

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants
EREMOPHILA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 98

May 2010

**THANKYOU TO ALL WHO HAVE PAID THEIR SUBSCRIPTION – YOUR RECEIPT IS ENCLOSED
OR HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO YOU.**

**THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE YET TO RENEW HAVE A THIRD RED
DOT IN THE TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER THIS MONTH**

Due to my tardiness I have not removed anyone from the list yet.

THIS WILL BE THE LAST REMINDER NOTE AND HENCE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER.

Reminders will be sent out in the next Newsletter

SUBSCRIPTION RATE IS UNCHANGED AT \$5 PER YEAR.

Please accept my apologies for this Newsletter not being sent out prior to Christmas. It was not until Dec 18th that Myrnie completed her treatment and with the pre- and post-Christmas programme very tight I did not think about a Newsletter. Myrnie saw her oncologist and radiotherapist in early February and they told her that as far as they are concerned she is in remission and they do not want to see her again. This was very welcome news. Her surgeon was also very pleased with her progress

We thank you for your expressions of concern during the last few months – they have been most appreciated.

My next 'start' was towards the end of February when I thought that time was on my side. Alas that was not to be and in the meantime I have had to assist my mother with her financial arrangements etc, and then to cap it all, my brother in law was admitted to hospital and after three weeks in care passed away. Needless to say it has not been the best nine months of our collective lives.

To add to the confusion I lost my entire email inbox folder from the computer: all efforts to retrieve it failed. Fortunately I had kept hard copies of most of the emails received and could refer back to them.

As a result of my 'absence from duty' I have also been remiss in not replying to a number of letters and emails – for this I apologise. I intend to get around to this as I prepare this current Newsletter.

Here goes for a third attempt to get this very belated newsletter to you!

I have decided to send this out in an abbreviated form and send to you another one toward the end of June. Hopefully I will have caught up with all of the correspondence and the various communications I have received since the last Newsletter.

Again please accept my apologies

COPYRIGHT

The question of copyright has arisen a few times in the past twelve months. This is especially so where articles published in magazines and newsletters are used by others without approval being requested from the original source.

There are quite strict rules regarding copyright and all groups should be aware of their responsibilities in obtaining permission to use published articles. The copyright laws also apply to internet articles and to pictures. There are apparent shades of grey however; it would pay anyone planning to use such material to check first.

Rarely do organisations use the law to exercise their rights, but when it happens the law is quite strict and the penalties harsh.

21ST NATIONAL CONFERENCE – GEELONG

This has been and gone and apparently was well attended. Unfortunately there were not many Study Groups represented and unfortunately our absence only added to that dilemma.

EREMOPHILA STUDY GROUP SUB-GROUPS

Since writing in last month's Newsletter about the regional groups holding Eremophila Study Group Meetings I have received a report and a note from the group in Brisbane. These appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. Such groups are to be encouraged and their contributions should be included in future Newsletters as they see fit to report and to pass comments re their growing conditions and results of experiments etc. I have found the reports to be very informative and you will have noticed that I have used them from time to time in the Newsletters. I will continue to do so, selecting material that is of a general nature.

Congratulations to the Southern Queensland Group on their enterprise. I trust that your group will continue to grow and promote eremophilas both amongst themselves and the broader community.

SOUTH QUEENSLAND STUDY GROUP

I have been asked by a newly formed Eremophila Study Group here in South Queensland to forward details of the first two meetings held on 4 April and 18 July this year. Following the advertising by Jan Glazebrook and Robyn Weick, well-known eremophila growers from the area, asking for people interested in forming such a group, those who responded were asked to attend the first meeting held at Robyn's property near Oakey on our Darling Downs.

Some twenty one were present and they brought with them, as requested, lists of species they had growing. They were also asked to bring a potted plant to be raffled. They came from such diverse places as Roma, Woodenbong, Kingaroy, Toowoomba, Warwick & Junabee.

The first business of the meeting determined the following:

That three meetings would be held each year, with a specific topic to be discussed at each one.

