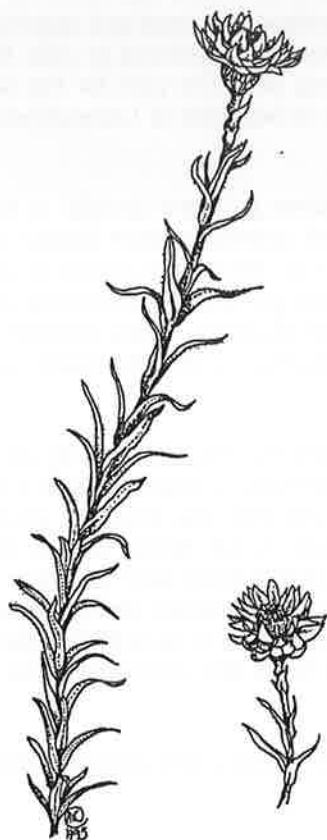


ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**ABN 56 654 053 676****THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 75**

Rhodanthe anthemoides
(Kiandra form) x 2/3

(illustrated by Ailsa Campbell)

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

Leader's Letter

Greetings to all and welcome to new member Helen Vonow.

We had an enjoyable and informative May meeting, with country members Gloria Thomlinson, Matt Hurst, Ray Purches, Barbara Buchanan and Jan Hall with us. Perhaps we can also add Jenny Rejske as a country member! Thanks to you all for making the trip and contributing to the meeting. We would heartily recommend this annual get together as an excellent means of meeting other members, discussing common interests and indeed hearing about student projects. Accommodation with other members is usually available. In all, about 20 members came on Saturday with slightly fewer on Sunday.

Andre Messina, our Esma Salkin student for the 2005–2006 summer period, gave an excellent talk on his work within the *Olearia ramulosa* complex and the relationships with 2 new olearias. Andre has given us an abstract of his paper and will present a full report after Neville Walsh, his supervisor, has read and approved it after returning from holidays. This will appear in the next newsletter. It is certainly pleasing to note that enough funds remain to have a student for both next summer and the following one. The plan for the next student is to study the relationship between *Leucochrysum molle* and the alpine subspecies of *Leucochrysum albicans*. Neville will again supervise the project.

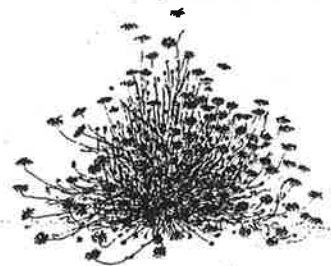
Saturday afternoon started with afternoon tea and a quick garden walk, followed by 'plant swaps', a brief business meeting with 'show and tell' and then Andre's presentation. Several questions were asked and discussed. We all thank Andre for his presentation and excellent work which may result in a couple of new species and a sorting out of the *O. ramulosa* group. After nibbles, a superb dinner provided by members, and a little wine, we had a brief talk and lively discussion about cutting propagation. Barbara Rooks showed us her newly purchased heat mat and propagation equipment to go with it. Thanks to all who came, and provided, for the success.

On Sunday we visited Trish Tratt, whose garden is quite outstanding, particularly for one started only about three years ago on such a steep slope. On about half an acre of good red, well drained mountain soil, Trish has developed a series of gardens surrounded by a network of paths gently easing their way down (or up) the slope. Such a variety of beautiful plants in excellent condition with so many in full flower was a very impressive sight. Of course the everlastings and brachyscomes were well represented and we were all envious of her beautiful flowering specimen of the difficult Tasmanian form of *Helichrysum leucopsideum*. Acacia, epacris, zieria and many others, not to mention scleranthus, were also there in quantities. During some light rain Trish took us inside for a welcome morning tea. Many thanks Trish and congratulations on your beautiful garden — a wonderful example of dedication and grey power.

After Trish's we visited another outstanding garden, that of Bob and Dot O'Neill. Thanks and congratulations to Bob as well. Barbara has reported on this visit.

Unfortunately I will be away for the June meeting but look forward to seeing everybody at the meeting to be held at Trish Tratt's on Tuesday 18th July.

Natalie.



COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 18th July	10.00 am	Meeting at Trish Tratt's home, 3 Walnut Ave, Emerald. Mel. 127 D 4 Ph. 5968 3892
Tuesday, 15th August	10.00 am	Meeting at Peg McAllister's home, 61 Diane Cres, Croydon. Mel. 37 E 11 Ph. 9726 5061
Tuesday, 19th September	10.00 am	Meeting at Maureen Schaumann's home, 88 Albany Dve, Mulgrave. Mel. 80 D 2 Ph. 9547 3670
Sat 23rd /Sun 24th September		Open garden at Natalie and Roger Peate's home 26 Kardinia Cres, Warranwood. Mel. 36 C 9
Saturday, 30th September	9.30 am to 4.30 pm	Daisy etc Plant Sale at Peg McAllister's home (address above.) Bring lunch, and plants to sell.
Tuesday, 17th October	10.00 am	Undecided.
Tuesday, 21st November	10.00 am	Cranbourne?

POMONAL FIRES

by Linda Handscombe

(Linda's account of the Pomonal fires arrived just after NL74 was sent to be printed. It is such a wonderful piece of writing that it has since been published in many APS journals and newsletters and the majority of AD SG members may have read it already. I have read it three or four times and on each occasion it grips me afresh. Judy.)

Initially denying the Mt Lubra fire in the Grampians, I headed for Melbourne for a long overdue visit with family, but swanning around the shops I had uneasy thoughts. "I shouldn't be here." "I should head home." Later in the afternoon I phoned my boss who, perched amongst 250 acres of bush and cut flowers and in an old timber home, said 'If I were you I'd come back'. The girls and I made a hurried dash and three hours later arrived in the dark to an empty house and two lonely dogs. David was still out fighting fires, which wasn't a good sign.

I found my evacuation plan and started assembling some treasures near the front door. Not that we were leaving, but just to throw out the door if the house caught on fire. After the New Year's Eve Fire in Stawell I had done many things — moved everything flammable away, mowed again, filled 4 wheelie bins and many buckets with water, bought an extra mop, bought candles and torch batteries, removed some dead shrubs, bought rubber door mats and a petrol-driven pump.

Early Sunday morning I was up and writing lists. David had gone before dawn. Buckets and bins were topped up, igloos watered, wooden furniture moved and gas bottles turned off. After many tries the down pipes were blocked off. Keeping in mind the task of retrieving anything I lost down there and the contamination of the drinking water, the girls and I pondered the problem. Wet rags in plastic bags did the trick, with two gumboots upended over the inlet pipes. Baths and sinks were filled, protective clothing, water bottles and torches assembled. The battery radio was located and a trickling tap was left on the chook house, and iron sheets and a wet blanket surrounded the aviary. The task of collecting the massive photo collection was left till last. To start would admit that the fire might really come which of course I was still denying.

My boss phoned to say that they were evacuating and did I want help to set up the new pump. The parts hadn't arrived and David had had no time off since the last fires to do it. A friend from Stawell offered her husband and son. I declined them both. But alarm bells were ringing and ominous siren sounds were shrieking from the radio. Pomonal was on high alert. I phoned Rod from work who had refused to evacuate. "Come down here if you want to, but don't leave it too late." Billowing smoke on the mountain that had meandered along all morning suddenly, and with alarming ferocity, began mushrooming into a nuclear cloud. Outside for a photo, then inside to answer the phone. Wise and calm sister Kate in Beaufort offering advice, friends from Stawell who thought we were already in the thick of it, local friends and my mother-in-law from Willaura. As the winds picked up and the mushrooming cloud from hell kept festering upwards, the radio reported that Willaura was under threat. Now I was phoning my mother-in-law. I dragged the hoses inside with the tap fittings and, just as I had, the power went off along with the water. Thoughts of hosing down the garden went and then the phone died too. The solar power kicked in but only enough to keep on the lights and recharge the mobile phone.

