

DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP  
NEWSLETTER NO. 43



*Dryandra carlinoides*

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ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING  
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

*Dryandra carlinoides* is widespread, growing in sand and gravel heathland between Geraldton and Gingin and east to Piawaning. It is a small shrub, to less than 1m., with many erect branches rising from a single stem, with sweet-scented, pink and cream, terminal flowers. It flowers in September to October and would make a good cut flower for small posies.

## DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP

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Welcome to the Newsletter for the second half of 2002.

It is later than I had hoped but I am still recovering from a major operation followed by a week in hospital which has slowed me down considerably. Consequently, the Newsletter is a little "light on" but I hope the last bumper issue will make up for this. Another reason is that apart from Margaret's article on dryandras in her garden, I received no comments from members despite pleas in N/L 42 for information from you about your observations on reliable and difficult dryandras. Lack of participation by members is a perennial problem for all Study Groups (do the words "Study Group" put new members off by making them think they don't have the knowledge to write an article, as Peter Olde speculates in the March 2002 *Grevillea Study Group Newsletter*)? I must emphasize again that I will always publish any material that is submitted. Your news and views help to make the Newsletter more interesting, so how about a few notes on your favourite dryandras, or some comments on problems and how you did or did not overcome them. All of us are interested in "good" dryandra locations in the wild so WA members could help with notes on some of their favourite locations. It is important that we have more members contributing so please think about what you can do for Newsletter 44, to be published in January 2003.

It was interesting to see the species that Margaret finds difficult in the deep sands of Perth. Plants like *D. shuttleworthiana*, *D. kippistiana* and *D. serratuloides* (which I can grow and flower but it never seems to last more than a few years) are great small plants with interesting foliage. Does anyone have a "secret recipe" for their success? Margaret has also listed most of the common names for dryandras – has anyone seen any others? Following my article on colour illustrations of *Dryandra* species in the last Newsletter, we thought that the colour plates for the next few Newsletters could include some of the species that are currently not illustrated. The first two are *D. acanthopoda* and *D. armata* var. *ignicida*, more to follow. I have included the second part of my trip to WA which I hope is of interest and also a Financial Statement for 2001-2002. As July marks the start of the new financial year, subscriptions for 2002-2003 are now due. Fees remain as for last year; please use the enclosed membership form and forward your payments to Margaret.

We are still very dry with less than half our normal rainfall in July. I hope that your area is faring better and your dryandras continue to flourish.

Happy Dryandra Growing

Tony

## Dryandras in my Garden

In response to Tony's article in Newsletter no. 42, here are a few observations on dryandras from northern areas that I've found easy to grow, here in Perth.

One of my favourites is *D. borealis* subsp. *elatior* which is restricted to the Three Springs - Arrino area, about 300 kms north of Perth. It has grown well, albeit not very tidily and flowers readily in almost full sun. The long, greenish-yellow involucre bracts with bands of black and rust-red hairs on the outside and the flowers, especially before opening, with their long, looping styles and egg yolk yellow limbs are very attractive.

Another dryandra, which occurs with *D. borealis* subsp. *elatior*, in the same area, is *D. fraseri* var. *oxycedra*. It is also fast-growing, forming a very tall shrub, branching from the base. The numerous, pale yellow flowers are similar to those of var. *ashbyi*, but var. *oxycedra* has no lignotuber and thus is killed by fire. Elizabeth George, in Alexander Heights, a northern Perth suburb, has a magnificent plant which attracts flocks of White - Cheeked Honeyeaters.

The only members we have currently, who live north of Perth are Don and Joy Williams at 'Hi - Vallee', Badgingarra, where so many dryandras grow naturally, so we don't have much in the way of horticultural information. There are growers of cut flowers, however, in several northern locations, so I will try to get some details from them.

Other plants which are doing very well in my garden and grow at 'Hi - Vallee', are: - *D. nobilis* subsp. *fragrans*, *D. speciosa* subsp. *macrocarpa*, *D. stricta*, *D. subulata* and *D. tridentata*. The latter took a long time to get going, no doubt because it was producing a good big lignotuber, first. In the wild, this beautiful dryandra, well worth persevering with, grows in almost pure sand.

