

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc



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Newsletter No. 101 – July 2015

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GSG Vic Programme 2015

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Contact Neil for queries about program for the year. Any members who would like to visit the official collection, obtain cutting material or seed, assist in its maintenance, and stay in our cottage for a few days are invited to contact Neil.

Vic Chapter Grevillea Crawl

We are proposing to have a Grevillea Crawl this coming AUGUST, centered in the Bendigo region, to explore and admire some of the wonderful new forms of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, *G. dryophylla*, and *G. alpina* that Ian Evans has discovered over the last few years. There are also several wonderful native gardens to visit as well as a couple of great native nurseries. Please contact Neil (0458 177 989 or neil@whitegumsaustralia.com) or Ian (0418 507 213 or evo@ianevascreativelandscapes.com) if you wish to attend. We will work out the exact date, depending on what suits most. If we do not get sufficient support we will have to cancel the crawl, so book now, letting us know what weekends in August best suit you.

GSG Living Collection

There has been further extensive planting of the collection, with the development of a South Australian Grevillea bed, a *Grevillea alpina* hill, many areas of Western Australian Grevilleas and a lovely NSW Grevillea bed. Any volunteer help would be greatly appreciated as the garden is now getting just too much to care for alone. Special thanks must go to those members who have donated plants recently to the collection: Brian Weir, Graeme Woods, Phil Vaughan, Neville Collier, Dave Binch, Barry Teague, Mike Williams, Humphris Nursery and Kuranga Nursery. Any members wishing to get seed or cutting material are most welcome – come and have a look around and collect your own.

Inside this issue:

Editorial	2
Grevillea Study Group SE Qld meeting report	3
Who is sleeping with whom?	4
On the etymology of <i>Grevillea treueriana</i>	5
<i>Grevillea victoriae</i> subsp. <i>brindabella</i>	6
A new cultivar released in Western Australia: <i>Grevillea</i> 'RSL Spirit of Anzac'.....	7
Vale Dr Joan Webb	7
The Coominya Collection of Grevilleas	8
Ramblings	11
In your garden.....	13

GSG NSW Programme 2015

For details contact **Peter Olde** 02 4659 6598.

Saturday, 28 November

VENUE: Silky Oaks Farm for a look at the Grevilleas.

TIME: 10am

TOPIC: Morning tea will be followed by a conducted garden tour during which the taking of cuttings will be allowed. The meeting will be held in association with the Fern Study Group.

GSG SE Qld Programme 2015

Meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of the even months. We meet for a communal morning tea at 9.30am after which the meetings commence at 10.00am. Visitors are always welcome. For more information or to check venues etc please contact **Bryson Easton** on 0402 242 180 or **Noreen Baxter** on (07) 3871 3932 as changes can occur.

Sunday, 30 August

VENUE: Home of Jan Glazebrook and Dennis Cox, 87 Daintree Dr. Logan Village, 4207

PHONE: (07) 5546 8590

TIME: 9:30am for 10am meeting

Sunday, 25 October

VENUE: Home of Fran and Jim Standing, Mount Clunie Road, Woodenbong

PHONE: (07) 4666 5118

TIME: 9:30am for 10am meeting

Sunday, 29 November

VENUE: Home of Maria and Gordon Reynolds, 40 Smythe Drive, Highfields Qld 4352

PHONE: (07) 4615 5679 or 0403 500555

TIME: 9:30am for 10am meeting

Special thanks to the Queensland chapter for this edition of the newsletter. There were a couple of articles received from Qld members that will appear next edition. New South Wales members, please note deadlines on back page for the following newsletter.

The Study Group website, <http://anpsa.org.au/grevSG>, maintained by Brian Walters, now has online a number of important references. Probably the most important is a freely down-loadable copy of every newsletter from Newsletter No. 1, mistakes and all. The scanning work was completed by Mark Noake, Moruya, to whom the Study Group is extremely grateful. The newsletters have been indexed to Newsletter 100 by Bernie Shanahan and Tony Cavanagh and the index is also online. None of the last three newsletters will be there until a year elapses. What a fantastic resource! You will also find there a reasonably complete list of references to the genus *Grevillea*, important if you are writing an article or want to do further reading. And just the other day, an updated, complete list of all species and subspecies recognised by the Study Group. There are 377 species and 99 subspecies currently recognised, though the list is ever-changing and there will be up to 50 new taxa recognised in the future that I know about.

Mark Noake has begun to clean up the illustrations of *Grevillea* by Collin Woolcock but it is a tedious job. As sections are complete they will be uploaded to the web-site.

The anniversary issue is presently stalled by other work so if anyone wants to assist me with this compilation, put up your hand.

The paper studying the relationship between *Hakea* and *Grevillea* using DNA analysis has been submitted to the *American Journal of Botany* and is currently in review prior to publication. Associate Professor Austin Mast conducted the research with the assistance of others, but particularly the American Government who stumped up the costs. I can reveal that there will be no immediate changes to names. However, the status quo cannot be maintained in the long term and name changes are inevitable. Either *Hakea* will be absorbed into *Grevillea* with the name *Grevillea* conserved over *Hakea* (which has priority) or *Grevillea* will be split into a number of genera. There were 97 accessions of *Grevillea* sampled including species from all Key Groups *sensu* Olde & Marriott (1994), usually two species. Four chloroplast (cpDNA) genes were sequenced (the *matK*, *atpB*, and *ndhF* genes and the *rpl16* intron) as well as nuclear (the nDNA region) *PHYA* gene.

A second work is currently underway in Australia led by Dr. Marcel Cardillo from ANU who will sample every species of *Grevillea* where possible. The Study Group members can play an important part in this work by listing all the species they are growing on the spreadsheet being circulated by Neil Marriott (neil@whitegumsaustralia.com). In the same way that a large study of *Hakea* sampled the private collection of Paul Kennedy, *Hakea* SG leader, this study will use the SG collections of species in cultivation. This saves thousands of dollars in expeditionary expenses and is much more productive and puts to excellent use the hard work of collecting and maintaining species in private collections.

Do not forget my appeal for digital images of all *Grevillea* species. We have had a very low response to this important task so far. The images will be used to illustrate an on-line treatment of all species. Do not just leave it to a few.

