

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants
EREMOPHILA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 105

January 2013

**THANKYOU TO ALL WHO HAVE PAID THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS
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**A RED DOT WILL APPEAR IN THE TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THIS NEWSLETTER
 IF PAYMENT FOR 2012/2013 REMAINS DUE**

Thank you to all who have paid their subscription since the last newsletter was posted; your receipts are enclosed. Our membership has fallen a little this year, mainly due to members moving into smaller holdings or to locations where the growing of eremophilas is not suited.

My activities are still restricted. The cortisone injection into the disk has had some effect, however; there is still quite a way to go before I will be able to do much walking. Next stage will be exercises designed for the immediate problem as well as hydrotherapy to encourage the non-used muscles to redevelop their tone.

My apologies to the Queensland folk for not advertising their 'crawl'! Had the last issue been sent as intended in early July, it would have been OK to advertise the event. However, by the time it was finally sent in October the event had happened and I understand very successfully. Maree Goods has written a very good summary of the activities.

I have had a number of favourable comments about Lyndal Thorburn's summary of flowering times of eremophilas in the Canberra region. The summaries of plants suited to the Sydney area will surely encourage more from that region to attempt to grow them in their gardens. Charles has sent in another interesting summary of plants he has found to be suitable to his location.

Just as I was about to finish this newsletter off, I received an email from Charles Farrugia to let me know that Noel Gane, one of our longer serving members of the Study Group had passed away. My records indicate that Noel started in 1982 as a member. An obituary written by three of the Sydney members has been received.

Thank you to all who have written letters. Those that have contained material which I believe will be of interest to the members have been printed.

FROM YOUR LETTERS

Ken Warnes, Owen, SA

In N/L 104 Ian Tranter questioned the naming of a plant which he bought at the Adelaide Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale.

Without seeing the plant I have no doubt that it would have been *longifolia x scoparia* from along the Ghan railway as it passes through Stirling North, near Port Augusta. From photographs it does appear that *E. oppositifolia* could be involved but once the plant is in hand it is clear from the small, acute sepals that this is not so and the likely pollen provider would be *E. scoparia*.

I was taken to the plant by Denise Winning who at the time ran the "Goodwinii" Nursery and was the first to propagate it. It grows in remnant vegetation on the East side of the railway and Denise coined the name "Winnann", a combination incorporating the name of the person who first found it. There was no sign of *E. oppositifolia* despite it occurring only a few kilometres away but after some searching I found a single large *E. scoparia* about 50m distant. The main plant was about 3m tall and an identical apparent sucker was 3m away. *E. longifolia* itself was abundant.

To the best of my knowledge there has never been a collection of *E. (longifolia x oppositifolia)* despite them often growing in some proximity. The flowering period would be unlikely to overlap to any significant degree.

There have been collections of *E. (oppositifolia x scoparia)* and *E. (oppositifolia x serrulata)*, both from the Whyalla area and I have plants of both in my collection. The former is quite attractive, resembling some forms of *E. dalyana*, but the latter could be described as one of nature's failures.

The No 84 refers to the Grower and this information has been passed on to Ian. I trust that this sorts out the confusion.

Phil Hempel, Diamond Creek, Victoria

I have started on Face book, a section called 'Eremophila Growers'. At present it has few members and gets little attention because people don't know it is there. As I see it, this is a quick and easy way that the Study Group can deliver urgent messages like identification queries, pest problems or requests for cutting material or availability of certain species/ssp/whatever and dialogue on current topics. If the 'Eremophila Growers' Site were to gain momentum it could avoid the Study Group having to set up another place on the web for those purposes. Several ASGAP groups have their own sites in Face book and there is a more open site 'Australian Native Plant Enthusiasts' so there is potential for immediate access to many growers, which could result in more joining their local ASGAP group too.

Ken Warnes, Owen, SA

Russell Wait has been in touch to correct 'Beryl's Blue' as *E. (nivea x densifolia)* (not *E. drummondii*), a mistake I should never have made, must be old age. Actually it's probably *E. densifolia* subsp. *pubiflora*. I trust you can make the appropriate correction.

