

# Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants



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Newsletter No. 80 – June 2008

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## GSG NSW Programme 2008

For more details contact **Peter Olde** 02 4659 6598. Meet at 9.30am to commence at 10.00am for all meetings unless stated otherwise.

### Saturday, 5 July

**VENUE:** Kowmung River Crossing to Tuglow Caves  
**TIME:** 9am at McDonalds on nth side of Goulburn  
**SUBJECT:** Examination of wild population of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* hybrids with *Grevillea arenaria* & c.1km upstream with *Grevillea juniperina*.

### Saturday, 30 August – Monday, 1 September

**VENUE:** 'Silky Oaks' 140 Russell Lane Oakdale  
**SUBJECT:** Open garden

### Friday, 10 October – Monday, 13 October

**VENUE:** Annual Field Trip & Grevillea Crawl  
**TIME:** Meet 10am at Information centre on Newell Highway, south-east of Gilgandra (c. 800m before bridge over Castlereagh River). First stop Gilgandra Flora Reserve. Caravan park east side of river for those arriving Thursday night.  
**PHONE:** Leader Anthony O'Halloran: 02 4447 8210  
**SUBJECT:** Field trip through the Goonoo Goonoo Forest and Pilliga Scrub.  
**DETAILS:** Accommodation (Friday night) in restored railway carriages at Binnaway 6844 1044. Cost \$25 each twin share includes breaky.

Species we hope to see include *Grevillea arenaria* ssp. *canescens* (several forms), *G. floribunda* ssp. *floribunda* (several forms and flower colours), *G. triternata*, *G. ramosissima* ssp. *ramosissima*; *Banksia marginata*; *Persoonia cuspidifera*, *curviloba*, *sericea*, *rigida* (plus hybrids between all of them); *Isopogon petiolaris*; *Zieria ingramii* (rare, 7 plants); *Boronia glabra*, *pinnata*, *rosmarinifolia*, *warrumbunglensis*, *?anethifolia*; *Cooperookia barbata*; *Prostanthera howellii*; *Goodenia fascicularis*, *macbarronii*, *hederacea*, *glabra*, *cycloptera*, *pusillifera*, *heterophylla*; *Kennedyia procurrens* (fantastic); *Ricinocarpus bowmanii*; *Phebalium nottii*; orchids aplenty etc etc.

Bush camping, 4WD vehicles recommended due to recent road wash-outs.

### Sunday, 30 November

**VENUE:** Suellen & Brian Harris, 14 McArthur Drive, Falls Creek via Nowra  
**TIME:** 11am  
**PHONE:** 02 4447 8210 or s-harris@wix.com.au  
**DETAILS:** End of year christmas function.

## GSG VIC Programme 2008

For more details contact **Neil Marriott** (Vic Leader), on (03) 5577 2592 (Mon–Fri), (03) 5356 2404 (Fri night–Sun 5pm), or email at neilm@vic.chariot.net.au (Dunkeld), neilm@netconnect.com.au (Stawell).

Despite extensive effort on behalf of Max McDowall to get members along to Vic Chapter excursions, there has been a very disappointing response. As a result Max has decided to resign from this role and we have decided to put the Vic chapter into recess until further notice. See page 10 for more details.

## GSG S.E. QLD Programme 2008

Morning tea at 9.30am, meetings commence at 10.00am. For more information contact **Noreen Baxter** on (07) 3202 5008 or **Beverley Leggett** on (07) 3870 8517.

### Sunday, 29 June

**VENUE:** Denis Cox & Jan Glazebrook, 87 Daintree Dr. Logan Village, 4207  
**PHONE:** (07) 5546 8590  
**SUBJECT:** Growing grevilleas on their own roots.

### Sunday, 31 August

**VENUE:** Tim & Suzanne Powe, 174 Charwood Road, Aratula, 4309  
**PHONE:** 0413 659 402  
**SUBJECT:** Manipulated and natural hybrids.

### Sunday, 26 October

**VENUE:** Fran & Jim Standing, Mt. Clunie Cabins, Mt. Clunie Road, Woodenbong, NSW 2476  
**PHONE:** (07) 4666 5118  
**SUBJECT:** Grevilleas within 200km of Brisbane.

### Sunday, 30 November

**VENUE:** Merv. & Olwyn Hodge, 81-81 Loganview Rd, Logan Reserve, 4133  
**PHONE:** (07) 5546 3322  
**SUBJECT:** Review of survival of grevilleas following wet summer.

## Inside this issue:

- New Species in Flora of Australia Vol 17a
- Grevillea glory!
- Hybrid Grevilleas ... and more....

## Journey to Queensland

- continued from editorial in newsletter no. 78.

The next day August 29 I spent with Richard Tomkin, after a rather restless night sleeping in the car near the Gin Gin showground. I had left my run from Toowoomba too late and arrived at Gin Gin long after the town had closed down. Nonetheless I spent a very stimulating day with Richard, the proprietor of Changers Green Nursery, and surely one of the best, if not the most original *Grevillea* hybridist in the country today. The nursery surrounds were filled with a dazzling array of Richard's efforts and some of the names he has selected further feed the imagination, names such as *Grevillea* 'Orange Wow', Inferno, Loopy Lou, Fascination, and many others. A new hybrid of Richard's, *Grevillea* 'Bush Lemons', a rich gold-flowered hybrid, will shortly be released, if not already by the time you read this. Several other of Richard's plants have been sold and will be marketed by others. While I am on the subject, although he has produced such wonders as *Grevillea* 'Flamingo', *Grevillea* 'Ivory Whip', *Grevillea* 'Lollypops!' and others, I would point out that possibly Richard's most successful hybrid to date would be *Grevillea* 'Lana Maree', named after his wife. This spreading, somewhat cascading low-growing *Grevillea* has both lovely form and massed flowering. Flowers are like 'Billy Bonkers', unsurprising since it came from the same batch of seed. It should be planted as a specimen plant or near a rock wall where it would make a stunning plant. Another of Richard's interesting plants is a white-flowered seedling of *Grevillea* 'Candelabra'. The unusual habit of leaf, flower and form of *Grevillea* 'Candelabra' has been retained in the progeny.

Next morning I visited the sprightly 80 something Owen Brown and wife Anne at Caloundra. Owen has been keeping quiet lately, especially since the nurseries he used to propagate his hybrid progeny in are no longer available to him. A couple of his hybrids are currently under trial with Australis plants. One of his favourites is *Grevillea* 'Coastal Morn' because of the subtle flower colours but no-one has taken this one commercially. Perhaps it is too similar to other commercial varieties or lacks the strong colours, perceived necessary to commercial success. Another plant we examined was a 6m giant which he calls *Grevillea* 'Lemon Glimpse' which has a white flower, with lime or lemon green in the developing inflorescence colour. This one will be released commercially, he informed me and I recalled seeing many plants

at Australis. After visiting Owen, I drove around Pelican Waters Estate where many of his hybrids are planted.

In the afternoon, I visited the Foxes, Fay and Peter, members of the Study Group who are trying valiantly to establish a good garden. The long drought and trees are making life extremely difficult but they have some really interesting plants, including a plant given them years ago by Jan Glazebrook, called *Grevillea* 'Roly Poly'. It is not a commercial cultivar but did show some potential. It is low-growing and has bright, tight, orange-red inflorescences. Peter is into car restoration and the one he showed me as dusk fell really stunned me for its detail, me who cannot do anything mechanical.

