The Grapevine

April 2013

Newsletter of the Hinkler branch of Rare Fruit Australia, Inc.

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Keeping Trees Small

by Peter Myers

Dave Wilson Nursery, a big wholesale nursery in California, has been pioneering a new kind of orchard culture for small or compact orchards.

They call it "Backyard Orchard Culture" (look it up in Google). It's about High Density Planting, Successive Ripening, and Summer Pruning for Size Control. The main points are

- the standard advice we have been taught is wrong. It was developed for commercial orchards and is completely irrelevant for small orchards.

- plant for successive harvest. You want your fruit to mature throughout the year rather than all at once. For Australia, Daleys' harvest guide is helpful. You don't want six trees all the same, but rather different varieties that mature at different times. Multiple varieties can also improve cross-pollination.

- close planting (3 to 4 metres apart; people stretched for space might go to 2m, or plant several trees in one hole, i.e. 1-2 feet apart). This only works if you choose dwarf rootstocks, or prune to keep trees small. If your close-planted trees get away, they will reach for the sky, competing for light, and become a jungle.

- size control is essential. For small orchards, you want small trees or even fruit shrubs. You don't want to climb a ladder to harvest, or, if you have to, only a step ladder, and you don't want a huge crop you can't use.
An exception would be trees that drop nuts, eg macadamia.

Advantages of Smaller Trees

By Regina Parsons (Duffill)

- easier pruning

- easier netting

- easier to spot and treat pests

- easier picking: no need for ladders etc.

- less food means no growth in wildlife

Keeping trees small makes it easier to spray (if you spray) and net them from birds & insects. They recommend rolling the net up on a piece of pvc pipe, for storage.

In a compact orchard, keeping trees small also increases air circulation, which reduces disease problems.

If you don't want excess growth, do not over-water your trees (a certain amount of stress is actually beneficial for fruiting), and do not use nitrogen fertilizers: they stimulate growth and hinder fruiting. Instead, use organic fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in potassium and phosphorus.

Regina's Way

By Peter Myers

On a tour of her orchard some years ago, Regina said that she tries to keep trees pruned to 5' high (1.5m).

Errol, however, has not been co-operative. He likes to let trees do their own thing: "The top for the animals, the bottom for me".

The result has been that only the citrus get pruned Regina's way.

Unpruned, citrus can reach 3-4 m.

The photo is of an Orange tree planted in 1996, netted to stop Fruit Piercing Moth. Bird netting suffices.



Summer Pruning for Size Control

by Peter Myers

On pruning, the Dave Wilson formula is "size control in the summer and detail work in the winter".

They say "most semi-dwarfing rootstocks do not control fruit-tree size as much as you might expect".

Pruning for size is done once the trees are a few years old. Before that, you prune for shape.

Many of us have pruned a tree back heavily, only to see it go into a growth flush, becoming as big as it was, and not flowering in the meantime.

The reason, according to Dave Wilson, is that we pruned at the wrong time of the year. Winter pruning stimulates growth; summer pruning suppresses it.

The advice from Dave Wilson Nursery is online at http://www.davewilson.com/homegrown/BOC_explained.html

and http://www.rootsimple.com/2010/09/backyard-orchard-culture/.

At planting, cut the top out of a young tree to make it branch. It can be cut back to 18" (450mm). The root system suffers planting shock at this time, so taking the top off does not further stress it or delay recovery.

Even Mamey Sapote and Green Sapote should be topped in this way at planting time, but it wise to leave some green leaves - don't take the lot. Some latex will flow out of the cut at first.

Whenever you move a tree, severing some of the roots, cut the top back proportionately, to balance the stress. It will recover much more quickly if you do. Even bigger trees can be moved (preferably in cool weather) if treated this way and if the roots are trimmed and not allowed to dry out (protected from sun and wind).

Winter is the time to prune if you want to train a tree to a particular shape, or stimulate growth.

For established trees (several years old), a summer pruning regime can be used to restrain vigour and size. It can be done after harvest (eg for Mangoes), or while the tree is flowering or fruiting (eg Jakfruit, Black Sapote).

By **pruning when there is fruit on** the tree, **the kind of wood** on **which** the tree **sets fruit** (one year-old wood, two year-old wood, spurs, etc.) **is apparent**, which helps you to make better pruning decisions. You won't cut fruiting wood off by mistake.

