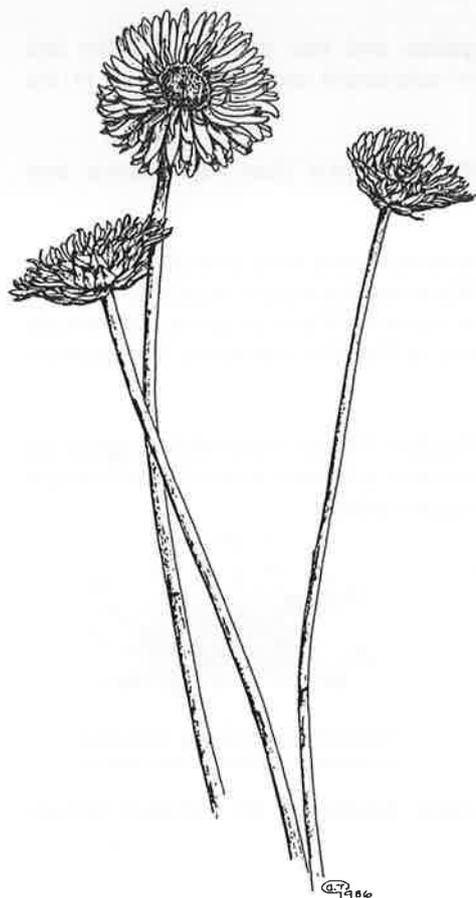


**ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**

ABN 56 654 053 676

**THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 76**

*Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *alpinum*  
flower-heads x 2/3

(illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson)

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**OFFICE BEARERS:** Leader — Natalie Peate, 26 Kardinia Cres, Warranwood, 3134. Tel: (03) 9876 3648  
— email: npeate@sme.com.au  
ADSG Herbarium Curator — Joy Greig, PO Box 258, Mallacoota, 3892. Tel/Fax: (03) 5158 0669  
Treasurer — John Webb, 99 Fiddlers Green, 57 Gloucester Ave, Berwick, 3806. Tel: (03) 9769 7406  
Provenance Seed Co-ordinator  
— Maureen Schaumann, 88 Albany Drive, Mulgrave, 3170. Tel: (03) 9547 3670  
Garden and Commercial Seed Co-ordinator and Interim Newsletter Editor:  
— Judy Barker, 9 Widford St, East Hawthorn, 3123. Tel: (03) 9813 2916  
Fax: (03) 9813 1195

**WEB PAGE** <http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/daisy.html>

## LEADER'S LETTER

This year we are celebrating our 25th anniversary as a Study Group and will be marking the occasion with a special Christmas Break-up party on 21st November at Karwarra Gardens in the Dandenongs and would love to see some country members there. Remember that city members can often offer accommodation for special occasions and meetings and we would love to see you on this special occasion. A tentative program has been set for next year and again we would love to involve some country members at these meetings.

Currently, selection of the Esma Salkin Student for the summer period 2006–2007 is taking place and he/she will be working on the relationships between the alpine *Leucochrysum albicans* and *Leucochrysum molle* under the supervision of Neville Walsh. We hope to hear the outcomes at our May meeting next year. A report on *Olearia ramulosa* from Andre Massina, last year's student, is published in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Joy Greig for the work she has done on *Olearia*. Although away for much of this year she has produced an excellent CD and may still be working on a further version.

Many thanks are due to Judy Barker who has put this newsletter together and has done so for the last eighteen or so years. Where would we be without the generous work of volunteers working tirelessly in the interests of this Society?

Today the AD SG visited two nurseries west of Melbourne, David and Barbara Pye's "Sun Tuff Natives" and Ian Taylor's "Western Plains Flora".

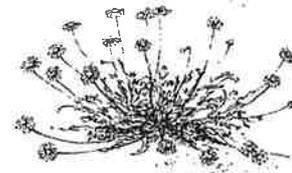
David and Barbara have a beautiful property with magnificent western views across a wide and deep valley to tree covered hills in the distance. Their garden has many beautiful Western Australian plants which are difficult to grow in our eastern suburbs and many interesting plants in the nursery. Many of us had previously decided not to plant now as the drought worsens but couldn't resist some of David's treasures. We couldn't even resist taking a few cuttings when David offered.

Ian has a much drier looking site but has a very extensive range of Western Plains Flora which again we could not resist. There were so many different daisies, including *Leucochrysum albicans*, which I didn't realize grew in that area. Ian's nursery is mostly wholesale but also has a small retail section.

Both Ian and David were very hospitable and generous and we thank them wholeheartedly.

Christmas greetings to everyone and may we all have some rain soon.

Regards, Natalie.



*Habit of Brachyscome tetraptera*  
(illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson)

**Subscriptions** (due July 2006) should be sent to our Treasurer, John Webb, at 99 Fiddlers Green, Gloucester Ave, Berwick, 3806.

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## COMING EVENTS

**21st November — AD SG 25th Birthday celebration at Karwarra at 10.00am.**

There will be a room for our meeting and there will be an urn for tea or coffee. Please bring your own mug.

## Tentative Locations and Topics for 2007

We meet at 10.00am and bring our lunch. Morning tea is usually enjoyed before we begin the meeting's business and/or activities. We swap plants or give them away in order to ensure a supply of plant material elsewhere if our own source strikes disaster. Please bring Show and Tell specimens if you have them. We combine our talents to answer any questions that arise. Meetings generally end between 1.30 and 3.00pm.

1. **20th February** — Judy Barker's, 9 Widford St, East Hawthorn. **59-G-3.** 9813. 2916  
\* Wiring everlastings.

2. **27th March** — Peg McAllister's, 61 Diane Cres., Croydon. **37-E-11.** 9726.5061  
\* Division of daisies (if the weather is appropriate).

3. **17th April** — Max and Regina McDowall's, 10 Russell St, Bulleen. **32-H-16**. 9850.3411  
\* Phylogenetics.
4. **19th and 20th May** — Natalie Peate's, 26 Kardinia Cres., Warranwood. **36-C-9**. 9876.3648  
\* Weekend Meeting starting at 1.30pm, Saturday.  
\* Saturday, Esma Salkin student report on *Leucochrysum* spp. studies.  
\* Sunday, garden visits.
5. **19th June** — John Armstrong's, 25 Grove St., Vermont. **62-K-4**. 9874.4132  
\* The genus *Calotis*.
6. **17th July** — Pat and John Webb's, 99 Fiddler's Green, 57 Gloucester Rd, Berwick. **111-C-9**. 9769.7406  
\* Outlines of some lesser known daisies.
7. **21st August** — Brenda Moore's, 62 Ennismore Cres, Park Orchards. **35-D-12**.  
\* Continuation of Outlines.
8. **18th September** — Maureen Schaumann's, 88 Albany Dve, Mulgrave. **80-D-2**. 9547.3670  
\* The genus *Podolepis*.
9. **16th October** — Anne Kerr's, 4/35 Johnstone St., Malvern. **59-D-11**. 9509.4948  
\* The genus *Pycnosorus*.
10. **20th November** — Location of Break-up undecided.  
\* Topic undecided.

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## SPECIES OR FORMS NEW TO MEMBERS

### ***Centratherum punctatum* ssp. *australianum***

We found this plant when searching for *Pomaderris queenslandica* near Coffs Harbour (NSW) about 2½ years ago. John Wrigley was with us at the time and was able to give it a botanical name. Cuttings struck quite well and we soon had a plant or two for the garden where it has produced small, purple Scotch-thistle like flowers during the last couple of winters.

I had forgotten its name and checked with John before showing it at a recent AD SG meeting and he sent the following, which I quote: "The daisy is *Centratherum punctatum* ssp. *australianum*. The type subspecies, ssp. *punctatum* is native to South America but has been collected near Murwillumbah. I am growing the latter subspecies and it is a vastly different looking plant — broader regularly toothed leaves and flowers that are many times larger. It seeds itself prolifically and is on the verge of being shot out."

