

# Newsletter N° 31

## ACTIVITIES

### APRIL 4th and 5th WORKING BEE and MEETING — BURRENDONG ARBORETUM

In conjunction with the Fern Study Group, and a number of SGAP groups. Accommodation should be available at the caravan park but it would be advisable to confirm this as soon as possible.

For further information phone Peter 534 2242

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### S.E.QUEENSLAND GROUP

Meetings are held on the last Sunday of odd months at 10.00am. For any further information, contact Merv Hodge, 81-89 Loganview Rd, Logan Reserve 4133, ph (075)463322.

All interstate and out-of-town members and visitors are warmly welcome to attend all meetings. As well, Merv kindly advises that he would be happy to hear from members and visitors any time they are in the area.

Any members willing to speak at the bi-monthly meetings would also be most welcome.

**29th March**, "Habits of Queensland Grevilleas" at the home of Norm and Win McCarthy, 68 Holberton St, Toowoomba.

**31st May**, Inspection of the nursery at Gatton Agricultural College, hosted by Peter Brauns

**26th July**, "Problems Growing Grevilleas on Large Properties (particularly lack of water)" at the property of Dennis Cox and Jan Glazebrook, cnr Diamantina Rd and Daintree Drive, Logan Village

**27th September**, Inspection of Grevilleas at the home of Dave Mason in Coraki, near Lismore NSW phone (066)832583

**29th November**, at the home of Merv Hodge, 81-89 Loganview Rd, Logan Reserve.

## INSIDE

- **IN YOUR GARDEN**
  - The Trials and Tribulations of *G.scapigera*
- **WHAT'S IN A NAME**
  - *G. banksii*
- **IN THE WILD**
  - Rediscovery of *G. batrachioides*
  - Rare and Endangered Plants of WA
- **PROPAGATION**
  - Grafting Grevilleas in Qld
  - An Experiment with Grevillea seed
- **GROUP INFORMATION**
  - Group Meeting at Peter Abel's
  - S.E. Queensland
- **BUSINESS REPORT**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Colleen McRae of Yerong Creek writes about a reserve planted with native plants on Galore Hill, near Lockhart (between Narrandera and Wagga Wagga).

Many years ago, two people had the foresight to create plantations on the reserve. There is an Acacia plantation, Melaleuca, Grevillea etc. "Friends of Galore Hill" (interested citizens and groups) now care for these plantations.

Colleen has just spent time trying to identify and name the 172 Grevilleas with the "caretaker" of the plantation. He now wants to place painted names by the plants. Colleen thought that the existence of the plantation may be of interest to our study group and invites any members to visit at any time (particularly flowering time).



# IN YOUR GARDEN



## The Trials and Tribulations of *Grevillea Scapigera*

*Bruce Schroder*

I first became aware of this rare and endangered species in 1989 when it was featured in the October newsletter (Nº 24), learning that Neil Marriot was growing a grafted specimen at Stawell in Victoria (possibly the only plant in existence)!

In 1990, when volume 5 of the *Encyclopedia of Australia Plants* was released, a photograph of this rare plant within, convinced me to seek out a specimen. Neil scoffed at me when I placed an order, indicating its rarity — I guess I would just have to wait.

In April 1991, I visited White Gums after a trip to the Grampians (how could you NOT visit White Gums after a trip to the Grampians?!). Browsing around the gardens, I stopped at an interesting greyish, lobed leaf *Grevillea* about 1 metre in diameter and looking very healthy. You guessed it — *Grevillea scapigera*!

This time I was in luck as Neil had some young plants on their own roots in stock. I purchased two (I often do this on the assumption that if one dies, I've got another one to carry on with), planting one in what I believed to be the most suitable position in my well drained dry garden, on the north face, part way up Mt. Dandenong in Montrose, Victoria. The other I intended to plant in a container, just to be on the safe side.

After about 2 months, the first plant had put on a lot of growth and I was tempted to take some cuttings as an insurance policy.

Convinced I had found the perfect spot, I decided to plant the second specimen close by — within a couple of weeks they were both dead! *Grevillea scapigera* would have to wait again. I hoped Neil's plant was still intact.

In November 1990, I obtained some cuttings from Neil. This time the plant was in full flower — what a truly unusual

specimen it is with its white flowers in scapes held erect, well above the prostrate branches. The flowers were removed and placed in a vase where they lasted well over a week before showing signs of wilting — longer than most *Grevilleas* I have tried.

