Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

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October 1996

Newsletter N° 45

I hope Spring finds your garden blooming and beautiful – it's always a great time of year!

Just a reminder that the newsletter can only be as good as the contributions by members make it. Articles, however small, (even a note with your subscriptions), are always welcome. News of your garden or plants discovered in the wild all over Australia (and overseas) would make the newsletter more relevant for all. So put pen to paper, its easy!

S.E.Queensland Group Meetings for 1996

All meetings commence at 9.30am unless otherwise notified. For information contact Merv Hodge on (075) 546 3322.

Sunday 27 October

Venue: Home of Rex & Dawn James, 1 Nichols Road, Highfields, 4352. At Toowoomba follow the Crows Nest signs. 12km out 500m past fruit shop on RHS is Hilltop Realty on LHS, home is opposite. Look out for sign.

Phone: (076) 308 619

Subject: Hybridising and Plant Breeders' Rights.

Speaker: Peter Beal, Principal Horticulturalist, Redlands DPI

Sunday 24 November

Venue: Home of Fred & Joy McKew, 50 Culgoa Crescent, Logan Village. UBD - Map 86, K8. Approximately 2km past Logan Village turn left into Pioneer Drive, right into Benjamin Road,

DON'T FORGET! – Field trip to Gibraltar Range and beyond – GREVILLEA SAFARI 25 to 30 OCTOBER

INSIDE

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Grevillea Safari

Grevillea Study Group
25 October 1996.

Meeting Place:

Windsor. Macquarie Park
(across the Hawkesbury River)

Time:

7AM Friday 25 October 1996.

Itinerary: A strict itinerary is **not** planned and we will probably vary it as we go. NRMA maps (free) would be useful. You will need to be self-contained in terms of camping and food. In order to cover the distance and see all that we can we will need to be on the road at 7AM each day.

Day 1 (Friday) Windsor, Putty, Howes Valley, Singleton, Branxton, Cessnock, Weston, Pelaw Main Hedddon Greta, Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, Salt Ash, garden visit Medowie. Barbeque first night.
We anticipate seeing *G. buxifolia* ssp. *ecorniculata*, and ssp. *phylicoides, G. linearifolia* forms, *G. montana, G. mucronulata, G. parviflora.*

Night 1: Medowie

Col. Tyndall 9 Colony Close MEDOWIE 149 828139. Limited accommodation onsite (sleep on the loungeroom floor). State Forest nearby.

Day 2 (Saturday): Booral, Karuah, Mt. George, Taree, Kippara SF (west of Port MacQuarie), Angourie, Pine Brush.
We anticipate seeing *G. guthrieana, G. granulifera G. linearifolia* Angourie & Shelley Beach headland form, *G. linearifolia* Taree Form, *G. linsmithii, G quadricauda.*

Night 2: Angourie NP or Double Duke State Forest.

Day 3 (Sunday): Morning: Double Duke State Forest, Breakfast and Garden visit- Dave Mason, Gipps St., CORAKI 066 832583- depart 10 AM via Tabulam, Girraween National Park, Stanthorpe, Mole River, Torrington.
We anticipate seeing *G. beadleana, G. juniperina, G. linearifolia* Double Duke SF (is this a form of *G. leiophylla* ?), *G. lineariflolia* form Girraween NP, *G. linearifolia* Tabulam, *G. linearifolia* Torrington; *G. scortechinii* ssp. *scortechinii.*

Night 3: Glen Innes.

