

## GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

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Nov 1998

# Newsletter N° 51

### VICTORIAN & NSW GROUP ACTIVITIES

**Sat Oct. 31st - Tues Nov 3 (Melbourne Cup Weekend)**  
**Joint camp-out and Grevillea crawl with Sydney group.**

**Venue:** Meet 10 a.m.

McDonald's carpark southside of Albury (Hume St). Please note there is also a McDonald's in North Albury.

**Subject:** Expect to see loads of grevilleas including 2 possible new species. BYO camping gear, food, cameras, spare fuel etc.

The expedition will concentrate on the Gippsland area in eastern Victoria. We hope to see growing in the wild the following species:-

*G. alpina* (several forms), *G. barklyana*, *G. celata*, *G. chrysoptera* - several forms, *G. jephcottii*, *G. lanigera*, *G. miqueliana*, *G. pachylosta*, *G. polybractea*, *G. ramosissima* subsp. *hypargyrea*, *G. rosmarinifolia*, *G. victoriana*, *G. willisii* and probably a few others.

In addition, a search for *G. jephcottii* in the Ournie district of New South Wales is scheduled. We have uncorroborated reports of its existence in this area and a successful attempt will mean a new species for New South Wales. We will also be heading for Little River Gorge where a new species related to *G. willisii* has been seen but not collected. One of our members will abseil down to collect this plant which grows on the steep, gorge cliffs. (If any members have abseiling gear/experience it will come in very handy!)

A number of attractive camp sites have been selected by Neil and it is anticipated the crawl will be most enjoyable.

Some members will be continuing on after Tuesday towards Pomonal and home via Bendigo area. People who wish to continue will be most welcome.

**PLEASE CONFIRM WITH NEIL OR PETER  
IF ATTENDING SO PLANS CAN BE MADE**

Phone: Neil Marriott (0353 562404) or Peter Olde  
(02 943 2242) for more details if required.

### VICTORIAN GROUP ACTIVITIES

February 1999

#### MARANOA GARDENS

Meet at Beckett Park (at end of Parring Rd) gates at 11am for tour of the gardens. Maranoa Gardens are off Whitehorse Rd, Balwyn. Melways map 46, F7.

**Time:** 12.30 - lunch on lawns in gardens, meeting to plan out program for rest of year, followed by further inspection of gardens.

**Contact:** Neil Marriott (03) 5356 2404 for confirmation of exact date

### S.E. QLD GROUP ACTIVITIES

*All meetings commence at 9.30 am unless otherwise notified. Further information and road directions contact Merv Hodge on (07) 5546 3322.*

#### Sunday 25th October

**Venue:** Home of Heather Knowles, "Newerah",  
Lot 2 Ebenezer Road, Rosewood 4340

**Phone:** (07) 5464 1333

**Subject:** Grafting Workshop

#### Sunday 29th November

**Venue:** Home of Ralph & Margaret Hickling,  
16 Mary Smokes Creek Rd, Kilcoy 4515

**Phone:** (07) 5497 2056

**Subject:** Learning to plant a grevillea garden without access to commercial mulches

#### Sunday 31st January 1999

**Venue:** Home of Fred & Joy McKew, 50 Culgoa Crescent,  
Logan Village 4207

**Phone:** (07) 5546 8171

**Subject:** Subject to be decided  
(This meeting is subject to confirmation).

**ACTIVITY REPORTS** from Victoria, Tasmania, South-East Queensland and some visiting Kiwis  
**INSIDE: IN THE WILD:** *Grevillea australis*, *Grevillea alpina*    **TAXONOMY:** New *Grevillea* taxa for S.A.  
**PROPAGATION:** Germinating Seeds in Plastic Bags, *G. robusta* as rootstock plus the Seed Bank

# ACTIVITY REPORTS

## SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

by Lorna Murray

29 March 1998

At this meeting at the home of Denis Cox and Jan Glazebrook at Logan Village, the topic for discussion was "Growing grevilleas in sandstone". Jan and Denis have lived here for 6 years, but have owned the land for 12 years, and started planting before living on the block.

The soil on the property is decomposed sandstone, and sandstone rock is not far below the surface, so that a crowbar or jackhammer is often needed before planting. Soil is very well-drained and dries quickly after rain. Gardening books suggest that mounding garden beds is advantageous, but in this sandy soil, plants need to be planted in a saucer depression to trap and retain moisture as long as possible after rain. As the garden relies on natural rainfall, the plants don't always look fresh, but they always change instantly after a shower of rain. The available bore water is very alkaline with a dangerous level of salts.

