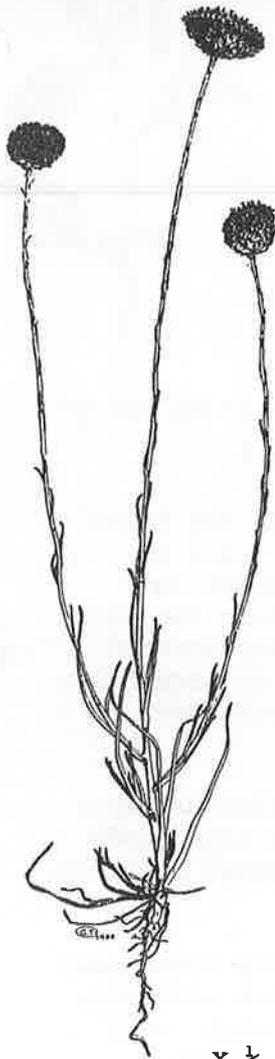


ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSTHE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 24

Dear Members,

For most of us seed sowing is well under way and, with warm weather still around, there's plenty of time for sowing before winter sets in. In Melbourne we've had good autumn rains, some with electrical activity that seems to stimulate seeds to germinate, and weeks of warm, calm, sunny weather, much to my delight. One makes all sorts of excuses to be outside with pots instead of inside attending to chores. Some of us have been carried away with seed sowing (200 or more pots), but we don't expect to be like the sorcerer's apprentice, unable to control our activities, because much of the sowing is for seed trialing and negative results are well ahead of positive results. At times we are despondent as we gaze into pots where nothing is happening! Never mind, I'm sure one day we will crack it. Future newsletters will keep you in touch with these efforts.



Podolepis kendallii

Thank you for the seven requests for seed since the last newsletter, however, I would like more of you to make use of the seed bank and to give us feedback. Contributions of seed giving source and date of collection are always welcome. The AD SG has come a long way in a few years, but we are still in a 'learning phase' and need basic information. To run a successful seed bank one needs to be confident of the quality of seed offered. There is not a great deal of information on Asteraceae seed. For the time being I don't discard seed from the bank unless more than one propagator is reporting failure.

I'm also sending out an SOS. We have the opportunity over the next few weeks to analyse results on the computer, so could you please help us by filling in the simple form included in this NL? The AD SG has been invited to give a short paper on "New Ideas on Propagation" at the forthcoming Biennial Conference in Hobart. Judy, Maureen, Bev and other Melburnians are hard at it, trying out various approaches - particularly with difficult species. There's more on propagation in the following pages. Bev Courtney has developed an almost fail-safe method for her needs and conditions. Perhaps you have a great idea to share with us?

We seem to have become a little bureaucratic in this NL because there is another form to fill in! It concerns the first Daisy Open Weekend on October 14th - 15th. It may seem a long way off, but this is the last NL before October. The previous NL gave a general outline of the program. The full program is set out on p.32. We have a cheerful and willing sub-committee planning a good weekend for you. To assist us with catering, etc., we would appreciate an early reply.

I apologise in advance for delays in handling mail in the dead of winter as some of us are heading in various directions north. It should be a good season for daisies,

Subscriptions are now due.

Here's to an enjoyable inaugural Daisy Open Weekend, with the hope of seeing as many of you as possible.

Regards,

Esma.

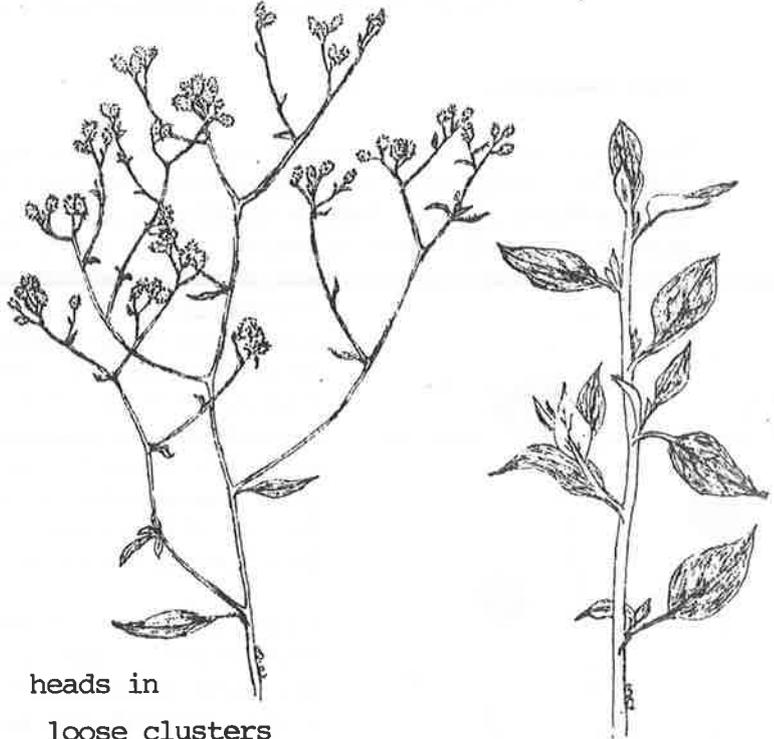
SPECIES OR FORMS NEW TO THE GROUP

Helichrysum cordatum

(WA.)

Heart-leaved Everlasting

My first introduction to this helichrysum came when I purchased some floral art material from a Dried Flower Specialist. It caught my eye immediately, not because of its spectacular flowers (these really are insignificant), but because of its all-over grey appearance. Not realising at the time that it was a helichrysum, or any other daisy for that matter, I purchased two large bunches. Just as well I did for, when it was finally identified, I used it so often in displays that it soon became very bed-raggle. However, as its popularity increased I was grateful when seed was donated to the Group and we were able to grow this daisy for ourselves.



heads in
loose clusters

young leaves

Helichrysum cordatum x 1/2

Helichrysum cordatum is a woody perennial with very nice grey-green foliage.

The soft, heart-shaped leaves, 1 - 9 cm long x 2 - 4 cm wide, are green and hairy above, while underneath there are prominent veins and a raised midrib - all of which is covered with a layer of thickly matted hairs. Young leaves appear in bunches along the lengthy grey stems before they mature and produce their own leaf stalks, which are usually 2 - 6 cm long. The branching stems, so densely covered in wool, tend to recline on the ground with only the odd stem upright or ascending. This form of habit prevents it from being a neat and tidy plant. Nevertheless, it looks well intermingled with other plants and daisies.



x 4

head

Flower-heads are turbinate, 4 - 10 mm across, white with reflexed bracts and yellow disc centres, becoming fluffy when mature. These tiny heads are borne on branchlets, widely spread apart in loose, terminal clusters. These branchlets bear a few minute bracts or leaves.

