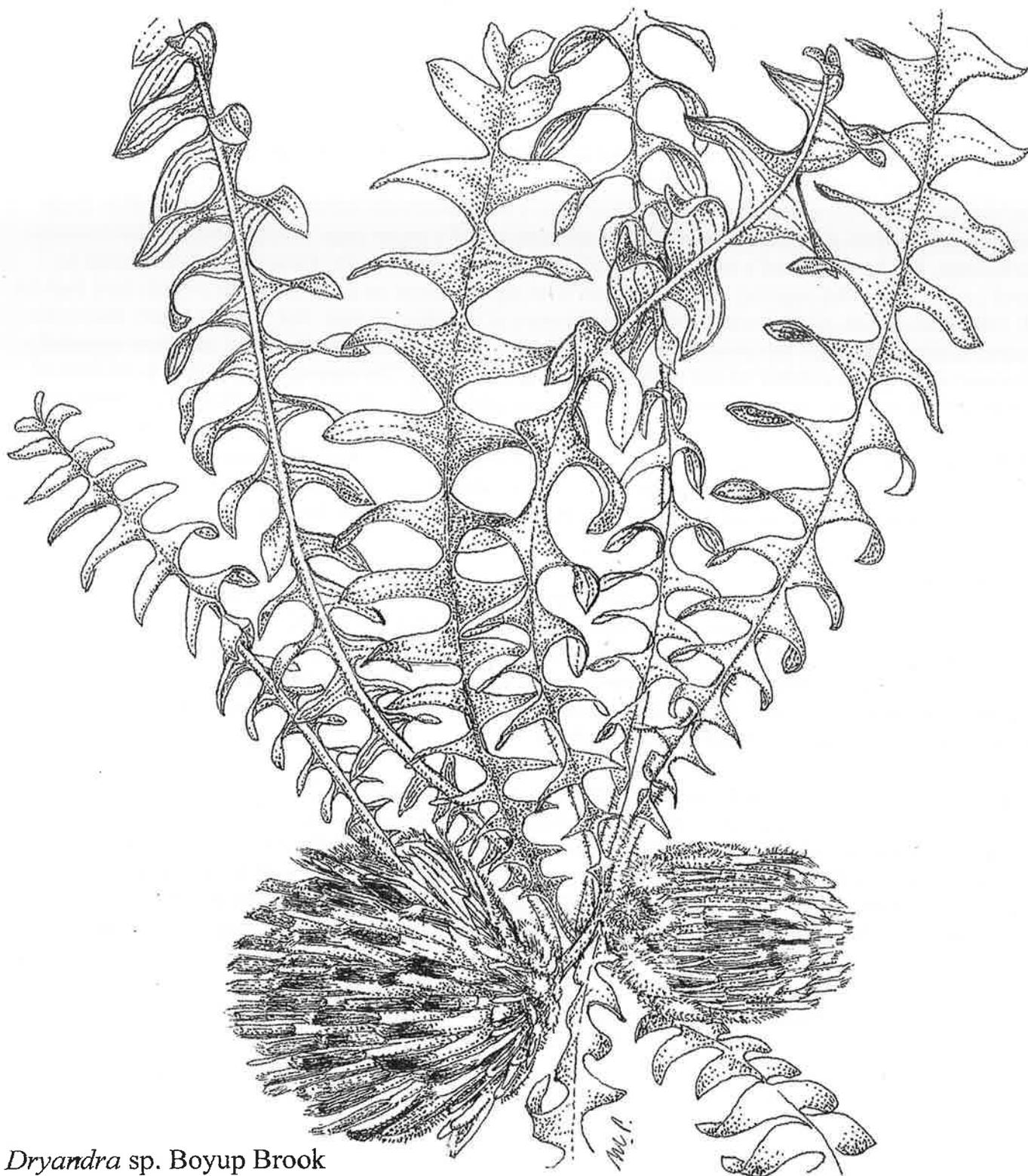


DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP  
NEWSLETTER NO. 61



*Dryandra* sp. Boyup Brook

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AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY  
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## DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP

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Hello and welcome to our July Newsletter and the start of another Newsletter year.

This Newsletter is very much of an experiment. I have been aware for some time that some other Study Groups produce both an email version of their newsletter and a paper copy which generally has coloured illustrations. We have offered a colour page addition to the Newsletter for many years, with thanks to David Lightfoot for the copying. Also, Margaret's lovely drawings on the front cover (which date back to late 1983 when Keith Alcock was Leader) are the envy of all other groups. But, I cannot deny that colour pictures scattered through the newsletter vastly improves its appearance and interest, as I have especially witnessed with the Newsletter of our local APS Group (Geelong). The downside of course is the cost of printing colour because even if there is only one colour picture, the whole page is charged at colour print rate. Also, to be able to send the Newsletter by email requires that everything has to be in digital format, including the front cover picture. Margaret and I are of course keen to keep this unique feature and I have experimented with scanning or photographing the finished page and this seems to work well. I still have a lot to learn about doing the layout but hope that this Newsletter is acceptable and I will continue to try to improve it.