A few other techniques to help conserve and retain moisture include putting paths across the slope, some contouring, sticks and logs placed in beds across the slope, and using very coarse mulch with sticks and leaves. Fine mulches form a thatch. The sandy acid soil is very deficient in magnesium, which gives yellowing of the leaves, so Epsom salts or dolomite are used to correct this, and to cause a gradual change in the pH.

Positive aspects of gardening in this area include good drainage, the ability to grow a large range of plants, plenty of air movement helps grey foliage plants in particular, very few weeds because the soil is so dry, lots of natural regeneration of local heath type species, plenty of bird and animal life and no grass to mow.

After the usual plant raffle and some general discussion the members inspected the interesting range of grevilleas and other native plants in the garden and in the range of potted plants.

**31 May 1998.**

There was an attendance of 30 members at the garden of our local leader Merv Hodge for this Study Group meeting. The topic this time was "The rejuvenation of an old garden".

The problems in the garden were mainly related to weeds such as Natal grass coming in and some plants getting straggly from old age. Plantings started in 1980, using plants as small as possible. As no water was available many died and of those planted in the first years only a few including Grevillea "Pink Surprise" survive.

Now assistance in the garden has allowed many more plantings to be made. Plants are in garden beds and not planted individually and placed where they have the best chance of survival. Mulch is a very significant benefit but must

not be too thick, else the penetration of rain is reduced. Some open areas have been left and these double as fire breaks.

Rainfall normally averages 1000 mm/year, but has been as low as 430 mm. A lot of the rain occurs in downpours with a lot of run off. Fertiliser is used only if a plant appears to need it. Hard pruning is used on straggly plants, which may come back well, but if they don't respond they are then removed. Spraying usually with glyphosate is used for weed control and dipel is used for caterpillars. There was some discussion on the use and availability of pest oil which can be used for scale, mites, aphids and mealy bugs and which also discourages snails.

As this is the time of year when the grevilleas from the northern areas of the country are at their peak, there was a very good display of specimens of about 15 of these species. After the usual raffle members inspected the gardens which include many grevillea species and some new hybrids. The Hodge garden was to be open in the Open Garden Scheme soon after this meeting and it was looking very attractive.

**26 July 1998.**

Although some members had difficulty finding the Sparrow property outside Eumundi for this meeting, 44 members and 2 visitors were finally present. An apology was received from our usual Chairman Merv Hodge, so the meeting was lead by John Morse.

There was discussion on the format for a Grevillea Study Group display at the Region Flower Show in September, and the results of the survey on the performance of grafted grevilleas was circulated.

John Sparrow spoke to the meeting about their activities growing grevilleas, mainly hybrids, from cuttings, and selling them as tube stock to the nursery trade. John and Ruth have been on the property for 5 years, and are growing grevilleas in large numbers as stock plants. The extensive plantings in rows across a gentle slope are 3, 4 or 5 years old. As nearly all plants were flowering well, there was a mass of colour from some well-known and some newer hybrids. Some of the problems they have with the stock plants include spread of fungus from the local gum trees and root rot from phytophthora or pseudomonas.

We had considerable discussion on the naming of plants in the nursery trade where several incorrect names are ingrained, and it seems to be very difficult to get a change made, particularly once a picture label is printed. Perhaps this is an aspect which should be taken up with the firms producing the labels and with the nursery industry generally.

There were several peacocks wandering in the grounds, and John pointed out that one disadvantage of this was that because peacocks are seed eaters very few seedlings occurred.

**The SE Queensland Group of the Grevillea Study Group has kindly donated a FAX/Answering machine to the Grevillea Study Group. Newsletter articles, change of address etc. can now be sent by FAX to Christine Guthrie on (02) 9579 4093.**

# ACTIVITY REPORTS

## Grevillea Study Group - Victorian Chapter

### July Meeting - 25 July 1998

Over a dozen members met at Don & Jean Weybury's property at Greendale. The weather was fine and the day started with a discussion on new grevillea species described since Neil & Peters' Grevillea Books. Jean then treated us to lunch with her lovely home made soups and hot rolls. Thanks so much Jean!

After lunch discussions were held on many topics as we wandered around the Weyburys' garden and nursery. We even admired a Koala in one of their huge *Eucalyptus obliqua*.

A convoy of cars then headed off to Lerederg State Park where we found the lovely round-leaf form of *Grevillea alpina* that grows in this area. We then continued on to the outskirts of Daylesford where we inspected a large population of *G. repens* - unfortunately the plants were only in bud so we could not admire the gold and yellow-flowered forms that occur in this colony.