The first wingless grasshoppers have turned up, already 20mm long, so I will have to watch them, as last week's welcome 21mm of rain will probably trigger a hatching.

A lot more cutting grafts have taken in the past week, now it's a matter of nursing them through to growing plants.

I've just had a phone conversation with Russell. He's in the midst of moving to his new block only 120km North of Melbourne, having sold his farm. Currently he can still be contacted via his activ8 address; the new Bigpond address is causing him much grief and proving very unreliable. He doesn't yet have a hard-line phone number but his mobile is still 0428 388 211. Towards the end of summer I'll probably try and tee up a visit to Natya for a final raid on his plants. A hard frost in August cut many plants very severely as well as those in the propagating system outside the protected area. The new block is much more suitable to grevilleas but he's been frantically trying to propagate those eremophilas he wishes to take with him.

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Bernie Shanahan, Murrumburrah, NSW

After living here for the past five years the last winter was the worst, with quite a few minus 5C and two minus 6C nights: I lost a lot of plants, including eremophilas. To change my microclimate I have planted a lot of small trees, many acacias, but they are still a bit small. From August to March I will plant about three hundred various plants and expect to lose about half due to frost & curl grubs by this time next year. If I knew better when I

moved here I would have put in trees first as this was an empty block, situated in a frost hollow not far from a creek. After removing all the dead plants I am still pleased when I look around at the hundreds that have survived.

Jan Hall, Yarrawonga, Vic

The eight year old garden is now well established with well over a hundred eremophilas. The garden, on our clay pan is still adjusting to the last two summers when it received heavy rain. Actually the most in one event ever, which caused local flooding and 'wet feet' problems for so many of our natives which need good drainage. Our built up beds, soil treatment & drainage system did work well, but it was too wet for too long for some.

As a result those grafted specimens did well, except where other plants grew up and caused shading problems. Most however recovered, given time because the winter was actually drier than average. *Eremophila cuneifolia*, large and small-leaf forms lost all leaves but are now shooting up the lower stems. It pays to wait. My best spot is against the house facing north so is warmer and sheltered by the eaves. Doing well is *E. elderi*, *E. flaccida* and what we think is *E. acrida* as well as *E. glabra* subsp. *albicans*.

Barbara Henderson, Moore, Q

I've been giving some serious consideration as to whether I wanted to persevere with eremophilas. I had envisaged having a large number of them, but so far only a couple have been a satisfactory success. Perhaps the soil here does not agree with them and I am becoming less and less able to do the work needed to improve it. Getting older is no fun.

I'm now living with half an acre and it is more than sufficient, despite a lifelong inherited love of gardening. Even with my husband doing the mowing and other heavy work I can see that a small garden is sufficient when you get over 70 and not as well as before. Anyway I do have a couple of eremophilas which are going really well, but I don't know much about them and cannot get to any of the local gatherings here in Queensland to learn more.

I do have one thing against them and please do not laugh! They seem to have a tendency to die off at the ends and the twigs are left with little sharp ends waiting to dig into my "paper skin" and every so often I have to go over my bushes or *E. maculata* 'Aurea' and cut off the dead tips; otherwise a gardening session near them leaves me with bloodied arms and legs.

Chris Strachan, South Oakleigh, Vic

The *Eremophila* gardens at our son's property near Boort that were destroyed by the two floods that came through in late 2010 and early 2011 have now been completely re-planted and expanded. All the new plantings and garden beds are thriving and we can only hope that those types of floods are "once in a hundred years" and don't happen again in our time. It is heartbreaking stuff to pull up at least 80% of the established plants, pile them up and then burn them.

However, we have learned a lot from all the mistakes we made and also the main species that survived very well. Prominent amongst these was *E. laanii* (pink form) – all four established plants not only stood up to the inundation, but have flourished ever since. A couple of big *E. nivea*, a tall *E. (bignoniiflora x alternifolia)* and a couple of large *E. (bignoniiflora x polyclada)* proved to be "hardy stayers". All of these mentioned were in beds that were under water for a couple of days, built up beds of course fared much better and many species were retained. It certainly has been an experience!

