

# Society for Growing Australian Plants

## GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

July 1997

# Newsletter N<sup>o</sup> 47

### NSW GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR 1997

**- 17 August: SYDNEY WILDFLOWER EXHIBITION.** Set up on THURSDAY 14TH. All hands required on deck from midday.

**Wednesday 10 September :** Grevillea crawl along the Putty Road in search of *Grevillea parviflora/linearifolia* populations. Meet 7. a.m. Macquarie Park, Windsor (across the Hawkesbury River). This activity replaces the weekend crawl previously advertised for Sep 20 & 21.

**4-6 October** Long Weekend Grevillea Crawl. **Cancelled.**

**24-30 October:** Field Trip to the South Coast. Meet 7 a.m. outside gates Grevillea Park, Bulli. Please advise if you will be attending at least one week before.

**Sunday 16 November :** 9.30 Trying to arrange somewhere on the North Shore of Sydney for a meeting where we do a garden visit and discuss our field trip and other activities for next year. Further fun will be had keying out plants. Afternoon visit to the backyard nursery of Brian Roach, 47 Eucalyptus Drive, Westleigh who will give a demonstration on Propagation by Cutting.

### QLD GROUP ACTIVITIES

#### Sunday 24 August

**Venue:** Ron & Elaine Jell, 3 Fryar Court, Clear Mountain

**Phone:** (07) 3298 5396

**Subject:** Gardening on steep slopes

#### Sunday 26 October:

**Venue:** Home of Ray & Gwen Norris,  
3 Timbertop Court, Capalaba 4157

**Phone:** (07) 3206 4226

**Subject:** Techniques of constructing and maintaining a large garden

#### Sunday 30 November

**Venue:** Home of John & Pat Morse,  
10 Smiths Road, Wights Mountain 4520

**Phone:** (07) 3289 1431

**Subject:** A review of mulches for grevilleas and planting techniques

#### Sunday 25 January 1998

**Venue:** Home of John & Irene Story,  
17 Trafalgar Street, Toowoomba, 4350

**Phone:** (07) 7636 4325

**Subject:** Maintaining a large Grevillea collection

### Some Items to Note

The following letter from John A. Helms, 222 Hall Drive Orinda CA 94563, USA to Messrs Olde & Marriott will be of interest to biographers.

"I wish to draw attention to what I believe is an error in your quite wonderful publication *The Grevillea Book*. In Vol. 2 on Page 193, in your description of *Grevillea helmsii*, you note that Sabine was the wife of Richard Helms. In actual fact, her husband's name was Rudolph who was the first manager of CSR mill at Childers, Queensland, where Sabine did her botanical drawings. Sabine and Rudolph Helms were my grandparents. Richard Helms, I believe, was a well-known explorer and naturalist of the times who was no relative. I hope that this error can be corrected in subsequent publications of this beautiful book."

Peter and Neil wish to thank John for his interest and for the information. If there is a reprint this error will be corrected but in the meantime other researchers using the Volumes will not now hopefully compound and replicate the error.

Alex George writes (July 1995):-

The record of red flowers on a specimen of *G. acacioides* from Newcarlbeon Soak mentioned in your book (*Grev Book Vol 2.7*) is from an unnumbered specimen of mine that was mislabelled by a technician at the W.A. Herbarium, copying data incorrectly from my field book. The plant was a typical specimen of *G. acacioides*. The red flowers refers to a collection of another species (I haven't come across the collection yet so don't know what it is, possibly *nana*)

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# GROUP ACTIVITIES

## Activities of S.E. Queensland Group

by Lorna Murray

**23 March 1997** Again this group enjoyed visiting the garden of Graham Nosworthy at Pullenvale for the meeting this month. Graham's native garden contains a large number of interesting and some rare plants, including many grevilleas. There is always a lot of information and pleasure to be had during a walk around this garden.

During general discussion it was noted that psyllids sometimes attack grevillea flowers. To get rid of this pest it was stated that it was better to use clear oil rather than white oil. Some members have used fruit fly spray with lebaycid, but it should not be used on a hot day, certainly not in the middle of the day.

The topic for discussion was "A review of rare and uncommon species still in cultivation in SE Queensland".

We considered the list of 74 species or subspecies listed as rare, and recorded how many of the members present on this occasion were growing the various types.