To finish off the day we headed back to Gordon to look at Andrew Billingham's young garden. Andrew has to contend with cool temperatures (property is over 2,000 feet above SL), wet soils, frosts and even snow! As would be

expected *G. victoriae* was thriving as were *G. oxantha* (formerly *G. victoriae* - ACT form). Despite the 'subalpine' conditions Andrew was growing quite a variety of interesting native plants.

### Further items discussed on the day.

1. It was moved that the ACRA in future should not register a form of any native plant using only its location name eg *G. alpina* - 'Grampians', *G. preissi* - 'Green Head'. The reasoning behind this is that there are normally numerous forms of the plant in question at or near the location, whereas the registration implies that this is the one and only form from that given location. Neil will raise this at the next ACRA meeting.
2. Failure of Norwood and Macbird label printers to use up to date names eg still selling *G. hookerana* as well as *G. 'Red Hooks'* for the same plant. Andrew Billingham has offered to draft a letter which could be used by Norwood and Macbird to notify nurserymen of new plant names.

Anyone wanting to join the Victorian chapter of the Grevillea Study Group should contact Neil Marriott on (03) 5356 2404 or write to him at Box 107, Stawell Vic. 3380.

## Tasmanian Group Report

### Philip Rogers Garden

On 12 September thirteen members of SGAP Tasmanian Region southern groups, some of whom are members of the Grevillea Study Group met at Philip and Ann Rogers place on the cliff tops near Kingston, just south of Hobart. The weather cleared to a fine and warm day.

The property of 6 acres consists of 2 acres of flat land around the house and the remainder is steep, rocky dry sclerophyll slope that faces north. The mudstone supports *Eucalyptus tenuiramis*, *Dodonaea viscosa* and *Bursaria spi-*

*nosa* changing to *Bedfordia salicina* and *Eucalyptus obliqua* in the gully.

Grevilleas do very well in this environment and there are approximately 35 different species and varieties. Philip was grateful for the help where labels were lost and with those annoying name changes. Members brought many specimens from their own gardens many of which are unobtainable from the usual nursery outlets. Some of these were keyed out and members plan to propagate from these in the months ahead, so that they may be shared.

### Kiwis in Queensland

by Merv & Sue Holland, Lyttelton,  
New Zealand

While holidaying in Caloundra, we took the opportunity to join the SE Queensland group activity at John & Ruth Sparrow's nursery near Kenilworth.

The newsletter instructions on how to get there were spot on. To meet with other enthusiasts was a treat for us. The plants were magnificent, the information good and meeting other enthusiasts was a bonus.

Thanks to John & Ruth for their hospitality. We are now looking for seed of the 'Misty Pink' type. Our Grevilleas in New Zealand are still thriving - frost and snow has no effect on them.

### SPRINGTIME FLORA FESTIVAL SOMERSBY

by Peter Olde

The Grevillea Study Group mounted an exhibition at the 1998 Springtime Flora Festival which extended over four days from Sep 10-14. The Festival was attended by over 60,000 people and our exhibit attracted a \$500 prize.

Plant sales also boosted our income for the event to over \$1000 which has been put to the research Fund.

There were numerous favourable comments about the display and a number of new members were recruited.

I am especially grateful to the members of the Study Group who attended and assisted with plant sales, especially those who assisted for the four days. I would like to record the help of Neil Marriott, Phillip Vaughan, David Bleakley, Ian and Tamara Cox, Bruce Wallace, Gordon Meiklejohn. Have I forgotten anyone?

## Some Populations of *Grevillea alpina* from around The Grampians and N. Central Victoria

by Max McDowall, Bulleen, Vic.

I have been interested in *Grevillea alpina* since I found it growing naturally on my Government housing block in Aranda ACT in 1967. This form which grows on nearby Black Mountain can be seen in the National Botanic Gardens and has a thick fleshy perianth.

This article lists some of the diverse forms which I have seen on trips around Victoria with my wife Regina over the past 15 years.

### 1. Western Highway near Mt Langhi Ghiran:

We were returning one cold wet September day from the 1983 Bicentennial Conference in Adelaide and stopped to check out the roadside flora (between the 187 & 189 posts). *G. alpina* occurs on both sides of the road among *Pultenaea humilis*, *Dillwynia sericea* and *D. hispida*, *Calytrix tetragona* and *Hibbertia stricta* and has the orange-red and yellow flowers typical of the Grampians populations.