I can remember almost bashing our heads against a brick wall telling people of the advantages of growing this diverse and beautiful genus of native plants. Now, they are actually listening!

Eremophila COMMON NAMES

The last newsletter mentioned that I had prepared a list of common names for *Eremophilas*. I got a very good response from members especially Ian Tranter who significantly added to the list. It is now an extensive list and very interesting to see how many names, forms and cultivars are out there. It would be great if any other members had knowledge of other names that could be added to the list. The current list is available on the web site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~eremoph>. If you want to join the *Eremophila* Growers Face book just go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/259229740837770/?fref=ts> or type in *Eremophila* Growers and add your comment or become a member and post your own photos and comments.

Phil Hempel

Queensland Eremophila Study Group Weekend and Crawl

After a very wet trip from Victoria to Toowoomba we were blessed with the most beautiful weather for the next week during the Queensland Eremophila Study Group Weekend and Crawl. The hospitality from the group was exceptional and we certainly did not go hungry. In fact may have added a kilogram or two.

For the first two days our base was at Laylee and Stephan Purchase's property where many of us camped for the weekend. This is a delightful, rambling garden with many hidden treasures with something new around each corner.

On Saturday 21 July the weekend commenced at the home of Peter and Carol Bevan in Lowood, approximately one hour from Toowoomba and Brisbane. Peter's garden is not only on his block but extends onto three to four of the neighbours and along an old rail track. The sky is the limit for Peter. The diversity of plants was great and along with his eremophilas were some beautiful grevilleas. The cream calyx form of *Eremophila cuneifolia* was thriving as well as *E. muelleriana*. Two species I struggle to grow successfully. Peter has an extensive nursery so it did not take long for us all to browse through and those who could made their purchases.

After lunch we visited Ken and Jan Matherson's garden Glenvale, Toowoomba. This is a prize winning garden over several years and it was not difficult to see why. Ken and Jan had planted their eremophilas in one section of the garden and because of the gentle rise it set them off beautifully. In another area they had shaped a hedge out of *E. maculata* subsp. *brevifolia* and contrasted it with the delightful grey foliage of *E. 'Beryl's Blue'* nearby. In the evening a BBQ dinner was served at Laylee and Stephan Purchase's property followed by PowerPoint presentations from Norma Boschen and myself. Norma spoke about the eremophilas which are doing well in her garden and I spoke on eremophilas from the desert areas of Australia.

It was a delight to be camped in the grounds of the Purchase garden and after breakfast on the Sunday we spent time exploring their garden. The diversity of plants in this garden, with its rambling paths was amazing and it would not have been difficult to have spent most of the day exploring. The next garden we visited was at Ruth and Alan Griinke's property at Gowrie Mountain. The dedication from these two is something they should be very proud of. Ruth had managed to get the garden in order while at the same time visiting Alan who was in hospital. It was obvious that Alan had also spent many a long hour in the garden when he had better health. The entrance was a blaze of yellow from a very old shrub of *Acacia vestita* along with various shades of *E. oppositifolia* along the fence line. Once you entered the property it was difficult to choose where to go with garden beds dotted throughout the park-like expanse. After lunch we travelled to Chinchilla via the Kogan Road. Len Hubbard was able to show us several of the local acacias and we stopped at a small reserve where *Boronia glabra* was in full flower as well as several other species. We spent the night camped at the Chinchilla Showground. Once again we were treated to a special meal.