Next April I will be travelling in Madagascar on a trip to be led by Dr Peter Weston, senior botanist at RBG Sydney and a keen observer of Proteaceae. There are still a few vacancies on this trip which is being promoted by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and anyone interested is asked to contact me for further details.

On Saturday November 28, the NSW chapter will have a joint meeting at Silky Oaks Oakdale with the Fern Study Group. This will be an opportunity to see the garden and its collection. I will be conducting a personal tour for those interested. All the changes since last it was opened will amaze you. Interstate visitors are also welcome. If you intend to come, please contact me. BYO lunch and drink.

Next issue we will deal with the subject of Bees and *Grevillea*. If you have any articles of interest, please forward them to me.

Helen Howard

Grevillea Study Group SE Qld meeting Monday 27 April

Report on the progress of the species gardens at Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Brisbane

As a study group what we have been doing for the past few years has now achieved results with many *Grevillea* species thriving in the gardens. It gives the locals and visitors a whole new look at what grevilleas they could have in their gardens and a wonderful chance to learn more about the rare and not so rare species.



Grevillea decurrens

Brian Cooney, curator of the gardens along with Rosie Matters one of his dedicated grounds staff, has made great progress with the preservation and replanting of grevillea species. The garden has also a wonderful display of great hybrids that thrive so well in the Brisbane area and can be seen in many gardens around Australia. Our goal as the study group was to save the species and promote them to the public by having them displayed at the Botanic Gardens.



Grevillea pteridifolia prostrate

Amongst our group there are quite a few grafters, some no longer active but willing to share our skills. As most of these *Grevillea* species need to be grafted to survive it is a wonderful thing to be part of this Genus preservation progress. Bryson Easton, our *Grevillea* Study Group president, has been a major influence in getting this project to fruition. He regularly visits the gardens, keeping an eye on the growth and progress, consulting and communicating with Brian Cooney regularly. GSG members have been kept up to date and it was so rewarding to visit the gardens as a group and see for ourselves the resulting show of plants.



Grevillea parallela

Richard Tomkin (Changers Green Nursery, Gin Gin) has supplied quite a few grafted plants for the gardens which have not been easily found elsewhere and he continues to supply GSG members with grevilleas on order. Peter Bevan (Pete's Hobby Nursery, Lowood) has also contributed as has Allen Lee who works at Neilson's Native Nursery.



Richard Tomkin (Changers Green Nursery GinGin), Rosie Matters (Grevillea garden supervisor), Brian Cooney (Curator of the Botanic Gardens) and Alanna Tomkin

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Brian Cooney was really pleased with the advice from GSG members regarding pruning of the species. Rosie Matters was very much inspired, it seemed, by our groups input and offers of help. She therefore can more confidently work on the grevillea species regarding planting, replanting, fertilizers and pruning. All in all a great day out, rewarding, educational and encouragement for GSG members to carry on the great work helping to educate the general public about the preciousness of our wonderful grevilleas.



Abstract from Botany 2013, held New Orleans July 27–31

Who is sleeping with whom?

Resolving cryptic relationships in the *Grevillea thelemanniana* (Proteaceae) species complex.
Tania Hevroy, Michael Moody, Siegy Krauss.

The *Grevillea thelemanniana* Lindl (Proteaceae) species complex is distributed in fragmented populations primarily across the southwest Western Australia international Biodiversity Hotspot. A number of the species are listed as endangered, rare or poorly known (DEC) and many recognised species have highly restricted distributions and are of conservation concern. Species delimitation in the complex has been problematic due to high morphological variation within species, the prevalence of overlapping ranges, and suspected hybridization. While several subspecies were recently elevated to species status the recognition of a recently phrase named species and subspecies in the complex of high conservation priority has instigated a molecular approach to evaluate species delimitation. In this study we present the first molecular assessment of the *Grevillea thelemanniana* complex using the two chloroplast (trnF-trnL and trnL-rpS4) and 12 nDNA microsatellite markers developed for *Grevillea thelemanniana* subsp. *thelemanniana* to evaluate inter specific relationships and test taxonomic limits across their natural ranges. Phylogenetic analysis of cpDNA revealed two distinct clades within the complex relating to

a north/south split, with the southern clade showing a close relationship to the *Grevillea hakeoides* species complex, calling into question the monophyly of the *thelemanniana* complex. The results from nDNA microsatellite data was mostly congruent with the chloroplast data, however there was evidence to suggest hybrid origins between some species within the complex. While our analysis showed little support for some described species, our data support and we recommend recognition of the phrase named species *Grevillea* Gillingara (critically endangered) and elevation to species status of *Grevillea thelemanniana* subsp. Cooljarloo (high priority) which clearly emerged as distinct lineages within our analyses. The phylogeny developed here lays the groundwork for future assessments of important but cryptic *Grevillea* complexes in Australia.

This paper was published formally in 2013 as Hevroy TH, Moody ML, Krauss SL, Gardner MG (2013) Isolation, via 454 sequencing, characterization and transferability of microsatellites for *Grevillea thelemanniana* subsp. *thelemanniana* and cross-species amplification in the *Grevillea thelemanniana* complex (Proteaceae). *Conservation Genetic Resources* 5: 887–890.

On the etymology of *Grevillea treueriana*

The species *Grevillea treueriana* is named for Adolph von Treuer (1822–1894), a German immigrant who became a distinguished citizen of Adelaide, a leader of the large community of German colonial immigrants, a committed fund-raiser for worthy causes, a patron of music and science, and, in 1874, a founder of Adelaide University. In 1866 he became Consul of Prussia and, later the whole North German Confederation. See the Adelaide Advertiser December 13 1894: 5 for his obituary.



Grevillea treueriana

Adolph von Treuer was the German Consul in Australia from 1865. In 1866 it was reported in the South Australian Register (24 September P. 2) that he, as Consul of Prussia, organised an appeal for funds to relieve the suffering of war widows and orphans that resulted from a war in Germany. In 1867, he was reported in the South Australian Weekly Chronicle (27 July P. 5) as the Consul for Prussia and Wurtemberg. As such he officiated at a large torchlight procession of German settlers, with Dr Schomburck of the Botanical Gardens and others, to welcome to Adelaide in November 1867, Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, to whom he was introduced. The event was reported in the South Australian Weekly Chronicle and Mail (November 9, 1867 P.6). In 1868 he was appointed as Consul for the North German Confederation. In 1869 he organised a fund raiser to assist widows and orphans of 300 miners killed in a colliery explosion in Dresden. The appeal also raised funds towards a monument to Alexander von Humboldt and towards the second German North Polar Expedition. (South Australian Advertiser 26 Nov. 1869 P. 2).



