

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**ABN 56 654 053 676****THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 73**

Waitzia acuminata x 9/10
(illustrated by Kath Alcock)

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Leader's Letter

For the third year in succession we will be holding our Christmas Break-up at the Royal Botanic Gardens — Cranbourne. There is a sense of excitement as the reality of the magnificent new Australian Garden takes shape. Ultimately there will be a total of 85,000 plants recreating Paul Thompson's innovative plant design, covering 11 hectares. We will be privileged to have another preview of the project, which is now due for its official opening in May 2006. The progress of the Australian Garden can be followed online at the following address — www.rbg.vic.gov.au — but I am hoping to see a large gathering of members at this final get-together for the year. However, if you are unable to be present, I hope that you and your family have an enjoyable festive season.

The '*Olearia*' project is well underway. We have about 45 species/varieties under cultivation, but we still need donations of seed, cutting material, photos or cultivation notes that you may be able to provide. A start has been made on writing up some of the species. The type, *O. tomentosa*, was the first to be tackled, with a view to obtaining quotes for printing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (which were due on 1st July) should be mailed to our treasurer, John Webb, at 99 Fiddlers Green, Gloucester Ave, Berwick, 3806. **Please don't send them to Mallacoota because I no longer have banking facilities here!**

Cheers,

Joy



Olearia pimeleoides x ½
(illustrated by Kath Alcock)

COMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------|---|
| Tuesday, 15th November | 10.00 am | Christmas Break-up. We will meet at the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens at the Depot Office. John Armstrong has arranged a tour of the Gardens to show the progress made since we were there last November. John has again arranged for the Friends' Nursery to be open. |
| Tuesday, 21st February | 10.00 am | Meeting at Judy and Lee Barker's home
9 Widford St, East Hawthorn, 3123. (03) 9813 2916
After lunch Anne Kerr has invited us to her unit to see how many plants of an unusual nature may be fitted into a small back garden. |
| Tuesday, 21st March | 10.00am | Meeting at Ben and Carolyn Somerville's home
18 Gwyer Rise, Vermont South, Vic, 3133. (03) 9802 1281 |

We always hope to see new members at these meetings. We provide morning tea or coffee and nibbles but please bring your own lunch if you are able to stay. We swap plants or give away any that are surplus to our needs at these meetings, thus ensuring that we may have other sources of supply if disaster strikes. New members need not fear that the subjects discussed will be above their heads. If they have questions we attempt to provide answers but can't promise to do so. Arrival and departure times are flexible and the atmosphere is anything but serious.

In Search of Olearias

by Joy Greig

After an interval of 27 years, a sentimental trip to Carnarvon Gorge in Queensland seemed to provide a good opportunity to look for some of the olearias missing from our collection. The time of the year (July) was not ideal for finding seed, but I packed a small propagating box with the aim of collecting some cuttings.

We proceeded up the Newell Highway to Peak Hill and then turned east and headed through Herveys Range (Goobang National Park) where flora from western and eastern NSW overlap in a 55 km stretch of range and escarpment country. *Cassinia quinquefaria* and *Cassinia uncata* were abundant in a mainly iron bark and black cypress pine community. But no olearias were in evidence.

We continued east to Wellington and visited the 162 ha. Burrendong Arboretum, hoping to see a large display of Asteraceae. But alas, except for a few examples such as *Olearia argophylla* in the fern gully and *Xerochrysum bracteatum* on the Bobbarah Wallah Track, this large family of plants did not rate. The hakeas were in good form along with a few acacias, although the recent drought had obviously taken its toll on some species.

We spent a half day walking in the Mt Arthur Reserve, an island of 'virgin' bushland in a sea of farmland, where we spotted *Brachyscome multifida*, *Calotis cuneifolia*, *Cassinia aculeata* and *Cassinia arcuata*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *C. semipapposum* but no olearias.



Olearia ramosissima x 2/3

(illustrated by Lois D. Beadle from p. 635 of *Student's Flora of North Eastern New South Wales Part IV* [1980] by N. C. W. Beadle)

Heading north we passed through the Goonoo State Forest, another iron bark, black cypress pine community, where we noted *Cassinia uncata* again. The next stop was Coonabarabran and day visits to the Pilliga Forest and the Warrumbungle Range. The Pilliga is characterized by white and black cypress pine and iron barks, but has stands of cycads and ancient grass trees and along with many other interesting plants we found *Calotis cuneifolia*, *Cassinia arcuata*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, and at last *Olearia ramosissima* in full flower! The Warrumbungle excursion yielded *Olearia elliptica* which was not in flower, but recognizable by its sticky, elliptic leaves.

The Nandewar Range (Mt Kaputar National Park) was next, where at Dawson Spring we found *Olearia rosmarinifolia*, and *O. lirata/stellulata*. At Sawn Rocks we observed more *O. elliptica*.

Time to head north again into flat cotton growing country on the way to Roma via Moree and St George. Not much chance of finding olearias here, but we did come across *Minuria integerimma*, *Brachyscome melanocarpa*, *Rhodanthe diffusa* ssp. *leucactina*, *Calotis erinacea*, and *Brachyscome curvicarpa* flowering in roadside ephemeral pools.

The road from Roma to Carnarvon took us across the Great Divide, on to the east coastal watershed. A deep gorge carved through the surrounding sandstone range is protected by the spectacular Carnarvon National Park with its unique flora of cycad and macrozamia palms, king ferns, grasstrees, moss gardens and orchids. It is the home of the rare and endangered *Olearia xerophila*, which grows high on the sandstone cliff tops, but unfortunately we were not able to access it.

On our way home, we diverted into brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) country along the Warrego Highway to the east of Roma, looking for *Olearia canescens*. We didn't find it there, but discovered it later near Girraween.

To cut a long story short, we took a break at O'Reilly's in the Lamington National Park rainforest, and then criss-crossed the great divide twice more, briefly visiting Border Ranges NP, Girraween NP, and New England NP, before reaching the coast at Nambucca Heads. We then made our way home via South West Rocks, Booti Booti NP, and Myall Lakes NP, without sighting another *Olearia*. Of course there would have been plenty, but we had run out of time to take a proper look, and I am no Esmá Salkin when it comes to hunting down daisies.

Pachystegia insignis — Marlborough Rock Daisyby **Pat Webb**

At our June meeting Judy showed us some magnificent photos taken by Graham Stutchbury on some islands off the coast of South Island, New Zealand. What fascinating flora — some plants are spectacular.

I was reminded of 'my' NZ daisy which grows in our garden in Berwick, *Pachystegia insignis*. Not being a lady who has much success in growing plants from seed, I was delighted when I grew three plants from seed collected on a holiday to South Island four years ago. Only one plant has survived, but it has flowered the past two years.

It was discovered in 1853 on the banks of the Waihopai River, near Blenheim. It was included in the genus *Olearia* by Hooker, but some years later he felt that this daisy 'is almost generically distinct from the genus *Olearia*'.