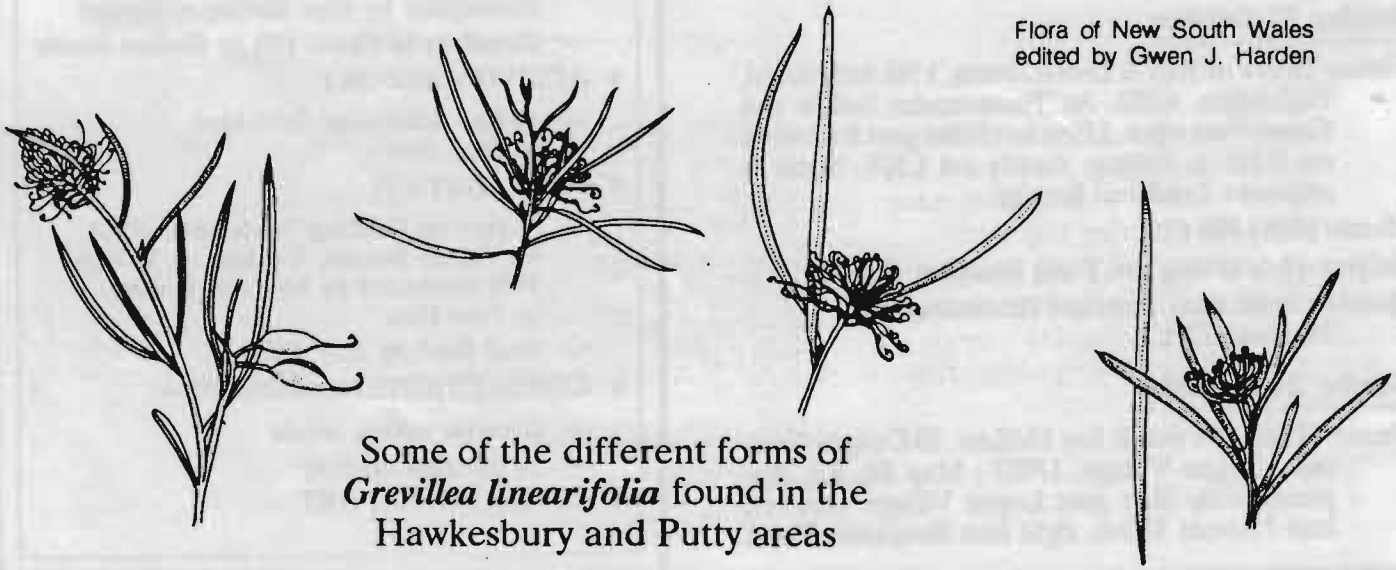
Day 4 (Monday): AM Tingha, Oban; PM Gibraltar Range NP, Grafton
We anticipate seeing *G. acanthifolia* ssp. *stenomera, G. acerata, G. floribunda* ssp. *floribunda* (form with strong affinities to ssp. *tenella*), *G. juniperina* broad leaf form, *G. masonii, G. mollis, G. triternata* broad leaf form, *G rhizomatosa., G. scortechinii* spp. *sarmentosa.*

Night 4: Grafton.

Day 5 (Tuesday): Banyabba State Forest (*G. banyabba*). After this, some may wish to make their way home direct as it is about 10 hours to Sydney from Grafton via Pacific Highway.

If you have time and can afford an extra day, we can go the slow way via Sandy Creek (beautiful grey-leaf prostrate form of *G. juniperina*) Wollomombi (*Grevillea granulifera* form), Wayfarers Way to New England NP (*G. acanthifolia* ssp. *stenomera*). New England Highway to home (Wednesday).

Flora of New South Wales
edited by Gwen J. Harden



Some of the different forms of ***Grevillea linearifolia*** found in the Hawkesbury and Putty areas

IN THE GARDEN

Spectacular Foliage from the Tropical North - *Grevillea baileyana (syn. G. pinnatifida)*

by Rhys McGregor, Terrigal, NSW

The rainforest flora of northern Australia has become more readily known and available to the horticultural industry in recent years. This flora offers a diversity of both foliage and flowers which, as yet, has been only used sparingly by the horticultural industry. THEThe Proteaceae family contains many species which are well suited for commercial development. One of the most stunning members of this family is "Findley's Silky Oak", or *Grevillea baileyana.*

This tree, to 25m in height, occurs naturally in tropical rainforest from Tully, Queensland spreading north into New Guinea. In cultivation it rarely exceeds 6-10 metres. This tree grows rapidly in plantation, growing successfully along the east coast as far south as Melbourne.

