

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA)

Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No. 121

E. nivea – photo Brian Freeman
 and below, pruned specimen
 in the Gold Coast Botanic
 Gardens, photo Diana Warnes



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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the October 2018 edition of the Eremophila Study Group Newsletter. Sorry it is so large! We had lots of good material, and lots of news to share. I will try to be more controlled next time – but don't let that discourage you from sending articles!

This month we have a great report about the Queensland sub-group meet-up in western Queensland during August.

There has also been lots of progress on the image database – we have **over 100 species**, thanks to the generosity of many of our members and a few contributors from outside the group, including a lot of lovely photos from Andrew Brown from WA (co-author of the WA Eremophila field guide with Bevan Buirchell).

The feature species is *E. nivea*. I had a brainwave and issued the link through the smaller of the two Australian Native Plants Facebook groups. I had 22 responses in two days, and a total of 50 responses all up including 7 from outside the Study group. Thanks for your engagement with this, it has increased our knowledge of horticulture of this species.



Lyndal Thorburn
Leader and newsletter
editor



What's New in the Study Group

Final videos from September 2017

The September 2017 field trip DVD is now available! Those who attended the field trip last year have been sent a DVD – if you came last September and don't have a DVD please let me know. DVDs are best viewed using VLC media player (free download).

Many thanks to Ross Dawkins (pictured) for his sterling efforts in editing and copying these for members.



Ross
Dawkins

If you want a DVD and did not attend the field trip, you can buy one for \$12 including postage (no GST). See back page for details.

Eremophilas in the News

Calgaroo, the newsletter of the Parramatta and Hills District group of APS NSW Ltd, has an article about research work identifying new bacteria-resistant coatings for medical devices, using Eremophila. This project involves ESG member Prof Hans Griesser (SA), Dr Susan Temple in WA, and her PhD student, Chi Ndi.

My article for the ANPS Canberra newsletter about Eremophila flowering in autumn was published in June. We are in the middle of a drought and our plants were flowering despite the dry, but not very well unless being watered regularly!

There is also an article on Eremophila in the September edition of the Gardening Australia magazine, featuring grey-leaved species and recommending them for dry areas.

New members

Welcome to Pine Rivers group of SGAP Queensland and John Elton of NSW as new members.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed membership – we only lost 3 members at the turn of the membership year and many have renewed for multiple years, which reduces the load on your volunteer study group leader in chasing subscriptions!!

Know Your Eremophila – *E. maculata* yellow forms

Lyndal Thorburn

I have been concerned for a while about naming of various versions of the yellow form of *Eremophila maculata*.

'Aurea' cultivar

There is a form 'Aurea' which was registered with ACRA in 1982 and is described as a "compact low shrub 0.6-0.9m x 1m. The flowers are around 30mm long, are found in spring and are tubular with conspicuous red spots."

ACRA says it came from the Surat-Glenmorgan road which, according to Ken Warnes, immediately suggests it originated with Dave Gordon, whose property was at Glenmorgan. Dave was closely involved with George Althofer of Nindethana Seeds, whose name is in the ACRA registration as propagator from 1956 (that is not a misprint!!).

However, the ACRA site clearly shows two different yellow forms of *E. maculata* in the images for this cultivar registration. The two repeated photos by Murray Fagg, taken at the ANBG, shows a rather pale yellow flower (the photo also looks somewhat over-exposed) but does not show the spotted throat.

The photos on the same site (credited to Ivan Holliday) are, Ken says, from the cover and page 42 of "Eremophilas for the Garden" book published by SGAP SA Region. These are of unspotted and brighter yellow flowers that are often sold as *Eremophila* 'Aurea' but do not fit the cultivar description.

It would be interesting to know if these photos were formally submitted to ACRA as examples of the form, or if someone within ACRA saw the 'Aurea' name and uploaded the photos because they are better than ACRA's original examples (but didn't look too closely!).

Bright yellow unspotted form

The photo below of this bright yellow, unspotted form is from Kevin Sparrow. Ken maintains that this bright yellow unspotted

form is what is known as 'Aurea' amongst aficionados, despite the written description in the cultivar registration.



According to Ken, the origin of the unspotted yellow form is unknown but is almost certainly from northern NSW or southern Qld. He says "I have sometimes wondered if 'Brookvale Park' could have been involved, it was operating in those early days and forms collected near Goondiwindi have that stronger, clean stem habit." The unspotted yellow form is a much larger plant which grows at least 2m x 2m. However, it is commonly sold as *E. maculata* 'Aurea' despite not matching the ACRA description for either that cultivar's habit or flower colour/spotting.

I have also received samples of a similar (?the same?) form sold as *E. maculata* Wimmera Gold (from the nursery at Dimboola). Further, Benara Nurseries sell an *E. maculata* "Lemon Delight" which is also large and unspotted. Confusingly, Benara also uses the photo of the bright yellow, unspotted form to advertise its *E. maculata* 'Aurea', while at the same time describing it as having "conspicuous red spots."¹

Small unspotted form

Ken also grows a yellow form with a small flower (below), also distinct from the 'Aurea' ACRA-registered form because it has no spots. Ken says that this is a seedling of ones he planted up at the railway crossing in Owen.

¹ <https://www.benaranurseries.com/plants/eremophila-maculata-aurea-10971>

Ken is up to at least 3rd generation seedlings from original cutting-grown plants collected from a diverse range of colours, forms and locations, plus a few bought specimens. This photo is of a specimen grown by Lyndal from a cutting from Ken's via Ian Tranter.



Winter Gold

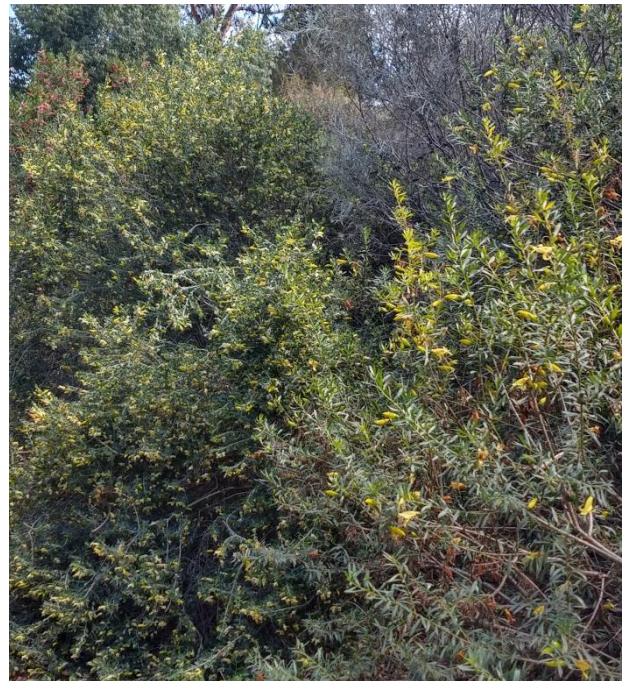
E. maculata Winter Gold is a pale yellow form with red spotting (my photo below). Benara Nurseries describes this as “a compact rounded form with bright yellow buds opening to pale yellow and red spotted flowers”, which sounds rather similar to the registered ‘Aurea’, but the size is reported as being 1.5m x 1.5m and suitable for hedging (and is hence larger than the ‘Aurea’ cultivar). The buds are bright yellow, but the flower opens paler.



Photos of this variety at www.naturalplantscape.com.au also show it may have a greyer leaf than many *E. maculata*

(note also it has been misnamed there as a variety of *E. glabra*), but also describe it as being of the same general size as *E. ‘Aurea’* – Ken Warnes has told me that Winter Gold originated in Renmark with Tony Clark.

The vigour of the plants labelled Winter Gold and growing at Walpeup (below) certainly shows that 1.5m x 1.5m is conservative, in some locales. These two plants (Winter Gold below left, yellow unspotted form below right, at Walpeup) were each over 2m high and wide.



Narrow leaved semi-prostrate forms

Ken has seen narrow leaved, semi-prostrate forms in Queensland with lemon flowers with fine red spots.

So What Do We Do?

