

Dear Members,

Please note that permission has been received from the Study Group Coordinator, Barbara Daly, for our Group's name to be changed to "The Australian Daisy Study Group". This suggestion came from our Publishers, who believe that our present name may deter prospective book buyers.

This name change will not alter our basic study programme as I will still be concentrating on Brachyscomes and Helipterums, however, I will not hinder, but welcome, other members who may like to branch out and study a particular species or genus of their own choice.

Ian Smart of South Australia has shown some wisdom by offering to concentrate on one species only - Helichrysum apiculatum in all its forms. Peter Vaughan of Newcastle is interested in Olearias and Helichrysums of the south-east coast.

Let me know of your special interest, so that cutting material and seed can be forwarded to you as it becomes available.

BOOK NEWS:

The book is progressing satisfactorily, thanks to our very hard-working book committee and we hope that we will be able to meet our deadline in August.

At the March general meeting of the Study Group, a motion was passed that any profits made by the book would be put aside in a special book account, to defray expenses for future publications planned by the group.

It was very gratifying to hear from you all after my plea for help in the last Newsletter. I was particularly pleased with some of my newer members who sent in excellent detailed reports on all the daisies they were growing as well as their propagation methods and results. These reports were very much appreciated both by myself and the book committee and I thank you all for this grand effort.

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BRISBANE RANGES EXCURSION - BILL OWEN

All members of S.G.A.P. and the Daisy Study Group have been invited to join Central Highlands Group on their excursion to the Brisbane Ranges on the 14th September, 1986.

Meet Ted Errey at Cnr. Anakie-Ballan Road and Switch Road at 10 a.m.

Lunch at Stoney Creek Picnic Ground at 12 noon on Switch Road.

We continue north and end our excursion on the Bacchus Marsh-Mt. Wallace Road.

NEW MEMBER:

Welcome to our latest member - The Central Highlands Group.

MONTHLY MEETING:

The next monthly meeting of the Study Group will be held at Jenny Rejske's home, 4 Goodrich Street, South Oakleigh, on Tuesday, 5th August from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

AUSSIE DAISIES IN A BRITISH GARDEN - JEFF IRONS.

My suburban garden is about a mile inland from the estuary of the Welsh Dee. It experiences mild, equable winters and the area differs from most similar parts of Britain in its rainfall. At some 28 inches (710 mm) it is about half that of other places which experience mild winters. A feature of the climate is mild autumns, which encourage plants to keep growing, and sudden cold spells. One effect of this is that plants, which are hardy in places where early frost ripens wood, are tender here. The atmosphere is always moist and humidity rarely drops below 70%. My garden is only a little above the winter water table, even the highest parts are only some 12 inches above it. Soil water levels are high at least to mid April, and in some years the lawns cannot be mown till June. Yet, at the end of a summer drought, the water table can be as much as 4 feet down.

Many plants have been tried in the garden and nearly as many have died. Among the longest lived is Helichrysum ledifolium. The original plant was brought here from Derbyshire, where it had survived - 18°C with no snow cover. At 13 years of age it succumbed to - 12°C over snow, which had come in one of our sudden cold snaps. If I have a favourite plant it is this one and the replacement is sited where our low winter sun can light up the yellow undersides of the leaves and it can be seen at close quarters from the house. In May, the whole plant becomes suffused with terra-cotta, then as the flower buds swell, this changes to the white of the flowers.

Helichrysum rosmarinifolium is at the other end of the garden, where it receives sun only for the six summer months. It was cut to the ground by -14°C over snow three years ago and has since grown to about 6 ft. by 6 ft. Interestingly, it was harmed only a little by -10°C with no snow and a chillfactor temperature of -30°C in the winter of 1986.

The 1986 winter gave us a reminder that Britain's hinterland is Siberia. The mean temperature was below 0°C throughout February, and the almost incessant easterly winds speeded up on their rush to the Irish Sea, causing the most widespread damage to southern hemisphere plants that I can remember. Luckily Olearia phlogopappa proved to be one of those plants which can stand up to cold winds and was not damaged too badly. The same cannot be said of the blue form of Olearia ramulosa, which was cut down to within a few inches of the ground, even though it is planted close to a wall. Olearia argophylla spent the winter in a cold frame, but will be planted out in late spring and is expected to be hardy.

