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Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA)

Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No. 138

February 2023

Eremophila youngii (pic Alice Newton)

Contents

Letter from the Editor

Greetings all.

Summer hasn't been all that hot here in Queanbeyan, and we appear to be moving out of La Nina and into a more neutral weather pattern, which will doubtless precede another drought. Such is life! Our Eremophilas will be happier, at least, although it is interesting to see what has survived the last 3 years of excess water. In our garden, which had 885mm last year (normally ~580mm), we seem to have lost only an *E. nivea*, an *E. 'Pink Pantha'* and one of several *E. maculata.* Other members have not been so lucky, as the report from John Upsher shows on page 13. But he remains optimistic, as should we all.

John's report is just one of a record number of articles from members this issue – excluding the usual group effort for the feature species this month (page 4), over half the pages of this 24 page newsletter have been written by members. Keep it up! Short articles about your garden or interesting Eremophila sites are very welcome. Others are very interested in your contributions.

Thank you also to the active coordinators in NSW, SA, Vic and Queensland, all of whom are planning meetings between now and mid April (page 21). I may not make it to these meetings, but hope to get to at least one in each location during 2023.

Eremophilas in the News

The University of Queensland issued a press release about our ARC Project in November – see https://www.uq.edu.au/news/node/133214

An **article about the plant chemistry** and medicinal properties of Eremophila was published by Cock *et al* in the Molecules Journal[1]. The article, entitled *Phytochemistry, Medicinal Properties, Bioactive Compounds and Therapeutic Potential of the Genus Eremophila (Scrophulariacae)*, is by researchers at Griffith University and the School of Industrial Biology in France.

The paper reviews and summarises what is known so far about medicinal and anti-bacterial properties of Eremophila. It notes a lot more work is required to understand modes of action, and that this work needs to move beyond what is already linked to traditional Aboriginal uses of particular species if it is to be useful for pharmaceutical applications.

Another academic paper on **using chemistry to map evolution** was published in 2021 but I missed reporting on it then. The paper is entitled *Navigating Through Chemical Space and Evolutionary Time Across the Australian Continent in the genus Eremophila*, by Gericke *et al*. Oliver Gericke presented this work to the International Conference in 2019 on this issue. This study used chemical analysis to build a dataset from Eremophila leaf samples supplied by Rachael Fowler.

What's New in the Study Group

Welcome to new members Dave Hall (NSW), Isis (NSW) and Amy Morgan (SA) – see Amy's lovely story on page 16.

In January we lost long standing member Bev Rice. Ken Warnes' tribute to her is on page 3.

[1] Cock, I.E.; Baghtchedjian, L.; Cordon, M.-E.; Dumont, E. *Phytochemistry, Medicinal Properties, Bioactive Compounds, and Therapeutic Potential of the Genus Eremophila (Scrophulariaceae).* Molecules **2022**, 27, 7734. If readers want more recent technical analysis of Eremophila chemistry, two other papers have recently been published: Petersen, M.J. , Liang, C. , Kjaerulff, L. , Chi, N. , Semple, S .J. , Buirchell, B. *et al*. (2022): *Serrulatane diterpenoids from the leaves of Eremophila glabra and their potential as antihyperglycaemic drug leads.* Phytochemistry, 196, 113072; and Bredahl, E.K. Liang, C. , Kjaerulff, L. , Chi, N. , Semple, S. J. , Buirchell, B. *et al*. (2022): *Isolation and structure elucidation of caryophyllane sesquiterpenoids from leaves of Eremophila spathulata*. Phytochemistry Letters, 47, 156–163.

Vale Bev Rice

Ken Warnes

When Bev Rice passed away on Christmas Day as a result of a major stroke the Society lost a valued member whose friendliness and willingness to assist others was unsurpassed.

Raised in the Barossa Valley, Bev spent her married life in the Rice family homestead at Dutton, a small community between Truro and Eudunda. Bev was an enthusiastic member of the Eremophila Study Group and those who had visited her home can remember how she used them in landscaping her garden with low hedge borders of *Eremophila drummondii* a feature.

Because of the intense frosts of the area Bev grew many of her prized species in large tubs against the walls of the house. The majority of her collection were protected only by extensive tree plantings and had to contend with heavy clay soils and hand watering from the dam. She was a competent propagator and grew many of her own plants.

Who can forget the near life-sized emu that Bev created for the last Federal Conference hosted by our State in 2013. Hours of work and huge numbers of individual Eremophila flowers and foliage made for an outstanding feature and pictures later appeared in the Journals of other States. An emu-bush for the whole Nation.

When Colin Jennings was unable to continue as the active Leader of the Eremophila Study Group, it was Bev who was entrusted with ALL the records—correspondence, membership, financial, plant pressings, fruit stocks – the lot. Bev chose to enlist my assistance and together we spent many hours sorting it all out, publishing 3 Newsletters to Members, and calling for a volunteer to be the new Leader, before handing over to Lyndal Thorburn, under whose leadership it is going from strength to strength. The pic at right is of Lyndal, Bev and I at a Study Group event at Owen in September 2017.

Bev was a leading member of the Para Districts Regional Group and served as President for 6 years. While she was not President at the time, it was the strength of her leadership and her organisational skill that enabled the 2016 State Conference to be such a success.

She was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Barossa Bush Garden, which has been such an inspiration to so many and played such a key part in that Conference. Para Districts and the Eremophila Study Group have an on-going participatory role with this Garden.

In earlier times Bev served as President of an organisation called The Coolabah Club which encouraged the planting of trees on rural properties. In conjunction with the former Highways Department, a number of large plantations were established on main roads through the Lower/Mid North areas. One such plantation is near her former home on the Truro-Eudunda road. The Coolabah Club is no longer in existence, its role having been overtaken by organisations such as Greening Australia and Trees for Life, but it was an important group in its time.

In 2016 Bev was given a Service Award by APS for her outstanding service and leadership to the Society. There was never a more fitting recipient.

Feature species – *Eremophila youngii*

Lyndal Thorburn, Ken Warnes and Russell Wait.

Description

Eremophila youngii is an erect and much-branched shrub to 4m tall and 2-3m wide. Its branches and leaves are covered in greyish to yellowish-grey hairs. It is widespread in Western Australia and there is also one occurrence in the Northern Territory.

Named by von Mueller, its scientific name honours Jess Young (a male, despite the name – see box), who is recorded as collecting it at Queen Victoria Spring (QVS) in 1875 while travelling with Ernest Giles. Chinnock places it in his Section Pholidae.

There is some contention as to the recording of the type location. QVS is part of the Great Victoria Desert (GVD), which is parallel sand-dunes. *E. youngii* just doesn't grow in that country, it grows in harder country. The Type location is given as between QVS and Ularing – Google lists a place called Ularring, which appears to be West of Menzies where there is a Weather Station. That's a long way even today, let alone on a camel. It would allow them to leave the GVD and be in typical Goldfields country at the time of discovery – this could be Eucalypt or Acacia dominated (locations as far South as Kalgoorlie have been recorded). So the type specimen would have been found to the western end of the QVS – Ularing stretch (also, being pre-Kalgoorlie times, reference points were few and far between).