Problem 1 is that the photos of ‘Aurea’ on the ACRA site are of two different plants. I have approached ACRA to fix the photos (i.e. remove the photos of the unspotted form from the *E. ‘Aurea’* description page).

Problem 2 is that the “rest of the world” uses the term ‘Aurea’ to describe the large unspotted form and this extends to nurseries selling this form labelled ‘Aurea’. Given the ACRA nomination is from 1982, should we all now stop using that term to describe this large unspotted form? Should we apply to ACRA for

registration of the bright yellow unspotted form with a different name?

Alternatively, do we try to overturn common usage of 50 years standing, and which pre-date the ACRA Registration? Or does the ACRA registration have precedence because it has been formally accepted?

Send in your comments!!!

Damping off and Cuttings

Peter Olde

If your cuttings go soggy and die, one of the causes of death is likely to be powdery mildew or Botrytis or Rhizoctonia. The potting mix may be too wet or lack good drainage, in which case open it up with perlite (1 to 3) and make sure the potting mix is sterile. If you are growing seedlings, position them on a bench in full sun, not inside the humidifier or hot house.

A number of different fungi and fungi-like organisms cause the symptoms of damping off, including (thanks to Wikipedia and random photo sources on the web):

- *Alternaria* species. Cause leaf spotting (pic below).



- *Botrytis cinerea* also known as "grey mould". Symptoms caused by this often accompany other symptoms.
- *Fusarium* species. Causes Fusarium wilt (pic below).



- *Macrophomina phaseoli* a plant pathogen that causes charcoal rot on many plant species (pic below).



- *Phyllosticta* species. Cause leaf spotting (pic below).



- *Phytophthora* a genus of plant-damaging oomycetes (water moulds), whose member species are capable of causing enormous economic losses on crops worldwide, as well as environmental damage in natural ecosystems.
- *Pseudomonas* species. Cause leaf spotting (pic below).



- *Pythium* a genus of parasitic oomycete. Once classified as fungi, and consequently sometimes still treated as such. Along with *Rhizoctonia solani*, attacks by Pythium are most associated with producing roughly circular patches of dead seedlings.

- *Rhizoctonia solani* a plant pathogenic fungus with a wide host range and worldwide distribution.
- *Sclerotium rolfsii* a corticioid fungus in the family Atheliaceae. It is a facultative plant pathogen and is the causal agent of "southern blight" disease in crops
- *Thielaviopsis*, a small genus of fungi in the order Microascales. The genus includes several important agricultural pathogens.

Damping off can be prevented or controlled in several different ways.

Sowing seeds in a sterilized growing medium can be effective, although fungal spores may still be introduced to the medium, either on the seeds themselves or after sowing (in water or on the wind).

To reduce survival of the pathogens, remove and discard diseased plants, and sterilize containers to remove dust, planting medium, and soil particles in which spores can survive. Maintaining drier conditions with better air circulation helps prevent the spread of the disease, although it can also prevent or slow down germination.

Spraying or drenching the soil with a recommended anti-fungal treatment (such as copper oxychloride) also helps suppress the disease. Homemade solutions (including ones made from chamomile tea or garlic) are used by some gardeners for this purpose.

According to Peter Cundall 'One of the most effective mildew-control sprays is easily made in the kitchen. Milk, heavily diluted at the rate of one part to nine parts of water has proved to be effective at stopping the spread of mildew. However, it must be sprayed over and under all leaves as soon as the first signs of mildew infection appear.'

A question

Does anyone have a copy of Newsletter 107? I am pretty sure it was never published due to a mix-up in the numbering, but if I am missing it, and if you have it, can you email it to me please, so we can fill the gap in our online archive!

Eremophila Rescue in WA

Audrey Sole

A collaboration between 3 groups – the River Conservation Society of York, Beverley Naturalists and the York Branch of the Wildflower Society – has successfully rescued an undescribed form of *Eremophila glabra*, found at Beverley (WA) townsite.

The plant appears to be very close to the *Eremophila glabra ssp. York* but differs in its habit and flower colour. The original specimen was the only plant found in an area that was going to be cleared to expand the Beverley Industrial site.

The plant (below) is being studied at the moment to work out where it fits! The group is certainly diverse!! We have now grown 50 cuttings from our salvaged plant, and these have now been replanted in Beverley.

Since then we have located 2 more populations, one on a road verge and the other in a reserve. Now we await the taxonomist's decision.



The photos below is of our volunteers planting some of the successfully rooted cuttings.



Feature Species – *Eremophila nivea*

Lyndal Thorburn with input from Russell Wait and Ken Warnes, and 43 members and 7 non-members who responded to the *E. nivea* survey.

Eremophila nivea is an erect shrub which grows from 0.8m to 1.6m tall and is found naturally in a single site near Three Springs in Western Australia. According to Chinnock, the natural population is extremely rare, with one population of less than 200 plants along 1km of road bordered by cereal plantations (meaning that if the Council cleared it, it would disappear in the wild). Another population occurs in the Corrigin-Kondinin area but there are doubts as to which it is natural.

It is distinctive because its leaves and branches are covered in soft white hairs that are so dense they make the leaves and branches look grey. The leaves are sessile, alternate and there are one to two flowers per axil. Flowers are mauve, rarely white, 15-23mm long. Inside, the corolla is white spotted yellow-brown (photo below from Brian Freeman).



E. nivea has become an extremely popular as a garden plant due to its prolific flowering during late winter through spring, and the contrast that its grey foliage offers in home gardens. It is frost hardy to -5°C (lower in dry climates) once established. It has a common name of Silky Emu Bush.

Photo of the white form below is from Ian Tranter. This form was collected by Russell Wait.



Forms

E. nivea is sold by nurseries under a number of form names. Only one of these, Blue Velvet, has been registered as a PBR plant, with claims that it is “far less susceptible to disease and foliage damage”.² It is believed to be a fresh collection from the original populations in WA.

E. nivea ‘Gubburra Bells’ (over, photo by Lyndal at Brian Freeman’s) is a form named by Michael Wood from Tarrowood Native Nursery and selected from the Gubburra Flower Farm for its compact growth habit and profuse flowering. It is said to grow to only 1.5m x 1.2m, i.e. smaller than the “normal” *E. nivea*.

² <http://humphris.com.au/blog/portfolio/eremophila-blue-velvet/>



Distinctions between the third claimed form, Spring Mist, and the other common form in cultivation aren't clear.

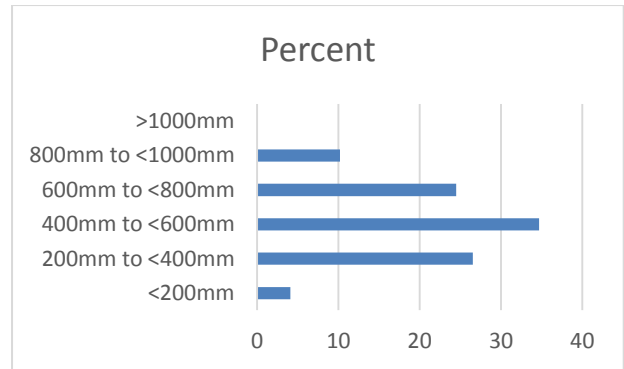
Russell has reported that a new species of *E. aff nivea* has just been found in the northern wheat belt of WA. It has smaller, finer grey leaves than *E. nivea*, and these age to grey-green. The bushes are up to 2m x 1m and grazing has produced dense shrubs with lots of new growth. The colour of the corollas on different plants vary from lilac to deep lilac. These shrubs are smaller than *E. nivea* and display dense clusters of flowers on top of the bushes.