I have not been able to establish *D. kippistiana*, *D. serratuloides* (neither var) or *D. shuttleworthiana*.

Dryandras in Series Gymnocephalae, except for *D. speciosa* and *D. mimica*, seem to be difficult to grow, for some reason. My original plant of *D. viscida*, though, seems to be taking off, at last. I put another plant in, last year. That sometimes does the trick! *D. viscida* does well in parts of Victoria. The recalcitrant ones are the summer and autumn - flowering ; *D. vestita*, *D. horrida*, *D. erythrocephala* (both vars) and *D. cynaroides* as well as *D. shuttleworthiana*. Would anyone who is growing any of these 6 taxa, successfully, please let us know.

*D. drummondii* subsp. *hiemalis* is, by far the most attractive and hardy of the three subspecies of *D. drummondii*, in my opinion, even at Mt. Barker, near where subsp. *drummondii* occurs naturally. Subsp. *hiemalis* comes from one of the coldest parts of W A, near Wandering, but also from around Bindoon, just north of Perth. Its natural habitat is in fairly dense, Wandoo woodland. In my garden, it has formed a dense mound, almost 1m high and more than 1m across, in just a few years. It flowers in winter, when the house blocks the sun all day long. The dense dome of massed, golden

flowers is almost hidden at the base of the long, wide and deeply-lobed leaves which alone are a beautiful feature of this plant.

For many years, I had a plant of *D. cuneata* which grew tall and lanky and never flowered, despite being in a good, sunny spot. I finally gave up on it and dug it out, replacing it with another one. This one grew in the same way and I was expecting it to behave similarly, but, to my surprise, I found buds on the ends of some long branches, lying on the ground, that I was just about to prune. I would like to have a plant of the smaller, more compact form from Cape Arid, or, better still, a prostrate one, because of lack of space in the garden, but in the meantime, I have given this one a reprieve.

Margaret Pieroni 5/2/02

### Common Names for Dryandras

These are some common names that have been published. Does anyone know of any others, e. g. local ones like 'Shaggy Dog Dryandra', Raventhorpe people's name for *Dryandra foliosissima* or perhaps those used in the cut-flower trade? Please let Tony or me know so that we can include them in the book. Have you got a "pet" name for any of them? Many of these common names were made up, simply to satisfy publishers who believe them to be necessary for popular wildflower books. When I asked Alex George whether "couch" is Cowtch, as in bed or Cootch, as in grass, he told me it is the latter. He should know - he made it up! The name, when first applied, referred to *D. nivea* but now should be used for the grass-like *D. lindleyana*.

- D. anatona*..Cactus Dryandra
- D. arborea*..Yilgarn Dryandra
- D. aurantia*..Orange Dryandra
- D. carlinoides*..Pink Dryandra
- D. cuneata*..Wedge Leafed Dryandra
- D. falcata*..Prickly Dryandra
- D. foliosissima*..Shaggy Dog Dryandra
- D. formosa*..Showy Dryandra
- D. lindleyana*..Couch Honeypot
- D. mimica*..Summer Honeypot
- D. obtusa*..Shining Honeypot
- D. praemorsa*..Urchin Dryandra
- D. proteoides*..King Dryandra
- D. nervosa*..Tangled Honeypot
- D. nivea* subsp. *uliginosa*..Swamp Honeypot
- D. nobilis*..Golden Dryandra or Kerosene Bush
- D. quercifolia*..Oak-leaved Dryandra
- D. sessilis*..Parrot Bush
- D. shuttleworthiana*..Bearded Dryandra
- D. speciosa*..Shaggy Dryandra
- D. squarrosa*..Pingle
- D. subulata*..Awled Honeypot

Margaret Pieroni 29/3/02

### About the Photographs

These are the first two of the *Dryandras* not illustrated, as far as we know, in wildflower books and so not listed in Tony's *Illustrations of Dryandra Species in Colour* (Newsletter no. 42)

*Dryandra acanthopoda* is a large, bushy shrub, restricted to a few locations near Woodanilling and Katanning. It was no. 1 (aff. *hewardiana*) in Alex George's proposed new taxa, before his revision of the genus. It is named for the prickles on the flattened base and petiole of the leaf. This "prickly foot" serves as a good identifying feature of this species which is also rather similar to *D. squarrosa*.