Adolph von Treuer (1822–1894)

In 1872, he received the Frederick Order of the first class in acknowledgment of his services as Consul for His Majesty the King of Wurtemberg. (South Australian Advertiser 2 June P. 2).

In 1873 he was the Consul for the German Empire. In 1879, he was reportedly a director of Wallaroo Mine.

In 1881 he wrote in a letter (Wallaroo Times and Mining Journal 4 Jun.: P. 2) that he had been a colonist for more than 28 years, suggesting his emigration occurred around 1853 (same as F. von Mueller who named a species of *Grevillea* after him). He was also connected with F. Basedow.

In 1888 he was reported to be the Consul for Austria and undertook a trip to Europe with his wife. His return was reported in the South Australian Register 13 Jan 1888, P.4. In 1889 he was president of the Consul's association.

His resignation from office and succession by the vice-consul Herr C.E. Muecke in 1882 was reported by The Argus (Sep 16 1882 P. 12) from a correspondent in South Australia, where he was then apparently residing. At this time the Emperor of Germany conferred on Herr Treuer the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown. On 17 March 1883 the Argus (P.12) reported from Adelaide that he was presented with a portrait of himself by the German colonials and that he had served as consul for Germany for 17 years. He was a member of Adelaide University Council from 1874 to 1894. Obituary in Adelaide Advertiser 13 Dec 1894 Page 5.

Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *brindabella

In 2010, a new subspecies was recognised by Val Stajsic in *Grevillea victoriae*, subsp. *brindabella* from the southern tablelands of New South Wales. The new subspecies is apparently confined to the northern part of the Brindabella Range, and has a known distribution of around 10km, between Waterfall Creek Falls and Genges Trig. A third population is found on the Baldy Range fire trail and all three populations occur above 1000m. The new subspecies, known previously as *Grevillea* aff. *victoriae* 'Baldy Range', shares characteristics of both subsp. *navalis* and subsp. *victoriae*, but could not be accommodated in either subspecies by expansion of their concept. By recognising it as a new subspecies, the classification is resolved into three roughly co-equal taxa. According to the diagnosis, subsp. *brindabella* differs from subsp. *victoriae* in its leaves shiny on the upper surface, smaller and relatively wider and in its shorter floral rachises (14–)25–50(–60)mm long. It differs from subsp. *navalis* in its sericeous or subsericeous branchlet indumentum, its leaves with an obscure reticulum, and in the presence of a short neat indumentum on the leaf undersurface. Its subsericeous perianth indumentum and its smaller flowers distinguish it from both subspecies. The term 'subsericeous' means most of the hairs appressed but some lifting. An illustration accompanying the description shows how strong the reticulate venation is on the leaf undersurface of subsp. *navalis* compared to both other subspecies. An inconstant character of separation is the presence of glandular hairs on the pedicels, floral rachises and abaxial surface of the perianth, a rare feature only seen on some (?most) specimens of subsp. *brindabella* and elsewhere on *G. rhyolitica* subsp. *semivestita* in the whole '*Linearifolia*' subgroup.

The next most easily confused taxon with *G. victoriae* subsp. *brindabella* is *G. brevifolia*. *G. brevifolia* is distinguished from *G. victoriae* subsp. *brindabella* by its shorter, generally more obtuse leaves. The lateral veins of the leaf upper surface in *G. brevifolia* are obscure to evident, whereas in *G. victoriae* subsp. *brindabella* they are evident to prominent. The floral rachises are also shorter and fewer-flowered in *G. brevifolia*. The colour of very early flower buds is wholly ferruginous in *G. brevifolia*. The perianth outer surface in dumentum (below

the limb) is moderately densely subtomentose or tomentose in *G. brevifolia*, whereas in *G. victoriae* subsp. *brindabella* it is moderately densely subsericeous, of which feature there is an illustration of fresh material.

The type specimen was collected immediately to the west of Genges Trig, c. 200m north of the ACT border, at which location there were several hundred plants, easily the largest of the three populations. Overall however, the new subspecies is regarded as endangered.

A photograph of the holotype is provided with the description which can be accessed online at [http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/documents/Muelleria_28\(1\)_p18-28_Stajsic_Grevillia_lowres.pdf](http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/documents/Muelleria_28(1)_p18-28_Stajsic_Grevillia_lowres.pdf).

Reference:

Stajsic V (2010) *Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *brindabella* (Proteaceae), a new subspecies from the southern tablelands of New South Wales. *Muelleria* 28: 18–28.



Grevillea sp. 'Genges Trig' – photo by Andrew Orme

A new cultivar released in Western Australia: *Grevillea* 'RSL Spirit of Anzac'



Grevillea 'RSL Spirit of Anzac'

Benara Nurseries from Western Australia, who boast that they are 'Australia's largest wholesale nursery', have released the first new *Grevillea* hybrid cultivar bred by senior plant breeder Digby Growns from Kings Park and Botanic Gardens. For approximately 10 years, Digby has been running an environmental-based plant-breeding program on behalf of Kings Park and a number of commercial stake-holders, one of which is a large U.S. wholesale plant nursery. The consortium aims to produce plant varieties for general cultivation using native WA species. The new cultivar was released to mark the 100th anniversary of the landing by Australian and

New Zealand soldiers at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. The plant was selected by representatives of the Returned Soldiers League of Western Australia who approached Kings Park in 2013 in search of a suitable commemorative plant for the centenary celebrations. The selected cultivar has red flowers, a colour that symbolises the blood shed by Anzacs, and will be in flower in April when Anzac celebrations are held. It was planted around the WA State Memorial in Kings Park in time for the centenary celebrations.

