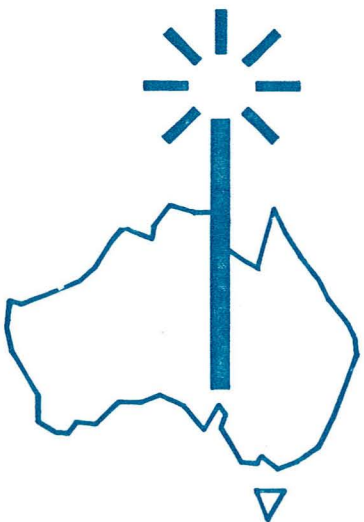
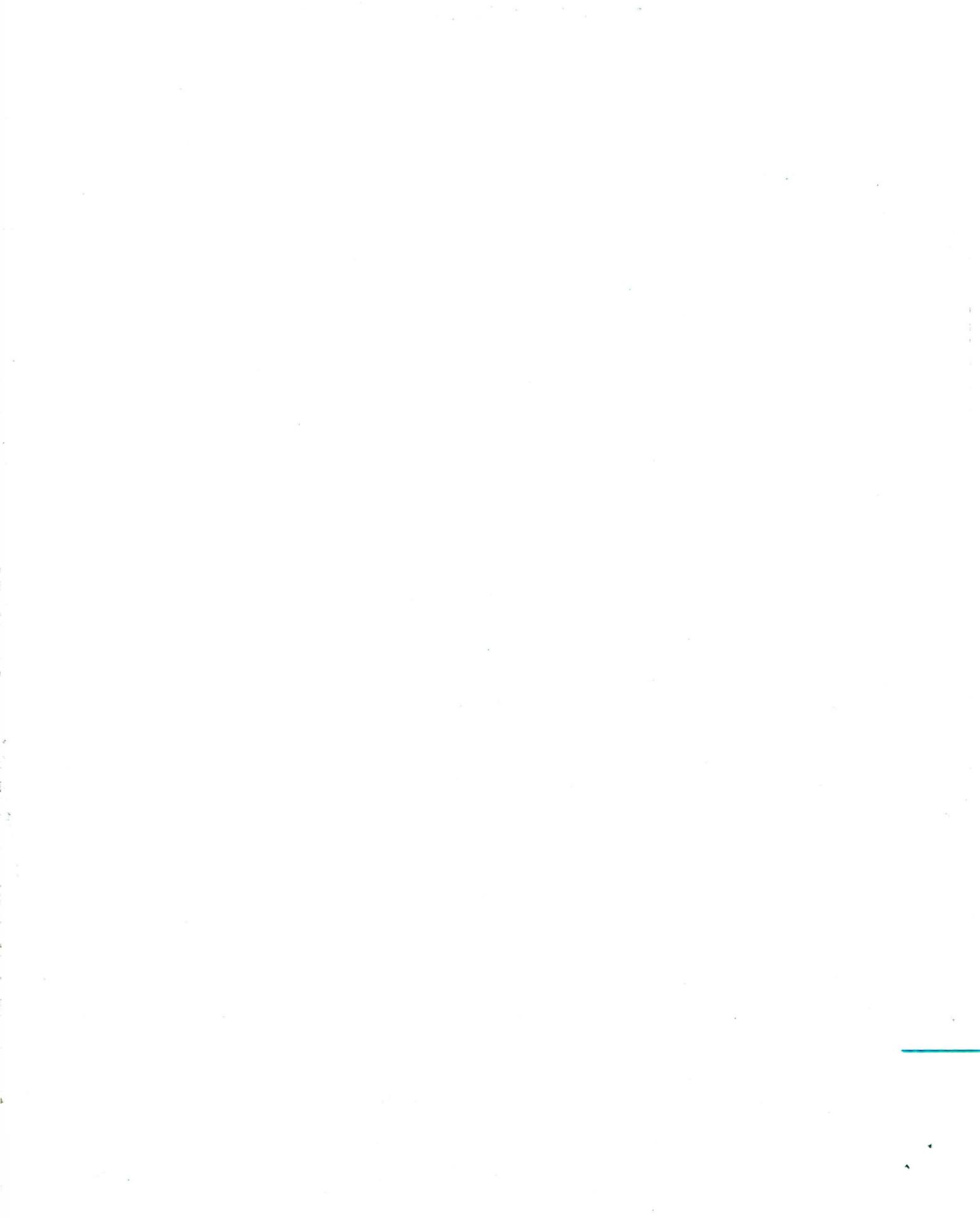


MR. T. G. ADAMS,  
HERBARIUM AUSTRALIENSE,  
C.S.I.R.O.,  
P.O. BOX 1600,  
CANBERRA CITY, A.C.T. 2601



asbs  
newsletter



AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 4

February, 1975.