*Dryandra armata* var. *ignicida* (no. 8). This taxon differs from *D. armata* var. *armata* mainly because it is killed by fire, whereas var. *armata*, with a lignotuber, re-sprouts. It is a more upright, bushy shrub, with larger leaves and flowers. Pink-flowered forms, as illustrated, are often found in populations with normal, yellow ones. In a few locations within its range in the Great Southern region, it grows together with var. *armata*.

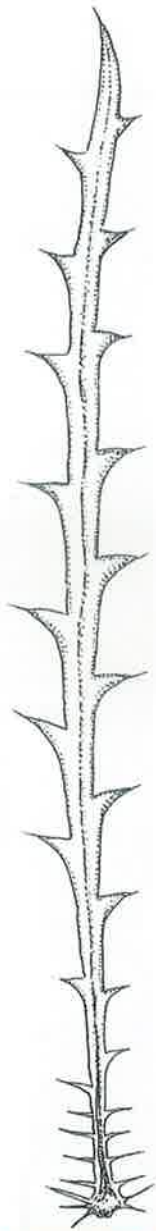
The next *Dryandra* that I was about to include was *D. arctotidis*, but then I remembered that it appears in *Australian Plants* Vol. 20 no. 160, page 168. Another *Dryandra*, not listed by Tony, *D. stenoprion* is in the same issue, on page 141.

In *Australian Plants* Vol. 18, no. 141, on page 8, the lower photograph of '*D. aff. nervosa*' is *D. fililoba*.

In the same issue, the photo of '*D. nivea*' on page 4 is a form of *D. lindleyana* and on page 5, the plant in my garden, identified as *D. nivea* is the 'problem' plant that is similar to *D. brownii* but with leaves more like *D. nivea*. It is fairly widespread, from west of the Stirlings to the north-west of Cranbrook. Its flowers are like *D. brownii* - a dull pink colour. This plant is common in cultivation, both seeds and plants having been sold incorrectly identified as *Dryandra arctotidis*. Unfortunately, together with the more recognizable form of *D. brownii*, plants in most gardens, here in Perth and interstate, refuse to flower. It is easy to grow and is a very attractive foliage plant, however.

Margaret Pieroni 8/5/02

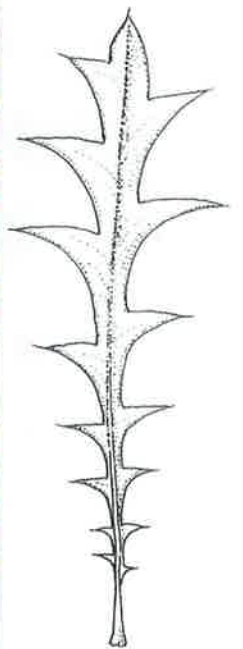




*Dryandra acanthopoda*



*Dryandra armata* var. *ignicida*



## A Trip to Western Australia

### Part 2:

Even though it has few dryandras, the extreme south-west is a great area, full of fascinating Karri and Jarrah forests and their associated flora as well as wonderful coastal scenery. We visited the usual tourist towns of Margaret River and Augusta, climbed the Cape Leeuwin lighthouse and enjoyed the great views on Skippy Rock Road behind the coast. Near Augusta we also encountered our first prostrate *Banksia grandis*, some in flower but not many good specimens. Always interested in local history, we called into Redgate Beach and Issacs Rock to see the memorial to Grace Bussell and Sam Issacs who helped survivors ashore from the wreck of the *Georgette* in 1876. This is made of local stone with a large wooden upright pole which we took to represent a mast. Imagine our disgust when we found that some idiot had cut the pole down with an axe!!

