

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**ABN 56 654 053 676****THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 64**

Cassinia aculeata x 80%
(illustrated by Betty Campbell)

| | | |
|--|--------------------|----|
| Office Bearers | | 31 |
| Leader's letter and coming events | | 32 |
| Species or forms new to members | | 33 |
| <i>Olearia erubescens</i> | | 33 |
| <i>Olearia myrsinoides</i> | Judy Barker | 33 |
| Growing everlastings in Bundaberg | Margery Stutchbury | 34 |
| Topics discussed at meetings | | |
| <i>Leptorhynchus</i> spp. | Judy Barker | 35 |
| <i>Microseris</i> spp. | Bev Courtney | 36 |
| Hard-headed daisies | Maureen Schaumann | 38 |
| Lesson learnt | Ros Cornish | 39 |
| A paragraph or two for the newsletter | Pat Webb | 41 |
| Possible answer to Judy's <i>Gompholobium/Argentipallium</i> problems | Matt Hurst | 41 |
| Meanderings of an ancient chauffeur | Lee Barker | 42 |
| Snippets | | 43 |
| Members' reports — Matt Hurst, Syd and Syl Oats, Jeanette Closs, Judy Barker, Jeff Irons | | 43 |
| Show and tell (September meeting) | | 45 |
| Suggestions, financial statement | | 46 |
| We were wrong | | 46 |
| Editor's letter, new members, seed donors, seed bank additions/deletions | | 47 |
| Index for 2002 newsletters | | 48 |

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DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER — 1st FEBRUARY 2003

Leader's Letter

It was with considerable regret that owing to health problems I had to cancel the proposed weekend at Mallacoota. I am expecting to put it back on the agenda again for next year. I hope this change has not upset too many plans. It has been a busy year for the group as well as for myself personally, and I guess there is only so much one can manage.

In fact quite a number of our members have been unwell in recent months. I hope that all have made a full recovery and are back out in the garden (as I am).

I must express my thanks to Judy, who (without a second thought) has once again stepped in as Newsletter editor (hopefully in the short term) until I am able to concentrate on the job again. I don't know what the group would do without Judy. To make her task easier, please keep those articles, reports, snippets etc coming. We rely on members for these to keep the newsletter interesting.

We have received considerable praise for 'Everlasting Daisies of Australia' from a number of quarters, and it seems to be selling quite well, which is very pleasing. However, I am not altogether certain that we like the fact that it is listed on the internet among publications on weeds. But I suppose 'any publicity is good publicity'. Of course we also have it mentioned on the Daisy Study Group webpage.

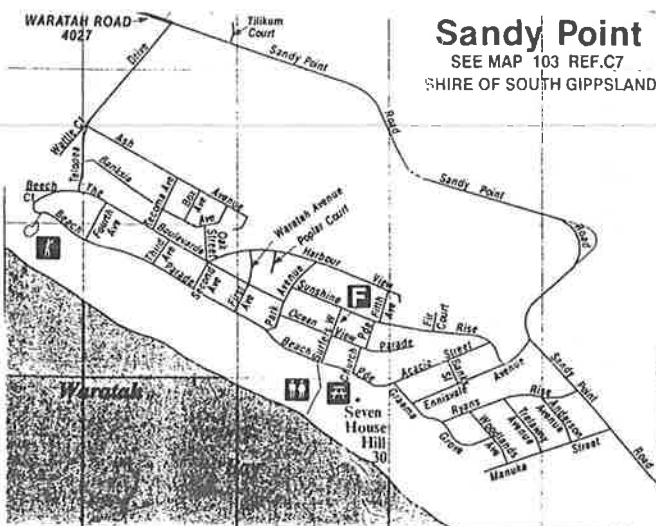
Christmas festivities will soon be upon us once again. I wish everyone the compliments of the season, good health and many germinations in the new year!

Regards,

Joy

COMING EVENTS

| | | |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Tuesday, 19 th November (Christmas Break-up) | 10.30 am | Rob O'Sullivan's Marabungah Nursery 82 Sandy Point Rd, about 800 metres past Telopea Drive. (Tel: 5684 1044)* Melways Touring Section Map 528 B 10 |
| Tuesday, 18 th February | 10.00 am – 3.00 pm | General Meeting at Judy Barker's 9 Widford St, East Hawthorn, 3123. Ph. 9813 2916 Joy will discuss the daisies of Mallacoota. |
| Tuesday, 18 th March | 10.00am – 3.00 pm | General Meeting at John Armstrong's 25 Grove Rd, Vermont, 3133. Ph. 9874 4132 Judy will discuss <i>Leptorhynchos</i> species. |



* At the Christmas Break-up we also hope to visit the garden of Alan Lacey, who lives close to Rob's Nursery at Sandy Point. We have been unable to contact Alan at this time but hope to do so before the 19th. Any members wanting more details should ring Judy on (03) 9813 2916. Sandy Point is quite a long way from Melbourne but the enticement is that Rob has unusual plants.

(Map taken from *Vicroads State Directory*)

SPECIES OR FORMS NEW TO MEMBERS

***Olearia erubescens* (Angahook-Lorne State Park form)** (*erubescens* — reddish, probably referring to the young growth)

MOTH DAISY-BUSH

A shrub, 0.5–1.5 x 0.8–1m. The habit is stiff, open, and rather ungainly for much of the year but transformed when flowering. Stems are robust, pale grey or slightly reddish, and are densely covered with a mat of interlocking hairs. Some stems shoot up at odd angles as the plant develops. The holly-like leaves are stiff, elliptical, 2–5 x 0.5–1.5cm, with short stalks and toothed margins, quite prickly to the touch. Upper surfaces are dull green, glabrous and much-veined; lower surfaces are pale, cream, or grey or occasionally pinkish, soft and sometimes satiny due to a dense cover of hairs similar to those on the stems. A form growing in a cooler, grassland habitat has leaves to 2.5cm wide and the lower surface has a thick, woolly fawn coat of hairs. Usually 2–3 heads on long slender stalks (to 4cm long) appear from the leaf axils of the terminal branchlets. Heads are 1.8–3cm across, each head generally having 5–6 white ray florets. At this stage the shrubs are very obvious and cause daisy fanciers to halt abruptly. The flowers emit a quite strong, sweet smell. Cypselas are cylindrical, 2.5–3mm long, golden brown when mature, with 8 vertical ribs. There are about 60 minutely barbed pappus bristles, cream to almost pinkish brown at the base.



Olearia erubescens x 2/3

(illustrated by Betty Campbell)

Flowering period: Late spring, early summer.

Propagation: Unfortunately the Aireys Inlet form is attacked by predators to such an extent that no seed has been available from this source. Seed from Ros Cornish germinated moderately well in 18–33 days and was potted on in 3¼ months. Cuttings are said to strike easily.

Cultivation and uses: In the garden the Angahook form grows in a moderately shady situation and the base is protected by tetathecas. It is an untidy shape, modified by pruning (usually at the wrong time), but it is of a determined character and persists in throwing up tall single branches. If pruned at the appropriate time it might remain shapely. Plants along the Angahook Forest road must be palatable to wallabies or rabbits in spite of the prickly leaves because the plants never grow much more than 60cm high and there are signs of nibbling.

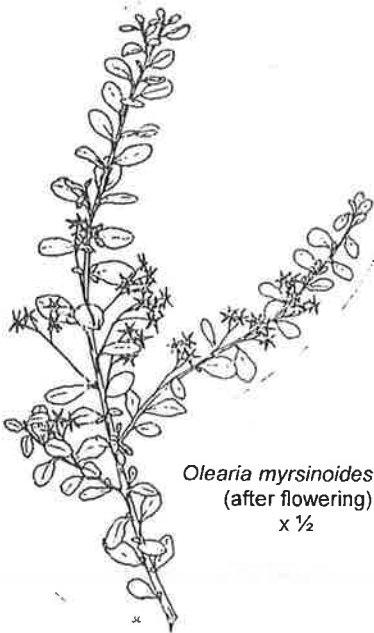
Distribution and habitat: In the Aireys Inlet district it grows along the roadside in open areas with *Acacia myrsinoides*, *Helichrysum scorpioides*, *Leptorhynchos nitidulus*, *Lomandra multiflorus*, *Gahnia radula*, and *Brunonia australis*. It also grows in open areas that are mown and have reverted to grassland/heathland and in open woodland.