One plant with pale orange and yellow flowers had coppiced copiously near the base. Cuttings struck readily and one specimen was held by Rodger Elliot at Montrose Vic. in the GSG stock plant Collection which has since been discontinued. This particular form used to flower copiously all over for about 4 weeks mid August to mid September but has since been lost. Other clones from this population are currently under trial. Plant size is 0.6 x 0.8 in the wild, and some can be found in flower from July to October.

### 2. East of Roses Gap on Glenorchy-Roses Gap Road near Mt William Creek

A plant propagated from this region proved quite hardy in the garden, lived for about 7 years and grew to 1 x 1 m in part sun. A specimen grown from this plant is growing well in a dry sandy situation at the MFG property at Wartook west of the Grampians since 1992 in filtered sun. The shrub is long flowering with red and yellow flowers 2-4 per conflorescence but the shrub is quite showy and appears to be more hardy than most forms.



*Grevillea willissii* - hopefully to be collected by abseilers during upcoming NSW/Victoria Field Trip  
(Illustration The Grevillea Book Vol. 3 page 233)

### 3. Smith Road (west of Heathvale on Grampians Road)

Close to the ranges, the road turns toward the south east alongside cleared farmland where attractive almost prostrate forms (10 x 40 cm) are found in moist ground along the roadside. Cutting grown specimens from these plants have not been hardy in cultivation.

### 4. Cave of Ghosts Escarpment, Plantation Road, NW Grampians

To the rear of the aboriginal shelter, a disused track which used to sidle the Thryptomene plantations can be followed up into a gully through the escarpment where tall straggly plants to 2.5 x 1 metre grow in the open. Cutting grown specimens of these have proved quite hardy in cultivation and tolerate dry conditions and well drained soils over clay.

### 5. Euroa-Strathbogie Road opposite reservoir at foot of Strathbogie Range

Regina and I set out to join a GSG field trip in the Strathbogies in spring 1987, but missed the rendezvous at Seymour and wandered around the Strathbogies on our own. At the foot of the descent toward Euroa, we stopped at the reservoir at a hairpin bend on the road and inspected the opposite elevated roadside where we found a showy predominantly red form of *G. alpina* multistemmed with steeply ascending branches 1.2-1.5 x 1 m growing among *Calytrix tetragona*, *Thelionema caespitosa* and *Bossiaea foliolosa*. Cuttings were unsuccessful.

### 6. Mt Ida near Heathcote

On a Maroondah SGAP excursion to this area in Winter 1997 we were surprised to note the extensive populations of *G. alpina* thriving on Mount Ida. Since cattle have been excluded from the area there has been extensive regeneration. It occurs abundantly alongside the road to the summit from the west, and along the summit ridge. Scattered occurrences were also observed alongside the walking tracks to the east and alongside Plantation Road to the east en route to Heathcote. Few plants were in flower but a number of clones from each population are under trial. Typical size 1-1.2 x 1-1.2 m red and cream with quite large conflorescences.

### 7. Samaria Well

On a return trip from Mt Buffalo in February 1996 we visited the Samaria Range via Benalla. At Samaria Well at the bottom of the road at the northern end of the State Park was an extensive area of tall well-branched plants of *G. alpina* 2.3 x 1 m with a few red and cream flowers on odd shrubs, growing among *Calytrix tetragona* and *Dampiera rosmarinifolia* and *Acacia*. About 400 m up the road, *Pultenaea cunninghamii* was growing. Cuttings did not survive potting up.

### 8. Rollason Falls, Mt Buffalo

Alongside the track approaching the junction to the upper and lower falls in full shade and on both branch tracks in partial sun facing west, *G. alpina* grows to 0.8 x 0.8 m with red and cream flowers in showy dense heads. Two clones of these are currently in cultivation.

# IN THE WILD

## Grevillea australis - Southern or Alpine Grevillea

by Jeanette Closs, Kingston, Tasmania

The genus *Grevillea* was named by Robert Brown after Charles Francis Greville (1749-1809), a founder of the Horticultural Society in London. Robert Brown also named this species 'australis' meaning southern and this is well named as it is the southern most species of *Grevillea* in the world.

Dr Winifred Curtis in her *The Student's Flora of Tasmania* lists 7 varieties of this species. This is an indication of the variation Tasmania of this species and there are many other locations in the mountain areas of Victoria and New South Wales where it can be found.

The following are the varieties listed by Dr Curtis and the localities where they are recorded.