It took us nearly a week to reach Albany from Margaret River as we travelled via Nannup, Balingup, Bridgetown, Manjimup, Walpole and Denmark, with side visits to Pemberton and the glorious coastal scenery of Windy Harbour and Point D'Entrecasteaux. It rained most days and was often cloudy but with so much to see and do, we didn't mind. Out of Manjimup, we found One Tree Bridge, a single huge Jarrah trunk which was felled across a creek to provide a bridge which was used until well into the 1940s, then the Four Aces, a row of four magnificent Karri trees alongside a forest walk and finally the Diamond Tree. This is one of the three remaining firewatch trees in the south-west which you can still climb. While shorter than the Gloucester Tree near Pemberton, it is much less crowded with a magnificent view rewarding those who brave the climb on steel pickets driven into the trunk. It's actually safer than it looks and infinitely easier than it was for the axmen who constructed the original towers who climbed without any protection and had to cut the tops of the trees off several hundred feet above the ground while balanced precariously on flimsy wooden supports. A few days later at Walpole, we did the obligatory Tree Top Walk and the Ancient Empire Walk, then the Valley of Giants. The Tree Top Walk is a series of giant suspension "bridges" that take you more than 40 metres above the ground into the tops of the huge red tingle trees (*Eucalyptus jacksonii*) that are so prolific here. The red tingle has huge trunks (up to 20 m circumference at breast height and up to 70 m high) and many of the trees are hollow and open at the bottom, the result of fires and ant activity. In fact the opening in one well known tree was big enough to accommodate a family car, as old photographs showed. Constant tourist activity has led to compaction of the ground and many of the trees were in danger before the Tree Top Walk and the boardwalk through the area were constructed. The area is very popular with tourists but there are many local plants that are readily seen by the side of the various tracks which make this area of interest, even if you don't do the Tree Top Walk. The beautiful white *Crowea angustifolia*, the pink *Boronia gracilepes*, the fern leaved *Acacia pentadenia*, the oak-leaved *Chorilaena quercifolia*, the outstanding blue tree hovea *H. elliptica*, the large-flowered *Hibbertia cuneiformis*, the tassel flower *Leucopogon verticillatus* (the shape of whose leaves were used as a model for the spans of the Tree Top Walk) with its tassels of flowers, orange *Chorizema ilicifolium* and blue-purple *Dampiera hederaceae* all caught our eye. With an annual rainfall of over 1200mm, it is not surprising that there are no dryandras around here but later, on the road to Conspicuous Bay where we saw one of the few wild stands of *Corymbia ficifolia* (*Eucalyptus ficifolia* if you still prefer this), there were large shrubs of *Dryandra sessilis* and *Banksia ilicifolia* growing beside the road.

My abiding memory of Albany is that it was wet most days, otherwise it was dull and cloudy. This is a shame because the granite headlands and coastline along this stretch of coast are so photogenic. We were last there in early 1972 when the whaling station was still in operation. Now it is a museum and has an interesting garden of local species on the hill overlooking the site. We also explored Mt. Clarence and found lovely natural gardens of local plants but very few dryandras,



apart from *D. formosa* which seemed to grow everywhere. Before heading north to Mt. Barker and the Stirlings, we explored Two People's Bay and coastal highlights such as Salmon Holes, Natural Arch and The Gap. The vegetation was so windswept it was amazing that anything survived. The area around Two People's Bay had been burnt in a recent fire and it was here that we saw how rampantly the WA Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) regenerates after fire, as also did a local *Allocasuarina*. The blackened trunks were covered in new green growth and much to our surprise, several were flowering (in mid October!). They must be a wonderful sight around Christmas. In another burnt-out area, the Albany catspaw (*Anigozanthos preissii*) was in full flower as were *Dasypogons*, *Xanthosia*, *Adenanthos* and enamel orchids; all these were reshooting vigorously. We also saw thickets of *Banksia coccinea*, some little more than 30 cm high and already with flowers. The only dryandras were the rather mundane *D. formosa*, *D. sessilis* and *D. lindleyana*.

