

# GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

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## NEWSLETTER N° 29

JULY 1991

It's that exciting time of the year again. No, I don't appreciate the cold weather, but I do get excited as many of our native plants are starting to flower and many others are laden with buds and promises of good things to come.

I'd like to thank those members who have sent articles for this newsletter. It makes my job a lot easier and I do especially enjoy receiving articles from members I haven't heard from before, although all contributions are greatly appreciated.

### Study Group Meetings in S.E. Queensland

*Norm McCarthy*

Initially we started as a group of interested SGAPers seeking to grow more and better plants of grevilleas. Nine people were present at this first meeting in Merv Hodge's garden and he was automatically elected group leader, 21/9/86.

Since that time of small beginnings, meetings have been held in member's gardens regularly, at two monthly intervals, weather permitting. membership has gradually increased.

Our most recent meeting on 29th April was at the colonial home of Cherrell Gierke of Taringa, Brisbane. Ideally situated on a hilltop, at the end of a cul-de-sac and overlooking a rolling 40 acre treed reserve, it was a perfect setting for just such a meeting. A roll up of 35 members and visitors was indeed more than expected.

Cherrell will be remembered for her contribution of *Grevillea* "Honey Gem", an outstanding cultivar. Two plants in full flower, as large shrubs, were *G. dryandrii* and *G. goodii subsp decora*.

It is not unusual for some members to travel 150 or more kms to attend meetings, such is their interest in the genus. Some of the subjects that have been or will be addressed include; lists of growing plants and types, reasons and

symptoms of losses incurred, soil types, ages of plants, propagation, mulching, watering and nutrition etc.

Of course it is all centred around that "magic" - grafted plants. Very good examples and guidance for successful grafting have been provided in this field by the late Harvey Shaw and Merv Hodge. Their contribution has been invaluable to all would be "grafters".

Our next meeting is on 25th August at the home of Pat and Edgar Burt, Pikes Rd Glasshouse, commencing at 10am.

Subsequent meetings for 1991 are as follows:-  
27th Oct, Heather Knowles, Lot 2 Ebenezer Road, Rosewood  
24th Nov, Norm & Win McCarthy, 68 Holberton St, Toowoomba.

For further particulars please contact Mr Merv Hodge. Interstate members are especially welcome.

## ACTIVITIES

### Saturday 26th October

Keep this date free for a visit to Peter Abell's garden in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney. Peter has many grafted rare plants growing and hopefully he will be able to give us a few pointers.

Full details will appear in the next newsletter.

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## New Grevillea Discovery in New South Wales

*Peter Olde*

Peter Ollerenshaw from Bungendore reports the discovery of a new *Grevillea* species near Tumut following information from another nurseryman.