We spent the first part of Monday morning exploring the Hubbard Garden and were enthralled with the *Eucalyptus argophloia* which was growing majestically in their park-like garden. Even though Joan is a very busy lady she manages to look after a very interesting garden. From Chinchilla we travelled to the property of Alice and John Aisthorpe, 22km west of Roma. Even though Alice had just come home from hospital and was handicapped with a broken leg, she had prepared us pumpkin soup and homemade bread for lunch. Alice and John's garden would have had the best collection of *Eremophila maculata* I have ever seen. There was every colour of the rainbow and I am not sure what they do but their shrubs were extremely healthy. *Brachychiton rupestris* were growing wild in their garden and John pulled some up by their roots and was handing them around for visitors to take home and grow. We informed him it could be two months before we arrived home but he assured us it would be OK if we wrapped it up in newspaper and plastic. John was right. Graham put it up on the pack rack inside a tyre and promptly forgot about it and it was not until we had been home for three to four weeks that he remembered. Guess what it is growing in a pot and putting out new shoots. Unbelievable! From there we travelled to Muckadilla to stay the night.

On Monday morning we travelled to Charleville to Di Ackers' home. Once again a beautiful garden; this time with a semi-tropical appearance with extensive green lawns! It was an oasis in the middle of a very dry, harsh terrain. Di has a plentiful supply of water which she can fortunately use on her garden. Not only did we get the benefit of Di's garden but she gave her time so willingly to takes us around some of the local bushland. The highlight of this was a gully of *E. oppositifolia* subsp. *rubra*. Everyone was busy clicking with their cameras and collecting as many different colours as they possible could. I did not realise how good this species could look in the wild - I had only ever previously seen it in gardens or plantations. Another treat was a patch of *E. bowmanii* in full flower with various shades of lilacs to a pure white. The day came to an end all too soon and it was back to the Caravan Park in Charleville. Unfortunately we had to leave the party after Charleville and head towards Alice Springs where we had another adventure waiting for us.

On behalf of the interstate visitors I would like to thank the Queensland group for a fantastic few days. I know this sort of thing does not happen overnight and they had attended to the very last detail. For those who did not go you missed a treat.

Maree Goods

EMUS, EMU BUSHES AND PROPAGATION

Eremophilas earned the name Emu Bush apparently due to the emu eating the fruit of eremophilas. *Eremophila* seed have been either impossible or extremely erratic to get to germinate. Many have tried with very few successes and the successful trials have never pointed to a single reason or requirement that promotes the seed to germinate. There is nothing consistent in the trials that have managed to raise plants. Maybe different species of eremophilas require completely different conditions to germinate or to remove the inhibitor, if one exists.

Eremophila maculata and *E. glabra* seem to be the easiest to germinate and this can be seen in the number of forms that have been produced from seed grown plants. Leaching out the inhibitor with fresh water seems to work for *E. longifolia*, *E. bignoniiflora*, *E. polyclada* and a few others, this seems to prove true with seed from some species left in pots out in the open, in the right conditions including day and night time temperatures, after heavy rain some seed will germinate. It is interesting that in a pot of dried fruits one may have all four seeds germinate yet none of the others do. However the right conditions cannot easily be produced outside of the plants natural growing range. Some seed has germinated after being washed away into a pile of scrub litter containing leaves, twigs, rotted down material etc., others have had some success by planting the seed directly into kangaroo droppings. Some seed germinates after being in a pot, in the open after four years.

The popular belief for some is that the emu is the required step in preparing the seed in the fruit for germination. It is claimed that the fruit needs to pass through an emu before it will germinate. Some have tried this method in a yard of emus without success. It may be that under the right conditions the emu may deposit the seed within its droppings and this provides the nutrient to keep the seedling growing.

From this emu theory the supporters suggest that the reason many eremophilas have a bright calyx is to be a guiding light for the emu to find the fruit. I have always had a problem with this theory as the calyx is brightly coloured when the fruit is immature and it would seem self defeating for the plant to attract an emu to eat the immature fruit at this stage. When the fruit is mature, the calyx loses its colour and then it is ready to be eaten and dispersed. The brightly coloured calyx is more likely to be a deterrent to the emu than an attractor.

This season I have collected fruit from many of my plants and will do a few trials myself, I did a similar trial last year and joined the large group of growers that had no success. This time I will try a number of ideas from smoke water, iron chelate, blood and bone, mycorrhizal, soaking in water, soaking and drying out and soaking again, both in the open and in a glass house and a combination of all of these ideas. Somehow something has to happen, either seeds will germinate or I will surrender to nature.

