with provision of contact details by the Secretary from:

'(1) The Secretary of the Society shall, as soon as is practicable after being appointed as Secretary, notify officers of the Society, individually in writing, and its membership, by the Newsletter or any other available collective means, of his or her office address.'

to:

'(1) The Secretary of the Society shall, as soon as is practicable after being appointed as Secretary, notify officers of the Society, individually in writing, and its membership, by the Newsletter or any other available collective means, of the Secretary's office address.'

Rule 36 dealing with custody of the Society's documents from:

'(1) Subject to the Act, the Regulations and these rules, the Secretary shall keep in his or her control all records, financial books and other documents relating to the Society.'

to:

'(1) Subject to the Act, the Regulations and these rules, all records, financial books and other documents relating to the Society shall be kept in the control of



the Secretary.'

Rule 40 dealing with the Public Officer from:

'(1) The Society Public Officer shall –

(d) be responsible to Council for meeting relevant requirements of the Society Public Officer under the Act including, amongst other things, holding a copy of the register of members maintained by the Treasurer under subrule 15(c). Pursuant to section 67 of the Act the Public Officer will ensure that –

(i) the register of members be made available at his address for inspection at reasonable times to members;

(ii) in each annual return to the Registrar-General, he or she nominates the place in the Australian Capital Territory agreed by Council for inspection of the register.

(3) Should the office of Public Officer become vacant, Council shall appoint a replacement within fourteen (14) days of it becoming vacant. The office becomes vacant if the person holding that office –  
(b) resigns his office in writing under his hand addressed to Council;

(f) was convicted or released from imprisonment in respect of an offence referred to in subsection 63(1) of the Act within the period of five (5) years immediately preceding his or her appointment as Public Officer, or is convicted of such an offence after taking office; or...'

to:

'(1) The Society Public Officer shall –

(d) be responsible to Council for meeting relevant requirements of the Society Public Officer under the Act including, amongst other things, holding a copy of the register of members maintained by the Treasurer under subrule 15(c). Pursuant to section 67 of the Act the Public Officer will ensure that –

(i) the register of members be made available at a nominated address for inspection at reasonable times by members;

(ii) in each annual return to the Registrar-General, the place in the Australian Capital Territory agreed by Council for inspection of the register is nominated.

(3) Should the office of Public Officer become vacant, Council shall appoint a replacement within fourteen (14) days of it becoming vacant. The office becomes vacant if the person holding that office –

(b) resigns the office in writing, signed and addressed to Council;

(f) was convicted or released from imprisonment in respect of an offence referred to in subsection 63(1) of the Act within the period of five (5) years immediately preceding appointment as Public Officer, or is convicted of such an offence after taking office; or...'

## D. Rules requiring four months notice

### Discussion

Matters related to:

- (i) calling meetings (Rule 25);
- (ii) calling for nominations for Council; (Rule 13);
- (iii) decisions requiring a special resolution such as changes to the Society's Object or Rules (Rule 34) or winding up the Society (Rule 39);

require the Secretary to provide members with at least four (4) months notice. This is well in excess of the notice required under the Section 24 of the Act which requires at least 14 days for general meetings, including the AGM, and at least 21 days for meetings requiring a special resolution. Organisations can extend the notice required and the four month requirement has been in place in the ASBS Rules since the formation of the Society in 1973. Then, and for many years, the Society had to rely on the postal service or the Newsletter to communicate with members so 4 months might well have been required. However, all members of the Society are now contactable by email and, for several years, all correspondence with members has been via that means. Experience has shown that business can be effectively dealt with in a much shorter time than 4 months and, based on that, shorter lead times are proposed for

Rules 25 and 13.

(i) Calling meetings

**Proposal 5**

That the wording of Rule 25(1) be changed from:

'25(1) Except where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the Society (refer to subrule 25(2)), the Secretary shall, at least four (4) months before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause to be sent to each member at the member's address appearing in the register of members, or by other means specified under rule 38, a notice specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.'

to:

'25(1) Except where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the Society (refer to subrule 25(2)), the Secretary shall, at least eight (8) weeks before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause to be sent to each member at the member's address appearing in the register of members, or by other means specified under rule 38, a notice specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.'

**Proposal 6**

That the wording of Rule 25(2) be changed from:

'25(2) A special resolution can only be dealt with at a general meeting of the Society if the Secretary by means specified under rule 38 provides to members of the Society –

- (a) at least four (4) months notice,
- (b) a notice of intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution and
- (c) a procedure for postal or electronic

voting as set out under subrule 30(5).',  
to:

'25(2) A special resolution can only be dealt with at a general meeting of the Society if the Secretary by means specified under rule 38 provides to members of the Society –

- (a) at least eight (8) weeks notice,
- (b) a notice of intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution and
- (c) a procedure for postal or electronic voting as set out under subrule 30(5).'

(ii) Calling for nominations for Council

**Proposal 7**

That the wording of Rule 13(2) be changed from:

'13(2) Nominations for all positions on Council shall first be called from all members eligible to vote under subrule 2(4).

(a) The Secretary shall make the call at least four (4) months before each annual general meeting;

(b) The Secretary must specify a date, at least eight (8) weeks before the date of the annual general meeting, by which each nomination must be in the hands of the Secretary

(c) Where there are more nominations than the number required to fill a position, the Secretary shall distribute ballot papers to all members at least six (6) weeks before each annual general meeting, together with an address to which they are to be returned and a closing date for the ballot which shall be before the meeting but not less than four (4) weeks after distribution of the ballot papers.'

to:

'13(2) Nominations for all positions on Council shall first be called from all members eligible to vote under subrule 2(4).