It seemed that 20 of these rare grevilleas are no longer in cultivation here, including the following:- *Grevillea althoferi*, *G. biformis* ssp. *cymbiformis*, *G. candicans*, *G. coccinea* ssp. *lanata*, *G. corrugata*, *G. crowleyae*, *G. eriobotrya*, *G. inconspicua*, *G. incurva*, *G. lissopleura*, *G. lullfitzii*, *G. manglesii* ssp. *ornithopoda*, *G. phanerophlebia*, *G. pilosa* ssp. *redacta*, *G. pinifolia*, *G. punctata*, *G. pythara*, *G. rhizomatosa*, *G. sarissa* ssp. *umbellifera* and *G. sulcata*.

Most of the other species were being grown by 4 or more members. In those cases where only one or two growers held the plant, it was decided to try to spread the material around more members of the group.



*Grevillea eriobotrya*

Wrigley & Fagg: Banksias, Waratahs and Grevilleas

## Report of three Sydney Meetings

**20 April 1997.** Meeting attended by 9 people preceded a walk around Grevillea Park, Bulli and a quick detour to the home of Dot & Hessel Saunders where an interesting range of Grevilleas were growing, including a massive *G. miniata* graft up to two storeys high growing beside the house. The Grevillea Park was in fine shape and the plants were growing and flowering beautifully. The park is a great credit to Ray Brown and his team of volunteers. The meeting discussed a proposed programme for the year and examined and identified specimens brought along.

**18 May 1997.** Ken Arnold provided a short walk around his garden where the assemblage of 8 persons admired a number of well-grown plants, including *G. bracteosa*, *G. wickhamii* ssp. *aprica* and many others. The attendees were somewhat bemused at the leader's fascination with an *Acacia leptoclada* that was abundant in bud and with beautiful divided leaves and began to wonder whether they were at the right meeting.

Eventually the party settled down to a practical course in identifying Grevillea species using the Olde & Marriott key. After two hours had passed, they had two species identified but everyone agreed that the effort was worthwhile because of what they learned on the way about terminology and some of the more esoteric leads and especially about Hessel's sense of humour which always surfaces when things get technical. It was agreed that we would run a species through the key at every future meeting and that Hessel would lead the discussion.

Tamara Cox brought information on a GPS system that the Group was thinking of purchasing when it gets some money.

**22 July 1997.** Peter Olde provided a walk around his unusual collection of Grevillea species, most of which were doing well, especially his *Acacia denticulosa*. Excuse me, what meeting is this?

The *Grevillea flexuosa* grafted and *G. georgeana* grafted threaten to take over the courtyard area where there was a beautiful *G. preissii* ssp. *preissii* Superior Form in flower. Peter pointed out a beautiful form of *G. tenuiloba* in his rockery and his *G. sp. aff. wickhamii* from Piccanniny Gorge was flourishing even after it had been blown over in a storm.

Unfortunately the hybrids advertised to attract people were not in flower. Lucky no one came to see them. Hessel did not turn up either. So the 7 attendees were forced to listen to Peter Olde yet again running a Grevillea through his key.

This time we keyed out *G. preissii*, *G. filliloba* and *G. stenomera*, all of which are growing at Peter's house. Everyone was nodding as if they understood but the leader wasn't too sure.

Louise and Darren Allen who came all the way from Abernethy, near Newcastle were welcomed. Darren has decided to become an active member. Phillip Strong, also from Newcastle, (Charmhaven actually), conducted a hands-on grafting workshop which was greatly and keenly appreciated by the gathered.

A vote of thanks was given to Ray Brown in his absence for providing a tray of *G. 'Robyn Gordon'* as rootstock for the workshop. Afterwards the leader was even more unsure about the session on keys but decided it will be worth persisting. Will we ever see Hessel again?

**15-17 August 1997.** Next activity is the Sydney Wildflower show. Hope to see everyone there.

**Wednesday 10 September 1997.** Field Trip up Putty Road. One day of exploration. Please note that this day is substituted for the field trip planned for 20-21 September.

# IN THE WILD

## Friends of Mount Painter, ACT - Local Floral Highlights

downloaded from the internet

The Wildflower Triangle on the ridge behind Wybalena Grove contains a rich array of local flora and grasses. The strip of kangaroo grass at the top of this ridge is regarded as one of the finest stands in the ACT.

A small shrub of special interest is the local form of the mountain grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*) which only occurs on Black Mountain. Aranda bushland, the Pinnacle and Mt Painter. The distinctive orange flowers are an early to mid spring feature of this area.