I called on the Hennessy's, Carmel and brother Terry, at Bush Garden Nursery, Upper Caboolture the next day. They have PBR on *Grevillea* 'Dot Brown' and another new one yet to be released, *Grevillea* 'Birdsong' with very bright orange flowers. They mainly grow Syzygiums and Kangaroo Paws on a large scale. *Grevilleas* are a bit of a challenge. I obtained permission from them to propagate 'Dot Brown' by grafting. They have a number of plants in their arboretum, given to them by Ena Duggan, who had *Grevillea* 'Dot Brown', named after her plant-loving friend. One was called *Grevillea* 'Mena' which they thought was too leggy for commercial release. However, growing in semi-shade as it was, this feature might be reassessed in the future after a trial in full sun. In the afternoon, I explored the gardens of Fairhill nursery, where I learned from son, Nick, of the retirement of Alex. I also noticed that they have produced a label for one of the nursery industry's most persistent inaccuracies, viz. the naming of a form of *Grevillea pinaster* as *Grevillea stenomera*. They have instead called the plant *Grevillea* 'Treasure Chest' and the label can be purchased from Norwood.

In my last editorial I omitted to mention the naming of *Grevillea* 'Midas Touch' which is a gold-flowered hybrid produced by Nev Deeth, Samford, Queensland, member of the Study Group. The plant was grown from one of two seeds given to him off a plant of *Grevillea juncifolia* owned by Bev Leggett, treasurer of the Queensland Region of the Society. The naming took place by popular vote at the Study Group Meeting held on August 26 after a number of suggestions were put forward.

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Returning to the Hodges I visited Elva Carter at Burpengary who reported on successful penetration of the US market with her *Grevillea* OZ collection. Although she is known for her generosity, Elva recounted three instances of people producing *Grevillea* 'Peaches and Cream' in Victoria without labels and without permission. This is a plant protected by PBR legislation, a toothless joke, according to Elva. She was told that the Federal Government considered the breach of the law too small to warrant prosecution. In disgust, she withdrew two new cultivars from protection under PBR, as a waste of time and money. She was advised that civil action would cost around \$150,000 without any guarantee of success and because the offenders had no money, even if she won.

On Sunday afternoon, September 2, I visited the wholesale nursery of Ruth and John Sparrow, at Belli, about whom I had heard so much. They have released two new hybrids, *Grevillea* 'Just Rosy' and *Grevillea* 'Just Peachy', both of them very lovely plants. Hopefully we will see more of them commercially than we did of their *Grevillea* 'Gossamer' which continues to be elusive. The Sparrow's property is marked as part of Stage 2 of a new dam for Queensland to be built shortly, in the hope that it might rain there one day.

On Monday, I headed back to Sydney, passing first through Eukey Queensland, near Stanthorpe. Here I met the friendly, larger than life, John Hancock who, I had been informed, had produced and sold a few hybrids. John has closed the nursery he ran there for over 20 years with his brother, Kerry. John informed me that his plants were mainly sold locally and into Toowoomba. The roll-call of plants that he has marketed included around 20 different plants, inventively named, not all of them necessarily good, but some quite so. Amusing names such as Flaming Ronald, Merry Mary, Stanthorpe Girl, Another Tramp and so on kept me intrigued. They have a variegated form of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* which they have named 'Rosy View'. John was extremely generous with his plants and allowed cuttings to be taken.

From there the heat of Queensland was mellowed by the cool of Tenterfield as I spent a few nights with Sarah and David Caldwell. They are fantastic tube growers who produce a really good plant. One of their new ones, supplied by Pat Urbonas from his garden, is one they are calling *Grevillea* 'Flora Gold', a *Grevillea floribunda* hybrid with

dusky yellow flowers in massed abundance. While here I first appreciated the stunning brilliance of *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Elegance' in massed flower. The flowers are beautiful but arise on the older wood deep within the plant. Just pull back the branches and there they are. Simply stunning.

From here I called on Gondwana Nursery where Joy and Gahan Gilleasha have an excellent wholesale nursery. Although it was raining, they showed me a new hybrid, *Grevillea* 'Honey Barbara' with a lovely soft-orange flower which will be released shortly. Next stop was to Plants for Living Nursery, Chris Hughes Proprietor who operates out at Federal, not far from the township of Bangalow, where I spent the night. This little town is a well worth spending a few days. The restaurants and general cuisine here is excellent. Unfortunately accommodation is in very short supply. Chris showed me plants of *Grevillea* 'Blood Orange' which came up in his nursery and which is now protected under PBR legislation. It is a lovely plant, propagules of which have been sent south to Southern Advanced Plants, Dromana, Victoria, a whole sale nursery mainly contracted to Bunnings.

My final port of call was to Noel Jupp, at Riverdene Nursery, East Gresford. Aply assisted by daughter Rosemary, the Jupp nursery is an old-fashioned style nursery. Plants are not necessarily well presented but are in abundance. Many of Noel's plants have been grouped under the 'Allyn' name. They are not all grevilleas but among them are some fine selections, including *Grevillea* 'Rosemary's Choice' and *Grevillea* 'Allyn Radiance'.

Direct deposits can be made into the *Grevillea* Study Group account

**BSB 112-879**

**Account Number 016526630**

(St George Bank).

Please notify the Treasurer  
of transfer by email  
**(bruce.moffatt@tpg.com.au)**

or by post to  
**Grevillea Study Group,  
PO Box 275 Penshurst NSW 2222**

## Grevillea glory!

I could be wrong, but I don't think you can really appreciate grevilleas until you see them growing in their natural habitat. Having travelled extensively through WA in 1999, 2004, and 2005, I thought I had seen it all.

But nothing could prepare me for the huge diversity and density of flora along the **Canning Stock Route**. While the actual number of different grevilleas is small (I could find only 7), the huge expanse of the populations is mind-boggling. None of this 'handful-of-plants growing on roadside verges' – along the Canning Stock Route populations of *Grevillea wickhamii* in particular can be seen in their thousands. The stock route covers almost 2000 km of country, most of which has never been settled by Europeans. It remains one of the few unspoilt areas left in Australia, crossing through the Little Sandy and Great Sandy deserts, but they are most unlike the Simpson Desert, which is almost barren in comparison.

Travelling from south to north, the first grevillea to be encountered is *Grevillea acacioides*, from about Well 2 to 2A (the Granites), growing happily with *Hakea francisiana* (including a beautiful white form). A short diversion from Well 5 into the Carnarvon Ranges passes through extensive stands of *Grevillea juncifolia* with a few *Grevillea eriostachya* spread around, but even more outstanding are the groves of *Grevillea spinosa*. I had never realized what a beautiful trunk this grevillea has – it sheds its bark to reveal a stunning yellow trunk. It is most spectacular with strips of bark still hanging off the yellow trunk.