The involucre is like a small ball of cottonwool in which the lower part of the bracts are embedded, while the broader papery tips are revolute, giving one the impression of a pineapple top. Bracts are linear, very hairy on the back, with a central bright green stripe which turns a biscuit colour with age. Their length is 4 - 4.5 mm x 0.5 - 1 mm broad. The receptacle is pitted. The achenes are brown, 0.75 - 1 mm long, with short, stiff bristles on the surface. The pappus is barbed.

Seed sown on 16.6.88 germinated by 16.7.88. Ten seedlings were produced, which grew into nice sturdy plants and flowered in March, 1989. After giving some away and planting the rest out into the garden, I noticed (much to my dismay) that grubs had taken a fancy to the leaves, so it became necessary to spray continually with

pyrethrum during their growing period. Also some plants progressed much better than others. Those growing out in the open (and not watered daily) produced many flowering stems, whereas plants growing under the eaves (and watered each day) generated plenty of leaf growth, but remained flowerless. These plants still look fairly healthy and are producing plenty of new growth, while the others, which had their blooms removed, look very much the worse for wear. I was disappointed in the size of the flower-heads that my plants produced compared with those from the wild, probably due to my impatience by picking while still in bud. A word of advice when hanging them upside down to dry; don't overbunch because flowering branchlets can become entangled very easily. The leaves would be better removed as they shrink and curl when dried. Preserving by the glycerine method should also be tried as the leaves may have more chance of retaining their perfection by this method.

Helichrysum cordatum has already proved itself in the cut-flower trade; florists tint it in many colours now, To me, the natural whitish-grey look is fine. Arranged simply in a tall, black container the contrast looks stunning.

Found growing in sandhills of the south-west coast of Western Australia, Helichrysum cordatum would be an excellent choice for coastal areas. It has been tolerant of my heavier soil in Mulgrave so I hope I will be able to keep it on as a permanent guest.

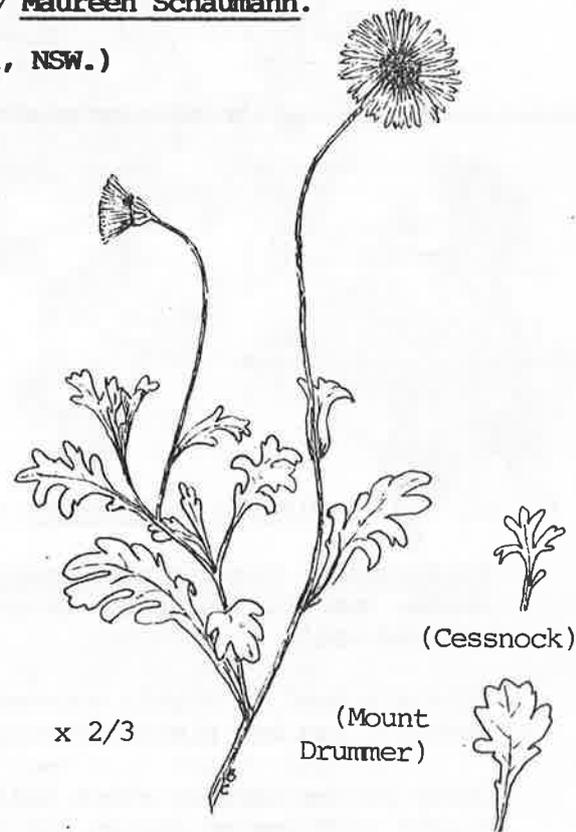
by Maureen Schaumann.

Brachyscome angustifolia var. heterophylla (Cessnock, NSW.)

Lyn Millington, one of our Newcastle members, originally presented me with a pot of this pretty form. It went into a large terracotta pot in spring 1987 and flowered without pausing until the following autumn. The mauve-pink heads were small, 15 mm across, with 20 rays. The leaves were dark green and most were quite deeply lobed. The scape was about 6 cm long.

In February '88 I noticed large golden-brown seeds which I collected and sowed almost immediately. They germinated in 10 - 20 days and the resulting seedlings were planted in pots or in a number of different situations in the garden. They are giving me much pleasure, but these heads are bigger, to 25 mm, with 31 mauve rays and on scapes 10.5 cm long. The leaves are also bigger, lighter green and not so deeply lobed.

I suspect fraternisation with a large pot of the same variety from Mount Drummer (Vic.) which graced a log about one metre away. The heads of the Mt. Drummer form are about 22 mm across, have 36 mauve rays and scapes 13 cm long. The leaves have quite shallow lobes.



seedling of the Cessnock form

The seedling plants are growing and suckering strongly. They prefer dappled shade and moist soil in hot weather. They are providing me with a long flowering, dense ground cover to a height of about 20 cm. These plants never seem to produce purple reverses on the leaves as Brachyscome formosa does.

by Judy Barker.

STOP PRESS ... Jenny Rejske insists that Brachyscome ciliaris, collected from a seed head and sown into a seed tray in one move, germinated in two days in early May.

SPECIAL PROJECTS MINI TALKS

February

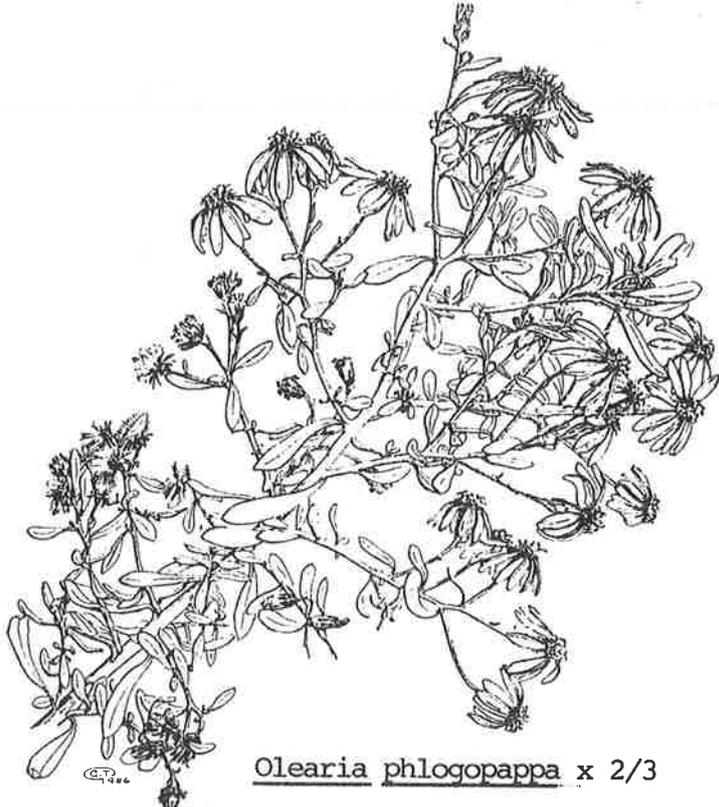
Olearia phlogopappa - varieties and forms

by Jenny Rejske

Jenny's association with olearias began ten years ago when she planted her first O. phlogopappa. That plant persisted for five years without the pruning or pest control measures she has learnt since. Little did she know then how large a part olearias would play in her life.