That the meetings would not be conducted in any formal manner, and that there would not be any office-bearers.

Funds to cover incidental expenses were to be obtained from the raffling of donated pot plants. These plants were to serve a secondary purpose as well: namely the distribution of species.

Lists brought by members were compared with eremophila publications: a process by its very length was impossible to complete, but the exercise did emphasise the numbers of plants which do exist in the area and elsewhere for trial plantings.

The raffle followed and members then toured Robyn's garden. The topic for the next meeting was "What Makes an Eremophila an Eremophila."

Our second meeting was held at Laylee Purchase's property at Toowoomba, at which we had an increase to twenty four attending, some coming from as far away as Dalby & Brisbane.

The topic was first explained by reference to the eremophila publications by Jan Glazebrook. Sprigs of flowers, which showed in some ways what was detailed in the publications, were passed around. Laylee followed on by showing slides taken during a Western Australian & South Australian visit, with the species identified by the lists she had made and by discussion with the viewers. Emphasis was placed on the need to know at the time of the visit, the state of the roads, the rainfall, the best viewing time of the year and, as well the need for permits.

Again we were asked to compile lists of our plants and, if possible, establish the area from which they originated.

A raffle followed and the day ended with an inspection of Laylee's garden, where cuttings taken from plants shown on the slides were growing. An added attraction to the group was that Laylee invited us to take as many cuttings from these plants as we wished. Drought had unfortunately reduced the plant numbers.

The third meeting was held at Pete's Hobby Nursery, 10 Patrick St, Lowood. The topic was "The Propagation and Raising of Cuttings, Seeds and Grafting and Suitable Soil Types." (Sorry this is a bit out of date now!)

FROM YOUR LETTERS

Ken Warnes, Owen, SA

While the winter of 2009 was not particularly wet there were some periods of continuous dampness. July in particular recorded 21 wet days so there were long periods when the foliage was rarely dry. It was to be expected that there would be some damage but the northern form of *E. cordatisepala* from Dajarra, 60cm across, was the only direct loss. Despite complete clearance of the surrounding areas the branches gradually died back with no sign of shooting from any point. The southern form from Jundah was quite un-affected. Rather surprisingly *E. bowmanii* ssp. *latifolia*, which is superficially similar, suffered no damage. *Eremophila prostrata* could have been lost if I had not realised the problem and cleared the weeds back. Being totally prostrate and growing in coarse red sand it would never have developed any resistance to competing foliage. The hybrids with *E. willsii* and *E. goodwinii* were quite OK.

Eremophila elderi, despite the open, leggy habit, suffered collar-rot wherever old leaves remained on the branches, with subsequent death of the branch. Shooting below the damage is unpredictable and the tip growth is generally unsuitable for propagation, so keeping this one in the collection is a constant battle. Some experimentation with pruning seasonal growth could provide the answer but any form of dense growth would be attacked. In the meantime it's a matter of rubbing off the old leaves and planting something bushy in front. As always *E. undulatum* died back very heavily and would struggle to survive a really wet winter. At least it's fairly easy to graft up new plants.

The woolly leafed species such as *E. fasciata*, *E. hygrophana*, *E. mackinlayi* ssp. *spatulata* and *E. warnesii* all suffered degrees of die-back, again with fungal attack below the new growth. Most of these shoot quite well when pruned below the damaged section. I don't think some forms of *E. drummondii*, *E. racemosa*, *E. aurievisca* and *E. clarkei* liked the wet soil but they haven't died.

Other losses have been due to termite attack, the area is adjacent to old Sugar Gums which are a haven to them. A point of interest is that in grafted plants the attack has stopped when the *Eremophila* is reached, the *Myoporum* is eaten which fairly effectively kills the plant, but perhaps *E. mitchellii* is not the only species to have some levels of termiticide activity. I only realised this in conversation with Maree Goods who had made the same observation.

Charles Farrugia, Seven Hills, NSWEremophilas in Western Sydney- One member's experience.