The parents of the new cultivar are *Grevillea* 'Tirari Blaze' and a decumbent, shiny-leaved form of *Grevillea banksii*. *Grevillea* 'Tirari Blaze' is a *G. treueriana* hybrid that arose spontaneously in South Australia at the Daisy Patch Nursery, run by John and Julie Barrie. The origin of the *G. banksii* is uncertain, possibly a plant registered with ACRA as *G. 'Gypsy'* by Ray Brown and Merv Hodge in 1985 that came originally from the Byfield area of Queensland. The cultivar resulted from a hand-pollination in 2007. 'We throw away about 99% of the hybrids we cross if they do not perform to our high expectations', says Digby. The aim is to produce a resilient, disease-resistant plant that can survive low rainfall, has high temperature tolerance, and meets other criteria such as large flowers, flower colour, floral display, long flowering period, plant form and leaf shape.

Miguel A. Garcia – Daniel Solander Library, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

Vale Dr Joan Betty Webb (1929–2015)

I have the sad duty to report that Dr. Joan Webb passed away in May, peacefully in her sleep after a long and serious illness. She was 85 years old.

Dr Joan Webb was a university lecturer in environmental science and an accomplished author. She wrote extensively on George Caley and his expeditions, as well as other

biographical, historical and botanical subjects. Dr. Webb was awarded two honorary degrees, conferred by the Crown Prince, in recognition of her contribution to environmental education in Thailand over a period of twenty-eight years. Joan was an enthusiastic, engaging and skilled communicator of history and botanical science. It was a privilege to have known her.

The Coominya Collection of Grevilleas

The Coominya Collection is a large stand of grevilleas just east of the village of Coominya at the intersection of Wills and Rocky Gully Roads. Fifteen years ago the Council gave permission to remove soil from the block alongside the intersection to improve the motorists' visibility. As a result all the topsoil was removed down to a gravel base from the area close to the road. Since then considerable regrowth has occurred. In the regrowth vegetation, and extending beyond it, an extensive stand of hybrid grevilleas have grown. Some very mature grevilleas are visible in the nearest house on the other side of the road. The grevilleas in the stand are of variable ages from seedlings to quite old and there are obvious variations in foliage shape and colour.

Observations 28 February 2013

The site was visited by the SE Qld group after over 100 mm of rain in 4 days. This followed 174 mm for January and 186 mm for February, making a total of 359 mm for the first two months of the year



Many plants were sitting in or beside water (see above). Although several large bushes that were sitting in water were dead, most of the population appeared healthy.

Some of the mature tall shrubs or small trees had been blown over in the recent storms but most appeared to be continuing to survive in a horizontal position with just a few roots still in contact with the soil. The populations showed great variation in height, with some extremely tall specimens. Some plants had much denser foliage, some had very fine foliage while others had wider leaves. Most of the bushes have

upright growth while others were spreading (see below). On this visit there were only a few plants in flower, the colours varied from golden yellow to cream, or creamy white and red.



Observations 10 August 2013



The site was re-visited in August 2013 in dry conditions as shown above. As well as the flower colours observed in summer, plants with flowers which were bright gold and 'toothbrush' in form were observed.



continued >



Pastel Pink



Lime



Crimson

Observations 13 March 2014

Following the initial visit in February 2013 after flooding rains, walking through slush, this visit just over a year later was made in drought conditions. Peter found it incredible to see how magnificently the Grevilleas were performing. The ground was crunchy underfoot yet every single Grevillea was impressive, with new foliage evident on each plant.

It should be noted that on the trip to and from the stand of Grevilleas, Peter observed that local gardens were being severely impacted by the drought. Even plants like Frangipani had branches that had collapsed as the plants were so dry. Peter realised that it was possible, looking at the state of plants, to say 'that's a native', 'that's an exotic'. An exception must be made for rainforest plants such as Lilly-pillies growing in exposed sites where they are prone to wind damage. The foliage on these plants was badly damaged yet the plants themselves appeared to be coping.

Six plants were in flower at the end of summer. All forms had flowers with cylindrical confluences. These were mostly long, with flowers on several plants reaching 24 cm. One plant had red flowers but all other flowers were pastel colours. The lighter colours varied from cream to lemon to pale gold...



Cream



Lemon

continued >



Pale Gold

...to a greenish-yellow and peach. The buds are shown in both images.



Greenish-yellow



Peach

This population was in marked contrast to another population further along the same road. There all bushes were alike in height, form, foliage and flowers, with any observed flowers similar to the cream form of *Grevillea banksii*.

On this trip, Pete took cuttings of four Grevilleas that were in flower at Coominya as most tall grevilleas such as *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon' start flowering in his locality at the end of autumn, through winter and into spring and there is little flowering at the beginning of autumn. Pete thought these Grevilleas were worth collecting and sharing through his nursery as they survived standing water in February one year and severe drought conditions the following year. They also flower earlier than other plants of a similar size. Pete intends to trial the plants and to make them available through his nursery if they are successful. They will be known as 'The Coominya Collection' and each name will start with 'Coominya' and be followed by the colour of the flower including G. 'Coominya Citrus', G. 'Coominya Cream', G. 'Coominya Blush' and G. 'Coominya Cherry'.

Illawarra Grevillea Park

OPEN DAYS 2015

July 4, 5, 11, 12

September 5, 6, 12, 13

Opening hrs are 10am - 4pm

Location

The Park is located at the rear of Bulli Showground, Princess Highway, Bulli.

Admission

\$5 adults, children with adults are free

email info@grevilleapark.org or
visit www.grevilleapark.org

Ramblings

Please allow me a certain amount of poetic licence during these ramblings because I've said some of it before and cannot for the life of me remember what has been printed in this news letter and what has been said to individuals. I wrote this a few years ago but bear with me please as some of it is recent.

DROUGHT. Good grief, hasn't it been going on for ever? Locals up here say it's been umpteen years since 'good rain' (what's bad rain when it's dry as a crisp?), like not since 1958 or thereabouts. He or she who denies the Global Warming theory needs to reconsider I feel. You listening JH? But I digress. What's this got to do with grevilleas? Quite a lot really.

Observations at Changers Green (here) for the past 25 years show that Silky Oaks that I planted when I arrived have really slowed down now and plantings of grafted Grevilleas 10-15 yrs old (those that remain) are quite strong still while those 10-5 years old are struggling, 5-3 are just looking at me and asking "why me! Do something", BUT the plants of 3-now are growing really well and have caught up with the 5-3 and are rapidly catching the 5-10's. What's changed? It surely isn't the amount of rain! Or the temperature etc so what?...

