



QUANDONG

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Newsletter of **WANS** the West Australian Nutgrowing Society

HEADQUARTERS ESTABLISHED

As a result of the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on November 18, a number of important advances have been made in putting the Society on a permanent footing. The first of these is that the establishment of permanent Headquarters has become possible. This has been established at the back of the building housing the Squirrel Nutkin shop and our Co-operative, WANSCO. Address is 225 Onslow Road, Shenton Park, Western Australia 6008.

Our Secretary, Carolyn Blackwell, will be present at the Society's office on a regular basis once each week. Members will be able to pay subscriptions, buy back numbers of publications, and sort out membership queries while Carolyn is in attendance. Telephone queries can also be made during this time.

The telephone number is the same as that for Squirrel Nutkin, area code 9, number 3818656. This number appears under 'West Australian Nutgrowing Society' in the current telephone directory. Hours are:

SECRETARY : EACH WEDNESDAY, 12-3 PM

but members travelling any distance would be advised to telephone before leaving in case unforeseen circumstances make it impossible for Carolyn to attend.

Subscription renewal reminders will be sent out with the issues of the 1977 WANS YEARBOOK, in March 1978. The subscription covers the 1978 calendar year, and entitles members to all publications issued in that year.

For those members who like to pay their dues quickly, it will just be mentioned here that the rate for 1978 is unchanged at \$8.00, but that members can claim a rebate of \$1.00 for early renewal. Also, it is possible to renew for up to 2 more years in advance (1979 and 1980 in this case), at the same concession rate of \$7.00 per year. Many members took advantage of this offer last year, and are currently paid up in advance. The last year for which your subscription is recorded is printed on the address label of each issue of Quandong. Please allow a few weeks for your payments to get through to the label stage.

For notice of further changes of interest to members, please read through the report of the Annual Meeting, inside. This meeting was very well attended and a large number of important decisions were made, quite different to the usual boring AGM. This Society is run by the members themselves, and it is gratifying to have so many members genuinely concerned with its progress.

QUANDONG

is edited by David Noel and is the Official Newsletter of the

WEST AUSTRALIAN NUTGROWING SOCIETY

PO Box 27 Subiaco WA 6008

WANS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY

Peter Good (President), 3414741; Paul Sinclair (Vice-President), 3866519; Mrs Carolyn Blackwell (Secretary-Treasurer), Lot 9, Spring Road, Roleystone 6111, tel. 3975036; David Noel (Publications Editor), 98 Herbert Rd, Shenton Park, 3811139; Edmund Czechowski, PO Box 12, Wanneroo 6065, 4476071.

CONVENORS WALNUT - Tom Speer, PO Box 71, Bridgetown 6255

CASHEWS - Derek White, PO Box 249, Kununurra 6743

INVESTMENT & TAXATION - Edmund Czechowski, PO Box 12, Wanneroo

LITTLE-KNOWN NUTS - David Noel (3811139)

MARKETING - John Mercer, 45 Bridgewater Drive Kallaroo (4016031)

NUTRITION - Alex Sas, 52 Croydon Rd Roleystone (3250101 xt 2155)

TASMANIA - Bill Mollison, 316a Strickland Ave, South Hobart

TREE SUPPLY - Tim Lynn-Robinson (4011852) SEED - M. Mirkovic, PO Box 69

West Perth WA 6005

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

WANS publishes a newsletter QUANDONG 3-4 times a year, devoted to news of meetings and events, details of tree and seed sources, notes on books and leaflets about nuts, reprinted short articles about nuts, and other items of interest. The major publication is the annual WANS YEARBOOK, which contains articles drawn from Australia and overseas, covering any aspect of nut horticulture and production, and is regarded as an important research journal in this area.

Members subscribe for the Calendar Year, and receive one copy of all Society publications issued in that year as a subscription benefit.