In 2006 there was a massive stand of *G. spinosa* just north of Well 6 (Pierre Springs), but unfortunately when we returned in 2007 the entire population had almost all been burnt out. *G. eriostachya* becomes more prevalent towards Well 7 and onwards, but closer to Well 6, is the *spinosa/eriostachya* hybrid first noticed years earlier by Neil Marriott, Peter Olde and Merv Hodge. They called it Canning Classic, and I am lucky enough to have a very good specimen growing at home, compliments of Denis Cox's grafting. We (ie my long-suffering non-plant enthusiast husband and I) first saw this coming down from the north in 2006, before we found any *G. spinosa*. In fact, I said to myself, "where the hell is *G. spinosa*", only to find plants of it just

around the next corner. I only found 3 specimens of the hybrid, but there are bound to be more.

*G. eriostachya* and *Grevillea stenobotrya* are common right through the dune country, with smatterings of *G. juncifolia* – in fact, *G. juncifolia* can be found within a few metres off Lake Disappointment, so I guess it is very salt tolerant. *G. juncifolia* can be seen for a few hundred kilometers, but never in stands of hundreds or thousands, as is the case of some of the others. These 3 grevilleas can be found in many patches all the way to Well 43, with particularly large concentrations of *G. stenobotrya*.

But the standout Grevillea of all is *G. wickhamii*. It is found as far south as Wells 13–14, all the way to the Tallewana track (although not continuously) – approximately 1500 kms north to south, and we all know it is found much higher up than that. It comes in all possible combinations of red, orange (both dark and light), yellow, and mixtures of orange/yellow. Imagine coming to the top of a sand dune, to see in front of you, as far as the next sand dune, and as far as the eye can see to the right or left, literally thousands of *G. wickhamii*, intermingled with wattles, and at times, blue tinsel bush. No photo, no video, no artist, can ever do this sight justice. You just have to see it to believe it.

However, grevilleas are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to plants along the CSR. It is a haven for Eremophilas, Hakeas, Cassias, Ptilotus, Acacias, Newcastelias, and a whole range of species too numerous to mention. I thoroughly recommend the trip to anyone prepared to forego a few comforts for a couple of weeks.



*Grevillea wickhamii* (A.S George)

### New Species in Flora of Australia Vol 17a

Two taxa from the Northern Territory and one from Queensland are reviewed.

***Grevillea decora* subsp. *telfordii* Makinson**, Fl. Aust. 17a: 494 (2000)

T: c. 14km from Laura on Cairns road, 15°40'S, 144°30'E, Qld, 11 April 1975, L.A.Craven 3235; holotype: CANB; isotypes (in Australian herbaria): BRI, DNA, NSW, PERTH.

Olde & Marriott treated this taxon informally, following McGillivray 1993, as *Grevillea decora* 'small-flowered form'. *Grevillea* Book 2: 112 (1995). The regeneration mode of this taxon is unknown, although it most likely reproduces from seed only. Members of the *Grevillea* Study Group living in the area could assist here and should forward their observations, along with a dried specimen, to the Study Group Leader. *Grevillea decora* subsp. *telfordii* differs from subsp. *decora* in having a silvery-grey indumentum on the branchlets and floral rachises (rusty in subsp. *decora*), rounded leaf base (cuneate in subsp. *decora*), shorter floral rachises 1.5-2.5cm long, pistils 35-40mm long and follicles 8-10mm long (respectively 3-6cm long, 40-55 mm long and 12-15mm long in subsp. *decora*). Observations on this taxon could be made during its flowering season, reportedly Autumn-Winter, but probably extending to early Spring. It occurs in northern Queensland in the Laura district, west of Cooktown where it grows in heath associations and open eucalypt forest on sandstone. A most interesting specimen at NSW (NSW96949) reveals that this plant was collected by Ludwig Leichhardt, presumably in 1844-45. He does not give a precise location, other than Queensland.

Localities given in the flora apart from the type locality cited above:-

1. 11km S of Laura R. crossing on the Peninsula Development Rd,
2. near Hells Gate Ck, Cook District
3. 16km from Laura along road towards Lakeland Downs [Stn].

Apart from observation on the regenerative mode of this taxon, reports on the size of the plant are required. Olde & Marriott have given up a size up to 2 m for this taxon but this could be wrong. Other data has been recorded for the

plant as growing up to 6m in height. It could be a nice species for cultivation and anyone travelling to the district should attempt a collection for cultivation/grafting.

***Grevillea dunlopii* Makinson**, Fl. Aust. 17a: 494 (2000)

Type Northern Territory: Mt Gilruth area, C.R. Dunlop 4901, 5 June 1978. Holo DNA; Iso BRI, CANB, K, NSW.

A description of this species can be found in The *Grevillea* Book Vol 3:151-152. and Flora of Australia P.111.

*G. dunlopii* is known from relatively few collections on the Kakadu escarpment. It is closely related to *Grevillea rubicunda* from which it is distinguished by numerous characters. It has shorter and broader leaf lobes (2-5cm long, 1.8-4mm wide), a sparser styler indumentum and longer, narrow-lanceolate floral bracts (4-7mm long). *G. rubicunda* in contrast has floral bracts 3-4mm long and also of a somewhat different shape (ovateacuminate) and often has leaf lobes to 10 cm long and mostly 1.2-2mm wide. The presence of glandular hairs in varying degrees of consistency on the leaves, fruits and floral parts is also a distinguishing feature of *G. dunlopii*. Other leaf and venation characters are also given.

*G. dunlopii* and *G. rubicunda* form a distinct and unique group (Group 31) within *Grevillea*. Don McGillivray thought that they were sufficiently distinct to be recognised as a separate genus. However, he did not go to the extent of naming it nor outlining the generic characters. The flowers are basiscopic and quite sessile.

The following distinguishing features are given in the Flora of Australia: *Grevillea dunlopii* has the leaf midvein and marginal veins scarcely decurrent to the stem, with no or very slight ridges below the leaf; the floral bracts are 4-7mm long, narrowly lanceolate, subvillous outside with mixed biramous and glandular hairs; the leaves usually drying to olive green above and khaki below; the outer surface of the perianth with only pale hairs; and the floral rachis and follicle often with simple glandular hairs as well as the biramous non-glandular type. In *G. rubicunda* the leaf veins are decurrent to the stem and form 3 conspicuous ridges below the leaf; the

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floral bracts are 3-4mm long, ovate-acuminate and tomentose outside with biramous hairs only; the leaves dry to dark green above and silvery below; the outer surface of the perianth has mixed pale and brown-pink hairs; and the floral rachis and follicle lack glandular hairs.

Recently the Study Group funded the helicopter expenses incurred in the search for both *Grevillea dunlopii* and *G. rubicunda*, neither of which is in cultivation. Staff at the herbarium of New South Wales undertook the exploratory collecting expedition (see separate report in later newsletter) but were unable to locate *G. dunlopii*. Cutting material of *G. rubicunda* was collected and forwarded to Richard Tomkin and Helen Howard in Queensland. The material was successfully grafted and plants were sent to me by Helen Howard (Qld). Other material was collected for DNA which was sent to the USA to Austin Mast who is presently conducting a study of the relationship of both *Hakea* and *Grevillea*.

*G. dunlopii* – we searched and searched, in extreme temperatures, in about 5 recorded localities. Absolutely no sign of it. All localities had been burnt in the past year and conditions were fiercely dry, so it would be interesting to go searching again in the wet season to see if it comes up from seed. Certainly found some fantastic rock art in the process. The helicopter day was fantastic – what an amazing landscape to fly over. Katherine Downs (NSW Herbarium). Katherine will write a full report for a later newsletter.