Suddenly the smoke hit. Thick, brown, acrid, burning smoke. A lone car rolled up the driveway and Rod arrived with all his worldly possessions on his back. The girls looked alarmed. A hurried call to David located him at Mafeking under the offending cloud, trying to save houses and horses, in the thick of it and miles away. Where to put the cars? We left them on the gravel. Rod wouldn't bring his treasures inside. Suddenly two emus raced around the paddock and bounded into the house block. They were separated and panicking. Then flocks of disorientated birds started circling. David rang, he was in Moyston. I sat on a plastic chair on the gravel with the radio, a water bottle and Rod. The girls heard a loud truck-like noise. It built in volume and became constant. I thought it might be helicopters water bombing Halls Gap. The sound got louder and louder and the girls opened lollies. A ghastly roar began to emanate from the mountains moving in two directions. Sounding like a thousand trains in convoy it moved through Debbie Russell's towards the Milne's and Rod said "I think we might be alright." Then the birds all flew in one direction towards the north. Rod said "Wildlife always knows" and with that the phone rang. It was David, "Could we see flames? I'm trying to get home." We said "No" and hung up, and then the wind changed. The sky over David glowed orange, I screamed to move all the buckets, the girls screamed that the fire was at the creek and I screamed to get inside. The fire raced from the creek to the diningroom window in a blink of the eye. I was overwhelmed by sick feelings of David in a vehicle, the girls were crying out and the wired-in smoke detector started screeching. Embers flew in around the door and wet towels were thrown around. Upstairs to look for embers and down again, frantic attempts to disable the smoke detector, lots of swearing and crying out, and more trips upstairs. The dogs locked in the bedroom cowered under the bed and Milly cried about her aviary. Wood chips pulsed orange, flinging embers into the windows and then, like a vision, a flashing light appeared beyond the front door and David had arrived with a small crew of men and women. They feverishly hosed and hoed, refilled from the dam, hosed and hoed, and suddenly the worst was over. We ventured outside, gave

some hugs, and checked the aviary — all alive! Poured water on stubborn flames, administered Panadol, Panadeine, drinks and eyewash and they were off again, refilling at the dam on the way. An eerie glow shone through the shed. It had burnt from the inside. The wood heap burnt for hours but the chooks had miraculously survived.

The girls hit the mobiles and I wandered around checking water lines and stomping on small fires. Walking back in the surreal landscape I saw a lone figure rake-hoeing a stump near the house. I shone my torch in his face. It was Barry Clugston, a friend from Stawell who thought that we had been alone. He checked on many people that night.

I spent a restless night and was up very early.

SAVED: US, the dogs, the aviary, the chooks, the HOUSE, the carport, the cottage, two tanks, the wetland, some tomato bushes, the outdoor furniture and the BBQ.

LOST: the shearing shed and the good shed containing all of our tools (including the new water pump), one tank and two igloos, heaps of water lines and drippers etc, hundreds of potted plants including orchids, carnivorous plants and valuable natives, revegetation and cut flower stock, 90% of my cut flower garden, all the gardens around the house except for the wetland, the very large woodpile, 1200 recently planted revegetation plants and their guards, kilometres of direct sown rip lines, miles of fencing, our neighbours 1200 sheep that were agisted on our land or his and 90% of the paddocks.

I drove Rod up the road at 8am. I was terrified. It was a moonscape. I walked ahead of his car, moving branches. No green, all white ground and black trunks. Arriving at the roo gates, we surveyed damage. Acres and acres of crisp grey and brown cut flowers. Further up a burnt shed and office, melted igloos and hot house, 80% of plant stock gone and water spewing from melted pipes. My boss's house was in ruins but Rod's caravan stood proud right next door. We walked in and retrieved his medication, slippers and reading glasses.

One week later my house is still a mess. Treasures by the door are slowly returning to their correct places. Birds jostle around the wetland for prime spots. Occasional roos bound through and the power is on but the phone is not.

Asked Milly if she had learnt anything profound from the event. She said "Don't ever mulch with wood chips". I am trying to learn that material possessions amount to nought and are gone in a flash, and that all we are and have ever been are someone else's memories, so make them good ones. Strangers and friends risk their lives for you. And that my husband drove through flames (with a consenting crew he assures me) to reach us, which counts for more than anything.

Linda added: 'Kangaroo Paws are shooting as are fruit trees and a few gums. I've been spreading *Ixodia* seed around, knowing their fondness for smoked water, etc.'

On 1/3/06 Linda had the energy and fortitude to send AD SG seed of various colour forms of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* which she had collected from her garden before the fire. She wrote, 'We have had some wonderful help from family members along fencelines, etc, and also from the Ararat prisoners, who have been marvellous. Their team remove fencing wire and roll it up at a great rate and we are very grateful.'

Many more things are shooting in the garden but no daisies. *Banksia grandis* is shooting, as is *Grevillea bipinnatifida*. *Agonis linearifolia* and lots of callistemons and some hakeas are shooting from the base, as are most eucalypts, some *Epacris* species and eriostemons also.

Most eriostemons and croweas went up like torches, as did all the *Thryptomene calycina*. My favourite plant group "Correas" have disappeared except for the group on the dam wall in front of the house around the wetland. Many leucadendrons are shooting but no proteas.

Thank you so much for the seed. I have planted it all (!!) which is unusually organised for me. I dragged out my seed and have planted some, saved some to broadcast and am sending the rest to you.'

On 26/5/06 Linda sent her germination results and wrote: 'I wanted to write and thank members for the beautiful plants that Barbara Rooks and her husband brought up to us several weeks ago. It was lovely to see Barbara again and a pleasant surprise to see such a varied and healthy collection of plants. It is very humbling to be on the receiving end of kind and thoughtful deeds.'



Ixodia achillaeoides
(drawn by Betty Campbell)

DAY TRIP TO MOUNT COBBLERby Gloria Thomlinson

(Late March '06) David Shiells rang to ask me whether I would be interested in a trip (4WD, air-conditioned) to the High Country with he and David Randall on a Sunday that was forecast to be 40°C. I readily said, 'Yes, please.' So I was ready with my lunch and equipment for any contingency at 5.00am for the first leg to Cobram. We then transferred to David R's vehicle, picked up his aunt Mary from Yarrawonga, and on to Mt Cobbler via Wangaratta, Myrtleford and Buffalo Dam. The track beyond the Dam was indeed deserving of the name of 4WD only. In the recent past the road had been graded and rain had washed away a lot of the surface, leaving great chunks of rock as a road surface.



Helichrysum adenophorum
var. *waddelliae* x 1/3
(drawn by Betty Campbell)

The disturbed soil apparently made good conditions for the germination of *Helichrysum adenophorum* var. *waddelliae* for it grew and was at its best both sides of the track for a good length. I collected some of the first heads to open, hoping that the pollinators had done a good job and some mature seeds could be had. Other daisies were *Cassinia longifolia* (finished flowering), *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *C. semipapposum*, *Leucochrysum albicans*, ssp. *albicans*, *Xerochrysum subundulatum*, *Celmisia tomentella* and *Brachyscome spathulata*. Of non-daisies; *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* made its presence felt for a good length of the track and in a couple of spots a lovely little *Lobelia* sp., first mistaken for the above until I yelled 'STOP!' for it had suddenly shown its difference to me. *L. rhombifolia* I think.

A lovely day, 10° C below what others were experiencing down on the plains. The two Davids and I walked, David S. returning to the lunch spot for he thought his knee would not stand the next uphill climb. David R. and I completed the round trip. I felt quite elated at my effort.

We called in to Paradise Falls on the way home — only a drop or two of water to be heard dripping over. Two punctured tyres delayed our homecoming, the second had to be mended there and then. I slept well that night.

DAISY WEEKENDby Barbara Buchanan

I've been thinking a lot about Katandra Gardens (Bob and Dot O'Neill's garden) and where its appeal lies because it certainly has appeal, not only to APS members who care about the plants as individuals, but to the gardening public at large. He has certainly rendered the cause of growing Australian plants a great service by presenting the plants in a form with which the exotic gardener can be comfortable. Most of us have a nebulous aim of reproducing a little bit of bush, but generally we jumble up plants from lots of different types of bush and very often leave them somewhat unkempt. Some purists opt to stick to the indigenous but it's no easy ask to maintain year round interest, especially in a small suburban yard. As a rule the locals will all flower in the same season and have similar leaf types; they've all adapted to the same conditions.

Now don't get me wrong, I've seen many Australian plant gardens that I find very beautiful but I doubt they have the same attractions to gardeners used to exotics and green lawns. Bob's garden follows some basic design rules — lay down a firm foundation with strong lines and fill in with your preferred planting, minimalist or exuberant. If the latter, the strong lines are softened and a typical English type garden emerges. At Katandra Gardens the plants are of course Australian, but they are used in an English way. The soil, the climate, the aspect, the sheer garden size, all combine to give robust, colourful plant growth, glowing with health. Bob claims he had no overall plan, the beds just happened, but to me it is clear he selected only appropriate shapes and sizes. His paths are wide and definite, this makes for easy access but also clear separations. This garden is the best possible way to sell Australian plants.

