

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA)

Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No. 128

September 2020

Eremophila miniata (pic Russell Wait)



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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to this newsletter, which comes to you in the middle of various lockdowns and restrictions, courtesy of COVID19.

Against almost all odds we managed to hold the get together in Queensland in late July/early August. When the Queensland border opened during July, we decided not to delay it until September, even though we were aware this was going to exclude our Victorian members, who have been, and still are, in their own lockdown. In the end this was just as well, as Queensland shut its borders again on 8 August. In the meantime, most NSW and all SA members who were registered were hit by various other problems, meaning that in the end the event was attended by members from the ACT and surrounds, and Queensland. We had a very successful meeting and I have provided a link to slides and recordings of the presentations for those who registered but had to cancel. There will be more about these presentations, and the garden visits, in future newsletters.

In the meantime, thanks to all of you who responded to the What are you Growing Survey. I had 60 responses, including some from people who are not members but who subscribe to the Native Plant Enthusiasts' Facebook page. I have started analysing the results and will present these in later newsletters.

Gardening Australia (ABC TV) toured a an Eremophila-laden garden in SA in a recent episode. There were plenty of Eremophilas on display – but the presenter made some negative comments, including “they are hard to grow, aren't they??”. We still have a long way to go to educate gardeners about the genus!!! Our **special issue of the Australian Plants Journal in September 2020** (see page 17) will hopefully go some way to helping correct misconceptions.

Stay safe everyone



Lyndal Thorburn
Leader and Editor



What's New in the Study Group

New members

We welcome Betty Armbruster (Qld), Carol Cave (Qld), David Copley (SA), Annabelle Greenup and Anthony O'Halloran (NSW), Matthew Hales (SA), John and Lois James (Qld), Arthur Kelly (NSW), Gavin Moran and Juanita Morton (ACT), Fran Middleton (ACT), Christine Purchase (Qld), Lara Solyma (Qld), Nella Smith (NSW) and Jan Webster (Vic).

We now have 150 members!!

Eremophilas in the News

An article on *Eremophila viscida* “Rare and Shy Sticky Emu Bush Likes to be Disturbed” was published on 28 April 2020 in Talking Plants <http://talkingplants.blogspot.com/2020/04/rare-and-shy-sticky-emu-bush-likes-to.html>. *E. viscida* is known in the wild from only 16 populations (total 800 plants) in WA, and is an opportunist, growing in disturbed sites. While populations of rare species are usually fenced off, for *E. viscida* disturbance is required.

Part One of Heather Ewert's **Back Roads** ABC TV program on the Nullarbor Plain (first aired on 8 June 2020) included coverage of Aboriginal women at Yalata, SA making their Eremophila-based traditional medicine.

Those of you going to the **FJC Rogers Seminar** in on 24-25 October in Eltham, Victoria (<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/> - website says it is still on), note that one of the Open Gardens is hosted by Lyhn Barwick, who is an ESG member based in Research, Vic, and grows 60 species of Eremophila.

Member recognition

We congratulate Ian Cox (NSW), who was awarded Life Membership of APS NSW in May 2020. Ian's nomination is at <https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/congratulations-to-life-member-ian-cox/>

We also congratulate Peter Olde, ESG member and leader of the Grevillea Study Group, for his Medal (OAM) in the 'General Division', for services to Australian native flora, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2020.

Feature species – *E. miniata*

Lyndal Thorburn, with input from Study Group members growing the species

Eremophila miniata is one of my favourite Eremophilas. I first saw them in Ken Warnes' plantation outside of Owen, SA, where I was immediately struck by the range of colours on show.

The species is found naturally in Western Australia, where it grows on what Bob Chinnock describes as “sandy rises or powdery clay loams on the margins of salt lakes.” In the wild they are found south east of Geraldton in a band towards and past Kalgoorlie, stopping level with Perth at its southernmost point (that is, primarily in the Goldfields biogeographic region). Plants have also been found north from Kalgoorlie into the Wiluna region. There are a few isolated records in the Gascoyne region around Exmouth.

Branches are thick, brittle and mostly bare, with spirally arranged leaf scars. Chinnock notes that these are its most distinctive characteristic. The leaves themselves grow on the tips of each branch and the flowers are well-displayed towards the ends of branches. The photo by Russell Wait, below, was taken near Dalwallinu, WA.



The name “miniata” in Latin means “red” (Chinnock refers to it as “flame scarlet”). Andrew Brown took the photo next column

showing the bright flowers in the wild, at Lake Ballard.



Brown and Buirchell recognise two sub-species.

E. miniata ssp. miniata

The first, *E. miniata ssp. miniata* (Kopi Poverty Bush) grows from 1.5m to 5m high with red, pink or yellow flowers. The photo below, taken by Chris Strachan, is of a pink-flowered specimen at Owen, SA.



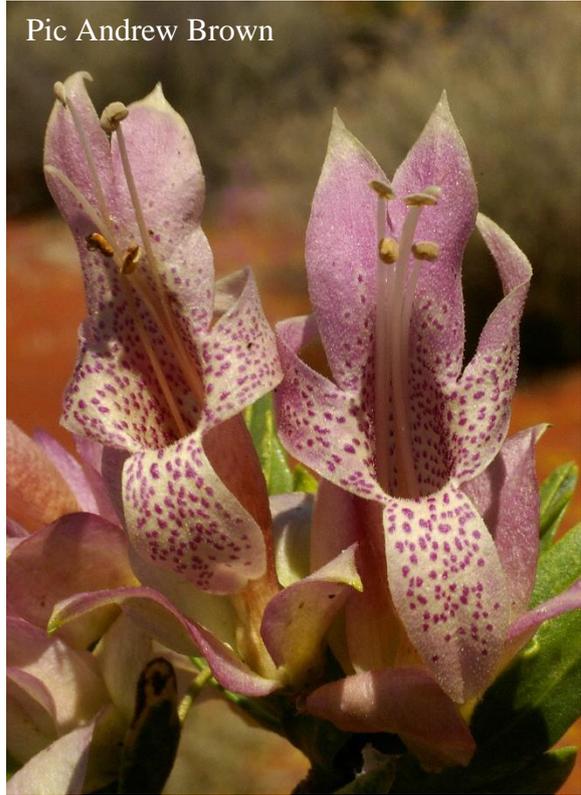
Below and over page are some other examples of the colour range:



Pic Andrew Brown



Pic Andrew Brown



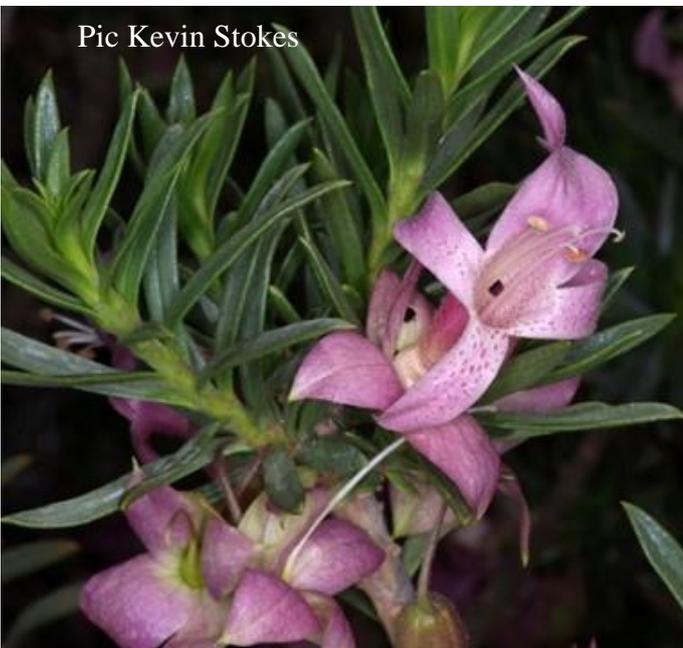
Pic Kevin Stokes



Pic Andrew Brown



Pic Kevin Stokes



Pic Andrew Brown





As can be seen from these photos, the flowers may be spotted or unspotted on the inside of the corolla. The sepals are a similar colour to the corolla and the calyx persists after the flower falls.

There is another colour form, of which we have no pictures, that has a yellow bud and yellow calyx, but the flower is pale pink.

***E. miniata* ssp. Plumridge**

The second sub-species is distinguished by its shorter corolla lobes and salmon flowers and sepals. It also grows up to 5m tall and its leaves are very similar to those of other sub-species. It is found only near the Plumridge Lakes near Kalgoorlie and grows with *Acacia* and *Atriplex* species. The photo below is by Andrew Brown.



Horticulture

E. miniata flowers from late spring to mid-summer. According to Boschen, Goods and Wait it will grow in a wide range of soils and appreciates full sun. It does well with limited additional water.

It is also tolerant of frost. Members have untouched plants in regions getting -2.4°C harsh frost (around Kadina) and -5°C (Riverland, SA). Peter and Marion Lang (Vic) also reports a series of frosts down to about -1.5°C , with no damage to an established plant. However, frosts can damage young plants and Bev Rice reports that a late frost can damage flower buds and can lead to a poor flowering season.

E. miniata can be pruned lightly and pruning will encourage bushiness if done regularly. Pruning can be difficult, however, as the leaves are at the ends of the branches.

E. miniata is also recommended for attracting nectar-feeding birds and can be used as a feature plant. It flowers well from a young age.

Members report various experiences with how long this species lives in the garden. Ken Warnes says some of his die after only 5 years. He thinks this might be due to a lack of gypsum in the home garden compared to where it is found in its natural habitat.

Tim Wood (SA) reports having a red grafted *E. miniata* growing strongly (3.5 metres tall currently) for 6 years on quite alkaline soil and has noted others of the same species growing strongly in his local area. Don and Chris Lill also have a plant of similar age, 7 years.

Pater and Marion Lang have a plant that lived in a pot for many years and was then transplanted into the garden. With the stunting from being in a pot too long, in the ground it is only about 1 metre high. They have attempted to promote more growth by fertilising with slow release fertilisers. That hasn't really produced a beneficial result. The plant itself would be more than 10 years old.

Norma Boschen (Vic) has had grafted plants live for 12 years and reach 2m high. She has another of similar age that is on its own roots

and is currently 4m high. She has yet another, of the elusive yellow-calyx-pink-flower variety, which is 20 years old and seems to enjoy living over a drain (noting that Norma is living in a dry part of Victoria!). Chris Strachan also reports a plant of 15-18 years old in her garden in Melbourne.

Ron Dadds (WA) has one (a seedling!) in his garden in WA that is 15 years old, and three grafted specimens each 5 years old. He notes that the two he has from the wheatbelt are growing better than the example he has from east of Menzies and he has not been able to grow the “fatter leaf form” from near Exmouth.

Bev Rice (SA) has an apricot/cream form which is 25 years old and is grafted onto *M. acuminatum*. She says both of her plants are on red clay and get no additional water, only natural rainfall. Russell Wait has also had a specimen up to 25 years old in his former residence in Western Victoria.

It is possible that in wetter areas they are also shorter-lived, as Jan Glazebrook (Qld) says none of hers have lived for more than 5 years.