Rewind to 25 years ago when I met my first hybrid grevillea close up - 'Honey Gem' - what a wonder! And look a 'Robyn Gordon', crazy! I must have these for my new place. I read what I could find about these plants and found that they were "natives" (me too, I'm a "native" but not to Australia, England. We really should get rid of that 'native' rubbish, the word, and be proud of our AUSTRALIAN plants you know) to Australia and needed little water, acid soil, reasonable drainage and had few pests. Oh and no need to feed or prune 'cos they're natives (shudder!). Well I could supply all of those needs with ease! Off I went and searched every nursery I came across for grevilleas. I found around 40 after a few years and planted them in my front garden, mulched them and watered them enough to get them started. Off they shot! Flowers and birds everywhere. Delightful. What HAD I been missing.

A few years later something began to go wrong. The old leaves fell off, they just about stopped flowering, new leaves looked a bit mottled and basically they all looked a bit on the way out! Back to the books. It could be iron deficiency and 'bud

drop ' so out with some iron sulphate and a spray to fill the bugs. Things improved a bit so I left them to it. Added tonnes of organic mulch in the form of wood waste and cane tops etc anything we (got married there somewhere) could find and got on with a new hobby. Grafting.

My Silky Oaks were zooming along, up actually, and as a rootstock were proving unbeatable. 'Royal Mantle' was another choice but was a dead loss (literally) in the ground on its own roots and was quickly discarded as a rootstock. So Forward Ho with Robusta and the newly discovered Grevillea Study Group.

The late and great Edgar Burt befriended us and gave away bags and buckets of scion material over the years, "try this my boy, it's a beauty". What a friend he was. Only drawback was that some of the scions were incompatible with Robusta so enter the interstock (please not intergraft, there is not a possibility of such a thing) and all was well, or was it? Plantings were going downhill as before but, these were grafted! These were the do all, best of everything weren't they? Recheck the growing requirements again. Full sun OK, acid soil OK. low Phosphorous OK, or was it? What was this place used for before I bought it? (Its worth checking for anyone.) Clay infertile soil and some but not a lot of water. So what WAS going wrong?

By now the Nursery was booming, and annoying some of the older more established nurseries south of here, and I didn't have any time to spare on gardens (wrong move there, should have made time) so it all went somewhat downhill until I needed scion material, oooops! OK enough is enough. Threw on some Nitrophoska with trace elements (getting desperate) which was NOT something recommended by any Grevillea grower I knew! This was about 5 years ago. Results were outstanding! Plants that were dormant shot leaves, shoots and flowers and branches at an unseen rate for two months or so and stopped. Not dead. Just stopped.

Now tears are most unsightly so I will not go into details of the next few weeks but after much grrrrring and sighing I took out my trusty pH meter (took a week to find it) and re ran some tests. All confirmed what I already knew, acid soil everywhere..... But hang on, it was much more acid than before! By quite a lot actually.

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So, Reader, if you are still there, what IS meant by "Grevilleas need an acid soil"? Well I took that at face value. My Silky Oaks were 20 m tall so that must be OK surely? Further investigations reveal that 'acid' is one thing but, and this is a big but, 'very acid' is something totally different. Changers Green has an average pH of 4.5 and in one spot 3.8. Nasty. At those levels there is very little nutrient uptake. It's there, but not available for plant growth. The whole place had been acid to start with but doing the right thing with continual additions of tonnes of organic and the odd bit of manmade fertiliser had slowly increased the acidity until nothing grew well at all.

What's the cure? I read that lime was a no no but I had to raise the pH somehow. ALL Grevillea books advise dolomite but after a few years of that.... no improvement to talk about (I'm talking TONNES here).

Side track ahead.... When I'd finished pouring some concrete, I'd poured the rinse water (lots of cement) near an old and pretty senile Royal Mantle standard. It went into shock and died in a matter of a couple of weeks. SEE, too high a pH - must avoid lime based anything. After another few months I noticed that other plants nearby were perking up! They looked the best I'd seen for years. Hmmm.....

Back on track.... Took a deep breath and bought a couple of bags of AG LIME!! I can hear the cry of NO NO DON'T DO IT!! Well I did. I did it to a number of plants and washed it in and after 3 months BINGO No deaths just new clean undistorted growth. 2 TONNES of lime (on about 2 acres) later and the place is starting to look much better. I'll be adding 2 tonnes of Dolomite this spring and another 1 tonne of lime in Autumn. SO THERE! Who on earth started this 'no lime' business? IF there was a note that they were only talking to the minority of gardeners with just acid soil I'd understand but please don't believe everything you read. I sure don't (anymore).

So, back to DROUGHT (gee that took a long way around). When it rains here now, the water goes IN to the ground and doesn't run off anymore (the calcium has changed the whole structure of our clay) the fertiliser we use now works and most of our plants are thriving, drought or not. Each load of organic mulch is laced with a dose of lime and/or dolomite and I'm aiming to raise the pH to 6-6.5 if I can (it should take another 10 years I reckon) but I'll settle for 5.5.

Please, PLEASE, get a pH meter and test your garden. If you can't afford one dig a bit of your soil up and GET it tested. I know of a couple of well kept Grevillea nurseries that are In DIRE need of testing but the owners might feel a little put out if I told them.

FINALLY:

- DON'T believe everything you read (including this?)
- DON'T believe everything you hear
- DO check your pH every year - it will change downwards if you mulch a lot
- ADD whatever it takes, including lime, to get your soil to work FOR you
- UNDERSTAND that no amount of food added will help plants grow if it is locked out by inappropriate pH levels.

Have a good growing time.

This is now....

WOW, now that was a few years ago wasn't it! Soooooo much has changed since then so I'll try and keep it short (as if).

Since then we have had 2 droughts and 3 - COUNT THEM - three floods. Two you may have heard of and the other one was local, and may I say here, that I really don't want to see another. What this fluctuation has done to our garden is quite remarkable so I'll tell you all about it.

The dry times showed us that while *G. robusta* is as tough as old boots, it does suffer quite badly when it gets very dry BUT it doesn't DIE!!. Seedlings of *G. Misty Pink* and *Pink Parfait* etc dropped dead while grafted plants just sat and slowly dropped leaves. After good rain they shot back. The dead ones? Stayed dead.

