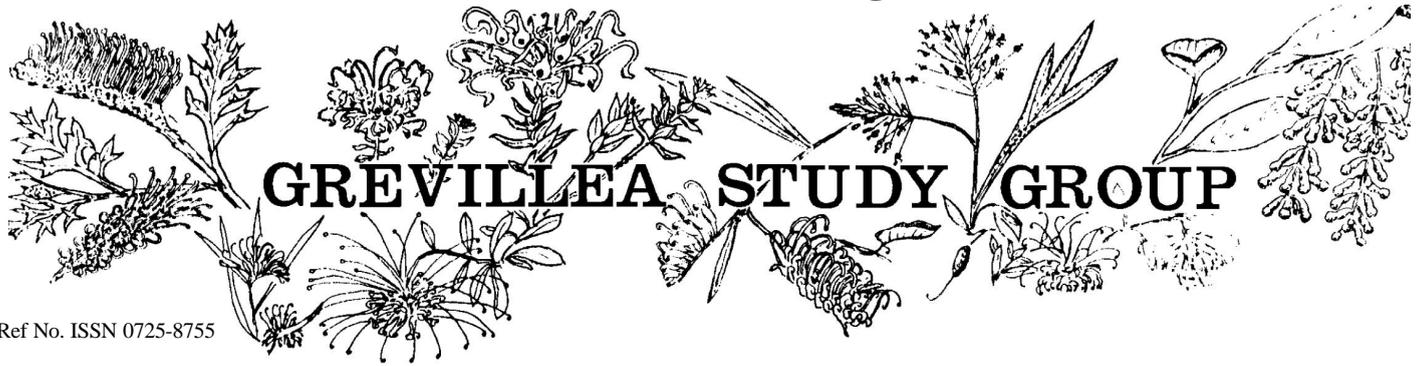


Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants



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July 2003

Newsletter No. 65

GSG Victoria Chapter

Leader: Neil Marriott (03) 5356 2404
neilm@netconnect.com.au

Convener: Max McDowall (03) 9850 3411
maxamcd@melbpc.org.au

VIC Programme 2003

Sunday August 17 To Drummond & Fryers Range and Elphinstone

LEADERS: John & Sue Walter and Ian Evans

TIME: 10.30 a.m.

VENUE: 249 Pudding Bag Road, Drummond

(VicRoads 59 G5-F5) on left 2.49 km from the intersection with Daylesford-Malmsbury Road, between creek and intersection with Scobles Road. Land for Wildlife and Malmsbury Landcare signs on gate. Enlarged scan of VicRoads map will be sent to those who register with Max.

BYO lunch and thermoses for lunch and afternoon tea, and some goodies to share. Meet at the new home of GSG members John and Sue Walter ph. (03) 5423 9383 for morning tea provided by our hosts and for a general discussion of recent GSG activities and results of propagation and garden trials.

Bring along your photos and slides, plants and cuttings for sale/exchange and flower specimens for exhibition.

John and Sue will show us around the property and garden, still at an early stage of development, then lead us on a local field trip to see *Grevillea alpina* and *Grevillea obtecta*. Other species likely to be in flower include *Philotheca verrucosa* - pink forms, *Acacia* species and *Hardenbergia violacea*, (deep violet) and in some places, *Epacris impressa*.

The local field trip will conclude with a visit to Elphinstone led by Ian Evans to see a population of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*. Depart for home 4-4.30.

Melbourne Cup Weekend Fri Oct 31-Tues Nov 4

Combined Field Trip to South East NSW.
(see NSW chapter)

Inside this issue:

- Grevilleas in Blackburn
- Combined Field Trip to Gippsland
- Grevillea Trip to WA

and more....

NSW Programme 2003

Wednesday July 23

TIME: 9.30 a.m Morning Tea for 10.00am start

VENUE: Grevillea Park

SUBJECT: Plant labelling ideas - discussion group

Wednesday August 13

Meeting cancelled

Sunday October 12

TIME: 10.00 a.m.

VENUE: Home of Mark Ross, 107 Pitt Town Road,
McGraths Hill 2756

Ph: (02) 4577 2831 E: jomo@pnc.com.au

SUBJECT: Grafting Workshop

Melbourne Cup Weekend Fri Oct 31-Tues Nov 4

CONTACT : Bruce Wallace, bwallac4@bigpond.net.au

MEETING PLACE: 10.00am at McDonalds, Sth Nowra

Field trip south to view *G. linearifolia* (Dolphin Point, Ulladulla & Bendalong-Manyana), *G. arenaria* & *G. scabrifolia* (near Nowra), *G. buxifolia* (Pigeon House), *G. epicroca*, *G. victoriae* ssp. *nivalis* (Brown Mountain), *G. johnsonii* and many other exciting localities & plant populations.

GSG Queensland Chapter

Meetings for 2003. Morning Tea 9.30 am.

Meetings commence at 10 am.

For more information, contact Merv. Hodge
on (07) 5546 3322

QLD Programme 2003

Sunday August 31

VENUE: Home of Laylee Purchase, 41 Rocklyn St,
Toowoomba 4350. Ph: (07) 4630 2211

SUBJECT: Grevilleas D to J inclusive.

Sunday October 26

VENUE: Home of Denis Cox & Jan Glazebrook,
87 Daintree Drive, Logan Village 4207
Ph: (07) 5546 8590

SUBJECT: Grevilleas P to R inclusive.

Sunday November 30

VENUE: Home of Norm & Win McCarthy,
21 Lindberg Street., Toowoomba 4350
Ph: (07) 4634 2894

SUBJECT: Grevilleas S to Z inclusive.

Sunday February 29 2004

VENUE: Home of Bernard & Rona Wilson,
120 Avalon Road, Sheldon 4257
Ph: (07) 3206 3399

SUBJECT: To be decided.

Queensland - October 2002

The SE Queensland Branch met on Sunday October 27 on a drizzly, thundery day at the home of Jan Glazebrook and Denis Cox at Logan Village 30 km south west of Brisbane. The property consists of 2 ½ acres on a sandstone ridge. Twenty-three members attended.

Before beginning the meeting proper, a minutes silence was observed for the passing of Ian Waldron, a GSG member, Chairman of Logan River SGAP Branch, and Queensland Region Secretary. Ian was very talented in many ways and worked tirelessly in his quiet unobtrusive way. We are all deeply saddened by the loss of Ian, and he will be greatly missed.

The subject for our meeting was "Best Horticultural Practices for Grevilleas". This caused much amusement because we GSG members are generally collectors and choose a spot for a plant rather than a plant for a spot. It was an interesting topic and while we agreed that "Best Horticultural Practices" should be followed, how can we resist a challenge? Hereunder are the main points coming out of our lively discussion:

For a Showpiece Garden

- Choose plants for the soil type.
- Choose plants for the position.
- Know your pH.
- Compost using organic material.
- Prune often - but watch weather conditions.
- If plant is not performing take it out. Be ruthless. Growers with restricted space should be even more ruthless.
- Many Grevilleas will survive in drought, however if more water is provided better flowers and plants will result. Grafted Grevilleas generally are found to need more water than those on their own roots.
- Many grafted plants are collectors' items.
- Western Australian grevilleas on their own roots require extra dolomite to provide nutrients obtainable in their own habitat.

Members browsed around the lovely garden with its interesting plants complemented by natural sandstone rock formations and availed themselves of the variety of grevilleas Jan and Denis are grafting so successfully. A standard specimen of *G. leptobotrys* was particularly stunning.

Queensland - November 2002

The garden of Cliff Coddington at Toowoomba on the Darling Downs was the venue for the November 24 meeting when we studied the growing of grevilleas on a suburban block. Twenty members attended.

Cliff's garden is on display in Spring each year during Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers. This year 6,000 people passed through his garden during the Festival's ten days. It is an excellent way to introduce and promote Australian native plants. Although Cliff's preference is for grevillea species, particularly grafted plants, he recognises the appeal of hybrids to the public for their quick growth, colour and low maintenance.