A.S.B.S. COUNCIL

- President: Dr. Trevor Whiffin, Department of Botany,  
La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria. 3083.
- Vice President: Mr. Rod Henderson, Queensland Herbarium, Meiers  
Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland. 4068.
- Secretary: Mrs. Karen Wilson, National Herbarium, Royal  
Botanic Gardens, Sydney. 2000.
- Treasurer: Mr. Mike Lazarides, Herbarium Australiense,  
Canberra. 2600
- Councillors: Mr. Jim Armstrong, National Herbarium, Royal  
Botanic Gardens, Sydney. 2000.  
Mr. Alex George, Western Australian Herbarium,  
Department of Agriculture, Jarrah Road,  
South Perth, Western Australia. 6151.

This newsletter is produced three times a year and deadlines for copy are 20th February, 20th June and 20th October. The editor is pleased to receive any articles or newsworthy items for incorporation in the newsletter.

Rod Henderson : Editor (address above).

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THE PRESIDENTS REPORT TO A.S.B.S. GENERAL MEETING

AT CANBERRA - 22, JANUARY, 1975

The period since the last General Meeting has been one mainly of consolidation. Notices about the Society appeared in numerous scientific journals. Copies of the Constitution and Rules had been distributed widely to individuals and institutions, both in Australia and overseas. All this led to a good response in terms of number of members, which is now 213.

In addition, the formation of local chapters in most states has led to an increased contact between members at a local level, which can only be to the good. Contact between members at a national level has been facilitated by the newsletter, which appeared three times last year, as planned.

The Society became affiliated to ANZAAS. This has enabled closer cooperation with Section 12, Botany. Notice of our General Meeting appeared in the ANZAAS programme. Council set up a Programme Committee, with Andrew Kanis as Convenor, to handle its affairs during this Congress. Cooperating with the ANZAAS Botany Section, this Committee set up the General Meeting, and helped to organise the Symposium on Modern Approaches in Plant Taxonomy.

After the last General Meeting, I wrote to the Editor-in-Chief of the Australian Journal of Botany concerning the feelings of that meeting about the Journal. Our proposals were put before the Advisory Committee. I believe progress was made. I understand that the Supplementary Series is no longer being published, and that the policy on publication of taxonomic papers is being liberalised.

Following the motion passed at the last General Meeting, Council set up a Committee on Taxonomic Publication, with Paul Wilson as Convenor. This Committee was asked to "examine formats for taxonomic publication with the aim of deciding upon one or a small number of formats, perhaps producing these in the form of a "Guide to Authors"." This Committee maintains close informal contact with the Advisory Committee for the Australian Journal of Botany, as HJ. Eichler is a member of both.

I reported at the last General Meeting on the approaches that the Society had made to the Minister for Science. I had written to him before the announcement of the establishment of the Australian Biological Resources Study Interim Council. The Minister replied after the formation of this Interim Council indicating the responsibilities of this Council, and noting that he would bring my letter to the attention of the Council. In brief, the two main points that I raised are:

- (1) that the main objective of the botanical component of any biological survey should be the writing of a Flora of Australia;
- (2) that there is a distinct need for more staff.

The Interim Council has in fact been asked to report on these and other matters in 1976. Under item 8 of the agenda, we could perhaps discuss what action you would like the Council to take on your behalf in relation to the Interim Council.

