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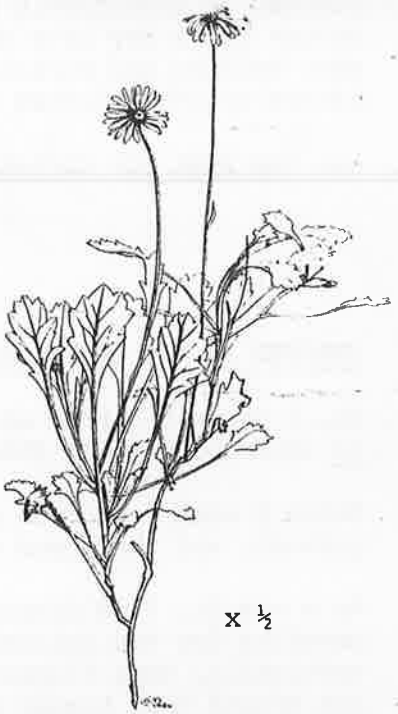
ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO.28

Dear Members,

It is almost three years since I agreed to take over the position of leader. It has been busy and stimulating although at times it seems that daisies are slowly and relentlessly, room by room, taking over the house. In the back garden resistance to daisies is much stiffer. Here, daisies have to compete for space against the needs of plants from three other study groups and about four local conservation projects. All notions of garden design have been abandoned, and when the vista of black pots and white labels irritates me, I let the eye glaze over and bring the focus to the foreground, which is a small garden at the back door.

In reviewing my time as leader, I am very encouraged by the growing reputation of the Group and I was very privileged to take on such a well established group. Recently two research institutions contacted us seeking information on seed and the cultivation of Asteraceae for planned research activities. Two large Melbourne nurseries now offer a large selection of daisies, and a third is to feature many of the colourful daisies in their garden display.



B.angustifolia
var. heterophylla

The strength of a study group is its members (and I mean active members) and this is the very discouraging aspect of my review. There are very few active members. I judge this on reports from members and on use of the Seed Bank. The Seed Bank is infrequently used by members. Apart from the ten Melbourne members who use the Seed Bank regularly and are coerced by the leader to undertake additional seed trials, only eighteen members have used this free service; Victorian country members — ten, South Australian members — three, New South Wales members — two, Queensland members — two and Tasmanian members — one. I am pleased to say that all of these people are very reliable and report their findings. This is invaluable to the Group. But most members have not communicated with us at all and I'm wondering if they are growing any Asteraceae? So what's happening out there? Have you given up after a setback, beaten by snails, slugs, ants or rain? Or are you a procrastinator like me and need a big shove to get you active? All study groups suffer from the "Tyranny of Distance" and you may feel isolated without the stimulus of face to face contact with other growers, but the newsletter is there for you. It is large, eighteen pages three times a year, with space for your comments. So let us hear from you. Your experience is most valuable, especially in a continent as large as ours where growing conditions are so variable.

In the Financial Statement you will notice that income from subscriptions is $240 (compared with the previous year $420). Our membership is seventy-five, comprising individual members and groups. A third of the membership fees are now overdue. Last year twenty-two members had failed to pay their dues when the October newsletter was issued, this year the tally is twenty-eight. Please note that each newsletter states that subscriptions are due by June 30th.. This is the last year we will be generous to late subscribers and to those who fail to let us know their intentions. The newsletter for June 1991 will bear a large RED CROSS to remind you that subscriptions are due; the November newsletter will not be sent if subscriptions have

not been received by the time of mailing. We must then immediately offer your place to the next on the waiting list. Our bank balance is healthy. This is due to donations, but primarily to the fund-raising activities of a few Melbourne members over many years. This money is set aside for the time in the near future when the full cost of the production of the newsletter must be borne.

As stated in the last newsletter a sub-committee has been formed to collate data on brachyscomes. Please check the last two newsletters for information required. Periodically there will be a HELP HELP segment, so all keen members turn to p.46 NOW.

The ADSG is grateful to the organisers of the Melbourne Wildflower Show for inviting the Study Groups to put on a display. Bob Mylius, Study Group Liaison for SGAP Vic., put on a static display covering all study groups, and we were the model for the function and activities pursued by a study group. There is still a tremendous interest in native plants. Judging by seed sales many Victorian gardens will be sprouting daisies, and even some Japanese gardens! (Our Helipterum manglesii caught the eye of a charming Japanese lady.)

No field trip will be organised for this summer vacation. A trip to the Baw Baw plateau is tentatively planned for the last weekend in February 1991. It is close enough for a day trip and shared transport. Some may wish to stay longer, to do easy walking and botanising in the area. Interested members should contact me by letter or phone before February 4th.. My new number is (03) 802 6213.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Esma.

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GRASSES IN THE DAISY GARDEN

by **Bev Courtney**

No, I haven't got my study groups mixed up, this is an article on grasses, and it is intended for the ADSG newsletter.

Being a member of both study groups means I grow a lot of daisies and also a lot of grasses, and they tend to get rather mixed up in the garden.

As a result, I've discovered that growing daisies amongst grasses has several benefits for the daisies. For instance, many daisies have the habit of growing vertically, then flopping over under the weight of stems and flowers. Once they hit the ground they become perfect targets for that army of ground-dwelling chewers to whom daisies are pure caviar.

When growing amongst clumps of grasses, however, the daisies use them for support, climbing through the vertical stems and often providing an attractive contrast of textures. One of my favourites in this respect is a local species for me, Lepto-rhynchos tenuifolius (Wiry Buttons). The thin, wiry stems merge with the grassy tufts, and in flower the effect is of dozens of bright yellow buttons suspended in space.

This year I found I had a gravel-mulched area containing about eight well-established (from last year) grass clumps. The areas between the clumps, 15-20cm (6-8 inches) apart, seemed to be ideal spots for adding a few daisies. It was early July, the ground was quite cold, and the garden was beset by very cold winds. The daisies were put out from 5cm (2 inch) tubes, each plant only a couple of inches high. Their growth rate was amazing. I put it down to the fact that they were well protected from cold winds, while still being able to get any available sun.

In a similar area I sowed seeds between established clumps of grass where they

germinated quickly and grew rapidly.