There is no lawn, the ground is fully planted and mulched. Cliff purchases plants in pairs whenever possible. He then plants them in different areas, hoping for the survival of one if the other dies.

Cliff has been the recipient of a water-wise award for the past seven years. His philosophy is to water plants only when they need it. He has used a watering probe for over 3 years and recommends this as a means of controlling the amount of water used. The probe is inserted 20-30 cm from plants to encourage root dispersion.

Pruning is carried out constantly. Cliff carries his secateurs with him as he walks around the garden and prunes as he goes. He tries to prune after flowering, but if flowering occurs all year, pruning is done as needed.

Cliff prepares for planting by including potting soil with garden soil in the spot chosen for the plant. Blood and bone is added, followed by deep watering to stabilise the plant. Only new plants are fertilised.

Some flowering plants were - *G. nana* and *G. nudiflora* (as standards), *G. infundibularis*, *G. stenomera*, *G. petrophiloides*, *G. 'Miss Muffet'*, *G. 'Elegance'*, *G. 'Bon Accord'* and *G. 'Superb'*.



G. nana, *The Grevillea Book*
Vol. 3 (P. Olde)

Victoria - March 2003

Grevilleas at Karwarra Australian Native Plant Garden

This list was compiled from the Karwarra database and thoroughly checked in situ by Marilyn Gray, curator of Karwarra, just prior to the GSG garden visit on 16/03/2003. It has been condensed by M. McDowell for convenience of users and for publication in the GSG newsletter, and updated 18/06/2003. It is hoped that identifications of some specimens can be checked later by experts when plants are in flower. A plan of the gardens is provided to visitors on payment of the entrance fee of \$3.50. We thank Marilyn for her efforts and for conducting the tour of the garden. Karwarra is situated on the crest of the Mt Dandenong Range at 424m altitude, is 5 acres in area, is surrounded by tall trees, includes some natural bushland, and has a predominantly easterly aspect. Soil is 1 m deep red mountain soil of rhyodacite volcanic origin. The mean annual rainfall is 1200 mm. Mean monthly temperature maxima and minima are 6° and 1-3° cooler resp. than those of Melbourne City, with very occasional frosts and snowfalls.

Species	Bed No.		
		<i>G. brachystachya</i>	44
G. 'Austraflora Canterbury Gold'	5,8	<i>G. brevifolia</i> ssp. <i>polychroma</i> red - W Tree Ck Falls	48
G. 'Austraflora Jubilee'	28,59	<i>G. buxifolia</i>	27
G. 'Bronze Rambler'	17	<i>G. celata</i>	9
G. 'Canberra Gem' ('Pink Pearl')	19	<i>G. confertifolia</i>	8,28,31,47
G. 'Ivanhoe'		<i>G. curviloba</i>	19
G. 'Little Thicket'	51	<i>G. curviloba</i> broad leaf	48
G. 'Pink Lady'	9,31	<i>G. depauperata</i>	1A,8
G. 'Poorinda Firebird'	18	<i>G. diminuta</i>	20,33,71,72
G. 'Poorinda Queen'	55,56,70	<i>G. dimorpha</i> broad leaf	16
G. 'Red Sunset'	60	<i>G. dimorpha</i> fine leaf	60,72
G. 'Robyn Gordon'	18,43	<i>G. dimorpha</i> medium leaf	46,71
G. 'Scarlet Sprite' x <i>rosmarinifolia</i>	48,60	<i>G. dryophylla</i>	18
G. 'Shirley Howie'	4	<i>G. endlicheriana</i>	43
G. 'Towera'	1,55	<i>G. evansiana</i>	18, 28
<i>G. alpina</i>	21	<i>G. fililoba</i>	7,22
<i>G. alpina</i> Hollow	28	<i>G. fililoba</i> pink flowers	19
<i>G. alpina</i> Mt. D'nong	27,48,50d,51,57,57b,60	<i>G. humifusa</i>	8
<i>G. alpina</i> Mt. Ida	28	<i>G. iaspicula</i>	28
<i>G. alpina</i> - Wedderburn	21	<i>G. insignis</i> var. <i>elliotii</i>	18
<i>G. alpina</i> x <i>lavandulacea</i>	51,60	<i>G. irrasa</i> ssp. <i>didymochiton</i> - Reedy Creek, Bodalla	9
<i>G. alpina</i> x <i>lavandulacea</i> #2	5	<i>G. juniperina</i> prostrate red	3
<i>G. aquifolium</i> Wartook	1	<i>G. lanigera</i> - near Granya	48
<i>G. aquifolium</i> prostrate	8,18	<i>G. lanigera</i> cream	23
<i>G. arenaria</i> x	55	<i>G. lanigera</i> fine leaf	18
<i>G. arenaria</i> yellow	8,56	<i>G. lanigera</i> prostrate	8,23,48
<i>G. aspleniifolia</i>	42	<i>G. lanigera</i> upright	60
<i>G. australis</i> - Swindlers Tk	7	<i>G. lavandulacea</i>	2
<i>G. australis</i> var. <i>brevifolia</i> prostrate	20,27,40,53,53a	<i>G. lavandulacea</i> - Tanunda	49
<i>G. australis</i> v. <i>planifolia</i> - Mersey R.	7,27,47	<i>G. lavandulacea</i> - Billywing	43
<i>G. barklyana</i> ssp. <i>barklyana</i>	42,46,60	<i>G. leptobotrys</i>	51
<i>G. baueri</i> x <i>rosmarinifolia</i>	20	<i>G. levis</i>	14,44
<i>G. beadleana</i>	28	<i>G. linearifolia</i>	24,45
<i>G. bipinnatifida</i>	51		

continued

<i>G. longifolia</i>	42	<i>G. rosmarinifolia</i>	70
<i>G. longistyla</i> x	51	<i>G. rosmarinifolia</i> dwarf shrubby	28
<i>G. microstegia</i>	19,20,21,43	<i>G. rosmarinifolia</i> green	6,51,55
<i>G. miqueliana</i>	28	<i>G. rosmarinifolia</i> holotype	42,43,55,60
<i>G. miqueliana</i> ssp <i>moroka</i> - Neilsons Crag		<i>G. rosmarinifolia</i> ssp.	,18,51
<i>G. monslacana</i> - Lake Mountain	20	<i>G. sericea</i> 'Little Miss'	47
<i>G. montana</i>	36,44	<i>G. shiressii</i>	40
<i>G. monticola</i>		<i>G. speciosa</i> ssp. <i>speciosa</i>	20,42
<i>G. montis-cole</i>	19,36	<i>G. stenomera</i>	43,48
<i>G. mucronulata</i> - Mogo Rd, NSW	20	<i>G. teretifolia</i>	17
<i>G. obtusifolia</i>	47	<i>G. tetragonoloba</i> red fl.	2
<i>G. oldei</i>	46	<i>G. umbellulata</i> ssp. <i>acerosa</i>	31,44
<i>G. oleoides</i>	24	<i>G. victoriae</i>	40,54
<i>G. oxyantha</i> ssp. <i>oxyantha</i>	47	<i>G. victoriae</i> - Mt. Elizabeth	40
<i>G. parvula</i>	57	<i>G. victoriae</i> - Swindlers track	1
<i>G. pimelioides</i>	8,46,47	<i>G. victoriae</i> form - NSW	20
<i>G. preissii</i>	8,9	<i>G. victoriae</i> ssp. <i>nivalis</i> 'Murray Queen'	5,40,47,55
<i>G. quercifolia</i>	43	<i>G. victoriae</i> wavy leaf	1
<i>G. quinquinervis</i>	1	<i>G. willisii</i> ssp. <i>willisii</i>	16
<i>G. ripicola</i>	32,49	<i>G. wilsonii</i>	1,49,60
<i>G. rosmarinifolia</i> - Hurstbridge	43,55,60,70	<i>G. x gaudichaudii</i> pink	54
<i>G. rosmarinifolia</i> x - McCormicks Rd, Biggera, NE Vic	48		

Max McDowall

Don and Jean Weybury have now moved from their lovely Greendale property (where we have made two excursions) to 103 Underbank Road, Bacchus Marsh, phone (03) 5367 1559, above the Werribee River with a great view over the surrounding countryside. With friends and family, they have erected the polyhouse and are progressively removing exotics such as pine trees from the grounds and establishing Australian plants. They would enjoy hearing from GSG members. Don has now recovered from the painful resistant staph. infection in the shoulder, although his activities are still much restricted, and he is looking forward to joining the excursion to Drummond.

