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D. falcata Cape Riche, November

Margaret Pieroni

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Hello and welcome to the first Newsletter for 2014.

As always at this time of year, the weather is a major talking point and people with gardens wonder just how much watering should they be doing to keep their plants alive. As I indicate in my article, this year I have been watering garden beds full of established plants just to get them through abnormally severe times when they are faced with the twin problems of stress due to abnormally low rainfall and days of high temperatures into the 40s (in our case we had four days in a row above 40 °C (almost unheard of)) and I know that South Australia has fared much worse. The garden so far has come through with minimal losses but it is still early days. Scorching and burning of leaves is something we face on these days and I report on the behaviour of my dryandras, most of which are unaffected. I am particularly interested in the experience of others and would welcome comments and discussion on this and tips on how to look after plants in abnormal weather.

Both Margaret and I have been travelling over the last six months, she to the ANPSA Conference on the Sunshine Coast in August and of course to some of her favourite *Dryandra* spots in WA while I visited Canberra on the way to a family holiday in Queensland. She returned to the fabulous Cheyne Beach with its “flat” plants along with several Study Group members, to Bluff Creek Road and then an extensive trip through the lower wheatbelt and the area around and south of Lake King before reaching Cape Arid National Park. With recent good rains, this area presented the “show of a lifetime” but I’m not sure that the *Verticordias* didn’t win the day – who has ever heard of dryandras being hidden by *Verticordias*? Some of the roads they travelled on in the National Park sounded very tough but it was a great opportunity to observe dryandras and other plants in this far eastern part of WA. With the help of Brian Moyle, Margaret prepared an extensive article on the uncommon *D. arborea* some of whose habitat is under threat from mining. I was amazed at the terrible country in which they live and yet grow to the stature of trees. While in Canberra, my wife and I visited the National Botanic Gardens (of course), a great day marred only slightly by the discovery of a couple of misnamed dryandras which we hope they will correct. The National Arboretum with its National Bonsai and Penjing Collection was another great day, not for the dryandras of which there were none, but for its concept of growing 100 Forests of rare and endangered species from around the world. The challenge for our members now is, who will be the first to bonsai a *Dryandra*? And finally, I would like to thank Liesbeth Uijtewaal and Hartley Tobin for extensive if somewhat contrasting reports on their dryandras. Liesbeth has done wonders within the confines of a greenhouse with so many Australian plants, many uncommon dryandras being now in bud or flower, and has taken up grafting with some success. Hartley has found that even deep sandy soil is no guarantee against abnormally heavy rain and has lost much of his recent plantings as well as older plants. It is to be hoped that the weather will be kinder over the coming years.

We trust that you enjoy this Newsletter and as always, welcome contributions about your successes and/or failures.

Happy *Dryandra* growing

Tony Cavanagh

Dryandra arborea

Dryandras have many and various habits of growth – from a tree, (*Dryandra arborea*) to a creeper, (*D. tenuifolia* var. *reptans*). Two growth habits in *Dryandra* are very unusual in the Australian flora. They are the “mound” habit (*D. subpinnatifida* var. *imberbis*, *D. nivea*, *D. drummondii* etc.) and the “underground branched” habit (*D. preissii*, *D. aurantia*, *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix* and *D. lepidorhiza*, etc.).

The Tree or Yilgarn Dryandra, *D. arborea* was discovered as recently as 1959 by botanist, Charles Gardiner and described by him in 1964. It is unique in more than one respect, being the only tree dryandra, growing to about 7m with a massive trunk with deeply-fissured bark and occurring much further inland than the other dryandras. The leaves,



Massive trunk of *D. arborea* Brian Moyle being glaucous are a bluish colour, quite stiff and from 3 to 6 cm long. The flower heads are 4cm across. It is killed by fire and regenerates from seed. Fortunately, owing to the fact that the dryandras grow on the rocky slopes and hill tops, they are protected from frequent fires and can attain years of growth and full maturity. Flowering occurs at any time of year after good rainfall.

In cultivation, with regular watering, *D. arborea* flowers continuously. It was grown at Kings Park, in Perth, in sand, at Manmanning east of Wongan

Hills, in clay-loam and in Queensland at Myall Park (see Tony's article in Newsletter no. 62) and I had one growing in my Perth garden, in sand. Given the wide distribution and differing conditions it has been grown in, I think it should do well almost anywhere. It is a very attractive plant in the garden.



