Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA)

Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No. 125

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Eremophila maculata 'Carmine Star'

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E. rostrata, Cue, WA – see Tim Wood's report, page 17

Letter from the Editor

Happy Christmas!!!

I know this newsletter is coming to your in-box a lot earlier than expected, but a lot has happened since the last one! I have a sudden surfeit of material so I am putting this newsletter out now and will do another in January or February.

This issue contains a report from the ANPSA Biennial Conference in Albany, SA which I attended on behalf of both the Study Group and APS Canberra, in September/October. It was great to put faces to names for those of you who attended this conference. There were many speakers who touched on Eremophila in the context of broader presentations and Bevan Buirchell gave a whole Eremophila presentation, promoting this genus. I have tried to summarise all of them in this issue, and I thank those speakers who responded to requests for additional info. to illustrate their Eremophila commentary.

Along with around 8 study group members, I also attended the First Cross-National Conference on Eremophila held, on 27 and 28 October in Melbourne, and organised from Denmark! Members received an email notifying them of this in mid-October, as soon as I knew. It was also delightful at that conference to meet many people with whom I have only corresponded in the past, including Phil James, Ron Dadd and Bob Chinnock. Look for an article on this event in the next Newsletter.

Also held over to the next edition is the feature species on *Eremophila duttonii*, so there is time to send info in for this one!

In the absence of *E. duttonii* photos this month, I have placed on our cover *E. maculata* 'Carmine Star' which is the first cultivar registered by the Study Group. It originates from Southern Queensland and was accepted for registration in 1986. We thought it was lost to horticulture, but Ken Warnes sent me cuttings from his plant (thank heavens for long-lived species!!) and these are the first flowerings from those cuttings. These plants will now be distributed around Canberra APS and I have offered a live specimen to the Australian National Botanic Gardens. The flower is large and, as can be seen from the second photo below, the bud is an attractive orangey-yellow (terracotta?), quite different to the flower colour.

Thanks to those who have responded to my request for pictures of frost-damaged plants, I am holding these over for a future issue, when I get photos of how they have sprung back to life after pruning or water, in the warmer weather.

Finally, many of us have had some rain (and maybe fires) since the last issue. It would be great to hear about how your gardens have responded. You will also have received an email providing some suggestions on how to contribute to the newsletter – please do so when you get a chance!

Lyndal Thorburn
Leader and editor

What's New in the Study Group

New members

We welcome new members Lyhn Barfield, (Vic), Ron and Claire Dadd (WA), Kathy Musial (USA), Dan Murphy (Vic) and Merle Pole (Vic).

Eremophilas in the News

Member Jill Muller's garden was featured on Gardening Australia, in the episode that aired on 30 August. The clip is now a "Fact Sheet" at https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/never-enough-natives/11464620.

More new species described

Eremophila waitii was described in Nuytsia 30:215-219 (October 2019) by Bob Chinnock. Named after our very own Russell Wait in 2018, the species was discovered by him near Mullewa in WA and has been known as Eremophila sp. Mullewa in the meantime.

E. waitii is known from a single population of just over 50 plants in remnant low mallee woodland. It grows up to 1.5m x 1m and has already been listed as Priority 1 under the WA Conservation Code. Pic below is by Russell Wait.

E. waitii is closely related to *E. subangustifolia* (which members may recall is the true name of most specimens we have been buying all these years as *E. microtheca*, all sourced from the southern end of the range of *E. microtheca*), and forms part of a group with that species, the true *E. microtheca* and *E. nivea*.

Its defining feature is sub-whorled to 3-whorled linear to sub-terete leaves that are clustered on the branches. The flowers are gathered together towards the tips (to your editor's mind, rather like lavender, if you can excuse the comparison).

It flowers from late winter to spring. Pic below by Russell Wait.

Eremophila viridissima was described in the same issue of Nuytsia, also by Bob Chinnock. This was formerly known as *E. glabra ssp. verrucosa*, but has now been raised to species level.

It is distinguished from *E. glabra* by its "ascending, resinous deep green leaves", serrated at the tips, "branches that are usually not divided in the upper parts" and variations in the fruit.

The flower is bright yellow, narrow and is held upright (pic from Bob Chinnock below).

Members may note some similarities in flower between this and *E. glabra* Arrowsmith, but the leaves of the latter are entire and are hence distinct from *E. viridissima*.

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The ANPSA Biennial Conference

Tom Jordan and I attended the ANPSA Biennial Conference in Albany in September 2019 and represented APS Canberra Inc. at the national meeting on the preceding Sunday. The ESG was one of several study groups which set up displays about their activities in the foyer.

A field trip on Monday took us to Greens Pool and Mount Lindesay National Park and ON Wednesday to Stirling Ranges National Park – no Eremophila but interesting nonetheless! We took lots of pics of interesting WA flora. A couple of pics taken during the Stirling Ranges day are shown below and top of next column.

We also met a friendly goanna which mugged us at our lunch stop.

The theme of the conference was *Know*, *Grow and Conserve* and the talks were arranged in these themes on three different days (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday).

Presentations focussed on the West Australian flora and heard from a number of speakers who mentioned Eremophila.

While most of the presented material was new to me, it has been a bit disappointing to discover that much of the work presented is quite old, dating back to 2005 in one instance.

Some of the photos in this article have been taken from the audience and then cropped, so apologies for the slightly dodgy quality and angles of some. I did approach the authors for better photos but in most cases have not heard back from them.

Know

History of Plant naming

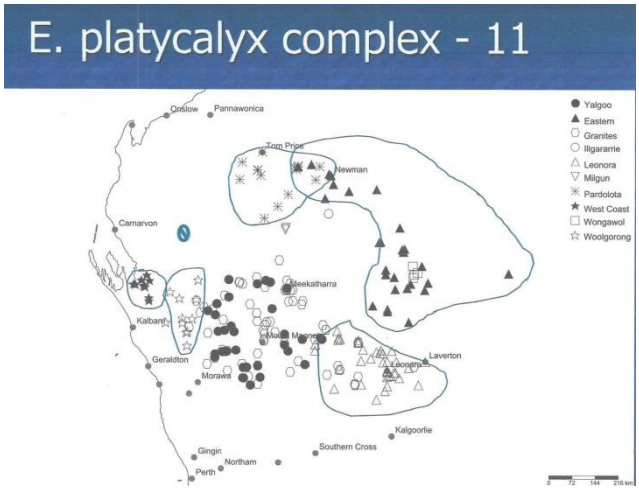
An interesting history lesson about the exploration of the WA flora came from **Dr Alex George**, who discussed the contributions of explorers such as Giles and von Mueller, after which some of our Eremophila are named.

Ernest Giles led five major expeditions across South Australia and Western Australia and gave his name to *Eremophila gilesii*; Ferdinand von Mueller was the Victorian Government botanist in the mid-1800s and his name is known to us in relation to *Eremophila muelleriana*.

Eremophilas of the WA Desert

The first Eremophila-relevant presentation was from **Dr Libby Sandiford**, who spoke about her surveys on three Bush Heritage properties (Red Moort, Monjebup/Yarraweyah and Monjebup North) in the Fitz-Stirling Gondwana Link between 2013 and 2015. The surveys found major differences between vegetation on these properties despite similar landforms and being very close to each other. I believe something was said about finding an Eremophila species out of its expected range, but I haven't been able to contact Libby to confirm or clarify this.

Dr Bevan Buirchell spoke about his work on Eremophilas of the WA desert. Bevan is well known to ESG members as co-author of the Field Guide to *Eremophilas of Western Australia* and showed the audience a number of his recent discoveries. He also discussed the potential split of several species which are thought to be super-species, including *E. platycalyx* (map below).