I am working to finalise arrangements for colour printing and having a fully functioning email version before the January 2012 Newsletter. Subscriptions are also due for 2011-2012 and the subscription form is on the final page. We are looking at a slight increase in fees for the paper version in 2012-2013 but those who are happy to receive only the email version will pay \$5.00. It is imperative if you want the email version, that you let me know your email address. I would welcome any comments or suggestions for improving the layout; my email address is above.

Margaret raises a concern that she has long had about the vulnerability of *D. subpinnatifida* var. *imberbis* to hybridisation with *D. squarrosa* and thus ceasing to exist as a discrete and recognizable taxon. Is anyone growing either of the forms of this species? We have reproduced Val Crowley's article of her original recognition of hybrids between *D. subpinnatifida* and *D. squarrosa* and the problem was of concern then, in the early 1990s. Margaret's "Looking back" continues to trace the discovery and understanding of the many new species which she and Keith Alcock, with help from Alex George and Herbarium staff, identified as being "different". Finally Alex and myself, in two separate articles, look at aspects of what makes a plant a "favourite" and Alex challenges us to identify his favourite *Dryandra*. And finally, a belated congratulations to Study Group members Don and Joy Williams who were awarded the W.A. Wildflower Society Award for 2010. Well done!

Please let me have your comments and also consider writing something for your Newsletter.

Happy *Dryandra* growing

*Dryandra* sp. Boyup Brook

Tony

This unnamed *Dryandra* was identified as *D. aurantia* by the W.A. Herbarium but in our opinion, it is a new species (see *The Dryandras* p. 88). The flowers are similar to those of *D. aurantia* and the leaves to *D. porrecta*. It occurs in forest about 20 km north of Boyup Brook and flowers in June. An article on its collection appears in Newsletter No. 48 January 2005.



Left: *Dryandra* sp. Boyup Brook  
In cultivation, Denmark 2/4/11

Centre: *D. subpinnatifida* var. *imberbis*  
Perup 10/4/11

Below: *D. lindleyana* 'Little Tuffy'  
Perup 10/4/11



## Dryandra in Danger

*Dryandra subpinnatifida* var. *imberbis* –

Conservation status: Priority 2

Margaret Pieroni 3/6/2011

In April, together with several friends from the Denmark – Walpole area, fellow members of the William Bay National Park Association, I went to Perup for a weekend to what is called ‘Nature’s Boarding House’.

Perup is roughly half-way between Denmark and Busselton, in that direction – about 100 km north west of here. The modern, very comfortable camp-style accommodation and meeting rooms complex is run by the Dept. of Environment and Conservation (DEC). It is situated in a large forest reserve, an important site for the preservation of some of our endangered animals, such as the Brush-tailed Bettong or Woylie which used to be prevalent at *Dryandra* but their numbers have crashed, recently. A high, strong fence protects them from predators over a large part of the reserve.

At that time of year there are not many flowers to be seen. Our main interest was just walking the bush tracks and observing animals around the camp, spotlighting at night and learning about the conservation program.

In the meeting room, I noticed a herbarium and, naturally, looked to see what *dryandras* had been collected there. To my surprise, there was a specimen of *Dryandra subpinnatifida* which I could see was var. *imberbis*. It had been collected by Tony Annels in 1982 and the label read: *Only two plants, on the bank of the dam near the old house. Covered in flowers.* Back then, var. *imberbis* had not been separated but the specimen showed the accumulating flowering habit of a ‘mound’ plant. It also had leaves that indicated hybridisation with *D. squarrosa*, although that species is not present.

The dam is close to the camp buildings that have replaced the old house so I didn’t have far to look but the banks were largely devoid of vegetation and, after all this time, I didn’t think the two plants would still be there. In the centre of the dam is a small island, covered with trees and shrubs and, as the dam was dry, except for one small pool of water, it was possible to walk

across to it. I found two plants of the *dryandra*. One is quite old and had collapsed from the centre as ‘mound’ plants tend to do, and the other is smaller, having only flowered for three or four years. They both had ‘*squarrosa*’ leaf lobes but the smaller appeared to have fewer.

I rang Tony Annels who remembered collecting the specimen – on the bank of the dam, not on the island. At the time, he wondered why there were only two plants and whether they had been introduced from elsewhere, perhaps the seed being brought in with earth-moving equipment during the construction of the dam. Kevin Collins was very surprised when I told him about it. He has stayed at Perup several times but hadn’t been over to the island. There was always water in the dam. I guess it must be a rare occurrence for the dam to dry up and I wonder whether this was the first time it has happened. We have just had a record dry year, here in the south west of the state.

I began to wonder whether this beautiful *dryandra* could be saved by growing seeds from the best plants and selectively breeding ‘pure’ plants. I have been told that this is theoretically possible. Any plants produced would have to be kept well away from *D. squarrosa* plants. It would be difficult to eradicate *D. squarrosa* from existing populations as it sheds its seeds annually and comes up thickly after disturbance.

Incidentally, the hybrid swarms I’ve seen in the wild are in previously disturbed areas.