North Carolina State University explains:

Trees respond very differently to dormant and summer pruning. Dormant (winter) pruning is an invigorating process. Heavy dormant pruning results in excessive vegetative growth and little or no fruit production. During autumn, energy is stored in the trunk and root system. If a large portion of the tree is removed during winter, while the tree is dormant, the tree's energy reserve is unchanged. In the spring, the tree responds by producing many new vigorous, upright shoots.

Summer pruning reduces photosynthesis (food manufacture), thereby reducing the capacity for new growth. Summer pruning also **reduces the total amount of food materials and energy available to be stored in the root system** in late summer and autumn. This controls vigour the following spring, since spring growth is supported primarily by stored foods and energy.

Summer pruning thus **retards growth.** The framework branches are maintained and any new, vigorous, overcrowding branches are removed from the centre. **The new growth that follows is tamed and much less vigorous** than growth following winter pruning. **Once a system of summer pruning is established**, very little winter pruning of the framework is required.

The above is from Training & Pruning Fruit Trees, produced by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts



Jakfruit pruned to 9' (2.7m) high in summer (Feb 2013), and about 2 years earlier. It continued fruiting, and the pruning did not cause a growth flush. The fruit, being lower, is easier to pick.

Thinning (removing whole branches) - the best method for Size Control

by Peter Myers

Ed Verheij, in Fruit Growing in the Tropics (Agrodok 5), divides fruit crops into "single stemmed" (e.g. banana, papaya, coconut) and "branched" (e.g. mandarin, guava, mango). He says that most branched fruits **require a period of stress – a cold or dry season** – to stop shoot growth and produce flowers instead. Watering a mango tree during the dry season, to avoid stress, leads to flushing at the expense of flowering.

If the natural seasonal stress is inadequate, you can impose your own stress by

- withholding water

- partially ringbarking the tree

- making slashing cuts in the trunk

- root pruning

- removing mulch (rake it beyond the dripline)

He says that, to avoid flushes after pruning, one should abandon the old rule of shortenting all branches by 1/3 (cutting back to an outward pointing bud), and instead remove entire branches.

The diagram shows the effects of cutting increasingly large portions of a shoot/branch:

- Tipping or pinching out (removing a few inches at the end) induces a proliferation of side-shoots, and suppresses flowering

- Cutting back (removing say 1/3 of the branch) leads to fewer side shoots than tipping, but they are more vigorous

- Stubbing (cutting out most of the branch, leaving only a stub) induces the growth of a number of shoots of equal vigour (none dominant)

- Cutting out or Thinning (removing the entire branch, except for a collar) usually induces only a mild response:

"Often there is no renewed growth at all near the cut, the response is dispersed over the rest of the tree. Because of its obvious direct effect and the moderate reaction of the tree, THINNING IS THE PRINCIPAL PRUNING METHOD. You can see immediately what you have done and need not worry too much about the after-effects."

The book is online at http://www.agromisa.org/displayblob.php?ForeignKey=209&Id=97

The California Rare Fruit Growers agree:

"Natural target pruning, as defined and described by Alex Shigo, is a radical change from the conventional methods used by arborists ... In natural target pruning the objective is to **leave the branch collar** on the primary stem or tree trunk **while removing the remainder of the branch**. **Summer pruning should be limited to** removing the upright and vigorous current season's growth; only **thinning** cuts should be used."

When a branch is removed, a collar should be left, but no stub. The collar is the flared (tapered) part of the branch where it connects to the truck.

The CFRG provide details and diagrams at http://www.crfgsandiego.org/Presentations/Natural%20Target%20Pruning%201.pdf

They say that it's best not to use wound dressings or sealing paint. But horizontal cuts should be slightly angled to shed water, as a protection against rot and disease.

During summer pruning, branches growing into the inside of the tree are removed. High branches heading straight up are removed entirely if they are higher than the height limit one has set.

If they are not too high, they are not removed entirely but instead cut back to a lateral, which diverts the tree's energy into a horizontal or slightly upward direction. This method is called "Crown reduction pruning."

Some photos are provided of a Black Sapote tree in my yard. This was originally a male tree which produced 99% male flowers and only a few fruits a year. I wasted two years waiting for it to turn female (someone told me it would). Then Gordon suggested cutting it back to a stump, and approach-grafting onto the new shoots induced. I did so, grafting a number of seedling trees in pots, one of which turned out to be female. The tree is now 95% female, with a few male branches left for pollination.