Craig and Sharon Beeching have moved to Pomonal, phone (03) 5356 6171 cnr Rowe Road and Pomonal-Halls Gap Road and are in the process of selling their flower farm at Longford.

Neil Marriott and botanist **Don Foreman** (formerly of the Melbourne Herbarium) have been making a systematic survey of the flora of the Mildura Botanic Gardens.

Grevillea Planting Projects

Aside from planting in our own gardens, we should consider donating suitable selected grevillea plants of known provenance to local parks and native botanical gardens in our respective areas. In Melbourne, we have **Karwarra Gardens** on Mt Dandenong (see article in this NL) and **Maranoa Gardens** in Balwyn, which are growing grevilleas grown by GSG members. The new Australian garden beds in the **Geelong Botanic Gardens** seen on a recent visit by the Maroondah District Group show very great promise. Possible future developments at the **Mildura Botanic Gardens** could provide another opportunity. We would be pleased to learn from Victorian members of any actual or potential projects in their areas in which the study group could participate.

Future Excursions - your suggestions?

Please send us suggestions for GSG field trips or garden visits to your area. Having local input in our planning and local participation has been the key to success in organising past activities. Maybe write an article of interest for the GSG Newsletter about your garden or travels or offer to write a report on one of our gardens visits or field trips.

Grevillea Trip WA 2001

After the excitement of successfully finding the new *Grevillea kirkalocka* and new *Banksia rosserae* near Kirkalocka Station, there was the risk that the rest of the trip would be an anticlimax. However that was not to be -Western Australia is just so botanically rich and so poorly surveyed that it was not long before we were in the thick of new species again!

I had chosen Peter Olde as a traveling companion because like me he enjoys good food and good wine. He also knows a little bit about Grevilleas!! Travelling with us on our trip to the Mt Magnet region was Keith Alcock, former leader of the Dryandra Study Group and addicted plant hunter. Keith had shown us some superb areas of bushland where rare and unusual Dryandra's and other WA beauties abounded. Now we had to drop him back to Perth to return to his work and a comfortable bed!!

Several years ago we had found an entire leaf form of what was regarded as *G. bitemata* at Coomberdale to the north of Moora. Revisiting the site we all agreed that this was indeed a new species. It is a really beautiful shrub to around 1.5 metre with massed richly perfumed creamy-white flowers and mostly simple, ashy grey leaves. It grows in low lying seasonally wet sites and as a result should prove to be a good plant for cultivation as it obviously is not fussy about drainage.

Having dropped off Keith and restocked with supplies, Peter and I continued south to search for the rarest of all the subspecies of *G. manglesii*, that being *ssp ornithopoda*, a very distinct taxa with long wedge-shaped leaves as the latin name implies "shaped like a birds foot". We had searched unsuccessfully for it the year before, so this time we went to a new location, a small reserve near Pinjarra south of Perth. Arriving at the site we were shocked to find that the ENTIRE reserve is totally choked out with *Watsonia* Lilies. These were so thick that the ground flora had been all but destroyed. Any grevilleas occurring here were doomed!! Eventually we found several big specimens of *ssp ornithopoda* and sure enough they were old and senescent with no young plants coming on to replace them.

A fire had been through part of the reserve and all that came back after it was an even denser regrowth of *Watsonias*. Unless something urgent is done to control this terrible weed, this lovely grevillea and many other plants have the potential of becoming extinct in the wild. Sadly this is just one of many weeds that are out of control in bushland remnants in the West!

Heading up into the hills we followed in the footsteps of an amazing retired couple Fred and Jean Hort from Perth. Together they have discovered many new species of plants and many more previously considered either extinct or extremely rare. The first grevillea they discovered was down in the Darling Range to the west of York. We had collected the new species at this location last year Now we were pursuing it much further north in Mokine Nature Reserve near Northam. *G. sp nov aff acrobotrya* is confined to an extremely restricted community on the tops of ridges where it grows in shallow sands -relicts of former deep sands that covered this region tens of thousands of years ago!! Closely related to *G. acrobotrya* from the Badgingarra-Eneabba region, the new species has similar chocolate flower buds, but has finer, divided foliage and makes an open, more erect shrub 1-2m high.

Further south we came upon a most distinct form of *G. monticola* and inspection immediately revealed it to be a new subspecies with foliage and flowers quite different from the typical form found around Boyagin Rocks and the Dryandra State Forest. A further, quite distinct population of *G. sp nov aff acrobotrya* recorded by Fred was located a little further on. However quite tragically this unique, silky stemmed population had recently been graded out and destroyed by a typically over zealous Western Australian grader driver!! This is a common occurrence in the West where the roadsides are being rapidly destroyed by the shires that manage them. I was recently advised by a CALM officer of a population of an extremely rare eremophila that was graded out on a roadside despite being marked with Protected Flora signs -the grader driver pulled these out and placed them against the fence before continuing on his destructive way!!

continued

It was then time to head south for one of the most elusive grevilleas in the West *G. acropogon*, the "Unicup Grevillea". It was discovered a number of years previously in an isolated section of State Forest to the west of Frankland in the wetter regions of the lower south west. Peter and I had searched for it at least four times previously. The fact that we were provided with incorrect GPS locations on two occasions certainly did not help, one even found us in the middle of a cleared paddock!! After traveling in towards the extensive swamps in the forest, we camped the night in a pine forest as close as we could to the given GPS location.

Awaking the next morning of September 11th we were shocked to hear of the terrible events that were taking place in New York. It is a day that most of us will never forget. Peter and I certainly will not, but for better reasons than the rest of the world!! It was to be the day we finally tracked down the elusive and most beautiful Unicup Grevillea.

After walking for what seemed an eternity through swampy open areas interspersed with sandy and gravelly rises, we finally reached the latest "correct" GPS location -only to find it was in the middle of a swamp!! We decided to radiate out in ever increasing circles and before long I came upon an old overgrown track. I knew as soon as I found it that this would be where *G. acropogon* was discovered. No-one in their right mind would walk through the country we just had. Sure enough, after several hundred metres, the ground rose slightly and there was the grevillea. It was absolutely beautiful - bright green deeply divided foliage and massed showy red flowers on low mounded dense shrubs to 0.5 m high and up to 2 m across. A thorough search of the area showed that they were confined to this one lateritic island in the middle of the swamp. No wonder it has only been collected once previously.

By the time we trudged back to our car we were all but stuffed, to put it mildly!! However we still had more grevilleas to hunt down. We headed further south to near Rocky Gully where we searched for a most unusual divided leaf form of *G. diversifolia* ssp *subtersericata*. At the Nornalup National Park we came upon a beautiful area with *G. pulchella* ssp *adscendens*,

deeply serrate leaf forms of *G. quercifolia* and *G. trifida* (syn *G. brevicuspis*) - the latter is so distinct with its patently divided leaves and squat, sessile flowers that it clearly warrants further research.

Before long we came upon plants of the divided leaf form of *G. diversifolia* ssp *subtersericata*, it is quite different to all other populations and clearly warrants recognition as a new subspecies. It also brings into question as to whether ssp *subtersericata* IS a subspecies or a species in its own right. Growing in the same location in large areas of swampland were massed displays of spectacular *Isopogon formosus*. I have never seen such a spectacular display with thousands of plants in full flower reflected in the glassy water. Nearby were beautiful shows of several pink boronias and the lovely white *Crowea angustifolia*. The *Hypocalymma angustifolia* in this region is most showy, being low and compact and turning from snowy white to a rich red as the flowers aged.

