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Photography by F. W. Humphreys

GREVILLEA HOOKERIANA

One of the "tooth-brush" flowered Grevillea described in this issue.

WILDFLOWERS DESCRIBED FOR CULTIVATION IN THE GARDEN INCLUDE
GREVILLEA, ANDERSONIA, LEPTOSPERMUM, HYPOCALYMMMA
TREES FOR ORNAMENTAL PURPOSES—THE FIREWHEEL TREE AND CONIFERS
IDEAL FOR POT, DWARF OR SPECIMEN FEATURES
ORCHIDS—TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS WITH DETAILS OF CULTIVATION INCLUDE
GREENHOODS, BEARDED ORCHIDS, LYPERANTHUS

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Each issue is a complete book in itself on Australian wildflowers, covering some aspect of their cultivation and preservation. This issue is the final one in Volume No. 4 and presents:

WILDFLOWERS—SHRUBS FOR THE GARDEN

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"*Andersonia*—The Family Epacridaceae in W.A." by Ken Newbery—page 340—Attractive species described.

Cassytha, *Cuscuta*, *Clematis*, *Comesperma*, *Billardiera*, *Drosera*—"Tasmanian Climbers" by A. M. Gray—page 366.

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—"Winter Flowering *Pterostylis*" by Peter Uhlherr—page 348.

"Orchids—How to Grow" by R. C. Nash—page 356. The articles above give cultivation details also.

GROWING WILDFLOWERS

Articles indexed above give details of propagation and cultivation the plants described. As this is the principle objective of this publication, further details on general cultivation are:

"A Natural Pond for Your Garden" by L. K. Bates—page 367.

"The Case of Gardeners v. Slaters" by W. M. Martin—page 372.

WILDFLOWER EXHIBITION AT KING'S PARK, PERTH, W.A.

This exceptional display of Western Australian wildflowers is to be staged Thursday, 3rd October, 1968. One feature of the display will be a special presentation of a specimen flowerhead from a very large range of *Grevillea* species.

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AUSTRALIAN PLANTS — PAST ISSUES

Volume No. 1 (bound) issues 1-12, has now sold out. Except for issues 2 & 3 the remaining 10 issues are available at 40 cents each + 5c postage or \$4.00 + 20c postage for the Vol. 1 set. Supplies of Volume No. 2 (issues 13-20) at \$6.00 + 20c postage are still available, many of the issues being no longer available singly. Volume No. 3 (issues 21-28) is now available fully bound at \$6.00 + 20c postage. Issues prior to this issue and later than No. 29 are available singly at 40c + 5c postage. For overseas, postage x3.

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TOOTHBRUSH GREVILLEAS

by Patrick Stanley, *Canisius College, Pymble, N.S.W.*

The "Toothbrush" Grevilleas of N.S.W. are a small group occurring in the eastern part of the state, and chiefly in the Blue Mountains. Two exceptions are *Grevillea caleyi*, which is found in the Kuring-gai Chase and around Terrey Hills; and *Grevillea barklyana*, from Jervis Bay locality, southwards along the coast.

The common name "Toothbrush" is very apt, referring to the one-sided arrangement of a group of individual flowers. The six species described below are all fairly well known, and, generally speaking, have responded well to garden conditions. The adaptability of some of these species is remarkably shown when one is known to flourish in a Victorian Mallee home garden—a strange transition from its Blue Mountains origin.