T. Whiffin. (President, A.S.B.S.)

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY  
Summary of the treasurer's report over the period  
8 April 1973 - 31 December 1974

<u>INCOME</u>			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions	920.87	Newsletters 1974	241.77	
Interest	11.75	Stationery	13.68	
		Secretarial Services	6.75	
		Cheque book	2.50	
		Total expenditure		264.70
		Balance bank	603.50	
		- cash	64.42	
		Total balance		667.92
Total income	<u>\$932.62</u>			<u>\$932.62</u>

<u>Subscriptions</u>			<u>Newsletters 1974</u>	
1973: 144	433.77 (none outstanding)	Printed covers		85.90
1974: 145	436.10 (61 outstanding)	Paper		38.00
1975: 17	51.00 (advance payments)	Freight (paper)		9.79
Total	<u>\$920.87</u>	Typing (2 issues)		62.80
		Postage (3 issues)		45.28
		Total costs		<u>\$241.77</u>

Canberra, 22nd January 1975.

A. Kanis (Treasurer, A.S.B.S.)

Report from the Auditor

I certify that I have examined the books of account maintained by the Australian Systematic Botany Society and according to my findings the above represents a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Society for the period ended 31st December, 1974.

I.L. Farrar, A.A.S.A.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE SUBS IN ARREAS - A.S.B.S. NEEDS MONEY  
TO FUNCTION - DON'T FORGET SUBS FOR THIS CURRENT YEAR.

I wish to thank all members for their past support and efforts which has made this newsletter a goer..... Please keep up the copy so that Rod Henderson, the new editor as well as our new vice-president can carry on the task.

You will note dead lines for copy are 20 February, 20 June and 20 October - one month later than previously. A new method of publication and despatch will enable us to have your newsletters out to you within a few weeks of those dead-lines (three weeks at the most).

Kind regards and thanks again,

Des Boyland, Editor.

Notes from the Society's Second General  
Meeting held in Canberra on the evening  
of 22 January 1975

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Whiffin, the President. Sixty-eight members attended.

Membership

The Society now has 213 members making it the third largest biological society in Australia.

Seminar Series

During the A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congress the Society organized a very successful seminar series - "Modern Methods in Plant Taxonomy", chaired by Professor Stebbins.

The programme was as follows:-

The Anatomical/Physiological Aspect - Dr. R.C. Carolin, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW.

The Palynological Aspect - Dr. N.H. Brittan, Botany Department, University of Western Australia.

The Chemotaxonomic Aspect - Dr. T. Whiffin, Botany Department, La Trobe University, Victoria.

The Numerical Aspect - Mr. L. Watson, Research School, of Biological Sciences, Australian National University.

The Phycological Aspect - Dr. Marchant, Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University.

The Mycological Aspect - Mr. J. Walker, Biological and Chemical Research Institute, Department of Agriculture, Rydalmere, NSW.

The Programme Committee members deserve special thanks for their efforts.

Subscriptions

From 1 January 1976 the annual subscription will be \$4.00 if paid within three months of the beginning of the calendar year. After that period the subscription for late-payers will be \$6.00. Subscriptions for overseas members will be \$US 8.00 or its equivalent in other currency.

A.S.B.S. Newsletter

The Newsletter Editor's report stressed the need for members to be vigorously encouraged to provide articles and news. He had difficulty obtaining sufficient copy for the third newsletter.

Reports from Local Chapters (alphabetically by States)

(i) Canberra (A.C.T.)

The chapter had an active year with monthly meetings at which a wide range of topics were presented, an excursion to Jervis Bay and a picnic.

(ii) Sydney (N.S.W.)

Monthly meetings were held at which a variety of subjects were discussed. The chapter also held a weekend excursion. Average attendance at meetings was 24 from a membership of 39.

(iii) Brisbane (QLD.)

Members from the Queensland Herbarium, University and Institute of Technology held three meetings with attendances of 15-20.

(iv) Adelaide (S.A.)

The chapter held seven meetings and four field excursions with an average attendance of 11 from its 20 members.

(v) Melbourne (VIC.)

Five meetings were held during the year; future meetings will be held every two months during the academic year at venues provided by the groups participating in the chapter.

(vi) Perth (W.A.)

During the year the members of the Perth Chapter held five very successful meetings.

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Any members visiting these cities are asked to contact the local chapter. Those who are willing to lead discussions or give talks will be especially welcomed.