At the foot of Mt Frankland we found a most distinct form of *G. pulchella* that I first discovered in 1981. Instead of the flowers being erect as in other populations, this form has attractive pendulous flowers very similar to *G. tenuiflora* to which it is closely related. This will probably turn out to be yet another new subspecies. Here we also found the lovely small *G. occidentalis*, confined to a limited area on the south coast of the West.

From here we then began heading back on the long journey home, with several important stop-offs on the way. The first of these was to the Stirling Range where we were searching for a white flowered grevillea collected there many years ago by Don McGillivray. Heading west along Stirling Range Drive we could not believe our eyes when we found it, clearly a new species and growing en masse in several areas right along the roadside! How this most distinct grevillea could go unnamed for so long in such a popularly botanised part of the state defies logic. It just shows how many more new plants there must still be in the wild just waiting to be discovered. Growing in the same area were the low growing *G. crassifolia* and not much further on we found *G. fasciculata* and *G. pulchella* ssp *pulchella*.

continued

Continuing east through Ravensthorpe, we then headed north along the superb Nindilbillup Rd. This area is full of beautiful plants and is still in quite good condition, for the present at least!! Grevilleas we noted included the attractive *G. dolichopoda*, *G. cagiana*, a distinct form of *G. patentiloba* and one of the West's most beautiful plants *G. aneura* with its spectacular pendant fiery red flowers. Further east along the Lake King-Norseman Rd we were stunned by the wonderful roadside vegetation. This region is beyond the wheat belt and as a result is weed free and still in near pristine condition. Here we found a form of *G. incrassata*, so distinct from the form growing around Southern Cross. Plants are larger, with longer floral rachis' and the flower colour is more yellow rather than the orange-yellow of the Southern Cross population. Also here was the eastern race of the beautiful small *G. beardiana*, almost certainly a new subspecies, as well as the unusual low growing simple leaf race of *G. oncogyne*.

Finally we headed down and into the amazing Peak Charles National Park, sadly the entire park had been razed by a wildfire and the beauty of the area was considerably diminished. We even had difficulty in orientating ourselves the area had changed so much. However we did find the attractive, deeply divided leaf form of *G. oncogyne* reshooting vigorously from lignotubers. Their bright red flowers stood out amongst the regrowth. After a night camped at the base of the Peak we headed off on our way for the long drive back across the Nullarbor. Our final stop was to the south-west of Kimba where we rolled out our swags at some ungodly hour. After a short sleep we awoke with sunrise to gaze across the miles of crops that have forever changed this region. The now rare *G. sarissa* ssp *umbellifera* occurs here in limited numbers on the roadside. This beautiful grevillea is so distinct from *G. sarissa* that it warrants reinstatement as a species in its own right. We collected a few cuttings and then continued on our way.

We had achieved so much and seen so many beautiful plants, however there is still so much more to be done in the West so it will be back again next year. We must thank the Grevillea Study Group for assistance with travel expenses, Neville Marchant and all his wonderful staff at the Perth Herbarium for their support and assistance and Keith Alcock for his generous hospitality and company.



G. manglesii subsp. *ornithopoda*
The Grevillea Book, Vol. 3 (N. Marriott)

Grevillea Park Bulli OPEN DAYS 2003

Saturday - Sunday July 19-20

Saturday - Sunday July 26-27

Unfortunately the dates for the open days have had to be changed.

They were to be the last two weekends in September but are now:

Saturday - Sunday September 27-28

Saturday - Sunday October 4-5

(Saturday & Sunday of the long weekend)

The park is open from 10am to 4pm.
For more information check the website

www.speedlink.com.au/users/ziebell/grevillea/

Lost In Space

-Rare species face stupidity outbreaks

Reprinted from "Science Watch" with permission from Sunday Herald Sun, May 18, 2003.

Plant and animal conservation is a field littered with horror stories of bad decision making and simple stupidity.

Back in the 1980s, a Perth doctor who owned a farm near Albany, in the south of WA, wearied of native plant lovers asking permission to collect seed from one of Australia's rarest banksias, the prostrate *Banksia goodii* species. So our gentleman farmer ploughed them in, more than 1000 plants, about half the remaining population of the endangered species.

Western Australia has strong legislation to protect its native plants and there are heavy fines for collecting seeds in the wild or picking flowers. But at that time the sanctions did not apply to private land, and the doctor was not prosecuted for his stupid, selfish act.

Even those employed to protect wild species sometimes fail to apply scientific principles to their work, or to exercise simple common sense. The results can be disastrous.

My friend and fellow native plant enthusiast Neil Marriott is one of Australia's leading experts on the genus *Grevillea*. In his travels throughout Australia with fellow expert Peter Olde he has identified dozens of new species during the past two decades, some of them very rare.

Marriott lives at Great Western, not far from the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, which has spectacular native flora with many rare species.

In 1993, I wrote an article about Marriott's role in the rediscovery of *Grevillea williamsonii*, one of the rarest grevilleas in Victoria, after it had been missing, presumed extinct, for a century.

A local schoolteacher and amateur naturalist, H.B. Williamson, discovered a small stand of this beautiful species in 1893, near Mt Abrupt in the Southern Grampians, but the area was subsequently ravaged by fire and repeated searches in the 20th century failed to locate any living specimens.

Then, in 1993, another amateur naturalist found an unusual grevillea festooned with small yellow, orange and red flowers 7km north of where Williamson had discovered the species.

The newly discovered stand consisted of only 17 plants. Marriott confirmed that it was indeed *G. williamsonii*. Not only did their description perfectly match herbarium specimens of the lost species, these plants shared the original plants' ability to set seed without producing pollen, a trait called apomixis.

Subsequent studies suggested *G. williamsonii* was merely a rare mutant form of the widespread species *G. aquifolium*, but Marriott observes that the latter is enormously variable throughout its range, and in time will probably be reclassified into half a dozen different species, of which *G. williamsonii* will be the most distinctive.

Marriott was a member of the special recovery team that set out to conserve the last stand of the species. A thorough search by Parks Victoria found no more plants in more than 800ha of heathland that was otherwise identical to the plant community in which it was found. Then, in the mid 1990s, the rare grevilleas began dying. Someone visiting the area to study the plants had inadvertently introduced spores of the virulent root-rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

The study group urged Parks Victoria to propagate cuttings taken from the plants Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens successfully propagated 13 of the original 17 plants. There were numerous seedlings in the area, but Marriott says one of the local Parks Victoria rangers told him all these regenerating plants had succumbed to the fungus.

Parks Victoria required anyone visiting the site to immerse their boots in a fungicide bath much too late. The last time Marriott saw the plants only a few remained alive and he fears the species may be extinct in the Grampians.

He says he suggested to a senior Parks Victoria officer that some of the plants propagated by the botanic gardens be reintroduced not into the original, fungusinfected site, but into selected parts of the 800ha identified as suitable habitat for the species.

It hasn't happened. Marriott says a senior Parks Victoria officer told him that to introduce the plants into areas where they did not grow previously would be interfering with natural processes. But it was human carelessness an unnatural process that destroyed the last wild plants of the species.

continued

In WA, where there are hundreds of rare plant species, the Department of Conservation and Land Management is not so squeamish about interfering with nature. For example, it has replanted hundreds of cutting grown plants of the rare little cream flowered *G. scapigera* in the wild near Quairading, east of Perth, to ensure it survives in the wild.

But the story does not end there. Eight years ago, another bushwalker and amateur naturalist walking in the northern Grampians, near Roses Gap, spotted an unfamiliar grevillea growing just off the walking track. There was a single plant and nothing else like it in the vicinity.

