

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

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Goodeniaceae Study Group Newsletter No. 13
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Leader:

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Hello fellow plant lovers,

I hope all members have an enjoyable Xmas and a stimulating and rewarding year in the garden. As some of you would be aware I am a *ex officio* member of the Trust which oversees Burrendong Arboretum. It is with some sadness and regret that I must report that one of the major supporters of the Arboretum, Jack Harris, died just recently. It has been a sad year or two for the supporters of the Arboretum with the loss in quick succession of Peter Althofer and his brother George and now Jack. We will sorely miss their experience and knowledge.

On matters Goodeniaceae, Roger Carolin identified the *Scaevola* I saw up near Riversleigh as *S. ovalifolia*, a reasonably widespread species in the area with a range of colour variation, deep mauve to pale blue. This is a wonderful area and I have very fond memories of my 2 weeks there.

Membership

Not a lot to mention on the membership front. Barbara Henderson (Wallum - Coastal Heathland Study Group) has joined as a reciprocating member (we swap newsletters and information!).

As always a number of members are now seriously unfinancial and defaulters will be exterminated after this newsletter unfortunately.

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

Miller, Robert and Stevenson, A., 7 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, 2213

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

Philip Strong, 6 Jetty Ave, Charmhaven, 2263

Queensland

Klaus Querengasser, P.O. Box 73, St Lucia, Brisbane, 4067

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, McDonalds 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

Dino Pellizzo, 290 chemin de Leouse, 06220 Vallauris, France

You will note we have a new overseas member. Dino is a nurseryman living in the French Riviera. He specialises in growing Mediterranean and subtropical plants. He is a friend of Henri de Bono who is a very active plant enthusiast currently living in Paris but soon to live in the Riviera as well.

Dino is already growing a number of Goodeniaceae including *Dampiera diversifolia*, *D. sacculata* (from seed), *Scaevola crassifolia*, *S. "Mauve Clusters"* (?) and is interested in obtaining more propagating material either seed or for cuttings. If anybody is interested in trying to help, Dino is willing to repay all costs and I am sure he will be extremely grateful.

Correspondence

I have received another interesting letter from Margaret Randall at Tocumwal. Margaret has sent me a list of the species she has tried over the past few years along with excellent notes on their progress. I have included a copy of the list with this newsletter. It is obvious that Tocumwal is an excellent place to grow West Australian Goodeniaceae as she has had success with some particularly difficult species of *Dampiera* and *Lechinaultia*. It is also interesting to note the species doing less well, she comments specifically on *D. rosmarinifolia* and *D. striata* as being difficult. And the *Scaevolae*, which I would regard as the hardest of the species are just hanging on. The *Lechenaultia* spp are on the east side of salmon gum in sandy loam over a very well drained but hard sandy loam. they apparently took a while to establish but now appear to be growing well.

Gary Leske is another of our very active members having a deal of success with a number of difficult species using well-drained sandy loam. His area (Port Pirie in South Australia) has had average rainfall for this year and had a nice flowering display through August to October. He also has sent a summary of the past 4 year's efforts. His report is quite long however I thought it sufficiently interesting to include it here:

Dampiera sp: A number have survived and given good flowering displays. Those currently looking healthy include *D. alata*, *D. dura*, *D. dyspheria*, *D. lanceolata*, *D. linearis*, *D. linearis* 'Early Bird', *D. rosmarinifolia*. Most are 2 to 3 years old. Those that died are *D. lanceolata*, *D. linearis*, *D. purpurea* and

D. tetragona.

The soil selection seems critical to all except *D. rosmarinifolia*. Where he has achieved success has been in sandy soil (at least 20cm deep over clay). The sand is a building sand, pH neutral and needed slow release Fe to avoid chlorosis. Watering is 4 to 6 weeks in summer for about 8 hours at 4 litres/hour. The main difficulty is getting them started. Once they make growth they seem OK. Prior to this they seem prone to dehydration. Many are suckering including *D. alata*, *D. dyspheria*, *D. rosmarinifolia*. The latter has been difficult to control as it tends to sucker then the previous growth dies off or thins out. Consequently it has moved from the original planting area. Some suckers are in sand, some in clay.

Goodenia sp: Only one species surviving. *Goodenia macmillianii* flowers nicely and suckers vigorously. It is in sand and suffers from yellowing due to lack of Fe but seems quite robust. Three plants of *G. caerurulea* have been planted in sand. They flowered, lived for about 18 months then died off for no apparent reason. *G. ovata* died off every year. It rooted elsewhere but eventually all died off.

Lechenaultia sp: Tried species and only has *L. biloba*, *L. laricina*, and *L. formosa* surviving. Lost about 20 specimens usually after about 6-12 months. The hardest to keep alive was *L. tubiflora* which grew, flowered and then died each time. Of the survivors, *L. biloba* was planted in 3/4/90, *L. laricina* on 6/4/90. These two are in clay. *L. formosa* is in sand (5cm) over clay - 3 specimens. Struggling but surviving. Some of his losses probably due to water stress - others unexplained.

Scaevola sp: *Scaevola paludosa* and *S. thesoides* grew too big and had to be removed. *S. striata* (2) dehydrated. *S. humilis* self-seeds, flowers prolifically in clay and is becoming a nuisance by growing in a slate path. *S. (?)*, a coastal species whose name escaped him at the time of writing is growing in gravelly sand. It is growing proficallly and a good flowering display. Generally the Goodeniaceae are in the "harder to grow" group of plants in a garden dominated by Banksia, Grevillea, Melaleuca and Callistemon. One of the reasons for many losses is probably his thrifty watering (his words!).