Similar species: *Olearia myrsinoides* is also a shrub growing in the Anglesea/Aireys Inlet area with leathery toothed leaves and white flowers. It may be distinguished by the leaves which are shorter and more rounded, and by the heads which usually have shorter flowering stems (8–10mm) and only 3 ray florets per head. *O. myrsinoides* generally grows in more protected, shady spots.

***Olearia myrsinoides* (Anglesea form)** (*myrsinoides* — resembling the genus *Myrsine*)

SILKY DAISY-BUSH

O. myrsinoides is a shrub, 40–80 x 50–80cm, with a tendency to sucker lightly. The stems are silky-hairy. Several long branches reach well above the bulk of the plant. The stiff, leathery leaves are obovate, 0.5–1.5 x 0.5–1cm, with rounded tips and finely toothed margins. Upper surfaces are hairless, dark green with some veining which is not as obvious as that in *O. erubescens*, and lower surfaces are silvery and silky due to the dense cover of hairs. Heads are white, 1.5–2cm across, on flowering stems (8–10mm long). Up to 5 heads



Olearia myrsinoides
(after flowering)
x 1/2

(illustrated by Betty Campbell)

appear together on a long common stalk (up to 2cm long). In this district there are only 2–3 ray florets per head. Cypselas are similar to those of *O. erubescens*.

Flowering period: Spring.

Propagation: Seed germinated in 22 days when sown in April and was potted on in 87 days. Germination was poor, probably due to insect attack. It strikes readily from cuttings and rooted pieces can often be detached from the base of plants.

Cultivation and uses: *O. myrsinoides* is growing in a shady spot in our Hawthorn garden. This area is hardly ever watered and the plant, while still alive, is not flourishing. It has the same tendency as *O. erubescens* to send branches up at odd angles but is more amenable to pruning. Although the flowers are smaller than those of *O. erubescens* it is probably a better plant for gardens.

Distribution and habitat: Grassland/woodland. This species is usually found in sheltered situations under trees, but at the Lookout above Eastern View (quite close to the Ocean) plants grow in open situations with very little protection.

Similar species: *Olearia erubescens* (see p. 33).

by Judy Barker.

Growing Everlastings in Bundaberg (Qld.)

by Margery Stutchbury

I have been growing daisies in my suburban garden in Bundaberg, Queensland, for ten years. Our city lies on the twenty-fifth parallel of latitude about fifteen kilometres from the coast. The soil is a grey sandy loam, which is heavily leached and deficient in nutrients, overlying a deep layer of brown loam. The soil becomes saturated by heavy rain but drains and dries out quickly. Similar sandy soil fortified with filter press (a sugar mill residue) has been added to replenish and raise the garden beds. The gardens contain several open native shrubs that give patches of shade but are mostly in full sunlight. Our winter has been warm with daily temperatures being 8–22°C. It has also been particularly dry with only a few falls of rain that assisted growing briefly.

Sowing began on Anzac Day, which has become my day each year for the start of sowing daisy seed. *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* was broadcast over a small area of the front garden, and the arrival of visitors saw the remainder of the area being sown about two weeks later. As usual the seedlings appeared within a week of sowing. As I have previously had trouble in a section of this garden with Fusarium Wilt (probably imported in a load of soil), I spread the seed a bit thinner this year, fertilised every two weeks with Aquasol, and watered carefully. Our soil here is sandy and dries out very quickly — so I felt I had to keep up a good water supply without over-watering. Used a sprinkler till plants were half grown and from then on mostly hand held hose near the ground (time permitting!!!). Results were better this year than last, when I lost many plants on the brink of flowering. This year nearly all the plants flowered well although quite a few in the front garden have now succumbed to the wilt.

R. chlorocephala ssp. *rosea* was also sown in our backyard this year for the first time, in a garden where room for a large area of daisies was made by trimming the bottom of trees. A load of soil with filter press from the sugar mill in it was dug in to raise the bed, and I had serious doubts as to whether the daisies would like it. They are looking splendid at the moment, however, with most of the plants 88cm tall from ground to flower. I thought it was interesting that although this garden was sown in mid-June, the plants were sending up flower buds at about the same time as the Anzac Day plants. The back garden plants are more robust and perhaps a bit more sheltered. Already (10 September) the weather here is warming up — 27°C — and the Anzac flowers in the front garden are beginning to lose their colour.

R. anthemoides (unbranched) is flourishing in several gardens. Plants from last year have formed lovely circular plants with flowers on long stems radiating all around. A local *Wahlenbergia* sp. Grows throughout the garden and the tiny blue flowers look really nice in amongst the *R. anthemoides*. *R. manglesii* was also

successfully sown this year early in May and first flowers are now appearing, mostly pink, but some are white.

I was disappointed that seed of *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida* (probably too old now) which I germinated with great success in 1998, failed this year. Other failures included *R. polygalifolia*, *R. gossypina*, *R. rubella* and *R. stricta*. These were treated with SISF and some with soil wetter as well, but again I perhaps did not store the seed well enough and for too long. *Ammobium alatum* germinated well, but I have lost some in planting out. However, I have managed to retain two plants from last year which look promising. My *Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia* seeds germinated poorly and I have only about a dozen of these flourishing. *Brachyscome* 'Summer Skies' is growing well, as is *B. ciliaris* in pots and others coming up between bricks in the nearby path.

Other plants now flowering in the garden are a selection of grevilleas, *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, *Callistemon* sp., *Banksia robur*, *B. integrifolia*, *B. spinulosa*, and *B. plagiocarpa*. A small Coolgardie gum *E. torquata* is doing well and was very pretty over the last couple of months, as was a *Hovea* species. A *Melaleuca bracteata* in the backyard supports a large Elkhorn and a big King Orchid with many flowers. Some red and yellow kangaroo paws have sent up tall flower spikes which look stunning in the sunlight. I am lucky this year Graham has rebuilt my ageing fernery and I am busy repotting mostly maidenhair ferns and a few native orchids, including a *Phaius tankervilleae* which has a lovely flower stalk at present.

TOPICS DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS

JULY MEETING — *Leptorhynchos*, discussed by Judy Barker

Leptorhynchos

lepto — slender, *rhynchos* — a beak; a reference to the beaked fruits.

There are now ten species in the genus *Leptorhynchos* — *L. baileyi*, *L. elongatus*, *L. melanocarpus*, *L. nitidulus*, *L. orientalis*, *L. scaber*, *L. squamatus*, *L. tenuifolius*, *L. tetrachaetus* and *L. waitzia*.

Two new species of *Leptorhynchos* have been recognised (Wilson P. G. 2001), *L. melanocarpus* and *L. orientalis*. Two species (which had previously been included in *Leptorhynchos*) are now in *Leiocarpa* — *Leiocarpa gatesii* and *L. panaetioides*. *Leptorhynchos linearis* is now included in *L. nitidulus*.

Comparative data for *Leptorhynchos* (from the above reference) are 'The involucre bracts have a fenestrate stereome and are oblong to elliptic, hyaline and sometimes ciliate. The anther tails are delicate and branched. The cypselas are blunt or beaked and the pericarp is hyaline and has two-celled papillae in which the lower cell overtops the upper. The pappus bristles are persistent. The plants are ecto- and vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal. Chromosome number $x = 12$.'

The genera similar to *Leptorhynchos* are *Chrysocephalum*, *Ixiolaena* and *Leiocarpa*. On p. 41 of NL 61 Joy has produced a comparison of the distinguishing characters of all four genera.

***Leptorhynchos baileyi* F. Muell.**

baileyi — after Frederick Manson Bailey (1827–1915), nurseryman, plant exporter and botanist in Queensland.