Marriott visited the site, and immediately recognised it as a new species. Parks Victoria took herbarium specimens, and other botanists agreed it was a new species represented by only one surviving plant. The low, mounding plant had relatively inconspicuous toothbrush flowers, but its new growth was a deep, rich red, so it had some horticultural potential.

Some local rocks were mounded up around the precious plant to protect it. Marriott sought permission from a Parks Victoria officer to take cuttings, but his request was denied. No cuttings could be taken from national parks.

It was a contradictory decision, given that cuttings had been taken from *G. williamsonii* several years earlier. The plant, protected from people passing along the trail only by a few rocks, was left to its fate.

Room to grow: even the vast Grampians could not nurture the only plant of a new species. Two years ago, the local ranger left, and a new one arrived. Nobody told the new ranger about what could accurately be described as the world's rarest grevillea. The new ranger brought in a local contractor with a bulldozer to widen the walking trail near Roses Gap and guess what happened?

Fortunately, someone fearing for its survival gave some cuttings to Marriott, who successfully propagated the species by grafting. The as yet undescribed species has not been lost but it survives only in cultivation. Mistakes are inevitable in conservation but the decision making in these two cases was deeply flawed.

The act of establishing a national park to protect the plants and animals within it is an interference with nature. There is no place for mysticism in scientific conservation. That a rare plant species could be allowed to slip into extinction in the wild because of some strange notion it is "unnatural" to intervene, defies belief.



G. williamsonii, *The Grevillea Book*
Vol. 3 (N. Marriott)

Grevillea SG & Boronia and Allied Genera SG Combined Field Trip to Gippsland

November 2002.

Incorporating additional comments by Peter Olde and Neil Marriott.

Participants: Max & Regina McDowall, Neil Marriott & Wendy Renzi and Alan Anderson from Victoria. Peter Olde & Tony Henderson, Ray & Andrew Brown and Bruce Wallace from NSW. Joan Duffel & Jan Simpson from Canberra. Craig & Sharon Beeching, Duncan Fraser & Peter Madden and Martin Swanson from Gippsland.

The main objectives of this field trip were to explore populations of *Grevilleas chrysophaea*, *lanigera* and *miqueliana* ssp. *moroka* for the GSG and populations of species of Rutaceae Tribe Boronieae - *Crowea exalata*, *Boronias anemonifolia* and *citriodora*, *Philotheca verrucosa*, *Correa reflexa* and *Zieria* sp. for the BSG. The combined-groups field trip was planned as an extension of the one-day Field Trip organised by Marilyn Gray (BSG leader) concluding the weekend 2002 Fred Rogers Biennial Seminar on 'Boronias and Other Fragrant Friends'.

Thanks especially to Craig Beeching of Sale and his contacts with local plant people, and to Neville Walsh of the Melbourne Herbarium we were able to produce an itinerary which incorporated those objectives. We also acknowledge with thanks the advice and participation of Duncan Fraser of Maffra and his friend Peter Madden, Martin Swanson of Wildtech Nursery near Glenmaggie, and information provided by John Cane (son of Bill Cane), by Alf and (the late) Esma Salkin on *Banksia canei* and Asteraceae locations, and the DNRE Ranger from Heyfield for a location of *G. miqueliana* ssp. *moroka* on the Wellington Track, and a possible location of *G. alpina*? on Kelly's Lane near Tamboritha Saddle. Craig had advised us that Holey Plains State Park did not merit a return visit at this time because of recent fires and the drought.

Neil Marriott as APS Vic President participated in the Seminar Field Trip on the Monday, while Regina and I needed the morning to organise ourselves after hosting one of the Seminar garden visits on the Sunday. The NSW GSG

participants and Peter Olde (who had been staying with us) met at Healesville and went on a separate excursion led by Alan Anderson to view *G. alpina* and *G. repens* on Chum Creek (Healesville-Kinglake) north of Healesville and later *G. monslacana* on Lake Mountain. It was a cold showery day, and they were greeted by snow on arrival at the car park on the mountain. Fortunately, *G. monslacana* was only 2 minutes walk away, but the weather hindered any further exploration of the population. Nonetheless flowering specimens were seen and observed under the weight of heavy snow. Peter comments "although so close to the vehicles we nearly froze and the experience shows how dangerous such weather conditions can be".

The main rendezvous about 14.30 hr was at the Seven Acre Rock car park in the Bunyip State Forest Park SE of Warburton, whence a short walk to the summit revealed local Rutaceae species *Leionema biloba*, *Zieria arborescens*, *Philotheca myoporoides* and *Correa lawrenceana* var. *labtrobearna* as well as *Callistemon pallidus*, *Prostanthera melissifolia*, and *Epacris impressa*. The Lake Mountain party arrived shortly after the rest of us had returned from the summit. On our way out of the Park we saw the spectacular display of the orange flowers of *Oxylobium arborescens*, a bushy upright 2.5 m shrub.

We arrived at the residence of Craig and Sharon Beeching near Longford about 18.00 hr. and were glad to shelter inside away from the cold wind, while Craig and Sharon put on a barbecue. After an enjoyable evening, including a talk by Neil Marriott and some slides we were glad to bed down on numerous air mattresses provided by our hosts. We resumed viewing their garden and flower farm next morning.

Notable amongst the many grevilleas in the Beeching garden were *G. magnifica* ssp. *magnifica* and ssp. *remota*, *G. thyrsoides* ssp. *thyrsoides* (two forms) and ssp. *pustulosa*, *G. flexuosa*, *G. petrophiloides* forms, *G. maccutcheonii*, and *insignis* to name but a few. Craig had made good use of our seed of the Sandy Beach (NSW) form of *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, as the vivid golden yellow flowers were on show throughout his garden beds around the house among *Anigozanthos* hybrids, 'Big Red', 'Yellow Gem', 'Gold Fever' and 'Pink Joey'.

continued

In the flower farm Craig and Sharon were growing 46 species including *G. 'Moonlight'*, 'Honey Gem', 'Sylvia' and 'Firesprite', *Banksia coccinea*, (860 plants), *baxteri*, *praemorsa*, *media*, *grandis* and *tricuspis*, *Dryandra formosa*, *Actinotus helianthi*, *Leptospermum rotundifolium* 'Lavender Queen', *L. nitidum*, *Scholzia capitata* and exotics *Brunia albiflora* and *Berzelia lanuginosa*.

We then departed for a neighbouring property off Vale Road where we saw a population of *G. lanigera* about 40 cm (suckering?) and what appeared to be a few hybrids with *G. rosmarinifolia* (origin unknown) growing in open regenerating heathland.

We had a rendezvous at Lake Glenmaggie with Duncan Fraser and Martin Swanson who showed us the local population of *G. lanigera* growing under an overstorey of *Eucalyptus tricarpa* ironbark trees. It included a small group of plants with cream/white flowers believed to be descendents of one of the putative parents of *G. 'Clearview John'* introduced by Bill Cane. Proceeding to the Heyfield Flora Reserve next to the encroaching town tip we saw *Philotheca verrucosa*, *Persoonia juniperina* and *G. chrysophaea* about 1.5 x 1.2 m having flowers with a thick, rusty indumentum like the Brisbane Range populations of the species and unlike the almost glabrous clear-yellow forms growing in the Holey Plains State Park. Duncan has since reported to me that plants with near-glabrous pale yellow flowers also occur on a mountain ridge near Huggat road above the Avon River.

Martin led us to visit his Wildtech Nursery northwest of Lake Glenmaggie where we were amazed and impressed with the scale of his production. That morning his team had loaded a shipment of 15,000 plants into one truck. All cuttings are set individually, directly into growing medium incorporating fertiliser in small propagating tubes, and struck over bottom heat. He generously allowed us to select some tubes of plants from the nursery.

The road to Licola follows the open valley and hillsides of the Macalister River, but rises through natural bush over Burgoyne Saddle bypassing a large bend in the river. Martin accompanied us as far as Burgoyne Saddle en

route to Licola, stopping on the way to show us the type population of the rare mauve-flowered *Goodenia macmillanii*. At the saddle he showed us, on very steep dry rocky hillsides, plants of *G. chrysophaea* 1.5 x 1.2 m, *Banksia canei*, *Philotheca verrucosa*, *Derwentia perfoliata* and *Dodonaea viscosa* and *Calytrix tetragona*.