Horticulture

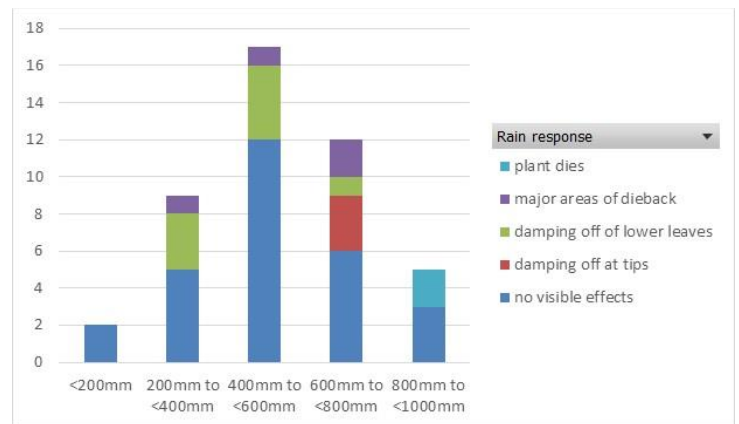
Over 92% of respondents to the survey had grown *E. nivea* successfully in the past or were doing so now. Of respondents, 42% had plants growing on their own roots, 34% had grafted plants, and the remainder had both types.

Where is E. nivea being grown?

Survey respondents are growing *E. nivea* in drier regions with only 10.2% growing the species in regions with 800mm or more of rain per annum (see graph):



When asked about the impact of periods of heavy rain, 64% of respondents reported no visible effects on their plants, 6.4% reported damping off at leaf tips, 17% reported damping off of lower leaves, 8.5% reported major dieback and 4.3% reported that their plant had died. As can be seen from the chart below, damping off affects a greater percent of plants in wetter regions, though it is interesting to note major dieback reported in three rainfall regions (this result is also unrelated to how much sun the plants get per day).



E. nivea is frost hardy, with 53% of respondents reporting at least 10 frost days per year. Ten percent of respondents reported from 50 to 100 frosty days per year. Of the respondents, 74% reported no ill effects from frost, 19.5% reported minor tip burn, and 7% reported major frost burn (but all plants recovered).

Average age of the specimens belonging to respondents was 5.8 years, range 2.5 years to 15 years.

Plants flowered for an average of 2.3 months (9 weeks) per year, range 1 month to 6 months.

Siting

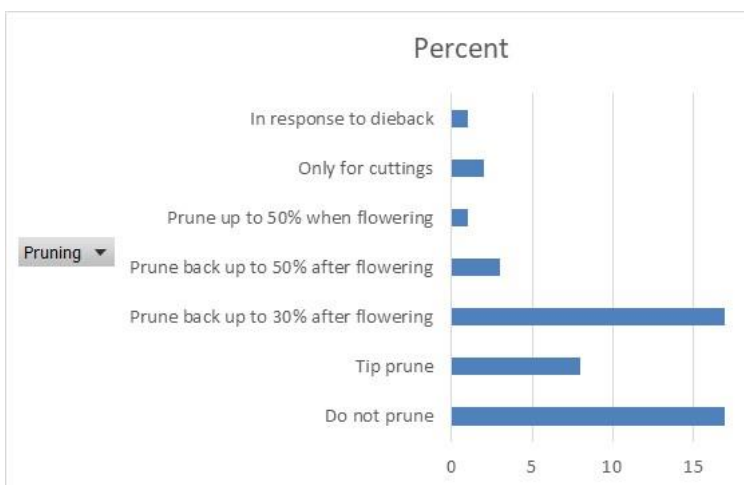
Sites are mainly north-facing (40%), followed by flat sites open to all aspects (34%). As a result, 65% of respondents said their plants received sun all day, and 28% said their plants received sun for half the day. Only 7% of plants were in dappled shade and none in full shade.

Eighty-four percent of respondents reported they grew their plants in the ground, with 2% only having tub specimens and the remainder growing plants in both the ground and in tubs. Soil was fine grained (e.g. silts, loams, clays) for 72% of respondents, coarse-grained (sands, gravels) for 22% and highly organic 4%.

Wind damage was a problem for some respondents, with 19.5% reporting broken branches from severe winds and 4.4% reporting that their plant had blown out of the ground. However, the vast majority (76%) reported no ill effects from severe winds. Some people reported staking their plants, to prevent damage from splitting when they are heavily laden with flowers.

Maintenance

Thirty four percent of respondents reported that they do not prune their plants, but almost the same proportion prune back their plants up to 30% after flowering (or like Charles Farrugia in Sydney, 50%). Sixteen percent talked about tip pruning regularly, including as part of taking flowers for display. Pruning regimes did not correlate with rainfall.

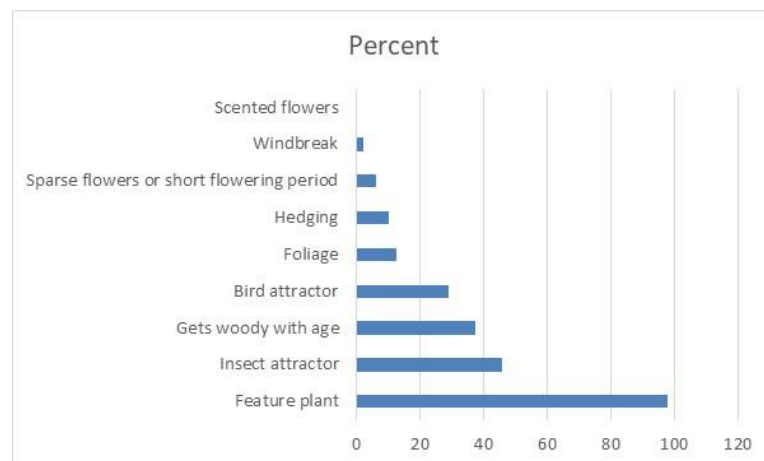


Some animal or fungal attacks were reported (see table).

Sucking insects	10.2%
Chewing insects	0%
Fungi on leaves	16.3%
Fungi attacking roots	2%
Wallabies or possums	4%
None of these	67%
Other (scale, rabbits)	6%

Uses

Respondents were invited to make general comments about the suitability of the species for garden use (and could choose as many options as they liked from a set list). Overwhelmingly, people nominated the suitability of *E. nivea* as a feature plant



Propagation

E. nivea will grow easily from cuttings, although if you use a hotbed you will need to cover the cuttings to prevent mould on the leaves.

Russell Wait has had success with growing seed, his most successful efforts being 200 seedlings raised in the late 1990s after using smoke for 1½ hours. He planted these as windbreaks at his farm “Natya” in north west Victoria.

E. nivea is also commonly sold as a grafted specimen, mainly to reduce losses from too much water (on the roots). Respondents said

that for their grafted plants the main root stock was *Myoporum insulare* or *M. montanum* (each 37%), or *M. Monaro Marvel* (18%).³ *M. acuminatum* was the stock for 7% of respondents, but 26% didn't know the name of the stock species.

One limitation of *E. nivea* is its susceptibility to damage from over-watering, and in wetter climates it is susceptible to mould. Damage can be minimised by using grafted plants, planting specimens in locations which get a breeze, and by thinning the bush so that air flow dries the leaves out more quickly after rain. Brian Freeman uses the latter method, thinning out the centre of his plants but leaving foliage in a halo around the outside, so they still look full when looking from the side.

In researching article, I found several websites in French promoting the values of this species – it appears its fame is spreading! The York Branch of WAWS has also chosen to feature *E. nivea* in a video it has on its website promoting the York Bushland Garden, west of Perth. <http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/branches/avon-branch/>

Hybrids

There are three well-known hybrids of *E. nivea* – *E. caerulea* (Beryl's Blue – but see over), *E. christophorii* and *E. drummondii*. A fourth hybrid, thought to be with *E. glabra*, has been registered with ACRA but is not yet in wide cultivation. A summary of respondents' comments on available hybrids is below.

	nivea x caerulea*	nivea x christophorii	nivea x drummondii
Bird attractor	22.2%	11.1%	66.7%
Insect attractor	23.5%	17.7%	58.8%
Hedging	33.3%	16.7%	50.0%
Windbreak	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
Scented flowers	0%	0%	100.0%
Woody with age	20%	0%	62.5%
Flowers sparse	20.0%	0%	80.0%

³ More than one species could be chosen.

Generally, people made the following comments:

1. The hybrids are tougher than *E. nivea*.
2. The hybrids are less susceptible to fungal attack and more tolerant of wet weather.
3. The hybrids need to be kept pruned more than *E. nivea* does.
4. The hybrids last longer in the garden (> 7 years).
5. *E. nivea* by itself is a more attractive garden specimen.

