Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA)

Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No. 136

September 2022

Eremophila at the Bartkowski garden in Glencoe, Qld (pics Chris Reddick**)**

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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the September 2022 newsletter.

As we finish another financial year I have to thank all of those Study Group members who have contributed, in particular our sub-group leaders – Jan Glazebrook in Queensland (with Noreen Baxter), Chris Strachan in Victoria (with Glenda Datson), Tim and Sandra Wood in SA, and Charles Farrugia in NSW. It has been great to see the involvement of members in so many activities – sub-group meetings, the NPQ fruit project, and with several botanic gardens. The Study Group is thriving!

After 19 years as sub-group leader, Charles has resigned as chair of the Sydney Group and Ian Cox has stepped into his shoes as NSW coordinator, continuing Charles' sterling work with the group, which has been primarily based in Sydney. Thanks so much, Charles, for your great support and energy – you can read Charles' own thank you letter on page 18.

Charles also ran an email Discussion Group, the future of which is awaiting brain time from me following the ANPSA conference.

At the same time, Jan Glazebrook has also resigned as leader of the Queensland sub-group. Jan, as well, has given many years of service, as chair of the ESG sub-group and the Logan Branch of Native Plants Queensland. Thank you Jan, for all your work on behalf of our Study Group. Lorelei Bartkowski has taken over as the new coordinator of the Queensland group.

The Biennial Conference ran very smoothly and successfully in mid September. There is a summary on page 4 and an edited version of my talk on page 5. The Study Group recevied great exposire, and new membrs. I hope that ANPSA, with its new Secretariat based in NSW, can take a more active role in supporting Study Group objectives going forward.

Eremophilas in the News

Many great articles on Eremophila have been published recently in regional journals.

Russell Wait and Ken Warnes' article on hybrids was published in the SA Region Journal in May 2022 (volume 27(1) pp 15-16). This issue also included a *Fragrant Favourites*, article by Study Group member Sandra Wood, referencing *Eremophila saligna* and *E. inflata*.

In the August 2021 issue of the same journal an article by Lyn Bartholomeusz wrote about planting for native bees, illustrating it with a Blue Banded Bee visiting an *E. muelleriana* and a resin bee visiting an *E. divaricata*.

The Wildflower Society of WA's May newsletter (vol 27(2)) covered the Brian James Eremophila Collection growing in a section of Landsdale Farm, next to where the Northern Suburbs Branch has its plant sales.

Phil Trickett's review of Andrew Brown and Brian Buirchell's Field Guide to the Eremophila of WA has been published in the June 2022 issue of the Native Plants Queensland Journal. In the same issue is Noleen Baxter's article on the 2021 Myall Park trip. Lyndal Thorburn's article on the same trip was also published in the June 2022 issue of the Canberra Region's Journal

Rachael Fowler's February 2022 article in *The Conversation* highlighting the contributions of Bevan Buirchell, Ron Dadd and Russell Wait to native plant collection and horticulture was reprinted in the Victorian Journal, *Growing Australian*, in June 2022.

What's New in the Study Group

New Members

We have had an influx of members, courtesy (in part) of the Biennial Conference. Welcome to Laurie Baglin (Vic), Lynne Bruce (NSW), Paul Carey (SA), Chris Clarke (Vic), Fiona Dunstan (SA), Shelley Gage (Qld) and Robyn Tyson (Vic). Membership stands at 154 people.

Research News

Geoff Simmons grant

Collection of fruit for the Geoff Simmons grant project on seed formation and viability in wild populations was set back by the very wet conditions in Queensland in autumn. Two intrepid expeditions (by Russell Wait, and Don and Chris Lill) had to be shortened (the Lills are yet to collect their caravan from where it is bogged near Birdsville).

Since then, Phil Allan from SA collected *E. longifolia* in Charleville (see also p.24) and Tom and I collected around Cunnamulla/ Charleville in August when it was drier (p.13).

We also met Dr Robyn Cave and Dr Lynn Hoffman in person at Gatton (pic below by Tom Jordan of Lyndal, Lynn and Robyn).

Fruits were collected from *E. arbuscula, E. bignoniiflora, E. bowmanii* (2 ssp.), *E. desertii, E. gilesii* ssp. *gilesii, E. glabra* ssp. *glabra, E. goodwinii* ssp. *goodwinii,* E. *latrobei, E. longifolia, E. maculata* ssp. *maculata, E. mitchellii.* In accordance with the protocol, three samples per natural stand have been sent to the uni and the total stands at 1500!

Australian Research Council success

Our ARC application (see NL 133) was successful! We are now finalising paperwork and expect to start the project in December. Details of what we proposed can be found in NL133, and I will keep you updated as we get underway. The project will involve the SA sub-group based at Kadina and the Kersbrook Landcare Group, also in SA, in its later stages. The focus us seed dormancy and germination triggers for Eremophila.

Finding the "real" *Eremophila racemosa*

A member of the public contacted me in June about where to buy the "real" *E. racemosa* – the one with pink and yellow flowers, rather than the yellow and white 'Peaches and Cream' version. Ken Warnes referred me to the Kadina group and I have now sent this lady to their door to obtain a plant. Ken notes:

"The species was named from collections among an estimated 35 plants on a roadside near Forrestania in WA. Following a large fire someone, I think it might have been Guy Richmond, estimated a population of more than 5,000,000. Within a few years the population was back to low numbers.

"This implies that the species is an early coloniser of burnt areas and hence is likely to be short-lived in the garden. This certainly seems to be the case, with most plants dying after a few years. It is also prone to wind damage if grown in the open. The pink/yellow version is more compact than 'Peaches and Cream' yellow/white version.

"The rapid overtaking of *E. racemosa* in nurseries by the yellow and white cultivar reminds us of the importance of maintaining access to the original (dare I say "heritage") versions of these plants. Even if they are still collectable from the wild, the restrictions on wild collections that may now apply, and the risk of losing species that are already under threat through catastrophic events should encourage those in the Study Group to make sure we propagate all varieties. At present, it appears that the Kadina group is the only commercial (semi-commercial) supplier of this colour form in Australia!"

The Biennial Conference in Kiama

The ANPSA Biennial Conference was held in Kiama during September. Fifteen Study Group members attended, out of a total of about 230 people over the week.

Study Group members – (back from left to right) Don Lill, Sandra Wood, Tim Wood, Tom Jordan, Fran Middleton, Jim Flanigan, Janet Flanigan, Chris Cave, Catriona Bate, Phil Trickett. (Front from left to right) Anne Langmaid, Neil Duncan, Lyndal Thorburn, Chris Lill. Missing – Shirley Mundy.

Monday's theme was "the past", Tuesday's was "the present" and Thursday's (after a conference tour on Wednesday) was "the future. My own presentation, on the future of the Study Group, was moved to Monday afternoon after another speaker could not attend at short notice.

We celebrated our 50th with cake on Monday afternoon (Pic Tim Wood). Most of us also had dinner together on Monday night.

We also ran a display over the whole period of the conference. We were fortunate to have our table inside the main conference venue so we could watch while minding the "shop". And thanks to the crew who helped with the display – Fran, Chris, Don, Tom, Neil, Anne, Janet, Sandra, Tim and Shirley.

We raised money for the Study Group with raffles and merchandise. The first raffle was of the 2nd edition of Brown and Buirchell's *Field Guide to the Eremophilas of WA* (won by Pamela Finger of northern Queensland; Pamela is formerly from the ACT). The second raffle was of Russell Wait's *Growing Eremophila* (won by Tania Lamble of Victoria). These raised $468 for the Study group.

We also launched our anniversary merchandise (see pages 16 and 17) and sales at the conference have set us on the path to break even and eventual surplus.

