Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

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NEWSLETTER NO. 21

Well, spring is here again, and for most of we native plant fanciers, it is a busy time. There are our own and our friend's gardens to enjoy, particularly in Sydney this year, where our heavy autumn rain seems to have led to a better-than-average winter and spring flowering.

There are also treks to be made to see nature's spring flowering. In the case of our leader, Peter and Neil Marriott, it was out to the west again. Will we have a sequel? - "Go West Young Man II" perhaps!

Crammed in amongst all this activity is the inevitable job of trying to convert those of the public left who are not yet ducated in the ways of Australian native plants via various Wildflower Spectaculars and local flower shows.

As some of you may have guessed, what I am leading up to is an apology for the lateness of this newsletter. Spring certainly is a busy but rewarding time!

I would like to thank all those people who have responded so well to my pleas for articles for the newsletter - your support is very encouraging, in this, my first venture as a newsletter editor.

I still don't have quite enough articles on grafting, so I will include that in the next newsletter. In the meantime, any information you could send to me on anything to do with Grevilleas would be most welcome.

A section on Pests and Diseases of Grevillea is featured in this newsletter.

NEWS in BRIEF

Many people have been interested to know when Peter Olde and Neil Marriott's Grevillea Book will be published. Peter advises me that the manuscript is finished, so when Don McGillivray's revision has been published, they will then be free to publish the Grevillea book.

This should be about the middle of next year. The book will probably be available through the Study group as well as in Book stores.

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Keith and Lindsay Fisher of Cairns report some success growing Grevilleas, especially *G. decora* and *G. glossadenia*, both of which flowered after only six months. They are said to dislike the humid conditions of Cairns - it will be interesting to see if they survive.

Grevillea "Black Magic"

The *Grevillea "Black Magic"* mentioned in Newsletter Number 19 has been located in May in the wild by Dr Stephen Hopper, after prevailing upon the original collector for its location. Two populations were located in creek lines near Cataby, Western Australia and in very small populations of less than 10 plants each. This undescribed new species has been in cultivation for many years under a variety of names (usually *G. hookeriana*), and was introduced by Alec Hooper of Zanthorrea Nursery, near Perth, from a cutting provided by the original collector. It has quite long, burgundy-black styles and an apricot perianth. After a short period, the flowers become pendulous and are borne on the bush in large numbers. It rarely grows more than c. 1 metre tall and spreads c. 2 metres.

INSIDE

ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26th

A Christmas get-together at the home of Christine Guthrie and Bruce Moffatt at 32 Blanche Street, Oatley 2223 at 4.30pm. A chance to see the Grevilleas growing in our garden and to see some of the slides Peter is planning to use in his upcoming book. B.Y.O. BBQ tea and drinks, tea and coffee supplied.

REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES

VISIT to ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, SYDNEY

July 1988

by Christine Guthrie

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, an enthusiastic group were given a guided Grevillea tour by Peter Abell.

Outside the herbarium building, we saw *G. rosmarinifolia* which has been grown from cutting material from the type collection at Edinburgh Botanic Garden, and an attractive, compact form of *G. mucronulata* with tiny flowers and habit, similar to a form from Castlereagh and the lower Blue Mountains.

The newly named *G. iaspicula* was a sprawling shrub, 2.0m x 1.0m with attractive, lime-green foliage and clusters of orange/pink flowers which are unfortunately susceptible to attack from a thrip which makes the bud drop. It is found naturally, in big populations beside the dam near Wee Jasper, and is closely related to *G. rosmarinifolia* and *G. bauer*i.

The Cessnock form of *G. linearifolia* with pink flowers was growing well. It grows naturally in wet clays, suckering freely and it makes an excellent garden plant.

There is an area near the herbarium where the soil is shallow, becoming sodden after rain, then drying out quickly later. Quite a number of grafted Grevilleas have been successful in this area. Amongst those grafted onto *G. robusta* were *G. wilsonii* and *G. monticola* (both difficult plants to grow outside of the south-west of W.A.), *G. heliosperma*, *G. petrophiloides*, *G. beadleana* and *G. teretifolia* (the latter doing well until being trodden on by painters' boots during building renovations).

