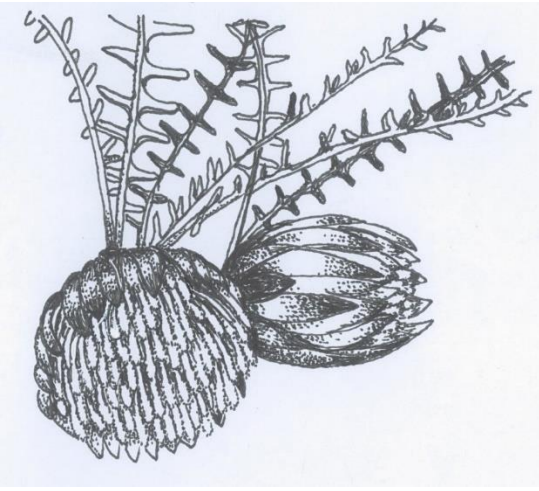


**DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER No. 83**



AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETIES (AUSTRALIA)



Dryandra cuneata

Margaret Pieroni

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Hello and welcome to Newsletter no. 83.

Since *Dryandra* was subsumed into *Banksia*, it seems to me that dryandras have not had much attention when it comes to knowing and growing them. If you know of any recent references to them, for instance in gardening magazines or on radio or television please let me know.

I understand that there has been a problem with being able to access the Dryandra Study Group website and the Dryandra Images. I believe that the problem has been fixed. I just 'google' Dryandra Study Group and click on Dryandra Images. The photos for the article on Dryandra National Park are from this collection.

The Dryandra Lovers Facebook page has been very successful with several Study Group members contributing frequently and posting photos of dryandras. Lyn Alcock and Kevin Collins are doing a sterling job of identifying plants for people even when it is sometimes quite difficult. It is always easier if a photo of the whole plant is included and sometimes the shape and size of the seed follicle is necessary for a definitive identification. Also the location if it was photographed in the wild.

The Australian Native Plants Societies (Australia), ANSPA, used to be called the Society for Growing Australian Plants and the aim is still 'Preservation by Propagation' if I understand correctly. I believe it is important to grow some of the rare dryandras in widely dispersed locations in order to do this.

We have overseas members, Liesbeth Uijtewaal, in the Netherlands and Tim Darrington, in France who are successfully propagating and growing dryandras and recently, the former leader of the Study Group, Keith Alcock has begun to raise some from seed, in England. Kevin and Kathy Collins have most of the dryandra taxa growing at the Banksia Farm at Mount Barker, just 50 km north of me here, in Denmark. I have about 14 different taxa growing and I have been growing *D. serra* from seed collected on my property and distributing the plants to friendly neighbours. It is native to here and a priority 4 listed species but it has disappeared from locations where I have seen it in the past and also from around here due to clearing.

Many thanks to Tim for his report – another has just been received and I will include it in the next newsletter when I also hope to feature the wonderful collection of dryandras at the Banksia Farm.

Reports of successes or failures in your garden or perhaps a public garden where dryandras are being grown would be very much appreciated.

Best wishes

Margaret 15/7/22

Dryandra cuneata Wedge-leaved Dryandra

Dryandra cuneata was grown in England in 1803 and flowered in 1810. It was also cultivated in several European countries. It is well known in cultivation, where in the eastern states it is regarded as a hardy, reliable species, especially in dry areas. Plants more than 20 years old are known. It was grown in the Australian garden at the Cranbourne Annexe of the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens. Unfortunately, it was labelled '*Dryandra anatonna*' but this is a very rare species restricted to the Stirling Range which is only now being grown at Kings Park in Perth.

D. cuneata is usually a medium to tall shrub but shorter, more compact forms occur. The pale or bright yellow flower heads are well displayed and it flowers over a long period – from April to November. In the wild, it is widespread, from Narrogin to Albany, including the Stirlings and east to Israelite Bay and Mount Ragged.

D. cuneata was collected by the botanist Robert Brown during the Flinder's expedition, at Lucky Bay, east of Esperance, in January 1802 and named by him in 1810 when presumably, he saw it in flower for the first time. The name is derived from the latinisation of 'cuneate' meaning wedge-shaped – a reference to the leaves.