The lower eastern slopes of the hilltop paddock on Mt Painter contain a dense stand of native redleg grass (*Bothriochloa*), which occurs widely all over the mountain. During the growing season this grass goes through an interesting colour change from pink to red to brown. The segmented "knee joint" of this grass gives it a distinctive appearance as well as its common name.

On the northern slopes of Mt Painter, the area not grazed now for 30 years, there is also strong regrowth of kangaroo

grass, the tiny winter flowering shrub *Melichrus*, and a number of acacias (*A. implexa*, *A. rubida* and *A. dealbata*).

Of particular interest on these northern slopes are small patches of barbed wire grass (*Cymbopogon refractus*), which is very beautiful and unusual when in full seed, and which is hard to find in Canberra as it is very subject to grazing pressure.

Another small gem on the northern slopes is the pea-type plant *Desmodium varians*, which is also hard to find elsewhere in Canberra. It has clusters of three leaves in a club pattern, and in spring, pink flowers from a central stalk.



*Grevillea alpina*  
Frances Bodkin:  
Encyclopaedia Botanica

## Items of interest

Don McGillivray, who now resides at 2 Amulla Close, Point Clare 2250, has sent a slide of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* growing in the open at Edinburgh Botanic Garden on 29 August 1969. The plant was labelled *Grevillea lanata* of unknown origin. This is the plant which Don recognised as coming from the type form of *G. rosmarinifolia* which had not previously been collected since the 1830's when Allan Cunningham was in the Bathurst area. It is now presumed extinct in its natural habitat from where it is presumed Cunningham sent either seed or live plants back to England. Cuttings from this plant were sent by Don to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Sydney and propagated successfully. Plants are now in cultivation in Australia. It is hoped that the species can be re-introduced to the wild one day. Would any member from the Bathurst area be interested in co-ordinating such an interesting project? Thanks also to Don for his thoughtfulness and generosity in passing the slide along. What else would you expect from him?

A new book, *The Blooming Grevillea*, with text by David Mason (well known to Study Group Members) and illustrations by Lesley Cordery has been produced by the Far North Coast Group (N.S.W.) Ltd of the Australian Plants Society. This is a soft-cover field guide with the stated purpose of easy identification of Grevilleas in Far North Eastern N.S.W. where fourteen Grevilleas occur naturally. David has realised that at least one of each species is in flower every month of the year and has grouped them into flowering months. Although the book does not have a key, the descriptions more than adequately enable positive identification. Plants currently identified as *Grevillea linearifolia* in the work will almost certainly be divided soon into a number of different species or subspecies.

\*\*\*\*\*  
A population of plants identified as *G. patulifolia* from dried specimens by Olde & Marriott has been re-discovered alive on Mt Ainslie, Canberra, near the War Memorial. This curious population of plants was first collected at the Mt Ainslie location by Mike Crisp on 5 October 1986. A short trip after the opening of the new Herbarium in Canberra two?three years ago in company with the original collector produced an afternoon of great camaraderie but no plants. The population was found again the following spring by Peter Olde. The living plants do not confirm the identification as *G. patulifolia* but another taxon, possibly a new species. The Mt Ainslie area has been subject to some re-development and disturbance during its history and was planted out by Weston? early this century with a number of native species that have become naturalised at the site subsequently. The *Grevillea* is confined to a small area and consists of about 20-30 plants, reproducing by sucker.

There are two schools of thought. The first school holds that the plants were originally planted by Weston and have survived like other naturalised specimens. They may have originated on the north coast of N.S.W. Weston's planting diary would be useful if such a thing exists. The second school, held by P. Olde, is that this is a natural population that survived the disturbance. The conflorescences are mostly sessile, like *G. patulifolia*, but are not regular as in that species. They are mostly subsecund and the flowers are white with a pink style. However, plants currently identified as *G. linearifolia* originating from the north coast area are unlikely to survive the cold Canberra winters and furthermore do not correspond to any known existing north coast population, nor to any population among the dried specimens of any institution. The mystery deepens and the search continues.



# IN THE GARDEN



## Grevilleas in Tasmania

by Jeanette Closs from Kingston, Hobart

In the July, 1996 newsletter you asked members to let you know of any hybrids with unknown parentage. I am growing three, one we call Huon Hybrid - it looks like it could have some Poorinda in it, another that we call Summerleas, which resembles "Poorinda Peter" slightly and one that I think may be a cross between *Grevillea gaudi-chaudi* and *G. rivularis*. It is probably too late for my contribution to Dr McFarlane's research but just in case, I am noting them.

