

**ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS****ABN 56 654 053 676****THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 67**

*Podolepis robusta*  
(illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson)

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**WEB PAGE**

<http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/daisy.html>

## ESMA SALKIN STUDENTSHIP

Members will be delighted to learn that AD SG has created the Esma Salkin Studentship in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria. This studentship will allow students to research complexities within the Asteraceae family, in which Esma was particularly interested.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> Joy presented a cheque for \$30,000 to Dr Philip Moors, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens. It is expected that this will allow one student in each of the next three or four years to gain valuable experience and, at the same time to explore some of the taxonomic questions relating to Asteraceae. The first studentship will be offered to undergraduates at Melbourne University in the summer of 2003/2004.

Many years ago Esma identified a form of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* with pendent ruby buds, which she recognised as having unique attributes. She named it *Rhodanthe anthemoides* 'Paper Cascade', and agreed that it should be PBR'd on the condition that the income (if any) should be used to further knowledge in Asteraceae. She thought that these funds could be used to meet some of the costs of AD SG publications in which she was involved, if such assistance proved to be necessary. As it turned out, the three books were self-financing, by a very small margin.

Esma asked the members of the AD SG Book Committee, as individuals, to act with her as trustees of the funds. As we all know, 'Paper Cascade' was an outstanding success in Australia and overseas. The first gift made under Esma's direction was in 1995 to Dr Philip Short to assist in research in the *Brachyscome* genus.

As Esma's health began to deteriorate she and other members of the Book Committee decided that the funds should be allocated to some specific projects. The negotiations with the Royal Botanic Gardens were underway when she was seriously ill and she was happy with the proposals. The Science and Biodiversity Division of the Royal Botanic Gardens is very pleased and grateful for the donation.

## PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE ESMA SALKIN STUDENTSHIP

The Science and Biodiversity Division of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne proposed the following subjects:

***Senecio behrianus***: genetics — how genetically diverse are the three very small populations?

***Arrhynchthites***: are *A. mixta* (the only southern member of the genus) and tropical spp. really congeneric? Microscopic/SEM examination required of floral minutiae. (Loan material of PNG spp. has been requested from CANB.)

***Eriochlamys***: two distinct entities in this genus, only one yet named. Formalise the entity regarded as *E. sp. 1* in the *Flora of Victoria* using morphological description and SEM photography

***Olearia rugosa***: four forms distinguished on leaf size and shape currently recognised in Victoria. Analyse the variation between these and consider the taxonomic implications. Elucidate their distribution and conservation status.

***Olearia speciosa***: genetics and morphology — attempt to prove hybrid status of at least some specimens regarded as this species using presumed parents — and to clarify the distribution and conservation status of *O. speciosa sens. str.*

***Cratystylis conocephala***: There are apparently only 3 plants, separated by only a few metres, of this distinctive shrub in Victoria. They have not been observed to produce seed Are they clones? Can it be propagated from cuttings?

The members of the Book Committee have considered these proposals and have suggested that the last four would be the preferred subjects for research. Esma enjoyed propagating olearias, and she had collected *Eriochlamys* species for the AD SG Herbarium, one from her birthplace, Streaky Bay in South Australia. Two members have germinated seed of *Cratystylis conocephala* from Wentworth (NSW).

Members will be advised of the details of the research in due course.

## LEADER'S LETTER

At our September meeting we were privileged to be invited to the Royal Botanic Gardens (Cranbourne) where we were briefed on the plans for the new Australian Garden, and the Asteraceae display in particular. Several ways in which the Study Group will be able to assist the Gardens' staff with this huge project were identified. We have been invited back for another visit in March when the sowing season will be well underway. Planting is due to commence for some species in April.

I urge all members who were given 'comments sheets' to please make sure that they are returned to Jason Davenport (Royal Botanic Gardens, 1000 Ballarto Road, Cranbourne, Vic. 3977) promptly. Information can then be properly collated and the appropriate action taken to obtain the best propagating material.

This is a venture which gives us a chance not only to showcase Australian daisies but also to pass on some of our hard-earned 'expertise' to the RBG and eventually to the gardening public. Surely this is one of the principal aims of the Group.

Another exciting development is the Study Group's involvement in the 'Esma Salkin Studentship' which will provide funding for a botany undergraduate to undertake a small research project on Asteraceae under the supervision of RBG staff at the Melbourne Herbarium. We are looking forward to some interesting results and a broadening of our understanding of Australian daisies.

Finally I must record my thanks to Syd and Sylvia Oats, Corinne and Trevor Hampel, and John and Julie Barrie for organizing an ADSG display at the Adelaide Wildflower Show in September. It was quite spectacular by all accounts and created much interest from the visitors to the Show.

Best wishes to all for the coming festive season.

*Joy*



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## COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> November (Christmas Break-up)	11.00am	John and Barbara Bell's garden 1050 Horseshoe Bend Road Torquay. (Tel: 52613543) Melway Map 237 inset H 10 and map 466 C 3-12.*
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am	General Meeting at Pat and John Webb's 99 Fiddlers Green 57 Gloucester Road, Berwick.
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	Meeting at RBG Cranbourne Depot Office. This will be a follow-up meeting after our September meeting at this venue.

\* BYO lunch. The Bell's have kindly invited us to eat lunch in their garden after we have had a tour of it. We intend to call at Glenleith Nursery on our way home. It is 10 minutes south of Geelong at 275 Whites Road, Mount Duneed — Melways 229 A 12. Horseshoe Bend Road is a long one. Barbara Bell has promised to send Maureen a map, which will be photocopied for members intending to come. Please ask for it ahead of time. Our thanks to Maureen for organising this outing for us.

## SPECIES OR FORMS NEW TO MEMBERS

### *Ozothamnus reflexifolius*

Jeanette Closs alerted Joy to this new species in an e-mail on 12. 9. 03 — 'At our APS Hobart meeting last Wednesday we had an interesting talk by Kevin Leeson. He has done a study of a new *Ozothamnus* that was found quite recently by Richard Schahinger growing almost out of dolerite slabs on the slopes of Mount Direction, which is not far north of Hobart. It was at first thought to be the presumed extinct *Ozothamnus selaginoides* but, as you will see, its leaves are very different. I accepted the offer of a copy of his study as I thought that it would be of interest to you and good to have on your files. The Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens are growing this plant, and the plant displayed at the meeting would be one you would be happy to put in the garden. The plants shown in the slides, however, looked a bit sparse and not so dense, but then what would you expect from plants that mostly grow out of cracks in dolerite slabs?'