An aside about Jess Young

(From Ken)

Jess Young left SA as 3rd officer on the 1875 Giles expedition attempting to travel North of the Nullarbor through the Great Victorian Desert in completely unknown country. The journey is recorded from adapted Journal entries in the book "Australia twice traversed".

The main party had actually passed the lifesaving Queen Victoria Springs (QVS) in parallel sand-dune country when one of the party, an Aboriginal named Tommy, and who had been travelling in the next swale, came racing after them with the news "Boss, boss, water back there" and so QVS was discovered. Without it they almost certainly would have perished because they had reached the point of no return. They stayed for a week resting up and the Journal reports on the very large red and yellow flowers on the trees in the area. So there's your type collection of *Eucalyptus pyriformis* ssp. *youngiana*, now *E. youngiana*.

They arrived in Perth to somewhat of a hero's welcome, but after only a few weeks Giles was off again, this time with Young as 2IC. He planned to follow one of the large coastal rivers to its source, thus enabling deep penetration to the inland. I think he chose the Murchison, but I don't have the book on my shelf to verify this.

They undoubtedly passed by Mount Gould because Giles recorded that his compass was useless in its vicinity. By this means they covered the dry stretch to the Walter and Marie Range and eventually to the Rawlinson Range, which Giles knew from his previous (failed) expedition when Gibson perished. So Jess Young covered some ground in his time with Giles.

Giles was tough and the story of his survival after giving Gibson the only horse is legendary. On one other occasion while travelling from Fowlers Bay to the Flinders Ranges, he was past the point of no return, travelling at night when it was cooler, and moonlight reflected off some water in a clay-pan. Perish averted. That was in the Glendambo region, and I have always thought that it looks hard country. Not sure if Young was with him on that expedition but they had certainly climbed Mount Finke together and it was on their route. "A useless lump of waterless rock" was Giles description.

Getting back to E. youngii, what was at Ularing that it became a recorded location? Apparently, there is a prominent small hill which may have been used as a reference point. I had always presumed that he collected it on the return journey which goes through the heart of *E. youngii* country but the Type Location in Chinnock clearly proves that it was from further South.

The leaves of *E. youngii* are sessile and opposite and look pale grey due to the hairs. Pairs of leaves are at 90-degree rotation to the pairs above and below them (example below for *E. youngii* ssp. *youngii*, pic Lyndal Thorburn).

There are 1-2 flowers per axil and the corolla is 18mm-30mm long. It is officially described as dull red, although nurseries mostly describe it as dusky pink. A yellow colour form, collected from Leonora in WA, has become available in recent years.

It is adapted for bird pollination, with exserted stamens. Our members, 21 of which responded to the survey, grow it in all States except Tassie.

Subspecies

There are two subspecies – *E. youngii* ssp. *youngii* and *E. youngii* ssp. *lepidota.* These are distinguished by both leaf arrangement and the covering of hairs. The photo below shows the leaves of the two sub-species compared – *E. youngii* ssp. *youngii* on the left and *E. youngii* ssp. *lepidota* on the right (pic Lyndal Thorburn).

E. youngii ssp. *youngii*

This sub-species is found in Western Australia, starting in the Great Victoria Desert and extending westward to Shark Bay and south to Kalgoorlie, in mulga woodlands or shrublands. It can be found along drainage systems subject to periodic flooding or in clay pans. Photo of a plant south of Leonora is below, by Don Lill.

This sub-species has star-shaped hairs on the outside surface of the corolla and fruit.

Leaves are 22-45mm long and have hooks at the end (see left).

This subspecies grows into a handsome shrub (pic Lorelei Bartkowski, next page). Ninety-five percent of survey respondents grew this sub-species.

E. youngii ssp. *youngii* comes in two colour forms – brick red (dusky pink) (pic Alice Newton below) or yellow (pic next column Brian Freeman). The pink is the most widespread form in gardens, with 95% of survey respondents growing it, and 66% growing the yellow (some people have both!). The pink form is sometimes sold as *Eremophila youngii* 'Dusky'.

E. youngii ssp. *lepidota*

This subspecies is found only in the Carnarvon Botanical District in WA with an isolated population in the Northern Territory near Mount Doreen Station. It also grows in depressions subject to periodic flooding.

'Lepidota' means "small scurfy scales" and these are found on the outside of the corolla and fruit.

This subspecies grows a little shorter, at 2-3 metres high, and the leaves are also shorter (20-25mm). The leaf arrangement is distinctive as the leaves, while still maintaining the 90-degree offset, are also held more horizontal than those of *E. youngii* ssp. *youngii* and have no hooks (see below).

Flowers (above right) are a brighter pink than *E. youngii* ssp. *youngii*.

Chinnock lists an Isaacson collection studied during preparation of his manuscript on this subspecies, so it is possible that Ray Isaacson was the source of our cultivated plants of this subspecies.

Half the survey respondents grew this subspecies.

Horticulture

E. youngii does best in full sun but can handle some shade. Over 70% of plants grown by survey respondents are on their own roots and are in the ground. Over 60% of respondents are growing their plants in silts/clays/loamy soils, with a further 10% in sands/gravelly soils and 5% in compost-enriched soils. Forty-eight percent of respondents reported growing the plants in full sun, and the same percent reported their plants are in full sun for half the day, with the remainder reporting theirs in dappled shade.

Sixty percent of respondents have grafted plants (on *M. insulare*, *M. montanum* or *M. acuminatum*, in descending order of preference).

The survey results re flowering are shown below: spring and summer are the most prolific times.[2] From other sources, the different subspecies have different peak flowering times: *E. youngii* ssp. *youngii* flowers mostly in spring, and *E. youngii* spp. *lepidota* flowers more in summer. Some respondents to the survey note very sparse flowering of the latter subspecies.

Season	Prolific	Sparse	None
Summer	5	6	3
Autumn	0	7	4
Winter	4	6	5
Spring	10	9	1

Numbers = no. of respondents

Drought, rain, frost and wind

E. youngii is frost hardy, with only one survey respondent reporting death of a plant due to frost. From the survey, 53% grow it in areas which reach as low as minus 5 degrees in winter, and a further 10% grow it in areas reaching between minus 5 and minus 10 degrees.

According to 76% of survey respondents, *E. youngii* suffers no ill effects from heavy rain. Two members, living in on the Gold Coast and in Melbourne, reported damping off of leaf tips and a further two reported damping off of lower leaves from heavy rain.

Almost no ill effects from severe winds were reported, but 14% of respondents said that their plants had had minor damage including lost leaves.

Longevity

Plants can be long-lived, with three respondents reporting a plant aged from 35-50 years old and three more with plants over 15 years old. The 50-year-old plant was 5 metres high. A photo of the trunk of Lyndal's 40-year-old plant (which is near death) is below.

Pruning

E. youngii responds well to pruning but it does not appear to be essential – 53% of respondents did not prune their plants at all; 24% tip-pruned and 14% reduced their plant by 1/3 after flowering.

[2] The survey didn't ask about flowering patterns by subspecies – sorry!.

Pests

E. youngii has few pests – two respondents reported sucking mites/bugs, one reported caterpillars and one reported rabbits.