Propagation

E. miniata can be propagated from cuttings but with difficulty. Norma Boschen managed (to her surprised) to grow one from a cutting and Ken Warnes reports that Tony Clark had some success with cuttings in IBA 1800ppm. Bev Rice reports being able to strike cuttings but then they don't grow!! Hence, it is best propagated by grafting.

Hybrids

There are two hybrids known – with *E. viridissima* and *E. viscida*.

E. miniata x viridissima

This hybrid is reported in Brown and Buirchell's Field Guide to the Eremophilas of WA as occurring naturally near Leonora, WA, west of the Leonora-Mt Ida road. *E. viridissima* was formerly named *E. glabra ssp. verrucosa*. Both parents grow commonly in the area. The picture next column is by Andrew Brown. This hybrid is not in cultivation.



E. miniata x E. viscida

This hybrid was reported in the November 2016 ESG Newsletter when *E. viscida* was the feature species. It was found in the wild by Russell Wait. It is a large but sparse shrub 3.2m high x 1.3m wide, with a vivid green leaf. Its leaf habit is similar to the *E. miniata* parent.



This hybrid has a pinkish lilac flower. The flower is lighter inside the corolla, which has dark spots. The sepals are cream and age to pale lilac from the tips inwards.

The photos below are by Russell Wait and David Oldfield.



E. miniata is worth growing for its wonderful colour forms alone, but it seems as if most of us will need to obtain a grafted plant. It isn't commonly available in nurseries (but it should be!!).

Gardening with Angus

Lyndal Thorburn

In May, I approached **Gardening with Angus** (www.gardeningwithangus.com.au) about getting our Eremophila-selling nurseries list, published in the May 2020 newsletter, mentioned on his website. He turned out to be keen to promote Eremophila and I have since provided an article on the genus, now at <https://www.gardeningwithangus.com.au/eremophila-the-genus-as-a-garden-subject/>. The article links to the ANPSA website, our membership form, our image gallery and the Where to Buy nursery list.

The medium-term plan is to provide Angus with photos of newly released forms, showing how big the plants get, to supplement information

available on the plant label, which normally only shows the closeup of the flower. They have agreed to credit the photographers who provide the photos.

The first five cultivars (most are registered) for which I have provided images and a small amount of text are *E. glabra* 'Fruit Salad', *E. calorhabdos* x *splendens* Beryl's Gem, *E. bignoniiflora* x *E. viscida* 'Meringur Midnight', *E. bignoniiflora* x *E. polyclada* 'Meringur Isaac' and *E. oppositifolia* ssp. *oppositifolia* 'Ray's Blue'.

An example of an entry can be found at <https://www.gardeningwithangus.com.au/eremophila-glabra-ssp-carnosa-fruit-salad/> but the others are readily searchable on the site.

At the bottom of each page is a list of stockists.

Longer-term, Angus is writing a book on water-wise gardening and wants to feature Eremophila in it for home gardens.

New Taxonomic Analysis published

Rachael Fowler's first academic article on her Eremophila research has been published – *Plastid Phylogenomic Analysis of tribe Myoporaceae (Scrophulariaceae)* – in *Plant Systematics and Evolution*, 306, Article number 52 (2020). It is co-authored with Todd McLay, Tanja Schuster, Bevan Buirchell, Daniel Murphy and Michael Bayly.

The analysis reports that a group of Western Australian samples is distinct from group of eastern Australian samples.

The analysis also concludes that the current divisions between the genera in the family cannot be substantiated. This means that the current dividing lines between *Bontia*, *Eremophila*, *Glycosystis*, *Leucophyllum*, *Myoporum* and *Penatcoelium* are incorrect, based on genetic study.

However, the authors accept that further work is required through studying a larger number of samples and also analysing nuclear DNA. This work has been done and further publication are awaited. Some name changes may be in the offing.

Juvenile Foliage on *E. pterocarpa*

Ian Cox

Towards the end of 2019 my grafted *Eremophila pterocarpa* was looking to be in need of pruning, as it wasn't flowering well and was also looking a bit tired. So, being cautious, I pruned half of it. Nothing happened for two or three months, and then it began shooting. But it wasn't the normal foliage one would expect.

Photos taken 30 March 2020. In the first photo you can see the unusual regrowth below.



Below, the Myoporium rootstock shoots.



The next photos (next column) were taken on 15 April 2020. The top shoots seem to be getting more like the usual *E. pterocarpa*.



The photo below shows "normal" foliage.



This last photo (below) taken 19 August 2020 shows that recent new growth looks like regular *E. pterocarpa* foliage. Phew – that's a relief! I was beginning to wonder if it might have been another chimera. I've grown *E. pterocarpa* before, and don't remember seeing this happen. I'll now prune the remaining half of the plant.



Unusual Sport from *E. maculata* x *racemosa* ‘Fairy Floss’

Ian Tranter

Eremophila maculata x *racemosa* ‘Fairy Floss’ is a commonly available cultivar which was registered by the Study Group last year. It has a distinctive orange buds, and a pink flower with white hairs inside the corolla (hence the cultivar name – though it is also sold as Old Man’s Beard in WA).

In November 2019 Jan Simpson, a member of the ANPS Canberra Propagation Group, brought a small branch of Eremophila Fairy Floss which had yellow buds and pale lemon to white flowers, much like *E. racemosa* Peaches and Cream. Some twigs had all one colour flower, but most were mixed but, in each case, flowers had one colour or the other. In some cases, the two flower types were next to each other, so it did not appear as if a single sport had occurred, as some of the pink flowers were further along the branch from the white ones.