***D. arborea* buds and flowers Tony Cavanagh** When the Botanical Artists Group (six of us at the time), was commissioned to do paintings for *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, in 2003, we were allowed to illustrate any Western Australian plant providing it hadn't already been featured in the magazine during its long history - since 1787. For me, it was a choice between two – *Verticordia grandis* and *Dryandra arborea* because I had plants of both, growing in my garden, flowering year-round and I could choose my time to do the painting. I chose to paint the *verticordia* though I did do one of the *dryandra*, later. In the early years of the magazine several *dryandras* were featured but only one *verticordia* as far as I know: *V. nitens*.

In the wild, *Dryandra arborea* is confined to ironstone (jasperlite, red and black banded iron formation, [BIF]) ranges in the Yilgarn district approx. 400km east of Perth and 100km north of



Typical habitat of *D. arborea* Brian Moyle Southern Cross. It was thought to only occur in the

Die Hardy Range, Mt. Jackson and the Koolyanobbing Ranges – all subject to mining; until a survey in 1978 by Greg Keighery and a team from the Western Australian Museum found populations in the eastern ranges with the largest one being in the Mt. Jackson to the Helena and Aurora Range. Greg recommended, at the time that the proposed reserves at Mt. Jackson and Koolyanobbing be extended to include the Helena and Aurora Range and Bungalbin Hill.

Unfortunately, the dryandras and other rare and endemic plants are not protected in a National Park and are under threat from mining which is already occurring and more is proposed.

Currently, one of the dryandra population areas, the Helena and Aurora Range is within a Conservation Park as part of the proposed *Northern Yilgarn (Mt. Manning Range, Mt. Elvire and Jaurdi) Conservation Reserve*. This proposed reserve contains at least 7 BIF ranges in four conservation parks as well as two reserves and several proposed reserves for conservation and mining. *D. arborea* does not occur in all of them. It has not been found at Mt. Manning. A Conservation Park is a multi land use area in which recreation, pastoral and mining activities are allowed.

Several Conservation groups including the Wildflower Society of Western Australia have called on the State Government to protect the Helena and Aurora Range (Bungalbin) as an “A” class National Park. For further information and images of this very special area visit the web site: [helenaaurorange.com.au/ranges](http://helenaaurororange.com.au/ranges).

Thank you to Greg Keighery and Brian Moyle for their help in preparing this article.

Margaret Pieroni, 26/12/2013

Dryandras, heat and watering

You may be aware that Victoria has had near record high temperatures this summer. Here at Ocean Grove in January, we had seven days of over 40 °C, three of them at 44 °C or above, and only 15 mm of rain, well below our average rainfall of 34 mm. Such weather can play havoc with gardens, especially when a 45 °C day follows one of 24 °C! Even though in principle I try to avoid much garden watering (working on the philosophy that established plants should be able to look after

themselves), this year has been so excessively bad that I have found myself watering gardens that have not been touched, water wise, for probably 15 years. The problems for the plants are twofold – they are already under stress due to excessive dryness and secondly, these really hot days can cause extensive scorching of already dry foliage and this may just be the straw that takes the plant



Typical scorch damage on *D. praemorsa* TC beyond redemption. Scorching and burning affects individual leaves and while plants are disfigured, many can survive provided there is enough green foliage left (see pictures of typical results). So far, none of my dryandras has died but I will report further in the July newsletter.

Now that my wife and I have identified “danger” beds and plants, I try to water the beds/plants one or two days prior to forthcoming hot days, either with buckets of water or a 30-45 minute soak with a sprinkler. The aim is to give the plants a lift and put some moisture into the leaves, stems and roots so they are better prepared for the hot days. Most are established plants in established gardens so this watering is only a temporary fix for a particularly bad situation. However, with young and yet to be established plants, the watering can be critical for their survival as they do not yet have an extensive root system. You need to check them regularly and apply water as needed, sometimes a real pain but half a bucket of water at the right time can often save a plant.

You also need to remember that a plant’s ability to survive in very dry conditions is not necessarily an indicator of its ability to handle very hot days. Sometimes, even plants that come from wet areas can show remarkable resistance to burning and scorching. One that always amazes me is *Isopogon formosus*. In my garden, it has a very well drained but full sun position and yet has never had even a leaf burned in the bad summer of 2009 or this year.