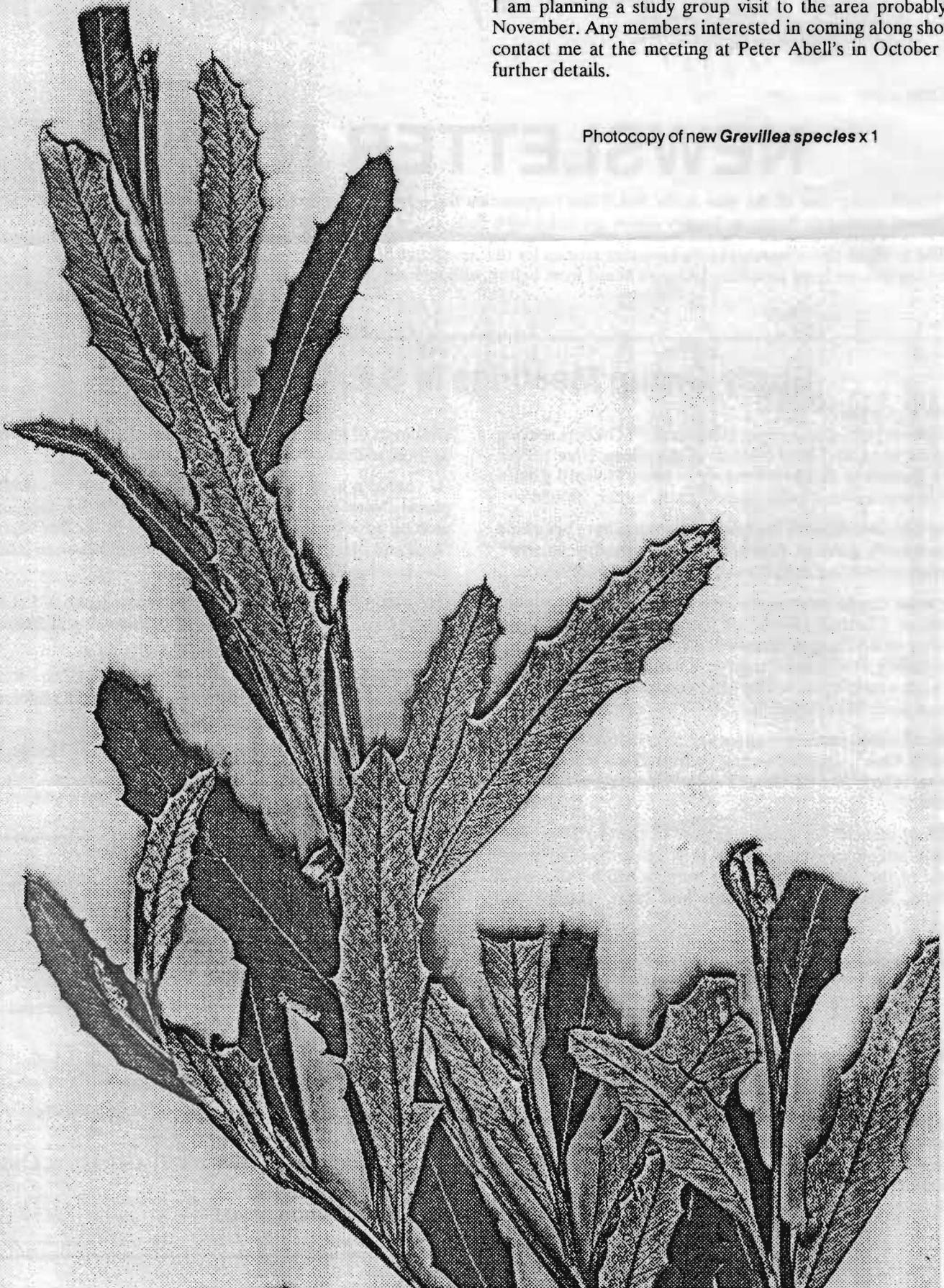
Peter very kindly sent the Study Group a specimen for its herbarium and a photocopy is reproduced. The new species,

which to date has been found in a total population of 17 plants, is very rare and endangered and occurs on a river bank, badly infested and overgrown with blackberry.

The local nurseryman who first brought attention to the new species has indicated that the flowers are a lilac colour and we look forward to seeing the plant in flower.

I am planning a study group visit to the area probably in November. Any members interested in coming along should contact me at the meeting at Peter Abell's in October for further details.

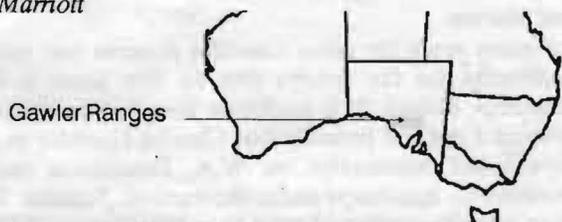
Photocopy of new *Grevillea* species x 1



# IN THE WILD

## Grevillea Hunting in the Gawler Ranges, S.A.

Neil A. Marriott



Lying to the north of Iron Knob and Kimka in the northern Eyre Peninsula Region of South Australia, the Gawler Ranges remain one of our little known ranges, being off the regular beaten tourist track, in an area that is largely privately owned, including most of the ranges themselves. To enter the area in order to explore the ranges and camp, one needs to firstly get permission from the stations – however, they are unlikely to decline any decent request.

Having sprinted up into the south-western parts of the range around Thurlga Station with “Oldy” and “Hodgey” on our way the west in 1988 (“just a little detour.” Peter had said!) I could see that the area was rich in endemic flora and was keen to return.

Discussing this with Tony “Nelly” Clark of Nellie Nursery, Mannum SA, we decided to have a break from our nurseries and take our families to the Gawlers for a week. Nelly booked us in to “Mt Ive Station” for a week in May of last year. Mt Ive is supposed to be a family holiday resort – you can imagine our shock when we arrived to find the place in a “slight” state of dilapidation; Mt Ive rubbish tip would be a more appropriate name!!

However, the country and the company were good, as Ken Warnes (former leader of the Eremophila Study Group) and family had also booked in for the same week. Ken and Nelly had been here before, so that night, with the aid of a couple of bottles of red, we worked out our itinerary for the next few days.