Calocephalus brownii is known in English gardens as a summer bedding plant, valued for its dome of silvery stems, and is well worth the chore of taking cuttings every autumn. The same cannot be said of Calomeria amaranthoides. Many books mention it, but seed is unobtainable and few have seen it. The summer of 1985 was unusually cold and my plants did not flower. Hopes that they would survive to flower as triennials were dashed by the second coldest winter of the century. Luckily a gardening colleague had plants indoors, so the stock has not been lost. A fresh stock has also been obtained from Australia.

Helichrysum costatifructum was tried in various parts of the garden, but survived only against a sheltered wall, where it flowered in the sixth year. Finding the flowers rather muddy and unattractive, I gave the wall space it occupied to something more desirable.

Celmisia asteliifolia is in a sandy silt which never dries out and which also accommodates Olearia alqida, O. lepidophylla, Callistemon sieberi, Eucalyptus vernicosa and Grevillea australis. A large sowing of Celmisia asteliifolia var. latifolia gave two seedlings which died after early transplanting. Subsequently, Ken Gillanders told me that Celmisias should not be transplanted until they are a year old. The same fate befell Nothofagus gunnii and that was a bitter blow for it was my fifth attempt at germinating seed and the only one to produce seedlings.

AUSSIE DAISIES IN A BRITISH GARDEN CONT'D.

In 1985 I grew a selection of Helipterum albicans forms. The Rokewood form of H. albicans var. incanum supplied by the study group produced plants whose flowers varied from pure white to yellow. All had leaves about twice as wide as those of the H. incanum sold here. Helipterum albicans ssp. alpinum normally survives the winter only if covered with a pane of glass. Its flowering period is July and August, whereas H. incanum goes on flowering right through to November. That is true also of H. albicans ssp. albicans which had also been grown from study group seed. The last has not been available in commerce here, but two nurserymen should be offering it in 1986. Unfortunately, all these Helipterums were killed by our 1986 winter.

Helipterum anthemoides will survive the winter here only if it is cold. Normal winters are too damp for it, even when grown in a raised bed with gritty soil and cover from the damp. Consequently, I grow it only rarely.

Brachyscome nivalis is mentioned in British literature and is stated to require a well-drained sandy soil; however, I have never come across anyone who has seen it. Study group seed produced plants which appeared to resemble the variety nivalis, so those which survived the depredations of slugs and snails were planted out in situations governed by the illustrations in Kosciusko Alpine Flora. They did not fare at all well. Only those in the moist bed which accommodates Celmisia thrived. Since they survived the vicious 1986 winter, I await flowering this summer. Brachyscome diversifolia appears to be unknown here. Plants from a March sowing were in flower by August of a cold summer and continued flowering till November, looking best when growing through other plants. Brachyscome scapigera and B. spathulata look well and should flower this (northern) summer along with Calotis scabiosifolia, Lentorhynchos squamatus and Helichrysum scorpioides.

April 1986 has been the coldest since records began and with maxima still in the range of 5-8°C, there has been no germination of the daisies sown this year. However, like all gardeners I live in hope. Something usually comes from such expectations.

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SCHOENIA CASSINIANA (HELICHRYSUM CASSINIANUM)

Pending a revision of this species, Dr. P. Short has indicated that whatever else Schoenia cassiniana was named, it would not be a Helichrysum, therefore, we will follow Dr. Short's advice for the present and refer to it by this name instead of Helichrysum cassinianum.

BRACHYSCOME HETERODONTA:

I believe this species is also to be revised. In the past we have been labelling seed as Brachyscome heterodonta var. heterodonta (white) and B. heterodonta var. chryso glossa (yellow). In the latest Census of Plants of N.S.W. 1984 by Jacobs & Pickard, these Brachyscomes are listed as Brachyscome marginata (white) and B. marginata var. A (yellow), so we have altered our seed packets accordingly. I now find that according to the latest Flora of South Eastern Qld., by Stanley & Ross, this Brachyscome is currently being named Brachyscome dentata. We will await findings about this species from other Herbaria.