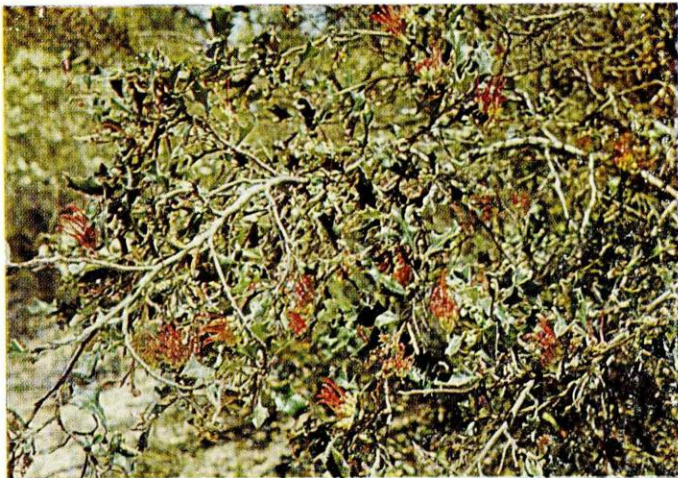
Grevillea longifolia is probably the best known of the group, although the name may be unfamiliar. *Grevillea longifolia* was formerly known as *Grevillea aspleniifolia*, while the species now known to botanists as *Grevillea aspleniifolia* was previously called *G. aspleniifolia* variety *shepherdii*. We should not be too hasty in blaming botanists for confusion in changing names of plants. They have to follow internationally accepted laws of nomenclature. In the early days of this country indiscriminate collecting of botanical material was quite common, as a consequence, a good deal of scientific description of this material was buried away in obscure publications in various parts of Europe. It is the discovery of these documents from time to time that causes minor botanical upsets, and not, as is sometimes thought the propensity of botanists for changing names.

The characteristics which may help identify these two related species are as follows: *G. longifolia* is usually found near streams. The serrations of the leaves are a constant feature, but they are not usually cut as far as the mid-rib. A microscopic examination of the hairs beneath the leaves will show that they are straight and not curling. It is recorded from the lower Blue Mountains, George's River area to Cataract Dam region. This is a hardy shrub in cultivation, but, like so many other "natives" it becomes scraggy with age. It can stand hard pruning however, and this will give it a fresh appearance. The foliage has a pleasing fresh-green look about it, and the Toothbrush flowers are reddish.

Grevillea aspleniifolia is usually found on slopes or ridges. The leaves are very narrow, perhaps a quarter of an inch in width and sometimes nearly a foot in length. Some leaves are without any serration at all, while others have but a single cleft. Specimens from different areas vary quite a lot. A shrub, or small tree, from Mittagong, for instance, has finely-toothed, very narrow leaves. A microscopic examination of hairs beneath leaves of this species will show them to be curling, unlike the other species.

Grevillea aspleniifolia, with the long narrow leaves, is recorded from Cox's River, Nattai River, and Yerranderie. It is usually found on slopes or ridges. This shrub, or small tree, is seldom seen in cultivation. The one that we have growing here in Pymble, came from nurseryman George Althofer, several years ago. It successfully survived transplanting when it was five feet high, and is now growing to about eight feet, in a sheltered position,

though open to the north. It flowers for most of the year, and the very deep mauve compact flowers resemble a toothbrush more than any of the other species mentioned. It is a favourite with the honeyeaters (noisy miners and wattle birds), and the quivering branches testify to this especially in the early morning. Seedlings germinate readily beneath this shrub and they show a wide range of variation in leaf form, from the narrow, entire (unserrated) to the typical toothed form of *Grevillea longifolia*. This may be the result of cross pollination between the parent and *G. longifolia*, as specimens of the latter are growing in a neighbour's garden. On the other hand it may be the sign of an hereditary link between these obviously related species. A microscopic examination of the undersides of the leaves of these seedlings may decide which is the heir apparent!



Photography and block donated by N. B. Thomson.

HOLLY GREVILLEA—*Grevillea aquifolium*

Grevillea acanthifolia is found from near Lidsdale to the Woodford district. It favours the damper situations. It has deeply divided leaves that are rather prickly, and flowers that are of a deep mauve, or pinkish colour. This is a beautiful shrub, and an accommodating one too, as it is recorded growing happily in a garden in the Victorian Mallee country. *Grevillea acanthifolia* is generally an upright shrub growing to about four feet or more in height.

Grevillea barklyana is recorded from Jervis Bay, Milton, Ulladulla, and southwards. The form now known among growers as the Jervis Bay form is an upright one, but, like so many other *Grevilleas*, prostrate forms are known as well. This should be a shrub for the seaside, with its entire, leathery leaves. These leaves are more like the traditional "Gum leaves" than those usually associated with the *Grevillea* genus. Flower colour ranges from a deep red to a greyish-pink. It is a sturdy shrub, and plenty of room should be left for it to develop in a garden. As seeds germinate freely beneath this shrub in the garden, its future should be secure. This species may not be as colourful as some already mentioned, but if the prospective grower can get one of the deep pink coloured forms, he would be well advised to do so.