Our first morning was spent visiting the beautiful Lake Gairdner area – the lake was full and it was hard to believe that this was where Sir Donald Campbell set his World Land Speed record back in the 50's, or was it the 60's? Anyhow, around the lake were lots of interesting plants including plenty of young Sturt's Desert Peas and other Swainsona species, as well as an interesting form of *Myoporum brevipes* and a low form of *Eremophila alternifolia*, both growing in the salt-encrusted soil along the edge of the lake.

Late in the afternoon we drove to the Wombat holes south of Mt Ive Station. This was rather like being transported into a lunar landscape; the whole area was practically bereft of vegetation on a flat plain of deep gypsum. In the middle were a series of huge holes in the ground. Some were so large that you could walk down and into them. However, despite our sneaking around no Hairy Nosed Wombats were seen.

The next morning, we breakfasted early before heading off to the western parts of the Gawler ranges – the home of *Grevillea parallelinervis* and lots of other goodies. We dropped in to Yardea Homestead to get permission to go on their property – a formality, but one that should be remembered when travelling about in the Gawler Ranges which is largely privately owned or leased.

*Grevillea parallelinervis* starts occurring on the hills to the west of Yardea, however we did not stop to look for it till we had travelled on to Hiltaba Homestead. In the low hills 3 kms north of the Homestead we came upon the first of these spectacular, dense blueish-grey shrubs with their massed pendant red flowers.

Also occurring in this area, according to Bob Bates from the S.A. Herbarium, are some populations of an unusually woolly flowered *Grevillea aspera*, and reports of a new *Grevillea* species. We all headed up into the hills, and scoured the area for several hours – on the hilltops the views were superb as were the plants. As well as the massed displays of *Grevillea parallelinervis*, often stunted by the dry and exposed habitat, were drifts of *Calytrix invulcrata* with flower buds ranging from yellow, through oranges, pinks and brilliant reds opening to starry white flowers. Amongst them were clumps of the beautiful *Prostanthera floriferum* – rather like a large flowered form of *P. aspalathoides*. Numerous other showy small shrubs abounded – most unknown in cultivation. However, not a sign could be seen of the elusive new *Grevillea* species or the hairy flowered forms of *Grevillea aspera*.

After lunch, we backtracked to the Yardea – Minnipa Road down which we travelled to Scrubby Peak (the highest peak in the Gawler Ranges), where deep sands from the desert have been blown in over the granite soils of the Ranges. The deep dunes have been colonized by a mixture of local and desert species including *Grevillea juncifolia*, *G. pterosperma* *Hakea francisiana* (with rich pink racemes) and the large fruited endemic *Hakea cycloptera*.

Clambering up the steep sand dunes we reached the foothills of Scrubby Peak with a dramatic change in vegetation. Immediately the plants on the shallow granite were stunted, dense and diverse. Amazing thickets of suckering blue-leaved *Grevillea aspera* occurred in lines following cracks in the bedrock. However here there was no sign of *G. Parallelinervis*. On the top of one of the ridges, Tony Clarke nearly wet himself when he stumbled on a big male Emu with at least a dozen zebra-striped chicks.

Further on I was the one who nearly wet himself when we found a spectacular form of *Grevillea aspera* with nearly round leaves – again of the beautiful blue-grey colour that is common for the species in this region.

When one sees the Gawler Range form of *Grevillea aspera* for the first time, the impression is that it is a new species, so distinct is it from the Flinders Ranges form (common in cultivation). The leaves, as mentioned, are generally a blue-grey colouration, and are thicker and more pubescent than Flinders ranges forms. Both the individual flowers and the length of racemes are longer and the flowers are brighter in the Gawler Ranges form. Further research may well show it to be a distinct subspecies.

On the eastern side of the road opposite Scrubby Peak we hunted out *Grevillea anethifolia*, also suckering amongst the rocky hillsides. Looking very much like a small *Grevillea paniculata*. *G. anethifolia* can be easily separated by its appressed silky branchlets.

## IN THE WILD (continued)

Bob Bates had also advised me of a supposed undescribed *Grevillea* species growing on the white sandhills over red granite 5 kms south-west of Pine Lodge. However, we ran out of daylight so it still awaits discovery. Some reports hint that this may in fact be a hybrid, but it certainly warrants investigation by members visiting the area in future.