In my garden many supposedly perennial daisies die down over summer, usually never to return with the autumn rains. (Helipterum anthemoides, wine bud form, and Helichrysum baxteri, to name a couple.) I have a feeling that if grown amongst grasses they will be protected from hot summer sun and drying winds, and will hopefully last through to autumn. This summer will provide answers to that theory.

When you think of it, daisies and grasses are often found growing naturally in close association; in fact this article was prompted by the Wallace's article in the last ADSG newsletter on their trip to Kosciusko. In it they mentioned celmisias and other daisies growing amongst clumps of Snow Grass. I've had no success with celmisias in the garden, but I made a mental note to try once more, now that I have Snow Grass established and self-seeding.

Finally, a note on which grasses to use. I've tried to stick to local species because, while they do self-seed, they haven't (so far) shown any inclination to take over entirely. The species used need to be fairly small-growing and erect in habit. Species making a lot of leaf growth which flops over later in the season may swamp any small, unsuspecting daisies. I've found Wallaby Grasses (Danthonia spp.) ideal, and also some of the smaller, fine-leaved tussock grasses (Poa spp.). There are probably lots of other species which would be equally suitable — it's just a matter of collecting seed, growing some plants, and trying them out.

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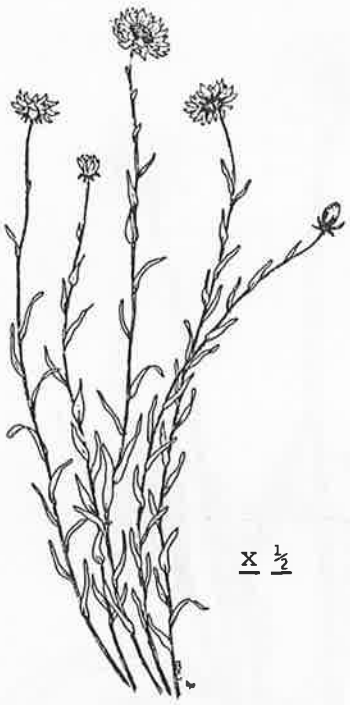

x ½

Helipterum roseum
var. nigropapposum

SPECIES OR FORMS NEW TO THE GROUP

Helipterum roseum var. nigropapposum (WA)

(roseum means rosy, and nigropapposum means covered with fine, black down, referring to the black tufts at the tips of the pappus bristles.)

We have grown this dainty species for two years now. It was collected by Natalie Peate in September '88 in Western Australia, 81Km west of Badgingarra. There is nothing I like more than a bit of mystery seed to try out. It germinated without ado in five days when sown on 7/5/89. In due course the transplanted tubes were lovingly placed in a shallow terracotta bowl of what I call Heavy Mix or HM. I use this for containers or baskets. It consists of:

Propine potting mix BC321 (5 parts)
Perlite (1 part)
Peat moss (½ part)
Cow manure (½ part)
with added Osmocote and IBDU.

These little plants flowered in spring and looked promising without being knockouts. Seed was collected and sown on 7/3/90. Again it proved gratifyingly easy to germinate (in three days this time) and this species was the first everlasting to flower in our cold wet winter.

Nine 5cm tubes fitted comfortably in a shallow plastic pot 30cm across. In late August the growth filled the pot. Plants form small, upright clumps of many slender unbranched, yellow-green stems, 15-25cm long, each tipped with a single, small, white head, 20cm across. The stems were only 7-10cm long the year before and the heads were smaller, so it has improved its performance in cultivation.

The outer bracts are dark greenish-bronze; the next ring of bracts is white, often

tinged pink, so that developing buds sometimes appear pink. The inner bracts radiate and are cupped in shape when fully open. The raised disc centres are yellow with a narrow, dark ring at the base. This is due to a fine, dark brown, horizontal line at the junction of the blade with the relatively broad, green claw.


bract x 3

The leaves are sessile, 10-20mm x 1-2mm, glabrous, blunt-tipped, and with margins slightly turned under. The upper surfaces are pitted.

The achenes are white, silky-hairy, 3mm long and 1mm across. The pappus consists of 10 to 16 white plumose bristles (3mm long) thickened at the base and with a tuft of black hairs at the apex.

Paul Wilson from the Western Australian Herbarium kindly identified this species for us.

This variety does not bear much resemblance to modern H.roseum. It is more like a small version of H.chlorocephalum as I have grown it in the past and, like that species, it may not be attractive when it has been wired or dried for a while. As a cut flower it drooped after four or five days. The thin stems do not look very easy to wire, but may become more sturdy if fertilised at regular intervals. It could be a good subject for winter posies although the white heads are more translucent and less solid-looking than other small everlastings such as Hyalospermum cotula or H.simplex. It earned our sincere appreciation, however, by flowering profusely in time for the Melbourne Wildflower Show. Next year I'll see how it goes in the garden.

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Helichrysum davenportii F.Muell. (WA,SA,NT)

(davenportii, after Sir Samuel Davenport, (1818-1906), South Australian landowner and parliamentarian.)

Synonyms: Helichrysum lawrencella var. davenportii, H.roseum var. davenportii.

Rose-pink Everlasting, Sticky Everlasting

This is a species I have longed to grow for years, but it will never germinate for me. One of John Colwill's slides showed masses of glorious pink as far as the eye could see and it stirred my heart. H.davenportii grows naturally in mulga woodland and mallee shrubland, mostly on sand.

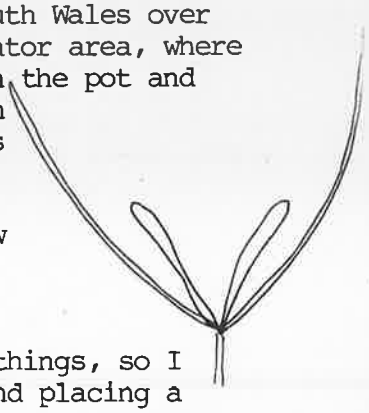
In August last year to my great joy I found it growing in odd spots in the Northern Territory, usually on red sands with cassias and Helipterum stipitatum. (Naturally, I forced my husband to stop at every stand of cassias thereafter.) The first plants I saw were dainty rosettes of leaves with three flowering stems at most. The clump of foliage was 3-5cm x 3-4cm, with relatively large heads, 30-35mm across, on stems 18-23cm long. On the northern slopes of the Liddle Hills


Helichrysum davenportii x ½

(which lie between Lasseter Highway and Wallara Ranch) we came upon a goodly number of plants and they were larger clumps, 12 x 25cm, with about fifty flowering stems each. From a photographer's point of view the only disadvantage was that they were surrounded by unsightly cow pats. It was later that it dawned on me that this fertilizer was probably the reason for the increase in size. I collected green seed in the hope (vain, as it transpired) that it might germinate before the onset of dormancy.