PROGRESS REPORT - FLORA OF AUSTRALIA PROJECT. DR. N. BURBIDGE

Excellent progress has been made with the projects supported by the Australian Academy of Science through the Academy's Flora Committee.

Dr. Burbidge reported on the three phases of the work:-

1. The index of plant names now covers the period to 1878 and 26,000 cards have been prepared. In the hands of Mr. Arthur Chapman the index is continuing to enlarge rapidly; the next date target is 1900.

2. The list of library items relevant to Australian taxonomic botany is being prepared from holdings in Canberra libraries; additions and corrections are being received from libraries in State herbaria as the list progresses. The project is almost half-completed and when finished will provide a much-enlarged version of the very useful "Select List" of 1951, also prepared by Dr. Burbidge.

3. Sample Flora treatments at different levels of detail have been prepared for the Rhizophoraceae and the Loranthaceae. These are to be submitted to practical use by botanists before a definite format is defined. Funds have been obtained from the Australian Biological Resources Study to prepare an account of the Cruciferae; about 170 taxa will be treated. The appointee to this project, Helen Hewson, has already completed a list of all the names involved and has prepared a printed sample page of the finished work.

#### Australian Biological Resources Study (A.B.R.S. - "Abrus")

The President asked members to suggest how the Society can cooperate with A.B.R.S. to ensure that taxonomy receives appropriate support in the A.B.R.S. Interim Council's report to Government at the end of its term in June 1976. Dr. Kanis suggested that the new Council of our Society should offer assistance to A.B.R.S. and perhaps form a committee to provide this cooperation. Now is the time to act on this as the next general meeting of A.S.B.S. will be very near the end of the Interim Council's term.

#### Systematic Botany Committee (S.B.C.) of A.N.Z.A.A.S.

Dr. Whiffin spoke about the parallel ideas and the parallel responsibilities of the A.S.B.S. and the S.B.C., and recognized that there should be a closer linking between these two bodies.

The meeting voted in favour of asking the Secretary of Section 12, Botany, to call a business meeting of the Section before the end of the Congress in order to discuss the nomination of the Systematic Botany Committee and the procedure for nominating this committee in the future. (The S.B.C. is elected by A.N.Z.A.A.S. on the basis of nominations received from Section 12). The functions of the S.B.C. are discussing and recommending action on problems in systematic botany and promoting taxonomy in Australia. As a standing committee of A.N.Z.A.A.S. the S.B.C. can make resolutions and submissions to the A.N.Z.A.A.S. council with requests that they be forwarded to other bodies or authorities.

#### Retirement of Mr. R.D. Royce (Perth)

The Society expressed its thanks to Mr. Royce for his contributions to Australian botany and sent its best wishes to him for his retirement.

#### Centralization of Collections for Specialists

Concern was expressed that there were moves to centralize collections from various institutions for the use of a specialist. It was generally agreed that such a move was so much against sensible practice that it need not be considered further.

#### The New Council of A.S.B.S.

President:	Dr. Trevor Whiffin (La Trobe University)
Vice-President:	Mr. Rod Henderson (Queensland Herbarium)
Secretary:	Mrs. Karen Wilson (Nat. Herb. N.S.W.)
Treasurer:	Mr. Mike Lazarides (Herbarium Australiense)
Council Members:	Mr. Alex George (Western Austral. Herb.)
	Mr. Jim Armstrong (Nat. Herb. N.S.W.)



Presidential Address

Following the general meeting Dr. Whiffin delivered his Presidential Address:-

Analysis of hybrid swarms in plants - morphological, chemical and numerical approaches.

With various examples, many drawn from his own research, Dr. Whiffin illustrated the ways in which various methods can be fitted to the analysis of hybrid swarms.

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SYSTEMATIC BOTANY COMMITTEE (S.B.C.) OF A.N.Z.A.A.S.

At a meeting of Section 12, Botany (called at the request of the A.S.B.S. General Meeting) on 23 January, nominations were received for the S.B.C. Those nominated were:- Dr. H.J. Eichler, Dr. T.G. Hartley, Dr. L. Watson, Dr. J.P. Jessop, Dr. A.E. Orchard and Mr. P.G. Wilson.

