

Felix Merklinger  
73 Kew Green  
Richmond, Surrey  
TW9 3AH  
United Kingdom  
Phone: 00447875105064  
Email: f.merklinger@kew.org

Jody Haynes,  
Chair of the Research, Conservation and Grant Committee,  
The Cycad Society

14 December 2008

Dear Mr Haynes,

My name is Felix Merklinger, I am a Diploma student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. As part of this diploma course we have the opportunity to submit a proposal for a travel scholarship to study plants and horticultural practices. I am now in the process of seeking funding to support this trip.

I hope to be travelling to Queensland, Australia to study cycads and associated flora of this region observing how it grows in its natural setting and in cultivation. The first aim of this trip is to identify possible improvements that can be made to benefit cycads in cultivation; with a view to introducing different horticultural techniques. By observing these ancient plants in their natural environment I will be able to contribute to the understanding of how they grow. Secondly I am to learn more about the ecology and biology of these plants. This will correlate with the subject of my Diploma dissertation, which I will be writing in 2009-2010, focusing on the insect pollinators of cycads.

I have made contact with the Millennium Seed Bank and have been invited to join a group who will be collecting seed in central and coastal areas of Queensland as part of the 'Seeds for Life' project ([http://www.kew.org/scihort/directory/projects/MSBP\\_Aus\\_Qld.html](http://www.kew.org/scihort/directory/projects/MSBP_Aus_Qld.html)). This will be an excellent learning opportunity as I will be working with experienced botanists in the field furthering my knowledge for my future career development.

I have attached the application form as well as the necessary copies and letters for you to review. I am also sending you my original proposal that I have submitted to Kew that includes details of my journey.

I would like to ask you to please consider this application for financial support for my study tour.

I have already received a grant from a UK based organisation, therefore I will not ask for complete funding, however partial funding will be most welcomed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Felix Merklinger

# Proposal for funding by the Cycad Society

## 1. Abstract

The applicant wishes to apply for funding through the Cycad Society to partially fund a journey to Queensland, Australia to study cycads and associated flora. Initially field work will be conducted, assisting the Millennium Seed Bank (Kew) and their partners in Brisbane collecting seed as part of the 'Seeds for Life' project.

The primary contact for the seed collecting trip will be through staff at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha. After spending twelve days of the three week journey on the collecting trip, the applicant will travel to Townsville and Flecker Botanic Gardens to establish links to those with the aim to learn about cultivation methods of cycads. Also these institutions will assist in seeing natural stands of cycads in the area.

Letters of support and email correspondence with a range of pertinent institutions are included separately in this email.

## 2. Description of project for which funds are sought

The project is a three week travel scholarship to Queensland, Australia to observe cycads and associated flora in order to:

Identify possible improvements that can be made to benefit cycads in cultivation, with a view to introducing different horticultural techniques.

Learn more about the ecology and biology of these plants.

## 3. Statement of how this project fits the interest of the Cycad Society

The applicant hopes to contribute to the conservation of cycads by assisting the Millennium Seed Bank project 'Seeds for Life'.

To take part in collecting seeds assisting the Seed Bank initiative means the applicant will be involved in 'the promotion of responsible and ethical collection of cycad seeds.'

The knowledge gained from this trip would be of great benefit to the individual applying to the day to day work at RBG, Kew. Kew as a botanical garden has the mission "To inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life" ([www.Kew.org](http://www.Kew.org)). The applicant will be fulfilling this mission by gaining knowledge and experience through working with experienced people. Furthermore this project will greatly assist in the development and future career of the individual.

It lies in the interest of the applicant to cooperate with other botanic gardens and the Cycad Society to share any experiences and knowledge gathered.

The applicant is happy to supply a report, give presentations, allow publication of images for the Cycad Society and submit a copy of the Diploma dissertation at the end of the course in the year 2010. If the society would like to suggest any way the applicant can contribute to the society through the trip, he would be happy to do so.

