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January 2004

Newsletter No. 67

NSW Programme 2004

Saturday 28 February

Time: 9.30 am Morning Tea for 10 am

Place: The Roaches 47 Eucalyptus Drive, Westleigh 9484 3672

Subject: **Tips and Tricks around the Nursery and Garden.** Brian will give a talk on some of the things he has learned from me over the years!!! There will be some plants for sale from the backyard nursery he runs. Following this there may be a surprise visit to some other local gardens, like maybe Jeff Howe and Alex & Dorothy Robertson if I can organise it beforehand (like if they are home and will take us).

Wednesday 17 March

Time: 9.30 am Morning Tea for 10 am

Place: Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Subject: **Autumn Plant Sale Planning**

Sat/Sun 17 & 18 April

Bump in Friday 16 April Bump out Monday 19 April

Place: Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Event: **Autumn Plant Sale.**

Wednesday 26 May

Time: 9.30 am Morning Tea for 10 am

Place: Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Meet on the footpath outside the herbarium entrance.

Subject: **Tour of the Herbarium and Grevillea Research.**

Day/Date: Wednesday June 23

Meeting time: 9.30 Morning Tea for 10 am start

Place: Annangrove Grevilleas

Subject: **Tour of the Nursery and Malcolm's Arboretum.**

Sat/Sun 24/25 July

Time: 1 pm Saturday 24 July

Place: Ken & Elizabeth Forbes 1154a Burrier Rd., BURRIER 4423 2921.

Subject: **Saturday afternoon - Study Group Meeting**

Saturday night - Talk *The History of Grevillea in Australia* with Peter Olde
Sunday - Bushwalk with Nowra enthusiasts.

Sunday 22 August

Time: 9.30 am Morning Tea for 10 am

Place: Carol & Gordon Meiklejohn 25 Wildoaks Rd Oakdale 4657 1912.

Subject: **Garden Visit and Tour of the Commercial Plantings.**

Gordon will answer questions on his planting methods and secrets.

September/October No meetings

Melbourne Cup Weekend- Grevillea Crawl to be organised by Vic Chapter

Wednesday 24 November

Time: 9.30 am Morning Tea for 10 am

Place: The Oldes 140 Russell Lane Oakdale 4659 6598

Subject: **Christmas Get Together/ Planning for Next Year/ Keying Exercise.**

Inside this issue:

- Autumn Plant Sale
- President's Report
- Activity Reports
- Illawarra Grevillea Park
- Three Rare Grevilleas
- Brian's Bobby Dazzlers

GSG Victoria Chapter

Leader: Neil Marriott, 5356 2404, 0408 177 989 neilm@netconnect.com.au

Convenor: Max McDowall, 9850 3411, 0414 319 048 maxamcd@melbpc.org.au

EXCURSIONS 2004

April 9-12 (EASTER) Working Bee and Workshop at 'Panrock Ridge' Grevillea Garden hosted by Neil Marriott and Wendy Renzi.

Arrive 9-10 a.m. Friday at "Panrock Ridge" Panrock Reservoir Rd (aka Sisters Rocks-Black Range Road), west of the highway just south of Sisters Rocks between the 226 and 227 km posts. Proceed south 7 km from the highway to "Panrock Ridge" is on the left. Alternative route from Melbourne via Churchill Crossing Road approx 224 km from Melbourne.

Accommodation at Stawell Caravan Park or in Stawell as for the Combined GSG and CSG Field trip June 2003. Friday's activities will end with a barbecue at Panrock Ridge and a evening seminar or slide show. Saturday evening we plan to dine in Stawell as in June 2003. This should be a real humdinger hands-on experience in all aspects of Grevillea propagation, cultivation and maintenance. This is a great opportunity for us all to say thank you to Neil for all his selfless generous support for the Study Group, ASGAP, APS Vic and his hospitality to visitors to 'White Gums' and 'Panrock

Ridge' over the years.

We hope that as many members as possible will participate even if only for 1-2 days, depending on their circumstances. Maintenance of the grevillea garden will be the main activity of the weekend. Please come prepared with secateurs and loppers, pruning saws, chain saws, weeding fork, knee protectors, gardening gloves and all-weather gear for the Working Bee. Other activities will include seminars, propagation workshops and members' slide shows, but the timetable will be flexible dependent on the weather. Please also bring grafting equipment and stock plants (e.g. G. Bronze Rambler) for the workshop.