The text of my presentation starts over the page.

New Cultivars Registered

The Australian Cultivar Registration Authority has confirmed acceptance of the long-known *Eremophila racemosa* 'Peaches and Cream' (ID2304, below left) – submitted for registration in order to try to cement the existing name.

ACRA has also registered *Eremophila racemosa x maculata ssp. brevifolia* 'Lemon Meringue' (ID2302, below right). This is the yellow/white version of the pink/yellow hybrid from the same parents, and sold as 'Fairy Floss'.

For more see https://acra.biodiversity.services/

Eremophila Study Group – the next 50 years

Lyndal Thorburn, Kiama, 12 September 2022 (edited)

Hello everyone and thanks for your time today.

You know I am leader of the Eremophila Study Group. It is one of 15 active study groups that are run under the auspices of the federal organisation to which NSW APS belongs.

What you may not know is that Eremophila, which also called Emu Bush, Poverty Bush, Turkey Bush or Fuchsia Bush, is the 5th most diverse native genus with around 240 described species and many more sub-species and hybrids.

Eremophila are widely distributed in areas of Australia with less than 250mm rainfall. Around 75% of species are insect pollinated and 25% are bird pollinated. That means that the species within the genus have a massive diversity in flower colour and shape. The ones that are bird pollinated have red, orange, yellow, cream and green flowers and those that are insect pollinated have blue, purple, pink and white flowers (so, any colour you like). They are long lived and range in size from flat on the ground up to a tree – so there is a space for an Eremophila in your garden.

I am going to talk about the future today, but I do want to touch on the fact that it is our 50th anniversary and I want to cover the first 50 years of what we've done to give you the context for what is happening in the future.

The early years

The Study Group (SG) was formed in 1972, following Project Eremophila, led by Margaret Lee and Ken Warnes, with the support of the SA region. At that stage there were three species in cultivation – two with yellow flowers and one with white flowers.

Ken served as the founding SG leader until 1980, by which time 30 – 50 species were being cultivated. He was responsible for registering the first named variety (*E. maculata* 'Carmine Star') with ACRA. He, with Peter and Ronda Hall, also sourced the plants for the first Eremophila collections in the then new Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens (SA) and Myall Park Botanic Gardens (Qld).

Meanwhile, Dave Gordon and Noel Gane in Sydney were working out how to grow them in raised beds in wetter regions.

Grafting, first suggested in 1975, became an important tool for maintaining plants in wetter soils. When the first attempts onto other Eremophilas didn't work, SG members tried the related genus of Myoporum. It is still the only way to propagate >50 species.

The SG also developed cutting mixes for propagation, led by the next leader, Geoff Needham. Frost tolerance was also addressed during the 1980s and we now know more than 100 varieties can withstand hard frost.

Eremophila gradually appeared in plant sales through enthusiasts who also found interesting hybrids. These included Ken Warnes, Russell Wait, Frank Schilling. Tom Loffler and Frank Fitzpatrick. Plants were sold through specialists such as Peter and Marion Lang (SA), Phil James (WA) and Phil Vaughan (Vic).

By 1995 the third SG leader, Colin Jennings, published the Study Group's first book on horticulture of the genus, and garden experimentation revealed that Eremophila like being fertilised and pruned (just like normal plants!).

I might say that over this period academic work relied on a very small number of enthusiasts – a few chemists, one significant PhD thesis on germination, and one person working very hard on taxonomy. That taxonomist was Bob Chinnock, who published *Eremophila and Allied Genera* in 2007. This described 216 species and provided the first technical book widely available to the public.

Prior to that, the SG newsletters were the only available source of information and, for gardeners, remained the only non-academic source up until 2008, when a group of three members published the first horticultural book *Eremophilas – Changing Gardens for a Changing Climate*.

So the first 40 years of the study group saw it lead collection of species from the wild for both taxonomic work and horticulture; develop propagation methods, understand frost resistance and general horticultural support, and start to raise awareness and increase public use.

The last decade

In the last 10 years there has been an explosion of interest and Eremophila have finally become an overnight success. Cutting grown and grafted plants are regularly available in nurseries, and we know of 27 nurseries (outside APS sales) where a good range of species is sold. And, you can buy them in Bunnings!

Two more "popular" books have been published on the genus – a field guide and another horticultural book, and an issue of Australian Plants Journal was dedicated to Eremophila in September 2021. The species count now stands at 240, but by the time the taxonomists have finished there may be 300 species described.

More recently, Rachael Fowler really threw the genetic cat amongst the Eremophila pigeons by comparing the existing species based on morphology with the underlying genetic relationships. There are some differences! Rachael has suggested that Eremophila will either have to be split into multiple genera, or the other genera in the family merged in(there are another five genera in the family Scrophulariaceae). Rachael's group has submitted an application to keep the genus name as Eremophila, based on the number of species – because otherwise it is going to have to be Bontia, and we don't want that!

The Study Group has been gradually forming relationships with academia and researchers from South Australia and NSW have presented their work at our events in 2017 and 2021.

We are very fortunate to have a lot of dedicated people in our study group and our chapters in SA, Qld, NSW and Victoria are led by keen members who have held things together despite drought, fire, COVID, floods and the recent rain, which has been quite depressing if you are trying to grow a desert plant.

Thanks to Brian Walters and the fantastic support of a group of photographers, we also have a searchable image database on the SG website (boasting <u>almost</u> all the described species). The Gardening with Angus website also has articles about Eremophila. And an enthusiastic Bryan Rau, from the APS SA Fleurieu Group, administers the Old Man Emu Bush Facebook page.

We also have a relationship with a wholesale nursery. Through this we ensure that new varieties for release have accurate labels. We have been involved in the release of 8 varieties[1] since 2019 and, believe it or not, 36,000 Eremophila that have been or are currently in nurseries that have a label SG by name and talks about our work.

So, you can see that the SG and its ~160 members have built up a significant body of knowledge towards meeting SG and ANPSA goals in expanding Eremophila in horticulture, and in enhancing public understanding of the genus. We know we have all but 6 of the named species in cultivation by at least one person., However, of > 230 species that are in cultivation, 18 species are grown by only one person, and a further 21 species are grown by only 2 people. So we have a way to go in terms of market penetration.

Where to now?

So that is the history – where are we going next?

In March 2021 a lively debate at a SA group meeting in Kadina led to the SG issuing a call for expressions of interest for academic institutions to work with us <u>researching</u> seed germination. Purposeful germination of seed has always been problematic, which is why we grow them by either cutting or grafting. This can lead to problems with genetic diversity. We have selected the University of Queensland at Gatton as our partner.

[11] Mallee Lipstick, Ray's Blue, Meringur Midnight, E. waitii Silky Lavender, Pink Pantha, Beryl's Gem, Fruit Salad, Yanna Wonder

We asked SG members to collect fruit and within a very short time the University had to hand over 3000 fruit from 60 home-grown species. Interestingly, when they started to X-ray them, many fruit were empty. This was puzzling – is it because the pollinators were missing? Was it because of some deficiency in the soil? After thinking a bit further with the university we developed a couple of projects and we have funding for them!

The first is studying seed fill in wild Eremophila from Queensland and is funded by a grant of $23,000 from Native Plants Qld (NPQ), with a total project size of ~$45,000. SG members from NSW, Victoria and South Australia have collected over 1500 fruit from 12 of the 24 species in western Queensland that we are allowed to collect. UQ is going to study seed fill using X-rays and will also analyse pollen samples. [2]

The second project aims to understand dormancy and germination triggers, with a view to developing a better way to induce germination so Eremophila can be grown from seed to make them more suitable for mine site rehabilitation and to increase genetic diversity of what is growing in our gardens. At the moment, Eremophilas grown for mine site revegetation come from, I believe, tissue culture or direct application of gibberellic acid, which is expensive. We just learnt last week UQ, The SG and Kersbrook Landcare have a cash grant of $240,000 from the Australian Research Council for a project valued at about $400,000. That one starts in December.