This plant was in full flower in many areas in the Picton–Blenheim region in February when we were there, and is also used in parks and street plantings. It is a beautiful plant structurally. It has thick shiny dark leaves with a prominent white vein and a silvery tomentose underside. The leaves are 3–10cm wide and 8–17cm long. The flower buds look like a small drumstick and are spectacular in themselves. When the bud opens it is a solitary white flower, 5–8cm in diameter, with a yellow centre.

Melanie Kinsey, writing in the May issue of *Australian Horticulture* says 'they remind me a little of the leaves of the Moreton Bay Fig'. Apparently this small shrub can grow to 50–75cm, (mine is much smaller). It is essential to grow this plant in well-drained soil. Although I grew this plant from seed, they can take a few months to germinate, if I lose mine I shall have to search for another in a rare plants nursery. (I did save some seed this year but have misplaced it!)

It is certainly a plant that people notice and comment upon.

REFERENCE: Melanie Kinsey, *Australian Horticulture*, May 2005.

THE MAKING OF A NEW GARDENby **Jan Hall**

For over two years the process of selling up and moving has interfered with my gardening and meant accumulating large numbers of plants in pots for this new garden. While renting a small house I contented myself by digging up a patch of lawn and planting mostly daisies for instant rewards. I prepared many pots of seedlings to sit around the entry and enjoyed a pretty display of *Rhodanthe diffusa*, *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*, *Schoenia filifolia*, *Brachyscome iberidifolia* and other brachyscomes. The mobile garden (all the pots) flowered away, including some cassinias, *Xerochrysum* spp., *Ozothamnus* and some indigenous species.

Now we have the beginnings of a new spacious and exposed garden and daisies are helping to fill the spaces quickly.

Four years ago we collected various *Minuria* spp. on our Simpson Desert trip plus some *M. integerrima* from the Barmah Forest region (Murray River). The fresh seed germinated well and some older seed (from the ADSG seed bank) with the help of SISP smoke papers. However, fresh is best. I have kept some in pots and some were left all that time in tubes. Relieved of their cramped conditions and planted in the new sand mulched garden, they are growing well. Red Mite attacked some softer plants held too long in the shade. Also some self seeded into other pots in the temporary nursery situation. We grew *Minuria integerrima*, *Minuria leptophylla* and *M. cunninghamii*.

M. integerrima was also propagated from cuttings. The daisies are proving very hardy here and have to cope with frost, heat and high evaporation in summer and during drought. Some planted in early October with my eremophilas on a clay mound with gravel mulch have needed very little attention which suits the 'dry' garden situation.

(Addendum, 14/8/05, in a letter to John Webb) Even though I've moved house, and on to very different soil conditions, I'm still enthusiastic about growing daisies. Maree Goods and I hope to have a good display in pots for our Horsham Spring Garden Festival on October 7th–9th. After that I will be planting them in every possible spot in the garden.

The plants of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* put in this time last year have almost passed their best, despite grubs, mould and snails (none of which I had in my previous garden). Ready to take their place are myriads of self sown seedlings. My new gardens are top dressed with coarse river sand which must be a haven for the seeds, but they're also growing in the cracks of the paving and every possible, or impossible, spot. I'm digging them up by the spadeful for anyone who wants them.

THE PECULIAR BEHAVIOUR OF A PALE PINK SELECTION OF RICEFLOWER

by Ray Purches

A pale pink selection of *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, named as "Coles Pink Number 1", was developed as a commercial cut flower by Jenny Coles from Casterton in Western Victoria. Brian Mills, a wildflower agronomist, arranged for that clone to be propagated by cuttings and supplied to a number of commercial growers in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, where it grew very well. Unfortunately up there it flowered white, but fortunately the growers marketed it as a white form quite successfully.

Obviously Lismore in northern NSW is a much higher latitude than Casterton, so is it just latitude that imparts colour intensity? Not so according to Department of Primary Industries Knoxfield scientist, Tony Slater, who points out other similarities such as *Acacia baileyana* var. *purpurea* which is grown as a cut foliage plant in NSW, Vic and Tas. The depth of colour of the Tasmanian product has far greater intensity than the Victorian and NSW foliage.

Again, intense yellows of Kangaroo Paw grown in Tasmania can in some cases (with the exact clone) result in washed out yellows or even green flowers if you take it far enough north.

Simply, the factor which decides flower colour intensity is cold. The colder the climate, the more intense the colour (providing that the frost doesn't kill the plant or turn the flowers brown).

Could this be demonstrated in the autumn leaves at Bright compared to say Wangaratta? I think so.

CYMBONOTUS LAWSONIANUS

by Barrie Hadlow

I thought it was time to dismiss some of my reflections on world problems (and politics) and ponder items of greater immediate importance to me, like the garden.

I have had recent pleasure growing successfully a plant that for some years I had overlooked — *Cymbonotus lawsonianus*! This 'daisy' which seems widespread in our region is a plant I always find challenging — both to notice in the wild and to remember its botanical name when encountered on most of our 'Wednesday Walks'. Nameless others of our group I'm sure don't have this problem.

At first sighting I mentally place this plant in the 'weed' category as I got on with trying to ID more noticeable species (like *Cassinia*, *Pomaderris*, etc.) on our excursions through the dry sclerophyll woodlands of the Canberra region.

In time, I began to realize that Jenny and I had our fair share of *C. lawsonianus* in our own back garden. Here, mixed with grasses and exotic herbs that make the sward of green pasture and derived from the Tuggeranong Hill site we are adjacent to.

Somewhat amused eventually to learn of its indigenous and endemic heritage, I began to take more care when weeding/mowing — leaving where possible this shy but tough *C. lawsonianus* to struggle on and cope!

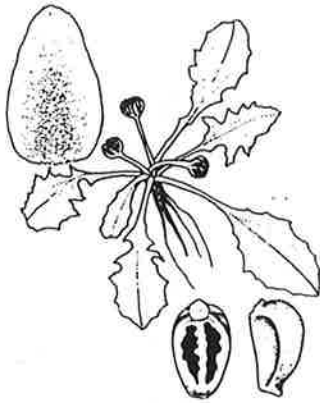


Ozothamnus diosmifolius x 1
(illustrated by Kath Alcock)

Any further concession to its worth came slowly — maybe after 3 or 4 years of patient neglect. Then one day I lifted and transplanted 3 or 4 small plants (c. 7–10cm diam.), and realised that they held together well even in dryish soil, a distinct advantage when lifting anything for replanting I think you'd agree!

These small plants 'took off' in their new home, a raised bed with adequate drainage, reasonable moisture, mulch, sunshine, etc. This despite good competition from coexisting shrub species.

Over time (about 12 months) one of these transplants has grown boldly to a wreath-sized, non-woody perennial herb, about 60cm in diameter and 17cm in height — extraordinary growth and appearance change when compared with its 'wild' pasture population equivalent. Furthermore, the strong, almost spatulate green leaves with their silvery white undersurface make a fine ornamental contribution that I'm sure could be used in many situations (rock gardens, narrow and formal-type beds). The leaves perhaps offset the relatively small size (c. 2cm diam.) of the flower-heads. The latter, however, are a good golden yellow and are usually centrally placed within the plant on peduncles no longer than 3–4cm.