Eremophila means 'desert loving', and this genus is typically found in arid and semi-arid regions of all mainland states. They grow in a variety of soils, some in heavy clay subject to periodical flooding after irregular rainfall. Others grow on the crest of sand-dunes but most prefer loamy soils with varying degrees of sand and clay. Their habitat is harsh, typically with very hot summers and long dry periods.

Eremophilas vary in size from very small prostrate ones to small trees. Their foliage varies from silver-grey to dark green, and it has been said that they have the greatest diversity of foliage of any genus in Australia ranging from broad to narrow and from viscid to woolly. Their floral colour range includes all shades of red, blue, pink, purple, yellow and white. They also attract insects and birds to the garden.

Can *eremophilas* be grown in the Sydney region? Contrary to widely held beliefs, quite a few species of *Eremophila* can be grown in the Sydney region as long as there is good drainage, good air movement and at least 5-6 hours of sun. Most of the *Eremophila maculata* forms along with a lot of *Eremophila glabra* forms can be easily established in Sydney gardens. There are quite a few other *Eremophila* species that can be grown too. Many *Eremophila* species need to be grafted for them to handle Sydney's climatic conditions. They are normally grafted onto *Myoporum* rootstock.

Here at Seven Hills, in Sydney's western suburbs, we are on a sloping, east facing suburban block with clay soil, and we have about 87 *Eremophila* species and hybrids. A lot of these are grafted; others grow on their own roots.

Some favourites.

Eremophila denticulata ssp. *trisulcata* is the most important species in our garden. It grows on its own roots and is so easy to strike that if a cutting is left sitting in a container with water, within 4 to 5 weeks it will form a root system. This Western Australian *Eremophila* was acquired when we visited an *Eremophila* Study Group member's property in Dubbo, NSW. At the peak of the drought there was this plant, growing in rock-hard, dry clay soil when everything else around it looked stressed or was dead. Some of the species/hybrids that have been

successfully grafted onto this rootstock are: *E. denticulata*, *E. nivea*, *E. tetraptera*, *E. lactea*, *E. (ionantha x caerulea)*, *E. freelingii* and *E. splendens*.

Unfortunately many of our favourite species are among those that are hard to maintain in the Sydney region. These all have very attractive, grey leaves and large blue flowers and need to be grafted.

- *E. fasciata* – from Western Central WA - grows to over 1m high. It has grey-green leaves and blue flowers.
- *E. warnesii* – from the arid regions of Western Central WA – grows to 1m high – has hairy silver-grey leaves and lilac flowers.
- *E. hygrophana* – from the arid regions of central WA, Northern SA and Southern NT – low shrub to 0.75m – hairy grey-green leaves and blue flowers.
- *E. mackinlayi* – from Western Central WA – grows to 1.5m high – has hairy green-grey leaves and purple flowers.

As these species have very hairy leaves they cannot tolerate wet foliage, which can cause quite a bit of dieback from fungus. If the plant is well established it will usually make new growth below the damaged section but may need pruning to tidy it up. The best location to grow these species is a sunny position with very good airflow, although we have an *E. fasciata* and *E. hygrophana* in an area where during the winter months they are in shade from early afternoon onwards. These species can also be grown in large pots where they can be moved into a sheltered location when rain threatens.

Non-grafted Plants.

Some of the hardier non grafted species/hybrids that seem to handle any climatic conditions include:

- *E. (divaricata x polyclada)* ‘Summertime Blue’ – this is a quite attractive shrub, with dark green leaves and lilac flowers
- *E. (gilesii x latrobei)* ‘Yanna Road’ – from Central Western Qld. - it has grey-green leaves and bright pink flowers. It mainly flowers from spring to early summer. A grafted plant in our garden seems to be in flower for the best part of the year. It is much appreciated by the Noisy Miners.
- *E. dempsteri* from WA – a broom-like shrub that grows 1.5m to 2m - is quite outstanding when in full bloom covered in small white flowers.
- *E. dichroantha* from WA - another upright broom like shrub up to 2m, with green leaves and small purple flowers.
- *E. laanii* - a very hardy species that has various forms of white, crimson and pink flowers. It can grow up to 3m and can become very tangled. Heavy pruning will stimulate fresh growth.
- *E. glabra* ‘Arrow’ – a cultivar that is extremely hardy on its own roots or grafted; that was received from WA as a cutting. It has bright green leaves and golden -yellow flowers on and off during the year but mainly through spring and summer. It grows 1.5m to 2m and can handle heavy pruning. The grafted species is a lot more vigorous than the non-grafted one.