The talk began with a display of many forms of O. phlogopappa, either potted or foliage specimens. The 15 cm pots contained healthy plants about 1 m high, grown from cuttings taken about six months before. Jenny grows many different colour forms - white, pale mauve, pink and blue, and has struck cuttings from plants seen in many of her travels. Her plants have originated from such diverse places

as the dunes of Wilson's Promontory, a peaty bog at Anglesea and alpine or sub-alpine areas. The foliage of all of them differed remarkably; some leaves were long and some were short, the margins varied from deeply serrated to entire, and the colour from green to grey.



Olearia phlogopappa x 2/3

Some observations were:-

1. The white forms produce a lot of seed.
2. The blue form is quite hard to strike. (20 - 30 % success.)
3. The pale mauve form is very vigorous, but becomes untidy after a couple of years.
4. The pink form is the least easy to grow. If it dries out the leaves brown off (though this happens with all forms).

Cultivation: Olearia phlogopappa probably likes well drained soil and dappled shade, but will tolerate morning sun. More foliage is produced if plants are watered well.

"Chris's Mum", a highly successful grower of olearias (and not even a Study Group member), has her plants growing in sandy soil in full sun and dry conditions.

Jenny prunes back by about half after flowering has finished. This results in plants with better shapes and longer lives.

Flowering period: All forms flower profusely and for about two months. They start to flower in Melbourne in mid-September.

Pests: White fly - the foliage recovers so Jenny puts up with them.

Borer - if she notices the telltale sawdust she pokes a wire down the hole in an attempt to skewer the grub. If she does not notice until the branch starts to die, unfortunately the drastic measure of cutting off the whole branch is used.

Propagation: Olearias usually strike quickly from cuttings. Jen's cutting grown plants make a lot of top growth for not much root growth, but this could be the

result of keeping them in a shady spot where they can be easily watered.

Seed seems to have a low viability, but will usually germinate when fresh. At least ten self-sown seedlings have appeared in the garden - all with very different leaves.

Varieties: Jenny has grown the two alpine or subalpine varieties, var. flavescens and var. subrepanda. They germinated well from seed collected in the wild, but are difficult to keep established. Since they have not flowered in the garden new plants must be grown from cuttings.

We enjoyed this informative talk and the excellent display - all presented in Jenny's inimitable manner. Her grasp of the subject is very impressive. (Jenny lives in South Oakleigh, a Melbourne suburb. The soil is sandy.)

Judy Barker.

April Germination of seed by Group Members

Comparison of seed raising methods and results always encourages lively discussion. The basic requirements for raising seed are an open well drained mix, warmth, air, light and care. There was great variation in the methods used by the members present, and continuing adjustments had been made to suit individual conditions such as altitude, rainfall, temperature, soil type and aspect.

Bev. Courtney opened the discussion with an outline of her methods and philosophy. She thinks about the natural habitat of the plant, especially the conditions that apply from seed-set to germination. What role does soil structure play? What is the significance of the presence of organic salts and micro-organisms? What other factors initiate germination? How critical are temperature, moisture, light, day-length, after-ripening and dormancy for successful germination? When we report on our unsuccessful seed trials with recalcitrant arid zone and pyrophitic species we are forced to ponder on the trials and tribulations of our backyard technology. It then becomes very important to consider the factors detailed above and to try a few experiments.

For most seed Bev's methods have given consistently good results. Her losses are virtually nil (except for the odd mishap with snails, etc.) and there have been no problems with damping-off despite the fact that no fungicide is used.

Seed Raising Mix: 2 parts perlite (wet well)
 1 part peat moss (New Zealand)

Moisten the peat moss and mix well. Fill seed punnets (14x8x5cm). Sow seed on the surface. In summer only the seed is lightly covered with 'Trackscoria' (2mm in diameter). Water once daily with a fine spray. Fertilise with Aquasol or Easi-green regularly once germination has occurred.

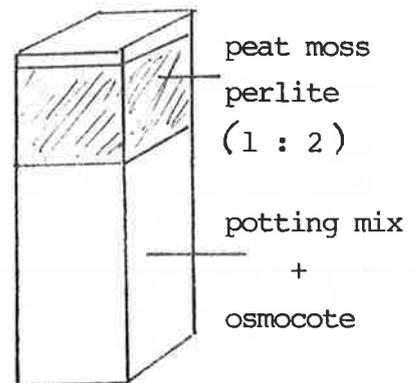
Pricking out:

Prick out when two sets of true leaves have developed. Soak seed trays in water to which Formula 20 has been added. Seedlings separate easily from the seed raising mix. Pot into seed raising mix. Place in a small, enclosed poly-house (clear plastic stretched over a small, triangular wooden frame about 30 cm high) in complete shade. Water in with Formula 20 and leave for a week. Do not water in this time. When taken out water with weak Aquasol. Place in the open where they receive about four hours of sun daily. Fertilise weekly with IBDU and weak Aquasol or less frequently if the seedlings are growing well.

Potting on:

Commercial mix is used with the addition of Osmocote. In lieu of pricking out into

2" tubes (5cm) Bev is now using tall 6" tubes (15cm). The bottom 2/3 is filled with potting mix plus Osmocote and the rest of the tube is filled with seed raising mix. Plants then go to their final pot size. Some members use perlite (25-33%) with commercial mix plus Osmocote (5kg/cu metre) and IBDU (650g/cu metre).
(Osmocote NPK 17 - 1.6 - 8.7 IBDU = 'Easigreen')



Commercial mix should not be allowed to dry out and potting on is always done in damp mix. Some have found that planting out from a mixture of potting soil and perlite has not suited their conditions. Roots are either not penetrating out into the garden soil or not absorbing moisture from the surrounding soil even when this soil is very wet.

Sowing Time:

Any time for Bev and Alf (who uses 1 part peat moss and 3 parts coarse sand under mist). Autumn is preferred by most, but some start in mid-summer. It all depends on your own conditions. Seeds germinate optimally at 10 - 20 C at the surface of the mix.