The tree has two stunning features: the foliage and the spectacular summer flowering spikes.

Like many of the rainforest Proteaceae, the foliage has two distinct forms. The juvenile leaves are large and lobed, up to 50cm in length. The young foliage is deeply lobed with from 3 to 9 rectangular or tapering lobes, up to 15cm, forming the entire leaf. The mature leaves are usually entire or oval shaped. These are up to 20cm in length. The most outstanding feature of this plant is the foliage. The upper surface is a deep, glossy green with the undersurface a lustrous rich golden bronze. The foliage creates a colourful display and the cut foliage is stunning in a vase, or as the backing for a floral arrangement. The leaves dry without losing their colour and have a long vase life. The Iron Range form is more spectacular with a larger and more deeply lobed foliage.

During late spring and into early summer long, lacy cream coloured flower spikes cover the tree. The flower spikes are borne terminally in branching panicles. Each raceme is up to 15cm long with as many as 10-12 spikes occurring together.

G. baileyana is long lived and establishes readily in a wide range of coastal and near coastal climates. In cultivation it tends to branch from the base forming a tall shrubby habit. It requires little maintenance, except for summer watering during dry periods, although exposure to excessive winds may cause damage to the foliage.

The juvenile foliage can be prolonged by pruning the branches. It is tolerant of mild frost.

G. baileyana has great potential for the horticultural industry with its luxuriant, attractive lobed juvenile foliage and long stem life. The flower spikes are another potential summer flower crop.

This is one of the best rainforest trees, growing well in both tropical and temperate regions of Australia.

G. baileyana is the perfect green and gold symbol of Australia!

Grevillea baileyana, diagnostic coppery hairs on the undersurface of young leaves. *(Photo: M. Hodge from the Grevillea Book by Peter Olde and Neil Marriott)*

Grevilleas in CastleHill, NSW

by Gordon Brooks

Firstly, let me add our congratulations to those of many others in respect of the *Grevillea Book*. Peter and Neil have done a magnificent job. Peter knows I was rather eager to see the book somewhat earlier but now that we have the three parts we are simply amazed at the amount of detail they have included. Surely this work must satisfy both the professional community and the layperson. I now look forward to Volume 4 on the cultivars.

Our property is 0.5 hectare of Hawkesbury Sandstone sloping sharply downwards to the north from which the developer removed most of the top soil. Consequently since we moved to this home nine years ago we have had to contend with poor soil which has been subject to water erosion. Gloria has terraced and landscaped much of the area and we have been able to add some top soil to encourage the healthier and faster growth of most plants.

We have some 65 Grevillea species and about 90 including cultivars. Like most members, I expect, we have introduced some of our Grevilleas by buying plants from nurseries, however, we have been striking cuttings from others for many years. I have been rather reluctant to try much grafting and have had no success to date. However, I intend to persist and hope that with the warmer weather I may break the ice very soon.

The good news:

G. buxifolia ssp *buxifolia*, *G. linearifolia*, *G. mucronulata* and *G. speciosa* are indigenous to this property. *G. sericea* ssp *sericea* grows in the vicinity and since its introduction to our garden, flourishes.

G. arenaria, *G. asplenifolia*, *G. banksii* var. *forsteri*, *G. longifolia* and *G. macleayana* have flourished since their introduction and garden seedlings are frequently found. *G. barklyana* has grown but seems susceptible to borer and has not set seedlings in the vicintiy to my knowledge.

Of the others in alphabetical order, we seem to have established *G. alpina* (Warby Range form) but find the other forms of this beautiful species somewhat unreliable though we keep trying.