Despite its prickly leaves, *D. cuneata* is a great plant for the garden. The seeds from the low-growing and prostrate forms generally produce true-to-type plants and its long flowering period is also a plus.



Low, spreading form in cultivation, Denmark

Margaret



Small shrub, Cheyne Beach Rd. May

Margaret



Prostrate form at the Banksia Farm, Mount Barker

Kevin



Tall shrub, south-west of Wellstead, June

Margaret

Dryandra trips in 2022

In April, Kevin Collins and I set out on a two day trip to look for dryandras around Lake King, 250 kms from Mount Barker in a straight line but much further by road especially when taking back roads to look at dryandra locations.

As Catriona and Phil, leaders of the Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group, were coming to WA for a long-delayed trip in May, we were also taking note of the isopogons and petrophiles that we saw. They are almost always found in the Proteaceae -rich patches where the dryandras grow.

We went back to the location of the bright pink-flowered *D. pteridifolia* subsp. *pteridifolia*, south of Lake King and found some plants in bud. They were flowering later than usual so we were too early rather than too late as I had feared. Unfortunately, we didn't find the pink one but we were struck by the beauty of the buds with their 'metallic' hairs on the limbs of the flowers. The perianths were a very pale pink, only. The hairs can be white, a rich gold to bronze colour or a deep reddish copper. In the sunlight, the tightly packed bud-tips have a metallic sheen and I have called them silver, bronze and copper.



Silver



Bronze



Copper

It was extremely disappointing to find that the population of *D. fililoba* on a hilltop on 101 Gate East Road, east of Harrismith, has been completely destroyed. I had reported the damage after I saw that the plants on the road verge had been cleared right up to the farm fence but now it has all gone.

At the nature reserve at Harrismith, in the south west corner, east of the railway line, is one of our dryandra 'hot spots'. Growing here are: *D. cuneata*, *D. cirsioides*, *D. cynaroides*, *D. ferruginea* subsp. *ferruginea*, *D. fililoba*, *D. nivea* subsp. *nivea*, *D. rufistylis*, *D. vestita* and *D. zygocephala* (was *D. conferta* var. *conferta*). Driving along the track, we couldn't help noticing a plant of *D. fililoba* that was much bigger than the others around it. The length of the leaves of *D. fililoba* is about 50 cm. Those of the 'giant' plant are about 70 cm.



Kevin and the 'giant' plant

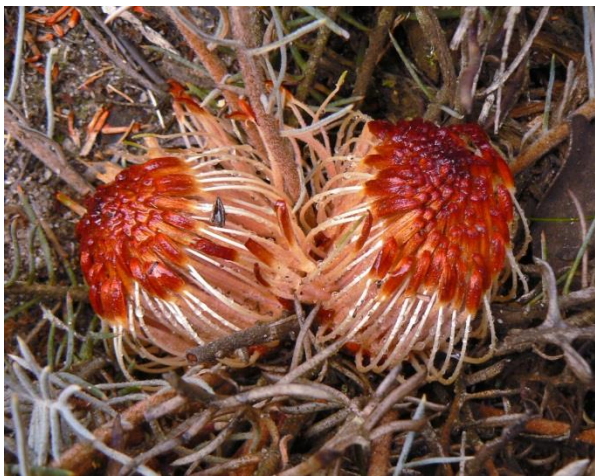
Margaret

We went to the amazing Proteaceae-rich patch on Patterson Road, between Dumbleyung and Woodanilling to look at the *D. fililoba* plants there. As the population is about half-way between the aff. *fililoba* at Strathmore Reserve, near Woodanilling and *D. fililoba* at Harrismith, I wanted to see whether the plants were different. We decided that they are most likely to be the aff. *fililoba* as the leaves are smaller than those at Harrismith and the flowers were finished.. The leaves of the aff. *fililoba* vary in size from plant to plant but those of *D. fililoba* at Harrismith (except for the 'giant' one) are consistent. They all have the many small leaves surrounding the flower heads – the characteristic that gives it its name. *D. pteridifolia* subsp. *inretita* also has this feature.