Naming is a big bugbear. Under the existing nomenclature we know there are "bucket species" where everything has been shoved into one genus – notably *Eremophila glabra*.

The bigger issue, however, is consistency of common names. I know this is something we can't solve but we need to keep plugging away at it. The same hybrids are sold under different names (e.g. 'Wild Berry' vs 'Blue Thunder'). "Ordinary" examples of a species have cultivar names e.g. *Eremophila youngii* (Young's Eremophila) is being sold as 'Desert Pink' but that is unlikely to be a special form or cultivar. And we have plain old wrong information e.g. the hybrid *E.* 'Red Splendour' (*E. calorhabdos* x *E. splendens*), has red flowers but online is advertised with a photo of the pink *E. calorhabdos* parent.

Linked to that is the issue of conservation which is something that is particularly hard for us because we live such a long way from where our plants grow.

Even if a plant is in cultivation, we may lose it in the wild, particularly where we have a high probability that a cultivated variety being sold nationally is a clone from a single wild collection. The germination work I mentioned earlier is one way to reduce that risk.

We may also lose the original plant because a cultivar has taken over e.g. the natural, multi-coloured form of *E. racemosa* has been overtaken in nurseries by the yellow and white cultivar 'Peaches and Cream' (see separate article page 3), possibly because the latter lasts longer in the garden. The only place I know that you can buy the wild form is from the APS group in Kadina, unless you are in the US where you can buy it anywhere, and it is called the Easter Egg plant.

So, for me, one of the solutions is to work with the nursery industry and botanic gardens to try to make sure the wild species are conserved, while also finding good horticultural varieties.

We have excellent relationships with many smaller botanic gardens in SA, Queensland and the National Arboretum in the ACT, where we are advising on planting and maintaining Eremophila and are often providing some labour towards establishment and maintenance. All that has happened because our members have reached out locally and I think that is a really big role for us in the future.

But, there are gaps with the major city botanic gardens. This graph over shows the species the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra grows as a percentage of the species that exist: the data are old, but shows they grow

[2] There is another $20,000 worth of work we know we can do under the NPQ project, but so far is unfunded.

less than one quarter of Eremophila species, compared to 70-80% of Melaleuca/ Callistemons, 63% of Grevillea, 58% of Eucalypts and 28% of Acacia. I want to lift that percent and will reach out to them to see if we can help.

I think we can also educate and raise awareness amongst other groups. We have a relationship with Canberra Institute of Technology and have presented to their horticulture students. I have now developed an *Introduction to Eremophila* presentation which I aim to get out to all the TAFEs around Australia to increase student knowledge of native plants.

I have also discovered a group called Cool Australia which has a suite of primary school curriculum units on native bees. Wouldn't it be good if they could have that on native plants?

And local governments are also important. We were in Quilpie (220mm rain p.a.) a couple of weeks ago. They are growing paperbark Melaleuca as street trees, complete with watering points. They should be growing Eremophila, they wouldn't need watering!

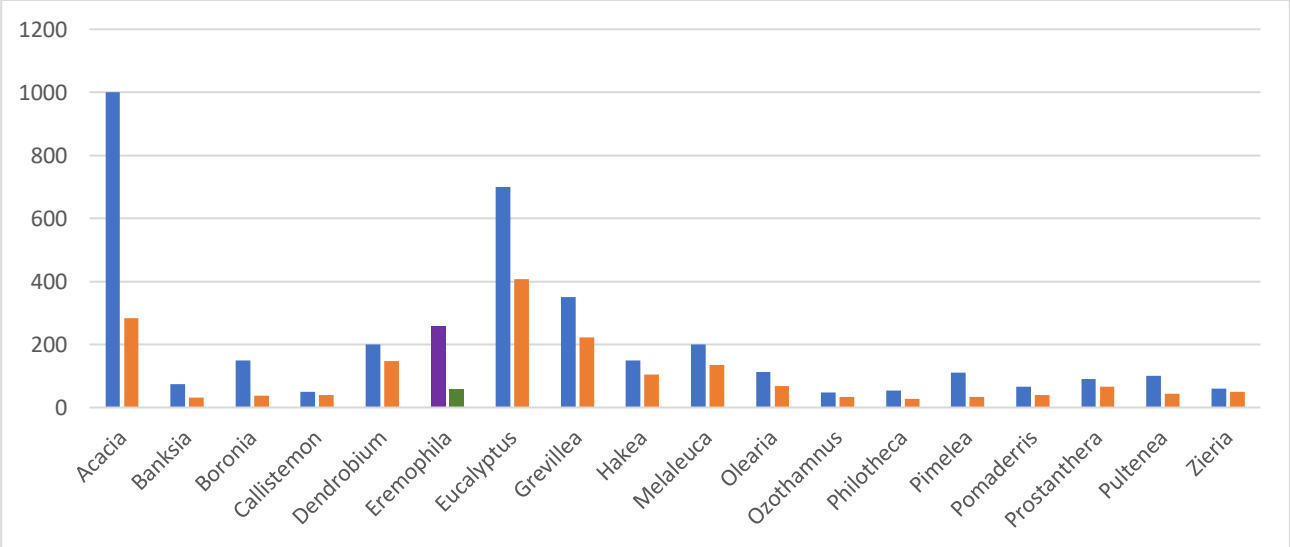
So in 2072 when people look back at our next 50 years of achievements, what will they see?

- We will have solved the germination problem, in conjunction with our university partners;
- We will have Eremophila in our streetscapes;
- Eremophila will be widely available in nurseries AND will be correctly labelled;
- There will be big Eremophila collections in Botanic Gardens;
- We will have native plants in curricula for horticulture students; and
- Eremophilas will be as well-known as Acacia, Eucalypt and Grevillea for home gardens.

You'll note, I hope, that you can insert the name of many Australian plant genera here, so I am laying down the challenge for other study groups as well, and ANPSA more broadly.

What can you do? Go and buy a plant, join a Study Group, buy some 50th Anniversary merchandise so I can raise my final $20,000 for the rest of the Qld project. Lobby your local Council; tell the ABC they need more native plants on Gardening Australia. Go and look for Eremophila on your next holiday.

Finally, I'd really like to thank all the rally active people in our study group at the local level: sub-group leaders, photographers, IT support, ANPSA and researchers. A Study Group is only as good as the people who are in it, so please join us, join another Study Group and let's get on with the next 50 years by getting going now.



Visit to the Lill's Garden in Renmark

Don and Chris Lill (notes provided from their garden introduction, when the SA sub-Group visited in April 2022. Photos by Lyndal Thorburn)

The property (block) is 10 acres (4.04 Ha) in size. Fruit properties in the Riverland are often described as "blocks" as they were mostly divided up into rectangles in the early days.

Until 2012 this was a small working irrigated fruit block, citrus, walnuts, and pistachios. Fruit-growing blocks in SA have a water allocation based on their size. Our allocation is approx. 30 megalitres.

In the early days of the irrigation settlement, blocks were divided up into sizes which would support a family. As crop values have dwindled, the size of viable fruit properties has increased. Depending on the value of the crop, a 10 acre fruit property would be regarded as a "sideline income".

We bought the block in 1984, built the house and planted up about an acre of land around the house, so many of the trees/plants around the house are around 35 years old.