The correspondence has been very encouraging these past few months. I also received a letter from Ida Jackson who is one of the stalwats of the group. She reports that she has 3 *Scaevola* sp out in flower (Nov 93) including *S. crassifolia*, *S. linearis* var *lessertifolia* and *S. aemula*. *Goodenia varia* is also out (isn't it always!). Ida apparently lost a specimen of *G. varia* which she quite rightly thinks is a little strange. The whole bush apparently gradually died back and it was removed. Ida has also been gadding about (Sept 93) in Central Australia with a CALM project group. She reports that the *Goodenia* sp in the Gibson Desert were fantastic. They saw *Goodenia azurea*, a clear blue *Goodenia*. The bush was barely a metre x a metre, with canes springing from a common centre and bending over again towards the ground, absolutely covered in bloom. The *Scaevola* were best described as "interesting" and she saw nothing to equal *S. aemula*. They did see *Lechenaultia divaricata* but didn't think it had the same appeal as the W.A. species.

Finally, but very much not the least, I recently received a

letter from Brian Schroder in Victoria. I sent Brian some cuttings some time ago and he reports that many cuttings of same have taken well and are established around his garden. Unfortunately, I have also totally confused him over the naming of many of the species (I've been confused for years but I try not to let it worry me too much!). In answer to your query, Brian, I do believe it is *Goodenia varia* (Kangaroo Is form) that I sent you so the fact you it there recently seems to be confirmed. Brian is particularly confused over the variability of *G. albida* and *G. aemula*. All I can say is that the Kangaroo Is form of *G. aemula* (with small rounded leaves and small prolific and compact flowers) seem to bear absolutely no relation to the large open and darkly coloured purple forms seen in the trade and growing along the coast near Batemans Bay. Brian also reports a pink form of *G. aemula* from a nursery in southern Queensland. I would suggest that the latter is a hybrid (dangerous when I haven't actually seen the plant!) as I have recently noticed a number of pink-coloured variants appearing in my garden with leaves similar to *G. aemula* (Kangaroo Is form). The only pink *Scaevola* I have planted are forms of *S. albida* and a *S. sp* unknown that I obtained through many hands from W.A.

Brian also reports some other new additions including *G. willisiana* (S.A.), *G. blackiana* (Kangaroo Is), *G. bellidifolia* (from just north of Bateman's Bay, *G. heterophylla* (?) from the same area and *G. rotundifolia* from northern NSW (this boy gets around!). Brian reports considerable difficulty with the Flora of Australia key and I will pass his comments on to Roger Carolin when I see him next - Roger is very keen to get feedback so please if you have comments send them in and I will see they passed on. As I have mentioned before some people have suggested the key in the Flora of NSW just released is a little easier for laypersons. Brian reports very well of a plant of *G. affinis* obtained from a local nursery. This is a grey-leaved, rosetted species with beautiful contrasting yellow flowers and I agree wholeheartedly that it is a stunner when out. It has survived in my garden at various times quite well even through our humid summers so your fears about an early demise may (?) be ill-founded - I hope so! As a follow up to my last newsletter, Brian confirms my comments regarding how difficult it has been to keep *S. phlebopetala* (a stunningly vivid species) and *Cooperhooikia barbata*. From his observations of the latter in the wild it's only real requirement is very well drained soil, growing naturally in sand. Brian also mentioned *Dampiera linearis* (Early Bird) which is apparently creating a tremendous impression at the time writing. It is a blaze of blue, suckering vigorously and slowly engulfing other plants around it. Tubes planted 3 years ago have now suckered up over an area of about 2 square metres each! *Scaevola auriculata* is also looking good. It flowers for long periods of time but can get very invasive.

Brian promises to update his list of Goodeniaceae soon and I will include it in the next newsletter. My own list will I fear be much smaller than before as I have a tendency to try a species and then move on, forgetting to maintain them. One of life's little disappointments, I'm afraid. However I am very much more optimistic when I hear that our access to species is improving, and largely through the efforts of the Group. Margaret's list

is on back of this page.

I will be on leave over Xmas and the New Year. It would a good time for me to organise distribution of plant material if it is convenient for members of the Group. Please feel free to telephone me at home (the evening is probably best) on (02) 481 9406 so that we can organise a suitable time for dispatch.

All the best from your Leader

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Dennis Margan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dennis Margan

Planted approx	Species	Height	Width	Comments
1991	<i>Dampiera linearis</i> cuneata	15	about 30	has suckered (2) but not happy.
1991	" deep purple	10	2	immobile.
1989	rosmarinif. pink	45	75	suckering OK.
1990	" blue	42	75	suckering freely
1992	strata	26	23	doing well
1992	trigona	2	1	died down but has just got going again
1992	welliana	have disappeared at the moment		
1988	species 30cm x area of approx 2-9' very hardy			
1992	<i>Diaspasis filifolia</i>	2	16	OK.
1992	<i>Goodenia plingosperma</i>	18	30	quite happy
1993	watsonii	35	14	flowering
	<i>Lechinaultia</i>			
1992	formosa prostrate	prostr.	34	Another in full sun died Has and doing well in semi shade
1991	acutiloba	38	72	Very happy quite dense
1992	biloba dark form	31	31	Flowering awaiting fruit
1991	chlorantha	50	20	Flowering, looks good
1992	helmsii	40	40	Not as happy, open
1992	hirsuta	16	38	healthy
1992	heteromera	prostr.	65	Just taking off
1992	ultra violet	18	40	doing well
	<i>Scawola</i>			
1992	acmula	17	40	This needs lots of water here
1992	phlebotetatum	15	35	Just getting going
1989	specios	15	40	Not happy, too dry I think.