G. baueri, *G. beadleana*, *G. brachystachya*, *G. bracteosa* and *G. caleyi* are growing well at present but these plants are still relatively immature. *G. bipinnatifida* is in a very dry position and has not performed well after some four years. We recently provided this plant with some better top soil and already it looks a bit better. *G. bronwenae*, a plant of which we grew from cuttings believed to be *G. brachystylis* some years ago, has been found to be short lived, about three years, I suppose, but the current plant is doing well.

We have had a *G. crithmifolia* plant in cultivation for nearly 20 years and the current one was established from a cutting of our original shrub. Now that we are assessing the relative appeal of each plant this may have to go on the basis of one flush of flowers only each year.

G. curviloba ssp *incurva* is a particularly vigorous plant which sets many seedlings in our garden. As a consequence we have several, one of which is upright and may be a garden hybrid.

At our previous home we had a beautiful specimen of *G. dielsiana* (pink and cream form) but lost the cuttings when we moved here. At present, however, a two years old plant is flowering well and we are optimistic about its longer term prospects. The same applies to *G. diffusa*, two forms, but I have already struck a cutting to provide us with a back-up.

G. dimorpha, *G. disjuncta* and *G. endlicheriana* have proven hardy and we have several plants of each. We have persisted with *G. floribunda* ssp *floribunda* and seem to have succeeded after a number of failures for which we were unable to determine any specific cause. Perhaps our soil has been too light.

G. glossadenia has been a disappointment; although it lived some 8 years it has recently died. However, after some early uncertainty *G. ilicifolia* ssp *ilicifolia* is growing well from a cutting taken in SA.

Grafted onto *G. robusta*, *G. insignis* ssp *insignis* is developing promisingly. We have tried this on its own roots on several occasions to no avail as may have been expected. *G. intricata* is slow but has recently flowered. In summer the lower leaves have yellowed leaving us to ponder whether the situation is too dry or humidity is the problem. However, a near neighbour had a beautiful shrub so we hope ours will develop too. We have struck another two or three cuttings which are coming along nicely.

We have several forms of *G. juniperina*, the showy red of the Western Sydney form and the yellow of the Southern Tablelands. The latter forms were very slow at first but are flowering now. *G. lanigera* (prostrate form) is also a long flowering plant in the garden.

G. laurifolia, surprisingly since it is a Blue Mountains species, has been very slow to develop probably because our sandstone soil is too dry and too poor for it. However, two plants are now showing promise. On the othjer hand a Victor Harbour form of *G.*

IN THE GARDEN (cont)

lavandulacea has been a most floriferous plant growing in full sun in a very sandy situation.

G. levis, which we had thought was *G. paniculata* until we read the *Grevillea Book*, seems to have a life of only about four to five years but it is a gem with its flowers having a beautiful pink to red flush. Fortunately it throws seeds which germinate readily and appear to come ture. Cuttings have proven no problem so that we retain several plants in the garden.

Another to surprise has been *G. macrostylis* which we have had in the garden for six years. It may not be the compact shrub it should be but it flowers well and is an interesting specimen. Unfortunately I find cuttings difficult to strike and those that do tend to damp off. We will persist, but may be try to graft it.

From a cutting taken at Burrendong, *G. maxwellii* has developed into a promising low shrub, has flowered, and is in bud again. However, it is only two years old and perhaps too soon to be optimistic about its longevity.

G. monticola almost died some 5 years ago but it has persisted and we enjoy its mass flowering inwinter and its unusual conflorescence. Fortunately we have one small plant doing well which we hope will keep this species in our garden. I have been able to strike it but have found it damps off two or three months later, even in the garden.

G. nudiflora has found our garden to its liking and we have been able to strike this species readily. This includes the typical form and the twisted leaf form. We also have the hybrid with the divided leaf. *G. oleoides* is another long established species and obviously very hardy. After some early losses we appear to have established a red flowered form of *G. olivacea* in a hot, sunny position. There is an indication that it likes a little supplementary water or lower leaves tend to yellow.