Bog Method:

Maureen Schaumann has used this method with outstanding success. Propagating sand is used in 500g margarine containers (with holes inserted in the bottom for drainage). The containers stand in water in a long piece of galvanised spouting placed on concrete under the shelter of the eaves. Pots are exposed to north sun all day. Water is topped up as required and is not changed. Seedlings are fertilised with Osmocote and pricked out when well established.

My Bog Method:

I use propagating sand alone or, in summer, sand plus 10% fine peat moss and 10% sieved sandy loam in 2" pots (5cm) in a plastic tray. Water comes halfway up the pots. The tray is placed on a bench (which saves my back) in an open, sunny position. Sarlon is placed over the tray to protect it from rain or hot sun. On germination the pots are placed on gravel in a polystyrene fruit box and fertilised with IBDU. Watering in hot weather is under mist four times daily. In autumn pots are placed in full sun and hand watered as required.

Germination rates are lower than Maureen's, probably due to air flow under the tray and no warmth from the heat-absorbing concrete as well as deprivation of TLC. I prick out at the first set of true leaves into potting soil plus 25 % perlite in 2" pots (5cm).

Other Self-watering Methods:

See the Owen Method, NL 23 pp.10-11, and Elliot and Jones, Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Vol.1, p.204, using the bird feeder principle to keep seed moist by capillary action. The heat arrangement is not necessary.

Peat Moss:

New Zealand peat moss is preferred and is packaged finely sieved. Composted pine bark (fine grade) is an alternative, being less acid than peat moss and self-sterilising.

Root Aphids:

- that perennial "bug-bear". Naphthalene flakes are still being assessed. It

appears to be effective, but loses its effectiveness when the smell has dispersed.

Collection of Seed:

Hand pollination is a must for all AD SG members, especially if you don't have pollinators in your garden. Plant two or three plants together in the garden. Rub flower-heads from adjacent plants together as the florets begin to open and continue until the heads are fully open. You should get good seed set. I have ignored discussion on the mechanism of pollination, but it's very instructive to look at the flower under magnification.

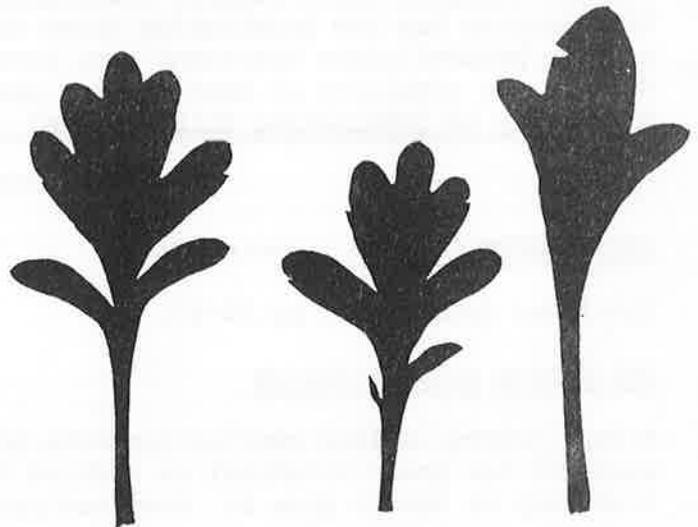
Seed is collected and stored at low humidity in paper bags. Kill off "bugs" by placing seed packets in a sealed plastic bag overnight in the freezer section in the refrigerator.

I am anxious to hear of any innovation in germinating Asteraceae seed as this author has been asked to speak at the Biennial Conference.

by Esma Salkin.

BRACHYSCOME HYBRID

Some time ago Pat Shaw (from Macgregor, Queensland) sent a specimen of a mauve-flowered brachyscome which she claimed had a head 6.5 cm across and a flower stalk 20 cm long. Good Heavens! We did not know what it was, but it looked like a giant B.angustifolia var. heterophylla. As usual we asked for seed, but Pat said it was very difficult to find any seed, much less mature seed. Peter Vaughan has been to look at it and now they are both of the opinion that the plant is a hybrid between B.segmentosa and B.angustifolia. The other brachyscomes growing in the garden at the time the seedling appeared were B.multifida, B.formosa and B.macrocarpa.



Leaf variation x 1

In February this year Pat told us the original plant was still alive, growing in full sun in the lower part of a raised garden bed. Other plants look more lush in well composted soil. The heads at this time were smaller.

At the same time Pat kindly sent me a rooted cutting and some cutting material. In May '89 the rooted cutting is growing well in a terracotta pot. The plant measures 26 x 26 cm with the stems mostly upright, but some horizontal. The first head it has produced is 3 cm across at the tip of a scape 17 cm long, and very handsome it is too! There is one entire leaf, 30 mm x 4 mm, near the base of the scape. The leaves are about 5 - 7 cm long and 2.5 - 3 cm wide, with broad lobes (some lobes slightly toothed). The leaf stalks are long and narrow. The leaves look hairless, but under x 25 magnification a few sparse hairs can be seen - mainly on the veins.

Pat says she had both varieties of B.angustifolia growing so we don't know which variety may have been responsible. I have been interested to see that seedlings produced from seed of var. angustifolia have lobed leaves which are now beginning to lose most of their lobes.

Similar plants have appeared in other members' gardens, especially when they are also growing B.segmentosa. How would we like a cerise head 6.5 cm across? Perhaps we can introduce B.formosa to the circle.

by Judy Barker.

ALL THESE DAISIES CAME UP!

by Esma Salkin

A vivid memory of a visit to the northern end of the Kosciusko National Park was my first sighting of the white paper daisy with its pink, silky buds, Helichrysum adenophorum var. waddelliae, just a few plants in a clearing beneath tall eucalypts. Visiting the area a few years later, after a severe bushfire in which all the forest cover was completely destroyed, was a revelation. This daisy had germinated in great profusion, plants over 1 metre high crowding the slope. The following year plants were giving way to other shrubs and only reached about 0.6 metre.

This ability to colonise is characteristic of the Asteraceae and is demonstrated again in the Victorian Highlands under different conditions. In 1939 bushfires had destroyed vast areas of Victorian forests. On a high plateau eucalypts had failed to regenerate. Prior to the present planting program the odd acacia was removed and the grass/bracken cover was scraped with a bulldozer to a depth of about 10cm. In effect the soil was turned over. Instead of the expected thin covering of acacias "all these daisies came up and were crunching under your feet." The coloniser, H.adenophorum var. waddelliae, about 25cm high was covering the whole coupe. Had the seed lain in the soil for years or was there enough seed produced from a few plants to colonise the whole area?

