

**ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS****ABN 56 654 053 676****THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 66**

*Brachyscome basaltica* var. *gracilis*  
(Illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson)

Office Bearers		19
A tribute to Esmá Salkin	Joy Greig	20
Leader's letter and coming events		21
Daisies of Croajingolong National Park	Joy Greig	22–24
<i>Cassinia laevis</i>	Barrie Hadlow	24
<i>Humea elegans</i> and other species	Jeff Irons	25
Report from our Bendigo Correspondent	Beryl Birch	25
Another mystery from the Wimmera Growers Group	June Rogers and Judy Barker	26–27
Daisies in the vineyard	Ros Cornish	27–28
Garden in Emerald	Pat Tratt	28
<i>Olearia lepidophylla</i>	June Rogers	29
Wangaratta report	Ray Purches	29
<i>Helichrysum leucopsideum</i> revisited	Jeanette Closs	30
Daisy sowings at Jayfields Nursery	Matt Hurst	30–31
Letter from Jamboree Heights	Beth McRobert	31
Propagation pages — Warren and Gloria Sheather, Gloria Thomlinson, Bev Courtney, Judy Barker, Snippets		31–33
Members' reports — Barrie Hadlow, Corinne Hampel, Bev Courtney, Sylvia Oats, June Rogers, Jeff Irons, Jo Walker.		33–35
Editor's note, seed donors, seed wanted, Seed Bank additions/deletions		35–36

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**WEB PAGE**<http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/daisy.html>**DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER — 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2003**

## A Tribute to Esma

I am sure that I echo the sentiments of everyone when I say that we are overwhelmed with sadness at the loss of our good friend and former Study Group leader, Esma Salkin, on 7<sup>th</sup> June following an extended illness. We offer our sincere condolences to Alf and his family.

As a member of APS for over thirty years I can't remember a time when Esma has not been willing to impart her considerable knowledge to others. This has been done cheerfully and in so many different ways, not only on the subject of daisies, but on correas, calytrix, and the history of cultivation of Australian plants, to name but a few.

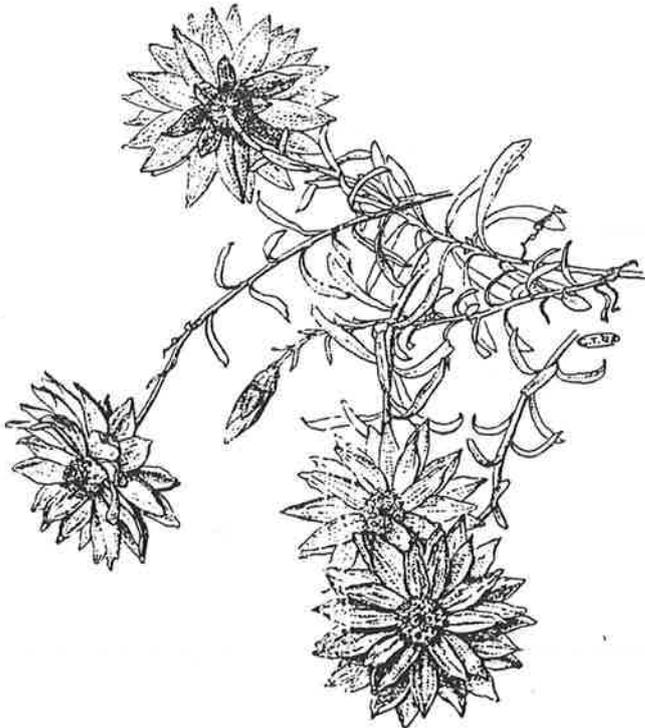
Esma was a caring person with compassion for others and a tenacious passion for the environment. She was founding secretary and a stalwart member and of the Waverley Group since 1964, a prodigious propagator, a keen grower of local plants, a generous contributor to community park projects, a talented photographer, an avid specimen and seed collector, a meticulous record keeper, and an expert plant identifier.

Esma was always willing to share the pleasures of growing native plants by writing articles, giving talks to various groups or mounting displays, and was a valuable member of the editorial committee for all three of the AD SG publications. She has been prominent in almost every activity of the Study Group since she joined it in 1982.

Her scientific approach and dedication directly resulted in the release of two highly prized registered cultivars to the horticultural trade — *Rhodanthe anthemoides* 'Paper Cascade' (PBR) and *Chrysocephalum baxteri* 'Midget' (ACRA). These qualities also enabled her to identify several populations of rare or unusual plants in the field and to campaign for their recognition and conservation.

In all of these endeavours, advice, encouragement and assistance were freely given to Esma by her soul mate Alf, and we extend to him our deepest sympathy. The whole Australian Plant Society movement will be the poorer for her passing, and she will be sadly missed by us all.

*Joy*



*Rhodanthe anthemoides*  
'Paper Cascade'

(Illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson)

## LEADER'S LETTER

Neal and I recently drove from Mallacoota to Adelaide via Jindabyne travelling as close as possible to the Murray River. The severity of the bushfires was horribly evident in the Kosciusko National Park (in some places the vegetation was burned back to bare earth). In the Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park and as far west as Wodonga there were places that had not been touched by fire but the trees and shrubs were dead or dying anyway because of the drought. The flow in the river itself was obviously extremely low. It will be interesting to see what regeneration takes place.

A highlight of our trip was a visit to 'Bookmark', a biosphere reserve based at Calperum Station, an old sheep station north of Renmark. There is some wonderful work being done there and at nearby Banrock Station to combat dry land salinity and restore marginal pasture land and a degraded Murray River to a healthy ecosystem.

The experience has made me realise how lucky we have been at Mallacoota because, although we have had water restrictions here, we have been getting the odd shower of rain to keep things going. The bush is looking lush and green again and I am hoping for a good flowering season when we have our deferred visit here in October.

Regards,

*Joy*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE! PLEASE FORWARD CHEQUES (\$10 p.a. and \$20 for overseas members) to BEV COURTNEY, 9 NIRVANA CLOSE, LANGWARRIN, 3910.**

### COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00am–3.00pm	Meeting at Max and Regina McDowall's home at 10 Russell St, Bulleen Tel 9850 3411
Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00am–3.00pm	Meeting at Barbara and Roger Rooks' home 1 Sunrise Hill Rd, Montrose Tel 9728 5455
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00am–3.00pm	Meeting at Maureen Schaumann's home 88 Albany Drive, Mulgrave Tel 9547 3670
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30am–4.30pm	<b>PLANT SALE</b> at Peg McAllister's home 61 Diane Crescent, Croydon Tel 9726 5061
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> to Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> October		<b>'Mallacoota Magic'</b> . We are hoping to encourage country and interstate members to join us for this extended weekend.

After settling in to your accommodation we will meet for a pub meal on the Friday evening. On Saturday meet at Joy's (25–27 Karbeethong Ave) at 10.00am for morning tea, followed by a garden visit. We will have a light lunch and the usual 'plant swaps', then a short meeting. After a BBQ tea (BYO meat) some members will show slides. We will meet again at 9.00am on Sunday for a car tour of the district (BYO morning tea and lunch, and come prepared for some short walks). We will return in time to change for a dinner at 'The Tide' restaurant at about 7.00pm.

Many other activities (such as a lake or river cruise) could be organised for those who wish to stay a little longer. Accommodation can be found to suit almost any style and budget, from a luxury lodge, through B&Bs, hotel, motel, holiday cabins, flats and camping. Please ring Joy (5158 0669) if you will be attending, or for details of accommodation and a town map.

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## DAISIES OF CROAJINGOLONG NATIONAL PARK

by Joy Greig

Croajingolong National Park is home to about 70 species of indigenous daisies, most of them fairly well known, but a few are unique to the park.

***Bedfordia arborescens*** (Blanket Leaf) is a small tree to 7m tall with large leaves that are glabrous above and very woolly underneath. It has woolly panicles of small yellow flower-heads in spring to summer. It occurs in cool gullies and rainforest.