The next day we drove in to a large valley to the east of Mt Ive Homestead. Here the kids frolicked around the basalt columns exposed in the creek, while the dads laboured up to the top of the mountain to the east of the gorge in search of an extremely narrow leaf form of *Grevillea aspera* that Ken Warnes had found there several years earlier.

Despite several hours searching only 3 or 4 chewed down plants could be found. The culprits of this destruction which left the whole area practically devoid of vegetation were very large mobs of wild goats. These abound in the area, and are actually encouraged by the station owners as they are more profitable than sheep – but at what cost to our native vegetation?

A handful of cuttings were gathered from the mauled *Grevilleas* and are now growing well in my garden. But what future have they got in the wild?

A wander up the gorge beyond the organ pipes reveals *Grevillea nematophylla* – an interesting species that occurs right across the Nullarbor into Western Australia. Here in the Gawler ranges, it occurs in scattered communities, but is nowhere common. Plants are generally old and crooked small trees, and probably due to the goats, there was no sign of young plants regenerating in this location.

Another *Grevillea* that occurs in both the east and the west of Australia, *Grevillea huegellii* was seen amongst mallee woodland as we headed out of the Gawler Ranges the next day.

Although we had only spent four days in the Gawler Ranges, we found a wealth of unusual native plants in a beautiful and isolated series of ranges. The area is in fact as remote and away from the tourists as areas in the north of Australia and this feeling of "isolation" greatly adds to its appeal.

## ACTIVITY REPORT

*Christine Guthrie*

Despite poor weather on 11th May, 15 enthusiastic members gathered together to discuss *Grevilleas* and to view Neil Marriott's slides of his trip to the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Of course *Grevilleas* featured prominently in his slides, but there were other genera represented, as well as some magnificent scenery, including the Bungle Bungles.

Neil once again showed his incredible skill as a photographer, accompanied by entertaining commentary.

I'd like to thank the members who attended for a very pleasant evening. Neil and Peter Olde were as inspiring as ever, leaving the rest of us enthused by their incredible knowledge of and love for *Grevilleas*. We eagerly await the publication of their *Grevillea* book.

## Rediscovery of the true *Grevillea flexuosa* Meissn

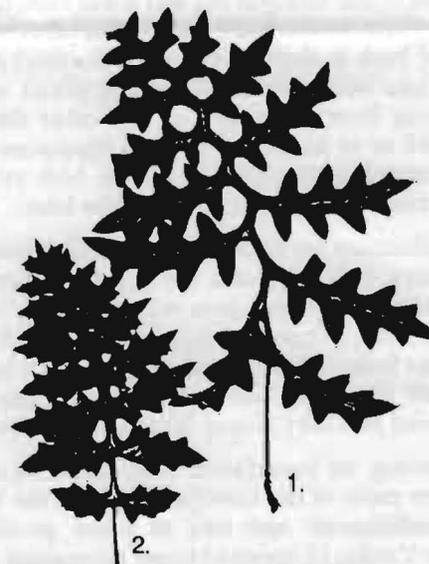
*Neil Marriott*

For many years the name *Grevillea flexuosa* was used, quite incorrectly, for the species that we now know is *Grevillea leptobotrys* Meissn. It is uncertain how this confusion arose, however I noticed recently that Charles Gardner in an early unpublished manuscript on W.A. Proteaceae incorrectly described *G. leptobotrys* under the name *G. flexuosa*. This mistaken identity continued until Don McGillivray clarified the situation during his research for the *Grevillea* revision in the 1980's.

*Grevillea flexuosa* was originally collected by James Drummond in the early days of the Swan River settlement. As there were few roads, tracks or maps of the colony in those days, Drummond's collections invariably offer little information as to location. This fact, combined with its extremely limited natural distribution resulted in it not being rediscovered until more than a century later by Gwen Abbott of the Perth Herbarium.

Amazingly *G. flexuosa* occurs only 30kms from Perth in the Darling Range, not far from one of our W.A. members John Cullen. Cutting material and seeds were collected and plants have now been propagated and will be distributed to Botanic gardens and active members as numbers become available.

Curiously, McGillivray felt that *G. flexuosa* was an extreme form of *G. synapheae*. However close inspection of the wild material shows it to be clearly a species in its own right. It forms a large open shrub to 2+ metres high and c 1 m wide with spectacular large grey-green divided leaves with a distinct zig-zag (flexuose) midrib. Juvenile leaves look very much like *G. bipinnatifida* leaves (see photocopy). It has similar, but longer cream inflorescences than *G. synapheae* and these are often branched. Fruits are very large, slightly wedge-shaped and with a very thick follicle wall – quite different to *G. synapheae*. It grows in granite loam and has at this stage only been found on one hill, luckily in a nature reserve.