An erect annual, 10–30 x 8–15cm, with branching, slightly hairy stems. Leaves are linear, 0.8–2.5cm (rarely 4cm) x 0.5–2mm, sessile, with pointed tips and recurved margins. Upper surfaces are sparsely hairy; lower surfaces are white with tangled hairs. Heads are yellow, top-shaped buttons, 8–12mm across and 6–8mm long, held singly on flower stems, 2–5cm long, bearing short, narrow leaves or bracts. Bracts are papery, translucent and have feathery margins, the inner bracts having longer stalks. Fruits, about 1 x 0.3mm, are golden-brown, cylindrical, papillose, and slightly contracted at the apex. There are 1–3 white pappus bristles on the bisexual florets, minutely barbed at the base and feathery at the tips. The bristles are about three-



Leptorhynchos baileyi x ½
(dried specimen collected from Nockatunga, Qld)

quarters as long as the corolla.

Flowering period: Spring.

Propagation: Seed was sown in April and germinated after 16–20 days. Six seedlings were potted into one large pot 3 months after sowing (information supplied by Maureen).

Cultivation and uses: Maureen described the heads as profuse and most conspicuous. This species could possibly be useful as an annual in semi-arid or temperate gardens.

Distribution and habitat: Qld, NSW, SA. Occurs in mulga woodland and flat, open plains, growing in red sands and clays.

Synonyms: *Leptorhynchos tetrachaetus* var. *penicillatus* J. Black, *Helichrysum basedowii* J. Black.

Similar species: *L. tetrachaetus* is distinguished by the pappus bristles. Bisexual florets usually have 4 bristles, smooth at the base and minutely barbed towards the apex, and they are about as long as the corolla.

***Leptorhynchos elongatus* DC.**

elongatus — lengthened

Lanky Buttons

A perennial, 20–50cm high, with a woody taproot. Stems are branching and hairy, erect or sprawling. Leaves in basal rosettes are lanceolate or oblanceolate, 8–12 x 1–1.5cm, becoming smaller up the stems, the bases almost stem-clasping. The leaves are covered with short, stiff hairs. Heads are cream or pale yellow, 2.0–3.5cm across, held at the tips of stems. Outer bracts are ovate and hairs are absent from the margins. Fruits are warted, narrow, with a slight neck. Pappus bristles are numerous, shorter than the corolla, and barbed. Seed germinated in 12–20 days in Jan. Occurs in woodland and grassland.

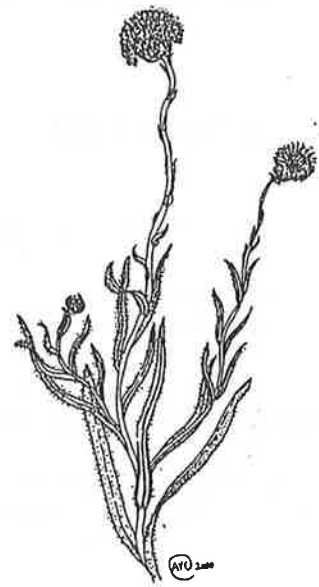
Flowering period: October to January in cultivation; August to November in the wild.

Propagation: Seed germinates in 12–20 days. Seedlings may be potted on in 2 months after sowing. Cuttings have not been tried.

Cultivation and uses: Experience has suggested this species could be a better garden plant than a subject for a container. The tendency to sprawl might be overcome by planting among small shrubs that could hold the stems upright. In cultivation plants appear quite strong in part sun, and will regenerate in cool weather.

Distribution and habitat: NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA, WA. This species occurs in dry, open forest, woodland, grassland.

Similar species: *Leptorhynchos scaber* is very similar but may be distinguished by the bright yellow flowers and the obvious long, thin beak at the apex of the cypsela. In contrast to *L. elongatus* it is an annual.



Leptorhynchos elongatus x 1/3
(illustrated by Ailsa Campbell)

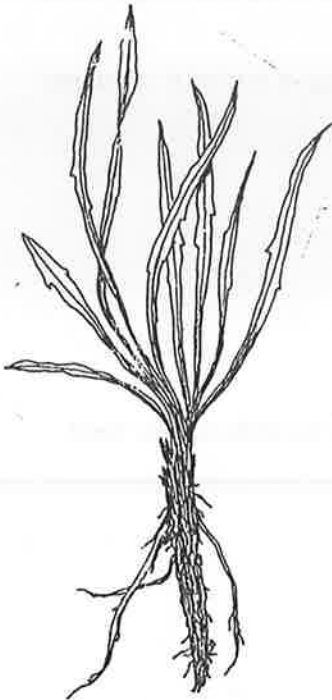
JULY MEETING — *Microseris*, discussed by Bev Courtney.

An edible daisy? I'd like to see that!

One of my main aims in moving to a larger property is to grow as much of my own food as possible. So when I attended a talk by Dr Beth Gott on aboriginal food plants the possibility of introducing some new foods looked promising.

Prior to white settlement, Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*) covered large areas of Victoria, especially the western basalt plains. The aboriginal people knew it as Murnong, and dug the white fleshy tubers as part of their staple diet. The plains are recorded as being "quite yellow with Murnong" and aboriginal women would collect huge baskets of roots with very little effort.

Microseris has an interesting history. The genus originated in North America and 13 species still grow there. At some point in the distant past, hybridisation occurred between two species. Their descendants, which bore double the number of chromosomes, are those from which the Australian species are derived. Somehow seeds from America made their way to the other side of the world and the progeny evolved into two species, *M. lanceolata* in Australia and *M. scapigera*, which occurs in New Zealand.



Microseris sp. 3 x ½
(illustrated by Betty Campbell)

This at least is the story given in the Winter, 2002 edition of Nature Australia magazine, in an article by Tim Low. The Flora of Victoria sees it somewhat differently, stating that the type specimen of *M. lanceolata* was collected in Tasmania and that, pending revision, it is uncertain if this taxon in the strict sense occurs in Victoria. They describe instead three species: *Microseris* sp. 1, *Microseris* sp. 2 and (you guessed it) *Microseris* sp. 3.

Microseris sp. 1 occurs only on the basalt plains. Its roots are described as fleshy and fibrous. *Microseris* sp. 2 is confined to alpine and subalpine herbfields of the eastern ranges and is often locally plentiful. Its roots are elongate, fleshy, often branched, sometimes suckering. *Microseris* sp. 3 is the true Murnong and is widespread in Victoria. It has a fusiform (cigar- or spindle-shaped) to napiform (turnip-shaped) tuber which is replaced annually. This one is my future food crop!

Following the decision to grow and study *Microseris*, I was inundated with seed by kind AD SG members. Judy Barker provided seed and plants of the Anglesea form. Esma Salkin, via the Provenance Seed Bank, came up with a Woodend form and two alpine forms (Mt Buller and Mt McKay) and a form from Berry Jerry State Forest (NSW), courtesy of AD SG member Matt Hurst. I already had two plants of the Mornington Peninsula form (Arthur's Seat) which finally sent forth some seed over the summer.

First trial of the Woodend form (collected December, 2000) was sown in March, 2001. Seed took 28 days to germinate and I potted up 24 plants. The plants grew slowly so I left them in the tubes over the summer of 2001/2, watering sparsely when the top growth died down. Growth resumed in autumn 2002, but three plants hadn't made it through the summer. The rest were getting bigger in the tubes and I wanted to plant them out but didn't have the planting area prepared so, in a moment of inspiration, I planted 12 into one of our vegetable planter boxes (big wooden boxes full of rich compost where veggies are safe from rabbits). The plants went out in June, rapidly quadrupled in size and are already producing masses of flower buds. I plan to pull up some of these after flowering has finished and inspect the tuber/s for size and edibility. If any plants have more than one tuber I will replace some tubers to see if they resprout the following year. Aboriginal people believed that the roots of Murnong should not be collected before the plants flowered, so I will follow their example.