- G. australis* var. *erecta*  
— Lake St Clair and central plateau
- G. australis* var. *linearifolia*  
— East Coast at Swanport and North Esk River
- G. australis* var. *planifolia*  
— lowlands between Launceston and Devonport
- G. australis* var. *montana*  
— Western Tiers
- G. australis* var. *brevifolia*  
— Great Lake at 3,500 feet, Mt Barrow
- G. australis* var. *subulata*  
— South Esk River
- G. australis* var. *tenuifolia*  
— River Nile at 700 feet.

Don McGillivray in his revision *Grevillea* published in 1993 states within *G. australis* there are readily observable differences between populations, principally in the shape and venation of leaves, but floral features are comparatively uniform and recognition of subspecific taxa is not warranted. However, detailed study of habit, leaf form and foliar venation patterns in relation to geographical distribution would enhance our understanding of this species.

In the three volumes of *The Grevillea Book* by Peter Olde & Neil Marriott published in 1994, only four varieties are acknowledged and these seem to simplify identification of the species in Tasmania.

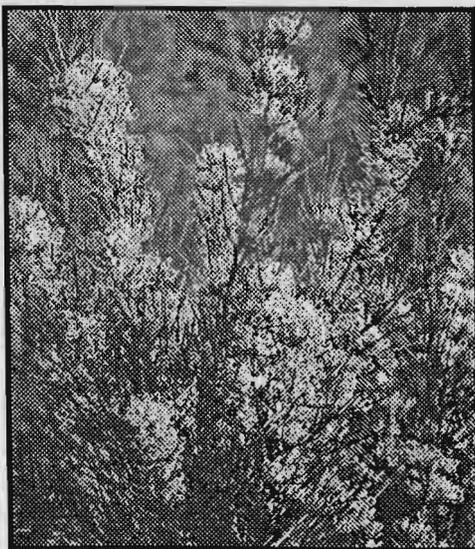
*G. australis* var. *australis* includes var. *linearifolia* and var. *erecta*. It is an erect shrub 0.5 - 2 m tall with spreading linear to lanceolate leaves up to 4 cm long with the margins shortly recurved.

*G. australis* var. *planifolia* is an erect shrub with thick flat rounded leaves up to 3 cm long with a sharp tip, one conspicuous longitudinal vein and slightly recurved margins. This form may only be found in the lowlands of northern Tasmania but a form with 3 conspicuous longitudinal veins is prostrate and shrubby and occurs in mountain areas of Victoria and New South Wales.

*G. australis* var. *brevifolia* includes var. *montana* and it is a stiff low or prostrate shrub spreading to about a metre wide. It has stiff narrow leaves up to 1 cm long with a sharp tip. The type specimen was collected by R.C. Gunn on Mt Barrow and it is also recorded at the Great Lake in Tasmania. Mainland forms differ from these in that longitudinal venation is sometimes visible on the upper surface of the leaves.

*G. australis* var. *tenuifolia* includes var. *subulata* and is an erect shrub 1 - 1.5 m tall, erect needle-like leaves up to 1 cm long and with margins rolled so tightly that the undersurface is obscured. This variety is found on the mainland as well as Tasmania.

Tasmania's only *Grevillea* is usually found in moist situations, sometimes growing over and among rocks or on the edge of streams and swamps, occasionally in grassland. The flowers in all forms appear to be similar, except var. *brevifolia* in my garden has much smaller flowers and I would think that it would be so in the wild. The tiny flowers are creamy white and terminal, and flowering lasts through spring and summer. Some forms have a strong honey perfume.



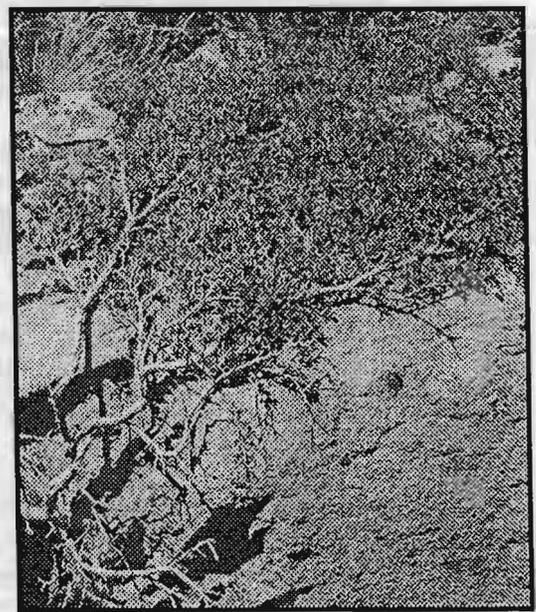
left

*Grevillea australis*  
var. *tenuifolia*  
found on mainland and  
Tasmania

right

*G. australis* ground hugging  
plant from Ben Lomond NP,  
Tasmania

(Illustrations from *Grevillea*  
Book Vol 2. p46)



# PROPAGATION

## *Grevillea robusta* as a Rootstock

by Richard Tomkin, Gin Gin, Q.