***Apalochlamys spectabilis*** (Showy Cassinia) is a tall biennial herb to about 150cm with tobacco-like leaves and panicles of shining, straw-coloured flower-heads up to 40cm high. It flowers in summer and occurs in moist gullies near the coast.

***Calomeria amaranthoides***, syn. *Humea elegans* (Incense Plant) is also a tall biennial growing to about 2m. It has sticky, aromatic tobacco-like leaves and large panicles of red-brown flower-heads in summer. It too frequents moist river flats and gullies.



*Cassinia longifolia* x 2/3

***Cassinia aculeata*** (Common Cassinia) is a shrub to about 4m with linear, revolute, aromatic leaves of varying lengths. Creamy-white flower-heads occur in profusion in terminal clusters in summer. Very common in forests and woodlands.

***Cassinia longifolia*** (Shiny Cassinia) is a large shrub to 6m high with flat, lanceolate leaves, inhabiting moist forests. Large, white, terminal clusters of flower-heads are very profuse in summer.

***Cassinia trinerva*** (Three-nerved Cassinia) can be a small tree to 8m high, but usually is found as an understory shrub in open forests. This species has lanceolate leaves that have 3 distinct veins and white corymbs of flower-heads in summer.

***Cassinia uncata*** (Sticky Cassinia) is a small to medium shrub to 3m tall. Narrow, linear leaves with distinctive hooked apices grow to about 30mm long. Flat-topped corymbs of terminal white flower-heads are produced from spring through to autumn.

***Ozothamnus argophyllus*** (Spicy Everlasting) is a shrub to 3m high. Silvery, lanceolate leaves 80mm long have a spicy fragrance when crushed. Fragrant white flower-heads occur in terminal corymbs. Fairly uncommon in moist, near coastal forests.

***Ozothamnus conditus*** (Pepper Everlasting) is a shrub to 2.5m with aromatic, narrow-lanceolate leaves. It flowers during summer with white flower-heads up to 5cm across that are terminal on short branchlets up the stems. Found in dry forests.

***Ozothamnus cuneifolius*** (Wedge-leaf Everlasting) is a fairly dense, erect shrub to 2m high with oblanceolate leaves about 30mm long. White corymbose inflorescences occur in summer. Fairly common in sheltered, moist forests.

***Ozothamnus ferrugineus*** (Tree Everlasting) is a small tree to 5m high with lanceolate leaves to 65mm long. White corymbose inflorescences to about 5cm across occur at the tips of branches during summer.

***Ozothamnus obcordatus*** (Grey Everlasting) is an attractive shrub to about 1.5m high with obovate leaves to about 20mm long. Yellow flower-heads in dense terminal clusters are produced in spring. It is widespread in open forest. In Croajingolong the smaller-leaved variety occurs, as distinct from var. *major*, which is found in the Grampians.

***Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius*** (Rosemary Everlasting) grows to a medium shrub with white bark and linear, revolute, scabrous leaves about 3cm long. Dense terminal



*Ozothamnus obcordatus* x 1/3

clusters of white flower-heads about 3cm across are usually profuse in summer. Normally found in damp heaths and beside creeks.

***Ozothamnus turbinatus*** (Coast Everlasting) is a dense shrub to 2m high with linear leaves to 25mm long, yellowish at the base and white woolly underneath. Crowded, terminal inflorescences of cream to yellowish flower-heads are about 5cm in diameter. Common on dunes and cliffs along the coast.

***Olearia argophylla*** (Musk Daisy-bush) is a shrub or small tree to 10m high. Alternate, ovate leaves to 12cm long are glabrous above and silvery beneath, and have dentate margins. White flower-heads occur in open panicles on stems to 2cm in spring and summer. Inhabits gullies and wet sclerophyll forest.

***Olearia axillaris*** (Coast Daisy-bush) is a bushy shrub to 2m high with a greyish appearance. Crowded leaves to 45mm long are linear and sessile, more or less glabrous above, but densely hairy below. White to cream flower-heads occur in the leaf axils in summer and autumn. It is common on dunes and coastal cliffs.

***Olearia erubescens*** (Moth Daisy-bush) is a small stiff shrub to 1.5m tall, often with reddish young growth. Alternate, elliptical, prickly, toothed leaves are dark green above and white-hairy underneath. White flower-heads occur in terminal and axillary clusters from spring to summer. A widespread but not common plant of forests. It closely resembles *O. myrsinoides* (Silky Daisy-bush) which also flowers in summer and is widespread in forests in the park. This species is distinguished by smaller, ovate leaves with rounded tips and more finely toothed margins.

***Olearia glutinosa*** (Sticky Daisy-bush) is a bright green shrub to 2m high with somewhat sticky foliage. Leaves are glabrous, alternate, linear and sessile. White or mauve flower-heads about 25mm across occur in terminal clusters and are most profuse in summer. Found behind coastal dunes.

***Olearia lirata*** (Snowy Daisy-bush) is a common understorey shrub to 4m high. Leaves are alternate and lanceolate, up to 15cm long. The upper surface is green, sometimes with scattered star-shaped hairs, and the undersurface is greyish-white with a dense covering of star-shaped hairs. Leaf margins are usually entire or sinuate. Loose terminal corymbs of white flower-heads occur in spring and summer.

***Olearia phlogopappa*** (Dusty Daisy-bush) is common in moist forests and flowers from spring to summer. It is a shrub to about 2m high with greyish green leaves up to 50mm long, covered with star-shaped hairs. Margins may be entire or toothed. Clusters of flower-heads, usually white, are terminal on short branchlets.

***Olearia ramulosa*** (Twiggy Daisy-bush) is a variable shrub to 2m high, common in gullies and coastal forests. Leaves to 12mm long have a faint curry scent, and are narrowly obovate, alternate, sessile, with rounded tips and entire margins. The var. *stricta* is also found in the park. It differs in having more linear leaves with revolute margins. The flower-heads in both cases are axillary and terminal, up to 2cm across on stalks to 15mm and often form spikes.



*Olearia tomentosa* x 1/3

***Olearia rugosa*** (Wrinkled Daisy-bush) is a shrub to 2.5m tall. Leaves are generally ovate, although there are several leaf forms distinguishable. Leaves are wrinkled due to the impressed network of veins, and are deep green above and brownish grey below. Flower-heads 25cm across appear in the upper axils in summer.

***Olearia tomentosa*** (Toothed Daisy-bush) is rare in the park but extends northwards into New South Wales. This handsome shrub to 2m tall is found in the open forest on the Howe Range. It has alternate, ovate leaves to 70mm long. The upper surface is green, scabrous and wrinkled; the lower surface is paler or rusty coloured. Large white or mauve heads on stalks to 70mm long occur in loose terminal clusters in spring.



*Olearia axillaris* x 1/2



*Helichrysum elatum* x 1/3

***Helichrysum elatum*** (Tall Everlasting) is an erect perennial to about 2m with woolly stems and silvery, lanceolate leaves to about 12cm in length. Flower-heads with white bracts are 5cm across and displayed in terminal, leafy corymbs during spring. Most often found in large patches in moist areas in woodlands.

***Helichrysum leucopsideum*** (Satin Everlasting) is a small perennial which often suckers lightly. Stems are erect to spreading and usually woolly. Leaves are linear to narrow-oblong, up to 5cm long, green, more or less glabrous above and densely white-hairy underneath. Terminal, shiny, pink or white buds open to white flower heads up to 5cm across. Flowers in spring on coastal heathland.

***Helichrysum scorpioides*** (Button Everlasting) is a dwarf perennial herb to 50cm high with erect to ascending woolly stems. Leaves are linear to oblanceolate, up to 10cm long, rosetted at the base and decreasing in size up the stem. Both surfaces are grey-green and hairy. Solitary terminal flower-heads to 3cm across have yellow inner bracts and brownish outer bracts, and usually occur in spring and summer. It inhabits open forest and coastal heathland.

***Leucophyta brownii*** (Cushion-bush) is a rounded plant of coastal dunes growing to about 1m high, with blue-grey linear leaves along white tomentose stems. Globular, compound, creamy yellow flower-heads about 15mm in diameter occur at the tips of stems during summer.