On 18th May, Kevin and I with Catriona and Phil returned to the same areas and beyond on a 5 day trip that was very successful and thoroughly enjoyable. On the first day, on our way to Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, we visited the property of friends of Kevin, near the south coast, south east of the eastern end of the Stirling Ranges. In an area of laterite and clay, we found several species of isopogons and petrophiles, including masses of *I. baxteri* which used to be thought of as confined to the Stirlings. We have found it in other locations but not in such numbers. We saw *D. cuneata* and *D. mucronulata* with early flowers.

That evening, Phil showed me a leaf and a seed capsule of (possibly) another dryandra that was growing there and we realised that it was not *D. mucronulata* as I had assumed but another species growing amongst them. The leaf is like *D. foliosissima* but the capsule is different – smaller than those of *D. mucronulata* and *D. foliosissima*. None of us had noticed any flowers other than those of *D. mucronulata*. If it is *D. foliosissima*, which is known from two very far apart locations, at Tarin Rock and the Ravensthorpe Range, then it should have been in flower.

At the location of the *D. pteridifolia*, we were delighted to find that we were not too late for the flowering of the plants we'd seen three weeks earlier. The ones with the copper-coloured limbs were just stunning though the pink of the perianths was much paler. Unfortunately, even with two extra pairs of eyes, we didn't find the bright pink one.



D. pteridifolia subsp. *pteridifolia*

Margaret

D. pallida was in flower at several of our stops between Ravensthorpe, Lake King and Newdegate. At Dyke Road, south of Newdegate, we found just one plant of *D. erythrocephala* var. *erythrocephala* in very late flower. The limbs look almost black but show up very dark, purplish-red in the photos.



D. erythrocephala var. *erythrocephala*

Kevin



D. erythrocephala var. *erythrocephala*

Margaret

On Tarco Road, between Lake King and Newdegate, in an area that had been slashed a few years ago, we found several isopogons and petrophiles and noticed many verticordias which will be a wonderful sight in late spring when they flower. Here there are also several dryandras including *D. ferruginea* subsp. *chelemocarpa*, one plant of which was in full flower.

Something I have noticed during my many years of travelling and looking for dryandras is that, quite often I would find just one plant in the population in flower, either earlier or later than the rest. Last year also, we found a late-flowering *D. erythrocephala* at Dyke Road.

We were joined on our second day by Study Group member, Robin Campbell from Corrigin who showed us some good locations for DIPs (dryandras, isopogons and petrophiles), on Mouritz Road, north of Dragon Rocks Reserve. On the third day we met up again at Dudinin and went to a few spots that I had not previously visited where we found a roadside patch with *D. vestita*, *D. fasciculata* and *D. erythrocephala* which, given its western location is probably var. *inopinata* which has yellow flowers. (It flowers in summer as does *D. vestita*). Kevin and Phil found two different dryandra hybrids. Kevin wrote: "I stumbled across an interesting, sole dryandra approximately 0.3m x 0.5m. It was growing amongst many *D. vestita* and *D. fasciculata*. Its old flowers resembled *D. vestita* as did its seed capsules and seeds. The foliage, however, was narrower, less twisted and upright, unlike *D. vestita*. It is presumed to be a hybrid between these two species".

I noticed that each of the seed capsules is a different shape so it will be interesting to see what is produced should Kevin succeed in germinating them.



The hybrid plant

Kevin



Leaves, old flowers and seed capsules

Kevin

Dryandra mucronulata

On one of the few sunny days in June, Brian Moyle took me back to the property where Phil had collected the leaf that had us baffled. I looked in vain for plants that were different, growing among the numerous *D. mucronulata* shrubs. Then I found just a very few leaves on one *D. mucronulata* that matched Phil's one and looked like that of *D. foliosissima*. Almost all of the leaves had the typical, contiguous, triangular lobes but just a few had lobes with a gap (sinus), between them which were retrorse (bent backwards).

The plants were beginning to flower when we were there in May, so, earlier than usual.

D. mucronulata is very common in this area, sometimes forming thickets. In *The Dryandras* we cite the range of this species as in the Stirling Range and south to Albany and Cheyne Beach. This occurrence is about 25 km north-east of Cheyne Beach so it is a range extension.