Now, floods - the last one that "got" Bundaberg and Brisbane etc - at no stage were we actually threatened with submersion BUT for some 3-6 months afterwards we had "springs" leaking out from the hills and making the whole place a tilted swamp. There was water running down the driveway ditch for the 6 months, all the mulch was washed away and grevilleas of both grafted and cuttings died all over the place. And there was nothing we could do to save any. We tried pruning some and this just made it worse for them (I'm

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assuming that the leaves were actually keeping the plant pumped dry). So we waited till it dried up, cut out some 100 plants and tried to replant. No go. Still too wet.

It is only now some 12 months later that we have been able to dig holes in what is now concrete. The water has pugged the clay back to what it was some 20 years ago AND even worse the pH has gone back to below 4!!! Currently we are adding yet more LIME and have so far added ¾ TONNE just to the front garden.(for those of you who haven't been here, it's no more than ½ acre) and results are looking good.

I understand that the Grevillea Study Group wants to visit sometime this year? IF that is so, may I request that it be by mid year please? We intend

placing Changers Green on the property market around that time and it'd be a bit of an imposition on the new owners to have you guys roll up!

You can find us on Facebook under Changers Green Nursery or me by my name.(what else). GOOD LUCK to all and feel free to ask any questions on Grevilleas by sending to the Fb site.

Richard, Lana & Andrew TOMKIN

CHANGERS GREEN NURSERY

251 BUNGADOO ROAD

GIN GIN 4671

rtomkin1@bbigpond.com

07 41574283

P.S. Find us at www.nurseriesonline.com.au/changers_green/ too!!!

Jan Glazebrook, Qld

To the tip

In mid 2014, a group of seven of us set off for a trip to the tip of Cape York. Members of the group were Steve and Laylee Purchase, Peter Bevan, Jan Glazebrook, Denis Cox and Chris & Ross Reddick. The first five are members of the Grevillea Study Group, so among the many wonderful plants discovered were many grevilleas. Jan and Denis set off from Brisbane and met up with Steve and Laylee in Dalby. Our first night was spent in Isla Gorge National Park. We arrived with just enough daylight left to do a short walk in this exciting (plant and scenery wise) national park. It wasn't long before we came across *G. longistyla* with its bright red flower spikes. A vow was made to come back one day to explore further.

Next day saw us travel further west to Clermont. On the way, we saw *G. striata*, usually as a small tree. Day 3 saw us heading north west along the Gregory Development Road. Just south of Belyando Crossing, we came upon *G. decora* on the roadside. It was growing with other beautiful wildflowers such as pink *Calytrix* sp. And yellow *Jacksonia* sp. The grevilleas were in flower, with some attractive young fruit forming. Around here, we started to see the orange flowers of *G. pteridifolia*, and they continued most of the way to the tip of Cape York. The Purchases left us in Charters Towers to go to Townsville and meet up

again in a few days. We spent the night camped just north of Charters Towers.

We travelled to the Undarra Lava Tubes, where we had an underground tour of the tubes and found out how they were formed. While here, we had a close up look at *G. glauca* and *G. parallela* in flower. Another grevillea common around this area is *G. mimosoides*. None of the plants were in flower, but it was hard to miss their large blue-green leaves. Some areas had recently been burnt, and many *G. mimosoides* were putting out new growth near the base.

Next day we headed off the beaten track to Chillagoe. This is an area of limestone caves and jagged limestone outcrops with interesting vegetation, but no grevilleas. After exploring this area, we headed to Irvinebank, a well known wildflower area, where we met up with the Purchases and Peter Bevan. This is the home of *G. glossadenia*, which were shrubs to 1 m tall with lovely orange and yellow flowers. Our first of many encounters with *G. dryandri* occurred here, although it was not in flower. While here, we also checked out *Acacia purpureopetala*, which grows only here. Many other interesting plants were present and half a day was easily spent in this area. *G. pteridifolia* and *G. glauca* were also seen here.

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Two days were spent at Peter's brother's dairy farm at Ravenshoe, on the southern Atherton Tablelands. We explored some rainforest areas and caught up with some old friends. The only grevillea present in the rainforest was *G. baileyana*, although on the drier northern tablelands around Walkamin grew *G. pteridifolia* and *G. parallela*. Our first sighting of *G. coriacea* was north of Atherton. *G. parallela* and *G. coriacea* look very similar at a distance, but closer examination of the leaves proves them to be quite different. *G. parallela* has thin, flat leaves with parallel venation, while *G. coriacea* has thick leaves with the edges of leaves rolled under and no parallel veins.

After a night at Cape Tribulation, when incessant rain prevented much examination of the surrounding area, we retraced our route and headed for Cooktown looking for some dry weather. *G. pteridifolia*, *G. parallela*, *G. coriacea* and *G. glauca* were common along the way. Only the Purchases braved the slippery slopes and deep crossings on the Bloomfield Track. Chris and Ross Reddick had joined us on the Tablelands, so the complete convoy of four vehicles were together at last at Cooktown.

The plan was to take the Battle Camp Road to Lakefield National Park, but Cyclone Ita, which had been through a couple of months earlier, had dumped lots of rain on this area, and the creeks were still up and many roads were still closed. So we were forced to return to Cooktown and take the bitumen to the small town of Laura. Around Laura, sandstone cliffs have overhangs and caves with aboriginal art. We examined some of these and tried to find *G. decora* subsp. *telfordii*, but a newly erected barbed-wire fence blocked access to where we thought it grew. The sandstone cliffs grew some spectacular wildflowers including *Calytrix*, *Homoranthus* and *G. dryandri*.

After a night at the newly reopened Laura Caravan Park, we had another attempt to explore Lakefield NP. This is a flat open area around the Normanby River, full of freshwater waterholes. The water lilies and wetland plants are beautiful and the amazing *Corypha* palms make this a unique area. Unfortunately, it had taken the brunt of Ita and we were unable to access the northern part of the park. There were plenty of brachychiton here, but no grevilleas.

Back to Laura, and it was goodbye to the bitumen on our way to the Musgrave roadhouse and on to our camp at Archer River roadhouse.

This is a popular camp site on the Archer River. The road was very good, with lots of road work going on and stretches of sealed surface. The next day, we tackled the road into Iron Range. Although only 135 km, it took us most of the day. Admittedly, there were many stops along the way. I had had the impression that Iron Range was a rainforest area, but the bulk of the vegetation is heath, with rainforest only present near the coast and at Lockhart River.