I don't think the appeal of some form and structure to a garden is confined to exotic gardeners. I can't define the limits involved and I suspect this is because they are very flexible and because individuals vary greatly. I certainly respond to rounded pruned shapes (although I can't maintain more than a few), and the effect of a row of edging plants holding back a more jumbled planting, and the repetition of linking groups, such as the correas. Is this due to a deep-seated need for order in our lives so that we can make sense of them?

Whatever the cause, the inference is clear. If we are attempting a reproduction of nature we still must have a degree of balance and symmetry, and of overall neatness or tidiness, which must not be obvious. It is a deal

harder than a formal setting, both to set up and maintain, but still it is a goal for most of us. I am not too sure what I would do if I had my time over again.

The groups of correas were real jewels and so stole the scene that I have no firm memory of any daisies. (Somehow I registered *Olearia astroloba* but I am not sure which garden (s) I saw it in.*) It would be difficult to compare with the correas in their prime, and they do flower for a long period, but perhaps the Group could introduce Bob to some daisies to perform in the off period of the correas.

I have groups of correas too, and have started to add more *C. pulchella* forms but a) they are not out yet, and b) the ones that are out are neither as bright nor do they display the flowers so effectively. Bob has more open areas, my garden is much more shaded, especially at this time of year. {Asked Alan to remove three old callistemons no longer adding much to the appearance of the garden but blocking a lot of light.}

Other thoughts:

The crowea I had for swaps and described as dark pink, but not looking right, was almost certainly a white one, a good strong white but not as advertised. I can't remember who got it.

I had another look at more of the later batch of *O. astroloba* (see p. 34) and some of them have finely serrated leaf margins, bringing them closer to true *O. astroloba*. They must be garden hybrids and the only other parent I can imagine is the one we thought might be *O. adenophora*, but which is distinctly different from the plant displayed in S & T which had been bought from the Pye's Nursery at the APS Vic Plant Sale. What is it? If the dears are hybridizing so easily it suggests the classification is dicey, splitters have been at work. I also have a couple of *O. picridifolia* x *rudis* and *O. rudis* x *picridifolia* from the APS SA Plant Sale. It's interesting to compare the two. There is a definite difference in the leaf types, each being closer to the seed parent. I also scored *O. muelleri* and *O. lepidophylla* from Adelaide.

(* *O. astroloba* was definitely present in Bob's garden. In fact seed from this garden was held by ADSG after our visit about ten years ago. It was viable in spite of the fact that only one plant seemed to grow there at that time.)

PUSHING UP THE DAISIES

by **Marilyn Sprague**

(Beryl Birch kindly sent a page from the garden section of the *Bendigo Advertiser* of March 3rd 2006. It had been written by Marilyn Sprague, who owns the Goldfields Nursery in Bendigo, and was generously illustrated by seven prints in glorious colour. Marilyn was a member of ADSG in the early years of its formation and still obviously loves her daisies. She has given her permission to reproduce the article.

Beryl introduced her offering with the following observations: 'Newspaper page enclosed for your interest — Marilyn Sprague does about half their garden pages week by week. She also "did" the garden for our optometrist [nice to know his fees are doing something worthwhile]. It includes a few species of daisy as well as the halganias. Very pretty.'

Best known of all the understorey plants in our local Box-Ironbark Forests is the Sticky Everlasting — *Xerochrysum viscosum*. These hardy yellow everlasting daisies are adapted to our dry conditions and always look bright throughout the bush or garden.

The clustered everlasting is a striking taller daisy with small yellow flowers massed together to form a large head up to 8cm across. There are many different forms of it depending on where it grows, but quite amazingly, on the north side of One Tree hill near Latrobe University it has soft grey foliage and on the south side it has bright green foliage. If you travel out to the Kamarooka-Goornong area and further north, the flower-heads become smaller and more open and that form also has green foliage.

These daisies are great to grow as they are excellent cut flowers. December is the perfect picking time; that's when they are in bud, and just prior to the flower opening, they are harvested and hung upside down to dry. The timing is important because if picked later the flower does not hold its shape. We like to use them occasionally because, once dried, they last for a long time and they add a Bendigo touch to the floral arrangements we sell at the nursery.

There are also ground cover daisies. These include Common Everlasting and several brachyscomes which are soft-petalled daisies. *Brachyscome multifida* — Cut Leaf Daisy is quite variable in colour and is an excellent border plant. A delightful white form from Heathcote is popular, as white tends to light up the garden. But there is a deep purple one from Wedderburn and we are very excited to have available plants with a pale mauve flower, grown from the last remaining plant at Flora Hill.

Did you realise that Billy Buttons (sometimes called Drumsticks) and Lemon Beauty-heads are daisies? The best stand of Lemon Beauty-heads near Bendigo is on the wall of No. 7 Reservoir in Kangaroo Flat. When the Bendigo Beach at Crusoe Reservoir is opened to the public, you will be able to see it. Billy Buttons can be very sculptural and I think they could be used effectively in the landscaping of some more modern homes.

REPORT FROM YARRAWONGA

by Jan Hall

Nurseries

Matt Hurst mentioned my old nursery at Yarrawonga. Sad to say the new people did not continue trading for long and the nursery has closed.

We are excited at the prospect of Matt possibly starting a new nursery at Wagga Wagga and wish him well. We are not well served in Northern Victoria with nurseries selling native plants and rely on 'Park Lane' at Wangaratta, which was mentioned by Matt as the indigenous nursery. The good news is that they are expanding their range to sell more cutting-grown general Australian plants.

'Park Lane' also supports our (Wangaratta) Group's efforts and some of our members do voluntary work for them to supplement the efforts of the disabled people they employ.

Olearia

Last winter Maureen gave me seed of *O. ciliata*, Fringed Daisy-bush, from Kimba (SA). This germinated well and I now have 15 plants to put out when conditions improve. This seed was sent in response to my request for daisies which would tolerate the exposed conditions of our new garden. This January was the hottest on record with an average of 35.7°C for the month. The last useful rain fell in early November '05 and it is now mid-March '06. The rainfall in 2005 was more regular but it's back to reality this summer. We are trying to select plants which will cope with the unreliable weather pattern as well as shape our garden beds to collect and store moisture from storm water.

Germination results

Maureen's AD SG seed of *Xerochrysum viscosum* collected from her lemon and orange forms germinated well and flowered with predominantly lemon and cream flowers. The plants are a nice rounded shape, unlike our local form which grows lanky unless pruned.

Polycalymma stuartii seed came in two batches. We had seen a lot of the Poached-eggs Daisy on our desert trips so I looked forward to seeing them on our own gravel-mulched mounds. Margaret Guenzel's fresh garden seed germinated very well but little came of the '96 south of Alice Springs provenance.

The display would have been improved by planting earlier (we were away during peak planting time in spring). I have tried to collect some seed for this year but much of our garden seed has been scattered by strong winds. However, we did have a lovely showing of daisies in spring and I will be looking in the gravel for all sorts of self-sown seedlings this year. *Rhodanthe stuartiana* from the Buckleboo area (SA) also germinated well and were delightful little plants — before the heat of summer. I would like to try these again.

Leiocarpa sp. (probably *L. panaetioides*) I grew from seed four years ago. They are really hardy and languished in pot-bound tubes during our moves but, when released into the new garden, they grew into attractive long-flowering little mounds. They do need pruning now. A plant I pruned experimentally during the heat has come back with new growth and flowers within six weeks and with one good watering. This is just what we need for the minimum water use garden.



Rhodanthe stuartiana x ½
(drawn by Betty Campbell)

A FISHING TRIPby **Matt Hurst**

Just thought that I would let you know about a fishing trip I went on this week. Spent a day at a place called Blue Water Holes. It's near Yarrangobilly Caves in the Snowy Mountains National Park and is a popular spot for day trippers, caving and horse riders (unfortunately). The stream is spring fed and only runs a few kilometres, then goes down a set of falls to the Goodradigbee River which runs into Burrinjuck Dam.