The cutting material had some nice, fat dormant buds in the leaf axils and as I have had moderate success grafting *Grevilleas* in the past, I managed to get 18 grafts done. I took Neil's advice not to use *G. robusta* as root stock, choosing *G. "Bronze Rambler"* instead. I also managed to scrape enough material together after grafting for about 10 cuttings.

I use the "mummy" graft method and after only about 2 weeks I had approximately 12 plants with the dormant buds now growing actively through the Parafilm tape. The remaining scions were visibly black, as were a couple of the cuttings that were under mist.

Unfortunately, over the next month or so, each graft blackened under the tape and the scions all died.

Luckily, 5 cuttings have struck and been tubed up but going on my earlier experiences, I don't have a lot of faith in their future.

I would be surprised if there is an incompatibility problem with *G. "Bronze Rambler"* as stock, as one of its parents, *G. "Royal Mantle"* is the stock that Neil has been successful with.

As with other *Grevilleas*, it is failures like this that have made me more determined — one day I WILL have *Grevillea scapigera* growing successfully in my garden!

## Rare and endangered plants of Western Australia

*reproduced from an article by Kingsley W. Dixon and Eric Bunn Kings Park and Botanic Garden West Perth 6005 WA*

For the past six years Kings Park and Botanic Garden has researched the propagation and cultivation of rare and endangered Western Australian plants. The development of propagation methods for rare and endangered species has involved both traditional and new technologies resulting in new directions for propagation of many other Australian plants.

In Australia some 2,000 plant species are considered endangered. Western Australia alone has 273 taxa in critical state of preservation and another 841 species are in need of protection and urgent surveys of natural populations. Sadly, since European settlement, at least 92 Western Australian species are now known to be extinct in the wild with but a few species still in cultivation. This equates to a species extinction every 2 years since European settlement — ignoring the many unknown and undiscovered species that have vanished before botanical collections were made.

The national network of botanic gardens is important to ease the exchange of rare plants. By increasing the diversity of sites growing rare species, the potentially hazardous situation



of having a rare species only in one location can be overcome. The importance of this collaboration has been exemplified by the re-introduction to Western Australia of Corrigin *Grevillea*, *Grevillea scapigera*, once thought to be extinct. It was discovered in 1988 that grafted plants of this "extinct" species were being grown in Sydney Botanic Garden. Two carefully packaged specimens were sent to Western Australia in 1988 and have been used by Kings Park to develop mother stock for cutting and tissue culture propagation. Potted specimens derived from this material are now growing well in Kings Park and at least this clone is now secure.

Some rare species still elude propagation and cultivation. For these species special nutritional or biological associations may be needed for plant establishment. The research essential to understand these limiting factors may be long term and expensive. It is a sad paradox that funding for rare flora diminishes as the number of species approaching extinction increases. Until the problem of the destruction and decline of habitats of rare flora are addressed, botanic gardens remain important institutions in the battle to stem the global tide of plant extinctions.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

## *Grevillea banksii* R. Br.

Floral emblem of the "Port Curtis Plants – Progress" Conference  
(Society for Growing Australian Plants).

R.O. Makinson, National Herbarium of NSW, Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney 2000.

*Grevillea banksii* is an appropriate symbol for an Australian Plants Conference with an historical emphasis. The plant is associated (by name and by first collection) with two of the fundamental voyages of European exploration of Australia; it was one of the first Australian plants to become well-known as a garden subject in Europe in the 19th Century; and it was one of the relatively few native plants to be continually popular in Australian horticulture before post-war growth of interest in the native flora that was largely fostered by the S.G.A.P. Lastly, it is a member of one of the great Southern Hemisphere plant families, the Proteaceae, which links the ancient floral domains of Australasia, Africa and South America.

Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, during the voyage of the *Endeavour* botanized briefly at at least two sites within the range of the species, at Bustard Bay on May 23, 1770, and at Thirsty Sound on May 29-30. These dates are outside the main flowering season for the species (August to October) and so far as is known they did not collect it; had they encountered it in flower they could scarcely have omitted a collection, (although they did of course lose some specimens in the aftermath of the near-wreck of the *Endeavour* later off Cooktown).

Instead, it was for Robert Brown to collect the species during the 1801-5 voyage of the *Investigator* under Matthew Flinders. On 7th August, 1802, Brown made collections of the red-flowered erect shrubby form at 'Port 1' – Port Curtis, probably at Gatcombe Head on Facing Island.