BACK NUMBERS

WANS began publishing in 1975. Back numbers of publications are still available. Some issues of Quandong are available only in photocopy form. Cost of each Yearbook is \$6.00, cost of a 1-year set of Quandong is \$2.00. Contact the Secretary for back numbers.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Any person or organization interested in the growing or production of nuts may apply for membership. Members are welcomed from outside Western Australia and overseas, as well as in W.A. Write to P.O. Box 27, Subiaco, W.A. 6008, Australia, or to the Secretary as above.

wansco

Members of the Society own a co-operative, West Australian Nut Supplies Co-operative Limited, a legally registered Co-operative Company set up to buy and sell nuts and nut products. Shares in the WANSCO co-operative are sold only to WANS members, each of whom is entitled by the Articles to apply for and hold between 10 and 100 shares of \$1.00 each. Members wishing to acquire WANSCO shares (currently available at par, i.e. \$1.00 each) should write to WANSCO Secretary and Director, Edmund Czechowski, at PO Box 12, Wanneroo, W.A. 6065. WANSCO will always endeavour to sell nuts produced by members, or supply nuts needed by members. Enquiries on buying or selling nuts should be directed to 'Squirrel Nutkin', 225 Onslow Road, Shenton Park, W.A. 6008 (Telephone (09) 3818656).

THE A.G.M.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the RACB Hall, next to the Squirrel Nutkin shop, on November 18. The Chairman was our Vice-President, Paul Sinclair, to whom congratulations are in order for the able way in which he steered the meeting through a large number of important issues. (Our President, Peter Good, was away on holiday). The more important issues discussed were:

1. Finances. Financially, the Society is in a healthy condition.

Total cash funds stand at well over \$3000. This amount is deposited in various savings accounts with banks, a credit union, and a building society. In addition, the Society has back numbers of its publications, worth well over \$2000. At present rates, these back numbers are likely to be exhausted within the next few years. Against this, shortly an amount of around \$800-900 will be needed to pay the cost of setting up and printing the 1977 Yearbook. Each issue of QUANDONG costs about \$75 to print, and about \$20 to mail.

2. Work load. During the early days of the Society, most of the work of running the Society fell upon the Secretary, Carolyn Blackwell, and the Publications Editor, David Noel. David himself printed the first Yearbook and many of the early Quandongs, and the latter were individually collated, folded, and fastened by Carolyn. With continued growth in membership, this work load has become too great for these members to carry out on a casual basis.

3. Secretary. It was proposed that an office be set up for the Society in space to be made available at the back of the Squirrel Nutkin shop. Carolyn would be willing to try and staff this office for a given half-day each week. This would give members the convenience of being able to call or phone instead of having to write. It would also enable our stocks of publications to be sorted out and stored conveniently (at present these are scattered among various homes and workplaces). If, at some time in the future, Carolyn was unable to carry on as Secretary, transfer of duties would be much eased by having everything centralised.

4. It was proposed that the Secretary be reimbursed at the rate of \$10 per week. This is only a nominal sum, for the work involved. As WANS members cannot be paid directly out of Society funds, the legal position would be that the Society contracts with the WANS CO Co-operative to provide a secretarial service, and the Co-operative pays the person performing these duties. After discussion, it was unanimously resolved to establish the office and secretarial service as proposed.

5. Office rent. It was proposed, and unanimously resolved, that the Society pay a weekly rental of \$2 per week to Onslow Orbit, the owner of the lease to the building. As David Noel controls Onslow Orbit, he felt an explanation was due to members of the position. When Squirrel Nutkin was set up, it rented space from the then leaseholder, Nova Trading Post. Subsequently, Nova Trading Post got into financial difficulties, and to protect the tenancy of the shop, David Noel personally took over the lease, at a cost of \$1000 (his own funds). The rental of Squirrel Nutkin has not been altered, and the takeover allowed further space to become available, for the use of the Society, if needed, and for a coolroom for the Co-op. It was felt that the proposed rental was only a nominal amount.