Open, cleared land ensued all the way to Licola Village, an old forestry settlement now operated by the Lions Club for tourist and school parties, with accommodation in a series of bunkhouse cottages for over 200 visitors. The village is situated at the confluence of the Wellington River and the Macalister River. Several of the party stayed at one of the village bunkhouses, while the NSW push elected to camp up the Wellington valley beside the river where the trickling water of the trout stream encouraged the view that they were a million miles from nowhere instead of just beside the main road.

On the Wednesday morning the party from Licola, Neil Marriott, Wendy Renzi and Martin Swanson assembled where NSW clique were camped and explored the local hillside where there were plants of *G. chrysophaea* about 1m high. Next stop was the bridge across the Wellington River and the renowned Wellington River Walking Track to Tali Karng where Duncan Fraser had reported seeing a profuse population of *G. miqueliana* ssp *moroka*, toward the confluence with Crolls Gorge Creek. The track involved frequent river crossings for which we were ill-equipped, and at the second crossing we turned back. Along the track were numerous plants of *Banksia canei* and *Bossiaea buxifolia* 1 m high. It was here that those less adept and awkward of balance were found out as they tried to recross the river using slippery submerged rocks to stay upright. Needless to say a number took a bath.

Alongside the gravel section of Tamboritha Road above the bridge, climbing steeply out of the valley, we observed *Persoonia confertiflora* as well as more plants of *Banksia canei*, *G. chrysophaea* and *G. lanigera*, including some natural grevillea hybrids. These were propagated by Martin Swanson who kindly sent us 30 plants from 5 clones for trialling and distribution among the Victorian GSG members. We hope to compare results of these plants in 1-2 yrs' time.

continued

Near the top of the climb to the Bennison Lookout at the start of the track to Dinner Creek Falls, we explored the roadside flora further, looking for *Crowea exalata* which we did not find, and also *G. chrysophaea* and *G. lanigera*. The road past the Lookout continued along Bennison Spur past the Tamboritha Saddle to the junction with Kellys Lane at 'Thomastown', alongside the beautiful rocky banks of Shaw Creek, festooned with low mounded specimens of *G. australis* just coming into flower, with the trailing *Goodenia hederacea* var. *alpestris*, *Persoonia chamaepeuce* and *Olearia frostii*.

We continued up Kellys Lane in the 4WDs along Bennison Plain near Mt Tamboritha and Holmes Plain to the Howitt Road in an unsuccessful search for *G. alpina* reported to occur there by the Ranger from Heyfield. We returned to our cars at Thomastown.

Thursday was planned as our big day to Neilsons Crag (The Watchtower) in search of *G. miqueliana* ssp. *moroka*. We were joined at Licola by Duncan Fraser and his friend Peter Madden. We followed our previous trail up Tamboritha Road to Arbuckle Junction where we turned right (east) into Moroka Road and then travelled 9 km north along Douglas Plain Road, part of the way in the 4WDs, to the start of the walking track. It was an easy 1km walk along the top of the escarpment to Neilsons Crag where we found several shrubs of the Moroka Grevillea (1.5 x 2 m) with red flowers. It was difficult to choose between the spectacular panoramic views and the interesting plants. The Grevilleas were in good flower and got the shutter-bugs working overtime. Ray Brown found a beautiful deep pink-mauve low-growing form of *Crowea exalata* right on the edge of the precipice. Also observed were *Acacia sicutiformis*, *Persoonia asperula*, *P. confertiflora*, *P. chamaepeuce*, *Pomaderris* sp, *Baeckea ramosissima* and (you guessed it!) *G. chrysophaea*. *Eucalyptus glaucescens* and *Nematolepis ovatifolia* are also reported to occur there. Walking back to the carpark we observed many *Grevillea miqueliana* clinging to ridge-top on steep slopes.

After lunch we continued a further 8.3 km east along Moroka road to Marfarlanes Saddle where yellow *Leionema phyllicifolia* and purple *Hovea montana*, *Celmisias* and yellow daisies

produced a striking flower show, then a further 5.3 km to the top of the Wellington Track, where we continued in the 4WDs. Along the track we were surprised by an unusually floriferous form of *Pimelea axiflora* with numerous flowers in each leaf axil, instead of the more familiar 1 or 2. At a ford over the Moroka River 2.5 km down the track, we found our goal, a larger-leaved form of the *G. miqueliana* ssp. *grevillea* (1.2 x 2 m), bearing several beautiful red flowers. This specimen does not key out properly to ssp. *moroka*. Back at Moroka Road, the NSW echelon departed for home via Licola (see report below by Peter Olde). The rest of the party returned independently to Licola.

Regina and I stopped at the Dinner Creek Gorge Car Park where we saw the purple *Brachyscome spathulata* and made an unsuccessful search for *Crowea exalata*, reported to occur nearby and along the roadside. We then checked several locations described by Neville Walsh along the Wellington River, and were successful in finding variable hybrids between *Prostantheras rhombea* and *hirtula*, shrubs about 50 x 120 cm, just at the foot of the hillside about 200 m back from the road, about 8 km downstream from the start of the Tali Karng track and 3 km north of 'Welcola' the Traralgon High School camp. Near the top of a rise in the road just south of the Cherry Tree Campsite we followed a trail above the road cutting to the crest of a westward spur, south of a big bend in the Wellington River, and located *Boronia anemonifolia*, *Tetradlea ciliata*, *Olearia viscosa*, *Ozothamnus* sp. and *Brachyscome* sp. The view along the two reaches of the Wellington River 70 m below was spectacular. It was nearing dark when we returned to the bunkhouse at Licola, and the others in the party were getting concerned about our safety.

We gained the clear impression that both *G. lanigera* and *G. chrysophaea* were ubiquitous throughout the region from the coastal plains to the high plains. *G. chrysophaea* ranges in height from the 20 cm in Holey Plains to (reportedly) over 2 metres in the mountains along the Hugel road above the Avon River accessible from the eastern side of Lake Glenmaggie. Clearly, further exploration would be needed to determine the its full range of occurrence and morphological variation.

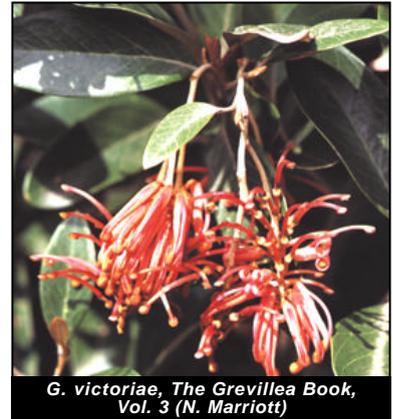
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Friday morning, we all departed for home. Regina and I decided to detour through Labertouche. We passed the population of *Boronia muelleri* low form at about 3 km from the Labertouche turnoff and the tall form at 15 km. Nearby was the rare tree, *G. barklayana*. Along the Falls walking track were trailing plants of *Tetratheca stenocarpa*, *Bauera rubioides* white to palest pink, and *Epacris impressa*. We started climbing back through the Bunyip State Park to the Yarra Valley when the yellow fuel gauge light came on. We continued cautiously along the range past the Seven Acre Rock carpark and the *Oxylobium arborescens*, until, thankfully we were descending toward Powelltown. We continued another 30 km downhill to Yarra Junction without the engine cutting out (got to be lucky!).