Twelve months ago, Neil Marriott sent me cuttings of a number of grevilleas that are listed in "The Grevillea Book" as being suitable for growing in Hobart. The following have been potted up and planted out and so far most are doing well. I did appreciate Neil's contribution and I share them out with other grevillea enthusiasts:

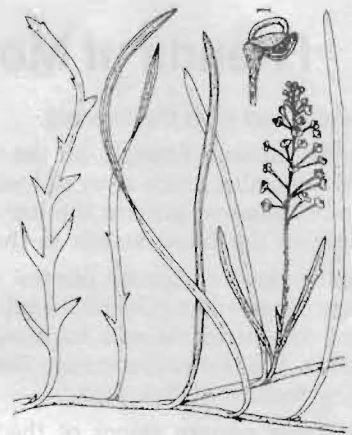
- G. depauperata* - doing very well and some have already flowered
- G. oleoides* - Avon form - doing very well - 100% strike
- G. pilulifera* - some struck but look poorly
- G. wilkinsonii* - a few struck and are doing well so far
- G. nudiflora* - many struck and looking fine
- G. olivacea* - only one struck, but it is OK
- G. preissii* ssp. *glabrilimba* - two only struck, one is planted
- G. preissii* ssp. *preissii* - two struck and one planted
- G. scortechinii* ssp. *sarmentosa* - one only struck
- G. molyneuxii* - one struck but has since died

I had no luck with *G. circsifolia*, *G. humifusa*, *G. maxwellii*, *G. quinquenervis*, *G. synapheae* ssp. *synapheae*, *G. thelemanniana* and *G. wilsoni*.

In October, 1995 Christine Guthrie sent me some cuttings and I didn't have a lot of luck with those, but, *G. "Winpara Gold"* is doing very well, *G. uniformis* was planted out

but died soon after, *G. "Elegans"* (could this be *G. "Poorinda Elegance"*?) is planted out and doing well.

We have just put in an impressive (even if I do say it myself) water feature, nicknamed the Grand Canyon! It was my husband Don's inspiration. Sib



*Grevillea circsifolia*

Wrigley & Fagg: Banksias, Waratahs & Grevilleas

Corbett did most of the design/construction and I interfered a lot and did the planting. Sib Corbett designed, built and planted the extensive Tasmanian Garden at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. It has two pools lined with rounded river-smoothed rocks linked by a trickling watercourse that cascades gently into the bottom pool. It is recycled by a solar recycling pump and looks great especially when the sun is out and it glistens over the rocks. Ten massive boulders supply the framework and when the 110 plants grow it will be even more delightful. Three *G. depauperata* and a *G. preissii* ssp. *preissii*, all from Neil's cuttings are included. Our soil is pretty heavy and doesn't drain very well, but we have built up this bed and hope that they do flourish.

Thanks to Peter for all that he does for the Study Group, maybe I will get to a Sydney meeting again one day. I may write to Dave Mason and ask for cuttings, the range available in Tassie is very limited.

## Giant Grevillea Plant Sale 18-19 April 1998 Mt Annan Botanic Garden

The Grevillea Study Group will organise and promote a Grevillea Plant Sale at the Education Centre of the Mt Annan Botanic Gardens in April 1998. Members and friends of the study group will sell all plants. The plants on sale will be produced by members and nurseries from all around Australia on a sale or return basis.

It is hoped that thousands of plants from tumbler to large pot size will be available at below-retail prices and an attempt is being made to have as many species, subspecies, varieties and forms as possible, as well as grafted plants. The whole range of hybrid plants will be available and also hopefully a number of new releases.

Species from other genera will also be sold. Member nurseries of the Grevillea Study Group will be given priority but others will not be excluded. Participation is by invitation. Nurseries and members interested in offering plants for sale should write as soon as possible to the Grevillea Study Group leader for prices on offer to suppliers.

It is also proposed to hold a display and information area in the Education Centre as the area is suitable for workshops and lectures which we would hope to conduct in conjunction with the sale. Set-up will be on Friday, April 17. All plants must arrive on that day and will be counted in by the organisers. The sale will finish at 3 PM on Sunday April 19 and all unsold plants must be collected and be removed from the site on that day or early next morning.