..... To be continued in the next newsletter.

(The illustrations are by Ailsa Hamilton, Betty Campbell and Gloria Thomlinson.)

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## **Cassinia laevis**

by **Barrie Hadlow**

Now late autumn, it is unfortunately still very dry here in Canberra despite a perceived break in the drought cycle towards the end of summer. I have been surprised how well many garden plants have handled the drought along with very reduced additional water. One group of 'daisies', the *Cassinia* species, seem to ignore tough conditions. This year Jenny and I have enjoyed the one plant of *Cassinia laevis* which we grew from seed and planted about 12–15 months ago. Germination was poor from our seed lot at that time.

The *Flora of New South Wales* indicates that this species has a wide distribution within that State, and is also found in Queensland and South Australia. Our plant came from seed we obtained at Arkaroola on the North Flinders Ranges, where we saw it growing as a shrub to 2m + (often less) along rocky watercourses but well away from areas likely to sustain stream flow from the relatively low rainfall events of the region.

The attractive white-woolly stems and green linear leaves that have white pubescent undersurfaces are features of special note. Our plant is of upright habit (like many cassinias) and has about 12 stems. It is c. 1.0m in height x c. 0.85m wide and has flowered so well this autumn. The flowers at anthesis smell unpleasantly!! This fact already has been appreciated I note in NL 54 p.23 by Esmá Salkin.

Ros Cornish gives the species a 'tick' for survival over two winters in her Canberra Region garden, however, it seems it has now disappeared (R.C. pers. comm.). Beth McRobert (Jamboree Heights, Qld) in NL 56, p.6 describes *C. laevis* as a 'woody weed' on a friend's property out west.



*Cassinia laevis* x 1/3  
(illustrated by Ailsa Campbell)

So, my enthusiasm for this plant I guess must be tempered with a degree of caution relating to where it is to be grown. I have problems with the idea that Australian plants may be considered weeds when they occur unwanted in a particular environment within Australia. However, when the impact of such (re)distribution affects people's livelihoods it is not unreasonable for an alternative view to be felt strongly.

I can recommend this plant for its tolerance of dry conditions and, from the example of our plant, the flower-heads held in a panicle have yellow-white florets, and the smelly phase is of short duration!!

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## HUMEA ELEGANS AND OTHER SPECIES

by Jeff Irons

In the March Newsletter June Rogers wrote that she had read that *Humea elegans* (today I'm wearing my anti-French hat, so am refusing to call a plant by the latinised version of Bonaparte) is a biennial. In their book, *Native Plants of the Sydney District*, Fairley and Moore describe it as a short-lived perennial.

It is probable that June's plant was grown from my seed. Gwen and Rodger Elliot saw the cultivated parent (collected Mt Tomah, NSW) when it was a gawky thing four years old. It was later cut down, because it had grown to be too large. At that time I took 22 cuttings. The next spring they were put out in various places, indoors and out, in both my own garden and in Liverpool University's Botanic Garden. All died in high summer, before they could bloom for the fourth time.

At the moment I have 8 seedlings of this stock, all raised from the last generation of non-wild seed. The seed germinates best at a low temperature, possibly 10–15°C. In England I sow in early March. Seedlings are transplanted singly into a 6 inch (15cm) pot in a mix made up of using unsterilised garden soil. My aim is to get a large plant by autumn that fits snugly into a 10 inch (25cm) pot. After overwintering under glass plants are either transplanted to a 15 inch (37.5cm) container or put into the garden after the risk of frost has passed. Seed is collected from plants grown under cover by holding a large cardboard fruit tray (from the greengrocer) under a tassel while stroking it. Ripe seed falls off. This is done several times over a period of about a month. Finally, the seed is cleaned by rubbing between gloved hands, then winnowing.

I have just had another thought about *Humea elegans*. It does not occur on Mt Wilson. You do sometimes see plants by the Mt Wilson log, but they have been planted.

Yet, *Proc. Linn. Soc. NSW.* (1924) p. 495 lists *Humea elegans* as occurring on Mt Wilson, and says "There is only one instance where the Junction Flora is richer ..... The remaining additional types, *Goodenia* and *Humea*, are normal occupants of rich, moist soil, and one wonders why they do not occur more frequently."

Unfortunately the paper does not say where *Humea* was found. I have not spent sufficient time on Mt Wilson to be able to work out (from the other denizens) where it is. It would be an interesting exercise, for one might find that there are actually relict populations of Plume Bush on Mt Wilson. I suspect that it could be somewhere close to the track down to the Wollengambe. There are all sorts of things down there and the ferns change dramatically. They would give the clue as to the area.

In the same issue of the NL Beryl Birch described *Ozothamnus rodwayi* as being like 'a little silver dumpling'. Plants that I have seen and grown as *O. rodwayi* have leaves that are green above and slightly whitish-hairy underneath. Not dumpling-shaped, they were more like an inverted cone. The appearance in both the wild and cultivation is green. Seedlings grown in my lowland garden reached up to 6 feet before they deigned to bloom. I've been thinking that *Ozothamnus antennarius* is a nice, neat, attractive bush. It also has the virtue of blooming late in the season.

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## REPORT FROM OUR BENDIGO CORRESPONDENT

by Beryl Birch

I did enjoy reading the Aust. Daisy NL. For me, the by-lines were as exciting as the daisies. I wonder if Marg Guenzel's *Brachyscome* Lemon Hybrid was in a drink-cup sized pot from a general nursery, as was mine. A dear little thing — crisp as coral — yellow fading to pinkish white. Mine's happy in clay. Re general nursery outlets — *B. segmentosa* or any of its relations could be anything, regardless of label. Also, *B. 'Hot Candy'* looks like someone pinched 'Maureen', but as I kept one under shadecloth and the other in the open, I can't be sure.

No sooner had we put *Ozothamnus rodwayi* into print than it turned into a dried arrangement in situ. Also I think the *Helichrysum scorpioides* mentioned in my last report is more likely to be *H. rutidolepis*. Barb Pye, of Bullengarook, collected it locally and gave it to me sans ID. However, it's as pretty as I thought it would be. Congrats to all on the Book.

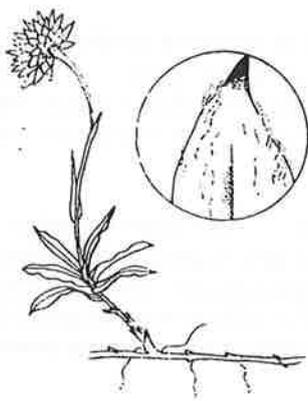
## ANOTHER MYSTERY FROM THE WIMMERA GROWERS GROUP

by June Rogers and Judy Barker

In February June wrote, 'I bought a little daisy plant at Safeways before Christmas, the plants having come, I think, from the Benara Road Nursery, Mt Gambier. It was labelled *Helichrysum* or *Helipterum*, but I can't find the label — magpies have a habit of removing them! The pot had lots of suckers in it so I potted on some of them and put the original in a hanging basket in the fernery, where it has prospered and flowered. Even under the microscope I can't determine the species, so am sending you some seeds, a leaf and what's left of a flower. The plant has formed a good little clump with what I take to be the original plant dying off in the middle. The leaves are almost glossy, very dark green on top, whitish beneath with lots of hairs. The flowers are white — it's dried cream. Can you help me with a name? By the way, the suckers are doing well and are also in the fernery.'

This letter arrived at the end of the February AD SG meeting when only Joy and I remained. We stared at the small collection of plant material enclosed in June's letter without inspiration. No little suckering everlasting daisy with white heads presented itself to our rather tired minds. Under the monocular the pappus bristles were barbed rather than plumose, so it probably belonged to the *Helichrysum* group, but further than that we could not think. As Joy left with Neal she suggested hopefully that it might be an exotic species because we have been confronted previously with such specimens for identification.