There appear to be no hard and fast rules about which species do best but plants from forested and protected areas probably will do poorly if planted in the open eg some of my eastern banksias suffer badly on very hot days. Also of course, a plant in a sheltered/part shade position in the garden may be less affected than another specimen in a hot, open position. And each garden is different so it is best to keep your own notes and act accordingly.

So after all this, how do dryandras perform on very hot days? The following lists do not include all my species but are an indicator of how these species performed in my garden under the same severe weather conditions. I would be very interested in member's observations from all states if you have had very hot days, as that way we can build up information and perhaps see some patterns.

Moderately to severely burnt

D. foliosissima, by far the worst, upper foliage all over bush badly burned. Surprisingly, I think that it will recover as there are good areas of green still surviving.



***D. foliosissima*, will it survive? Tony Cavanagh**

D. quercifolia, two plants affected, one worse than the other, perhaps up to 50% of leaves burned.



Scorch patterns on *D. quercifolia* leaf Tony Cav

D. praemorsa (young plants), older plants have little damage but two young ones show nearly every leaf affected. I think that I missed watering them before one bad day.

Light damage

D. baxteri (dwarf form), top 10-15 cm. of many branches moderately burned, rest of plant okay.



Burning of *D. baxteri* Tony Cavanagh

D. calophylla, one plant in open, hot position more damaged, scorching often showing as rusty patches on the leaf lobes.

D. nivea sub. *uliginosa*, unlike two plants of sub. *nivea*, top five cm. or so of nearly all leaves burned, otherwise okay

Little or no damage (the majority)

D. brownii, *carlinoides*, *cirsioides*, *cuneata*, *drummondii*, *formosa*, *fraseri* (several var.), *ideogenes*, *ionthocarpa*, *longifolia*, *nervosa*, *nivea* sub. *nivea*, *nobilis*, *plumosa*, *porrecta*, *sessilis* (several var.), *shanklandiorum*.



***D. nivea* left, *D. foliosissima* right Tony Cavanagh**

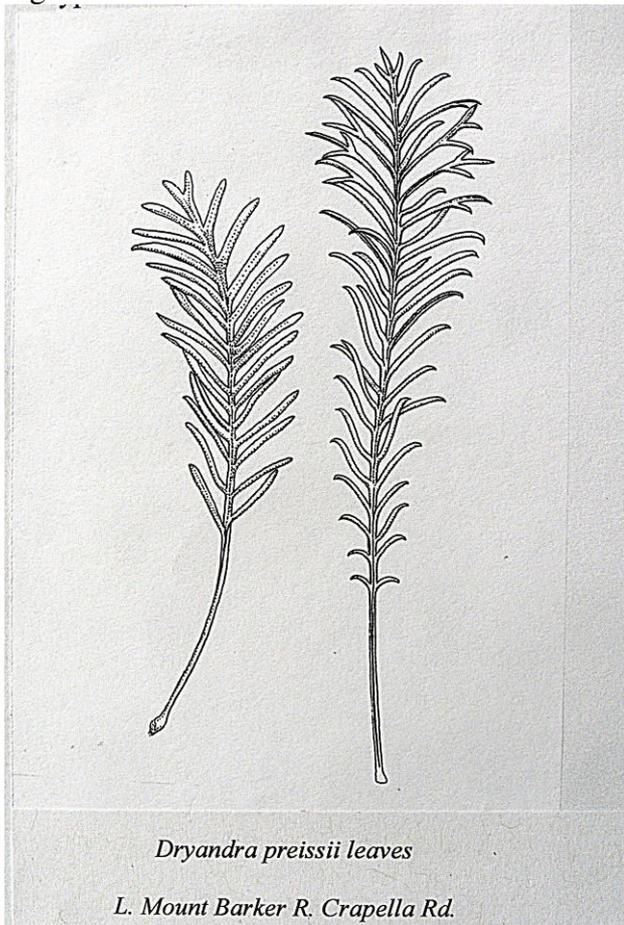
Can anyone add to these?