Cymbonotus lawsonianus
habit x 0.25, bract x 4, cypsela (lateral and
ventral views x 4
(drawn by Mali Moir, from *Flora of Victoria*
Vol. 4, 1999, p. 718.

Surprisingly, while flowers can be observed throughout the year here, our mid-winter frosts seem not to damage the inflorescence.

I do recommend members try *Cymbonotus* spp., particularly if seed is available in their area. My check of this endemic genus with its 3 species in the *Flora of New South Wales* (Vol. 3 — ed. G. Harden) places its distribution in all States except NT.

If it (*C. lawsonianus*) was a film — I'd give it 4* rating!

IRONS' REPORT 2005

by Jeff Irons

This has been the first year when my heating bill for the period February to May was larger than that for November to February. In spite of the cool weather the shrubby daisies all bloomed at their usual times. That makes me wonder whether their flowering is initiated by day length, not temperature. Some support for this idea comes from the fact that I have seen them in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales, always flowering later in the season than they do in Britain. Has any work been done on this?

The only seedling from *Olearia pinifolia*, collected in 1996 is still unflowered. The only seedling from *Olearia personioides* is growing away well as are my 3 seedlings of *Ozothamnus stirlingii*.

While clearing a part of the garden in readiness for replanting I came across a seedling of *Ozothamnus ledifolius*. Its existence is quite interesting because it is nearly ten years since the *Oz. ledifolius* in that part of the garden was removed. The seedling, which is about 3 inches (7.5cm) high, must be at least two years old. It is unlikely to be from the current plants in the garden because they are about 80–90 feet (24–27m) away, on the other side of the house. Additionally this seedling has larger leaves than any of them. So, it seems to be a self sown seedling that has come from seed several years old.

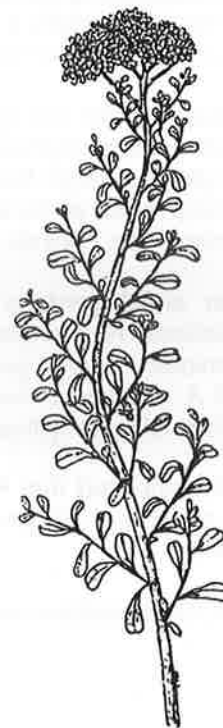
Another self sown seedling is just outside the canopy of *O. stellulata*. Initially I thought that it is that species. However, the old leaves do not have the lumpy appearance of those of *O. stellulata* and the tomentum on their undersides is almost yellowish, not white. This year it has flowered. Although in many branched panicles, the heads do not have the clenched fist appearance of *O. stellulata* but spread evenly all over the plant, as do those of *O. phlogopappa*. They also have reddish purple centres, a feature of the nearest *Olearia phlogopappa*. However, unlike those on that plant, the flowers are not scented. Neither do the leaves smell in strong sunlight. I conclude therefore that it is a hybrid between the two species. Since the space between the two postulated parents is occupied by a *Leptospermum lanigerum* that is 20 feet (6m) high and clothed to the ground, its existence shows how careful one needs to be when collecting seeds from plants in the garden.

Olearia algida too is proving interesting. It was sown because without exception all the plants I have seen offered for sale under this name were actually *O. floribunda*. I wanted to get some genuine plants. Five seeds germinated last spring. As is my custom, the pot was kept. A further seedling popped up in late winter and since then another 7 have appeared. So, the species is giving a mixture of immediate and delayed germination, in approximately equal proportions. This is something I have not encountered before. Usually one or other of the modes preponderates.

Craspedia coolaminica, from a Tasmanian contact, was a new sowing last year. I do not like it as much as Esma and Alf Salkin's *Craspedia* from Lankey's Plain because the leaves are less white. The Lankey's Plain plants died after about 15 years and have not been replaced. Their characteristics made me believe that they were hybrids of *C. coolaminica* and another species.

Ozothamnus obcordatus has provided problems for several years. Originally I had two provenances. One was collected by the side of the track to The Balconies, just above the car park. It died in its first winter outside here. The other came from Wynn's Rocks Lookout, on Mount Wilson in the Upper Blue Mountains. Though badly damaged it did survive the winter that killed the Victorian plant. Since then it has been in a large pot in well aerated compost, but has only just survived. This year it has been transferred to a compost of almost pure sand — as near as I can get to the wild soil — and at last is growing away. It bloomed in early June and is making a little new growth. I hope to be able to take cuttings.

That's it for this year. Daisies continue to provide new challenges and add to my gardening knowledge.



Ozothamnus obcordatus x ½
(illustrated by Betty Campbell)

TWO LOCAL DAISIES

by Warren and Gloria Sheather

(The following extract was taken from an article published in *Native Plants for New South Wales*, Vol. 40 No. 1, January 2005, p.6. The Sheathers live at Yallaroo, west of Armidale, and started their garden nearly ten years ago.)

Two local daisies have provided a colourful carpet at Yallaroo.

Leptorhynchos squamatus, Scaly Buttons, occurs in a small area near our eastern boundary. Fortunately the area covered by Scaly Buttons is increasing. *Leptorhynchos squamatus* is an erect herb that will reach a height of about 30 centimetres. The upright stems are leafy and arise from a rosette of leaves. Small, yellow, button-shaped flower heads crown each upright stem. Flowering extends from spring to summer. Although Scaly Buttons only grows in a small area the plants are packed close together. We have surgically removed a few plants and these will be planted in some of our gardens. Cuttings have also been taken. If these are successful then Scaly Buttons will be planted in large clumps. *Leptorhynchos squamatus* occurs in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

Calotis lappulacea is known as the Yellow Burr-daisy. Until moving to Yallaroo we had not noticed this colourful, erect herb in other areas. Each plant is about 20 centimetres high and carries dozens of small, bright yellow flower heads.

We built our house and started our gardens on a hill that was a sheep camp and was home to a bewildering range of weeds. We keep a large part of this area mowed and over the years most of the weeds have disappeared. Native grasses have replaced the weeds. This year (2004) the Yellow Burr-daisy has also taken up residence and in some places there are about 15 plants per square metre. They have created a sea of yellow across our mown area.

There is a minor problem with the Yellow Burr-daisy. After flowering the plants form small globular burrs. The burrs sometimes stick to our socks. This is a small price to pay for having such a colourful plant. We are happy to be agents of seed dispersal.

REPORT FROM BUNDABERGby **Margery Stutchbury**

I have found the Everlastings Book an invaluable source of information for propagation and identification of species. I refer to it often. Also enjoyed the latest Newsletter (72), full of interesting developments and studies, particularly the article on Gavinone. I envy the daisy trips and outings and the meetings you have down there. I am really a lone member up here!!! It is almost impossible to find any Australian daisy plants up here except for the xerochrysums, so I also envy your plant exchanges at meetings!