When in doubt one turns naturally to Maureen or Esma. Maureen had just arrived home from the meeting and was somewhat surprised to hear me on the phone but gathered her wits swiftly. Without even seeing any of the material, she suggested it might be that nice little Tasmanian alpine called *Helichrysum pumilum*. She had one in a pot from the Tasmanian nursery, Plants of Tasmania, and it roughly equated to what I was describing. A few little matters like leaf shape and plant size did not quite fit but she had provided the vital clue. Another little plant from Victoria and Tasmania, *Argentipallium dealbatum*, could also fit the bill, and I had one in a pot myself. That was found to be the identity of this mystery, so I wrote immediately to June to give her the result of our combined efforts. Before she had received the letter, June rang to tell me that she had been tidying the fernery and had found the missing label — *Helichrysum dealbatum*, which is now the synonym for *A. dealbatum*. We got there in the end but the impressive performance belonged to Maureen.



*Argentipallium dealbatum*  
Habit x 0.3, leaf detail x 10  
(Illustrated by Enid Mayfield from the  
*Flora of Victoria*, 4, p.790 b)

In 1991 we were given a sucker of the Waratah Bay (Victoria) form. We grew it in pots as a rather straggly plant. It flowered but did not last longer than about 12 months. Seed was collected but did not germinate. We have not grown it since that time until Faye Candy recently divided her plant from Plants of Tasmania Nursery and presented Maureen and I with one pot each. The Tasmanian form seems neater, more compact and may be easier to grow, possibly due to the type of soil in which it occurs. A description follows —

***Argentipallium dealbatum***  
*dealbatum* — dusted with powder

White Everlasting

Rhizomatous perennial, 10–30cm high, branching only at the base and forming a mat. Stems are stiff, thick, and covered with white cottony hairs. Leaves are lanceolate or elliptic, 1–4cm x 1–9mm, dark green above and white cottony below, often with wavy margins. Leaves are crowded at the base, becoming more sparse and smaller up the stem. Just beneath the stem the leaf bracts become papery. Flower-heads are terminal, single, 2–3cm across. The bracts are white, the outer bracts usually having a reddish purple or pink-brown flush on the outer surface. Disc centres are white or cream. The fruits are brown, cylindrical, sparsely covered with short white hairs. About 14 barbed pappus bristles are thickened towards the tips.

**Flowering period:** October–April in cultivation; November–January in the wild.

**Propagation:** Easily propagated by division. Basal shoots are said to strike readily. Seed should germinate and may respond to smoke treatment. Group members have only tried seed collected from single plants and this has not germinated.

**Cultivation and uses:** This is an attractive species for rockeries and containers, and could be tried as an edger in gardens. It is suggested that regular watering be maintained, and that plants may live longer in spots that have protection for part of the day. My pot is in dappled shade for about a third of the day in summer and full sun in winter. Neat suckering growth filled the pot and was divided in early March. All the divisions are growing happily, although the foliage probably needs to be sprayed with pyrethrum from time to time to protect young growth from aphid attack. If it is like *A. obtusifolium*, plants may need mycorrhizal associations.

**Distribution and habitat:** Vic, Tas. In Victoria it occurs in near-coastal heathlands in wet, peaty soils at Waratah Bay and Portland to Digby. In Tasmania it is widespread, ranging from wet, peaty soils to dry sclerophyll forests.

**Similar species:** *Helichrysum pumilum* is indigenous to Tasmania. It is a small, plant with an erect rootstock and white everlasting heads, often flushed purple-red. It may be distinguished by the leaves, which are mainly radical, narrow-linear or slightly spatulate, and channelled above along the mid-rib. The flower-heads are usually smaller (1.5–2cm across) and the flowering stalks are shorter (to 10cm).

**References:** Walsh, N. G. and Entwisle, T. J. (eds) (1999). *Flora of Victoria* Vol. 4, pp. 788–790.  
Curtis, W. M. (1963). *The student's flora of Tasmania*, part 2, p. 330.

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## DAISIES IN THE VINEYARD

by Ros Cornish

Three and a half years ago, we decided to put in a modest vineyard to provide wine for ourselves and, if there was any surplus, for close friends and family. I won't go into the reasons for this other than to say that it had something to do with the Government's Wine Equalisation Tax, the rapidly rising price of wine far exceeding the CPI and the diminishing buying power of our meagre superannuation — not to mention our fondness for a glass or three.

Much deliberation went into choosing the site. Although we have 16 hectares of remnant bushland, not much of it lends itself to agricultural use. We wanted an open site, preferably north facing and not too far from the house. As conservationists, we didn't want to remove any trees or many of our pea species, epacrids or grassland species. We settled on an area only about 50m due north of the house where we could fit 9 rows about 50m long running from east to west along a gentle north-facing slope. This was room enough for about 300 vines which John assured me would be more than enough for our needs. It seemed ideal except that it was covered by our local 'weed', *Kunzea ericoides*, which would have to be removed. Little else seemed to be growing there, which suited our requirements.

It took several months, on and off, to clear the kunzea (using loppers and saw), revealing a few straggling *Acacia gunnii*, *Daviesia mimosoides*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Pultenaea procumbens*, *Leucopogon fletcheri* ssp. *brevisepalus*, some very small trigger plants, *Stylidium graminifolium*, and a few grasses. A bulldozer ripped the rows in May 2000 and brought to the surface tonnes of rocks which had to be removed — many by using our 4WD winch, and two had to be blown up with explosives. Many hours were spent working the rip lines getting them ready for planting. We decided to retain whatever vegetation there was between the rows and encourage any native grasses and peas to help prevent erosion, and to put nitrogen into the soil in the case of the peas. We also extended the house fence (2m high security mesh) to include the vineyard as we already knew what the wallabies would do to the vines.

We had good rains that spring and, after liming the soil, we started planting the vines in October. As we did so, we noticed a variety of seedlings appearing both between the rows and in the disturbed soil. These grew rapidly in the warmer weather and to our surprise we had an amazing display of *Microseris lanceolata* and *Leptorhynchos squamatus* as well as many orchids — various *Caladenia* and *Thelymitra* species. By November, a tall, green form of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* was flowering and the biggest *Brachyscome spathulata* that I've ever seen sent up many purple flower-heads. The small trigger plants blossomed into very robust plants with multiple flower stems and many new pea plants and grasses appeared and flowered beautifully, particularly Kangaroo Grass, *Themeda triandra*. Our spring and summer floral display was impressive and we were very pleased that we had retained as much as we could. We now have many small *Melichrus urceolatus* and *Leucopogon fletcheri* ssp. *brevisepalus* which, despite the last two hot, dry summers, seem to have germinated from seed and are growing rapidly.

There are probably several reasons for the 'appearance' of plants and their prolific flowering. We had removed a dense shrub and allowed more light and moisture in. We had effectively stopped major predators from eating seedlings and young foliage, although we soon found that we had put the vineyard through a wombat's territory and now have regular, major incursions under the fence which have to be blocked with rocks. It (they?) only seems to graze on the grasses though so the daisies haven't been affected (yet?). The watering system, though not used too often, no doubt makes more water available to all of the plants, and the fertiliser given to the vines at planting (a multi-purpose fertiliser) and at regular intervals (ammonium nitrate and calcium nitrate) has definitely given them a boost. Joy and Neal Greig I'm sure would agree with this as they saw our display of *B. spathulata*, *C. apiculatum*, *L. squamatus* and *M. lanceolata* in early October 2001 — it was even better than in 2000.

On seeing such a good display in 2000, I decided to plant daisies in small beds at the ends of the rows. I reasoned that they attract many insects, including native bees and hover flies, are long flowering and provide lots of colour. They would also stop people from tripping over the end wires of the trellising system, which are anchored to the ground. I mixed some sand, local soil and mushroom compost and made beds at the ends of each row in October 2001. I then transplanted some seedlings of *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *integrifolia* which needed to be brought inside the fence away from the wallabies, as well as some *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* and a *Brachyscome multifida* which had self-sown into a path. I also scattered seed of *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*, *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, *X. viscosum*, *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *tricolor* and *L. albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans*. The watering system did not go through the beds so I manually watered until the seedlings germinated and then only occasionally through the long hot summer.

