

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA) INC

GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 115 – FEBRUARY 2020

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GSG NSW Programme 2020

*Leader: **Peter Olde**, p 0432 110 463 | e peter.olde@exemail.com.au*

For details about the NSW chapter please contact Peter, contact via email is preferred.

GSG Vic Programme 2020

*Leader: **Neil Marriott**, 693 Panrock Reservoir Rd, Stawell, Vic. 3380
p 03 5356 2404 or 0458 177 989 | e neil@whitegumsaustralia.com*

Contact Neil for queries about program for the year. Any members who would like to visit the official collection, obtain cutting material or seed, assist in its maintenance, and stay in our cottage for a few days are invited to contact Neil.

Annual Get together and Working Bee

This year we are planning on catching up over the **Labor Day long weekend 6th to 9th MARCH** not Easter as mentioned in last N/L. However if you would prefer to come in Easter this will be fine!!

As well as a quick cleanup of the Grevillea Gardens, there will be ample opportunity for catching up and socialising with fellow members, visits to some of the Grevilleas in the Grampians as well as a visit to Phil Vaughan's wonderful nursery at Pomonal. We have a good number of beds available, on a first come first served basis, as well as lots of space for tents or caravans. Please contact me on 0458 177 989 or email on neil@whitegumsaustralia.com to register and obtain the full program for the weekend.

Melbourne Meeting/Get Together?

Our Victorian Chapter used to have annual get togethers in the Melbourne area, and it has been suggested that we should try and organise this for the coming year. The vast majority of our Societies members come from Melbourne, so it would be wonderful if we could organise a day of garden visits, get together and discussions/cutting swap and the like. If any members have ideas or suggestion on this idea please let myself or Max McDowall maxamcd@melbpc.org.au know and we will get on with the organising!! Likewise, if any members would like a Grevillea Crawl to a particular area let us know!

GSG SE Qld Programme 2020

*We gather at 09:30 for shared morning tea and a meeting at 10:00. We usually have a BYO lunch about midday. Visitors are always welcome. For more info or to check venues etc please contact: **Ross Reddick** on 0405 510 459 or **Denis Cox** on (07) 5546 8590 as changes can occur.*

.....
Sunday, 26 April 2020

VENUE: Dave and Catherine Madden at Nightjar Ridge Natives Nursery; a wholesale nursery in the Gold Coast hinterland.

PHONE: 0497 559 546
.....

Sunday, 28 June 2020

VENUE: Home of Alistair Barros, 84 Huntingdale St, Pullenvale.
.....

Sunday, 30 August 2020

VENUE: Home of Adrian and Gail Wockner, 5 Horizon Ct., Highfields.
.....

Sunday, 25 October 2020

VENUE: Home of Alan Lee, 21-23 Lucas Rd, Tamborine.
.....

Sunday, 29 November 2020

VENUE: Home of Jim & Fran Standing, Mt Clunie Road, Koreelah (Via Woodenbong, NSW)

A FEW WORDS FROM PETER

Peter Olde, NSW

As we turn into 2020 we must recognise that we have faced, certainly in my lifetime, the worst of weather events ever seen in Australia. A prolonged drought along the whole east coast that even still continues in some areas, reduced rainfall overall, massive fires too unbelievable to recount, and more recently flooding rains. We will not see the scale of bushfires repeated this year. There is nothing much left to burn. We must pin our hopes on the ability of our plants to regenerate, especially the rare ones. I am hopeful that their evolutionary past will assist them. The importance of individual people, such as horticulturists and nurserymen, to this process cannot be overstated. Rescuing plants by cultivation certainly has a place. Australia is actually on the front line of climate change, it seems. We must advocate to the world the perilous continuance of high carbon emissions, for Australia and other countries. Small Pacific Island countries subject to inundation by rising sea levels could not make themselves heard at recent conferences. Bushfire experts could not get an audience with our newly elected 'leader'. Of course, the denialists trot out the arguments against doing anything. Our own emissions are insignificant. We are doing all we have to do under various agreements (I am not so sure of that). But we should be leading the charge. We have governmental failure of leadership that goes to the very top I believe. They are revolting to me, the smirks, the self-confidence, the talk, the arrogance, the disgraceful culture of pork-barrelling. They should be acting for all Australians, not just their own constituency.