#### 4. Proposed timetable for entire project

The entire project will last three weeks. The amount of time has been granted to the applicant as study leave (see attached letter, 'permission to travel') by the RBG, Kew.

##### Itinerary:

**Day 1:** Fly from London to Brisbane May/June time, exact dates to be confirmed according to the field trip dates. Phil Cameron will be the primary contact person; Phil Boyle and Jason Halford will be the field team.

**Day 2:** Day of rest, recover from jetlag.

**Day 3 to 15:** Assist the MSB project for 10 days on seed collecting trip in coastal areas and central Queensland. 2 days laboratory to assist work such as cleaning process etc; a general presentation on the collections at Kew by the applicant will be given.

Target species for the seed collecting trip are:

*Cycas cupida*

*Cycas media subsp. banksii*

*Cycas media susp. media*

possibly *Cycas megacarpa*

*Lepidozamia peroffskyana*

*Macrozamia lucida*

*Macrozamia macleayi*

*Macrozamia miquellii*

*Macrozamia mountperriensis*

It will be interesting for the applicant to see populations size of these plants and take images. Also check the Red Data Listings.

GPS location and habitat detail to be recorded. Specific Flora looked into to key out plants to be collected.

Check with the Herbarium if available field data to assist in updating IUCN Red Data Book listings and if there are any recovery action plans for those species yet.

**Day 16:** Fly from Brisbane to Townsville, pick up hired car. Flight: 1hr 30mins following the recommendation to go to North Queensland to visit Townsville and Flecker BG (Smith, K., 2008).

**Day 17:** Day of rest and process new experiences in travel diary.

<p><b>Day 18:</b> Visit Townsville BG, meet Curator Chris Cole, obtain details of collections. Visit cycad collection, talk to horticultural staff. Soil mixtures, pest control, pollination work, propagation.</p>
<p><b>Day 19:</b> Drive to Cairns. Visit Flecker BG, create new links to staff and visit collection. Similar information will be gathered from both Botanic Gardens such as visitor numbers, volunteers, fundraising, past and planned events, information on the collections, training opportunities etc.</p> <p>A short way north of Cairns is a stand of <i>Licuala ramsayi</i> palms worth visiting, not far from the Highway (Palmtalks.org).</p> <p>Staff at Flecker will also assist in seeing natural habitats of cycads and palms.</p>
<p><b>Day 20:</b> Visit stands of <i>Lepidozamia hopei</i>. Location is to be confirmed with Flecker BG staff.</p>
<p><b>Day 21:</b> Travel back. The flight to London leaves from Cairns (recommended by Emma Fox, September 2008).</p>

**Note:** The applicant will observe and learn from botanists in the field but not collect any plant material himself. Digital images will be taken and an enquiry has been made to the relevant members of staff at Kew concerning the Overseas Field Work Regulations.

See attached email from Natasha Ali concerning permissions.

## Costs and expenditures

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>GBP £</b>	<b>US Dollars \$</b>
Flight London to Brisbane	£449.80 (lastminute.com) accessed: 08/12/08	\$ 670.94
Flight Brisbane to Townsville	£ 74.87	\$ 111.68 (virginblue.com) <b>accessed: 16/09/2008</b>
Flight Cairns to London	£406.62 (lastminute.com) accessed: 08/12/08	\$ 606.53
Car-hire 5 days after field trip. Field trip car is already paid for by MSB	£185.80 (carhire3000.com) <b>accessed: 09/12/2008</b>	\$ 277.15
Food: 10 days field trip	£ 145.00	\$ 216.29 (Cameron, P., see attached email)
Food: remaining 9 days	£ 108.69	\$ 162.13 (Dehne, A. Australien)
Accomodation: 10 days field trip	£ 434.78	\$ 648.54 (Cameron, P., see app.6 for relating email)
Accomodation remaining 9 days	£ 217.39	\$ 324.27
Travel Insurance	Provided by RBG, Kew	---
First Aid Kit	Provided by MSB	---
Rucksack, boots, mobile	provided by applicant	---
Camera Kit	Provided by applicant	---
Current exchange rate (HSBC converter, <b>accessed: 15/12/2008</b> )	<b>1 GBP</b>	<b>\$ 1.49 US</b>
Contingency 10% of the cost of the trip	£ 204.30	\$ 304.74
<b>Total:</b>	<b>GBP £ 2225.24</b>	<b>US \$ 3319.27</b>