Much to our delight a cutting of *G. patentiloba* ssp platyloba from Burrendong has developed into a small flowering shrub. *G. pilosa* ssp *pilosa* which we have admired greatly since seeing it in WA, has proven difficult but our current plant gives us more optimism than before.

We have recently struck several cuttings of *G. repens* and have reintroduced it to our garden after a gap of 9 years. *G. ripicola* was reintroduced two years ago and this shrub is doing nicely, though growing rather more slowly than I expected.

Although we have several species grafted onto *G. robusta* stock this Grevillea does not prosper on our poor sandstone and is not a species we p[lan to grow. Indeed, because of this it is imperative we find an alternative grafting stock.

Several forms of *G. rosmarinifolia* including the broader leaf and the Lara dwarf forms are long lived and growing steadily. *G. rudis* is an unusual shrub with flowers held above the plant. Our plant is grafted onto *G. robusta*, growing quickly and looking good. On the other hand, *G. saccata* is growing from cuttings on its own roots and the two plants in the garden are most promising though apparently reluctant to flower.

G. shiressii has been very hardy but is suffering from borer or termites now. Fortunately, cuttings have struck and have been planted out to replace our old faithful. *G. thelemanniana*, orseveral derived from the complex, remain(s) a favourite but we need to study our specimens to determine what we have. *G. thyrsoides* ssp *thyrsoides*, however, leaves us in no doubt with its long peduncle. Ours is grafted *onto G. robusta* which, the *Grevillea Book* tells us, is a graft which may not be long lived.

Our first *G. treueriana* lived for three years on its own roots but then died very suddenly. A little more than a year ago we bought a grafted specimen whcih remains a healthy plant today. It is a most attractive small shrub.

G. trifida and *G. triloba* are still immature plants but growing nicely side by side. We have lost *G. triloba* before even though I understand it is regarded as reasonably reliable. Meanwhile *G. venusta* is a mature shrub which is throwing seedlings in great profusion. We have several forms of *G. victoriae* at present, all exceeding our expectations. However, they have not proven reliable in the past and it may be wise to withhold comment for the moment. Surprisingly, *G. wilsonii* has never looked back in five years although it has grown slowly. It is glorious in flower.

We have recently obtained *G. annulifera, G. confertifolia, G. drummondii, G. pauciflora* ssp *pauciflora, G. petrophiloides, G. quercifolia, G. rogersii* and *G. wickhamii* ssp *aprica* and we will be interested to see if we are able to manage these more successfully as we have lost some before. I recognise that some of these are very difficult in Sydney.

There are another three or four shrubs which we have been unable to identify so we eagerly await the conflorescences and fruits. And we anticipate obtaining others as time goes by.

The bad news:

We introduced *G. acanthifolia* ssp *acanthifolia* to our previous garden by way of a cutting and we maintained this species for more than 12 years but borer, which is very prevalent in this area, killed it recently. *G. acerata*, also introduced as cuttings, has appeared to do well only to die without warning. Much the same can be said of various forms of *G. aquifolium* although some are still growing.

IN THE GARDEN (cont)

G. aspera and *G. asteriscosa*, far from their natural areas of distribution, have struggled, indeed the former is now dead. Both were purchased and although I succeeded in sriking the former some years ago the latter has defied propagation. Both have been in hot, dry well drained positions. Perhaps *G. asteriscosa* would prefer a little heavier soil although our humid summers may be the cause of our troubles with these.

We found *G. helmsiae*, much to our surprise, in a nearby nursery but after growing vigorously for a time this plant has since died. We now surmise that, being a rainforest species, it needed a richer soil than we offered it.

G. involucrata lived for four years ina very hot, dry part of our garden and another sad story is the *G. montis-cole* ssp *montis-cole* whcih grew from cuttings but died probably due to lack of water in summer while growing in a part shaded but hot, dry situation. We are trying both again now.