*Grevillea flexuosa* Meissn (photocopy x 0.30)

1. Adult leaf
2. Juvenile leaf

# PROPAGATION

## What Will the New Plant Look Like

Mark Herrington, 21 Warner Street, Wellington Point, Q.

Knowledge of the way a character is transmitted from parents to offspring, ie the inheritance of the character, can be useful when one wishes to create plants having new combinations of characteristics.

Such new combinations may include a change in flower colour on an attractive bush, or improved disease resistance to extend the range of cultivation of an otherwise desirable plant. The community has already benefited through the availability of Grevillea hybrids, which express desirable recombinations. More will be produced and more information is desirable.

Information on the inheritance of a characteristic is usually derived by recording the numbers of plants with the characteristic (and the numbers with alternatives) in populations of both parents, the hybrid (F1 plants) and plants produced by a) self-pollination of the F1 hybrid (to produce F2 plants) and/or b) cross-pollination of the hybrid back to each parent to produce backcross [BC] plants).

Many members of the Grevillea Study Group will have much more knowledge than I about the characteristics of parents, the resulting hybrids and perhaps even the F2 and BC populations. Documentation of this information would be useful (I will help document it for this newsletter if you wish). As a start there is recorded below some information gained from literature and observations. Please challenge any statement you think is incorrect – so that eventually it is correct.

1. Red colour is dominant to white in both perianth and style in *G. banksii* and in each structure colour appears to be controlled by a single gene (Beal 1970, Burke 1983).
2. Orange style (and perianth) is dominant to red [e.g. *G. "Honey Gem"* (orange) = *G. banksii* (red) x *G. pteridifolia* (orange)]. Perianth of the latter species is in fact green but matures with an orange background.

However, white style is expressed in preference to red in *G. banksii* x *G. whiteana* and *G. banksii* x *G. sessilis* (eg "Pink Surprise" and "Misty Pink" respectively. Perianth colour is intermediate (pink) in both these crosses.

The yellow style of "Sandra Gordon" seems an intermediate between the orange *G. pteridifolia* and the creamy white *G. sessilis*. The few F2 progeny I have seen are yellow. The perianth also matures yellow.

More information on the occurrence of colour types in F2 populations of any of these crosses would be very interesting and useful.

3. Inflorescence form shows as intermediate types following crossing. Cylindrical inflorescence is dominant or partially dominant to toothbrush in "Honey Gem" (cylindrical *G. banksii* x toothbrush *G. pteridifolia*) but "Sandra Gordon" (cylindrical *G. sessilis* x toothbrush *G. pteridifolia*) tends more towards toothbrush. It is interesting to note that inflorescences begin as cylindrical and that they only become toothbrush late in the development of the inflorescence.
4. Erect plant habit is dominant to prostrate (Burke 1983). However, other comments in Burke's text indicate that there are at least two separate genes which can confer a prostrate habit.

The information above could be expanded and verified using larger numbers of plants and generations and there are also many other characteristics which could be described to advantage. With such information we will have a better idea of what a new plant will look like and how one may achieve an elusive combination wanted in a new plant.

Literature cited:

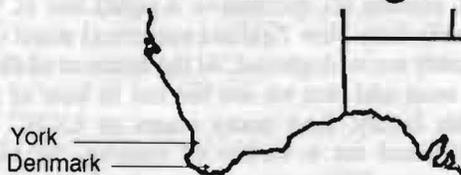
Beal P.R. (1970) "Inheritance of flower colour in the intraspecific cross 'Grevillea banksii R. Br. forma albiflora' (Degener) Deg. & Deg. x 'Grevillea banksii R. Br.'" AUSTRALIAN PLANTS 6 (45) p11.

Burke D. (1983) "Growing grevilleas in Australia and New Zealand." Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, Australia. p26-27.

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Greetings from York, WA

Hugh Seeds



Before I moved up here to York from Denmark (WA) in March, I heard through a mutual friend about Brenda Hammersley's finding a rare Grevillea on Mt Lindsay. Dick Mumford and I went to look for it, and after almost giving up hope, we found it – it has a dwarf habit. Dick got a good close up photo of it. We thought it was *G. cirsiifolia* as it agreed with that species description. I now see in the newsletter that it is called *G. aff. fistulosa* – is this so?