Joy has provided a copy of the paper sent by Jeanette. The reference is Leeson, K. E. and Rozefelds, A. C. (2003). A new endemic *Ozothamnus* species (Asteraceae) from Tasmania, Australia. *Australian Systematic Botany* 16, 317–322.

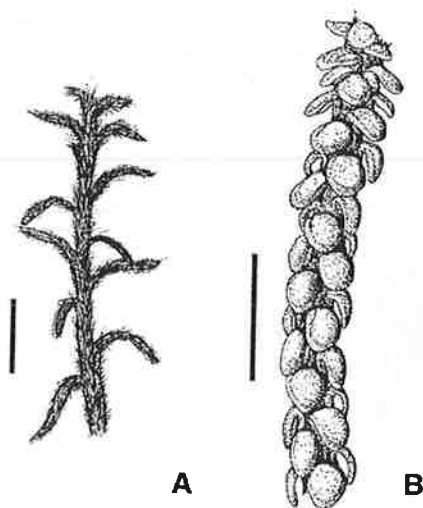


Fig. 9. *Ozothamnus reflexifolius*, line drawing showing differences between juvenile and adult foliage. (A) Juvenile foliage, (B) adult foliage, drawings based on living specimens in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Scale bar = 1 cm (A), 5 mm (B). Drawn by A. C. Rozefelds.

(Illustration taken from the reference above in *Australian Systematic Botany* 16, p.321 with the permission of the corresponding author.)

*Ozothamnus reflexifolius* is described as a shrub, 0.5–1.3m high. The older stems are almost hairless. The leaves vary widely in shape and arrangement. Seedling leaves are sessile, linear, 8–12 x 1–2mm, held erect from the stem. The tips are blunt and the surfaces are covered with cobwebby hairs, particularly beneath. The bases are decurrent. As leaves mature the lower third is fused to the stem, the blades becoming obovate and hairless. In younger growth the blade is almost at right angles to the stem, turning back strongly to become parallel to the stem at maturity. At this stage the reflexed part of the blade is broadly ovate to almost circular, 0.7–1.2 x 1.0–1.4mm, and the leaves are closely arranged.

Sessile heads in small clusters at the tips of stems are cream or yellowish. The arrangement of the flowers is described as 'anauxotelic', that is, the new growth comes from behind the flower-head. Plants flowers from November to March.

*O. reflexifolius* is thought to be closely related to *O. lycopodioides*, *O. scutellifolius* and *O. selaginoides* (which is now presumed to be

extinct). These species have the following characters in common: anauxotelic inflorescences, sessile heads in terminal clusters, and the leaves do not have revolute or recurved margins. *O. reflexifolius*, *O. lycopodioides* and *O. scutellifolius* also have foliage which alters shape dramatically from the juvenile to adult stage.

*O. lycopodioides* has sessile, linear-oblong, overlapping leaves 5–7mm long. The base is fused to the stem and causes the stem to appear scarred after the blades have broken off. The blades are erect or spreading but never parallel to the stem. The inner involucre bracts are dark brown with purple tips.

*O. scutellifolius* has woolly stems, and almost circular leaves, 0.5–1mm across, which are pressed against the stems. The inner involucre bracts are pale brown with white tips.

*O. selaginoides* has adult leaves reflexed but not parallel to the stem, the reflexed part of the blade being ovate and about 1.0–1.2 x 1.0–1.4mm. The inner involucre bracts are yellow with white tips.

by **Jeanette Closs and Judy Barker** (with help from **Joy Greig**)

**DAISIES of CROAJINGOLONG NATIONAL PARK** (continued)by **Joy Greig**

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Common Everlasting) is rare in the Park, but a form occurs in sand dunes at Cape Everard which has an extremely woolly covering on stems and leaves.

*Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting) occurs to a fairly limited extent in forests and along roadsides away from the coast. In spring and summer clusters of yellow flower-heads top 40cm high stems that are clothed with variable, linear to oblong cottony leaves.

*Chrysocephalum baxteri* (Fringed Everlasting) is very widespread on sandy soils on heathland and in forests. It is a perennial herb with simple stems to 40cm high. Leaves are green, narrow-linear, up to 30mm long, with the undersides white-woolly. Flower-heads are solitary and terminal, up to 4cm across, with fringed white bracts.

*Argentipallium obtusifolium* (Blunt Everlasting) is an erect perennial to 35cm high. Stems are silvery with cottony hairs, and the sparse, blunt, linear leaves are up to 25mm long and covered on the undersides with silvery hairs. Flower-heads up to 30mm in diameter are borne at the tips of stems. Outer bracts are tinged pink or brown; inner bracts are white. In the Park this species is confined to sandy soils in the 'Sandpatch Wilderness' and a small area east of Mallacoota.

*Xerochrysum bracteatum* (Golden Everlasting) is a short-lived perennial to 100cm high with erect stems and elliptic leaves. Flower-heads to 5cm across with shiny golden-yellow bracts occur singly or in loose corymbs from spring to autumn. A widespread plant of drier forests.

*Craspedia variabilis* (Billy Buttons) is an erect herb with one or more stems rising to 50cm from a basal rosette of narrow-spathulate leaves up to 13cm long. Spherical, golden-yellow inflorescences are terminal on reddish stems. It occurs in grasslands and open forest and flowers in spring and summer.

*Microseris* sp. 3 (Yam Daisy) is a tuberous perennial to 50cm high with leaves that are linear to oblanceolate and up to 30cm long. Yellow ligulate flower-heads about 20mm in diameter occur in spring and summer.

*Brachyscome aculeata* (Hill Daisy) is a tall, branching perennial to 60cm with white flower-heads to 4cm across. Grows in woodlands.