The site has been given to us at no cost. However, normal entry fees of \$5 per car per day will apply to all visitors (including at this stage helpers). It is hoped that people will stay on and look around the Gardens and enjoy their facilities. The Study Group will be responsible for all advertising costs. People willing and able to assist with the sale are invited to contact the Study Group leader who will be organising a roster. If you can assist to set up a display of cut flowers, run a grafting workshop, give a short 10 minute talk, supervise an audio-visual etc., please make contact. An organising committee will be set up immediately.

# IN THE GARDEN (cont)

## News from York, W.A.

by Hugh Seeds

Peter Olde and Neil Marriott have produced 3 magnificent volumes. I find them most useful and a delight to look through. I hope equally good books will be produced on Hakeas and Acacias as I find it so hard to identify those plants.

As to discovering plants in the wild, I thought I'd found a grevillea new to me and that it was *Grevillea umbellulata* or more likely *G. hakeoides*, but eventually discovered tiny "nuts" in some axils, and then identified it as *Hakea gilbertii*. *G. vestita* also looks more like a Hakea, but its seed pods are more visible. Western Australian plants are hard to identify. In Europe and New Zealand one could rarely mistake genera. Here plants copy each other irrespective of genus!

I was glad to find *G. insignis* growing half an hour's drive from here, and isolated *G. eriostachya* plants growing on roadsides and hills nearer by. *G. insignis* with its blue-grey holly leaves and pink and white flowers is such a pretty plant. The ones I have seen are all in one ex-rubbish dump (now fenced off) on laterite amongst *Dryandra* and *Beaufortia* bushes.

The following comments on plants in my garden may be of interest. My garden is a clay loam derived from granite and not very suitable for colourful grevilleas and banksias that I wanted to grow. I covered much of the soil with sand 8-10cm deep, but that was not enough so I dumped pure sand over it to make 2 banks 45cm deep (when settled), one of white sand and the other of brown sand.

Grevilleas, banksias and others now grow on the banks vigorously and floriferously. *G. nudiflora*, *G. petrophiloides* and *G. tetragonoloba* are doing particularly well. On the flat ground 8cm deep in sand *G. dielsiana*, *G. brachystachya* and ground covers *G. crithmifolia*, *G. obtusiflora* and *G. bitemata* are also doing well. But for size, *G. olivacea* on rubble at the edge of our house pad beats the lot - no watering and 10 feet high and broad with profuse red flowers. *G. hookeriana* next to it is a close second.

Cuttings from *G. olivacea* strike easily. *G. vestita* grown from cuttings from the wild is doing well, but *G. insignis* and *G. huegelii* failed completely.

Growing grevilleas from seed I find almost impossible, in spite of much advice from Kingsley Dixon of King's Park, Perth. This year, using smoke-water and sowing at mid winter, only 2 *G. eriostachya* and one *G. candelabroides* emerged from 36 seeds sown. I can't make out what I'm doing wrong! Some of the seeds I sowed an inch deep following Peter Olde's recommendation. Perhaps I need some tame ants to sow the seed for me?

I am growing as many flowering mallees as I can. Hakeas, having such variety of leaf shape and some colourful flowers are not nearly appreciated enough, *Melaleucas* and *Calothamnus* also bring colour to the Australian garden. I find gardening here fascinating. I try to keep to Western species but I can't always resist others.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Norma Ali from Blackmans Bay, Hobart is having success growing NSW sandstone plants. Having moved to her new location 2 years ago, Norma is amazed at the growth of the Grevilleas planted in her rich loam soil with sandstone outcrops. Some of the species doing well in Norma's garden include *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *G. baueri*, *G. confertifolia*, *G. diminuta*, *G. glabrata*, *G. juniperina*, *G. lanigera*, *G. oldei*, *G. rosmarinifolia*, *G. speciosa*, *G. thelemanniana* ssp. *fililoba* and *G. triloba*.



*Grevillea lanigera*  
Frances Bodkin: Encycopaedia Botanica

New member, Anne Cochrane, from Western Australia, manages CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre. She collects, tests and stores seed mainly from dieback susceptible plants and also some of the critically endangered species. There are quite a few rare Grevilleas in the south-west, and Anne's challenge is not so much collecting them, but testing the seed for viability prior to their long term storage. The seed will then be available for future recovery programs if necessary.