Finally, Bevan spoke about the role of Eremophila in Aboriginal medicine. He listed the following species used in WA: *E. clarkei, E. cuneifolia, E. fraseri, E. latrobei, E. longifolia, E. maculata, E. margarethae, E. oldfieldii, E. phyllopoda, E. platycalyx, W. scoparia.*

He listed the following species used in Central Australia: *E. alternifolia, E. elderi, E. freelingii, E. gilesii, E. goodwinii, E. latrobei, E. longifolia, E. maculata, E. mitchellii, E. neglecta, E. paiselyii* and *E. sturtii*

Other presentations

That day we also had a fascinating presentation on carnivorous plants by **Greg Bourke**, who had me wishing that there was a carnivorous plants study group; and another by **Malcolm French**, who treated us to drool-worthy photos of Eucalypts that he felt should be available to home gardeners, but aren't. **Dr Alison Lullfitz** spoke about her study of the distribution of native plants compared to Aboriginal sites in SW WA, focussing on Macrozamia, which appear to have been cultivated near these sites.

Near the end of the day **Bronwen Keighery** spoke of the planned eGuide to Wildflowers which is in development. I had previously been in touch with Bronwen about providing some Eremophila pictures for this but at present they have no capacity to credit those who take the photos, so that has gone no further.

The first edition of the eGuide contains more than 1,000 different wildflowers (species, subspecies and varieties) from across WA. More than 4,000 images support the information with up to 10 images for each wildflower and descriptions in plain English. The images illustrate flowers, leaves and whole plant. Other images include the fruit, seedlings, bark, diagnostic features and bushland setting.

The eGuide will be expanded to cover thousands of plants in future. It is available on the Apple store for $24.99 (but not for Android).

Grow

Growing techniques

Thursday's theme was GROW and the day started with a presentation from **Bob Dixon** on "a Lifetime of Growing."

Bob spoke about plant propagation work Perth Zoo and Kings Park, and in particular his work growing species for revegetation of mine sites,[1] including *E. resinosa*, which had been grown from tissue culture. The photo below shows 2 million fruit of *E. resinosa* in storage.

Bob described translocation of 4,000 *E. resinosa* between 2005 and 2009, with a survival rate of >80%.

Dr Geoff Woodall gave a lively talk on his efforts to kick start a native food industry in WA and the trials and tribulations of dealing with the WA conservation people, who don't want people to transport native plants, even if it is fruit in a truck on the way to market.

The native vegetables which Geoff trials include youlk (*Platysace deflexa),* common name Ravenshtorpe radish; and kulyu, a deciduous climbing *Ipomoea sp*. from inland Australia.

Amanda Shade was the third speaker in the morning session and also talked about propagation of native plants in WA.

After morning tea, we continued the theme with **Kevin Collins**, leader of the Banksia Study Group, speaking of his work in growing Banksias, particularly for the Australian National Botanic Gardens, which is planning launch of a new Banksia Garden next year.

There followed two presentations on behalf of Aussies growing plants in Europe – **Liesbeth Uijtewaal**, who has two huge glass houses at her property in the Netherlands, and **Gerald Lorenz** who grows his in Germany.

Both mentioned Eremophila but sadly Liesbeth, whose "smaller glasshouse" is shown below, has so much trouble keeping hers alive that she has moved on to concentrate on other genera (and has also left our Study Group).

Liesbeth grows her cuttings in "growcoons", (over), which are biodegradable plugs, from a Dutch manufacturer.

[1] For further reading see https://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/about-us/information/research/species-recovery/eremophila-translocation

Study Groups

After lunch we had short presentations from 8 Study Group leaders (including me!) followed by a late-afternoon round-table session where people could ask questions about each study group (pic below by Jane Fountain). Jane is Study Group Coordinator for ANPSA and was really pleased that over 100 people from the 300 at the conference attended this session. Our ESG discussion centred on planning for the Queensland get-together next year.

I must say that it was lovely that so many Study Group members came over to say hello!

After

On Friday morning the Study Group leaders had self-organised a breakfast to talk about general Group issues, including keeping members involved, and the overlap between conservation and study.

Tom and I didn't stay for the rest of the day but hopped off to drive east to Hopetoun overnight, via a few dips into the northern sections of Fitzgerald River National Park. On Saturday, we drove to Hyden for the night, and on Sunday stayed at Narrogin, before returning to Perth on the Monday, for the flight home.

We had high hopes of seeing some Eremophila *in situ* along the route but it was not to be – partly because we had no GPS coordinates for any of the sites (e.g. Lake King) but also because we weren't quite in dry enough country – we realised that if it is wet enough for Banksia and Dryandra then it isn't dry enough for most Eremophila. When the Brown and Buirchell book says something is found in between Hyden and Kalgoorlie, I suspect it is in country we can't reach easily on the black-top.

We did pass some fabulous flower sites, however, and we did see some Eremophila – *E. nivea* (amongst the non-natives) in the Council garden at Wickepin (well away from its natural range!) and in the hotel garden at Hyden. We also had an argument (unresolved) about whether a large grey bush planted in a carpark on the coast near Busselton (on the way to Albany) was an Eremophila or a saltbush – no flowers or fruit, probably the latter.

Comments on Cultivar Registrations & Names

From Hans Griesser

I didn't want to weigh in too early, but would now like to comment on the issue of ACRA in response to the latest newsletter (thanks, informative as always!).

I agree with the sentiment that the confusion is already too great to fix things. I also doubt that there will be co-operation from the commercial growers. They will probably just ignore whatever we and the ACRA say and will apply whatever name they feel will sell plants.

An ACRA registration has no teeth. And if we point out that a plant already has a cultivar name, anyone could argue "no, it's not exactly the same plant, it's a bit different". Hence, I could see plenty of arguments in response to your draft policy point 5 – a commercial grower would argue that the brand new name has been applied to a new cultivar that differs slightly from the established cultivar that the Study Group says has an established name.

Note that I use the word "established" rather than "accepted" because we may not be able to

reach the consensual agreement implied in the latter.

This has been going on for Grevilleas for more than three decades. I have seen plants that are indistinguishable to my eyes, sold under various names. Many years ago, I was talking with some key Grevillea people and learnt that Neil Marriott and Peter Olde were intending to add a fourth volume of their Grevillea books, on hybrids and cultivars. It never appeared and I suspect the reason is that the sheer number of hybrids and cultivars, and the challenges involved in sorting out this mess, simply overwhelmed the good intentions. I suspect that trying to sort out the Eremophila cultivars mess will prove a Sisyphus task.

Moreover, if the Study Group proposes to be the arbiter on whether a cultivar has an accepted name or is new, then we need to be more scientific. Colour terms such as orange or cultivar names such as Thundercloud are too vague to be useful. Colours should be described in terms of the definitions and abbreviations standardised in the international code of colours, which ACRA does.

Let me also ask a question: what makes us believe that we have all the answers about what the correct original name is for all cultivars? Even among professional biologists it has happened that a species was described again in ignorance of a previous description. So, how could we establish that the name we want prescribed for a given cultivar is indeed the first-ever used name?

For example, cultivars first developed in WA a long time ago, for which memory may have been lost? There is a lot of knowledge in the Study Group, particularly Ken Warnes, but surely this does not cover each and every cultivar. Look at E Brice / Bev Rice as an illustrative example of uncertainty as to where it came from and who named it first.[2]

By all means, go ahead and try to work with the ACRA and see whether you can make inroads into the mess. But I support this only if there are no costs to the Study Group involved in making applications and submissions; I would not agree if my subscription was to be used to support cultivar registrations, reviewing of independently submitted applications, disputes, and anything else within this ACRA orbit.