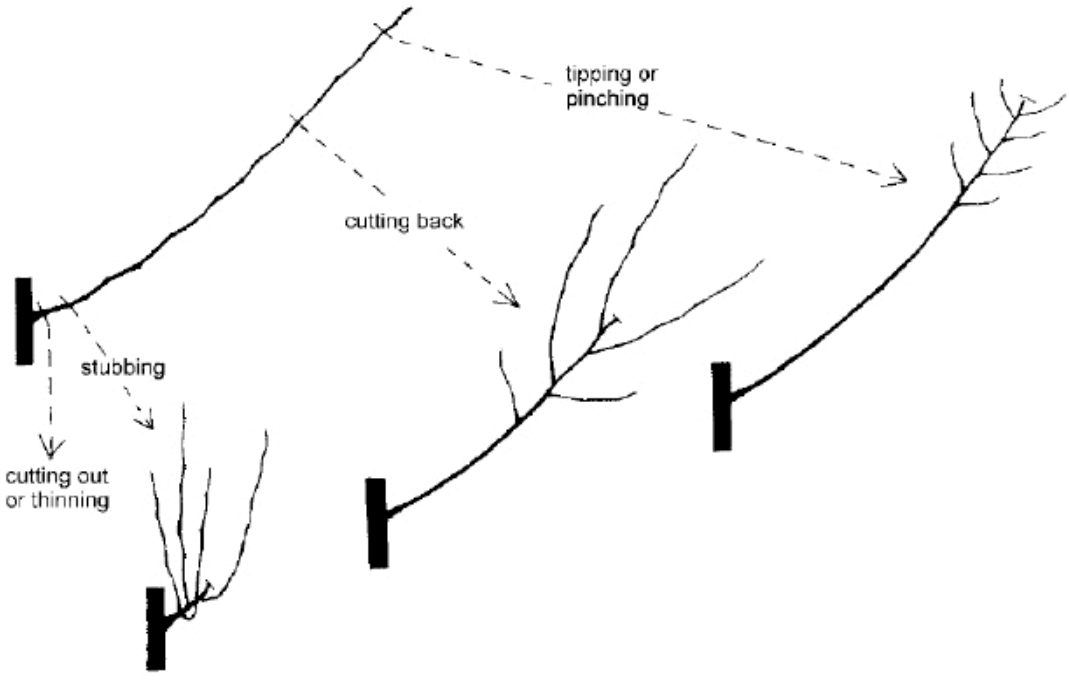


Figure 11: Growth response to cutting increasing portions of a twig

Whereas it was pyramid-shaped, and heading for the sky, after a few years of the pruning methods outlined in this article it now has a rounded shape, has settled into fruit production, and is much less vigorous.

Black sapotes can reach 15-20m high. This one is 9' (2.7m) high and 11' (3.4m) wide. The photos of the top of the tree show an even canopy with upright growth diverted into laterals.

Black Sapotes usually finish bearing at the end of July, and commence flowering about 3 weeks later. If you prune in the short in-between period, you might stimulate a growth flush at the expense of flowering. Also, you might cut some of the would-be flowers off. I pruned this Black Sapote in February, removing only 3-4% of the canopy. Since then, I must report, it has dropped a lot of its fruit, but experts I have asked say it was probably caused by all the rain.



Black Sapote summer-pruned (while fruiting) to 9' (2.7m) high. Formerly 99% male, now 95% female. Formerly of pyramid shape, now rounded.

Also included are some photos of my Jakfruits.

Jakfruits can reach 20m or more. I never contemplated keeping them short, until Monina Davis (of Maryborough branch) told me that she kept hers to 8' (2.4m) high. So I visited her orchard, a couple of years ago, and, sure enough, her Jakfruits were 8' apart and 8' high. "And they bear down low," she added, "The fruit is easy to pick". Alas, since then, being a widow, Monina has been unable to keep up the pruning regime. She's scared to use a chainsaw; I recommended an electric one.

Anyway, after seeing Monina's example, I cut my Jakfruits back too. They have kept bearing fruit regardless, and did not put on a growth flush. Only now, two years later, have I needed to give them another haircut.