Beryl's Blue

Eremophila Beryl's Blue is an ACRA-registered cultivar which arose from the successful seedlings raised by Russell Wait in his (former) garden at Piangi, Vic. It grows to 1.5m x 1.5-2m as a tight rounded shrub. At the time of ACRA registration it was believed to be a hybrid of *E. nivea* with *E. caerulea*. Russell now believes it is a hybrid of *E. nivea* x *E. densifolia ssp pubiflora*.

It is said to be more resistant to wet periods than *E. nivea*. Several survey respondents felt this hybrid rivalled *E. nivea* for showiness.

E. Beryl's Blue has blue flowers in spring. Its leaves are shorter than those of *E. nivea*, and they are stiff and curl over. It strikes well from cuttings and is drought hardy. Photo below is from Russell Wait. Forty percent of respondents grew this hybrid.





Below is Brian Freeman's plant of this hybrid.



E. nivea x E. christophorii

This hybrid was covered in the November 2016 newsletter (no. 115) as a follow up to the discussion on *E. christophorii* in Newsletter 113. This hybrid is larger than *E. nivea*, growing to 2m tall. It arose on Tom Loffler's property at Waikerie. Next column is Charles' Farrugia's photo of his plant in Sydney.

Forty-nine percent of respondents grew this hybrid.



E. nivea x E. drummondii

This hybrid has darker grey-green leaves than and a pinker flower than the *E. nivea* parent. It has a narrower leaf than the *E. nivea* parent and came up in a church garden in Kimba, SA. It performs very well in most situations and can grow to about 2m high by 2m wide if allowed to expand, but is generally described as being smaller than *E. nivea*, growing to 1.5m x 1m. Some survey respondents described it as "wispy" and complained about it becoming woody.

It grows well in full sun or semi-shade, and flowers from spring to summer. It is frost-hardy once established. In our experience, it needs a good prune after flowering – left unpruned it becomes leggy and flowers are greatly reduced.

Sixty-seven percent of respondents grew this hybrid.

It is sometimes sold as "Eyre Princess" or "Spring Affair" but it is believed that these names are for commercial purposes only and do not denote any forms different from the "normal" hybrid.



It strikes very easily with a high success rate.

Russell has another form of this cross, as yet un-named, which came up in a different batch of seeds. It has broader leaves and forms a bush about 1.75m high by about 3m wide. It performs very well but is not widely planted as it isn't quite as showy as E. 'Eyre Princess' but it does live longer.

E. Pink Pantha

This recently registered cultivar is thought to be a hybrid of *E. glabra* with *E. nivea*. It came up in garden of a friend of Russell's, near the form of *E. glabra* from the Canning Stock route. It has the habit of *E. glabra*, forming a grey shrub 2m high by 1.5 m wide. The pink flowers can bloom at any time of the year (pic below supplied by Russell).



Nescofilm

Nescofilm supplies are running low so I have decided to limit orders to 3m per person. The cost is therefore \$7 per order - \$2 per metre plus \$1 postage. Please deposit funds in the SG account and email the editor to confirm!

More on Carmine Star

Ken Warnes provides the following re my request for info on *E. Carmine Star*. He says:

“Carmine Star was an attempt to legitimise a distinctive name for the commonly grown form of *E. maculata* in the early days, but the name just never took off in the nursery trade.

“It is of northern NSW or southern Qld origin and was named to separate it from *var aurea* which was the other maculata around back then, plus the occasional bright red from River Murray floodplain sold by Boddy's Eastern Park Nursery in Geelong. I have several specimens in older plantings, but it has probably been overtaken by the form often sold unregistered as “Thundercloud” which is probably from similar areas. But I must emphasise that they are quite different plants.

“Carmine Star” was sold by Nurseries in SA, notably the former Woods and Forests (now Stateflora), but I can only assume that it was also in the Eastern States at that time. It is well described in the N/L and I'll see if it is flowering at present.

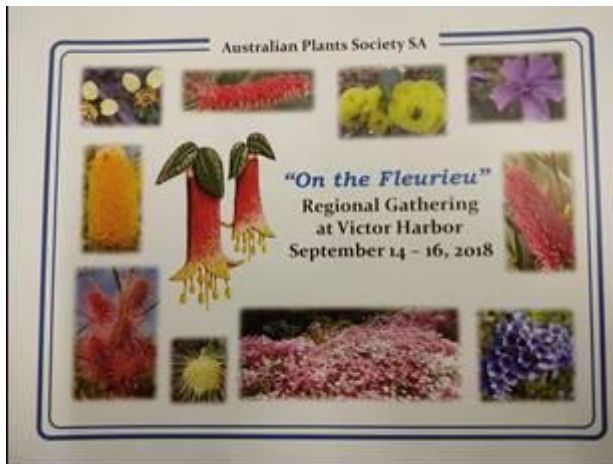
“There's a fair chance that it's in early SGAP Journals but not under the registered name and it may well still be in some Nurseries. I mention it on p.10 of the “Changing Gardens” book without the Cultivar name and I must admit that when I have used the name I have called it “Carmine King” or “Queen”. Oops, sorry Bob.”

Postscript: “Oh, Oh. I went to check my “Carmine Star” for flowers and found that it has gone to Emu Bush Heaven. Termites on an old bush. I will keep my eyes open for a living specimen as it should be preserved among the later arrivals.

We still haven't tracked down anyone growing it – if you have it please let the editor know.

Fleurieu Group Gathering

Lyndal Thorburn



Husband Tom and I are just back from a quick trip to South Australia, where we attended part of the APS SA Fleurieu Group Gathering from 14 to 16 September.

We set off on 11 September from Queanbeyan, heading for our first night's stop at Balranald, some 660km away. I had looked up some potential Eremophila sites, but with a long day, and relatively few potential species (basically, *E. glabra*, *E. longifolia* and *E. maculata*), we didn't stop to hunt.

On day 2, we took the shortest route from Balranald to Adelaide, via Ouyen in Victoria and Murray Bridge in SA. We were briefly excited when we thought we had found *E. longifolia* on the road directly south of Balranald, but when we stopped to look they turned out to be Pittosporum.

The road took us through Tooleybuck and then into Victoria – via Walpeup! I had this vague feeling in the back of my mind that the name was familiar for some reason, but it wasn't until we drove into town (population 100) that I suddenly realised we were going past the Dryland Memorial Gardens – full of Eremophila selected by Frank Fitzpatrick. We screeched to a halt and spent a happy forty minutes wandering around marvelling at the amazing things in full flower. The place was also full of Singing Honeyeaters.

Next column are *E. maculata* Walpy Fran, then *E. maculata* "Rosemary".



Below, *E. maculata* and, (over), and *E. dempsteri* with *E. biserrata* carpeting the ground.





Below is *E. duttonii*, it must have been 3m wide by 2m high!



We continued on to Adelaide (another 530km!) and then on the Saturday drove down to Victor Harbor, arriving in time for lunch with the Fleurieu group, part way through their gathering weekend.

After lunch we visited two magnificent gardens in Port Elliott. The first was Gill Muller's, on a small level block of 600m². Gill has added a lot of interest by using containers of different heights (many without a base, so the plants can then root into the ground). Her garden is a riot of Eremophila, Hardenbergia, Kennedia, Acacia, Grevillea and many more. Below are

two general garden shots and then an *E. longifolia* x *E. scoparia*.



The weather didn't treat us kindly, we were rained and hailed on in turn, and the wind was vicious – 11 degrees “feels like” 2.8 degrees, someone said at one stage.

From Gill's we went up to the (very windy!) hills above Port Elliott to visit Judy Baghurst. Judy and her husband bought a 50-acre block covered in weedy olives in the late 1990s and have created an amazing garden around their house (which, by the way, has panoramic views along the coast).



Judy has made very effective use of *E. biserrata* as a ground cover (below).



She is still hunting for Eremophilas that will withstand the wind, but is growing both *E. glabra* (yellow-green flowers and grey leaves), *E. glabra* Kalbarri Carpet (below), *E. oppositifolia* and *E. nivea x drummondii*.