Etymology Named to recognise Clyde R. Dunlop (1946-) former curator (now retired) of the Northern Territory Herbarium who collected the holotype.

*Grevillea* Book Reference: *Grevillea* sp. aff. *rubicunda* Vol 1: 215 Vol 3: 151-152.

***Grevillea microstyla*** M.D.Barrett & Makinson, Fl. Australia 17A: 495 (2000)

T: 4.6km by road from Bachsten Ck (South Arm) campsite above falls, via side road to Wren Gorge., West Kimberley, W.A., 1 June 1998, R.O.Makinson 1687 & H.Nicholson; holo: CANB; iso: DNA, MEL, NSW, PERTH.

*Grevillea microstyla* is closely related to the Northern Territory endemic *Grevillea longicuspis* but grows in the west Kimberley section of Western Australia where it is known from near

Bachsten Ck and in the Prince Regent Nature Reserve in the southern foothills of the Princess May Range. It grows in grassy *Eucalyptus miniata* woodland in sandy loam soils on shallow valley bottoms below sandstone ridges.

*Grevillea microstyla* is a small, red-flowered species is reportedly lignotuberous and possibly also root-suckering. Very little was known of this new species at the time of publication of the *Grevillea* Book., although a leaf specimen of unknown genus (seen at the herbarium of NSW) had been collected in the Prince Regent Nature Reserve and was thought to represent an undescribed *Grevillea* species. And so it proved. Collections in this remote area of Australia are difficult without access to local resources and a serious determined exercise to discover more about this species was undertaken for the Flora of Australia.

*Grevillea microstyla* is a low shrub 0.3-0.8m tall with ovate to broadly oblong-elliptic or slightly obovate leaves 3-8cm long, 2-4cm wide, dentate to pinnatifid with (3-) 7-15 weakly pungent subtriangular teeth lobes. Like most tropical species it has flat leaf margin and concolorous leaves (surfaces similar on both surfaces). Inflorescence are terminal, usually simple, dense, subglobose. The torus is markedly elongate at dorsal side.

Locations:

1. Edkins Range, c. 3.5km WSW of Peter Lacy's Camp, along road to Wren Gorge.
2. W Kimberley, 4.6km by road from Bachsten Ck (S arm) campsite above falls via side track to Wren Gorge.
3. Prince Regent Nature Reserve, southern foothills of Princess May Ra., c. 5km E of Purulba massif.

*Grevillea microstyla* is distinguished from related species by its complete lack of glandular hairs, excepting occasionally on the style. Its closest relative is *Grevillea longicuspis* which has glandular hairs on the pedicels (sometimes glabrous). The hairs on the pedicels are biramous in *G. microstyla*. It has a tighter inflorescence than *G. longicuspis*, floral rachises 3-8mm long and pistils 5.5-7mm long (respectively 3-18mm, and 7-9.5mm in *G. microstyla*). When dried, the leaves of *G. longicuspis* are khaki-green, whereas those of *G. microstyla* are greyblack.

## Grevilleas at Changers Green

Peter has asked that I note down for interest sake, or maybe for posterity, the various hybrid grevilleas that have emerged from here (Changers Green) and their respective parents – where known – and any other information that may prove interesting (or funny) as the case may be. SO it's off to the gene bank and...

A list of the released Grevilleas to date reads like this:

'Billy Bonkers'  
'Lana Maree'  
'Jester'  
'Flamingo'  
'Ivory Whip'  
'Lollypops!' (yes there IS meant to be an 'l' in the name)  
'White Candelabra' & 'Pink Candelabra'

### Unreleased plants that have found a limited way into horticulture

'Geisha'  
'Bush Lemons' (commercial release planned soon)  
'Red Claw'

Both 'Billy Bonkers' and 'Lana Maree' came from the same cross, *Grevillea nana* ssp *abbreviata* and *Grevillea* 'Majestic'; though at first we thought *Grevillea* 'Sid Cadwell' was involved. It seems the red herring worked too well. Poor old "Sid Cadwell" has got the gong for parenthood. But no, it was 'Majestic'. Now, perhaps, it all becomes more obvious as to 'why' they were released grafted. In Queensland the chances of growing either for any length of time on their own roots are somewhat slim to say the least (I know that someone will enjoy contradicting me on that one). Perhaps in NSW they might survive for longer and Vic/SA should be OK. *Grevillea* 'Billy Bonkers' was named with reference to our dog of the time. He (BILLY!) took a real shine to the plant and would 'water' it whenever he walked past (why it didn't die I shall never know) and later he (the dog) went "Bonkers" and had to be put to sleep. So "Billy Bonkers". Quite simple and nothing to do with fornication, sorry. Still, the name does get a giggle! This plant grows 1.2m tall by 1–1.2m wide and flowers all year. It is a good BEE plant for those in need (as are 'Lana Maree', 'Ivory Whip' and 'Lollypops!').

***Grevillea* 'Lana Maree'** Is a low, sprawling plant 1m high by up to 5m wide with beautiful pink flowers for most of the year in Queensland

and for six months at least in southern states (I'm told). She can take a year or two to start "showing" but well worth the wait. Nothing funny about the name. Both my wife and the plant are gorgeous.

***Grevillea* 'Jester'** was named after my late mother, Joan Esther, created it by remote chance in her garden in Gin Gin. She had her CWA buddies around one day while I was visiting. As a proud mum she had been telling them that I was "breeding Grevilleas" so took the opportunity to get me to demonstrate my 'technique'. Taking a style from a 'Honey Gem' that was loaded with pollen, I went over to a 'Coconut Ice' and performed evil doings upon it. Mum went into her house and brought out a net bag, which she made for my work, and promptly 'bagged' the flower. Months later she called in to our nursery and handed to me the bag. Inside was one seed that looked viable. It was. The plant is a bit too leggy for a small garden but give it some room and the flowers will bowl you over with their brilliant "burnt orange" hue. Yes there IS a perfume too but not for all noses.

***Grevillea* 'Flamingo'**. I need to go back to *Grevillea* 'Superb' first! During one of our many drought periods, a number of years ago, I successfully crossed *Grevillea whiteana* 'Boondooma' (*Grevillea* 'Moonlight' look-alike) with *G.* 'Superb', and grew the resultant into a plant we called *Grevillea* 'Geisha' which is a 2m x 3m+ all year flowerer. Flower colour is ivory-ish and pink. She was never officially released but a nursery in Yandina did produce around 20 and was told, by me, to give them away when they decided not to continue. If anyone needs photos E-mail an address. I grew a number of seedlings from her, one of which we released commercially as *G.* 'Flamingo'. Up to 4m in Queensland, she flowers most of the year with around 5–8 flowerheads on each branch (we found one with 20 something). With label sales (available from me) in the tens of thousands she IS a good girl! The flowers have a tendency to bend over slightly and with their pink colour reminded us of – a flamingo!

***Grevillea* 'Ivory Whip'**. When the original plant flowered (I had a half dozen grafted as well) I cut off the stem and flower and took it inside to show my wife. The flower was on a long stick

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and looked a bit like a “whip”. Ivory in colour. ‘Ivory Whip’! Seems that thoughts of food are everywhere and it is now linked to some form of dessert. Oh well. The plant came from one of over 30 *G. ‘Billy Bonkers’* seedlings and was one of just two that was not strongly pink. It grows to 2.5m in Queensland and about 1.5m in Vic with flower all year in warmer climates. Sells well which means she is also a good girl!