G. yorkrakinensis (another difficult W.A. plant) was doing well after being grafted on to *G. "Royal Mantle"*.

We then moved on to the new Proteaceae bed where every Australian genus of the Proteaceae family is represented except for Stirlingia and Franklandia. The bed has sandy,shallow soil and the plants are not fertilised - not for any reason except that the gardeners don't get round to doing it.

A number of rare and endangered species have been planted, including *G. scortechinii* and *G. beadleana*. Probably, the most stunning plant in this garden was *G. alpina* - the upright form from Mt. Zero in the Grampians, which appears to be hardier and longer lived than the other forms. It does well grafted onto robust rootstock such as *G. "Ned Kelly"* and has magnificent large orange and yellow flowers.

There were also three forms of *G. aquifolium*, each varying in leaf shape and habit, including one form from Fyan's Gully in the Grampians which has the form of a narrow tree to 4 m high.

Further on in the gardens, we saw an unusual broad leaf form of *G. thelemanniana ssp. obtusifolia* collected by Marion Blackwell near Gin Gin in W.A.

In the mounded Grevillea bed were Grevilleas from every geographic and climatic area of Australia, including some grafted specimens. *G. glauca* was a seedling graft on *G. robusta* and was growing particularly well. It had lost two large branches from borers and was now coppicing from the graft.

Another plant doing well was *G. renwickiana* from the Southern Tablelands of N.S.W. where it grows naturally in acid, yellow sands in Eucalypt woodland. This was an unusual form which was suckering from the roots, being able to spread for many metres in this way. It makes a superb garden plant.

Other Grevilleas in this garden were *G. mucronulata, G. heliosperma* (grafted), *G. scortechinii, G. hilliana* and *G. singuliflora*.

We then went to the nursery where Peter does a lot of his work with grafting. Among the many plants we saw in pots were *G. glauca, G. ilicifolia* (grey form from the Big Desert, grafted onto *G. "Royal Mantle"*), *G. leucopteris, G. dryandri ssp dryandri, G. scapigera* and *G. synapheae*.

There was also a collection of Grevilleas from New Caledonia in pots including *G. exul var. rubiginosa, G. gillivrayi* and *G. exul var. angustifolia* which has long arching flowering branches.

The potting mix used in the nursery was 1 part pine bark fines, 1 part perlite and 2 parts compost, with nutricote used as a fertiliser.

Peter explained his reasons for grafting and then he gave us a demonstration of the whip and tongue grafting technique he uses. This grafting information will be included in the next newsletter.

There were certainly a lot more Grevilleas in the Royal Botanic Gardens than I thought, and it was wonderful to have Peter give us a guided tour.

NEWS in BRIEF

Geoffrey Stringer of Swan Reach, Victoria, extends a welcome to Study Group members to visit his property situated at the blind end of Neils Road (reached by turning left about half way down the Swan Reach to Metung Road). He has the magnificent East Gippsland climate and 8 acres of sloping, deep black, perfectly drained, sandy loam which he has been planting out with the help of his daughter.

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Brenton Lee from Hope Valley in S.A. writes of some successes in his garden where the pH level averages 8 and the top 0.3 - 1.0 m is sand over clay below. *G. thelemanniana* and *G.juniperina* have both grown very well and would perhaps do well in other similar dry areas.

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Shirley Clemo from Cornwall, England, has been inspired by our last newsletter on Grevilleas for cold climates, to try more species. Cornwall is one of the warmest parts of England with quite a lot of rain and few frosts. At present, Shirley has *G. rosmarinifolia* and *G. juniperina* growing in her garden and in her greenhouses she has *G. alpina, G. jephcottii* and *G. robusta*.

After losing most of her Grevillea seedlings in the greenhouse due to botrytis during winter, Shirley says conditions have been greatly improved by using two blower heaters.