On the Sunday, some of us headed off to Brian Freeman's property in the Lower Inman Valley, north of Victor Harbor.

Brian is a prolific grafter and contributor to the Society and its Study Groups, and had been awarded life membership of the SA Region just the night before, at the event dinner.

He, too, has a large garden (below), with too many Eremophilas to list here.



We all admired (over) his *E. lachnocalyx* and *E. muelleriana*, plus three large specimens of *E. virens*.



Our final stop for the day was the garden of Jo and Graham Wilsen at McLaren Vale. They had some show stoppers, including three *E. muelleriana* planted together, an *E. serpens* (next column) and some large *E. lucida*. We were treated to a lovely lunch at the conclusion of a very well-organised and informative event.

Wild Eremophilas from SA to WA

Ken Warnes

This is Ken's response when asked, by Don and Chris Lill, where to find Eremophila between Renmark and WA via Alice Springs, Kintore Road, Gary Junction Road, Rudall River NP, Marble Bar, and then south through the Pilbara, Mount Augustus to Meekatharra and then through Wiluna to Laverton and back to Uluru via the Great Central Road down the Stuart highway.

“Have eyes, will see” could sum it up in much of where you are going. Presumably you will come in south of Port Augusta and you know the ones we saw on our 2017 Field Trips in the immediate area, especially at 62km North. Not much from then until south of Glendambo, where there's a few scattered species but best to keep the searching until just south of the Bulgunnia turn-off where there's green-leaved *E. latrobei* and *E. alternifolia* about where the Flying Doctor landing area is.

At the turn-off there's *E. paisleyi* with narrow leaves and *E. rotundifolia* starts in large numbers. If you follow the track either side of the Ingomar turn-off sand-hill (80km south of Coober Pedy) you can find five species in close proximity at the far end but you'll see them elsewhere. *E. neglecta* also starts at Coober Pedy but is better further north.

Near “The Breakaways” parking area you should see grey-leaved *E. latrobei* and this seems to be the changeover between green and grey in SA, although further on your travels the demarcation is not as distinct. At the turn-off to

Mt. Willoughby, just south of Cadney Park, you should find *E. gilesii*, the most southerly ones I know. *E. freelingii* here has some good colours and has changed to the smaller bush with greener leaves than those from the Flinders Ranges. I suspect it is also more frost tolerant.

It's only a few km's along this road to Copper Hills where you can find *E. verrucosa* in the creeks and drainage lines. It doesn't stand out, we drove past them on the way in, only spotting them on the way back, but they are both before and after the homestead for only a few kilometres. Look for stiff *E. scoparia* among Acacias and Sennas.

Back at Cadney Park and *E. neglecta* starts soon after, and you may spot wide-leaved *E. paisleyi* as you travel north. Hard to pick out if they aren't in flower, I saw them on the eastern side of the road in a couple of places.

Not much variation from here on. Large numbers of *E. freelingii* on stony hills, I recall large numbers where the railway goes under the road north of Indulkina. Soon after Kulgera the *E. willsii* start, always on sand-hills. There's a good patch on a low rise opposite the marked turn-off to Lyndavale.

At Erldunda Roadhouse there's plenty of *E. willsii* to the East and if you venture only a 100m or so down the Uluru Road there's *E. platythamnos ssp exotrachys* on the south side. You will probably travel this road on your way back and if so, there's superb *E. neglecta* at Curtin Springs and *E. gibsonii* at the Mt. Connor lookout where the "broad-leaved" *E. gibsonii* was collected by Ray Isaacson (now considered part of *E. arenaria*). Last time I was there, I found an *E. platythamnos* which verified that it is part of the *E. arenaria* swarm.

Fine leaved Centralian *E. duttonii* is closer to the WA border. This form is well on the way to being *E. linearis* and has proved extremely difficult to propagate. It's transitional between northern forms of *E. duttonii* and *E. linearis* and I only recall it in one area.

If you go in to Rainbow Valley you should find *E. prostrata* but the track no longer goes through where it grows, presumably to protect

it. Head back on foot towards the entrance from the Camping Area into a swale where it is prolific on the valley floor with *E. willsii* on the rises. Don't be surprised if you find what appear to be hybrids, it's where "Rainbow Beauty" originated. "Rainbow Gem" is more likely closer to the western boundary, a good long walk unless you drive along the Stuart Creek boundary track to about where the one-way animal exit trap is located.

We never found *E. goodwinii*, the presumed other half of "Gem" but it must be there somewhere, probably closer to the surrounding rocky hills. We did find it closer to the Stuart Hwy, about 7 km in, but I have failed to spot it on later visits. If you do go in to Rainbow Valley try to make it in the afternoon, preferably for a camp as it is superb. In the morning light you wonder where all that beauty went.

In the unlikely event of you travelling the Hugh River Stock Route (it's incompatible with seeing Rainbow Valley without backtracking) there are good *E. duttonii*, a smaller-leaved and a lighter looking bush than is found in the Flinders and surrounds and a large *E. paisleyi* at the eastern end as you turn towards Maryvale. If you go this way, which you will have to do to go to the impressive Chambers Pillar, you can find *E. macdonnellii* on the way to Chambers Pillar on a sand flat. Just one stretch, but bright green and very obvious even if not flowering. I think it was south of the jump-up you go over but I'm not certain. There are plenty of *E. willsii* at Chambers Pillar, it's a weed in the centre.

Not much north of the ranges (you are now officially in the tropics) but if you go south of the main range on the Namatjira Drive you will have *E. christophorii* on the low rises. Immediately south of Mt. Sonder is where we found a very obvious white one on a bend in the road.

There is *E. gilesii* at the entrance to Red Bank Gorge, a beautiful camp-site, and as you round the end of the range and head NW past Haasts Bluff there is *E. latrobei* with almost white foliage and large red flowers dotted about.

You travel through a gap near Mt. Edward which is where Desert Parks collected what they believe is a new species.

Once you are back on the Papunya Road (I presume this is the one you call Kintore Hwy) the *E. latrobei* continue and *Grevillea juncifolia* is superb, further west joined by spreading *G. eriostachya*. Towards Sandy Blight Junction the “turtonii” form of *E. forrestii* is very common. We only found true *E. forrestii* much further south. Likewise, hybrids of the two *Grevilleas* were to the south.

And that’s where I leave you. I travelled as far as Kunawarritji but came up from the south so know nothing to the west. *E. latrobei* forms from this far north have proven to be frost susceptible in most cases.

For further information, the **Atlas of Living Australia** site allows you to pull up a map of a 5 or 10 km radius of any place or GPS location, select Dicots and then scroll down to Eremophila and see all species that have been recorded there (since records began, almost). https://biocache.ala.org.au/explore/your-area#-27.6|141|11|ALL_SPECIES

Eremophilas of Western Central Queensland

Queensland Eremophila Study Group Trip, 1 – 7 August 2018 Log

Noreen Baxter, with photos by Chris Reddick

On the 31 July the Queensland contingent consisting of Jan Glazebrook and Denis Cox (photo below), who were the instigators, planners and leaders of the group plus Peter



Bevan, Joan and Len Hubbard, Chris and Ross Reddick, Noreen and Ray Baxter arrived in Winton where they were joined by Ken Warnes, Hans

and Stefani Griesser from SA, who flew in for the Winton-based days.

For this trip, participants arranged their own housing and catering. Some stayed in caravan parks or motels while Glazebrook/Cox, Hubbards and Reddicks had their assorted mobile residences. The freedom of accommodation choice worked very well.

Below: Ross Reddick Jan Glazebrook, Denis Cox, Ray Baxter, Noreen Baxter



The entire trip, despite the severe drought, was a great success and was a tribute to the skills of Jan and Denis as “spotters”, with the group seeing 25 of the 30 Eremophila species on the list for possible sightings on the trip. The group had details of the species locations but there was still a need for spotting and some searching to locate the plants.

Had there been more time for searching two of the remaining species may have been found, but the distances between the habitat of individual species meant that most days were crowded with driving, locating plants, and brief food/comfort stops. By the end of the week everyone was tired, plus, plus, but happy and exhilarated at having seen so many species in the bush.