The meeting asked the Secretary of Section 12 to put to the Council of A.N.Z.A.A.S. a request that in future the S.B.C. will consist of six members plus the President of A.S.B.S. as an ex-officio member and that the nominations for the committee will be received at each General Meeting of the A.S.B.S. (i.e. at each A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congress) and submitted through Section 12 Botany to the A.N.Z.A.A.S. Council.

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NEWS ITEMS

DARWIN HERBARIUM UNDAMAGED BY CYCLONE TRACY - News from Clyde Dunlop:-

"The new building (at Berrimah, housing the herbarium) was fortunately left intact and was soon supplied with a generator to maintain air-conditioning. My family fared better than most as we still have a house that is habitable."

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Hearty (though somewhat belated) congratulations to Trevor Clifford, University of Queensland, on receipt last year of a Doctor of Science Degree conferred by the University of Melbourne. Congratulations as well to Professor Ray Specht of Queensland University. Professor Specht is to receive shortly, a Doctor of Science Degree from the University of Melbourne.

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SOCIETY FOR THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NATURAL HISTORY

This Society was created to promote the study of the bibliography of the various disciplines of natural history, including zoology, geology and botany. Bibliography is interpreted in the broadest sense, and papers have been published on such aspects as rare books, biography of naturalists, iconography and calendars of correspondence between early naturalists.

The S.B.N.H. is based in London, and publishes a journal which has become widely known as an authoritative source of information on all aspects of the literature of natural history.

The Society, recognising the importance of research in natural history in Australasia, is anxious to set up an Australasian Chapter, and to promote a greater interest in the work of historians of science and other interested persons in our region. It is also anxious to secure more articles relevant to the natural history of Australasia. Dr. Michael Hoare has been asked to act as Australasian Representative, and recently several members of the S.B.N.H. based in Canberra (who are coincidentally members of the A.S.B.S. also) met with him. It was decided then to start a newsletter for the Australasian members, and to include information on the work of Australasian historians of science and members of the S.B.N.H. in the main journal.

At present the number of members of the S.B.N.H. in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region is small, and those persons are widely dispersed. Botanists, who are interested in the various aspects of the bibliography of natural history and wish to know more about the Society and its activities in Australasia and elsewhere, are invited to contact Dr. M.E. Hoare, Society for the Bibliography of Natural History, C/- Australian Academy of Science, Box 216, Civic Square, Canberra, A.C.T. 2608.

An Easter Meeting of the S.B.N.H. will be held in London, April 3 and 4, 1975, and papers to be presented cover the various aspects of the Society's interests.

Received from Charles Nelson,  
The Research School of Pacific Studies,  
Canberra.

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Australian Chapter of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History

At a meeting held in Canberra during the A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congress arrangements were made to form an Australasian chapter of the Society. Those members who are interested please contact the Secretary (A.S.B.S.) or Dr. Hoare for further details.

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An amusing story or interesting quotes would be welcome. - Ed.

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WELCOME TO JOHN PETER JESSOP, THE NEW CHIEF BOTANIST, ADELAIDE HERBARIUM

Dr. Jessop has recently filled at the State Herbarium, Adelaide, the vacancy resulting from Dr. H.J. Eichler's appointment to the curatorship of Herbarium Australiense.

The following brief notes are given on John's background.

Born in 1939 (Cape Town, S. Africa)

Cape Town University 1958-64. M.Sc. on the taxonomy of the South African species of Asparagus (Liliaceae). With E.G.H. Oliver founded the "South African Forum Botanicum" and continued to edit it until 1970.

1964-1967 on the Staff of South African Botanical Research Institute of which two years were spent in Pretoria at the National Herbarium.

1967-1974 Lecturer at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. Ph.D. (Rhodes) on the taxonomy of certain of the bulbous genera of the Liliaceae (including some cytology and anatomy).

Sabbatical leave in 1963-64 was spent at the Rijksherbarium, Leiden, working on the Liliaceae (sensu stricto) of Malesia.

Besides publishing papers on the South African Liliaceae (Asparagus and the Scilleae) has published on botanical biography and bibliography and ecology.

Married, with two children.