I recently cut these trees (heavily bearing) back to 9' (2.7m) high; one is 10' wide, the other 13'. They are spaced at 4m.

The Tropical Fruit Club of Central Florida has a webpage listing the recommended tree height (in feet, not metres) for tropical fruit trees. For Black Sapote, they recommend 12-15' (about 4m); for Jakfruit, 8-14' (about 3.5m); for Mango, 6-15' (2-4m). They list heights for many other trees too. In no case is the recommended height over 15' (4.5m): http://www.tropicalfruitclub.org/june2007.htm

Additional Credits:

Flemings Nursery http://www.flemings.com.au/documents/pruning_multi_page.pdf

http://www.thctalk.com/





Topping (repeatedly cutting the centre and top out) **changes the structure** of a tree or shrub – **from pyramidal to rounded**. Before (left) and after (right) images courtesy of http://www.thctalk.com/. Note that the **thinning** method of pruning is used here – **entire branch(es) are cut out**, rather than all being cut back by 1/3.



The top of the Black Sapote tree (left and below). The left photo shows that **upward-pointing branches have been removed**, leaving those which go outwards. The **canopy is "even", with growth dispersed** widely rather than concentrated in a few leaders. The below photo shows how a would-be **leader** at the top of the tree is not removed completely (as lower branches are thinned) but **cut back to a lateral**, diverting growth sideways.

Editor's Note

This issue of The Grapevine is unusually big and focused, because it made sense to combine all the material on pruning in one place; it's a topic rarely covered.

However, I don't have lots of other material up my sleeve, so **I'm relying on you to send me articles and photo**s.

Feel free to ring first to discuss suitable topics and approaches. Ph. (07) 41262296 or (07) 41170125. I go to bed early and get up early, so **best ring between 6 & 8 am, or 6 & 8 pm**.



I'm by no means one of the more experienced gardeners in our group, but I am an ideas person – that's my strength or my weakness, depending on you you see it.

In keeping with that orientation I would like my editorship to cover decisions that we all have to make at some time:
- designing an orchard (size: what limits? position, layout, irrigation or not, rows or freeform, etc)
- choosing trees (why waste 4+ years and valuable space and money on ones we later pull out?)
- placing trees (which ones to put in frosty spots, ot flood-prone spots, or high ground, etc)
- dealing with disease, insects, droughts and floods
- general gardening issues, where relevant

I hope that we can assemble our collective experience on these matters, for the benefit of new members and those yet to join.

Ray's Method

By Peter Myers

Many Rare Fruit gardeners with large orchards do minimal pruning, which means letting the fruit bats, birds and insects get much of the crop. "I'm happy to share with the animals," Alan Carle of Botanical Ark told me. "I gave up netting years ago."

Those with smaller orchards seem more inclined to prune and net. This may be because the animals and insects are not content to have just SOME of the crop - they want the lot.

Ray Johnson keeps his trees small, mainly to faciliate netting: it's much easier with small trees.

His orchard is dispersed, but about 1 acre in total area, on a hillside in a clearing in natural bushland west of Gin Gin. It is limited in two ways:
- area: Ray does not want to bring in bulldozers to extend the cleared area
- water: from a creek, and subject to the vagarities of climate

A very methodical person, Ray decided that there is no benefit in producing excess fruit that cannot be used. Therefore, there is no point in watering trees beyond what's necessary to keep them alive; nor in fertilizing for maximum growth or production.

I noticed that many of Ray's trees are smaller than I have seen elsewhere, even when he has not made an effort to keep them so. Ray sees this as an advantage, not a drawback: it means that he needs to do less pruning. The reason, he thinks, is the limited water. The soil is good, but of uneven depth, with rock underneath.

In the case of trees that would grow big if left, Ray has a policy of keeping them small. He does this by pruning them if they seem overgrown "when I'm walking past", any time of the year - in practice about twice a year. This regular maintenance means that's no need to remove much wood each time - only a few % of the canopy.

Ray generally waits until a tree has finished fruiting, but some fruits (eg carambola) fruit and flush (and even flower) simultaneously, so he prunes them anytime.