Seed of all the other forms germinated successfully and I have a large number of plants to play with. The seed has a large pappus; its main function seems to be to aid dispersion. When sowing, it tends to hold the seed up and away from the seed-raising medium, so after an annoying period trying to make the seeds sit flat, I cut off the pappus and found germination improved to the extent that the root easily found its way into the mix. The alpine forms will be of interest but I don't expect to make any sort of a meal of their thin, stringy roots.

My ultimate aim is to create a grassland ecosystem with yam daisies and other wildflowers, interspersed with local native grasses. I will probably try other edible tuberous plants, such as chocolate and vanilla lilies, bulbines and milkmaids. I might even try eating greenhood orchid tubers. We have huge patches of nodding greenhoods on our property and they multiply readily so a few tubers won't be missed. Naturally I'll be using a homemade aboriginal digging stick.

A final note on taste. Eaten raw, yam daisy tubers are said to be crisp and juicy. Roasted slowly, they "half melt down into a sweet, dark-coloured juice." Mmmn!

SEPTEMBER MEETING — Hard-headed Daisies, discussed by Maureen Schaumann

Angianthus

Joy summarized *Angianthus* in ADSG Newsletter No. 62, March 2002.

Philip Short recognized 15 species in the genus (Short, P.S. 1983), all of which are endemic to Australia. In the *Flora of Victoria* Vol. 4 the number of species has been emended to about 18. There are species growing in each State and all except one are annual herbs. The perennial, *Angianthus cunninghamii*, is a small shrub of coastal Western Australia growing to a height of 50cm. A pressing Esma gave me many years ago and a photo show the flowers and lovely silver foliage.

As far as I know, the only *Angianthus* seed that has been available to the Study Group is that of *A. acrohyalinus*, *A. milnei* and *A. tomentosus*.

These 3 species are distinguished by the following characters:

A. acrohyalinus has leaves narrowing to a stiff-hooked point at the tip.



A. milnei is smaller (to 15cm high) and has cone-like spikes surrounded at the base by white-woolly floral leaves.



A. tomentosus has numerous white-woolly stems to 30cm high and obtuse leaves.



(Illustrations and information from Grieve B. J. and Blackall, W.E. [1975] *How To Know Western Australian Wildflowers*, Part 4, pp. 811, 812, 814.)

I have sown all three of these species, *A. tomentosus* being the only one to germinate.

Angianthus comes from the Greek *angeion* — a vessel or cup, *anthos* — flower, referring to the cup-like shape of the ring of broad pappus scales in *A. tomentosus*.

A. tomentosus is also known as Hairy Angianthus because of its white-woolly stems and leaves. Flower-heads are yellow with shining bracts, ovoid at first, later becoming cylindrical and spike-like, 6–25mm long, rounded at the base. Leaves are blunt or rounded at the tips with some showing a transparent point.

Seed collected from the Kimba rubbish dump in January 2000 was sown on 9. 3. 01 and germinated well on 16. 3. 01. All dampened off when potted on in May.

I tried again in late March 2002. To save potting on I sowed direct into a large plastic bowl of Debco Green Wizard with Yates Seed Raising Mix on top. Once again, excellent germination 7 days after sowing, the pot being filled with healthy young seedlings. It was at this time that I offered to talk about this *Angianthus* at our September meeting, expecting great things from these seedlings as well as flowers. The seedlings thrived until the colder weather arrived, collapsing very quickly after several windy days. By August, all had died.

Just as well I didn't throw them out because, by the middle of September and after rain, there appear to be signs of rejuvenation on the dead stems.

In another pot, where I had sown *A. acrohyalinus*, 3 seedlings appeared but these turned out to be more of *A. tomentosus*. These seeds were probably washed in from the other pot, either through rain or watering. These plants have survived, although the tips of the stems are being curled by aphids. Regular spraying with Pyrethrum is keeping them under control.

Not being deterred by the above, I sowed another pot of *A. tomentosus* in early August. To date germination has been slow and poor. Esma had excellent germination from her sowing and had no trouble with aphids or plants collapsing, probably because they were kept under cover in her glassed-in verandah.

Some of the easier to grow hard-headed daisies are:

***Calocephalus citreus* (Lemon Beauty-heads)**

Lightly clumping perennial to 40cm with fine, linear grey leaves. Yellow flower-heads are ovoid to oblong, 7–14mm long, borne at the tips of stems. Flower-heads are very similar to those of *A. tomentosus*. Seed sown in autumn usually takes about 19–30 days to germinate.

***Calocephalus lacteus* (Milky Beauty-heads)**

A perennial with attractive grey foliage, spreading widely in a damp situation. Flower-heads, 5–12mm, greyish white, are profuse in summer. Propagate from seed or, easier still, dig up rooted suckers and pot on.

***Calocephalus sonderi* (Pale Beauty-heads)**

A much-branched annual to 30cm high with woolly, pale grey foliage, very aromatic when crushed. Pale lemon flower-heads appear at the ends of each of the numerous, branched flower stems.

Seed collected in 1992 was sown in late January, 2001, and germinated well in 4 days. I had so many seedlings I potted them on in small clumps. They thrived until succumbing to either aphid attack, too many in a clump or maybe hot weather. I have since read that this species germinates in the wild in autumn and winter, flowering in spring and early summer, but drying off rapidly with the onset of hot weather.

All the above hard-headed daisies air-dry beautifully.

Lesson Learnt

by Ros Cornish

My family and most of my friends call me a control freak. I'm a compulsive list maker and planner. So, when it came time for John and me to depart on our 7 week trip to Western Australia, I had a 40 litre plastic box nearly full of plant books, maps and tourist information gathered from friends and various regional offices of CALM (Conservation and Land Management) and our route was plotted. This was our first big trip and it had been put off several times for various reasons. Meanwhile, we had got ourselves into a situation with our vegie garden, orchard and (small) vineyard where we could only be away from mid-July (after the Lady William apples are picked) until mid-September (when the asparagus has to be picked). Luckily, this window coincides with spring in most other areas of Australia.

We had several aims for the trip – to see as many daisies as possible, in particular the "carpets" of everlastings which are much publicised in the WA tourist information; to see lots of other plants in flower; to visit some wineries and to catch fish. I consulted widely about the daisies and received excellent information and maps from Judy Barker on where she and other AD SG members had found masses in August 1996. The WA Wildflower Holiday Guide also gave lots of information and beautiful photos of carpets of everlastings on The Goldfields Trail and The Everlastings Trail, claiming best shows from July to October. Buried in the text I noted one sentence which would come to haunt me – "Look out for spectacular carpets of everlastings after rains." No problem, I thought, I'd been watching the weather in WA for the previous 6 months and the areas we intended to go often had forecasts of rain. However, I now realise that the operative word is "rains" not "rain".

We travelled vast distances, often on rough dirt roads, looking for the elusive carpets. We followed The Goldfields Trail first, north from Kalgoorlie (4 August) to Menzies then toward Leonora. Not a daisy to be seen despite constant stopping to check on other plants in flower. The travel notes suggested turning off to

Kookynie and travelling on a dirt road through "wonderful displays of the white-flowered splendid everlasting" (*Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp *splendida*) so we did – just in case. I also noticed that this diversion would bring us out onto the road from Laverton to Leonora which had featured in one of Judy's letters – "Natalie, Peg and Joy said that Laverton to Leonora was 'magic'." Well, I'm afraid that the only interesting thing we experienced was our first WA beer at the Kookynie pub. We couldn't even get any information from the locals about where to see daisies as the footy was on TV and the West Coast Eagles were playing – in fact we were lucky to even get the beer.

By this stage I was starting to feel that our trip was doomed – that we'd come too early. John tried to boost my spirits by saying that we'd find daisies a bit further north or east. I felt guilty at all the trouble he'd gone to with the GPS, setting it up so that we could take readings in the car and refreshing himself with the instructions on how to use it properly. The cameras had film loaded and John had remembered the tripod and cable release. Nobody could say that we weren't ready.