The use of any rootstock for grafting must be for a number of good reasons. They/it must survive in a variety of adverse conditions such as drought, extreme temperature, flood and fungal attack - plus it must perform. Do some - if not all - of the other rootstocks meet these criteria? It seems some may be found wanting.

The only disadvantage of *G. robusta* seems to be that it becomes "dormant" when subjected to continuous below freezing temperatures when the grafted plant is young and/or not well established. Mature grafted plants - known to be 2 years or more old have survived extremely bad weather in Victoria (pers. comm. P. Vaughan & N. Marriott).

A problem which we encountered many years ago, with cutting grown plants, was the very poor root systems. Cuttings are traditionally struck in 2" pots (ugh!) then sold to other nurseries where, I imagine, they seem to be ripped out of their minute and congested prisons and blindly repotted into a 6" pot with NO root adjustment or pruning. The subsequent plant wobbles around for many months and then, if it survives, grows for a few years until its own roots strangle it to death. We lost numerous plants this way over a number of years - only x-ray vision would let you see the mess of roots (still in its 2" ball) hidden in the 6" pot!

So, who says that the same will not happen to cutting grown rootstocks just as badly? If simple procedures are followed when growing and planting *G. robusta*, none of these problems will occur.

- Avoid using transplanted seedlings - there is a likelihood of surface root deficit and possible kinking of the main root system.
- **Remove** the bottom roots when repotting or planting out - it will very quickly regrow a tap root or 2 whereas uncut roots have a tendency to zip around the pot or planting hole for ages and some times never go down at all (says he from personal experience!). Of course, cutting grown plants never really form deep penetrating roots at all - remember drought conditions?

It must also be remembered that in times of good rain gardens can become very waterlogged unless you have pure sand. This is a situation that very few *Grevilleas* will tolerate, except *G. robusta*.

Other potential problems with *G. robusta* really come down to poor gardening practices; grafted *G. robusta* needs to be watered nigh on every day for at least the first 2-3 weeks after planting out and then a gradual ease off (assuming that the garden is already damp) over the following weeks/months until established - this can take a year or more! A common error is to pretend that all native plants don't need water and are some form of cactus. As to shoots from the rootstock - blame yourself if it overruns your plant - either you, or your staff, are not very observant! Keen growers inspect their plants often and carefully.

Peter Olde's comments on *G. robusta* pushing the scion into early senility are interesting and worth noting. It is to be remembered however that 75% of grafted plants grown in Queensland 60% in New South Wales (a guess) are being grown 2-4,000 kilometres north of where they should be, umpteen kilometres east of their original habitat and have had their whole atmosphere changed from cold and wet winters with hot and dry summers to cool and dry winters with hot and humid (not wet) summers. Some of them seem a little miffed about this - no wonder!

There is also another angle that I feel is worth considering. If speciation takes many thousands to millions of years perhaps one should look at where these wonderful plants were at that time. Australia is not now where it was and the weather has changed considerably since speciation took place - its a lot drier now. Perhaps the plants, as seen in the wild, are in actual fact very poor stunted specimens of what used to be much faster growing plants when speciation took place, the weather was wetter etc. If so, *G. robusta* is not necessarily pushing the scions too fast but allowing them to grow the way they should be.

Grafted plants have enabled gardeners and collectors to have most *Grevilleas* in their possession no matter where they originated from, temperature willing on the scion, and most perform outstandingly well, some are a bit mediocre and a few are downright miserable - so be it. However, one plant we can grow from Cape York to Tasmania and from the east coast to the west in any soil (with good gardening practices) is *G. robusta*. I personally do not see any reason to muck about with any other rootstock - if the scion is incompatible, use an interstock!

## AUTUMN PLANT SALE

The *Grevillea* Study Group will be holding another Autumn Plant Sale at Mt Annan Botanic Garden in 1999. We will be trying to get more plants of a specialist nature along with all the favourites on sale last year.

We are hoping that all SGAP groups will attend as well as keen buyers of Australian Plants.