*B. aff. formosa* (Entity 1) x ½  
(illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson)

*Brachyscome* aff. *formosa* (Entity 1) was previously confused with *B. angustifolia* var. *heterophylla*. It occurs in eucalypt forest along the Genoa River. Leaves are orbicular to ovate and regularly lobed. Flower-heads are mauve, to 35mm across and appear in spring to summer.

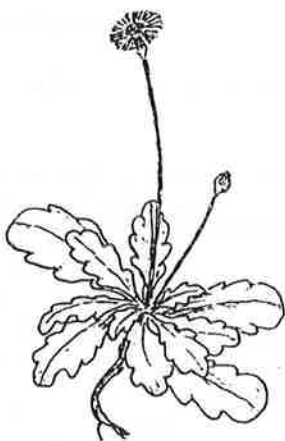
*Brachyscome graminea* (Grass Daisy) is a trailing perennial to 20cm high with narrowly obovate or linear, glabrous leaves. Flower-heads are white, about 20mm across, and appear in summer. This species is found in saline coastal marshes and beside lakes and streams.

*Brachyscome riparia* (Snowy River Daisy) is a branched perennial to 40cm high. Leaves to 4cm long are stiff, dark green and cuneate to linear with acute or rounded teeth near the apex. Flower-heads are white to pale pink and occur in summer. It inhabits rock crevices along the banks of the Cann and Genoa Rivers and sandy patches between rocks.

*Brachyscome spathulata* (Spoon Daisy) is an erect herb to 50cm high branching from a basal cluster of spatulate leaves. Mauve heads about 4cm across are terminal and solitary. Flowers in spring in forests.



*Argentipallium obtusifolium* x 1/3  
(Illustrated by Betty Campbell.)



*Lagenophora stipitata* x 2/3  
(illustrated by Betty Campbell)

***Lagenophora gracilis*** (Slender Bottle-daisy) is a small tuberous herb with several dark, wiry stems rising from a basal rosette of obtuse, toothed leaves to 50mm long. Terminal flower-heads about 10mm across are white or pale mauve and occur in spring and summer. This species is widespread in the park in forests and heathland.

***Lagenophora stipitata*** (Blue Bottle-daisy) is very similar to *L. gracilis* but has larger leaves (to 70mm long) and a fibrous root system.

***Leptorhynchus nitidulus*** (Shining Buttons) is a rhizomatous perennial with stems to 35cm high, branching at the base. Linear leaves to 40mm long reduce in size up the stem. Yellow flower-heads about 15mm in diameter are solitary and terminal. Occurs in open forest and heathland and flowers in spring and summer.

In addition there are 11 species of *Senecio*, 3 species of *Euchiton*, *Leptinella longipes*, *Gnaphalium indutum*, and *Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum* which are known to occur.

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## **MORE ABOUT XEROCHRYSUM BRACTEATUM FROM SANDY BEACH (NSW)**

by **Barrie Hadlow**

In July Jenny and I were in the area of our original collection, a wind-blasted headland north of Coffs Harbour, and were very pleased to find this clone still growing strongly on its exposed site within metres of the ocean. Competition from strong growing native grasses doesn't seem to inhibit it, and this showy daisy, typically of prostrate habit, is conditioned by the harsh coastal environment.

We noted perhaps 20 or 30 plants in the population and I would guess more exist across the headland reserve. I like to think that perhaps even more may be growing on the 2 or 3 small rocky, well-grassed islands offshore only a relatively short distance away. Of most concern to us that day (other than the VERY strong wind) was the Bitou Bush out-competing the Acacia/Banksia community which stabilizes the foredune close by. I will still back the *Xerochrysum* to survive, against all the odds! I am sending seed of it for the seed bank.

The longer days and hint of spring in the ACT have caused our *Brachyscome* sp. aff. *formosa* seedlings to perk up and put on a new season's display, despite good snow still on the Brindabella Ranges close by and minimum temperatures of about 5°C. Another perennial growing successfully in an upturned terracotta water pipe alongside the brachyscome is *Helichrysum calvertianum*. This species also seems happy in our climate and survives well the subzero temperatures of mid-winter. The tired foliage from last season's growth (small linear, deep green leaves) I pruned back severely in August, and new basal shoots give promise of good recovery. The many small white solitary flowers contrast well with the leaves and give a great show later in the year in their earthenware home. The original collection was from the Mittagong area of NSW. I'm sending seed of this species also.

I have included seed of *Olearia elliptica* which I have written about before — but it continues to impress. We have four plants and the largest is >2m in height. In May this year it produced much seed following a superb late summer — early autumn flowering. The mite problem I had noted that affected this species in our garden a year or two back seems now to be overcome without any particular treatment or help from me.

The *Leptorhynchus squamatus* seed is from one cultivated plant in the garden — commonly found in our region. I'm sure many members will know it well.

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## **A POSTSCRIPT TO DAISIES IN THE VINEYARD**

by **Ros Cornish**

The first of the *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* has flowered and several others probably will this week. They seem to be 'normal' size, i.e. the size they usually get to here. We have had quite a few heavy frosts so either the plants are hardier than usual or else we have a wonderful microclimate in the vineyard. This winter

John has recorded at least minus 2°C on several occasions at fruiting wire level so it has probably been cooler at ground level. Interesting. The *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* seedlings in my front garden still seem to be fine despite the frosts — they are less than 10cm tall. It will be interesting to see whether they continue to grow and eventually flower. Quite a few *Brachyscome iberidifolia* seedlings have appeared too, which is most pleasing.

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## LEPTORHYNCHOS SP. FROM DIMMOCKS LOOKOUT

by Judy Barker

Esma collected a form of *Leptorhynchus squamatus* from Dimmocks Lookout, grew it and was pleased with it as a garden subject. We decided to see whether it could be subsp. *alpinus*, as described in a recent article — Flann, C., Ladiges, P.Y. and Walsh, N.G. (2002). Morphological variation in *Leptorhynchus squamatus* (Gnaphalieae: Asteraceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 15, 205–209.