6. Election of Director. Carolyn Blackwell's position on the Board of Directors expires with the 1977 AGM. Carolyn was willing to continue in this position, if members wished. The meeting resolved to re-elect Carolyn. The Board would like to hear from any member who would be interested in working on it.

7. Loan to WANSOCO. The WANSOCO Co-operative, although running fairly well (see report in WANSOCO Supplement to this issue), is very short of capital. As the Society has funds well in excess of its anticipated future needs, it was proposed that some of this excess could be very appropriately lent to the Co-operative, instead of sitting in a bank or building society account. The amount suggested was \$1000, with the possibility of up to a further \$1000 at a later date, if the Co-operative requested it and the Society's Board of Directors felt such a loan would be safe. After some discussion, members unanimously resolved to make a loan of \$1000 immediately to WANSOCO. It was pointed out that the Co-op already helped members in many ways, such as selling nut-growing publications, taking messages and supplying information, and the Squirrel Nutkin shop had attracted many new members for the Society.

8. Nut literature index. For the past three years, David Noel has subscribed to a computer-printed current awareness service of the National Library of Australia. This provides, on cards to be filed in a card index, information on new articles and books concerned with nuts and nutgrowing. David asked whether the Society would be willing to take over this subscription, currently costing \$50 per year, in which case he would hand over the 3 years already received, for the use of members. The meeting resolved to accept this offer.

9. Library. After the resolution to establish an office for the Society was passed, it was suggested that it would be valuable to set up a library of books on nutgrowing for the use of members. This proposal was discussed at some length, and it was concluded provided the library was on a reference basis only, with no need for anyone to record and chase up loans, the service could be useful and workable. It was resolved to make some purchases on this basis, and to make an announcement in Quandong when a selection of books had been obtained.

10. Nut Research Foundation. The Directors are investigating the possibility of setting up a Nut Research Foundation. This would be a properly set-up legal entity, able to receive donations, bequests, etc., and having the aim of financing and encouraging research into nuts. It would be separate from, but closely linked with, the Society, and could perhaps include representatives appointed by government departments, horticultural organizations, and the like. The setting up of such a Foundation is a complex job, and the matter was brought up at the AGM just to give it a preliminary airing. It was felt that further investigation of the matter was worthwhile; no resolution was needed at this stage.

The Secretary has received a letter from HUILE TRADING CO., 41 Moreland Street, Footscray, Victoria 3011, enquiring about supplies of pistachio nuts. Mr L.A. Raymond, the company's Manager, requests us to ask members to contact him directly, if they contemplate being able to supply pistachio nuts, now or in the future. Huile's currently import the nuts, but would like to be able to buy local supplies.

Likely changes in the growing of walnuts

by A. D. Allen, *
horticultural officer, Wangaratta

During the past few years there has been considerable interest in the growing of nut trees, especially walnuts.

Most of the walnuts produced in Victoria are grown in the Benalla district; the main areas are around Myrtleford and Bright. Many of the inquiries have come from property owners in this area who want to plant some walnut trees in order to diversify sources of their income. Most of the people who have come to me for information have asked what are the likely trends in the production of walnuts.

Before discussing changes that are likely to take place in the industry, let us look at the way walnuts are grown at present.

The growing of walnuts is only a minor industry in Victoria: we produce about 120 tonnes a year, but 1000 tonnes are imported each year from countries such as India, China and the USA. Most of the imported nuts arrive here as kernels. To compete, Australian growers must keep costs to a minimum and increase production. This is very hard to achieve.

Walnuts take up to 20 years to bear commercial crops. A great deal of labor is required during the growing season. The two busiest times are just after budburst, when the trees must be sprayed to control bacterial blight, and at harvest.

Likely changes in the industry

The changes as I see them will all depend on machines: machines to spray, machines to harvest, machines to clean and pack.

Just after budburst each year all walnut trees need spraying to control bacterial blight. A significant proportion of the walnut crop is lost through this disease, but not all of the loss is due to lack of effort by growers. The grower normally applies five or six sprays a year; the trouble is that walnut trees as they are grown at present are so big that the grower cannot spray them efficiently with the equipment that is at present in use.