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On a recent trip to Hawaii, Janice Hughes from Sydney spent some time with our delightful and enthusiastic Hawaiian Study Group Member, Carrie Carlson. Carrie finds that our Australian Proteaceae plants do very well in Hawaii's volcanic, basalt soils. In fact, *G. banksii* and *G. robusta* are doing so well in Hawaii, where they were introduced for reafforestation, that they have reached weed proportions.

REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIP to the BRAIDWOOD AREA

August 1988

Peter Olde

The recent trip from Nowra to Nerriga was well attended with many members coming from quite a distance. Our first discovery was a number of plants of *G. barclyana ssp macleayana* growing beside the road. These appeared to be in native bushland but there is no record of them at this location in herbarium specimens. I was unable to work out whether these plants were wild or whether they had been introduced there. There were no mature plants in surrounding bushland, apart from one old specimen, which was itself beside a disused track. Many young plants were growing at this location. There were considerable differences in flower colour too, from dark pink/red to pale pink. Mark Hickman remarked that he had recently collected a creamy-blond flower at Beecroft Headland, near Currarong.

As we drove further along, we came upon plants of *G. baueri ssp asperula*. This species has two forms. In open heath it is a low, compact shrub with beautiful cream nd red flowers. Its rough leaves are heart-shaped with many undulations. We could imagine them as attractive garden plants. Most plants at this location were of this form and were very numerous. Further along, in open forest, this species is a more open, slender and twiggy plant to 1.5 m.

At Tianjara Falls, and elsewhere in moist heath, we noticed an attractive form of *G. linearifolia*. The flowers of this species were mainly white with styles ageing pink. It was an open species growing to c. 1 m but was nonetheless very attractive.

We stopped for lunch near Nerriga with most of our party gossiping about a fantastic, remarkable, possibly the last of its kind, slab hut "up the road". However, I missed it. I was looking for Grevilleas. I don't think it would have been too much to ask of everyone to keep their mind on the job. I'm not upset about missing it but I would have liked to see it. Someone could have pointed it out, honked their horn or something.

Lunch was actually taken at a little pub which housed a lady with the loudest, raunchiest laugh I've heard in quite a while. Hickmann told me she was laughing at Ray Brown, but I have not had that confirmed.

On a more serious note, after lunch we travelled a short distance to the most accessible location of *G. renwickiana*. We were shocked to find that on both sides of the road, the ground had been cleared and scraped. All plants, except a few on the road verge, had been destroyed. This was incredible. This species is listed on the rare and endangered flora list and had been cleared to make way for bloody pine forest. I was incredulous, not to say angry, and getting more bitter all the time. Who is supposed to be looking after our rare flora?

A close inspection of the cleared ground revealed a number of juvenile leaves appearing from broken roots below ground. How long will they last? I was hoping to find this species in flower but to no avail. The 6-19 remaining plants were keeping a low profile.

Further along we found two forms of *G. juniperina*. Along the banks of the Corang River, which had been recently in flood, were plants of two colours, red and yellow/brown. Both colour forms are interesting, because the flowers are densely pubescent. They usually achieve a height of 1.5 m and are vigorous and dense. I imagine that there are intermediate pinks and apricots too, but I saw no evidence of either.

Not far past here, the species was prostrate. This form had slightly broader and shorter leaves with two colour forms in evidence as before. It was incredible that within a few kilometres, the species could undergo such a change.

The trip came to an end at this point. Everyone was well pleased with their Grevillea hunt and most would like to see more trips of this kind. I would like to point out to the person who suggested the short cut home, that half way along the road is a mighty river which my vehicle was unable to cross and so would he please not be so helpful on future treks.

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THE 1988 SYDNEY WILDFLOWER EXHIBITION

September 1988

Peter Olde

The 1988 Wildflower Exhibition in Sydney is now over. The Study Group supplied most of the potted specimens for the Proteaceae display which included a number of rare specimens. Special thanks to Ray Brown for setting up the display once again. We have a considerable number of members in NSW and it is unfortunate that we don't see them when the work needs to be done. I was disappointed to find no-one there to help us pull down.