It was on the Kookynie detour that we saw our first goats – lots of them. Even if a daisy seed did germinate the seedling would probably be eaten. At Leonora we asked the service station owner about the carpets of daisies. He had been there for 4 years and had only seen a few everlastings in the first year. He added that there had been a drought for those 4 years. At Sandstone that night, this was confirmed by some locals where we stayed. The last good year had been 1996, after the cyclones. They also told us that many of the station owners have turned to goat farming because of the drought – they'll eat anything and survive better than sheep or cattle. So, even when the rains finally come, the carpets may be a bit threadbare.

Unfortunately, we still had a long distance to travel through mulga and goats before getting to Carnarvon where at least we could do some fishing. The roads were terrible. It took a whole day to get from Sandstone to Dalgety Downs (via Meekatharra) – about 450km. However, we stopped for lunch by the roadside and I literally tripped over daisies – 2. One *R chlorocephala* ssp *splendida* and one yellow one which I thought was *Podotheca gnaphalioides* after looking at one book but now think is *Helipterum craspedioides*. They were tiny. I took a photo but they look like pebbles rather than daisies. After Gascoyne Junction our spirits lifted a little. We saw *Brachyscome iberidifolia*, *Schoenia cassiniana*, *R chlorocephala* ssp *splendida* and the yellow one in sufficient quantities to make us stop and take more photos although no-one would use the word carpet to describe them. They all looked minute compared with those in the glossy photos in the tourist blurb where people were knee high in daisies – these were hardly even ankle high. The closer we got to the coast, the better the display. We discovered that there had been lots of rain along the coast during winter so there was only a narrow strip where good displays of daisies could be found.

Apart from the fishing, the trip improved. We found carpets of *Cephalipterum drummondii* (white) on the highway just north of the Murchison River. Kalbarri National Park was ablaze with colour (10-13 August) and we found a good display of *R chlorocephala* ssp *rosea* on River Road as well as lots of daisies on the Loop Walk. I should say here that there were also lots of goats on that walk along the Murchison River and we even saw them on the highway from the Shark Bay area to the Kalbarri turnoff.

I had planned a long trip from Geraldton, following Judy's map and The Everlasting Trail mentioned earlier, to cover the area around Mullewa, Yalgoo, Paynes Find, Morawa and Mingenew but after talking to other travellers and locals we decided to only go as far inland as Coalseam Reserve. By this time it was 16 August and the everlastings should have been at their peak. We weren't disappointed. We found wall to wall carpets – nothing threadbare here. *C drummondii* (white and yellow), *R chlorocephala* ssp *rosea*, *R chlorocephala* ssp *splendida* and *Helipterum craspedioides*. A stunning display. As we wended our way towards Mingenew we could see many hilltops covered with the yellow *C drummondii*. At first we thought it was canola flowering (and there were many fields of this) but closer inspection showed that some areas had been fenced off and *C drummondii* was in profusion.

Coalseam Reserve was definitely the highlight of the trip as far as daisies were concerned. We didn't see many more apart from *Brachyscome latisquamea* climbing through a variety of coastal plants and a pale blue *Olearia* species between Jurien Bay and Cervantes. We also saw a small yellow daisy beginning to flower which I think was a *Waitzia* species, between Shark Bay and Kalbarri, and a lovely grey-foliaged *Podolepis* was flowering from Caiguna to Ceduna on the way home (8 September). Unfortunately we didn't see any of the hard headed species that I had been asked to watch out for – I even took the recent AD SG NL with the article on *Angianthus* species so that I could recognise them.

Next time though, I will do even more preparation and if there are particular plant species which I want to see flowering, I will ring up the closest tourist bureau (or better still, the closest AD SG member). The tourist

information places that we visited gave good advice about plants (eg "You're too early for the Wreath Lechenaultia" - correct) but were useless for good fishing spots! Oh, and Margaret River wines are great.

A PARAGRAPH OR TWO FOR THE NEWSLETTER

by Pat Webb

I enjoyed reading "Brachyscomes in my Kingston garden" in NL 63. I loved visiting Jeanette Closs' garden a few years ago, and it is good to read about places you have visited.

I was particularly interested to read about *B. segmentosa* that self-seeds a lot in Jeanette's garden. I have enjoyed these daisies for several years, having them in numerous spots around our Balnarring garden, and now here in Berwick in a few places. But I have never been lucky enough for them to self-seed. Hints on how to get lucky???

I am delighted to see a couple of buds coming on my *B. diversifolia* var. *maritima* (given to me by Esmá in June at an ADSG meeting). This plant which grows on the Bass Strait islands would, I'm sure, do well for Jeanette. (It goes well with our windiest spot in the village!) I like its foliage and am looking forward to the flowers soon.

Having moved eighteen months ago from quite a large garden (½ acre approx.) to a tiny one, it was great to have been able to transfer several daisies. Last summer in the small area facing west near our front door, we have several patches of *Brachyscome multifida* (dark and light blues). Three or four *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* species, with their vibrant yellow flowers, did well and even caused comment and discussion from exotic plant growers in the Village! I am looking forward to extending our planting into the adjacent 'common gardens' which we look after now. Our newest Asteraceae — *Ozothamnus ledifolius* — I am watching with interest; the buds are most attractive but I see I shall have to wait until October/November until the flowers come.

POSSIBLE ANSWER TO JUDY'S GOMPHOLOBIUM/ARGENTIPALLIUM PROBLEMS

by Matt Hurst and Sue Pugh

Noel and Kim Passalacqua, owners of Jayfield's Nursery, and Sue Pugh, a long time employee of theirs, thought up this solution. Reading your article about pea seedlings gradually dying off reminded me of this unconventional answer to the problem.

The nursery had exactly the same trouble as you with *Daviesia latifolia* and several other local pea species. The solution for *D. latifolia* was to take the potted three surviving plants from the previous season out of their pots and remove every nodule from their roots.

The theory was that these few plants had managed to make the required association with a nitrogen-fixing agent and could be used to inoculate a fresh batch of potting mix and seed. After all the nodules had been removed (a lengthy process that the plants have survived twice), the nodules were crushed with a Bamix and mixed with tap water. This inoculated slurry was poured over the freshly sown seed. The results were remarkable as germination rose from about 10% to a commercially viable 85%.

Seedlings grew vigorously but, like many pea species, had to be kept a bit dry as root rot in the peaty mix is a constant problem. Later experiments have shown that a commercially available inoculant used for *Acacia* species works nearly as well.

I had suggested to Judy in our phone conversation that roots of other species that grow at Anglesea might also be able to inoculate other local plants. That may be wishful thinking on my part.

So if any of you are having trouble with germinating or growing on any pea species, do the following:

1. Buy a couple of small *Acacia* or pea species that will grow happily in 6 or 8 inch pots.
2. When you wish to propagate knock your plants out of their pots, remove the soil, use your fingers to remove the nodules, and then re-pot immediately.

3. Crush the nodules, add enough water to make into a slurry, and then water the pots with the seed already sown into them.

It has worked for Jayfield's Nursery, which now treats any pea species looking a bit tardy, so it should work for us home gardeners. This method can also be used on existing plants either in pots or in the ground, and on properly treated seed that won't germinate. Unlike some books or field guides, I do not recommend using soil from the bush due to the risk of introducing disease, so wash off any soil from roots from bush plants. My former work-mate, Sue, tells me that the slurry is now a combination of the crushed nodules and some of the commercial inoculant. Remember that the seed still needs to be treated in the conventional manner, i.e. placed in hot water and soaked.

Kept in the fridge the bacteria may last a few days. Extended exposure to sunlight will kill the bacteria. The mix is always used straight away.

EDITOR'S ADDENDUM

When Matt rang to impart this exciting news I decided to consult Geoff Clark, owner of Otways Indigenous Nursery at Aireys Inlet, and buy a few plants. He had heard of the method and had success when he tried it, but it had slipped from his mind. He and his offsider emptied out two forestry tubes, one an acacia and the other *Viminaria juncea*. There, indeed, were a few small nodules on the acacia and many quite large, box-shaped nodules on the pea, which they gave me. A former President of Angair, Marg McDonald, joined in the discussion and she and Geoff suggested that I should kill two birds by digging up the weedy coastal wattle, removing the nodules from the roots and discarding the plant. I have since tried this and watered all my peas and *Argentipallium obtusifolium* pots with the homemade slurry. I think I note a definite stiffening of the fibres. The only subject that does not seem to be responding is a seed pot of *A. obtusifolium*, some of which have died but some seem to have grown. I'll go on with this interesting trial and report in due course.