I have only ever seen three plants of *D. subpinnatifida* var. *imberbis* that are ‘pure’. That is; the leaves have an entire blade with narrow, prickle-like lobes at the base hence the name of the species. The first two were shown to me in two different locations, by DSG member, Val Crowley. Both were surrounded by a hybrid swarm of the two species and many plants of *D. squarrosa*. Val wrote an article about her first discovery of the plants, near Boolading for newsletter no. 21, January 1992 and I illustrated it with drawings of the leaf specimens she sent me. This plant died soon after. The second one, near Bowelling, is the one shown in *The Dryandras*. The third was the magnificent specimen that was growing at Kevin Collins’ Banksia Farm, which I wrote about and pictured in newsletter no. 53, July 2007. Sadly, it has died

and, contrary to our expectations, did not produce very much seed. Josh Byrne of the ABC Gardening Australia TV program, was very impressed with it, even though it wasn't flowering and featured it in a piece on the dryandras at the Banksia Farm.

The chapter on 'hybrids' in *The Dryandras* has photos and information on this taxon. I have been very concerned about its survival and I fear that it will be 'hybridised' into extinction - if that hasn't already happened.

I first saw this taxon growing in the Dryandra living collection at the Cranbourne (Victoria) annexe of the Royal Botanic Gardens in a row of neat little rounded plants. In the next row there were a few taller, narrow plants with flowers in axils along the stems. These are *D. subpinnatifida* var. *subpinnatifida* while the 'mounds' are var. *imberbis*. The former has a lignotuber and resprouts after fire, while the latter does not. I had a fairly good 'squarrosa-free' plant of var. *imberbis* in my garden in Perth as well as an intermediate between the two varieties. This was a very novel plant as it had two distinct parts - one mound and one upright branch. Unfortunately, this plant died suddenly and the other one was destroyed, along with the rest of the garden after I sold the house.

Also growing at Perup, is a form of *D. lindleyana* that Keith Alcock dubbed 'Little Tufty'. He had collected it from near Kojonup about 30 years ago. Since moving to Denmark, I have discovered that quite a few dryandras occur west of the Albany Highway, particularly in the Frankland area - including this one. I hadn't previously visited this part of the state.

The leaves of this form are very short; about 10cm long and, depending on whether the plants have been burned or not, forms carpets or very slightly mounded, spreading plants. The flowers are the typical 'honeypots' of *D. lindleyana* and *D. nivea*.

### ***A Dryandra subpinnatifida* Hybrid?**

*Reprinted from Newsletter no. 21 January 1992*

**Val Crowley**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> August, 91, my friend, Jan Smith and I were carrying out a Road Verge Conservation Value Survey in the West Arthur Shire and we

were in the Boolading area, south west of Darkan when we observed some 'different' dryandras flowering. We promptly investigated and found them to be different from anything we had previously seen in our district.

The plants were very attractive, mainly mound-formed, approximately up to 1 - 1.5m high and they were flowering in profusion and were scattered over an area of approximately 2 acres of what was an old gravel pit/rubbish dump.