All of the transplanted daisies survived and flowered in their first year and subsequently. Most of the plants which grew from seed flowered in the 2001/2002 summer and I allowed their seed to do whatever it wanted to. We were virtually in drought conditions for all of 2002 (and still are as at May 2003) and I couldn't manage to keep watering the end beds. However, the perennials survived and, amazingly, flowered prolifically this spring/summer/autumn. One plant of *L. albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans* is enormous — at least 0.5m wide — and has had several flowerings this season. Some *X. bracteatum* seed germinated and plants are now flowering in the rows between the vines. Meanwhile, the indigenous daisies are spreading into the prepared vine rows as well as between the rows. *C. apiculatum* is still flowering beautifully and is becoming very robust compared with those outside the fence which are quite straggly and not very floriferous. Leaves of *M. lanceolata* have already appeared for the next season, as have the rosettes of *L. squamatus*.

The *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* died off after flowering in late 2001 and early 2002 and no seed germinated in spring 2002, which was disappointing. However, after 60mm of rain over two days in February, many seeds started to germinate and, despite little follow-up rain, they have continued to grow. I am waiting to see whether they survive the frosts which are sure to come with a vengeance soon.

We now await the results of our first vintage and hope that it will be worth the hard work that we put in. Having such a lovely daisy display is a bonus.

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## GARDEN IN EMERALD

by Pat Tratt

A start has been made on a garden here in Emerald, much smaller scale now on 1/3 acre after 4 acres in Metung. The sloping ground has been landscaped with retaining walls but very little planted by the previous owner. I have dug up areas of 'lawn', closely cut weeds with very little grass. Mounds have been created and screening shrubs planted.

A small bog garden, something I have long wanted to try, gives great pleasure. *Pycnosorus globosus*, *Helichrysum rutidolepis* and *Leptorhynchos tenuifolius* have flowered well, along with other moisture loving species.

At the end of October I tried some seed from the seedbank. *Brachyscome iberidifolia* grew well and were planted out in clumps while still very small to take advantage of a cool moist spell at the end of November. Together with *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* they have given a wonderful display. *Calotis lappulacea* is a low mound covered with yellow heads. A *Convolvulus erubescens* twines through this bed showing dainty pink flowers. Other seeds tried were *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Vittadinia muelleri* and *Brachyscome* aff. *curvicarpa*, all giving sparse germination. *B. nivalis* and *B. spathulata* have yet to show up. I think my technique needs refining.

**OLEARIA LEPIDOPHYLLA**by June Rogers

*Olearia lepidophylla* with cluster of leaves.  
Illustrated by G.R.M. Dashorst.

My two plants of *Olearia lepidophylla*, Club Moss Daisy, are about 25 years old — who said native plants don't live very long? — and are not showing signs of any deterioration. I'm not sure where they were first planted as they sucker and move in all directions. Gardening books say it grows 60–90cm x 1.5m and I would agree with that, particularly the spread. The suckers are easily removed and root quite readily when treated as cuttings. This is how we first propagated *O. lepidophylla*. A local farmer, clearing land south of the Little Desert, offered us the opportunity to remove any plants before the plough went through for the second time.

In the arboretum part of my garden they grow on shallow, sandy loam over clay, with no artificial watering or manure. They are frost hardy, but still surprise me every year when they are a mass of flowers. At other times of the year they are easily passed unseen as the grey-green look of them blends in with the surroundings. This year, possibly due to 50mm of rain in February, they put on a magnificent display of white flowers from March to April — hence, I call them my 'Easter Daisies'.

[The illustration is from *Flora of South Australia*, part 3, edition 4, p. 1481. (1986)]

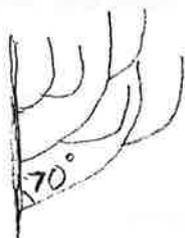
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**WANGARATTA REPORT**by Ray Purches

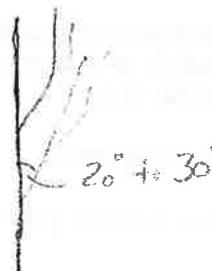
The Warby Ranges in April 2003 are extremely dry. Even goannas have migrated! Kangaroos raid the birdbath each night and walk on to our verandahs to nibble grape vines.

In the paddock some of our fifth year daisy plantings are struggling. These include *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (selections), *Cassinia leptcephala* and especially *Cassinia aureonitens*. However, young plants (12 to 18 months old) are doing fine in the dust and should provide commercial flowers in spring. Depending whether we get an autumn break our older plants may have run out of puff, thus providing room for others.

Recently I heard from a Tasmanian wildflower grower, Rick Dowling, who grows local *Ozothamnus obcordatus* and *O. rosmarinifolius*. The former produces commercial quality yellow buds and the latter red buds. He has a form of *O. diosmifolius* with severely arching flowering stems (typical of coastal forms) which isn't suited to flower production. I offered to supply cutting material of fine leaf forms with branching angles of 20 to 30 degrees compared to about 70 degrees of his current variety.



Coastal form



Inland form (fine leaf)

As you can see, branching angles make quite a difference to productivity.

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**HELICHRYSUM LEUCOPSIDEUM REVISITED**by Jeanette Closs

I was taken with the first 'Snippet' in the last newsletter, where it was mentioned that 'Plants of Tasmania' listed a most beautiful form of *Helichrysum leucopsideum*. I thought to myself "This I must have" and called on my friend Will Fletcher at the said nursery. Having mentioned that I had read of this tempting plant and that I should like to buy one, Will replied "But you gave me the original plant!" I had completely forgotten. A sample of it was brought to an SGAP meeting very many years ago by a botanist, Fred Duncan. He asked if one of our members would grow it on, and he would then visit and identify the plant. I grew it and Fred came and identified it for us. I think that other shrubs have swamped it and I haven't seen it for ages. However, there is another small plant in my garden that I thought may have been *H. leucopsideum* so I didn't buy the nursery plant. On checking at home I find that the other plant is probably *Argentipallium dealbatum* that was given to me by Rosemary Verbeeten a couple of years ago. So I must return to the nursery or ask my daughter, Lydia, who works at 'Plants of Tasmania' nursery to buy a couple of these plants. Will had a bunch of them on display that he had picked and hung before displaying, and they looked quite lovely.

We have had almost continuous rain for four days, which is just wonderful, especially for the people on the land. Tassie has suddenly turned green again. With the help of masses of *Isotoma*, the many bright and colourful daisies manage to enhance our garden display all the year round. What a joy they are.

I do enjoy reading the newsletter, although so many of the species mentioned haven't come my way.

Editor's note: At the February meeting Maureen and I waxed eloquent on the glories of Will's *Helichrysum leucopsideum*, and produced his most recent catalogue. The majority of the members present expressed great interest in procuring plants and kind Natalie offered to order them for us. As it happens, the catalogue had listed a number of Rhamnaceae in which Natalie was also interested. In no time she had put in an order and one box of plants was on her doorstep. It contained loose-rooted *H. leucopsideum*, but where was the other (more important) box of *Pomaderris* species? The latter was finally delivered in good order. We all thank Natalie for undertaking to pot up all the loose-rooted plants and take excellent care of them until the March meeting when they were handed out to those members who had ordered them. Our gratitude knows no bounds! ..... Judy.

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**RESULTS OF DAISY SOWINGS AT JAYFIELDS NURSERY**by Matt Hurst

All daisy species are sown into forty cell black plastic containers (called hikos) and lightly covered with vermiculite. The hikos are placed on mesh racks and driven to one of nine long irrigation areas. All plants are in full sun and subject to all the vagaries of the weather. All these species except the last two were sown in thousands. All but one of the species are from Victorian provenances but the exact locations are unknown. All species were machine sown in mid-January and these germination results were obtained a month later.

*Pycnosorus globosus* (Echuca, 2000, seed cleaned and sown heavily) — 30% germination.

*Cassinia arcuata* — massed germination from first seed lot (like a weed). Germination took place after 2–3 weeks. Virtually no germination at all from a second seed lot sown on the same day. Another attempt was made a month later with similar results.

*Cassinia aculeata* — poor germination.

*Ozothamnus obcordatus* — massed germination after 3 weeks.