We hope to have an excursion to Mt Cassell on the Sunday to see *Grevillea microstegia*, *G. aquifolium* and hybrids between them, and *G. alpina*.

Sunday May 23 or 30. Melbourne Garden Visits to be advised.

August 13-14. Euroa, Violet Town, Wangaratta, Beechworth, Warby Ranges and Chiltern. Field Trip led by John Gibbons and David Shiells. Garden & nursery visits. *Grevillea alpina* and *G. lanigera* forms. Programme to be advised.

As Neil and I will be in W.A. during September and October, Vic Chapter will not be hosting an extended Field Trip over Cup Weekend in 2004.

GSG Queensland Chapter

Meeting for 2004. Morning Tea 9.30 am
Meeting commences at 10.00 am
For more information, contact Merv Hodge on (07) 5546 3322

Sunday February 29 2004

Venue: Home of Bernard & Rona Wilson,
120 Avalon Road, Sheldon
4257

Phone: (07) 3206 3399
Subject: To be decided



Grevillea irrasa ssp *irrasa* - Yowaka

Autumn Plant Sale & Expo 2004

Mt Annan Botanic Garden

Mt Annan Drive, Mt Annan. *The entrance is well signposted off Narellan Rd and the South-western Freeway between Campbelltown and Camden. Entry Fee is \$4.40 per person.

Saturday 17 April 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday 18 April 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Come hear and meet Don Burke
12 noon Sunday April 18**

- * **Native plants for sale. Tumblers from \$4.** Huge range. Unusual species. Rare plants. Old favourites and new-release hybrids. Grafted grevilleas and other genera. Landscape plants. Cold Climate Plants. Rainforest plants. Ferns. Native grasses. Ground cover and rockery plants. Local and Indigenous plants. **Interstate & Local Specialist Nurseries** from ACT, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.
- * **Cut Flowers.** Buy a bunch for Mum all day every day. Bid at the frantic Auction of Arrangements on Sunday at 1 pm.
- * **Garden Clinic.**
- * **OUTDOOR Garden display.** Picnic in the grounds of Australia's largest botanic garden devoted entirely to Australian Native plants.
- * **INDOOR Static & Interactive Displays, Floral Display.**
- * **Guided Walks around Mt Annan Botanic Garden.**
See the collections, propagation areas behind the scenes.
- * **Workshops and slide-illustrated talks.**
Come and hear the experts. Learn how to graft, propagate seeds and cuttings
- * **Extended New Children's Playground.**
- * **Interactive Flannel Flower Maze.** Find a way through the maze.
- * **Family BBQ and refreshments available.** Try some unusual Australian Indigenous Eats. OR Traditional BBQ food supports the local Lions Club Fundraiser.

Sponsored by: **The Grevillea Study Group** of the Australian Plants Society
P.O. Box 275 Penhurst N.S.W. 2222
Phone: (02) 9543 2242 Fax: (02) 9541 0796

All profits raised are used for scientific research or horticultural purposes.

State of the Union

Hi all,

Welcome once again to the start of a new year. I would like to review with you our activities and plans both past and future. Although last year's plant sale was not profitable for us, the sales have raised over \$30,000 in the last six years since they began. Most of this money has been either spent or is committed to our programme of research and development. \$10,000 has been partly spent or committed to a major study by the University of Sydney on hybrids and their use in cut flowers. Money has also supported the expeditionary (mainly fuel) expenses of both Neil Marriott and myself in gathering information on new species and taxonomy in general. The first of a number of papers was published last year and it is hoped that another one or two will be published this year. Through the Australian Flora Foundation, the Study Group has also just committed \$6100 to research into *Grevillea* - *The Role of Phytohormone Auxin in Adventitious Rhizogenesis in Grevillea* which will be conducted this year through the University of Queensland. This fits with our aim to finance study into the propagation of *Grevillea* species. In addition the Study Group is involved in the establishment of a dedicated *Grevillea* garden at Mount Annan Botanic Garden and has committed \$5000 to this project. It is planned that a large part of the collection will be planted here and the idea is that the plants will tell a story and by their beauty give inspiration to the general community for horticultural, landscape, conservation, environmental, taxonomic and other values. The Study Group is on the Garden Committee and will be fully involved at all levels of the process.