(a) The Secretary shall make the call at least ten (10) weeks before each annual general meeting;

(b) The Secretary must specify a date, at

least eight (6) weeks before the date of the annual general meeting, by which each nomination must be in the hands of the Secretary

(c) Where there are more nominations than the number required to fill a position, the Secretary shall distribute ballot papers to all members at least five (5) weeks before each annual general meeting, together with an address to which they are to be returned and a closing date for the ballot which shall be before the meeting but not less than four (4) weeks after distribution of the ballot papers.'

(iii) Decisions requiring a special resolution such as changes to the Society's Object or Rules (Rule 34) or winding up the Society (Rule 39)

Council feels that it is essential that members have adequate time to consider any proposal that will alter the Society's Object or Rules. Rule 34(2)(a) requires any proposed alteration to either to be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least four (4) months prior to a general meeting. It is not proposed to change this. The only alteration to Rule 34 proposed relates to the notice required to deal with the special resolution at an already established general meeting.

Rule 39 which deals with a proposal to wind up the Society refers to Rule 25 has no direct reference to 4 months and no change is proposed.

### Proposal 8

That the wording of Rule 34(2)(b) be changed from:

'32(2) Proposed alterations to the object and rules may only be determined by special resolution by a process set out in subrules 25(2), 30(5) and 30(6) and the rules of conduct of general meetings, except that –.

(b) the proposals may be dealt with at an already established general meeting so long as notice is given of the special reso-

lution at least four (4) months prior to the general meeting.'

to:

'32(2) Proposed alterations to the object and rules may only be determined by special resolution by a process set out in subrules 25(2), 30(5) and 30(6) and the rules of conduct of general meetings, except that –.

(b) the proposals may be dealt with at an already established general meeting so long as notice is given of the special resolution in accordance with rule 25(2).'

### References

Barker, W.R. (2003). Development of the Rules of the Australian Systematic Botany Society. *Australas. Syst. Bot. Soc. Newslett.* 114:6-12.

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# Our science over four centuries

Alex George

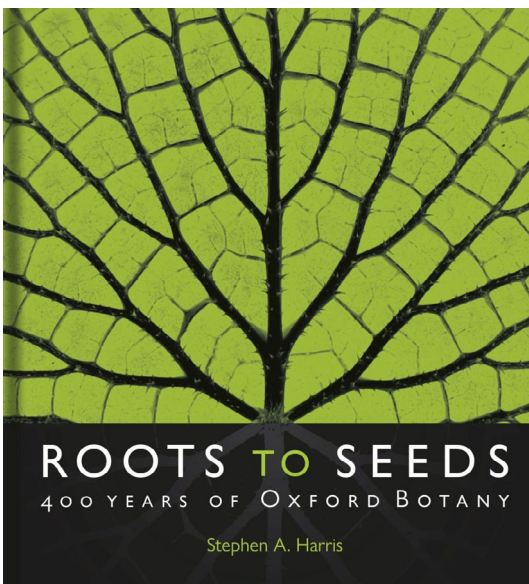
*Roots to Seeds: 400 Years of Oxford Botany*

Stephen A. Harris

ISBN 978 1 85124 561 1 (hard cover, without dust jacket) 257 × 235 mm

Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, 14 May 2021, pp 240

RRP AU\$79.99



Stephen Harris has been Curator of the Oxford University Herbaria since 1995 so is well placed to write a history of Botany in Oxford. It was published to coincide with an exhibition held between 18 May and 24 October this year. Although it commemorates the founding of the garden, the book focuses on plant research and, through the twists and turns, ups and downs at the university, gives us an authoritative slice of British botanical history, from before the 17th century to the present.

It's a fascinating book, weaving perceptive contemporary views on our science into its development at Oxford.

I'll comment on pagination first. Many pages are unfolioed, making searching from the Contents and Index awkward, and the citation of plates especially so—some can be given as 'opposite' or 'facing' p. \*\*\*, but many are more difficult. For example, the index tells us that there's a plate of *Qualea gardneriana* on p. 69 but there are no folios between 61 and 78 so it can take some page turning to find it. References to the text likewise. In this review I cite unfolioed pages within quotes.

There's a timeline of the important events in the Garden's history. The date of foundation of the Garden, 25 July 1621, is that under the Julian Calendar; converting it to the Gregorian makes it 6 May 1621.

The stages of a plant are used as analogies for the subjects covered:

**Root** Origins

**Stem** Collections

**Leaf** Collectors and Collecting

**Bud** Naming and Classifying

**Flower** Experimental Botany

**Fruit** Applied Botany

**Seed** Teaching

Each chapter gives the main historical events of the topic and how it fits into the Oxford story. Each also has a historical snapshot of a plant: mandrake (*Mandragora officinarum*), hemp (*Cannabis sativa*), Victoria water lily (*Victoria amazonica*), carrot (*Daucus carota*), bear's ear (*Primula auricula*), yew (*Taxus baccata*) and Oxford ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*).

Here are many of the important people in botany, such as the Bobarts (father and son), Charles Daubeny, Johann Dillenius, Henry Fielding, Robert Morison, John Ray, John Sibthorp and, of more recent times, Arthur Tansley, Frank White, Cyril Darlington and Arthur Church. The most significant people are given one- or two-page bios, many also with portraits (but not always adjacent—

cross-referencing would have helped).