Hazard reduction. Imagine the task when the plants are parched, one step from death, discarding their leaves, no new growth, just to survive the lack of water. Then along comes a bit of fire, high temperatures and low humidity. Nothing will stop the wildfire that follows that. Nothing. Burnt areas reburnt after the hazard has completely been reduced. Hazard reduction only cleans out the fuel load on the ground. These fires went straight to the tree tops.

I have included a report on the conservation situation in Western Australia. People advocating for conservation there are all volunteers. Government for our flora falls a long way short of what is needed.

I want to thank Jeremy Tucharke for volunteering to take over the Seed Bank. It will take some time to sort out but his willingness is greatly appreciated. Euan Mills also volunteered after I had accepted Jeremy's offer. Thanks to both. Jeremy's garden is featured elsewhere in the newsletter.

Congratulations to Ray Brown who received an Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours List for Services to the Environment and Conservation.

This award was principally for his voluntary work in establishing and directing the Illawarra Grevillea Park at Bulli, N.S.W. from around 1984 to the present. However, Ray and his wife Vivian were, until recently, also the key drivers and organisers of the Bulli Black Diamond Museum Heritage Centre on Bulli Railway Station. Ray is your iconic tragic volunteer. He also accompanies me regularly on many of my field trips and once made a private personal collection of Grevillea in New South Wales that he has offered to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (NSW).

Even as we rejoice that one of us has been so honoured for his work in Grevillea horticulture and development, we are saddened to learn recently of the passing of Hazel Althofer (1920–2019), another OAM, thus ending the Althofer association with Burrendong Arboretum. Hazel passed away at her daughter's home where she had been living in care for several years, quietly and in her sleep. She really was a great lady for whom I personally had great admiration and affection. Vale Hazel.

Illawarra Grevillea Park

NEXT OPEN DAYS 2020

May 2 & 3, 9 & 10

Opening hrs are 10am – 4pm

Location

The Park is located at the rear of Bulli Showground, Princess Highway, Bulli.

Admission

\$5 adults, children with adults are free

email info@grevilleapark.org or visit
illawarragrevilleapark.com.au

NEWS FROM THE LIVING COLLECTION

Neil Marriott, Vic

2019 was another big year –numerous new species were planted out following heavy winter rains, and sadly, quite a few losses over summer due to virtually no rain since the end of August!! Despite the dry spring we still finished up getting 501 mm for the year, which is quite a bit more than we have had for nearly a decade, but still way down on our pre-climate change “average” of 650-700 mm. Summers are now so hot and dry that I have to mulch every new plant with washed river sand and place on drippers for the first two to three years! Most new plants now need to be grafted onto an extremely hardy rootstock. Sadly this means we now mostly use *Grevillea robusta* as a rootstock, despite its inherent compatibility problems –many grafts now need an interstock to overcome this problem! If anyone comes up with a new rootstock as drought tolerant as Silky Oak please let us know!! Rootstocks such as *Grevillea* ‘Carrington Cross’, *G.* ‘Royal Mantle’, *G.* Bronze Rambler’ or *G. barklyana* hybrid are useless in drought conditions! Even with this extra attention we still lose numerous plants every summer. We are often finding that the tops of the plant are being “cooked” by the extremely hot windy days, even when the roots are cool and moist!! Discussions on this problem with Phil Vaughan at Pomonal reveal the same thing happening in his garden, despite Phil having unlimited high quality bore water to keep his gardens moist!!