NEWS in BRIEF

Peter Harradence from Victoria, reports that the new native plant annexe of the Rockhampton Botanical Gardens is well worth a visit if anyone is up that way.

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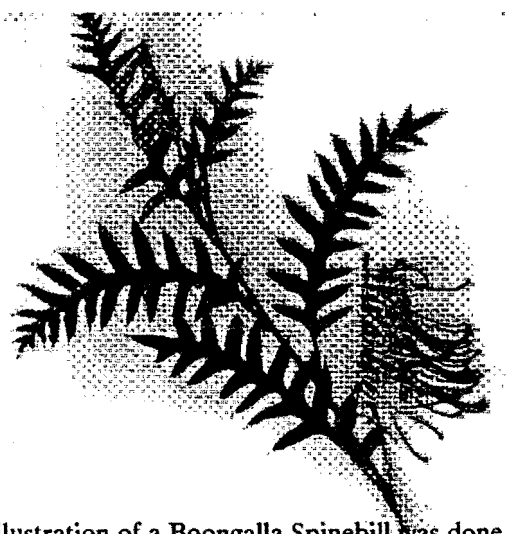
Shirley and Alf Hughes from North Eton, Qld, have found that *G. thelemanniana ssp. obtusifolia* grows particularly well on their property. It is growing in poor conditions - rock and shale with very little or no soil - but it flowers all the time and has spread out about 1.5m.



The illustration of a Boongalla Spinebill was done from a pressed specimen, scanned into a computer.

If any members would like to incorporate such illustrations with their articles, please send a specimen to the editor

IN THE WILD

Grevillea molyneuxii

by Mark Hickman

This is a report on a new species, *G. molyneuxii*, described botanically by Don McGillivray in his 1986 revision of the genus. Previously it was known as *Grevillea sp nova "Wingello" aff confertifolia*.

Introduction:

Habit:	A spreading shrub to 1.5 x 1.5 m
Bark:	Smooth, brown
Branchlets:	Silvery colour with appressed hairs and red-brown striations
Leaves:	Linear tapering to a sharp point, 25-40mm long, 2-3 mm wide, deep green above, paler below with small appressed hairs
Inflorescence:	Axillary raceme, c 20 mm long with about 16 Post Box red flowers, bracts 1 mm long deciduous.
Perianth:	7-10mm long, pubescent outside with a small beard inside below the limb blocking the entrance to the perianth tube
Ovary:	Stipitate, green, glabrous
Style:	c 17 mm long, red, slightly pubescent near stigma

Grevillea molyneuxii was originally collected by E. Cheel in 1933, who thought it to be an intermediate form between *G. sericea* and *G. parviflora*. The vague location was given as Tallong NSW, so there is little wonder that this species was "lost" to science until 40 years later when T. and J. Whaite rediscovered it growing beside an old forestry track near Wingello in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. Twelve months later in 1974, W. Molyneux, whom the species was eventually named after, reconfirmed the Wingello location.

Extensive searches of the area have been made by Ray Brown and myself to try to find new locations, including a thorough search of the Tallong area, some 16 km west of Wingello and more than 20 km from the nearest plant of *G. molyneuxii*. To date the only location has been where W. Molyneux found it, a sandstone ledge approximately 700 m long and 20 m wide, 10 km South-east of Wingello.

G. molyneuxii grows in moss on very shallow soils over sandstone. There seems to be constant seepage over this area from a swamp which is above the rock ledge. It is likely that the root systems are constantly wet.

The main associate is a compact, white flowered form of *Calytrix tetragona*. This was used as an indicator of the habitat in our search for new locations, because in Spring, it was quite conspicuous and in that area it only grows in that habitat. *Boronia anemonifolius, B. latifolia, Eriostemon scaber* and what appears to be a new species of Prostanthera were also found growing nearby. *Callistemon citrinus* almost exclusively grows in the swamp behind the rock ledge area.