Propagation

E. youngii strikes readily from cuttings, which strike quickly in warmer months.

Plants are not normally known to seed in the garden. Ken's collection, brought from two locations as cuttings, has seeded – hence it is thought that cross pollination may be required for seed to develop.

Hybrids

The known hybrids are relatively rare in gardens, with only three respondents growing *E. scoparia* x *youngii* or *E. pantonii* x *youngii.*

Eremophila pantonii x youngii

E. pantonii x *youngii* is a shrub 2.5m high and wide and was collected from the wild on Carnegie Station, WA (north of Laverton). It has grey leaves which are 20-30 mm long and 2-4 mm wide. It is similar to the *E. pantonii* parent, with pink flowers in spring (pics below by Ron Dadd and Russell Wait).

It's relatively slow growing, but the shrub, when in flower, is spectacular (pic Russell Wait).

E. scoparia x *youngii*

This was reported by two respondents, but we have been unable to get any photos.

This arose as a seedling in Ken's garden – initially it looked very much like "straight" *E. youngii* but as it grew differences became obvious and *E. scoparia* was thought to be the likely parent. However, Ken's plant has since died.

Conclusions

E. youngii is a reliable and hardy shrub with showy flowers in spring and summer. The two subspecies are recommended for different uses by member respondents:

E. youngii ssp. *youngii* is favoured as a bird attractor, as a feature plant, for wind breaks, hedging and also does well in a container.

E. youngii ssp. *lepidota* is recommended more as an insect attractor. Its flowers less regularly and is possibly less showy, meaning it is not favoured as a feature plant. Its more open habit excludes its use as a wind break.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the 21 members who filled in the survey! And to those who provided photos and assistance with the text.

History of Eremophilas at Myall Park

Richard Harding

After Lyndal's discovery of the Nindethana article (December 2022 newsletter), I did my own search and found I could purchase a high-quality scanned copy of the entire 1956 publication "The story of Nindethana and new and enlarged catalogue of Australian native plants" from the National Library of Australia for about $100 after signing that it was private research only. Hugely interesting book. With that, plus my copy of Dave Gordon's biography, and photos of some pages from the records held in the MPBG seed room, I have written the article below.

Myall Park is a pastoral property near Glenmorgan in Southern Queensland, on the western edge of the Darling Downs. It was the property of the Gordon family from 1926 to 2015. Dave Gordon began to systematically plant Australian plant species close to the homestead in 1941, and his private garden of native plants developed into an extensive botanic garden with significant conservation and horticultural values and a significant herbarium collection. In the early 1990s Dave excised 133 hectares of land, including all of the garden areas and several buildings, from the property and transferred it to a volunteer Board of Directors, thereby creating Myall Park Botanic Garden (MPBG).

Dave's earliest plantings were several species of Eucalypt, *Melaleuca uncinata* and *Acacia cyperophylla.* His records show that he was buying plants from George Althofer's Nindethana Nursery at Dripstone near Orange NSW when he started to systematically record his plantings in 1948. Because the plants arrived badly travel-damaged at Myall Park, Dave travelled to Dripstone by train to bring back an order himself and so began a friendship with the Althofers. Subsequent journeys were made by car and George Althofer also came to Glenmorgan on several occasions including July 1949.

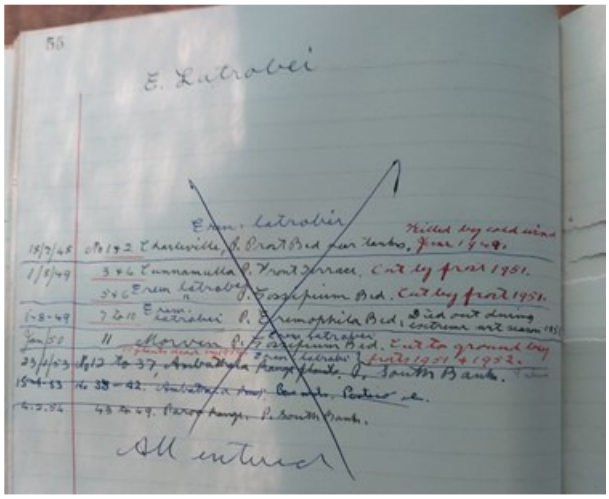
In 1951 Dave journeyed to the Victorian Government Nursery at Wail, which was setup to provide plants for windbreaks to protect the Mallee country from wind erosion due to over-clearing. In that same year he employed Len Miller, a gardener from England, and in 1954 sent him and his wife in a Vanguard ute – certainly not a four-wheel drive vehicle – to Western Australia to bring back plant propagation material – seeds and cuttings.

In the late 1940s Dave began to document his activity in large loose-leaved folders, one for each of the 60 or so "Divisions" of his garden. In the early years he also cross-referenced these in separate bound books, one book per genus, two pages (one opening) per species. These books reside in the room where the Myall Park Botanic Garden seed bank is stored. Two of the genus books are shown sitting on some of the Division books in the photo below.

I have looked at a small number of these Division books, and the Eremophila genus book. Thus far, the earliest record that I can find of Eremophilas being planted is in the Eremophila book, which records that on 18 July 1948 two *Eremophila latrobei* from Charleville were planted. These were "killed by cold wind June 1949".

On 1 August 1949 six *E. latrobei* from Cunnamulla were planted. Two of these "died out during extreme wet season 1950" and the remaining four were "cut by frost 1951". One *E. latrobei* from Morven (on the Warrego Highway east of Charleville) planted in 1949 was "cut to the ground by frosts 1951 & 1952". I assume that these plants were taken as

seedlings from the wild as identified by the "P." after the species name.

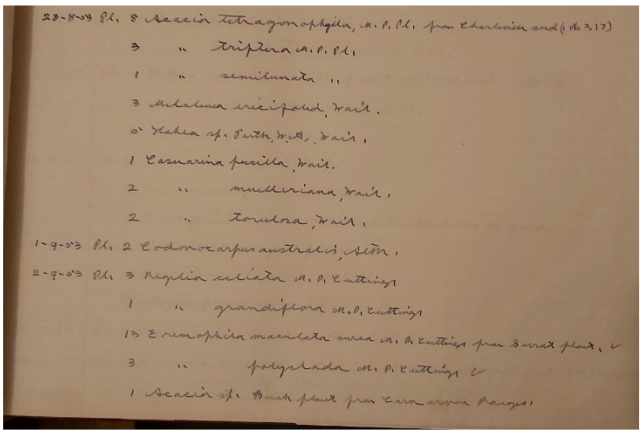


To put Dave's "extreme wet season 1950" into context, the long-term average rainfall at Glenmorgan is about 570mm per annum. In 1950 Glenmorgan Post Office recorded 842.5mm. which is only exceeded in the records by 1954, when 846.5mm fell. Rainfall at Myall Park from January to end of October 2022 was 856.4mm. So 2022 is a record year. And there's still another two months of it to come.[3]

On 30 April 1953, Dave wrote to George Althofer saying that he and Len Miller would like to try again with cuttings of *E. latrobei* and hoping that "some way will be found to strike these lovely cuttings easily".