The reason for this effusion is that I have before me one superb plant of H. davenportii in a 17cm terracotta pot and it has been worth all the effort expended in the chase. I took it to the September meeting and elicited an "Oh, isn't it beautiful?" from Maureen. That alone was worth a fortune!

I sowed seed from Western Australia in May '88. The medium was 3 parts perlite to 1 part peat moss, with a thin layer of red sand from western New South Wales over it. Nothing happened (as usual) and it was relegated to the incinerator area, where it was left to its own devices. In April '90 I noticed a seedling in the pot and transplanted it into a tube, thinking it might be H.lindleyi from an adjacent container because both these species have longer cotyledons and seedling leaves than most other annual everlastings.



I began to get excited when my seedling was obviously hairy. It grew as a rosette to about 3cm high and then I potted it, with some trepidation, into a terracotta pot of HM (see p.39).

Hope continued to rise because my seedling was doing all the right things, so I pampered it by covering the surface with small chips of ironstone and placing a Gard-n-Grow over it for the winter. These G-n-G's are clear plastic, sun-resistant cylinders with small windows for air and removable lids which allow the rain to get into the pot, but not to wet the foliage. Why the ironstone? Well, it's the right colour.

The seedling became taller and I worried that it would be top heavy when I finally removed the collar, so I nipped the top growth back once and then again in about three weeks.

A bud developed in late July, so I bent my efforts to getting it to flower for the Melbourne Wildflower Show. What a coup that would be! On mild days the collar was removed and replaced again at night. Three days before the Show some bug chewed through half of the top of the flower stem just before it opened!

Meanwhile I was confused about the identity of the species. It was branching when it should not have been. I am now sure it is H.davenportii and that the early nipping back caused it to branch.

The plant is now (at the end of September) 38cm x 42cm and has thirty-two heads or buds on it, but one stem has already broken away due to windy weather. The habit is open, the foliage is mid-green, the papery heads are 35-42mm across and of a beautiful deep pink shade. The heads are displayed well above the foliage on long stems, 18-21cm long, beset by short hairs which are obvious to the naked eye, especially so with the light behind them. Under x 25 magnification the hairs are seen to be a mixture of smaller glandular hairs and longer, tapering septate hairs. The leaves are sessile, broad lanceolate, 3-11cm x 4-11mm, with an elusive scent of nasturtium about them. Both surfaces feel slightly rough and are covered with the same mixture of hairs.

The buds are also interesting; at first they are shiny and very dark because the outer bracts are green with scarious dark brown apices.

It is a beautiful species. The only disadvantages so far are that the bracts are rather fragile and the colour fades quite quickly. The thick stems have a tendency to break off in bad weather.

It would be terrible to see this plant die without gaining some advantage in ease

of germination so I am busy with a camel-hair brush, trying to cross-pollinate some plants of Helichrysum lindleyi. This would be the nearest relative to H.davenportii, I think. We await with great anticipation a forthcoming article by Paul Wilson on the revision of these species.

The growing of this plant has been the highlight of my career in the Study Group, but you have probably gathered this already.

by **Judy Barker**.

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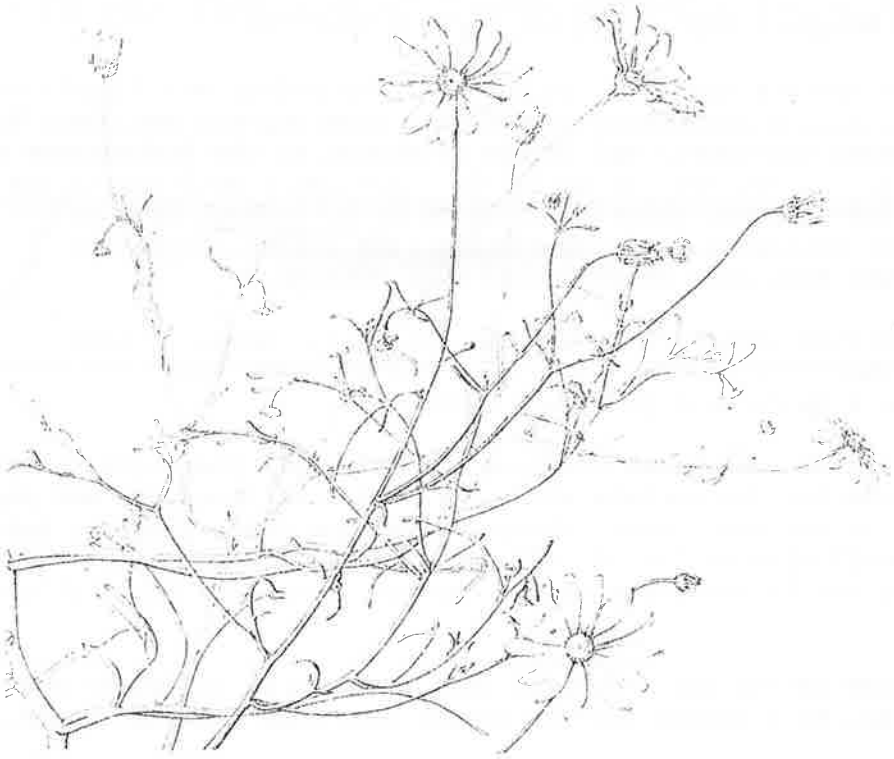


Brachyscome bellidioides x 2/3

Brachyscome bellidioides (WA)

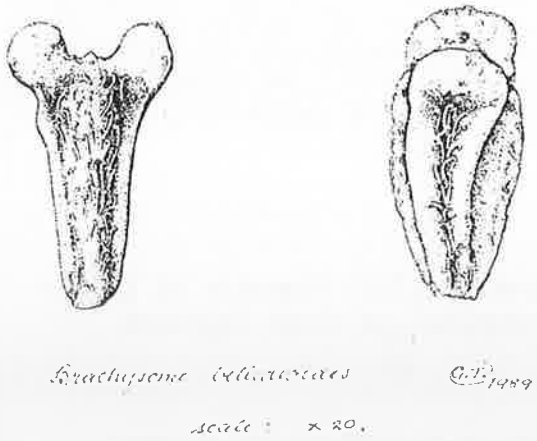
(bellidioides — like Bellis)