OLEARIA ADENOPHORA?

Information has been received from Dr. Nicholas Lander of the W.A. Herbarium that the Olearia we have been calling adenophora is not that at all. Members who are growing this Olearia from cuttings forwarded by me, please alter your name tags to read Olearia sp. until further information is received as to its identity.

r AND k STRATEGIES - BARBARA BUCHANAN

How often have you described a successful garden plant by saying 'it grows like a weed'? Your hearers will understand the expression, but if 'weeds' are our common standard of successful growth, why aren't all plants weedlike in growth? What is a weed, anyway? Simply a plant in the wrong place, one that established itself without a gardener's aid and which probably usurps space reserved for something else in the gardener's plan. Some weeds are ubiquitous, growing wherever Western man has gone, even marking ancient caravan routes, but other weeds in one place are cherished garden plants elsewhere. Their success, like all biological success, is the ability to produce viable offspring, themselves capable of reproduction.

Every living species, weeds or cherished plants, in the individual members of its population, has a certain amount of energy over and above that needed for daily maintenance, stored as living tissue, or biomass and available for reproduction. This can be viewed as surplus capital gradually accumulated for investment. To help understand the different ways of making this investment, ecologists have developed a concept of r and k strategies, which can be useful to us as gardeners, especially those interested in bringing wild plants into cultivation.

The r types are the weedy types, the opportunists, producing vast numbers of seeds, but with only a small energy store in each seed. This reduces the chance of each seed establishing itself, but increases the chance of some seeds reaching a favourable situation. This is because the only ventures available are high risk ones, so the capital is spread as widely as possible. Such a strategy is used by colonisers of vacant ground, and by plants which grow in erratic, unpredictable environments. In nature, vacant ground occurs erratically, but in our gardens, we make it regularly. Other natural hazards are unseasonable frosts, droughts and floods. When these occur regularly plants can adapt to survive them, evading them as seed, or by shedding leaves and becoming dormant etc. When such hazards occur erratically the biological competition is reduced and the survivors are selected for wide tolerance of environmental fluctuations. Typically such species have a short life cycle and time interval between successive generations, they do not grow very large as individuals and they show great variation in the population density. With the numerous seed and short generation time they are able to rapidly re-establish after disaster has all but eliminated them. The daisies of the inland fit the r pattern type.

At the other extreme, in a stable favourable environment, where ample supplies of plant needs (water, light, minerals etc.) are reliably available, biological competition becomes intense and the k type strategy more profitable. In our money analogy sufficient capital must go into each venture to enable it to survive until it is self-supporting. This involves a longer life span, delayed reproduction, and greater individual size, making individual food storage possible, together with fewer seeds, each with a larger stored energy content. Vegetative reproduction by stolons, runners, bulbs etc. also help to increase plants without the costs and risks of flowers, seeds and seedlings. The advantage of sexual reproduction, with its variable offspring, is minimal in a stable environment, to which the species has adapted. The population density will be fairly stable because of the interaction with other populations in the community.

The olearias of the forests make a good example of k strategists if compared with the inland daisies, however, in comparison with the eucalypts, they are r strategists. This in itself is an example of the whole r and k concept - neither is likely to exist as an absolute state, but it can be useful in comparing species. For our purposes the r strategists are likely to tame easily, with plentiful flowers and seed and by not being too fussy about physical conditions. However, they will be short lived until they have been through 'garden selection' processes, as all the exotic plants have. With k types, we need to provide their requirements as closely as possible and also probably select from the wild material (or later garden progeny) free flowering forms, hence propagation will be by cuttings rather than seed, fitting the natural pattern of vegetative propagation.

CALOMERIA AMARANTHOIDES - ESMA SALKIN.