Phil Hempel

EREMOPHILAS AT SEVEN HILLS NSW

The last couple of years, like most of the eastern States, Sydney had seen above average rainfall. As was expected this above average rainfall did have effect on the eremophilas growing in our garden but not without a few surprises. We did loose quite a few species, both grafted and those growing on their own roots. The highest losses occurred during the very wet summer of 2012. This large number of losses may have happened because most of the eremophilas in the garden were heavily pruned in early December 2011. They were starting to respond well to the heavy pruning but then in January 2012 the rain came again, and it seemed like it was never going to stop. The new growth on most of the species did not take kindly to the wet, humid conditions. One by one the woolly species succumbed to the wet conditions with two exceptions *E. fasciata* and *E. warnesii* (we'll get to these two later). Quite surprisingly a few *E. maculata* species decided that they had enough of the wet conditions and they too died.

Some of the species lost:

<i>E. abietina</i>	<i>E. acrida</i>	<i>E. bowmanii</i> subsp. <i>latifolia</i> (one of two)	<i>E. clarkei</i>
<i>E. cuneifolia</i>	<i>E. denticulata</i>	<i>E. dichroantha</i> (one of two)	<i>E. fasciata</i> (one of two)
<i>E. hughesii</i>	<i>E. hygrophana</i>	<i>E. lactea</i>	<i>E. lucida</i>
<i>E. matacooides</i>	<i>E. mackinlayi</i>	<i>E. microtheca</i>	<i>E. prostrata</i>
<i>E. viscida</i>	<i>E. youngii</i> subsp. <i>lepidota</i> (one of two)		

Surprisingly the following *E. maculata* went the same way:

<i>E. maculata</i> 'Mt. Gambier'	<i>E. maculata</i> 'Purple'	<i>E. maculata</i> 'Winter Gold'	<i>E. maculata</i> 'Yookumurra'
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During the last two wet years not all was doom and gloom in our garden because quite a few *Eremophila* species have not only survived but also thrived, again here were a few surprises:

<i>E. biserrata</i>	<i>E. calorhabdos</i>	<i>E. dalyana</i>	<i>E. decipiens</i> subsp. <i>linearifolia</i>
<i>E. dempsteri</i> (white)	<i>E. denticulata</i> subsp. <i>trisulcata</i>	<i>E. divaricata</i>	<i>E. drummondii</i> (pink)
<i>E. duttonii</i>	<i>E. freelingii</i>	<i>E. gilesii</i>	<i>E. gilesii</i> x <i>E. latrobei</i> (Yana Road)
<i>E. glabra</i> 'Arrow'	<i>E. glabra</i> 'Kalbarri Carpet'	<i>E. ionantha</i> x <i>caerulea</i>	<i>E. laanii</i>
<i>E. latrobei</i> (green foliage)	<i>E. maculata</i> subsp. <i>brevifolia</i>	<i>E. mitchellii</i>	<i>E. miniata</i>
<i>E. nivea</i> x <i>drummondii</i>	<i>E. psilocalyx</i>	<i>E. purpurascens</i>	<i>E. sturtii</i>
<i>E. subteretifolia</i>	<i>E. tetraptera</i>	<i>E. weldii</i>	<i>E. youngii</i>

Surprisingly the following species came through this period with flying colours:

<i>E. aureivisca</i>	<i>E. bowmanii</i> subsp. <i>nutans</i>	<i>E. glabra</i> subsp. <i>tomentosa</i>	<i>E. delisseri</i>
<i>E. muelleriana</i>	<i>E. pantonii</i>	<i>E. pterocarpa</i>	<i>E. spectabilis</i> subsp. <i>brevis</i>
<i>E. subfloccosa</i> subsp. <i>glandulosa</i>			

The following species did make it through but with some dieback (a couple with quite a bit of dieback):

<i>E. falcata</i>	<i>E. magnifica</i>	<i>E. nivea</i> x <i>christophorii</i>	<i>E. shonae</i>
<i>E. vernicosa</i>			

Going back to the two woolly species that have survived this wet period – *E. fasciata* and *E. warnesii* - these two species from the day that they were planted in the garden always get a plastic cover placed over them whenever it threatens rain (day or night) and also every winter's night. During this wet period these plants sometimes were under cover for a whole week, sometimes more. Yes, there is a little bit of dieback but nothing that a small pair of secateurs couldn't handle. The important thing is that these woolly species did survive while other similar species succumbed to the wet conditions.