When Matt was told of the experiment he replied, 'What a perfect use for a weed species. How ironic it would be if the nodules of this coast wattle causing trouble in the area will help to germinate the plants that should be there'.

MEANDERINGS OF AN ANCIENT CHAUFFEUR

by Lee Barker

Many months ago the Wimmera Native Plant Growers had invited Judith to give them a dissertation on the flowering weeds she so admires, at their meeting at Warracknabeal in September. We looked forward to a quiet drive through the green countryside of early spring, and decided that on our return trip we would visit the Terrick Terrick State Park, which had recently acquired an area of uncultivated grassland, where there was reported to be an uncommon variety of those desirable weeds.

En route I had a meeting at Creswick, and then we took the back roads to the Wimmera. The Pentland Hills above Bacchus Marsh had been green, but as we moved north-west the crops became progressively shorter, and by the time we reached our destination it was obvious that there would be very little wheat or canola from this year's harvest. Our landlady at the motel told us that one in three of the farms in the area might recover enough seed for next year's plantings, but the majority would have nothing. Despite this, Judith found a cheerful bunch of listeners, as she will no doubt report in due course.

This year of El Nino is again very reminiscent of 1982-83, but our family this time hopes not to lose another beach shack at Fairhaven. However, the farmers certainly are in for a very tough time, and we trust that it will not be accompanied by the fires of '83.

From Warracknabeal we headed east. Where there was irrigation the countryside was green, although the crops and pastures were very short because of much restricted water allocations, but in the dry-country there was nothing green, and often not even blades of dry grass. At Boort, a lovely green irrigated town with a beautiful lake area, I was told that the town was already suffering some consequences of the drought. For instance, since the rail system in the wheat areas is used only to carry grain, the decision had been made this year to do no maintenance on the rail system because no trains would be running. Dozens of jobs have been lost as a result.

We headed north from Mitiamo into the Terrick Terrick Park, the main part of which is an open, mostly native pine forest on a rocky outcrop, and then headed out to the grasslands section of the Park. Here there was

nothing – no grass, dry or green, and no desirable flowering weeds. A very desolate scene, and something we have thought about frequently since our return.

For reasons other than daisy chases, a few weeks afterwards we spent a weekend with friends at Wyangala Dam, east of Cowra. Urana being only about 150 km off the direct route, my boss thought about looking for a weed reported to occur some 15 km west of Urana. The night before we left home Matt Hurst advised that there was nothing there this year, not even any wheat. However, when we drove through Chiltern and Howlong, the grass was green, and so we headed north-west towards Urana. Within 20 km there was nothing green, and at 60 km we turned east, eventually to see a blade of green pasture just before we reached Wagga, some 150 km from Urana. Matt was right.

Wyangala was down to 10% of its capacity, even the 1930's dam wall is above the waterline, and the water is slightly green, presumably with some algae. Not a nice prospect. But we had a great weekend, and Eagle-Eyes found some goodenias in flower on a side road during our return trip, despite no crops in the adjoining paddocks.

One of the good things about having a spouse who is mad about daisies is the chance we city-slickers get to see the countryside, and to observe how the people who live there have a very different and often much more difficult way of life. I take my hat off to them.

SNIPPETS

- Maureen Schaumann: For the past twelve months I have been growing *Brachyscome* aff. *multifida* by the window in my family room as a companion plant to *Lomandra confertifolia* ssp. *rubiginosa*. The brachyscome has softened the pot by spilling nicely over the sides. Both plants have been in flower for the past couple of months. This room is facing north so gets plenty of light and sun. The gas heater doesn't seem to bother them at all.
- This snippet is part of an article by Sarah Guest in the gardening page of *The Age* on p. 10 in the Saturday Extra section (14/9/02): 'Those who paint flowers are, I've discovered, adept at keeping cut flowers alive and I am indebted to one such botanical artist for the following tip. It would seem that if you pop some cut flowers into the fridge overnight, they last for donkeys' ages. I'm told it works with the upturned heads of hellebores and I know it works with tulips. I'm going to try it with some other store-bought lovelies.'

(This tip could be very useful for members who put on displays lasting two or three days. It was very relevant information for the Angair Nature Show and I followed it for the display on 21st/22nd September. The head of *Microseris* sp. 3 closed in the fridge and remained closed when removed next morning. With blind faith it was installed on the display bench, looking dead. It was the target of many derisory remarks. As the Show opened, the flower-head opened also, and the entire stock was soon sold. Fresh flowers, such as *Senecio pinnatifolius* var. 3, usually last only one day but, following this advice, they still looked good after a week. The brachyscomes picked at Hawthorn three days before the Show were similarly treated and lasted very well indeed. I think it is a tip worth trying again. The seed stock in the laundry fridge may have to be temporarily taken out to make room for the flowers. ... Judy.)

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Matt Hurst of Wagga Wagga, NSW, writes on 24th June: 'Things are still a bit dry here. The recent rain has kept most crops going but there is no subsoil moisture. We are all waiting and hoping for more rain. I have some sowing results; there are some odd outcomes for several species. I have had no luck with the *Pycnosorus globosus* seed from Lockhart. Perhaps a SISP soak may work or is it just too cold.

I must say how impressed I am with the *Calocephalus citreus* and *C. lacteus* plants given to me. They seem to like pot culture as they are both looking very healthy.'

(Later letter) 'As you can imagine, I am still waiting for some of the provenance seed to do something, which was what I expected given that most collections would be opportunistic and possibly immature. I don't think

the time of year is in any way beneficial to promoting germination. My germinating methods may need some revision as well.

We have had several days of steady rain that should help the local farmers. It is my favourite time of year in the garden as many of my plants reach their peak in flowering. Many others are just starting to bud and the garden takes on a soft green hue. Many self-sown seedlings make an appearance and there are always surprises.

Two species (*Podolepis jaceoides* [Vic, 2/96, 4°C] and *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoidea* [Rokewood, 2/91, 4°C]) have germinated quite well since the potting on of the first few seedlings and then covering the remaining seeds again with vermiculite.'

19th July: 'Have just received the book from Joy. It is everything that I expected it to be. The time and effort taken in preparing the book shows in every page.' On 23rd August Matt adds, 'The book continues to impress others and me with its quality. There are several species that I would like to try next year that I would not have considered if I had not seen the photos.'

Matt sent germination results from sowing seed on 23rd May. Most species took three weeks to germinate after the heat bed was turned up to 20°C. Entries marked with * were not on the heat bed.

Excellent results were obtained from *Leucochrysum albicans* (MH gdn, 5/02, RT)*, *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (Sandy Beach, 2/02, RT)*, *X. bracteatum* (MH gdn, 4/02, RT)*.

Fair germination was obtained from *Ammobium craspedioides* (CBG, 4°C and JB gdn, 11–12/00, RT), *Calocephalus lacteus* (Ros C gdn, 3/01, 4°C and Lara, 10/98, 4°C), *Leptorrhynchos elongatus* (Lara, 10/98, 4°C), *Podolepis* sp. (Capella, 4°C), *P. jaceoides* (Vic, 2/96, 4°C), *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida* with SISP pretreatment (RT), *Rhodanthe diffusa* with SISP (12/00, RT), and *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoidea* (Rokewood, 2/91, 4°C).

Poor germination was obtained from *Leptorrhynchos tenuifolius* (Creswick, '01, 4°C), *Pycnosorus chrysanthes* (JB gdn, 2/97, 4°C), *Podolepis rugata* (Murray Bridge, '92, 4°C), *Rhodanthe manglesii* white (JB gdn, 11/99, RT).