A big thank you to those who have donated plants and cuttings to the living collection; Robert Brown, Barry Teague, Bernie Shanahan, Jeremy Tsharke, Richard Tomkin, Dave Handscombe, Neville Collier, Phillip Vaughan, Dave Binch, Simon Gilliland, Mark Noak, Marilyn Sprague, Brian Weir, Jonathan Steeds and Stuart Thorpe . Without the help of these members it is becoming very difficult to obtain plants of the rarer and more unusual species. In return, we have supplied cuttings, grafting material and seed to numerous members as well as Mt Annan Botanic Gardens. It is great to see our many rare and endangered species being spread around, and now in cultivation in lots of members gardens. This is definitely in keeping with one of the mottos of our Society “Preservation by Cultivation”.

The Impact on Grevilleas from recent bushfires

Grevilleas, like so much of our Australian sclerophyllous flora, has evolved to respond favourably to bushfires, regenerating freely from seed lying dormant in the soils, following good autumn and winter rains. However in recent years climate change has massively increased the frequency of bushfires, and when these combine with severe drought and little follow up rain, little regeneration occurs. This is exactly what we documented at the Living Collection when it was burnt out in January 2006. With no moisture in the soil, and almost no winter rain, very few grevilleas were recorded recruiting from seed (c. 15% of all species being grown).



Grevillea chrysophaea - Holey Plains State Park

Tragically, it appears that this is exactly what is happening with many of our wild populations of Grevilleas burnt out over the last few years. The beautiful dwarf form of *Grevillea chrysophaea* found only in Holey Plains State Park in Gippsland is an example; this park was hit by very hot fires in the summer of 2018-19, and several visits by members since then have failed to find ANY young plants at all. Fortunately Stuart and Kerrie Thorpe from Pomonal, were lucky to have grown a couple of plants of this form and generously donated one to the Living Collection. Material from this plant has now been given to several members who will hopefully succeed in grafting it.

Many other rare species and many unnamed forms of *Grevillea* have been burnt out, including *Grevillea brevifolia*, *G. jephcottii*, *G. parvula*, *G. polychroma*, *G. ramosissima* ssp *hypargyrea*, *G. polybractea* upright and dwarf as well as a probable new species from NE Vic discovered last year by Jeremy Tsharke. In the Alps and subalps in NE Victoria, southern NSW and the ACT it is highly likely that many more of the rare and very localised species in the *Grevillea victoriae* group have also been burnt out. It is probable that the same has happened to many *Grevillea* species in NSW, Qld, Kangaroo Island (where there are around five endemic species) and WA. Lets hope these areas all get good autumn and winter rains to allow them to recover. This is why it is SO important to have living collections in members gardens and botanic gardens to act as vital backups when disasters like this hit our wild populations.

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Grevillea imberbis - Braidwood. Has it survived the bushfires?

In the Garden

With the above average winter rains, most Grevilleas flowered well and have put on substantial growth. *Grevillea heliosperma* flowered really well this summer – rather amazing for a plant that comes from the top end of Australia, to be flowering so well way down here in Victoria!



Grevillea heliosperma flowering in the Living Collection

Amazingly, *Grevillea hodgei*, *Grevillea hilliana*, *Grevillea helmsiae* and all forms of *Grevillea banksii* have also flowered heavily this season, with *Grevillea hodgei* flowering almost continuously for the last 8 months. Likewise, just about all the “tropical” hybrids are currently flowering heavily – amazing what a good rain will do!!



Some of the tropical Grevilleas in flower

Grevillea annulifera again flowered very heavily, but unlike last season, this year’s dry spring meant very little seed set! Plants in the ‘Small Victorian Grevillea Garden’ are establishing well, with the rare yellow flowered form of *Grevillea dimorpha* var *angustifolia* flowering beautifully, as did all the *G. confertifolia* forms and *G. obtecta*. We even had *Xanthorrhoea minor* Small Grasstree with two flower spikes when only two years old!!!



Grevillea annulifera in full flower

Despite this lack of seed from *G. annulifera*, many other species set large quantities of seed. One that really caught my eye was *Grevillea muricata*, where the amazing follicles clearly show why this species was given this name! = named after the Murex shell which has wonderful little horns all over it!