Some other observations about some eremophilas in our garden:

E. denticulata subsp. *denticulata* – the original plant, growing on its own roots struggled to form a bush after the first initial pruning during the drought years and as mentioned above died during this wet period. This was replaced by another *E. denticulata* grafted onto *E. denticulata* subsp. *trisulcata* root stock that was growing in a pot for a couple of years. As soon as this was planted in the garden it took off, never mind the wet conditions.

E. spectabilis subsp. *spectabilis* – This species has struggled for the last twelve months yet *E. spectabilis* subsp. *brevis* has thrived,

E. glabra 'Arrow' – This is the most versatile *Eremophila* species in the garden. This was sent to us as a cutting by Phil James in WA. It is easy to strike from a cutting but it is more vigorous when grafted. It needs regular pruning to keep in shape and can handle severe pruning. In our garden this species has flowers for twelve months of the year and in full bloom between July and December. Noisy Miners love this species especially in winter and they are joined by the Little Wattle Bird in summer.

Charles Farrugia (July 2012)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE ARTICLE ABOVE

Throughout the winter months we did not have even one drop of rain and the eremophilas in the garden were showing signs of stress. During this dry period we again had some losses: *E. falcata*, *E. glabra* 'Kalbarri

Carpet' (one of two), *E. laanii* 'Milli Milli' Station (one of two), *E. maculata* 'Waikeri' and *E. splendens*. So out came the hose that leads from the washing machine (NP soap powder) to the garden and the gardens, front and back, were watered in sections with a load of grey water.

One *Eremophila* species that seems to hate our winter, whether it's wet or dry is *E. denticulate* subsp. *trisulcata*, even though it gets quite a bit of sunlight during the winter months. As this is my grafting stock, I have two of these planted in the garden – they both were really struggling. One of these responded almost immediately to a load of grey water whilst the other one looks like it needs to be replaced. This isn't such a problem as we always have a few potted plants on hand of this species.

Eremophila willsii is another species that needs to be replaced but I am having difficulties to successfully graft this species on both *E. denticulate* subsp. *trisulcata* and *Myoporum* rootstock.

I have never mentioned in my previous reports to the Eremophila Study Group newsletter that a couple of winters ago an *E. maculata* x Isaacson seedling came up in my front garden. This is now 1.5m x 1.5m and this winter it was in full bloom.

Recently we had two seedlings that germinated – one at the edge of the nature strip in front of our front garden and the other one a metre away in front of my neighbour's garage gate, in a groove between the concrete drive ways. Both these seedlings have been successfully dug out and potted. They appear to be *E. glabra* 'Kalbarri Carpet'.

Charles Farrugia

Obituary - Noel Gane [21 January 1922 - 13 December 2012]

Our Eremophila Study Group friend and colleague, Noel Gane, passed away peacefully in his sleep on 13 December 2012. He was also a member of the Eremophila Study Group Sydney branch. During these meetings he freely shared his knowledge and experience with the other members.

Noel Gane was one of the first members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants NSW, later the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd. He worked with the late Bill Payne, a foundation member of the Society and Editor of *Australian Plants* for over 40 years and one can only wonder how often conversation turned to native plants. They were also foundation members of the East Hills Group which first met on 21 October 1957.

Early on, Noel's particular interest settled on Eremophilas (Emu Bushes) and almost every inch of his home at Panania, a southern suburb of Sydney, was turned into garden suitable for growing Eremophilas. He frequented stables nearby for "Condell Park caviar" (horse manure) and over the years established a friable, well drained garden, probably with more nutrients than needed by Eremophilas.