The heath is mostly less than 1 m tall and contains interesting plants, such as *Banksia dentata*, *Neofabricia*, *Fenzlia*, *Asteromyrtus* and a pink *Jacksonia*, to name a few. The only grevillea I recall were *G. pteridifolia* near the many creek crossings and *G. baileyana* on the edge of the rainforest going into Lockhart River. After a day spent at Chilli Beach, we headed back to the main road and headed north.

Our next camp was at the old Moreton Telegraph Station. Around the station and along the Wenlock River grew an unusual grevillea with long weeping leaves and corky, fissured bark. This has been put in with *G. erythroclada*, although this species does not occur anywhere else in Queensland, but is common in the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia. This was the last new grevillea we saw on the way to the tip. Side trips were made into Fruit Bat and Elliot Falls, before we crossed the Jardine River on the ferry. We made camp for a few days at Seisia, from where we explored the tip and areas around Bamaga. A day was spent on Thursday Island before we headed south again.

At Archer River, we had 2 inches of rain overnight and the roads, which were beautiful on the way up, turned to slippery mush. All day was spent ploughing through the mud, until we arrived back at Laura and the bitumen. The group then split up and went in separate directions. Our plan was to make it to Normanton on the Gulf and west to Lawn Hill near the N.T. border, but that is a story for another newsletter.

Grevilleas not commonly grown on their own roots

Grevillea leucopteris was one of the first grevilleas I ever owned, from the mid-90's when my interest in this species exploded. Of course, it was a grafted one. I planted it on the fenceline of the paddock next door, and it grew to around 2 metres – until someone put a horse in the paddock. It liked every part of leucopteris – flowers, leaves, everything. Before I lost it to the horse I cut a nice branch to take to our local TSGAP meeting. That's when I really learned (the hard way) why it is called 'smelly sox'. The obnoxious smell pervaded the car for at least 2 weeks!!

It wasn't until 2011 that I again gave this plant a go. I picked up a seed-grown plant in a 6" pot at Lang's Nursery in Mildura, and again planted it near the fence line of the paddock that is now built on, with a very large garden. It is planted on a very slight slope, in well-drained chocolate clay-loam soil. Unfortunately this is over a shale underlay varying from 6"- 24" under the soil. It sometimes takes many years to break through that and I suspect that doesn't help establish strong root systems.



It grew just as rapidly as the grafted one, but early last year it was half-blown out of the ground, with only the tap root holding it in place – most side roots were exposed. My husband, Stephen, knows just what to do with problems such as this, as it occurs quite frequently on our ridgeline property. We cut the top out of it, trimmed the heavier side branches, pulled the shrub back to an upright position, dug around where the exposed roots used to be, pushed them back down, stomped on the soil and added a bit more soil for extra measure. We do that to brachychitons and hibiscus all the time, but never before has any of our Proteaceae been given such rough treatment. Surprisingly, it continued to thrive and hadn't looked back since – until I started writing this article! It was no longer relying on a stake to support it, and despite the fact that it had withstood strong winds for over a year, it started to lean badly so we have had to stake it – AGAIN. I imagine it will take another year to stand on its own again. It currently has around 20 (some very tall) flower spikes.

I would love to trial a seedling grown *G. annulifera* in the same area, as they both can be found at Kalbarri, though I guess it is still possible they grow on different soil types there.

I have also grown *Grevillea petrophiloides* for about 5 years on its own roots, this time in a chocolate clay-loam raised bed, but it succumbed to the extended dry periods we have had. At the moment I have 2 seedlings that have come up in that same bed, in another area where I had grown a *petrophiloides x oligomera* plant (from memory). One seedling is about 2 years old, but still only 15" because it is in too much shade. I'll have to give the *Westringia* shading it a bigger trim than I have so far. Another seedling came up 3–4 months ago, but is only 2" high and I am not game to transplant it, though it has to be done sometime.

I and a number of others have also grown *G. flexuosa* from seedlings that come up after a grafted one has flowered. I have never been able to keep alive the *G johnsonii* and *G caleyi* cross seedlings that come up, but despite this I believe we should be trying to grow a lot more grevilleas on their own roots. If we can approximate their growing conditions, we should at least try to grow them that way.

Yet another *Grevillea* hybrid

I remember Peter commenting a year or so back that some 24 *Grevillea* hybrids had appeared in 2013 so they are obviously a popular group. So why am I reporting yet another? Well, like so many hybrids, this was an accident but as its supposed parents are both hardy eastern species and I think that the resulting flowering shrub is very attractive, I felt it was worth writing about.

It began about three years ago when my wife noticed a seedling *Grevillea* in one of our garden beds. Because it was in the "wrong spot", I dug it up and repotted it. A few months later, we were taking plants to my daughter's property outside of Mildura in far north western Victoria and included this one. Some twelve months later, my daughter told me that the plant had grown well and survived several freezing days in winter and weeks of plus 40° C in summer and was flowering beautifully (see pictures). We didn't even have one, so next visit we took cuttings. They struck quickly with vigorous roots so now we both have half a dozen plants spread around our respective properties. Unfortunately for me, the Mildura plants are growing far more vigorously than mine here in Ocean Grove so perhaps the hot summers and cold winters, plus many more hours of sunshine, suit it better. Also, their "soil" is actually old sand dunes, and sand is not what I automatically think of as suiting grevilleas but drainage is perfect and the roots can develop better than in my clay loam. The shrub illustrated would be no more than 18 months old, was a cutting from the original plant and is roughly 1 m x 1m. We are monitoring the Mildura plants to see their final dimensions and I will report in 12 or so months.



Grevillea Galah Hill plant Sept 2014

Its unofficial name is *Grevillea* Galah Hill, named after my daughter's property, and I believe that the most likely parentage is *G. rosmarinifolia* X *G. baueri* as both these were nearby in the garden. The close up picture shows, I think, a strong influence of *G. rosmarinifolia* and reminds me very much of Neil's photo of the Lara form on page 147 of volume 3 of *The Grevillea Book*. So far, we have noted no problems and garden plants are hardy and reliable But I will report in 12 months time.