G. molyneuxii has its main flowering period in spring, which at Wingello, occurs in October. However, some flowers can usually be found at most times in the year. In cultivation, this species seems to have a longer flowering period and seems to flower more freely throughout the year (though this can be said of many species).

There appears to be virtually no variation in the entire population of this species. A compact bush, growing to only 300 mm high, has been found, but has not been in cultivation long enough to determine whether it will retain this habit. There is no variation in leaf shape or flower colour. No natural hybrids have yet been found.

G. molyneuxii seems to adapt well to cultivation in eastern Australia. Given its high rainfall requirements, it is unlikely that it would succeed in drier areas without irrigation. It is unlikely that it would be drought tolerant, though this has yet to be tested. Propagation is very easy from cuttings.

This species has a tenuous grip on its existence by virtue of its restricted natural distribution. It is growing on Crown land less than 5 km from active *Pinus radiata* forest. Although *G. molyneuxii* is not likely to be cleared for pine forest because of the nature of its habitat, it could well be lost if control burning is increased in the area.

Grevillea lissopleura Rediscovered

by Neil Marriott, (White Gums Nursery)

In 1968, Ken Newbey, while travelling north from the Crossroads towards Southern Cross, discovered a new Grevillea species growing on the side of the road 20 kms north of Mt. Holland. In his revision of the genus, Don McGillivray named the species *G. lissopleura*.

Since that time, there has been a large fire through the area and the road has been slightly realigned. Numerous subsequent trips to the area by many people to relocate the species have all been fruitless.

In May last year, I spent several days in the area vainly searching for this elusive species. I felt confident that I would recognize the Grevillea when I came upon it - I had seen pressings at the Sydney Herbarium.

Travelling from Southern Cross towards Mt. Holland, I stopped on numerous occasions to appreciate all the stunning plants along the way: *G. pilosa ssp dissecta, G. nematophylla, G. acuaria* prostrate, *G. cagiana* and a beaut, low form of *G. hookeriana* to name a few.

At one stop, I noticed a curious Proteaceous plant. It had stiff Dryandra-like foliage (similar to *D. tridentata*) and grew to 1 m in height. I collected a quantity of cuttings thinking it may be a new species. These were sent to Roger Elliot who struck quite a few for me. On the label, Roger had written *Petrophile sp.*

Continuing on towards Mt. Holland, I thoroughly scoured the roadsides all the way, but to no avail. No sign of *G. lissopleura*. I continued on south of Mt. Holland for about another 10 km, collecting *G. teretifolia, G. pilosa ssp pilosa* - the beautiful northern form, and more of the curious Dryandra/Petrophile species.

Retracing my steps and travelling down every side track in the area, I continued my vain search for *G. lissopleura*. One side track nearly ended my W.A. trip right there, as coming around a bend, a huge sheet of water crossed the track and I finished up in the middle of it. Bogged several hundred kms from the nearest help! However, an hour of jacking up the wheels and packing the base of the flood with branches eventually got me out. Phew!! Bugger the Grevillea - it was beginning to get dark and I had to get back to Perth, empty handed. Or so I thought!

Fifteen months later, while checking all the plants I collected in the West last year, I nearly fell over with surprise when I noticed my new Dryandra/Petrophile species was coming into flower and - you guessed it - it was a Grevillea. I knew immediately it was *G. lissopleura*, but rushed inside and put it through Don McGillivray's key. Sure enough, it was! I felt a mixture of elation and annoyance. What an idiot I was. But at least I had rediscovered the Grevillea that Peter and I were fearful we would never photograph before our book came out.

On our trip to the west this October, we will at least know where to look and what to look for when seeking this most un-Grevillea looking Grevillea!!

IN YOUR GARDEN

Ed. Probably one of the reasons we all grow Grevilleas is that they are generally hardy and not subject to pest attack or prone to disease. Often, if a problem does occur, it is because the plant is not being grown under conditions which are favourable to the particular species, e.g. trying to grow cold climate species like G. alpina in warmer areas, or trying to grow dry area species in swampy areas.