The applicant has also applied for funding with the Royal Horticultural Society (UK), the Mary Helliar Scholarship (UK) and the Hardy Plant Society (UK). Response is still awaited.

A grant of £1000 (US\$ approximately \$1492) of the Bentham and Moxon Trust (UK) has been received. A further £1225 (approximately US\$ \$1870) is required. Any contribution to this amount would be extremely helpful.

Please find attached letters of recommendation and curriculum vitae as well as the corresponding emails.

# Felix Merklinger

73 Kew Green, Richmond, TW9 3AH

**Phone no.:** +44 7875105064      **Email:** f.merklinger@kew.org

**Date of Birth:** 19<sup>th</sup> September 1984    **Nationality:** German

## Profile

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I am currently a second year Diploma Student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. I am about to complete my first placement in Hardy Display and will start my second year Lecture Block in January 2009.

I have always had a strong interest in Succulents, having managed my own collection back home in Germany. However, it was whilst working in the Palm House that I developed a passion for palms, in particular, cycads. My other interest is insects. An opportunity to visit Northern Australia to study cycads and their pollinators will allow me to combine my knowledge and understanding of insects with my enthusiasm of seeing cycads in their natural environment.

I have been successfully adapting to new areas and teams within RBG, Kew and am capable of learning new horticultural skills and building up great knowledge of plants. I enjoy the work experiences whilst always managing to maintain a high standard of course work.

I am a good communicator and enjoy working in a team environment where I can express my ideas and learn from others. My native language is German but I am fluent in English.

## Education

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- 2004      **German Abitur (A-levels )**  
German, English, French, Mathematics and History
- 2007      **RHS General Certificate in Horticulture**  
Royal Horticulture Society, UK

## Career Summary

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- Dec 2008-Present      **Member** of the *Cycad Society*.
- Sept 2008-Present      **Second Year Diploma Student, Hardy Display, RBG, Kew**  
Working as part of the Amenity Section. Responsibilities include maintaining the Director's Garden, grass cutting, weeding, mulching, cutting back and lifting and dividing herbaceous perennials, pruning and leaf raking.
- Sept 2007-Present      **Member** of the *International Palm Society*.
- Jan 2008-Present      **Volunteer, Entomology Dept, National History Museum, London.**  
Curatorial support in the *Coleoptera* Department.
- Sept 2007-Sept 2008      **First Year Diploma Student, Arboretum, RBG, Kew.**  
Worked as part of Arboretum and Horticultural Services. This involved managing the lawns while in the Sward Unit, setting up and maintaining of displays in the glass houses and media work while in the Curatorial and Public Support Unit. Monitoring trees for health and safety, pest and diseases, climbing trees and performing necessary tree surgery using a chain saw while in the Arboricultural Unit.

- May 2006-Aug 2007 **Horticulturist**, *Palm House, RBG, Kew.*  
Member of the Palm House team, responsible for the Cycad Collection including pollination and introducing plant invigorator as a pest control. Other duties included watering, leaf-picking, mulching, power washing and updating palm and cycad databases.
- Oct 2005-Dec 2005 **Student Internship**, *Princess of Wales Conservatory & Tropical Nursery, RBG, Kew.*  
Worked with the Princess of Wales Conservatory and the Tropical Nursery teams. Jobs included weeding, pruning, watering of collections, re-potting succulent collection, seed sowing, setting up the outdoors-cacti display, and assisting with the maintenance of the Bromeliad collections.
- May 2000-May 2004 **Horticulturist**, *Insel Mainau GmbH, Lake Constance, Germany.*  
Working in a team of four gardeners, responsible for the maintenance of the Tropical Collection and for the bedding plants in the park's nursery. Duties included management of glasshouses, watering, pest & disease monitoring, rose pruning and tying, tree and shrub planting, weeding, hedge cutting, tree and shrub pruning, propagation of herbaceous plants and planting containers. Assisted in the setting up of displays in the Princess of Wales Conservatory and Events Hall.
- 1998-Present **Member** of Cacti and Succulent Society, Germany. Passionately growing succulent plants.