I guess there are many other stories of failures but most are due to borer, an inappropriate watering regime or summer humidity. That sums up our position. Cultivars are another story.

Grevillea helmsiae: An uncommon species from southeastern Qld. The drawing was prepared by Mrs R. Helms, the discoverer of the species *(Banksias, Waratahs & Grevilleas by John W. Wrigley and Murray Fagg)*

ACTIVITY REPORT

Sydney Wildflower Exhibition Rouse Hill 16-18 August 1996

by Peter Olde

The Grevillea Study Group mounted a stunning display of grevilleas at the Sydney Wildflower Exhibition. The display consisted of three parts:

(i) A stand of beautiful arrangements by Margaret Olde and Jenny Thompson which contained mostly massed displays of hybrids such as G. 'Long John' (Elegance), G. 'Sandra Gordon', G. 'Pink Surprise', G. 'Misty Pink', G. 'Majestic', G. 'Moonlight', G. 'Robyn Gordon', G. 'Superb', G. 'Sylvia' and G. 'Honey Gem'.
One of the most admired displays was a large arrangement of *G. flexuosa* from which a thousand plants could have been sold. But would you believe, not a plant for sale! The Superior Form of *G. preissii* ssp. *preissii* brought along by Aileen Phipps also made a fine display as did *G. tetragonoloba*. Almost all the plants were cut from The Grevillea Park by Ray Brown.

(ii) A specimen display mounted on three 8 x 4 peg-boards. This was a most informative display with so many specimens that labelling was not complete until Saturday.

(iii) A photographic display on 4 double-sided 8 x 4 display stands. The 140 A4 size photographs of the best shots in Olde & Marriott's Grevillea Book made an outstanding show.
Around the major display were a few potted specimens supplied by Annangrove Grevilleas and Tom & Pip Gibian. The most memorable of these plants was an unbelievable plant of *G. sericea* with huge dark purple flowers which Pip had collected in the Blue Mountains some years before.
Several members of the group took off straight after the show to relocate the plants which they did successfully- only they weren't in flower. Another trip is planned for Tuesday October 8.

The display attracted a number of new members to the Study Group and much favourable comment by visitors and show organisers.

Special thanks to Evan Weatherhead, Bruce Wallace, Hessell & Dot Saunders, Tamara & Ian Cox, Neil Marriott. However, the major contributor was Ray Brown without whose assistance the display would not have happened.

PROPAGATION

Report on Grafting Workshop held at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens on 15 Sep 1996, conducted by Mr Glen Fensom.

by Peter Olde

The Gardens applied a truly professional approach to this workshop even though only 13 members were in attendance.

Firstly a whiteboard discussion on all aspects was given with plenty of time for questions and note-taking. After morning tea (supplied by the Gardens), this was followed by a hands-on trial with scion and root-stock material supplied by the Gardens. several display plants were also brought along to show what can be done. We were all wondering why Evan Weatherhead was present after he loudly announced that up to that time he had had 100% with grafting — that is until he clarified this as 100% failures!

The Gardens basically follow the mummy graft method developed by Merv Hodge, even down to the nails Merv uses to wind the grafting tape on.

Glen informed us that the fogging system was causing difficulties for them with grafts.

One of the most important aspects emphasised was **hygiene**. At Mt. Annan all scion material is dipped in 1% bleach for one minute prior to use. Scalpels are dipped in a solution of hospital grade *"Biogram"* disinfectant after each graft.

Eight types of graft were discussed with all having a use, including the new "Tomkins" Graft as used by Richard and Lana Tomkins at their Changers Green Nursery in Gin Gin, Queensland.

The subject of cutting grafts was also discussed and some recent successes with this method at Mt Annan were announced.

