

## Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

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Goodeniaceae Study Group Newsletter No. 11  
Feb/1993

## Leader:

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Hello everyone,

I hope everybody enjoyed their Xmas and we can now look forward to a interesting and profitable New Year. Up until January, I was convinced that Summer was never going to arrive; at the time of writing however Sydney is in the middle of a scorcher. It remains to be seen whether the garden and pot plants can survive the rough treatment, particularly as a number are still making new growth. I visited Neil Marriott in late November and was able to regain a number of *Dampiera* sp I have lost, particularly *D. teres* and *D. linearis* (grey leaf form). I also picked up a number of cuttings of a variety of *Scaevole* sp including some really interesting forms of *S. ulla* (similar to "Purple Robe"). Neil is currently trying to save his magnificent garden and property. He will not be lost to the area however as I understand he has purchased 300 acres in granite hills nearby (I am not sure whether that is a geographic or geologic description).

On the propagation side, I have been mainly potting up plants for the garden. Because I was away so much of last year there is not a lot of cuttings coming through although I did make an effort last month to fill the plastic houses. And then of course some plants died! I have been using a "peatless" propagation mix recently although with only variable success. My watering system is still not perfect and this may be contributing to losses. However I now have a better potting mix on hand (more sand) and am not losing too many plants in that area (except from stupidity!).

I attended a workshop on Study Group functions and skills organized by ASGAP and the National Botanic Gardens as part of their "outreach" program. They intend to have more workshops in future with different community groups involved in plant conservation work. I thought it was an excellent meeting. The Canberra group organized billeting and a very enjoyable BBQE. There was very lively discussion about the concept and reality of Study Groups within the Society. It brought home to all Leaders that what we regarded as "our own" trials and tribulations were in fact being suffered by all groups, in particular the smaller Groups. We no longer feel quite as alone and misunderstood. There were a number of highlights at the meeting including talks on our responsibilities in relation to

collecting native flora, techniques for collecting herbarium specimens and methods of making the newsletter a more significant record of our endeavours. There was also discussion of the role of PVR and ACAR and their possible impacts on Study Groups. A very worthwhile exercise!

While at the workshop, Geoff Clarke offered to expand the Group's photographic records. Geoff is a very keen member of the Canberra and seems to be travelling around the country more often than not. He is also a very keen photographer and very knowledgeable about plant species so I am very hopeful my own puny efforts in this area will be supplemented greatly in the future. Note: This is a reminder to Geoff that I have a very good memory about offers of assistance!

How many members now have their copy of the Flora? I (and through me, Roger Carolin) would appreciate your comments on the ease of use of the keys. I find it difficult to use however I have little expertise in this area so I am probably not a good indicator of its value. The latest volume of the new Flora of NSW (by Gwen Harden) is now out and I have heard very good reports of the keys in this series; the Goodeniaceae are in this latest volume (Volume 3). I realise that few of the current members have an avid interest in this area however I do encourage you all to seek out Goodeniaceae when you visit areas of native plants and record your sightings. It can only help to increase our knowledge base and enhance the pool of genetic material we can select from.

My efforts to get some co-operation the Royal Botanic Gardens and more particularly Mt Annan haven't as yet come to fruition. I have had correspondence with Mark Sabio, the officer in charge there, however negotiations have bogged down a little. The main sticking point is the fact the Gardens would prefer a more defined link between the Society and Mt Annan, rather than dealing with individual Study Groups. However I am still hopeful.

#### **Plant talk**

I mentioned in an earlier newsletter a species I spotted while out being a tourist in the Blue Mountains. The species I noted up around Wentworth Falls is most probably *G. heterophylla* but not the variety *eglandulosa* I have at the moment, or I at least I hope I still have it. The latter form likes moist conditions, however I have little knowledge of the former except that it was an understorey shrub to about 0.5 m located mainly around the borders of the paths on nearly solid sandstone near the lookouts. It had very lush, bright green growth there and was flowering well in August-September (single flowers from leaf axils).

I believe I mentioned in one of the last newsletters that I thought I had finally got *S. crassifolia* going (the form from Kangaroo Is). I can now report a positive identification. The plant is now about 0.5 m across and flowered for the first time this Spring. In fact it is still flowering spasmodically with attractive pale, blue flowers. I don't know anybody else growing

this in Sydney so I feel quite pleased with myself. It has been difficult to keep cuttings going. They tend to be large and fleshy and dry out quickly. It is growing in an elevated, crushed sandstone bed along my access road.