## Personal summary

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My personal interests and hobbies include: Avid reader of plant books, collecting beetle specimen, growing succulents, palms and cycads, visiting botanic gardens, travelling to foreign countries, hiking and mountain biking.

Countries visited include Italy (language course), France (language course), England (for work), Scotland and Ireland, Portugal, United States (to observe cacti, palms and cycads).

I have a working knowledge of several languages including German, English, French and Italian.

**Kew**

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Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,  
Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, UK  
Telephone +44 (0)20 8332 5000  
Facsimile +44 (0)20 8332 5197  
[www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org)

30<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Dear Felix,

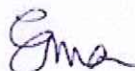
As you will be aware, your Travel Scholarship application was discussed at last Friday's Curatorial Meeting with the Section Heads. I am delighted to be able to inform you that the group have decided to grant your proposal permission to travel, subject to the conditions of the travel scholarship brief. Kathleen Smith will be able to provide you with feedback from the meeting, so please contact her directly to arrange an appointment.

In being granted permission to travel, you have been awarded a maximum of 15 days paid study leave from Kew for the purpose of carrying out your travel scholarship proposal. Please note that you will not be permitted to extend the duration of your travel scholarship by taking annual leave either before or after your dates of travel.

Your proposal will now be considered for the Ernest Thornton-Smith Travel Scholarship and for one of the seven Stella-Ross Craig Travel Scholarship Awards. These committees are due to meet in November and early December respectively, and I will notify successful applicants following these meetings.

In the mean time you are now able to proceed with making your applications for further funding.

Many congratulations once again!



Emma Fox  
Principal  
School of Horticulture



# Kew

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Felix Merklinger  
School of Horticulture  
RBG Kew

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8<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Dear Felix,

**Re: Stella Ross-Craig Travel Scholarships funded by the Bentham-Moxon Trust**

I am pleased to inform you that you have been successful in securing funding of £1000 for your travel proposal '*Travel Scholarship proposal to observe cycads and associated flora in Queensland, Australia*'

As per your Travel Scholarship guidance notes, you are required to have raised at least 75% of the amount proposed for the project from non-personal sources, such as the grant-awarding. Copies of funding notification letters must be sent to me once received. Having secured 75% of your funding you will be permitted to apply to Michael Godfrey, the Secretary Bentham-Moxon Trust for your cheque for £1000.

Conditions of the Award

The Bentham-Moxon trust administers the Stella Ross-Craig Travel Scholarship, making seven awards of £1000 each to 'undertake garden or field studies in the United Kingdom or overseas'.

Successful prize-winners will be required to give a lecture to the KMIS 2009/08 season and submit two copies of a report of your visit to the school within two months of return. I enclose a sheet giving report guidance notes. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the necessity to repay the scholarship money in full.

Many congratulations,



Emma Fox  
Principal  
School of Horticulture

Cc Michael Godfrey Bentham-Moxon Trust

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Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, UK  
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www.kew.org

To whom it may concern:

**“To study cycads and associated flora in Queensland, Australia”**

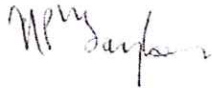
It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of this travel scholarship proposal being submitted to the School of Horticulture at Kew in September 2008. I have known Felix Merklinger for over three years through his passion about succulent plants, as a member of staff in the Palm House and now as a Diploma student.