Brown named the species in his 1810 work "*On the Proteaceae of Jussieu*", the first of his great write-ups of the Australian flora. The species epithet *banksii* was given, of course, in honour of Joseph Banks, Brown's mentor since 1798. The first illustration of the plant to be published, in 1813, was by Ferdinand Bauer who had accompanied Brown on the Australian voyage.

The species occurs naturally from the Maryborough area to near Townsville, with occasional small populations outside this range. In the wild it is rather variable in habit; an erect, rather spindly shrub is the most usual, but the plants of some populations are much more densely foliated and form attractive large, conical shrubs.

Populations are known from coastal headlands and islands, particularly in the northern part of the species range, which are entirely prostrate, with the stems flush to the ground and smaller leaves than is usual. These are common plant adaptations to exposed conditions, and in this case at least some of the populations breed true, showing that the unusual posture has, by natural selection, become fixed in the genotype.

Both red- and white-flowered plants occur in all these growth forms, although local populations may be mostly of one colour

or the other. Beal (1970, in *Australian Plants*) showed that, at least in some variants, the flower colour is probably controlled by a single gene, with the white (to cream) flowers produced when a plant has two 'recessive' versions of the gene on its chromosomes; the 'red' version of the gene is dominant. The formal naming of wild-type forms according to flower colour alone is thus inadvisable.

It seems likely that either a living specimen of the plant or viable seeds were taken back to Britain on the *Investigator*; certainly it was grown fairly widely as a curiosity in British gardens over the next few decades.

The origin of the variant known as *G. banksii* var. *forsteri*, a popular garden shrub for much of this century, is uncertain. The name has long been applied to a strain that is a compact, densely-foliaged shrub with silvery-haired blue-green leaves and crimson (rather than scarlet) flowers through most of the year. The combination of features is uncommon and unstable in the wild populations, and may have been selected for in cultivation.

In 1874, Thomas Moore published the name *Grevillea forsteri* in the *British Gardener's Chronicle*.

No type specimen is known, and the description as published is rather vague; nevertheless, it seems likely from subsequent usage that the name was indeed intended to apply to the silvery-leaved plant. Whether Moore really thought of it as a distinct species is doubtful; he may simply have seen it as a useful trade name for an attractive variant. Certainly most subsequent authorities saw the plant as clearly assignable to *G. banksii*, although the valid publication of the var. *forsteri* rank was not made until 1927, by L.H. Bailey, and even then was incorrectly assigned to *G. robusta*.

*G. banksii*, and particularly the var. *forsteri* variant, were early mainstays of the slow popularization of native plants in the 1940's and 1950's. Very old specimens can often be seen in old garden estates. Over the last thirty years, the species has been used as a gene-source for many of the several hundred modern *Grevillea* hybrids; some of the most popular of these, including "*Robyn Gordon*", "*Pink Surprise*" "*Misty Pink*" and "*Honey Gem*" have *G. banksii* as one parent.