From Bevan Buirchell

Ken's article in the last newsletter stated "The multiple names are worse than you think. Add *E. glabra* Kalgoorlie to the widely used *E. glabra* Canning Stock Route, but it is quite a different plant to the one named as *E. glabra ssp Inland* in Brown and Buirchell's book."

There are two naming systems in place and one shouldn't get them mixed up

1. There are people who sell plants or propagate variations of species and they give them a catchy name like *Eremophila glabra* Mildura Gold (the topic of Ken's discussion above). This is a cultivar or variety name and has very little to do with taxonomy, scientific description and naming of plants. Anyone is free to add a name to anything - it only has meaning to that person or anyone else who wants to use the name but it has no scientific or legal status, unless of course PBR applies.

2. For taxa that are considered new to science, there is now an accepted system, in Western Australia at least, that they can be given a phrase name. If you look on Florabase you will see a lot of Eremophilas with phrase names, for example, Eremophila Channar Range or Eremophila glabra ssp. "Wongan Hills". After the name there is usually a designated collection that is associated with that name. Any new collections that match that designated specimen will be lodged under the phrase name.

The designation of a phrase name is not a random event that anyone can do, there is a process. The person nominating a new taxon has to fill in a form which basically describes the taxon and they nominate a phrase name e.g. Eremophila Channar Range.

This nomination is then considered by a group, within the Herbarium, which vets the information and looks at the phrase name to make sure it is appropriate and does not give unscrupulous collectors a specific locality for the

[2] See Newsletter 122 for discussion on this topic.

plants. Once accepted, it then goes up on Florabase. Taxa with a phrase name now have the same legal status as an officially named species and this was the reason for introducing phrase names. Officially describing a species takes time.

As you can now see, those Eremophilas with a phrase name are very different to those with a cultivar or variety name. In Brown and Buirchell we have used phrase names for all the new Eremophilas, including a number of distinctive subspecies of *Eremophila glabra*. If you look on Florabase you can see all the phrase names for the subspecies I have identified for *Eremophila platycalyx* (see also map page 5).

Anyway, I hope this gives ESG members a clearer picture of the naming process.

From Ken Warnes

Well there doesn't seem to be any doubt in my mind that "Desert Passion" is indeed the same as "Fairy Floss". I'll have to differ from Ian to some extent on that. I doubt whether there are a large number of hybrids between the two species although we know of three possibles.

First, "Fairy Floss" seems to have originated from Tom Loffler in his 2Ha block at Waikerie. Second, there is another yellowish one that Tom says was somewhere up the back of his block (and Waikerie is in drought so there's no point in going looking to see if it's still there); and third, there is Ian's "Ros," of which I was not aware. But the two species are closely related and there could well be more. I have only ever seen the single form for sale in SA.

If the yellow-budded, white flowered *E. racemosa* is involved (left, B Freeman), then many more colour combinations could be expected, considering the wide range of *E. maculata* in cultivation. I'm not sure if the white one has made it East but it is the more commonly cultivated form in SA.[3] I don't even have true *E. racemosa* at present, the wind has seen to that.

The prominent hairs could come from either parent and in one of our long discussions Phil James told me that the name "Old Man's Beard" was afloat in WA, I guess because of the prominent hairs. However, that name is used exclusively for *Clematis microphylla* in Eastern States and I asked him to see what could be done about discouraging the adoption of such a name for an Eremophila.

More and more I am reconciled to the fact that we won't win with the Nursery trade, to a large extent they are just not interested in principles, science or history. Equally, I'm certain that we can't positively identify every variation of every species and the general public will just have to take a bit of pot luck when they want a particular form. We can only do "So Much", that's the reality of the situation.

With so many selections from named species and so many hybrids coming into the system we just have to accept that we can't be keeping tabs on all the names in use. At least we can draw some satisfaction from the fact that so many nurseries are growing them and so many growers are buying them that we can be assured that our efforts to make them common garden plants have not been in vain.

There are some pretty good ones coming through from the post Pinery Fire Hygrophanae group hybrids. What are we going to call them? And for good measure, now that they are flowering, it would appear that "Nullarbor Nymph" has back-crossed to the related *E. weldii*, *E. ionantha* and *E. pustulata*.

Want something more to chew on? I have an *E. glabra*, origin unknown, planted in 2001 that looks a dead ringer for "Fruit Salad" except that its 0.6 high by 3m across. Thought that would make your day!!!

[3] This form is sold as "Peaches and Cream" in the eastern States

FINAL Cultivar Registration Policy

Having received comments from some members (see previous pages), here is the amended cultivar registration policy. Changes from the draft version (last newsletter) are as follows:

a) Point 5 – added in "will not, as far as is possible" to recognise the uncertainty in determining the accepted name and where it first appeared.

b) New Point 9 regarding use of Study Group funds

……c) it was pointed out in discussion with another member that "Fairy Floss" may originally have been available as Old Man's Beard. Point 5 has also been amended to provide a time proviso.

The problem with naming by colour is accepted and we note that ACRA does assign standard colours from the International Colour Coding system for plants. However, people do distinguish between forms by colour (red, yellow etc.) and I think it will be difficult to ban all mention of colour in an ACRA-registered name (Pink Pantha being an example).

Lyndal Thorburn

1. The study group will continue to submit applications to ACRA, and will seek waiver of the commercial fee from this status.

2. The focus will be standardising names of varieties that are already widely available and registering cultivars for new varieties which are not yet available.

3. For new varieties, preference will be given to hybrids or unusual forms of single species [e.g. a prostrate form of something that is normally a bush], particularly where there is likely to be widespread uptake by the nursery industry due to colour, form or other horticultural potential.

4. For existing varieties, where the aim is to standardise the name, an application will only be submitted if the name is widespread, is in use by multiple wholesale nurseries, and is not the subject of a PBR application or grant.

5. The Study Group will not, as far as is possible, support registrations that apply a brand new name to an already existing variety that has an accepted or widely-used name that is already available through the nursery trade. The name chosen for registration will be, as far as possible, the one most widely used at the time of registration.

6. Submissions should be made through the Study Group leader. The Study Group leader reserves the right to reject permission to use the Study Group name if the application is deemed to not meet these requirements. Those whose applications are rejected by the Study Group are free to submit applications for registration direct to ACRA on their own behalf (i.e. not on behalf of the Study Group), on payment of the ACRA fee.

7. The proponent of any applications submitted on behalf of the Study Group remains responsible for supplying photos, descriptions and samples to satisfy ACRA requirements.

8. ACRA will be informed of this policy and will be asked to refer all Eremophila cultivar applications to the Study Group leader for review, if independently submitted and claiming the Study Group as the applicant.

9. This policy only remains in force while ACRA continues to provide free access for ANPSA applications. Should ACRA's policy change, members will be consulted regarding whether Study Group funds should be used for this purpose.

Our Glorious Glabras

Lyndal Thorburn[4]

Although we are all now aware that *Eremophila glabra* is in fact an aggregation of what may be dozens of species, we have a lot of plants labelled *E. glabra* in our garden.

Most of these flowered in spring and this encouraged me to photograph them and record their beauty and toughness (with one exception! See below). Whilst we are meant to get 600ml of rain each year (around the same amount each month), we are currently running at only 350mm, which is about 30mm each month and in July we had 5mm. We are getting so used to this that we think getting 10ml all at once is good! All the Correas are dying but the Eremophila are hanging in there, despite not having any artificial water over winter. In this article, the flower pics are below each description.