Grevillea muricata fruits

GREVILLEA GRAFTING

Email correspondence from: Roger Bourne to Peter Olde

From Roger:

I am a new APS member and Merle Thompson suggested I contact you. I have a project/ambition to rescue the now critically endangered *Grevillea scortechinii*, which grows around my Mum's place near Stanthorpe, by grafting and planting into a wider area around Stanthorpe. We are considering applying for a Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species grant that may fund grafting by a nursery.

In the meantime, I have been failing miserably with my attempts. I'd like to grow some at my home in Blackheath and have tried to graft onto *G. laurifolia* stock. I've also got some *G. 'Copper Rocket'*, given to me as cold tolerant and hardy by cool plants nursery in Armidale. I would like to develop some expertise before killing any more plants. I'm planning to join the Grevillea Study Group but any guidance/suggestions would be most welcome.

From Peter:

My computer has crashed and I have lost a great deal of data in my emails. Did I reply to this already? Your application to join the Grevillea SG has been forwarded to our newsletter editor/treasurer and you will receive a notice to download the next issue of the newsletter shortly. Welcome!

In relation to the matter above, I am not sure how grafted plants will go in the long term. Would you not be better to plant cutting-grown plants in the area of natural occurrence so that they could gene swap and set seed?

From Roger:

I agree the ideal would be to propagate without grafting but *G. scortechinii* has an extremely restricted range suggesting it is very fussy. Since a survey in 1991 the range has further decreased.

Our idea is that grafting onto a hardy stock would allow us to distribute it more widely around the Stanthorpe district and increase the chances of it then spreading from seed. I think this has been done for other plants (have forgotten the term used). I have propagated *G. scortechinii* from cuttings and planted them at my place in Blackheath but they have all gradually conked out (despite being planted into imported Stanthorpe soil). Just for my own garden I thought a graft onto *G. laurifolia* might work.

GENEROUS DONATION FOR LUCID KEY

Email correspondence from: Masumi Robertson to Peter Olde

Lucid provides software for creating and using identification and diagnostic keys. Mark Noake has been investigating creating a Grevillea key using this software (see GSG Newsletter No 113, page 8).

As a result of this article, Masumi Robertson from the ACT made the following generous offer:

Hello Peter,

I just transferred \$600 to the Grevillea SG account, to be used to buy the Lucid key software.

I finally read the June SG newsletter and saw the Lucid key article. How wonderful! If the donation could be used to help Mark, that would be great.

Thank you for your never ending helpful information and the work done by Mark to collect information on Grevilleas.

Kind regards,

Masumi

Peter Olde's response:

Dear Masumi,

It is not very often that we here at the Grevillea Study Group receive such a generous donation for which we deeply thank you, here both personally and publicly in the next newsletter. I have spoken with Mark Noake and he will proceed to investigate the Lucid software and begin data entry. We understand that there is already an incomplete and unpublished key to Grevillea which we will also investigate. However, your generous donation will now enable us to progress this important project. I will be personally involved as I am currently revising Grevillea taxonomy and a Lucid key will be an important vehicle towards its implementation.

Our very best wishes to you and once again our deepest thanks

Yours sincerely

Peter Olde

POSSIBLE NEW GREVILLEA FOR WA?

Neil R Marriott, Vic

New Grevillea species continue to turn up regularly, as the knowledge on the genera grows, and as people begin to look a little closer to the roadsides and in bushland they travel through. Nowhere is this more the case than in WA where new species seem to be popping up with great regularity. On a recent trip to WA we travelled down a new road east of Nabawa and on stopping to admire a good patch of roadside vegetation I found several Grevilleas that I simply could not identify.



Possible New Grevillea for WA

As can be seen in the photo below, the new Grevillea is part of the Manglesia group, all of which have white symmetrical flowers. There is the possibility that these new plants are simply a hybrid swarm, as there were plants of *Grevillea levis* about 1 km away, and *Grevillea amplexans* growing nearby. Pressed specimens were taken, along with GPS readings, soil type, associated vegetation and precise location on the roadside. These specimens were given to Peter Olde as we are currently researching and revising the Manglesia Group. Peter tells me he also found a very similar new Grevillea last year in WA. It is quite clear that there are still numerous new species out there just waiting to be discovered.