Since the fires in 2003 large amounts of *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (green and grey leaf forms) carpet the slopes each side of the stream in some sections. Some plants were still flowering but one can imagine what a spectacle it must be when the whole slope is in flower. *Leucochrysum albicans* seems now to have completely disappeared from the entire area. Two species of prostrate everlastings, some in several metre-wide mats, are conspicuous near the road into Blue Water Holes and occasionally along the walk down to the falls. Several *Olearia* species are also present but, apart from some tiny five petal flowers on one species, there are no flowers to tell you that these shrubs are actually daisies.

Most other non-daisies are few and far between now, with no evidence of the masses of triggerplants that I had seen in previous years. Even the trees seem not to have regenerated very well. Perhaps when the tree canopy has thickened the triggerplants will return.

The fishing trip was great, with about eighty fish caught and released. I enjoy any time spent up there as it refreshes me. Visit the area if you ever get the opportunity as it is a wonderful place even if masses of horse poo spoil the view somewhat.

OZOTHAMNUS DIOSMIFOLIUSby **Pat Webb**

I have been admiring a group of these plants in the Australian Garden at Cranbourne Botanic Gardens during our tours through the summer. They have been planted in the Eucalyptus Walk. At present (mid-March) they are most attractive, neat shrubs, 60–70cm high, growing in full sun and covered in dense, white flower-heads (since December). I do hope the garden staff is going to be able to keep them so neat and dense by regular pruning. I shall keep an eye on these shrubs over the next six months. These plants are admired each time I take a group around, but I am always a little wary to recommend it as it can be such a straggly plant. I do stress that they need pruning.

There are some more *O. diosmifolius* plants nearby with — hopefully — pink flowers. An *Ozothamnus* species I particularly like is *O. ledifolius*, especially the colourful buds prior to flowering.

(Pat sent the following update a day or so later.) Just done a guided tour of the Australian Garden today — the *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* has had a 'tip prune'. The Growing Friends from the Royal Botanic Gardens were our guests and they loved it all — a great group to show around!

Ozothamnus diosmifolius x 2/3
(illustrated by Kath Alcock)

PS The *Brachyscome multifida* border in the path leading to the *Xanthorrhoea* is also admired; they will soon need a 'big chop'.

THE GENERA CASSINIA and OZOTHAMNUSby **Judy Barker**

Among the specimens Jan Hall showed us at the May meeting was one that may have been *Ozothamnus retusus* or *O. sp.* or a *Cassinia sp.* It was an everlasting with a cluster of small creamy yellow, shining heads and short aromatic foliage. The fact that its identity was not easily reeled off the tongues of numerous "experts" prompted Max McDowall to ask what characters distinguished the two genera.

The *Flora of Victoria* Vol 4 (1999) seemed an excellent place to start looking for information under Asteraceae. Both genera belong to Group 7, the characters of which are: 'Capitula separate, without a common involucre (or if ever apparently in compound heads, then capitula heterogamous); florets tubular and/or filiform; pappus of bristles or scales.'

(Heterogamous is defined in the glossary as producing flowers of two or more kinds with respect to their fertile organs, i.e. combination of male, female or bisexual.)

On p.660 *Ozothamnus* is described as having 'receptacle bracts (subtending individual florets) absent, or if ever present, then inner involucral bracts with spreading, usually dilated apical part 48

Cassinia is described as having receptacle bracts present (resembling involucral bracts but narrower and usually thinner-textured); involucral bracts all c. erect, straight or apices incurved, not or hardly apically dilated 49

C. F. Puttock is the author of the section describing the two genera in detail. Under *Ozothamnus* he says, 'About 45 species (probably congeneric with *Cassinia*), predominantly Australian; a single species in New Caledonia and 1 polymorphic species in New Zealand.'

Under *Cassinia* he says, 'About 18 species, predominantly Australian (closely allied to, and perhaps not truly distinct from *Ozothamnus*; a single polymorphic species in New Zealand recently transferred to *Ozothamnus*.'

Hybrids occur between sympatric species of this genus, and also with species of *Ozothamnus* (e.g. *C. laevis* x *O. ferrugineus*, and *C. aculeata* x *O. obcordatus*).

It seems that more work must be done on the revision of these two genera. Meanwhile I hope this has answered Max's question.

MARCH GARDEN VISIT to BEN and CAROLYN SOMERVILLE

by **Sue Guymer**

(This article appeared in the April issue of the APS Maroondah newsletter. AD SG held the March meeting in Ben's garden a short time later and Sue's article describes exactly what we saw.)

Ben and Carolyn have only been in their house for three years and the first year was devoted to the house rather than the garden. It is amazing how much has been achieved in the last couple of years! This was a joint visit for Maroondah and Foothills groups and provided the first chance to see the garden for most of us.

Ben attended meetings of several different APS groups to gather ideas and to buy plants. He also joined the Daisy Study Group. His aim was to create a cottage garden full of flower colour throughout the year. He also mixed in a few exotics such as roses and proteas among the Australian plants.

The back garden had been mainly couch lawn which Ben removed by hand. He then had the area deep-ripped, brought in gravel to form paths, and spread mulch to a depth of up to 15cm. (The depth of mulch was a bit of an accident — a combination of an over-supply and of over-enthusiasm by the spreader. However, this has not caused problems and it has helped the mulch layer to last longer.) He put in an extensive watering system. This is only run for about an hour, 3–4 times a year during summer.

The cottage garden look in the back garden is achieved by close planting of lots of low plants and groundcovers, with a few shrubs and small trees along the fence line. There are many daisies, particularly a wide range of colour forms of *Xerochrysum bracteatum*. There was a massive *Scaevola* 'Purple Fanfare' covered in deep purple flowers, correas (including *C. 'Federation Belle'*), croweas, Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*), *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, the annual *Hibiscus trionum* and low-growing Kangaroo Paws (including *Anigozanthos 'Royal Cheer'*). *Grevillea rhyolitica* "Deua Flame" drew a lot of favourable comments.

The smaller front garden has some medium-sized shrubs such as *Senna artemisioides*, *Correa baeuerlenii*, grey-leaved form of *Eremophila glabra* and taller Kangaroo Paws. There are also several low plants such as *Brachyscome multifida*, *Epacris impressa* and *E. longiflora*, *Hibbertia vestita* and *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*.

The nature strip provides a very colourful advertisement of mainly Australian plants. Prostrate plants of *Myoporum parvifolium* (broad-leaved form) and mauve-flowered *Scaevola albida* provide a base for the somewhat taller plants including *Xerochrysum bracteatum* and *Eremophila glabra*.

Thanks very much to Ben and Carolyn for allowing us to visit their garden, to Carolyn for the lovely muffins and to their niece, Louise McCarthy, for entertaining us on the viola and violin.

REPORT FROM THEODORE (ACT)by **Barrie Hadlow**

I enclose this seedlot of *Ozothamnus costatifructus* which I collected from a garden plant. I wasn't familiar with this species or its origins so sought help from the Botanic Gardens library, the 'Virtual Herbarium' on line and Elliot and Jones' account in Vol. 5 of *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants* under a former determination.

Hope the seed has good viability and is of use for the Study Group. Flowering here is in summer and for a relatively long period.

Here is some of the information on this species:

Name: *Ozothamnus costatifructus* (R. V. Sm.) Anderb.

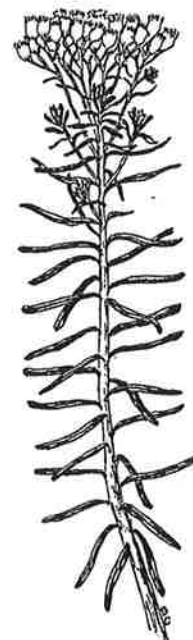
Status: New in 1991 for *Helichrysum buffonii* N.T. Burb., *Helichrysum costatifructum* R.V. Sm.

Information Source: Anderberg, A.A. (1991)

References: Anderberg, A.A. (1991). Taxonomy and Phylogeny of the Tribe Gnaphalieae (Asteraceae).
Opera Botanica 104.

Under *Helichrysum costatifructum* R.V. Smith on p. 269 in Vol. 5 of the *Encyclopaedia* the flowering period is Nov–Jan and the size is 1–3m x 0.6–2.5m.