Seed of this species was purchased from King's Park and proved to be one of the easiest brachyscomes ever to germinate. After viewing it under the microscope I discovered that not only was it covered in stiff glandular hairs (Davis described the fruits as being glabrous, meaning without hairs), it also came in an assortment of colours — red, black, brown plus a few grey. Believing the black and red to be the most mature, I carefully chose and sowed these first. Then, in a separate pot, I scattered the brown seed and I am very glad I did because these germinated quickly (in six days), whereas the black seeds showed no signs of germination until a month later, after rain. I might add that eventually germination from both pots of seed was excellent.

Having many plants on hand I planted them everywhere. They put on a magnificent show during spring, their snow-white colour standing out amongst all the other coloured annuals and perennials in the garden.

Brachyscome bellidioides is an annual up to 30cm high with shiny, green, succulent leaves and stems. These are much loved by grubs, snails and slugs, so regular spraying with pyrethrum is essential during the growing months. Listed as having radical leaves, forming a basal cluster, I expected it to be similar in appearance to its namesake, Bellis perennis, the English lawn daisy, but none of my plants

showed any resemblance to this species. They did, however, produce several stems from the base, which were mostly branching with a few showing a reddish tinge.



Being a new species for the Group, I like its appearance and ease of germination. From September on an abundance of pure, 'Omo bright', white flowers, 2.5-3cm across, are produced on the tips of the many branchlets and stems. There are about seventeen rays,6-12mm long and 1-5mm broad. Glandular leaves, 11-16cm long and 2mm wide, are entire or with irregular linear teeth up to 1cm long and 1-2mm wide.

Fruits, 1.25-1.75mm long by 1mm broad, with thickened longitudinal ridges, swollen at the top, bear many stiff glandular hairs. Pappus inconspicuous.

With this brachyscome's excellent viability, survival in suburbia is assured.

by **Maureen Schaumann**.

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THE REGISTRATION OF A CULTIVAR

(Pat Shaw has sent us a copy of the application to register a cultivar with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) in Canberra. It is reproduced with her permission.)

Brachycome 'Valencia'

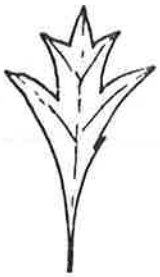
ORIGIN:
Brachycome **'Valencia'** arose as a seedling in the garden of Mrs P Shaw of Macgregor, Queensland, in 1987. The cultivar is said to be a hybrid between **B.angustifolia var. heterophylla** and **B.segmentosa**, as these plants were growing close by. Valencia is Mrs Shaw's middle name.

DESCRIPTION:
Habit: This cultivar is a moderately dense low spreading perennial, 20cm tall by up to 75cm wide.
Leaves: are dark green and deeply divided and lobed, and up to 4cm long by 2cm wide. The lobes have rounded apices.

Flowers: The ray florets are mauve in colour while the disk florets are yellow. The diameter of the involucre (including the ray florets) is ca. 4cm. The flowers are found all year round where tested in Queensland, with flowers during the winter months being larger than during other seasons of the year. Flowering stems are erect and up to 15cm long.

DIAGNOSIS:
Brachycome angustifolia var. heterophylla
Habit: Prostrate to ascending perennial 10-30cm tall, spreading by means of rhizomes.
Leaves: Light green, lobed, 3-5cm long by 2cm wide but variable. Leaves are

clustered at the base of stems decreasing in size higher on the stems. The lobe apices are moderately pointed.



Flowers: Ray florets blue, pink or mauve. Disk florets yellow. Diameter of involucre (including ray florets) 1.5-2cm. Flowers are terminal on short leafless flower scapes.

Brachycome segmentosa
Habit: Robust perennial 30-40cm tall by 30-40cm wide with self-layering habit.
Leaves: Bright green, lobed, 3-7cm long by 1-2cm wide. Lobes deep and subdivided at apex. Leaves form rosettes and are scattered up the stems.

Flowers: Ray florets white, disk florets yellow. Involucre (including ray florets) diameter 2.5-4cm. Flowers found intermittently all year in cultivation. Flowers terminal on scapes 20cm tall.

As can be seen from the sketches the leaves are intermediate between the suspected parent species. Brachycome **'Valencia'** is more robust than either of the parent species. The average size of flowers of Brachycome **'Valencia'** is larger than those of **B.segmentosa**.

CULTIVATION NOTES:
The cultivar requires moist growing conditions for best results. It has a low drought resistance. Frost hardiness has not yet been tested but is likely to be moderate. Sun to semi-shade provides the best conditions. The plants have shown little susceptibility to insect and disease damage during the two years of trialling. The cultivar must be grown by vegetative means to preserve the cultivar form.

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:
S.G.A.P. Daisy Study Group Newsletter June 1990 page 28.

COLOUR CODE: RHS Colour Chart 1966
ray florets: Purple Group 76B
disk florets: Yellow Group 9A

REFERENCE SPECIMEN:
Accession Number 458. Cultivar first received by the Authority in July 1989. Registration applied for by Mrs P Shaw, Macgregor, Queensland.

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MY GARDEN (1/10/90) by **Gloria Thomlinson.**

I have deliberately used white daisies this year. The last three months Helipterum anthemoides (Qld. and wine-budded form) and B.multifida (white) have been the main flowering species in the front garden. Planted to blend with grasses and using the grey clumped foliage of Ammobium alatum as a complementary colour worked. The various greys and greens of the Helichrysum apiculatum and H.semi-papposum forms were also starting to move. Now the yellow flower-heads are

apparent. Along with plants of the grey foliaged form of Hibbertia sericea and Acacia myrtifolia the scene gradually has changed to yellow, white, grey and green. This last week two Indigofera australis and a few pink Helipterum manglesii and H.roseum add a new dimension. I can't wait till all 252 B.iberidifolia are planted and mature!