If anybody can assist with the plant sale and display which will be organised by Betty Rymer, please contact me on (02) 9543 2242.

# PROPAGATION (cont)

## Germinating Seeds in Plastic Bags

by Jan Sked (Taken from SGAP Qld Region BULLETIN, March 1998)

In my early days in the Society, I heard about seeds of *Grevillea* being successfully germinated in plastic bags and decided to give it a try.

My method was to place three handfuls of peat moss in a clear plastic bag (267 x 381 mm), add approximately half a cup of water, then a quantity of the required seed and shake the lot together to mix (rather like flouring chops for cooking). Then I blew into the bag to expand it and secured the neck with a twist tie,

The bag was then labelled with the species name and date of sowing, and attached to the clothesline under my house by the twist tie. This was in a position where there was plenty of light, but no direct sunlight.

Two bags were filled in that way and attached to the clothesline. They were inspected every day or two. With clear plastic bags the first shoots can be seen as they form. As soon as they showed, I potted them into 75 mm tubes of a sand-peat

moss (3 to 1) mix for growing on. Some plants damped off, but this can be prevented by spraying with a fungicide.

The first seeds I tried were *Grevillea pteridifolia* (seeds were washed in a strainer under the hot tap for a few minutes) and *G. glossadenia* (seeds were nicked with a razor blade to expose a little of the white embryo inside). The former germinated in 4 weeks, the latter in 3 weeks. Not all seeds germinated at once.

The bag of *G. pteridifolia* produced 59 plants over a period of 3 weeks, a much higher percentage than I had anticipated (about 99%). Over a period of 4 weeks, *G. glossadenia* produced 7 plants from 10 seeds sown.

Inspired by this success, I decided to try other types of seed including *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Barklya*, *Cassia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Cupaniopsis*, *Flindersia*, *Kennedia*, *Lambertia*, *Leca*, *Omolanthus*, *Petalostigma*, *Pittosporum* and *Planchonella*. All had a success rate of greater than 50%. September seems to be the optimum time for germinating seeds in this way.

# TAXONOMY

## A New *Grevillea* Taxa for South Australia

by Neil R. Marriott

In the *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 17 (1996) pp. 211-215 W. R. Barker published "*Grevillea pauciflora* R.Br ssp. *leptophylla* (Proteaceae)' A New Subspecies from Eyre Peninsula, South Australia".

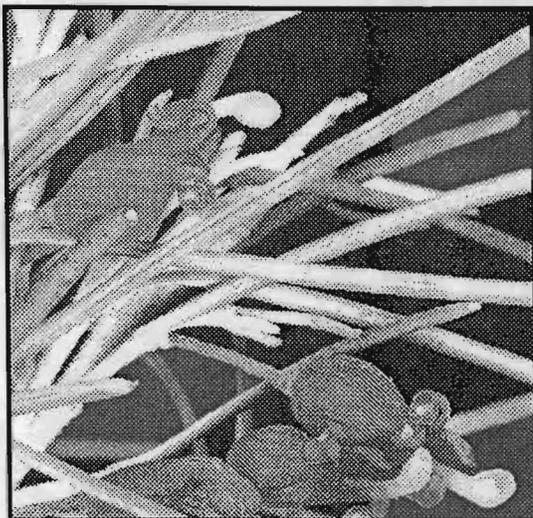
*Grevillea pauciflora* ssp. *leptophylla* differs from ssp. *pauciflora* in its very slender, subterete leaves which dry to mid green. *G. pauciflora* ssp. *pauciflora* has variously shaped leaves with flat or slightly recurved margins, drying to grey-green.

*G. pauciflora* ssp. *leptophylla* is illustrated in Marriott & Olde's *Grevillea Book* Volume 3, page 85 as *G. pauciflora* ssp. *pauciflora* - form with long narrow leaves.

*G. pauciflora* ssp. *leptophylla* is confined to several limited areas in the central region of the Eyre Peninsula. To the best of my knowledge it has never been introduced into cultivation.

Bill Barker states in his paper that only 24 plants were found at the type locality, Koolidie Station, NW of Yeelanna - this area of bush could be subject to clearance applications! Several other sites have already been destroyed! Bill therefore recommends a conservation category of 2R.

The paper also describes several narrow-leaved specimens of ssp. *pauciflora* from the region.



However in these, the leaf margins never almost touch. They may be evidence of intergradation of the 2 subspecies.

South Australian members are urged to obtain the appropriate permits to collect cutting material so this distinct new subspecies can be preserved in cultivation.