E. glabra Kalbarri Carpet is native to the region of West Australian near Kalbarri. Ours are growing, like many of our plants, under trees and in semi-shade. They survive well there and have chrome yellow flowers in spring. Their position in our garden, and our cold climate, mean that the leaves can get a bit of mould in winter (if it rains) but they seem to be OK with that.

E. glabra ssp. tomentosa Murchison Magic is another grey-leaved variety which grows into an upright shrub with bright red flowers. It is very tough in our garden – our first plant, which was grafted, lasted well over 10 years and flowered in the shade, under Eucalypts, and was completely frost hardy. This first one died a few years ago and our current specimen is also grafted but is in a sunnier spot and is appreciating that, flowering well for several months commencing spring.

We have another *E. glabra* that may be *ssp. albicans*, with bright yellow flowers. Russell believes he collected it. It is sold as Eremophila Hello Cocky by some nurseries, apparently because the flowers resemble a cockatoo's crest (there's a first time for everything!!).

This form grows into a rounded shrub about 1m x 1m and at our place is in part shade, where it flowers profusely in spring. We have a second plant in a slightly sunnier position, but with more competition from Eucalypts, and isn't doing as well. Both plants survive quite well in the winter, showing no signs of damage from frost. I find this one quite hard to strike, because in the cutting bed the leaves quickly get mouldy and my usual solution, covering the punnet with an upturned bottle, doesn't seem to prevent this.

E. glabra Roseworthy is a small plant with tiny bright green leaves and equally tiny red to bright red flowers. It occurs naturally in South Australia, in the area near Roseworthy

[4] Thanks to Phil James, Russell Wait and Ken Warnes for ID assistance with these

Agricultural College at Gawler (hence the name!). It has been in our garden for well over 10 years, surviving on natural rainfall on a slope under gum trees. It lives quite happily under the fallen leaves and doesn't show any inclination to break through to the sunnier surface – as a result I need to scrabble around in the dirt to actually find the plant and see if it is still alive.

Our plant flowers early, so I missed it when I went to photograph it. This pic is from Kevin Sparrow.

E. glabra ssp Arrowsmith is another rounded shrub with yellow flowers, but the flowers are a brighter and slightly more greenish yellow and the leaves are bright green. "Arrowsmith" refers to river in WA from where it comes, north of Eneabba. It, too, is planted in part shade, and gets afternoon sun. It is a bit leggy because of this position but it has flowered well. It needs regular pruning.

Another *E. glabra*, of unknown subspecies, has lime-green flowers and is the small upright plant that has been erroneously referred to as "Bev Rice" (see Newsletters 122 and 123). It is believed to have been collected by Tony Clark in WA. It grows to maybe half a metre and is shaped like an upside-down triangular prism, with stems that are rather brittle, and grey leaves. It is likely that this is the same form as that sold as Silver Ball in Victoria.

It is also one tough plant, as it is one of the Eremophila we have had for over 10 years. I have used a pic here from Ross Dawkins, taken at the height of flowering, as I left it a little late to capture ours in its full glory.

The *E. glabra* that I call Rosette form is one we acquired as cuttings from Ken Warnes and was collected by Russell Wait south of York. Ken's plant is almost flat and nicely circular, hence my name. At our place it has been not quite as neat, due to competition from everything else and extreme shade, but at my mother's it forms a low disc (below). The flowers are small, lime green with exserted pink stamens and are held upright. They age to red. The leaves are dark grey, so the flowers aren't what you would call "well-displayed", but the birds still find them!

We have several *E. glabra ssp glabra*. Some of these were obtained from an ex-science experiment and have been grown from seed and so we have the standard bright red form which grows on a bush 1m x 1.5m, and we also have an amazing cherry-red flowered form which, while the flowers are quite small, produces dark red fruit.

E. glabra ssp. Lake King is another that Brown and Buirchell have described in their Eremophila book from (surprise surprise!) Lake King in WA. This form is another very grey species, with closely packed leaves. It is totally frost hardy, and flowers in spring. The buds are greenish red and the red flowers are held close to the stem and are quite small, but like all our *E. glabra* the birds have no trouble finding them.

E. glabra "prostrate burgundy" was one of the earliest *E. glabra* that we grew. It is also very long-lived, and has relatively (for a glabra) large flowers which contrast against the olive green leaves. It grows to about 0.2m high and has been drought and frost hardy. Our plant is >1m in diameter.

E. glabra Amber Carpet is apparently originally from a nursery in Owen and hence may be from Ken's place, via somewhere else. It has slightly hairy leaves, flowers that are orange on the top and yellow underneath, and is prostrate but still around 20cm high. It is very drought and frost hardy, and is another that has been long-lived in our garden and has grown to >1m wide. The pic below is from Don Lill.

E. glabra ssp. carnosa is also West Australian, from coastal areas between Leeman and Gregory. It is a shrub up to 1m x 1m, and has flowers that are glossy red on top shading to yellow underneath. It also has large green fruit.

The ground cover form of this sub-species, left, has just been granted ACRA registration as Eremophila Fruit Salad (see NL 124).

Our *E. glabra* "grey leaf red flower" is of unknown origin. This survived in a very dry position, grew to 1.2m x1m, and was flowering like crazy. However we had hot winds a couple of weeks ago and the whole plant keeled over dead a couple of days after this photo was taken, despite my giving it some water. And I wasn't quick enough to get cuttings!

E. glabra Silver Spread is a nursery-named selection of *E. glabra ssp. elegans*. It has grey leaves like Kalbarri Carpet but is more tightly foliaged and grows low, with the stem on the ground and the leaves held upright with green flowers. Ours flowers in winter rather than spring. The pic below is from Brian Freeman.

E. glabra Belalla Gold, below, is originally from the Mullewa area of WA, and in its native habitat grows in grey, sandy soil. It grows to about 60cm and is up to 0.5m wide.

E. glabra Mingenew, which we have also had in the past, is a similar form from nearby, but grows on the edges of salt pans (no pic). It is listed in Brown and Buirchell as *E. glabra ssp*. Morewa.

Finally we have two hybrids – Augusta Storm and the one the Study Group has just ACRA-registered as Mallee Lipstick. The latter was dealt with in the last newsletter and hence I haven't covered here.

E. glabra Augusta Storm is a hybrid of *E. glabra* with *E. veneta* and produces the only purple flower of the group (left). The buds are a dark bronzy-purple and it is a ground cover, although the stems launch themselves at about 45 degrees to the horizontal.

Eighteen in total – nothing like the 30-odd claimed by Phil James in his WA garden, but a nice little collection nonetheless.

Mostly reliable, frost and drought-hardy, varied flowers and forms – what more can we want?