Machines that can spray large trees very efficiently are now available, but do we in fact need large trees? Experiments in the USA have shown that if walnut trees are planted close together they stop growing when still comparatively small, and they produce heavier crops within a shorter time of planting. A grower could use his existing spray machine on the smaller trees, and the earlier cropping would help to recoup some of the extra cost of buying more trees for planting.

In planting his trees more closely the grower will have heavy crops to pick up at harvest time. Time is important to a walnut grower at harvest because he must get his nuts off the ground and dried as quickly as he can to avoid losing quality.

The present method of waiting for the nuts to drop from the trees and then picking them up by hand is time-consuming and expensive. It is becoming hard to find hand-pickers and so an alternative method of harvesting may be required.

Many kinds of mechanical aids

(* Anthony Allen is a member of the West Australian Nutgrowing Society)



How walnuts are harvested today . . .



. . . the kind of machine that may be used to harvest them economically in the future.

to harvesting are available ; many of them do only one job ; therefore more than one machine might be needed to complete the harvest.

When the nut is ready for harvest the outer hull cracks and the nut falls. A chemical may be sprayed on the trees to hasten this process. After the trees have been sprayed they may be shaken by a machine to make the nuts fall. Some shakers have a catching frame attached to collect the

nuts, but most machines let them fall to the ground.

Sweeping machines may be used to windrow the fallen nuts so that they may be more easily picked up by the harvesting machines. The harvesters pick up the nut and remove any hulls and other trash.

All of these machines work best on even ground. If machines such as sweepers and harvesters are to be used efficiently, the ground

wansco supplement

DECEMBER 1977

As advertised in the last issue, the first Annual General Meeting of the West Australian Nut Supplies Co-operative was held on November 18. The meeting, which was chaired by WANSCO Chairman and Secretary Edmund Czechowski, was a lively and interesting one, in which many decisions were made, some of great importance for the future of the Co-op.

Following the formal presentation and acceptance of the Company's accounts, as required by law, the shareholders present were able to discuss the future potentialities of the Co-op, and many useful proposals were put forward.

***** NOTES FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR *****

1. In general, the Co-operative seems to have worked out well in what it has tried to do, and what it has done. The main activity to date has, of course, been the Squirrel Nutkin shop, which at the time of the meeting had been open almost eight months. During this time, the shop has received a lot of favourable publicity, and has certainly raised the general public awareness of the advantages of growing nuts. The shop has brought the Society a lot of new members, and has been able to sell the comparatively small amounts of nuts produced by members.
2. Any venture of this nature requires time to get established, and the shop is no exception. However, it is pleasing to record a gradual build-up in sales, and these, while still capable of considerable improvement, are now close to the break-even point. Trading hours have been extended from the original one afternoon, one evening, and one morning a week, to the present 3½ days per week (9am - 6pm, Wednesday to Friday, 9am-1pm on Saturday).
3. However, members should be made aware of a serious weakness in the present set-up, which is, that the Co-op is definitely UNDER-CAPITALISED. Its activities are greatly hampered by the fact that it has no slack whatsoever in its movement of cash between purchases and sales. Our paid-up capital as at June 30 was only \$2,385. This amount is totally inadequate. A return of 10% on capital per year would mean an annual profit of only \$240, which is laughably small when you consider that a single carton of nuts can cost \$125.
4. The shop stock as at June 30 was valued at \$1,160. A shop of the Squirrel Nutkin type might expect to have a typical stock value of around \$5,000, and even higher if bulk and wholesale sales are to be encouraged.
5. So we must raise more money for capital. Really, the shop has been able to keep going only because the Co-op received an interest-free loan of \$500 from a member. If any members feel able to make a loan to the Co-op, this would be a great help. Also, we need to encourage all members, and their families, to take out subscriptions for as many shares as they can. The present limit

is set at \$100 per person; at the request of several members, we are investigating the possibility of raising this limit, but to do this, we need to get a formal application approved by the Companies Registration Office, as it involves changing our Articles of Association. Any amount subscribed for shares will be accepted, but the Secretary has pointed out that it typically costs a company \$10 to make any issue of shares.