Cutting flower heads off in the hope of more flowers or leaving them for seed is still a conflict with me. When I'm feeling in a landscaping mood off they come, then later I'm usually sorry. This year the compromise is any 'out the front' are trimmed, 'out the back' are left on.

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HELICHRYSUM DAVENPORTII — Why won't it germinate for me? by Judy Barker.

In February '85 I sowed 50 seeds of H.davenportii labelled A22 from Harper's. The medium was vermiculite:sand, 1:3. One seed only germinated after eleven days, was transplanted into a tube after a month and planted out in June when it had one bud. It flowered on 20th. September — one head, 2.5cm across, on a stem 18cm long. I noted it 'was not growing well'! The fragile bracts were a beautiful pink and I was very enthusiastic, but in my innocence I whinged about the poor germination. I decided to try again. I have tried again and again, with almost no success (see p.41). The nearest I ever got to further germination was with Harper's H.davenportii A23. The germination rate was 46%. Not too bad! As the seedlings grew it became clear that the leaves were not radical, nor were the stems unbranched and hairy. They were Helichrysum lindleyi, pale pink bracts and very pretty, but not H,davenportii.

I have tried the following methods to no avail:- seed upright in the medium with only the pappus waving aloft, seed at an angle of 45° to the medium, seed horizontal, bog method, sprinkler only, rain only, hanging in the toilet cistern for various times (in a bid to wash away inhibitors), seed in a tin under the garage roof for a month in summer (experiencing daily temperature fluctuations), seed in the freezer overnight followed by a day in the sun for various lengths of time.

I have tried sand:vermiculite, 3:1, perlite:peat moss, 3:1, 1 tsp. of dolomite mixed into the medium, 1 tsp. iron sulphate mixed in, 1 tsp. iron chelates mixed in, a dilute solution of iron penlate sprayed on the medium daily, a daily dose of hemicellulose solution.

I have tried seed from different sources, green seed, seed sown at different times.

Imagine my distress when Esma received the King's Park (WA) dossier on seed germination over twenty years. H.davenportii — no problems! I took comfort from Tony Cavanagh who had reported "poor germination" in Australian Plants, Vol.7, p.319, and also from John Colwill who had said it was "difficult to germinate" when he spoke at a Maroondah meeting years ago.

In my John Colwill file of notes on corrections or recommendations for our book I came across a note entitled 'Topping Off'. This means putting an inorganic layer of blue metal granite chips, 5-8mm thick, over the seed. It holds the seed in place while germinating and minimises losses from heavy rain and careless watering. We have always felt that most seed needs light for germination and have not covered it with anything. Perhaps we should do more controlled experiments to test our theories. I notice that Colleen Simpson covers her seed with crushed rock or large particle sand and she has excellent results (see p.46). I have bought a bag of small blue metal chips already in anticipation of my next attempts.

Esma feels that the removal of the pappus may stimulate germination of some of the difficult species. She says that removal of the glume in some arid area grass spp. removes the inhibitor. I have tried this with seed of Othonna gregorii, but the results were inconclusive. I will try again (and again?).

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HELP HELP!!! by **Esma Salkin**

I'm appealing not only to individual members, but also local groups who support us. The Brachyscome Project needs your assistance. We will need you to grow them. We need seed of known provenance and we need accurate information on the distribution and habit of all species. Beginning alphabetically, who is growing Brachyscome aculeata?

Does it retain a basal rosette of leaves?
Does it disappear over winter?
What happens in a) cultivation,
b) in the bush,
c) and in alpine areas?

Is there anyone growing B.basaltica var. basaltica?

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GROWING DAISIES IN ADELAIDE by **Colleen Simpson.**

I do not consider myself an expert on growing daisies, but I have been growing and propagating native plants for many years. I love to see a native garden that incorporates natural drifts of daisies and to this end encourage the growing of daisies in Adelaide.

I like to grow my daisies in larger pots as they are then used for our Spring Show and the Royal. Pot size is 320mm or 12½ inches. In late February to early March pots are filled three-quarters full with my regular potting mix which consists of crushed rock, pulverised bark, bush sand and peat — making a free draining neutral mix. A liberal quantity of blood and bone is added to the mix. On top of this to a depth of 1 inch (2.54cm) is added my propagation mix of 3 parts perlite (large particle) to 1 part of peat. The seed is sown liberally and covered with crushed rock or large particle sand. The pots are placed in a sheltered position in full sun. They are not watered in. Germination will take place after the opening autumn rains. Once germinated they are juggled in and out of a shadehouse so that they are at their peak when required.

The daisies that are the most attractive and popular with the general public in the group plantings in large pots are:-

Helipterum roseum
" " chlorocephalum
Helichrysum subulifolium
" " bracteatum varieties
Schoenia cassiniana
Cephalipterum drummondii

As there are quite a few plants in each pot they soon become spent and set seed. They are then placed in the garden; some seed is collected, with the rest left to disperse into the garden. Once the seed is dispersed some pots are left in full sun and not watered — allowing them to weather. I usually get some self sown in the pots. This is the best way I find for Cephalipterum drummondii which are spectacular this year. The plants are much stronger and the flowers better than last year.

A small pot of Brachyscome iberidifolia is used to spread this beautiful daisy in the garden. I have had this pot in flower for three years now.

Our garden beds are made up of raised beds on a slightly alkaline clay soil. Gypsum was dug in and grey bush sand (acid) was put down to a depth of one foot. Mulching I think is the key to germinating seed freely in the garden. We have chosen to use pine needles quite liberally, then a light covering of coarse white gravel on top.

We are quite happy with the results. The pine needles rot down quickly and keep the sand moist. When seedlings are appearing it is a good idea to have some empty upturned black pots placed around the garden as daytime hiding places for snails. A piece of pipe can do the same thing to trap snails.

Brachyscome parvula does very well here in a large pot. Others that are also flowering and doing well in large pots are B.tadgellii and B.gracilis. Also about to flower is Podolepis jaceoides.

B.ciliocarpa and B.cheilocarpa were grown in pots last year. They were lovely in flower. The pots were put into the garden, but until plants in the garden are flowering I really do not know if any have regenerated. I doubt it though.

I would like to grow more plants in the Asteraceae family, but material is not readily available here. I do love these little plants and hope to learn more about them as time goes by.