As presented here, the Australian connection with Oxford is slight with only three names noted: the botanical artist Ferdinand Bauer (though his Australian work is not mentioned), T.G.B.Osborn who moved from The University of Adelaide to become the 11th Sherardian Professor, and 'our' David Mabberley, noted for his systematic research in Meliaceae while at the University, although his move to Australia is not mentioned. Australian students are not mentioned in describing the forestry school in its various forms but many attended, especially in the 1960s–70s.

Like a good lecture, the book left me wishing for more. In particular, as a traditional plant taxonomist I would have liked more on the various collections that now make up the Oxford University Herbaria. These herbaria, of course, hold significant Australian material, including the specimens collected by William Dampier on our north-west coast in 1699. His collection of Sturt Pea, which may be the sheet of an Australian plant most often featured in print (or is that the lectotype of *Banksia serrata* at the BM?), is given a full-page plate, though labelled as *Swainsonia* [sic] *formosa* and said to be the state flower of W.A.

Some captions could have been more explanatory, e.g. on p. '118', a reproduction of page 66 of William Cole's *Adam in Eden, or, Natures Paradise* (1657) describes the plant Wake-Robin, and states that, among other uses, 'the Roots or Berries beaten with hot Oxe-Dung, and applied, easeth the pains of the Gout.' For a non-British reader (this one, anyway), it took a little googling to find that Wake-Robin is *Arum maculatum*. And, as Mrs Beeton might have said, 'First find your ox'. Neither the book nor its author is listed in the index.

For readers outside Oxford it would have been good to have a map of the city showing the site of the garden and the various buildings that botany has occupied.

The illustrations—among them botanical art, specimens, models, portraits, literature—are superbly reproduced, except the garden plan on pp 30–'31' that disappears into the gutter.

The References are a rich catalogue of works on botanical history and practices.

The book is well printed (in Wales) on, we are told, Arctic matt paper. Despite this, it should be received warmly as a great addition to botanical literature.



## In the beginning...

John Clarkson

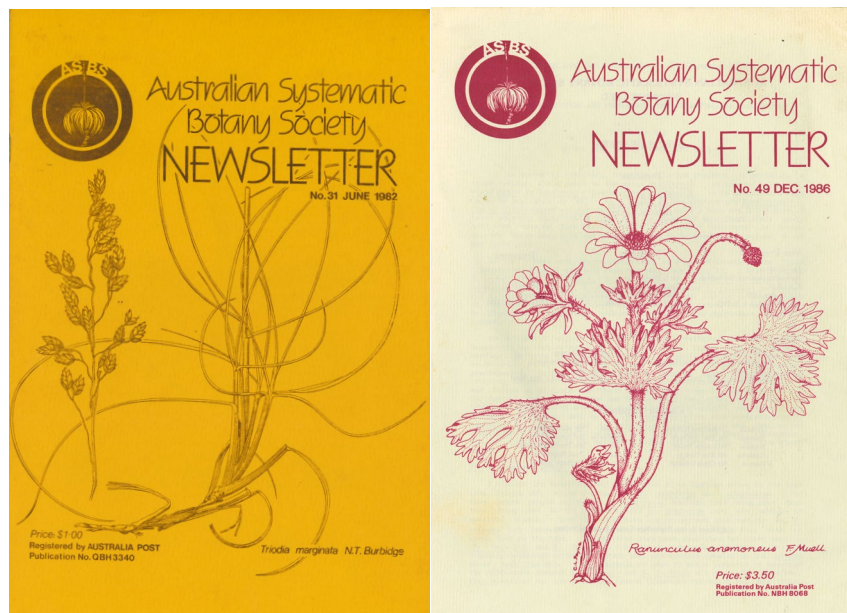
Readers of the *ASBS Newsletter* would be familiar with the images that feature on the covers. This practice was introduced in 1982 (Figure 1). It was then that Gordon Guymer took over editorial duties from Barry Conn and the *Newsletter* first appeared in its now familiar size and format. Council at the time decided that the editor should also be responsible for the cover design. In his editorial in the June 1982 *ASBS Newsletter* (no. 31) Gordon wrote:

“The Council, in their wisdom, left the responsibility of [for] the front cover design of the *Newsletter* to the Editor. I have, in part, reciprocated this responsibility by asking the President [Trevor Clifford] what he would like to have illustrated on the front cover during his term. *Triodia marginata* was selected for a number of reasons. viz. the President has an interest in the classification of grasses, *Triodia marginata* was named by the distinguished Australian botanist Nancy Burbidge and *Triodia* is a predominantly Australian genus.”

The five Presidents who followed Trevor, Bryan Barlow, Barbara Briggs, Judy West,

Mike Crisp and Gordon Guymer all selected cover images, some more than one (Table 1). Unfortunately, none of them explained why they chose the plant they did. The botanical community in Australia at the time was small so I presume each President assumed most members would have a fairly good idea why a particular plant was selected. However, this might not be so obvious to many current members. I asked one of these Presidents, Barbara Briggs, if she would like to explain why she chose *Ranunculus anemoneus* (Figure 1). Here is Barbara’s reply:

“*Ranunculus anemoneus*, a species of the Kosciuszko alpine and subalpine, was chosen to refer to my PhD project long ago. A study of hybrids among the Australian alpine *Ranunculus* species was my first research project. When I started, summer grazing was still allowed in the area that has since become Kosciuszko National Park, and the Anemone Buttercup, being very palatable, was selectively grazed and had become very rare. Since grazing stopped, *R. anemoneus* has become more abundant, an example of how nature may rebound when we give



**Figure 1** Two early cover illustrations. The first image to appear on a Newsletter cover (left) was chosen by Trevor Clifford. It featured *Triodia marginata* and appeared in June 1962. The Society’s first female President, Barbara Briggs, chose *Ranunculus anaemoneus* (right), a plant she had studied as part of her PhD dissertation.