Grafted Eremophilas

- *E. splendens* – from Western Central WA - has oval, hairy, olive- green leaves and orange/red flowers. This has to be one of the hardiest grafted eremophilas in our garden. Although this is a hairy plant which means problems during rainy periods, this species handles anything that Sydney climate throws at it. It responds very well to good rainfall with an abundance of new growth. It needs to be pruned hard to keep in shape.
- *E. glandulifera* – from Central WA - an upright shrub to 1.5m, grey leaves, pink flowers. Flowering is during winter to early spring. A really outstanding grey-leafed species that can become leggy if not pruned. It responds well to having about 10cm taken off the top.
- *E. bowmanii* ssp. *latifolia* – from Northern SA, Southern Qld and North West NSW - 1.5m high, grey leaves, mauve flowers.

- *E. bowmanii* ssp. *nutans* - a small compact shrub that hardly needs pruning.
- *E. pantonii* – from Central and Southern WA – 1.5m high, broom-like shrub with silver-grey leaves and pale lilac to purple flowers.
- *E. youngii* – from Central and Southern WA and NT – upright to 2m high, silver-grey leaves, brick red flowers.
- *E. youngii* ssp. *lepidota* – pink flowers.
- *E. pterocarpa* – from Central WA - compact shrub to 2m, silver-grey leaves and pale pink flowers.
- *E. muelleriana* – from Western Central WA - This species grows to 2m high and has grey-green hairy leaves, with golden-coloured young growth and deep purple to black flowers.

The latest addition to our garden is a grafted *E. acrida*. This species is found in Southern NT and the Southern portions of Western Qld. It has hairy, bright green leaves and white flowers. Since planted in the garden, this plant has quickly spread to about 1m and is 0.75m high. This species is giving indications that it could be another *Eremophila* that could handle Sydney's weather conditions.

Prostrate Eremophilas.

Some prostrate eremophilas look outstanding when scrambling over rocks or covering a rock face. Suggested ground hugging species for such a purpose are:

- *E. glabra* - prostrate with small green leaves and red flowers.
- *E. subteretifolia* – from Southern WA – has narrow green leaves and orange/red flowers.
- *E. debilis* – the only *Eremophila* endemic to the Sydney region, with bright green leaves and white or lilac flowers. This species seems to prefer a semi-shade or broken shade situation. It is the only *Eremophila* from which we have had natural germination and produced three seedlings.
- *E. glabra* 'Kalbarri Carpet' with silver-grey leaves and golden-yellow flowers
- *E. glabra* 'Mingenew Gold' with bright green leaves and yellow flowers. This can grow 3 or 4m wide.
- *E. prostrata* is a grafted prostrate species from Southern NT with upright green leaves and purple flowers.

Growing, planting and caring for Eremophilas in our garden.

Most of our eremophilas are grown or grafted from cuttings kindly sent to us by interstate members of the Eremophila Study Group. Once the cuttings/grafts have taken they are hardened for about 3 weeks in a semi-shade location and then potted into 14cm pots. The medium used is 'native plants' potting mix, mixed 2:1 with cow manure, plus some dolomite and blood and bone. A spoonful of Osmocote Plus is also added. Once the plants are showing good healthy growth they are planted in the garden. This is done during late summer or late winter. Before the plant is planted, the planting hole is flooded with water. Once the water has drained out, the plant is planted about 2-3cm below the ground level. More fertilizer is sprinkled around the plant and then it is watered in. The area is then covered with mulch – gravel around the stem, and leaves and grass mulch on the outside area. This is the last time our eremophilas are fertilised or watered until desperation point is reached in times of drought. When the ground is too dry and the eremophilas are looking stressed, then enviro-friendly grey water is pumped straight from the washing machine to different sections of the garden. Sometimes up to three loads of washing machine water goes in one area. The response from the eremophilas is almost instant with flushes of new growth and even some flowers later.