Licola to Jamieson via the Heyfield-Jamieson Road

Peter Olde

The trip north along the Heyfield - Jamieson was truly one of the most inspiring tracks of the trip, affording spectacular views from Mt Skene as well as exciting and unexpected finds. The first surprise were large plants of what looked like *G. miqueliana* on the side of a hill in candlewood forest c. 39 km from Licola towards Jamieson. A close inspection of the leaves with their appressed silky indumentum on the undersurface revealed these plants to be *G. victoriae* ssp. *victoriae*. The plants were more robust and floriferous than *G. miqueliana* ssp. *moroka*. We travelled to the top of Mt Skene where we saw an abundance of *G. australis* clumping around rocks in a meadow-like environment. These were not in flower but gave quite an attractive appearance to the landscape. Below the lookout we found another population of *G. victoriae*, but these plants had much narrower leaves and seemed almost to be a separate species. Finally after several hours of dusty road with beautiful verges and scenery, we arrived on dusk at Jamieson well satisfied with the last leg and the trip overall.



G. victoriae, *The Grevillea Book*, Vol. 3 (N. Marriott)

Grevilleas in Blackburn

Here is a survey of the growth conditions of a number of Grevilleas that I have or have had growing in an eastern suburb of Melbourne. The plants with poor growth or flowering will be replaced with alternatives as a further experiment.

Grevillea	Grafted	Soil	Growth	Flowering in October
<i>beadleana</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>bracteosa</i>	Yes (trunk horizontal for 20cm)	30cm sandy over clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>candelabroides</i>	Yes (grew too large for position, removed)	30cm sandy over clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>erectiloba</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Fair to Good	Some
<i>eristachya</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Fair	Few
<i>excelsior</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Very good	Spectacular
<i>fililoba</i>	No	30cm sandy over clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>georgeana</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>insignis</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Very good	Excellent
<i>juncifolia</i>	Yes (centre of bush looks dead, black)	Heavy clay	Fair	Fair
'Long John'	No (blew over, cut back to 30cm now 3m high)	Heavy clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>oligomera</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Fair to good	Excellent
<i>paradoxa</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Fair to good	Good
<i>petrophiloides</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>pimelioides</i>	Yes	30cm sandy over clay	Half dead	Some
<i>rigida</i>	Yes (about 0.5m high)	Heavy clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>spinosa x juncifolia?</i>	Yes (young, possibly too much shade from georgeana)	Heavy clay	Fair - good	Some
<i>tetragoniloba</i>	Yes	Heavy clay	Excellent	Excellent
<i>thyrsoides</i>	Yes (on a standard rootstock, my oldest grevillea, about 7 yrs)	30cm sandy over clay	Excellent	Excellent

Jeanette Closs, Kingston

Grevilleas in Tassie

Our small group of Grevillea enthusiasts haven't got together for quite a while, although we all take advantage of visiting each other's gardens when the opportunity occurs. An APS Society member who transferred to Tassie from South Australia has joined the list of grevillea buffs. Nigel Clarke is a keen collector and with his wife Sue they have started a garden on a lovely site at Fossil Cove with impossible soil and a much-loved family of native animals. Despite this Nigel is now growing over 100 species or cultivars and is always on the lookout for new gems. Last year for the second

time we visited the garden of Jim and Sarah Kitchin at Sandford and they have a delightful garden very near the beach with excellent drainage. Along with many lovely Australian plants they are growing a large range of grevilleas.

We were invited to Kitty Courtney's extensive garden at Tinderbox recently where she is growing exotics as well as natives. The garden was ablaze with colour and the many callistemon species were putting on a great show late last year when we visited. Kitty and her husband have built a lovely home on a steep slope that overlooks Northwest Bay with

continued

a mind-blowing view. She has many grevilleas and was concerned that some were not doing well. It was hard to decide what the problem would be as the site was well drained and sunny. Winds may have been part of the problem and maybe the soil structure wasn't ideal. However she was happy with our visit and our comments. Rob Massom is building up his collection of grevilleas and promises us a visit to his garden at Taroona when the time is right. Some of these folk are not members of the Australian Plants society or of the Grevillea Study Group but are Grevillea enthusiasts and maybe in time will join us officially.

One of our keenest members is Ian Picken, whose property in the hills to the west of Hobart is exposed to snow and other plant unfriendly conditions such as very poor soil, hares, possums and rabbits. Ian does a lot of propagating and is a successfully growing many species that would be unlikely to success in his conditions,. He has even managed to flower a *G. banksii* var. *forsteri* in a shaded position. We plan a trip to his garden next September and we shall endeavour to send a report of this outing to the newsletter.

My garden at Kingston is still displaying a large range of grevilleas along with lots of other special Australian plants. I did have 150 struck cuttings stolen from my pots in my mini-nursery late last year. They were well struck and fairly recently potted cuttings. The rotten thieves must have known what they were doing as they selected the best and most interesting grevilleas and only three other species, leaving behind the few sick looking plants.

Recent additions to the garden are *G* 'Firesprite' and *G* 'Bonfire' purchased from a chain store in Hobart. The first sounds like good value as describe in Newsletter No 63 but I have not found a reference to the latter - the label says that it grows to 1.5m x 2m. Can anyone tell me more? *G. bedgoodiana* and *G. maccutcheonii* came from Redbreast Nursery at Margate. It took me some time to find a reference to the rare *G. maccutcheonii* but I eventually found it in Grevillea Newsletter No 46. They are doing well.

My friend Les Payne from Pulchella Nursery panders to my collector's passion and last year provided me with *G. wilsoni*, *G. rogersi*, *G. quercifolia*, *G. monticola* and *G. diffusa* ssp. *filipendula*. Cuttings from friends produced *G* 'Lemon Surprise' and *G. sp.* 'Woodlands". Both

have greyish lobed leaves, but I can find very little information. Peter Olde suggested that *G. 'Lemon Surprise'* may be a *G. olivacea* cross registered in SA. Can anyone provide information? When they flower, it may be easier.

Amongst the plants that I purchased at the Grevillea seminar in the Grampians was a grafted *G. 'Billy Bonkers'* and *G. rhyolitica*, both of which flower most of the time. *G. rhyolitica* is a great favourite of mine and I have struck many cuttings as all my friends are asking for plants. I have a large plant of *G. 'Winpara Gem'* and one of *G. 'Winpara Gold'* which have never flowered. I had read that if they are pruned they will flower and when the wind badly damaged the former, we cut it back, but did it flower? No! But the 'Winpara Gold' did. How can we explain that? The flowers were lovely but hidden in the foliage.

A concern that someone may be able to help me with is my *G. 'Moonlight'* plants. They produce flower buds galore, but in almost all cases the buds just drop off. I can see no insects that might be eating them and I have tried recently feeding them with a seaweed fertiliser, but so far no improvement. My friend Norma Ali brings beautiful flowering specimens to our meetings and I am green with envy.

Yackandandah Update

By Martin Rigg and Diana Leggat

Our garden has survived the drought by 9 months of hand and hose watering. Rain has now stimulated new growth, budding and early flowers. Plenty of sun and daily warmth in between reasonable rain over the past month has encouraged the "patient plants". No frost so far now it is June but the first cold break is due later this week, including gales.

The drought did get even on me - my young centrepiece, *Grevillea flexuosa*, did the switch off trick in January -DEAD. This cutting grown plant grew rapidly to 2 m and the flowers were wonderful last season. Was it drought affected - no natural rain (but plenty of hand watering), and high continuous heat? Maybe the soil temperature was too high? Or was it faulty wiring, destined never to endure? I shall have to source another and keep it long enough to do a graft or two for better survival. Most other Grevilleas are doing fine.