The description reads: 'This species has moderate ornamental quality. It has a very limited distribution in coastal forests of eastern and southern Tas. It has had limited cultivation and is recorded as doing very well on the Scilly Isles, south-western England. Requires good drainage and will probably do best with some shade. Hardy to moderately heavy frosts and dislikes extended dry periods. Tip pruning from an early stage is recommended for promoting a bushy framework, then regular pruning after flowering. It does well in containers. Propagate from seed or from cuttings.'



x½

Ozothamnus costatifructus
(drawn by Betty Campbell)

Postscript: Jenny and I were in Melbourne last week staying with friends at Mount Dandenong and enjoying the cool moist and green Dandenong Ranges after a very dry two months at home. One highlight of our week was a visit to Cranbourne for Sunday's opening of 'The Australian Garden' at the Botanic Gardens Annexe. A very special place and very well supported that day with about 10,000 attending despite overcast and showery weather.

Daisies were represented at locations across the site and I'm sure local ADSG members will report on these in the future.

I came across a book by Philippa Nikulinsky and Stephen Hopper, *Soul of the Desert* (Fremantle Arts Centre Press — 2005, 25 Quarry St, Fremantle, WA or PO Box 158, North Fremantle, WA, 6159.). A wonderful publication about arid Australian plants that Philippa has painted from visits to Western Australia's great desert and dry country environments.

I recommend this publication to all who love arid plant (and animal) species. The paintings (and text by Stephen Hopper accompanying the images) are superb. The Asteraceae in the monograph I include as a separate list of the species illustrated and described, and hope that you get the chance to delve into it.

[Barrie sent a page in colour with all our old favourites painted very delicately as a grouping. They include *Helipterum craspedioides* (from Upper Murchison), *Podolepis capillaris* (from the Gibson Desert), *Schoenia cassiniana* and *Leucochrysum stipitatum* (from Central Ranges), *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (from Ophthalmia Range, Ashburton), *Waitzia acuminata* (from Goldfields), *Cephalopterum drummondii* and *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* (from Payne's Find), *Leucochrysum fitzgibbonii* (from Central Ranges) and *Lawrencella davenportii* (from Meekatharra, north Goldfields).]

Barrie also sent the following information: 'I had a letter last week from Leon Costermans whom Jen and I met by chance in Western Australia in 2004 while enjoying the marvellous vegetation of the Eneabba area. As you may already know, Leon has just completed his update of *Native Trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia* — as a CD Rom 'Supplement' for this great book which I have used, like many others for years (and carted it around on field trips so my copy is comfortably worn!) Leon kindly gave us a copy of the supplement which he had told us in '04 of working on and which I had subsequently forgotten about. He had shown much

interest in the 'Everlastings Book' at that time, as I had by then received the copy sent for me to pick up in Geraldton.

Leon's supplement is excellent — very interactive with numerous links in many directions to connect information. It also has superb photos of c. 250 plant species involved in the revision plus maps. The flier has more discussion of the project which must have been daunting, but a great achievement.'

PROPAGATION PAGES

1. **Beth McRobert** reported on some daisy news on 9/4/06:

'Firstly, the sad bit. Probably about this time last year I planted some *Rhodanthe manglesii* seed which I had harvested from spring flowerings the year before — they were really lovely that year. Well, I was thrilled with the number of plants that came up, and were doing well till they were about 6 inches high. I went out one morning and not a plant was left. I blame the possum, for it is having a wonderful time in the garden eating things I don't want it to (like ripening passionfruit). So that ended my daisy hopes for last year.

Now to some interesting bits. Our SGAP Autumn Plant Sale is to occur on 22nd April, and I usually like to take some annual daisy plants for sale to encourage that line of thinking up here. Usually I use commercially available seeds like *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* and *Brachyscome iberidifolia* which I know do well in Brisbane. But at the same time I thought I would try, for me, some of the seeds from AD SG which were part of the everlasting project and which were the ones I held in the fridge. Well, I planted 24 seeds of *Rhodanthe humboldtiana* marked 'Mt Magnet, collected 10/95 by P.V. Fitzgerald, and kept at 4°C from 11/95', (and kept in my fridge since receiving them). I planted them in potting mix with some sand and coir peat added, and sprinkled a bit of smoked vermiculite on top and, within 4 days, 6 seedlings had come up. Next week I planted 50 seeds of *Rhodanthe manglesii* marked 'WS11450 (Nindethana cultivated) 4°C since 1/96' and, again within a matter of days, 19 seedlings have appeared, and of the 25 *Schoenia cassiniana* seeds planted marked '031 12/94 JB 4°C' 3 seedlings are up.

Now I know they are fairly poor percentage-wise, but I thought it was great — given the age of the seed, so would love to hear your thoughts.

(I think your results are very good, Beth. It seems that the commercial seed has retained better viability than Pat's or mine over the ten or more years since they were collected. It would be interesting to sow the same seed kept at room temperature to see how it germinated after such a lapse of time. If I can find that we kept specimens at RT for comparison I will do so. Another point that arises is that we wondered if we might be pushing this arid zone seed into dormancy by keeping it in the fridge, but it does not appear to have had that effect, particularly with the Nindethana seed. Conclusion: we should be doing more comparative studies in the germination field ... Judy.)

2. **Bev Courtney** has sent us a tip on getting rid of mosses and liverwort on our seed pots. 'Re spraying with vinegar — I use it as it comes from the bottle. It's good for liverwort and moss but don't get it on plants or it will kill them too, especially tender seedlings. With older plants it won't kill them but just burn leaves wherever it hits them. For delicate work you can use a fine paintbrush to dab it on.'

(I spent a morning delicately brushing vinegar as Bev suggested and it worked very well indeed. Thank you, Bev.)

3. **Jan Nicholls** is a fairly new member who was not confident about propagation from seed. This prompted us to run a few short demonstrations at meetings, the first being a display at the April meeting of the differing procedures used by Judy and Maureen. Jan took home some seed, some smoked vermiculite, some granite chips and a few ideas. She asked for more seed later. We congratulate her on her excellent results. This is Jan's report (received on 3/6/06):

'I am very excited about the seed germination as the results are so much better than anything we have managed before. I had difficulty getting the granite chips (to cover the seeds) but Maureen suggested vermiculite and that worked well.

The *Brachyscome spathulata* that I planted at the April meeting has germinated and produced 30 plants. They are still very small and must be waiting for a little warmth now.

All the others I planted on 27/4/06. *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* has had excellent germination and is thriving. I am looking forward to a massed display in their large pot, and am hoping I don't need to be hard-hearted and prick any out. I have planted some seed of *Xerochrysum* of an unknown variety that I couldn't

resist collecting from some plants that I had last year, and they have performed similarly. I will definitely be busy when I have to pot them on. This applies also to the *Ammobium alatum* and *Rhodanthe anthemoides*.

You gave me, Judy, two lots of *Helichrysum adenophorum* var. *waddelliae*, one of which you said you thought had poorer germination. I certainly found that as I have only 5 plants in one pot and many in the other.

The *Schoenia cassiniana* has produced 5 tiny plants out of two pots of seed, but I noticed this morning that one seedling appeared to have been decapitated so I am wondering if one of our possums walked on it or some little grub had a nibble. Perhaps the germination was better than I think. *Chrysocephalum baxteri* has taken longer than all the above to germinate but is now developing. This morning's newsflash is that, because I had my glasses on to actually read the labels for you, I discerned two tiny specks of green in the *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* pot.

So far nothing has eventuated from *Pycnosorus chrysanthes*, *Ixodia* or *Leucochrysum albicans*. I guess I planted the seeds very late and have done well to have so much under way. I really appreciate the encouragement and the demonstrations in the Daisy Group. I could add that the system hasn't worked for our cauliflower and broccoli seeds.

4. On the Saturday night of the May weekend **Natalie** continued the lessons with a demonstration of propagation from cuttings. She spoke on the following topics:

i. **Timing.** Consider the time or the occasion for which the plants are needed, eg annual ADSG Plant Sale, and work back to find the time for doing the cuttings. This presupposes a certain amount of knowledge already exists and reminded Natalie to stress the importance of keeping records. She likes taking cuttings in autumn, but sometimes it has to be whenever the material is available.

ii. **Selection of plant material.** Always select good, clean, healthy stock.

iii. **Collection and storage of cuttings.** Moisten newspaper with water, wrap the cuttings in the paper and put in a plastic bag with details of name, date and place of collection. Keep cool, preferably refrigerated, until cuttings are prepared. This will maintain the plant material in a good turgid state.

iv. **Record keeping.** Stressed again.

v. **Hygiene.** Clean instruments, media, containers etc should be used. Wash material and only sterilize with 1:10 household bleach if necessary.

vi. **Media.** Natalie uses a medium consisting of perlite, angular pieces of polystyrene foam and peat moss. It is light and it works well, as she proved by pulling out a bunch of cuttings of *Brachyscome multifida* which had been prepared on 23/3. On 13/5 a large root system had been developed but the tray had been sitting on a heat bed. This medium doesn't need much watering. After striking the cuttings, prune the roots and tops of the new plants if appropriate. This helps promote bushy growth and a good root system. The media and hormones etc used depend on the conditions available for propagation, eg bottom heat, light, and watering technique.