The visit to Kevin and Kathy Collins Banksia Farm was a highlight particularly as the Stirling Range National Park was to prove a major disappointment. Margaret has written several times about Banksia Farm and it was great to see it first hand and meet Kevin and Kathy. They are currently cultivating all the taxa of *Banksia*, including the rare and difficult northern Australian species such as *B. plagiocarpa*, as well as numerous colour forms of some species. They are now equally enthusiastically growing most of the Dryandras and again meeting with spectacular success. As I indicated in my article on growing Dryandras in Victoria in the last Newsletter, Mt. Barker appears to have a similar climate to Geelong, except for a higher winter rainfall and a winter/summer rainfall ratio of nearly 4:1, compared with 1.3:1 for Geelong. I am coming more to the conclusion that summer dryness is critical for success with many dryandras, especially those from the northern sandplains and northern wheatbelt. Kevin had planted many of his dryandras on sunny embankment and I was surprised at how well the plants were doing even though the soil looked very dry and was presumably well drained. He was growing a nice, bright orange large-flowered form of *D. formosa* with many of its flowers were on long stems. It was a stunning plant and should do well in the cut flower market. However, that very recalcitrant group **Gymnocephalae** is proving difficult even for Kevin. It includes the species *D. erythrocephala*, *D. shuttleworthiana*, *D. cynaroides*, *D. horrida*, *D. vestita*, *D. viscida*, *D. mimica* and *D. speciosa*. Margaret reports problems with most of these in Perth so if you have had success with any of them, could you let us know.

Margaret joined us at Banksia Farm and was to prove a great guide for the south coast area. We travelled back to Albany via Woogenillup Road and Chester Pass Road. Relatively little was in flower and many Dryandra plants were dead but I saw my first *D. falcata* in the wild in flower, large, bright yellow flower heads and still one of my favourite dryandras even though I am yet to succeed in growing it. The next two days we spent in the Stirling Range N.P. and then the Porungurup N.P. Both days started out fine and sunny but broke up in the afternoon, preventing us from visiting Bluff Knoll on one day and causing us to spend an unpleasant hour sheltering from heavy rain near Castle Rock at the top of the Porungurups on the other. The Stirlings, like most of the rest of WA, was suffering from lack of rain; also the Park had been devastated by recent fires so relatively little was in flower. Margaret was able to show us the rare *Darwinia wittwerorum* in flower (one of the few Darwinias we saw in this Darwinia haven) but the gravel pit on Stirling Range Drive where *Dryandra anatona* once flourished was just as devastated as she described in N/L 39 (p. 4) – hardly a proteaceous plant to be found. We had more luck along Salt River Road where there were patches of spectacular melaleuca/beaufortia and *Lechenaultia formosa* in flower but few dryandras flowering. Margaret took us to the ridge patch of *D. ferruginea* subsp. *pumila* which according to her had hardly grown since she saw them 18 months previously; very few had flowered. Other dryandras we encountered were *D. falcata* (again in flower), *D. armata*, *D. tenuifolia*, *D. formosa*, *D. cirsioides*, *D. seneciifolia* and *D. drummondii*. We had intended to go to at least the Bluff Knoll carpark but the weather closed in and the peak was soon covered in cloud so we had to be content with a brief fossick for orchids near the entrance. I was very impressed with

several lovely plants of *Petrophile longifolia* which we found in full flower. The forested Porongurups were so very different to the Stirlings – much wetter and a typical Jarrah forest understory of spectacular *Mirbelia dilatata*, *Hovea elliptica* and various pea flowers. We all enjoyed the climb to Balancing Rock and Cascade Rock but spent the rest of the day avoiding showers and heavy rain so saw relatively little else of the flora. However, in the morning while it was sunny, we managed to visit Kamballup and Margaret took us to see *D. ionthocarpa* (Kamballup dryandra). This has a very restricted distribution and is seemingly confined to spongelite gravels which are occasionally still mined. The plants were quite small and not in flower but once again I marvelled at the incredibly dry conditions and the fact that they were growing among quite thick scrub.