Future funds will be directed to Molecular Research into the genus and its relationship with *Hakea*. There are some

interesting possibilities that could arise from this. Recent molecular studies of *Banksia* and *Dryandra* have suggested that the dryandras are actually banksias though further corroborative work needs to be done first. What an interesting argument this would make. Discussions are presently under way with Dr Peter Weston at the Royal Botanic Gardens and the search is on for a student and a framework for them to work within. This project might require more than \$10,000 so the raising of funds is under way and we hope for your support at the Autumn Plant Sale this year. The sale has a powerful ability to raise funds if supported.

Not all research is successful of course and I must admit to being less than happy at what is happening at the University of Sydney. We formed a committee over 18 months ago to oversee this project but unfortunately no meetings have been called by the chairman. We will be giving any further funds to this project until we are satisfied that it is progressing satisfactorily.

Each of the three mainland state chapters are working well. Each of them has their own culture. Queensland is more the horticultural group; NSW and Vic are the serious taxonomic groups. Queensland meetings regularly attract more members than any of the other states which is a credit to Merv Hodge, the co-ordinator of this group. There are a number of new hybrid releases coming through from Queensland members (Merv Hodge, Jan Glazebrook and Richard Tonkin). We already have a number of magnificent hybrids through their efforts and they are to be congratulated. The other states are struggling with small numbers but they are regular and supportive and doing a great job, especially in New South Wales with their fund raising.

Wishing you well for the year ahead. I hope we can continue to share the beauty of our lovely grevilleas.

The 2003 Grevillea Crawl

What a tremendous Grevillea Crawl we had this year. It started out rather inauspiciously with the late arrival (some cruel person said very late and we're not surprised! - I got their number plate) of the SG leader and his entourage. Well we heard no more about it because from then on everything got a whole lot better. The first stop was just down the road at Falls Creek where we examined a population of plants that still currently key to *G. linearifolia*. Very interesting spot. We walked down onto the nearby river bed of Corambine Creek where we found it growing along the banks as well as on the upper slopes right beside the main highway. There were lots of seedlings too. From here we meandered west down the back roads to look at what appears to be a taxon in need of recognition (*G. scabrifolia*). It keys out to *G. phyllicoides* but is quite different to that species. We found very few plants this time as a fire had travelled through the area. We next headed out to another population in Yerriyong State Forest, on Hawthorn Road. We had never visited this site before and we were destined to not visit it again as the roads were seriously blocked by fallen trees and we could not get through.

We decided to make straight for one of the main target species for the trip, *Grevillea buxifolia*. This species is normally known as a Sydney sandstone species but a collection from near Pigeon House is known in the herbarium records and we were being led by John Knight who has recently recollected it on the Jindelara Creek Fire Trail, Morton NP. It grows in the Budawang Wilderness Area and National Parks in their wisdom are allowing tracks in the area to fall into disrepair and become overgrown. You now need a key just to get through the gate and onto the old track. The plants in the Pigeon House area have different (oblong) leaves to the Sydney form but otherwise conform to the floral morphology. John is the Superintendent of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, just south of

Batemans Bay on the highway. The botanic gardens specialises in the flora of its region only. Accordingly John was an extremely knowledgeable and capable guide for this portion of the trip. He led us straight to the plants as though he had visited them yesterday, entertaining us along the way with accurate identifications of every other plant in sight including the grasses. We spent the night camped in the grounds of the Botanic Garden where we were joined by the small Victorian contingent.