Some Daisy Study Group members find that Calomeria amaranthoides is a rather untidy plant, best relegated to the back of the shrubbery, a plant that fails to live up to the romance of its exotic past and its associations with illustrious lady gardeners (collectors). From the early 1800's, this unusual Asteraceae was much admired and aroused considerable interest among botanists, who had difficulty in classifying it. For me, the exotic associations are exemplified in its vernacular name 'Incense Plant', with an aroma variously described as like Sage or resembling the smell of Red Cedar or the 'Hautboy Strawberry'.

Two references to the flowering of Calomeria in 1804 remind us of the English and often overlooked, significant French contribution to our botanical history. The first in October, 1804, describes the successful cultivation at le Jardin de la Malmaison, the famous garden of Empress Josephine and her retreat, when abandoned by Bonaparte. The second, published a few months later in December, records the blooming of several plants in the garden of Lady Hume at Wormleybury, Herts. England.

E.P. Ventenat's two volumes of Le Jardin de la Malmaison, gave a fascinating insight into the cultural and intellectual pursuits of an earlier age and an appreciation of the technical skill of its botanical artists. Ventenat, in his introduction, pays homage to his benefactress, Empress Josephine Bonaparte and is deferential, gracious and restrained with his compliments. He expresses his gratitude for the honour of being chosen to describe her collection of plants. (Many momentos of Bonapartes campaigns) and assures his benefactress that her garden compares favourably with similar English, German and Spanish ones. He goes on in this pretentious manner, suggesting that the modest plants in her garden grow in such a way that they exert a sweet and wholesome influence, mirroring that emanating from the Empress!!

The British report by Smith in his Exotic Botany also reveals the manners of an age, but without the obsequiousness. Nevertheless, Smith is conscious of social niceties and this is evident in his description of Humea elegans (the synonym of Calomeria amaranthoides). This name honours Lady Hume, "the accomplished Lady to whom we are obliged for its introduction and who, for her botanical taste and knowledge, as well as the number of new plants she has introduced into England, and which she is always in the most liberal manner disposed to communicate, well deserves such a compliment".

Lady Hume's plants were grown from seed collected in the vicinity of Port Jackson and given to her by Sir Joseph Banks. The source of the seed in the Malmaison garden is a M. Dumont Courset and the location merely 'Nouvelle Hollande'.

In both instances, descriptions emphasise the beauty of the drooping rose-coloured panicle and slow development of flowers from the beginning of summer, to reach full bloom in autumn. Ventenat realised this plant was biennial, but Smith was uncertain and suggested it was probably an annual.

I have just been given a seedling of C. amaranthoides and await its flowering, but doubt whether my plant will resemble features of my personality unless it's the untidyness.

Acknowledgements: Assistance of the Librarian, National Herbarium, Melbourne, who gave me the reference to Empress Josephine's garden.

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Footnote from Jeff Irons:-

Calomeria used to be grown in pots and stood in the fireplace when British grand houses, such as Cliveden (the home of the Astors), held their summer balls. Its scent was believed to be aphrodisiac and it made the ladies swoon. My informant did not tell me what happened after the smell had done its stuff!

RELAXING WITH OWEN & ISLA McCALL, APOLLO BAY, DECEMBER 1985 - MARGARET MILBURN

A weekend in the Otways with Daisy friends - how wonderful! Let's stay two nights at Apollo Bay, I thought.

Having spent a comfortable night at Hayley Reef Motor Inn (Friday), with beautiful vistas of rolling hills and ever changing hues of ocean, Ken and I then drove the short distance along the Great Ocean Road to Isla and Owen McCall's nursery and home. This was perched high on a hill above the steeply timbered slopes running down towards the ocean below.

As we entered the driveway, on the gatepost was a sign "Daisy & Co. - Welcome", together with a posy of pink, yellow and white daisies; what a ray of sunshine on a somewhat doubtful, overcast day! After friendly greetings, we joined the other three couples in fellowship and much botanical discussion during a welcome cuppa.