The plant doesn't seem to have much horticultural potential but if anyone is interested, cuttings are easy to strike and I have plenty of material available! We found it growing in a forest area but the *Flora of NSW* says it can also be found growing in paddocks and along roadsides. In our garden it seems to prefer some shade and moisture, grows to about 40cm x 40cm, and has single purple flower-heads, about 1cm across, at the ends of stems. Leaves are lanceolate and have a few irregular teeth along the margins.

Not exactly a traffic stopper but still a daisy!

by **Natalie Peate**

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### ***Celmisia tomentella***

Gloria Thomlinson's account of her day trip to Mt Cobbler mentioned that she had seen *Celmisia tomentella* along the track, together with other daisies. This was a new name to me, so out came the *Flora of Victoria* Vol. 4, and there it was — described on p. 914. The section on celmisias was written by M. Gray and D. Given and it proved to be very enlightening.

There are 10 species of *Celmisia* in Australia since Gray and Given revised the genus in 1999, 5 species occurring in Victoria, *C. costiniana*, *C. pugioniformis*, *C. tomentella*, *C. latifolia* and *C. sericophylla*. Before the

revision all the *Celmisia* found in Victoria apart from *C. sericophylla* (which is distinguished by having silky hairs on both sides of the leaves) were assigned either to *C. asteliifolia* or *C. longifolia*. Now *C. asteliifolia* is known to be endemic in Tasmania, while *C. longifolia* is endemic in the Blue Mountains in New South Wales.

*C. tomentella* occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. It can be distinguished from the other Victorian species because it has thin, scaly rhizomes, whereas the other 4 species have woody rootstocks. The description warns that the rhizomes are easily detached unless they are dug up carefully as they are brittle when fresh.

The leaves are variable, depending on where the plants are growing. They may be oblanceolate or linear, mostly 5–20cm long (but sometimes up to 30cm) and usually 5–15mm wide (but may be as little as 1.5–5mm across or as broad as 15–30mm). Leaves are generally dark green to grey-green on the upper surface but plants from the Baw Baw plateau may be silvery. There is a shining membranous coating (a pellicle) over the upper leaf surfaces. The lower surface is creamy grey due to the short, flattened hairs covering it. The margins are curved under or revolute.

White flower-heads are held singly at the tips of flowering stems up to 60cm high between December and February.

It sounds like a species with loads of horticultural potential. What a pity it is that Melbourne has proved too hot for *Celmisia*s in the past, and it seems certain that it will only be hotter in the future.



*Celmisia tomentella*, habit x 0.2, leaf outline x 0.35, leaf transverse section x 1.4, bract x 1.4. (illustrated by Enid Mayfield in *Flora of Victoria*, Vol. 4, p. 915, reproduced with permission)

**Reference:** Gray, M. & Given, D. (1999). '*Celmisia*', in *Flora of Victoria* Vol 4, ed. N. G. Walsh and T. J. Entwisle, Inkata Press, Melbourne, pp. 912–916.

by **Judy Barker**

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### ***Podotheca chrysantha* — Yellow Podotheca**

Seed of this species was brought to a Foothills Daytime Meeting after the WA Conference and handed out to members. Although I had grown *Podotheca gnaphaloides* many years ago and liked it, I knew nothing about *Podotheca chrysantha*.

Sown on 18th June, germination commenced on 30th July, resulting in 12 seedlings. Seven of these were lost after potting on because I failed to bait for snails and slugs. The remaining five look sturdy and healthy and have been grouped together in a sunny spot in the garden.

*Podotheca chrysantha* is an erect, branching annual up to 35cm high. My plants have reached a height of 20cm, bearing many flower buds in October. The flower buds which appear at the ends of the stems are green and plump, the involucre becoming elongated later as the flowers start to appear. Leaves are linear, hairy and stem clasping. Bright, tiny yellow flowers are grouped together in clusters on stems which are hairy and have a reddish tinge near the base.

An unusual little annual, providing interest in the garden, and looking bright and cheery at the same time.

by **Maureen Schaumann**

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## ESMA SALKIN STUDENTSHIP REPORT FOR 2006

### Working towards a resolution of the *Olearia ramulosa* (ASTERACEAE) complex

by Andre Messina

*Olearia ramulosa* (Labill.) Benth. as conventionally understood (e.g. Lander 1992, Walsh & Lander 1999) is a morphologically diverse species, causing much difficulty and confusion to taxonomists attempting to distinguish and describe taxa. The taxonomy of this species has undergone many changes over time, with species and sub-specific boundaries often unclear. Recently many sub-specific taxa have been removed from this species, and some more unusual taxa have been left undescribed. This study has attempted to resolve the taxonomy of this group undertaking morphological and molecular analysis.

Molecular analysis of ITS and ETS sequences was found to be uninformative, showing several forms of *O. ramulosa* and other morphologically distinct species to be highly conserved in these two regions. This suggests that this genus may be highly conserved in the ETS and ITS regions and other molecular methods would be required to elucidate genetic relationships.

Morphological analysis of *O. ramulosa* suggested that several distinct entities should be recognised. These entities may be separated by differences in vegetative characters such as; leaf size and shape, along with leaf and stem indumentum type, and floral characters such as; ligule length and colour, bract length and indumentum, and flower placement on stems. Based on these differences in morphology, it is recommended that *O. ramulosa*, as currently perceived, be considered a complex containing four distinct species and three sub-specific taxa. Below are the descriptions of these new taxa. The conservation status of these taxa may need to be further investigated. These descriptions have been based on Victorian material only, except for the Booroomba Rocks form, and may be relevant only to Victoria. A study of all Australian material may be needed to elucidate all the taxa in this complex, but resolution of the group in Victoria provides a good framework from which to begin.

### Descriptions of recommended taxa

#### *Olearia ramulosa* (Labill.) Benth.

Spreading shrub to c. 2m high; branchlets white-cottony, setose (setae 0.1–0.3mm long), often with viscid glands. Leaves alternate, close-spaced, often forming dense clusters; +/- elliptic or obovate (often toothed to deeply lobed on young plants); 3–11mm long, 0.5–2.5mm wide; margins entire to slightly recurved, never obscuring lower surface; apex obtuse, rarely acute but never apiculate. Upper leaf surface largely glabrous, often glandular, and or sparsely scabrous (especially along leaf margins), occasionally sparsely cottony (especially at base of leaf). Leaf undersurface tomentose, the hairs usually not obscuring the underlying lamina, with sessile glands clearly visible below indumentum. Peduncles covered by cottony hairs, often glandular, very rarely with a few short setae. Capitula largely axillary, bracts tomentose, never with setae or scabrous hairs, 2–4mm long, ligules 2–5.5mm long, white, rarely blue-mauve, disc florets 3–6, yellow.

Coastal, usually on deep sandy soils. Flowers October–February.

#### *Olearia* sp. 'Booroomba Rocks'

Shrub to c. 1m high; branchlets densely glandular, with sessile and gland tipped hairs (c. 0.3mm long), lacking cottony hair. Leaves alternate; generally in small clusters, with at least the lower leaf in cluster retaining the lobed juvenile form; linear with pronounced lobes about half way along leaf (on adult and juvenile leaves); 8–10mm long, 1.5–2mm wide (including lobes); margins strongly recurved, but never obscuring leaf lamina; apex obtuse. Upper leaf surface densely glandular, with some scattered tomentose hairs. Lower leaf indumentum of glands and shortly cottony hair, not obscuring the leaf surface. Peduncles glandular. Capitular terminal; bracts densely tomentose and glandular, 4–5mm long; ligules 6–7mm long, ligules always much longer than bracts, blue-mauve; disc florets >10, yellow or mauve.