***Grevillea ‘Lollypops!’*** Also a seedling of “Billy B” and obviously a pink one! Grows to 2m up here and all year flowering with an odd “bent” shape to the rachis somewhat like a banana. It also sells well – labels available from us. Another good girl! The flowers reminded me of a ‘raspberry lollipop’ and hence the name was coined and in the plural for the abundance of flowers. The exclamation mark was added for emphasis and to create an unusual effect, not previously tried.

The original *Grevillea ‘Candelabra’* was given to me by the late Edgar Burt from the Glasshouse Mountains. It was given to him by David Bradley, Mount Mee, Queensland, in whose garden it arose as a spontaneous seedling. It seemed to be some sort of inbred mutant which grew in an odd upright fashion with strange weblike tissue growing between very vertical branches. I grew 100 seeds from it and waited. Gee isn’t

there a lot of that in plant breeding/growing. Of the 100 seedlings (all grew) 96 were so close to the original as to seem the same. Four looked nothing like it. I gave away umpteen of the lookalikes and planted about 30 along my driveway, where they still grow, and was taken aback when 50% of them flowered WHITE!. Hello, what’s all this then, I thought. I walked to where I had planted the 4 odd ones and 2 were still alive and also flowering – at 4m and with piddly little white flowers like a poor imitation of a *Grevillea banksii* white-flowering tree form. White. I’ve still got those too. So you sleuths... what IS going on????? Just as a matter of interest... There never was or has been or is a RED ‘Candelabra’. It is PINK. You men need to ask the Ladies all about COLOUR. When/if you cut yourself the fluid that comes out is far more RED than the ‘Candelabra’ flowers. Nice tree though and it is really suited to “hedging” and even as a street tree that won’t need the council to cut it back every year at ratepayers expense.

That’s about it for now but if anyone would like photos of these or the new ones, send me an email address and I’ll send some to you. Probably slowly as we only have “Rubber Band” up here not “Broadband” (Even that is slow by my European friends standards-come ON Aussie!)

Merv Hodge

### Around the nurseries – 29th April, 2004

Grevilleas that have been introduced in recent years and have proved to be popular with the public include *Grevillea ‘Golden Lyre’*, *Grevillea ‘Cooroora Cascade’*, *Grevillea ‘Pink Midget’* (PBR), and *Grevillea ‘Peaches and Cream’* (PBR). In my opinion all are worth a place in gardens and are popular with customers.

‘PBR’ indicates ‘Plant Breeders Rights’ which is a patent on the plant. It is illegal to sell these plants without the owner’s permission and a label supplied by the owner otherwise there is a risk of prosecution.

*G. ‘Golden Lyre’* is a hybrid between *Grevillea formosa* (Mt. Brockman) and *Grevillea ‘Honey Gem’*. It grows to about 2m high by 5m wide if left unpruned. The flower spikes are large and yellow, very similar to *G. formosa*. This plant can

be trimmed and made very attractive. I recently observed plants growing near Camden, south of Sydney so its climatic tolerance is very good. The flowering period extends from January to early May and it attracts birds. Fairhill Nursery at Yandina is the originator of this plant.

*G. ‘Cooroora Cascade’* is another very good grevillea from Fairhill Nursery. It is a seedling of *G. ‘Golden Lyre’* and also carries the large yellow flowers similar to its grandparent *G. formosa*. It grows to less than ½ m high and up to 3m wide. Whilst it is similar to *G. formosa*, its green foliage is generally free of the fungal problems that affect the grey foliage of *G. formosa*. *G. ‘Cooroora Cascade’* does not require grafting which is normally required of *G. formosa*. The flowering period is about January to May.

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G. 'Pink Midget' is a hybrid between *Grevillea leiophylla* and *Grevillea humilis* ssp. *maritima*. It is a spontaneous seedling that occurred in my garden near the parents, which were only a couple of metres apart. It grows to 30cm high by 1m wide and it carries small pink flowers throughout the year. It is one grevillea that benefits from watering once per week in sandy soils and dry conditions. Pruning can improve the plant if grown in dry conditions. It is suitable for containers, including hanging baskets. The flowers are too small to attract birds. It is suitable for even the smallest garden.

*Grevillea* 'Peaches and Cream' is a new outstanding release. It arose in the garden of SGAP members, Jan & Denis Cox. The flowers are creamy white, changing to pink with age (hence the name). It is a vigorous plant with the same parents as *Grevillea* 'Superb' and *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon'. It grows to 1.5m high by 2m wide. The plant benefits from pruning. It flowers throughout the year and attracts birds.

All of the above plants are normally reliable provided that they are planted in full sun for most of the day and have good drainage. They should be available in nurseries and garden centres stocking native plants.

Owen Brown, Caloundra QLD

### Further news on Grevillea hybrids

I just wanted to update the record of my grevillea hybrids and let you know that the plant I was calling 'Impressive' was released on to the market by Birkdale Nursery in 2005 as *Grevillea* 'Coastal Impressive'. Sadly, in 2006 the proprietors of Birkdale nursery decided to close the nursery and sell the land for re-development. All of the grevilleas in the Coastal range that I developed were assigned to Gardener's Best. This is an Australia-wide retail brand name of WON, Wholesale Ornamental Nurserymen Pty Limited. The brand name was established in 1996 but the WON group have officially been registered since 1972. This is an established group of nurserymen interested in promoting and maintaining the best Australian native and ornamental plants. They have a website too. [www.gardenersbest.com.au](http://www.gardenersbest.com.au). The manager I was dealing with at Birkdale, Peter Lewis, may also take up some of my hybrids at a later date. He is working elsewhere in the industry at the moment.

Soon after my last article, the rights to another grevillea that I had developed were taken up by Greg O'Sullivan, of Australis Plants. This plant is called *Grevillea* 'Gypsy Moon' and resulted from a *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon' seed that I germinated. I actually developed this in 1986 and planted it in the Pelican Waters Estate, which is where Greg O'Sullivan saw it growing. When

he saw it he asked me if it had been licenced to any one else. My reply in the negative enabled us to reach an agreement. This cultivar was originally named *Grevillea* 'Burnt Gold' by me after the red style-ends but was renamed, produced and released by Australis Plants, Highfields, Queensland. The first plants were released in 2005 and sold as tubes to wholesale growers throughout Queensland and northern New South Wales. A label was produced by Norwood. *Grevillea* 'Gypsy Moon' is a unique plant because the style-ends change from yellow through orange to bright red as they age. The flowers otherwise have a butterscotch colour.

This cultivar or many similar ones have arisen a number of times. There is a similar one in the garden at Fairhill Nursery, which they have called *Grevillea* 'Tutti Frutti'. They did not release it. I am also told that another similar one arose in the garden of Phillip Vaughan near Geelong, Victoria.

Before they closed down, Birkdale were going to release a plant I called Lemon Glimpse, a Golden Yul-lo seedling with lemon flowers. They may have released it as *Grevillea* 'Coastal Glimpse'. A further release of this one is due in October this year.