I have also decided to go into reverse a little with the *Lechenaultia* sp.. I had early success maintaining a number of species in large pots using a potting mix containing a large amount of sand (up to 5 years with some forms of *L. formosa*). Over the past few years I have tended to use commercial potting mixes with no success at all so I am reverting to the soil mixes again. I hope my back will be able to cope. My first attempt will be with *L. hirsuta*. Max Hewett has just given me a couple of rooted cuttings and they seem to be enjoying the new medium at present.

I have noticed that Ronstar is more freely available at the retail level. Older members will remember that it was mentioned in one of the early newsletters. It is a pre-emergent weedicide. It theory it will not harm plants already established but will stop weed infestation. It would be wise to test the chemical first to see if any plants are susceptible. I wonder about its effect on herbaceous plants for example. I have obtained some and will test it out over the next year or two, particularly with my stock plants.

I have a number of dried specimens sent in for identification by members (notably Pat Shaw and Jeanette Closs) or pressed by myself. I should be seeing Roger Carolin in early April at the next Burrendong Trust meeting. Unfortunately he wasnt at the last meeting hence the delay in replying to your requests.

### **Finances**

As at 31st December the Group has \$304.04 in the Credit Union account however there are some significant expenses coming up, notably potting mix and propagation sand to maintain our collection.

### **Correspondence**

I received a letter from Jeanette Closs recently. Jeanette mentions a further new book "Australian Plants Identified" by Gwen Elliott. Jeanette says that it is an excellent book for beginners to help with identification and that there is a very good and simple key for the family Goodeniaceae. Jeanette also pointed out that the recently released Flora only lists one species of *Scaevola* (*S. hookeri*) for Tasmania, whereas others do appear to live there, notably *S. calendulacea*, *S. albida* and *S. aemula*. The latter is quite common in the Apsley Gorge area. Late last year I sent Jeanette some cuttings in Stay-Fresh bags and they apparently travelled really well. It may well be that further trialling of these bags for this purpose could be warranted. Jeanette was also at the Workshop in Canberra so we had plenty of time for a chat. Jeanette has sent me a list of her successes and failures. The list is far too long to re-type so I have copied and attached them.

I should mention that one of the forms of *Goodenia* I had labelled

as *G. varia* may in fact be a prostrate form of *G. ovata*. I saw it labelled as such in the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra however I still have a little trouble believing it as on superficial appearance it bears little relationship to the local form found around the Colo River and through the Blue Mountains.

### **Membership**

We have another active member of the group to welcome this newsletter. It is pleasing to see that Phil (Hughes) lives in Sydney. It has been rather lonely here over the years. It is also nice to see that Burrendong Arboretum is becoming an active member for a number of study group including this group.

I should point out that a number of the members are currently unfinancial. I tend to carry people for a couple of newsletters hoping for a memory return however I cant do it forever. I usually attach a "red dot" to the front of the newsletter for unfinancial members.

Current active members in the group are

### **Canberra**

Geoff Clarke, 26 Henry St, Cook, ACT, 2614

### **New South Wales**

Burrendong Arboretum, Tara Rd, Mumbil, 2820

Phil Hughes, 81 Burwood Rd, Whitebridge, 2290

Jonathan Lidbetter, 29 George St, Pennant Hills, 2120

Margaret Randall, R.M.B. Tocumwal, 2714

Philip Strong, 6 Jetty Ave, Charmhaven, 2263

### **Queensland**

Pat Shaw, 5 Fleetwood St, Macgregor, 4109

Jan Sked, P.O. Box 41, Lawton, 4501

### **South Australia**

Ida Jackson, 7 Centenary Ave, Kingscote, Kangaroo Is, 5223

Gary Leske, 18 Leonard Ave, Port Pirie, 5540

### **Tasmania**

Jeanette Closs, 176 Summerleas Road, Kingston, 7050.