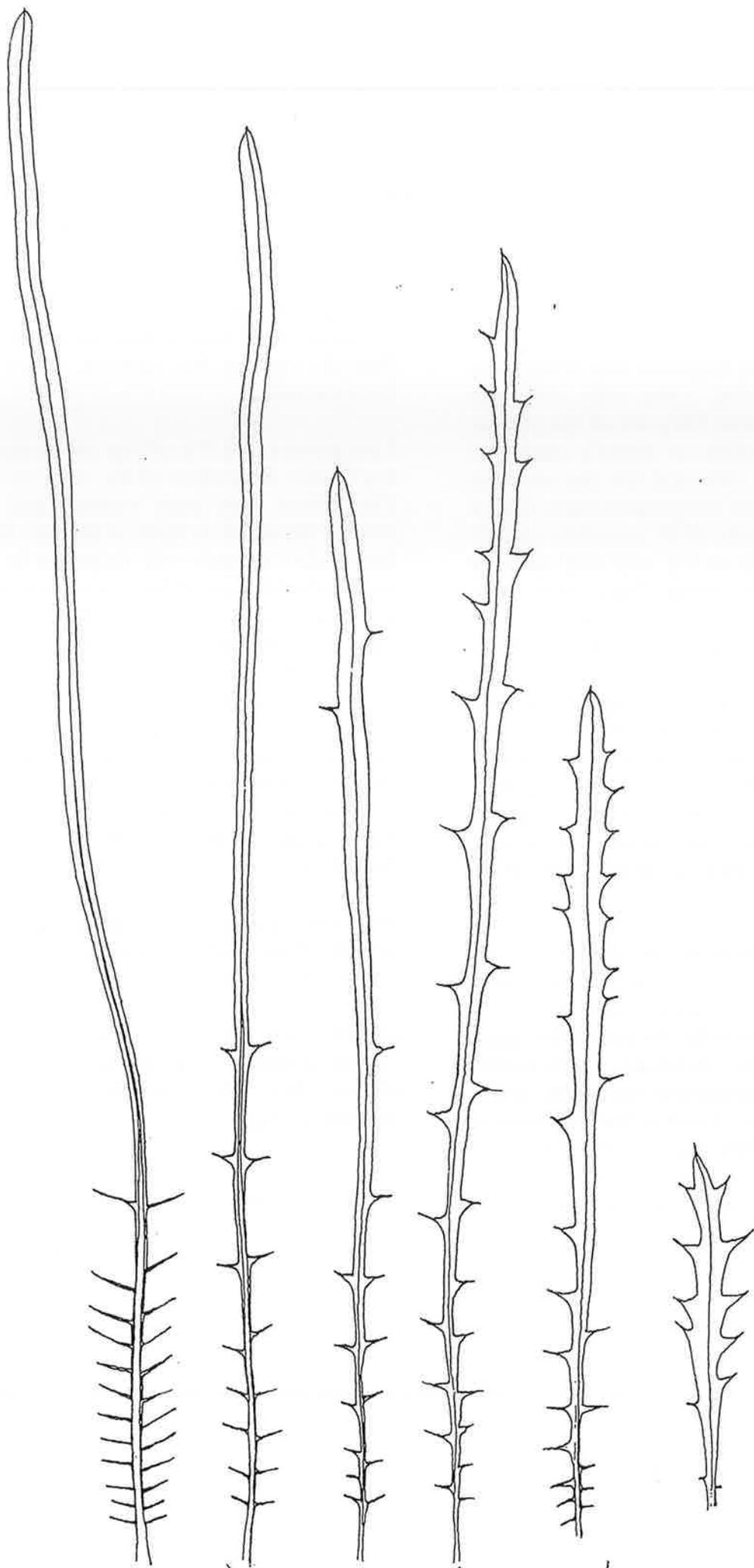
We wandered happily around for quite some considerable time, (no wonder the Road Verge Survey is still incomplete), then suddenly we remembered we had climbed through a fence on the roadside and we were on private property, which made us feel a little unsettled.

I picked a specimen to take home to try to identify and, in passing, picked three others. I tried to key them out that evening and thought perhaps the finest leafed one may have been *D. subpinnatifida* - then became somewhat confused with the specimens thinking perhaps the coarsest leafed might be *D. squarrosa*, so decided to send them to Margaret. (See attached leaf drawings)

Margaret believes we have found a hybrid 'swarm' of crosses between *D. squarrosa*, which grows among the plants and *D. subpinnatifida* and, on a further visit to the area on 26<sup>th</sup> August found a specimen that could be *D. subpinnatifida*.

The hybrids mainly seem to have the mound form of *D. subpinnatifida* with the flower shape of *D. squarrosa*, with the leaves many and varied. They either have a shorter flowering time than *D. squarrosa* or, perhaps we found them near the end of their flowering. They were a mass of flowers on 12<sup>th</sup> August and nearly finished on 26<sup>th</sup>.

We visited the area again on 8<sup>th</sup> October and only managed to find two or three very small flowers. *D. squarrosa* was still flowering well. Unfortunately, the land owners now have sheep grazing in the paddock and they, or something else, have been eating the tips of the plants and breaking pieces off. It is hoped the sheep will soon be moved.



*D. subpinnatifida* var. *imberbis*

Hybrids

*D. squarrosa* subsp. *squarrosa*

## Looking Back (Continued)

*Continuing the correspondence from Margaret Pieroni, then living in Perth to Keith Alcock, Study Group Leader, in Victoria. Updates of names and other comments are in italics, in brackets.*

**Margaret Pieroni 6/6/2011**

*From a letter dated 13/6/86:*

...I will sort out the negatives and order some slides as you requested. I see what you mean about the ones you sent! They are all too yellow, though, in some cases it doesn't matter. I compared them with mine and saw that mine are very good – there's no comparison really. I have taken some more shots of *D. tenuifolia* and *D. fraseri* in my garden so I'll wait and see how they turn out before getting slides (*from print negatives*). As I said, I had some done for my talk and they were good. I was pleased with the result when I saw them on the screen, too. The Fujicolour is still superior, though; I find it's 'spot on' every time. It's interesting to see the difference in the slides of sp. B (*D. echinata*), you sent. The slides from my negs are too golden yellow while those of yours and Evan Clucas are a clear, lemon yellow and, I would say, correct. I'm hoping to get back to photograph sp. B again, this year.

My talk was well received, though the talking was not well done – I was more nervous than I thought I would be. The slides made up for it, I hope. I'll write an article for the newsletter, later, to impart my message, I'm hoping, a little better. Several people complimented me on the slides and said that they didn't realise that *Dryandra* is such an attractive genus. I started the slides with those I have growing, mentioning in passing that seeds and plants are often wrongly labelled and also wrongly named in publications. Then I showed the 7 that I have of Ted Griffin's 10, (sp.A –J) then the ones I'd photographed during excursions with the Wildflower Society, then the Stirling Range ones and finally, some of the new and undescribed species.