I took cuttings, choosing those with only white flowers, those with only pink flowers, and those with both or no flowers. Like ‘Fairy Floss’, all rooted quickly and well. From the 6 stems with white flowers the following plants grew: 5 white and one pink. From the 9 pink flowered stems: two white, 1 white plus mixed, 5 pink, one unknown. From the 10 mixed or no flowered stems: 7 pink, two pink but lower stems white, one pink but a mixed flower lower.

It seems fairly clear that this is a straightforward sport that should be stable. There will be random increases and decreases of the different cells in the meristem and once one takes over there will be no turning back. If the yellow cells are more competitive (they could have more energy to spend on growing if they spend less on red pigment production) this could happen faster. It could be that some of the yellow ones do have a few orange cells in the meristem but that won’t show up until a flower is produced at exactly that radiant of the stem. It is also likely that the yellow mutation is only at one of the three cell levels of the meristem (skin, middle or core). My guess is the red is produced in the skin cells. This means that if there is damage to a branch and a shoot develops from one of the other layers it would be orange, as per normal sports.

Pics below: comparison of the white/yellow and “normal” colour form of *E. ‘Fairy Floss’* (below left) and one unusual stripy flower caused by its location at the junction of “red” and “green” stemmed cells (below right).



Bonsai with Eremophila

Jim Hayward

When we arrived at our new house in Port Augusta, six years ago, there was a lovely purple/lilac flowering Eremophila bordering the driveway. Within a couple of months, I had found the wonderful Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden and purchased *Eremophila racemosa* with yellow buds, about to come into flower. I thought the yellow would complement the purple/lilac. Well, you guessed it, *E. racemosa* has yellow buds which flower... purple/lilac! So much to learn. It comes from a restricted area north of Ravensthorpe in WA, is an erect shrub less than a metre in height and enjoys an arid climate.



So began a relationship with the Arid Lands Garden. A little while later I wondered whether I could bonsai *Ficus platypoda*, the rock fig... and it worked! And suddenly there were others interested in Australian native plants as bonsai, and we established an interest group which we called the BIG Friends (BIG = Bonsai Interest Group) in association with the Friends of the AALBG.

Then Peter Hall gave me my first Eremophila to try, *E. tetraptera*. It grew well in its blue bonsai pot (left), giving me the confidence to play with other potential bonsai plants.



Sadly, when I moved to Adelaide last year, it and its mate (also left), died in the winter. Too much water for an arid plant, I suspect. I looked after them for two years in Port Augusta, and they didn't last 6 months in Adelaide. I have one other I bring under cover now when it rains!

I didn't know any better, so I tried my *E. racemosa* as a bonsai as well. Having acquired a tubestock specimen I potted it on, gave it some Bush Tucker fertiliser and was pleased to see some new growth (over, left). That was early 2018. It is now (over, middle) pruned and wired. It flowered last spring and is about to flower again. If you look very closely you will see one lilac flower. *E. racemosa*

likes full sun, and I am making sure I don't overwater it. Eremophila means 'desert loving' ... for a very good reason.



My next attempt with *E. racemosa*, also tubestock from the Arid Lands Botanic Garden, was again given Bush Tucker fertiliser in late 2018 and is still in its trainer pot. It is growing well, looking very healthy, and even seems to have some new growth on old wood (below left). I hope I have done the right thing in pruning it recently (below right) – Ouch!



Below left is my specimen of *E. decipiens ssp. linearifolia*. The photo below right shows the effect of pruning and wiring.



E. racemosa is my best to date. I'm also playing with a couple of *E. maculata*, some *E. alternifolia* and *E. oppositifolia*. I still have some in my nursery spot at the Arid Lands Garden in Pt Augusta, that I have not seen in 3 months or more, with our lockdown.

With thanks to the Victorian Native Bonsai Club for their wonderful support in all this.

Art Project for Threatened Species

The last newsletter mentioned The Life Sustainable (www.thelifesustainable.com.au) project which sought “teeny tiny artworks” for a **Day of the Species** art installation in September. All the threatened Eremophila have been included in the installation (some are illustrated below).



The plants and animals in the display were all drawn onto recycled cardboard and were given their common names. The display will be virtual and will tour when it is feasible. See www.facebook.com – Day of the Species

Eremophila and Native Bees

Lyndal Thorburn

Wendy Grimm, of the APS NSW North Shore Group, contacted me in autumn to identify a plant, which turned out to be an *E. oppositifolia*, at the Australian Arid Land Botanic Gardens.

She had seen three native bees on it. The first of these was a Teddy Bear Bee (*Amegilla* sp.) – next column – a solitary species which builds its nest in the soil.



The second bee, below, is believed to be a Chequered Cuckoo Bee (*Thyreus caeruleopunctatus*), on the same plant. Like the cuckoo birds, these bees lay their eggs in the nests of other bees (often the blue-banded bee).



There was a third bee she couldn't identify, so I sent the picture (over) to a Canberra contact, who identified it as a likely *Hylaenus desertores*.

This is a genus of yellow-faced bees. Their unique characteristic is that they don't carry pollen on their legs but in a special crop (the yellow legs on this specimen are part of the bee, rather than being pollen). What is better, he believes it is a first record of this species in South Australia.



In the meantime, I mentioned my interest in native bees and Eremophila to Anthony O'Halloran, co-proprietor of Bilby Blooms. Anthony has provided the two photos below, of bees on their nursery stock: a blue-banded bee on *E. nivea* and an unknown bee on *E. adenotricha*.



Growing Eremophila from Seed

Hans Griesser

My son Hannes and I have been interested in the discussions on germinating Eremophila seeds.