At Mount Annan, scalpels used are Feather handles ($11 each) available from Sigma Chemicals. Blades Swann Morton No. 11 ($23 for pack of 100) — available at most medical suppliers. Glen advised that grafting knives can be obtained from Tolleys Nursery Renmark SA (085 95 1383). Although he uses the scalpel himself, he also recommends the Mannaretti No 17 Straight blade Grafting Knife (approx $33.50 ea). There was much discussion at the meeting on whether the scalpel or knife was better with most opting for the knife after Tamara nearly cut her finger off with the scalpel.

The workshop was followed by a long walk around the grevilleas growing in the rockery. At the meeting it was also announced that plans for a grevillea garden are now active at Mt. Annan.

Study Group Meeting Sunday November 17. Home and Garden of Gordon and Gloria Brooks, 138 Ridgecrop Drive, CASTLE HILL. This will be a follow-up to our grafting workshop.

We will also discuss the programme for the next year. Starting time for all meetings will now be 9.30 AM unless otherwise notified.

Grevillea acerata forms a compact shrub with well-displayed woolly flowers. *(Banksias, Waratahs & Grevilleas by John W. Wrigley and Murray Fagg)*

Correction

A drafting error was included in my article **Range of *Grevillea sulcata*.. extended in Western Australia** (Newsletter 44:4 July 1996).

In line 2 para 2, I stated that both *G. sulcata* and *G. punctata* differed from *G. acuaria* in having... leaves with smooth upper surface and rounded leaf margins. However, it is *G. acuaria* which has these features.

Both new species have a punctate upper leaf surface and angularly refracted leaf margins.

In the same article a continuous spelling error also occurred in the name *G. fastigiata* which is spelt correctly with two 'i' s.

PROPAGATION

Seed Bank

The seed bank has received a whole lot of new seed. The new list includes (date of purchase & Nº of seed packets available):

SEED FOR SALE:
($1.50 per packet)

G. candelabroides	'95	(6)
crithmifolia	'95	(5)
decora	'91	(13)
didymobotrya	'95	(5)
drummondi	'95	(4)
dryandri	'91	(11)
endlicherana	'95	(3)
eriobotrya	'95	(10)
glauca	'95	(5)
goodii ssp *goodii*	'95	(3)
huegelii	'95	(5)
leucopteris	'95	(5)
monticola	'95	(5)
nudiflora	'95	(5)
paniculata	'95	(3)
paradoxa	'95	(3)
petrophiloides	'95	(5)
pilulifera	'95	(8)
plurijuga upright	'95	(5)
polybotrya	'95	(10)
pterosperma (SA)	'95	(5)
pterosperma (WA)	'95	(5)
pteridifolia	'95	(2)
pulchella	'95	(5)
pyramidalis	'95	(5)
pyramidalis	'91	(1)
quercifolia	'95	(5)
refracta	'95	(5)
refracta	'91	(3)
robusta	'95	25g
stenobotrya	'95	(5)
striata	'95	(3)
synaphaea	'95	(5)
teretifolia	'95	(5)
wickhamii	'95	(5)
wilsonii	'95	(5)

FREE SEED:

At any time the seed bank would really appreciate any donations of seed as the free seed has diminished radically.

To obtain seed, please send a self-addressed envelope with a 70cent stamp to:

Judy Smith,
15 Cromdale Street,
Mortdale 2223.

OFFICE BEARERS

Leader: Peter Olde, 138 Fowler Road, Illawong 2234. (02) 9543 2242

Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: Christine Guthrie, PO Box 275, Penshurst 2222. (02) 9579 3175

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) 9579 1455

Cuttings Exchange: Dave Mason, Box 94, Coraki, 2471. (066) 83 2583

FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1996

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	$203.00	Postage	114.50
Seeds	35.70	Publishing	200.00
Donation	15.00	Stationery	24.15
	$253.70		**$338.65**
		Balance on Hand 10.10.96	$936.58

* *

If a cross appears in the box, your subscription of $5.00 is due.
Please send to the Treasurer, Christine Guthrie, PO Box 275, PENSHURST NSW 2222.
Please make all cheques payable to the Grevillea Study Group.

1995	1996
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