The two examples cited suggest strategies that may increase germination rates as this species has low germination rates using the normal methods. Heat treatment and the hemicellulose treatment have been tried, but trials need to be repeated. What is the viability of seed in this species? Do other members experience difficulty in germinating this species?

DRYING MORE DAISIES (continued)

by Maureen Schaumann

Continued from NL 22, pp.46-47.

Helipterum polygalifolium

A very pretty, golden everlasting with hollow stems, just perfect for wiring with ease. It has great potential as a dried flower, but you will have to get the recipe from Judy on how to grow it. Seed has proved very difficult to germinate.

Olearia rudis

Not an everlasting, but a very striking olearia indeed. It proved to be an excellent cut flower, lasting up to two weeks in water on my kitchen window sill. This is a very showy daisy and hopefully we will be able to acquire seed in the near future.

WARBY RANGE EXPEDITION, OCTOBER 1988

by Judy Barker

About fifteen people turned up to marvel at the beauty of the Warby Range State Park - its ancient granite rock and the many interesting species found within the Park, such as the tall, fully-skirted Grass-trees and Acacia triptera, the Spur-wing Wattle.

Although the weather was terrible we thoroughly enjoyed being shown over this magic area by Arthur Hall. Arthur, a retired ranger, set himself to show us every daisy in the Park and achieved his aim before 5.00 pm.. We saw Haeckeria ozathamnoides, quite a tall cassinia-like shrub with long, narrow leaves and conspicuous, yellow headlets in tight clusters, masses of Microseris scapigera, some Helichrysum apiculatum, Podolepis jaceoides, the tiny Stuartina muelleri and quite a robust form of Lagenifera huegelii. To our great delight Arthur led us to two brachyscomes; a small, white-flowered species which had been identified as B.leptocarpa, which we

are fairly sure is B.gracilis, and B.angustifolia var. heterophylla. The latter was a very promising form and there were real pinks as well as mauves among the plants we saw.

At one stage we were out in the middle of a spectacular thunderstorm with loud peals of thunder rolling all around us. This was followed by a battering with large, heavy hailstones. Many of us were wet and shivering by this time so we sped back to Wangaratta for hot showers and clean clothes.

After a good counter tea some of us made our way (by circuitous routes) back to Arthur's for slides - first Arthur's Wyperfield slides, then Salkin's WA. slides. We loved them all and also the delicious supper provided for us by Arthur's wife, Lorraine.

On Sunday we made an advantageous visit to Kooringa Native Nursery in the Warby Range, followed by a quick trip (also advantageous) to Bailey's Winery. There we bade farewell to Maureen and Vic who were about to launch themselves on a trip around western New South Wales.

Gloria led the rest of us to the Reef Hills State Park, near Benalla. Very close to the Benalla-Mansfield road we were greeted by large, cheerful stands of Helichrysum apiculatum, scattered H.obcordatum (one with unusual reddish brown buds) and again Microseris scapigera. Closer scrutiny of this area found the small composite, Myriocephalus rhizocephalus, Woolly-heads, or so I thought at the time.

At Tower Road picnic ground we lunched and found a very pleasing silver-foliaged form of Helichrysum semipapposum. Some members (with more open minds) found orchids and handsome plants of Gompholobium huegelii.

The highlight of the expedition for me came just as we were leaving the Park. We came upon squadrons of Craspedia globosa rising out of sheets of water amongst grasses and grey-trunked River Red Gums. It was a breathtaking sight, made more so by recognition of quite large plants of purple Utricularia species interspersed in some pools. Finally, we expected a brachyscome to make itself obvious, and it did. It was about 60cm tall with narrow leaves and white rays. Shirl said it was B.basaltica and, as her identifications had been extremely accurate over the weekend, we didn't argue.

Our grateful thanks for a wonderful weekend to Esma, Arthur and Gloria for the parts they played in its organisation.

SOLUTION TO BRUCE WALLACE'S MAUVE DAISY PROBLEM

by Stefanie Rennick

Answering Bruce Wallace's problem (NL 23,p.13) with two names for the quite large (at times) mauve daisy which can be seen in January and February from The Bluff above the Howqua to Mt. Buffalo and the High Plains. It prefers rocky gully slopes - and can even be seen at Arthur's Seat State Park, Dromana.

It is one of those many name changes - rather confusing. However, I have solved this problem by buying the latest (at present 1988) A Census of the Vascular Plants of Victoria by S.J.Forbes and J.H.Ross, National Herbarium of Victoria. For \$10.00

I can keep up with the many name changes: on page 105 we find Brachyscome scapiformis = (now) Brachyscome spathulata.

EXTRACT FROM CHAMBERS' ENCYCLOPAEDIA (1878)

presented to AD SG by Colin Jones

In the days of chivalry, the Daisy was the emblem of fidelity in love, and was frequently borne at tournaments both by knights and ladies.

DAISIES FOR BASKETS

by Judy Barker

The Study Group would like to compile a list of species that members could recommend for use as subjects for hanging baskets. Please write of your experiences - no matter whether the baskets were successful or dismal failures.

To start the project here is a short history of my career in basketry.

Potting Mix: 5 parts Propine potting mix BC321 (refer NL 22,p.34)
1 part perlite
1 part peat moss
Osmocote and IBDU

Baskets: I use whatever people have cast aside over the years. Some baskets are all plastic and have attached saucers beneath and some have lost their saucers; others are wire with fibre or paperbark inserts.

Fertiliser: It is always my firm intention to add fertiliser weekly or at least fortnightly, but I usually forget after the first few weeks.

Watering: This aspect of care is never neglected.

Position: All the baskets hang on trees and are mostly in dappled shade, but usually receive sun at some time of the day.

In 1987 I had two baskets:-

Brachyscome angustifolia var. angustifolia (mauve-pink)

This was a success. It flowered from spring to late autumn and gave me much pleasure. No pests attacked it.

Brachyscome microcarpa

There were usually some flower-heads on the plant, but not enough to have much effect. More attention may have led to better results.