Tony Cavanagh, Ocean Grove, Jan. 2014

Travels in 2013

In August and then in September, I returned to one of my favourite spots that Kevin Collins had introduced me to – the coastal heath at Cheyne Beach, east of Albany. Keith Alcock and Neil and Wendy Marriott went with me in September. They wanted to see the flat and almost flat plants that grow on the wind-exposed headland that I wrote about in recent newsletters. David Shiells, also a Study Group member, visited the spot while he was travelling in the area, as well. All agreed that it is a very special place, especially for many species in the Proteacea family: *Adenanthos*, *Banksia*, *Conospermum*, *Hakea*, *Grevillea*, *Isopogon*, *Lambertia*, *Petrophile* and, of course *Dryandra*.

We walked from the eastern end of the track to the “Proteaceae Patch”. It is an easy walk of about 4 km return but too rough even for most 4WDs. The deep sand part of the track is from there to the Caravan Park at the western end and is better for high clearance 4WD vehicles.



Dryandra preissii leaves

L. Mount Barker R, Crapella Rd.

In August I returned to the Bluff Creek Road where I'd seen the dryandra, last year along with what I assumed was *Calothamnus pinifolius*. I have learnt since that it is *C. robustus* and, finding a few flowers on one of the dryandra plants, I was able to

confirm that it is *D. armata* var. *ignicida*. On returning in September, we discovered other species in the same location: *D. calophylla*, *D. arctotidis* (flowering beautifully), *D. blechnifolia*, *D. formosa* and *D. sessilis* var. *sessilis*.

In early November, Julie and I went up to Perth to join Brian Moyle for our long-awaited trip to Cape Arid National Park in Brian's 4WD. We called in to see Kevin Collins at the Banksia Farm at Mount Barker who took us to see a population of *D. preissii* in a nearby reserve. We were hoping to find some late flowers. The plants were burned recently but have re-sprouted and some have flowered but were finished. I noticed that the leaves, though fully grown, were quite short and none had the bipinnate lobes towards the top. Further on, at Crapella Road, north of Kojonup, we collected a typical leaf. I am hoping to find the flowers, next year, at Mount Barker to see whether there are other differences from typical *D. preissii*.

All of the south and south western coast and inland, into the southern wheatbelt had excellent rains, this year and we were looking forward to a good wildflower display. However, we were not prepared for the spectacular displays of verticordias (Feather Flowers). They were flowering a month earlier than usual – some were almost finished. Brian called it “the show of a lifetime”. From Hyden to Lake King and down Cascades Road there were masses of verticordias; yellow (*V. chrysantha*), pink (*V. picta* and/or *pennigera*) and white (*V. roei*).

Pallarup Reserve on the Magdhaba Track, south of Lake King was amazing and at the Rabbit Proof Fence, east of Lake King it took us quite a while to find the dryandras that grow there namely: *D. ferruginea* subsp. *flavescens* and *D. xylothemelia*. They were hidden by the verticordias. Everywhere, the vegetation was bursting with new leaf growth.

We drove from the northern end of Magdhaba Track to the corner with Old Newdegate Road. The former track has been turned into a good gravel road and when we got to the corner we discovered where the gravel had come from. Yet another of my favourite dryandra spots has been all but wiped out for a large gravel pit. We only found one plant of *D. pteridifolia* and just a few *D. ferruginea* subsp. *chelomacarpa*. They all had beautiful new leaf growth but no sign of having flowered, this year. I hope the good rain will mean that *D. pteridifolia*

will flower next year, in autumn, for the first time in years and I will be there to see it.



Lovely *D. arctotidis*, Bluff Ck. Rd. Margaret P. Only one of the tracks in Cape Arid National Park was closed because of the wet conditions but we were advised to take the long way round to Mount Ragged instead of going straight up Balladonia Road from Fisheries Road. Balladonia 'Road' is a very rough track with deep sandy spots, slippery bogs and limestone outcroppings. We drove up Parmango Road to the Deralinya homestead ruins (recently restored) across to Bill's Paddock on the Balladonia Road and thence south to Mount Ragged. We had to negotiate some bogs and rough limestone parts of the track but, having left our accommodation at Duke of Orleans Bay very early we arrived in time to spend two hours there.



***D. armata* var. *ignicida*, Cape Arid Margaret P.** We found *D. armata* var. *ignicida* and *D. cuneata* in flower. At the car park below Tower Peak, at the northern end of Mount Ragged, there are a few plants of *D. longifolia* subsp. *archeos* but the majority are on the wave-cut platform ridge at the southern end. The vegetation has grown very thickly and is more difficult to penetrate but it was good to see no sign of recent fires anywhere. Above the camping area there was a massed display of *Verticordia brownii* which I had never seen in flower before. Marvellous!