In another Division of MPBG, *E. latrobei subsp. glabra* has formed a self-sustaining community of more than 50 plants. These were very quick to recover from the harsh drought that ended in February 2020. The next photo shows them on 3 March 2020, less than 28 days after the first drought-breaking rain.

On 23 September 1951, twelve *E. maculata* propagated from "cuttings from yellow flowered plant on Surat Road" were planted. Then on 2 September 1953 Dave planted 13 cutting-grown plants – "13 *Eremophila maculata aurea* M.P. cuttings from Surat plant". See the third line from the bottom of the photo below – this is likely to be the earliest record of the name *E. maculata aurea* being written.



That same image shows several plants that were purchased from "Wail" nursery and one from George Althofer's Nindethana Nursery, recorded as "Alth".

Shortly after this, Dave Gordon submitted a Herbarium specimen (AD 98833044) to the State Herbarium of South Australia of "*Eremophila maculata* (Ker Gawl.) F. Muell. ssp. *maculata*" collected on 15 October 1953 from "a few miles E of Surat".

The 1956 catalogue from George Althofer's nursery has an Eremophila section that lists twelve taxa including a red "MACULATA" and

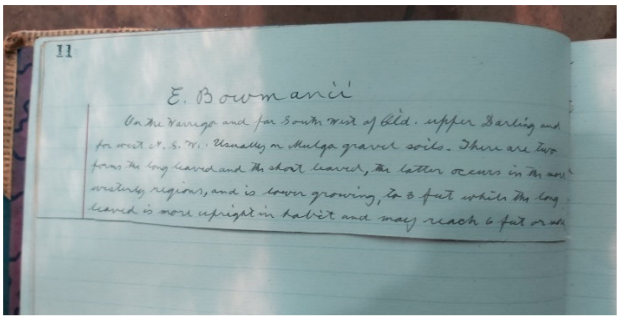
[3] Dick sent this article in November 2022 – it was held over to this newsletter because of lack of room at the time.

a "MACULATA FORMA AUREA". The latter is described as "The yellow flowered form of above. Both of these do well on clay or stiff soil subject to flooding 3 feet". The price was three shillings and sixpence per plant. This is consistent with Ken Warne's explanations of its origin in Newsletter 121[4] and confirms that George Althofer was propagating and selling the spotted form from 1956 until he applied for ACRA registration in 1980. Dave's daughter, Sandra Neil (nee Gordon) added additional information in Newsletter 122.

The Queensland sub-group of ESG revisited MPBG in early September 2022. Noreen Baxter's minutes of this event mention "the patch of *E. gilesii* on the roadside … was thriving". Dave Gordon planted 30 *E. gilesii* in this Division on 21/8/1954.

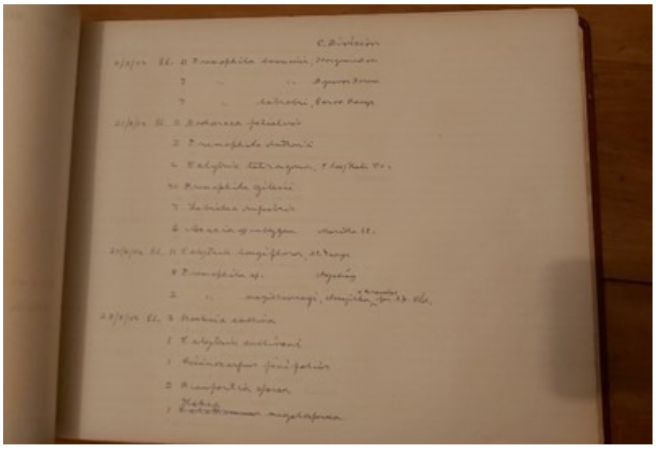
The minutes also mentioned *E. bowmanii*, which has also established self-sustaining populations in three separate patches, some distance from the commonly visited parts of the Garden but still in this Division. The group was puzzled that most did not fit clearly into the three subspecies. Jan Glazebrook suggested that they were a hybrid swarm between subsp. *nutans* and subsp. *bowmanii*, and that it would help if we could find out where the original plants came from. This encouraged me to search in the Division folders and this article evolved from that research.

The Eremophila genus book had this entry for *E bowmanii*: "On the Warrego and far South West of Qld, upper Darling and far west N.S.W., usually on Mulga gravel soils. There are two forms, the long leaved and the short leaved, the latter occurs in the more westerly regions, and is lower growing to 3 feet, while the long leaved is more upright in habit and may reach 6 feet or more". The remainder of the page, where the individual plantings would have been documented has been cut from the page (pic next column).



Australia's Virtual Herbarium records that Dave Gordon had collected an Herbarium specimen he described as "narrow leaved form", later identified as *Eremophila bowmanii* ssp. *bowmanii,* from Cunnamulla in 1947. He and George Althofer both collected herbarium specimens, later identified at *E. bowmanii* ssp. *nutans*, from Yowah Creek Eulo in 1949.

The MPBG Division book for the Division where the *E. bowmanii* hybrid swarms are located shows that on the 23 January 1953 five plants of *E. bowmanii* annotated "broad leaf" and five annotated "narrow leaf" were planted. Their provenance was not recorded. On 6 February 1954, 11 plants from Thargomindah and seven from Dynevor Downs (about 200km further east) were planted (pic below). Also planted on that day were seven *E. latrobei* from "Paroo Range". Noreen's minutes from 2022 also note that the *E. latrobei* patch in this area was also extending.



In 1954 Dave subsequently planted *E. bowmanii* from Thargomindah and Wanaaring, which is in NSW and is 300km to the south of Thargomindah.

[4] "Know Your Eremophila – *E. maculata* yellow forms" in ESG Newsletter 121 (October 2018)

While Dave Gordon was buying large numbers of other genera from both the Althofer and Wail Nurseries from 1947 (possibly earlier), the first mention that I can find of purchasing Eremophila was when he planted one "*Eremophila santalina* Wail" (6 October 1954).

Nothing that I can find links these plantings of Eremophilas to actual plants existing there today. Some plants close by do have three aluminium labels joined together by a brass clip (genus plus species name plus naming reference, family, and dates plus other details related to the planting), folded to fit in a short length of green-painted galvanised iron pipe hammered nearby. In this way I have been able to find the Division book entry that matches the aluminium labels that have stood beside a rather tired old *Eucalyptus kruseana* since it was planted in 1953 and which is near the current patch of *Eremophila gilesii* mentioned above.

In this research I've been surprised by

- the incredible talent of Dave Gordon to find in the wild and accurately name a huge number of species, a talent he had developed by the late 1940s, presumably by reading the literature of the time and discussing plants with other like-minded enthusiasts, many of whom were visitors to Myall Park;
- the amount of time he must have spent in traversing unsealed country roads in far-western Queensland in his search for plants;
- the number of taxa available in 1956 from George Althofer's Nindethana Nursery and its diversity in both genera and species; and
- the extent of the commercial native plant industry in eastern Australia by late 1940s.