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GROWING DAISIES AT THE COAST by **Doris Gunn.**

The following plants are growing within 500 metres of the sea, on sandy soil with some limestone throughout. The first two plants face north in a cultivated bed and the third faces south and has some light shade.

Helichrysum elatum:- Eighteen months from cuttings and three months in the ground. Slight overhead shade from a creeper and sheltered by the house. Blooming very well and looking healthy. One foot (30cm) high.

Brachyscome multifida var. dilatata (white form): Very slow to grow, but spreading rapidly now and looking healthy. Slight yellowing in patches of foliage — due to lime I suppose? Blooming well and very attractive.

Olearia pannosa:- Facing south, some light shade. There are four blooms on one plant and it is looking healthy. Two other plants are also looking healthy, but have not yet flowered. Three years from cuttings and 30cm high.

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COLIN JONES by **Esma Salkin.**

It is with considerable regret that Melbourne members have bade farewell to Colin, who has decided that life in Orange is preferable to life abutting a planned arterial/freeway. Colin has enviable skill with the propagation of seed and with the cultivation of a wide variety of daisies. As well as this nearly 50% of the seed in the Seed Bank has been collected by Colin. This seed is well prepared, accurately labelled, cleaned and fumigated.

Colin was the first of the Group to "crack" the germination of Helipterum polygalifolium. Of course we lesser mortals have to repeat the exercise. At the moment seedlings of this species given to me by Colin are blooming well and the plants are more attractive in cultivation than they are in the wild.

Colin could always find a solution to a technical problem. While the rest of us dithered and discussed he was silent and sketching on a piece of paper — and thus a solution.

Our fondest memory of Barbara will be all those chocolate cakes that kept arriving at the Open Weekend.

Our best wishes go with you both, with all the joys and challenges before you in settling in a new house and garden.

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MELBOURNE WILDFLOWER SHOW - ASSESSMENT by **Esma Salkin.**

August 11th/12th is too early for a display of fresh flowers, but dried flowers and Maureen Schaumann's floral art were more than adequate substitutes. Colour, the dramatic focus and sale of seeds was the key to success. Attempts to illustrate the functions of a study group, e.g. propagation of rare or threatened species, difficult species or species new to horticulture were thwarted by pampered plants remaining resolutely in bud. We were able to display a pot of Pat Shaw's registered cultivar, Brachyscome 'Valencia'. We learnt from the exercise — lush foliage is easily burnt by fertiliser or sprays, and aphid colonies thrive in a warm, humid environment.

Plant sales:- Plants were sold by members on commission to the Show's organisers (SGAP Maroondah). Sixty to seventy species and varieties were offered in 2 inch (5cm) tubes. Sales were excellent, but more space, better organisation of plants and more helpers would have improved presentation and advice given to buyers. Thanks to Alf, Betty, Julie, Bev and Judy, who braved the cold and a milling throng. Thanks too to Judy, Betty, the two Joys, Bev and others who manned the display, to Jenny, Bob, Carol and Colin for help with setting up and dismantling. It was great to see country members Elise. Gloria and Shirley, not forgetting other members busy elsewhere in the Show. Thanks to Val and Beth for donations of plants to help swell our funds.

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The members would also like to thank Esma who worked like a Trojan from Friday to Sunday, and for many weeks before the Show (together with Alf), to make our display so successful.

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DORRIGO DAISY-BUSH

(This information was published in Australian Horticulture, May 1990, p.11. It was written by Warren Sheather, Professional Officer in the Botany Department of the University of New England in Armidale, NSW, and was sent to us by Barbara Buchanan. This is an extract of the article.)

The rare Dorrigo Daisy-bush, Olearia flocktoniae, is probably a short-lived species which needs disturbed sites for its survival in the wild.

Two methods of attack are necessary for its preservation:-

1. Suitable areas should be designated and set aside for the protection and management of this species.

2. It should be brought into cultivation so that it could be reintroduced into certain areas if necessary.

It is easily propagated from cuttings and plants are already growing at Coff's Harbour Botanic Gardens. Until it is more widespread in cultivation and until populations are protected in reserves O.flocktoniae cannot be regarded as safe from extinction.

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GROWING SMALL ANNUALS IN LARGE POTS by **Judy Barker**

When I plant my small annuals from tubes into the garden they generally get lost, overrun or pest-ridden. It is difficult to collect much seed from them. Last year I decided to try planting up some very large, mid-blue plastic pots I had been given. I think they were containers of some kind, cut in half. First I painted them with an exterior plastic paint, then filled them with my Heavy Mix (see p.39).

In one pot I tastefully arranged two precious Helichrysum lindleyi seedlings in the centre and around them I put a zigzag pattern of Helipterum splendidum and H.diffusum. Right around the perimeter went Hyalosperma cotula.

All species grew very well except H.lindleyi. It seemed to get swamped. H.diffusum flowered early and well, allowing seed to be collected from October to December. H.splendidum and H.cotula flowered in October and November and seed was collected through December. The drawbacks were that the plants all leaned over each other towards the warm afternoon sun and were not very tidy because the heights differed so much. In addition , the heads were not as large as I have achieved at other times.

H.cotula (dried) x 2/3

In the second pot Helipterum molle was in the centre, Schoenia cassiniana in a circle around them and Erymophyllum tenellum (formerly Helipterum gracile) on the perimeter. Seed was collected early from the last two, with H.molle flowering and seeding last. In late January H.molle began to flower again. Although it is described as an annual in the literature we think it is a short-lived perennial if given the right conditions. Again the height variation was a disadvantage.

The third pot simply consisted of Brachyscome bellidioides and B.halophila.This was probably the most successful until it came time to collect the seed. Both species produced white flower-heads (and plenty of them) so that the differences in the foliage seemed to become less obvious. The heads of B.halophila were usually larger and on longer stems, but keeping the seed of both species separate still wasn't easy. Plants of B.bellidioides flowered for a second time (unless they had browned off beyond redemption).

The morals to be learned from this exercise were:-

1. Stick to one species per pot for the best results — for uniform height and unmixed seed gathering.
2. If you must plant two species in one pot make sure the foliage is so different that seed collection is free from anxiety.
3. When flowering times are different I think the early flowering species use up more of the nutrient material and there is then less for the species flowering later. Despite the fact that the pots are full of nutrients they probably need weekly applications of a soluble fertiliser.
4. B.bellidioides is an excellent, long-flowering annual species. The profusion of pure white heads would rival any display put on by B.iberidifolia.