Felix is a driven student, keen to learn about Australian flora, and his enthusiasm and aptitude will serve him well to make important contacts and form links with other institutions. He is a dedicated and responsible individual who will surely represent Kew well and fully develop any such opportunity afforded him.

I fully support his proposal to visit Australia and his efforts to study the cycad family and other flora such as palms and mangroves in habitat and to learn more about their ecology and cultivation.

This opportunity will be invaluable for Felix's career. It is also potentially of great benefit to Kew as it presents the prospect for enhancing the Australian collections through new observations recorded and contacts made.

Sincerely,



Dr Nigel P. Taylor  
Curator (Head), Horticulture & Public Experience Dept

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PG/cas/040felix.let

15 December, 2008

**To Whom It May Concern:**

This is a letter of support from myself and the display team managers.

Felix Merklinger has come to us with a proposal to visit and work on Cycads in Australia.

Our support is based on the comprehensive collections at Kew and our efforts to understanding and learning the many habitats, environmental conditions in which they grow so that improvements and cultivation skills can be passed onto the relevant staff managing these collections, the contacts that Felix will make, his attitude to his work will make Felix a reliable and worthwhile candidate to tackle this subject. Felix will also have the opportunity to digitally record these plants for us to use in our plans to implement new educational interpretation.

Felix has proved to be a committed member of the student course, he would make a good ambassador for Kew and will make sure his horticultural experience is passed on when needed, I am sure whoever Felix meets will be impressed with his knowledge and skills in horticulture and thirst for knowledge.

I hope this is of some value to your selection process and hope Felix is able to fulfil his project.

This reference is given in the strictest of confidence and without any legal liability on the part of RBG Kew and the writer of this reference. The information should not be disclosed without prior permission of RBG Kew.

  
.....  
Phil Griffiths  
Conservatories Co-ordinator

p.griffiths

JS/cas/001merklinger.doc

18 September 2008

**To Whom It May Concern:**

After several discussions with Felix and reading his Cycad Propagation report I fully support Felix in his effort to visit Australia. Many of the Cycad genera Felix mentions are underrepresented in Kew's otherwise comprehensive collection. As Team Leader of Jodrell Glass where we propagate the Cycads for Kew; cultivation and habitat knowledge that Felix could gain in the field would have a benefit to the HPE collection. I am particularly keen to learn more about Macrozamia, Lepidozamia and Bowenia cultivation from Felix's field visit.

It will also give Felix the opportunity to make personal contact with staff from Botanical Gardens in this part of Australia and keen amateurs. This could also benefit Kew and new contacts to share knowledge and advice. I am pleased this trip will also forge closer links between students at Kew and colleagues at MSB. I therefore ask that you support Felix's application to travel.

Felix is a polite and friendly member of the student body and I'm sure he will make a good ambassador for Kew.

This reference is given in the strictest of confidence and without any legal liability on the part of RBG Kew and the writer of this reference. The information should not be disclosed without prior permission of RBG Kew.



John Sitch  
Unit Manager – Jodrell Glass  
Great Glasshouses & Training

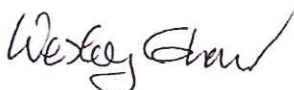
j.sitch

To whom it may concern;

I would like to express my support for Felix Merklinger's funding application to facilitate his study trip to Australia.

During his time working for me in the Palm House he developed an interest in studying the cycad plant group. He instigated new ways of cultivating them with emphasise on pest control. He would benefit massively from meeting people that are expert in their field and seeing plants growing in their natural habitat.

There would also be scope in his trip for building contacts that could be of benefit to R.B.G. Kew in future requests for plant material or pollen.



Wesley Shaw  
Palm House Manager  
R.B.G. Kew  
Richmond  
Surrey  
TW93AB  
[w.shaw@kew.org.uk](mailto:w.shaw@kew.org.uk)  
02083325573

## **To whom it may concern**

On behalf of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha, I would like to extend an invitation to Felix Merklinger for him to participate in a cycad field study and seed collection expedition. This would also include his participation in a field trip with seed collector (s) involved from the Queensland Seeds for Life program. The field collection and cycad study trip will take approx.10 days and occur in May or June 2009. This would also be of advantage to the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, as cycads are an area of interest to us in regard to their long term conservation.