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DIVERTIMENTA

"The author offers the present small work, on the Flora of the Colony, in the hope that it may tend to advance the growing taste for botanical pursuits, and lead eventually to the publication of another, and larger work, on the plants of Australia generally, under the title of "Hortus Australis", a task for which, he thinks he may say without vanity, his long residence and extended travels in the colony, render him by no means unfit."

- from Daniel Bunce in  
Hortus Victoriensis. - A catalogue of the most generally known flora of the colony of Victoria; with their Linnean classification and general remarks. Melbourne 1851.

R.C. Gunn described the publication as a theft from James Backhouse's list of Tasmanian plants (James Ross's Hobart Town Almanack, 1835) enlarged by many genera unknown in Victoria and 'palpable fabrications of names' for some plants which never existed. (see Bunce, Daniel (1813-1872) by R.H. Holden in Australian Dictionary of Biography 1:176-177 (1966)).

All credit for this gem goes to Mr. Don McGillivray, Sydney. - Ed.

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NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

SYDNEY

The Sydney Chapter held its first meeting of 1975 on 5 February. Convenors elected for the coming year are Peter Wilson (University of New South Wales) and Jim Armstrong (Nat. Herb. N.S.W.). A programme for the year's activities will be circulated soon. Members were given news of the A.S.B.S. General Meeting in Canberra after which several of the recipients of grants from A.B.R.S. gave accounts of progress in their current research.

CANBERRA CHAPTER

The final seminar for 1974 was held on December 3rd. Professor G.L. Stebbins, Emeritus Professor of Genetics at University of California, Davis, U.S.A. lectured on "A Comparison of the Floras of Mediterranean Regions of the World".

On 8th December a small group met at the Mt. Ginini turnoff, and spent the morning at Ginini Swamp. We went on to the hut at lunchtime, then climbed Mt. Gingera in the afternoon.

No details are available on the 1975 programme.

BRISBANE BRANCH

The programme since formation in mid-1974:

- 25 June - Inauguration - Wine and Cheese Evening  
Group discussion - practical problems associated with changes in well known names for plants; taxonomic treatment of clines; editorial policies of Australian botanical journals.
- 6 August - Dr. Trevor Clifford, University of Queensland, led a group discussion on "Classification and Computers".
- 24 September - Mr. Ken Airy-Shaw, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, led a group discussion on the family Euphorbiaceae.
- 4 February - Wine and Cheese Evening - Group discussion - "Australian Systematics at the Crossroads".

Proposed programme till mid-1975:

- 8 April - "Overseas Herbaria" - group discussion with panelists Dr. Bob Johnson and Mr. Les Pedley of Queensland Herbarium.
- 10 June - "To Eat or Not to Eat - the Phylogenetic Paradox" - group discussion with panelists Dr. Alan Cribb, University of Queensland and Mr. Selwyn Everist, Director, Queensland Herbarium.

A pilgrimage to the final resting place of our early state botanists is planned for later in the year.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THE  
SOLANACEAE CONFERENCE, JULY 13-17th, 1976

AT UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

Tuesday July 13th

- I am Problems of classification within the family, including generic and specific limits.
- II pm Floristics, ecology, distribution, continental drift.

Wednesday July 14th

- III am ( Evolution, cytology, breeding systems, hybridisation,  
pm ( incompatibility, polyploidy, dihaploidy, genome relationships,  
( etc.

Thursday July 15th

- IV am Chemotaxonomy, serotaxonomy, etc.
- V pm Pharmaceutical aspects of tropane and steroid alkaloid studies. Other secondary metabolites.

Friday July 16th

- VI am Anatomical and fine structure studies, including scanning electron microscopy of pollen, seed, epidermis and other cell structures.
- VII pm Origins of domestication: potato, tomato, tobacco, chile pepper, egg-plant, etc.

Saturday July 17th

- VIII am General discussion and synthesis.
- pm Tour of Solanaceae collections at Botanic Gardens.

- Other possible themes:-
- (a) Ethnobotanical studies
  - (b) Numerical taxonomy
  - (c) Archaeology

Any enquiries should be forwarded to David Symon, Waite Institute, Adelaide, South Australia as early as possible. David would also welcome comments and suggestions as soon as possible.

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