Contact Neil Marriott for exact locations.

left: *G. pauciflora* ssp. *leptophylla* (new taxa)  
right: *G. pauciflora* ssp. *pauciflora*  
Illustrations from *Grevillea Book* Vol:3 page 85



# PROPAGATION

## The Seed Bank

by Judy Smith

A special thank you to Rob Grundy for the donations of *G. caleyi* and *G. stenobotrya*. (I passed on a whole lot of *G. caleyi* seed to Phil Keane as that way they won't be wasted - they are

supposed to be very difficult to germinate).

*G. stenobotrya* is a tall rounded shrub up to 5m x 5m which grows naturally in arid areas and needs good drainage.

If you would like to grow this *Grevillea* or any other free seed please send a self-addressed envelope with a 70 cent stamp to Judy Smith, 15 Cromdale Street, Mortdale 2223.

### Free seed

Species	Packets available	Species	Packets available
<i>G. asplenifolia</i>	2	<i>G. linearifolia</i>	lots
<i>G. banksii</i> (grey leaf)	lots	<i>G. longistyla</i>	
<i>G. banksii</i> (tree form)	lots	<i>G. macleayana</i>	lots
<i>G. barklyana</i> (hybrid)	3	<i>G. 'Majestic'</i>	4
<i>G. 'Bronze Rocket'</i>	1	<i>G. masonii</i>	1
<i>G. caleyi</i>	2	<i>G. petrophiloides</i>	lots
<i>G. 'Caloundra Gem'</i>	3	<i>G. phanerophlebia</i>	4
<i>G. capitellata</i>	1	<i>G. rivularis</i>	lots
<i>G. dryandri</i> (red & pink)	1	<i>G. scortechini</i> ssp. <i>sarmentosa</i>	3
<i>G. endlicheriana</i>	2	<i>G. 'Sid Reynolds'</i>	lots
<i>G. flexuosa</i>	2	<i>G. stenobotrya</i>	lots
<i>G. johnsonii</i>	4	<i>G. trifida</i>	1
<i>G. juniperina</i>	2	<i>G. venusta</i>	5

### Seed for Sale (\$1.50 per packet)

Species	Packets available	Species	Packets available
<i>G. candelabroides</i>	4	<i>G. plurijuga</i> (upright)	5
<i>G. crithmifolia</i>	3	<i>G. polybotrya</i>	7
<i>G. decora</i>	9	<i>G. pteridifolia</i>	2
<i>G. didymobotrya</i>	3	<i>G. pterosperma</i> (from SA)	5
<i>G. drummondii</i>	1	<i>G. pterosperma</i> (from WA)	5
<i>G. dryandri</i>	11	<i>G. pulchella</i>	5
<i>G. endlicheriana</i>	2	<i>G. pyramidalis</i>	5
<i>G. eriobotrya</i>	9	<i>G. quercifolia</i>	4
<i>G. glauca</i>	5	<i>G. refracta</i>	3
<i>G. huegelii</i>	4	<i>G. robusta</i>	10
<i>G. leucopteris</i>	4	<i>G. stenobotrya</i>	4
<i>G. monticola</i>	4	<i>G. synapheae</i>	3
<i>G. nudiflora</i>	4	<i>G. teretifolia</i>	4
<i>G. paniculata</i>	3	<i>G. wickhamii</i>	2
<i>G. petrophiloides</i>	4	<i>G. wilsonii</i>	4
<i>G. pilulifera</i>	5		

### A Note from the Treasurer

Please ensure all cheques are made payable to *Grevillea* Study Group, not Peter Olde. Thanks

### OFFICE BEARERS

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

**Treasurer and Newsletter Editor:** Christine Guthrie, PO Box 275, Penshurst 2222. Phone/fax (02) 9579 4093

**Curator of Living Collection & Herbarium:** Ray Brown, 29 Gwythir Avenue, Bulli 2516. (02) 4284 9216

**Seed Bank:** Judy Smith, 15 Cromdale Street, Mortdale 2223 (02) 9579 1455

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Income		OCTOBER 1998	Expenditure	
Subscriptions	\$437.80		Newsletter Publishing	200.00
Donations	15.00		Postage	126.50
Plant Sales	620.00		Subscription to ANPC	90.00
HRBG	540.00		Bank Charges	24.68
Interest	0.55			
	<u>\$1,613.35</u>			<u>\$441.18</u>
Balance on Hand 13.10.1998		\$5,039.15		

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1997

1998



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 2222.  
Please make all cheques payable to the *Grevillea* Study Group.