In this article we have only mentioned eremophilas that we consider have been "road tested" for the Sydney garden.

We have other *Eremophila* species growing in the garden such as three beautiful forms of *E. macdonnellii*, *E. spectabilis* and *E. calorhabdos*.

Anyone who is interested in learning more on the fascinating genus should join the Eremophila Study Group – a group that has sub-branches in Sydney, Victoria and Queensland.

Lyndal Thorburn, Queanbeyan, NSW

I wonder if I might put out a call for some cuttings through the next newsletter.

We have the following that we can offer in exchange for cuttings that people can send to us and I will be willing to do this on a two for one basis, i.e. if someone can send one lot of cuttings of species we don't have we will send them cuttings from two species in return.

The species we have from which material will be available for cuttings are as follows:

bignoniiflora (pink), *biserrata*, *denticulata*, *ericalyx* (cream), (*alternifolia* x *bignoniiflora*), *alternifolia* (cream, pink), *calorhabdos*, *crenulata*, *decepiens* var. *decepiens*, *drummondii* (violet, pink), *ericalyx* (cream) a number of forms of *glabra*, *interstans* (cream/mauve), *laanii* (pink), *latrobei*, *lehmanniana*, a number of forms of *maculata* including *maculata aurea*, (*maculata* x *racemosa*), *nivea*, (*nivea* x *drummondii*), several colour forms of *oppositifolia*, *papillata*, *phillipsii*, *psilocalyx*, *pterocarpa*, *rugosa*, *serrulata*, *subfloccosa* (we have an unusual green leafed form with a cream edge), 'Summertime Blue' (*polyclada* x *divaricata*), *veneta*, *viscida* (cream/navy and cream/pink), 'Yanna Road', *youngii*.

As this is best done via email, please feel free to contact me (Lyndal) at the following address:

lthorburn@viria.com.au

(In her email Lyndal asked about the use of hormones and their concentration for those 'harder to strike' cuttings. She says that plants are available on their own roots in nurseries so there must be a 'secret' strength or formula to use. Perhaps members can offer some suggestions for inclusion in a future newsletter. Colin)

Russell Wait, Natya, Vic

I have a green leafed *E. glabra* from Steep Point (WA) that, after getting to 0.75 – 1m high, had some of the end leaves turn to the grey leafed form.

It looks like *E. glabra* subsp. *albicans* but I haven't seen it flower. Bob Chinnock's comment on it was that one of the chromosomes has changed.

I was in WA in 2009 and went looking for *E. fasciata* where I had found it in 1997. In that year I had to fight my way through acacias that were covering the hill top. In 2009 it was quite open and with upright acacias and little else, since the goats had stripped it almost bare. I did manage to find some dead plants of *E. fasciata* in a small area but that was all. There were goat droppings all over the place and some animals were heard.

There were a couple of plants each of *E. glutinosa* and *E. macmillaniana* found on top but they had been broken down a bit. I am not sure of how many sites at which *E. fasciata* grows but it is not many, so I wonder how many more species the goats have affected.

Ann Langmaid, Keilor, Vic

(Ann reports on the group which met in Melbourne back in February)

Many thanks to everyone who attended the meeting of the Eremophila Study Group (Melbourne Region). There were many more people than we were expecting. We had intermittent showers but they mostly held off when touring Phil's garden. (The meeting was held at the home of Phil Hempel). There was a lot of information sharing and I am pleased to say many took part in the discussions. A hugely successful day!