***Leptorhynchus squamatus* ssp. *alpinus*** Flann subsp. nov.  
*alpinus* — belonging to the Alps

A perennial distinguished from ssp. *squamatus* by the following characters:

- The leaves are elliptic to oblanceolate, 2–5mm wide, with mucronate tips.
- The outer involucral bracts are lanceolate with pale golden tips and the inner bracts have margins bearing fine tangled hairs.
- The fruits are glabrous to faintly papillose.
- The number of pappus bristles on female florets (6–15) are similar to those of bisexual florets (9–17), whereas in ssp. *squamatus* the number of pappus bristles on female florets (0–12) are fewer than those on bisexual florets (6–16).

**Flowering period:** January to April in cultivation: January to March in the wild.

**Propagation:** Esma has reported (NL 63, p.22) that sowing of fresh seed of the *Leptorhynchus* species collected on the March 2002 trip from Dimmocks Lookout yielded almost 100% germination.

**Cultivation and uses:** Subspecies *alpinus* has not been grown by members for a long enough period to allow for proper horticultural evaluation. It grows attractively in pots and flowers profusely.

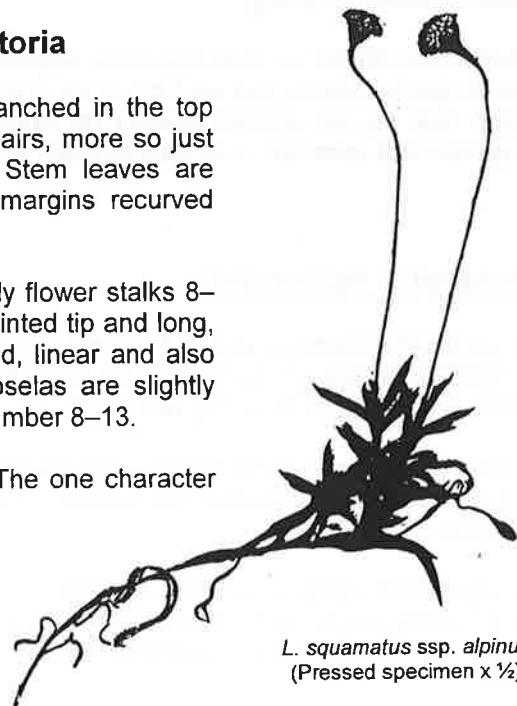
**Distribution and habitat:** NSW, Vic, Tas. It is restricted to alpine and subalpine regions in Victoria and New South Wales. It is common in grasslands, herbfields and open heath.

### **Specimen collected at Dimmocks Lookout, Victoria**

Perennial, 13 x 40cm, with ascending stems, sparsely branched in the top half. Stems are quite densely covered with white cottony hairs, more so just below the heads. Basal leaves are elliptic, 28 x 7mm. Stem leaves are narrow-oblanceolate, 15–35 x 2–3mm, discolorous, with margins recurved and a brown mucronate tip.

Flower-heads are 1.2cm across, bright yellow, held on scaly flower stalks 8–10cm long. Outer bracts are lanceolate with a dark, long-pointed tip and long, white, tangled hairs on the margin. Inner bracts are stalked, linear and also have long, white, tangled hairs on the margins. The cypselas are slightly papillose and white pappus bristles of the bisexual florets number 8–13.

This specimen appears to be *L. squamatus* ssp. *alpinus*. The one character that does not fit is that the outer bracts have dark tips.



*L. squamatus* ssp. *alpinus*  
(Pressed specimen x ½)

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**DAISIES ON LORD HOWE ISLAND**by **Pat and John Webb**

We'd like to tell you about three species of Asteraceae we saw on a recent visit to Lord Howe Island:

1. ***Cassinia tenuifolia*** — "Bully Bush" according to the locals; "Bolly bush" according to Elliot and Jones.
2. ***Lordhowea insularis***
3. ***Olearia elliptica* ssp. *praetermissa***

1. ***Cassinia tenuifolia***

This hardy, compact bush, 1–2 m, has dense foliage and pale green linear leaves. It was quite common in exposed areas, in paddocks, and seems to colonise disturbed areas. It is useful for revegetation on the western side of the island, especially near Lagoon Beach (which has lots of weeds — white *Alyssum* of all things!)

It was used along the edge of the runway at the airport. We did not see the flowers, but seed was available. Flower clusters are 3–4cm across, dense, straw-coloured. Elliot and Jones say "easily grown in common garden situations but not commonly known. It could be useful as a shelter plant in coastal areas in temperate Australia, and should grow easily in a sunny position". There is seed of this species in the Provenance Seed Bank.

2. ***Lordhowia insularis***

A woody, erect plant, 1–2m, with large deeply toothed leaves and clusters of small yellow flowers is widespread on the Island.

Flowers are quite conspicuous, with ray florets of 3, 4, 5 or 6. This shrub can be very straggly. Elliot and Jones say "this species is worthy of wider recognition, rarely cultivated — has good potential as a pot plant". We did not see this plant in flower, but apparently flowers are visited by butterflies and other insects.

3. ***Olearia elliptica* ssp. *praetermissa***

A stunted bush up to 1m, growing in exposed areas and higher up on the rocky mountain edges. This species is found in eastern Australia mainland, with white daisy flowers 1cm across. Elliot and Jones say "lacks strong appeal but adapts well to cultivation in well-drained acidic soils." Apparently it can be propagated by seed or cutting.

4. **DISAPPOINTMENT — *Brachyscome segmentosa***, commonly called Lord Howe Daisy. This is one of my favourite garden plants, but we did not see it growing in the wild as it grows above 350 metres on Mount Gower (too high for our ancient knees!) No wonder it has looked a little sad in a couple of spots in our Berwick garden this summer — so very different to the misty, moisty areas on the mountain.

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**OZOTHAMNUS RODWAYI**by **Beryl Birch**

To continue the *Ozothamnus rodwayi* mini saga — my now defunct plant came to me tagged "*Ozothamnus rodwayi* 'Silver Everlasting'. Compact grey-silver foliated shrub from Mt Barrow in Tasmania growing 0.6 x 0.6m. White flowers occur in spring and summer."