### **Victoria**

Joan Hales, McDevids Rd, Glen Alvie, 3979

Rita Luff, 95 Seebeck Rd, Rowville, 3178

Bruce Schroder, 17 Jubilee Rd, Montrose, 3765

Beverley Truscott, 22 Acacia Ave, South Oakleigh, 3167

### **Western Australia**

Mary Squire, Box 23, Mukinbudie, W.A. 6479

### **Overseas**

Henri de Bono, 12 Allee des Chasseurs, 78230 Le Peco, France

Dennis Margan

## PLANTS GROWING IN MY GARDEN FROM THE GOODENIACEAE FAMILY

*Dampiera leptoclada* (syn. *subspicata*) - given to me by a friend in December, 1988 and planted out in July 1991. It seems to have died.

*Dampiera coronata* - cuttings received from a Hobart friend have just been potted up.

*Dampiera* sp. from W.A. - cuttings from Dennis Margan in May 1992 have been potted up but are looking sad.

*Dampiera diversifolia* - cuttings from my daughters garden are ready to be planted out.

*Dampiera lanceolata* ssp. *insularis* - cuttings from Ida Jackson in July 92 are potted up.

*Dampiera linearis* - cuttings from Hobart friends in July 1991 and May 1992 have been planted out and are looking very good.

*Dampiera purpurea* - plant bought from nursery in July 1992 is planted out and looking pretty good but I have had to put small stakes around it as the wind was trying to break it off.

*Dampiera sericantha* - cuttings from Marion Simmons in May 1992 have been planted out and are flowering.

*Dampiera trigona* var *tenuis* - cuttings from Marion Simmons in May 1992 are ready to plant out and are flowering - this looks a good species.

*Goodenia lanata* - plant from 'Plants of Tasmania' Nursery in January 1992 planted out in fairly sunny spot and flowering and spreading well.

*Goodenia ovata* - cuttings from Ida Jackson December, 1992 collected from Karatta Kangaroo Island from the banks of a tributary of S.W River

*Goodenia ovata* prostrate form - cuttings from Marion Simmons, May 1992 potted on and ready to be planted out.

*Goodenia varia* (3 forms) - cuttings from Dennis Margan in May 1992 potted on and ready to be planted out.

*Goodenia viscida* - plant from my previous garden and ready to be planted out - this succeeds and I'm not sure where to put it.

*Lechenaultia biloba* - bright blue form flowering well in a tub, but others have died, I must take cuttings in case I lose this one.

*Lechenaultia formosa* (I think) - flowering well in a tub and another one of which I need to take cuttings.

*Scaevola* - small purple plant from W.A. - plant from Marion Simmons

*Scaevola* sp. - deep indented leaf - pink flowers - cuttings from Dennis Margan - lost track of this - hope I still have it.

*Scaevola aemula* - cuttings from Marion Simmons - Tassie form - in July 1991 planted in November 1991. It is in flower now and has been for some time, looking magnificent and covering an area of over a metre square.

*Scaevola albida* - blue form - a number of plants flowering very well

*Scaevola albida* - white form - this is more upright with a narrower leaf a number of plants and flowering well.

*Scaevola albida* - pink form - cuttings from Dennis Margan in May 1992 potted on and ready to be planted out. In flower now.

*Scaevola crassifolia* - cuttings from Ida Jackson in June 1992, potted on and I hope I still have it, it eludes me at present.

*Scaevola hookeri* - plant from my previous garden planted out in November 1991 and spreading slowly.

*Scaevola linearis* var *confertifolia* - cuttings from Ida Jackson in June, 1992 potted up.

*Scaevola phlebopetala* - bought from nursery in July 1992 - Wrigley and Fagg describes the flowers as very deep purple with yellow throat, as does Carolin's key, but mine has pink flowers and I've tried but I can't key it out. What is it?

*Scaevola* 'Purple Fanfare' - bought at a nursery in October 1991 and planted out in December 1991. This time last year it was a beauty. I was told to cut back *Scaevolae* and this I did but I don't think that it liked it, because it struggled and died before Christmas.

*Scaevola* 'Mauve Clusters' - cuttings from a Hobart friend - but I'm not sure if I know this from *S. albida*.

*Scaevola striata* - plant from Marion Simmons planted out in April 1992 and flowering well.

*Scaevola ramosissima* - cuttings from Marion Simmons July 1991 and ready to be planted out.

*Velleia paradoxa* - plant from Sib Corbett in November 1991 planted out and flowering.

I would like to try other species and any *Cooperhookia* and/or *Diaspasis filifolia* if anyone can offer cuttings.

Jeanette Closs