As well as being a nurseryman and founder of the Burrendong Botanic Garden, George Althofer was also an author and poet and had several books of poetry published. His 1956 Nindethana catalogue included an essay on the "story of Nindethana". Near the end of his essay, he praises the region over which he had travelled with Dave Gordon, and which provided many of the plants and cuttings that have been mentioned above:

"It is not only the W.A. wild flower areas which are clothed in floral beauty. South Australia, the dry Centralian uplands, the old inland sea fringe of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, the Victorian Grampians, the high alpine areas, the coastal sandstone, as well as the tropical northland, each add their quota of grace, quaintness and scintillating loveliness.

"Whilst ever flowers are grown, we shall each sing the praises of some floral gem, but to me one picture is stamped indelibly on the mind. It is that of the Eremophila species of Western Queensland. These flowers of the inland are seen there in all their bewildering variety. Seven or eight species grow to perfection in the 100 miles between Cunnamulla and Thargomindah.

"Firstly, there are miles of E. Maculata and E. Glabra and, wherever this combination occurred, fantastic hybrids were the rule. The influence of E. Glabra had the effect in this area of breaking up the usual crimson flowers of E. Maculata into myriad colours. There were clear yellows progressing to deep orange and onward through a bewildering array…from pale pink to the deepest of reds. These are plants mainly of the sometimes-flooded hollows between ridges. On the hard ridges great drifts of E. Latrobei, with its dazzling scarlet or cerise pendant flowers, made splashes of glorious colour.

"On the sand hills, gravel ridges and deep sandy loam three species were associated. E. Bowmani[5], often tall with powder white, densely hirsute leaves and stems and large bells from palest blue to deepest purple; E. Gilesi and E. Goodwini, lower growing but massed with blue flowers, often covered the ground for miles. Near here also we saw large areas of E. Duttoni with fine large orange-scarlet flowers and with floral bracts flared out like dancers' skirts. To bring these and a thousand others together in loose liaison is a vision to grip and hold the imagination."

[5] Althofer did not use the "ii" suffix on species names Bowmani, Gilesi or Goodwini

Maribyrnong Flood hits Eremophila garden.

John Upsher

At about 6.30 am on 14 October last year I strolled down to the gate, as I do, to fetch the papers. That day was different and momentous. The papers in their plastic wrappers were swirling around on surging yellow-brown liquid mud that was creeping towards me as I watched.

My first action in the threat of a flood of unknown severity was to gather as much of the most precious equipment and materials from the shed and around the garden and bring it to safety. A little later, floating where the drive had been, a stout wooden workbench drifted out of the greenhouse with two trays of propagations above water, so I waded waist-deep to recover them.

The waters of the Maribyrnong River continued rising and coming toward the house for five more hours, slowing then stopping only at the front doorstep (pic below, at its peak). It was 2m deep at the front gate, the cellar was full, the garage was inches deep, the house was surrounded, only the tops of the largest shrubs remained above water. Most of the garden would have been under a metre or more of surging dilute mud for most of a day. Outside in the nature strip, plants were exposed to the full force of the torrent that was the Maribyrnong. Closest to the gate, the water was flowing so fast, I feared that so many shrubs would be swept away; dreading to think what the damage would be to the plants in the sandy WA bed, so many demanding "good drainage" and the desert denizens, the Eremophilas.

By the following day the waters had receded, and I was able to slop around in the liquid silt that was everywhere to try to assess the damage. Mulch, logs, debris and pots had been swept against the 'downstream' fence. A depth of mud covered the ground, more than 3cm everywhere and up to 10cm deep in places. Small plants were covered, mud coated everything. The contents of the shed were everywhere, some as far as the other side of the garden. Remarkably, some items in the shed had floated up with the rising flood and had then re-placed exactly as they were.

With early damage assessed, the recovery commenced. Some dear friends came and did amazing work to get us started. Scraping and picking up so many loads of mud and moving it to a designated low area and gently spraying mud from the leaves of many delicate specimens: such worthy effort and so much appreciated. That clean-up process continued for weeks after as we watched the more lasting effects of the flood on the plants. A few were swept off their roots; many had branches blasted off or torn off, weighed down by the mass of mud. The longer lasting effects of the flood continued for four months or more. More will ultimately die, some will recover (see list over).

Morbidity proceeded in two different ways. Some plants quickly wilted and died. Pulling them up showed that the root systems had failed, killed either by lack of oxygen (anaerobic soil had become black as with mineral sulphides) or by microbial attack.

More disappointing was that many plants continued to die over following months. Quite suddenly the foliage on a whole branch would wilt and die, then another branch, then the remainder would be dead. Some actually recovered after losing a branch or two. I think that more than one cause of morbidity was involved here.

In some cases, all the older leaves or the lower leaves on a shrub would die, but remain attached, while the stem tips would continue to regrow: *Eremophila mackinlayi* was one such. I thought *E. flaccida* would do the same but although the healthy regrown tips persisted for weeks, eventually two large mature specimens succumbed. Contrary to what I might have expected, some of the more hairy-leaved types like *E. warnesii* survived unscathed.

Actually, most plants did survive, some showing no ill effects of dunking and silt cover and now, four months on the morbidity processes continue (see table of floor mortality below). Of those that have survived with some adverse effects, I am now confident most will recover; a few more will die.

Positive consequences are that we are planning what to plant in the vacant spots come the time and are thinking that a new layer of gravel mulch will make it all look like new again.

Quickly dead:	*E. bowmanii, E. calorhabdos, E. flabellata, E. punicea.*
Slow death:	*E. aureivisca, E. biserrata, E. clarkei, E. flaccida, E. subfloccosa, E. subteretifolia*
Hanging in there:	*E. caperata, E. foliosissima, E. latrobei, E. muelleriana, E. paisleyi, E. pantonii, E. willsii*

More On the Blyth Terrace Garden

Ian Roberts

Here are some more photos of the range of plants at the Terrace Garden in Blyth, SA.

Although it hasn't been super wet at Blyth (420mm to date), it has been cooler and almost totally cloudy the past two months and I've lost more plants than in the last two dry summers (though I had to water 11 times each summer). I have presumed these losses are from root rot. There has been quite a bit of dieback as well but I am expecting those plants to recover now the rain has stopped.

E. margarethae (far left) and *E. eriocalyx* pink form (near left)

E. sargentii (below left) and *E. koobabiensis* (below)

Another word on Spitfire

The last Newsletter mentioned the ACRA registration of Eremophila "Spitfire" lists the parents as *E. calorhabdos* x *maculata ssp. brevifolia.* Russell and Ken are now of the opinion that the parents are *E. maculata* ssp. *brevifolia* and *E. splendens*. This change has been communicated to ACRA but, as yet, has not appeared on the registration.

My experience (so far) of growing Eremophilas

Amy Morgan

I love my garden and gardening. If you had told me as a child that I would be admitting this as an adult I would have laughed at you. I am still very new to it, only having had access to a garden of my own for less than five years. Growing up in the UK, my only experience of gardening was 'weeding' and my grandparent's veggie gardens. Also, the soil there is dark brown, moist and full of earthworms – the complete opposite of my garden now!

I have been living just outside the town of Hawker, in the Flinders Ranges, for nearly 12 years. It is an absolutely stunning spot and it is where my love of Australian native plants started. My whole garden is filled only with drought-tolerant Aussie natives, mainly from the local area.