In preparation for our garden party (August 20th) this year I have a large front garden massed with *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* (already throwing up a few blooms), and a smaller garden massed with *R. manglesii*. A large back garden also sports masses of *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*, however, some of these have rotted at the base from being too closely sown and due to the recent unseasonable rains we have had during June. (We do appreciate the rain though!)

In other small gardens and pots there are *Schoenia cassiniana*, *S. filifolia* ssp. *filifolia*, *Rhodanthe humboldtiana*, *R. manglesii*, *Ammobium alatum* and *Xerochrysum* sp. plus lots of unbranched *Rhodanthe anthemoides*. I cannot get the other *R. anthemoides* forms or cultivars to grow here. I think it is too hot. One plant of *A. alatum* survives from last year and is flowering well at the moment. I have fingers crossed that most of the plants will flower at about the same time!

I was disappointed that *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida* did not germinate this year. The seed is probably getting old now — '96 and '98. I did get a few plants from it last year but missed getting any seed while we were away.

If any AD SG members are travelling up this way any time they will be very welcome to call and see us here.

MORE ACTIVITIES AT EMERALDby **Trish Tratt**

I enjoyed having the April meeting at my home, although pre-meeting jitters had me asking myself why I do these things. I am still glowing from sharing my garden, the kind comments and Pat Webb's report so full of compliments — I shall be unbearable!

I have at last removed most of the *Xerochrysum bracteatum* as they finally became too tatty, but have hung on to a few more presentable plants which still have flowers (in August). Some of the more permanent plants are filling out but there is sufficient space for more annual daisies. I have *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* coming along, several with fat buds, although I wonder how they will face this cold wet weather and its sprinkling of snow. There are *Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia* and a few *Brachyscome iberidifolia* seedlings at various stages of growth, and I will scatter more seed on the gravel mulch towards the end of this month. They all attract so many butterflies as well as adding colour.

Over the years I have attempted to grow seeds of *Leptorhynchos elongatus*, *Rutidosus leptorrhynchoides* and *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *scabiosifolia* but have totally failed. Can any members give me advice, please? My methods are pretty basic — good seed-raising mix topped with river gravel, stood in trays of coarse gravel in a plastic-covered frame.

DAISIES IN A TINY GARDENby **Pat Webb**

What great plants *Brachyscome* spp.*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *Rhodanthe anthemoides* are in our garden. Not being 'seed growers' we find they grow so easily from cuttings and I am able to have a few on hand to replace a plant or fill the odd space available. As I like to have plants growing close together this is an added benefit.



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

A pot of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* outside our lounge has flowered since early July (now October) and is only just past its best; the plants in the garden will continue longer. I like the way all these species respond to a good 'haircut' and then power away again. There is always something to pick for a posy inside. Through the late autumn and winter months the grey foliage of the *C. apiculatum* is a delight. I have now extended this plant into some of the 'common garden' in the Retirement Village.

It is with some regret that I shall not be continuing to grow *Olearia* spp. as we really do not have the space. I shall leave the *O. ramulosa* that I have planted in the 'common garden' amongst some *Plectranthus nitidum*, *Callistemon* and *Grevillea* species where I do not water. The others in our private garden are too big. Whilst all my cuttings have taken easily they just don't 'fit in'.

* *Brachyscome multifida* blue form and dark blue form, *B. segmentosa*, *B. 'Pilliga Posy'* (now *B. formosa*) and *B. 'Valencia'*.

OLEARIAS

by Warren and Gloria Sheather

(This article first appeared in *Native Plants for New South Wales*, Vol. 40, No. 2, April 2005 under the title of 'Sheather Bits and Pieces'. It seemed an appropriate article for a Group whose next Project is olearias.)

The Olearias or Daisy Bushes are probably better known in the bush rather than in cultivation. This is a pity because Olearias are fast growing and definitely free flowering. At last count there were 189 species, with 130 endemics. New South Wales is home to a surprising 51 species. We have three species native to Yallaroo. These are: *Olearia elliptica*, *Olearia microphylla* and *Olearia viscidula*.

Olearias are usually shrubs with white, blue, pink or mauve daisy flowers. They have lengthy flowering periods. Some species have aromatic foliage and take kindly to an annual prune.

Olearias propagate rapidly from cuttings. As an example we brought an *Olearia tomentosa* just before Christmas 2004. At the time of writing (February 2005) we have ten progeny from this plant almost ready to plant.

Olearia microphylla is an upright small to medium shrub with (as the species name indicates) small leaves. In spring the plants become covered with small white flowers. This Daisy Bush flowers best when grown in full sun. *Olearia microphylla* is a cheerful small plant that would grace a native cottage garden or rockery.

Olearia tenuifolia is a species that we have been cultivating for a few years. Reaching a height of about one metre, this multi-stemmed shrub has narrow, sticky leaves. Large blue-mauve daisy flowers cover the plant in spring and summer. Sporadic flowering also occurs at other times. Regular pruning is necessary to keep the plant bushy and blooming bounteously.

Olearia ramulosa is a Daisy Bush that we have been cultivating for many years. Small linear leaves are less than 1 centimetre long. For many months our specimens carry many small, blue daisy flowers. *Olearia ramulosa* requires pruning to stop the plants becoming straggly. We find that plants often run out of steam after three years or so. We keep a supply of plants in tubes to replace any that expire. Cuttings usually strike in less than three weeks.

SNIPPETS

- At the beginning of August Lee presented me with a page of *The Australian* with an 18 x 23cm colour print of an English tourist sitting among large specimens of *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida*. The flower-heads look as large as any we have seen or grown and some wave around the top of the tourist's head. They were growing at Wooleen Station in Western Australia and accompanied an article on the unseasonably warm July experienced all around Australia. It was the warmest July on record in Tasmania and daytime temperatures in Sydney were 2°C above average. The inland Gascoyne and Murchison regions had the best wildflower displays for ten years. This was due to good autumn rain penetrating inland much further than the usual coastal strip.

(The article was written by Asa Wahlquist and Andrea Mayes, and the picture was taken by Colin Murty.)

- At the end of August there was another colour picture in *The Australian*, this time featuring the manager of Sandringham Station crouching on an eminence among masses of everlasting daisies. The station is north-west of Bedourie in the Channel Country of western Queensland and the everlastings look like *Polycalymma stuartii*. The accompanying article described the drought experienced in the Boulia and Diamantina shires where there had been hardly any rain for eight years. All the grasses had disappeared and only spinifex remained. Some time in June the area received 127mm (more than 5 inches) and in that short period wildflowers and rich pasture had reappeared in abundance.
(The article was written by Kevin Meade and the picture was taken by Lyndon Mechielsen.)
- The following snippet was written by Ivan Holliday and published in the Mailbox section of *Native Plants for New South Wales*, Vol. 40 No. 2, April 2005, p. 2.