The property is on the bottom edge of the old river cliff on a gentle downward slope. At the top, it is red sand Ph: 8 – 8.5 and grades down to clay loam and then heavy clay Ph: 9 – 9.5 at the bottom. For acid loving plants we often add peat to the soil and mulch everything heavily. We also add EDDHA iron chelate (Lib Fer for alkaline soils) on the most sensitive plants. We buy our mulch from contractors who cut down and mulch in parks and gardens. The soil depth varies from 45 to 60 cm depth over decomposed limestone often referred to as "marl." We avoid disturbing the marl. We use blood and bone to fertilise the garden and "low P" Manucote for our potted plants.

The block was cleared in 2013 by mulching so that all the carbon and nutrients stayed in the ground. We started the main native plantings below the house in 2014 and started working across the fruit block from south to north (more or less) following the lines of the old irrigation system.

We have now almost finished planting up the top, sandier, section of the block (approx. 6 acres).

This is a plantation garden much like Ken Warnes'. It is planted in rows down the slope following the original irrigation system which was left more-or-less intact after the land was cleared. We aren't landscape gardeners, but we do companion plant so the shade and shelter loving plants are often planted next to larger shade and shelter providers.

The garden is also by no means all Eremophilas. There are grevilleas, eucalypts, acacias, banksias and many other species. We have around 2,700 plants here give or take and about 700 Eremophilas – around 120 species. We plant all shade loving species under trees.

Many of our plants are grafted, (as were all of our commercial crops). The main rootstock for Eremophilas is *Myoporum insulare*, *M. montanum*, *M. bateae*, *M.* 'Monaro Marvel', *E. polyclada*, *E. denticulata* and *E. 'Summertime Blue'*. We graft Grevilleas onto *G. robusta* and we use *Westringia fruticosa* as stock for Prostantheras, *Chamelaucium uncinatum* 'Purple Pride" for Verticordias, and "known" orange and red *Corymbia ficifolia* are grafted onto "colour unknown" *C. ficifolia* rootstock.

Everything is irrigated. Initially we watered with button drippers (4 and then 8 litres per hour) – 32 litres per week or 50 litres in hot weather. Recently, after four years of drought we have switched back to low throw sprinklers (different types and different water delivery

capacity for different age plants or plants with different water requirements), as the drought and the larger size of many plantings have left the ground so dry that there was very little lateral soaking with the drippers and many plants started to suffer. Water is delivered to the property via pipeline. The irrigations system is normally automatic. If it rains, we turn the pump off until the ground dries out.

We spray with glyphosate for weeds using a backpack sprayer and occasionally a CDA sprayer called a "Herbie".

Most of the limbs that drop are mulched between the rows with a slasher on the back of our tractor. Large limbs are taken down to the bottom of the block and piled up ready for eventual burning. A lot of our wood cuts are given away to friends, family who have combustion heaters.

We get approx. 70 frosts (4 degrees or below) per year. Minus 5 is about the limit - not common, but they can do some damage. In summer, temperatures of 40 degrees and over are not uncommon and temperatures up to 50 have been recorded (rare). We protect all our plantings with plastic tree guards, Sarlon shade covers and for frost sensitive plants we include a layer of bubble wrap for insulation. Covers usually come off after about 18 months. Plants under trees usually don't get frosted.

Average rainfall here is low, (around 250mm) and appears to be dropping. We do get a lot of sunshine (more sun than the Gold Coast apparently). Damp gloomy days are rare, and average humidity is usually relatively low compared to closer to the coast.

We get quite a lot of wind usually in spring and to a lesser extent summer. Wind damage is common particularly with fast growing irrigated plantings. Most of our trees are initially double staked. We use recycled nylon stockings from Op Shops to tie up trees. Stakes are removed as soon as the trees can support themselves.

We have spent most of our lives travelling around Australia, birdwatching and admiring Australian native plants. We plant for beauty, suitability, rarity and unusual characteristics.

We buy many of our plants from local nurseries, APS plant sales and the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. We also propagate a lot of plants. Plant cuttings and seed sources are from friend's gardens and swap meets.

Many of our Eremophilas have been recently attacked by ravenous wingless grasshoppers – they targeted pretty much only Eremophilas. They have been sprayed with Confidor and their numbers have dwindled. This is the first time this has happened.

What of the future? We will probably slowly extend our plantings into the heavier soil at the bottom of the fruit property. This will mean opening the soil up with gypsum and lots of mulch and choosing more frost tolerant plants. Also, garden maintenance is becoming a much larger part of our work in the garden.

We are particularly interested in growing native plants which can tolerate a range of Australian soils by grafting them and seed propagation particularly of Eremophilas and experiment a lot with techniques.

When we collect cuttings, we put them into green vegie bags or Zip Lock bags, into which we spray a very weak chlorine solution (12.5ml per litre of water.) We label cuts with masking tape and texta or put them in separate zip lock bags and label the bags.

Update on Plant Breeders' Rights

IP Australia has published some interim documents as part of its review of the Plant Breeders' Rights system in Australia. One of these is a report on the *Plant Breeders' Rights Ecosystem*. Our interests have been mentioned in relation to concerns about naming of plants by the nursery industry, and the boundaries between PBR and native plants. The work continues. For more info go to www.ipaustralia.gov.au.

E. longifolia or *E. bignoniiflora?*

Ken Warnes

A query from Phil Allan regarding the identity of a plant in western Queensland has made its way to my screen, but the query is whether the plant is an *E. bignoniiflora* or *E. longifolia*. Phil initially identified it was the former, from looking at Chinnock. It is interesting that the Type for *E. longifolia* is given as the Warrego River.

Chinnock says *E. bignoniiflora* is glabrous, whereas *E. longifolia* has a short dense tomentum which should be a good guide.

The *E. longifolia* tube is relatively narrow and does not swell markedly at the outer end (see p.13), whereas *E. bignoniiflora* (below, pic Russell Wait) has a short tube with greatly expanded lobes at the outer end. If any spots are present in *E. longifolia* they are very fine and dense, whereas *E. bignoniiflora* has very obvious large spots on the lower lip.

Fruits are markedly different: *E. bignoniiflora* fruits are 6-10mm in diameter and rapidly develop a membranous outer skin which runs out into a point. *E. longifolia* fruits are only 4-6mm and are initially covered with quite a thick green fleshy layer which makes them good tucker for emus and it is only this species which is widely referred to as emu-bush in the Outback for this reason.

Habit is quite different generally. *E. bignoniiflora* may be straggly but usually forms quite a dense crown and, if any suckers are present, they appear as separate plants. *E. longifolia*, on the other hand, may sucker into dense thickets. If non-suckering, the latter could well grow into a bush not dissimilar to *E. bignoniiflora* but would lack the bright green appearance and crown density of that species and the leaves would be much narrower. Non-flowering *E. bignoniiflora* could easily be mistaken for inland *Myoporum montanum*.

E. santalina or E. saligna?

Ken Warnes

This discussion emerged following an email to Lyndal from someone in Victoria, asking how to prune an Eremophila santalina that was growing under a power line. The inquirer's tree is shown next column. Some interesting discussions ensued online, led by Ken.

The pic definitely looks like *E. santalina* with the pendulous leaves. I would think that if it is cut to remove even 80% of the top growth it would shoot OK. Then it might just need an occasional trim to maintain it at an acceptable height. Of course, there's a good chance that the line might become redundant if the landline is disconnected in the foreseeable future.

The old *E. santalina* in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens would be 5-6 m tall and 8-10 across but it is very old.

In the wild, *E. santalina* is limited to rocky country in the southern Flinders Ranges from Mambray Creek to just north of Hawker. By the time you reach the Blinman-Parachilna road *E. fallax* takes over. My largest is perhaps

4m x 6m (pic over) and 50 years old so they live a long time.