**Figure 2** The March 1997 (left) *Newsletter* saw a change of font and the introduction of the ASBS banner on the left-hand side. Contrary to what some members might have thought, the small green dots on the cover of the *Newsletter* did not reflect the research interests of President, Tim Entwisle. The tercentenary of Linnaeus's birth was celebrated by replacing the President's cover with a reproduction of Georg Dionysius Ehret's depiction of Linnaeus's sexual system (right).



it a chance. But it is still listed as vulnerable and is one of the plants that will be endangered again if climate change alters and restricts our high country. With its beautiful flowers and unusual peltate leaves, flowering when the snow starts to melt in early summer, it is often chosen as an image for the Kosciuszko National Park but also has a story to tell of the fragility of our biodiversity."

When Tim Entwisle was elected President in 1996, the *Newsletter* was being edited by a team from the Darwin Herbarium. Tim and the two Presidents who followed him, Barry Conn and Stephen Hopper, failed to get a personalised cover image. In one of a series of articles marking the 150<sup>th</sup> issue of the *ASBS Newsletter*, Philip Short (Short 2012), one of the Darwin team, revealed how this came about. Philip recalls contacting Tim in 1996 to ask what he would like. Tim suggested that one of the great drawings from the *Flora of Victoria* might fit the bill, but it seems there was some confusion about who would select the image, and *ASBS Newsletter* no. 89 appeared in December without an image — or did it? In a note to Philip after the *Newsletter* appeared, Tim wrote:

"Is this really what you wanted the cover

to look like? Will you design a new cover for the next issue or do you want me to supply you with a drawing. Please let me know ASAP so I can choose one. I can't wait for the comments about microscopic green algae on the cover or else what it says about my research (i.e. nothing!)."

Tim commented on this in his President's report in the *ASBS Newsletter* no. 90:

"If you thought the cover of the last issue reflects the research interests of the current President - lots of very small green things - you were wrong. I study larger red things. The esteemed editors are in the process of reworking the cover. I'm assured that the cover of this issue will be less spacious."

However, the reworking did not extend beyond a change of font and the introduction of the ASBS acronym in a green banner on the left-hand side (Figure 2). The cover remained blank throughout Tim's presidency and for the next two Presidents.

The cover illustration was reinstated in 2006 during Robyn and Bill Barker's first term as *ASBS Newsletter* editors. I was the President at the time and chose an illustration that was

the first, and is still the only, image that did not feature a flowering or fruiting specimen. The chosen plant, *Jedda multicaulis*, has a strange germination behaviour that had not previously been recorded for a woody dicot from the Australian flora. This was the subject of a paper I co-authored with former ASBS President, Trevor Clifford in 1987 (Clarkson & Clifford 1987).

For the March issue in 2007, Robyn and Bill chose to celebrate the tercentenary of Linnaeus's birth by replacing the President's cover with a reproduction of Georg Dionysius Ehret's depiction of Linnaeus's sexual system (Figure 2). This is the only time the cover has celebrated such an anniversary but something that future editors might care to follow.

The tradition is now well established and all six subsequent Presidents have all chosen a plant to appear on the cover and have explained why the plant was selected. During this time, non-Australian plants have featured twice (Figure 3). Bill Barker selected *Ternstroemia monostigma*, a plant restricted to Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea and named by Bill in a revision of Theaceae he undertook while working as a taxonomic botanist in Papua New Guinea (Barker 1980). Mike Bayly selected *Veronica baylyi*, a New

Zealand endemic. The image selected was commissioned by Todd McLay, one of Mike's postgraduate students, and given to Mike as a present by Todd on completion of his PhD.

When Lizzy Joyce replaced Bill and Robyn Barker as editor in 2020, she introduced the first significant changes to the cover and format of the *ASBS Newsletter* in over 23 years (Figure 3). The June issue of the *Newsletter* featured the first full colour image. It fell to Dan Murphy to select this and he chose an illustration of *Acacia oxycedrus* from Volume 56 of Curtis's *Botanical Magazine*. Dan had been gifted an original print of this on completion of his PhD on *Acacia*.

Some cover statistics:

- There have been 19 Presidents since the Society was formed in 1973.
- Thirteen Presidents selected cover illustrations.
- The first illustration appeared in June 1982 in Gordon Guymer's term as *ASBS Newsletter* editor.
- Four Presidents selected a new image in their second or subsequent term.
- There have been 17 different cover illustrations (one cover included illustrations of four species).



**Figure 3** Non-Australian plants have featured twice. Bill Barker selected *Ternstroemia monostigma* (left), a plant restricted to Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea, and Mike Bayly selected *Veronica baylyi* (right), a New Zealand endemic.