Yours sincerely,

Philip M. Cameron  
Senior Botanic Officer  
Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
Queensland, Australia

## **Email Correspondence:**

Kathleen Smith, Glass House Co-ordinator, RBG, Kew:

Hi Felix

Good to hear from you.

I think the Cycad / beetle project sounds very interesting, with several elements worth investigating. More importantly you sound very passionate about it.

Paul Pollard (Emma's husband) went to Mexico to look at cycads so have a look for his project in the filing cabinets. His contact out there is a friend, ex-Tropical Nursery staff. If you can't find it let me know and I might be able to get my hands on the original one. He may have done his systematic project on cycads too so look for that also.

Do you know of any botanist/institutes working on cycads - in Mexico? Asia or Australia?

Do you know who has the best collection of ex-situ cycads?

Can any of your contacts at the Natural History Museum offer any support? Would they be interested in the project?

Answers to these above questions may help decide which country to visit?

I expect you have discussed this with Wes, and I am sure he can recommend contacts. I am sure Wes and Phil would support the project, particularly as Wes has raised the profile of our collection with his pollinations. Have a chat with John Sitch as I am sure he would be interested from a propagation point of view.

On the interaction side, the interpretation team - Kalanyi or Christina may be interested in information or photographs.

On the pollination side, contact Simon Owens. He has done a great deal of work on pollination/germination. He may be interested or could be able to recommend others to contact.

Hope this helps

Let me know how you get on.

Best wishes

Kath.

Johnathan Lethbridge, private collector, England:

Dear Felix

Thanks for getting in touch. There are a couple of things you can do.

First of all, join the yahoo cycad group. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cycad/>  
Whilst this is dominated by Americans, there are a good number of Australians on there also. Chief amongst these, from an academic point of view, is Roy Osbourne, who co-authored a book on the Aussie species, and who I think does quite a bit of research – very knowledgeable and very approachable. I believe he is in QLD. In NT, there is only one guy I know of who runs a nursery, Joe Perner. He is vocal on this group, and also has a nursery website I think. And then of course there is Ken Hill of Sydney RBG. <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/PlantNet/cycad/> - though he may be unwell – not really sure. You could perhaps make some enquiries. A man called Lou Randall is also very nice, but I don't have contacts for him any more, I expect however that any of the other three people I mentioned could put you in touch.

Secondly, you could try getting in touch with the local chapters of PACSOA. <http://www.pacsoa.org.au/>

About beetles, I don't know, but again, on the group, there are people who are interested in this type of thing.

Oh, and finally, get in touch with Jody Haynes, current President of The Cycad Society. Whilst based in America, he has contacts all over the world, was a researcher himself, is a thoroughly nice guy, and can offer some guidance.

All the best  
Jonathan

Chris Cole, former student, RBG, Kew. Curator, Townsville BG:

Hi Felix

Takes me back a few years planning travel scholarships, I was on course 34, 1996-99 and went to Arizona and New Mexico to study cacti and succulents

We have the largest public collection of cycads in NQLD. Our main collection is in Anderson Gardens and is split into 4 continents of Asia, Aus, Americas and Africa, we have over 50 species in 9 genera, approx 300 specimens many large. We also have good rainforest cycad collections in the palmetum and Queens gardens. The palmetum is rated in the top 10 of worldwide palm collections.

Try and make the trip between April and November - dry season, the wet season can be v hot and humid, and wet!

Although we're in the dry tropics, we have a world heritage wet tropics rainforest only 70km north where you will see impressive Cycad specimen in the bush

I do not know of anyone who is working on cycads in the field in Aus, I will enquire for you.