This year the three pots contain fresh mix and Helipterum diffusum, H.splendidum and H.tietkensii as single species. I have also invested in two other large pots which now contain Brachyscome tesquorum and Erymophyllum tenellum.

It was disappointing that seed from last year's pots gave variable germination results. B.bellidioides, B.halophila and Schoenia cassiniana germinated well. E.tenellum and H.diffusum yielded moderate and poor results respectively, while H.cotula, H.splendidum and H.molle were poor to non-existent. As Colleen Simpson describes in her article (see p.46) seedlings of H.diffusum appeared in its large pot in autumn and could be transplanted easily. Perhaps there were not enough plants to produce good, viable seed, or perhaps the camel-hair brush needs to be called into active service.

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LETTER TO ALF AND ESMA FOLLOWING THE OPEN WEEKEND FROM BARBARA BUCHANAN

"..... I find that I have left the main purpose of this letter till last, i.e. to thank you both for your hospitality, your generosity with plants and knowledge. I am left way behind in general daisy knowledge, although I am learning all the time. I have to see and, more importantly, grow a plant before it becomes fixed.

And while I am constantly learning, the group and its leading lights are too. The meetings are really important in this respect, whatever our level we come away stimulated by direct contact."

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FINANCIAL REPORT, AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP by Joy Cook.

JULY 1989 - JUNE 1990

Please note an incorrect balance was shown on last year's Report. The balance on term deposit should read $1122.49 not $1112.43 as stated.

CASH RECEIPTS

Cash at bank 1-7-89		Cash at bank 30-6-90	
Term deposit	$1122.49	Term deposit	$1306.99
Short term deposit	500.00	Short term deposit	563.54
Cheque account	639.67	Cheque account	341.30
Subscriptions	240.00	Potting mix	46.50
Seed sales	279.93	Open Weekend	228.30
Sales of pyrethrum, wires and envelopes	13.15	Newsletter	20.00
		Envelopes	28.01
Donations	66.00	Herbarium boxes	19.00
B/sale postage	25.00	Seed	281.30
Interest	263.64	Travel expenses	52.14
		Photocopying	5.00
		Typewriter ribbons	13.55
		Stationery	7.74
		Aust.Flora Foundation	25.00
		Slide duplication	9.35
		Seed envelopes	36.36
		Postage	161.97
		F.I.Duty	3.83
	$3149.88		$3149.88

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Many thanks to Joy Cook who, despite increasing pressure of work, has managed to balance the books again for us. This is an arduous task and we are very grateful.

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MEMBERS' REPORTS

Mary McEvoy (from Murdunna via Sorell, Tasmania, 26/10/89) writes:- "A note for Maureen regarding Brachyscome radicata. It is now believed to be extinct, one sighting only having been seen in the Mount Wellington foothills and Cradle Mountain. It is reported as extinct by Louise Gilfedder in "City Parks and Cemeteries" and I've talked to a long time expert in these areas, Heather Guillane, and she has never seen it."

(Reports from the April '90 Meeting)

Julie Strudwick outlined her uncle's planting method if problems are encountered when the garden soil is very different from the potting mix in which the plant is growing. Simply dig a hole, fill with water, put in the plant, tease out the soil and fill in the hole with original soil.

Bev Courtney overcomes the same problem by planting annuals and perennials from small containers into small holes. She makes a square hole for the long, square tubes and a small round hole for the 5cm round tubes. (See NL25,p.42 and NL27, p.31.)

Jenny Rejske and Joy Greig observed that the only plants left alive in their bog gardens in April '90 are Kunzea muelleri and Podolepis robusta.

Ruth Marriott says that Lagenifera stipitata from Wandiligong Valley is a very good plant. Hers is growing in morning sun. A number of 5cm tubes were available for trialling.

Most members observed that seed collection is better in March/April.In particular, seed of Helipterum anthemoides (unbranched forms) is viable and visible when collected at this time. Is this because there are fewer predators about?

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Barbara Buchanan (from Myrrhee, Victoria, 18/6/90) writes:- "B.multifida var. multifida (pinky-mauve, large-flowered) which I was given last spring had faded after opening, but is opening and staying quite dark now. ... There was quite a lot of damage from rabbits and roos close round the house while we were away. I'd hoped to manage without wire guards on everything — it spoils the look so much."

Leila Huebner (from Nelson, far south-western Victoria, 7/7/90) writes:- "Shane has 22 different forms of Ixodia to date, but some of these no doubt will be discarded if they have problems, e.g. frost tolerance, growth vigour and survival after cutting flowering stems, etc.. The only form he hasn't got is a pure pink form. Sure, we have some with pink-streaked bracts — like a mosaic virus effect — but not a uniform pink such as one commonly encounters with H.diosmifolium. We have three white forms of H.diosmifolium, two are fine-leafed forms. One strikes readily and grows rapidly, the other is slower to strike and grow, but has daintier corymbs. The third is easy to strike, fast growing, with coarser corymbs and probably will end up being discarded in favour of the finer, daintier one with (I think) slightly whiter corymbs. Pink, although attractive and 'different', doesn't really excite the buyers who still prefer white for its dyeing versatility."

Maureen Schaumann (writing fom Alice Springs on her recent trip with Vic, 25/6/90) "B.tesquorum is easily recognised by its corky stem and the red on the tips of leaves and stems. B.blackii grows into a nice rounded bush, but is extremely sticky and has an overpowering smell. I had to wash my hands in the creek at least three times before the stickiness was removed. It also has a corky stem, but is much nicer in habit than B.tesquorum, the latter being rather spindly."

Colin Jones (from Orange, New South Wales, 28/9/90) writes:- " It is just fourteen days since we arrived. We have an average workload of a twelve hour day — unpacking, sorting, putting up light fittings, etc.. If you haven't moved for thirty-seven years you forget all the jobs that have to be done.

However, I have kept up the 'Daisy' flag and started a little garden within four days of arriving. It contains two forms of H.semipapposum, H.anthemoides (Kiandra), L.squamatus (Kiandra), B.multifida (Breakoday form) and H.anthemoides (Qld.)."