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Another of my plants is proving to be an excellent parent and has produced some interesting hybrids. It is *Grevillea* 'Coastal Sunset'. One of its seedlings is a plant I have dubbed 'Coastal Suntan' because it was identical in colour with 'rattan' from a paint chart colour that I had lying around.

Another new one which I have called 'Coastal Highlight' has inflorescences with an extremely unusual shape. Neither of these last two have been released commercially by any one as yet, although they are under consideration by at least one party.

Breeding hybrid grevilleas continues to exercise my mind and time. I recently purchased a fantastic hybrid called *Grevillea* 'Wattlebird Yellow'. I am very impressed by its size, its long flowering and flower colour which closely resembles *Grevillea* 'Golden-Yul-lo', except that it is low-growing.

Recently two other plants were taken from me for trial by Greg O'Sullivan. He is growth and bloom-testing each of them at the moment. They have tentative names at present, 'Pink Delight' and 'Red Delight'. They have high hopes for 'Pink Delight' especially.

I have quite a few seedlings coming along at present, some from 'Coastal Sunset', but I am waiting to see how these will turn out. Peter Lewis has told me that Cedar Glen Nursery will be marketing all of the 'Coastal' series in the future.

Neil Marriott

### VIC Chapter Working Bee

We had a successful Working Bee at Panrock Ridge, but only Craig Dodgson with his chainsaw, and Regina and Max McDowall attended. We cleared all the dead trunks and branches in the Eucalypt-Acacia arboretum along the drive approaching the house, and the *Grevillea* plantation area down from the front of the house, then worked on eliminating some dead and moribund *Acacia implexa* trees and suckers from the upper *Grevillea* garden. In between we had lots of *Grevillea* talk and socialising and examination of the wonderful recovery of many of the grevilleas, particularly those from Western Australia. We found several grevilleas re-shooting as well as a small number of new seedlings. It was very interesting to see the brilliant growth on plants of *Grevillea hookeriana* – yellow flowered form and *Grevillea asparagoides*, both re-suckering from burnt off rootstocks. Several hours were spent pruning the plants of *G. magnifica* and removing some dead grevilleas, dryandra sand banksias below the nursery. A number of the *Grevillea* seedlings that we dug up last year have defied our attempts to identify them. They may be hybrids between *Grevillea pectinata* and *Grevillea pilosa* but we are not sure!!

Members have actively supported the previous working bees, before and after the fire, so I suppose they preferred to do something else this time. Wendy and I are most grateful for the help from Craig, Max and Regina and are now working on restoring the *Grevillea* collection after good autumn-early winter rains.

Unfortunately, and despite extensive effort on behalf of Max McDowall to get members along to Vic Chapter excursions, there has been a very disappointing response. As a result Max has decided to resign from this role and we have decided to put the Vic chapter into recess until further notice. We will still be involved in organising the *Grevillea* Crawl every second year – we are planning a trip for next year into NE Vic with assistance from Martin Rigg to inspect some of the new *Grevillea* species separated recently from *Grevillea victoriae*.

## Sunday April the 27th 2008 was a great day!

It was so lovely to share the garden with so many. If we are to achieve anything for native plants we must work together. It was a wonderful day for native plants and the stall holders were really pleased. Such a collection of natives and not enough money to buy up all we'd like! The Grevillea Study Group took the opportunity to have one of their outings at our Open Garden at Helidon Spa near Toowoomba in south east Queensland.

In my garden there are many rare plants and in hindsight it would have been more beneficial to have had a day just for Grevillea Study Group members. I felt a lot was lost in the crowd. So heart warming to see the interest in the plants. Maybe at the end of the year when the garden has grown even more I could have a special day for our Grevillea Study Group.

Most of the Grevilleas in my garden are grafted. This is a great way of propagating, you can choose whatever height you'd like and you can admire them so much more when displayed at their best. One of the treasures I have is *Grevillea rubicunda* – introduced to cultivation from a collecting trip organized through the NSW herbarium to obtain material for DNA testing. Plants are now in cultivation, available early summer in small quantities. Thanks to Peter Olde for giving me the chance to graft this one – just great to be honored with challenges like this.

I made a point of not showing off *Grevillea* 'Wendy Sunshine' (basically because I did not have permission at the time). I have since spoken to Neil Marriott – who owns the plant, and he is getting a label done. I was amazed at the interest by those that have seen it. It was such a good thing to have a plant list that people could take home. This gave people the chance to phone with questions and have a ready reference for when there was a plant of special note like this one. So many people said they had ticked their favorites.

When I see a plant like *Grevillea* 'Wendy Sunshine' which flowers "forever" I have just got to do something to get other gardeners excited too! This plant will be available in small numbers later in the year.

### Unusual plants on my list include:

***Grevillea* 'Classic Claire'** – a new hybrid from Bryson Easton. It is definitely classic! Soft orange



flowers in abundance. Great elegant foliage complements the attractive flowers. A wonderful plant. To be released this year also.

***Grevillea* 'Eukey Carpet'** – an interesting plant to those who like plants with good foliage. This is one of John Hancock's hybrids. It has a great shape and the pink new growth is heavenly. Flowers are lovely mauve toothbrushes and as a 1.2m standard it displays its form with grace.

***Grevillea agrifolia*** – created a lot of interest and what a treat to the eyes this plant is. The new growth is divine, almost gold against the grey-green adult foliage. The flowers are insignificant but beautiful to me nonetheless! This plant has great potential as a hedge or a feature tree.

***Grevillea maccutcheonii*** – is a delightful plant, now available on the market, cutting grown, or grafted. The flowers are so spidery you fear for your life! A beautiful mix of green, red and yellow – just gorgeous!

***Grevillea decora*** – has been the most sought-after plant since our open garden. Beautiful foliage, new growth again rusty brown, almost gold. The flowers seem to last for ages and the birds have managed to breakfast in style for quite a few weeks and still lots of unopened buds.

With grevilleas in the garden we have been able to attract so many more birds. We all need to be aware of what grows best and which plants attract certain birds and or beneficial insects etc. I notice that I have the pest called the tube caterpillar and this can totally wipe out your Grevillea plant. It will ring-bark a branch and suddenly you have lost a limb – or the plant has and you feel it! Plants most prone to attack are those with crowded stems bearing nodes close together. *Grevillea leptobotrys* is a classic example, as is *Grevillea*

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*repens* and *Grevillea laurifolia*. If you have these plants, be more vigilant. The sawdust-like effect is very obvious and can be seen sometimes between leaves, usually in the crown of the plant, and in hidden spots. It is easily removed by hand or an old toothbrush if you don't like to feel the grub underneath the sawdust where it escapes notice.

It was also a delight to have the bird-wing butterfly-man present at our open garden as most of us don't know much about the insects or animals that are becoming endangered.

Another day is planned for September 20th –Carnival of Flowers parade day.

Thank you so much for your support. It was so lovely to make new friends and how great it is that we are all on the same wave-length!



*Grevillea decora*

Noreen Baxter

## Growing plants in pots

The topic for discussion at the Grevillea Study Group meeting in SE Queensland on 26 August 2007 was growing plants in pots. Peter Olde chaired the meeting and led the discussion that initially focussed on Grevilleas but raised issues that were relevant to all plants. Some of points raised were:

### Size of pot

Some variation was considered depending on whether the pot was for a cutting or a seedling. This was based on the understanding that seedlings tend to grow faster and develop a long taproot quickly.