I would think that, if pruned to the trunk, it would re-shoot but may be relatively slow to do so and take some time to re-grow a decent crown.

This is based on experience with propagating from cuttings. which are slow to make roots. Interestingly, the shoots come not directly out of the stem or the leaf axil but from immediately below the leaf attachment point. I don't know any other species which does this.

Because of the longevity of the species, I haven't needed to propagate it for many years and, as it is rarely seen in nurseries, I suspect that difficulty in propagating it combined with a limited demand is the reason. A pity, as it makes a good attractive specimen (below).

We also have a really good one in our plantings at the Barossa Bush Garden, hanging over the bird bath (pic below by Hans Griesser). The plant is about 11 years old, so growth has been good. Obviously still showing the effect of our pruning but it is performing exactly the purpose for which it was planted i.e., to provide a central feature and provide a safe haven for small birds coming to the bird bath.

And now to *E. saligna.* I have no experience of *E. saligna* re-shooting from pruning but would assume that it should be OK as my 45-year-old specimen has what could be described as voluntary epicormic shoots from quite low in the bush, which is 4-5m high (pic next column).

There's enough of these that I encourage anyone taking cuttings to use them rather than using taller growth. The one thing I can say for certain, even though from limited experience, is that *E. saligna* can't tolerate fire. A 3m specimen died overnight after the Pinery Fire with no sign of it trying to come again.

In general terms *E. saligna* (pic below) has an upright habit, whereas *E. santalina* (with which it was confused in this instance) becomes somewhat pendulous with maturity.

On close inspection of my plants, I find that *E. saligna* leaves have several small teeth towards the tip; there are none on *E. santalina* or *E. fallax* and I think that can be accepted as a reasonable diagnostic aid. This is well shown in Russell's book. In the absence of flowers, the other obvious difference is in the fruit: those from *E. santalina* are very Myoporum-like, rounded and with a pale brown, membranous skin. Those from *E. saligna* are like little torpedoes. The flowers of *E. saligna* also have a strong vanilla scent, but I am assuming that

both species would be non-flowering at present. The corolla on *E. saligna* is much more tubular than *E. santalina*.

If your correspondent is really keen it might be worth suggesting that they harvest some fruits because the record of germination from seed is quite good. Both this and the closely related *E. fallax* have been established this way, in fact it is how I have the SA *E. fallax*, because it seems to be antagonistic to the stocks used although, WA collections have grafted well. I did several intermediate grafts of the SA *E. fallax* onto the WA *E. fallax* onto *M. montanum* (below). The growth used was quite fine and hard to slice into without running off the line, so time will tell. I also did one onto a *M. insulare* as a cutting graft.

My belief that the WA *E. fallax* grafts OK is based on Russell's original collection, when I had three take, and so I haven't tried again. The SA *E. fallax* has indicated incompatibility with *M. insulare* on several occasions, with rotting at the union very obvious. Yet the two collections look to be identical. My SA plant was raised from seed. If I make the trip to Maralinga in search of *E. delisseri* from 1960 I will check out the natural plants of *E. fallax* in the main street of the Village. It was there in 1969, but at that stage was still part of *E. santalina* and was so not brought back.

Western Queensland Eremophila

Lyndal Thorburn

Our trip to Queensland started on 19 August and we drove up the NSW coast to Lismore (visiting family and friends) and then headed north-east to Kyogle and then north again to Lowood and Gatton. We then turned west and travelled through Dalby, Mitchell and Morven to Charleville and later Cunnamulla. We travelled back home through Bourke, Nyngan and Cowra.

We found 12 species and collected fruit from 10 of these. I just wanted to share some of the pics of the region and the flowers we found while roaming there. Below is the widespread *E. longifolia*. These plants were photographed south-west of Augathella.

We also found *E. maculata* (below) in the same location, in clayey soil. It generally grew in clumps of 10-20 plants across an area of 50 metres low to medium shrubs up to 3mW.

There were several colour forms, either with orange buds and bronze flowers, or various dark pinks. It was good to see them also used as streetscape plants in Quilpie and Cunnamulla.

We found *E. latrobei* ssp. *glabra* on the Bollon-Charleville Road. It was interesting seeing them growing in very stony soil. In this location, they were in semi-shade and were flowering sparsely.

South-west of Charleville they grew in full sun and were surrounded by Ptilotus, Senna and Dodonaea.

They also grew on at Baldy Top lookout, outside Quilpie. The photo over is taken from the top of the lookout looking NE to Quilpie. The plants there were very scrawny!

We were excited to find *E. bowmanii* ssp. *bowmanii* and *E. gilesii* ssp. *gilesii* growing together south of Charleville (below).

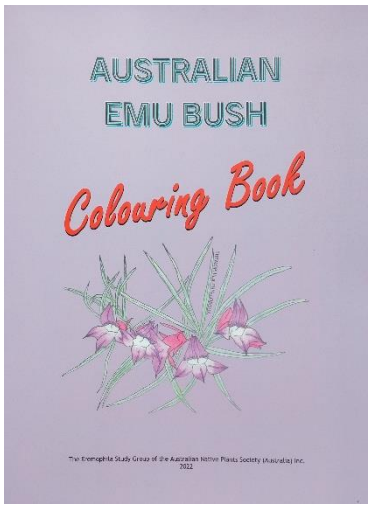
There were thousands of plants of *E. gilesii* some purple-flowered, and some mauve. The bush has an upside-down triangle shape and grows in full sun (flowering in August) and semi-shade (not flowering yet). However, I read during the trip that their numbers grew because of overgrazing: *E. gilesii* invaded after the Acacia was cleared.

The prize, however, went to *E. goodwinii* spp. *goodwinii*. There were thousands of plants in full flower east of Cunnamulla. It was a very wet day, so we were soaked, and found no fruit here. But we did find some on other stands south of Cunnamulla. These were growing in sandy soil full of gravel. They reminded me of picture of Bluebells in forest in England!

Our Colouring Book is published!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the publication of our Emu Bush Colouring Book, which was launched at the ANPSA Biennial Conference earlier this month.

Below are pics of the covers and a sample of the insides. An order form was sent with this newsletter and can also be accessed on https://anpsa.org.au/eremophilaSG/merchandise. Member price is $8 per copy.



There are so many people to thank:

- the assessment panel (Jacqueline Jordan, Diana Warnes and Carmel Killin, all pictured below (L to R)), who selected the images for inclusion.
- the drawing contributors: Cathy Beamish, Jocelyn Lindner, Janina Matcott and Amy O'Connor
- the photographers who supplied images for the back page: Andrew Brown, Don Lill, Alice Newton, Kevin Stokes, Russell Wait
- technical helpers/rescuers: Ken Warnes (descriptions), Robert Ollier (image wizardry and layout), Alex Jordan (text editing) and Heather Jordan (front page colouring).

And wait there's more!

Thanks to our photo donors, we also have brand new **Eremophila wrapping paper** as another 50th anniversary special. I stole the idea from a native plant group in Ravensthorpe, WA, which produced wrapping paper with photos of their local plants. Our photos of Eremophila are from image gallery contributors Keith Boschen, Andrew Brown, Ross Dawson, Kevin Sparrow, Kevin Stokes and Russell Wait. See the order form sent with this Newsletter for more details. Each sheet is 500mm x 700mm.

The final goodies are a **Christmas card** – with *Eremophila spectabilis* – and a **birthday card** showing *Eremophila purpurascens*. Both have been painted by my daughter Jacqueline Jordan and are printed on 350gsm glossy card (11.7 x 18.2 cm). They are blank inside and come with an envelope. Again, see the order form for details!

As we are nearing Chrismas, I look forward to orders flowing in! I plan to approach botanical bookshops etc for some bulk sales as well.