We managed to get to The Diamonds Hill with difficulty. The track is overgrown especially with *Banksia speciosa* which was flowering spectacularly and also had lots of new growth – branches 30 – 40 cm long. The *D. longifolia* subsp. *archeos*, on the hill had put on new growth but hadn't flowered very well, this year. I noticed that the seed heads on the plants at both locations didn't have many of the 'cages' of little prickly branchlets around them. My (deceased) plant here, in my garden had them. *D. longifolia* subsp. *calcicola* which occurs on the limestone coast at Esperance and points west has them in profusion. *D. longifolia* subsp. *longifolia* which occurs at Mount Arid and Cape le Grand National Park (Thistle Cove), only rarely has them. (See *The Dryandras*). They are an interesting feature of the species and we have wondered if their purpose is to deter seed-eating predators.

Opposite Seal Creek, east of Mount Arid we walked up a hill to find *D. nivea* subsp. *nivea*. We had seen it elsewhere but the area had been burned two years ago and the plants didn't yet have the typical 'mounding' habit. We found some good examples of fairly mature plants demonstrating this character. The leaves are a dark, bluish green and rather wide like those of *D. brownii* but the mound habit of growth confirmed its identity. We also found *D. armata* var. *ignicida* with lovely pink flowers, here.

We had a wonderful trip and it was a great privilege to see the unforgettable, glorious displays of *Verticordia*. Many thanks to Julie and Brian.

I have had good reports of a great flowering season in the Fitzgerald River National Park but unfortunately, all of the un-sealed roads were closed except for the access road to Quaalup because of the wet conditions and risk of die-back – a great pity for would-be visitors. I am hoping to go there in April, next year and to find *D. pteridifolia* in flower.



New growth on *D. pteridifolia* Margaret Pironi

I love having visitors to my place here, in beautiful Denmark and showing them the special places I have found or been shown. I am happy to provide information about them for members planning to come to WA. With luck, the benefits of this year's rain will carry over until next season. If anyone else has been to other good dryandra spots, please let us know and send some photos so that we can share them in the newsletter.

Margaret Pieroni 5/12/13

News from Members

(from Liesbeth Uijtewaal, Netherlands)

I checked my plants in the greenhouse just now and had a lovely surprise: when I lifted my *D. obtusa*, the seed of which Margaret and I –legally- collected at the Quaalup Homestead Wildflower Walk back in 2008, I found three buds in it! I have no idea why I lifted it but I did and I'm thrilled to bits. It's 5 y.o. now so it's about time it flowered but even so, I don't blame it for taking such a long time. I was getting a bit worried since the potting mix has been wet for some months now, the plant not taking up any moisture as it seems, but apparently it's vital enough to produce buds. Excellent! I do hope they will fully grow, I'll keep you posted.



First bud on *D. obtusa* Liesbeth Uijtewaal

(Further news from Liesbeth)

My dryandras that germinated are growing quite well. I've got some *conferta* plants (Corrigin form, germinated May 2011) that seem to be budding up, but the foliage is not blue/green as it is supposed to be. It could be our conditions of course. All three *D. nervosa* (germinated April 2011) plants have 3-4 big fat buds each, awaiting warmer weather to open I suppose and *pseudoplumosa* (germinated June 2011) is in flower even! It's quite a funny flower though, unlike the flowers I had on the plant that froze to death in 2009. Those were nodding a little, this one is upright and not as hairy. I've included a picture, what do you think of it? The pic was taken at the end of October so, end of autumn which is a

somewhat funny time to flower isn't it.

Ferruginea var. *tutanningensis* (sown April 2009) is budding up heavily, the *drummondii* (var. *drummondii* and var. *macrorufa*, sown April 2009 as well) flowered well last year and flowered profusely again this year.