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum* — 0.1% germination. First flowering at 10 weeks.

*Chrysocephalum semipapposum* — fair germination.

*Xerochrysum viscosum* (Wagga 2002) — several sowings yielded 70% germination. Most plants took 8–10 weeks to flower.

*Calocephalus citreus* (sown mid-March) — patchy germination in about a week. A later sowing of a *Podolepis* species and *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* (ex Theodore, ACT) came up in 4 days. Germination was about 80% after almost 30mm rain fell at the nursery.

The summer here had to be experienced to be believed. The winds and high temperatures that have dogged us since September have killed many trees on the few well vegetated areas. The land may be permanently changed for the worse. The garden has fared no better with a wide range of species dying. Fortunately I have many plants waiting to go in. Let's hope that much growth and many flowers are produced as my garden is in the Open Garden Scheme again this September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Naturally, daisies will be a big part of this weekend.

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## LETTER FROM JAMBOREE HEIGHTS, QUEENSLAND

by Beth McRobert

The book (*Everlasting Daisies of Australia*) is a delight and has impressed everyone to whom I have shown it — congratulations to you all for persisting through a big but very worthwhile task. What photography, especially to show the detail of the seeds. My only disappointment is that the postman folded it to put it in my postbox, so now I have a big crease down the cover.

I am still trying to help my brother with his business. Our next really big project is to do the update on the book mentioned in the latest newsletter — *Plants of the Tara Shire and West to the Thomby Range*, which will include colour photographs as well as scans of the actual material. The author has decided to cover a bigger geographical area, and we shall soon start scanning the Acacia part of the book. Of course for me, it is all very exciting. We have had some trial scans of dried material, and they have come up beautifully — rather like works of art.

Last year saw the launch of *Mangroves to Mountains*, the book by the Logan River SGAP, which is a field guide for plants which are, while local to that area, also very widely spread up and down the coast, and some grow as far as Queensland's central west. The book is proving very popular with people who like the bush. It is divided into habitat areas — Tidal Wellands, Freshwater Wetlands, Eucalypt Forest, Rainforest and Mountain Tops — and within the last three areas plants are also colour-coded, so if you have a plant with purple flowers in open forest, you look in the purple-blue section of Eucalypt Forest. Many people have said it is very easy to use, so that was exciting.

We had a busy year really. I think we put out six different publications. Another big one was *The Greeks in Queensland — a History 1859 to 1945*. The author is still apologizing to me because I had to do the index, and some of the names had four different spelling versions. Anyway, it is done, and has been received with much emotion by so many of the families involved.

With all that, my gardening time is somewhat chaotic, and I had a bad daisy year last year. The drought didn't help. Because of timing constraints, I thought I would just have *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* and *Schoenia filifolia* and I would put them straight into the garden and that would be that. Well, I got a good strike of little plants and they all disappeared — ? hungry snails or hungry grasshoppers. So, late in the season, I put some seed in pots, thinking to protect them till they got a bit bigger and then I would plant them out. Again the dear little seeds came up and were going nicely, till I was stricken with a flu lurgy, and didn't get to water them for a week — by which time they were all dead. Only one *Schoenia* got through to the flowering stage. But not to be daunted, I am trying again. Some *Brachyscome iberidifolia* seedlings are doing nicely, and I shall start planting the others soon. The dear little *Rhodanthe anthemoides* have at last decided to self-sow in my garden, and I have some little ones coming up at present.

In amongst everything else, I have at last got my little book completed. It is designed to try to introduce native plants to children — with verse, a little character based on a *Diuris* sp., and some illustrations. With a bit of luck I should have it ready to have some trial copies printed in the next week or two. That has been a long-term task. I wrote the verse in 1981 and it has taken me all the rest of the time to do the illustrations.

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## PROPAGATION PAGES

From correspondence with members it has become apparent that propagation is a subject of abiding interest. In this and future issues of the AD SG newsletter a special section will be devoted to the subject. Please send in new ideas or adaptations of old ideas which have produced results for you — good or bad results. We can all learn from others' experiences. If space permits, new ideas on the propagation of non-daisies might be included if they can be adapted to Asteraceae.

1. Joy reports that **Warren and Gloria Sheather** have written an article in *Native Plants for New South Wales* in which they describe a method of striking various plants in situ. 'We usually place two plants in each hole and in every third or fourth hole a piece about 15cm long with the leaves stripped off the lower half. We keep the cuttings well watered and usually achieve a 70% strike rate. The method is successful with *Brachyscome multifida*. Most forms of this delightful daisy respond positively to this method.'

2. **Gloria Thomlinson** reported that an indigenous plant grower (local to the Shepparton area) gave the following advice to a rural group:

- a. In preparing soft tip cuttings from species like *Brachyscome*, do not strip off the lower leaves. He said it did more harm than good.
- b. He suggested that the propagation mix be made up of 3 parts grit to 1 part of good quality potting mix. The sand/grit should be washed three times to rid it of clay particles.
- c. Use rainwater to keep the cuttings moist. Dam water would probably contain clay particles that could interfere with the drainage of the mix.

Using this method the grower had struck brachyscomes in 6 days in February with misting but no bottom heat. The pots of cuttings were in a plastic igloo. Another propagator reported that she had struck cuttings by this method in 2–4 weeks in March using a home-made propagating box and no misting system.

3. **Bev Courtney** sent an article she wrote for the Land for Wildlife newsletter:

I found the following information on the internet. It sounds like a simple way to carry out bush regeneration. I'm collecting clay and intend to give it a try. My methods follow the main article.

## SEED BALLS

### — what they are and how to make them

Seed balls are 1cm diameter models of the living world. They can contain seeds for a complete habitat or a wild or domestic garden. In a holographic way each ball can contain the whole plant potential of the entire ecosystem. They require a fraction of the cost of planting or drilling and are hundreds of times faster. They can be made by anyone anywhere in the world where there is clay, soil, seed and water. Seed balls work on all scales, small to large, and can be air dropped over broad areas! Hundreds of kinds of mixed seeds, soil humus and dry powdered clay form the solid components of seed balls. When mixed with water and rolled into balls, they become little Adobe Gardens.

Mixing proportions by volume —

- 1 part: dry seeds mix with all kinds of desired plants.
- 3 parts: dry compost with fungi and soil microbes.
- 5 parts: dry clay, finely powdered and sifted.

Mix ingredients dry, turning and sifting to coat seeds with soil, then clay, then add 1–2 parts water. Water should be added *a little at a time* until the clay mix is easily workable.

After thoroughly stirring the seeds in a large flat container, and covering with dry soil humus from compost, dry clay is added and mixed well. In large batches, layer the seed and soil humus combination with clay to insure proper mixing. Water is then gradually added until a firm suitable consistency is reached for rolling clay into 1cm diameter balls. Wet clay is pinched off the main mass and rolled between the palms of the hand until smooth and round. A transformation occurs within the balls as they are rolled, and after a few seconds the clay can be felt to set up and organize, as the tiny clay platelets align themselves to each other and the seeds they enclose. It is important to roll the clay until this polymerization is felt. The balls then dry with structural integrity. Finished seed balls are allowed to harden undisturbed for at least 24 hours. When dry, seed balls may be stored in a cool ventilated place for weeks or immediately applied.

### — how to apply them

When broadcast, the seed balls are allowed to lie dormant in place until released by timely rains. They do not need to be buried. They should not be watered unless you are going to continue to water them until natural rainfall takes over. The seed balls, however, are perfectly content to simply lie about 'sleeping' until the right amount of rain falls to insure their success. When rains come, no matter where a seed ball has landed, something from the mix inside will be at home on the spot so all possible habitat bases are covered in one broadcast application, and plant successions are accelerated by generations.

Making seed balls with all local plants is a great community education project for young and old. Kids catch on really quickly. They are able to construct, in miniature, the kind of future they want to live in, roll the idea

in clay and scatter it like Nature would, with great hope of success. In a couple of hours one hundred children can make over ten thousand seed balls to rehabilitate their school yard, local park, wildlife habitat or community gardens.