In 1988 I tried four new species:-

Helichrysum baxteri

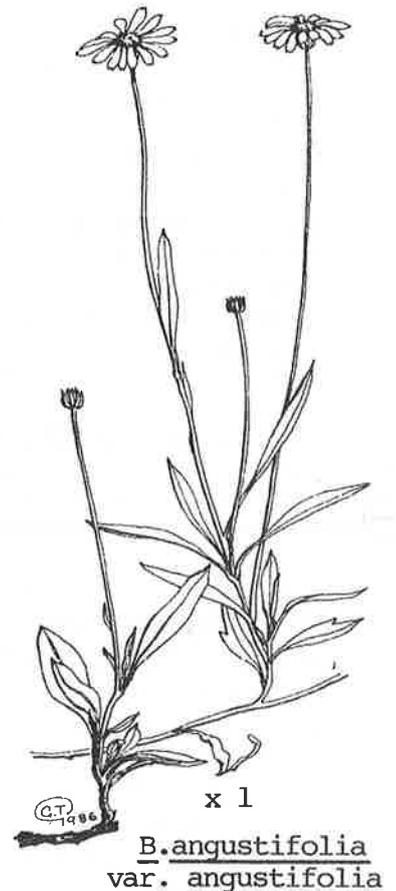
The way the stems of the form from Nelson lay along the ground made me think it might look well in a basket. I was wrong because not one flower was produced and not many stems either. This plant is going into the garden.

Leptorhynchos squamatus (alpine form)

This species made a lot of growth and for months I had a healthy, bright green, robust plant with handsome, trailing stems which looked as though they would flower at any minute. Then the foliage suffered an attack of some kind and finally died back, later to shoot vigorously from the base. A few small heads had appeared from time to time. Now this plant has gone into the garden at Fairhaven where it has produced copious quantities of large, bright yellow heads ever since.

Helichrysum apiculatum (Road to Lake Eucumbene form)

The habit of this form should suit a basket admirably. Unhappily, I watered the foliage with Wettasoil and it died. I'm trying another plant now because I still believe it will be pretty.



Helipterum anthemoides (alpine form)

The silvery stems arched over the rim and were tipped with small, white heads for about two to three months. I will replot this plant into another basket and take more care of it.

In 1989 I have three species in baskets so far:-

Helichrysum apiculatum (Road to Lake Eucumbene)

Helipterum anthemoides (alpine form)

Brachyscome nova-anglica

This should be an excellent subject if its performance in a pot is any guide.

There is an obvious need to formulate the properties a good basket species should display. It should have:-

1. Handsome foliage
2. Cascading foliage
3. A long flowering period
4. Suitable size
5. What else?

This depressing anecdote should urge you all to take up your pens in an effort to show me how easy and rewarding are baskets which are planted with the right species and then carefully and lovingly tended.

GROWING DAISIES FROM CUTTINGS

by Bev Courtney

Much has been written on growing daisies from seed, but very little on growing from cuttings.

I prefer to grow from cuttings because it is so much quicker. For instance, a cutting of Helipterum anthemoides (wine bud form), prepared about 10cm long and placed in a 2" (5cm) pot, will be showing roots through the bottom in about a month and will be ready to pot on or put out in another month or less. I could never hope to achieve a seedling of this size in the same time.

Because hybridisation sometimes occurs a particular form cannot be guaranteed to come true from seed, so growing from cuttings is necessary to maintain good forms of a species.

I usually grow my initial plants from seed and plant two or three together in the garden. Cross-pollination enables me to collect mature seed if I want it and I have plenty of material available for cuttings.

For striking cuttings I use a mixture of 1 part perlite, 1 part peatmoss and 3 parts track scoria. (This is crushed scoria rock containing various particle sizes from fine powder up to ¼".) Before mixing I wash the 3 parts of scoria with hot water through an ordinary kitchen sieve to remove the very fine material. This usually brings the volume down to about 2½ parts. I use 2" tubes and Rootex hormone liquid as per instructions and I place one cutting per pot. This enables rooted cuttings to be potted on with minimal disturbance to roots.

Pots are placed in trays and covered with a wooden frame covered in clear heavy-duty plastic. This sits under the eaves on the south side of the house where it receives plenty of light, but no direct sunlight. Watering may be twice a week in summer, but only once a fortnight in winter.

Most daisies are showing roots through the bottom within a month. (The record so far is held by H. anthemoides, wine bud form, in 23 days.) Some of the shrubby

helichrysums, cassinias and olearias may take a week or two longer. Some daisies cannot be successfully grown from cuttings. These are mostly the non-branching forms which have a basal rosette of leaves from which the flower stems arise. Brachyscome stuartii is one example which springs to mind. H.anthemoides (Queensland form) is another difficult species. Its habit is of erect, non-branching stems with terminal flower-heads. New stems emanate from the base which can become quite woody with time. Cuttings taken from flowering stems form roots, but do not grow on and die after flowering. Apparently, the capacity to produce new growth is built into the seedling, and is not transferred to a stem cutting.

Suckering species such as Helichrysum scorpioides and H.ramosissimum, are fine from cuttings. New growth appears from the roots and these suckers will eventually fill a 6" (15cm) pot with growth.

Leaf cuttings have been discussed in earlier newsletters. They will form roots readily, but only some species grow on to produce new plants. I probably need to do more work on leaf cuttings as it is a useful method when very little propagating material is available.

HELIPTERUM ALBICANS

by Colin Jones

- a comment twelve months after the last one (NL 21, p.20-21). For info.my garden is in Ringwood, Vic., 15 miles (24K) due east of the centre of Melbourne.

Have I had any better results than the previous year? Yes and no, in other words nothing startling, but my enthusiasm for this species hasn't been dampened quite yet!

Results for the various H.albicans are as follows:-

1. H.albicans ssp. albicans var. albicans.

A small number of plants survived into the summer of '89 from the spring of '87. However, they had all succumbed before the end of the flowering season. Something we all look for in plants is self-regeneration. Well, about ten seedlings which appeared in the spring of '88 are still flowering and looking healthy. In my travels in late '87 and early '88 I collected seed near Lithgow, south of Goulburn and east of Armidale. From the seedlings raised I established colonies of plants with the hope that they will self-regenerate.

2. H.albicans ssp. albicans var. incanum.

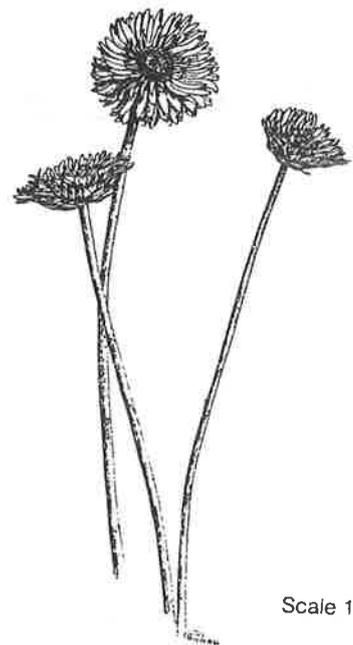
No survivors from '87/'88. Esma supplied some fresh seed and from this I established a colony. The plants have flowered well, but the seven plants remaining are not healthy.