Very restricted in distribution. Known from a few small populations amongst granite boulders at Booroomba Rocks, ACT at c. 1300m Flowers January–February–.



*Olearia ramulosa*  
(Anglesea form, drawn by  
Betty Campbell)

Notes: Plants have a strong curry odour, flowers appear to have twice as many ligules and florets as other taxa in this complex.

***Olearia* sp. 'Omeo'**

Shrubs to 0.8m high; branchlets glandular, with sessile and gland tipped setae (0.1–0.5mm long), or scabrous, and occasionally sparsely cottony. Leaves alternate, appressed to stem; generally spaced closely together, occasionally forming dense clusters; linear; 3.5–7.5mm long, 0.2–1mm wide; apex obtuse or acute, never apiculate; margins entire or slightly recurved, never wholly obscuring leaf undersurface. Upper leaf surface moderately viscid, and occasionally sparsely scabrous. Lower leaf surface viscid, occasionally with scattered cottony hairs, but these not obscuring the leaf lamina. Peduncles glandular, occasionally setose or with cottony hairs. Capitula mostly terminal at ends of stems, or on short lateral branchlets, with some axillary flowers on lower stems; bracts moderately to densely glandular, glabrous, 2.5–4mm long; ligules 3.5–8mm long, almost always 1.5–2 times longer than bracts, commonly blue-mauve; disc florets +/- 6, usually yellow.

Occurs on granite in Omeo region, but also on Silurian sediments near Buchan and toward Licola, Victoria, between c. 700 and 1400 m. Flowers February–March (–May).

***Olearia stricta* Benth.**

Variable, usually slender shrub, to c. 1.4 m high; branchlets setose (occasionally gland-tipped) or cottony and occasionally with sessile glands, or with combinations of any or all of these conditions. Leaves alternate, elliptic to narrow linear 4–13mm long, 0.5–2.5mm wide, margins entire to strongly recurved (often completely obscuring the lower surface), apex acute. Upper leaf surface scabrous or setose, occasionally sparsely cottony, with or without sessile glands. Leaf undersurface tomentose to cottony with scattered glands and occasionally with setae along midvein. Peduncles 5–70mm long with varying combinations of cottony, setose and glandular hairs. Capitula variable, axillary or terminal, solitary or in racemes; bracts 2–6mm long, indumentum variable; ligules 3–7mm long, white to mauve or bluish; disc florets 3–10, white, yellow or mauve.

***O. stricta* subsp. *stricta***

Branchlet indumentum of eglandular and glandular setae (0.1–0.7mm long), sessile glands, and occasionally sparse to moderately dense cottony hairs. Leaves solitary or in small clusters; internode spacing variable (1–6mm); 5–13mm long, 0.5–2mm wide; narrowly ovate to obovate; margins often strongly recurved, obscuring the leaf lamina; apex acute, often apiculate, occasionally obtuse. Upper leaf surface moderately to densely scabrous, occasionally setose and or cottony, with or without scattered glands. Leaf undersurfaces covered by cottony hair, with sessile glands just visible beneath. Peduncles 5–70mm long with varying combinations of cottony hairs, and eglandular and glandular setae. Capitula axillary, rarely terminal, inflorescences forming racemes; bracts glandular, occasionally sparsely scabrous, and rarely cottony, 2–5mm long; ligules 3–6 (–7)mm long, generally the same length as bracts, but occasionally longer; disc florets 3–10, colour variable (white, yellow or blue).

Widespread inland, from the Grampians to East Gippsland, often growing in rocky sites. Flowers October–February (–May).

***O. stricta* subsp. '*longisetosa*'**

Branchlets with eglandular setae (0.3–1mm long), often with sessile glands, and occasionally densely covered by cottony hair. Leaves sparse along stem, with large internode spacings, often solitary, never in dense clusters, 4–7mm long, 0.5–2.5mm wide, +/- elliptic, strongly curved at apex and base, margins entire, never obscuring lower leaf surface, apex acute, generally not apiculate. Upper leaf indumentum of setae, occasionally scabrous and or with some sparse cottony hair. Leaf undersurfaces tomentose, with sessile glands below tomentum, occasionally with a few scattered setae along midvein. Peduncles densely covered by setae, with some glandular and cottony hair. Capitula solitary, terminal on branchlets, bract indumentum of setae with inter-dispersed glands, 3–6mm long; ligules 5–7mm long, usually longer than bracts, yellow-white; disc florets 4–8, usually blue-mauve.

Apparently confined to western Grampians and the nearby Black Range. Flowers November–April.

***O. stricta* subsp. "tomentosa"**

Branchlets obscured by a thick layer of long cottony hair, with scattered glands beneath, and occasionally with setae (0.25–0.75mm long). Leaves variably arranged, solitary to densely clustered, 5–13mm long, 0.5–1.5mm wide; linear; strongly recurved, margins obscuring more than half of the lower leaf surface; apex acute, commonly apiculate. Upper leaf surface scabrous, occasionally with a few short setae, often glandular with scattered long cottony hairs. Lower leaf surface densely covered by long cottony hairs, exceeding the recurved margins, with scattered glands beneath. Peduncles with long cottony hairs, scattered glands and occasional setae hairs. Capitula axillary, sessile, often forming spicate inflorescences along stems; bract indumentum of cottony hair and some glands, 3–5mm long; ligules 3–7mm long, twice as long to the same length as the bracts, white; disc florets 4–6, yellow or white.

Currently known from scattered areas in Victorian Midlands region (St Andrews, Campaspe River, Loddon Ranges, Strathbogrie). In dry forest on shallow soils. Flowers late September–March.

Notes: At least some populations (e.g. St Andrews) consist largely or solely of root-suckering plants.

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***Olearia glandulosa***

by **Ros Cornish**

I am always on the lookout for "new" daisies — new to me, that is. I thought that I had seen most of our local daisies, having spent nearly ten years with the Wednesday Walkers of the Australian Native Plants Society (Canberra Region) walking in our local bush areas. However, recently we found one that most of us had never seen before — *Olearia glandulosa*. We had been allowed access to the eastern side of the Tinderry Nature Reserve through private property. We were quite excited about this as we had exhausted the other easy access points to the Reserve. Over the years we have found many interesting plants in the Reserve including a few of the bigger daisies — *Olearia erubescens*, *Olearia montana*, *Ozothamnus stirlingii*, *Ozothamnus thyrsoides* — and some rare plants — *Acacia costiniana* and *Pomaderris pallida*.

The Tinderries — as we call them — are south-east of Canberra and provide a scenic backdrop when travelling to Cooma. To quote the description of Tinderry Nature reserve on the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service website: "The highest and most spectacular section of the Tinderry Range forms the backbone of this Southern Tablelands nature reserve. The range, characterised by huge granite monoliths and dominated by Tinderry and Tinderry Twin peaks, rises abruptly from cleared and undulating hills east of Michelago. From the highest point of Tinderry Peak it drops gradually eastward to remote sections of the Queanbeyan River, which forms the eastern boundary of the reserve."

After a bumpy, dusty trip to the end of Urella Road we entered the property "Tinderry" and after passing the homestead we crossed a number of paddocks to get to the boundary of the Reserve. Our leader for the day — who lives close by and had arranged access — is keen on swamps and creeks so he had planned a foray up a creek line and then a loop back via a swampy area. The whole area was heavily wooded — huge *Eucalyptus viminalis* and *E. bridgesiana* and some *E. pauciflora* with a fairly thick understorey including *Pomaderris eriocephala*, *Callistemon ptyoides*, *Acacia dealbata*, *Leptospermum myrtifolium*, *L. lanigerum*, *Kunzea ericoides*, *Baekkea utilis*, *Hakea microcarpa*, *Poa labillardieri*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*. After we left the creek line we climbed into very dry open forest of *E. dives* and scattered plants of *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Leucopogon virgatus*, *Pultenaea procumbens*, *Acacia gunnii* and *Bossiaea buxifolia*. There was a shout from the leader when he found an unfamiliar green bush which turned out to be *Olearia tenuifolia*. We don't often see this plant — perhaps in about 5 locations around Canberra — and many of those are small plants whereas this one was quite robust, about 1m tall and 1m in diameter. We looked around searching for more plants but there was only one.