6. A further possibility would be to seek loans elsewhere, and one possibility here would be the Nutgrowing Society itself; this matter will be raised at the meeting of the Society which follows. We are also investigating short-term finance from a group which lends to importers, for up to 90 days.

7. If we can raise more capital, then future prospects are very good. We already receive a fair number of enquiries from shops and manufacturers interested in bulk buys. There are many sales areas of great potential, such as school canteens, gourmet stores, department stores, etc., which can make a dramatic difference to sales if we can achieve two things; one is, enough capital to maintain adequate stocks; the other is, enough help to go out and serve these sales areas adequately. The great advantage of this sort of sales is that it can be achieved with very little increase in running costs; we can get by with just the existing rent, telephone, and other overheads, and with a relatively small increase in wages.

8. If we cannot achieve an increase in capital, then we may have to consider selling Squirrel Nutkin. This would be a pity, from many points of view. WANSKO is not just a business, it should function as the marketing agency for locally produced nuts, as the trees come into the bearing stage, and assured marketing is a vital aspect of production. But if the worst came to the worst, at least shareholders have the assurance that the business has already built up to a tangible asset, which protects the money they have invested to date.

9. The shop could not have achieved the position it has, without the loyal and unstinting help of the people who have operated it, initially Rhonda Parker and Jerome Frewen, afterwards Kate Brain, Heather Day, Marlene Noel, and Joanne Lunay. All these have worked part-time, a day or so each week. Although the wages paid have been minimal, they are still the most important operating cost. It is not physically possible to have less than one person at a time in the shop, so we must seek ways to increase the amount of business done while the shop is open, so that it always justifies the presence of at least one person. Any suggestions from members along these lines would be warmly appreciated.

10. There have been no Directors' fees paid this year. All the legal and financial work of running the Company, that is, setting it up, maintaining the share registers, issuing shares, and maintaining the account books, has been done without charge by Edmund Czechowski. If done on a charged basis by an outside firm, this work would have cost several thousand dollars.

11. Almost all the managerial work, buying of stock, ordering of supplies, deliveries, and bill payments and ledger work have been done to date by David Noel. Because of domestic demands, and involvement with Society work, plus the need to earn a living, he needs to shed some of this work as soon as possible. Help is

asked for from members who are prepared to do even one or two hours of typing, book-keeping, buying, delivery, etc. on a regular basis.

12. At the rear of the Squirrel Nutkin building, we hope to set up a small coolroom for the storage of stock. Nuts are adversely affected by high temperatures, particularly in raw kernel form, and a small coolroom area would be a great asset. If any member has experience in building or carpentry work, his help and advice in this matter would be much appreciated.

13. We have been approached by the company running Fremantle Markets, to see if any member would be interested in operating a stand selling hot nuts at the Market. The company would be willing to build the stand to the operator's design and make it available at a nominal rental.

***** EVENTS SINCE THE WANSKO MEETING *****

Since the above report was made, a number of members have been able to take up a very worthwhile number of shares. For those who still wish to do subscribe, an application form is reproduced overleaf (a photocopy is acceptable); details are given below.

On the coolroom, a magnificent job of designing and installing this has been carried out by Tim Johnston. This was completed in mid-December.

Trade at the Squirrel Nutkin shop in the weeks immediately before Christmas was excellent. Activity was frantic at times, but supplies of most lines were maintained. An exception was peanuts in shell, since the entire Australian crop became used by December (no more till around April 1978), and imports from most countries are not permitted.

Member Ron Williams is currently negotiating with Fremantle Markets concerning the hot nut stand. Tentative arrangements are, that WANSKO will supply the stock needed for this operation.