3. H.albicans ssp. albicans var. buffaloensis.

The plants I spoke of last year are still surviving, but did not produce as many flowers this year. The six plants cover an area 1.2 m square.

4. H.albicans ssp. alpinum.

Last year's plants died before producing flowers. This year, from a packet of seed, I was able to establish two colonies in different parts of the garden. One colony survived and went on to produce flowers. By the end of January, however, all plants had died.



Scale 1:2

Helipterum albicans ssp. *alpinum*
(flower-heads)

Other H.albicans I am in the process of raising from seed are:- f. purpureoalbum from Trunkey (NSW), a white form of var. albicans from south of Goulburn (NSW) and yellow forms of var. albicans from Cunnamulla (Qld.) and Mansfield (Vic.).

What of 1989/90? Continue the experiment to see if I can come up with any hardier forms.

OLEARIA SCILLONIENSIS

by Esma Salkin

I purchased this olearia, which I was informed originated from a nursery in South Australia, whilst on a field trip in the north-east of Victoria. To me it looked like O.phlogopappa var. phlogopappa, but I suspected it could be a cultivar from the U.K.. Dr. Lander, from the WA. Herbarium, informed me that it was a hybrid between O.lyrata and O.stellulata described in the Gardener's Chronicle for 9 June 1951. It occurred on the Scilly Isles, but as the two parents were taxonomic synonyms he wasn't sure of the parentage.

When I asked Jeff Irons about it he replied:-

" The significance of O. x scilloniensis in Britain is that it is reputed to be the 'best' in flower of all the olearias. I take it that this sweeping statement really means of the O.phlogopappa complex.

My own observation is that I have seen at least three and possibly four different leaf forms offered as O.x scilloniensis. Ken Hulme at Ness said that to him the plant he was given as O. x scilloniensis looked just the same as O.phlogopappa.

Now that I have O. x scilloniensis from Tresco it will be possible to compare its flower quantity, colour, size and form with my other O.phlogopappa forms.

As to its identity, I have already said that in leaf it is much nearer to your O.lirata than to what is usually grown here as O.phlogopappa. That is a small-leaved form. It seems to me that there is probably a continuum with lirata at one end and the small leaved phlogopappa at the other. O. x scilloniensis is simply one particular plant in between."

Whether this olearia has cultivar status or not O.scilloniensis is invalid. In the interim, I think it is preferable to refer to the olearia as O. sp. (Scilly Isles). Dr. Lander has yet to revise the O.phlogopappa/stellulata group, so we await his determination with interest.

The O.phlogopappa group is a very variable group. Willis, A Handbook to Plants in Victoria, lists three varieties and Curtis, The Student's Flora of Tasmania, lists six varieties.

Jenny Rejske has collected a number of forms of O.phlogopappa from our alpine areas and also notes that it hybridises readily in her garden.

Thanks to Dr. Lander and Jeff Irons for prompt attention to my query.

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:-

Christine Targett, 169 Wye Road, Wye, NSW., 2259.

Russell Costin, Limpinwood Gardens Nursery, Limpinwood Valley via Chillingham, 2484.

SGAP. NSW. Ltd. Blue Mountains Group, P.O. Box 23, Glenbrook, NSW., 2773.

STUDY GROUP NEWS

OPEN WEEKEND, 14th/15th October, 1989

TIMETABLE

SATURDAY, 14th October

TIME	ACTIVITY
2.00 - 4.00 pm.	Garden visit to Kath Deery's garden and afternoon tea. (29 Ruthven Way, Ringwood East, Melway Map 50, E 5.)
5.00pm.	Return to Judy Barker's. (9 Widford Street, East Hawthorn, Melway Map 59, G 3.)
	The following static displays will be set up:- ... Floral Art by Maureen Schaumann, ... wool dyeing by Esma Salkin, ... propagation soil types by Colin Jones, ... seed propagation methods by Bev Courtney, ... <u>Helichrysum apiculatum</u> in pots by Judy Barker, ... dried flowers by everyone, ... original illustrations by Gloria Thomlinson (to be arranged).
6.30 - 7.30 pm.	Dinner (provided by the Study Group Committee).
8.00pm.	Special Project - Esma will discuss the <u>Helichrysum scorpioides/rutidolepis</u> complex.
8.30 pm.	Slides - Daisies in Different Habitats.
10.00 pm.	Supper.

SUNDAY, 15th October

9.30 am.	Garden visit to Joy Greig's garden. (10 Stanfield Court, Glen Waverley, Melway Map 62, C 12.)
10.30 am.	Garden visit to Joy Cook's garden and display of <u>Leptorhynchos</u> spp. (2 Lotus Crescent, Mulgrave, Melway Map 80, E 4.) and across the road to Maureen Schaumann for a display of plants in containers and morning tea.
12.30 pm.	Barbecue at Esma and Alf Salkin's. (38 Pinewood Drive, Mount Waverley, Melway Map 70, G 4.) Other attractions are:- ... the Seed Bank, ... plants for sale or barter, ... <u>Olearia</u> spp. display by Jenny Rejske, ... <u>Calotis</u> display by Beth Armstrong, ... <u>Podolepis</u> display by Bev Courtney.

Please fill in the form on p.35, detach from the rest of the Newsletter and send it to Esma. Don't forget to fill in the form on p. 36 too, please.

... The Study Group has donated \$50.00 towards the production costs of a new 'Flora' of Victoria. This 'Flora' will be in four volumes and will include botanical keys, descriptions, line drawings and colour plates. The date set for completion of volume four is 1966.

The Study Group has joined the Australian Flora Foundation. The Foundation is doing excellent research, but is hampered by lack of funds.

... A Field Trip to Mount Buller will be planned for Jan/Feb 1990 with the possible use of four-wheel drive vehicles. This would enable members to see The Bluff, Eagles' Peaks and possibly Mount Howitt. Details in the next Newsletter.

... Members of the public always want to buy seed of the colourful H.bracteatum hybrids. This seed does not seem to retain viability for long and the Seed Bank often runs out of it. Could members donate seed if they are growing these forms, please?

SPECIAL PROJECTS LIST (additions)

Ruth Marriott - the genus Calocephalus.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Mary McEvoy writes from Tasmania to suggest that members include some details of their location and rainfall when they write on the performance of species for the Newsletter. This would provide a basis for comparison on the information received from different areas, e.g. the information for Judy Barker would be - Hawthorn, 6km east of central Melbourne, with a rainfall of 650 mm.

Joyce Strong from Cane's Beach near Newcastle writes that she has three seedlings which appear to be hybrids between H.bracteatum 'Princess of Wales' and 'Cockatoo'. One is white, the others are orange, and the foliage on all three is very like that of 'Cockatoo'.