Brachyscome angustifolia I read your April 2004 Journal and was particularly interested in the article by Joanne Caldwell on *Brachyscome multifida*.

Whilst Adelaide's climate is quite different to the Sydney region we also have difficulty keeping this species alive for any length of time. In my opinion, Joanne's article did not inspire confidence in growing *Brachyscome multifida* as a long-lived plant. I thought I might pass the following comments on to Joanne as a better alternative.

Why not grow *Brachyscome angustifolia* instead? It looks just as good and flowers prolifically for months provided water is regularly applied. Here it never dies out like *B. multifida*, forms a denser mat and in my experience lives on as long as you want it (20 years so far).

In Adelaide's hot, dry summers and autumn this species will survive without water when it appears dead but recovers as soon as rain occurs or it is thoroughly watered. Of course it is better to water in the dry periods when it will present an attractive appearance for the whole year round. Once you have grown *Brachyscome angustifolia* you would never consider *B. multifida*.

- **Margaret Guenzel** reports that an organosilicone surfactant called 'Maxx' is said to enhance the effectiveness of spraying plants to make the leaves green again when they have turned yellow. One to two drops per litre should be added to the solution of iron chelates or Epsom Salts used to spray on the offending plants.

PROPAGATION PAGES

1. *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch'

In the 15 June–14 July issue of *Australian Horticulture* there was an article by new AD SG member Paul Carmen on the method used by the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) to propagate *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch'.

Paul reminded readers that this grey foliaged, large-flowered cultivar has been available for about 30 years and was registered with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority in 1977 by Nigel Quick. 'Dargan Hill Monarch' is a form of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* which was originally found growing in the Cunningham Gap area in south Queensland in 1961. It is a soft-wooded perennial, 0.6–0.6 x about 1.5m, easily grown and producing many flowers throughout the year. Leaves are grey, woolly, and 10–12cm long. Paul describes the flower-heads as 'lustrous golden-yellow and 70 to 90mm in diameter and (they) are borne on long stems about 300mm long'.

ANBG uses a propagating mix of 5 parts perlite (P500) to 1 part cocopeat. The perlite is moistened before mixing. The best cutting material is from semi-firm stems of new growth. Remove the leaves from the base and trim the leaves at the top to 2–3cm to lessen water stress. The stems are dipped in liquid/gel rooting hormone solution for about 5 seconds, inserted in the mix (leaving space between cuttings), and watered. Cutting containers are placed in propagating structures with good ventilation. Cuttings usually begin to strike in 2–4 weeks but this depends on climate, season and additional assistance such as bottom heat and misting or fogging.

(The above information has been abstracted from the article. Members wishing to read the article in its entirety may borrow the AD SG copy. Some members will know that Nigel Quick was a good friend of Peg McAllister and had a nursery in Mt Waverley at the time Peg had Breakoday Nursery. When we visited Nigel at Bunyip a few years ago he

showed us a plant of 'Dargan Hill Monarch' growing in his garden and we agreed that there were a few so-called cultivars around which were not the originals and had probably been grown from seed. ... Judy.)

(When Peg was asked for more information she replied: 'Yes, Nigel's nursery was "Dargan Hill", named in the old days as the name for the area near the monastery that is now used for police training. The story is that Nigel's mother was travelling in Queensland and brought it (the cutting material) back as something she found au naturelle, thinking it would be good for him. Gwen (Nigel's wife) stuck bits in the ground and they grew. I used to do my cuttings in tubes of soil.')

2. Ray Purches sent us an article on **Sowing times for daisies:**

I work for Park Lane Nursery, a small indigenous and non-indigenous native plant nursery in Wangaratta. We have a systematic approach to propagation with monthly production schedules to meet sales targets.

For the last couple of years we have had disappointing results with germination of *Chrysocephalum* species which we were growing in summer (or trying to) for autumn sales. Finally, in late May I consulted the Everlasting Daisy book to find that autumn is sowing time. (When in doubt read the instructions they say.)

We sowed a flat of *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* seed from the Buckland Valley on 1st June '05 which grew beautifully. We pricked out the 170 needed for our requirements with heaps left over, to then find a large council order for 1860 plants of that species. As of 4th August we had pricked out 1240 seedlings from the one flat and in order to meet the target of another 600 plants we have sown a further flat.

Of course the question arises, is it decreasing day length that triggers germination (coupled with cool conditions)? Will increasing day length in August inhibit germination? No doubt plenty of you daisy gurus already know the answers. We'll let you know later how we went.

(The reason for Ray's problem may be that he used fresh seed which could have been dormant, although *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* is usually very easy to grow. In our experience it germinates well but we have used seed of 1-2 years age. If other members have theories please send them in. ... Judy.)

3. Judy Barker reports on **Untimely death of daisies when potted on:**

Every year I sow some daisies intended for sale at the Angair Nature Show which is always held on the first weekend of the Victorian State Schools' September holidays. This year it is early — 14th/15th September. For some years I have kept a record of the results so that I will know the ideal sowing time for each species and the result will be that the plants are perfect in every way when the Show rolls round. As those of you who propagate for a specific time know (as Ray has described above) this aim is seldom achieved.

For two years now I have sown *Chrysocephalum baxteri*, *Helichrysum scorpioides*, *Leptorhynchos squamatus* and *L. tenuifolius* in February and little lawns have germinated. The seedlings were so crowded that they were potted on in groups of 3 in May and June, and if there were small seedlings left the punnets were replaced to allow them to grow on. (Waste not, want not.) All was well until I noticed the seedlings dying in the pots. I hoped they were merely dying back and would resprout later, so left them in their polyboxes, but only *L. squamatus* obliged me, and fewer than half of those pots put on growth. Last year I had thought the deaths may have been due to a particularly cold spell, but when it happened again this year I was flummoxed.

When the Group visited Jenny in July I noticed that she had particularly healthy specimens of *C. baxteri* (looking as perfect as anybody could wish), and asked about her methods. She had sown my seed in November and potted on in Feb or March. This will be the way to proceed in future.

There are several possible reasons for this debacle:

1. Since the seed germinated well in summer perhaps the seedlings should have been potted on earlier while they were smaller. They might then have been able to withstand colder or wetter conditions.
2. Perhaps the potting mix was not of a high enough standard, although it was from Propine, which is thought to be good.
3. I make up about half a bag of potting mix at a time and add perlite, Osmocote and IBDU. If it is not all used at once the balance has been left in a covered plastic container until I want it. Natalie, who is our propagation guru, told me recently that potting mix with additions should be used fresh. If stored it should be uncovered or covered with a towel. This procedure is now followed but was not in place last year and perhaps not for the early part of this year.

In this sort of dilemma I usually ask Bev Courtney for a solution. She replied that she had trouble with *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* sown in autumn/winter and that the seedlings had died after pricking out. She started sowing in spring and was more successful. She felt that they liked growing on into the warmer

weather rather than the cold. She asked when they germinate naturally, with the autumn or the spring rains? I am not sure.

Trish Tratt may be having germination trouble with the 3 species she nominated on p. 44 because the seed is no longer viable.