Backtracking to its former name *Helichrysum backhousii*, I found that the Elliot/Jones *Encyclopaedia* Vol 5 lists the green leaved species plus two varieties: var. *oreophilum* (also green), and var. *kingii* with silvery-greyish foliage.

My plant tag did not mention varieties and, with my mind more on landscaping than on botany, neither did I. If the silver variety is now on the Australian nursery scene perhaps Jeff Irons will find it available in England to join the well established green plants of this species.

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**DAISIES FOR THE SA PLANT SALE DAISY DISPLAY ON 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**by Syd and Syl Oats

The April seed that was sown will be flowering by September. The *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* are about 35cm tall — at least four or more plants per pot. They have big buds that will be flowering in the next couple of weeks. All of the daisies are now potted up in big pots with multiple plants per pot.

**GERMINATION RESULTS**

Batch No.	Species	Source and collection date	Date sown	Germin. date	Germin. %	Remarks
141	<i>Schoenia filifolia</i> ssp. <i>subulifolia</i>	ADSG SB	27. 4. 03	1. 5. 03	50%	2/8: plants are 35cm tall, 4 + plants / pot, and buds just starting.
142	<i>Brachyscome iberidifolia</i>	ADSG SB	25. 4. 03	28. 4. 03	50%	2/8: plants 25cm, 2 + / pot.
143	<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i>	Oats' garden 2001	27.4. 03	30. 4. 03	100%	2/8: plants about 10cm, 2 to pot.
144	<i>Rhodanthe chlorocephala</i> ssp. <i>rosea</i>	Oats' garden 2001	28. 4. 03	30. 4. 03	100%	1/8: now 30cm and big buds. Soaked in SW 15mins.
145	<i>Schoenia filifolia</i> ssp. <i>subulifolia</i>	Oats' garden 2001	28. 4. 03	31. 4. 03	90%	2/8: as for No. 141.
146	<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i>	Oats' garden 2001	28. 4. 03	3. 5. 03	50%	2/8: plants 25cm, 6 + plants / pot.
147	<i>Rhodanthe sterilescens</i>	WA WS 006 10. 96	13. 6. 03	—	0	SISP
148	<i>Podolepis</i> sp. 1	Serendip Sanctuary, Vic 2. 99 and 4°C	13. 6. 03	—	0	SISP
149	<i>Podolepis neglecta</i>	Oats' garden via ADSG SB 2. 97 and 4°C	13. 6. 03	21. 6. 03	75%	Healthy seedlings potted up well.
150	<i>Podolepis lessonii</i>	ADSG SB 12. 94 and 4°C	13. 6. 03	22. 6. 03	3 seedlings	Very frail, small seedlings. 1 seedling survived after potting up.
151	<i>Podolepis rugata</i>	GT garden '02, 4°C	13. 6. 03	22. 6. 03	85%	Healthy seedlings, growing well after potting up.
152	<i>Schoenia cassiniana</i>	Oats' garden 2000	13. 6. 03	20. 6. 03	80%	Very healthy seedlings, growing well after potting up.
153	<i>Olearia rudis</i>	Oats' garden 2002	13. 6. 03	28. 6. 03	8 seedlings	Seedlings very small and fragile. Only 4 doing well after potting up.
154	<i>Brachyscome iberidifolia</i>	Oats garden 1999	25. 6. 03	28. 6. 03	90%	All potted up and growing well.
155	<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i> var. <i>albicans</i>	Oats' garden 2001	29. 6. 03	14. 7. 03	25%	Seedlings look very weak but seem to have survived potting up.
156	<i>Rhodanthe polygalifolia</i> (soaked in SW for 15')	Oats' garden 2001	25. 6. 03	28. 6. 03	100%	Healthy seedlings potted up and look very healthy.
157	<i>Pycnosorus globosus</i>	Oats' garden	25. 6. 03	29. 6. 03	25 %	Small but potted up and looking good.
158	<i>Brachyscome iberidifolia</i>	Oats' garden 1999	2. 7. 03	5. 7. 03	90%	Sown again because No. 154 was caught in a heavy downpour just after leaving propagator. Looked sick.
159	<i>Rhodanthe polygalifolia</i> (SW for 15')	Oats' garden 2001	2. 7. 03	5. 7. 03	100%	As for No. 158. However, 154 and 156 recovered within the week.
162	<i>R. chlorocephala</i> ssp. <i>rosea</i> (SW for 15')	Oats' garden 2001	13. 6. 03	19. 6. 03	100%	Healthy, potted up and looking good.
163	<i>R. manglesii</i> (SISP soak)	WP 051 RT	13. 6. 03	—	0	
164	<i>R. manglesii</i> (white, upright)	VB 1999 RT	13. 6. 03	22. 6. 03	1 seedling	Seedling did not survive.

We have almost 200 pots of daisies now. Sounds like a lot of work coming up after the Show to get the pots into the ground. Thankfully, although we have water restrictions, we can still use a hand-held hose.

[Editor's note. Syd and Syl have left these results to speak for themselves. As one of the seed bank curators I'd like to draw some conclusions:

1. The Oats ' garden seed is very good indeed.
2. Seed of some species collected in the wild in 1996 appears to have lost viability. It has been stored at room temperature in air-tight glass jars but perhaps should have been stored in the fridge after a few years.
3. The 15' pretreatment of *R. polygalifolia* in dilute soil wetter yielded an excellent result. We have always been afraid that long exposure of seeds to detergent could cause damage to cotyledons. If short exposure times (without recourse to any other pretreatments) give such good results, so much the better and cheaper. (See also pp. 47– 48)]

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## REPORT FROM POMONAL

by Linda Handscombe

In the daisy line and doing really well despite no water over summer are *Rhodanthe anthemoides*, *Leucophyta brownii*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *C. semipapposum*. The *apiculatum* is the Grampians one and it is popping up all over the banks and looking a picture.

I have tried propagating ixodia from seed with no success, but have struck it easily from cuttings. All the plants died after being planted out. My boss at work was ordering tubes from Wildtech Nursery in Gippsland so I ordered a tray of 56 ixodia from them. They were so healthy I planted 20 big ones straight out, some in the lower, sandier edges of my wetland (not too wet) and some straight into mulched garden beds. I'll pot the rest on and plant them out after summer.