So next time you are out in the bush, keep an eye out for any Grevilleas you simply cannot identify. If you do find one, take some close up and habit shots, mark the location on your map, record the distance to the next major road intersection and try and record the GPS location. Many smartphones these days have these built in, so take a photo with your smartphone and record the GPS at the same time. Then feel free to send your pictures to Peter at peter.olde@exemail.com.au or myself at neil@whitegumsaustralia.com and we will endeavour to name it for you. You never know, you may finish up with a new Grevillea named after yourself!!

REPORT OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ROADSIDE VEGETATION SUB-COMMITTEE
WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WA NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2019

Dr. Eddy Wajon

Roadside vegetation clearing [in Western Australia] still continues, and if anything, has increased in scale and extent. Many people, members and non-members, have complained about the loss of roadside vegetation via Facebook and other forums, but unfortunately, very few, if any, have done anything about it. In the meantime, whole roadsides of good to excellent quality vegetation are being cleared and re-cleared in country areas, particularly in the Wheatbelt and Southwest, with un-necessary, destructive and excessive loss of iconic, unique and attractive roadside trees and other vegetation by local governments and Main Roads WA (MRWA).

The Roadside Vegetation sub-committee has been trying to address this wave of clearing by meeting with proponents and regulators and by making submissions and appeals on

Clearing Permit applications. In addition, the committee has lodged 21 submissions on Clearing Permit applications and 10 appeals on the grant of Clearing Permits since the report to the 2018 AGM (and a total of 55 and 29 respectively since June 2016).

These submissions and appeals have prevented one road clearing project from going ahead (upgrade of Victoria Highway, Kununurra), and several clearing permit applications being withdrawn. There have also been a few instances where the amount of vegetation proposed to be cleared has been reduced slightly. In addition, there have been some small changes to the assessment of, and conditions applied to, Clearing Permits.

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However, these successes are only relevant to those proposals that have been officially submitted for approval. There are still many instances of clearing that have occurred without approval, consisting of unlawful widening of roadsides, including where local governments consider (erroneously) that the clearing is exempt (from the need for approval) because it is in a transport corridor or has been cleared previously. There have also been instances where farmers have cleared roadsides for cropping or through unlawful burning. Further, even in those instances where Clearing Permits have been granted, we contend that much of that clearing is excessive and un-necessary.

We continue to report many instances of unlawful, excessive and un-necessary clearing to DWER Pollution Control Branch and have met with senior DWER officials to discuss some of these instances. There have been some very worrying instances of unlawful clearing such as almost the entire population of *Grevillea squiresiae* by the Shire of Westonia.

However, in all cases that DWER have investigated and reported on, they have indicated that either there is no evidence for them to conclude whether the clearing was unlawful, or that in their opinion the clearing was not excessive and un-necessary. As a consequence, DWER have never prosecuted any perpetrators. The only thing they have done is advised local government and farmers of their obligations to seek Clearing Permits and sent them warning letters.

DWER have also indicated that it is complicated to prosecute cases of unlawful clearing as it is only currently possible to do so through the courts. This is time-consuming and expensive, and is only pursued for instances of large and wilful clearing such as where refusal of Clearing Permit applications have been ignored and clearing has still occurred. Even where a Vegetation Conservation Notice (VCN) was considered (requiring revegetation or restitution), DWER has usually deemed that based on the circumstances a VCN was not appropriate.

DWER and the Minister for Environment keep reminding us that the Environmental Protection Act (EP Act) does not preclude clearing even if the clearing is at variance with any or all of the 10 Clearing Principles.

The support from the Minister for Tourism at a meeting in January 2019, where he suggested the WSWA reward rural local governments that have Wildflower Friendly roadsides [is welcome]. We have spent a lot of time developing such a scheme, but because the Minister for Tourism wants to announce this scheme and take the credit for it, and despite hoping that this would be agreed by June, we can't reveal any details just yet. But let me say that I think, that if this goes ahead, it will be the greatest advance in us trying to protect roadside vegetation and wildflowers in probably

40 years. If this gets off the ground, there will be a huge opportunity for all Society members to get involved and report what they see as they drive along our rural roads.