4. Ben Somerville's ADSG Propagation Report, September 2005:

(Ben is one of our new members who must be congratulated for throwing himself into our activities with great zest. This is his first attempt at germinating daisies [and other genera] but he has a lovely, colourful garden which will be in next year's Open Garden Scheme. Ben shows great aptitude as a propagator and we are delighted he is one of us.)

Species	Seed Source	Date sown	Germ. No.	Remarks
<i>Geleznovia verrucosa</i> (pale yellow)	Ben's winter 2004	5. 1. 05	Nil	Try again with smoke water
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	Ben's summer 2004	5. 1. 05	6 small	Beginning to grow
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i> (pink form)	Ben's summer 2004	5. 1. 05	Good	
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i> (tall red form)	ADSG	5. 1. 05	Good	
<i>Craspedia canens</i>	Blaze Rock, Grampians	9. 9. 05	Like a lawn	
<i>Craspedia paludicola</i> (Lal Lal, south of Ballarat) Prov. SB	ADSG meeting	5. 1. 05	About 12	
<i>Lawrencella rosea</i> (pale to deep pink, erect, sometimes spreading annual)	ADSG	9. 9. 05	Nil	Very cold weather. Try again with smoke water
<i>Lawrencella davenportii</i> (pale to deep pink, erect or spreading annual)	ADSG	9. 9. 05	Nil	As above
<i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i>	ADSG	1. 5. 05	18	
<i>Podolepis</i> sp. 1 (Basalt Plains Podolepis)	Ben's garden 2004	1. 5. 05	Poor	Try again when warmer
<i>Pycnosorus globosus</i>	ADSG	1. 5. 05	Nil	Try again with smoke water
<i>Rhodanthe diffusa</i> ssp. <i>diffusa</i> (yellow)	ADSG	1. 5. 05	Nil	Repeat with smoke water
<i>Schoenia cassiniana</i> (deep pink flowers)	ADSG	1. 5. 05	12	
<i>Waitzia suaveolens</i> var. <i>suaveolens</i> (pink and white flower-heads)	ADSG from Joy '96	9. 9. 05	No germin. so far	Wrong sowing date. Very cold weather. Repeat with fresh seed using smoke water.
<i>Waitzia acuminata</i> var. <i>acuminata</i> (yellow flowers)	" " " "	9. 9. 05	" "	As above
<i>Waitzia acuminata</i> var. <i>albicans</i> (upright annual, deep cyclamen bracts fading to white.)	" " " "	9. 9. 05	" "	As above

Note: All seed was sown in 100mm plastic pots with about 25mm of small crushed granite in the bottom as drainage. Seed was anchored with a sprinkle of small crushed granite on top. The potting medium was 6mm Propine potting mix without fertilizer. The seeded pots were left mostly in the open on a tray on the ground. The weather in Vermont South, Victoria, was unusually cold this year with lots of rain. This was my first try at germinating native seeds! According to Rex Woodmore — 'After 3 years the viability of Australian daisy seeds is usually nil.'

As I was keen to get hold of "Gavinone" I contacted Dr Kingsley Dixon who replied: 'Will be a few years yet — we find that dilute (1:100 to 1: 500) smoke water does promote germination of some of the everlastings so maybe similar concentrations will work for you.'

I would like to have another go at germinating *Waitzia acuminata* var. *albicans*, but I have run out of seed, find it hard to get and would appreciate it if anyone could help me with a source of fresh seed.

5. Smoke Products for ADSG:

10 litres of Regen 2000 SMOKEMASTER (liquid smoke water) and 30 litres of Regen 2000 GERMINATOR (granulated smoke impregnated vermiculite) have been collected by Ben Somerville for the Study Group (which has paid the bill). These quantities are the smallest handled by the company producing them and would be far too much for individual propagators. The total cost was \$102.00. Ben suspected that the 30 litres of Germinator might not go very far, but the instructions are for a 'light sprinkle' over the top of the seeds. It may be that too heavy a hand would inhibit germination of some species. Ben suggests that members who wish to try either of these products should bring an empty drink bottle to his place for the smoke water ("it is messy and it smells") and a small air-tight container for the vermiculite.

Ben's contact details are: Phone: (03) 9802 1281
email: bensom@ozonline.com.au
address: 18 Gwyer Rise, Vermont South, Vic, 3133

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Jeff Irons of Heswall (England) reports on 5/7/05: 'We have had a few warm days, but in general this is as chilly a summer as Melbourne or Hobart! 14°C max forecast today. *Calomeria* is making flower spikes, even though the plants are only about 3½ ft (1.17m) high.'

Syl Oats of Elizabeth East (SA) reports on 12/7/05: 'June was gloriously damp and July is shaping up as a damp month too. We received 114mm in June. Today we have had a gentle drizzle all day, and so cold — maximum about 12°C.

The loveliest surprise after the 114mm was that, over a week, our front garden has a carpet of seedlings, mostly *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*. There are a few *Xerochrysum bracteatum* and a few *Rhodanthe manglesii*. Last spring I planted the above seeds in a flower bed at the front of the house. It's a raised bed along the fence and, thanks to nature, I have wall to wall seedlings all over the rest of the garden, of course, along with soursob weeds. My dear neighbour, who takes great pride in cutting down all the trees and growing the tallest sour thistles in the neighbourhood also helps. You have guessed it, the prevailing wind always comes from his direction.

I had a disaster this season. I put in cuttings and quite a few daisy seeds along with other seeds. Syd and I thought we would make a bit of cash by having a garage sale and selling some plants. I do not know what happened. For the past two years we have bought our potting mix ready-made. The seeds seem to germinate OK but they didn't grow on. I decided to stick the healthiest of the plants in the garden in the raised bed.

Ros Cornish of Carwoola (NSW) reports on 30/8/05: 'What is really good about the new orchard is that we will be fencing off an area that contains *Craspedia variabilis*, *Leptorhynchus squamatus* and a few *Microseris lanceolata*. With the last few years of drought we've hardly seen any flowers on them as the 'roos and wallabies have been cropping everything. Hopefully we will have the same effect as in the vineyard — magnificent displays of daisies. In the vineyard the leucochrysums are already flowering and are gradually making their way up the rows.'

Christina Leiblich of Kimba (SA) reported in mid-September that she had noticed a number of white-flowered shrubs on a slope in the hills near Coolanie. She was so intrigued that she stopped the car and went to investigate. The species was chest high, scented, growing in well-drained, stony soil and the leaves were felted beneath. She identified the population as *Olearia pannosa*. She had observed two other populations in that area, but this quite extensive one was new to her and she notified the Port Lincoln DSE office. They put her in touch with the officer for rare and endangered flora in the Department of Environment and Heritage

Christina had seen heaps of *Olearia ciliata* growing in Heggaton Conservation Park and thought they may have been trimmed back by kangaroos. This population had flower-heads varying in colour from pale to very dark mauve. A friend told her of a stand of *Olearia pimeleoides* flowering profusely along the road from Cowell to Lucky Bay.