### The beginnings of my seed ball experiment

I collected sticky clay from an area at the rear of our property and put it in a bucket with a small amount of water. I beat it to a pulp with a stick until it was the consistency of thick cream, then poured it into one of those cheap aluminium baking dishes and left it in the hot sun. Within a few days the clay had dried and cracked, curling into delightful little flakes. I peeled the dried flakes off the tray (any heavy sand gets left on the bottom), and pulverised them into powder which I sieved with an ordinary kitchen sieve.

I plan to collect loam from the bush and sieve it through a 5mm sieve and use this for the compost component of the mix. This is as far as I've got. I need to go through my seed bank and see what sort of mix I can come up with.

I'm thinking of making a few seed balls and placing them in bare spots with some wire mesh around them, just to see how germination and growth proceed without interference from rabbits. I'll report any results in a later newsletter. This sounds like an ideal experiment to get children involved in.

4. **Judy Barker** contacted Bio/Care Technology (mentioned in NL 65, p. 13) to ask which Nodulaid inoculant to use for germinating Anglesea pea species and how to obtain it. Nodulaid E and F were recommended, and Bacchus Marsh or Ballarat were the nearest outlets. This inoculant must be kept refrigerated. The smallest quantities I could obtain were 250g (costing about \$20 each), and the mix was sufficient for 1000 gm seed! Farmers use these inoculants when sowing their crops. The seed mix of 4pts perlite to 1 pt peatmoss had 2-3 tablespoons of each inoculant incorporated. The seeds have germinated well or are in the process of germinating. The seedlings look green and healthy so far. Unfortunately the bacteria probably don't stay alive long after the packet is opened, so the potting on may not be so successful, although I will add some of the remaining inoculants to the potting mix. I also asked whether Bio/Care had an inoculant for *Argentipallium obtusifolium*. The answer was no. The advice was that a couple of healthy plants should be dug up with some of their soil. This species uses ectomycorrhizae in its nutrition, so the roots should be chopped up and incorporated in the potting mix, together with the soil around the roots. In the interests of science I have followed this advice and the results so far are good. Mycorrhizae are associations between plant roots and fungi and they increase the efficiency of absorption of nutrients, especially phosphorus and nitrogen, by the roots. This is essential in the nutrient-poor soils of Anglesea in which *A. obtusifolium* grows. Ectomycorrhizae are associations in which fine threads of fungus cover the outer surface of the roots.

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### SNIPPETS

- The following description of an *Ozothamnus* cultivar appeared in an article from *Eucryphia*, April 2003 issue under the title 'Around the Nurseries' by Mary King:

#### *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* 'Benfers Pink Bouquet'

This soft pink 'rice-flower everlasting' is not anything to do with pimeleas though it is in the Asteraceae or daisy family. This cultivar is one of the results of an extensive breeding and selection program and is put out by T.O.P.S. 'Benfers Pink Bouquet' is a hardy woody shrub, growing to 2 to 2.5 metres and producing terminal clusters of soft pink flowers that fade to white. It is much used, either fresh or dried, for floral art and the cut flower trade. Foliage is small and fine in whorls along the stem. It is frost hardy, but must have good drainage. When used as a garden plant, requires pruning regularly from February to August to keep it compact. For longer stem length to use for cut flowers pruning should cease in July. I have not seen cultivars of *Ozothamnus diosmifolium* in Tasmanian nurseries before, so it will be interesting to try this one.

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### MEMBERS' REPORTS

**Barrie Hadlow** of Theodore (ACT) e-mails on 10/3/03: 'It is a very cool, moist autumn day in Canberra (17mm last night). How welcome this weather would have been in mid-January when the terrible fires did so much damage to Weston Creek and other close-by areas of our city. Jenny and I visited the Chapman home

of friends yesterday; their home is intact (some roof and minor exterior damage), but the garden was razed by the events of January 18<sup>th</sup>. Today after recent good rain within the past four weeks or so, it is great to see newly emerging shoots from many of the blackened tree and shrub trunks and stems in the garden. Most were severely pruned to help recovery. Granite blocks across their block had thin 'plates' of the parent material exfoliating from their mass, a direct result of the intensity of the heat of that day! Weeds and many Acacia seedlings are also beginning to effect a presence, of course, but so what! The trays of seedling plants we had raised and nurtured were going to a good home and were warmly welcomed.

As a direct result of the January fires, many suburbs like ours which have surrounding reserve land (in part), now have had a break cut around the vulnerable sections which abut the open grassland/woodland complex beyond the homes. This was achieved with a bulldozer in the critical January period following the 18<sup>th</sup>. It is a rather random 'pathway' sliced to a depth of perhaps only 8 to 10cm across a 3m wide band, but of course with implications beyond fire prevention. Close to our home this pathway went through the centre of the best local population of *Leucochrysum albicans* in the area. We have observed it for several years now, growing in a typical open, 'hard' site which this species seems to relish, i.e. leached podsol shallow soils over grey clay!!

**Corinne Hampel** of Murray Bridge (SA) e-mails on 11/3/03: 'Amongst all the disasters I thought I had in the nursery I found a couple of gems. *Brachyscome sieberi* var. *gunnii* is flowering. It had quite a few mentions in the last NL. All the varieties of *B. multifida*, that is 'Amethyst', 'Breakoday', 'Alba', pink, one labelled purple-pink, and the one from the Dandenongs back road are flowering. Although you and Maureen say you were not too successful with the latter, it flowers for ages with light mauve flowers and appears to be quite hardy. I have some *B. tadgellii*, not in flower but looking good. The local form of *B. ciliaris* has been a picture.

In the garden I have been very pleased with *Olearia glutinosa*. It flowers for the summer usually (didn't this year, too dry) and can be pruned to a good shape. It also shoots behind the cuts on bare wood. *O. pannosa* and *O. passerinoides* looked scruffy, but have perked up after the 30mm rain we had a couple of weeks ago. There is nothing in the subsoil. These have not had any extra water and neither has *Cassinia uncata*. *Cassinia adunca* flowered beautifully in a large pot. On drippers for occasional water is *O. phlogopappa* (bright pink form) and also what was supposed to be *O. hookeri*, but it does not sound like the description in the encyclopaedia. The flowers are inconspicuous on this bush, but the shrub itself is quite attractive, looking pine-like.

I love the sound of some of the *Podolepis* species mentioned in the NL and will send for some seed. If the *Podolepis rugata* are looking good this year I will replace the seed that is in the seed bank. I assume that is some I sent, which means I have been a member for over 10 years. I would also like to persevere with some of the hardier olearias. Not much point trying to grow things that need a swamp to look good!

Corinne added on 24/3/03: 'We found quite a large group of *Brachyscome basaltica* var. *gracilis* in full flower on Saturday when our small Australian Plants Society Group did a wetlands crawl. They were in a newish development near local meatworks. The area has been revegetated and is proving to be popular with a number of water birds. Also at Swanport Wetlands (where there is a boardwalk) there is a clump of these daisies about 5 square metres in extent. I have seen them there before and was confirming ID in the Book when I realised the variety. It was a delightful get together.

You should see my plant of *Olearia floribunda*. It is very aptly named Snowball Bush.'

On 26/3/03: 'I have still got a scruffy overgrown plant that was labelled *Olearia floribunda* (violet form). I never did verify that it was *O. floribunda*, but it had the most beautiful little violet daisies on it. I thought it may have been *O. ramulosa*. Now I must make an effort to confirm as you said there is a pretty mauve form. It still has green shoots on it, so there is still hope. Each time I took cuttings in the past some disaster happened to them.'

**Bev Courtney** of Langwarrin (Vic) wrote on 20/3/03: 'The overnight rain was welcome. We got an inch. The first pool is full again (but it may soak in quickly as the subsoil is so dry). I've sown the *Brunonia* seed I collected from my plants in December. May it flourish!

Maureen (the brachyscome) is doing well at last. I planted her on the side of the watercourse and she seems to like the wet feet. I know I don't agree with hybrids but it is a special one!