Next morning John led us to see *G. rhyolitica* subsp. *rhyolitica* at Donald Creek. However, before we got there we visited the site of a population from which *Grevillea* 'Deua Flame' was collected. These plants were growing on the creek bank and some even in the creek bed of a dry creek that would be in the flood zone in more pluvial times. The creek was well-shaded by the surrounding tall trees. From here we went to Donald Creek and then on to Mt Bendethera for a look at *G. epicroca*. Unfortunately recent fires had wiped the adult plants out and we were reduced to admiring freshly germinated seedlings that extended over only a very short area. From here we headed to the Tuross River on Reedy Creek Rd. We found a large population of *G. irrasa* subsp. *didymochiton* growing here. Some of the plants exceeded 4 m in height. Again these plants showed a preference for a riparian habitat, not that this is the only place they occur. We have previously collected this taxon in very rocky scree well above what could be called 'riparian' in any sense. We had a good camp out that night and all around the fire thanked John by acclamation.

Next morning we drove to Quaama to meet the delightful Jackie Miles, equally as knowledgeable but far more attractive than John Knight. Jackie had arranged a local canoe hire company to bring canoes and several of the more daring hopped in and paddled up to the upper reaches of the Brogo River on the Brogo Dam. I know that Hessel Saunders got a kick out of it but the sight of *G. johnsonii* growing on the red bed shale in full glory was a wondrous sight to behold. We scrambled from our canoes and up the

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treacherous shaly mountainside to reach them flowering there, their flowers red and cream, and their roots perched precariously in the unstable soils. Jackie advised that the soils were of Devonian origin. I was amazed at the number of seedlings that were germinating everywhere. I think they have a different morphology to the plants from the Goulburn River. It took most of the morning but it was well and truly worth it. Next Jackie led us to Pambula and into the Yowaka SF to the Back Creek Fire Trail for a look at a population of *G. irrasa* subsp. *irrasa*. This is a beautiful taxon and well worth introducing to cultivation with its long oblong leaves and delicate open sprays of scarlet flowers. It is such a tremendous thrill to see species in the wild, in a population, doing what they do best and growing naturally. It was strange that not a single seedling was observed by anyone.

Next morning Jackie met us on Brown Mountain, near the lookout where we were busily searching for *Grevillea oxyantha* subsp. *oxyantha*. We could only find some planted ones beside the lookout and after Jackie arrived we went to look at *G. acanthifolia* subsp. *paludosa*. This involved an extensive walk into the swampy heath but the population was quite extensive and it is a tribute to Jackie that it was ever found here in the Bega Swamp. Jackie told me she was with a group looking at grasses when she chanced upon the plants. They were very healthy plants and in flower. After our return we searched and found the *G. oxyantha* population growing downhill from the lookout near the creek. I got the feeling that one day someone will relocate the form of *G. johnsonii* that George Althofer claimed to have collected on Brown Mountain somewhere near here. George said it was growing in sandy soil below the lookout. From here we headed to Mount Throsby where Andrew Orme had found another form of *G. oxyantha* with smaller leaves at the very top of the range just below the trig and growing in pinkish granitic sand in shallow skeletal soils.

The drive into Mount Throsby was fascinating as we passed some enormous plants of *Banksia canei* that looked very different to me from the Victorian plants we had seen near Licola last year. As Andrew had remembered accurately we found the plants and collected them, clambering down a rather precarious cliff to get them, the top of which yours truly had some difficulty in regaining. But we emerged alive and well. The flowers of this form are much smaller than *G. oxyantha* collected elsewhere but without knowledge of the full range of collections, it is difficult for me to say whether this is a new taxon or not. We camped here high in the range and next morning we bade farewell to the Victorians while the remainder searched for and found the rare *Westringia kydrensis* and *Acacia kydrensis*.

We headed out to Big Badja and Little Badja for a look at more *G. oxyantha*. There is a school of thought that these plants might represent a new taxon but they seem to fit fairly well within the circumscription of *G. oxyantha* as I understand it. They were big robust plants with very large flowers and round leaves. We also called in first to the Cascades for a look at a robust form of *G. lanigera* which here was growing almost in the Tuross River and had bright green foliage. This is a very beautiful and peaceful spot and while we were walking undisturbed among the rocks and plants a beautiful Nankeen Heron took off and landed in a tree above us with all its emerald chestnut and black colouration in full view. A fitting end to a great trip. Thanks to Bruce Wallace for organisation and to all 23 participants.