Peg McAllister has good results using granitic sand alone and Max McDowall uses coconut peat 1 part : sand 4 parts.

vii. **Hormones.** Powder hormones are a lot easier to use than gels or liquids. Natalie uses an IBA/NAA mixture in powdered talc. She has found that the best proportions of IBA to NAA are 2 to 1 in her conditions, and for her preferred types of cuttings. Clonex rooting gel RED, of strength 8gm IBA per litre, often gives good results for difficult-to-strike cuttings. The hormone is taken up very quickly by freshly cut material. Be careful to keep the hormone powder stock separate from the powder used in cutting preparation each time. Liquids and gels should be stored on the refrigerator, and gloves should be worn when handling any of these chemicals.

Ray Purches says Rootex L is used at Park Lane Nursery and it has the same concentration of IBA. Barbara Rooks uses Progel which is kept in the fridge. She cuts a bit of sponge and wipes the cutting in the gel on the sponge.

viii. **Implements.** Natalie uses a pair of red-handled fruit pruners to prepare her cuttings. They are sharp, light, easily seen, and should be cleaned and sharpened between uses.

ix. **Types of cuttings.** Natalie likes small cuttings and can make 2–3 cuttings from material that might be considered enough for most of us to make 1 cutting. For some climbers where material has long internodes (such as *Hardenbergia* spp.) internodal cuttings can be taken, ie cut about halfway between nodes. Hormone can be applied to the cut end of the stem or to the whole stem scratched along between the nodes.

x. **Preparation of cuttings.** Ray told us that Park Lane finds that roots are developing better with unstripped cuttings, especially those species with fine leaves. The only problem is that some cuttings pop out of the medium, pushed up by the leaves. This method was confirmed by Matt Hurst who knew it was used in a South Australian nursery.

xi. **Conditions for striking cuttings.** Natalie uses a heated bed with misting or fogging. Fogging maintains humidity which keeps cuttings in good condition until they develop roots, when they can then take up water through their roots. Fogging may be detrimental to some furry-leaved species which prefer dryer rather than humid conditions. Cuttings should be watered lightly to reduce hormone loss.

xii. **Potting on.** Good potting mix should be used, preferably one that complies with the Australian Standard. Some people add perlite to their potting mix in order to lighten it, but most modern mixes consist mainly of composted pine bark and don't need this. Low phosphorus, slow release fertilizer should be added at the rate of about 1 teaspoon per 15cm pot volume. Nutricote copes with higher temperatures better. Osmocote 8/9 month formulation of 18, 2.6, 10 NPK rating is suitable for tubes; or Osmocote 12/14 month of similar NPK is suitable for larger containers. Mini-Osmocote (5/6 month) is very good for use in small tubes.

xiii. **Record Keeping.** Don't forget to record results.

This section was much appreciated by the members present and all joined in with questions, ideas and suggestions. Thank you for an amusing and very informative demonstration, Natalie.

5. **Linda Handscombe** reported germination results on 26/5/06 from the seed AD SG sent after the fires:

'I had some successes. I filled squat pots with seedling mix, wet it down, sat the seed on top and very lightly covered the seed with sieved mix and a pinch of ash from the garden beds. I sat the pots in wet \$2 kitty litter trays from the Reject Shop (which, incidentally, just fit Hiko trays). They were a bit exposed to some cold weather after tubing on, so lost quite a few of *Polycalymma stuartii*, *Schoenia filifolia* and *S. cassiniana*, but still have enough for a little clump when planting out.'

Seeds were planted 23/2/06.

Species	13/3/06 (18 days)	18/4/06 (54 days)
<i>Polycalymma stuartii</i>	loads	loads
<i>Rhodanthe chlorocephala</i> ssp. <i>rosea</i>	loads	loads
<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i> (unbranched form)	0	50
<i>Podolepis rugata</i>	20	50
<i>Rhodanthe polygalifolia</i>	0	0
<i>Schoenia filifolia</i>	loads	loads
<i>Calocephalus lacteus</i>	0	3
<i>Chrysocephalum baxteri</i> (JB gdn)	few	loads!
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> (Winton)	25	25
<i>Helichrysum rutidolepis</i> (Tas., JI)	10	20
<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i> (red-bud, branched)	1	40
<i>Schoenia cassiniana</i>	10	15
<i>Helichrysum elatum</i> (Lord Howe)	0	12
<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i> (Racecourse)	5	7
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i> (RC gdn)	loads	loads
<i>Xerochrysum bicolor</i>	20	30
<i>Pycnosorus chrysanthes</i> (mine)	20	20
<i>Helichrysum elatum</i> (mine)	3	30
<i>Brachyscome tenuiscapa</i>	0	0
<i>B. aculeata</i>	0	0
<i>B. stuartii</i>	0	0
<i>B. sieberi</i>	0	0
<i>B. nivalis</i>	3	3
<i>B. melanocarpa</i>	loads	loads
<i>Olearia ciliata</i>	0	0

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Howard and Lorraine Harvey of Houghton (SA) sent a very large parcel of seed of *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (white) on 9/3/06 and reported that 'This was only about 25% of that available from our shrub which is about 1.5m high and wide (before Lorraine gives it its annual severe prune-back).'

We will try to collect seed from our olearias next season. Too late this time around, but our *Olearia lirata* especially is usually overloaded around December.

We scattered some seeds which we received from you a couple of years ago around our back yard "daisy bed". Since then, with self-seeding it is almost impossible to get amongst the daisies. They are even coming up all over our garden, in the dolomite paths, between bricks on our back patio and in pots with other plants.'

Gloria Thomlinson of Shepparton (Vic) reports on 29/3/06: 'The garden would look better for some rain, but at least there are not many weeds. I have a few cutting-grown plants that I am chancing by planting out, and watering regularly. Kay's and Trevor's new garden is looking terrific. They have *Xerochrysum viscosum* coming up naturally everywhere, and just as naturally it looks good. They weed them!'

(When AD SG had a weekend expedition to the Shepparton area many years ago we had admired the multitude of daisies in a garden visit at Kay and Trevor's home, and this was followed by a superb Sunday luncheon cooked and served by the family.)

Bev Courtney of Langwarrin (Vic) reported on 14/4/06: 'I gave Maureen some garden seed of *R. anthemoides* Liverpool Range and told her it was only just coming up. Well now I have a little lawn of it. She said you would be looking for *Brachyscome parvula* when you came down. I have local seed, but it's 2001 collection from my pots and I think the original plants were from Maureen, who thought it had hybridised in her garden because it was much more vigorous than the normal Mornington form. Anyhow, I've sown some (not up yet) and you can have the rest. I also have some seed (same year) from Kaye Proudley (Frankston Indigenous Nursery) which she collected from plants she got from me. It may all be a bit old.'

(Bev now has a website on the subject of Preparing for Energy Decline — food growing and self-sufficiency. The address is: <http://www.freewebs.com/preparenow/>
Bev says comments are welcome.)

Ros Cornish of Carwoola (NSW) writes on 3/5/06: 'On our Wednesday Walkers outing last week at Good Good Nature Reserve — east of Bredbo — we found a small patch of *Olearia iodochroa*. We have seen it before in other reserves not far from there. I think it is rather nice and would like to grow it but don't seem to have much luck with this genus. Jo Walker is propagating it so maybe I'll try again. I'm a little reluctant to plant anything yet as it is so dry. We're losing well established plants that have survived the last few years of drought, which is a real shame.'