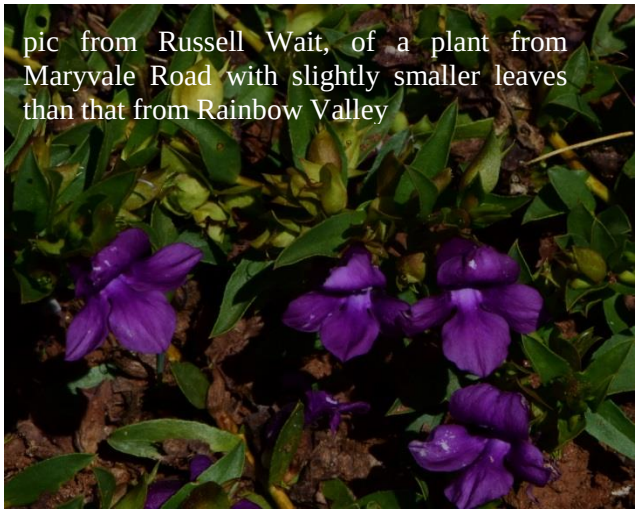
Know your Eremophila – E. Rainbow Gem

Ken Warnes

The late Ray Isaacson first collected what we now know as *E. prostrata* in the 1980's, from was later (in the 1990s) declared as Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve

The Reserve itself is named for the spectacular cliffs rather than the vegetation. I recall laying cuttings flat, across an ice-cream container filled with cutting mix, as I realised that it must be a prostrate plant. That attempt failed and has since proved a waste of time, as rooting from nodes has never been recorded. Oh well, worth a try.

I immediately dubbed it "prostrata" to separate it from *E. willsii*, to which it was clearly related.



pic from Russell Wait, of a plant from Maryvale Road with slightly smaller leaves than that from Rainbow Valley

Pic above from Ken Warnes

We called it "Rainbow Valley" until Bob Chinnock described it as a new species. It has also been recorded south of Alice Springs, roughly between the Railway and the Old South Road on sand-plain under Desert Oak. Those which Russell and I found had narrower leaves than those at Rainbow Valley.

It was described as being very common and obvious, which frustrated those on follow up missions. When I was there it was possible to see where the Entry Track had been re-routed to protect the population. It now follows a ridge and plants can only be accessed by foot, rather than the reported "both sides of the road". This anomaly is what had led to thoughts that perhaps it died back to a surviving crown in dry times, from which it rapidly spread after rain. How else to explain varying from "both sides of the road" to "hard to find" as reported by visitors to the site?

Ray brought back two presumed hybrids. One, which he named "Rainbow Beauty", was a fairly obvious hybrid with *E. willsii* (see pic p.24). If you are lucky enough to visit the area, you will find *E. prostrata* spread across the flat areas and *E. willsii* on the low ridges. I found a presumed hybrid on the slope and because it was of upright growth (600 mm), which was different to "Beauty", I called it "Rainbow Connection" just for fun. While I did graft it successfully and have used the name for my plant, it hasn't done particularly well and for convenience it is probably better to refer to all such hybrids as "Rainbow Beauty" because that is most likely the one which is being grown, if it is still around.

My first plant, obtained from Ray formed a low rounded bush about 300mm x 800 mm. It was indeed very beautiful, but went into decline and died after a few years. This could be expected, as neither parent thrives down here (SA) on graft or own roots. Some, grown by Keith Pitman, were included in the Centenary Eremophila Garden at the Adelaide Botanic Garden. I don't think they are still there. My own follow up plants have never done as well as my first. Perhaps a different stock was used.

Ray named the other hybrid he brought back "Rainbow Gem". This was thought to be a hybrid with *E. goodwinii* which, although we haven't found it in the Conservation Reserve itself, has been found along the road in from the Stuart Hwy and may well grow nearby on stony

areas. Russell and I found what we presume is this hybrid close to the western boundary of the park, adjacent to Stuart Creek Station. Again, Ray supplied my first plant, which for several years was a poor shadow of "Beauty" but it gradually bulked up and made a lovely, long flowering specimen about 500 mm x 800 mm. The pic of Rainbow Gem, below, is from Don Lill.

While the Pinery Fire killed my plant, many seedlings would appear to be from it. They are not flowering yet but this certainly appears to be their origin. I'll have to assess them as they grow to see how closely they stay to their original hybrid form. I suspect it to be the pollen provider for an obvious seedling hybrid with *E. obliquesepala*.

It's of interest that several hybrids germinated in numbers after the fire, suggesting that the initial combination of genes to create the hybrid may have gone some way to breaking down any inherent defences against unsuitable premature germination of the parent species.

As stated earlier, *E. prostrata* has not proved long-lived down here but, following the Pinery Fire, a seedling came up in a basin which, records showed, had previously grown a good form of *E. prostrata*. This area was heavily smoked, not actually burnt. I left it *in situ* and it was growing and flowering strongly until it just died, cause unknown. It looked to be a really good plant and I had planned to propagate it when warm weather returned.

In the meantime, I had made up a parcel for distribution at one of the NSW Group gatherings and, from memory, I put in four pieces of this seedling. No idea now what the label might have read. Rob seems to have grown it and I am thrilled that it hasn't been lost. Shows the value of sharing around.

Only a few metres from this particular *E. prostrata* was a good form of *E. goodwinii* and on the basis of the Rainbow Valley collections I am willing to accept that the seedling was most likely an *E. prostrata* x *E. goodwinii* hybrid. So good on you and your group, Charles, for saving it. Sometime I hope it is strong enough to make the return journey to Owen and I can try it again.

As you can see from Charles' photograph, it looks pretty good.

What do we call it? Can I suggest that it remains within the group until we can make sure that it is safely built up in numbers before rushing off in all directions hoping to be the first with something new.

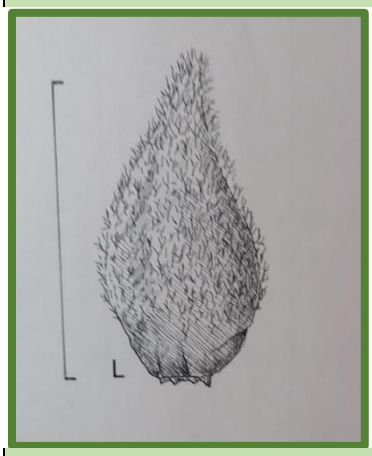
Pinery Fire Gem may do in the interim but be meaningless in the greater world. That would show its origins and link it with the "Rainbow Gem" of similar parentage.

Some Thoughts on Seed

Bevan Buirchell

The article by Ken Warnes on the rescue of *E. delisseri* in the last newsletter highlights an issue that I would like to bring to people's attention.

Ken points out that there are very few of these plants around but also points out he has a "bag of seed collected in 2003" which he hasn't used. The last time I visited the *E. delisseri* site on the Nullarbor I couldn't find any plants. This area was burnt some years ago and I have only seen a few plants since.



The bag of seed (pic of fruit left, from Chinnock) that Ken has not used would have been pretty handy in the bush for these plants to recover from the fire, but the desire for the seed seems to take precedence over the natural regeneration.

While I'm sure there is still plenty of seed still left at the site, it does highlight the need to consider the natural stands over one's desire to grow plants in the garden. Also, given that seed is very difficult to germinate in a garden situation, it seems a damn waste to collect them.

The members of the ESG have developed wonderful techniques in propagating Eremophilas from cuttings, either on their own roots or by grafting, so there should no longer be the need to take seed.

I therefore suggest that members refrain from taking seed from the bush, especially species that are in small populations.

Finally, I hope everyone is aware of the need for a Licence from the WA Department regarding the "taking" of plant material and that they are aware of the Eremophilas that are Declared Rare Flora and the penalties associated with taking that flora.

Eremophila Tour, APS SA members

Tim Wood, on behalf of Northern Yorke Peninsula Eremophila team (Don and Sandra McKenzie, Coral Johnson and Sandra Wood)

This is a report on our pre-ANPSA Albany conference Eremophila tour, organised by the Northern Yorke Peninsula APS members.

We got our eyes in before crossing the Nullarbor, spotting *Eremophila glabra* "Ceduna" near Poochera and *E. parvifolia* just before the WA border. We were ignoring the kilometres of *E. scoparia*, which started before Port Augusta, and was grow with *E. oppositifolia*!