Eremophilas are one of my favourite types of plants, and I am growing 20 different species on my property. Starting my garden from scratch and with no prior experience, I decided to just 'wing it' and grow bird and insect-attracting plants that I liked the look of. Using the SA State Flora brochure, I chose plants that grew with less than 300mm of rainfall and purchased them from either SA State Flora or the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens (AALBG) at Port Augusta.

You will probably be horrified to hear that I did no prep work to the soil/garden at all. I wasn't aware that I needed to and I was just desperate to have plants in my garden. By the time all the irrigation was put in place I just went into my garden when I had a chance – generally when my then one-year old was having a nap! The garden was first irrigated using water straight from our bore. While most of the plants grew initially, most stopped growing and some died. The Eremophilas I had planted originally all survived and thrived on the bore water. They showed me how tough they are! We have since installed a desalinisation plant and added mulch, which has dramatically improved the garden, with faster growth rates and enhanced plant health.

I have also been teaching myself to prune. My philosophy is just to hack it back and if re-grows – great, and if it doesn't – well I get to pick a new plant! I have discovered that most of the Eremophilas in my garden quite like a hard prune, and I now do it yearly after flowering. One which didn't enjoy a haircut was *E. nivea*, which was disappointing because it looked so stunning while in flower. I replaced it with another one and won't be so hard with the pruning next time!

I have an aspiration, one day, to grow myself an Eremophila garden like the one at AALBG, with as many species as I can get hold of. My husband has already put water access in, it's just up to me now to plan, prepare the ground and plant! I am hoping that I will learn lots about these fabulous plants from joining the Eremophila Study Group, which will help me grow them a lot more easily.

Pic at left is *E. oppositifolia subsp. oppositifolia* These are my absolute favourite. I have three in my garden in pink (pictured), cream and purple. The latter two I only put in about a year ago, so I'm hoping for some flowers this winter. Pic at right is *E.* 'Kalbarri Carpet'. My eldest son likes to pick the flowers and lick off the nectar!

Stripy *Eremophila alternifolia*

Ken Warnes

My contact in Peter Cowell travelled out past Piednippie in November to look for *E. alternifolia*. He found the two known patches plus a third, with over 200 plants in two of these. The forms and colours were hugely varied, from new season seedlings up to about 4 metres high.

Peter found several plants with "variegated" coloured flowers (pink and white) at all locations. This is a well-known phenomenon in this species and has been reported in other newsletters (e.g., NL122, January 2019). After some time, Pete wondered about why so many variegated plants and saw that the plant base at ground level had at least two main trunks which had a definite ridge/join line at the meeting of the trunks. He wondered about whether two seeds had been fertilised with different coloured plant genetics/pollens mingling as there were single branches with white flowers, pink shaded flowers and a mix of both (variegated) as well as completely variegated trees and shrubs.

I have long grown a plant which has anything from pink to cream and varying degrees of striping. A few years ago, a university lecturer brought a bus load of students up who were studying plant breeding. One of them “twigged” that the variations in flower were confined to individual branches, something which I hadn’t picked up. So that was an interesting observation which correlates with what Pete observed. But it didn’t explain why this characteristic was carried forward in cutting grown plants. Logic says that a white branch should grow as white etc but all cuttings from anywhere on the bush carried the multi-colour flowers.

What are the chances of an infra-specific chimera where the characters are embedded in, and transferred through, the varying bark layers? Hence the striped flowers and the ability for the multi-colour to be carried forward. Hmm, there’s room for thought. It might also be developed into a commercial line.

Weedy Eremophila?

Ken Warnes

In response to the discussion on weedy Eremophila from the last Newsletter, many species will sucker and layer but, apart from *E. longifolia*, not to pest levels. I have seen *E. longifolia* burst through an asphalt tennis court. Also:

- Some forms of *E. laanii* (e.g., the white form at right, pic Alice Newton) sucker widely, apparently from surface spreading roots which are easily pulled up.
- *E. ovata* suckers profusely but should not present major problems unless in a specific situation such as a rockery or border.
- We know of the pest species in Qld and N.S.W. (*E. gilesii*) but none of them have proved to be a problem in cultivation.
- *E. maculata* can germinate in large numbers in suitable conditions, as can many species (e.g., post Pinery Fire – see NL114, June 2016) but can be easily removed or transferred for growing on for further study.

Does anyone know of any others?

Overwintering Eremophila

Lyndal Thorburn

We have an igloo in which we grow on Eremophila and other stuff, for ourselves and for ANPS Canberra's sales. It is in quite a shady area, and Canberra winters are often foggy, so we have a lot of trouble getting Eremophilas through the winter season – they rot.

We also have a large collection of tubs along our back balcony, facing north-east. These get watered daily on an automated system and are in full sun and are open to the frost.

We have found a method to over-winter frost-hardy Eremophilas on this balcony, by burying plants in their pots in a larger tub of soil.

The one we set up for *Eremophila calorhabdos* before last winter is shown above, photographed in mid-spring. As far as possible, the tops of the pots were level with the soil in the big tub. We had two drippers set up, because some plants only got water from below their pots.

Over the 6 months or so that the plants were in this tub, the roots grew down through the bottoms of the pots and emerged about 2cm into the potting mix in the large tub – not enough to make it difficult to plant them out in the warmer months. An *E. pterocarpa* that we also tried (it wasn't that happy to start with – far right in the pic) didn't make it through the season.

Eremophilas at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

Lyndal Thorburn

Following an introduction from Phil Trickett, I met with Zoe Knapp at the ANBG in January. Zoe is the Conservation Manager and I had written to her about the Garden's relatively limited collection of Eremophila (on which I touched during my presentation at the Biennial Conference in Kiama last September).

Zoe confirmed they only have about 60 species growing at the moment and they are keen to expand this and to get advice on growing conditions (frost hardiness in Canberra being an issue, of course). Existing specimens are not well positioned, many now being on the south side of the new glasshouse that is under construction there.

I have sent Zoe a de-identified summary of the What Are you Growing survey results from 2020, which shows who is growing what (results from about ¼ of membership). A small subset of this group will have obtained plants from the wild under various permits – ANBG is particularly interested in this information.

I hope to hear back from her in coming months so we can engage with and assist them with replenishing and expanding their collection.

I also noted that they had an *E. waitii* (unlabelled) growing in a tub outside the meeting room!

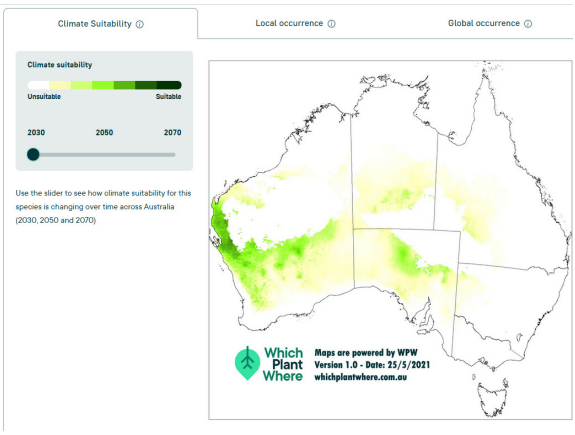
Photo of *E. warnesii* at the ANBG is below, photographed in winter.