Good luck with the planning, it is definitely worth the effort

cheers

**Chris Cole**

Curator Botanic Gardens  
Parks Services East

**P** 07 4724 3854

**F** 07 4727 8929

**M** 0424 750942

**E** [chris.cole@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:chris.cole@townsville.qld.gov.au)

**W** [www.townsville.qld.gov.au](http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au)

Townsville City Council  
103-141 Walker St

PO Box 1268  
Townsville QLD 4810

Peter Shanahan, Interpretive Officer, Cairns Botanic Garden:

Felix,

you will be most welcome, just contact us nearer the actual date of your visit and we will be happy to be of assistance, our contact details are below:

Phone: 40443398

use this Email address

Letter David Warminton Curator Cairns Botanic Gardens Cairns Regional Council,  
PO Box 359 Cairns Qld 4870 Australia

Regards Peter Shanahan (Interpretive Officer)  
Cairns Botanic Gardens

Timothy Pearce, International Projects Coordinator, Millennium Seed Bank:

Felix, I'm going to forward your request to Mr Phil Cameron at Brisbane Botanic Gardens who will be the best person to advise on upcoming field trips &/or resident experts who may be able to help. Let me know how you get on. The possibility of supporting a MSB collection trip with Qld-based seed collectors might be welcomed - it depends on your timetable.

I suggest you contact Phil directly.

Regards

Tim

Mr. Timothy R Pearce  
International Projects Coordinator  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew  
Millennium Seed Bank Project  
Wakehurst Place  
Ardingly, Haywards Heath  
West Sussex, UK  
RH17 6TN

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+44 (0)1444 894110 (f)

+44 (0)7751 878666 (m)

[t.pearce@kew.org](mailto:t.pearce@kew.org)

<http://www.kew.org/msbp>

Natasha Ali, Conventions and Policy Section, RBG, Kew:

Dear Felix,

As we just discussed on the phone, I have spoken to Tim Pearce at the MSB about your proposal. If you are assisting the MSB team in Queensland and are not bringing material back yourself, we think that the existing agreement we have in place with the State of Queensland will cover your activity. This will include taking photos, as long as they are not for commercial use. As the trip will be conducted on Kew's behalf and you will be covered by a legal agreement between Kew and the Government of Australia, you will be required to submit an OFC application prior to your trip.

I understand from our telephone conversation that it is not your intention to collect material, and that all seed material will be sent back to the MSB using the current protocol in place.

Please let me know if you need further advice.

I hope that your proposal is successful.

Kind regards,  
Natasha

Natasha Ali  
Conventions and Policy Section  
RBG Kew  
t: +44 (0)20 8332 5742  
f: +44 (0)20 8332 5757

Philip Cameroon, Senior Botanic Officer, Brisbane BG:

Hi Felix,

In regard to your proposal, the only costs you are likely to occur on the trip would be for food and accommodation. I have made an estimate for you for the 10 days of approx. \$ 350 for food and \$850 - \$900 for accommodation. If you budgeted \$1,500 for the trip that should cover it. I have also attached a letter of invitation.

Good Luck, Red

Philip M. Cameron  
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>>> Felix Merklinger <F.Merklinger@kew.org> 12/09/2008 2:03 am >>>  
Hi Red,

Thanks for that!

I met with Tim Pearce and Sarah Ashmore today in the Herbarium at Kew. I was pleased to meet Sarah who offered me her help with any questions. I will write a draft of my proposal and Tim offered to help me with the wording which will be a great help!

This project would be a fantastic chance for me and it would be a pleasure to do a little presentation for you about anything at Kew, maybe the plants cultivated in the Palm House and/or Temperate House with the focus on cycads, palms or anything of interest to you. If you would like to take me up on this let me know!

I have one more question concerning my written proposal: what amount of money (roughly) would I be likely to spend on accommodation and transport whilst out in the field? I would need a rough idea for my costs and expenditures section in the written proposal.

Could you please send me an invitation and letter of support for my project. This would be a massive help for my proposal which must be approved by Kew.

Thank you very much!

Best wishes,

Felix.