My last trip (*accompanied by Shirley Loney*) went very well. Slides I'd taken with the flash, in April were too dark so I bought fresh batteries. Both days, however, were completely cloudless. Unbelievable! There was one disappointment,

though. My new species 2(*D. lepidorhiza*) on Robinson Road (*west of Woodanilling*), had finished flowering. It must have flowered very soon after we first saw it. The old flower heads had not set seed and the bracts were turned back, just like those on my *D. pteridifolia* (*D. nervosa*), but much smaller. Strangely enough, we didn't find any of it on the south side of the road nor any *D. preissii* on the north side although they are directly opposite one another. We didn't have time to look for any more plants than the ones at that location, where they are quite numerous.

I am going to see if anything can be done to stop any further destruction of the verge on that road. The gutters have been widened and some *D. preissii* damaged. In spite of the fact that one of the CALM rangers was supposed to stop the roadworks because of the *Verticordia fimbrialepis* which was rediscovered along there plus a newly discovered verticordia, the gutter widening has removed about a third of the verticordia plants. (*Rare flora markers were installed in a couple of places on the road but the verticordia population was burned and the plants are long gone. At the time the Robinson Road populations were the only ones known but since then, more have been found, including the site of the type collection, by Fred Hort.*)

We cut across to Dumbleyung, through Woodanilling and stopped at a dryandra site where I found (*my*) sp. 14, (*D. fasciculata*), on the Katanning – Dumbleyung road, 16.4 km north of Robinson Rd. There were *D. fraseri*, *D. cirsioides* and *D. conferta* there also. (*I intend to re-visit this site, soon to check on these identifications*).

Three km east of Dumbleyung, I collected a 'cirsioides' form with wider than usual leaves. It is very common. It is a sprawling, not upright, plant (*my*) sp.no. 15. (*D. xylothemelia*). At Tarin Rock Reserve, I photographed *D. foliosissima* and the *D. drummondii*. (*D. octotriginta*). I have written to Alex (*George*), regarding the differences between it and the Stirlings one (*D. drummondii* subsp. *drummondii*), which are just as you describe, but he says he hasn't been able to separate them. By the way, I must correct an impression you have about the two forms. I couldn't have told you that the Williams' plants (*D. catoglypta*) have red (or what I would call

'purple'), perianths because I didn't see it in flower and I would be inclined to think that it is the same as the Dongalocking and Tarin Rock forms, from what I remember of the 'look' of the plants.

I'm wondering whether you have sent Alex the specimen of (my) sp. 12? (*D. idiogenes*). I didn't know whether we'd have time to go to Sth Burngup Rd. to collect some old flowers and fruits for him and get back to Kulin before dark to spend the night but, in fact, we did. I found some after quite a search. There are plenty plants but most have bracts only, remaining – no sign of buds forming, yet. There was another dryandra there which looked very much like my sp.2 (*D. lepidorhiza*). I didn't have time to examine it. It could have been the prostrate Stirlings 'pteridifolia, (*D. blechnifolia*) but if so, it was quite a bit smaller. (*D. pteridifolia* subsp. *inretita*- probably a young plant).

On the way home we stopped at the Harrismith railway location, I collected (my) sp. no 16. I think it's the same one you sent me a piece of, when we were trying to sort out *D. cynaroides*. I thought it was the same as no. 14. (*D. fasciculata*, I think).

Because of the weather and the fact that the plants of sp.J (*D. meganotia*), weren't yet smothered with grass, I photographed the plants, at the road verge location, 10 km west of Harrismith.

I sent the specimens to Alex via Paul Wilson at the WA Herbarium. Alex rang me on Monday. He was pleased to get the specimens and says that 14 and 16 are different. I have yet to see, and photograph them, in flower. Sp. 15 is unnamed – not *D. cirsioides*. (*D. xylothemelia*). He is quite fascinated by the Sth. Burngup Rd. one and, though he's calling it 'aff. *ferruginea*', admits it doesn't really resemble anything. He was intrigued by the 'bump' on the seed follicles. If I remember correctly, *D. ferruginea* has smaller follicles, as well.

We saw all the dryandras you mentioned at Tarin Rock Reserve, including the 'pteridifolia' form, which was in bud. (*D. fililoba*). The form at Harrismith was in bud, as well and I think they were different! As you say; where will it all end?

My friends from Ongerup went for a trip to the Fitzgerald River NP, a few weeks ago and found pink *D. quercifolia* on Mt Maxwell.

The aff. *falcata* (*D. anatona*) from the Stirlings is certainly fascinating. (A Victorian Study Group member, Evan Clucas had found this plant and described its habit as (saguaro) cactus-like, so it became known as the 'Cactus Dryandra'). Neville Marchant and Greg Keighery (botanists at the WA Herbarium and Wildflower Soc. members) are both familiar with the Stirlings – I'll ask them if they've seen it.

The photo of Hartley Tobin's Morande plant does look like mine. The leaves on his plant are twisted, though, while mine are comparatively flat. (This was another plant we were anxious to find in the Stirling Ranges. It was grown from seed supplied by 'Nindethana' and grown by Morande nursery, labelled '*D. runcinata*' – an old name for '*D. ferruginea*' It is *D. ferruginea* subsp. *pumila*).