Another significant advance was our development of a Systems Stewardship concept for the management of roadside vegetation. In May 2019, we had a workshop with DWER to tease out what each party could do, though admittedly, it was more about what the Society could do for DWER than what DWER could do for the Society (in terms of protecting our native vegetation).

Public support and lobbying is crucial to any change in roadside design, construction and maintenance practice. This was demonstrated so forcibly by our work on the York-Quairading Road (where safety barriers were installed to save some significant trees in Stage 1 of the project and a whole stand of trees on one side of the road was saved as a consequence of our involvement and by the actions of the Victorian activists.

To increase public awareness of the current extent and nature of the devastation caused by roadside clearing, and to promote the beauty and value of our native, biodiverse vegetation, the Roadside Vegetation sub-committee supported a group of determined women from Moora, Dowerin and Wongan-Ballidu in staging The Last Stand, a five day community environmental information event in September 2018 to raise awareness of the wonders and woes of the Midwest wheatbelt wildflower country between Calingiri and Carnamah. This was very successful, despite very few local government representatives attending, and it won the Shire of Moora 2018 Event of Year award at the Australia Day event.

If anyone, particularly from Society country Branches and members, thinks that saving our roadside biodiversity is important, and wants to contribute to our activities, please contact Eddy Wajon on 08 9310 2936 or wajonpub@bigpond.com. We need you.

Dr Eddy Wajon, Chair, Roadside Vegetation Sub Committee, 12 June 2019

The original article was too long for inclusion here and was edited by P.M. Olde

IN THE WILD

Mike & Cathy Beamish

After spending 3 months in Alaska, western Canada and 3 Hawaiian islands over our winter, we were keen to look around closer to home, to see what the Spring flush would offer. Though not specifically looking for Grevilleas, they were certainly on our list! In late August, the first of our trips was to the Traralgon South Flora and Fauna Reserve, only about 30km from home. Here we knew of a patch of our local APS Latrobe Valley Group's floral emblem, the Golden Grevillea *G. chrysophaea*, growing around the car park on the eastern side of the Reserve. This area was burnt in the Black Saturday bushfires in February 2009, but the regrowth has covered up most of the signs of this fire in the intervening ten years. The soil here is predominantly well-draining, sandy grey loam and the Grevilleas here grow a bit tall and leggy, some plants over 2 metres in height. Our timing was good, flowers everywhere.



Our next Grevillea sighting occurred about 3 weeks later in the Holey Plains State Park, south of Rosedale and about 80km from home. This Park was extensively burnt in early 2019 and we were there with the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS Victoria) looking for any orchids that may have been stimulated by the fire. Much of the plant regeneration was still very small, but there were patches that had avoided the burning and in one of these, along one of the gas pipeline easements, we found a couple more specimens of Golden Grevillea. These were much smaller than the Traralgon South plants, probably because of their location in the easement where they are regularly slashed.



Our next excursion was a 6 week jaunt over to the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, commencing in late September and finishing in early November. On the quick trip over, we paused for a break at the Pertendi Hut Campground in Ngarkat Conservation Park, between Bordertown and Pinnaroo on the SA side of the Victorian border. Here there is a nice short walking track through the Mallee Dune country, on which we found a small group of Grevilleas just coming into flower on the top of the sand dunes. Their bright red and cream eye-catching flowers stood out amongst the greys and greens of the Mallee scrub. My guess would be Lavender Grevillea, *G. lavandulacea*.