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Heather Clarke from Hunter River Botanic Garden is guiding visitors around the Grevillea Garden on Sunday mornings during August. The Grevilleas should be in full flower and showing promise for the radical changes undergone in the last 12 months. Heather is hoping to make visitors aware of the potential of the Grevillea Garden and encourage as many people as possible to grow Grevilleas. I'm sure Heather's enthusiasm and knowledge will make a visit in August worthwhile.

# PROPAGATION

## More on *Grevillea robusta* as a Rootstock

by Merv Hodge

Regarding the response to the comment that we have been attaching 10 year scions to 100 year rootstocks - yes, *Grevillea robusta* could still be there in 10 years time. However, that might be all that is there, or the scion might be a second rate representation of the species or hybrid. In many cases the scions have died well within 10 years. Short term failure makes one wonder whether there was any advantage in grafting some species at all as they may have survived just as long on their own roots.

Because of the perceived qualities of *G. robusta* over a wide range of conditions, greater priority has been given to it as a rootstock rather than to the scion, i.e. the attitude has been "how well will the scion graft to *G. robusta*?" rather than "what rootstock will best suit the scion?"

This has led to results which varies from good to fair to poor to absolute failure. Unfortunately, there has been jubilation when any sort of union succeeded. To be successful a grafted plant needs to do better than just survive. Many species have been grafted over the past 10 to 15 years but where are they now? Many have disappeared and some are just surviving.

Recent discussions at a Grevillea Study Group meeting in Queensland revealed that a number of species previously grafted onto *G. robusta* and listed as rare in "The Grevillea Book" are no longer around in south east Queensland.

It is a large task to find suitable rootstocks for all grevilleas which require grafting for their survival in certain areas, but just talking about it will not get the job done.

Richard Tomkin appears to have been more successful than most because he addressed the problem by using compatible intergrafts. For reasons described in my article in Newsletter No 46 I have preferred to attack the problem over the past couple of years by looking at alternative rootstocks.

My trials so far indicate that some species and hybrids will graft to a number of rootstocks. In the long term we may find that a small number of reliable rootstocks are sufficient to cover most species. There will be failures under some extreme conditions on any new rootstock, but there have been plenty of failures on *G. robusta*. In my opinion, a successful and compatible graft onto a 10 to 20 year rootstock is better than a poor result onto a 100 year rootstock, particularly when the scion only lasts for a few years.

I agree with Peter Olde's sentiments expressed in the report on his visit to Queensland on page 3 of Newsletter No 46 which states: "Grafting on *G. robusta* has been used extensively but this has often led to plants showing early senescence and not looking good horticultural specimens. This could lead to a quick loss of interest in these plants".

Early senescence is particularly evident on *G. leptobotrys* and *G. repens* grafted to *G. robusta* and I have noticed it on *G. formosa*. It may be seen as a blackening of the stem at the graft followed by dying leaves near the union. This radiates out from the graft more and more with age.

I have had some feedback from customers and this should be listened to. An experienced SGAP member requested that I graft grevilleas for her onto anything other than

*G. robusta* because the rootstock was too hard for her to remove **when the plant died**. A landscape designer wanted to include a grafted *G. formosa* in a project at a golf club but would not because of the possibility of the rootstock "shooting" below the graft and the resulting *G. robusta* tree did not suit his design. He readily accepted a plant grafted to an alternative rootstock which would not take over. It is far better if we do not have to warn customers to remove shoots below the graft.

Currently *G. formosa* is probably the most grafted grevilleas of all (onto *G. robusta*). In my opinion it would be better grafted onto a more suitable rootstock in spite of many beautiful specimens seen growing in a wide range of conditions. Some show the sign of early senescence at the graft and occasionally have *G. robusta* shoots growing through them. Other members may have a different opinion on this but let's not get hung up on one species. I am sure that these problems have been noticed on other grafted grevilleas.

I have noticed that some grevilleas, when grafted to other rootstocks, have a much improved habit of growth compared with the same species on *G. robusta*. I'll give more details on this in a future article. my article in Newsletter No 46 careful reading will reveal that I have not advocated complete abandonment of *G. robusta* where it is suitable, although in future years this may happen.

Understandably there may be some reluctance to use other rootstocks because *G. robusta* seed is relatively inexpensive, readily available and it is easy to germinate. Cutting grown rootstocks are likely to be less convenient to produce.

