

CP Societies Around the World

Ed. Note: As CPN approaches its 19th year of publication, we will begin a series of articles reprinted where possible from their respective journals. Also, the Co-Editors would like to solicit articles giving a brief history and other information from other CP Societies. Please send them to Joe Mazrimas.

Here are two to start—The (British) CP Society which publishes The CPS Journal and The CPS of NSW (New South Wales, Australia) which publishes the Flytrap News.

The Carnivorous Plant Society



EDITOR'S NOTES

(reprinted from The CPS Journal 12 (Spring, 1988):1-2)

Welcome to the tenth anniversary issue of the Carnivorous Plant Society. And what better time to reflect on the past.

The original committee of John Watkins (chairman) Alistair Mackie (secretary), Terry Brokenbro (treasurer), Philip Norris (editor), and David Taylor launched the Society in a blaze of publicity. Features about it were run in newspapers, on radio and television programmes. John Watkins was still only a sixth-former at school, but much of this imaginative launch was down to his single-minded enthusiasm. The committee soon established regular monthly meetings, the twice-yearly Journal, two or three newsletters a year, a small library, and carnivorous plant displays at Wisley Flower Show and at Chelsea Flower Show. There can be few other amateur organisations that got off to such a flying start.

The succeeding committee have consolidated this early work. The Chelsea Flower Show is our annual back-breaking event, with an eye always on an elusive gold medal. Meetings now include field trips to such places as the New Forest and Kew Gardens. Plant/seed search and a writing link-up between members have been started. But essentially we have reached saturation point. All the present committee have to fit Society work in between demanding occupations — cancer research, Ph.D. studies, computer programming, laboratory support, insurance, and television directing. We now know that 400 members is the limit of our capacity, particularly for the secretaries who have to deal with enquiries, membership renewals, mailing all newsletters and Journals, and helping organise Chelsea. And this editor knows that he cannot find time to do more than two journals a year (and that's a struggle).

From an 18-sided booklet containing 4 illustrations, the Journal itself has steadily improved. We've added 10 extra sides of text, 21 illustrations (in the last edition), including photographs. Instead of photocopied typewritten sheets, we now print offset on blade cartridge paper, giving good reproduction of photos, and a gloss. But although the membership has increased from 120 to

400 the costs of printing have outstripped our subscription income — ordinary membership has only risen from £2.5 to £6.00 per year since 1978. Extra revenue is raised partly from advertising, but mostly by selling booklets at the Chelsea Flower Show.

So for our 10th birthday report, I would say that we are fit, have the right number of members, and are improving the quality of activities each year. Luckily each time one of the committee has left, another dependable worker has always filled their place. And to all those past committee members, we thank you for getting us so well established. Let's hope that the editor in ten year's time can sit back as self-satisfied!

Secretaries: Dudley and Margaret Watts, 174 Baldwins Lane, Croxley Green, Herts, WD3 3LQ.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

(reprinted from Flytrap News Supp., January, 1988)

The Society came into being following a meeting called by Rob Charnock and held at Ian English's nursery at Kenthurst. A large group of interested people attended and at the end it was confirmed that enough people were interested in starting a club for CP growers to get it off the ground. Another meeting was held at Ryde Horticultural College and the Society came into being. The year was 1985 and the Society officially existed from June of that year.

In September 1985 we entered our first "show" at the Sydney Botanic Gardens "Spring in the Gardens." Considering no one knew what they were doing we put on an interesting (to the public) show. By September 1986 we had learnt a lot about putting on shows. This time we did an aesthetically pleasing display and we won the first prize. This helped us to become financially secure—something we had not been up to this point. We also branched out to put on a display at Wyong Exotic Plant Expo.

In 1987 we entered 3 shows: Spring in Gardens, Sydney; Exotic Plant Show, Wyong; Penrith Garden Club, Penrith Mall. We won 2 outright firsts and 1 first in section. All had prize money which helped give the Society its 'free' Christmas Party and keeps us financially in the black!

Lively and interesting meetings with business being as brief as possible. Speakers or a "hands on" practical demonstration. The meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of the month except for February and April (school holidays) when they are held on the 3rd Friday. For 1988/89 the dates are as follows:

February - 19th	March - 11th	April - 15th	June - 10th
August - 12th	September - 9th	October - 14th	November - 11th

Meeting place is Ryde Horticultural College, Parks Rd, Ryde (parking available) phone Secretary (Cecily) or Vice President (Daryl) on 669.6141 for details. Meetings commence at 7.30 pm ending at 10 pm. Transport can be arranged if you phone Cecily or Daryl. If you wish to attend a meeting and you are from out-of-town accommodation can be arranged ... again phone Cecily or Daryl.

Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is held at the June meeting. Our CHRISTMAS PARTY is held in December (usually 2nd Sunday). We exhibit at shows during the year and hope to hold our own show during 1988/89 if enough members are interested. We are also trying to find the time to help set out rules/regulations for a show to be run in conjunction with the Royal Easter Show. We have built up a good rapport with the Botanic Gardens staff interested in CPs.

During 1988/89 the Secretary/Vice President are trying to visit members who live out of town, but within NSW ... they have been north to Port Macquarie/Woolgoolga and hope to visit others