(Ann attached a copy of the table which documents which eremophilas are growing in the Keilor area. This document is rather large for the newsletters, but I think that Ann would be prepared to make it available to members of the study group at large. Her email address is ann@langmaid.id.au It was suggested that other members might find that keeping of such documentation would be of use not only to the grower but to others.)

Ken Warnes, Owen, SA

It would appear that generally 2009 was not a very successful year for propagation of new species for our collections. Some good source material was provided but the searing heat of early November proved too much for most of us with our limited facilities. Cuttings, grafts and cutting grafts all had very poor results.

There were also failures in the establishment of young plants and I am wondering if we need to re-think the way we use grafted plants. I suspect that some strongly growing first-year plants succumbed to heat burn of the

exposed grafting stock rather than to lack of water. The stock was badly burnt and shriveled and yet scion material was growing well. I'm talking of plants a few months in the ground and up to 30cm high. Shade temperatures were up to 45°C in three separate heat spells. How to overcome this? Protection of the soft bark is an obvious answer but not always practical in non-garden situations which many of us face. Planting more advanced stock has been suggested by some members in the past and no doubt has its advantages but I would rather have plants in the ground as soon as possible.

Lilac is a garden plant which is notoriously slow to develop roots and is established by grafting on to privet stock and planted with the union below the ground level. The plant develops on the privet until it eventually develops its own roots and becomes self-supporting. I wonder if this could be possible with some *Eremophila* species. This would get over the stem burning problem but obviously could create its own problems if drainage was inadequate. The method wouldn't apply to all species or growth types but there are some species which graft readily but are notoriously difficult to strike which may be worth an experiment or two.

I have yet to see cultivated specimens of *E. abietina*, *E. galeata*, *E. fraseri* group, *E. ramiflora*, *E. miniata* and *E. alatisepala* to name but a few that are anywhere near the dimensions of natural specimens. Early growth is good but then tails off and plants only last for a few years. If given the chance to develop a root system of their own (as does the lilac) would they be more successful? I know that Russell Wait has trialed deep planting but this has been on deep sand-hills. Any other thoughts on this subject?

Some of the SA members have suggested the need for an annual get-together.

The idea is not to set up a sub group but simply to set aside a weekend for a chat, a walk in a garden or two, perhaps a dinner and a speaker, swap cuttings and knowledge and generally just 'G' each other up. It can seem a lonely struggle at times. Some Victorian members have expressed an interest in coming over but we don't envisage a full-scale conference style weekend at all.

Setting a date is obviously the first necessity and this advice is simply to ascertain the level of interest and which dates would best suit. Beverley Rice and Hans Griesser would join me in setting it up and the venue would be the Owen-Truro area, about an hour north of Adelaide. With many members heading west as early as late July and not returning until early October that period is going to be difficult. With some returning around 9/10 October, that date has been suggested! Am I the only bowler in the group? As I will be Association President by then it certainly won't suit me, but the majority will no doubt decide the details.

If you have an interest can you please contact me direct as I don't want to load Colin up with the work.

Postal address is Box 47, Owen SA 5460 and email is kwarnes@rbe.net.au

Depending on the response we will look at a programme, venues, available accommodation, costs, etc. but I repeat this is not planned as a full-scale conference. We are only using the Newsletter as a convenient way to contact everyone.

SA hosts the National Conference next year and perhaps something bigger can be arranged to tie in with this event.

Graham Addison-Smith, Junabee, Qld

Here is the report covering the third, and last for 2009, meeting of the recently formed Eremophila Study Group in Queensland. It was held at Pete's Hobby Nursery at Lowood, a town situated some 65km from Brisbane and to the north of the main Brisbane-Toowoomba Highway. The surrounding country has coal mining and is hilly. Lowood experiences temperatures up to 45°C in the summer and down to 5°C in the winter with some frosts. Rainfall is around 600mm yearly. Pete collects cuttings from other gardens as he is yet to retire from his main job.

Members came from Roma, Warwick, Oakey, Toowoomba and its surrounds and Brisbane, showing by the distance travelled that interest is being sustained in the group.