Try to find out all you can about where the species grows naturally and endeavour to reproduce these conditions as much as possible in your own garden.

One thing to remember with Grevilleas is that they are mainly bird attracting plants. In their pursuit of nectar, the birds are also likely to glean any unwanted bugs off your plants, so think twice before using pesticides unnecessarily.

The best alternative is probably to pick the offending insects off by hand.

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"SUDDEN DEATH" IN GREVILLEA PLANTS

by Tom Gibian

Given plenty of sun and good drainage, most Grevillea plants live out their natural life-span. Some species have quite short life-spans (e.g. *G. synaphae, G. alpina*) whilst others are relatively long-lived (e.g. *G. robusta, G. longifolia*).

Common causes of premature sudden death of plants includes borers and fungal collar or root rot.

A FUNGUS

FUNGAL PLANT INFECTION may involve leaves, stem, collar or roots (or a combination). Commonly **LEAF FUNGUS** affects "furry" leaf species such as *G. alpina* and *G. lavandulacea*. In Sydney, this occurs mainly in the humid months of February and March, and results in a leggy, unthrifty and unsightly plant. More than two seasons' healthy flowering is unusual. I think these species are best regarded as annuals! Many fungus types are involved and fungicides are of little use.

COLLAR ROT AND ROOT ROT are usually caused by phytophthora species and lead to sudden plant death. In Sydney, such plant deaths occur typically with "difficult" Western Australian species. Increased longevity of such species can often be produced by grafting onto resilient root stock.

Examples of vulnerable species (in Sydney)

G. acrobotrya	*G. fistulosa*
G. infundibularis	*G. leptobotrys*
G. nudiflora	*G. paradoxa*
G. pilulifera	*G. pulchella*

Phytophthora fungal species are difficult to eradicate.

PREVENTION is much better than cure.

- ensure excellent drainage and raise garden beds
- keep mulch away from plant stems
- avoid known sensitive plants

TREATMENT is generally only warranted for that "special" plant. For collar rot, pare away the diseased area, paint with bordeaux paste and hope.

For early root rot or as a preventative, 3 fungicides are clearly beneficial but by no means magic. Some growers recommend 6 monthly spraying and drenching of soil around plant. My experience has only had moderate success. The 3 fungicides are metalaxyl (*Ridomil*) and closely-related furalaxyl (*Fongarid*) and fosetyl (*Aliette*). Excess fungicide produces leaf chlorosis and growth retardation, although the plant usually recovers.

B BORERS

BORER DAMAGE in Grevillea plants.

Borers are larval stages of a multitude of beetles and moths. They cause many Grevillea plant deaths.

Borer Damage

- on smaller plants, usually occurs on the main stem near ground level.
- often results in ring-barking and death
- often oozing and\or dried sap resin around damaged area, with surprisingly little "sawdust"
- death of plant may be sudden or quite slow. Sometimes plant dies, branch by branch.

Borer Grubs vary in length from 10 mm to giant 80 mm longicorns, as found in Eucalypts. There may be several grubs in one small plant. Absence of the grub (with damage as above) usually means the the pupa has departed from home.

Treatment of damaged areas may be surprisingly successful.

SUGGESTED TREATMENT

a) **PREVENTATIVE**

- regular inspection of Grevillea stems, particularly at soil collar level. Regular means every 2 weeks in warm weather.
- Keep mulch away from plant stems
- Treat any stem wounds, e.g. broken branch, physical injury site. These are favoured sites for borer egg laying.
- Consider use of deterrent paint on stems. Suggested paint is bluestone paint, made up of copper sulphate and lime in water. This is described in the excellent book by David Jones & Rodger Elliott (see reference). Apply paint in early Spring, attempting to prevent beetles from laying eggs. I am currently trying this deterrant paint but cannot vouch yet for either its safety or effectiveness.
- Spraying local insecticide around stem in early Spring may also deter egg-laying beetles and kill young larval forms. Carbaryl and endosulfan are suitable and reasonably non-toxic sprays.
  Long-acting chemicals are too toxic.
  No systemic sprays have any effect.
- Fertilise plants to improve their vigour.