Max McDowall writes from Bulleen (Vic.) that the Bengerdore Brachyscome rigidula is rather straggly, but quite hardy in dry spots in his garden. He had similar good results for B.melanocarpa as those reported in NL 23. It was quite vigorous, but a bit floppy and it had a good display of flowers. Helichrysum acuminatum (a Rejske seedling) survived its second summer, but he thinks the slugs knocked it back last winter and only one shoot persisted. It is in a shady, well drained spot.

Val McConchie from Emerald (Vic.) writes that she has been delighted with the display of daisies throughout her garden this summer. They really kept her dry bush garden looking alive and carefree. Val had no success in germinating Caloemia amaranthoides or several sowings of Schoenia cassiniana, and very poor germination of H.bracteatum (lime). She says:-"Last year I planted a number of B.multifida (various forms) in a rock garden area which has pure sand to a depth of about 18 inches (50 cm). This garden does not receive any artificial watering and every plant has done extremely well - flowering prolifically over a long period. All plants are far superior to those in other garden situations. This garden was for experimenting with isopogons and petrophiles. Half of those have died. I think "Daisy" has won the garden."

Jeff Irons writes from Wirral, England, that his plants of Helichrysum scorpioides (Mt. Kosciusko) are fine-looking and have large hairy leaves. Leptorhynchos squamatus is shooting all over the place and Brachyscome diversifolia (Mt. Samaria) has flowered all through the last mild winter. The five plants of Craspedia glauca (Cradle Valley) that he put out last year are looking healthy. Since the seed and seed donor lists were typed Jeff has kindly sent us more seed:- B.diversifolia (UK.), Helichrysum bracteatum (Mt. Wilson), H.backhousiana, Olearia myrsinoides (UK.) and Helipterum albicans ssp. alpinum (UK.).

SEED LIST:

ADDITIONS

Brachyscome angustifolia var. angustifolia, var. heterophylla, tadgellii
Celmisia asteliifolia, Craspedia sp. (alps), (grey leaf)
Helichrysum apiculatum (Bennison High Plains), (Mt. William), bracteatum (Patterson
Cutting), (South West Rocks), (western NSW.) and hybrids - gold, pink,
white, mixed colours, var. albidum, podolepidium, subulifolium
Waitzia podolepis

DELETIONS

Brachyscome diversifolia (King Island), multifida var. multifida (mauve and white),
tenuiscapa var. pubescens
Helichrysum dealbatum, scorpioides (Ringwood), (Tas.)
Helipterum gracile, praecox, propinquum
Leptospermum panaetioides

All correspondence and requests for seed (enclosing a large, stamped, self-addressed envelope) should go to Esma Salkin, 38 Pinewood Drive, Mt. Waverley, 3149.

SEED DONORS

Many thanks to Judy Barker, Bev Courtney, Joy Greig, Colin Jones, Natalie Peate, Esma and Alf Salkin, Maureen Schaumann, David Sheills and Betty Campbell.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are due in June (\$5.00 per year or \$10.00 for overseas members). Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Daisy Study Group and forwarded to the Leader.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next Newsletter is due in November, 1989. The deadline for contributions is early October. Thank you for your articles and special thanks to Gloria Thomlinson and Betty Campbell for their excellent drawings.

LIST OF SPECIES DIFFICULT TO GERMINATE

compiled at the May Meeting.

Brachyscome lineariloba, Cephalipterum drummondii, Craspedia pleiocephala
Helichrysum davenportii, elatum, hookeri, ledifolium, leucopsideum, lindleyi,
purpurascens and a number of other shrubby helichrysums
Helipterum craspedioides, fitzgibbonii, involucratum, polygalifolium, propinquum
Ixiolaena supina, Ixodia achillaeoides, Myriocephalus guerinae, Odixia achlaena
Waitzia aurea

Some members wanted to add species that others had found germinated very well. For instance, Schoenia cassiniana, Helipterum corymbiflorum and H.stuartianum. It is possible that seed of some species needs to be sown soon after collection, as is the case with olearias. If members have had success in germinating any of the species listed above could you tell us of your methods, please?

Do you wish to add more species to the list?

OPEN WEEKEND, OCTOBER 14th/15th, 1989

I am unable to attend the Open Weekend

I wish to attend the Open Weekend

I will be present at the following sessions:-

Saturday 2.00 pm. - 4.00 pm.

" 5.30 pm. - 10.30 pm.

Sunday 9.30 am. - 12.30 pm.

" 12.30 pm. - barbecue

I will find my own accommodation

I would like accommodation - for one person

- for more than one person

Number of adults

Number of children

I prefer a bed/beds

I prefer camper space

Please tick the appropriate box and return to Esma Salkin, 38 Pinewood Drive,
Mount Waverley, 3149.
Phone (03) 232 6213

Please fill in the form on propagation from seed on p.36 if you possibly can. It does not matter if you only have a few results, they are all valuable. If you have more results than will fit on this form (God bless you!) just write them down on a separate sheet and send them all to Esma at the above address.

DAISY STUDY GROUP

PLANT PROPAGATION RECORD SHEET.

Complete as accurately as possible for any species of Australian daisy that you have been able to propagate under the conditions nominated. Tick one or more best description(s) for each question.

A. Germination from Seed.

- 1. Seed raising Mixture :
- 2. Germination environment :
- 3. Watering :

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Pure sand | Open sunny aspect | Rain only |
| Sand / Peat | Semi-shaded outdoor aspect | Rain & hand watering |
| Sand / Vermiculite | Fully shaded outdoor aspect | Hand watering only |
| Perlite / Peat | Plastic/glass cover | Misting |
| Perlite / Vermiculite | Glasshouse/greenhouse | Capillary bed |
| Garden soil | Shadehouse | Bog method |
| Garden soil / sand | Indoors | |
| Commercial mix | Garden sowing | |

Other (please specify)

Ratio of mix (approx.) 80 : 20, 60 : 40, 50 : 50, 40 : 60, 20 : 80.

- 4. Temperature control :
- 5. Light control :
- 6. Pre-sowing treatment :

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| None | Natural light | None |
| Controlled range | Artificial light | Chilling |
| Bottom heat | "Grow lamp" | Heating |
| | Seed buried | Leaching |
| | Seed sown on surface | Excising embryo |
| | | Chemical treatment |
| | | Other (please specify) |

.....
(plus origin of seed

- 7. Species Raised & colln. date)
- 8. Germination time (days):
- 9. % Germination#: Date sown

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.....
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.....
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.....
.....
.....
.....

- 10. Name of Propagator :
- 11. Date :

% germination may be expressed as:- nil, poor, fair, good or excellent.