A few metres further brought us to a massive granite outcrop leading to an open swampy area — what I would call a "hanging swamp" as we were quite high above the valley we crossed on our route in. We walked around the edge looking for a lunch spot and came upon an unfamiliar plant, over 1m tall, a very open habit with fine, glandular, bright green foliage and spent flower-heads which looked daisy-like. We had with us the new (2005) book by Don and Betty Wood *Flowers of the ACT and Region — A Field Guide* which has colour photos of most of our local plants. It didn't take long to name our plant — *Olearia glandulosa*, Swamp Daisy Bush. It was certainly in the right place.

and conspicuous flowerheads in terminal clusters. The ray florets are white or blue and disc florets (16–23) are yellow. It flowers from November to June.

If you would like to see a photo of it, go to <http://images.swinburne.edu.au/handle/1111.1/572>. You can click on the image to enlarge it. It is a lovely looking plant and well worth cultivating for its delicate appearance and massed flowers.

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### Olearia glutinosa

by Judy Barker



*Olearia glutinosa* x 2/3  
(illustrated by Kath Alcock)

I told Ros I would tack a note about *O. glandulosa* to the bottom of her article, but now I have a specimen of what I intended to write about and I see that it is *O. glutinosa*. Some years ago Esma gave me a pot of a shrub she had grown from seed collected along the back beach at Sorrento. She suggested it would grow well at Fairhaven, and I have no doubt she told me its correct identity at the time. When we rebuilt after the Ash Wednesday fires the only construction left was a flight of eleven concrete steps about 5m from our eastern boundary. At some stage Esma's little shrub was planted at the top of the steps with a mat of *Correa reflexa* var. *nummulariifolia* at its foot. The olearia grew quickly until it was a dense, impenetrable, light green mass which flowered over the Christmas holidays when the children had taken over the house. If we ever appeared (briefly) at this time the shrub was a mass of mauve-blue daisies.

We were exceedingly grateful for its presence when a mansion was erected next door very close to our eastern boundary. It provided us with a good screen until the species on the boundary thickened up. These species are *Leucopogon parviflorus*, *Myoporum insulare*, *Melaleuca lanceolata* and *Thomasia petalocalyx*.

When we returned in mid-March this year the shrub had obvious signs of discomfort about it. Parts of it looked dry and as if they were dying back. Cuttings of healthy growth were taken and shoved into various parts of the block where a screen would be a handy thing, and then the plant was pruned discreetly, watered well and left with an injunction to live. On our next visit after the April holidays it was stone dead and its loss was deeply felt. However, this *O. glutinosa* had thrived for at least ten years in a hard clay soil in a windy position without much attention given to it, so had more than fulfilled expectations. It has been replaced with a low lattice screen up which we are trying to grow *Billardiera scandens* and *Hardenbergia violacea*.

Only one cutting seems to have rooted and it is now 10cm high and looks healthy. It has provided the specimen used to identify the species. The stems are glabrous. The narrow leaves are 12–30 x 1mm, alternate, sessile, with a prominent midrib beneath and margins slightly curled under. In the absence of flower-heads this distinguishes *O. glutinosa* from *O. glandulosa*, which usually has leaves channelled above and involute margins, that is they roll inwards over the upper surface.

This species is sometimes known as the Sticky Daisy-bush. The foliage has been described as 'viscid (more prominently so on drying)' in *Flora of Victoria* Vol. 4 (1999). This young foliage did not feel viscid so I inserted the specimen between two sheets of paper and left it inside the *Flora of Victoria* in the olearia section. A week later it was sticking to the paper. Well done Neville Walsh and N. S. Lander, who wrote the '*Olearia*' section.

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### EXPEDITION TO THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE

by Barrie Hadlow

Jenny and I spent August travelling the 1800km long Canning Stock Route (CSR) on a conducted tour (Diamantina Tours — from Jamieson in Victoria, contactable at <http://www.diamantina-tour.com.au>). A most marvellous experience, and stunningly beautiful desert country with great variety for landscapes from sand ridges to ranges, salt pans to gibber plains and much more! The plants we saw were in very good condition following late rains from the previous 'wet' season. The grasses (*Triodia* spp. etc.) were very green, and the tree and flowering shrub species looked great throughout the long journey down the track.

Our journey began in Alice Springs then across the Tanami to Hall's Creek (WA) before tackling the CSR from its northern end at Billiluna and progressing south to Wiluna (at a similar latitude to Meekatharra). This year is the 100th anniversary of the initial survey. The daisies seemed to be few and far between. However, they were of much interest to me and I identified a few using the excellent 1995 publication by Philip Moore, *A Guide to Plants of Inland Australia* (Reed, New Holland Publishers Aust. Pty Ltd).

*Streptoglossa decurrens* / *S. odora* caused me problems when first encountered — it's smelly!! In scientific terms it is 'strongly odoriferous' and my piece of plant brought to our vehicle wasn't popular at all (but not, I thought, as bad as *Cassinia laevis*). Described by Moore as 'a variable sp.', the botanical description seems to apply to both species (at times — depending on vigour, the author suggests) so perhaps revision of the complex may be needed. The *Streptoglossa* sp. was noticed first south of Well 38 and we saw it on several other occasions travelling south. The florets are pink (magenta) and very showy, and the leaves irregularly toothed and a strong green. The latter is the primary source of the strong odour.

Other daisies (subject to identification) seen and their locations are as follows:

- *Helipterum craspedioides* — the Lake Disappointment / Savoury Creek area.
- *Chrysocoryne pusilla* — Savoury Creek, north of Well 19.
- *Chrysocephalum semicalvum* — Calvert Range east of Durba Springs.
- *Pterocaulon sphacelatum* — Sturt Creek and Calvert Range.
- *Chrysocephalum pterochaetum* — south of Lake Aerodrome and Well 11, and close to Well 10.
- *Senecio lautus* ssp. *dissectifolius* — Well 6.
- *Brachyscome* sp. at Empress Waterhole, Carnegie Road (between the Gunbarrel Highway and the Great Central Road). From literature I obtained later for the area — *Laverton to the Northern Territory Border, a floristic survey for the Great Central Road* — it seems likely that my *Brachyscome* sp. is one of the following, *B. cilioarpa*, *B. oncocarpa* or *B. iberidifolia*.
- *Leucochrysum stipitatum* was 20km east of Tjukayirla Roadhouse.
- *Rutidosia helichrysoides* was west of Warburton towards Giles.
- *Senecio gregorii* was at Rebecca Creek, Schwerin Mural Crescent / Walter James Range.
- *Senecio magnificus* (or *S. cunninghamii* var. *serratus* ?) in the Musgrove Range area.

I feel a bit anxious about some of the determinations, often made without much rigour in my analysis as we travelled, and compounded by a very small reference library. How I would love to retrace the route with a plant press — and time! The photos and my memory now are all I have to try and sort / confirm my ideas.

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## REPORT from BUNDABERG

by Margery Stutchbury

(28th August)

A report on the daisies this year — a special one for us as our youngest daughter, Sarah, was married to her Aidan in our front garden amongst the daisies on 12th August. We are still recovering!

We were lucky that the weather was perfect and the daisies, mostly *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* and *R. manglesii*, were at their best. The wedding was a lovely happy affair and Sarah's pet bantams (held by her brothers) were the ring bearers!!