D. ferruginea var. *tutanningensis* buds Liesbeth

Other dryandras that grow for me but are, in general, not budding up yet are *brownii* (April '11), *formosa* (Jan '09, first flowers 2012), *fraseri* var. *crebra* (Jan '12), *idiogenes* (Jan '12), *nobilis* var. *fragrans* (May '11), *obtusa* (Nov '08, collected at Quaalup Homestead!), *octotriginta* (April '11), *plumosa* (Jan '12), *plumosa* var. *denticulata* (Jan '12), *porrecta* (May '11), *praemorsa* (July '09, first flowers 2012, grown from my own seed from the plant that froze to death in 2009!), *proteoides* (May and August '12), *quercifolia* 'pink' (Nov. '09), *speciosa* var. *macrocarpa* (May '11) and *tenuifolia* var. *reptans* (May '11).

Last November I successfully grafted *D. speciosa* var. *macrocarpa* onto *B. integrifolia* but unfortunately the combination dropped dead this summer.

A couple of months ago we've had our smaller greenhouse renovated, there's a lot more light inside now and it is not leaking anymore which is great. I'm sure the plants will benefit this coming winter, for us it is great anyway since the greenhouse looks a lot better.

Like my previous remark re grafted *speciosa* might have suggested: I've taken up grafting! It is great fun, I was inspired by my trip back in 2008 where I saw Jan and Alan Hall grafting Eremophilas and where I saw the grafted Darwinias and Verticordias (and eremophilas as well by the way) in the McKenzie garden that I visited with Tony and Liz.

A lovely visit that was.

At first I felt grafting would be far beyond me but by and by I learnt and I'm putting all sorts of things together now. My last novel attempts were *Brachychiton bidwillii* onto *B. acerifolius* different techniques (100% success!), and I tried the Top Wedge & Tongue Graft on eremophilas some weeks ago, I feel this worked out very well too. So, a lot of fun in the babyroom. Grafting banksias is a lot trickier though but I have had some successes. (Editor's note: Congratulations, Liesbeth, you seem to be having wonderful success, the greenhouses must be working just fine. Keep up the grafting, although with your success already, you may not need it for many of your dryandras).

(From Hartley Tobin, The Gurdies)

My property is not an ideal place to be growing Dryandras but some areas are pretty good for this part of South Gippsland. To start off with a summary of our weather for the last ten years:

Annual rainfall average about 900mm/year with wet winters and springs.

2003 Dry 2004-5 Average 2006 very dry – the peak of the drought 2007-9 Dry 2010 the start of the wet 2011-12 very wet although 2011 had a dry winter and 2012 the wettest on my records of 30 years. So far 2013 looks like being average, but I really hope we are heading for another dry spell as the ground has not properly dried from the extreme wet period. I need another three drought years to give me a chance of establishing more Dryandras.

For my Dryandras 2011 was a disastrous year with 2012 finishing off anything that thought it might survive. To make it clear how bad the water was I have quite a few stands of Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) 15 to 20+ years old. Three of these stands are in dips which some times hold water. I have seen them in similar situations in the 'Lakes' area of eastern Victoria. Well, early last year, these plants were looking ok even though they had been standing in water for almost 6 months through summer without any ill effect, and had dried out by the end of April 2012, then, another 5 months of extreme wet and only 1 or 2 of these Banksias plants managed to survive.

With a couple of exceptions the area where I try to grow my Dryandras is the remains of an old sand dune about 10 meters deep of white sand. You

would think that the drainage in this situation was perfect but because of the nature of the surrounding area and the fact that the excessive water could not soak away this sand held water like it has never done before in our 30+ years here.

Losses were great. All *D.calophylla*, *D.nivea*, *D.speciosa*, *D.drummondii*, and some *D.quercifolia* from plantings over the last three to four years did not survive.

From seed, I managed to raise *D.fraseri*, *D.subpinnatifida* *D.cuneata* *D.drummondii* seedlings, but they did not survive after planting out.

Survivors ---- To date my two *D.polycephalla*, that are about twelve years old, are strong, healthy plants, flowering well each year and producing seed. They and one *D.formosa*, which is about twenty years old, are on a sloping, well-drained part of the property that for some reason seems to be protected from the excessive run-off from the highway.

This *D.formosa* is the last survivor from an original planting of about a dozen plants and there is one other *D.formosa* (about 10 y.o.) from a later planting on the old sand dune. Early in the life of these *D.formosa* I could collect plenty of seed and raise seedlings. These two plants are about 300 m apart. I get healthy looking flowers and what appears to be heads full of seed, but when I open the capsules the seed has not properly developed. But wait, there might be hope yet. Last month, in an old seed tray, I found what appear to be 7 *D.formosa* seedlings emerging. They are now in individual tubes and getting all the care and attention I can give them to protect them from 'nasties' and bad weather.