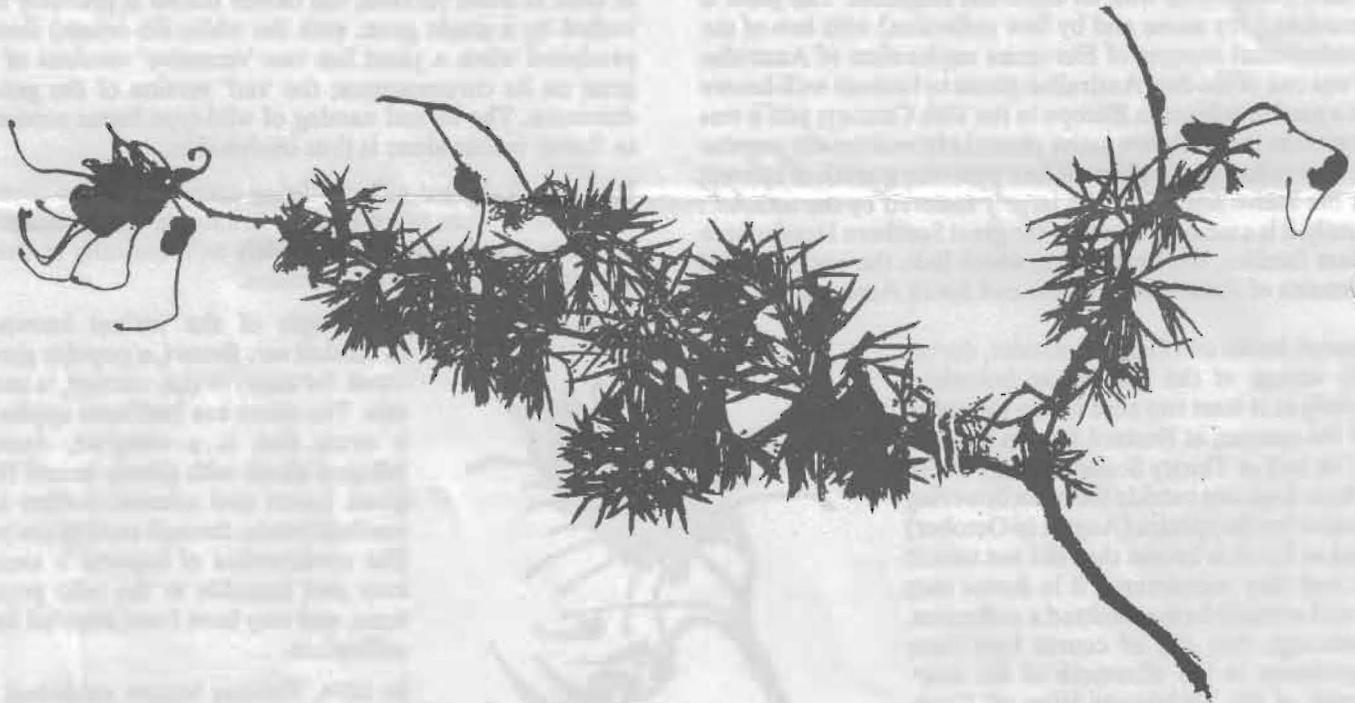
In the early 1980's, the species became a symbol of the new horticultural nationalism, when the S.G.A.P. and others launched a petition to have *G. banksii* named as the floral emblem of the City of Brisbane, in place of the Mexican Red Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*). Despite some hot debate on the City Council, Poinsettia won, apparently for reasons of tradition. Nevertheless, this attractive and robust Port Curtis plant has a strong tradition of its own in the horticultural history of our native Australian plants



# IN THE WILD

## Rediscovery of *Grevillea batrachioides* F. Muell. ex McGillivray

Peter Olde



*Grevillea batrachioides* (x 0.64 mag.) W A Herbarium (PERTH)

*Grevillea batrachioides* was officially named with brief description in 1986 in "New Names in Grevillea", a paper published and circulated privately by D.J. McGillivray. The description of this new species was based on two specimens, the principal one, ultimately designated the holotype, being an undated collection by James Drummond without definite locality. This specimen, held in the Melbourne herbarium (MEL 63639) bears a blue label on which is printed at the top the words BOTANICAL MUSEUM OF MELBOURNE and at the bottom, FERD, MUELLER, PH. & M.D. In the middle, in Mueller's handwriting, the words "Grevillea batrachioides Ferd V Muell ined G. asparagoidi viv valde cognata W.A. J. Dr." are penned. (Trans: *Grevillea batrachioides* F. v. M. unpublished, closely related to *G. asparagoides*, W.A. James Drummond).

The second specimen is only a vegetative fragment (possibly part of the type collection) and is mounted on a sheet containing two other species and all labelled, incorrectly, *G. asparagoides* by Mueller. Although Mueller, then Victorian Government Botanist, failed to publish a description of *G. batrachioides*, the name he chose was taken up by the ultimate author.

The relationship of *G. batrachioides* McGillivray to *G. asparagoides* Meisn, is indeed very close and consideration was given by Don McGillivray to incorporating the new species, along with *Grevillea maxwelli* McGillivray, into one larger species (D.J. McGillivray pers. comm.). However, the decision to create three separate taxa was taken and the two new names were duly published in 1986.

*Grevillea batrachioides* was presumed extinct since no new collections appeared among the specimens during the revision of the genus, which included most collections up to 1985 (i.e. since Drummond's collection between 1839 and 1852). Presumably, clearing for agriculture, like so many species before it, had determined its fate. However, I am pleased to report that I managed to relocate the species on 7 October 1991, north of Mt. Lesueur. This report details the rediscovery and reports on its current status.