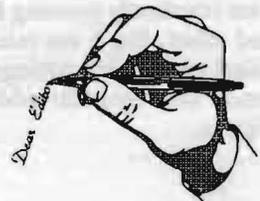
I've not had much luck growing Grevilleas from seed so far. Some *G. eriostachya* seed I collected germinated well and survived pricking out but then died off later. Perhaps the town

water was not pure enough. Here we get water from Mundaring, but in Denmark I had a rainwater tank. A number of my Banksia seedlings also died after moving here.

It is hard to buy Grevillea species here, as nurseries find that only the hybrids are profitable.

I grow Grevilleas partly to attract birds. In Denmark, New Holland and white-naped honey-eaters and western spinebills were the chief drinkers. Pardalotes, wrens, warblers and silver-eyes also visited the bushes frequently, I suppose for insects.

I'm still looking forward to getting a copy of Peter Olde's book! The drawings of the parts of a Grevillea flower in the newsletter were helpful. Such odd flowers!





# IN YOUR GARDEN



## Grevilleas in California

Bill Grant

Friday, October 6, 1989, was a big day in this gardener's life. Travelling across Australia by van from Perth to Sydney, with many stops in the wild, our group of 18 American botanists, nurserymen and gardeners with Gwen and Rodger Elliott as our guides, we visited Neil and Jane Marriott's garden. The display of Grevilleas took my breath away. I'd seen a lot in our UCSC garden, and I had cultivated over 50 myself. But nothing could match the display and beauty of this magnificent collection.

Our stop was far too brief, but it did give me a chance to photograph a large number of plants I had never seen before. I have titilated audiences ever since with these photos. To say nothing of myself.

From that point I reached a new level of enthusiasm for these marvelous plants. And part of my life since has been devoted to them.

To go back a bit. Twelve years ago I first encountered them in an infant Arboretum on the campus of the University of California at Santa Cruz, newest in the chain of satellite colleges. Started by Dr Ray Collett and managed since then by Bret Hall, the Australian collection has steadily grown to be a magnificent garden that draws visitors all year. Artists, photographers, school groups, garden clubs, bird watchers — a steady stream in increasing numbers visit most days of the year.

Dominating the collection are the grevilleas, banksias, acacia, eucalypts and many more. As Rodger Elliot said on a recent visit, "They are slightly larger in size and blossom than their Australian relatives". Hall, Collett and others journey to Australia from time to time to study plants in the wild and return with cuttings and seeds to enlarge our list.

The facilities at the Arboretum are rather primitive by most standards. Plastic greenhouses and propagation areas stand near the only permanent building on the site. The first in a stage of structures was built with money raised by ten years of plant sales and donations. But the enthusiastic staff (one director, one manager, three part-time workers, students and volunteers) accomplishes a great deal with little money.

Over the years the *Grevillea* collection has grown to be one of the largest in the Arboretum. Cuttings developed into one-gallon sale items bought by visitors as well as those offered at twice-yearly open houses and special events have enlarged the local audience for these plants. Grevilleas always sell out first. And we are hard pressed to keep up with the demand.

Rodger and Gwen Elliot have been our patron saints over the years. many of the cuttings and seeds have come from their nursery and the trips staff members have made with them.

I am constantly pressing for more additions. This takes time and effort. But I am relentless in my urging. So far I have failed to get any cuttings of "Honey Gem", which I know would be a popular addition to California gardens. But I digress.

I have a half-acre garden on a hill with eucalypts, not far from the ocean. The summers are long and hot but rarely humid. We have over 300 days of sunshine a year. Our rainfall here can range from 11 inches to 45. We have just finished a five-year drought that has forced rationing on many areas. We have had two severe winters with record-breaking cold: temperatures went down to 14°F with many days well below freezing.

The Arboretum has nearly every kind of soil you can imagine, so they can experiment at will. Mine is either sandy or heavy red clay. I have amended a great deal of it with redwood chips, mushroom compost, rice hulls and my own compost. Basically acid, the soil had been leached for over a hundred years by three kinds of eucalypts, what I call the weeds of that tree family. Nothing particularly pretty or restrained about them. They do, however, supply me with unlimited firewood. So most of the soil is without any nutriment whatsoever and is hostile to many plants.