Everything is doing well in the garden. *D. nobilis* (subsp. *nobilis*) is really spectacular. There are more than 40 flowers on the main stem, which is about 2.5m tall. As you can see from the slide, the colour is not as golden as the ones in the bush, which are also flowering early, this year. *D. tenuifolia* is also flowering prolifically. I potted up 4 self-sown seedlings of *D. formosa*, yesterday. I hardly like to count my dryandras before they are in the garden, but so far, I have had good germination results. The seedlings of *D. fraseri*, which came up so quickly, have disappeared, one by one. I've decided that they simply get too wet and heavy rain damages the seedlings, as well. I've been bring the pots in, under shelter during very heavy rains. So far I've got: quite a few *D. brownii*, one *arctotidis*, a couple of *D. ferruginea* and two 'east of Hyden' ones, (*D. ferruginea* subsp. *flavescens*?), a couple of *D. squarrosa* and three *D. foliosissima*. I didn't sow very many seeds to start with and they represent a high percentage of germination. There's no sign of my sp. 2, unfortunately. (I eventually got a plant of this one, *D. lepidorhiza*, to grow but it didn't do well and never flowered in the sand. Here, in Denmark, I have one flowering and doing very well, in gravelly clay). The other species which have failed to germinate are *D. carlinoides* and *D. tridentata*. I have had no luck with *D. kippistiana*, either and have only recently realised that, apart from *D. speciosa* and

*D. polycephala*, I've had no luck with any species from the north of Perth, (and *D. polycephala* isn't from very far north), in my garden.

(I also got plants of these and many others to grow and flower well. I had over 70 taxa, in all, most of which I have drawn for newsletter covers). I was very interested in your experiments with the mountain types (storing the seeds in the refrigerator for a period before sowing). I haven't tried any of them but *D. brownii* from south of the Stirling Range NP is doing better than any other species, so far.

I have just spoken to Frank Philips and your good dryandra locations are, in fact one and the same. He has given me the distance from Bullsbrook; 65 -8 km and has confirmed the distance from New Norcia as 12 km. He told me that here's lots of *D. polycephala* there – sp. B, no doubt. (*D. echinata*). The leaves of sp. B from there certainly do look different. The lobes are a slightly different shape but knowing how leaf shapes can vary in the same species, I am not surprised. (The leaves of this taxon vary across its range and among populations. I have speculated that *D. echinata* is a stable hybrid of *D. polycephala* and *D. hewardiana*). I will be including the New Norcia site on my next trip. (This once dryandra – rich location has recently been destroyed by road widening). I plan to go north next time, towards the end of the month, hoping to find *D. speciosa* (subsp. *macrocarpa*), still flowering, *D. subulata* and, if it's flowering early, perhaps sp. B (*D. echinata*). It's been a funny season, with the early rain. I would like to get some better slides of sp. H (*D. glauca*), even if I have to use the flash for the close-ups. The colours should be better with the Fuji film.

As regards the *D. sclerophylla*, I believe the slides show the same species, given the variations that can occur in others – I would suggest that the question will only be resolved when the follicles and seeds are examined. (It was). I've forgotten what Alex told me are the differences between *D. sclerophylla* and *D. kippistiana*. Did I write to you about it? My slides show shorter leaves, I admit but the look of the plant, itself, is like your slides, albeit rather more open and straggly. None of them are like the *D. kippistiana* I photographed at Mogumber.

The way the styles curve, looks similar in all the *D. sclerophylla* slides that show open flowers but in my *D. kippistiana* slides they don't seem to curve quite as much and there are more flowers in the head. The bracts are shorter and wider and have black hairs in *D. kippistiana*. The most obvious difference, in the slides, is the way the leaves surround the flowers and stand up in *D. sclerophylla* and are horizontal or reflexed in *D. kippistiana*. (In time I learned to distinguish these species, even when *D. kippistiana* var. *paenepeccata* was introduced into the mix! The latter looks to be intermediate between the others and all three occur at The Williams' property 'Hi-Vallee' at Badgingarra).

Since I collected the 'cirsioides' types on my last trip, I'm wondering about the one I photographed, north of Geraldton in July '83 It has very narrow leaves like the one I collected south of Newdegate, not in flower, that Alex said is un-named. (*D. xylothemelia*).

I've written to Hartley Tobin (Study Group member, in Victoria) – just to keep in touch. If you'd like me to start on any drawings, do let him know. I have explained that I've sent most of the material to you. I've only kept back one or two seeds of some of them which I have sown. I assume you've been filing some of them away for me to draw, in the future. If not, let me know if I can collect any that are missing. (Hartley grew many of the seedlings for me to draw for 'The Dryandras')

Later...I rang Greg Keighery about the cactus (*D. anatona*) and Morande (*D. ferruginea* subsp. *pumila*) species. He hasn't seen anything like them but has promised to keep an eye out. I can't help thinking that if the cactus one is in the Stirlings, I wouldn't have driven past it. Greg is leaving, next month, to spend 6 months in Albany and he'll be spending quite a deal of time in the Stirlings. He will be there for the long weekend, (27 – 29<sup>th</sup> September) too. I have arranged for him and Neville to show some slides on the Saturday or Sunday night. I've booked the community hall for the Wildflower Society. We'll probably be very grateful for it – it's bound to rain!