Our plan from Albany was to see as much as we could of the southern sandplains and southern Mallee country. We stopped at Bremer Bay, planning to see the west Fitzgerald NP, then go north to Lake King and Hyden and return to Hopetoun, visiting the east Mt Barrens from there. We also spent a day around Ravensthorpe and Mt. Benson/Mt. Short. Next stop was the lovely Duke of Orleans Bay with a trip to the Cape Arid NP. We then returned to Esperance and spent several days around the wonderful coast and included a trip to Cape Le Grand NP. This schedule proved to be very ambitious and by the end of October, we were ready for the long trip back across the Nullarbor after a few days in Kalgoorlie to see the opening of the Mining Hall of Fame.

The southern sandplains appeared to have received more rain than other areas of WA and we were rewarded with some spectacular patches of roadside vegetation. One of the best was on the South Coast Highway about 2 km before the turn-off to Bremer Bay. On both sides of the road we found *D. arctotidis*, *D. armata*, *D. mucronulata*, *D. drummondii* subsp. *drummondii*, *D. tenuifolia*, *D. nervosa*, *D. brownii* (an excellent broad leafed form), and *D. plumosa*. *Dryandra falcata* and *D. sessilis* were also common in other areas and we encountered many fine examples of *Hakea cucculata* and petrophiles and isopogons. We also noticed water lying everywhere on the roadside on the way into Bremer Bay and began to have doubts about our plan to visit the west Mt. Barrens and Point Ann as most of the Fitzgerald NP roads are gravel. Sure enough, the only road open the next day was a very wet and slippery road to Qualup Station. Fortunately, a cousin of my wife owns several blocks of land around Qualup and was delighted to show us around in his four wheel drive. The day was one of the highlights of our trip as we saw many back areas of the Park not otherwise accessible. *Dryandra quercifolia* (including some pink forms), *D. cirsioides* (some distinctly tall and columnar) and *D. obtusa* were added to the dryandras but I have to say it was some of the other flowering species that were so spectacular. *Hakea victoriae* with its multi-coloured leaves was just like the pictures I'd seen in books while a large-flowered form of *Chamaleucium megapetalum* with its pink and white flowers was stunning. Another large flowered plant was a variant of *Actinodium* (often referred to in the past as *A. cunninghamii*) – always hard to see this as a member of the *Myrtaceae*! *Petrophile longifolia* and *Isopogon trilobus* as well as orange flowered *Chorizemas* and *Gompholobiums*, several compact forms of *Conostylis*, *lambertias* and *adenanthos* as well as many of the southern banksias such as *B. nutans*, *B. baueri*, *B. baxteri*, and *B. media* completed a great and unexpected day in the Fitzgerald NP.

As we had not seen Hyden on the way over, we decided to go to Lake King and stay there and make several day trips. The South Coast Highway to Ravensthorpe runs almost along the northern boundary of the southern sandplains, the country to the north being what Beard classifies as Mallee, with a different flora. Again, there were very good wildflower areas, especially between 50 and 20 km to the west of Ravensthorpe, and at several places south of Lake King. Once again, because few dryandras were in flower, it was the non dryandras that often caught the eye – spectacular pink melaleucas and kunzeas, *Beaufortia*, the pink-white-yellow combinations of *Verticordia picta*, *roei* and *chysantha* (also *V. grandiflora*), spectacular *Grevillea excelsior* and *G. ?tripartita*, as well as *dampieras*, *Glischrocaryon*, *Andersonia* and the rare *Lechenaultia acutiloba*. Right outside the

excellent caravan park in Lake King grew a plant I had wanted to see in the wild since it appeared in Arthur Fairhall's book *West Australian native plants in cultivation* in 1970 – *Cyanostegia angustifolium*. Only about a metre high, it is one of the finest of the inland plants with dense masses of violet flowers and distinctive papery, disc-like calyces. We were to see it again near Norseman growing in gravel by the side of the road but I understand that it is now gravely endangered because of heavy picking for the cut flower trade. We weren't dryandra-deprived either as Margaret was able to show us *D. pallida* with its pale leaves and just a few lobes on each, the prostrate *D. tenuifolia* var. *reptans*, *D. pteridifolia* subsp. *pteridifolia* with its blue-green curly leaves, the low, suckering *D. xylothemelia* with leaves with long, narrow, widely spaced lobes and *D. ferruginea* subsp. *chelomacarpa*. After diligent searching, sometimes involving standing on the plants to find the hidden flower heads, we located a couple in flower with typical large protea-like heads, a very attractive dryandra.