If the plant is to be retained in a pot for its entire life it does not matter if the roots curl around in circles. If a plant with curled roots is to be planted in the ground the curls should be cut off and side cuts made into the root ball.

For permanently pot-grown plants it is important to stage the pot size to the plant size: starting with a 2" pot, next 6" pot, then to the maximum of a 10", 12" or 14" for maintaining the plant.

Some people had achieved success in transplanting difficult to transplant plants by leaving the plant in its pot, cutting the bottom out of the pot and

planting it, pot and plant directly into the soil. The pot should be planted at a depth so that the soil levels inside and outside the pot are the same, and then mulch used to hide the pot rim.

### Self watering pots or saucers under pots

Suitable sized saucers can be useful – provided the water is used up in a reasonable period and the plant roots are not kept in water.

Self watering pots can be a haven for mosquitos – unless the opening is blocked.

### Type of pot

The temperature in black plastic pots can reach extremely high levels that can kill some plants. Some studies on the temperatures reached in black plastic pots some years ago substantiated concern about the heat levels, particularly in hotter climates. This can be overcome if the plastic pots are placed inside a terracotta pot and the gap between the two packed with mulch to hide pot rim.

Moisture loss from terracotta pots can be detrimental. This can be overcome by painting the inside of the pot with a sealant.

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### Methods used to retain moisture in pot plants for longer periods

Dig a trench, place pots in the trench, water, mulch gap between pots and pot surface, water again.

Make a brick box, line with weed mat then plastic then weed mat, put in water then pots. Box must be level and pot base just in water.

Some members had found that placing pots in any box or tray lined with heavy duty plastic then watering until water trickles through the pot onto the plastic, will reduce the frequency of watering needed.

### Preferred potting mix

It seemed that nearly everyone had a "preferred potting mix! If using commercial mix get the top quality. Some mixes are too light and the pot not stable. If much soil is used the pot can be far too heavy for convenience.

Suggestions were:

1. Topsoil, mulch and fertiliser.
2. Equal parts sand, soil, and peat.
3. Mount Annan use coarse sand, peat and plant food for their grevillea collection in pots.
4. Flannel flowers – potting mix and some soil from near where flannel flowers grow naturally, as they may need mycorrhizas in soil for successful growth.
5. Mix PowerBlend supplied by Growing Media Queensland, with Osmoform top dress 4/6 monthly spread on top of pots
6. Apex from Primac general purpose for natives, gypsum and slow release nitrogen fertiliser. (Apex is a slow release fertilizer product, released by water. This can be important, as the usual slow release fertilisers respond to heat, and releases very quickly in very hot weather.)
7. 2 parts Apex, 1 part gypsum, and 1 part nitrogen mix halves the need for fertiliser. Also zeolite with the potting mix.
8. Nurseries grow plants in sterile mix so when planting these need a natural fertiliser.

### To grow plants permanently in pots

For best results tip prune and re-pot annually, if possible.

### Rootstocks for standards

*Grevillea robusta* is generally pot grown for grafting with other *Grevillea* species. There was discussion on the difficulties of growing *G. robusta* in pots to a height for grafting ground covers to give a standard with weeping form. One option used was to plant the *G. robusta* in the garden, when the desired height is reached then do the graft. Once the tip is removed from *G. robusta* it stops growing. One member grafts from September to November in the SE Qld climate.

### Moisture repellent potting mix and soil

Pine bark potting mix repels moisture, as does pine bark mulch. This can be overcome by the application of a surfactant such as Prima that was thought to be available through Globe Australia.

### Naming and marketing hybrids

A new grevillea hybrid, grown by one member from a seed produced in another member's garden, was brought along to the meeting. A list of possible names was supplied and members voted on what to name the hybrid. "Midas Touch" was the name selected, after one of the grower's golden cocker spaniels.

Peter Olde explained the system usually followed to put hybrids into the marketplace. This was to register the name, contact a propagator to get commercial quantities grown, and then get the retailers to market the plant. Prior to reaching that point it is advisable to test grow cuttings to see how readily they propagate and to identify the hybrid's growth and flowering pattern.

The hybrid "Midas Touch" is an attractive seedling from a grafted *Grevillea juncifolia* - other parent unknown. Some emphasized that propagation nurseries would not be interested in the hybrid unless it can be grown easily from cuttings. Some very attractive hybrids have so far failed this criterion.

## Autumn Plant Sale 2008

The Autumn Plant Sale for 2008 was a great week-end for ducks. Continuing wet weather over both days stopped many people from attending. Actually, make that too many people! People may not be aware that the Study Group has successfully been a major entrepreneur at the sale over the years, necessitating investments for the purchase of plants exceeding \$20,000. This year most of our purchases went unsold. All our potential profits are still sitting on the ground and we are about \$7000 out of pocket, with the proviso that plants still remain to be sold. We are currently examining ways in which this can be done. We hope to have a better report by the time this newsletter appears.

The event was once again supported by Don Burke and Angus Stewart, both giving freely of their presence as media magnets and speakers. Publicity, so important to the success of an event, was surveyed by volunteers and it was surprising how many were influenced by the free advertising, both magazine and radio, that these two friends provided. A couple of our interstate visitors were given a private tour of his magnificent native garden on the following day. One of the special aims of the event is to introduce new gardeners to the joys of native plants. I believe we have been successful in this.

How good it was to see Laylee Purchase and her husband, Jan and Dennis Cox, who made the trip for the first time from Queensland as well as David Shiells from Shepparton. So many supporters it is not practical to mention them all by name. Not only did they spend time helping to set up the sale but also they bought plenty of plants too.

One of the special benefits for organisers and participants is the coming together of people with like interests. It was good to see Merv Hodge so much improved from six months earlier. Initial diagnoses of dementia have been confounded by an almost full recovery of his memory and it seems likely that epileptic fitting may have caused temporary loss only. Nonetheless, the Hodges have decided to retire to a less active life and may close their nursery and sell the property. This will be a shame but brings to mind the warning that private gardens have a limited shelf life and we should not consider plants in

cultivation as safe, only relatively safe. Public institutions are equally unreliable. Changes in commitment, management, philosophy, and financial support have seen a big decline in the numbers of *Grevillea* species held in cultivation at Mount Annan. Losses include the Richmond form of *Grevillea aquifolium* and *Grevillea pythara*, to mention just two rare plants.

On May 2 the *Grevillea* Study Group was acknowledged publicly at the opening of the new *Grevillea* Garden at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. The garden was opened by Angus Stewart and was followed by a light lunch. Ray Brown and I were invited and thanked officially by the organisers. The Study Group supported the garden with a \$2000 donation from funds raised by the Autumn Plant Sale. Other people seen at the opening were Bob Makinson, Peter Cuneo and staff of the Gardens.

At the meeting held at Gordon Meiklejohn's to discuss the future of the plant sale, attended by a large contingent of people involved to date, it was decided that we should hold another next year but that the event should be expanded into more of a festival. To this end, I got myself elected as the Exhibitions Manager at the AGM of the Australian Plant Society, NSW. Hopefully we can make a difference to the perception of Australian plants.