At the head of the bight we found *E. decipiens*, as well as many whales to view. As we crossed the Nullarbor toward Caiguna we began seeing *E. dempsteri*, and occasionally *E. interstans*, white flowering. North of Norseman, at Widgiemooltha, we saw an apricot *E. oppositifolia* and then caught up with *E. ionantha* starting to flower just before Kalgoorlie. We left Kalgoorlie and three kilometres north we stopped to see our first *E. oldfieldii ssp angustifolia*.

We went north to Menzies, but because of lack of rain we turned off toward Lake Ballard. Whilst others were amazed at the iron sculptures, we were amazed by finding yellow *E. miniata* in bud.

We camped near Mt Forrest, on the way to Sandstone. At this gravel pit campsite we found *E. forrestii ssp. forrestii*, both white and pink, *E. simulans*, *E. conglomerata*, *E. latrobei* and *E. glandulifera*. North of our campsite we stopped to admire *E. hygrophana*; well, we had difficulty separating *E. hygrophana* from *E. mackinlayi* but that is another story. We also found *E. pantonii*. As we neared Sandstone, we saw *E. platycalyx*, *E. galeata*, *E. maculata ssp. brevifolia* and *E. gilesii*. There were other plants, including a medley of Ptilotis (don't know what the plural of Ptilotis is) but the Eremophilas kept on coming! Luckily for us, there was a terrific coffee and cake awaiting us at Sandstone to revive our senses.

Driving north from Sandstone toward Meekatharra, we camped at Barlangi rock. The

most stunning plant here was *Dodonaea petiolaris* with its large white and pink, four centimetre wide, winged fruit. Luckily, there were a few Eremophilas – we found *E. serrulata* again as well as *E. exilifolia*. The next day saw us driving toward Mt Gould looking for *E. warnesii*.

We camped on the Yalgah River, having driven through the beauty of kilometres of flowering *E. fraseri* and *E. galeata*. Unfortunately, Mt Gould was devoid of substantial vegetation, having had no rain, so *E. warnesii* eluded us. There were very stressed *E. latrobei*, but that species pops up everywhere!

Driving across the station north of Yalgah river our GPS failed, so we drove on cross country nonetheless guided by *E. eriocalyx*, *E. pantonii*, *E. spathulata*, *E. rigida* and *E. phyllopoda ssp. phyllopoda*. Driving back toward Meekatharra we found *E. clarkeii*, which we must have overlooked before because of the colours of *E. fraseri* and *E. galeata*.

We had some inside WA whispers about some places, so we stayed at Cue to get water and have a shower. We found *E. rostrata* (see pic page 1) as described to us, in the gravel pit. It was a wonder in full flower. *E. flabellata* was there as well, so must get a mention!

Driving out to the "granite garden" we found *E. lachnocalyx* again, as well as two other Eremophilas that we could not name. Driving south toward Mt Magnet, we found *E. compacta ssp. compacta*, *E. folioissima* (below) and *E. georgeii* near Payne's find.

We drove North toward Fields's Find, going past Payne's Find as it was smaller than we thought, but don't tell anyone! We were looking for *E. grandiflora*, but our first plants were *E. forrestii* and a lovely *E. glandulifera*. We hadn't found the *E. grandiflora* so we camped at Field's Find and had a drink and something to eat. The next morning we drove 300 metres and found ourselves staring at bushes of *E. grandiflora* (below) in the midst of *E. galeata*. An unforgettable sight.

We continued north towards Yalgoo, where *E. miniata* was next to *E. youngii* and then a lovely *E. punicea* (below) appeared with *E. clarkei.*

Here we got side-tracked, looking for the wreath Leschenaultia, *Leschenaultia macrantha*, which we found near Yalgoo. We started seeing everlasting daisy fields of pink and yellow. *E. oldfieldii* was still making its presence felt, though.

Whilst our primary love was Eremophilas, if you see *Dasymalla terminalis* (previously *Pityrodia*

terminalis – native foxglove) in full flower, you just have to stop, as we did near Morawa.

A little further south we found *E. nivea*, confined to a roadside verge near Three Springs (including one growing in a wheat crop!). This made us realise the importance of growing Australian plants for conservation. *E. nivea* is widely available commercially but it is quite restricted in its home range. Who knows how it survived spray and fertiliser? We also managed to find *E. waitii* in flower, a new species that recognises Russell Wait's contribution to our knowledge of Eremophilas.

At this stage of our tour, *Verticordia grandis* started appearing and we started looking at other species. *V. grandis* is a show-stopper. Around Buntine rocks, however, we found *E. sargentii*, together with *E. drummondii*. At Wongan Hills we found *E. lehmanniana* to keep interest in Eremophilas alive!

As we ventured into Kwongan heath territory around Eneabba we did, however, find two spectacular *E. glabra*: *E. glabra ssp. tomentosa*, one with orange flowers and one with red flowers, just south of Dongara in another gravel pit. We thought how "could we top this"? Well we did! by finding several Queen of Sheba orchids in flower! So, when we found a green flowering *E. glabra ssp* Arrowsmith near Eneabba, we were back to low excitement levels.

So, in the end, we saw 41 named species of Eremophila, and 3 undiagnosed species. We would have loved to travel to the Mt Augustus region, the Kennedy range and to see a bit more of the Pilbara, but that is for other times.

I should mention that Ron and Claire Dadd allowed us to view their beautiful Eremophila garden at Goomalling. He has over 400 Eremophilas currently planted, with thought given to colours, heights and foliage. Ron imported better soil, but even so, three quarters of his 230 species are grafted, as Ron believes he gets a better growth and flowers doing this. We also viewed Phil James' Eremophila nursery at Kalamunda, and it is fair to say we will return.

Sydney Group Report (Oct. 2019)

Charles Farrugia

Ian Tranter ran the meeting, which was again looking at keying Eremophila (photo of the group from Charles below).

We had no problem identifying *E. rhegos* or *E. compacta.* We could not detect any hairs on the outside of the corolla of either of these species, but the inside of the sepal of *E. rhegos* was densely woolly compared to that of *E. compacta*, where the hairs were on the edges and tip.

We worked out that the one on my garden was *E. compacta ssp. fecunda* and Robb's pink flowering one is *E. compacta ssp. compacta*. We noted that *ssp. fecunda* had noticeably reflexed sepals as the flowers matured, whereas *ssp. compacta* did not. The hair differences on the outsides of the sepals were less clear cut, but those of *ssp. fecunda* were shorter and hence more star-like than the longer, more tree-like sepal hairs of *ssp. compacta*.

We then tried to split *E. hygrophana* and *E. mackinlayi*, but were none the wiser after studying the key, even under the microscope: we could not find any glandular hairs on the leaves or stems; and it was difficult to tell whether the glandular hairs we saw on the sepals were poking through from the inside (like with *E. mackinlayi*) or if they were truly on the outside.

We wondered if we didn't have the true *E. hygrophana*. We had plants from two sources (Lang's and Arid Lands) and thought that both the Arid Lands plants grew more like *E. mackinlayi.* This is my opinion only and I am far from considering myself as an expert.

Advice from Ken Warnes, after the meeting

Ken has advised by email: "It could well be that you may not have both species in Sydney. Everything used to be lumped under *E. hygrophana* without it being really studied carefully under a lens, and I admit to probably not taking enough care at times.