If you can get more information from Evan Clucas about the location of the 'cactus', it might be an idea to ask Greg to check it out before we

meet at the Stirlings and so save time and another possible futile search. I do hope you will be able to get time to come. I'll look forward to seeing you again.

*To be continued....*

## **My favourite *Dryandra***

**Alex George**

So, including species, subspecies and varieties, we have about 135 to choose from.

I could follow those who, asked to name 10 favourites such as music to have on a desert island, cheat by saying 'If I could choose 15 I would include ... but I'm restricted to ten' and so get in more. I see that Margaret got around it by nominating a favourite group.

I could take the clichéd route and say 'The one that I'm looking at right now'. But right now I'm looking at my computer screen (and the keyboard since I can't touch-type). So that doesn't help.

Why would one *Dryandra* appeal more than any other? Because of its looks? Its foliage? Its scent? The colour of its flowers? Its name? The person who named it? Where it grows? How I felt when I saw it first (difficult to recall, since I started seeing dryandras about 65 years ago)?

Is this another way to get in more than one species, since I could have a favourite under each of these options? And, if I don't go through this process, how will you know my reasoning?

Harking back to the 'desert island' scenario, let me cheat a little by giving a short-list:

*Dryandra idiogenes*

*Dryandra nana*

*Dryandra nobilis*

*Dryandra obtusa*

*Dryandra polycephala*

*Dryandra speciosa*

*Dryandra viscida*

Note that they are in alphabetical order, so the sequence gives no clue! *D. idiogenes* has strange features such as those cobwebby hairs around the involucre bracts, very attractive foliage and such striking red and white flowers. *D. nana* has neat foliage and that extraordinary shepherd's crook style with large pollen

presenter ... what can be its pollinator? *D. nobilis* I like for its wonderful shaggy habit and large golden flowers (for some reason more interesting to me than those of *D. formosa*). *D. obtusa* again has attractive leaves and golden flowers enclosed in conspicuously shining, deep red-brown bracts. *D. polycephala* is the most floriferous species, with bright yellow, strongly scented flowers and fine, serrate leaves. *D. speciosa* can surprise you if you haven't seen it before, hiding those shaggy, hanging heads beneath its fine foliage, and until you peer in you don't know if you will find golden orange or reddish pink flowers. And *D. viscida*, which I found unexpectedly on an early field trip, intrigues me with its sticky involucre bracts enclosing golden flowers. Let me give you a little task to discover my favourite among these ... it was named by one of my heroes, George Bentham.

p.s. And I do have a favourite *Banksia* ... but this is the *Dryandra Study Group Newsletter*.

## **Some other favourites**

**Tony Cavanagh**

Alex has given us much to think about in his comments. Why do we like a particular plant? Here in southern Victoria, I would love to be able to grow some species like *D. polycephala* and *D. tridentata* as they have been on my list for years. The first I love for its masses of lemon-yellow flower heads which last for months when picked. Now, five or so plants later, I have given up – I simply cannot keep it alive in the garden for more than a few months, no matter what position I give it. I gave up a lot earlier on *D. tridentata* which I always wanted to grow for those wonderful, large yellow flower heads clustered around the base of a small, compact, upright shrub. Both bought plants and a couple I raised from seed did not survive a year, typical I am afraid of so many of the species from the northern sandplains. For some 15 years I had a substitute in *D. subulata* (surprisingly enough also from almost the same area but hardier in our climate). I delighted in the unusual upright, grassy foliage and the greenish-white-brown flowerheads clustered around the base. Alas, the very wet spring/summer of 2010/11 which broke our 12 year drought also spelt the end of my plant but it is one that I will replace.

One group of species which I can grow, and are therefore halfway to being favourites, are those

tough individuals that live for many years and continue to flower. *Dryandra longifolia* is one I have already mentioned as a previous favourite, several of my plants being over 30 years old. This year after the rain, if possible they have flowered better than ever. Others include *D. nobilis* (one of Alex's favourites also), over 20 years old and still producing masses of large, golden flowerheads and *D. nervosa*, what I often think of as a "dome" plant because of the way it always seems to form a large, spherical shrub. Unfortunately, the flowerheads are usually hidden but the foliage and plant shape more than compensate.

When we speak of dryandras, we also think of foliage. I have always grown *D. brownii* because of its neat, compact shape and delightful blue-green leaves – it always stands out in a garden bed. It also has lovely red to pink "honey pot" flowerheads but is a spasmodic flowerer and the

heads are often hidden in the foliage. In the same grouping is *D. nivea*, again a lovely mound of bright leaves with colourful flowerheads more prominent. I also have a soft spot for the spreading *D. calophylla*, so much like *Banksia blechnifolia*, with its upright dark green leaves with white backs and dozens of tiny flowerheads springing out of the ground at the ends of the underground stems. Very close to this is *D. lepidorhiza*, some eight years old, with similar flowerheads at the end of underground stems but more pink-purple, and the upright leaves have narrow, linear lamina with wide sinuses between. The velvety-brown new growth is also very attractive.