Although some friends had advised us not to bother with Wave Rock and Hyden, we were interested to see this much-photographed icon; my wife also wanted to visit the world-famous Lace Display at Wave Rock. Once again, the mallee country was spectacular, the stretch between 50 and 20 km south of Hyden being especially good. We stopped several times for the verticordias, *Grevillea excelsior*, *Isopogon gardneri* and among the dryandras, saw *D. erythrocephala* for the first time as well as three of the *ferruginea* group, subsp. *ferruginea*, *chelomacarpa* and *flavescens*. We spent a pleasant hour climbing over Wave Rock and I was intrigued (as I always am on these large rock outcrops) with the variety of plants that grow in such an inhospitable environment. On a back road north of Wave Rock, Margaret found a "ferruginea" type which did not closely match any of the known subspecies. This group always confuses me, especially as the foliage can be so incredibly variable, both on the same plant and between plants in the same group. On the way back to Lake King, Margaret took us along the Magdabah Track and via Newdegate and old Newdegate Road, a diversion very well worth the effort for the spectacular flowering verticordias on the Track and the sight of the rare *Dampiera welsiana* in full flower.

About 35 km east of Lake King is the Rabbit Fence and the huge Frank Hahn NP. This seemed to be a very dry area but still had its quota of dryandras although almost nothing was in flower. From here we drove through to Hopetoun and spent the afternoon exploring the East Mt. Barrens and Mylies Beach Road. Fly nets are a definite necessity in the East Mt. Barrens in late October but that didn't stop us admiring the view of *Regelia velutina* in full flower among the rocks and finding several plants of *Pimelia physodes* with many huge and colourful "bells" despite the lateness of the year. Both *D. quercifolia* and *D. falcata* were in flower and I counted at least seven banksias including the tan form of *B. baueri* and numerous plants of *B. speciosa* of all sizes in flower. Margaret assured me that I would be sick of the sight of this plant by the time we reached Cape Arid! On Mylies Beach Road, there were several spectacular patches of *Stylidium ?pilosum* and *S. galioides* in full flower – the latter with large cream flowers to 2 cm across. It is worth spending several days in this area. The coast road to Starvation Bay and the Rabbit fence east of Hopetoun and then Jerangamup Road to Ravensthorpe are very floriferous and I could have spent most of the day there if we did not have to see the Ravensthorpe peaks of Mt. Benson, Mt. Short and Mt. Desmond. We were particularly looking for *D. corvijuga* and *D. foliosissima* and found both although neither was in flower. *Dryandra corvijuga* was in bud only despite extensive searches but again was growing among thick, overhanging scrub in very dry conditions. A lot of the district had been burnt and with low cloud and wind, it wasn't the best time to see the Ravensthorpe ranges. *Dryandra foliosissima* was its usual tangled self but as it grows well and is seemingly reliable here in southern Victoria, I wonder whether *D. corvijuga* would behave similarly.

As time was now running short, we decided to go straight through to Duke of Orleans Bay and visit Cape Arid NP from there. We then planned to stay in Esperance a couple of days and cover Cape Le Grand NP from Esperance. The van park at Duke of Orleans Bay is close to the beach and has a