D. mucronulata growing on the property

Margaret



D. mucronulata

Margaret

Dryandra Woodland – now a National Park

Soon after I moved to Perth in 1974, I became interested in dryandras. I had not learned to drive so sightings of dryandras in the wild were restricted to those I saw on excursions with the Wildflower Society to which I would very kindly be given a lift by some of the members.

I had heard about the place called Dryandra and had wanted to go there. In 1980, I booked a seat on a weekend trip to Dryandra with Coate's Tours, which was advertised in the newspaper. That's when I first met the remarkable naturalist and tour operator, Kevin Coate and his wife, Yvonne.

Before we had even got to our first stop, I had resolved to ask Kevin to conduct tours for the Wildflower Society. His knowledge of the flora and fauna was amazing and that weekend became the first of many wonderful trips with fellow wildflower enthusiasts. For more than a decade we arranged one weekend and one 5 or 6 day trips each year, to some of the best wildflower areas in the south west of the state. I also took part in many other Coate's trips – to the Kimberley (4), central Australia and the Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

When Kevin and I were planning the Wildflower Society trips, I would often make sure that they included some of the dryandra locations that I hadn't yet visited. If any of the other participants noticed they never complained!

Early in the eighties, I joined the Dryandra Study Group and began to grow and to study dryandras in earnest and I also learned to drive. After I got my car, there was no stopping me. Descriptions of my many dryandra excursions were written up and sent to the then leader Keith Alcock to appear in the Study Group newsletters. I have visited Dryandra many times.

Dryandra Woodland was declared a National Park in January, this year. It is one of the largest remaining natural woodlands in the central Wheatbelt and the home of the delightful numbat, the animal emblem of WA. It was reserved in 1926 by the Forests Department for the establishment of a plantation of

the brown mallet (*Eucalyptus astringens*), which grows there naturally, from which tannin was produced for leather tanning.

Most of Dryandra is powderbark (*Eucalyptus accedens*) and wandoo (*E. wandoo*) woodland. Areas of laterite gravel, on Kawana Road, east of the Narrogin – Wandering road on the way to Lol Gray lookout and about two km south east of the settlement, on the western (main) part of the park is where there are concentrations of dryandras and other Proteaceae genera. On slopes leading up to laterite breakaways, *D. proteoides* occurs as an understorey to powderbark trees. On flat areas with sheoaks (*Allocasuarina huegliana*) *D. fraser* var. *fraseri* can be found.

Study Group member, Lyn Alcock who lives in Narrogin, not far from Dryandra, often visits and posts photos of the dryandras as they come into flower, on the Dryandra Lovers Facebook page.

Dryandras at Dryandra

Dryandra armata var. *ignicida* is a large, bushy shrub. It differs from var. *armata* in not having a lignotuber and thus is killed by fire. It is named for this characteristic – from the Latin *ignis* (fire) and *cidus* (pertaining to killing). *D. armata* var. *armata* is a smaller, spreading shrub with a lignotuber. The flowers of var. *ignicida* are yellow but often suffused with pink. It is widespread from Pingelly to Katanning and east Cape Arid National Park. It flowers in spring.



D. armata var. *ignicida*

Margaret



D. armata var. *ignicida*

Margaret

D. cynaroides is named for the supposed resemblance to *Cynara*, the globe artichoke. It is a medium shrub, usually branching from low on the plant. The inflorescences contain only about 15 to 20 flowers which are golden yellow and cream. The stems are covered with prophylls (bracts). Its distribution is limited to several locations between Pingelly and Woodanilling. It flowers in summer.



D. cynaroides at Dryandra

Lyn



D. cynaroides at Dryandra

Margaret

D. columnaris can be seen on Kawana Road to Lol Gray lookout. It is a tall, narrow column-like shrub with small, rather insignificant flowers and crowded, finely-toothed leaves. Plants sometimes become too tall and fall over and its branches then grow vertically at right angles to the fallen main trunk. It flowers in autumn to winter.