So here are some of my thoughts on favourite dryandras. Others must have similar "special" plants so let me hear about them. And don't forget Alex's challenge – what is his favourite *Dryandra*?

### Wildflower Society Award 2010

#### Don and Joy Williams

Don and Joy took up their Badgingarra property in the 1960s. The purchase was under the Conditional Purchase Scheme. This means that they were obliged to clear at least ten percent of the property each year. These conditions were applied by governments keen to pursue "development" and at a time when Western Australians boasted that we were clearing a million acres per year. It was therefore a brave and unusual move to refuse to clear approximately one third of the property, an area that they considered to be of high conservation value.

This area has subsequently become a mecca for those interested in our native plants. This includes tour operators, scientists, school groups and, of course, individuals. There are, for example, 19 species of *Dryandra* on "Hi-Vallee" farm. The area also contains several very rare plant species: *Eucalyptus pendens*, *Eucalyptus suberea*, *Eucalyptus lateritia*, *Eucalyptus leprophloia*, *Hakea neurophylla*, and *Banksia chamaephyton*. Don was instrumental in identifying *Eucalyptus suberea* as a new species. Don and Joy have also contributed to our knowledge of plants through the Study Groups - as members and by hosting leaders and other members at Hi-Vallee and its surrounds. Their keenness to know their plants led to a species list for Hi-Vallee, compiled over many years after visits by botanists and during surveys. This list is much used as, for example, during the pre and post ASGAP conference tours in 2005 when they gave the visitors a great time. Their ability to cope with such large crowds is amazing. Indeed Don and Joy's delight in the bush and their enthusiastic hospitality make any visit a delightful experience.

Their concern for the future welfare of the bush resulted in them forming a partner-

ship with DEC to ensure that the land is properly managed for conservation after the farm passes into new hands when they retire. It will be

managed within DEC's new conservation biodiversity initiative. It will therefore be cared for by the Williams and by DEC's scientists, botanists, and wildlife experts.

Don and Joy were also very active in the successful campaign to retain Mount Lesueur as a National Park. The establishment of a National Park in this area had been suggested in the early 1960s but governments were loath to act knowing that extensive coal reserves occur in the area. In 1988, CRA proposed to build a power station and a coal mine. About half of the area to be mined and the power station itself would be within the area of the proposed National Park. The proposal was supported by corporate interests keen to take industrial development away from the shadow of WA Inc. It was also supported by the Shire of Dandaragan, which was keen to see development. It was opposed by unions who wanted to keep the coalmining at Collie and strenuously opposed by more than 20 conservation groups. A major difficulty in the campaign to oppose mining in the area and to establish a National Park was that few people were familiar with the charms of the Park which contained a great diversity of plant species and a species richness equivalent



to those of much larger parks. Don and Joy were extremely active and effective in taking many important groups and people through the Park and thereby persuading them to their view of the importance of conservation. It was this experience that led them to offer to conduct tours through the Park.

Don does not confine his activities to within Hi-Vallee. He is currently active in rehabilitating disturbed areas such as gravel pits within the Shire of Dandaragan. This involves surveying existing flora, specifying rehabilitation requirements and checking to control the rehabilitation has been correctly done. He is also employed by mining companies to ensure that their activities cause minimum disturbance. This involves surveying Declared Rare Flora prior to seismic work for example in West Watheroo Park.

The criterion for Wildflower Society Award is that the recipients should have advanced the aims of the Society. These may be paraphrased as to know, grow, enjoy, and conserve our native plants. Don and Joy Williams have certainly helped us to know our plants both in identifying rare species and in passing on their knowledge to many people. They have unquestionably helped many people to enjoy our plants both by passing on their knowledge and by conveying their own enjoyment. And they have been very successful in conservation in retaining a third of their property uncleared and in passing that on to ensure that it remains available for future generations.

**DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/7/10 – 30/6/11**

Cash at bank 1/7/10	\$1427.30
Income: Member's subscriptions	396.00
Donations	26.00
Other	13.20
	<u>435.20</u>
Total:	<u>1862.50</u>
Expenses: Stationery, postage, etc.	50.00
Cash at bank 30/6/11	1812.50
Un-banked	<u>20.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$1832.50</u>

**A.N.P.S.A. DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2011 - 2012**

The group's year runs from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Subscriptions are \$8.00 for Australian members and \$10.00 for overseas. The cost for receiving by email will be \$5.00\*. Please make cheques payable to the Dryandra Study Group and forward to Margaret. Thanks to all those who have paid.

**\*If you wish to receive the Newsletter by email, please include your email address:**

Name:.....

Address:.....

**\*Email address:**

**COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMATION:**

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