Barbara Buchanan of Myrree (Vic) reports on 9/6/06: 'Still no rain, just frost after frost. The night before last I left a hose trickling to soak a newly planted hakea, the ground is just so hard and dry. When Alan found it next morning the pond was all but dry, another hour or so and the line and pump would have been full of mud, and probably seized up. There has been no flow in over 24 hours, so that if we hadn't recently spent lots on a big tank as backup, there would be no garden water. It's about two years since the tank went in and we haven't needed it until now, but I sure was glad to know it was there in the bushfire season. Next problem, the pump on this tank is a bit unreliable always something.'

I am nearly at an end of planting where there is water because Alan has been digging holes for me and finding out what I have been saying for years, the soil structure is very poor in many places. We saw a garden in Tungmah yesterday on cracking clay, which has its own set of problems, but lack of minerals is not one of them and the colour of the foliage and its vigour showed up how poor ours is. The natives seemed to thrive in the rich conditions, just like Bob's place.

Although not a member of AD SG, **John Facey** of Strathfieldsaye (Vic) added to the story of drought when he sent some seed in early June. He wrote, 'We have not had so much as a drop of rain for more than a month and we will have to buy water for the house soon. Normally our tanks are running over at this time of the year. We have had 17 frosts in the last 23 days and last week we had seven in a row. (4/6/06) — Another frost and - 5° C this morning.'



Olearia iodochroa x 2/3
(illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson)

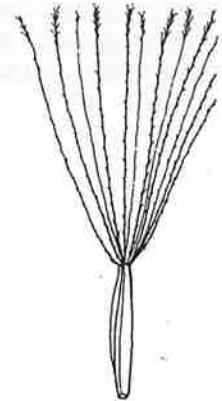
EDITOR'S NOTE

I have been wondering why Jan Hall now thinks *Leiocarpa panaetioides* is 'as close as she can get to' the identity of the species we had for some time referred to as '*Leiocarpa* sp. ex Jan Hall'. She brought some seed of her garden specimens to the May meeting and was extolling the virtues of the species. She had collected the seed originally in the Horsham area and the stems she brought to Show and Tell seemed to have soft, green, hairy foliage and small yellow button heads.

In November 1985 the Study Group had been taken to Werribee on a daisy hunt by Laurie Gilmore. At breakneck pace we were introduced to more daisies than we had previously seen in one go, had bogged a couple of cars, encountered snakes and seen a bit of local cricket. What remains in my mind is the first sight of '*Leptorhynchos panaetioides*'. It was a silvery grey shrub growing against a fence along a railway service track somewhere near Lara. I remember it as being about 0.8–1m tall. So much for my memory! I have written in NL 17 that 'I'm hoping we can also tame *L. panaetioides* which has silver foliage, attractive light yellow flower heads and grows to about 50cm.' Perhaps Laurie told us its identity or perhaps we were bold enough to think we could identify it ourselves.

As I have a healthy respect for Jan's knowledge of plants and her determination to identify them I had a look at the seed under the microscope and reread Paul Wilson's article, *Leiocarpa*, a new Australian genus of the Asteraceae tribe Gnaphalieae (2001), *Nuytsia* 13 (3): 595–605. *Leiocarpa panaetioides* has the synonyms *Helichrysum panaetioides* DC., Prodr. 6: 194 (1838) and *Leptorhynchos panaetioides* (DC.) Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 609 (1867). It occurs in Victoria, NSW and Qld.

In *Flora of Victoria* Vol. 4 (1999), p. 776 I found a description of *Ixiolaena* sp. 1 with the same two synonyms, and an illustration by Enid Mayfield of the cypsela, which looks exactly like Jan's seed. The cypselas were grey-brown, ribbed, slightly beaked, with short, stiff, white bristles on the body and a few glands at the neck. The pappus consisted of 16–18 barbed, white plumes, 3mm long, with clusters of hairs at the tips. Eureka! The description mentions that the stems are 'woolly or cobwebbed and silvery grey', and both surfaces of the leaves are woolly or cobwebbed but does not state a colour.



Ixiolaena sp. 1
cypsela x 10
(illustrated by Enid
Mayfield)

In his article Paul has added a note to the section on *L. panaetioides* that: 'This species is very similar to *Leiocarpa websteri* which typically has leaves that are broader than those of *L. panaetioides* while its involucre bracts are glandular puberulous (not woolly) and more rigid, however, the two taxa grade into each other and many specimens that belong to this complex cannot be confidently placed with either species.' So, there you are, Jan, perhaps it is one of Paul's intermediates.

Many thanks to all those members and friends who contributed anything to this newsletter and to the many newsletters that preceded it. Unless you are or have been an editor you can have little conception of the joy each additional note brings. My thanks also to Lee who tries to eliminate all mistakes from each edition, but seldom succeeds. The errors usually creep in when he has finished sub-editing and left the finishing touches to me.

Good growing,

SHOW and TELL

(February meeting) Maureen brought four brachyscomes — *B.* 'Betty Campbell' (pale pinky mauve, which comes into its own in late summer/autumn), *B.* aff. *multifida*, collected near Hat Head in NSW (dark mauve with a nice, neatly mounded habit), *B.* 'Mauve Delight', and a white-flowered *B. parvula* from seed collected in the garden, which she thinks may have crossed with another species. Although the Huntly (Vic) form of the species has white flower-heads this plant has different foliage. There were two forms of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* — the form often seen in nurseries as *C. amplexans*, which has green leaves and more orange in the heads, and *C. ramosissimum* which has grey-green leaves and smaller heads with less orange in them.

She brought *Ammobium alatum* and *A. craspedioides* heads in seed to show new members how to collect the seed and what it looked like under the monocular. Dried specimens of the small-flowered form of *Ixodia achillaeoides* and *Ozothamnus purpurascens* were displayed. Maureen had picked the latter in pink bud but

the buds had opened to fluffy white heads. Plants grow 1–1.5m and may also have red or brown buds. Peg thinks they have a sculptured quality and do not need pruning, but they may grow more untidy as they enlarge. *Leptorhynchus tenuifolius* looked very dainty with its small heads on long wiry stems. It grows particularly well in the soak. *Calocephalus citreus*, *Helichrysum scorpioides* and *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (branching form) were in flower. *Minuria integerrima* (given to us by Joy last year) was admired for its soft pink buds and the very soft, fine white ray florets.

Maureen had dried stems of *Cassinia quinquefaria*, which are very elegant and dainty, and are prized as filler for dried arrangements.

Ben displayed a vase full of colourful *Xerochrysum bracteatum* forms, among them soft pink, mid-pink, light and dark orange, yellow and dark red heads. He had collected cuttings from Joan Rand, struck them and filled his garden with colour. He has collected jars of seed of various colours, sown them and discovered that the seedlings are not necessarily the colour of the parent. In his pretty vase he also had *Calocephalus citreus* and a nice brachyscome similar to *B. 'Valencia'*.

Barbara brought heads of *Helichrysum rutidolepis* (Oberon) form and of *Podolepis rugata* which she described as 'dear little plants, about 10–15cm high, each plant bearing 10–12 heads at any one time'. She likes them because they are bright in the garden and flower for a long time. The jar of *P. rugata* seed was quite a bit lower by the time the members went home.

Natalie brought a specimen of an *Olearia* sp. (similar to *O. ramulosa*) originally collected from Booroomba Rocks near Canberra. She had struck a cutting from Jo Walker's garden and her plant was now a mass of mid-mauve daisies. She also had a pot of a compact, low-growing form which had produced handsome, dark mauve heads. Natalie hopes to distribute plants to members in the future.

Judy showed three brachyscomes — *B. 'Gloria Thomlinson'*, a large-flowered, pale mauve form, *B. 'Maureen'* in beautiful cerise flower, and a sprig of a plant collected from the Warby Ranges and identified as *B. formosa* Entity 2. The latter has very fine mauve ray florets and suckers in moderation.

Beryl Birch rang when she had successfully driven Frank home to Bendigo. She wanted to tell about *Xerochrysum 'Lemon Princess'* which had mistakenly been left forlornly on her kitchen bench. It grows 40 x 40cm, with the habit of a bushy *Xerochrysum viscosum*. It is neat and floriferous in her garden although it should be starving. It is growing in shallow loam soil with bits of concrete and a wood chip mulch on top. The soil is described as concrete in summer and chewing gum in winter. If any member has access to *Brachyscome 'Strawberry Mousse'* or 'Hot Candy' Beryl would love to be told and perhaps arrange to get some cutting material.