Which Plant Where – Progress Report

Lyndal Thorburn

Following on from the last Newsletter, the folks who administer Which Plant Where (www.whichplantwhere.com.au) have kindly provided me with a password to access the full site. Unfortunately, access conditions do not permit me to share this with other members (it is a commercial site, so they keep a tight hand on who gets to look inside).

The site can be searched by species or postcode. I searched for our feature species, *E. youngii*. The subscription allows me to look at the maps of where it is deemed suitable to grow. As can be seen below, the map for *E. youngii* shows that its climate suitability is extremely limited, recommending only the drier parts of WA and SA. "Suitable" is dark green, so even its native range is not deemed appropriate.



The map does, however, reflect the natural distribution of the species (www.anpsa.org.au).

We all know that *E. youngii* grows in most of our gardens and happily survives quite a lot of water, as well as drought conditions. I think it is important that these maps show horticultural potential, not native distribution, and so I will be asking the team what can be done about making these maps more accurate.

If I type in my 2620 postcode, the only Eremophila I can grow is *E. longifolia*!

Frost resistance

Lyndal Thorburn

I had another look at the 2020 What Are You Growing Survey results prior to meeting with the ANBG in Canberra.

I reported on members growing rare and endangered species in the December 2020 Newsletter (NL 129), and the most commonly grown species in NL 130. I found, however, that I hadn't yet reported on the question in the survey on frost resistance.

Many members' gardens are not troubled by frosts. However, below is a list from those that did answer this question. The lists are in descending order of frost hardiness as reported by members (the ones above the *** were mentioned multiple times, those below *** were only mentioned once). The frequency of mentions will reflect availability of plants as well as tolerance to frost:

E. maculata *E. bignoniiflora* *E. glabra*
E. nivea
****
E. alternifolia *E. brevifolia* *E. calorhabdos*
E. decipiens *E. dempsteri* *E. divaricata*
E. drummondii *E. laanii* *E. macdonnellii*
E. polyclada *E. serrulata* *E. subteretifolia*
E. youngii

The survey also asked about the least frost resistant Eremophila – below is the list of answers provided to that question. The first two on the list were mentioned by many people. It can also be seen that two species in the list below also appear in the list above – clearly the answers depend also on the severity and frequency of frosts, whether the plants have other protections, etc.

E. flaccida *E. cuneifolia* *E. debilis*
E. drummondii *E. nivea* *E. fasciata*
E. punctata *E. polyclada*
****
E. acrida *E. aureivisca* *E. elderi*
E. fraseri *E. muelleriana* *E. phyllopoda*
E. platycalyx *E. reticulata* *E. tetraptera* *E. tietkensii*

Many of these species have also been features in past newsletters (see page 18). Next issue, I will address another question from the survey – the best Eremophila for winter flowers!

The history of the Feature Species

Our feature species list, commenced in 2015, is getting rather long! I thought it timely to provide a summary of what species and related hybrids have been covered in past newsletters, particularly when considering issues like frost hardiness (see page 19).

Issue	**Species**	**Hybrids included**
Nov 2015	*latrobei*	x *bowmanii,* x *glabra,* x *punicea,* x *compacta,* x *gilesii* 'Yana Road', x *margarethae,* x *ringens*
Feb 2016	*christophorii*	x *nivea* (Smoke Haze), x *pantonii,*
Oct 2016	*viscida*	x *maculata,* x *bignoniiflora* 'Meringur Midnight', x *miniata*
Feb 2017	*macdonnellii*	x *strongylophylla,* x *Calamphoreus inflatus*
Nov 2017	*calorhabdos*	x *splendens* 'Beryl's Gem', x *maculata ssp brevifolia,* x *subfloccosa,* x *glabra* (Steep Point), x *denticulata*
Feb 2018	*forrestii*	x *latrobeii,* x *punicea,* x *glandulifera,* x *conferta*
May 2018	*subfloccosa*	x *glabra*
Oct 2018	*nivea*	x *caerulea* 'Beryl's Blue', x *christophorii,* x *drummondii* 'Eyre Princess' *[not covered* – x *glabra* – *Pink Pantha]*
Feb 2019	*alternifolia*	x *bignoniiflora;* x *glabra,* x *maculata;* x *Myoporum platycarpum,* x *purpurascens*
May 2019	*polyclada*	x *bignoniiflora* 'Meringur Isaac', x *divaricata* 'Summertime Blue'
Sep 2019	*drummondii*	x *complanata,* x *labrosa,* x *lehmanniana, two of* x *nivea* 'Eyre Princess', x *rotundifolia*
Jan 2020	*duttonii*	x *maculata*
May 2020	*oppositifolia*	x *aureivisca,* x *maculata,* x *oldfieldii ssp angustifolia* 'Picaninny Dawn', x *scoparia*
Oct 2020	*miniata*	x *viridissima,* x *viscida*
Dec 2020	*cuneifolia*	x *cryptothrix,* x *fraseri,* x *phyllopoda,* x *reticulata,* x *tietkensii*
Mar 2021	*dempsteri*	x *dichroantha,* x *interstans,* x *psilocalyx,* x *scoparia*
Jun 2021	*subfloccosa*	x *glabra*
Dec 2021	*laanii*	x. *pantonii*
Feb 2022	*georgei*	x *simulans ssp. megacalyx* x *glabra* 'Murrin Magic', x *homoplastica*
May 2022	*ionantha*	x *caerulea,* x *parvifolia ssp auricampa,* x *scoparia*
Dec 2022	*gilesii*	x *georgei, E. gilesii ssp. variabilis* x *E. spectabilis ssp. brevis* 'Wiluna Wonder'
Mar 2023	*youngii*	x *scoparia,* x *pantonii*

Don't forget our Image Database online for pictures of these and more, as well! https://anpsa.org.au/eremophila-image-database/

Eremophila List — Tathra

Bill Handke (list of plants re article December 2022 NL – no room then, adding now)