Although the prognosis for *G. batrachioides* was not good, I have always remained optimistic. Initially, I searched the known populations of *G. asparagoides* from Wongan Hills to Wubin and west to Perenjori. This search, which took several days, revealed considerable variation in the population of *G. asparagoides* and in one area, west of Perenjori, I became confused by a population whose flowers bore very long

# IN THE WILD (cont)

pedicels (up to 14mm), which on this character placed the taxon in *G. batrachioides*. My initial elation fell to frustration, when the character proved unstable and variable. At this point, I began to wonder whether *G. batrachioides* ever really existed as an independent taxon. Perhaps the type collection had come from a single aberrant plant.

My next stop was at the Western Australian Herbarium. With the kind permission of Dr. Neville Marchant, I examined all folders of closely related species, in the hope that a recent collection might give more information. No joy here.

Following this, I discovered two piles which stretched from floor to ceiling of unidentified *Grevillea* species. I began the process of identification, referring each specimen to known taxa. Suddenly, I came upon a specimen which really popped my eyes, for I recognized it immediately as *Grevillea batrachioides*, having seen the type while it was at Sydney in 1985. The collection, by Ted Griffen, a botanist consultant, had been made in October 1982 during a vegetation survey of the Mt Lesueur area, and had lain in the herbarium unidentified ever since. The fact that Drummond had travelled through this area during a trip to the Murchison River between mid-1850 and the end of 1851 further confirmed the collection.

By chance, Ted happened to be in the herbarium that day and kindly provided good habitat and locality data which reduced the search to a two kilometre area. Encouraged by this, I set off in company with another *Grevillea* lover, John Cullen, and Rare Flora botanist, Sue Patrick, superbly confident that this would be a breeze to find.

We arrived at the locality in the morning and began our search. By evening, having walked up hill and down dale, bush-bashing, battling heat, ticks and general unfitness, we had to admit defeat. The species was definitely not here anymore, probably wiped out by fires some years before, we reasoned. Sue went home. John and I set up camp. Next morning, we set off in a completely different search zones as we had done the day before. Before long, the "low heath" was over my head and I was experiencing difficulty penetrating the scrub and, at the same time doing any productive search.

Basically, I suppose I had given up all hope at that point and was moving upwards only in response to a desire to reach a large, bare rock which dominated the surrounding landscape. Providentially it would seem, for I could see no reason to continue as I made for my final goal, I stepped onto a large open sandstone platform, which had been concealed by the surrounding vegetation.

From here I looked down and surveyed the surrounding country which stretched before me in a panorama, wondering just where Drummond had ridden that fateful day 140 years ago. Perhaps, he had come this high up to get his bearings. I turned and looked uphill and there waving its beautiful red flowers, not fifty metres away, was a solitary plant of *Grevillea batrachioides*.

The sight and beauty of that plant overwhelmed me. I whistled and coo-eed to John who was well out of sight and hearing by this stage, hoping that the wind would carry my voice. There was no reply but he soon appeared like a rabbit out of a hat, unseen and unheard until he was almost behind me. For some time, we both stood in awe, savouring the moment

rather like two connoisseurs sharing a bottle of great wine. Eventually, having drunk in its beauty, we began the more prosaic duty of photography and record-keeping. Cuttings were taken for despatch to Mt Annan Botanic Garden and Kings Park (Note: licence held). A search was conducted for more plants among the adjacent dense shrubland, which produced a further nine, including one young plant, a few plants up to 1.5m tall, the rest at varying stages in between.

Notwithstanding this recent discovery, the continued existence of this species is clearly tenuous. Although it apparently reproduces entirely from seed, population number is so low that a bad fire could wipe it out. Further searches may reveal more plants but, for the moment, this must be considered doubtful.

An appropriate rating would be 1E on the Briggs & Leigh scale of Rare or Threatened plants, which is certainly a lot better than 1X.

#### References:

D.J. McGillivray 1986 *New Names in Grevillea* Private

J.H. Willis 1960 *Summary of W.A. Journeys by J. Drummond*  
Unpublished Ms. copy at NSW Herbarium Library

NOTE: Mt Annan Botanic Garden reports one successful cutting has struck which looks rather sick.

Des Boorman, Gatton College, reports four successful grafts on *G. robusta* all about 30cm high, growing and flowering vigorously.

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### NOTE on *Grevillea fosteri*

P.M. Olde

This name first appears in the literature as *Grevillea fosteri* Mss as part of a list of plants despatched to the Royal Botanic Garden, Glasnevin, DUBLIN in 1855-56 from the Sydney Botanic Gardens. The director at Sydney was then Charles Moore; the director at Dublin, D. Moore, Charles' brother. In the same year, this plant was also sent to Messrs Veitch Nurseryman, Kings Road, LONDON from Sydney by Charles Moore.