D. columnaris at Dryandra

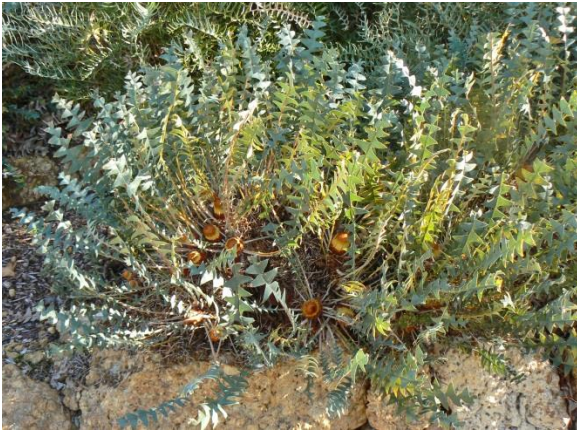
Margaret



D. columnaris at Dryandra

Margaret

D. drummondii subsp. *hiemalis* is a dense, mounded small shrub which grows in laterite gravel in Jarrah/Marri or Wandoo woodland between New Norcia and Wickiepin, areas of low overnight temperatures in winter. It has very attractive blue-green leaves and its flowers, as the name suggests, in winter. It will flower in places in the garden that are shaded in winter. The other subspecies of *D. drummondii* flower in summer. This is one of my favourite dryandras and I have grown it successfully in Perth and here in Denmark.



D. drummondii subsp. *hiemalis*

Margaret



D. drummondii subsp. *hiemalis*

Margaret

D. fraseri* var. *fraseri is a low, spreading shrub with a widespread distribution, from near Geraldton to Cranbrook and inland to Manmanning, Kellerberin, Corrigin and Nyabing. It grows in sandy loam soils often occurring where granite outcrops. It has long been cultivated in Australia and overseas, being first grown in England around 1840. The flowers are yellow, often suffused with pink and the blue-green leaves have fine lobes which can be variable in length. It flowers in winter to spring.



D. fraseri var. *fraseri*

Margaret



D. fraseri var. *fraseri*

Margaret

D. nivea* subsp. *nivea is one of the mound-forming shrubs to about one metre. Its 'honey pot' flower heads are somewhat hidden at the base of the leaves. It was one of the earliest dryandras collected – by de Labillardiere in 1792, near Esperance. It is very widespread, from north of Eneabba to Ongerup and east, almost to Israelite Bay. The flower colours vary, even within a population with perianths of pale yellow through orange to pink and red and the limb hairs white, pale rust to copper-coloured. The leaves vary in width. It flowers in late winter to early spring.



D. nivea subsp. *nivea*

Margaret



D. nivea subsp. *nivea*

Margaret

D. nobilis subsp. *nobilis* is a large shrub with golden-yellow flower heads along its (usually) long branches. The hairs on the limbs of the flowers are usually white but occasionally rust or copper-coloured ones can be found. The leaves are long with triangular lobes that extend to the midrib. It is found between Walebing and Katanning in the wheatbelt. Local people call it 'kerosene bush' because of the dead leaves that form a dense tangled mass on the lower branches. It flowers in winter to early spring.



D. nobilis subsp. *nobilis*

Margaret



D. nobilis subsp. *nobilis*

Margaret

D. proteoides was named for its resemblance to the genus *Protea*, because of its conspicuous involucre bracts. The large flower heads on very short stalks on the old wood, are well-hidden inside the large, bushy shrub. It occurs in wandoo woodland on laterite slopes. It occurs from near Toodyay to Dryandra and flowers in winter. The flowers are so well-hidden that I have known growers to have this in their gardens for years and not known that it had flowered for several years on the main trunk, near the ground.



D. proteoides

Margaret



D. proteoides

Margaret

D. squarrosa subsp. *squarrosa* is a large, narrow or bushy shrub with densely-foliaged branches with numerous flower heads on very short stems. It is widespread from Bindoon almost to Albany. It grows in laterite in eucalypt forest and woodland. The seed is shed annually. This is the 'villain in the piece' when it comes to hybridising with *D. subpinnatifida* var. *subpinnatifida* and var. *imerbis*. It flowers in spring.