Note – the Christmas Card is white, even though it looks a bit grey here

Order form at
https://anpsa.org.au/eremophilaSG/merchandise

Sub-Group meetings and events

Sydney sub-group

Charles Farrugia

I feel it is time to pass on the leadership of both the Sydney branch of the ESG and the online group – someone with fresh ideas to further the promotion of Eremophila growing, especially in the Sydney Region.

I have been the Sydney group's Co-ordinator since its inception – 12th October 2003. During this period, I hope that the Sydney group has added to the knowledge of Eremophila growing in the Sydney Region.

I would like to thank all the past and present members of both groups for the sharing of Eremophila knowledge.

To the Sydney group members for their friendship, knowledge and expert contribution at the group's meetings.

I realise the last two (Covid) years have been difficult without face-to-face meetings especially for the newer members who were looking for these meetings to progress their Eremophila knowledge.

I would like to give a special thanks to Ken Warnes for his guidance since The Sydney group's inception. Passing on his vast Eremophila knowledge and expertise and encouragement, especially during the group's early years and during the ESG recess. Also, a thank you for the many cutting materials sent to the group.

Also, I would like to thank Ian Tranter who travelled long distances to attend our meetings, and Peter Olde for their botanical and scientific contributions at our meetings.

Last but not least, I pay my respects to the late Gordon Brook and Noel Gane – both pioneers of Eremophila growing in the Sydney Region – for their assistance in setting up of the Sydney group; also, to the late Kyrill Taylor for his continuous encouragement.

I am hoping someone will step up to continue Noel Gane and Gordon Brook legacy.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone, and especially Lyndal, for their continuous support.

Thanks

Editor's note: Ian Cox has taken over the leadership of Charles' Sydney group and will expand it to all of NSW. NSW members have been contacted to confirm their continued (or new) interest. Ian can be contacted on **itcox (at) bigpond.com** and will email people direct with his plans, when they develop.

I am thinking about how to manage/expand Charles' email discussion group (delayed because the Biennial Conference has taken all the editor's brain power in the last month!)

South Australian sub-group

Tim Wood

(The report on the April meeting is at page 5). SA group's spring get together will be on 9 October. Tim will also provide an update on the Adelaide Botanic Gardens' Eremophila garden, and there will be a cutting swap.

NEXT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEETING:

Sunday 9 October 2022 at Ian Robert's Medika Gallery 16 Moore St Blyth, SA. Start time is 10:30am.

For more info email Tim Wood: drspock52 (at) gmail.com

Topic – Eremophila in Containers

Victorian sub-group

Chris Strachan

Ten members met on 30 April at Brian and Carol Hendrickson's property, at Daisy Hill, 4km from Maryborough., Vic. The group toured Brian and Carol's garden, developed over the years and protected by a high fence to prevent decimation by wallabies looking for better pickings than that of the shrub and grass-depauperate surrounding forest.

The meeting discussed Eremophila that should strike as cuttings but always give trouble, e.g., *E. laanii*, hearing about 4 approaches including grafting. Discussion on grafting included reference to the video of Ron Dadd grafting A

Nip and a Tuck - Fact Sheets - Gardening Australia - GARDENING AUSTRALIA) (abc.net.au).

The group also discussed potential for *E. maculata* die back on the end of branches. There was a suggestion that it may be climate related as we are trying to grow desert loving plants out of their range. There is a table in: Russell Wait's book on various species which can suffer from die-back due to fungal attack.

The third topic was what causes struck cuttings to die back even though they have strong and healthy roots. Some members put broad-spectrum Zineb in the water once a week as a preventative with good results.

The fourth topic was rain-induced flowering, particularly among *E. oldfieldii* ssp. *angustifolia* x *E. oppositifolia* ssp. *oppositifolia* 'Piccaninny Dawn' always flowers after every rain as does *E. latrobei* ssp. *latrobei*, *E. reticulata* and *E. macgillivrayi*, with *E. pterocarpa* having been in flower for four months solid after March rain.[3]

The final topic was pests, noting Wingless Grasshoppers can be controlled with Rogor, Confidor or Eco-Neem, and Webbing Caterpillars can be controlled with Carbaryl (Bugmaster). Some insecticides (e.g., Rogor, Confidor and Carbaryl) may kill bees, whereas others e.g., Endothion are apparently bee-safe. For further information, see www.beeaware.org.au an article in The Bee Benefactor entitled *The Wall of Shame – products that kill bees in Australia*.

NEXT VICTORIAN MEETING:

Saturday 19 November 2022 form 10:30am at Bob and Margaret Blake's, 39 Millar St, Pimpinio, Vic (near Horsham).

For more info email Chris Strachan: doowop49 (at) hotmail.com

[3] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281365144_Desert_complex_environments/download has some explanations for this effect

Queensland sub-group

Fifteen members met on 7 August at the home of Lorelei and Matt Bartkowski, in Glencoe.

Jan advised those present that she was standing down from her role as Leader of the ESG in SEQ and that Lorelei Bartkowski has taken on the role. The group agreed it had been so fortunate to have Jan as leader since 2009 and thanked her for devoting so much time, knowledge and experience to ESG Queensland.

New Chair, Lorelei, is well-known to members. Her knowledge and expertise on Eremophila and Australian plants across the whole spectrum, is truly appreciated.

The group began planning for a repeat visit to Myall Park (see box) in October 2022. This is to plant additional Eremophila and to review the plantings from 2021.

The group is surveying members to try to identify any useful information from the very wet, cloudy summer. This will be reported on in a later newsletter. Dick Harding is sourcing cutting material for Myall Park and is still looking for *E. maculata* ssp. *filifolia* and *E. maculata* 'Aurea'. Dick can be contacted on 0438281201 or **dickh (at) bigpond.net.au**) – he wants to collect cuttings now to strike & grow for 2023.

NEXT QUEENSLAND MEETING:

Friday 7 to Monday 10 October at Myall Park

More info email Noleen Baxter: rbaxn2 (at) bigpond.com

Looking forward, the group will meet in Warwick early in 2023, and Jan invited members to participate in a 10-day trip to Cunnamulla, Quilpie, Jundah, Winton, Bladensburg, Augathella, and Charleville in July 2023. Anyone interested will have to organise their own bookings and catering and it is planned that overnight stops will be in a town where non-campers can book a cabin in the local caravan park. A spare day will be allowed for Winton. Contact Jan Glazebrook for further details as the plan evolves (janglazebrook@gmail.com; 07 5546 8590).

Buying *Eremophila* - update

As at June 2022 (* means added or amended since March 2020). This list is also on the website at https://anpsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Buying-Eremophila-May-2022.pdf

Retail and wholesale nurseries

Wholesalers will usually give details of retailers they supply. Check the websites for more information on what is available – many have stock lists online.

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, Stuart Highway, Port Augusta SA, phone (08) 8641 9116, email nursery@aalbg.sa.gov.au or website www.aalbg.sa.gov.au. Plants sold from the nursery shop and by mail order, check availability monthly. Large list of Eremophilas.

Australian Native Nursery, 141 King Road, Oakford, WA. WA only http://www.australiannativenursery.com.au/

Australian Plants Growers Markets, Cool Country Natives, Pialligo, ACT. ACT and regional growers sell plants on the first Saturday of every month from spring through to autumn, includes at least three that regularly stock Eremophilas. https://www.coolcountrynatives.com.au/

Bilby Blooms, near Coonabarabran NSW. Annual spring open day on 2nd Sunday in September, and sells through regional markets (Armidale, Canberra, Coonabarabran, Dubbo, Gunnedah, Narrabri and Tamworth). Visit the nursery by appointment, (02) 6844 1044. http://www.bilbyblooms.com.au/Bilby_Blooms/Home.html

Cool Country Natives, Pialligo ACT. Large range of natives including Eremophilas in forestry tubes and pots. Selection of grafted plants. Phone 02 6257 6666, open 7 days, www.coolcountrynatives.com.au.