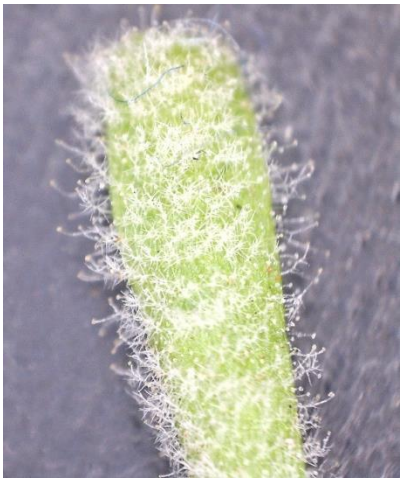
"Even now, with so many hybrids I have never studied them under a lens, I simply tried to record which species was the seed provider. So I might have all sorts of hair variations.

"Bob's key on p.468 implies that you'd find glandular hairs everywhere on the plant, but the species description on p.472 shows the glandular hairs are mainly on the sepals and tips of leaves.

"The sepals on *E. hygrophana* also tend to be longer and narrower than those on *E. mackinlayi.* So perhaps it's worth keeping these in mind."

Notes from Ian Tranter, after the meeting

"I obtained a new leaf and a sepal from an *E. hygrophana* from another source. "Under the microscope I couldn't find any glandular hairs on the leaf, but there is a good array on the outside of the sepal (pic left). This better matches the drawings on p472 of Chinnock."



NEXT SYDNEY MEETING: 8 FEB 2020

Queensland Group report (Oct. 2019)

Nine members and five visitors met at the home of peter and Carol Bevan in Lowood on 19 October. As usual, Peter's nursery was of great interest to the early birds.

We were delighted to have among our visitors Phil and Marlene James from Western Australia. Phil and Marlene are keen Eremophila collectors and have introduced many new species into cultivation, through their Eremophila nursery in the hills east of Perth.

Phil brought with him a presentation on new Eremophila discoveries and newer introductions to commercial nurseries. During his talk a storm rolled in and there was heavy rain for a short time. We were all hoping that this might be the end of the extreme drought that has been gripping most of Queensland. Unfortunately it didn't bring a lot of rain and there has been very little since.

During this rain delay we were fortunate to have among our group Dr Rohan Davis, who was asked to talk about his work at Griffith University in Brisbane on Naturebank. Naturebank stores chemical analyses of plants and can be accessed by those involved in medical research all over the world. I first met Rohan about 10 years ago when he collected some *Eremophila microtheca* cuttings from my garden for analysis. He has invited the group to visit the University next year.

The rain cleared and we were able to spend some time looking at the plants on Peter's Rail Trail. Peter has planted gardens for over one kilometre along the old railway line, which has now become a trail for walkers and bike riders. It begins in Ipswich and ends in Yarraman. Peter's plantings start in the centre of Lowood, and it is very popular with locals and many visitors from further afield. The garden recently won the best native garden award for the Somerset council region and is the site of the optional extra day of the meeting planned for next July/August (see page 22). Well done Peter!!!

Although Peter does not water the plants once they are established, most were looking very healthy, despite the drought. He has commenced

his heavy annual pruning. Eremophilas, Grevilleas, Hibiscus and Brachychitons form the larger part of Peters plantings, but he also has Verdicordias and Darwinias and a rainforest and edible food areas.

After lunch and a plant raffle we all took the opportunity to purchase plants from the nursery.

NEXT MEETING: at the home of Laylee and Steve Purchase, 41 Rocklyn St Toowoomba on the 11 April 2020.

For more information email Jan Glazebrook at **janglazebrook (at) gmail.com**.

Victoria Group Meeting (Nov. 2019)

Twelve members and three visitors from the Wangaratta APS group attended the meeting at Jan Hall's property near Yarrawonga and the Murray River (group pic below).

It was a perfect day weather-wise, and after morning tea it was time to have a look around this beautiful one acre garden. Jan has about 150 Eremophila plants in the garden, with over 120 different species and forms. Together with Glenda Datson they had listed all the Eremophilas and the beds in which they were to be found. The plants were labelled, which made identification very easy, although Jan was keen for a few plants to be looked at as she was not certain they were labelled correctly.

The garden has required a lot of work over the years as it was a flat, bare paddock, so soil had to be imported to create mounds and gypsum added to break up the heavy clay and allow drainage. Jan uses Bush Tucker to feed her plants with good success.

After a tour of the front garden and lunch, David Pye talked to the group about the Eremophilas at Melton Botanic Garden. David asked for thoughts, as the Garden is considering applying for registration of the Eremophila collection with Plant Trust National Plants Collection Register,[5] as Eremophilas suitable for the Western Region of Melbourne.

The Plant Trust wants to retain as wide a range of plants as possible, and is keen to have the Garden register the collection, which currently includes about 180 different species and forms. David explained their focus is on Eremophilas which can be propagated from cuttings and grown on their own roots. Such plants can be made more available in greater numbers and lower prices to gardeners than can grafted plants.

Considerable work is required before registration to ensure that all plants are correctly and fully named, and their garden location mapped. The group agreed that registering the Eremophilas as a collection would be a good idea, particularly as it is a public garden that can retain its collection. It was also recommended that personnel associated with the collection be trained to ensure continuity of management. Plants in the garden are watered for the first year after planting but they have no watering after that time.

David then addressed an issue that arose in the last Eremophila newsletter regarding *Eremophila glabra* Mildura Orange being sold at Melton Botanic Gardens. David says the plant was probably obtained from Goldfields Nursery which sells an *E glabra* Mildura Form.[6] He understands that Marilyn Sprague collected the original material from the Mildura area. David thinks that the handwriting on the label may have been illegible and a volunteer at the nursery only saw the 'or' from form and assumed it was

[5] https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/plants-and-landscapes/plant-trust

[6] As noted in the last Newsletter, the Mildura Form sold by Goldfields nursery is indeed the *E. glabra* form that grows near Mildura and has a maroon flower. The E. "Mildura Orange" was sold by Lang's nursery at Mildura is now ACRA-registered as *E. glabra* Fruit Salad. As we haven't seen a photo of the Mildura Orange plant labelled at Melton, we can't make any sort of decision on which one it is (if either!).

orange and so it became Mildura Orange – but that is only a guess as no one actually knows.

Various members then produced bags of cuttings representing plants growing from 30cm to 1m, which was the theme for the meeting. Having distributed the cuttings (pic below) we moved into the back garden looking at the various Eremophilas and particularly Brachychitons and Eucalyptus, making a beautiful display.

On Sunday, some members of the group were lucky enough to travel to Baranduda, near Wodonga, to see Glenda and Bernie Datson's garden. This garden normally receives about 750mm a year of rain, although this year it is only about 60% of that, but Glenda has a great range of Eremophilas, most of which were thriving in the beautifully landscaped garden.

The numerous bee 'hotels' for the native bees were being used by the native bees and blue-banded and blue-checkered bees were common in the garden. We were privileged to have seen two gardens with an amazing range of Eremophilas grown so well in quite different conditions.

The theme for the next meeting is soils – pH and fertilizers used. Date and venue to be advised.

For further information please contact Neil Duncan on **neilduncan61 (at) gmail.com**.

The Grevillea Study Group has let its members know of a free app. **RFS Buddy** that gives accurate grid co-ordinates for wherever you happen to be. It was developed for the Rural Fire Service and can record locations in MGRS Standard; Aviation; Standard GPS; Degrees, Minutes, Seconds; or Easting Northing.

Field notes can be saved to a list that includes all 5 GPS coordinates of the position recorded.