D. squarrosa subsp. *squarrosa*

Margaret



D. squarrosa subsp. *squarrosa* Margaret

D. stuposa is a medium to large shrub. The flowers are similar to those of *D. nobilis* subsp. *nobilis* with which it grows at Dryandra. It can be distinguished by the smaller, bluish leaves with lobes half-way to the midrib and the terminal flower heads. It occurs between York and Broomehill and near Darkan, growing on laterite rises. Its main flowering is in summer but odd flowers are often found at any time of year.



D. stuposa Margaret



D. stuposa Margaret

D. subpinnatifida var. *subpinnatifida* is an upright, medium shrub with dark green leaves that are entire except for narrow, prickle-like lobes on the lower section (petiole). Hybrid plants – crosses with *D. squarrosa* occur in the Dryandra populations and the over-all number of plants is declining. It flowers in spring.



D. subpinnatifida var. *subpinnatifida* Catriona Bate



D. subpinnatifida var. *subpinnatifida* Catriona Bate

News from Tim Darrington

Tim is growing dryandras and other Australian plants at Vienne (Lyon), in France. We have published photos of his flowering dryandras from time to time and an article about his "caveau" greenhouse appeared in newsletter 82 On 17th March. He reported:

Today was a warmish spring day here. Nearly all Aussie plants are still in greenhouses as there is still the possibility of severe frosts for another three or four weeks. However, I did notice several new developments:

D. corvijuga is in bud for the first time (6 inflorescences)

D. plumosa subsp. *plumosa* is setting at least two follicles for the first time (green at the moment).

D. bipinnatifida subsp. *multifida* has one bud.

D. armata var. *armata* is just coming into flower – it has not flowered for several years. I don't know why as it's one of my oldest dryandras.

D. speciosa subsp. *macrocarpa* is in flower – later than in previous years.

D. foliosissima has been flowering for three months now.

D. fililoba will flower soon.

D. polycephala has a multitude of flower buds this year after having just one, last spring.

D. lindleyana subsp. *lindleyana* var. *lindleyana* is coming into flower.

D. ferruginea subsp. *flavescens* has had a good number of buds for a long time – they change imperceptibly.

D. tenuifolia var. *reptans* (rampant) is in flower. Flowers have a weird, not strong and not unpleasant smell, I believe.

D. fasciculata has flowered well.

D. formosa buds are swelling.

D. fraseri var. *fraseri*. One plant flowering for three months now. The other plant has just two inflorescences.

D. praemorsa var. *splendens* (yellow). Buds swelling.

D. sessilis var. *cordata* has few buds coming.

D. stricta has some buds.

D. serratuloides has half a dozen inflorescences in

bud.

There might be more – it's difficult to see what's happening at the back of the greenhouse.



D. ferruginea subsp. *flavescens*

Tim



D. corvijuga

Tim

The photos were sent on 23rd May when Tim reported further:

Here in southern Europe, particularly in Spain, there have been record temperatures for the month of May. Here in Vienne (Lyon) it has been pretty hot for May and we've had next to no rain for three or four months now.

Tim asked whether the flowers of *D. corvijuga* always have the 'twirling' effect. Apparently all three or four of the inflorescences had flowers like this. I couldn't tell him whether or not subsequent flowers will be the same but I have seen this before, in the wild, in *D. proteoides* and in a hybrid of *D. foliosissima* and *D. corvijuga*. This last was in the Ravensthorpe Range but it was killed by fire some years ago.

ANSPA DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022 – 23

The group's year runs from July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 and subscriptions are now due. Subscriptions are \$10.00 for Australian members and \$12 for overseas. The cost for receiving the newsletter by email is \$5. Please make cheques payable to the Dryandra Study Group and forward to Margaret or pay by direct debit to Dryandra Study Group Commonwealth Bank account 06 6001 0092 5002. Please register your name when doing so. Thanks to those who have already paid. If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, please include your email address.

Name.....

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COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMATION

DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/7/21 – 30/6/22

Cash at bank 30/6/21	\$1922.52
Income	
Members'subs.	140.00
Donations	100.00
Total	<u>2162.52</u>
Expenses	
Stationery, post and newsletter expenses	291.60
Cash at bank 30/6/22	\$1870.92