No germination was obtained from *Myriocephalus stuartii*, *Rhodanthe citrina* with SISP (Bush Bay, 8/97, RT), *Rhodanthe polygalifolia* with SISP + SW (Oats gdn, '00, RT).

(23. 8. 02) 'In the next few weeks I am going to return to Rankins Springs and Ardlethan to find that small form of *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, as identified by Neil Marriott. Barely 20cm high, with a single yellow flower-head, it could be an interesting addition to the seed bank. I am also going to track down our local form of the same species.'

Syd and Syl Oats of East Elizabeth, SA, write on 3rd August that they find our most recent book easy to understand. They feel they must have had a lot of luck to have so much success in propagating daisies. 'Daisies are so rewarding with their quick propagation compared with other natives which seem to take forever to get to a decent height. This year we have only put in *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, *Rhodanthe anthemoides* and *Brachyscome iberidifolia*. It's a shame we will not get our usual display of *Schoenia filifolia* and *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosca* at springtime as usual because we mulched heavily this year. We didn't get around to collecting seed (because Syl had a knee replacement) but we've probably got some from other years.

Our daughter at Mallacoota says Joy has a beautiful garden and wonders where she buys her plants. We have joined the Container Study Group now and hope to learn how to keep plants healthy long term. We would like to grow acid-loving plants, especially grevilleas and banksias, but our soil is alkaline.'

(An addendum in response to a piteous cry for help from the interim editor, written 26th August) **Syl** writes 'I am unable to bend my knee so, instead of planting seed into punnets and then pricking them out into pots as I usually do, I have put several seeds into 5 inch (12.5cm) pots and small 3 inch (7.5cm) pots. I'm kidding myself I will pull out some of the seed later. Are others like me out there? I always imagine the one I pulled out would have been a splendid new variety. I have planted out 150 pots of *Xerochrysum bracteatum*.

I noticed last year when I planted out *Rhodanthe anthemoides* that they were choc-a-block full of seed, and that is the best display we have had of them. In fact, they survived the summer and are full of flower again

this spring, but the single plants all died. Perhaps the mass keeps the roots cooler. I have done *Brachyscome iberidifolia* by the same method too, that way I do not have to bend so many times.'

Syd writes 'In an item in the last newsletter by Jeanette Closs (NL 63, p. 21), she says that she is having problems with her brachyscomes in pots having white aphid-like insects on the root balls. Has she tried soaking the whole pot in water to which has been added permanganate of potash? The solution used is a pinch of potassium permanganate to 10 litres of water. I have not had to try it myself, as we do not seem to get the problem here in Adelaide.'

Jeanette Closs of Kingston, Tasmania, writes on 26th August to congratulate ADSG on our book, and to tell us that she has written a short review of it for *Eucryphia*. She says, 'The photos are lovely and the descriptions very detailed and easy to follow. I haven't tried the keys, but then I'm not too good on keys. I lack the patience needed although I do feel that I will be using this book a great deal. How I would love to grow things like *Waitzia* and some of the other *Rhodanthe* species. Many of them, I should think, would not be happy in my moisture-holding soil.'

Some of our Tassie species that are still listed as *Helichrysum* are missed, but you can't do all the species, I expect. You evidently haven't had the chance to study some of these. *Helichrysum milliganii* is one of our favourites. I have flowered it twice in the last two years, but it is not easy to keep growing.

We have had a rather cold and damp winter, but spring is showing all around. It is predicted that we will have a hot and dry summer. The garden is looking good with quite a lot in flower. My cuttings taken from *Ixodia achillaeoides* ssp. *alata* are now three small plants that are at present thriving in the garden and I look forward to the flowers. The dried ones are still gracing a vase with some *Xerochrysum bracteatum*.'

Judy Barker reports on a trip to Cowra, NSW, in early October. Wyangala Dam (33km from Cowra) was about 10% full and the surrounding bush was extremely dry. The daisies observed were *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, *Microseris* sp., *Xerochrysum viscosum* and a *Cassinia* sp. with very sticky, aromatic leaves. There were no flower-heads for identification. With the exception of 3 orchid species, very few other plants were in flower. The trip home (a distance of more than 900km) was to be achieved in one day, and so little time was allotted for daisy hunts. Two areas between Temora and Young had looked interesting on the outward journey and I was allowed out of the car close to Milvale. The tallish golden heads I had seen previously proved to be *Podolepis* sp., probably *P. jaceoides*, and this species continued in abundance for many kilometres. A small, compact plant with white heads and narrow grey-green leaves also grew here and looked like *Minuria leptophylla*. A little further along the road the short yellow bushes I had flashed past some days before revealed themselves as *Calotis* sp., and they had white-flowered *Calotis scapigera* as companions. This stretch of road was 'subject to flooding' and perhaps was slightly damper than other areas, but these verges are generally bereft of spring flowers this year.

Jeff Irons of Heswall, England, writes: 'Usually my plants of *Craspedia* collected at Lankeys Plain (a *coolaminica* hybrid?) produce very little seed. This year they yielded a bumper crop. It turned out to be a swan song, for all but one have died. They have been in my garden since 1990. Last year Ros Cornish' *Craspedia variabilis*, grown in the ground, died after flowering. This year's plants were grown in a tub. Not only did they survive, though without producing any seed, but gave a second flowering. In this they were not alone, for we had a cold early summer, and a warm late summer.'

My *Xerochrysum bracteatum* died last year after about fifteen years in the garden. Most of their replacements (grown from seed from Wildseed Tasmania) had branched stems, so I presume that they were hybrids. All died after flowering. The cool summer delayed flowering of Lady Hume's elegant plant and at this time (early October) it is still in full bloom, with not a ripe seed to be seen.

SHOW and TELL (September Meeting)

The following species were brought to the Berwick meeting: *Ammobium craspedioides*, *Brachyscome melanocarpa*, *B. nivalis*, *B. nodosa*, *B. segmentosa* hybrid, *B. spathulata*, *B. sp.* (Darling Downs), *Calotis cuneifolia*, *Helichrysum calvertianum*, *H. scorpioides*, *Hyalosperma praecox*, *Leptorhynchos elongatus*, *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans*, *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (Paper Cascade), *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* and ssp. *splendida*, *R. diffusa*, *R. oppositifolia* ssp. *ornata*, *R. polygalifolia* and *Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia*.

SUGGESTIONS

- Maureen has suggested that the index should indicate the pages where detailed information on species is to be found. This index will denote such pages in bold print.
- Ros Cornish suggests that there must be other AD SG members who travel around looking at plants but don't get there at the right/best time. It might be possible for members to predict what sort of season it is likely to be in their area and to put a snippet in the NL to warn/encourage others to visit or not. I'm sure, for example, that our friend at Mt Magnet could give early warning of a bumper season if there are good rains at the right time. We can probably do it for the Canberra area and there must be others in various States who could do the same. Even if members could just provide information on what local species they have and where to see the best displays it would be an interesting catalogue which I certainly would keep with our various maps. It might encourage more members to contribute to the NL if you asked for this sort of information on, say, an annual basis. (An excellent idea ... Judy.)

ASGAP AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP

Statement of Payments & Receipts — July 1, 2001 — June 30, 2002

| RECEIPTS | \$ | PAYMENTS | \$ |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------|
| Members subscriptions | 855.00 | Newsletter | 136.00 |
| Seed sales | 9.00 | Postage | 159.95 |
| Bank interest | 1.49 | Subscriptions | 35.00 |
| Other | 6.00 | FID | 1.81 |
| | | Stationery | 65.11 |
| | | Sundries | 61.99 |
| | | Seeds | 17.80 |
| | | | |
| Total receipts | 871.49 | Total payments | 477.66 |
| | | | |
| Surplus for year | 393.83 | | |
| | | | |
| SUMMARY | | | |
| Cash at bank at beginning of year | 1,926.74 | | |
| Surplus | 393.83 | | |
| Cash at bank at end of year | 2,320.57 | | |

WE WERE WRONG

Here are two errors in previous articles in AD SG's newsletters:

In NL 62 Peg McAllister's form of *Brachyscome multifida* is called 'Metallic Blue', not 'Midnight Blue' as was stated on p.4. For many years we knew this form as *B. multifida* (Peg's Large).