After destroying many seeds while trying to cut open fruits, Hannes created an ingenious way of controlling the closing motion of the secatours. This, plus his keen, youthful eyesight, allows him to cut through the wall of the fruit without damaging the inside. He has been able to extract undamaged seeds even though, to our surprise, many fruits do not contain any seeds at all.

Even fruits that were still a bit green gave useful seeds. And we definitely did not see any need for an emu or extended soaking to remove germination inhibitors. I'd say that the inhibition arises simply from the water-impermeable fruit capsule before it starts cracking with age.

We are now raising *Eremophila arenaria* seedlings from fruits that a friend brought back from an Outback trip. Ken (Warnes) has wondered whether this taxon is not a species but a hybrid; if so, seedlings might be variable, as Hannes and I saw when we grew seedlings from a Grevillea hybrid, which showed marked variations in leaf shapes.

Unfortunately, however, our Eremophila seedlings were quite prone to damping off (it's quite a bit moister here than out where they live), so we have only two seedlings of *E. arenaria* that are growing well and, so far, they look the same (below). Larger numbers are needed, however. In the same vein, Hannes



germinated and grew one seedling from *E. racemosa* x *E. maculata*. That seedling is now in the garden and it looks a bit different to the parent plant, more towards the *E. maculata* looks. But it hasn't flowered yet, so

there is more to come.

We were also interested in looking at seeds from a plant that is said to be a hybrid between *E. cuneifolia* and *E. fraseri* (plant below – pic Lorelei Bartowski), but so far every seed capsule we opened has turned out to be empty. Pollinators missing?

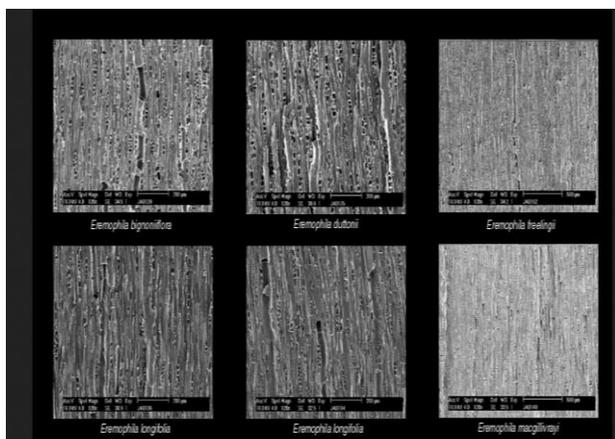


In addition to those, Hannes has also used seeds of *E. macdonnellii* (Simpson Desert form) for the simple reason that we have lots of seed capsules with which to practise.

Eremophila as Hardwood

Lyndal Thorburn

Wandering around the internet, as one does, I have come across a LUCID-based key to Arid Australian hardwood species. This includes information about the wood of Myoporaceae (now Scrophulariaceae, Eremophila’s family) and covers one Myoporum and 7 *Eremophila* species. It is worth a look, as it covers characteristics we don’t normally think about. As the URL is long, I suggest you find it by entering “Australian Arid Hardwood Key LUCID” into your favourite web browser. The pic below is of Eremophila hardwood grain.



Eremophila for Christmas?

Lyndal Thorburn

Are you interested in inflicting your fetish for Eremophila on your relatives for Christmas? There are two sites online through which you can order items adorned with Eremophilas. Both promote artists’ original work.

The first is www.redbubble.com, a Melbourne-based ASX-listed company. It mainly has Eremophila photos, reproduced on canvas, greeting cards, mugs, shoulder bags, pillows,



some clothing, and laptop covers. There are about 60 Eremophila pictures available on the site. A throw pillow is shown at left as an example.

Redbubble claims over 500,000 online artists, who they pay at a flat rate of 14% of the retail price.

The second site is US-based www.spoonflower.com. They offer 12 Eremophila designs which can be applied to bedding, placemats, tea towels, face masks, pillows, tablecloths and wallpaper. I bought the gifts for our recent event speakers from this site (below) – tea towels and placemats.



Spoonflower pays artists between 10% and 14% of the US\$ sale price, with larger sales attracting the higher rate.



ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS!!!

Separating *E. glabra* x *maculata* hybrids

Ian Tranter

I bought a plant from Lang's Nursery (pre 2010) that was clearly an *E. glabra* x *E. maculata* hybrid. Langs said they had obtained cuttings from Russell Wait, who advised it was one of the other offspring of the mating which led to 'Beryl's Lipstick'. This explained the very similar flowers. Russell didn't think much of it and wasn't willing to nominate a name. I felt it had significant garden potential and in consultation with Lyndal Thorburn suggested the Mallee Lipstick name to refer to the sister relationship with Beryl's Lipstick. This was submitted for registration with ACRA as Mallee Lipstick with ACRA last year.

When young, it doesn't have as many flowers as some other forms and the leaves aren't anything special, but it is far more vigorous than Beryl's Lipstick, it handles the cold better, it is quite floriferous when mature and I think the bright pink against the grey green leaves looks great. Ros Walcott has a couple of large plants as well, pruned to about 20cm and making a great ground cover. It is illustrated below (pic Phil Green).



I picked up another *E. glabra* x *maculata* from Arid Lands Botanic Gardens' nursery in 2017, and it is very similar but is not identical to Mallee Lipstick. The most distinct difference is that flowers of the AALBG hybrid have a yellow hue underneath and inside, whereas Mallee Lipstick have just pink and white (see comparison pic next column). The flowers of the AALBG hybrid also stay redder than those of Mallee Lipstick when mature (ML goes pinkish). It may be another sibling from

Russell's Natya seedling plantation. AALBG is selling it as *E. glabra* x *maculata*.



Below is a photo of the outside of the AALBG plant (top) and Mallee Lipstick (bottom).