**Table 1** There have been 19 Presidents since the Society was formed in 1973. Thirteen selected cover illustrations.

Term	President	Cover illustration	Explained
1973-76	Trevor Whiffin		
1976-79	Roger Carolin		
1979-81	John Jessop		
1981-83	Trevor Clifford	<a href="#">Triodia marginata</a> N.T. Burb.	31:04:00
1983-86	Bryan Barlow	<a href="#">Amylothecha dictyophleba</a> (F.Muell.) Tiegh. <a href="#">Amyema linophyllum</a> subsp. <i>orientale</i> Barlow	
1986-89	Barbara Briggs	<a href="#">Ranunculus anemoneus</a> F.Muell.	
1989-92	Judy West	<a href="#">Calandrinia</a> sp. <a href="#">Dodonaea heteromorpha</a> J.G.West	
1992-95	Mike Crisp	<a href="#">Alloxylon flammeum</a> P.H.Weston & Crisp <a href="#">Daviesia arenaria</a> Crisp, <a href="#">D. eremaea</a> Crisp, <a href="#">D. nova-anglica</a> Crisp, <a href="#">D. spiralis</a> Crisp	
1995-96	Gordon Guymer	<a href="#">Brachychiton spectabilis</a> Guymer	
1996-99	Tim Entwisle		
1999-02	Barry Conn		
2002-05	Stephen Hopper		
2005-08	John Clarkson	<a href="#">Jedda multicaulis</a> J.R.Clarkson	126:03:00
2008-09	Marco Duretto	<a href="#">Boronia jensziae</a> Duretto	137:01:00
2009-12	Peter Weston	<a href="#">Alloxylon flammeum</a> P.H.Weston & Crisp	141:2-3
2012-15	Bill Barker	<a href="#">Ternstroemia monostigma</a> Barker	153:04:00
2015-18	Darren Crayn	<a href="#">Elaeocarpus sedentarius</a> Maynard & Crayn	165:i
2018-20	Daniel Murphy	<a href="#">Acacia strongylophylla</a> F.Muell. <a href="#">Acacia oxycedrus</a> Sieber ex DC.	178:i 182-83 back cover
2020-	Mike Bayly	<a href="#">Veronica baylyi</a> Garn.-Jones	186:03:00

- Thirteen of the species featured were named by the President who selected them.
- One species was named for the President who selected it.
- Five species were from groups studied by the President for their PhD.
- *Alloxylon flammeum*, has been selected twice by different Presidents.
- Twelve artists have been responsible for producing the images, with David Mackay the most prolific with four covers.
- Gordon Guymer drew the image he selected.
- The first colour image (*Acacia oxycedrus*) appeared in June 2020 when Lizzy Joyce took on the role of editor.
- One special cover appeared in March 2007 to celebrate the tercentenary of Linnaeus's birth.
- Non-Australian plants have featured twice. Bill Barker selected a plant restricted to Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea, and Mike Bayly selected a New Zealand endemic.

#### References

- Barker, W.R. (1980). Taxonomic Revisions in Theaceae in Papuaia. I. *Gordonia*, *Ternstroemia*, *Adinandra* and *Archboldiodendron*. *Brunonia* 3:1-60
- Clarkson J.R. & Clifford, H.T. (1987). Germination of *Jedda multicaulis* J.R. Clarkson (Thymelaeaceae). An example of cryptogal germination in the Australian flora. *Australian Journal of Botany* 35:715-720.
- Short, P. (2012). Editing from Darwin. *Australas. Syst. Bot. Soc. Newslett.* 150:20-21.

# Artis Nongi Vinas, 1950–2021

6 March 1950 – 27 September 2021

*Kipiro Q. Damas* *Lae Herbarium, PNG Forestry Research Institute, Lae, Papua New Guinea*  
*Barry J. Conn* *School of Life and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney*

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Artis Nongi Vinas on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Artis was a well-known and respected botanist who had a long career working on flora of Papua New Guinea. He was born on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1950 in Koronmanau, a village in the Sialum subdistrict, near Finschhafen (Morobe province). Artis was the eldest son of his father Nongi Vinas and he had two sisters. He married Ms. Kadaroc from the neighbouring village of Morago, on the slopes of the Cromwell Ranges. They had four sons and a daughter, as well as one adopted son.

Artis and I (KQD) are related. We share the same great grandfather who had three wives. With his first wife, the great grandfather had a son (Artis's grandfather), and his father was that son's child. My mother's and grandfa-



**Above** Artis Vinas after his retirement, in Lae, PNG. Photo: Kipiro Damas

ther's lineage were from the great grandfather's second wife. Artis encouraged me to join Forestry when he and others were doing field work at Kimbe in West New Britain in 1973 (refer to collections list). I was attending secondary school (Form 4) at Kimbe High School. However, I never had the opportunity of working with him in Forestry as he left for The University of Port Moresby when I first started at the LAE herbarium.

He spent his primary school years at Nondo Primary School (Finschhafen) in 1965 because it was the only accessible government school near his home village. Later he moved to attend the Dregerhafen Upper Primary School (Finschhafen) from 1966–1968. For secondary schooling, he attended the Bugandi High School in Lae (Morobe) from 1968–1970 where he completed Form 3 schooling. Immediately afterwards, he commenced work with the *Division of Botany* (LAE herbarium), on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1970, as a General Urban Labourer. In April 1971 he was appointed as Forestry Assistant Grade 1 and continued to work at LAE until 31<sup>st</sup> July 1979. During this time at LAE, he developed into a very skilful plant collector (refer Summary of Collections) with the ability to manage all the logistical aspects of botanical expeditions. During this time, he was sent to the Bulolo Forestry College (in 1973) where he completed a Certificate of Forestry Science. During his time at LAE, he travelled extensively throughout PNG collecting more than 2,000 plant specimens (refer Summary of Collections). He was also able to attend development programs at the Kew Herbarium (United Kingdom) and at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Hawaii (USA). These courses provided him with advanced botanical training.