Members were made aware of the difficulty of raising eremophilas from seed – this was the first of the propagating methods discussed. Mention was made of extracting seeds by nicking the seed capsule and planting a few seeds in a standard seed-raising mixture.

The second method discussed was the use of cuttings, which after the usual precautions were placed in a mixture of peat, perlite and vermiculite. Whether to trim back foliage and/or shorten each leaf was a moot point.

However, what is practised with success in Queensland (in particular in the Roma area) is the taking of cuttings in the autumn and winter months.

The third method, covering cuttings grafted into or alongside the stem of a reliable root-stock e.g. *Myoporum acuminatum* by near-coastal growers and the use of *M. montanum* which is favoured by growers in the dry, inland areas. The interesting variation on this fairly standard practice was shown by Pete who fixes a cutting into another cutting which has resulted in successful growths. Both cuttings used are dipped into a cutting medium. The aim is to sterilize the cuts with use being made of chlorine bleach rinsed away in clean water before grafting.

Demonstrations of different techniques which have been successfully used by other members were also carried out.

Pete has planted out native plants in his neighbour's yards as well as his own. The raised beds consist of coal-stone which has proved to be very satisfactory in all respects. The pH is 5.5. Coal-stone is a by-product of coal-wash plants and is sold locally as cheap filling.

Anne Langmaid, Keilor, Vic

(Anne asked the following question regarding *E. desertii* as part of an email.)

I believe that *E. desertii* was once regarded as a species of *Myoporum*; it does not seem to fit well with *Eremophila* either. It is a bit weird sexually. I asked Bob and he said that *E. desertii* had both male and female flowers on the one bush. I was unable to find any male flowers on my plants, although maybe if there were only one or two I may have missed them. I also looked at some at the Werribee Zoo and could see only female flowers. Do the male flowers precede the females or is there some other reason why I cannot see any?

My plant was cutting grown from a friend and I was wondering if female only plants were accidentally being propagated. I, of course, get no fruit on the plant. Maybe some plants only produce female flowers. (The petals were even and the anther was undeveloped.) I only found out last year that *E. desertii* is dioecious and I wanted to observe the two types of flower. Why too is there only one species in the genus which does this? That is what upsets me- it seems evolutionary sloppiness. I don't mind too much that it seems somewhere between *Eremophila* and *Myoporum*, as is *E. debilis* in looks anyway. It fills the role of linking them.

The question is: what is the arrangement of male and female flowers on *E. desertii* and why is it different in this compared to other members of its family?

ATTENDANCE AT SUB-GROUP MEETINGS

The Study Groups are each recognised as a part of the national organisation (ASGAP and now APS). It is therefore necessary for all members of the sub-groups to be members of an association/club which is itself a member of the state and hence the national body. This is also a requirement of people wishing to become members of a Study Group.

Those who are running these state sub-groups of the Eremophila Study Group should check that all who are attending satisfy this criterion. One key issue is that of insurance – as members of the APS body we are covered by the general provisos, but only if the meeting is properly convened and preferable that I, as Study Group Leader, am advised.

Colin Jennings

OPEN GARDEN - INVITATION

Australia's Open Garden Scheme. Saturday/Sunday 12-13 June at "Carinya Haven", 279 Fletcher's Lane, ROMA, Queensland. 10am – 4.30pm. **Fletcher's Lane is located 22km from Roma on the road to Mitchell.** Venue is a further 3km off the Roma-Mitchell Rd. Look for the green & gold Open Garden Signs. There is a full programme of talks & demonstrations on both days. Entry \$6 per person: pay at the gate! Food & refreshments available – proceeds in aid of Roma Polocrosse Club.

I received several flyers for this event just a few days ago, and decided to advertise it in this way. If you want further information the contact phone number is (04) 4622 3759

Colin Jennings
Leader, ASGAP Eremophila Study Group,
4 Kinnaird Cres, Highbury SA 5089

cje97694@bigpond.net.au