At the recent event in Queensland in 2020, I also bought a similar plant, named Trish's Pick. Trish's Pick and Mallee Lipstick have the same leaf and flower shape and colour. The only slight difference is that Trish's Pick has a bit of yellow on the buds, but some Mallee Lipstick buds also have this. Could this indicate a different seedling or growth in a different location and season? From observations, the growth form of Trish's Pick is the same as that of Mallee Lipstick.

Below are pics of both from underside and above, with Mallee Lipstick at the top and Trish’s Pick at the bottom. I have come to the conclusion that they are the same.



Trish’s Pick vs Mallee Lipstick comparison of characters:

- Leaves: Length - both 15-25mm, Width – TP 4-7mm, ML 4-8mm, no stalk, alternate, lightly haired
- Flowers: pedicel – both 4-5mm, base – bulbous pale white, sepals – sharply pointed 4-5mm, bud – dark red/pink (some hint of yellow in the TP buds), corolla – maturing to pink (20-25mm). Stamens and anthers extend up to 15mm, petals are pointed, top two bent up, second two curled back and up, bottom curled right around, outside colour solid except for a pale/white underneath, throat with a pink fringe around the edges and pale/white inside with tiny pink spots (TP inside and bottom pale yellow in buds, and some ML buds like this).

- Habit (TP below): variable, depending on pruning.



reaches 0.7m x 1.5m.

With heavy pruning it can be kept low (0.3m). If edges pruned it will rise to 1m, left to itself it

Addendum from your editor:

At the end of the Lowood Rail Trail closest to the town grows yet another *E. glabra x maculata* hybrid, which Peter Bevan sells as ‘Happy Mac’ (a nod to Crazy Mac which is the same cross but has yellow/orange flowers). It has grey-green leaves similar in colour to those described above but closer in shape to *E. maculata ssp. brevifolia*. Flowers are very similar to ‘Mallee Lipstick’ but are in terminal sprays of 15-20 per branch. It also grows taller (~1m) and looks to be suitable for hedging. It was in full flowering glory when we visited in late July (pics below).



Ian Tranter is would like a better list of these crosses and

invites members to let him know of other *E. glabra x E. maculata* hybrids and their characteristics. Contact him at [ian.tranter \(at\) exemail.com.au](mailto:ian.tranter@exemail.com.au) .

A Small Trip in SA, and Aged Plants

Tim Wood

I had great trip recently with Ken Warnes to find *E. platythamnus*, but after four years with no rain they were gone... It could have been that after so long they had gone back to a dry stick, but we couldn't even identify that.

The trip was to Hiltaba Station in the Gawler ranges – a Nature Foundation reserve – and we saw, despite the drought, *E. crassifolia*, *E. weldii*, *E. oppositifolia* (including a pure white, not cream, flowering form), *E. serrulata*, *E. alternifolia*, *E. glabra* and *E. desertii*. We saw some *E. alternifolia* with huge girth that got us thinking (pic below).



Ken thinks creating log of how long Eremophilas live is a worthwhile thing both in nature and gardens. I am willing to start this off – please contact me if you'd like to contribute.

**PLEASE REPLY TO TIM IF YOU WANT
TO CONTRIBUTE TO A DATABASE ON
LONGEVITY OF EREMOPHILA
DRSPOCK52 (at) gmail.com**

We also found really special *E. glabra*! Ken and I have cuttings and a graft happening – pic below!



September 2020 Issue of Australian Plants

I have finalised the September 2020 issue of the Australian Plants Journal, on Eremophila.

Many thanks to the authors who made this possible: Andrew Brown, Rachael Fowler, Susan Semple, Russell Wait, Ros Walcott and Ken Warnes. All have been working hard on their articles since May.

These also provided most of the photos. I'd also like to recognise additional photographers Bevan Buirchell, Bob Chinnock, Charles Farrugia, Brian Freeman, Phil Hempel, John Newton, Graeme Nicholls, Bernie Shanahan and Ben Walcott.



Copies will be available from the ESG Editor for \$6.00 plus postage (if you don't already subscribe to the journal). The cover is adorned with a lovely Russell Wait picture of *E. 'Beryl's Lipstick'*.

Recent Cultivar Registrations

Here is a summary of cultivars registered by the Study Group with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) and which are now more widely available commercially. Those listed below as ‘pending’ are registered but we do not yet have the ACRA numbers and they are not yet on the ACRA website. All can be struck from cuttings and can be pruned.

MERINGUR MIDNIGHT (ACRA 1508)

Origin: Russell Wait (garden seedling from *E. bignoniiflora* seed)

Parentage: *E. bignoniiflora* x *E. viscida*

Description: medium shrub with a pendulous habit growing 3-4m x 2-3m. Attractive green linear leaves with spectacular largish elongated purple flowers 35mm x 10mm

Flowering: Winter through spring

Uses: feature large shrub

Availability: commercial nurseries via Native Plant Wholesalers (NPW) or Russell Wait (RW)



CRAZY GAL (ACRA PENDING)

Origin: Russell Wait (garden seedling from *E. maculata* seed)

Parentage: *E. glabra* x *E. maculata*

Description: Dense shrub, 1.5m x 1.5m, leaves: grey green, flowers: red with an orange throat 30mm x 15mm

Flowering: June to October Uses: Feature plant

Availability: from NPW or RW

MERINGUR RAY (ACRA PENDING)

Origin: arose in Russell Wait's garden, named after Ray Schilling

Parentage: *E. bignoniiflora* x *purpurascens*

Description: Upright dense shrub growing 3-4m x 2-3m with brilliant, bright cerise flowers.