G. oxyantha - Big Badja

Darvill Nursery

In February the NSW group met at the home of Bruce & Heather Higgs at Darvill Nursery, a wholesale business they formed in 2000 on their 2.5 ha property near Penrith on the outskirts of Sydney.

Bruce's scientific background was in industrial working in marketing, technical and quality systems management and administration/planning functions for multinational high technology businesses and consulting. He has masters degrees in science and business. Until corporate takeovers and his position being made redundant a few years ago they did not have much time to devote to their interest in native plants especially Grevilleas.

Heather's background was in teaching, personnel selection and horticulture. Her passion for Native plants is reflected in regular horticulture articles in a local publication. She admitted that 18 years ago she really did not know the difference between a Robyn Gordon and Ned Kelly.

They are assisted in the nursery by their family and others including people on work-experience programs.

Their plan was to have a nursery business aligned with their interest in native plants (especially Grevilleas). Both have been members of the Australian Plants Society and Grevillea Study Group for over 15 years. Bruce has participated in and recently joined (International Plant Propagators Society) IPPS in 2002. Heather has been a member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture since completing a horticulture certificate in 1996. Both are also keen photographers, having competed for over 20 years now.

Since starting they have gradually grown the enterprise, although the initial business plan proved optimistic, especially with the drought and water restrictions. Sales now come from retail, landscape and specialty markets. The majority of plants sold are in 140 mm and 180/200 mm pots. In order to satisfy landscape customer demand of being a "one-stop shop" they also buy in plants from a variety of sources. They carry over 200 native border, ground-cover and shrub species or varieties at any time, with over 500 types on their stock control and customer database. This year the business joined the Nursery Industry Association, and have a site at the Rouse Hill monthly trade day.

Business plans initially forced them to look into ways of minimising labour costs through automation and technology. They do not want to be a nursery employing large numbers of people doing labour intensive work. Local and site requirements meant construction costs for the propagation house were much above what they originally imagined.

Up until late last year cuttings and seedlings were generated in protected areas around their house. They now have a polycarbonate lined propagation building capable of handling most environments and weather extremes. Both the greenhouse and shadehouse incorporate moving screens in the design to optimise growth on cloudy and sunny days as well as keeping plants warmer on winters nights.

The propagation house still has a number of benches to be completed. The group were shown a propagation bench of around 11 m² constructed with a 50 mm bed of polystyrene foam, heating cable/ thermally controlled to 23 - 25C, plastic membrane and wet coarse sand. The trays of plant on top of this are kept moist with fog misting, activated by a Sage controller. This is supplemented with hand mist applied with a Dramm three head mist wand.

Bulk media is delivered by truck, dropped into bays with concrete bases, and covered to protect from wind blown seed. Media have been mixed, with a view of the need of plants. The basis is mostly coarse washed sand, peat moss, and fine aged pine bark for more open water retentive mixes. These are sterilised with bleach/ heat before use. Slow release fertiliser pellets are mixed to the sterile mix. Now the Nursery buys in most of it's media for cost, and time saving reasons. Air filled porosity is managed to be from around 10 - 15 %. Media must not be water logged as callus tissue needs air to form roots. Cutting equipment is kept sharp and wiped in alcohol after use to minimise disease spread.

- Cuttings are taken from stock plants, washed in a mild bleach to minimise fungal problems. They are then cut with two nodes and dipped in auxin (usually 3000 ppm IBA based for semi-hardwood) within 5 to 10 seconds. At least 30 seconds dipping time is normal.
- Do not stick cuttings too deep, otherwise the oxygen level will be too low as the end is near / in the water table.
- As cells develop to heal the wound callus tissue forms. High humidity an oxygen levels are required at the callus. Media temperature should be 20 - 23 C, and light level should be

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low (near 10,000 lux). Rotting indicates poor water management, or starved cutting material, or poor hygiene.

- Roots develop, and callus tissue development should stop. If cuttings have callused but have no roots after about 6 weeks try wounding the callus and dipping in auxin again. Mist levels are reduced, and light levels increased at this stage. If root development is slow liquid feed may be applied at this stage.
- Moisture levels are managed to harden plants without stress. Moist to slightly dry encourages root development to fill cells. Nutrient levels and temperature are also managed in hardening your new plants.
- Plants in tubes are potted on into larger pots using more open media. For Grevilleas, Darvill use a media with AFP of about 20%, pH 5.6, and a slow release (9-12 month) low P fertiliser.