During the first of the many Happy Hour sessions Jan Glazebrook and Denis Cox, gave a briefing on the plan for Day 1.

On 1st August the focus was on the Opalton area. The group met outside the Matilda Caravan Park, with car-pooling only four

vehicles were required. The targets for Day 1 were *Eremophila hispida* and *E. woodiae*.⁴

What a day. The first sighting was of *E. bowmanii* ssp. *latifolia* at the Jundah road turnoff to Opalton (below).



Eremophilas seen South of Winton were: 27.8km *E. mitchellii*; 58 km *E. hispida* (two pics, below and next column) in flower and seed; a short distance further after crossing a cattle grid *E. hispida*; and again after crossing “8 mile creek”.



Morning tea was just south of Opalton (126 km S of Winton). No town, but caravans in the bush and signs of Opal fossickers all around but no time for “planto’s” to stop and fossick.

Continuing south of Winton: 133.7 km about 7 *E. alatisepala* plants on the right side of the road; a little further on was *E. oppositifolia* ssp. *rubra*.

Then, at 144.4 km S of Winton, Jan called a stop for everyone to search for *E. woodiae* as it was believed we were in the right area. Along the roadside, nothing was found. Some cars moved on but Hans, like a mountain goat, had headed 300m off the right side of road to climb a “jump up” where he found two *E. woodiae* plants. Everyone headed back to enjoy the stony climb to the top to see this recently-named species (three pics below – two colour forms), then it was back to the cars and onwards for about 1 km where, there in the red stones on the left roadside, Jan spotted another couple of *E. woodiae* (this spot was a short 1km north of a station landing strip).



⁴ Route: Ex Winton on the Jundah/Windorah Road for about 17 km; then Opalton Rd; turning at Mainside onto the Winton /Jundah Rd; turning off onto the Old Cork Rd passing Cork and the Old Cork Station; returning to Mundurina Rd for 8.8km; then back via the Diamantina River Rd to the Kennedy Development Rd into Winton.



There was time for a quick tourist stop at Old Cork Homestead on the Diamantina River, before heading off to Mundurin where, in drainage channel on the Mundurin Rd, the magnificent *E. tetraptera* (two pics below) was in flower. What a sight that was, but we did not have long to dally as there was still a long way out over rather corrugated roads before we hit the bitumen.



So with the two main targets for the day found did the day end there? No, there was so much more to enjoy.

Continuing south of Winton: 161 km *E. alatisepala* (in flower – two pics below) and *E. cordatisepala* on the roadside; Ken went deeper into the bush to find *E. duttonii* in flower; 197 km more *E. alatisepala*; about 30 km further on Jan called a halt for a beautiful *Grevillea wickhamii*; then it was back to *E. duttonii* and *E. latrobei*.



The lights of Winton were a very welcome sight after a long day in the field. No Happy Hour that night; everyone was tired, dusty and hungry, so it was a quick shower, feed and bed for most. But for Jan and Denis it was an even later night as they were booked into Bladensberg National Park, so they still had to drive out to set up their camp by torchlight. A long day but what a great start to the trip, everyone seemed on a real high, and no wonder, after seeing so many *Eremophilas* in one day.

2nd August was a day for seeing the spectacular Bladensberg NP, the target being *E. cordatisepala*.⁵

On the way to the meeting point (Bladensberg Homestead. Information Centre and Ranger Station), the Winton contingent took a wrong turn and went to the Shearing Shed. That wrong turn rewarded the group with a sighting of 10 to 20 Bustards grazing in a paddock by the shearing shed. What a sight.

Sightings on the drive to Scrammy Lookout were: *E. alatisepala* (in flower) and *E. cordatisepala* all the way across the flat mesa top as well as a *Grevillea wickhamii*; at the U-turn point after morning tea at the Lookout we saw *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei*, *E. longifolia*, *E. alatisepala* and *E. mitchellii*.

At Scrammy Gorge: *E. alatisepala* and *E. cordatisepala* were fairly common on the flat, cracking rock across of the mesa top. Also seen here were *Hakea collina* and a *Solanum sp.*

In one spot, on the return trip to the Homestead, the *E. cordatisepala* were in slightly better condition and were flowering – in this area the sand was a smidgen deeper and had built up around the central stems of each plant. On the rocky downhill slope more *E. longifolia* were seen.

A leisurely lunch was enjoyed on the verandah of the Homestead.

Near Skull Hole were *E. alatisepala* and *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei* as were numerous *Senna* and *Trodia* plants.

Last stop for the day was at the Bough Shed Hole Camping Ground, where our camping companions were staying. After settling in for a final chat, Jan pointed out that no-one had commented on the field of *E. bowmanii ssp. latifolia* that surrounded the camp and persisted all the way to the camp ground turn off. It seemed that everyone was so busy looking at the water hole and camping area that no-one had looked for *Eremophilas*.

Another successful day seeing lots of *E. alatisepala* and *E. cordatisepala* in flower. After that it was back into Winton in time for a Happy Hour.

3rd August was a free day in Winton. Everyone met up at the North Gregory Hotel for lunch and to farewell our SA companions. Most folk visited the Matilda Centre before shopping and/or returning to their accommodation to prepare for the next few days on the road. The SA group went back to forage further in Bladensberg NP in the afternoon.

4th August the Qld group departed Winton taking the Kennedy Development Road to Boulia.

Heading West from Winton numerous *Eremophilas* were sighted along the roadside: 36 km *E. polyclada* was spotted on the flood plain and continued to be seen at intervals along the way; 69.6 km *E. bignoniiflora* on the left side in a couple of the Diamantina channels; 82.5 km *E. latrobei* and *E. mitchellii*; 105 km *E. longifolia* was on the red rocky soil; 109 km *E. mitchellii* and *E. bowmanii*.

On the scree slope at the Cawnpore Lookout *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei* and *E. freelingii* were found. Sightings of *E. freelingii* on the roadside continued for some distance.

⁵ Route: From the Bladensberg Information Centre taking the road to Scrammy Lookout; back to the Information Centre for lunch; then to Skull Hole; and finally the Bough Shed Camping Ground; back to Winton.

The group on the hunt at Cawnpore lookout between Winton and Boulia



E. freelingii continued on the roadside after crossing into the Boulia Shire, but it was a rare patch of green at a culvert in the severely drought affected landscape that called for investigation. This patch of green contained *Crotalaria smithiana*; *Stemodia florulenta* (prev. *Morgania*); *Minuria cunninghamii* and *Minuria leptophylla*. This brilliant little flower patch showed just how prolific the flowering can be in a good season.

On both sides of the bridge into Boulia, *E. bignoniiflora* was seen with some plants in flower.

5th August Boulia to Bedourie along the Diamantina Development Road. Len Hubbard's passion is Acacias so, 20 km south of Boulia, the group stopped at a small stand of *Acacia peuce*. At this point a browse in the surrounding bush revealed *E. maculata* (some yellow form) on both sides of the road and *E. bignoniiflora*. At 27.5 km out on the right roadside was *E. bignoniiflora* as well as some *Crotalaria sp.* and *Pterocaulon sp.*

At the Vaughan Johnson Lookout on the steep rocky scree slopes of the "jump up" were *E. freelingii* (not in flower) and *E. maculata* (red, orange and cream flowers).

A stop 27 km North West of Bedourie revealed some dead and dying *E. obovata* which continued on the road side through to a large patch north of the airport the runway (3.9 km north of Bedourie). In a good season this area had been seen as a field of lush, rounded, little green shrubs covered in masses of flowers covering an extensive area both sides of the

road. One can only hope that after rain the area will regenerate and that we can all get back to see it in a good year.

While some set up camp in Bedourie, Jan and Denis continued on 8.8 km south of Bedourie to a sandy wash away at the base of a sand dune to locate a good sized patch of *E. macdonnellii*, unfortunately in a similar distressed state as the *E. obovata*. So another successful day of locating species on the list but sad to see the state the country was in – even sadder for the folk trying to earn a living on the land out there.