I have revealed what I have been doing after requests from some members. Others may wish to ignore my suggestions, and I will be delighted if my commercial competitors choose to continue using "humble" Silky Oak exclusively as a rootstock. I will respond to my customers' needs and take a more pragmatic approach, using the rootstock best suited to the species or hybrid whether it is *G. robusta* or any other grevillea and possibly use the odd intergraft. This I believe will help maintain the interest of growers by producing more presentable and long lived plants.

## NET NEWS

### Proteales on Postage Stamps

From the Internet

Proteaceae - Protea Family

Banksia - *Banksia serrata* - Australia 329

Grevillea banksii - Cuba 1965

Protea - *Protea argyrea* - Burundi 141; 147; 153; C23

King Protea - *Protea cynaroides* - Burundi 453a; C187a;

Poland 1582; South Africa 263; 322; 336; 338; 381

Protea - *Protea grandiceps* - Gambia GAM1995J02.11

Protea - *Protea lemairei* - Guinea 429; Rwanda 16; C5

Protea - *Protea madiensis* - Rwanda 689

Image] 1995 Ideal Solutions, Inc. - Your comments, suggestions and additions are requested jyeaw@interests.com

# PROPAGATION (cont.)

## Rootstock Ramblings

by Heather Clarke, Hunter Region Botanic Gardens

A decade has passed since the commencement of the Grevillea Garden at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, and grafted grevilleas have, for most of that time, been an integral part of our extensive collection. We currently have 173 grafted grevilleas. Close observation of these grafted plants in situ over a long time has enabled this "fumble-fingered" non-grafter to draw pertinent conclusions.

Two known rootstocks were used, *Grevillea robusta* from one supplier and *G. barklyana* from another. It has been interesting to note that although obtaining the same scion from both quarters, the variation in growth habit has varied at times considerably.

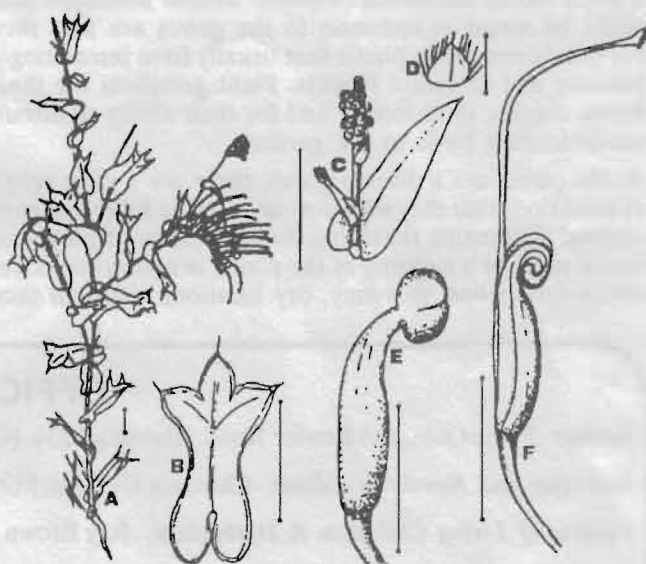
### Problems Incurred:

1. "Overgrowth" of rootstock, especially after rain, when the rootstock consistently displays a tendency to produce robust leaves at the junction. This has happened frequently and over a long period, eg *G. beadleana* on *G. robusta* and *G. banyabba* on *G. barklyana*.
2. "Lumping" at rootstock/scion union which is difficult to excise and prevent re-occurring. It weakens and spoils the look of the plant eg *G. apiculoba* on *G. barklyana*, *G. bedgoodiana* and others.
3. Reduced production of stem, leaf and flower, if any, over a long period of time ie 5 years eg *G. candolleana* and *G. erectiloba*. In some cases there was reduced leaf size.
4. Low or non-existent flower production eg *G. striata* on *G. barklyana* over 5 years old and 3m high, *G. stenobotrya* on *G. barklyana*, also 5 years old and a healthy 1.5m high. I have noted that many grafted grevilleas are extremely slow growing and are often "overtaken" by propagules of the scion.
5. Last and more heart breaking, is a delayed form of incompatibility (after 12 months) where the scion appears to behave well, tremendous growth and bud production, only to literally fall off the rootstock eg *G. maccutcheonii* on *G. barklyana*.

On the positive side, many grafted plants are wonderful here eg *G. stenomera*, *G. glauca* etc and without grafting many would not succeed. I believe the field of genetics and DNA testing will eventually prove to be invaluable in establishing the compatibility of the genus. I only hope the rare and endangered plants are able to be maintained until we find their suitable rootstock, thus saving many from certain extinction.