I will have some low, exclusively daisy beds in front of the house.

I went back to visit my old house and garden. Marlene had lost a plant and she wanted it identified. She said it held special sentimental significance as it was hanging all around our house drying when she came to look at it the first time. She said the smell was very significant too. It was *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (Sago Plant). Fortunately I have a plant I can give her. I had just planted some straggly ones out in the paddock with the proteas/leucadendrons, banksias, etc, (shock/horror) but the frost zapped them all. I SHOULD know by now, that a beautiful blue sky and balmy day inviting me outside to plant is always followed by a frost. The last two were shockers.

We took my visiting sister and her partner to Mt Cassell Nursery in Pomonal today. It is under new management. I saw a *Xerochrysum palustre* and had to have it, and also a big sprawling plant labelled '*Chrysocephalum ramosissimum*'.

I was really sorry to read of your loss of Esmá Salkin from the Group. She would leave a big hole that would be hard to fill. Such drive and knowledge and talent!

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## ADSG DISPLAY AT THE APS SA PLANT SALE

by Syd and Syl Oats

The ADSG stall was a great success and we felt it made the public want to go off and buy our native daisies. We feel strongly that it should be held every year.

Despite the lack of sunshine leading up to the show, we still had a great display of flowering plants. John Barrie delivered some lovely plants and three buckets of cut flowers, and Corinne left some beautiful plants too. With the colourful screen, all the flowering and non-flowering plants, the buckets of cut flowers and our two dishes of dried *Xerochrysum bracteatum* and *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*, we truly had a wonderful display. We received many favourable comments from the public, growers and officials.

At the end of the show an official came to see us, enquiring about our thoughts on how well the daisy display had gone. He asked if we were happy with the situation of the stall and whether we had any problems. We were happy to report that everything had been perfect with the APS SA arrangements. In fact we were looked after very well. Our spot had been marked out on the ground before our arrival, and our screen and

trestle were put up as soon as we arrived. We were made most welcome, and APS SA were extremely efficient and helpful throughout the weekend.

Syd and I answered many queries, mostly concerning the growing and care of daisies and where they could be bought. They also asked about seed and where to purchase it. We enjoyed ourselves talking about daisies for two whole days and met some really nice people.

We gave away 200 packets of seeds. We could easily have doubled that. It made a good ice-breaker, enabling us to engage people in conversation. The other factor was that we stood out in front of the trestle and screen, and that made people friendlier too.

There were a few queries about joining AD SG but some people were not even members of APS. There were also a few enquiries about *Everlasting Daisies of Australia*. It seems people are reluctant to send away for it. APS SA had a book stall but sadly no everlasting daisy book was to be seen. APS SA also had free seed in little plastic bags, but no daisy seed was seen.

Corinne will be sending in a report. She was very good, looking us up throughout the weekend to see that all was well. She was kept busy on the growers' table, filling the tables as they emptied. Like us, I bet she was very tired by Sunday night.

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## PROPAGATION PAGES

1. **Ray Purches** rang to say that the nursery in Wangaratta (for which he works part-time) is interested in Nodulaid products for the better propagation of peas and acacias (see NL 65, p.13 and NL 66, p. 33). They contacted Bio/Care technology and had been told that the longevity of the inoculant depended on temperature and moisture, and that it should be mixed with potting mix when pricking out the seedlings. The inoculant should constitute 0.1% of the mass of the soil.

2. **Bev Courtney** reports on a talk on germination.

'Recently I attended a talk given by Randall Robinson on the germination of wildflowers. Randall is a botanist working on the flora of the basalt plains grasslands to the west of Melbourne. He's interested in pollination, seed set and seedling recruitment of the inter-tussock species that usually occur in close association with the native grasses. Many of these species are daisies.

Of particular interest to AD SG members was his mention of *Xerochrysum palustre* (formerly *Bracteantha palustris*) which grows in grassy areas, often inundated, or at least very wet for part of the year. AD SG members who have grown this species find that in wet areas it suckers vigorously and often forms a substantial clump of vertical stems topped with a single large flower-head.

Randall was looking at two populations of this species — one at Ballan and the other at Gisborne. Plants grown from seed collected at each site didn't do well; germination was poor and seedlings weren't vigorous or healthy. However, when cuttings of each of the two forms were taken back to the nursery and artificially crossed there, seed set was increased and vigorous seedlings obtained.

Randall concluded that each of the two populations was in fact what he called a 'monoclonal stand'. In other words, each group of plants in an individual stand was really just one widely-suckering plant. He surmised that *X. palustre* is an obligate outcrosser, i.e. two genetically different populations are needed for successful cross-pollination and seed set, hence the improvement in seed set and germination which occurred when the two separate populations were brought together.

Clearing or infilling of swampy areas on the basalt plains has left this species high and dry, with populations so isolated they can't interbreed and produce strong seedlings to carry on the line. Without human help it could be lost to us which would be a great shame as it looks stunning en masse. Let's hope Randall succeeds in his attempts to save it.

3. **Margaret Guenzel** has an article in the September 2003 issue of *Growing Australian*. She records her germination tests on *Actinotus helianthi*. The best results were achieved by soaking seeds for one hour in a cup of tepid water to which 3 drops of detergent (Wettasoil from Bunnings in this case) were added. Second best results ensued when the seed was lightly covered with smoke-impregnated vermiculite. She is

continuing with new trials in December. She believes that seed should be sown in the hot months, April being too late. Margaret expressed the opinion that if hairy seeds proved difficult to germinate, the dilute detergent soak for a short period was worth a try. (Yes, we all know Flannel Flowers are not daisies.)

4. **Syd Oats** recommends Munn's Lawn Fertiliser — Golf Course Green as the best fertiliser for everlasting daisies such as the species he grew for the APS SA Show. It contains high N, high K and 1.6 P.