Colin and Barbara have invited all the "Daisies" to call in and see them in their new home. Bob Mylius and Carol have already done so.

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Brachyscome aculeata — swift replies to "Help Help" by three model members

Barbara Buchanan (from Myrrhee, Victoria, 31/7/90) writes:-" B.aculeata certainly has basal leaves, new rosettes despite a bit of slug damage, and it is still flowering. It is very open to the North, well E, N and W and the S is only now being covered in by the Linum, so maybe this induces it to stay flatter."

Gloria Thomlinson (from Shepparton, Victoria, 4/8/90) writes:-" Brachyscome aculeata to me has always been as depicted in Australian Daisies. I grew it from 'drawing' cuttings in '86. The resulting plant was dug up and transferred to a pot for our Show display. It survived replanting till '89 when it appeared weakly and

eventually died. I do not recall it ever appearing as a definite rosette."

Colin Jones observed that basal rosettes were present on his plants, but he thought they belonged to newly developing plants rather than to the old plants.

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STUDY GROUP NEWS

Congratulations to one of our members, **Stefanie Rennick**, who has produced an excellent book with Ilma Dunn and Caroline Graley. It is called The Mornington Peninsula — A Field Guide to the Flora, Fauna and Walking Tracks. Caroline has done some excellent pen illustrations, Ilma is responsible for the superb photography and Stefanie and Ilma have done the field study and written the informative script. It is a most valuable addition to our references.

DECEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, 4th. December, at Val McConchie's at 25 Steele Road, Emerald South. Val has a bush garden and is growing many daisies. We would particularly like to see her sand garden which has been mentioned in NL27, p.31. She claims that she does not even water in the plants that are placed in this bed.

This arrangement is tentative in that Esma was away for the October Meeting when Val 'volunteered'. If you intend to come please ring Esma on (03) 802 6213 or Val on (059) 68 3396 to confirm. We will meet at 10.00am and bring our lunch as usual.

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MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

Maureen Schaumann has observed that pots of Spilanthes grandiflora (that she had thought were dead) have begun to shoot in September. Do not discard pots until you are quite sure there is no life left in them.

Esma has noticed that seed of B.rigidula which had been collected in a plastic bag had sweated, but still germinated very well.

Angus Stewart and the **Frew brothers** informed us that viable seed can usually be collected from plants in flower (but not yet in seed) if stems are kept in water after picking and in plenty of light. The water should be changed regularly to keep bacterial activity at a minimum. Success depends on whether the flowers have already been pollinated. This ruse worked in the case of H.baxteri (Cann River) and H.semipapposum (Morwell).

Pat McKeown (who lives near Elise Walker at Metung, Victoria) has a plant of H.cuneifolium, 1m high, out in the open on the river flats of the Tambo River. She says the winds are very strong there, but the plant is sturdy and does not suffer from the browning off that we have observed.

Beth Armstrong (who has Calotis as her special project) says Calotis inermis and C.anthemoides are flowering in her garden for the first time, and C.xanthosoidea will be out soon. C.lappulacea is a nice yellow daisy in a pot and flowers for a long time.

Bev Courtney has plants of Olearia phlogopappa doing wonderfully since she took Jenny Rejske's advice and ignored them. She put on a daisy display at the Frankston Library and O.phlogopappa was the only species to last the week in spite of a faulty air-conditioner. She thinks the local (Mornington Peninsula) form of Brachyscome decipiens is lovely in the ground.

Betty Campbell listened to Jenny too and left her O.phlogopappa in a pot. It has been beautiful this year and is about 1m high. Her Queensland form of H.anthemoides has flowered all year. Bev's H.anthemoides (Liverpool Range) has done the same.

Maureen originally had six seedlings of Helipterum fitzgibbonii, but they are gradually disappearing.

Judy observed that if stems of Helichrysum semipapposum (picked in December) are left standing in a bucket of water, that water becomes very dark in colour within a few hours. This must be associated with Esma's observations about dye production in the summer months (see NL25,p.53).

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NAME CHANGES

The Study Group follows the nomenclature in A Census of the Vascular Plants of Victoria. In the third edition (March 1990) by J.H.Ross the following name changes were noted:-

Brachyscome heterodonta DC. = **Brachyscome dentata**

Brachyscome nivalis var. alpina (Benth.) G.Davis = **Brachyscome tadgellii**

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PLANT INDEX OF 1990 NEWSLETTERS, Nos. 26, 27 and 28

(The NL no. is followed by the page no. Illustrations are in BOLD.)

SEED LIST

ADDITIONS

Brachyscome ciliaris var. brachyglossa, ciliaris var. lanuginosa,
Helichrysum paralium,
Helipterum floribundum, stuartianum,
Leptorhynchos squamatus.

DELETIONS

Brachyscome parvula var. parvula, obovata,
Calocephalus citreus, Craspedia chrysantha,
Helichrysum bracteatum (hybrid peach), papillosum,
Helipterum albicans ssp. albicans var. albicans (all except Dargo).

All correspondence and requests for seed (enclosing a **LARGE**, stamped, self-addressed envelope) should go to Esma Salkin, 38 Pinewood Drive, Mt.Waverley, 3149.

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NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following new members and groups:-

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

1990 subscriptions are now well and truly overdue! A **LARGE RED CROSS** means you are unfinancial and this will be your **LAST NEWSLETTER** unless payment is received. Subscriptions are $5.00 per year or $10.00 for overseas members. Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Daisy Study Group and forwarded to the Leader.

If you intend to resign please let Esma know as soon as possible because there are several names on the waiting list.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the March Newsletter is early February, 1991. My heartfelt gratitude to all my regular (and occasional) correspondents. Your contributions, no matter how small, add to the Group's knowledge and add spice to our newsletter. We are always indebted to our artists, Gloria Thomlinson and Betty Campbell, for their artistic and accurate drawings.
Please send articles to Judy Barker, 9 Widford Street, East Hawthorn, Vic., 3123.

If reproducing any material from this newsletter please include the acknowledgement 'Reproduced from the Australian Daisy Study Group Newsletter No.28'.

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CORRECTIONS:- On p.21, NL27 please put Cassinia aureonitens into a 30cm pot.
and on p.10, NL23 please change B.aculeata to B.dentata (syn. B.heterodonta).

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