

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

## VERTICORDIA STUDY GROUP

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### IN MEMORY OF NORM MOYLE

It is my sad task to report the passing of one of the stalwarts of our Study Group. Norm Moyle passed away at his home at Mandurah during the recent Christmas period.

For many of our Study Group and particularly for the wildflower loving fraternity of Western Australia generally, the name **Moyle** has become synonymous with Verticordia.

**Norm** and **Pat Moyle** set out many years ago to disprove the popular myth that, except for a very few species, Verticordias were in the too hard basket and could not be satisfactorily established in garden situations.

When I ventured to Western Australia years back I acted upon the advice of a Sydney friend and made it my business to include a visit to Norm and Pat at their Floreat Park home near Perth. My first impression was of being greeted with the sight of a specimen of Verticordia Grandis in flower on the verge in front of the home. I knew I had come to the correct address.

The number of species they were growing; many of which I had never before seen, was impressive. As they were contemplating a locational move, their Verticordias were, in the main, being maintained in large containers and I found their method of watering of particular interest. With many approaching flowering and conditions at the time rather dry, splash watering from the concrete base slab was adopted.

At this time also some specimens had been loaned to Kings Park for display and complimentary comments had come back from that source about their prowess with the genera.

A little later Norm and Pat moved to their current address at Mandurah, where the extra space of a 2 Ha. property permitted them to set about indulging their love of Verticordias to the full, this time establishing them in situ. They have been so successful that, at one stage they reported the successful establishment of more than 120 of the 143 named species. Many have seeded themselves in and a number of hybrids have also shown up, a few specials of which have been registered under cultivar names.

As enthusiastic members of our Verticordia Study Group they have been of inestimable assistance in provision of propagating material, enabling us to research the horticultural requirements of the various species under the diametrically opposed climatic conditions of Eastern Australia. Without this help it is fair to say that, at the very least, our Study Group efforts would have been severely restricted.

For the last year or so however Norm's health had been deteriorating, the extra burden for Pat in maintaining their Verticordias becoming an increasing problem. All in our Study Group will be saddened by the breaking of this very successful team and we extend to Pat and her family at this time, our very sincere sympathy.

The names **Norm** and **Pat Moyle** however have been stamped indelibly on and will always be associated with, that of their favourite West Australian wildflower:-Verticordia.

larger. The *V. cooloomia* seems to drop flowers after it is picked. The others are too small or not in good condition."

**Gordon Curtis**, Happy Valley, South Australia, (September/00), says in a brief note:—" Had a very wet spring but so far only a couple of losses

I still have one *V. grandis* struggling on. Later I will try your method of striking. I tried aerial rooting and grafting to Geraldton Wax but no luck

I should have a good show of *V. plumosa*, *Calytrix* and grafted *Darwinias* shortly"

#### N/L 34 - ERRATUM

Perhaps this should rather have been headed "**Egg on my face**"

In the last Newsletter, under Cultural Revue, Sydney Area, I referred to a specimen in the garden of Ted Newman and Pat Kenyon which seemed to have done the impossible; grown prostrate from a cutting taken from an erect growing form of *Vert. plumosa* var *plumosa*

Pat was the first to become suspicious when a few buds finally appeared and didn't look quite right. Eventually the buds opened and the truth at last came out. A specimen of *Darwinia homoranthoides* had got itself mixed in with *Verticordias* in the stock of plants awaiting planting. The foliage was certainly a very good imitation of the real thing.

#### DONATIONS

I am very pleased to acknowledge the following donations to our Study Group in addition to the annual subscription :-

Russell Dahms-----	\$4.00
Paul Niehoff-----	2.00
Gordon Curtis-----	2.00
SGAP Victorian Region-----	7.00
SGAP NSW Region-----	27.00

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