5. **Judy Barker** reports that *Argentipallium obtusifolium* and *Gompholobium ecostatum* continued to grow under the regimes outlined in NL 66, p.33. The daisies were ready for sale at the Angair Nature Show in late September, but were only allowed to go to gardens in the Anglesea/Aireys Inlet district. It will be interesting to hear whether they have grown in their new homes. A few pots of the Red-Riding-Hood Pea were taken to the Show also but, while they stimulated interest in how they had been grown, nobody offered to buy them. They were about 1.5cm high, two to three in a pot and priced at \$5 per pot (for the effort involved). One or two pots were given to staunch members of Angair but it was nice to bring the others home. They were too young to be out on their own. They have received a dose of nodule slurry made from coast wattle nodules (see NL 64, p. 41) and have grown at least 2mm.

Noting that seeds of *Comesperma ericinum* were hairy and weren't germinating under smoke-impregnated vermiculite, another batch of seed was soaked in detergent water as Marg G. had described. The seeds were strained after an hour, sown and covered with smoked vermiculite. Seven seedlings resulted — by far the best result achieved so far.

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## AN INNOVATIVE USE FOR A RABBIT'S CAGE

by Syl and Syd Oats

(Daphne is a much-loved pet rabbit who now lives inside in five star accommodation. .... Judy)

We were concerned that the seed you sent us, and all the rest that we were sowing would not germinate because the weather had been really cool, but as usual Syd came up with a brilliant idea. He turned Daphne's unused steel outside cage into a propagating box. He put a couple of sheets of thin insulation on the bottom and then put a horticultural bottom warmer on top of that. More insulation was added around the sides to keep the draughts out. The bottom warmer has 2 trays with plastic ventilated tops, each tray taking 8 punnets. The top of the hutch has a steel lift-off lid. Finally Syd fitted an 18 watt fluorotube over the top of the trays. The plants grew pale and leggy before the fluorotube was fitted, but now they are very green.

We have the propagator inside the garage near a power point. A max/min thermometer tells us that the temperature fluctuates over a 24hr period from 15–25°C. We both agree it is a much better use for the hutch as these steel cages are so cold in winter and extremely hot in the summer.

At last I have had some success at cuttings. I used to get fantastic results at Beaufort but they seem to have eluded me here. Thanks to the propagator I have potted up 18 cuttings of various correas.

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## MEMBERS' REPORTS

**Corinne Hampel** of Murray Bridge (SA) e-mails on 10/6/03: 'We (Trevor and I) were in Stawell for the Correa Crawl on the long weekend. On our wanderings I saw *Ozothamnus obcordatus* on the roadside at Ararat, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, somewhat scruffy, and remnants of some other paper daisies in Deep Lead State Forest. I also saw *Leptorhynchus squamatus* shooting off again in the Grampians, and *Xerochrysum viscosum* at Mt Arapiles. I thought that is what it was because of very sticky leaves but on checking the book I notice that the leaves of this are shorter and narrower. Apart from the sticky leaves I would have said it was *Xerochrysum bracteatum* because the leaves were much longer and wider. Everything was quite stressed wherever we went although there was evidence of small things shooting on the basis of recent showers.

We have so many good memories of Esma. She and Alf took us to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens years ago on a couple of occasions and were so generous with time and information. Esma wrote such a kind letter of encouragement to me a few months ago. You will miss her presence at your gatherings.'

**Jeff Irons** of Heswall (England) writes in June: 'Several daisies are coming into bloom. I'll take slides of *Ozothamnus antennarius* and *O. ericifolius*, also *Olearia glandulosa* and send them to you for AD SG use. Your *Olearia frostii* seed is germinating, but since *Ozothamnus stirlingii* was not, it has been put in the fridge. I've just requested *Olearia ledifolia* and *O. personioides* from Ken Gillanders. The one I really want is *O. tasmanica*.  
(Does anyone know where this species could be purchased for Jeff? .... Judy.)

**Ray Purches** of Wangaratta (Vic) writes on 19/6/03: 'We've just taken delivery of a delicious shipment of riceflower plants from Ausplant Nursery at Dalby in Queensland — about 500 plants all up, four new varieties, two white and two pink. Because I have just completed the second of two wildflower nutrition workshops, I am of course full bottle on all that stuff. Just to prove that I was listening, we are applying dolomite to raise pH from about 4.9 to at least 5.5, and to add magnesium to exceed our current deficient levels. Previous liming efforts were productive on waxflower and *Eucalyptus caesia* so here's hoping.'

**Jan Hall** of Yarrawonga (Vic) writes in July: 'We have spent the last few months selling up and moving from our home 'Patanga' of 29 years. A major upheaval to leave it all but we will be building on one and a third acres on the edge of Yarrawonga. It will be well into 2004 before I can get working on a new garden, but have a lot of plants in pots plus access to the old garden, which will be a start.'

Meanwhile I must have a few daisies in our rented space and have dug up a spot for *Xerochrysum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch', brachyscomes and minurias, etc., and have rhodanthes in pots. I keep them all going for seed and cuttings. Some olearias must come with us too as many survived the drought quite well. Alan and I will be travelling with Maree and Graham Goods and another couple on their next trip to the Great Victoria Desert. Here's hoping for a great season. We will all be away during September and October, and I must get out the pressings from previous trips and help ID the daisies.'

**Ros Cornish** of Carwoola (NSW) e-mailed on 14/7/03: 'We were very sorry to read in the NL of Esmā's death. You must be very sad. The tributes in the NL were lovely. Many will miss her. We didn't know her very well but I will always remember her welcoming letter when I joined AD SG and the " by the way, there's a daisy near you which we'd like to grow — *Brachyscome aculeata*." I was so pleased when we literally tripped over it on the Captains Flat Road while investigating a patch of purple, which turned out to be *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *integrifolia*. I was completely hooked after that. I have many other little notes from Esmā giving me advice on seed that she'd sent me. I'm pleased that we did finally meet her when we came to Melbourne for the meeting many years ago.'

**Jeanette Closs** of Kingston (Tas) writes on 12/9/03: 'I have recently acquired an *Argentipallium dealbatum* from Cardigan River (which is in Tassie's south-western corner) so we will see how it differs. The leaves appear more robust, darker green and are held close to the ground so far, while on the east coast form the leaves are slim, more erect and silvery. The Cardigan River form hasn't long been in the ground and there are no signs of flower spikes as yet.'