6th August: Bedourie to Windorah on the Diamantina Development Road. *E. bignoniiflora* was seen on the flood plain at the intersection before the town.

Heading South East of Bedourie: 31 km Jan called a stop to inspect a red sand dune. *Trichodesma zeylanicum*; *Ptilotus polystachyus*; *Ptilotus latifolius*; and *Polycalymma stuartii* were found but no Eremophilas: 45 km a patch of *E. freelingii* was seen; a short distance after our morning tea stop (142 km south-east of Bedourie), at a creek camping site, the Hubbards led us to an *E. bignoniiflora* with darker pink flowers than usual; 208 km *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei* and *E. freelingii* (in flower); 209 km *E. dalyana*; 209.9 km more *E. dalyana* and *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei* (pink and red) on the left road side in a rocky plain open area.

North West of Windorah Eremophilas seen were: 128 km *E. maculata*; 86 km *E. dalyana* and *E. freelingii* on the roadside; then up a red rocky conglomerate hill *E. latrobei ssp. glabra*, *E. cordatisepala* and *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei* were found.

At the historic site of the J Costello Hotel in the cemetery there were more *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei*.

Continuing North West of Windorah: between 78 km to 72 km *E. gilesii* (pic over) was seen in rocky red soil; then some *E. bowmanii ssp. latifolia* and *E. dalyana*; 2.7k *E. sturtii* and *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei*.



7th August Windorah to Charleville continuing on the Diamantina Development Road. The first stop was at a bush garden on the eastern edge of Windorah, featuring some rustic sculptures of native fauna and some native plants including *Crotalaria eremaea*, *Goodenia cycloptera*, *Hakea lorea* and *E. maculata*, *E. mitchellii* and *E. latrobei*.

Eremophilas seen south east of Windorah were: *E. goodwinii*; 27 km *E. sturtii* on the left side of the road; 30 km *E. sturtii* on the right side and *E. latrobei* and *E. goodwinii*; 34.5 km *E. bowmanii ssp. latifolia*.

Eremophilas seen north west of Quilpie were: at 97 km *E. polyclada* and *E. sturtii*; 89.6 km *E. bignoniiflora*; 17.2 km *E. longifolia* on the left roadside.

After lunch, before resuming the trip to Charleville, the group detoured 7 km South on the Quilpie/Thargomindah Road in search of *E. bowmanii ssp. nutans*, but the co-ordinates for this record appeared to be on private property so the search was abandoned.

Eremophilas seen east of Quilpie were: 32k *E. longifolia*; 41.5 km *E. maculata*, *E. longifolia*, and *E. desertii* on right side of road; 55 km *E. bowmanii ssp. bowmanii*; further patches of *E. longifolia* along the road side.

Eremophilas seen West of Charleville were: 95 km *E. gilesii*; 64 km *E. mitchellii*, *E. gilesii* (in flower), *E. desertii* (in flower); 25 km *E. latrobei*; and *E. oppositifolia ssp. rubra*.

8th August was Charleville to home, or for some further camping before heading home.

Apart from Eremophilas, naturally other plants were seen, like the *Ptilotus sp.* that were on the roadside and in the bush throughout the trip. Also, the bush was alive with birds. Sadly, many were seen as road kill but there were numerous sightings of Brolgas, Bustards, Finches, Budgerigars, Eagles, Galahs, Corellas, Plains Pigeons, Emus and even a flock of Cockatiels.

Once again Jan and Denis used their knowledge of Queensland and native plants to lead a group through amazing country and more amazingly locate and identify sometimes half- or totally-dead little bushes. Thank you for sharing your skills and ability with us all. This was a really memorable trip with so many Eremophilas seen in their natural environment.

Sub-Group meetings

Sydney group

The next meeting of the Sydney sub-group is on Margaret and Peter Olde's on **13 October** 2018. The subject is Keying Eremophila.

The meeting starts at 10am and will finish at midday. Please bring Bob Chinnock's book (if you have it) and a magnifying glass.

For more information email Charles Farrugia: [eremgenus4719 \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:eremgenus4719@hotmail.com).

Queensland group

Jan Glazebrook

The Queensland group had their fabulously successful Eremophila-hunting trip in August (article above).

Their next meeting is on **29 September** at the home of Steve and Laylee Purchase, 37 Rocklyn St Toowoomba.

For more information contact Jan Glazebrook: [janglazebrook \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:janglazebrook@gmail.com).

Victorian group

The next meeting of the Victorian group is at the Melton Botanic Gardens on **17 November** commencing 10:30am with morning tea. Meeting place is the depot at the corner of William and Tullidge St Melton.

Melton Botanic Gardens is building a Plant Trust collection of Eremophilas, dryland Eucalypts and, soon, Verticordia. The WASA (Western Australian South Australian) Garden is only 3 years old and is truly amazing, arranged as botanical provinces.

After morning tea (which will include swapping of cutting material, discussion and nursery purchase opportunity) the group will tour the garden. There will be some opportunity for taking cutting material from gardens, under direction.

Please bring your own lunch. Contact Anne Langmaid for details [anne \(at\) langmaid.id.au](mailto:anne@langmaid.id.au). The future of the group will be discussed at lunch.

Another new species

Bevan Buirchell has published photos of another new species of Eremophila. Only a single population has been found. Photo below.



More will be published in the next newsletter (we hope!)

Website Image Database

THANK YOU!!!

to all the photographers who sent photos of the species I asked for last newsletter, for our website image database. There are now images of all the species from A to C in the Eremophila genus. A lot more photos were also sent so we now have images of **102** species! over 40% of the total described species. The species captured so far can be found at <http://anpsa.org.au/eremophilaSG/gallery/index.html>

Anyone who can send in photos (minimum size 1MB) of the following species will receive undying gratitude. Photographers will be acknowledged on the site, but in submitting photos you acknowledge we will use them for this purpose (and maybe publication in the newsletter!). Here is the next list of gaps:

- *E. dalyana*
- *E. elderi*
- *E. eversa*
- *E. falcata*
- *E. fallax*
- *E. flabellate*
- *E. fraseri*
- *E. freelingii*
- *E. goodwinii*
- *E. graciliflora*
- *E. gracillima*
- *E. granitica*

Undying gratitude for our webmaster Brian Walters (below) who has worked tirelessly to get our image database up and running.



Thanks also to contributors so far:

Andrew Brown
Bevan Buirchell
Ross Dawkins
Karlee Foster
Brian Freeman
Don Lill
Alice Newton
Bev Rice
Bernie Shanahan
Kevin Sparrow
Chris Strachan
Lyndal Thorburn
Russell Wait
Brian Walters

From Your letters

Gordon Brooks (NSW): I have been in aged care for 5.5 years and unable to grow anything, and now at 92 years I confess my memory is less than perfect. It has been amazing to be a member of the Sydney Group and to observe the impact made by the members from further afield, especially by Ken Warnes, whose visit some years ago with Russell Wait was the turning point.

Soon after, Ian Tranter and another from the ACT attended a meeting and from that time others have linked up and contributed. Charles Farrugia has amazed me with his ability to encourage so many to contribute. I am most interested in the messages floating around from so any members.

As a former SA fellow, I was fortunate to meet up with Colin and, earlier, to spend some time with his predecessor as Study Group leader when over (in SA) Jennings ,with my son's family.

I also called in to Ray Isaacson, Ivan Holliday and the couple who operate the Arid Lands Botanic Park when they had a garden not far from Ken at Owen. Arid Lands Nursery was well worth the visit we made in 2000. Anyway, my apologies, but it is wiser I think that I don't add a possible error to the (*E. nivea*) survey.

Charles Farrugia (NSW): My *E. latrobei* (small green leaves) bursts into full bloom every time

we get over 6 mm of rain (pic below). This year it has happened on every rare occasion we had rain.

The other Eremophilas in the garden do this occasionally after heavy rain. I have seen *E. fasciata*, *E. accrescens* and *E. exilifolia x spathulata* in full bloom twice this year, but for *E. latrobei* (below) it is probably the fourth or fifth time it has burst into full bloom.



I'm not complaining, and neither are the Noisy Miners. In Ken's words, Eremophila are opportunistic.