In 1979, he resigned from LAE and took up the position of Technical Assistant in the





**Left** Artis Vinas (in white t-shirt and shorts) standing behind the late Yakas Lelean (holding traditional bow and arrow, formerly LAE) at Busilmin (1975) while on the joint LAE–Rijksherbarium Leiden (L) Botanical Expedition to the Star Mountains, West Sepik, PNG. Photo: Bill Barker

Biology Department of the University of Port Moresby, working with David Frodin and Greg Leach. Since he had developed extensive knowledge of the trees of Papua New Guinea, he was appointed the Instructor in Dendrology at the Bulolo Forestry college, from 1983 until 2008. We believe that he was probably retrenched from the College during a time severe financial cutbacks.

After he had returned to Lae in 2008, he was appointed as a Technical Assistant in the Forestry Department of the University of Technology, Lae, working in the *L.J. Brass Herbarium*. He continued to work at Unitech until 2018 when he was forced to retire for medical reasons.

From a family and community perspective, Artis was well-known and well-respected in his tribe and village, being one of the first educated people from that village. He was an outstanding community leader, both physically and spiritually, outspoken, but highly respected. He was regarded as a clan leader since he was from the first Marriage of our great grandfather.

As part of the last contingent of Australian expatriate botanists, Bill Barker and Jim Croft both did fieldwork with Artis during 1973–1975, and with me (BJC) in 1985. We all

remember him as being a wonderful, tireless worker in the field. He was very knowledgeable about the trees of PNG, gathered over many years of experience. He seemed to have boundless energy, always full of mischief, noisy and had lots of stories to tell around the campfire. On fieldwork in the lower Watut, Morobe Province, we stopped collecting so that we could have lunch. Paul Katik and I (BJC) squatted on our haunches in a tropical downpour and tried to eat, while Artis frantically raced around the forest, coming back with palm leaves and vines. He then constructed, what he called, the “Watut Cecil Hotel” over the top of us! After that, the three of us were protected from the continuing rain, even though we were already soaking wet. The Cecil Hotel was a former grand establishment in Lae that was frequented by ‘high society’ expatriates.

Artis will be sadly missed by his colleagues, community, family, and friends. He was a very good person, hardworking, great storyteller, and always ready for a joke.

Summary of Collections by Artis Vinas, as held at the LAE herbarium

Except for a few collections, up until late 1974, the collections in the NGF and LAE series were normally written with the expatriate botanist being the lead collector, followed

by the assisting Papua New Guinean. In November 1974, Artis made collection by himself and others with Greg Laravita (formerly LAE). During the Star Mountains Expedition, in the West Sepik, Artis and Joe Waikabu (formerly LAE) were encouraged to collect by themselves in the vicinity of Busilmin, while Bill Barker focussed on higher altitude to alpine plant communities and Jim Croft collected from other areas.

There appears to be considerable confusion about his collection records for 1977. Collections from the same date are recorded as being gathered in the East Sepik (with J.-F. Veldkamp, then L, as the lead collector) while LAE numbers with Artis as the sole collector, or together with Veldkamp, were gathered from the Western Highlands. It is suspected that the LAE series from the latter province should all be regarded as joint Artis and Veldkamp collections.

**1970** – WEST SEPIK: **May 24–25<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas & Waikabu LAE59465–LAE59620

**1972** – SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS: **June 24<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 153

**1973** – WEST NEW BRITAIN: **May 7<sup>th</sup>**: Isles & Vinas NGF31487–NGF34392; **28–29<sup>th</sup>**: Croft & Vinas NGF31346–NGF41360. **June 4–8<sup>th</sup>**: Isles & Vinas NGF32291–NGF32370; CENTRAL: **September 8<sup>th</sup>** Vinas LAE59059; **12–16<sup>th</sup>**: Isles & Vinas NGF32405–NGF34499; **17–18<sup>th</sup>**: LAE59014–LAE59064; **21<sup>st</sup>**: Croft & Vinas NGF34843–NGF34873; Foreman & Vinas LAE60040–LAE60210; **27–30<sup>th</sup>**: Foreman & Vinas LAE60040–LAE60191; **October 1–2<sup>nd</sup>**: Foreman & Vinas LAE60197–LAE60301

**1974** – GULF: **April 6<sup>th</sup>**: Croft & Vinas LAE61294–LAE61319; CENTRAL: **June: 23–26<sup>th</sup>**: Croft & Vinas LAE61460–LAE 61461; **July 9<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**: Croft & Vinas LAE61722–LAE 61880; MOROBE: **October 6<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE61880; NEW BRITAIN: **16–28<sup>th</sup>**: Barker & Vinas LAE66513–LAE66753; MOROBE: **November 29<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE62226–LAE62232; Laravita & Vinas LAE62234; Vinas & Laravita LAE62236–LAE62240

**1975** – WEST SEPIK: **March 18–23<sup>rd</sup>**: Vinas LAE59539–LAE66778; **24–25<sup>th</sup>**: Barker & Vinas LAE66778–LAE66801; **26–28<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas

LAE67001–LAE67034; **April 7–17<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas & Waikabu LAE67035–LAE67100; **18<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE59304–LAE59317; **22<sup>nd</sup>**: Barker & Vinas LAE67577–LAE67583; **23–30<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE59318–LAE59395; **May 2–8<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE59644–LAE59674; **9–26<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas & Waikabu LAE59398–LAE59629; **June 1<sup>st</sup>**: Vinas & Waikabu LAE59630–LAE59643; MOROBE: **July 21<sup>st</sup>**: Vinas s.n.; **August, without day**: Vinas LAE59690A; **14–19<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas s.n.; NEW BRITAIN: **November 5–13<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas & Akakavara LAE59702–LAE59735; **December 11–12<sup>th</sup>**: Barker & Vinas LAE67724–LAE67748