b) **LOCAL TREATMENT OF DAMAGED AREA**

- Clean wound and probe any holes found with wire
- Inject hole(s) with kerosene or methylated spirits. If grub emerges - success. If not, don't worry, your treatment will still work. Squirt some more solution (or insecticide) into hole(s) and fill with putty or plasticine.
- Cut damaged wood away with sharp Stanley knife or chisel down to healthy wood, leaving steep sides on the wound. Be careful not to ringbark small stems.
- Paint liberally with tree paint.
- Fertilise and prune plant appropriately.

For those wishing more information, refer to "Pests, Diseases and Ailments of Australian Plants" by David Jones & Rodger Elliott, (Lothian Publishing, 1986), p.p. 186-216.

IN YOUR GARDEN

GREVILLEAS IN MACKAY

by Bev Weston

Ed. Bev Weston from Mackay, Qld is one of our newer members who has kindly shared her observations about pests and diseases with us.

The Grevilleas that grow in my garden are mainly the "tropical brush" variety and are remarkably trouble free considering our high humidity during the "wet". Apart from leaf spot on *G. "Robyn Gordon"* and small (2 cm) black and green bud eating caterpillars that came with *G. "Coconut Ice"* from the nursery, I have little cause to complain. Their resistance is just one of the many reasons I find Grevilleas so rewarding.

The reason for this could be their isolation, as we live "in the bush" 20 km out of town. Also, I have tried to maintain the existing natural ecological balance by not spraying. Apart from constant attention from the Honeyeaters, they are covered with spider webs, which may trap flying nasties that could cause trouble.

Grey stem mould however, is, like death and taxes, with us forever!! But not on every shrub! This has led me to the conclusion that some species are resistant, while some are totally immune; and this resistance and immunity can be passed on to their hybrids. Of course, it may just be coincidental, but the following are my observations.

PURE SPECIES

G. baileyana	immune
G. dryandrii	immune
G. glauca	immune
G. stenomera	immune
G. pteridifolia	resistant
G. whiteana "Honeycomb"	resistant
G. banksii	vulnerable
G. sessilis	vulnerable

The explanation of my definitions are as follows:-

immune	none present
resistant	you have to look for it
vulnerable	new growth clean

The hybrids seem to display the same immunity or vulnerability as their parents.

Among the resistant hybrids are:-

G. "Honey Gem"

G. "Sandra Gordon"

G. "Moonlight"

G. "Ivanhoe"

On the lighter side, gardening in the bush can lead to unexpected problems. I planted out a small *G. dryandrii* seedling only to discover next day that it had been reduced to half its height. An ever increasing family of rock wallabies share their land with us and the joeys will sample anything!!

Ed. Bev must be somewhat of a local celebrity. The following is an excerpt from Mackay Branch SGAP newsletter.

"There are parts of my garden that can only be called "waste ground" or "mongrel country". Pioneer Shire quarries road base further along the ridge on which I live and an inspection of our local dirt roads will give a good example of my "soil". Even the weeds are stunted; if Billy Goat Weed reaches 10 cm it is doing well! Fortunately, Grevilleas love it. They not only survive, they thrive. I have planted just about every Grevillea available from the local nurseries and have gratefully accepted seed and seedlings from friends."

Ed. The result of all this is some very healthy and unusual Grevillea hybrids.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE

by a Keane gardener

The reason why mere mortals use native plants, usually revolves around effort and ease. Native plants, it will be reasoned, are easy to grow even without much looking after. Perhaps such an advocate has never heard of Boronia, Crowea and *Grevillea johnsonii.*

Some native plants are "sure-things" in varying climates or so it would seem. We all know that our Grevilleas grow easily without the nasty pest and disease regime affecting them, or so it would seem.

Have a closer look at some of your Grevilleas.

Do your Grevilleas suffer from leaf spots, distorted new growth or die back on some branches?