A new member in Coonalpyn, SA

By John Edmonds-Wilson

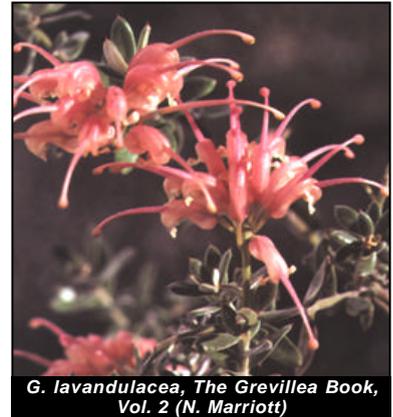
I am an APS member with the Parrakie Group in country South Australia. Along with my wife Pam and parents we run a 5,500 acre farm on which we mostly crop winter crops such as wheat, barley, canola, beans, lentils, lupins, oats etc. We also run some cattle as well. Our soil types range from sandy clay loams to quite heavy clays on the flat country (our cropping country). The soils there are neutral to slightly alkaline in the topsoil becoming (generally) highly alkaline at depth. However, on the sand hill country (which is where we mostly run our cattle), the soil is an acidic to neutral pH, non-wetting white to yellow sand up to 15 foot deep. Our average annual rainfall is 450 mm although we didn't get even close to that in 2002.

We also have within the 5,500 acres, 1,000 acres of heritage listed mallee scrub. The species within it are quite diverse as a result of the variable soil types and topography. Included within it is *Grevillea ilicifolia*, and not far away is a very nice form of *G. lavandulacea*.

In and around our house and garden I have, amongst other things, a range of different *Grevillea* species, although never enough (my wife might not agree with that statement!). The majority of species that I have chosen to grow (mostly Western Australian) appear to be right at home in our soil type and climate. Some however show some signs of lime-induced chlorosis, which if I treat and can get them to live for the next couple of years, appear to grow through the problem. Presumably they acidify the soil around their roots? I am fortunate that we have some heavy earth moving equipment, so if I wish to grow something near the house I can get a truckload of the right soil and make a garden bed to suit the plant.

I have also been including *Grevilleas* in my tree plantings in the paddocks, where they have got zero watering or extra attention. Successes include *G. magnifica*, *G. pterosperma*, *G. albiflora*, *G. leucopteris*, *G. triloba* and *G. superba*.

I consider myself a very keen (but learning) novice when it comes to *Grevilleas* so I have joined the Study Group so that I can learn a bit more about these magnificent plants.



G. lavandulacea, *The Grevillea Book*, Vol. 2 (N. Marriott)

Thanks very much to Alison Bailey for all the work she did in publishing the newsletter for the last 15 years.

She produced a high quality newsletter with flair and initiative, and usually at short notice!

Alison's work commitments have now left the way open for Belinda Guthrie to take over the job. Please email any articles for the GSG newsletter to Belinda -

kateandbel@smartchat.net.au.

Articles are needed in early February, June and September each year.

Q. I want to start doing some cuttings for a friend. What's the best mix to use and do I need to use fungicide? I have the hormone gel for semi hardened off cutting.

Brenda Galey, Vic

A. No real secrets, seed mix 1 part peatmoss, 1 part perlite, 1 part vermiculite - kept moist only. Seeds are soaked overnight in hot to start water with a little fungicide (mancozeb) weak strength, added. I propagate in a Yates mini greenhouse during Dec, Jan, Feb.

Success with grevillea's, refracta, wickhamii, nematophylla, eryngioides, leucopteris, quercifolia. I have potted all these on and now transferred to the garden, all growing well.
kbranksome@aol.com (Tasmania)

A. It's interesting that you soak the seeds in fungicide. Have you treated the seedlings as well, or does this prevent fungus forming in them?

Secondly, what sort of potting mix for the young plants? I often have my first problems when I move from the sterile vermiculite type seed-raising mix onto the "grower" stage. I've tried different blends of potting mix with perlite etc, but never been really happy with them. Lastly, I assume the mini-hothouse is to compensate for Tasmania's dubious summer.....probably not necessary where summers are hotter?

Margaret. Moir

A. The mix I used is sterile anyway and I have used no further fungicide and not had any trace of fungus on any of the seedlings. I have potted on using the small Yates peat pots, using the same type of mix, then planted straight into the garden soil when there is four or five leaves on the seedlings. I remove the bottom of the peat pots and let the young roots grow straight into the garden soil. What is this about Tassie's dubious summer !!!? The weather this year has been beautiful and warm, with low humidity, what more can a young plant ask for?

kbranksome @aol.com

A. What are these peat pots you talk about? They're not the compressed ones obviously. And you continue with peat/vermiculite/perlite mixture? I've always gone over to the potting mix/perlite mix, and that's usually when I lose them [if they're going to cark]

Margaret Moir

A. I have been taking cuttings of grevilleas among other things for over 15 years professionally. I use a mix of one part peat to 3 parts perlite. Keep warm and don't let it dry out. Perhaps cover with a plastic bag. If cleanliness is observed and cuttings are disease free fungicide isn't necessary.

Mark Ross

Seed Bank

Judy Smith has been the Seed Bank Officer for many years and she would like to have a break. The job doesn't require a lot of time so if anyone is interested in taking over from Judy please contact Peter Olde.

Thanks to Judy for all the work she has done.

\$1.50 + s.a.e.

<i>G. banksii</i> tree	<i>longistyla</i>
<i>banksii</i> grey leaf	<i>petrophiloides</i>
<i>barklyana</i>	<i>phanerophlebia</i>
<i>caleyi</i>	<i>rivularis</i>
Caloundra Gem	<i>robusta</i>
Copper Rocket	<i>scortechinii</i>
<i>endlicheriana</i>	Sid Reynolds
Excellence	<i>stenobotrya</i>
<i>johnsonii</i>	Superba
<i>juncifolia</i>	<i>thelemanniana</i>
<i>leucopteris</i>	<i>triloba</i>
<i>linearfolia</i> white	<i>trifida</i>
<i>longifolia</i>	<i>venusta</i>
	White Wings

Please note new phone number for Judy Smith (Seed Bank) 9579 1136

**Please include a stamped self addressed envelope to Judy Smith,
15 Cromdale Street Mortdale, 2223**

Free + s.a.e.

<i>candelabroides</i>	<i>plurijuga</i> upright
<i>crithmifolis</i>	<i>polybotrya</i>
<i>decora</i>	<i>pterosperma</i> SA
<i>Dryandri</i> ssp	<i>pterosperma</i> WA
<i>endlicheriana</i>	<i>pteridifolia</i>
<i>eriobotrya</i>	<i>pulchella</i>
<i>glauca</i>	<i>pyramidalis</i>
<i>goodii</i>	<i>quercifolia</i>
<i>huegellii</i>	<i>refracta</i>
<i>leucopteris</i>	<i>robusta</i>
<i>monitcola</i>	<i>stenobotrya</i>
<i>petrophiloides</i>	<i>teretifolia</i>
<i>pilulifera</i>	

Financial Report - July 2003

Income	
Subscriptions	\$740.75
Seeds	9.00
Interest	0.94
Donations	15.00
	\$750.69
 Expenditure	
Newsletter Publishing	\$620.00
Postage	142.00
Stationery	13.65
	\$775.65

\$10,441.89 in Interest Bearing Deposit till January 14 2003.

\$9,021.22 in Business Cheque Account from Autumn Plant Sale.

Balance in Current Account as at 4/7/03 is \$3,879.32

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Email Group

This email group was begun by John and Ruth Sparrow from Queensland. Free membership.

To subscribe, go to groups.yahoo.com and register, using the cyber-form provided. You must provide a user name and password as well as your email address to enable continuing access to the site which houses all emails and discussions to date.

You will receive a confirming email back and then you are able to access the site wherein you can select the groups to which you would like to subscribe. In this case search for "grevilleas" and then subscribe.

Following this you will receive the latest emails regularly in your email to which you can respond. This is a good way to encourage new growers and those interested in the genus.

Postmessage: grevilleas@yahoogroups.com

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URL to this page:

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On-line Contact

1. President's email address
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2. The email group
grevilleas@yahoogroups.com
3. URL for Grevillea Study Group website
http://users.bigpond.net.au/macarthuraps/grevillea_study_group.htm

If a cross appears in the box, your subscription of \$5.00 is due.

Please send to the Treasurer, Christine Guthrie, PO Box 275, Penhurst 2222.

Please make all cheques payable to the Grevillea Study Group.

2002

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