**1977** – EAST SEPIK: **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**: Veldkamp 7422 & Vinas, 7428; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: Vinas LAE59736–LAE59745; EAST SEPIK: **24<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7432–7453 & Vinas; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: Vinas LAE59746–LAE59761; EAST SEPIK: **25–26<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7458 & Vinas, Veldkamp 7483 & Vinas; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **26<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE59762–LAE59800; Veldkamp 7485 & Vinas; EAST SEPIK: **27<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7494 & Vinas; **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**: Veldkamp 7506–7507 & Vinas; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **5<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7548 & Vinas; Vinas LAE59773–LAE59782; **6<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7552–7574 & Vinas; Vinas LAE59785–LAE59799; **7<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7578–7593 & Vinas; Vinas & Veldkamp LAE59801–LAE59814; **8<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7595–7612 & Vinas; Vinas & Veldkamp LAE59815–LAE59818; **9<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7614–7628 & Vinas; Vinas & Veldkamp LAE59821–LAE59833; **10–11<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7647–7665 & Vinas; **11<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas & Veldkamp LAE59835–LAE59837; EAST SEPIK: **25–27<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7462–7487 & Vinas; MOROBE: **October 1–10<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE59839–LAE59933; EAST SEPIK: **23–30<sup>th</sup>**: Veldkamp 7428–7462 & Vinas; MOROBE: **November 9<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE59913

**1978** – MOROBE: **March 17<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE72324–LAE72326; WEST SEPIK: **May 20<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE59551; MOROBE: **June 24<sup>th</sup>**: Waikabu & Vinas s.n.

**1979** – MOROBE: **March 19<sup>th</sup>**: Waikabu & Vinas LAE72376; CENTRAL: **August 10<sup>th</sup>**: Leach & Vinas UPNG3625; **September 7<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG4801; WESTERN: **17–18<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas & Naoni UPNG4803–UPNG4811, Vinas 11–35 & Naoni; Vinas UPNG4810–UPNG4811; CENTRAL: **October 10<sup>th</sup>**: Leach & Vinas UPNG3627–UPNG 3628

**1980** – CENTRAL: **August 6<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG4816–

UPNG4817

**1981** – CENTRAL: **January 14<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG4838–4868; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3201; CENTRAL: **4<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas & Nagari UPNG3234–3246; Streimann 14343–14490 & Vinas; Vinas UPNG3229–3247; **5<sup>th</sup>**: Streimann 14452–14650 & Vinas; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **5<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3210; CENTRAL: **6<sup>th</sup>**: Streimann 14616–14632 & Vinas; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **7<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3218; CENTRAL: **10<sup>th</sup>**: Streimann 14931 & Vinas; **11<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3248–3249; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **18–24<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3208–4995; CENTRAL: **27<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG7601–7604; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **March 5<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3211; CENTRAL: **27<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG7605; **April 9<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas & Naoni UPNG7621–7629; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **23<sup>rd</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3996; **27<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3256; **29<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG7503–7904; CENTRAL: **June 4<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG7608–7619; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **27–29<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3255–3298; **30<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG7515–7516; CENTRAL: **July 8<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG7602; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **28<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG3274; SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS: **September 9<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG2524–7583; CENTRAL: **October 1<sup>st</sup>**: Vinas UPNG7634; SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS: **11<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG7538; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **December 19<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG4879

**1982** – WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **February 18<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG4935–4987; **June 25<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG8428; MOROBE: **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**: Vinas 33–34, Elix 11830–11874 & Vinas; **5<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas

4–211, Elix 12104 & Vinas; **6<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 27–36; EASTERN HIGHLANDS: **9<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 37–49; SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS: **11<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 52–76; Elix 12820 & Vinas; **12–19<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 77–162

**1983** – MOROBE: **January 9<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 163–165 & Streimann; GULF: **24<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 166; MOROBE: **24<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 168; GULF: **25–26<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 171–178; MOROBE: **26<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 179; GULF: **26–27<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 180–208, Streimann & Kairo; MOROBE: **27<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 209; MOROBE: **March 8<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 217; MADANG: **8<sup>th</sup>**: Kairo 828 & Vinas; MADANG: **April 8–11<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 219–226; MOROBE: **June 27<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 228–231; MOROBE: **October 6<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**: Vinas 237–240; **November 17<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 242–248; **21<sup>st</sup>**: Kairo 246 & Vinas; **December 14<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 248

**1984** – **February 10<sup>th</sup>**: MOROBE: Vinas 251 & Kuduk; WESTERN HIGHLANDS: **19<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas UPNG4893; **March 7<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 252; MOROBE: **April 3–5<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 261–276 & Bellamy; **8<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 222; **28<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 278; **June 1–3<sup>rd</sup>**: Symon 13831–13834 & Vinas; **15–18<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 280–320 & Kairo; **August 1<sup>st</sup>**: Vinas 306

**1985** – MOROBE: **February 13–28<sup>th</sup>**: Conn 1476–1737 & Vinas; **March 2–4<sup>th</sup>**: Conn 1748–1767, Katik & Vinas; MADANG: **April 8<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 222

**1996** – MOROBE: **January 24–27<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas 96–1–96-4; WEST SEPIK: **April 7<sup>th</sup>**: Vinas LAE67036–67037; **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**: Vinas LAE59666



**Left** Artis Vinas (left), local carrier (centre) and Oso Akavara (right – also LAE) at field camp on the Nakanai Plateau, West New Britain, PNG (1975). Photo: Bill Barker



# In the News

## Online and in the media

### List of 100 threatened species; 30 plants

The federal government announced a 10-year strategy for conservation funding of 100 threatened species in Australia (including 30 plants!). It was not universally well-received by those working in conservation, and what about the other 1700 threatened species?