Seed raising mix is either 1:1 fine sand with potting mix with peat moss, or a purchased mix. Sand or vermiculite being used as a top dressing. The media is kept just damp until seedlings have shot. Then the hardening stages outlined are followed.

Potted-on plants are now hardened off in the shadehouse before moving sun-tolerant plants into the growing area.

Bruce said that they had benefited greatly in being able now to achieve uniform application of water by sprays after following guidelines in "Managing Water in Plant Nurseries". The book describes how to use data for many available sprays to select the most appropriate system for an application. Most spays used in home gardens are not spaced correctly or suffer from design defects, and few sales people in irrigation suppliers are knowledgeable about requirements for watering plants in pots rather than lawns.

Bruce & Heather adjust the amount of applied water according to models predicting evapotranspiration of plants based on weather forecasts and experience. They found hand watering was very time consuming even with a smaller number of plants when they first started out, and uniformity of growth was not as good then. Time consuming tasks are weeding (especially over summer), and inspection of plants for disease and insect attack as part of an integrated pest management approach (IPM). Wherever possible biological or low toxicity control measures are used. Frost

damage can be a problem in winter (it was last year), before sunrise water mist spraying was used to minimise damage.

When they are able to, they plan to also expand the number of plants produced using micropropagation. Bruce (with training in microbiology) described to the group the steps, and some recent developments improving the success of the technique for woody plants. He would like to eventually bring more types of Grevilleas into general supply. A building sufficient for the laboratory and growing area is mostly complete. A lot of work remains though in ensuring that the environment created will be sterile enough for commercial production.

At present they are working on improving irrigation and drainage on-site to maximise the efficient use of water. This includes bottom-up watering and drip irrigation. As part of their growing activity they hope to greatly increase their own tubestock output this year.

Some useful references passed around on the day: Hartmann H.T., Kester D.E., Davies Jr F.T. *Plant Propagation Principles and Practices*, Prentice Hall, 1990.

Blombery A.M., Maloney B., *Propagating Australian Plants*, Kangaroo Press, 1997.

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Stewart A., *Let's Propagate, A plant Propagation Manual for Australia*, ABC, 1999

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Taji A., Williams R., *Tissue Culture of Australian Plants*, University of New England, 1996.

Taji A., Dodd W.A., Williams R., *Plant Tissue Culture Practice*, University of New England, 1997.

Kyte L., Kleyn J., *Plants from Test Tubes, an Introduction to Micropropagation*, Timber Press, 1996.

De Fossard R.A., *Plant Tissue Culture Propagation*, Xarma Pty Ltd, 1993.



Darvill Nursery

The Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli

News!

2004 Opening Dates

Please note that from 2003 that the usual September Open Days have changed. This is to avoid a clash with Bulli Show Society who decided to hold the Show on the same day as the Park open days without consultation with the Park. Efforts to negotiate with the Show Society to allow normal access to the Park on those days proved fruitless this year, with many Park patrons complaining of the antics of the Show society, so it was considered best that we avoid the Show.

The Park has been developed very much through the determination of Ray Brown, the well known wholesale nurseryman and Grevillea enthusiast of Bulli. Through Ray's persistence and with help from Australian Plants Society (SGAP – NSW) members, notably the Grevillea Study Group, this park is developing into a showplace for Australian flora. The Park does not receive government assistance and leases the site from Wollongong City Council.

The Park has many hundreds of Grevilleas and also a wide range of other natives. Increasingly popular is the rainforest walk at the rear of the Park which loops over Slacky Creek and displays a wealth of indigenous rainforest species.

Opening Dates for 2004

April 24th, 25th, May 1st, 2nd

July 17th, 18th, 24th, 24th

September 25th, 26th, October 2nd, 3rd

The park is open from 10am to 4pm on the above dates.

Each year the Park is open on the last full weekend in April, first weekend of May, last two full weekends in July, last weekend in September, first weekend in October (not the Monday of the NSW Labour Day weekend)

Volunteers from the Grevillea Park Society Inc, Illawarra SGAP (particularly Mrs Evelyn van Ede), and members of Corrimal garden club help staff the Park on the day.