Grevillea rosmarinifolia baueri hybrid flowers



Massive roots on *G. Galah Hill* cuttings

Seed bank**Matt Hurst**

37 Heydon Ave, Wagga Wagga 2650 NSW

Phone (02) 6925 1273

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope.**\$1.50 + s.a.e.**

<i>Grevillea aurea</i>	<i>Grevillea nana</i>
<i>Grevillea baileyana</i>	ssp <i>abbreviata</i>
<i>Grevillea banksii alba</i>	<i>Grevillea newbeyi</i>
prostrate	<i>Grevillea nudiflora</i>
<i>Grevillea biternata</i>	<i>Grevillea occidentalis</i>
<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>Grevillea paniculata</i>
<i>candelabroides</i>	<i>Grevillea paradoxa</i> (ltd)
<i>Grevillea crithmifolia</i>	<i>Grevillea pilulifera</i>
<i>Grevillea decora</i>	<i>Grevillea polybotrya</i>
<i>Grevillea decurrens</i>	<i>Grevillea preissii</i>
<i>Grevillea eriobotrya</i>	<i>Grevillea pteridifolia</i>
<i>Grevillea eriostachya</i>	<i>Grevillea pulchella</i>
<i>Grevillea excelsior</i>	<i>Grevillea refracta</i>
<i>Grevillea floribunda</i>	<i>Grevillea ramosissima</i>
ex Coonabarabran	<i>Grevillea ramosissima</i>
<i>Grevillea glauca</i>	ssp <i>ramosissima</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i> (ltd)	<i>Grevillea stenobotrya</i>
<i>Grevillea juncifolia</i>	<i>Grevillea striata</i> (ltd)
<i>Grevillea leucopteris</i>	<i>Grevillea superba</i>
<i>Grevillea longistyla</i>	<i>Grevillea synapheae</i>
<i>Grevillea magnifica</i>	<i>Grevillea teretifolia</i>
<i>Grevillea magnifica</i>	<i>Grevillea tetragonoloba</i>
ssp <i>magnifica</i>	<i>Grevillea triloba</i>
<i>Grevillea manglesii</i>	<i>Grevillea triternata</i>
ssp <i>manglesii</i> (ltd)	<i>Grevillea vestita</i>
<i>Grevillea monticola</i>	<i>Grevillea wickamii</i>
	ssp <i>aprica</i>
	<i>Grevillea wilsonii</i>

Free + s.a.e.

<i>Grevillea nana</i> ssp <i>abbreviata</i>	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> 'Little Red'
<i>Grevillea banksii alba</i>	
<i>Grevillea banksii</i> – grey leaf form	<i>Grevillea leucopteris</i>
<i>Grevillea banksii</i> – red tree form	<i>Grevillea longistyla</i>
<i>Grevillea banksii</i> – red prostrate	<i>Grevillea mimosoides</i>
<i>Grevillea Bon Accord</i>	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Moonlight'
<i>Grevillea caleyi</i>	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Moonlight x Ivanhoe'?
<i>Grevillea crithmifolia</i>	<i>Grevillea occidentalis</i>
<i>Grevillea decora</i>	<i>Grevillea plurijuga</i>
<i>Grevillea didymobotrya</i>	<i>Grevillea pteridifolia</i>
<i>Grevillea diversifolia</i>	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>
ssp <i>subtersericata</i>	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Sandra Gordon'
<i>Grevillea eriostachya</i>	<i>Grevillea stenobotrya</i>
<i>Grevillea floribunda</i>	<i>Grevillea superba</i>
<i>Grevillea goodii</i>	<i>Grevillea synapheae</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i>	<i>Grevillea tripartita</i> ssp
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i> 'Orange'	<i>macrostylis</i>
	<i>Grevillea vestita</i>
	<i>Grevillea wilkinsonii</i>

Please note: seed from hybrid -substitute -cultivated plants does not necessarily come true to type.

Fresh stocks of garden seed are desperately needed as most species are almost out of seed.

Can members asking for seed please give an alternative list in case some species are no longer in stock. It is preferred if requests are sent with a small padded post pack. It costs less to send at approx \$1.50 per letter than padding an envelope at \$2.00 each or more so the seed will survive the trip down the sorting rollers. It's a good idea to send extra stamps with requests as extra postage is usually needed to be paid with almost every request. Leftover stamps would be sent back with your seed.

Direct deposits can be made into the Grevillea Study Group account

BSB 112-879**Account Number 016526630**

(St George Bank).

Please notify the Treasurer of transfer by email

(bruce.moffatt@tpg.com.au)

or by post to

**Grevillea Study Group,
32 Blanche St Oatley, NSW 2223**

Financial report – July 2015

Income

Subscriptions	\$370.00
Donations	20.00
Interest	1.22
	<hr/>
	\$391.22

Expenditure

Newsletter publishing	\$240.00
Printing	162.66
Postage	51.10
	<hr/>
	\$453.76

Amount in interest bearing deposit till 10/7/2015
\$18,428.41

Balance in current account 29/6/2015
\$4,233.71

Balance in business cheque account 29/6/2015
\$262.68

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Email group

This email group was begun by John and Ruth Sparrow from Queensland. Free membership.

To subscribe, go to groups.yahoo.com and register, using the cyber-form provided. You must provide a user name and password as well as your email address to enable continuing access to the site which houses all emails and discussions to date.

You will receive a confirming email back and then you are able to access the site wherein you can select the groups to which you would like to subscribe. In this case search for 'grevilleas' and then subscribe.

Following this you will receive the latest emails regularly in your email to which you can respond. This is a good way to encourage new growers and those interested in the genus.

Postmessage: grevilleas@yahoogroups.com
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 List owner: grevilleas-owner@yahoo.com
 URL to this page: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/grevilleas

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Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 30 September 2015, please send your articles to peter.olde@exemail.com.au before this date.

If a cross appears in the box, your subscription is due.

Please send to the Treasurer, Christine Guthrie, 32 Blanche Street, Oatley 2223.

Please make all cheques payable to the Grevillea Study Group.

2014

2015

If a cross appears in both boxes this will be your last newsletter.

Membership fees

The annual subscription is \$10 per year or \$40 for 5 years. If you choose to receive the newsletter by email there will be a 50% discount ie membership will be \$5 per year – \$20 for 5 yrs. I would encourage everyone to take advantage of the savings by paying for 5 years, and choosing email. Overseas membership \$20 if posted.