**Links to stories:** <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/koalas-quokkas-make-100-threatened-species-list-but-hundreds-more-miss-out-20211022-p592dl.html>

[https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/100-priority-species\\_0.pdf](https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/100-priority-species_0.pdf)

<https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/100-priority-species>

### Newick format is based off a lobster restaurant

Did anyone else know that the newick format (a tree storage format) was based on a lobster restaurant the inventors used to eat at?



### Care for the Rare at RBGV

Gardening Australia took a trip to the Melbourne and Cranbourne Botanic Gardens to have a look at some of the work being done to conserve some of Victoria's most threatened plant species, especially those that were impacted by the 2020 bushfires.

**Link to story:** <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/care-for-the-rare/13586744>

### Plant natives for bees

Planting native plants increases native biodiversity, such a simple line of thinking, but nice to see promoted in the media.

**Link to story:** <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-13/call-to-plant-natives-for-native-bee-pollinators/100611618>

### NZ v. weedy

New Zealand's naturalised flora of ~1,800 species rivals the native flora (~2,300 species), not to mention the ~23,000 other exotic plants in the country. A recent government report describes New Zealand's weed problem as a 'silent invasion', and 'slow-motion botanical conquest'. Hopefully, this report is the first step towards a strategic plan to manage weeds in NZ, in line with the ambitious goals of Predator Free 2050.

**Link to story:** <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/126942639/silent-invasion-weeds-are-escaping-gardens-and-wreaking-havoc-on-native-ecosystems>

**Also see the YouTube series, Fight For the Wild, episode 1 here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fFNY5Z27RA&t=214s>

### Peter Latz, Australian Natural History Medallist

Peter Latz is central Australia's plant guru, and was recently awarded the Australia Natural History medallist. This article features a tribute to 'Latz' by Mike Gillam. At the bottom of the article is a link to a series of stories about Peter Latz and his adventures with traditional owners in central Australia. The presentation was also recorded.

**Link to story:** <https://alicespringsnews.com.au/2021/11/16/peter-latz-wizard-ethno-botanist-and-countryman/>

**Video of presentation:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5yDJIEkFs0>

### Exhibition dedicated to eucalypts and their use: Eucalyptusdom

Sydney's Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences is hosting a multi-sensory exhibition

of museum collection objects and new artworks, celebrating human relationships with eucalypts.

**Link to story:** <https://theconversation.com/oil-wood-bark-exploitation-a-new-exhibition-explores-human-relations-with-the-eucalyptus-160268>

## Papers and publications

### Plants are used for all of the things

A compilation of plant-use records for all accepted vascular plant genera (13,489 genera), based on the 4th edition of Mabberley's Plant Book.

A global database of plant services for humankind - Molina-Venegas *et al.* 2021, PLoS One: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0253069>

### A new genus of clubmosses named after Pat Brownsey

A new genus of clubmosses has just been described, named for former Te Papa botanist (and Burbidge medallist) Pat Brownsey. *Brownseya serpentina* occurs in New Zealand, Australia, and New Caledonia.

A global phylogeny of Lycopodiaceae (Lycopodiales; lycophytes) with the description of a new genus, *Brownseya*, from Oceania - Chen *et al.* 2021, Taxon. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/tax.12597>



*Brownseya serpentina* (Lara Shepherd)

### (IR)Reproducibility in scientific literature searches

Literature searches are a fundamental part of scientific research and writing, but how reproducible are literature searches? The authors of this study explore this question and find that search results can vary substantially by the database queried, and also within databases between internet browsers! Google Scholar seems to be the most inconsistent of the databases tested.

Irreproducibility in searches of scientific literature: A comparative analysis - Pozsgai *et al.* 2021, Ecology and Evolution. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.8154>

### Costing scientific review

Another cornerstone of the scientific method is peer review, where reviewers generously give their time to their peers (and academic publishing houses) to ensure the integrity of published work. This paper investigates just how much that donation is worth. In 2020 alone, they estimated the true value of peer review in the USA at 1.5 billion USD, in China approximately 600 million USD, and in the UK approximately 400 million USD. These are likely underestimates.

A billion-dollar donation: estimating the cost of researchers' time spent on peer review - Aczel *et al.* 2021, Research Integrity and Peer Review. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34776003/>

### AusTraits officially here

AusTraits is a database of 448 traits across 28,640 taxa, based on field notes, published literature, and taxonomic notes. The AusTraits team welcomes contributions in the forms of monographs and other taxonomic work. <https://austraits.org/>

AusTraits, a curated plant trait database for the Australian flora - Falster *et al.* 2021, Scientific Data. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-021-01006-6>



AusTraits





# WILLIAM T COOPER

## BOTANICAL ART OF THE TROPICAL RAINFOREST

~~28 AUG -  
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*Extended until 13 Feb  
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*Victoria's Riflebirds at Topaz (detail) 1993*  
acrylic on canvas on board  
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## The newsletter

The ASBS newsletter keeps members informed of society events and news, and provides a platform for debate and discussion. The newsletter is published quarterly on the ASBS website and in print. Original articles, notes and letters (not exceeding ten published pages in length) are encouraged for submission by ASBS members.

*Have an article or an idea for the newsletter?*  
Send it to Lizzy at  
editor.asbsnews@gmail.com

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