I keep good records of the garden, and see that my first *Grevillea* was *Poorinda* "Constance" that came from a local nursery. In its twelfth year, it is regularly pruned to eight feet with a spread of about the same. It is vigorous. Inhabited throughout the year by several families of hummingbirds, it has cast some seedlings which bear great resemblance to the parent, though not completely. I am a poor judge so I will ask others to make a final judgement.

With that as a start, I purchased all the others from the Arboretum. With over 60 now in my collection, I feel the need to share my love and little expertise with others.

In most cases they are incorporated into the regular garden. I grow a great many rose species as well as a big collection of old garden roses. Grevilleas are happy companions in this scheme. The latter bloom in many cases when the roses are dormant, thus giving me color throughout the year. However a *G. rivularis* in full bloom at the moment is festooned with arching sprays of R. "Agliaia, a hybrid multiflora rambler with hundreds of yellow blossoms. A happy pairing. *G. rivularis* has become the centrepiece of a perennial border and a nesting spot for birds.

*G. oleoides* (*G. speciosa* — Knight) and *G. "Red Glow"* (actually from New Zealand nurseries) stand on both sides of a lovely native dogwood. At the moment all three are in bloom. I must add that we are the last to hear of name changes in this family. And many plants at UCSC have had to be renamed for a variety of reasons. So please forgive the amateur. When any of you visit, please give us time to take you around to check on our collections.

*G. "Boongala Spinebill"* has been a big hit in California for its varied use in gardens. The recent freeze cut mine in half, but most weathered the cold rather well. My *G. "Canberra"* grows in complete shade and is quite happy. *G. juniperina sulphurea* sprawls in a hot spot among *Salvia* and *Pelargonium cordifolium*. *G. "Ivanhoe"* is making its way up between an acacia and a *Prostanthera mellisifolia*. *G. polybractea* (Granya Group #2 is our label) in full shade sits near *G. dimorpha* (fine leaf form) and *G. dimorpha* (narrow leaf form).

## IN YOUR GARDEN (continued)

What we thought at first was *G. hookeriana* has turned out to be *G. "Red Hooks"*, mine is 10 ft tall. *G. barklyana* sits near two banksias in the shade of some Coastal oaks. I have four types of *G. lavandulacea* with "Penola" and "Tanunda" the outstanding plants in the garden. The latter is probably the most popular plant at the Arboretum sales.

Of course *G. "Robyn Gordon"* is such a success in California that you will see it in many gardens. "Ivanhoe", "Clearview David", "Pink Pearl", "Red Glow" and many other hybrids are now making their way from the Arboretum to nurserymen and to the garden centers.

I must say that the Poorinda hybrids have proved to be so hardy that their popularity has never waned. In the recent cold wave they remained untouched by any damage. In fact, my "Constance" started blooming during the worst part of the January cold.

When the plants are sold at the University, we give written instructions with each variety. Plants sold in October at our big sale have a better chance of survival than those offered in our spring festival. Young plants here easily survive most

winters, but summer planting claims many new ones. Summer watering is the culprit.

We constantly warn people about using any phosphorous fertilizers. And I recommend pruning the more vigorous types once a year. Recently I saw my first significant use of grevilleas in public planting. An automobile insurance company must have hired someone who knew what he was doing. A long driveway into the parking lot is lined with *G. aspleniifolia* that reach about 6 feet. They are planted quite close to one another. I realize now I planted mine in the wrong place as the lovely, arching limbs would grace any entrance way. Usually the plants used for public buildings and businesses reflect a mindless repetition of low-maintenance (ugly) plants.

Anyone interested in my complete list of plants (or for that matter those at the Arboretum) should write me at UCSC Arboretum, Santa Cruz, California 95064. And if any of you plan to visit California, let us know in advance and you will be warmly welcomed.

### Grafting the Answer in Noosa Heads

Neil Swinton

I have been cultivating Grevilleas for many years and while living in Victoria, most of my plants came from Neil Marriott or Jane Williams (Pomonal).

I retired to Mallacoota from Camperdown (Vic) in 1984 and when I left there had approximately 120 grevilleas in the garden — all on their own roots.

A recent return visit revealed a large number had survived virtually no regular attention whatever as it is now a holiday house for its Melbourne owners.

We moved up here to Noosa Heads 3 years ago and I now have approximately 120 grevilleas in the garden 75 of which are grafted.

I was fortunate to contact Edgar and Pat Burt at Fairhill Nursery one afternoon and his interest in Grevilleas and native plants in general has been mutually beneficial. I supply cuttings or stock plants and get back grafted plants in return.