### Shortage of *Grevillea robusta* seed

Did you know that there is a shortage of *G. robusta* seed within Australia. I was surprised to learn recently that a large wholesale grower sources seed from India. That is right. They actually have to import Australian seed to Australia. To overcome this shortage, a wise suggestion for grafters was given to me recently by Ray Brown. You will be aware that when you graft using *G. robusta* as rootstock, the first thing to do is remove the top. Instead of throwing it out, use it as a cutting, thus replenishing the supply of *G. robusta* without having to purchase fresh seed. How good is that?

I was particularly interested in the article on the pronunciation of plant scientific names. About a year ago, I wrote an article on the topic for the Native Grass Resources Group's Journal. As a result, I was familiar with some of the books, particularly by the authors Lumley and Spencer, William Stearn, and Baines, that Max McDowall cited.

Therefore I was surprised at some of his suggestions, which were an absolute contradiction of the advice that was given in those books. Some suggestions that really surprised me were:

1. That the diphthong 'ae' should be pronounced 'eye' rather than 'ee' (found in *Haemodorum*, encyclopaedia, etc) - (in Baines and other publications)
2. That the diphthong 'oe' should be 'oi' rather than 'ee' as in *oesophagus* (in Lumley and Spencer).
3. That 'c' should always be 'hard', as in cat. it is before the vowels 'a', 'o', and 'u', but in front of 'e', 'i' and 'y' and the 'ee' and 'eye' sounds, the 'c' is soft, as in city centre.
4. That the first consonant in unpronounceable consonant combinations such as 'cn', 'ct', 'pt' and 'ps' should be sounded. The 'silent initial consonant' is supported in Baines' *Australian Plant Genera*, A.T.

Eleanor Handreck

Johnson & H.A. Smith's *Plant Names Simplified and Dictionary of Plant Names* by Allen J. Coombes. (Max did not cite the latter two publications). 'Ptolemy' always has a silent initial 'p'.

5. That pronunciations of 'j' and 'w' should be anything other than the pronunciation that is commonly used in English. William T. Stearn, in *Botanical Latin*, states that those letters weren't part of the Latin alphabet.

Max seems to totally ignore the 'summing-up' advice that is given by William Stearn. He reminds us that Botanical Latin is essentially a written language. How scientific names are pronounced really matters little provided they sound pleasant and are understood by all concerned. While this is most likely to be attained by pronouncing them in accordance with the rules of classical Latin, most people tend to pronounce Latin names by analogy with words of their own language. Even in the Roman Empire, when Latin displaced native languages having different speech rhythms, there must have been great regional diversities in pronunciation.

Lumley and Spencer, in *Plant Names: A Guide to Botanical Nomenclature*, have another bit of good advice: when in doubt, use the commonly-accepted pronunciation or one that is the most pleasing to the ear.

## Seed Bank

**Matt Hurst**

13 Urana Street, Wagga Wagga 2650 NSW  
Phone (02) 6925 1273

**\$1.50 + s.a.e.**

<i>Grevillea armigera</i>	<i>Grevillea monticola</i>
<i>Grevillea aurea</i>	<i>Grevillea nudiflora</i>
<i>Grevillea baileyana</i>	<i>Grevillea paniculata</i>
<i>Grevillea bipinnatifida</i>	<i>Grevillea petrophiloides</i>
<i>Grevillea candelabroides</i>	<i>Grevillea polybotrya</i>
<i>Grevillea drummondii</i>	<i>Grevillea pteridifolia</i>
<i>Grevillea excelsior</i>	<i>Grevillea pulchella</i>
<i>Grevillea decora</i>	<i>Grevillea refracta</i>
<i>Grevillea floribunda</i>	<i>Grevillea superba</i>
<i>Grevillea glauca</i>	<i>Grevillea teretifolia</i>
<i>Grevillea goodii</i>	<i>Grevillea tetragonoloba</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i>	<i>Grevillea triloba</i>
<i>Grevillea juncifolia</i>	<i>Grevillea wickamii</i> ssp
<i>Grevillea leucopteris</i>	<i>aprica</i>
<i>Grevillea longistyla</i>	<i>Grevillea wilsonii</i>
<i>Grevillea magnifica</i> ssp	
<i>magnifica</i>	

**Please include a stamped self addressed envelope.**

**Free + s.a.e.**

<i>Grevillea banksii</i>	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Moonlight'
- red tree form	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Moonlight x
<i>Grevillea banksii</i>	Ivanhoe'?
- red prostrate	<i>Grevillea paniculata</i>
<i>Grevillea Bon Accord</i>	<i>Grevillea petrophiloides</i>
<i>Grevillea bipinnatifida</i>	<i>Grevillea plurijuga</i>
<i>Grevillea caleyi</i>	<i>Grevillea pterosperma</i> SA
<i>Grevillea dryandri</i>	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>
<i>Grevillea endlicheriana</i>	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Sandra Gordon'
<i>Grevillea hodgei</i>	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Sid Reynolds'
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i>	<i>Grevillea superba</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i> 'Orange'	<i>Grevillea stenobotrya</i>
<i>Grevillea leucopteris</i>	<i>Grevillea treueriana</i>
<i>Grevillea longistyla</i>	<i>Grevillea wilkinsonii</i>

Please note: seed from hybrid -substitute -cultivated plants does not necessarily come true to type.

**Financial Report – June 2008****Income**

Subscriptions	\$530.00
Plant sales	651.00
Donations	20.00
Interest	49.30
Seeds	36.50

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\$1,246.80

**Expenditure**

Newsletter publishing	\$270.00
Stationery	20.00
Postage	252.15
PO Box	70.00
Bank fees	3.50

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\$615.65

Amount in Interest Bearing Deposit till 07/12/08  
**\$22,779.13**

Balance in Current Account 31/05/08  
**\$4,405.11**

Balance in Business Cheque Account 26/05/08  
**\$12,519.24**

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 PO Box 107, Stawell Vic 3380

**Curator of Grevillea Park Bulli**

Ray Brown  
 29 Gwythir Avenue, Bulli NSW 2516  
 Phone (02) 4284 9216

**Curator of Seed Bank**

Matt Hurst  
 13 Urana Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
 Phone (02) 6925 1273

**Email Group**

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

To subscribe, go to groups.yahoo.com and register, using the cyber-form provided. You must provide a user name and password as well as your email address to enable continuing access to the site which houses all emails and discussions to date.

You will receive a confirming email back and then you are able to access the site wherein you can select the groups to which you would like to subscribe. In this case search for 'grevilleas' and then subscribe.

Following this you will receive the latest emails regularly in your email to which you can respond. This is a good way to encourage new growers and those interested in the genus.

Postmessage: grevilleas@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe: grevilleas-subscribe@yahoo.com

Unsubscribe: grevilleas-unsubscribe@yahoo.com

List owner: grevilleas-owner@yahoo.com

URL to this page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/grevilleas>

**Online Contact**

1. President's email address  
[peter.olde@exemail.com.au](mailto:peter.olde@exemail.com.au)
2. The email group  
[grevilleas@yahoogroups.com](mailto:grevilleas@yahoogroups.com)
3. URL for Grevillea Study Group website  
<http://users.bigpond.net.au/macarthuraps/grevillea%20study%20group.html>

**Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 30 September 2008, please send your articles to peter.olde@exemail.com.au before this date.**

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.

2007

2008

If a cross appears in both boxes this will be your last newsletter.