I must confess to a few worries in the weeks leading up to the wedding date — would the flowers be out in time and would the weather be fine? I spread the *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* on 12th May, a few weeks later than I usually do, and by late July it looked promising that the flowers would be out in time for the wedding. At the usual time in the last week of April *R. manglesii* was sown and was only just out in time. It always takes longer than *R. chlorocephala*.

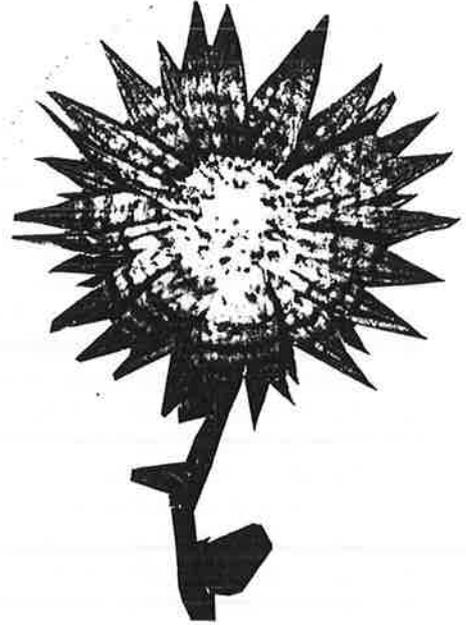
This year I again had pots of *Rhodanthe oppositifolia* ssp. *ornata*, seedlings emerged in May and were in bud by late July. I have not raised seedlings myself for two seasons in spite of pretreatment, but they come up in the same pot each year and a few also spring up between the bricks nearby. *R. anthemoides* (unbranched) — some plants from last year are looking just beautiful with many flowers. *Ammobium alatum* had good germination, but seedlings were a bit stunted in the seed trays. Once in the garden they have grown well and are now sending up flower stalks.

Self-sown *Xerochrysum bracteatum* in yellow and creams are now coming into full bloom. *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida* was disappointing this year. Seed from WA bush (10/96) and JB garden 1–3/01 gave only a few seedlings which were impoverished. One flowered with a small bloom and that is all! *R. humboldtiana*

which was really good last year gave only a few seedlings which were small and died. *Schoenia cassiniana* also didn't do as well as it had last year, but I do have six plants in a pot coming into bud at the moment.

*Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia* germinated well after GA<sub>3</sub>, being sown on 27/4/06, and is beginning to flower. So you can see I've not had too much success with some daisies, but the main thing this year was the wedding. The garden looked, and still does look, a picture with *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* waving in the breeze in the sweeping front garden and also along the side fences (we're on a corner), plus beds of *R. manglesii*. The grevilleas are in full flower as are the white and purple Geraldton Wax bushes, dodonaees, callistemons and some of the banksias.

*Rhodanthe manglesii* is again giving forth the lovely double flowers like the one I sent down to you last year and which was mentioned in NL 74. This year there are three slender plants of only one stem supporting blooms, and four more robust plants to 600mm tall, each with four stems carrying several flowers and buds. I am also excited by one small *R. manglesii* discovered yesterday — 36mm across the flower which is a delicate pink with circles of pink running round it. Very dainty. I enclose a picture of it (courtesy of Graham) and I have since wired it, leaving the stem on. It was on a small one-stemmed plant and had one more bud so I am hoping it will also come out. I will get Graham to take a photo of the back of the flower as well.



*R. manglesii*  
(photocopy of a colour photo by Graham Stutchbury)

(Margery enclosed a specimen of three heads of the double-flowered form of *Rhodanthe manglesii* on one branched stem. They were unusual, very pretty and were certainly *R. manglesii*. When displayed at Show and Tell in September they made a big impression. Margery also sent Graham's photos of the front and back of the variation she described in her final paragraph. There are four well defined bands of dark pink encircling the disc centre with two fainter, broken bands towards the tips, and they are also discernible on the back of the head. The bands and the pink shading lend the head an interesting crinkled appearance. How is it that Margery is having all this good fortune? The effect is somewhat reminiscent of the bands around some of the *Xerochrysum bracteatum* heads produced from all the seedlings arising in Ben Somerville's garden. Margery has been growing swathes of *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *roseum* and fewer *R. manglesii* for years to accompany the weddings in the family and the various garden parties she and Graham throw, and Ben's plants came up everywhere in his second year. Could the banding be caused by sheer numbers of cross-pollinations, a side effect of fertilizers or the result of some virus? Does anyone have an answer or even a hypothesis, please?... Judy.)

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## REPORT from POMONAL

by Linda Handscombe

(17/7/06)

Via Barbara Rooks I took delivery of a lovely collection of AD SG plants which I have mostly planted out. I have put some in the garden and some in large pots to avoid the frosts and for use at our spring flower show. We have just had some lovely rain (30mm) but also some bad frosts.

I have started to find *Banksia*, *Dryandra*, *Hakea* and *Protea* seedlings and have been tubing them up. I haven't found any *Ixodia* seedlings yet. Moonillah Gardens, the nursery and cut flower farm where I worked, have thousands of seedlings coming up. I am going up later this week to especially dig up some *Protea* hybrids but will scout around for some unusual banksias as well. I have started assembling all our banksia cones on the fireplace to collect seed. These cones are from the chain-sawed-out bushes, post fire. We have a great new shed up with a donated pot belly stove. It also has a collection of banksia cones around it.

David has amassed a new collection of tools (courtesy of RACV Insurance) and can almost tinker again. We have also taken delivery of two truck loads of lovely gravel mulch, as we will never mulch with wood chips again. So things are on the move again, albeit slowly.

Thanks again for the plants.

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## SNIPPETS

(The following two extracts from articles included in recent issues of the Canberra APS Journal are reproduced with the kind permission of the authors.)

1. In the *Journal* Vol. 14, No. 7 (March 2006) a report on the Annual Meeting of ACRA appeared on p. 27 written by David Murray, a representative of APS NSW. The following section is of interest to AD SG as it applies to *Xerochrysum bracteatum*:

'Some of the names accompanying PBR applications are quite odd, because they consist of initials and numbers meaningful to the breeder. As examples received this year, we have three *Xerochrysum bracteatum* cultivars called 'Flobrafla', 'Flobrabri' and 'Flobragbri'. In my opinion such names are too similar to one another, and therefore confusing. Under previous rules they would have been disallowed. However, these 'names' will now be permitted, up to a maximum of ten characters. Helen Costa explained that this modus operandi then allows the breeder to distribute and market their cultivars under different marketing names in different countries. For the PBR symbol to be used on the label, however, the 'name' that was actually registered must appear next to the symbol.

Further knotty problems of nomenclature were discussed, such as what should happen to *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch' now that the taxon from which this form was selected is going to be treated by Paul Wilson as *Xerochrysum bracteatum* subspecies *lanatum*. Neil Marriott pointed out that there were other subspecies likely to be described as well, so Dargan Hill Monarch remains a selection from the new taxon, and should not be treated as synonymous with it.'

2. In the *Journal* Vol. 14, No. 8 (June 2006) p. 7 of APS Canberra Region Inc. there was an interesting paragraph on daisies in 'An Australian Habitat Garden — Transforming a Garden in Lyons' by Alan Ford. Alan wrote about removing *Photinia*, *Cotoneaster* and two large pine trees from his front garden and of replacing them with a selection of Australian natives. Of daisies he wrote: 'Ten daisy species have been planted and all have survived. The standard bearer is the Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*), which goes berserk. At the other end of the scale is the local version of Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) which, as far as I can tell is really only a biennial in most of the garden, although it appears to have a preference for certain conditions and in those it appears to be able to go on and on.'

(It is true that *L. albicans* in our garden has drooped, declined and died in no time in certain situations while waxing large and living long in others. I have not been able to work out why one site is more desirable than another. ... Judy.)

3. **Pat Webb**, who is one of the Volunteer Tour Guides for the Australian Garden, furnished two "howlers" she heard in the course of her guiding recently.