The Carambola shown under the net is on its own, but Ray also grows a group of five Carambolas in a row, under one net supported by parallel polypipe arches. The five trees are spaced 2-3' apart, and a little higher than this one; they include different varieties, for cross-



Above, a 4 yr. old fruiting Carambola.. Below, a 6 yr. old Loquat espaliered on a wire trellis. Both grow quite big, if allowed



pollination. However, it is difficult to get a good photo of them, so this one is supplied instead.

The fruit, ripened on the tree, is delicious – so different from the unnetted fruit infested by insects.

Left to their own, Carambolas grow tall – too big to net. In keeping his to 6', Ray says that additional height would be of little benefit, because nearly all the fruit is down low anyway.

In supplying these photos, Ray chose trees that would have grown much bigger if he had not pruned them.



Above, a 4-yr old Wampi, pruned low. Unpruned, it would grow quite big

Cassava Cake

By Salome Dosono (Sally Myers)

INGREDIENTS

4 cups grated cassava, or 2pkts grated cassava (available at Asian grocer; there's one a few doors from Nana's Pantry)

1 can (400 ml) coconut milk or cream

2 eggs

2 cups sugar

1 jar (340 g) of young coconut strip (available at Asian grocer)

METHOD

Mix all well and put into a lamington baking pan. Bake for 45 minutes at 180 C (350 F). When almost done, pour over 1 can of condensed milk, and continue baking until golden brown.

Banana Heart (Bud, Flower, Blossom) with Pork or Meat Mince

By Delia Jefferson

INGREDIENTS

1 Banana Heart (Bud, Flower, Blossom)
4 cloves of garlic
1 large onion, sliced
2 teaspoon salt
500 gms of pork/meat mince
1-2 tbsp vinegar
¼ cup cooking oil
Salt and pepper to taste
1-2 tbsp cornflour
¼ cup water

METHOD

Prepare the banana heart (bud): peel the leaves of the heart until you come to the yellow part inside. Cut the pale inner bud in quarters lengthwise and then slice into ¼ inch pieces across. Sprinkle with the salt, and work by squeezing and compressing to remove the juice or sap, then set aside.

Saute garlic and onion in hot oil until golden brown. Add mince and cook for about 5 minutes, then add the prepared banana bud, cook and simmer until tender. Add the vinegar and season to taste. Stir often. Just before removing from the heat, mix the cornflour with water and add to the mixture. Serve hot with rice.

Banana Heart (Bud, Flower, Blossom) salad

By Monina Davis

Peel the leaves of the banana heart until you come to the pale yellow part inside. Cut it in half and boil until tender (5 minutes). Cool, then slice into sticks. Squeeze the water out of it. Put in a bowl with finely sliced onions and tomatoes. Add vinegar to taste and (not essential but adds flavour) coconut cream.

Editor's comment: Monina says that only the heart of the Plantain (Cooking Banana) can be used, because the Ladyfinger heart is bitter. I have found some bitter hearts among Ladyfingers; however, one Ladyfinger heart I cooked (and ate as a vegetable) had no bitterness – at least, not to my taste. I always have plenty of hearts available, because I leave them on the tree. Only the biggest hearts should be selected for cooking, i.e. from undeveloped fruit. Hearts left on the tree shrink over time, as the fruit grows; a very small heart is one of the indicators of maturity.

MINUTES of bi-monthly Meeting of Hinkler Branch of Rare fruits Australia Inc., held on 23rd February 2013; hosted by Maureen and Ivan Stringer

Welcome: New president Eddy Dunn opened the meeting at 1.40 p.m. and welcomed members, new members and guests.

Apologies: Arnold Cook, Sabine Holt, Ailsa and Lenzie Duffy, Les and Terry Smith, the McDonnells, the O'Neills and Lou Gatti.
Mov: Marsha Johnson **Sec:** Gordon Tait.

Guests: Julie Melhop

New Members: Valerie Sheppard, and Nancy Stockwell were introduced to club.

Minutes: As per Grapevine.
Mov: Ted Harris **Sec:** Stretch Chamberlain
Business arising from minutes: Nil.

Correspondence:
Inwards: "Fruity Talk" Mackay Branch RFA newsletter; invitation from Mackay Branch for their 30th anniversary; newsletter from Sub Tropical Fruit Club of Qld Inc.; The Royal Horticultural Soc. Of Vic Gardeners' Gazette Summer 2012, "Orchard Talk" Frazer Coast Sub Tropical Fruit Club newsletter.
Outwards: club rejoined Passiflora online: $30.20.
Mov: Laree Chapman **Sec:** Marsha Johnson.