With help from his friends like Norm Denovan, Noel obtained plant material from far and near, constructed a small but productive cutting house and quickly became an expert propagator. Given the delicate root systems of many Eremophilas, Noel generally set one cutting per tube and achieved phenomenal success.

Noel became affectionately known as "Mr. Eremophila" by his friends.

Tragically, Noel lost both his wife Sylvia [1988] and daughter Jan (nearly 10 years ago).

He will be remembered by his friends for a long time to come. Folk like Noel Gane are few and far between.

Gordon Brooks with help from Kyrill Taylor and Charles Farrugia

OPEN GARDEN SUCCESS FORCES GRAFT-CUTTING TRIAL

Corinne and I had an "Open Garden", part of the national scheme in late October. It was a great success and in the two days we had about 200 visitors. The amount of interest shown in some of the eremophilas in particular made the effort entirely worthwhile. We sold a lot of plants and when supplies ran out, I was taking orders – mainly for eremophilas.

Being late October, it was somewhat earlier than I would have otherwise done grafts and had no rootstocks ready so tried some graft-cuttings. Using both *Myoporum montanum* and *M. insulare* stocks, I prepared twice as many as ordered, for *E. abietina*, *E. muelleriana*, *E. viscida*, *E. mirabilis*, *E. warnesii* and *E. gilesii*. With average spring Melbourne temperatures and no additional heating, I am surprised that after three weeks I have almost 100% success, with shoots growing and roots extending from the bottoms of the pots. Cuttings of types that

normally do well on their own roots in Melbourne that were put in at the same time are looking healthy but nowhere near as advanced as the graft-cuttings.

If we can draw any conclusions from this exercise, we might say that the maturity and condition of shoots for rootstocks and scions must be at their best in spring and that graft-cutting method could be more widely applied.

John Upsher

LATE NOTES WHICH ARRIVED JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Hi Everyone,

Sadly, last week we said goodbye to one of the pioneers for growing Eremophilas in the Sydney Region – Noel Gane.

On the home front – I had a bit of success with propagation:

Grafts successfully potted on *E. denticulata* subsp. *trisulcata* rootstock:

E. glandulifera, *E. bowmanii* ssp. *bowmanii*, *E. bowmanii* subsp. *nutans*, *E. nivea* (white form x 2,
E. muelleriana, *E. willsii* subsp. *integrifolia*,

On *Myoporum* rootstock:

E. complanata, *E. spectabilia* subsp. *brevis*, *E. bowmanii* subsp. *bowmanii* x 2, *E. nivea* x *christophorii*
x 2

Cuttings:

E. denticulata subsp. *trisulcata* x 8, (*E. alternifolia* x *Myoporum platycarpum*) x 6, *E. lucida*, *E. microtheca*, (*E. alternifolia* x *purpurascens*), (*E. nivea* x *drummondii*), *E. oppositifolia* x 3, plus 4 species of brachycome x 40 and grey leaf *Eremophila* seedlings x 2.

There are still a few more grafts in the pipeline.

Charles Farrugia

Greetings to all for Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

I'm very pleased to hear of Charles' success propagating *E. nivea* (white) and *E. alternifolia* x *Myoporum platycarpum*. Not a moment too soon for *E. nivea* - I pruned the old bush to rejuvenate or die and it died!

On fertilizers: my experience with eremophilas (well, those that grow on clay and are established) is that they respond very well to the higher phosphorus fertilizers.

Helen Lane

I thank Charles and Helen for their Christmas wishes and Gloria and I offer our own – everyone have a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

I am delighted that Charles has been able to carry out his research, some of which I believe is original.

Present conditions in Sydney are hot and dry; indeed we have had little rain since May. Feb and March are often our wettest months with high humidity in Sydney and these may be testing times after the dry.

We will be moving to a retirement village in about a month so anyone wanting cutting material, please don't hesitate. Our address will be Unit 144, Wirreanda Village, 33 Highs Road, West Pennant Hills 2125. I won't have a garden but hope to maintain an interest in the Society and Study Group. I hope we can retain our present phone number and email address.

Gordon Brooks