Between showers we ventured into the garden. Owen has landscaped in such a way that he is able to keep many of his nursery plants in an expanse of open area near the house verandah. Beyond this are the garden beds and shrubs and below, the steep banks had been shored up using a variety of materials. Near the main road, mounds had been made on which grew many species of daisies and taller shrubs. The photographers were in their element snapping the banks covered in Brachyscome multifida var multifida and var dilatata (Cushion Bush).

Owen took us on an extensive walk through the upper reaches of his rain forest and guided us along numerous pathways, made by himself, to see his many plants of Sarochilus australis occurring naturally on his property. This orchid was the subject of an article in the November, 1985 issue of 'Your Garden'. Other plants and trees sighted on this walk were a rare Myoporum bateae, Prostanthera gilesii, Eucalyptus obliqua, Pomaderris aspera, Acacia alata, Billardiera scandens, Coprosma quadrifida, Bedfordia salicifolia, Helichrysum dendroideum, ledifolium, viscosum, Olearia lirata and Callistemon 'endeavour'. Owen pointed out a Bowerbird's collection of 'pretties' in the bush, blue bits, gold/red foil and coloured labels they had robbed from his plants.

After lunch in their warm home, we donned our rain gear, including Wellington boots. (Owen had an amazing supply of extra in the shed!) A mixture of salt, car grease and citronella was painted around the boot tops to deter leeches. A motley group then set off in pouring rain to see Owen's fern gullies. Oh, the mud and slides down the steep paths! Beautiful treeferns, terrestrial ferns and others were in abundance as were the leeches. Even Owen decided it was too wet to go right down the slope, so we struggled up again laden with many gifts of ferns for our own gardens. The bush was lovely in the rain with the dark trunks, mosses and lichens all dripping and with its beautiful earthy bush smells.

Later, leeches were located in some extraordinary places (ask Frank) - someone even had one in her mouth! Wonderful to get back to the house for a hot drink and gradual drying out in front of the combustion stove - 'there's another leech!'

Thank you to Owen and Isla for showing us around and making us feel so welcome. The many gifts received of ferns and plants were also greatly appreciated.

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DAISY PROMOTION:

Out of all the daisies you are growing, would you please advise which are your three most successful garden plants and why. In 1987, the Study Group wishes to promote daisies through the SGAP. Vic. Annual Plant Sale, by propagating saleable quantities of more of the reliable species. Your recommendations would be most helpful.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 30th JUNE, 1986 - JOY COOK (TREASURER)

Income 1/7/85 - 30/6/1986

Expenditure

Cash at Bank 30/6/85		589.43	Postage	143.63
Subscriptions	203.00		Stationery	146.13
Donations	115.49		Courier	10.00
Seed & Cuttings	143.32		Slides	65.80
Interest at bank	13.69		Petty Cash	28.46
Sales of wire, oasis etc.	<u>46.60</u>		Seed	34.70
		522.10	Plants, Dried flowers	14.00
			Horticultural magazine	20.00
			Wire & oasis	36.25
			F.I.D.	<u>1.25</u>
				500.22
			Cash at Bank	<u>611.31</u>
Total Income to 30/6/1986		<u>\$1111.53</u>		<u>\$1111.53</u>

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SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The following has been taken from a Report to Study Group Leaders on the 13th Biennial Conference:-

A motion was passed at the Conference recommending that "all Study Group Leaders be asked to standardise their subscription dates to the 30th June of each year".

It is also necessary that all members of Study Groups be registered as members of SGAP. I would suggest that if you are not already a SGAP member, please alter your status as soon as possible.

1986 Subscriptions are now due. Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Daisy Study Group and forwarded to Leader. \$3.00 per year (\$10.00 overseas)

Receipt is acknowledged of the following subscriptions received to date:-

1985:

- Ed Brighthouse
- Leila Huebner
- Bob Mylius
- Lorraine Marshall
- S.G.A.P. Qld.
- Max McDowell & '86

1986:

- Ian Smart
- Sharon Howard
- David Jones
- J. Gay
- Tom Stitt & '87
- Central Highland Group

1986:

- Pat Shaw
- Maureen Schaumann
- Joy Greig
- Bev. Courtney & '87
- Barbara Buchanan
- Judy Barker

DONATIONS:

Your latest donations are gratefully accepted.