There are seven survivors of *D.quercifolia* planted two and three years ago on the old sand dune. Two of these are flowering.

One *D.praemorsa*, planted two years ago on the old sand dune is also flowering well.

Some Statistics

D.formosa – The older plant is over 3m tall and about the same width while the other is about 1.2 m x 1.2 m

D.polycephalla Both plants are about 1.2m x 1.2m and have been the same size for a number of years.

D.praemorsa Height is 1.4m, width x 0.6m. I hope it will fill out in the next couple of years.

D. quercifolia The older plants are 0.6m x 0.3m and the younger ones 0.3m x 0.2m.

(Editor's note: A very sad tale and I am afraid that with this summer, things may get worse. Hopefully, the survivors will keep going – I guess there are no other areas on your property to try?)

National Botanic Gardens, Canberra

In September last year, I had a family reunion in the small town of Allora, in the Darling Downs of southern Queensland. We left Victoria early so we could spend a week in Canberra on the way up. It was a hectic and somewhat rushed week and we saw most of what we wanted to see, especially the Botanic Gardens and the National Arboretum with its fascinating National Bonsai and Penjing Collection, largely of Australian plants but sadly no dryandras. Now there's a first for someone, be the first to bonsai a *Dryandra*. We also spent half a day at Floriade, when Commonwealth Park is transformed into a fascinating and very colourful horticultural park with hundreds of thousands of tulips and related species in pots set out as garden beds. I'm probably being one-eyed but I think the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show is more interesting and has a more comprehensive range of exhibits and things to do.



D. quercifolia in large tub Tony Cavanagh

I was surprised to learn that the Gardens (formerly the Canberra Botanic Gardens) had been in development since just after the war but were only officially opened by Prime Minister John Gorton in 1970 and given their current name in 1984. This was to reflect the national role and importance of the collection which currently numbers some 6300 plant species, around one third of our flora, arranged in either taxonomic groupings and/or by geographic region. They cover some 35 hectares but there are several short trails which take visitors on loop walks to "sample the flora". Also, many of their special plants are on display in large tubs along heavily-used walkways, including several dryandras. . A new feature which was opened recently is a large, open Central Australian garden complete with red sandy soil. It seems strange to have such a garden given Canberra's notorious winter weather but it is in a large, open, sunny area protected by the local bush.



Probable *lindleyana* as *D. calophylla* Tony C.

We didn't particularly go looking for dryandras so I have no idea how many species are successful there. However, sad to relate, the Gardens have opted to adopt the *Banksia* name for their dryandras, so that for example, the tub specimens of *Dryandra quercifolia* are listed as "*Banksia heliantha*". What was of much more concern to me however, was the misnaming of *D. calophylla*. The



The real thing

Tony Cavanagh

tub specimen just near the Visitor Centre while called “*Banksia calophylla*” is clearly not that. I have shown the picture to Margaret and she, like I, think that it is a form of *lindleyana*. I thought also that a number of plants called “nivea” were more likely to be “*brownii*” but this is somewhat more understandable. Despite these minor blemishes, it was a great day and the Gardens are a must in any Canberra visit. Don’t miss the Rock Garden or the Rainforest Gully and if you are lucky and the display glasshouses are open, don’t miss them either. They had a wonderful display of *Dendrobium* orchids from their research collection, mind blowing.

Tony Cavanagh
Ocean Grove Jan. 2014

***Dryandra falcata* at Cape Riche**

In mid November, I went with members of the Albany DPaW (Dept. of Parks and Wildlife) Rare Flora Recovery Team to Cape Riche to look at a rare verticordia. *D. falcata* was flowering very well, there. Outside the Stirling Range, the flower heads are rather smaller but they are just as bright and colourful. (I agree, so this plant features on our cover for this issue of the Newsletter –Ed.)

Margaret Pieroni December 2014

Some pictures from the archive to fill in the page



***Dryandra baxteri* flower heads Tony Cavanagh**



***D. blechnifolia* flower head Margaret Pieroni**



***D. brownii* in close up Margaret Pieroni**



***D. brownii* plant Tony Cavanagh**