Treasurer's Report: Lynne Watkins presented an itemised financial report for the club.
Mov: Jenny Tait **Sec:** Stretch Chamberlain

Accounts for Payment:

Name	Amount	Reason
M. Johnson	$30.20	Passiflora Membership
Eddie Dunn	$514.60	Trees, freight
M. Stringer	$51.30	Lunch supplies
Paula Outzen	$36.30	Stamped envelopes, newsletters
Jay Johnson	$50.00	Card and plants

Mov: Jenny Tait **Sec:** Stretch Chamberlain

Talk by Host: Maureen Stringer.
Maureen talked about their home and fruit orchard. They moved there 12 years ago, first building a shed, which they lived in while they built their house. They bought the block because of the dam. Their family motto is "Have windmill, will travel". The water is pumped from the dam by the windmill to a raised tank, and gravity fed to the orchard. The block is clay with sandy soil along the ridge where fruit trees are planted. Maureen spoke about how her trees were damaged from the recent high winds and extreme rain event.

Editor's Report: Peter Myers, the new newsletter editor, requested articles, photos and ideas about keeping trees ***small on small holdings.*** At the moment, please send emails to Jill, who will forward them on.
Outgoing newsletter editor, Jill Lyle, thanked everyone for contributing articles and recipes to past newsletters. She requested that members continue to support the new editor. She also apologised for having the wrong date on the last newsletter. Who noticed?

NEC Representative Report: Gordon reports that the magazine is in final draft and will be sent to printers soon. The NEC AGM will be held in Mackay on 18/19 May. Gordon gave a proposed agenda.

Plant Procurer's Report: Outgoing procurer Eddie Dunn spoke of the trees he had bought for the tree auction. The new tree procurer, Graham Watkins, advised that he will take orders for new trees.

Librarian's Report: To save confusion regarding a book's availability, outgoing librarian, Laree Chapman, reminded members that all borrowed books must be signed out and then signed back in on return. New librarian, Kevin Chapman suggested duplicate books be either raffled or auctioned.

General Business: Ted Harris thanked those members who helped them after their house was flooded recently.
Jenny Tait requested a show of hands from members interested in attending the NEC AGM in Mackay on 18/19th May. Approximately 9 people indicated their interest.
Eddie proposed that, as new president, he will follow previous meeting procedures.

Announcements: Rin Madge spoke of the exploration leases north of Bundaberg. She has further information for those interested. Jill Lyle is able to forward information if requested. Please give email address.

Gordon Tait relayed a message from Lenzie. He has propagation material, plants, etc which he wishes to donate to the club. Gordon requested assistance from club members to help at Lenzie's home on Tuesday 26th February.

Next meeting:
Ray and Marsha Johnson's home,
27th April 2013.

June meeting:
Val Sheppard
84 Foley's Road.

Meeting closed: 2:25 p.m.

Poinciana Seeds

Delonix Regia

from The Tropical Gardener's Gourmet Guide, p. 101

Poinciana, or flame trees, look gorgeous when they burst into a canopy of scarlet, and their long brown seed pods also look very attractive.

[…] Add variety to your party nibbles with the brown seed pods of the Poinciana. Either break the grey striped beans out of the shell,



or collect the dropped beans from underneath the tree – it should not take long to fill a small bowl.

Soak the beans overnight in cold water. Next morning, boil them for about three hours. Cool, then peel the insides out of their grey skins. Toast slightly and sprinkle with salt. Use them as you would peanuts.

MINUTES of Annual General Meeting of Hinkler Branch of Rare Fruit Autralia Inc. held on 23rd Feb 2013; hosted by M. Stringer

WELCOME: Ray Johnson opened the meeting and thanked the office bearers at 1:20 p.m.

APOLOGIES: Arnold Cook, Sabine Holt, Ailsa and Lenzie Duffy, Les and Terri Smith, the McDonnells, Yvonne and Barky O'Neil and Lou Gatti.

Moved: Jenny Tait **Sec:** Stretch Chamberlain

President's Report: Ray Johnson thanked all club officers for a job well done. He then summarised the year's activities of the group, including the NEC meeting in Mossman, and the club's bus trip to the Sunshine Coast.