Growing grevilleas and hakeas (many other natives also) on their own roots up here has been most frustrating. I am on pure white sand (old sand dunes) which has to be heavily mulched to retain any moisture whatever and heavily fertilised to get reasonable growth.

It is difficult to prevent the root systems of cuttings or seedling grown plants from drying out or overheating. Consequently, losses due to fungus are very high. Grafted plants have the root system planted a little deeper and I'm sure this is one reason for their success.

Through Edgar Burt I have exchanged plants and material with Merv Hodge and Pat Shaw. Pat Shaw has visited us and we have visited Merv's, Pat's and Edgar's places several times to compare notes and discuss problems.

When problems with grafting a few members of the Proteaceae family are successfully overcome, I'm sure all of these will be grown with success in this area. Some enthusiasts, like Merv and Edgar are well on the way.

### Do You Live Near Coraki?

David Mason



I moved from Brisbane to the northern area of N.S.W., onto a one acre block about 25km south of Lismore, on a sandstone ridge with a southerly aspect, with no town water. I therefore decided to try to grow Australian natives instead of lawn. In May 1988, I planted several species of natives, with greatest success with grevilleas, at this stage mainly hybrids.

In October 1989, I joined S.G.A.P. Far North Coast group in Lismore, where I received a cordial welcome, and in December purchased Wrigley and Fagg's Banksias, Waratahs and Grevilleas book. The result of these two combined was a serious attempt to obtain as many grevilleas as possible to keep one of each on my block.

In October 1990 Merv Hodge was obliging in showing me his method of grafting, and as a result I now have about 75 cultivar/hybrids and 130 natives, of which 40 are grafted onto robusta rootstock. About 10 of the natives were received from David Shiells as a result of newsletter 27. Cuttings from 16 species were received and grafted onto robusta with 11 types being successful.

My favourite to date is *G. formosa*. A plant was purchased on its own roots in January 1990, had two flowers in March and at present is approximately 5' diameter with over 40 flowers in March 1991. A high success rate (80%) of grafts was obtained in Jan/Feb. Every month I walk around the garden and keep a record of every grevillea flowering. The best species appears to be *G. sericea*. All four types have been flowering continuously since they started in July last year.

I am interested in contacting any members in the Northern Rivers area of N.S.W. who may be interested in forming a sub group of the Grevillea Study group, please contact me.

David Mason, Box 94, Coraki 2471

# IN YOUR GARDEN

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Some Post Pine Problems

Geoffrey Stringer, Swan Reach

Members may recall an article in Newsletter N° 26 (July 1990) on Grevilleas at Swan Reach, Victoria about establishing a garden for grevilleas on the site of some old *Pinus radiata*.

Unfortunately, we have a problem with a section of our grevillea garden. This is what we call "P.P.P.P." – post pine pollution problems. I thought I should warn other members.

Where we bulldozed out seven staggy, old, enormous *Pinus radiata* – roots and all – and filled in the holes with good top soil, we found that grevilleas in that area slowly withered away and completely failed to grow. A few survived and we have left the open spaces – enough room to walk around and ponder the situation.

We have established an outer shelter belt of hardy native trees right around the boundary of the 8 acre garden area. These shelter trees have given us the quickest garden growth we have ever experienced in a lifetime of planting.

Our daughter, Elise Walker, runs a wholesale nursery here and is flat out keeping up with demand. The new S.G.A.P. branch is also booming away. Gippsland has been an enormous area of ruthless exploitation, but we are at last getting some conservation response from leaders.

Wal Remington of Belmont North purchased a plant of *G. "Sid Reynolds"*, which has grown profusely. He has been unable to discover any information about this particular grevillea. Can any members help?

\* \* \* \* \*

An apology – I omitted to acknowledge that the article "On *Grevillea alpina*" in Newsletter N° 28 was reprinted from the newsletter of S.G.A.P. Victoria Vol 32:1 N°125 June 1988

\* \* \* \* \*

There have been a number of enquiries about availability of back copies of this newsletter. Most are still available, at a cost of \$1.50 each, from the editor.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

### JULY 1991

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	\$594.01	Newsletter Expenses	180.00
Donations	130.00	Postage	105.77
Interest	10.23		
	<u>\$734.24</u>		<u>\$285.77</u>
		Balance on Hand 3.791	<u>\$900.41</u>

## 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

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**Seed Bank:** Judy Smith, c/- Christine Guthrie, 32 Blanche St, Oatley 2223 (02) 579 4093

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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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