By early October, we had made it up into the Gawler Ranges National Park, north of the Eyre Highway from Wudinna or Minnipa. Here it was much warmer and drier, so we weren't expecting to find a great deal in flower, but we were surprised by how much we did find. Some parts of the country must have received a thunderstorm or two, as there were patches of Hakea (*H. francisiana*), Calytrix, Red Mallee, Alyogyne (both *A. huegelii* and *A. hakeifolia*) and *Eremophila* (*E. alternifolia*, *E. glabra* and *E. scoparia*) putting on a reasonable display. On the northern end of Sturt Track, in amongst a patch of *Eremophila scoparia* on flat, clay pan soils, we noticed a few *Grevillea huegelii* with buds forming, though it took us half an hour to find a couple of plants with open flowers. No more flowering Grevilleas were found anywhere on the Eyre Peninsula, in fact the only other plants we recognised as Grevilleas were the hundreds of Rough Grevillea, *G. aspera*, growing on the granite outcrops of Carapsee Hill and Darke Peak Conservation Parks.

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Travelling home in early November, we visited relatives and friends around Hamilton and Balmoral, and spent a day looking through the bush around the Rocklands Reservoir. It had been an excellent Spring season here and the bush was looking healthy and green, most of the farm dams were full (though Rocklands was still only at 35% capacity) and the farms were lush with grass and crops. There were still a few orchids around, as well as some peas (*Daviesia*, *Dillwynia* and *Platylobium*) and heaths (*Astroloma*, *Brachyloma* and *Leucopogon*), but scattered throughout on the gravelly loam soils were many plants of the Holly Grevillea, *G. aquifolium*, showing flowers of both colour forms. This is one species that I've tried to grow at home many times, but I just cannot keep it alive for more than a season, even in a pot or tub. They just will not tolerate my wet and cold climate, nor my heavy, clay loam soils, even when I've built up areas with sandy loams. I'll keep trying!



That's it for the wild plants, but we couldn't go past the Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta without dropping in for Lemon Myrtle/Quandong/Desert Lime/Macadamia ice cream or a quick stroll around the garden to see what was in flower. As always, the Desert Peas were a feature, but there were a couple of Grevilleas putting on a show as well. The cultivated *Grevillea huegelii* looked a lot healthier than the wild one we saw a month before and the Sandhill Spider Flower, *Grevillea stenobotrya* couldn't have had any more flowers on it if it tried!



We also dropped in to the Pangarinda Arboretum in Wellington, where the Murray River enters Lake Alexandrina to find a row of Old Socks, *Grevillea leucopteris*, filling the horizon.



SOME UNRELEASED GREVILLEA CULTIVARS IN THE LIVING COLLECTION

Neil R Marriott, Vic

With such an extensive range of species, subspecies, forms, cultivars and hybrids in the Living Collection, it is inevitable that many hybrid seedlings are going to spring up in and around the extensive gardens. Others erupted in large numbers following the 2006 bushfires that raged through the property. Yet more hybrids have germinated in seed from species collected from the gardens. Some of these hybrids have proven to be good and have been registered with ACRA, including *Grevillea* 'Wendy Sunshine', *Grevillea* 'Katydid', *G.* 'Ochre Pokers', *G.* 'Abracadabra' and a number more.