large granite hill behind it which I climbed. I think that flower-wise, the country from Bremer Bay to Cape Arid was the most interesting, perhaps reflecting good rains over winter. I lost count of the different species we saw in flower but *Lechenaultia tubiflora*, the lovely wedding bush *Ricinocarpus tuberculatis*, the giant pink-flowered crabs claws, *Stylidium macranthum* and the yellow *Stirlingia simplex* were outstanding. I still think of *Banksia speciosa* as the star of the show, however. It was literally everywhere, ranging from reshooting, stunted plants after fire to tall trees, usually covered in flowers. On the way into Cape Arid, we drove through avenues of it. What was depressing for me in the Park was the evidence of the ravages of *Phytophthora*. Many 4 wheel drive roads are now closed and on the way into Seal Creek, we saw hundreds of dead and dying *D. nervosa* and *D. tenuifolia*. Even *D. nivea* had succumbed in areas. *Dryandra armata* var. *ignicida* was in flower in a few spots as were lovely specimens of *Banksia pulchella* so it was not all bad but it is still a major concern that such an important National Park is so affected by *Phytophthora*.

Back in Esperance, we took the tourist drive along Twilight Beach Road, stopping at the lookout on Dempster Head to search for the elusive *D. longifolia* subsp. *calcicola*. There are only a few plants now and Margaret eventually located them hidden in dense scrub. I have always regarded *D. longifolia* as one of the toughest dryandras and after seeing its habitat, I understood why one of my plants has survived years of neglect and no water growing in a shaded spot. Further round the Drive near Observatory Point we found a few more small *D. longifolia* subsp. *calcicola*. These plants have had a hard time with road widening and other activities but now seem to be holding their own. Next day at Cape Le Grand NP, we walked along the track from Thistle Cove to Lucky Bay. The coastline here has the magnificent rocky headlands and sheltered bays we had come to enjoy so much. The appropriately-named curry plant (*Lysinema ciliata*) was particularly attractive and numerous as was *Stirlingia simplex*. It is also a great area for banksias and the three dryandras *D. cuneata* (prostrate), *D. pteridifolia* subsp. *pteridifolia* and *D. nivea* subsp. *nivea*. We also found *D. armata* var. *ignicida* in flower and a few unhappy old plants of *D. longifolia* subsp. *longifolia*. At Lucky Bay where we stopped for lunch, a floriferous, large-flowered form of *Melaleuca fulgens* was growing among rocks almost on the sea. It was typical of the "terrible" natural conditions under which so many WA plants seem to thrive and yet they often prove so hard to "tame" in a kinder garden situation. Cape Le Grand has an extensive coastal walk track system and is well worth spending several days there; the camp ground at Le Grand Beach was very good and less crowded than the main one at Lucky Bay. It is also close to the well-known Frenchman's Peak. This has a large cave right through the mountain just under the peak; as the weather closed in and time was short, we were not able to climb it but it is a solid 2-3 hours and well worth the effort.

All too soon our time was over and we had to start preparations for the long drive back east. We had travelled over 20,000 km in WA and probably tried to see and do too much. If you have the opportunity to visit WA, even for a couple of weeks, take it. The variation in the flora in the different areas is mind-boggling and no matter how poor the season, there is always plenty to see and do. So much can be seen in roadside verges and small reserves and especially gravel pits, but it is important to get out of the car and explore the bush. It is amazing what you can find sometimes only 20 or 30 metres off a main highway. My sincere thanks to Margaret for her detailed maps and for acting as our guide on the south coast. For me it was a real eye-opener to see so many plants in their natural habitat for the first time and it was great to have an expert on hand to locate and identify them. Many thanks, Margret.

Tony Cavanagh

DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/7/01 - 15/6/02

Cash at bank at 1/7/01	\$1952.18
Income	
Members' subscriptions	387.00
Donations	38.00
Sales of publications etc.	19.00
Bank Interest	1.47
	<u>445.47</u>
Total	<u>2397.65</u>
Expenditure	
Newsletter expenses	500.00
Bank charges	1.31
A N P C subs.	70.00
Printing	30.80
Stationery, postage, photocopying	100.00
	<u>702.11</u>
Less petty cash in hand	17.10
Total	<u>685.01</u>
Cash at bank at 15/6/02	\$ 1712.64

## **DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP**

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2002 - 2003**

The group's year runs from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. Subscriptions are \$8.00 for Australian members and \$10.00 for overseas. Please make cheques payable to the Dryandra Study Group and forward to Margaret. Thanks to all those who have paid.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMATION:**

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