Special Openings for Groups : Special openings for tours from groups (such as bus tours by Garden Clubs) can be arranged.

Location

The park is located at the rear of the Bulli Showground, Princess Highway, Bulli. (Turn at the Woonona-Bulli Sports Club, just south of Slacky Creek). Bulli is one of the northern suburbs of Wollongong, and is just a 1 hour drive south of Sydney. The Park is a short walk north of Bulli railway station (follow signs from Bulli Showground).

Admission

\$4 adults, children accompanied by adults free. Our admission prices have had to increase due to an increase in public liability insurance charges

Barbecue and picnic facilities available. Bring your lunch and make it a family day!

Drinks on sale at the old Sherbrook chapel (which also has a displays and an abundance of literature on native plants).

Toilet facilities now available! (September 1999)

Working Bees

Held Monday mornings. All help appreciated. On weekends development work is occurring on stage 2 which will see rainforests walks at the rear of the park being developed and invasive weeds cleared.

Further Details

For the moment email grevil2@grevilleapark.org.NOSPAM (remove the .NOSPAM)

--> **New Members most welcome**

email grevil2@grevilleapark.org.NOSPAM (remove the .NOSPAM)

Three Rare Grevilleas

Grevillea rhyolitica comes from southern New South Wales and is commonly known as Deua Flame because one of its main strongholds is Deua National Park. We think that this species should be called Durable Flame because it is so hardy. Our original specimen has endured a protracted drought and severe winter without any ill effects. Our Deua Flame is nearly always covered with large clusters of red flowers. The plant is 50 cm tall but would be taller only most new shoots are removed for cuttings. Another quality of Deua Flame is that it is one of the easiest Grevilleas to propagate from cuttings. Our cuttings usually strike in about three weeks. Our aim is to have Deua Flame represented in every garden bed.

Grevillea iaspicula is another rare species from southern New South Wales. The species occurs in the Wee Jasper area of the Snowy Mountains. The species name refers to its geographical location. Iaspis is Latin for jasper and ul means small (Olde & Marriott Vol 2). Our specimens have reached a height of one and a half metres (once again height has been restricted due to the removal of cutting material). *Grevillea iaspicula* has proved to

by Warren Sheather

be another hardy, free flowering species. Our plants carry clusters of pink flowers for many months. In common with Deua Flame, cuttings strike readily in a very short time.

Grevillea scortechinii subsp *sarmentosa* occurs closer to home. It is found in the Guyra area north of Armidale. *Grevillea scortechinii* is usually a ground cover with prickly, lobed leaves and unusual purplish-black toothbrush flowers. It will sometimes scramble onto surrounding shrubs.

This species has great horticultural potential. With judicious pruning it will develop into a dense, weed suppressing ground cover. The flowers are an eye-catching feature. Some populations are at risk as they occur along roadsides. Over the past couple of years its survival, in the wild, looks rosier (sorry about the exotic reference). Large populations occur in an area now managed, for conservation, by the local Aboriginal Land Council and other populations are protected in the recently dedicated Warra National Park. Once the species is widely cultivated its survival will be completely assured. In common with the two other species, *Grevillea scortechinii* strikes readily from cuttings. *Grevillea scortechinii* subsp *scortechinii* is similar in appearance and occurs in the Stanthorpe area in southern Queensland.

Brian's Bobby Dazzlers

Grevillea Poorinda Tranquility

Just over fifty years ago, one of the true pioneers in the cultivation of Australian plants began tinkering with the hybridisation of grevilleas. From 1952 until the late sixties, Leo Hodge introduced more than forty hybrids to eager growers from his 'Poorinda' property in the Gippsland area of Victoria. Most have seemingly disappeared and are no longer commercially available. Undoubtedly his most enduring success was with that marvellous groundcover, *Grevillea Poorinda Royal Mantle*.