In NL 63 a report on the pronunciation of '*Helichrysum*' appeared on p. 26 under Jeff Irons' name. The author was Thomas Naylor, and Jeff had merely sent the article as he thought it would be of interest to members.

(*The Age*, one of our Melbourne newspapers, has an item or two under the heading 'We were wrong' almost every day.)

EDITOR'S LETTER

My plaintive cries of distress regarding lack of copy for the newsletter stimulated a response, which was extremely heart-warming. Copy speedily rolled in from members who had little or no time to take up the pen or sit before the computer. A close member of the family even contributed an article, so my moans must have been loud and unceasing. Thank you all very much indeed.

The Everlastings book was launched at the Quarterly APS Vic Meeting hosted by APS Maroondah. Gwen Elliot undertook the task of saying a few words, and we could not have heard a more admirable speech had we written it ourselves. Such delightful phrases as 'extremely well presented in a most attractive and easy-to-use format', 'packed full of information', 'the layout is superb', and 'it's a book for bedtime reading, for serious study and fact finding, or for a place on the coffee table' rolled out with all Gwen's warmth and sincerity. It was a wonderful launch! Michael Marmach received great praise for his beautiful and unique photographs of the fruits. They have been major subjects of comment from the many who have reported favourably on the book. A review by Andrew Seccull appeared in *The Age* Saturday Extra Gardening Section on 12. 10. 02.

The talk to the Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants in early September was great fun. This Group struck me as happy, surprisingly young and very welcoming. Their side tables were groaning under large and colourful specimens which the members spoke about with knowledge and affection. In particular I noticed two species of daisy — two heads of *Pycnosorus globosus* the size of small cricket balls and a bunch of very large *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*. My display contained both species and they were of a most inferior size by comparison. The President, Gary Aitken, had brought these specimens. He compounded my embarrassment by showing me two prints of the latter, one of which had his head and shoulders showing just above the flower-heads. In desperation I asked whether he was sitting or kneeling behind them but no, he was standing! This would mean the plants were about 1.3m tall, while The Book says '15–70cm high'! Gary later offered me his bunch and I took them gratefully and wired them. They are miles better than my current crop of small flower-heads. It was a comfort to have two AD SG members in the audience, Maree Goods and June Rogers, to whom I could divert difficult questions. As Lee has mentioned in his 'meanderings' the district is very dry, but obviously the daisies in these Wimmera gardens have not suffered.

The financial report appearing on p. 46 indicates that AD SG is still in good shape. We thank Bev for her untiring efforts as treasurer.

Please keep the articles, observations and activities coming. Happy Christmas from Judy.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome and happy daisy growing to the following new members:

- Brenda Galey, 150 Grant St, Alexandra, Vic, 3714.
- Lorraine and Howard Harvey, Lot 8, Range Road South, Houghton, SA, 5131.
- Wendy O'Halloran, Golden Point Rd, Chewton, Vic, 3451.
- Stephen Shugg, 6 Ferris St, Kambah, ACT, 2902.
- Pat Tratt, 3 Walnut Ave, Emerald, Vic, 3782.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Subscriptions for the current financial year are \$10.00 per person for members within Australia and \$20.00 for overseas members. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Australian Daisy Study Group' and forwarded to Bev Courtney (preferably) or Joy Greig (addresses on p. 31). **FEES for 2002/2003 WERE DUE ON 1st JULY.**

SEED DONORS

Our thanks to the following members who donated seed to the Study Group: Matt Hurst and Jeff Irons.

SEED BANK ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

ADDITIONS

Craspedia sp. (ex Lankeys Plains)
Microseris sp. (NSW)
Xerochrysum subundulatum hybrids

DELETIONS

Leiocarpa brevicompta
Olearia muelleri
Xerochrysum macranthum

INDEX FOR AD SG NEWSLETTERS, 2002

(NL 62 includes pp. 1–16, NL 63 includes pp. 17–30 and NL 64 includes pp. 31–48. Page numbers are in bold if detailed information is presented and are underlined if species are illustrated.)

- Actinodium**
cunninghamii 11
- Actinotus**
helianthi 11
- Ammobium**
alatum 11, 26, 35
- Angianthus** 5, 9
acrohyalinus 6, 38
axilliflorus 5
brachypappus 7
connatus 5
conocephalus 7
comutus 8
cunninghamii 5, 9
cyathifer 6
drummondii 8
glabratus 6
microcephalus 5, 8
micropodioides 7
milnei 6, 38
preissianus 5, 8
prostratus 8
tomentosus 7, 38, 39
- Argentipallium**
obtusifolium 25, 42
- Brachyscome**
aculeata 19, 22
angustifolia 5, 21
basaltica var. *gracilis* 21, 25, 30
ciliaris 35
decipiens 22
diversifolia var. *maritima* 41
'Evan' 21
formosa 5, 21
iberidifolia 11, 26, 40, 44
latisquamea 40
'Maureen' 5
aff. 'Maureen' 5
'Mauve Delight' 4
'Metallic Blue' 46
microcarpa 11
'Midnight Blue' 4, 46
multifida 21, 41
aff. *multifida* 43
multifida 'Peg's Large' 4, 46
nivalis 21, 25
rigidula 22
scapigera 22
segmentosa 21, 41
sp. 1 22
spathulata 19, 22, 25
stuartii 11, 21
- Calocephalus**
citreus 10, 39, 44
lacteus 39, 44
sonderi 11, 39
- Calotis**
scapigera 45
- Cassinia**
aculeata 9, 31
quinquefaria 19
sp. 22, 45
- Celmisia**
asteliifolia 22
- Celmisia**
costiniana 22
latifolia 22
pugioniformis 22
sericophylla 22
tomentella 22
- Craspedia**
sp. 45
variabilis 19, 45
- Cephalipterum**
drummondii 40
- Chrysocephalus**
apiculatum 9, 10, 11, 28, 41
baxteri 11
semipapposum 10, 45
- Cut flower treatment** 43
- Gaia theory** 26
- Gompholobium**
ecostatum 25, 41
- Goodenia**
geniculata 25
- Helichrysum**
milliganii 11, 45
scorpioides 22, 33
- Helipterum**
craspedioides 40
- Ixodia**
achillaeoides 45
- Leptorhynchus**
baileyi 35
elongatus 36
nitidulus 17, 24, 33
scaber 36
squamatus 19, 23, 24
ssp. *alpinus* 23
- Leucochrysum**
albicans 22
- Microseris**
lanceolata 19
spp. 1, 2, and 3 37, 45
- Minuria**
leptophylla 45
- Myriocephalus**
suffruticosus 26
- Name changes** 3
- Olearia**
erubescens 19, 33, 34
myrsinoides 33, 34
pannosa 28
- Ozothamnus**
ledifolius 41
- Pelargonium**
australe 'Happy Constable' 11
- Podolepis**
hieracioides 19, 20
jaceoides 19, 26, 45
neglecta 11
robusta 19
rugata 11, 26
- Pronunciation** 26, 46
- Propagation from seed** 11, 25, 26, 33, 36, 39, 41, 43
- Pseudognaphalium**
luteoalbum 3
- Pycnosorus**
chrysanthes 19
globosus 10, 11, 25, 47
thompsonianus 11
- Rhodanthe**
anthemoides 34, 44
chlorocephala
ssp. *rosea* 11, 34, 40, 44, 45, 47
ssp. *splendida* 11, 35, 40
citrina 11
manglesii 11, 34
- Root aphids** 45
- Rutidosus**
leucantha 11
multiflorus 3
- Schoenia**
cassiniana 40
filifolia
ssp. *subulifolia* 35
- Siloxerus**
multiflorus 4
- Telfordia** 12
- Trioncinia**
retroflexa 28
- Xerochrysum**
bicolor 4
bracteatum 1, 19, 22, 25, 35, 44, 45
palustre 4
papillosum 4
subundulatum 4, 22
viscosum 4, 45