- In the Home Garden where there are lots of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* in full bloom: "Oh, are they Australian plants? They sell them in Bunnings."
- In the Dry River Walk there is a patch of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch' in full dress: "Oh look, here are some South African daisies." This despite my very clear introduction that **all** plants in this garden are Australian.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Graham Stutchbury who has recently self-published a book about his first few years as a newly graduated vet in north Queensland in the mid 1950s. It should make interesting reading and we hope he makes a fortune.
- Congratulations to Ben Somerville who laboured for three days to get a good publicity coverage for the AD SG Plant Sale at Peg McAllister's on 30th September. Not only was it AFL Grand Final day but it was also the weekend of the APS Vic Quarterly Meeting at the Grampians. When the date was chosen the Quarterly Meeting was thought to be at another time. All the members who participated in the Sale were happy with the outcome.
- Congratulations to Maree Goods who was awarded Life Membership of the Wimmera Native Plant Growers at the celebration for their 30th Birthday. Maree has been a member of AD SG for 10 years and in that time we have come to know her as a sterling character, a kind hostess and an excellent propagator.

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## PROPAGATION PAGES

1. Early this year Bryan Mole from Outback Plants asked AD SG if he could have a little seed of *Brachyscome* species for some hybridisation trials. The Group sent seed of 9 species, 5 perennials and 4 annuals. In March Maureen and I were invited out to Outback Plants to observe some of Bryan's trials and to hazard guesses at the parents of a few attractive hybrids that were the result of unbridled crossings. The parentage of many hybrids was certain as they had been isolated in cages. We were impressed with Bryan's progress. Our opinions of unknown parentages were educated of course, but were sometimes conflicting. The very fact of Bryan keeping the results of many known crosses and back crosses in his head was astonishing to us.

We asked for the results of the germination trials undertaken with AD SG seed so that we could discard certain of the species we were storing. In mid-July the following results were sent to us.

Seed Source	Date collected	Date sown	Date of first germination	Number
Seed from Maureen				
<i>Brachyscome ptychocarpa</i> ex Mt Canobolus (per.)	Feb 91	9/03/2006	20/03/2006	75
<i>Brachyscome readeri</i> ex Kalingur Forest 'P' (ann.)	Dec 98	9/03/2006	17/03/2006	100+
<i>Brachyscome nodosa</i> ex St George 'P' (ann.)	Oct 99	9/03/2006	17/03/2006	100+
<i>Brachyscome muelleri</i> P. Short 3713 (ann.)	Oct 90	9/03/2006	-	-
<i>Brachyscome whitei</i> Engonia-Bourke Prov. (ann.)	Sep 98	9/03/2006	2/06/2006	1
Seed from Judy				
<i>Brachyscome</i> aff. <i>cuneifolia</i> 'P' (per.)	Nov. 95	15/03/2006	-	-
<i>Brachyscome petrophila</i> 'P' (per.)	13/11/1991	15/03/2006	-	-
<i>Brachyscome petrophila</i> Pot. (per.)	?	15/03/2006	-	-
<i>Brachyscome sieberi</i> var. <i>gunnii</i> (per.)	?	15/03/2006	-	-
<i>Brachyscome riparia</i> (isolated) (per.)	Nov. 95	15/03/2006	22/03/2006	84
<i>Brachyscome muelleri</i> Pot 95 and Esma's combined (per.)	?	15/03/2006	-	-

Most of this seed had been collected by Esma, 'P' standing for 38 Pinewood Drive. The (per.) and (ann.) after the species names indicate whether the species is perennial or annual.

### 2. Ben Somerville's Propagation Report (August 2006)

Seed raising mixture results:

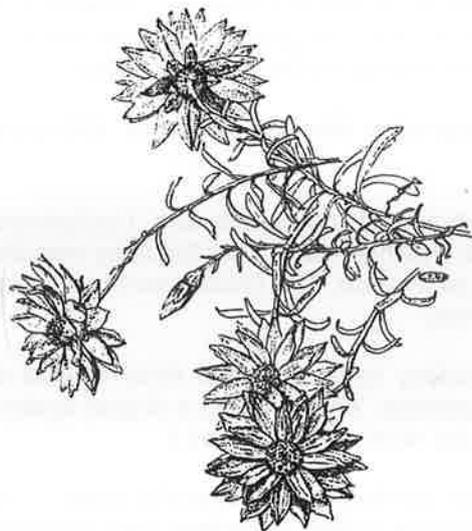
*Xerochrysum bracteatum* in trays on a Debco seed raising mix produced very poor results. Germination was very slow, with stunted growth and seedlings were unsuitable for potting on. In view of the poor results I sowed the same *Xerochrysum bracteatum* seed on a bed of Van Schaik's Bio Gro Professional Growing Medium and the results produced were excellent.

I have also found that in general I get a much better germination result with a thin layer of smoked vermiculite mulch instead of quarter minus basalt (being unable to get granite). I suspect that basalt chips are too acidic.

Using Bio Gro PGM and covering the seed with a layer of smoked vermiculite here are some propagation results from seed provided by AD SG:

Species	Date sown	Germination
<i>Chrysocephalum baxteri</i>	9/5/06	100%
<i>Hyalospermum praecox</i>	9/5/06	Nil. Seed not viable?
<i>Hyalospermum cotula</i>	9/5/06	Nil. Seed not viable?
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i> var. <i>albicans</i> Jerilderie '96	9/5/06	100%
<i>L. albicans</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i> var. <i>tricolor</i>	11/7/06	Nil
<i>Rhodanthe diffusa</i> ssp. <i>diffusa</i>	11/7/06	50%
<i>R. chlorocephala</i> ssp. <i>rosea</i>	9/5/06	100%
<i>R. haigii</i>	9/5/06	3 seedlings
<i>Schoenia filifolia</i> ssp. <i>subulifolia</i>	9/5/06	Good
<i>Lawrencella davenportii</i>	9/5/06	Few seedlings

3. **Seed mix ingredients.** On a visit to buy potting and seed mix at Van Schaik's Bio Gro Company (formerly Propine Pty Ltd) Maureen and Judy were surprised to learn that the following compounds were present in the seed mix: lime, dolomite, ferric sulphate, gypsum, Rewet, urea, copper sulphate, potassium nitrate, superphosphate and a word that looks like 'Triabin'. The ratio of each compound added was company information. The variety already included was surprising in light of the fact that Propine had suggested we add only IBDU and Osmocote to each bag of seed mix just before we used it. No wonder Kevin Handreck (in *Gardening Down-under*, 1993) states, 'It is easier to buy seed raising mix than to make your own.'



*Rhodanthe anthemoides* 'Paper Cascade'  
(illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson)

4. **Collection of seed of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (red bud, branched).** On p.16 of NL 74 I reminded members to look for seed of this lovely garden species in early October. I had 10th October in mind at that time. This year, when passing a small clump of plants at the end of September, I thought I'd better see whether black seeds had formed because spring seems to have begun earlier than usual. Sure enough, some seeds had already formed and were collected. About 5 days later I collected more seed. I rang Maureen to alert her to look for seed also. Further collecting has taken place up to the middle of October at Hawthorn and Fairhaven, so we will have a small supply for members. This is one of the most difficult species from which to collect seed. The disc centres are sometimes still yellow with scattered brown spots and do not look as though mature seed is present. The only way to be sure of success is to fold back the white bracts to see if the peripheral seed uncovered is black or still pale greenish cream.

Jeff Irons' seed of *Helichrysum rutidolepis* has resulted in strongly growing little plants with quite thick, hairy, green leaves. The stems appear to be either prostrate or decumbent. So far the plants have not flowered but look more like the Oberon form than the greyish form we see in nurseries.