***** CONDITIONS FOR SHARE PURCHASES *****

Shareholders are not now restricted to members of the W.A. Nutgrowing Society. The Directors will accept applications from any person for shares within the prescribed limits, currently from 10 up to 100. Each share costs \$1.00.

Applications may be made on the form reproduced overleaf, or a photocopy of this, or application forms may be requested from the Secretary (PO Box 12, Wanneroo 6065), or from the Squirrel Nutkin shop.

APPLICATION FOR SHARES

To the Directors,



wansco

**West Australian Nut
Supplies**

CO-OPERATIVE
LIMITED

PO BOX 27, SUBIACO, WA 6008, AUSTRALIA

Regd. Office - 98 Herbert Road, Shenton Park

Please send all applications to: **WANSKO
SHARE REGISTRY - PO BOX 12, WANNEROO 6065**

Sirs,

I request you allot to me

ordinary

Shares in the Company, of **one dollar**
(Nominal Value)

each and I tender herewith the sum of \$

in full payment thereof.

This application is unconditional and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the above shares or any smaller number that may be allotted to me and I agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

Dated at _____ this _____

day of _____ 19 _____

Signature

Name in full

Address

OFFICE USE ONLY

Agreed to allot _____ shares as per
minute dated _____

Entered in Register of Members

Share Scrip Issued

under the trees may have to be kept bare by use of herbicides. In some cases the machines might work sufficiently well if the pasture under the trees was closely mowed, but the practice of grazing the grove closely before harvest time would have to cease.

All of the machines that play a part in the harvesting of walnuts are expensive; prices range from \$5000 for a shaker, up to \$20 000 for a sophisticated harvester. Growers could better afford the machines if they formed syndicates or pools to buy and share them, but the groves of the members of a syndicate would need to be fairly close together so that not too much time was spent in transporting the machines from grove to grove. If one grove was in Bright, another at Myrtleford and another at Ilecworth, too much time would be spent in travelling.

I cannot see any commercial future for the "cottage industry" kind of grove of only a small number of trees. The cost of the machines that will be needed in the future could be justified on only large groves.

Once the nut is off the ground and in the shed the grower has another problem, that of preparing it for market. Harvesters can work more quickly than hand-pickers, and this means that the grower will need bigger driers, graders and other equipment. The ideal procedure would be to dry the nuts and store them for grading later, thus eliminating the

backlog of undried nuts, which lose more quality the longer they are left. One way to achieve this would be to form a co-operative shed to grade the nuts by means of machinery designed to handle large quantities.

Summing up

Anyone thinking of planting a walnut grove would do well to consider the advantages gained by closer planting of the trees, the use of herbicides in the management of the grove, the use of machines, perhaps owned by syndicates or co-operatives, to harvest and dry the nuts, and the nearness of other growers who might join in a syndicate.

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For the farmers
of Victoria

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WANS WALNUT CONVENOR APPOINTED

We are very pleased to announce that member Tom Speer of Bridgetown has agreed to accept special responsibility for WALNUTS. Tom has many years experience in the growing and propagation of walnuts, and has selected some local strains. He is especially interested in the introduction of the newer, high-yielding varieties from overseas (e.g. California). Tom's address is : PO Box 71, Bridgetown, WA 6255. Phone: (097)-611713.

NUT SOCIETIES ACTIVE

California Rare Fruit Growers Yearbook

VOLUME 8

1976

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Star Route, Box P
Bonsall, California 92003

Founded November 1968 by
John M. Riley &
Paul H. Thomson

DUES: \$5.00 Surface Mail

\$8.00 Air Mail

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Editor's note. The comprehensive and interesting range of activities of the California Rare Fruit Growers can be seen from the above contents list. Paul H. Thomson, a co-founder of the CRFG, and a member of WANS, wrote the excellent article on jojoba in the 1975 WANS YEARBOOK. It is hoped to arrange a visit by Paul to Western Australia in 1978.