CONGRATULATIONS

- On the weekend of 24th/25th September Natalie and Roger Peate opened their garden for the Open Garden Scheme. It was the height of the flowering season and presented visitors with a riot of colour. Many unusual plants were on display. Natalie had propagated hundreds of plants from her own and Peg McAllister's gardens, and morning and afternoon teas were provided by The Melbourne School of Philosophy, Croydon Group. Despite the fact that the Saturday was AFL Grand Final Day and the weather was cold, the weekend was a huge success. Donations were made to Trees and Grass Soweto, the South Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade and towards a fund for the education of a young girl in Soweto.
- At the APS Vic Spring Plant Sale at Wilson Park, Berwick, on the weekend of 9/10 October Maureen Schaumann won the superb raffle prize. It was a bold *Xanthorrhoea* species in a handsome shiny brown terracotta pot. On the Saturday afternoon she had announced how well this pot would look on her front porch but that she had never won anything of value apart from a canteen of cutlery in her youth. All the visitors entering the raffle would have been of the same mind. On Sunday evening the secretary of APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc., Joy Buck, rang to apprise Maureen of her win and had to spend some time assuring her that it was not a friend pulling her leg. Everyone who knows Maureen was delighted to hear of her good luck.

- Congratulations to Max McDowall for his assistance in the progress of the Olearia Project. He has produced a data base for the species and is trying to sort synonyms from new species. We are hampered by the fact that many *Olearia* species have the potential to grow larger than can be comfortably accommodated in the smaller gardens of most members.

OLEARIA ERICOIDES

by Judy Barker

Max McDowall gave members at the recent AD SG Plant Sale pots of *Olearia ericoides* to grow for the Olearia Project. I had never heard of this species before but liked the look of it. It appears to be similar to *Olearia ramulosa* in its foliage at least and it is said to have a profusion of small heads like that species.



Olearia ericoides x 1
(pressed foliage)

I sacrificed a small shoot to photocopy it and then began to find out its size and more information about it. It is a Tasmanian endemic occurring occasionally on dry hillsides in south and south-east Tasmania. It was formerly known as *O. ramulosa* var. *communis* Benth. 'in part' as it says in Curtis. She describes it as 'A viscid shrub 60–100 cm high with branches slender and ± erect, similar in habit to *O. hookeri* but differing in the structure of the leaves.' The 'Encyclopaedia', on the other hand, gives its size as 0.6–1.5m x 0.6–1.5m, so let's hope it stays at the small end of the range for small gardens.

The leaves at this young stage are linear, 3–5 x 0.5–1mm, dark green above and paler below, with the margins turned under. They start as small clusters erect on the stems and then develop into side shoots, about 1cm long, with a terminal flower. The stems are hairy and partly stick to the fingers, so it is certainly viscid. Under the microscope there are spidery white hairs on stems and leaf undersurfaces and the upper surfaces have glandular hairs.

The heads are said to be about 1.8cm across and have about 12 ray florets which may be white or bluish.

It is close to *Olearia hookeri* but differs in that the leaves of *O. hookeri* are thicker and appear almost cylindrical, and the flowers are not produced so generously.

It sounds like a pleasing shrub for a dry site. The 'Encyclopaedia' says it is 'An attractive, floriferous, twiggy daisy-bush Not commonly cultivated but adapts well to freely draining acidic soils in semi-shaded sites. Tolerates most frosts and limited dry periods. Pruning from an early stage is beneficial in promoting bushy growth.'

Max has propagated it from cuttings and some of us will try it from seed. Our thanks to Max and Regina for introducing us to it.

References:

Curtis, W.M. (1963). *The student's flora of Tasmania*, part 2, p.307–8.

Elliot, W.R. and Jones, D.L. (1997). *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation*, Vol.7, p. 75.

SHOW AND TELL

No notes were made for the S & T segment in July or August so we were either too busy to pick specimens or there was a dearth of daisies.

(September meeting) Trish Tratt brought a delightful posy of daisies — *Brachyscome decipiens*, *B. diversifolia*, *B. 'Metallic Blue'* (or Peg's Large as it has been known for years), and *B. 'Valencia'*. Yellow heads were represented by *Craspedia paludicola* and *Podolepis hieracioides*, and everlastings by *Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia* and *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*. She finished with the beautiful *Pultenaea gunnii* and a sprig of *Comesperma volubile*.

Maureen showed us the very dainty *Olearia microphylla*, handsome *Rhodanthe stuartiana* and *Ammobium craspedioides* which is making positive statements this year. The weather must have suited it.

Anne Kerr brought *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* and Natalie had a specimen of *Ozothamnus obcordatus* which is a very colourful small shrub if you can grow it.

Judy showed *Olearia teretifolia* which was lighting up the bush around Anglesea and *O. viscidula* with its massed creamy white flowers all appearing on one side of the branches. Maureen agreed that the everlasting given to Judy by Maree Goods at the May meeting was *Rhodanthe stuartiana* and it was well worth growing. Other specimens were *R. anthemoides* (red budded, branching form) and *Brachyscome* 'Pink Haze'.

ASGAP Australian Daisy Study Group

Statement of Income and Expenditure 1 July 2004–30 June 2005

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions	1135.00	Newsletter #	318.60
Book Sales (since October 2004)	535.92	Postage/phone	308.40
PLR	176.39	"Aust. Horticulture" sub.	83.40
Other	26.40	"Flora Foundation" sub.	25.00
Transferred from Book a/c October	2248.02	Stationery	45.70
Interest ^	95.36	CBA bank charges *	25.75
		FID tax	6.00
		Sundries	199.67
TOTAL income	\$4217.09	TOTAL expenditure	\$1012.52
		Transfer to Cash Mgt. a/c	3000.00

Balance Sheet

Balance at 1 July 2004 —at bank	2528.96	Balance at 30 June 2005	5764.78
Cash	31.25	Expenditure	1012.52
	2560.21		
Income	4217.09		
TOTAL	\$6777.30	TOTAL	\$6777.30

Cash at 30 June 2005

Held at Bank Club a/c \$2665.56
 Held in Cash Management Trust \$3093.77
 Held as cash \$5.45
Total \$5764.78

NOTES

Four newsletters paid for in 2004/05

* CBA charges for three months. Bendigo Bank have not made any charges in nine months

^ Cash Management a/c interest for nine months

ADSG PLANT SALE

The Plant Sale was held at Peg McAllister's home on 15th October. It was a sunny, still day with a top of 21°C and Peg's garden was in beautiful mode. Peg later said that she felt the visitors enjoyed the garden even more than in previous years. That may have been due to the clement weather and the fact that the variety of species in flower was greater and they were different because the sale was later in the season than usual.

Our sales were down this year for several possible reasons: the looming probability of water restrictions, the number of APS members who were absent at the Conference in Western Australia, the high cost of petrol, the Caulfield Cup and the fact that no advertisement for the sale appeared in the September issue of

Growing Australian. Nevertheless, we had some customers from as far afield as Maryborough and Ballarat, as well as old friends who always come, and we all had a happy day.