(March meeting) Trish Tratt showed us a lovely miscellany of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* heads, among them soft, pale pink, cream, yellow with red beneath (similar to David Shiells' form) and a very desirable yellow with a brown ring halfway along the length of the bracts. This ring could be seen above and below the open bracts. *X. viscosum* yellow and cream were also still flowering in Emerald. Other daisies displayed by Trish were *Ammobium alatum*, *Helichrysum scorpioides*, *H. leucopsidium* (Tas), *Leptorhynchus tenuifolius*, *Podolepis* sp. 1 and *Ozothamnus retusus*. The brachyscomes were *basaltica* var. *gracilis*, *melanocarpa*, *rigidula*, *spathulata*, 'Betty Campbell' (a mauve-pink hybrid resulting from an introduction of *B. angustifolia* to *B. formosa*) and 'Metallic Blue' (or 'Peg's Large' as we prefer to call it).

Max McDowall showed us an *Olearia* sp. he and Regina had collected from the Keith district of SA on a recent Grevillea Study Group field trip. It grew to about 2m high, had white rays with mauve disc florets and was growing in a very dry spot.

Natalie brought *Olearia astroloba*, *O. asterotricha*, *O. glandulosa* and *O. sp.* (Booroomba Rocks) which has small pinky mauve heads along its stems.

Peg told us of her *O. astroloba* which is facing west along the fence, in morning shade and afternoon sun, is 30–50cm high, and responds to pruning. A week after the May meeting we beheld this olearia in all its glory. It is certainly the best specimen we have seen. Peg said it has a tendency to straggle (don't we know it!) but she has been pruning it to suit her taste and now it stands erect to display the large mauve-blue heads to perfection.

Anne Kerr brought *Podolepis* sp. 1 and stems of *Pycnosorus chrysanthes* with larger heads than are usually produced in gardens. These were from plants from Anne's garden that we had seen growing in fast-drying,

sandy soil after the February meeting. Maureen advised her to strip the leaves from the stems and hang them upside down in order to dry them. Seed from these plants germinates very well indeed.

Ben Somerville (in whose garden we held the March meeting) picked several handsome heads of *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, one almost scarlet, one bright orange, nice pale pinks and creams, and a yellow with a brown ring similar to the head described among Trish's specimens. Ben's was a fainter brown and the ring was evenly broken.

Judy brought the ubiquitous *Podolepis* sp. 1 with a lemon-yellow head, *Leptorhynchos squamatus* and *tenuifolius*, *Olearia floribunda* with pretty mauve heads and white-flowered *O. ericoides*. The latter had trebled in size since Max gave it out at the September Plant Sale. It appears to have a short flowering period. One head of *Xerochrysum palustre* was sacrificed for S & T — the only head produced from a plant in the garden as opposed to plants in a large tub which finished flowering months ago. *Brachyscome* 'Judy' was aired for the first time. It was produced some years ago and named by good friend and AD SG member, the late Julie Strudwick (from Lurg near Benalla). It is quite large flowered, bright mauve-pink and probably is another hybrid between *Brachyscome formosa* and *B. angustifolia*. Of course, it is very handsome.

(April meeting) Barbara Rooks showed us a colourful bowl of mixed dried daisies that she said she produced for floral display when the garden was relatively bare or time was running out.

(May meeting) Maureen showed specimens of *Brachyscome procumbens* (a mauve form from Diamond Head) and *B. aff. multifida* (a compact plant she likes very much which was also collected on the NSW coast), *B. segmentosa* and two hybrids, *B. 'Maureen'* and *B. 'Betty Campbell'*. Three forms of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* were displayed — a prostrate grey-green form, an upright grey-foliaged form and the form that used to be known as 'amplexans'. Helichrysums still flowering were *H. calvertianum* (with small white heads and narrow green leaves, the beautiful pink and white *H. leucopsidium* from Tasmania, and a head of *H. scorpioides*. Other species were *Ammobium alatum*, *Leptorhynchos tenuifolius* and *Minuria integerrima*.

Barbara Buchanan had brought some olearias — partly to show and partly for identification. There appeared to be two forms of *O. astroloba*, one with quite broad toothed leaves that looked right for the species, and the other with similar but much narrower leaves and few teeth. Barbara thinks now that her original plant may have hybridized with another species close by. We all agreed that *O. elliptica* was another of her specimens and Andre Messina assured us that a small foliaged specimen with dark blue ray florets was not *O. ramulosa* but possibly a form of *O. floribunda*.

Jan Hall brought pieces of a small mounding plant with a profusion of neat yellow heads and hairy green leaves. This species used to be an *ixiolaena* and then became a *leiocarpa*. It has been referred to as '*Leiocarpa* sp. (ex Jan Hall)' within AD SG. Jan thinks the closest she can get to it is *L. panaetioides* (see p.25). She also brought specimens of the coloured forms of *Xerochrysum viscosum* grown from Maureen's garden seed, and a piece of a shrubby everlasting which we had difficulty in identifying.



Olearia adenophora, flowering branch x 1, involucre x3
[illustrated by Gloria Thomlinson in *Flora of Victoria*
Vol. 4 (1999)]

Judy brought two prints of alpine *Helichrysum adenophorum* in case newer members needed to see its beauty before they sowed it. Of course it was old hat for everyone present.

There were also some olearias, a piece of *O. tenuifolia* that had almost finished flowering, and two plants bought at the Geelong sale. One was *O. algida*, a very small plant with tiny greyish leaves on short curved stems, having little, terminal, single heads with white ray florets and purple disc florets. The other was a strong upright plant with grey-blue hairy linear leaves and bold, mauve heads, labelled *O. adenophora*. The final offering was a plant that had come up in Barbara Pye's garden in Bullengarook. It was a form of *Brachyscome multifida* with sturdy pinnate foliage, purple-red stems and ray florets almost the colour of *B. multifida* 'Amethyst' but longer and more wavy.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome new member, **Helen Vonow**, C/o State Herbarium of South Australia, Kent Town, SA, 5071. Helen has bought three copies of *Australian Brachyscomes*, thereby greatly impressing AD SG members who have the honour of storing copies.

SEED WANTED PLEASE: *Brachyscome formosa*, more *B. parvula* and *procumbens*, *Craspedia globosa*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (pink), *Olearia* spp. (not listed in the seed bank) and more *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (red-bud, branched).

SEED DONORS

ADSG thanks the following members and friends for donations of seed: Judy Barker, Bev Courtney, Anne Kerr, Jan Hall, Barrie Hadlow, Linda Handscombe, Lorraine and Harold Harvey, Jenny Rejske, Maureen Schaumann, Gloria Thomlinson.

The Harveys have read the 'Seed Wanted' note and have obliged with a generous donation of *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (white) seed. Maureen also read her newsletter assiduously and donated a bag of *Ammobium craspedioides*. Bev responded to the 'Seed Wanted' also.

Linda had collected seed from her xerochrysums before the fire demolished their garden. She sowed some and sent some to us. Anne gave us permission to collect *Pycnosorus chrysanthes* from the little mounded plants with relatively large heads in her garden when we visited in February. We had waxed enthusiastic at that time, so Anne collected more and gave it to us at the March meeting. This marvellous seed germinated in 3 days when sown on 22/3.

Gloria collected *Helichrysum adenophorum* var. *waddelliae* for us, and it is excellent seed. Sown on 18/4 it germinated well in 18–30 days. Jan and Jenny brought seed from their gardens to the May meeting.

Garden and Commercial Seed Bank**Additions:**

Brachyscome segmentosa
Ixodia achillaeoides (small-flowered form, Anglesea form)
Leiocarpa sp. (probably *L. panaetioides*)
Ozothamnus costatifructus, *diosmifolius* (white)
Pycnosorus chrysanthes
Xerochrysum bracteatum (yellow, crimson, pale pink), *viscosum* (brown, cream, lemon)

Provenance Seed Bank**Additions:**

Helichrysum adenophorum var. *waddelliae*
Leucochrysum albicans ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans*

Deletions:

Cephalopterum drummondii (all colours)
Hyalosperma glutinosum var. *glutinosum*, var. *venustum*
Hyalosperma praecox
Lawrencella davenportii
Microseris sp. 1 (Vic), sp. 2 (Mt Buller, Mt McKay)

John Webb has asked that the subscription notice should be made more '**PROMINENT (!)**' so, ever anxious to please our excellent treasurer, it now appears as follows:

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE 2006/2007

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, 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 2006

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