Flowering: August to January

Uses: Screening, hedging, windbreak

Availability: NPW



SPITFIRE (ACRA 1657)

Origin: Russell Wait (garden seedling)

Parentage: *E. maculata* x *E. splendens*

Description: Shrub 1.8m x 1m, leaves : green, flowers: deep red

Flowering: September – January

Uses: feature plant

Availability: NPW or Russell Wait

FRUIT SALAD (ACRA PENDING)

Origin: garden selection by Ray Schilling, brought into cultivation by Lang’s Nursery, Mildura

Parentage: *E. glabra* subsp. *Carnosa*

Description: Ground cover, which *glabra*. In open areas grows 0.2m x 3m. Amongst other plants it will scramble upwards to 0.5m. Leaves: green, flowers: red with orange or yellow undersides, sessile to 12mm.

Flowering: August to October

Uses: infill, groundcover

Availability: NPW or ANPS Canberra Region



MALLEE LIPSTICK (ACRA PENDING)

Origin: Russell Wait (*E. maculata* seedling)

Parentage: *E. glabra* x *E. maculata* ssp. *brevifolia*

Description: Sprawling groundcover, 0.5m x 2m, leaves: grey green, buds: maroon; flowers: hot pink with some white in the throat 20mm x 15mm

Flowering: June to October and sporadically

Uses: Groundcover, bird attractor

Horticultural notes: can be pruned back hard.

Distinguished from Beryl’s Lipstick, which is a hybrid of the same two species, by its greyer foliage, lower height and untidier growth habit

Availability: NPW or ANPS Canberra Region



MERINGUR ISAAC (ACRA 1652)

Origin: Russell Wait (garden seedling from pink-flowered *E. bignoniiflora* seed)

Parentage: *E. bignoniiflora* x *E. polyclada*

Description: Dense shrub 5m x 3m, leaves: green, flowers: deep lilac

Flowering: November – January

Uses: feature large shrub or small tree

Horticultural notes: responds to pruning; strikes from cuttings.

Availability: NPW or RW



RAY’S BLUE (ACRA PENDING)

Origin: arose Ray Schilling’s garden

Parentage: *E. oppositifolia* ssp. *oppositifolia*

Description: Dense shrub 3m x 3m, leaves: grey green, flowers: violet blue 25mm x 15mm. Note – this is bluer than *E. oppositifolia* ‘Midnight’ that is for sale commercially

Flowering: June to October Uses: Feature plant

Availability: NPW



Sub-group meetings

Study Group Sub-group meetings are emerging out of the mist as COVID-19 lockdown measures in some centres are relaxed.

Queensland has a meeting planned for 10 October – for more info email Jan Glazebrook ([www.janglazebrook \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:www.janglazebrook@gmail.com)).

South Australia's day event on 19 September in Kadina, SA is going ahead (with three garden visits) – Susan Semple will speak about her research at the University of South Australia and Ken Warnes about *E. glabra*. Ask Tim Wood for more details [drspock52 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:drspock52@gmail.com). Registrations are essential for this event.

There are no **NSW** or **Victorian** meetings planned in the immediate future.



From your Letters

Dave Bishop (NSW): Most of my Eremophilas are doing okay. I lost my *Calamphoreus inflatus*, which I'm disappointed about as they are fairly hard to come by. I have a number of *E. phillipsii*, but they appear to have no odour at all...or maybe I'm just getting old and my sense of smell has gone!

I am volunteering at the ANBG in the seed bank, where it just wouldn't work without volunteers. For the past 12mths I have been doing X-rays on seed, which I have found to be interesting.

I recently propagated an *E. drummondii* (below and next column) which I use to grow back in SA. It's a more compact form with greener leaves than the one Ian (Tranter) gave me. Most of us in had it in our gardens and we planted it around the local information centre. I hope to get across to SA as soon as we can travel.



Ross Dawkins (SA): We had total 105mm rain in April and included in some of that total was 86mm from the 24th April to 3rd May and another 13mm since then. How different from last year! I think it's probably the best start to a season that I can remember. We have had 180mm so far, nearly a third of our average here at Angaston.

When I was a student at Roseworthy Ag. College in the mid-60s, 1965 and 1966 were mediocre years, followed by a real drought in 1967. Roseworthy was about a 16-inch rainfall and these first two years had been below average, however 1967 topped them all by being the driest ever recorded at that weather station of just over 8 inches (200mm).

Each winter, the Farm Manager would take us out on a field trip in the bus to a paddock to look at grasses and medics and talk about knee high clover. Now for the city boys, who had not grown up on a farm, I think they thought he was pulling their legs! I had seen that home on the farm in very wet years when you had more feed than you knew what to do with it!

In 1968 Mother nature decided it was time to turn on the tap and the yearly total was just over 24 inches and we had knee high clover everywhere!!!! Might be just one of those years this year!

In recent weeks I bought a range of Eremophilas from Paul Pitman to fill in a few spots that had become devoid with deaths over the last few dry

years. Then we had a visit from Ken Warnes last week on their way through, with a box for Bev Rice and me. So, I now have a whole lot more planted than I filled in on the What Are You Growing Survey. More showers as I write this will water the transplants in well!

John Elton (NSW): Just thought I'd share a photo of my standard Kalbarri Carpet. It is grafted onto *Myoporum bateae* at about 1.6 metres. It currently has a spread of about 60-70cm. Kalbarri Carpet seems to grow a little slower on *M. bateae* compared when I've grown it in the garden as a ground cover.

It gets sun all morning, but little in the afternoon. It is in full flower and looking quite spectacular. You always get a close-up view of the flowers, since they are just below eye level.