Moved: Ted Harris **Sec:** Jill Lyle.

Jenny Tait thanked Ray for all his hard work during his role as president. He was given a rousing applause of thanks.

Minutes of AGM 2012: Marsha Johnson read the minutes of the 2012 AGM.

Moved: Gordon Tait **Sec:** Errol Duffill

Treasurer's Report 2012: Lynne Watkins gave an itemised financial report for the club for 2012.

Moved: Lynne Watkins **Sec:** Ted Harris

Handover to Chairperson: Errol Duffill welcomed members and visitors to the AGM. He took the chair and declared all positions on the executive vacant and called for nominations.

President: Eddy Dunn was nominated by Lynne Watkins, seconded by Richelle D'Anann.

There being no further nominations, **Eddy Dunn** was elected as President.

Vice President: Gordon Tait was nominated by Jenny Tait, seconded by Lynne Watkins. There being no further nominations, Gordon Tait was elected as Vice President.

Secretary: Laree Chapman was nominated by Jenny Tait, seconded by Lorraine Clarke. There being no further nominations, Laree Chapman was elected as Secretary.

Treasurer: Paula Outzen was nominated by Marsha Johnson, seconded by Jenny Tait. There being no further nominations, Paula Outzen was elected as Treasurer.

Newsletter Editor: Peter Myers was nominated by Gordon Tait, seconded by Jill Lyle. There being no further nominations, Peter Myers was elected as Newsletter Editor.

Assistant Newsletter Editor: Ray Johnson was nominated by Errol Duffill, seconded by Jenny Tait. There being no further nominations, Ray Johnson was elected as Assistant Newsletter Editor.

NEC Representative: Gordon Tait was nominated by Cheryl Gatti, seconded by Dulcie Tunstall. There being no further nominations, Gordon Tait was elected as NEC Representative.

Librarian: Kevin Chapman was nominated by Laree Chapman, seconded by Dulcie Tunstall. There being no further nominations, Kevin Chapman was elected as Librarian.

Tree Procurer: Graham Watkins was nominated by Eddy Dunn, seconded by Gordon Tait. There being no further nominations, Graham Watkins was elected as Tree Procurer.

President Eddy Dunn took the chair and thanked Errol Duffill for his assistance in chairing the AGM.

Meeting closed at 1.40 p.m.



Sue of Oasis Fruit Trees holding a Dwarf Weeping Acerola Cherry

Dwarf Weeping Acerola

by Ray Johnson

When I first saw this plant it was easily recognized by its flowers and leaves as an Acerola Cherry. However, the weeping form was something different. The plant has recently fruited but unfortunately the fruit fell off before maturing. The fruit is said to be edible. Because of its dwarfing habit it is popular among Bonsai growers.

The species is native to Trinidad, St. Croix and Curaco which are in the area of the Caribbean. The Acerola we are familiar with is Malpighia glabra but the weeping form is Malpighia pendiculata. "Pendiculata" is descriptive of its pendulous or weeping form.