Later despatches further indicate that the name was a MS name of Charles Moore. Moore, in a report of the Director for the year 1853. "travelled through the Northern Districts of the Colony, taken with the triple object of reporting up on the plants left by the late Mr Bidwell of Wide Bay, selecting specimens for Trimber for the Paris Universal Exhibition and collecting seeds & plants for the general purpose of this establishment ..."

In the following year (1854-55) Moore reports a despatch to Sir William Hooker at Kew of

- 1 *Grevillea* sp white
- 1 *Grevillea* sp red

I conclude from this that Moore was the original collector of *G. fosteri* probably in 1853, and that he also planned to describe it, although he does not seem to have ever gotten round to it. The name has entered the taxonomic literature via horticulture. Veitch Sons would certainly have labelled it and probably also spread it through Europe via their contacts but the first official description, without a TYPE specimen being nominated, is as reported by Makinson on page 3.

# PROPAGATION

## Grafting Grevilleas in Queensland

Neil Swinton, Noosa Heads

Edgar Burt and his wife, Pat, have for many years shared an interest in the growing of native plants. After retiring, they moved to their present location at the Glasshouse Mountains. Here they have established on 2 acres a garden in which Grevilleas predominate in a collection of native shrubs and trees.

Their's is one of a small group of residential blocks surrounded by pineapple farms. It is very fertile country with an ironstone and clay base covered with heavy brown loam.

Frustrated with his inability to get cutting and seedling grown plants to survive in the hot, humid climate, approximately 2 years ago, Edgar had a lesson in grafting from the late Harvey Shaw. He then set out to rebuild his garden and lately to enlarge it considerably using almost entirely his own grafted plants.

He contends his role in this has been a minor one as he doesn't enjoy the best of health and his wife does all the work.

Pat collects grass-hay, newspapers, phone books, road metal, tree leaves, shrubbery prunings etc to use for mulch. She mounds the areas for planting, often using railway sleepers, posts or logs for edging, digs the holes and carefully plants out each grafted plant when she considers it growing strongly enough to survive. Even then, each plant is grown initially in its own shade house formed from dead shrubbery collected from other plants pruned in the garden or from a small area of adjacent scrub.

The little scrub bush houses are not removed until the grafted plant grows out through its protection.

Since the ultimate judgement of success must be the survival of the plant in the garden, Edgar may be right about his role. He also freely acknowledges the assistance and encouragement he has received from the late Harvey Shaw, Pat Shaw, Merv Hodge and myself.

In point of fact, he considerably understates his own role, since while we may give encouragement and supply propagat-

ing material, his success is largely due to the meticulous way he goes about grafting.

Essentially he uses a top wedge graft bound with nescofilm and covered with a press-seal plastic bag à la Harvey Shaw.

Scion wood for preference is only semi-hardened 4" - 5" tip growth and is very carefully matched to the diameter of the root stock.

This scion wood is grafted using a long splice graft but only about 1% of grafts have been done in this way.

*G. robusta* seedlings are purchased in tubes and immediately potted into 6" pots, fertilised with osmocote and not used for grafting until they are healthy growing plants about 6" high. Plants that do not grow on well are culled.

After grafting, the plants with their press-seal caps go into a 70% shade house & tended until it can be determined that the grafts have taken — usually about 14 days. The press-seal bags are eased off gradually over 3-4 days and shortly after the plant is placed in a 50% shade area for a further 2-3 weeks then to 30% shade for similar time and then into the open.

I have plants in my garden which have been planted 7 weeks after grafting. Edgar usually holds his own a little longer before Pat does the planting.

Shoots are removed from the root stock as they occur but some leaves are allowed to remain until the scion is growing healthily.

Edgar has also grafted several Hakeas onto *G. robusta* and Melaleucas and Kunzeas onto *Callistemon viminalis* — also *Chamelaucium uncinatum*.

He is now keen to try some of the better Petrophiles, Dryandras, Isopogons and Banksias on a suitable rootstock — probably *B. robur* or *B. aemula*.

No one visits his garden without leaving with some of his grafted plants and he looks forward to the challenge of successfully grafting any cuttings passed on to him however old they are.