Drylands Permaculture Nursery, 333 David Rd, Waggrakine, Geraldton, WA. http://www.drylands.org.au/plants/docs/Nursery%20Catalogue%20July%202015.pdf

Eremophila Nursery of WA, Kalamunda, WA. Phil James 08 9293 2569 At Kalamunda Farmers Market Sundays

Geoff Miers Garden Solutions, 13 Lindsay Avenue, Alice Springs. Email geoffmiersgardensol@bigpond.com. Has a good range of Eremophilas from cuttings. Phone (08) 8953 7477.

Geographe Community Landcare Nursery, 366 Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Busselton, WA. http://www.geographeplants.com/

Goldfields Revegetation Nursery, 230 Tannery Lane, Mandurang Vic. Specialises in regional species but the plant list includes 160 Eremophila varieties. phone (03) 5439 5384 or email info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au. http://www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au/index.asp

Kuranga Native Nursery, 111 York Road, Mount Evelyn, Victoria. http://www.kuranga.com.au/

Medika Gallery (Ian Roberts), 16 Moore St, Blyth SA. Ph 08 88445175 email medika@adam.com.au
http://www.medikagallery.com.au

Melton Botanic Garden Nursery, 21 Williams St, Melton, Victoria. Sell on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and 2nd & 4th Sunday mornings. http://www.fmbg.org.au

Mildura Native Nursery, Cureton Avenue, Mildura, Victoria. (03) 5021 4117 http://nativegrowth.com.au/mildura-native-nursery Will do mail order.

Mole Station Native Plant Nursery, Tenterfield, NSW. Will do mail order. http://www.molerivernursery.com/default.html

Mostly Aussie Nursery, Dunkeld, Victoria. Bernie Shanahan, sells grafted stock, phone: 0478227639

Native Plant Wholesalers, Mt Gambier, SA. Wholesale only http://www.nativeplantwholesalers.com.au

Newcastle Wildflower Nursery, 260 Lake Road Glendale, NSW. Limited range of Eremophilas but sells grafted plants. Phone (02) 4954 5584 or www.newcastlewildflower.com.au.

***Olive Pink Botanic Gardens**, Alice Springs. Has a range of Eremophilas that only occur in Central Australia. Plants are grown by Australian Plant Society volunteers and sold at regular sales to help fund Olive Pink Botanic Gardens. Sold in tubestock and 140mm pots. For info on dates see https://www.facebook.com/OlivePinkBotanicGarden/

Pete's Hobby Nursery, 10 Patrick St Lowood Qld (appointment only), specialises in Queensland species. Also sells at Fernvale markets most Sundays. Contact through Facebook, phone (07) 5426 1690, email info@peteshobbynursery.com.au.

***Plantinspirations Nursery**, Tatura, Victoria. Will do mail order. www.plantinspirations.com.au

South Australian State Flora Nursery at Queen's Jubilee Drive, Upper Sturt Road, Belair and Bremer Road Murray Bridge, SA. Website www.stateflorasa.gov.au or phone (08) 8278 7777 (Belair) or (08) 8539 2105 (Murray Bridge). Will do mail order.

Sunvalley Plant Nursery, 1175 Dandenong Hastings Road, Langwarrin, Vic, phone (03) 9782 2825 – mainly sells grafted Grevillea, but does mention Eremophila in their journal advertisements, email sunvalleyplants@yahoo.com.au Open by appointment

Sydney Wildflower Nursery, 9 Veno St, Heathcote, NSW. Will do mail order. http://www.sydneywildflowernursery.com.au/plants/stock-list.html

Tarrawood Native Nursery, Bega, NSW. Wholesale only. http://www.tarrawood.com.au/catalogue/catalogue_A-F.html

Vaughan's Australian Plants at 919 Bannockburn Shelford Road, Teesdale and at 3322 Ararat Halls Gap Road Pomonal, Victoria. Attends a range of APS market days. Contact through Facebook or phone 0412 632 767. Does mail order and grafted plants. https://www.facebook.com/vaughansnativeplants

Wildtech Nursery, 60 Chesterfield Road, Glenmaggie. Mail order available through Collectors Online, minimum order of ten plants, and discounts for orders of >100. Tubestock only. Contact via www.wildtechnursery.com.au or collectorsonline@wildtechnursery.com.au**.** Larger range from Summer through Autumn.

Wimmera Native Nursery, Dimboola, Victoria. phone (03) 5389 1458 or www.nativeshop.com.au. Does mail order.

Zanthorrea Nursery 155 Watsonia Road, Maida Vale WA, Phone (08) 9454 6260 or www.zanthorrea.com. Small range of Eremophilas.

Australian Native Plant Society Sales

In addition to formal nurseries, many ANPS groups sell Eremophila at their regular plant sales. Many of these sales occur on only on a few days a year. For up-to-date information about groups and their sales go to the State regional websites.

APS Armidale & District Group, NSW. Stall in the Armidale Markets 4th Sunday of the month September to May. Plants sourced from Mole Station Native Plant Nursery http://www.aps-armidale.org.au/

APS Bendigo Native Plants Group, Victoria. Flower Show in spring usually September.

ANPS Canberra ACT. Plant sales on one day in March and October, ANBG https://nativeplantscbr.com.au/#events

APS Geelong, Victoria. Plant Sale in April http://www.apsgeelong.org/index.html

APS Grampians Group Pomonal, Victoria. Native Flower Show in October

APS Melton/Bacchus Marsh Group, Victoria. Autumn plant Sale in May http://www.runningpostman.org.au/plant-sale.html

APS Mitchell, Kilmore, Victoria. Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale in October http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/

APS SA Plant sales (Adelaide Showgrounds) in April and October http://www.australianplantssa.asn.au/pages/australian-plants/society-plant-sales/adelaide-plant-sales.php

APS SA Fleurieu group has sales at Nangawooka Flora Reserve near Victor Harbor in Autumn and Spring. http://www.australianplantssa.asn.au/pages/whats-on/calendar.php

APS SA Northern Yorke Peninsula, Lot 1866 South Terrace, Kadina. SA. 5554. Open each Thursday for plant sales 10am to 12 noon and an annual plant sale 2nd Saturday in May. https://www.facebook.com/apsnypg/

APS Wilson Park, Berwick, Victoria. Plant Sale September www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au

APS Yarra Yarra Group, Eltham, Victoria. Plant Sales in Autumn (May) and the main one in Spring (September) https://apsyarrayarra.org.au/

Friends of Kings Park, Perth, WA. Plant sales March, May, and September. http://www.friendsofkingspark.com.au/

Friends of RBGV Cranbourne Gardens, Victoria. Plant Sales March, July & October. https://www.rbg.Victoria.gov.au/support/support-groups/friends-of-rbg/cranbourne/growing-friends-cranbourne

Native Plants Queensland Plant Sale at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, September http://www.npq.org.au/whats-on/calendar-of-events/icalrepeat.detail/2016/09/17/281/-/spring-flower-show-and-native-plants-market

WSWA Northern Suburbs Branch Nursery, Landsdale Farm School, corner Evandale and Landsdale Roads, Darch, WA. Thurs/Sat only
http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/branches/northern-suburbs-branch/

Financial Report for 2021-22

The financial reports for 2021-22 are over the page – the large balance is because we received the Geoff Simmonds grant from NPQ in January but we are still trying to get UQ to finalise the agreement, which will then allow us to pass half the grant to UQ. The other half is likely to be paid in 2023-24. The most significant expense was for purchase of plants which we donated to Myall Park's new Eremophila bed (July 2021). As always if you have questions please ask.