If so, and that includes YOU, then a pest/disease of one sort or another has struck.

For example, has your *G. "Robyn Gordon"* ever had new growth that was distorted, a bronzy colour, and little leaf development. Congratulations, you are the proud owners of Psyllids. No don't thank me, they come with the plant.

Most species of Grevillea and virtually all of the hybrid Grevillea suffer from the tiny sap sucking insects called Psyllids. Although the presence of such pests is usually only a temporary set back, if too severe, the plant may prematurely expire.

The safest remedy is to snip below the affected areas and dispose of all prunings. The most dangerous remedy is to spray with Lebaycid or Rogor or Nicotine Sulphate mixed with white oil and run away.

The easiest and therefore most common remedy is to ignore the problem. Using this highly disciplined technique, we pretend to see all the natural control processes in action, including ladybirds, some spiders and maybe a few birds.

More deadly pests will be eliminated next newsletter.

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FRIEND OR FOE?

by Joe Mercieca

Joe, from Bonnet Bay in Sydney has had trouble with pests of a different type.

After eagerly encouraging birds to visit his Grevilleas, some King Parrots finally came. Unfortunately, they seemd to get drunk on the nectar of *G. "Honey Gem"* and *G. "Sandra Gordon"* and subsequently broke the flower heads off. The damage was not extensive, but it was annoying to see the broken flowers on the ground.

PROPAGATION

As promised, we have an updated seed list from our seed bank officer, Phil Congdon. If you require seed, write to Phil, c/- Owens Road, Martinsville 2265.

Phil advises that seed stocks are getting low and he would welcome any and all seed donations.

Thank you to Ian Orrell for his donation of seed from his Queensland Grevilleas.

Seeds for 50 cents

G. annulifera
G. aquifolium
G. asplenifolia
G. crithmifolia
G. crithmifolia prostrate
G. decora
G. decurrens
G. didymobotrya
G. dryandri
G. endlicherana
G. eriostachya
G. eriostachya ssp excelsior
G. glabrata
G. hakeoides
G. hookeriana
G. juncifolia
G. leucopteris
G. monticola
G. obliquistigma
G. parallela
G. petrophiloides
G. pteridifolia
G. pterosperma
G. ramosissima
G. refracta
G. robusta
G. stenobotrya
G. striata
G. synapheae
G. triloba
G. venusta

Free seed for Active Members
50cents for Passive

G. aff. angulata "Orange"
G. aff. angulata
G. asplenifolia
G. banksii
G. banksii "alba"
G. banksii (tree form)
G. candelabroides
G. dryophylla
G. eriostachya
G. glauca (wild source)
G. glossadenia (wild source)
G. integrifolia
G. obliquistigma
G. phanerophlebia
G. polybotrya
G. pteridifolia
G. pteridifolia "upright"
G. pterosperma
G. pulchella
G. sessilis
G. robusta
G. stenobotrya (wild source)
G. stenomera
G. venusta
G. whiteana "Coochin Hills"

OFFICE BEARERS

Leader: Peter Olde, 138 Fowler Road, Illawong 2234. (02) 543 2242

Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: Christine Guthrie, 32 Blanche Street, Oatley 2223. (02) 579 4093

Curator of Living Collection & Herbarium: Ray Brown, 29 Gwythir Avenue, Bulli 2516. (042) 84 9216

Seed Bank: Phil Congdon, c/- Owens Road, Martinsville 2265. (049) 48 8576

Cuttings Exchange: Hessell Saunders, Box 31, P.O. Bulli 2516.

FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1988

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	$318.50	Newsletter Expenses	257.00
		Stationery	17.50
		Reimbursement to P.Olde for freight costs	750.00
		Grafting donation to S.Smart	100.00
			$1,124.50
		Balance on Hand 14.7.88	$247.70

If a cross appears in the box, your subscription of $5.00 is due. Please send to the Treasurer, Christine Guthrie, 32 Blanche Street, Oatley 2223. Please make all cheques payable to the Grevillea Study Group.

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