We thank Peg very much for inviting AD SG to hold the sale under her portico. The garden is always a drawcard. This year we are especially grateful in view of Peg's health which had not been good leading up to mid-October. It was with relief that we heard Peg claiming that she felt better at the end of the sale day than she had been the day before.

Editor's Note

We will be following Maureen's suggestion for the yearly newsletter index from now on. Species will only be listed in the index if the material associated with them is of substance. That is, a species will not be entered if it is merely included in a list of species in gardens or localities. It will be entered if its appearance is described or methods of propagation, pruning or other particular characters are outlined. This should save a lot of time when members seek information. Of course it will depend on the distinctions the indexer makes.

We had welcome visitors from Western Australia to lunch in September, Pat and Bill Fitzgerald, who gave us such great assistance when we were chasing everlasting daisies as part of the book project. They own Murrum Station, a large property of 250,000 acres in the Mt Magnet area, Bill being the fourth generation Fitzgerald to run it. Paul Wilson introduced AD SG to Pat because he knew that many of the everlastings we sought grew on their property. Pat collected seed for us from the property and also drove 200km to collect seed of *Rhodanthe collina* from the only population we found while we were in WA. Recently Pat had time while passing through on the way to Perth to go to the same spot to see if the plants were still there. They are and she has sent me a print to prove it.

The rainfall at Murrum is less than 250mm annually in a normal year but there have been several years of drought in a row. This year less than average has fallen so far in contrast to the reasonable amount of rain that has fallen in many parts of WA. In 'normal' years the station has carried 8000 sheep but the number is now down to 2500.

Pat and Bill are now building a house in Perth and retiring to be nearer to the children and grandchildren. Pat sends her regards to all those members with whom she was associated.

In NL 72, p. 31-32 I reported on germination trials with *Argentipallium obtusifolium*. At that time I was full of hope that my latest methods would be successful, but the end result is one seedling. It seems healthy and is certainly growing, although not very quickly. I won't waste it but will plant it at Fairhaven with the couple of successes from previous years. So I failed again this year. Next year I will take my own advice and sow old seed (if there is any left) and new seed in February. Perhaps some sand collected from beneath vigorous plants should be included in the potting mix so that the right mycorrhiza species is present. I could even sacrifice a plant growing in a pot and cut up the roots into the medium. Sooner or later I'll stop wasting precious time on this thankless pursuit. Needless to say, there were no plants ready for the Angair Nature Show in September.

Esma used to say privately that she regarded *Brachyscome angustifolia* as a bit of a weed. As time passed she became more outspoken about it. This seemed an irreverent notion as we were writing *Australian Brachyscomes* at the time. Last year much effort was put into digging the fine-leaved, mauve-coloured form of *B. angustifolia* out of a sunny bed in order to plant a variety of non-daisies germinated from seed. This year it seems to be back again in even greater volumes and I am beginning to agree with Esma. Ivan Holliday (p. 46) extols the virtues of this species in his conditions in South Australia. I shudder to think of its proportions in our garden in another twenty years!

Heartfelt thanks to those members or friends who contributed articles, ideas, illustrations or best wishes to the newsletters. Anything is helpful and makes the task easier. I hope the summer will not be unbearably hot and that you will all have a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.



NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members: **Anne Kerr**, 4/35 Johnstone St., Malvern, Vic, 3144.
Jan Nichollson, 27 Masons Rd., Blackburn, Vic, 3130.

SEED DONORS

Many thanks to the following members and friends who have donated seed to the Seed Bank: Judy Barker, Faye Candy, Margaret Guenzel, Jeff Irons, Christina Leiblich, Maureen Schaumann, Margery Stutchbury.

SEED BANK**Garden and Commercial Seed Bank additions**

Brachyscome sieberi var. *gunnii*
Craspedia coolaminica (cult. ex Tasmania, '05)
Helichrysum rutidolepis (ex Tas.)
Olearia ciliata
Ozothamnus ericifolius, *O ledifolius*

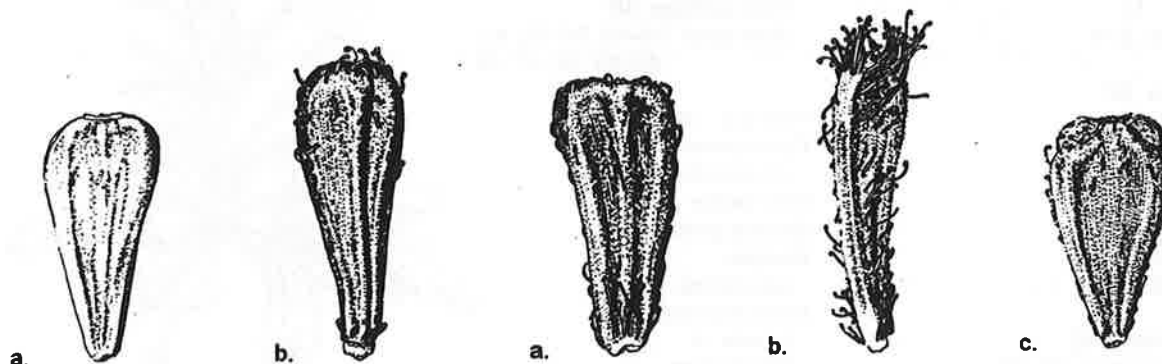
(Jeff Irons sent colour pictures of *Ozothamnus ericifolius* in pink bud and in snowy white flower. The species looked delightful in both growth phases.)

Provenance Seed Bank additions

Lawrencella davenportii (29/9/04), *rosea* (20/9/04)
Rhodanthe condensata (9/04)
Schoenia cassiniana (9/04)

SEED WANTED, PLEASE

We would be very grateful for seed of the following species: *Brachyscome formosa*, *B. parvula*, *B. tenuiscapa* var. *pubescens*, *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *scabiosifolia* and var. *integrifolia*, *Minuria leptophylla*, *Olearia* spp. (not listed in the Seed Bank), *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, more *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (red-bud, branched) and *Waitzia suaveolens* var. *suaveolens*.



a. Commercial seed b. Wreath *Brachyscome* a. Dookanooka, WA b. Thargomindah, Qld c. Darling Range, WA

Seeds of the *Brachyscome iberidifolia* complex (x 20) illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE 2005/2006

Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year for members within Australia and \$20.00 per year for overseas members. **PLEASE SEND SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OUR TREASURER, JOHN WEBB, AT 99 FIDDLERS GREEN, 57 GLOUCESTER AVE, BERWICK, VICTORIA, 3806.** Cheques should be made payable to the 'Australian Daisy Study Group'.

SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON JUNE 30th.

If members have not paid a red cross in the box is a final reminder.
 If members have paid recently please ignore the red cross.



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B. spathulata subsp. *glabra* — MI Rufus, Tas (x 1)