To get the dense head, which is important in a standard, I pinched out the new growth every few weeks since November. *M. bateae* occasionally throws out a side shoot which I just rub off. I'm finding that *M. bateae* readily takes scions, with most only taking 4-5 weeks from November through to April. I use a plastic bag over the graft for 3 weeks before removing it.



Charles Farrugia (NSW): This is a pink-flowered *E. forrestii* obtained from Robb Grundy, flowering in July (flowered all winter).



Below is an *E. maculata* that I think is a hybrid between *E. maculata* obtained from Ray Isaacson and *E. maculata* 'Blue Thunder' or 'Thundercloud'. I have named it 'Seven Hills'. The original 'Isaacson' was cutting material from Colin Jennings in my early days of growing Eremophila and joining the SG. It was my first successful cutting and it is still alive in my back garden, pruned each year just about to the main stem and a magnificent flowering every year. One will probably find the Isaacson source plant these days under different names but I still, and will, retain the original name. A cutting of the original plant was grown next to an *E. maculata* Thundercloud and a seedling germinated nearby amongst the pebbles in the front garden. It has quite large flowers and the plant is about 1-1.5m high and across.



Ken Warnes (SA): Lorelei Bartowski recently posted a large batch of photos on Facebook. These included some that were new to me.

‘Big Car’ (right, from her FB post) is listed as *E. glabra* ssp. *carnosa* x *E. bignoniiflora*.



According to Russell

(Wait), the hybrid comes from Ron Dadds and he calls it ‘Pink Cadillac’. Is Big Car a translation that loses something in the process or is it another seedling from the same batch? Who would know? If it’s just a change for changes sake that really bugs me. I certainly wouldn’t commit on the evidence of a single flower. Material of ‘Pink Cadillac’ from Russell has struck and has grafted well but is proving slow to grow on during our cold Winter.

Lorelei also posted a photo of an *E. maculata* described as “very prostrate purple” (below).



This is, almost certainly, another selection from the same group as “Thundercloud”. Way, way back a foundation member, Bruce Spiers, posted two selections from Goondiwindi. My failing memory tells me the Hay River, but the road atlas tells me that it’s the Weir River at

Goondiwindi. No exact details and the Weir River covers a fair stretch of country.

One of these had narrow leaves, large pink flowers with a white throat copiously covered with very fine spots and is still seen occasionally as Goondiwindi Pink. I still have it and the fine spotting shows up in some of my seedlings.

The other was a low spreading form rather like “Carmen King¹, Pride, whatever” but had flowers very like the ones in the picture. I no longer have it. But the memory suggests that this could well be a selection from that area. Possibly just a chance seedling, who can tell, there’s so many of them out there now.

I’m certain that it’s not *E. maculata* “Silver” which is an *E. maculata* x *viscida* (white) hybrid, probably from Frank Fitzpatrick, which could well be ‘Walpy Sean’ which doesn’t seem to have survived under that name. The sepals on the hybrid are larger than shown in the pic which I am pretty certain is a straight *E. maculata*.

Next issue

Next issue of the Newsletter will include *Eremophila cuneifolia* as the feature species (pic below is by Kevin Stokes). I know of hybrids with *E. fraseri* ssp *parva*, *E. tietkensis*, *E. phyllopoda* and *E. reticulata*. There are several forms of the parent species. Please send info on your experiences on growing this species!



LATE NEWS: Check out a new Facebook page on Eremophila – Old Man Emu Bush

¹ “Star”!!

Financial Reports 2019-20

The Study Group’s financial report for 2019-20 is presented below. On the Balance Sheet, since last year, I have set up “income in advance” accounts so that when members pay for future years it is recorded as a future liability. For the P&L, new in 2019-20 are donations from Native Plants Wholesalers for sale of our registered cultivars. Miscellaneous income includes donations from members at the time of renewal, and a generous contribution from APS Canberra to cover costs of our SurveyMonkey subscription (expended as “software”). Travel in 2019-20 was pre-purchase of flights and accommodation for some speakers to the ESG event in Queensland (to be adjusted in 20-21) and my travel to the Eremophila conference in Melbourne in October 2019. “Gifts” were the speaker gifts for the Queensland event.

Created: 09/09/2020 09:21

Eremophila Study Group
 3 Considine Close
 Greenleigh NSW 2620
 ABN: 56 654 053 676
 Email: lthorburn@viria.com.au

Balance Sheet

As of June 2020

Assets	
General Cheque Account	\$7,023.02
Total Assets	\$7,023.02
Liabilities	
ESG membership fees in advance	
Income in advance - membership (gen)	\$355.00
Fees received in advance for 20-21	\$310.00
Fees received in advance for 21-22	\$210.00
Fees received in advance for 22-23	\$170.00
Fees received in advance for 23-24	\$55.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,100.00
Net Assets	\$5,923.02
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$553.81
Current Earnings	-\$15.35
Historical Balancing Account	\$5,384.56
Total Equity	\$5,923.02

Created: 09/09/2020 09:25

Eremophila Study Group
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Profit & Loss [Cash]

July 2019 To June 2020

Income	
Memberships	\$250.00
Book sales	\$24.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$403.00
Cultivar use donations	\$825.00
Total Income	\$1,502.00
Total Cost Of Sales	\$0.00
Gross Profit	\$1,502.00
Expenses	
Printing and photocopying	\$142.95
Postage	\$49.80
Software	\$348.00
Travel	\$777.88
Gifts	\$199.36
Total Expenses	\$1,517.99
Operating Profit	-\$15.99
Other Income	
Bank interest	\$0.64
Total Other Income	\$0.64
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$15.35

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](mailto:lthorburn@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](mailto:jlfountain5@gmail.com))

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NEXT NEWSLETTER ~DEC 2020 – JAN 2021