**Sylvia Oats** of Elizabeth East (SA) wrote to order seed in April and added, 'Did I tell you of six mystery plants I had? They came up in a pot of *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* and they grew very quickly. I couldn't keep

enough water up to them. I came to the conclusion that they must be weeds as they never flowered, so I threw five plants away. I noticed an aroma as I crushed them up, but I hung on to the smallest one, and eventually I noticed BIG buds and lovely BLUE daisies. To my horror I had thrown away five two foot plants of *Olearia rudis*. The remaining plant has done well, about four feet tall now and a bit straggly.'

**June Rogers** of Horsham (Vic) writes on 11/5/03: 'Before Easter, when I was not very well with a mystery virus, I had two big *Acacia redolens* taken out near the back door as they had borers in them and were getting ugly. Under them was 20+ years' accumulation of leaf mulch, but unfortunately under that was sheer clay, where a clay heap from the septic tank hole had been levelled. I'm gradually making an impression on it by throwing all my laundry water out there, and chipping away at the surface with the mattock — as you can see I've finally shaken off my virus! All this development was planned before Christmas so I've been growing and buying plants with this area in mind. And now, dare I say it, it started raining about 11am and it's still coming down steadily four hours later — someone up there is sorry for the foolish old woman breaking up clay!

One of the plants I'm going to try (where I can put in some sand) is a new plant to me, the Canal Rocks form of *Leucophyta brownii*, which I bought at Safeways. I think their plants come from the Benara Road Nursery, Mt Gambier. It is very stout in the 'branches' and stands upright. It was about 18 inches in the pot, with flower heads the size of marbles — I say "was" because they've all been cut down to make cuttings. The label says it will grow 1m x 1m so should be interesting.

I have started to plant out the seedlings of *Senecio magnifica* as they were getting quite big — in fact I have a group at the edge of the back verandah, where my new garden starts. I'm giving some away to other members, including Maree (Goods), in the hope that we have some success under different conditions.'

**Jeff Irons** of Heswall (England) writes on 11/5/03: 'Thanks very much for the *Ozothamnus stirlingii* seeds. It was one of the first plants tried when I was a novice daisy grower. It was in bloom during our last Australian trip, so I was able to see the conditions it likes.

*Craspedia variabilis* (ex Ros Cornish) would not overwinter in the ground. It has now survived two winters in a container. Although unfertilized, the plants are a great deal taller than they are when competing with grass.'

**Jo Walker** of Wamboin (NSW) writes in late May: 'I made an interesting daisy discovery this morning. Two years ago Ros Cornish gave me a couple of *Ammobium craspedioides* plants. I planted them out amongst grasses on my place and they grew well. But this year, during the drought (it was bad here, everything dry and brown by January) they appeared to have died. Then this morning, as I was walking down to get my paper, I saw two little green leaves — and there was the *Ammobium* coming to life again. I scrubbed round a bit and found the second plant had just begun emerging. So glad they survived.

Another daisy story: Three or four weeks ago our SGAP Wednesday Walking Group were at the Ginninderrin Falls on the Murrumbidgee River, just beyond the ACT border. We have been there many times before, but this time found a daisy we had not seen previously. It seems to key out to be *Brachyscome angustifolia* var. *heterophylla* — although I thought this was a suckering species, and these were growing as small clumps. The flowers were white, bluish or pink. They were just beginning to seed so I collected some and have put them in. The plants were growing in sandy soil up from the river.'

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### Note from the Editor

We will all miss Esma very much.

Maureen founded the Study Group in June 1981 while she was a member of Waverley SGAP (as it then was known). The Salkins (the central core of Waverley members) delighted in going on outback trips in their Kombi van. Whenever such a trip was in the offing Maureen would entreat them to collect seed. Esma would need more information on what she was supposed to be seeking, but always returned with exciting seed. Esma said she would have to learn more about daisies if she were to keep on collecting for us, so some time between July and November 1982 Esma and Alf joined our small band. They were quick learners; both had articles of an educational nature in the June 1983 newsletter. Esma produced excellent germination records using different techniques while Alf wrote of viability testing. They were exemplary members.

When Maureen wished to retire after leading us for seven years, we urged Esma to take on the leadership. She demurred on the grounds of insufficient knowledge, but we laughed at this excuse. Finally she agreed to lead us for

twelve months and then revue the position. She led us for seven years, in which time she supervised the extension of our botanical knowledge quite remarkably. The Salkins continued to make numerous expeditions in quest of new species. Esma's determination to find a species probably led Alf along many terrible roads and may have been responsible for many a breakdown, but she never returned empty handed. AD SG could not have grown so many new species had it not been for the wide-ranging trips of this indefatigable couple.

In Esma's first Leader's Letter she remarked with awe on Maureen's uncanny gift for identification of specimens by feeling them and gazing for some moments. It was not too long before she began to display the same gift, especially in the case of brachyscomes.

The tasks of Herbarium Curator and Provenance Seed Bank Curator were meticulously performed by Esma for many years. The former has now fallen to Joy and Maureen has kindly shouldered the latter.

Esma's small frame held a very big heart. All members who knew her will vouch for her kindness, generosity, and enthusiasm for daisies, vast knowledge of them and where to find them. Most of us have plant donations from Esma all round our gardens. As I said at the beginning, we will miss her.



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### SEED DONORS

Many thanks to the following members who have donated seed: Bev Courtney, Barrie Hadlow, Matt Hurst, Peg McAllister, Esma Salkin, Pat Tratt and Pat And John Webb..

### SEED WANTED PLEASE

We have run out seed of the following species: *Brachyscome ascendens*, *cardiocarpa*, *ciliaris*, *diversifolia* var. *diversifolia*, *formosa*, *riparia*, *tenuiscapa* var. *pubescens*, *Cassinia quinquefaria*, *Helichrysum adenophorum* var. *waddelliae*, *Olearia rudis*. We are getting low on the following species: *Brachyscome nivalis*, *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (Sandy Beach).

### SEED BANK ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

A full seed list is published in each March newsletter. Only additions and deletions are recorded in other newsletters. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be enclosed with each request for seed. Please write to Maureen for provenance seed or to Judy for garden or commercial seed. (The addresses are on the front page.) If members require both types of seed a letter to either Maureen or Judy will suffice.

### GARDEN AND COMMERCIAL SEED — ADDITIONS

*Anemocarpa podolepidium*, *Asterideaathrixoides*, *chaetopoda*

*Cassinia laevis*

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (ex Seaford, suckering, 2/03), *baxteri* (ex Wilsons Prom, 1/03), *semipapposum*

(ex Tamboritha Saddle, tall form, large green leaves, 1/03; ex Valley Reserve, Mt Waverley, 2/03; ex York Peninsula, SA, fine grey leaf, small heads, 1/03; form about 0.25m high with large green leaves, 1/03; form with fine grey leaves)

*Leiocarpa* sp. (ex Jan Hall)

*Leptorhynchus tenuifolius* (Croydon)

*Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans* (ex Theodore, ACT)

*Microseris* sp. (ex Berry Jerry SF, NSW),

*Podolepis auriculata*, *canescens*, *gracilis* 'rosea', *nutans*

*Xerochrysum bracteatum* (purple), *macranthum*

### — DELETIONS

*Brachyscome ascendens*, *basaltica* var. *gracilis*, *ciliaris*, *diversifolia*, *formosa*, *riparia*, *tenuiscapa* var. *pubescens*

*Cassinia quinquefaria*

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Sunset-Murray NP)

*Helichrysum adenophorum* var. *waddelliae*

*Hyalosperma glutinosum* ssp. *venustum*

*Minuria leptophylla*

*Waitzia suaveolens*.

### PROVENANCE SEED — ADDITIONS

*Cassinia tenuifolia* (Lord Howe Island),

*Ozothamnus stirlingii* (Mt Baldy, Vic)

### SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE for 2003/2004

Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year for members within Australia and \$20.00 per year for overseas members. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Australian Daisy Study Group' and forwarded to Bev Courtney (preferably) or Joy Greig (addresses on p.19). **SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>**. We ask that you send only one year's fees, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep track of payments.