- species at Tathra
- o duplicate plants at Tathra
- **different from Kambah**

Front Top Left of Path ***E. microtheca* x *verticillata*** *E. barbata* *E. muelleriana* (Phil Vaughan (PV) graft) *E. glabra x E. nivea* 'Pink Pantha' ***E. rugosa*** *E. glandulifera* PV *E. maculata* x 'Crazy Mac' *E. glabra ssp carnosa* ***E. phyllopoda* PV** *E. glabra – fine grey* *E. oppositifolia* *E. oppositifolia* 'Moonlight' *E. calorhabdos x splendens* 'Beryl's Gem' *E. biserrata* ***E. subfloccosa***	Front Top Far Left of Path o *E. biserrata* ***E. accrescens* PV graft** ***E. spectabilis* PV graft** ***E. phyllopoda* PV graft** *E.* 'Summertime Blue' *E. cuneifolia* PV graft *E. maculata* Goondiwindi ***E. bignoniiflora x alternifolia (Meringur Isaac)*** ***E. psilocalyx*** *E. youngii ssp. youngii* Road Front Left of Path *E. glabra* ssp. *albicans* *E. denticulata* *E. racemosa*
Top road Right o *E. rugosa* ***E. glabra ssp. tomentosa* 'Silver Flame' PV graft** ***E. bowmanii* PV graft** ***E. alternifolia* Cream graft** ***E. spectabilis* – narrow leaf PV graft** ***E. tietkensii* PV graft** o *E. youngii* *E. nivea* Front Top Far Right – lower ***E. arbuscula*** o *E. maculata x alternifolia* ***E. stenophylla*** *E. longifolia x scoparia* ***Eremophila + Myoporum* 'chimera'** ***E. platycalyx* PV graft** o *E. youngii*	Front Top Right of Path – near *E. glabra* 'Roseworthy' *E. maculata x alternifolia* o *E. glabra* 'Roseworthy' ***E. strongylophylla* PV graft** *E. delisseri* PV graft *E. hygrophana* PV graft *E. complanata* ***E. bowmanii* PV graft** ***E. gilesii* PV graft** o *E. complanata* ***E. warnesii* PV graft** o *E. muelleriana* PV graft *E.* 'Beryl's Blue' ***E. mackinlayi* – Desert Pride PV graft** *E. maculata* Purple *E. decipiens* (fine leaf form) ***E. glabra* 'Amber Carpet'**
Front Lower – Middle ***E. latrobei* graft** o *E. debilis* *E. polyclada x bignoniiflora* *E. neglecta* *E. lachnocalyx* ***E. serrulata*** *E. rotundifolia* PV graft ***E. pinnatifida* PV graft** ***E. reticulata* PV graft**	Lower path *E. foliosissima* PV graft ***E. flaccida* PV graft** o *E. compacta* PV graft o *E. cuneifolia* PV graft o *E. latrobei* (long grey leaf) PV graft ***E. waitii*** ***E. mirabilis*** ***E. alternifolia* Cream** ***E. forrestii*** o *E. delisseri* o *E. conferta*

Sub-Group meetings and events

NSW sub-group

Ian Cox

The NSW Sub-group meeting will be on Sunday 19 March 2023 at the home of John & Jeanette Elton, 99 Edward Wollstonecraft Lane, Coolangatta NSW (near Shoalhaven Heads).

John and Jeanette have a large, wonderfully attractive garden, with many Eremophilas growing exceedingly well. It will be great to get together for a garden visit and meeting.

John was author of the article on Eremophila standards in Newsletter 135 (May 2022), and I'm sure he'd also like to tell us about the success (or otherwise) of his adventures with standards.

NEXT NSW MEETING:

On 19 March at Coolangatta NSW (near Shoalhaven Heads).

For more info email Ian Cox: itcox (at) bigpond.com.au

Topic – Eremophilas as Standards

South Australian sub-group

Tim Wood

A warm start to the year has seen Eremophilas spring into life.

Our next meeting will include a discussion on how we maintain Eremophilas in our gardens, with sessions on fertilising, watering and pruning. We will also discuss problems with maintaining our plants, from protection from herbivores like rabbits, to pest and weed control. We will also discuss our Adelaide Botanic Gardens Eremophila renovation.

We will tour the Arid Land Botanic Gardens, its propagation facilities and nursery, and will have a cutting swap. If there are any specific plants you would like please let me know.

For those who would like to stay Saturday night, we will have dinner and on Sunday there will be a 7am bird tour at the gardens with a local guide. The cost will be $16 head for venue hire and sandwich lunch, please bring money or card on the day. If you want more, there is a cafe where you can purchase coffee and meals etc.

Can you give an indication of attending so I can guess numbers, it helps planning.

Lastly, thanks to members who attended Bev Rice's funeral She was an enthusiastic contributor to our group and we hope her enthusiasm will rub off on the rest of us.

NEXT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEETING:

On 22 April 2023 in Port Augusta.

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

Topic – Maintaining Eremophilas in a garden – fertiliser, watering and pruning

Victorian sub-group

Chris Strachan

The next meeting of this group will be on Saturday 1st April and we will be visiting Laurie and Drew Baglin's gardens in Shepparton. Laurie has about 70 Eremophila, of just over 50 species, in his garden. Details of where to meet will be confirmed (given this garden is part of a private village) and I will advise Victorian members by email closer to the date.

NEXT VICTORIAN MEETING:

On 1 April 2023, at Laurie and Drew Baglin's garden in Shepparton.

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

Queensland sub-group

Lorelei Bartkowski

The location and topic of the next Queensland meeting is yet to be confirmed.

NEXT QUEENSLAND MEETING:

On 15 April 2023, location TBC.

More info email Lorelei Bartkowski: mattnlol (at) gmail.com

Seasol, anyone?

Ken Warnes would like information on members' use of Seasol. Our fertiliser survey (NL132, September 2021) revealed that 20% of members apply Seasol yearly, 22% apply it monthly, and 11% apply it quarterly. The remaining 47% of the survey respondents did not use it.

Ken's wants to know if Seasol can help him reduce loss of cutting grafts at the potting on stage. Does anyone have advice for him?

Snippets

Isis (NSW): I just opened the amazing Eremophila study group newsletter, and when I read the first page and saw the word 'share' and with great emphasis, my heart sang. Since working in horticulture, it's a word I have rarely heard.

I am so excited to be part of this study group, sharing is at the core of everything.

Russell Wait (Vic): These pics are from a garden in Shepparton, Vic – the main plant at front was grown from a cutting and the garden has not had a grafted Eremophila or Myoporum growing in it. The Myoporum sucker behind it is about 2.5 meters from the Eremophila – which I now conclude must be a chimera.

So, between having Myoporum shoots coming from cutting grown plants, we have it suckering from a cutting grown plant. A real can of worms?????

Ken Warnes (SA): Re Dick Harding and *E. goodwinii*, it's not impossible that George Althofer supplied Dave Gordon with a plant as it is common in parts of western N.S.W., but Chinnock records collections from both South and East of Cunnamulla. Russell and I found it to be common East of Yanna, which is between Cunnamulla and Charleville. Who knows, George may have even dug up seedlings on his way to Myall Park because Russell and I found cotyledons emerging from fruits in trash piles within 36 hours of substantial rain (70mm) falling North of Cunnamulla. Some of these (and there were huge numbers of them) were successfully brought back and grown on. Severe goat predation was obvious on mature plants, so we did it with a clear conscience.

David Watts (Vic): Well, the *E. santalina* (NL 136, September 2022) has not died but neither has it re-grown much. Nor did it flower this season. The pictures below show a bit of regrowth at the base and good new growth at the top. There was also a small amount of regrowth on a cut-back branch. I offer this to add to the experience of all.

Next issue

The feature species for the next issue will be *Eremophila longifolia*, which is grown by many members and comes in a green-leafed and a grey-leafed form. The survey will include a question on weediness (see page 17).

AND What's your best winter flowering Eremophila? Send photos!!

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About the Study Group

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

New members, please download the application form from our website and send with your cheque/transfer (details below) https://anpsa.org.au/study_group/eremophila-study-group/

Study Groups allow members with specific interests to develop that interest to the full and to contribute 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. Back issues of newsletters can be found via the SG's home page.

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