About twenty-five years ago I acquired *Grevillea Poorinda Tranquility*. Although I've come perilously close to losing it a few times, I've propagated it from that original plant ever since. I can't say that I've ever had a really robust plant and

by Brian Roach

none have survived in the garden for more than a couple of years but hope springs eternal. Its delightful soft pink, almost succulent 'spider' flowers make it a highly desirable plant and one worth my persistence over the years. For me, it's a bobby dazzer. Its reputed parentage of *G.lavandulacea* and *G.alpina* would account for the difficulty in maintaining it in a garden in our part of the country. It grows to around 1m high and wide and while it flowers on and off for most of the year, an added feature is the foliage. While the upper part of the narrow leaf is a mid-green, it's almost white underneath giving the plant a distinctly variegated effect.

Despite my relatively poor success in growing this plant, I'd suggest a position from full sun to dappled shade with good drainage although reasonably constant moisture is beneficial. If you can get hold of one, don't let it go even if you only get to enjoy it for a couple of years.

The Case of the Disappearing Grevillea

- * Where is it found?
- * What are the threats?
- * What's happening?
- * How can I help?

Commonly known as McCutcheon's Grevillea, *Grevillea maccutcheonii* is an attractive shrub that grows to 2m tall and produces large, handsome redflowers between May and December. The shrub has highly distinctive leaves that are flattened, three-lobed and encircle the stem. Unfortunately, this beautiful shrub is one of Australia's most endangered plants.

Where is it found?

McCutcheon's Grevillea is part of the ironstone shrubland community that occurs on the southern Swan Coastal Plain near Busselton, Western Australia. This entire community is listed as a nationally endangered ecological community. The community is confined to shallow, red-brown clays over ironstone that are frequently waterlogged in winter. The only known population of McCutcheon's Grevillea comprises about 12 individual plants, three mature and nine seedlings. Despite intensive surveying, no other populations have been found.

What are the threats?

The single known population of McCutcheon's Grevillea occurs on a Shire road reserve growing on a mound of soil probably associated with early road construction works. Threats include: vulnerability of extremely localised population; possible introduction of dieback disease associated with *Phytophthora* infection; inappropriate fire regime; degraded habitat; poor survival of seedlings; the deaths of some adult plants; weed invasion; and accidental damage during roadworks. The three remaining adult plants serve to emphasise the extreme vulnerability of the species.

What's happening?

McCutcheon's Grevillea was ranked as Critically Endangered in WA in 1995 and a Recovery Team established to address the most threatening processes affecting its survival in the wild. Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the species include: the control of introduced weeds; the development of a

fire protection plan; the maintenance of dieback hygiene; the erection of signs marking the site of the population and the regular monitoring of the health of the population.

Other recovery actions which are progressively being implemented include: the collection of seed, the maintenance of live plants away from the wild; further surveys to find other populations or suitable habitats; research into the plants' biology and the removal of threatening weeds.

How can I help?

McCutcheon's Grevillea is currently known from only one site and WA's Department of Conservation and Land Management are keen to hear of any others on (08) 9752 1677.

You can help by:

- * protecting remnant bush in your community or on your land to help provide habitat for all our native species, including the McCutcheon's Grevillea;
- * supporting local efforts to conserve threatened species in your area by joining a local organisation such as a Landcare or catchment groups, natural history or a 'friends of' group or by volunteering for Green Corps or the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers;
- * participating in special events, information nights, tree planting days and weed eradication programs.

To find out more about saving your state's threatened species check out the Threatened Species Network web site at <http://www.wwf.org.au/tsn/index.htm> or call the Network's National Office on (02) 9281 5515.

You can also find out more information about Australia's threatened species by calling Environment Australia's Community Information Unit on free call 1800 803 772

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Financial Report-February 2004

Income	
Subscriptions	\$165.00
Interest	215.94
	<hr/>
	380.94
Expenditure	
Postage	\$147.30
Stationery	27.95
Publishing	210.00
Field Trip Expenses	475.00
Expeditionary Expenses	2,500.00
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	3,360.25

Balance in Interest Bearing Deposit
\$10,441.89 till July 2004

Balance in Business Cheque Account
\$9,856.02

Balance in current account as at 26/1/04
\$5,206.46

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Email Group

This email group was begun by John and Ruth Sparrow from Queensland. Free membership.

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2. The email group

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3. URL for Grevillea Study Group website

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