We were all interested in Ben's comparison of results from sowing seed in Debco and Bio Gro seed mix. Soon after he told us about it I sowed seed of *Thysanotus multiflorus* at the same time in pots of both mixes. Seven seedlings from 30 seeds came up in the Debco mix and 11 from 42 in the Bio Gro mix or 23% vs 26%. Nothing much in it, you'd say, but that was only a very superficial trial. I wonder if the answer is that Ben sowed his first batch when Melbourne had a very cold spell of weather and his xerochrysums wilted and died. His second batch may have been sown in perfect conditions. ...Judy.

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## MEMBERS' REPORTS

**Jeff Irons** of Heswall (England) wrote on 3/4/06: 'I am a member of the Scottish Rock Garden Club. It decided to use its charity status by giving every member a CD with issues 1 to 33 (July 2000) of its twice yearly journal. Going through them I found an article about craspedias. Further investigation indicated that nothing about them had since been written in British gardening literature. I decided to do it. The original article concentrated on NZ craspedias because, as he wrote, the author had no experience of Aussie ones. Mine is giving detailed notes on the Aussie spp., because they are what I know.

I came up against the usual problem — that there were detailed descriptions of the new spp., but nothing on their effect on the earlier ones. The introduction of *Craspedia coolaminica* to Tasmania made me wonder about its effect (if any) on *C. glauca*.'

(Jeff sent the first two pages of his proposed article, which was most interesting. I hope he sends the whole article when it is finished. ...Judy.)

6/5/06 'Thanks for the seeds of *H. adenophorum* var. *waddelliae*. I'll try growing them in a container. Past experience has been that in the ground they are monocarpic.

We've had a disastrous winter. Autumn was very warm, so that plants were growing strongly and had not begun to prepare for winter. Then in mid November a frost of  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  came along. All over the area plants that had never before been injured suffered severe bud / leaf damage. However, *Calocephalus citreus* (Captains Flat) sailed through with no set back.'

**June Rogers** of Horsham (Vic) reports on 12/7/06: 'Life has been a bit upset here since early April when I had a melanoma removed from my leg. I ended up in hospital for nine days. I was then restricted to walking very little and had to keep the leg elevated until mid-May. Even then I was at the clinic three times a week to have dressings changed, so somewhere along the way I completely lost April, May and June. Thankfully I've had my three month check-up and everything is OK.'

Finally I felt like gardening again, only to be confronted with one of the coldest, driest winters on record — not conducive to outdoors at all. My new front garden is causing quite a bit of interest in the area — no lawn and no roses — all natives. Only planted on the first weekend in October last year, the growth has surprised me. *Xerochrysums* featured very much as "fill ins" and with their removal I'm finding multitudes of seedlings.

I attended Maroondah Group's 40th Birthday, and we're very busy organizing Wimmera Growers' 30th early in August.'

(Addendum in August) 'Further seedlings are appearing in the garden — *B. diversifolia* and *Trachymene coerulea* (Rottnest Is. Daisy) — so have been busy popping them in anywhere also. Last Saturday was the 30th birthday of our Wimmera Growers — a lovely dinner with 75 in attendance. The Goods were just home from two months "in the wilds". Maree was made a Life Member — great.'

**Beryl Birch** of Bendigo (Vic) reported on 1/8/06: 'Our garden is looking reasonable. No daisy flowers at present but the local *Xerochrysum viscosum* is sprouting lustily in readiness. We have had a dripper system put in from the tanks, which should free us from lousy watering hours (or none at all, they say.)

It was beaut to have a short visit from Anne Kerr. We were able to pilot her through our beautiful valley — no daisies, but wonderful trees. We tootle about this area. Also had a few days in the Grampians, then to Apollo Bay. Quite chuffed at my driving efforts.'

(Just as well Beryl had the tanks put in as Bendigo is extremely short of water — stage 4 restrictions are now in place.)

**Howard and Lorraine Harvey** of Houghton (SA) report on 7/9/06: 'We spread our *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* seeds from you through the sand where we had various daisies last year. We also put some *Xerochrysum* seeds in the same area. Soon after we got one of the coldest spells we've had over May–June for many years, but almost no rain. Finally we saw plenty of little shoots, but when they grew ... ! Oh, well. Maybe we wanted a lawn there after all.'

**Bev Courtney** of Langwarrin (Vic) reported on 5/9/06: 'I have grown a couple of dozen *R. anthemoides* Liverpool Range and am just starting to plant them out, and also potted up a similar quantity of the local *Brachyscome parvula*, also the local *H. scorpioides*. I'm putting in more cuttings of the local *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*. The Anglesea form has self-sown everywhere, but our local form just doesn't set any seed at all.'

**Ben Somerville** of Vermont South (Vic) reported in September: 'Last year I planted *Xerochrysum bracteatum* against the fence along most of our 30m long driveway, resulting in many hundreds of unwelcome self-sown seedlings coming up in the gravelly surface, so many that I had to use Roundup to remove them!

When *Scaevola* 'Mauve Clusters' flowers died off in 2005 I left the trimmed bushes on the gravelly garden path for a couple of weeks. After a month or two a considerable number of *Scaevola* seedlings came up! I have just pulled up this season's *Scaevola*s and will leave them on the same gravelly path for a while in the hope that another crop of healthy *Scaevola* seedlings will appear! If so I intend to pot them up and give them away as it is a prolific flowering species.'

**Ros Cornish** of Carwoola (NSW) reports on 17/10/06: 'Our spring has been very disappointing. We have had no rain for over a month, then it was only 10mm — falling after another month without any rain. Some things have flowered but only for a very short time and everything is early. We were horrified to see the recent bushfires so soon. I think it will be a bad year here. There's already been a fire south-west of us in Namadgi National Park in an area that didn't get burnt in 2003. For the time being we've gone back into slightly cooler weather and the wind has eased, but everything is crisp. We badly need rain.'

We led the annual wildflower walk (for our local Landcare group) on Saturday. It was on a private property which I'd actually walked on a few years ago in a very good season — it was spectacular then. However, on Saturday it was pretty bad — hardly anything to see. We had to open books and show photos of the flowers that should have been there. One good thing though was that a very tough, rare plant (*Discaria pubescens*) was flowering beautifully. The local press (Bungendore Mirror) had turned up to take photos of us all with

carpets of wildflowers but he had to make do with the rare plant. We'll see what appears — I made sure that I wrote down the name of the plant for him so that he'd get the spelling correct. I know what these journalists are like!

Despite our drought conditions, we have a wonderful display of *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *tricolor* and var. *albicans* — and something in between. We definitely have plants with lemon flowers. I was a little worried about this and have been keeping my eye on them to make sure that they don't "move" outside the fence into the wild. They have self-seeded into the pebble mulch and paths and are doing very well. In our area (and native to our block) we have var. *tricolor*. Not far away though — between Bungendore and Braidwood and Bungendore and Tarago — var. *albicans* is present but not var. *tricolor*. I recently drove over the hills from our place towards Braidwood and in one place found var. *tricolor* and var. *albicans* together — and some lemon ones. So, I feel slightly relieved that what is happening here also happens naturally. I hope I live long enough to see portable DNA testing machines that we can use in the field to ID plants!

We have our Growing Friends sale on 4 November. I will be buying another *Olearia viscosa* as one of mine has succumbed to the hot, windy conditions. A friend of mine picked up some plants for me from a nursery in Tasmania. They look good but they may not survive here. The daisies are: *Olearia archeri*, *O. phlogopappa* var. *subrepanda*, *O. pinifolia*, *O. stellulata*, *Ozothamnus hookeri*, *O. ledifolius*, *O. rosmarinifolius*, *O. scutellifolius* and *O. turbinatus*. I'm planning to revamp part of the front garden. Some early plantings are looking old and tired, and I want to put in smaller plants and extend the pebble mulch.