ESG Field Trip – Queensland, 2020

Dates: **Evening, 31 July 2020 until afternoon on 2 August 2020**; optional to 3 August.

Places: **Warwick, Toowoomba &** (optionally) **Lowood**, Queensland

Keynote Speaker: **Dr Rachael Fowler** Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Melbourne: ***Molecular phylogeny of Eremophila and closely related genera of tribe Myoporeae***

For more on the general program see NL 124.

Bookings will open in January 2020. To register interest please provide your details at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESG2020

For those of you starting to plan, the venue in Warwick is 37 Guy St (Warwick Uniting Church). Hotels within 1km are: 53 on Victoria, Area 51 Warwick, Centrepoint Mid-City Motor Inn, Comfort Inn Warwick, Criterion Hotel, Horse and Jockey Motel, Jackie Howe Motel and Warwick Motor Inn.

Both the caravan parks are some distance away.

Following from the last newsletter on hybrids of *E. drummondii*, Bob Blake has provided the following pic of *E. drummondii x E. rotundifolia*

In Praise of *E. maculata* and its hybrids

John Carter

Canberra, like so many other places in Australia, is in the grip of drought. The most vulnerable places for plants is the nature strip, where plants are out of sight and out of mind.

During my regular walk around the suburb I have come across a neglected nature strip garden where plants have been suffering because of the drought. The drought-resistant *Philotheca myoporoides* and *Correa* 'Marian's Marvel' have died back significantly, but the fully exposed *Eremophila maculata* is thriving.

I have found *Eremophila racemosa* to be a difficult plant to grow. Its hybrid with *Eremophila maculata*, on the other hand, thrives in the Canberra conditions. In the grip of a Canberra winter this plant shrugged off a minus 6°C frost without damage and grew continuously throughout this harshest of seasons (pic next column).

Website Image Gallery

Brian Walters has have added photos of *E. maculata* 'Carmine Star' and *E. maculata* 'Aurea' to the cultivar images (and sent both pics to ACRA), plus the new *E. waitii* and *E. viridissima*. We still need the following if anyone has them:

- *E. pallida, E petrophila, E. phillipsii, E. pungens*
- *E saligna, E. sargentii, E. setacea, E. shonae, E. simulans, E. spathulata, E. spinescens, E. spongiocarpa, E. spuria, E. stenophylla, E. sturtii, E. succinea*
- *E. tenella, E. ternifolia*
- *E. vernicosa, E. veronica, E verrucosa* (two subspecies),

That's it!! (at least for the moment). See the gallery at http://www.anpsa.org.au/eremophilaSG/gallery/

From Your Letters/Emails

Dick Harding (Qld): I have recently had some success with propagating *Eremophila forrestii* from cuttings (Newsletter 119 February 2018). For *E. forrestii ssp. forrestii*, I have potted nine rooted plugs from ten cuttings taken in May. For *E. forrestii ssp. hastieana* I have potted four from six cuttings taken in early June.

I am in Brisbane and use Clonex purple undiluted, 35mm Preforma Plugs and bottom heat. I wonder if your respondent from the

Brisbane Valley was the one member reporting success in that article.

I can also report that at Myall Park Botanic Garden, 330km west of Brisbane as the crow flies, there is an *E. forrestii ssp. hastieana* that was planted (as *E. hastieana*) in 1993. It is still strong despite some crowding from neighbouring plants. *E. forrestii ssp. forrestii* also performs well there.

Ken Warnes (SA): (September) Frost is not a major problem for me, but we had one last week that has browned off several young plants and set them back just when they should be making strong Spring growth to get them through Summer. Time will tell the level of damage done.

I thought you might also like this photo (below) for the Newsletter. The sky-blue on the left is *Halgania erecta*, otherwise straight Eremophilas. They were table centres for the local Lion's Youth of the Year Dinner, in oasis in terra-cotta pots. Apparently many favourable comments, where can I buy them, can I grow them from cuttings etc. All were taken home.

Had the drippers on today for the first time, it's drying out fast. *E. muelleriana* in full flower at present but it's too dark to be really pretty, in my opinion. Spectacular yes, pretty no.

Currently trying to find young plants in a mass of weeds a foot high, I'm getting too old for this caper. If my plants grew like the weeds I wouldn't be able to get through the gate.

(…and November) It has been a great year for those related to *E. paisleyi*; *E. caperata* was superb, also *E. sulcata* and *E. falcata*. I photographed them all.

One of the *E. sulcata* fire seedlings flowered for the first time and I suspect it has crossed with *E. caperata*. They're all very close.

Brown and Buirchell don't recognise *E. sulcata* as a species, even Bob Chinnock now says that it's probably an *E. falcata* sub-species. Whatever, it's very distinctive, with its grooved or sulcate leaf profile.

Left – Ken's pic of Rainbow Connection, a presumed E prostrata x E willsii hybrid

Happy Mac

Lorelei Bartkowski, from near Toowoomba, posted a large batch of photos on the Facebook Australian Native Plant Enthusiasts Forum at the end of October.

She included Happy Mac, below. We don't know from what nursery this is sourced, but Russell Wait has ventured that it is a pale pink form of *E. maculata ssp brevifolia* (i.e. not a hybrid).

Lorelei says it has lots of flowers. It is included to let members know of another nursery-named variety available commercially.

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About the Study Group

The Eremophila Study Group aims to further knowledge about the cultivation, propagation and conservation of the 200+ species of Eremophilas, an endemic genus of Australian plants. It is one of several Study Groups which operates under the auspices of the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership is $5 per annum. Subscriptions for a financial year can be sent by cheque posted to **3 Considine Close Greenleigh NSW 2620** or (preferably) paid by direct deposit into the Group's bank account:

BSB: 105-125
Bank name: **Bank of South Australia**

Account No.: 013 751 340
A/c name: **ASGAP Eremophila Study Group**

Please put your surname and state/group membership in direct deposit details

ANPSA policy is that regional groups pay for two subscriptions in recognition that Study Group material will be used by several group members

New members, please download the application form from our website and send with your cheque/transfer (details below) http://anpsa.org.au/eremophilaSG/index.html

Study Groups allow members with specific interests to develop that interest to the fullest extent and to contribute in a practical way to the body of knowledge on the Australian flora. Active members collect information on the genus and send their observations to the leader who collates and publishes the information, in a newsletter or in other Society publications. The Study Group can record any aspect of cultivation, propagation and ecology of the preferred genus. Study Groups are expected to publish at least two newsletters per year.

In addition to paying annual fees, members must also be members of an ANPSA-affiliated regional society (http://anpsa.org.au/region.html).

This Study Group aims to study the cultivation and propagation of the genus *Eremophila*; to expand cultivation of *Eremophila* in gardens; and to examine the growing requirements of the various species to improve their reliability.

Leader: Dr Lyndal Thorburn, Life Member of ANPS Canberra. Contact her through lthorburn (at) viria.com.au or phone 0418 972 438 or 02 6297 2437 Address: 3 Considine Close Greenleigh NSW 2620

Honorary members: Ken Warnes and Russell Wait

Newsletters are available in Black and White by post and in COLOUR by email or CD.

For more general information about Study Groups, contact **Ms Jane Fountain** Coordinator, Study Groups, Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (jlfountain5 (at) gmail.com)

NEXT NEWSLETTER JAN/FEB 2020

FOR SALE

DVDs of all the formal presentations from the September 2017 SA field trip

To purchase, deposit $12 in the Study Group account and email the Editor with your details

WE ONLY HAVE 4 DVDs LEFT – GET IN QUICK IF YOU WANT ONE!