## An Experiment with Grevillea Seed

by Judy Smith

I did a small experiment with seed germination, because in the past, I've been very disappointed with the results of my attempts to propagate this way. Firstly, I did some reading, mostly books agreeing that some form of pre-treatment of the seed helps.

I chose to do the experiment with *G. banksii alba* because, at the time, there was a plentiful supply of seed and I could use the same plant therefore ruling out any possibility of a difference in the viability of the seed.

It took 3 days to collect the 55 seeds which I dried in the sun.

I poured boiling water over 15, scratched the outer layer off 10 and I left 30 untreated. They were all planted in special seed growing mixture on the 5/4/91. I was very surprised to find the first seedlings sprouting May 5,6 were the ones I poured boiling water on.

The results were:-

	Boiling Water	Scratched seed	No Treatment
1	May 5	May 16	—
2	May 6	May 22	—
3	May 16	May 23	—
4	May 25	May 30	—
5	June 1	June 3	—

As of the 3rd July, the results were as above. I did a lot of damage by not scratching carefully. The leaves were really badly marked, some even had tears. Later, I read somewhere else that the water shouldn't be boiling, just very hot. So perhaps, the results would have been better if I had improved my techniques.

# GROUP INFORMATION

## Report on Study Group Meeting

by Peter Olde

26.10.91 – home of Peter & Nerida Abel

19 members including a visitor from Washington USA, Vince Franceschi, were in attendance at the Study Group Meeting at the Abel's Blue Mountain home.

### Mt Annan – "Reference Collection"

A pleasant barbeque was followed by a short meeting at which it was decided to formally make Mt Annan Botanic Garden the "home" of the Grevillea Study Group Collection.

Members are asked to strive to ship wild-source cutting material here in order to make the collection as valuable as possible. This is by no means meant to be an exclusive collection but rather a "reference" collection which can be used to bolster other collections, both private and public.

The meeting expressed concern that cutting material might be difficult to obtain from a public institution like Mt Annan. However, I am assured that a conduit for this purpose is being considered and will be implemented subject to some controls.

### Upcoming Trip

A trip is being planned to look at the new species related to *Grevillea longifolia* from Cooma and three people have indicated their desire to attend. Others who are interested should contact me on 543 2242.

### Next Meeting

The Study Group will meet at Burrendong Arboretum on the weekend of April 4 - 5th. This visit is aimed for work around the Grevillea collection so caringly planted by our late esteemed friend Peter Althofer and now in need of some maintenance. Your support on this weekend is strongly urged.

A vote of thanks was offered to the Abel's for their hospitality.

Following the short meeting, the rounds of the garden were conducted by Peter. This garden is relatively small but has perhaps one of the most valuable Grevillea collections I have seen containing numerous species not grown by any other members.

### Grevillea Species – Peter Abel's Garden

	Graft	Grevillea Rootstock
<i>alpina</i>	No	
<i>bracteosa</i> (small flower form)	yes	'Bronze Rambler'
<i>baxteri</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>bronwenae</i>	yes	'Royal Mantle'
<i>calliantha</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>coccinea</i> (Raventhorpe ranges)	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>dryandroides</i>	yes	'Ned Kelly'
<i>deflexa</i> (yellow) Canning Stock Route	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>erectiloba</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>eriostachya</i>	yes	'Ned Kelly'
<i>fulgens</i>	yes	'Bronze Rambler'
<i>georgiana</i>	yes	'Bronze Rambler'
<i>globosa</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>leptobotrys</i>	yes	?
<i>leucoclada</i>	yes	'Bronze Rambler'
<i>minutiflora</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>marriottii</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>paradoxa</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>pimeleoides</i>	no	
<i>sp.aff plurijuga</i> (Norwood Rd)	yes	'Royal Mantle'
<i>rosieri</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>secunda</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>spinosa</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>scapigera</i>	yes	'Royal Mantle' intergraft <i>G. robusta</i> root
<i>tetrapleura</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i> , 'Bronze Rambler'
<i>thyrsoides</i>	yes	<i>robusta</i>
<i>wilsonii</i>	no	

## Report of S.E.QLD Study Group Meetings

Norm McCarthy and Denise Vieritz

OCTOBER – 27.10.1991

On this Sunday, 22 people were present. After general business chaired by Denise Vieritz, a lively discussion followed on the merits of pruning grevilleas. Much was learnt in the process. Edgar Burt displayed good, sharp, clean implements to be used in the process and emphasized this by demonstration in the living garden. He really knows his stuff!