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## ADSG PLANT SALE

On 30th September six members assembled under Peg McAllister's commodious carport in the early morning and spread out their wares. A perfect day had been forecast by the Met. Bureau and all we needed were plenty of customers. We were apprehensive, not only because it was AFL Grand Final Day but also because this was the weekend of the APS Vic Quarterly Meeting at the Grampians. It meant that Max and Regina McDowall were missing from Peg's and so were their invariably interesting and highly saleable plants. However, thanks to the excellent publicity put out by Ben Somerville we were soon beset by customers and had to cease gossiping among ourselves.

The visitors loved looking at Peg's delightful garden whether they were doing so for the first time, had seen it before or were constant visitors as are most of the ADSG Melbourne members. It is always colourful, calm, free of weeds and scarcely believable in the range of plants that do Peg's bidding. I never cease to learn from Peg's throw away remarks as she takes me around to see what is out or what has just come up by itself. Orchids, heaths, brunonias, Milkmaids, Triggers (as Peg calls them), Early Nancy, grevilleas and now little *Hovea pungens* and *H. elliptica* seedlings. If only I could remember all she imparts! Perhaps a small, inconspicuous notebook would be the answer.

Many thanks to Peg and her family for being the hostess on so many of these occasions. It is hard work — trestles have to be got out and erected, sandwich boards placed strategically and visitors expect Peg to take them round the garden until she is nigh exhausted. However, from an ADSG point of view there could not be a better place to hold a plant sale. ... Judy.

## BOOK NEWS

A new book titled *The Dryandras* has been published. It was written by Margaret Pieroni (the leader of the Dryandra Study Group) and Tony Cavanagh (the newsletter editor of the DSG). The book provides full information on 94 species and 41 subspecies and varieties, each with colour photographs of flower head and plant and Margaret's lovely line drawings of a leaf, fruit, seed and seedling. It is a large hardback with 244 pages. The special price for ASGAP members is \$64.00 plus postage of about \$8–10. It has been published by APS. Vic in collaboration with the Western Australian Wildflower Soc. and is distributed by Blooming Books.

Another new book titled *Flora of the Otway Plain & Ranges 1* has been written by Enid Mayfield. It describes the Orchids, Irises, Lilies, Grass-trees, Mat-rushes and other petaloid monocotyledons of the area in great detail. Each species and subspecies is accompanied by Enid's delightful paintings of the plants, the flowers and often of the magnified leaves or flower parts if they assist in identification. In his foreword John Landy says that 'The text and illustrations constantly draw attention to the relationship of plants with the broader environment, the effects of fire, the role of pollinators and the importance of fungi.' There are 219 pages, it costs between \$40–45 and was published by Linton Press.

(I know there are no daisies in Enid's book but I have thoroughly enjoyed reading through my copy. For a long time I have been trying to identify accurately all the lomandras that grow in this district, as well as sundry lilies, but have never been absolutely certain in my mind. However, this book has made it all easy and has furnished new names for some of the families into the bargain. ... Judy.)

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### ASGAP Australian Daisy Study Group

#### Statement of Income and Expenditure 1 July 2005 – 30 June 2006

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions	835.00	Newsletter	159.20
Book Sale	1354.10	Postage & Stationery	274.30
Bank Interest	<u>159.96</u>	"Smoke" generation mix	107.35
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$2349.06</u></b>	Gifts	140.93
		Weekend Meeting	117.84
		Subscription ' <i>Australian Horticulture</i> '	83.40
		Printing leaflets	15.00
		Sundry	35.10
		Royal Botanic Gardens Student Bursary	3500.00
		<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$4433.12</u></b>

#### BALANCE SHEET

		<u>Held as:</u>	
Brought forward 1 July 2005	\$5764.78	Cash Management Account	1753.73
Income	2349.06	Cheque Account	1846.69
Expenditure	4433.12	Cash in hand	80.30
<b><u>Balance @ 30 June 2006</u></b>	<b><u>\$3680.72</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$3680.72</u></b>

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#### Editor's Note

We all thank Natalie for the excellent leadership and organisational qualities she has displayed this year. At the same time as shepherding us through our monthly meetings, weekend meetings and forays she has had the Peate garden once again in the Open Garden Scheme with all its attendant worries as to weather conditions. Her active life also includes much propagation, joint authorship of a new *Grow What Where* edition, participation in the Rhamnaceae Study Group and a little competitive bridge. We are lucky to have her. We are also lucky to have an excellent treasurer in John Webb.

I am very lucky to have such a devoted band of contributors to these newsletters. AD SG's newsletters have been praised for the number of contributors and the variety of your offerings. Please keep it up!

Merry Christmas to you all and may it rain hard soon.



## SHOW and TELL

(June meeting) Maureen stimulated some argument when she brought a grey-leafed specimen provided by Alan Anderson which she thought was *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*. It is always perilous to argue these matters with Maureen, whose powers of observation and recall of minute detail are legendary. However, the leaves were not aromatic and they were very grey. No conclusion was reached but it would be useful to see it again when it was in flower.

(July meeting) No specimens were brought.

(August meeting) Natalie brought *Acanthocladium dockeri* and *Centratherum punctatum* ssp. *australianum*. She may also have brought *Helichrysum rutidolepis* and *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* as there were no names written down with those specimens.

Peg stated that *Podolepis jaceoides* has been persevering in her gardens for 15 years, often when she thought it was lost. The original plant keeps coming up.

(September meeting) Anne Kerr showed *Brachyscome* 'Metallic Blue', *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* and *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*. Barbara Rooks brought *Brachyscome diversifolia* and *B. segmentosa*, *Craspedia variabilis*, *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans*, *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*, *Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia*. Judy took a beautiful specimen of *Olearia adenophora* from a plant from the Pye nursery, a present from Maureen. This sprig sitting in a small vase on the kitchen window-sill looked fresh for at least 10 days. She probably also showed a small posy of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (red bud, branched) and *Helichrysum scorpioides*, but it wasn't written down in the meeting notes.

It is obvious that there are not many daisy species flowering in the winter months.

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## NEW MEMBER

ADSG extends a warm welcome to new member:

**Brenda Moore**, 62 Ennismore Cres., Park Orchards, 3114.

Brenda and recent new member Jan Nicholls are very good cooks and have already provided delicacies and recipes for the Melbourne members. Perhaps our next publishing venture should be a cook book.

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## SEED DONORS

Many thanks to the following members for their seed donations: Judy Barker, Jeff Irons, Margery Stutchbury.

### SEED BANK — Garden and Commercial seed

#### **Additions:**

*Helichrysum rutidolepis*

*Rhodanthe anthemoides* (red bud, branched), *oppositifolia* ssp. *ornata*

*Schoenia cassiniana*

#### **Deletions:**

*Brachyscome muelleri*, *petrophila*, *sieberi* var. *gunnii*

*Hyalosperma cotula*, *praecox*

*Ozothamnus ledifolius*, *purpurascens* (Sorry. Wrongly spelt in NL 74, p. 17.)

— Provenance seed

#### **Deletions:**

*Brachyscome muelleri*

**SEED WANTED PLEASE:** *Brachyscome formosa*, *B. procumbens*, *B. sieberi* var. *gunnii*, fresh *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans* and var. *tricolor*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (pink) and *Olearia* spp. (not listed in the seed bank). As the Group is now studying some less well known genera, we will have to grow them in order to refresh our memories. Therefore we would also like fresh seed of the following: *Craspedia*, *Celmisia*, *Podolepis*, and *Pycnosorus*, especially *Pycnosorus globosus*.

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006/2007 WERE DUE ON JUNE 30th.



Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year for members within Australia and \$20.00 per year for overseas members. If there is a red sticker here, this will be your final newsletter. If you wish to continue — please send your subscription now to JOHN WEBB, AT 99 FIDDLERS GREEN, 57 GLOUCESTER AVE, BERWICK, VICTORIA, 3806. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Australian Daisy Study Group'.