Wanted

Motor for Ride-on mower, 12hp or more, working or repairable. Manfred 41599539

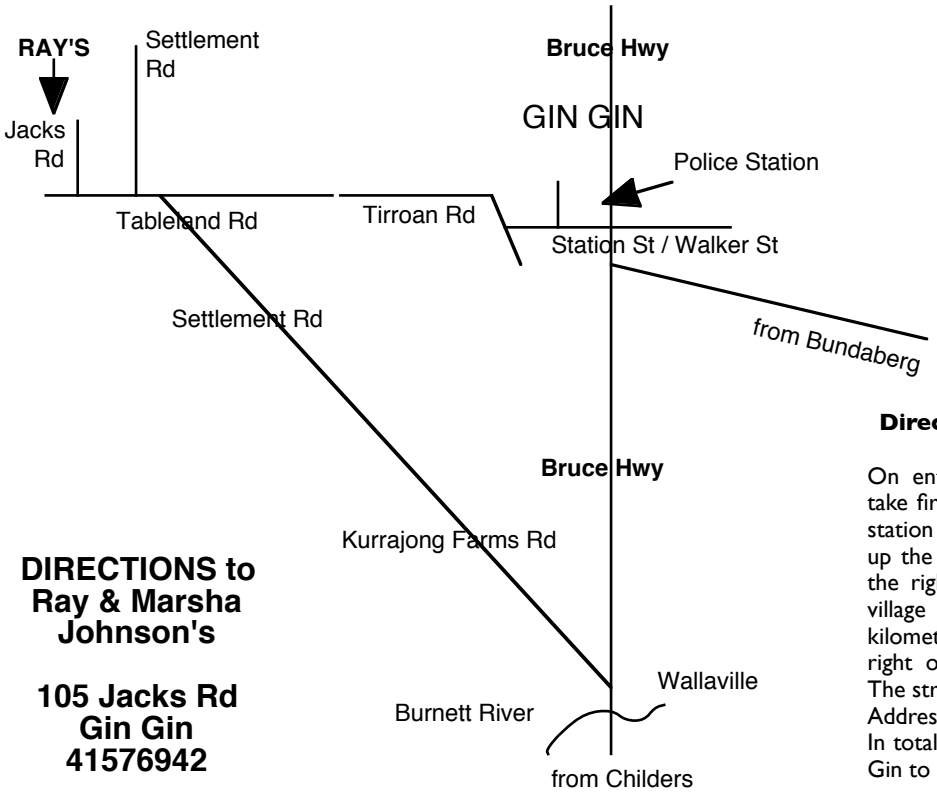
AILSA

With deep regret we advise the passing of Ailsa Duffy on 28th. February, 2013

A member and friend of members of Hinkler Branch, Rare Fruit Australia.

We know them better as Ailsa and Lenzie, a couple always together with much to give. Our sympathy goes out to Lenzie in his great loss after 49 years of marriage to his sole mate.

May She Rest in Peace



DIRECTIONS to Ray & Marsha Johnson's

105 Jacks Rd Gin Gin 41576942

NEXT MEETING:

Ray and Marsha Johnson's home, 27th April 2013, 10am.

Directions - Ray & Marsha Johnson

On entering the southern end of Gin Gin take first turn left which is Walker St. (Police station is on the corner) Go a short distance up the hill and turn on the second street to the right - this is Tirroan road. At Tirroan village continue straight ahead for 9 kilometers til you come to Jacks Road. Turn right onto Jacks road and follow the signs The street before Jacks road is Delaneys
Address: 105 Jacks Rd Gin Gin Ph: 41576942
In total we are about 13 kilometers from Gin Gin to our house.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Eddy Dunn

Firstly I would like to thank our outgoing office bearers for all the work they have put in over the last years. I know that it has been a huge effort and we all appreciate their time.

Secondly, I would like to remind everyone that you elected me as your President! You all know the extent of my public speaking ability! I promise to do my best to run the club as smoothly as our outgoing President.

Thanks also to Maureen for the most spacious setting for our February meeting. Much different to my little block in town. Ivan with the buggy was a real hit with the big children and the ladies. I was most surprised to see pears growing so well in the sub-tropics.

It is always amazing to see how much everything comes to life after a bit of rain. Although it seems a long way in the past now, it was so dry that many members were struggling just to keep trees alive. I was so excited when I went to mow, and could see where I had been. Now, I wouldn't mind if it slowed down a bit. Even a Red Shatoot bud which stayed dormant for over a year started to grow with the rain! After 4 weeks growth it is now nearly 1m high. Also, I think sword bean seeds should come with a warning label.



Eddy with his first bunch of bananas

Choosing the right spot for each plant is important at this time of year also, with the loss of plants such as Tamarillo, Paw Paw, Rosemary, and Sage due to the wet humid conditions.

Our prayers go out to those affected by the floods, particularly Ted and Daph.

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Ailsa. She will be sorely missed.

We look forward to our next meeting on 27th of April at Ray and Marsha's. Hopefully there is still room to park our cars after all the summer growth and Ray's enthusiastic planting habits.

Look forward to seeing everyone there.

DIARY: There will be a bus trip to Stanthorpe in March 2014, to visit the orchard of Eddy's parents (and other activities). Details in June newsletter; bookings to Ray on 41576942, or at the meetings. A show of hands will be sought at the April meeting, and deposits at the June meeting.

MEMO: Maryborough branch used to occasionally publish a list of financial members, with contact details (address & phone#) in its newsletter. Members found this useful for getting in touch. I plan to do the same in this newsletter. Please advise if you want your details withheld - Editor.

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