Lorraine Marshall \$2, W.A. Wildflower Soc. \$2, Pat Shaw \$1, Bob Mylius \$1, Ian Smart \$2, David Jones \$2.

DAISIES AS CUT FLOWERS:

We would like to expand our records with more information on the lasting qualities of Olearias and other soft-petalled daisies as cut flowers. Details on any treatment given to help keep their freshness would also be appreciated.

FOR EVAN - MIRANDA & BRE-ANNE COOK (PER JOY COOK)

Nature always presented a brightly coloured landscape for us to wander through, times spent with Evan were always spring. That special time of year when lunatic skies shifted from dull, heavy greys to cobalt blues that stretched forever. Grasses were vibrant green, eucalyptus sprouted new red growth and wattles were crowned in golden blooms. The time of year when fledgelings left their mothers' nest and flew for the first time out in the Australian bush.

We too were fledgelings then, we let go our mother's hand and put our trust in Evan, as we raced like mountain goats along the rocky twisted tracks that meander across the roof top of Australia. We frolicked in the daisies, laughing and basking in their warm yellow glow, for happiness was all we ever knew when we were with him.

Mountains were mere molehills to be bounced across with ease, no elevation too high or gully too deep when we followed in his footsteps. When crossing creeks, no rock was ever too far away for our little feet to land on, if it appeared that we could stumble, his hand always reached out to steady us.

It was in his company we nearly conquered Mt. Kosciusko and touched late summer snow, making a snowman on the rooftop of Australia, laughing in wonder at snow in the middle of summer and marvelling at the beauty of an alpine spring.

Basking in the warm red glow of a huge camp fire on the banks of Ulupna creek, we eagerly waited as he toasted marshmallows in the coals. It was for him we lay waiting in the morning, listening for a stirring in the camp, signalling us to bound out of our tent and confront another day of adventure in his company.

Having known him was better than having a big brother, no brother would have tolerated two small girls, half his age, to follow him around the way Evan did.

This year in May, a tragic accident took his life, we miss him dearly, but we will always cherish the memories of our days spent in his company. Without his companionship, our excursions with the Study Group will have lost their magic, but we will never venture into the bush, or alps, without remembering our spring days spent with Evan.

I am sure all members will join with me in expressing heartfelt sympathy to Maureen and Vic at the tragic loss of their son, Evan.

Joy Cook & family

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SEED DONORS:

Many thanks to the following for their donations of seed:-

Shirley Dixon, Judy Barker, Ian Smart, Gloria Thomlinson, Bill Owen, Jeff Irons, Bob Mylius, Barbara Buchanan, Lorraine Marshall, Betty Turk, Paul Barnett, Bev. Courtney, Jenny Rejske, Joyce Berner, Esma Salkin.

It would be a great help to me if members could treat their seeds before donating same to the Seed Bank. John Colwill has suggested a very easy method of dealing with this situation. Simply cut a small piece from a Shelltox Pest Strip and stick to the inside of a jar lid. Place seed in jar, screw-on lid and leave for 48 hours.

Additions

Deletions

Brachyscome aculeata (white), graminea  
Calocephalus brownii  
Calomeria amaranthoides  
Cephalopterum drummondii (Yellow & white)  
Helichrysum blandowskianum  
Helipterum cotula 'Jarrah', Perth Sandplain,  
sp.aff. cotula, splendidum, venustum  
Microceris scapigera  
Olearia argophylla, stellulata

Craspedia, Mt. Cobbler  
Helichrysum 'Hastings Gold'  
" obcordatum  
" scorpioides  
Myriocephalus stuartii

*Maureen*

All correspondence and requests for seed, enclosing stamped self-addressed envelope to Leader:-

Mrs. M. Schaumann  
83 Albany Drive,  
MULGRAVE. 3170