I have been putting daisies into pots for the display in January. Will Fletcher and Rosemary Verbeeten are going to assist me. I must start to dry some *Xerochrysum bracteatum* and other daisies, and I must also put in some seed of *Rhodanthe chlorocephala*.'

**Beryl Birch** of Spring Gully (Vic) writes on 16/9/03: 'Magpies have dismembered some baby daisy plants. The local *Xerochrysum viscosum* plants have self-sown a bit, each one dotted over. Local Whirakee Wattle in the Whipstick is three parts dead, but bushes that remain are bright gold. Otherwise the wildflowers are better than last year.'

**Syd Oats** of Elizabeth East (SA) rang on 22/9/03 to tell of the success of the AD SG display at the SA Show. He was vastly amused when one of the women to whom he was chatting told him that she wouldn't have yellow flowers in the garden 'because it attracts the bees'. She wouldn't even have yellow pegs for the clothes line. It's possible that she suffers from a dangerous allergy to bee stings, Syd.

**Gloria Thomlinson** of Shepparton (Vic) says that her garden is looking very pretty at the moment (5/10/03). She has had several people calling specifically to look at it for ideas on design or planting.

There is a mass of self-sown *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* (dwarf white form) which came up as a little lawn on gravel mulch and has been absolutely beautiful when it was in flower. It is now beginning to go to seed, and that seed will be collected. *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *C. semipapposum* forms are all

out, as is a clump of self-sown *Pycnosorus chrysanthes*. The mass of *P. thompsonianus* which flowered so profusely for some years succumbed to the extreme heat of last summer, but thick clumps of *Calocephalus citreus*, 25–30cm high, have rejuvenated and look great in the nature strip. "Millions" of seedlings of the unbranched form of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* popped up everywhere and were responsible for a haze of white. Gloria has had to resort to weeding some of them out. She has 'filled in holes' with brachyscomes from three seed trays, all of which came up like little lawns.

The xerochrysums have self-sown. *X. viscosum* is particularly nice this year and has even sown itself in pots. Other colourful plants doing well are tetrathecas (grown from cuttings from Peg McAllister's garden) and *Stypandra glauca*.

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## ASGAP AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP

Statement of Payments & Receipts — July 1, 2002–June 30, 2003

RECEIPTS	\$	PAYMENTS	\$
Members' subscriptions	805.00	Newsletter	218.80
Seed sales	65.70	Postage	251.15
Bank interest	5.79	Phone	150.00
Donations	25.00	Subscriptions	45.00
Other	80.00	Bank Fees	10.85
		Stationery	20.45
		Sundries	165.05
Total receipts	981.49	Total payments	861.30
Profit for year	120.19		
SUMMARY			
Cash at bank at beginning of year	2,320.57		
Profit	120.19		
Cash at bank at end of year	2440.76		

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## EDITOR'S LETTER

The AD SG Plant Sale at Peg McAllister's garden on 27th September was a great success in spite of the terrible weather. Peg's garden is always a drawcard. She had made many changes at the beginning of the year, pulling out plants that were no longer in their prime and pruning others back mercilessly. If we feared that the garden would not be ready for spring we should not have worried for a second. It was beautiful, so beautiful that Peg was invited to have it included in the Open Garden Scheme next year. Several times there were flurries of hail, and still the plants stood erect. We are fortunate to have such a lovely venue for our sale. There is a spacious double carport under which we all crowd, so we are not out in the rain but it was hard to evade some of the hail. Our thanks to Peg again.

Thank you to all those members who contributed articles to the newsletter. I am very grateful indeed. When life becomes excessively busy there is no time to go out seeking information. Your letters are greeted with delight. There is always something for the newsletter in them. Please keep the offerings coming.

Many thanks to Bev who keeps the books balanced for us.

Over the school holidays Lee and I are usually at home rather than at Fairhaven. At these times the Hawthorn garden benefits but there is not a shred of design in it. Rather, it is a matter of —here's this pot of x, where will I put it? Occasionally the choice turns out well and I take special pleasure in the result, but it is always a fluke. Recently Ros Cornish sent a photo of her new pool. Everything about it looks just right and in the perfect position, even the echidna, which looks as if it has been planted also. It reminds me that we saw an echidna crossing the drive at Fairhaven last month. There are untidy heaps of earth partly on our block and on the right of way beside us, and we are hoping they have taken up residence there.

We have all been sorry to hear of illnesses within the membership, and hope for improvement on every side.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

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## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Daisy Study Group and happy daisy growing to the following new members:  
Carmel Byrne, 194 Bay Road, Jam Jerrup, Vic, 3984

Beryl Birch, 147 Retreat Road, Bendigo, Vic, 3550. (Beryl is renewing her AD SG membership. A warm welcome back to our 'Bendigo Correspondent'.)

Alan and Lynn Anderson, 15 Glenview Road, Monbulk, Vic. (Alan and Lynn are also renewing their membership.)

## SEED DONORS

We are grateful to the following members for donations of seed: Joy Greig, Barrie Hadlow, Jeff Irons, Syd and Syl Oats.

## SEED BANK ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

### GARDEN and COMMERCIAL SEED

#### ADDITIONS

*Brachyscome diversifolia* var. *diversifolia* and var. *maritima*  
*Craspedia variabilis* (ex ACT)  
*Helichrysum calvertianum*  
*Leptorhynchus squamatus* (ex ACT)  
*Olearia elliptica*  
*Ozothamnus ledifolius*  
*Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*  
*Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia*  
*Xerochrysum bracteatum* (mixed colours, Sandy Beach form)

#### DELETIONS

*Olearia gravis*, *pannosa*

### PROVENANCE SEED

#### ADDITIONS

*Brachyscome diversifolia* var. *diversifolia* (Reids L/O, Vic)



*Brachyscome* ~~sp.~~ *graminea*

## 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. 37). **FEES for 2003/2004 WERE DUE ON 1<sup>st</sup> JULY.**

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2004 NEWSLETTER — 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2004**

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