Eremophila Study Group
3 Considine Close
Greenleigh NSW 2620
02 6297 2437

Balance sheet report

30 Jun 2022

	Total
1-0000 Assets	
1-1100 General Cheque Account	34,698.21
Total Assets	**34,698.21**
2-0000 Liabilities	
2-4000 ESG membership fees in advance	
2-4400 Fees received in advance for 22-23	575.00
2-4500 Fees received in advance for 23-24	295.00
2-4600 Fees received in advance for 24-25	185.00
2-4700 Fees in advance to Jun 26	40.00
Total ESG membership fees in advance	**1,095.00**
Total Liabilities	**1,095.00**
Net Assets	**33,603.21**
3-0000 Equity	
3-8000 Retained Earnings	2,949.72
3-9000 Current Earnings	25,268.93
3-9999 Historical Balancing Account	5,384.56
Total Equity	**33,603.21**

Eremophila Study Group
3 Considine Close
Greenleigh NSW 2620
02 6297 2437

Profit and loss report

Cash mode
01 Jul 2021 - 30 Jun 2022

	Total
4-0000 Income	
4-1100 Memberships	645.00
4-4100 Book sales	47.00
4-4600 Postage	20.40
4-6100 Miscellaneous Income	135.00
4-7100 Cultivar use donations	1,425.00
4-8000 NPQ grant	23,864.00
Total Income	**26,136.40**
Gross Profit	**26,136.40**
6-0000 Expenses	
6-2000 Printing and photocopying	355.42
6-3000 Postage	154.00
6-4000 Stationery	36.97
6-4300 Bookkeeping	36.00
6-4500 Software	74.80
6-5000 Travel	80.58
6-6000 Plants	130.00
Total Expenses	**867.77**
Operating Profit	**25,268.63**
8-0000 Other Income	
8-1000 Bank interest	0.30
Total Other Income	**0.30**
Net Profit	**25,268.93**

From your Letters

Phil Allan (SA): I've been stuck in Charleville, Qld for the past 3 weeks trying to get an oil filter housing leak fixed on our Isuzu motorhome bus. Finally have a solution so can get to Roma for detailed check. Anyway, on this my last day, I found a healthy group of *Eremophila longifolia* on a property about 1km from the Warrego River.

I later found more (below) by chance at a rest stop between Clermont and Belyando Crossing. There were at least another 5 smaller

plants nearby. I have gathered seed pods and cuttings to send to Uni of Queensland

Lorelei Bartkowski (Qld): I noticed this unusual 6-petalled flower on *E.* Blue Thunder. The second pic is its normal flower.

Kaye Bartlett (SA): Our grafts following the Renmark weekend are not looking very happy. I think it is a little cold without heat, will have to try in the spring.

Have planted around 50+ Eremophilas from cuttings taken from Ken's Garden out in a paddock at home, after first planting one of each at Pangarinda Botanic Garden where we volunteer every Wednesday as well as grow a lot of the plants used in the garden.

Most of the Eremophilas are unnamed, so will be looking for help to name if they grow. I also bought a yellow *Eremophila youngii* for planting at Pangarinda recently, from Bunnings.

Rain had been missing us, but we are starting to see a few good showers (24mm recently. A lot of the plants at Pangarinda have been looking very stressed from lack of moisture.

Dave Bishop (NSW): I thought I would give you an update on the cuttings from last April. The *E. ionantha* cuttings all died. The 10 grafted ones at this stage are looking fairly good.

Some haven't developed new shoots yet but still look OK, including the *E. latrobei* ssp. *latrobei* (WA/NT border), *E. mackinlayi* ssp. *spathulata* and *E. prolata*.

I only got one graft from *E. willsii* cuttings but it is still hanging in there.

Jan Glazebrook (Qld): We had to change our plans on our trip to Mt Moffett and ended up heading to Quilpie. When we arrived the road to Cunnamulla was closed, so we headed further west and ended up near the S A border at Noccundra. Saw lots of Eremophilas along the way, all in flower. We also couldn't find the *E. oppositifolia*. The roads have changed in the last few years. I think with more time I could relocate the spot.

The last day of the trip was in non-stop rain so I could only see the *E. goodwinii* from the car. The conditions out west were amazing. I have never seen so many daisies, Goodenias and other plants in flower.

Bill Handke (NSW): the Eremophila hybrid in our Tathra garden is doing very nicely (parents unknown…so far).

Ken Warnes (SA): On a recent trip up north Don and Chris Lill saw a pink flowering *E. freelingii* near Farina SA (pic next column) and were wondering whether this a colour variant or a hybrid, as *E. latrobei* and *E. duttonii* were both nearby.

While not common, it is perfectly OK for blue-coloured Eremophila to have pink or white sports. Species which show this variation include *E. spectabilis, E. clarkei, E. macdonnellii* and *E. christophorii*, among others. The pink is invariably a mauvy-pink and derives from the anthocyanin base colouring. Conversely, the reds sport to pinker-pinks and yellows, as seen in *E. maculata* and *E. glabra.* This is the result of keratinoid base colouring.

The Halls used to sell what they called a white *E. freelingii* but this was from the Flinders Ranges where leaves and flowers are larger. They struck this from cuttings, but I found purchased plants failed to establish.

You will note from the pic's that leaves from the Farina plant are somewhat smaller and narrower, and the flower is also smaller, than on those from further South. This smaller leaved version is what is found right through Central Australia through to western Queensland and I have found it possible to graft the northern form but impossible with those from the Flinders. Saying which I have never had much luck with *E. freelingii* and I think that is a general observation as I don't ever recall seeing a decent one in cultivation. Who's going to prove me wrong?

In general terms the northern form is a smaller bush and there's good examples at the Mt. Willoughby turn-off just South of Cadney Park on the Stuart Hwy. Some of these have quite deep blue flowers and grow with the most southerly *E. gilesii* that I know of.

We have long suspected Echidna activity in our Scrub and recently had photographic evidence. So, I went off checking out recent scratchings and without seeing the animal itself I did find a beautiful *E. subfloccosa ssp lanata* a metre across and just coming into flower (pic below).

Never seen it before, as it's some way from the nearest *E. glabra*. Naturally, cuttings have already gone in.

Grandson Tom (aged 9) rang the other morning and wanted some Eremophila flowers to take to school that the kids could suck honey from. It was his contribution to the week's "Bush Tucker" theme. He told me afterwards, very seriously, that the class had taken a lot of interest in his demonstration, all 6 of them who were Covid free! *E.* "Piccaninny Dawn" provided the flowers.

Finally, I photographed one of about 6 heavily pruned *E. oppositifolia* at Roseworthy Agricultural College. They are superb and well worth showing what pruning can do with a naturally "leggy" species.

Next issue

The feature species for the next issue will be *Eremophila gilesii*. It comes in three colours and two sizes and hybridises with *E. spectabilis* and *E. latrobei*. A survey is coming!

Subscriptions and membership

Thanks to all who have paid subscription fees for 2022-23.

A couple of people queried why I sent the first reminder out in May – this sort of timing is quite common, and the two-month payment window spreads the payments out and helps me keep track of who has paid what. It also avoids a rush at the end of financial year, which is usually quite busy for me. If anyone you know complains about missing a newsletter, you might ask them to check their subscription status!

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) https://anpsa.org.au/study_group/eremophila-study-group/

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 (https://anpsa.org.au/membership/).

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. 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) (studygroups (at) anpsa.org.au)

NEXT NEWSLETTER when I have enough for 24 pages