### *Grevillea maccutcheonii*

A - flowering stem, B - mature leaf, C - inflorescence at early bud stage, D - bract, E - bud, F - mature flower.  
(Nutsyia 11 (1): 33-36 (1996))



Scale bar A, B, C, E & F = 10mm, D = 1mm.  
All from Keighery 13786

## Seed Bank

by Judy Smith

The seed bank has gone international! I sent some seed to Germany via Ray Brown and the internet - very exciting! Any donations of seed help to make a better seed bank for everyone to benefit. Thank you to our only donors this year — Bill Lovett and Ian Mitchell.

To obtain free seed please send a self-addressed envelope with a 70 cent stamp to Judy Smith, 15 Cromdale Street, Mortdale 2223.

### FREE SEED

*G. aspleniifolia*  
*banksii* red (grey leaf shrub form)  
*barklyana* ssp. macleayana  
*endlicherana*  
*johnsonii*  
*juniperina* (red upright)  
*longistyla*  
*petrophiloides*  
*rivularis*  
*thelemanniana*  
*triloba*

## CUTTING EXCHANGE

Cutting material is available to financial members only from  
**Dave Mason,**  
Box 94 Coraki 2471.

**Hundreds of species available!**

Please contact me, I may have the plant you require. The cost is \$6.50, payable with order, which covers the cost of packing and return via Express Post.

# NEWS FROM THE INTERNET

## Grevillea at San Marcos Growers

San Marcos Growers have an extensive Website. They are a wholesale nursery based in California. They have a separate page devoted to Grevilleas parts of which are reproduced here for your interest. The full text can be found at: <http://www.smgrowers.com/grevill.htm>.

The grevilleas are a remarkable and beautiful group of plants. The variability between species is incredible but characteristic to the Protea family (Proteaceae) of which they belong; the namesake of the family, the god Proteus was noted for his ability to change his appearance and form at will. Among the 270 or more species (346 ed.), almost entirely from Australia, the habit can be that of a large forest tree or a diminutive crevice plant. The color and structure of the flowers and leaf size and shape are so different in the many species that their relationship is often lost to the casual observer. Shared attributes that might be noted as common to the genus are that they are woody evergreen plants that usually have interestingly intricate and beautiful flowers. Plant grevilleas for their flower display, their foliage and for their ability to attract nectar-feeding birds to the garden.

As the plants are a diverse group, there are a wide range of conditions that they will grow under. The following generalized statements regarding the cultivation of grevilleas would apply to a majority of the plants in cultivation. Grevilleas flower best in sunny, dry locations although they

will also grow in light shade. Plant in well-draining soil and be very careful of any fertilizers applied to these plants; many grevilleas, especially Western Australian species, are highly sensitive to phosphorus and the use of fertilizers high in this element can be fatal to these plants. They also do not like excessive watering and garden water tolerance or ability to grow near lawns will be exceptions rather than the rule. Regular pruning after flowering is recommended to enhance and rejuvenate flowering and plant growth. Most varieties are drought tolerant, as well as frost hardy down to 20 F.

It then proceeds to outline *Grevillea banksii*, "*Canberra em*", *lanigera*, "*Long John*", *paniculata*, "*Pink Pearl*", *Poorinda Blondie*, *Poorinda Constance*, *Poorinda Queen*, *thelemanniana ssp. fililoba* (probably *G. preissii ssp. glabrilimba ed.*), *victoriae* and "*Winpara Gem*".

Also listed was *Grevillea 'Noel'* - California Grevillea - A small, mounding shrub (4'x8') with pendulous branches covered with glossy green, needle-like leaves and curved pinkish flowers that form along the branches in mid-spring. Needs occasional irrigation; fairly drought resistant in coastal plantings. Tolerates a wide range of conditions but becomes chlorotic when exposed to phosphorus fertilizer. Hardy to 20°F.

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### OFFICE BEARERS

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**Cuttings Exchange:** Dave Mason, Box 94, Coraki, 2471. (02) 6683 2583

## FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1997

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	\$512.00	Publishing	80.00
Donations	30.00	Printing	120.00
Interest	0.07	Postage	114.05
		Bank Costs	6.35
	<u>\$542.07</u>		<u>\$320.40</u>
Balance on Hand	22.7.97		<b>\$658.50</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

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

1996

1997