GRAFTING DEMONSTRATION REPORT

The Demonstration of Grafting and Budding held at the end of the AGM, on November 18, was a great success. Demonstrations were given by WANS member Tom Speer, who travelled up specially from Bridgetown for the purpose, and by a representative of the Horticulture Department, Mount Lawley Technical College. Our sincere thanks to both these gentlemen. The Editor came out of it with two seedling walnuts successfully grafted to Franquette!

MEMBERS' NOTES

From KEN ROUW, c/o Post Office, Cowaramup 6284.....

Over the past 18 months I have been making a fairly thorough search throughout this fair land of ours for a source of grafted hard-shell almonds. After letters to the Department of Agriculture in the 4 Eastern States, and to all nurseries mentioned in the "tree sources" of 'Quandong', I have come across the following information.

Bunnings in Victoria propagate 50 Burbank hard-shells each year; no more, because it's not a good quality nut, and therefore not in much demand. The nurseries of South Australia have available a hardshell variety known as "Biggs Hardshell". From the Department of Agriculture booklet the variety is described as biennial, a poor producer, nuts are small, and is generally used only as a pollinator.

Not a very impressive record for the hard-shells! Does anyone else know where good hardshells are presently growing, and who is available to propagate them?

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From Z. MIELENS, Giblett Street, Bridgetown 6255

The following recipe notes on quandongs may be of interest.

Quandong jam. Use fresh ripe red quandongs (the fruit is called either wild plum or wild peach). Wash well and treat as for ordinary plum jam.

Quandong pie. Treat as stewed fruit, and make as an ordinary fruit pie.

Both are delicious, as well as the nut kernel. Nothing is wasted.

WORK OUT TREE NEEDS NOW!

Our tree supply convenor, Tim Lynn-Robinson, wants to point out that members who intend to plant any substantial number of nut trees this coming winter, should be working out their requirements, and ordering them now. Many of the varieties and species in demand are all sold before the first tree is lifted, sometimes a year in advance.

Members can order direct from suppliers (e.g. those listed in the May 1977 Quandong), or can order through Tim. Tim's address is 1 Alice Drive, Mullaloo 6025; His (new) telephone number is (09)-4011852.

IN A NUTSHELL (No.14)

Australia's own Bunya Pine nut (*Araucaria bidwillii*) has some fascinating germination techniques and habits, which are very uncommonly known and not to be found in the literature. When the nut-bearing cones fall to the ground, the nut scales separate after a few days under normal conditions, a shoot grows from each nut and dives into the ground. Underground, it forms another 'nut' (which is also edible) which can exist, without roots or shoot, for many months, until favourable rains occur.

MANJIMUP NUT SEMINAR

Organization is now under way for the first WANS meeting to be held in the South West of the State. The Co-ordinator for this meeting will be WANS and Manjimup Jaycees member Gary Sherman. The meeting is to be in the form of a Seminar on Nut Growing, and the expected format is as follows:

Date: SATURDAY APRIL 1, 1978

Time: 2 pm to 5.30 pm

Place: The Fontanini nut orchard , Seven Day Rd, E.Manjimup.

Topics to be discussed include: the objectives of WANS, and the establishment of WANSO; suitability of the South West for the commercial production of nuts; species of nuts considered suitable for commercial production in the South West.

Guest speakers from among WANS members who have established nut orchards are to give talks on establishment and management of nut plantings. A guest speaker from the Department of Agriculture will discuss different methods of irrigation suited to nut production in the area.

In addition it is hoped to arrange, in conjunction with the University of W.A. Extension Service (Peter Seaman, Country Extension Officer) to hold a course on nuts, in the evening of the same day. Gary Sherman would welcome any suggestions on the proposed format, and on topics which should be discussed. His address is: RMB 242, Manjimup 6258.

WEST AUSTRALIAN NUTGROWING SOCIETY P.O. BOX 27 SUBIACO W.A. 6008