We gratefully thank Heather Knowles of Lot 2 Ebenezer Rd, Rosewood, 50kms west of Brisbane for her hospitality, in whose garden our meeting was held. She is growing a number of grafted grevilleas well

NOVEMBER – 25.11.91

Our last meeting for 1991 was held at the home of Win and Norm McCarthy 'Nindethana' 68 Holberton St, Toowoomba, 130km west of Brisbane.

Principally, the meeting was to set the agenda for 1992. However, as a raised bed had been constructed early in 1991 especially for grafted grevillea species, it was indeed interesting to see the growth pattern of these particular plants. It was only commenced in May and fast growth ensued.

As this intensively planted garden of 1 acre of mostly native plants is ever changing, it always has great interest for those who visit it.

Thirty members and visitors were in attendance. Julie Lake, a journalist of note, was a pleasant surprise. As she specializes in horticulture, maybe our group will be candidates for a future article embracing grafted grevilleas. Who knows!

Merv Hodge was our chairman.

# GROUP INFORMATION (S.E.Qld cont)

**JANUARY 1992**

The main topic for this meeting was a discussion on the Western Australian trip and what we learnt.

**Transporting Fresh Material**

There was a discussion on "stay fresh" bags – the type that keep vegetables crisp in the fridge – and their usefulness for transporting cuttings. Merv Hodge explained that deteriorating plant material gives off ethylene and the "stay fresh" bags were treated in such a way that they were able to absorb the ethylene. These bags are available from most supermarkets.

**Quantity & Quality of Cutting Material**

There were suggestions on the quality and quantity of material to be sent when people are posting cuttings to propagators. Generally, clean fairly fresh cuttings are the things to look for. Ian Orrell suggested that in some cases he only had success with fairly thick material – up to 10mm.

**Sterilization of Tools & Material**

Dave Mason suggested Amway brand bleach for sterilizing cutting and grafting tools, and also for dousing the cuttings in if they have mould or other effects of travel. He noted that because Amway brand of bleach was not a chlorine based bleach there was no rusting of tools. Suggested 1 capful in 2 litres of water and the sterilizing effects were no less than with chlorine based bleach. Along the same lines, Geoff Goadby suggested that udderwash would be good also – udderwash being iodine based.

**W.A.Trip**

From the W.A. trip in September-October 1991, we added approximately 40 new species to the known collections in

south-east Queensland and northern NSW. We also have new clones of some of the species which we already had. Some of the new clones are known to be either better flowerers, have better habits or better flowers. Two species which were thought to be extinct, *Grevillea flexuosa* and *G. batrachioides* are now living in Queensland collections. Another species *G. thelemanniana ssp obtusifolia* had apparently not been collected for approximately 60 years. Not a bad effort, I think!

**Grafting Rootstocks**

Differences in grafting rootstocks were discussed. The most common rootstock used in south-east Queensland is *G. robusta*. Another that has been used is *G. banksii*. This is not always a popular choice, in some areas *G. banksii* is regarded as being short-lived. Nevertheless, some species don't look comfortable on *G. robusta* and experiments must be made until solutions are found. Merv Hodge produced comparison grafts of *G. "Poorinda Beauty"*, *G. miniata*, *G. beadleana* and *G. maxwelli*. The results of Merv's experiments are as follows.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>ROOTSTOCK</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
<i>"Poorinda Beauty"</i>	<i>robusta</i>	<i>Good vigorous growth</i>
	<i>banksii</i>	<i>Less vigorous growth</i>
<i>miniata</i>	<i>robusta</i>	<i>Good vigorous growth</i>
	<i>banksii</i>	<i>Less vigorous growth</i>
<i>beadleana</i>	<i>robusta</i>	<i>Less vigorous growth</i>
	<i>banksii</i>	<i>Good vigorous growth</i>
<i>maxwelli</i>	<i>robusta</i>	<i>No success</i>
	<i>banksii</i>	<i>good vigorous growth</i>

In most cases where the growth was less vigorous there was a problem with the rootstock shooting vigorous new growth.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### FEBRUARY 1992

<u>IncExpenditure</u>			
Subscriptions	\$230.00	Newsletter Expenses	180.00
Donations	5.00	Postage	111.70
	\$235.00	Stationery	21.50
			\$313.20
		Balance on Hand 19.2.92	\$590.68

## 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:** Judy Smith, 15 Cromdale Street, Mortdale 2223 (02) 579 1455

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

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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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