Over is Charles' *E. glabra* (the one with the lime green flowers).



Below is Charles' magnificent *E. aurievisca*.



Bruce Grose (Vic): Thank you for the CD disc⁶, I really enjoy them very much as travel is a bit of a problem these days.

Anne Langmaid (Vic): When I was Karijingi National Park 2 weeks ago I completely lost it. There was a bush in front of me, no flowers but it was my favourite Eremophila, *E. lachnocalyx*. It is one I struggle to grow, so is doubly special. The small group I was with honoured my excitement and inability to speak sensibly, more so when we saw some with flowers on shortly after.

I had one, grafted, in a garden bed with a small fence around, to keep my golden retriever from lying on the sand mulch. He broke it off below the graft last March. Since the Myoporum stock was still growing well, I decided to have a go and grafted two *Lachnocalyx* back onto it in the garden bed in April. Far too cold, but no harm trying. I protected it as best I could. I couldn't believe it, both grafts seem to have taken even though the weather was cold.

The killer is that, just before I went away in August, my darling dog dug up the entire plant. I quickly put it into a pot, a month later it is still alive but I think it may have used up its 9 lives, as if it was a cat.

⁶ CDs of the newsletter are available to those who are not on email and who would like to receive a colour version of the newsletter rather than a photocopied black and white print.

Saw some other lovely plants in the National Park, not enough Eremophilas unfortunately.

Don and Chris Lill (SA) – on the road in WA, in August): We are currently in Newman, just got back in range. We saw most of Ken's Eremophilas on the way up the track (see page 16), pretty much where he said they were. It's very dry around Alice, so a number of them were in drought mode. We have a few more to look at on the way back in early September. Saw a gorgeous *E. paisleyii glandulosa* in full flower on the Stuart Highway just north of Cadney Park also *E. acrida* at Kunoth Well. Not many Eremophilas in WA on the track to Marble Bar, except *E. forrestii* and *E. latrobei* seem to be everywhere. Saw a nice *E. platythamnus ssp. exotrachys* at lake Dora. Got lots of piccies, will send more when we get more time.

Right now, we are seeing *E. cuneifolia*, *E. youngii*, *E. lepidota* and *E. lachnocalyx*, all flowering around Newman. Much of the area around Newman is being mined, and lots of it has been burnt. We are off to Rudall River for 5 days so will be out of range for a while - then down to Mt Augustus and Meekatharra where they all are!

Jan Sked (APS Queensland): Thank you, Lyndal, for another fine Eremophila Study Group Newsletter.

Makes me want to grow Eremophilas, but the conditions in my garden don't allow for success with these species. I have a 50-year-old garden with tall trees that cast shade over all sections of the garden. We live in south-east Queensland, near the coast, and so experience a lot of humidity. Our soil is poorly-drained and I have the most success with rainforest species.

I tried *Eremophila maculata* in the earlier stages of my garden and it did reasonably well, until my expanding rainforest plantings shaded it out. I also grew *E. 'Aurea'* and *E. debilis* around the same time and their demise was also attributed to the increased shade in the garden.

However, I can still admire Eremophilas in other gardens with better conditions and, during my working life, I was able to use

Eremophilas in a number of public parks and gardens in the western areas of Queensland, where they were very successful.

Ken Warnes (SA): One of Russell's collections from 2016 is in flower (in July) and it would appear to be the one Brown & Buirchell list as *E. sp. nov.* Kalgoorlie on p 298 of their book. It's reported from several hills in the region but if it's not a hybrid originating from WA *E. oppositifolia ssp angustifolia* then I know nothing. Probably crossed with something in the paisleyi group, perhaps their *E. sp. nov.* Mt. Jackson from similar areas. Stabilised and breeding, the requirements are fulfilled for species status. My plant is still quite small but at least we have something to work on. Packs the flowers on and, provided it doesn't go too leggy, could be a very useful shrub. The fire killed my first plant, I was lucky to get it again.

A group of plants has also been located, in WA, that may be a good fit for *E. graciliflora*, known only from the type specimen collected 150 years ago and suspected by Bob Chinnock as being a natural hybrid between *E. oldfieldii ssp oldfieldii* and *E. longifolia*. No flowers were present, so it's not certain that this is what they are. If they are hybrids, a breeding population, or multiple F1s, some variation would be expected so a level of faith may be involved. An interesting find indeed.

I also tagged along on the Queensland trip in early August. Winton received a fluke big rain (late March from memory), 90+mm; Cloncurry about 125mm. The Diamantina flooded and reached Lake Eyre, so it was a big one, but only over a restricted area. Nothing East of Longreach.

It looked as if about 50km south of Winton was the southern limit, but it served our purpose well enough. The species response was interesting, obviously *E. alatisepala* responded immediately with masses of flowers on short growth whereas *E. bignoniiflora* in the creek lines could afford to take its time and was mainly in late bud. *E. latrobei* and *E. bowmanii* had come and gone. The three *E. tetraptera* in a small water channel west of Old Cork could only be described as lush, but 10m away were desiccated sticks, barely alive. *E. woodiae* and *E. hispida* had flowered and were just about finished. And we treat them all the same in our gardens and expect them to all behave the same!

Cuttings wanted

Russell Wait is still looking for cuttings of the new revised *E. microtheca* – if you can send him some please email him at russwait (at) bigpond.com.

Next Newsletter themes

The feature species for the February 2019 newsletter is *Eremophila alternifolia*. There are at least two colour forms, and four hybrids (with *E. glabra*, *E. maculata* (sold as Blue Thunder, Magenta Magic, Magenta Dream or Wild Berry), *E. purpurascens*, and a further hybrid with *Myoporum platycarpum*).

In order to help Judy Baghurst, (see Fleurieu article page 13), I am looking to develop a list of Eremophilas that grow well in windy areas – please send suggestions for February.



Group photo from the Fleurieu group gathering

About the Study Group

The Eremophila Study Group aims to further knowledge about the cultivation, propagation and conservation of the 200+ species of Eremophilas, an endemic genus of Australian plants. It is one of several Study Groups which operates under the auspices of the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership is \$5 per annum. Subscriptions for a financial year can be sent by cheque posted to **3 Considine Close Greenleigh NSW 2620** or (preferably) paid by direct deposit into the Group's bank account:

BSB: 105-125

Bank name: **Bank of South Australia**

Account No.: 013 751 340

A/c name: **ASGAP Eremophila Study Group**

Please put your surname and state/group membership in direct deposit details

ANPSA policy is that regional groups pay for two subscriptions in recognition that Study Group material will be used by several group members

New members, please download the application form from our website and send with your cheque/transfer (details below) <http://anpsa.org.au/eremophilaSG/index.html>

Study Groups allow members with specific interests to develop that interest to the fullest extent and to contribute in a practical way to the body of knowledge on the Australian flora. Active members collect information on the genus and send their observations to the leader who collates and publishes the information, in a newsletter or in other Society publications. The Study Group can record any aspect of cultivation, propagation and ecology of the preferred genus. Study Groups are expected to publish at least two newsletters per year.

In addition to paying annual fees, members must also be members of an ANPSA-affiliated regional society (<http://anpsa.org.au/region.html>).

This Study Group aims to study the cultivation and propagation of the genus *Eremophila*; to expand cultivation of *Eremophila* in gardens; and to examine the growing requirements of the various species to improve their reliability.

For information about the Eremophila Study Group contact Dr Lyndal Thorburn, Study Group leader [lthorburn \(at\) viria.com.au](mailto:lthorburn@viria.com.au)
Ph: 0418 972 438 or 02 6297 2437 Address: 3 Considine Close Greenleigh NSW 2620

Honorary members: Ken Warnes and Russell Wait

Newsletters are available in Black and White by post and in COLOUR by email or CD.

For more general information about Study Groups, contact Ms Jane Fountain Coordinator, Study Groups, Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) ([jlfontain5 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jlfontain5@gmail.com))

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NEXT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019

FOR SALE

DVDs of all the formal presentations from the September 2017 SA field trip

To purchase, deposit \$12 in the Study Group account and email the Editor with your details