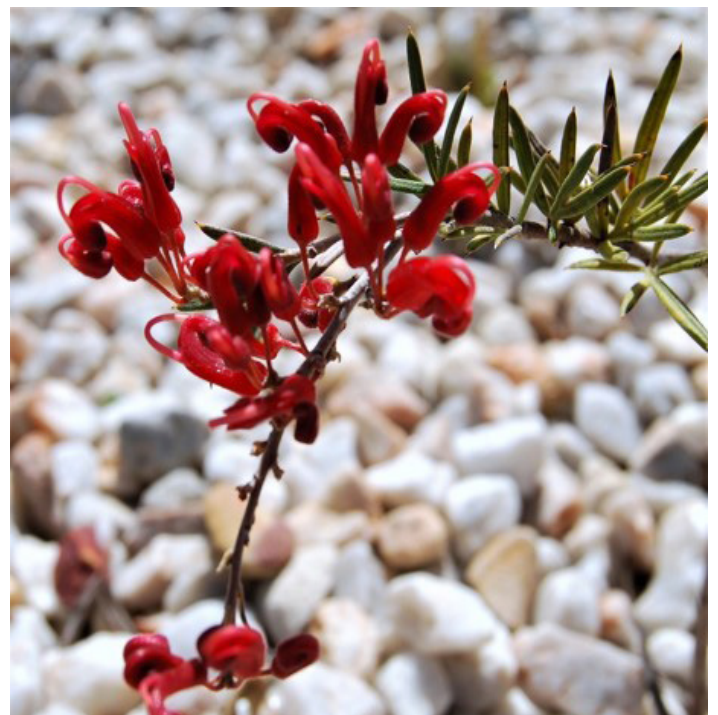
But for every hybrid selected for the nursery trade, there are dozens more that, for one reason or another, don't quite tick all the boxes for selection and registration. The most common of these is prickly foliage –sadly the general public, and hence, the nursery trade, do not like any plant with slightly prickly foliage! Rather hypocritical when roses, with their evil thorns, are the most popular nursery plant in the world!! A few of these unnamed and unreleased hybrids are shown above and below! The *Grevillea nudiflora* hybrid, *G. subtiliflora* hybrid and *G. pilosa* hybrids all came up after the 2006 bushfire, but are probably not worthy of release, although beautiful in their own right!



F2 seedling from *Grevillea* 'Wendy Sunshine'



Tiny leaf f2 seedling from *Grevillea* 'Wendy Sunshine'



Grevillea nudiflora hybrid post 2006 bushfire



Grevillea subtiliflora hybrid

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Grevillea pilosa x ? – bushfire seedling

A number of years ago I did a large amount of crossing using *Grevillea magnifica*, *G. oligomera* and *G. petrophiloides*. The best of these were selected, registered with ACRA and released as *Grevillea* ‘Panrock Princess’ and *G.* ‘Electric Velvet’. However numerous seedlings from the same batch remain unreleased, primarily as they had not flowered at the time I registered the two above. They may possibly warrant registration now they are flowering superbly every season in our gardens! The pale pink *G. magnifica* x *petrophiloides* – white form came about from my attempts to develop a white flowered *Grevillea magnifica*! Not quite white, but it still makes a most delicate flowered plant.



Grevillea magnifica x *petrophiloides* – white flower form



Grevillea oligomera x *magnifica*



Grevillea oligomera x *magnifica* - close up

This plant of *Grevillea magnifica* subsp *magnifica* came up in a batch of seed that I raised of this beautiful *Grevillea*. I planted out one that looked particularly robust, and now it is flowering regularly, it is clear that it has far larger inflorescences than is typical. We have coined the name “mega mag” for it and have given lots of material to Bernie Shannon and Neville Collier.



Grevillea magnifica subsp *magnifica* “mega mag”

One hybrid that I don’t think I will bother with is what looks like a garden hybrid between *Grevillea wilsonii* and possibly *G. tripartita*. This plant came up in a batch of *G. wilsonii* seed and has now grown to around 2x3m. Now approximately 15 years old it has finally flowered for the first time –however there were only two trusses of flowers on the whole bush!!

CONTINUED >



Grevillea wilsonii x tripartita? Hybrid



Grevillea tripartita x maxwellii?

Finally a beautiful *Grevillea* that came up after big rains in 2011 not far from one of our *Grevillea tripartita*. It clearly looks to me like a cross between this species and *Grevillea maxwellii*. Now almost ten years old, it has the same layered branches of *G. maxwellii* but has grown to around 0.6m x 1.5m wide, and is a spectacular mass of vibrant orange-red flowers in the winter-spring.

SOME FURTHER OBSERVATIONS OF ROOT SUCKERING IN GREVILLEA

Neil R Marriott, Vic

In an article last year I wrote about those *Grevillea* species growing on their own root systems in the Living Collection, which I have discovered to have the ability to reproduce by epicormic buds on their roots, commonly known as “root suckering”!

Grevillea oncogyne is a rather variable species from the drier, inland areas of southern WA. A lovely dwarf form with coarser leaves than the typical form occurs around the Lake King region. It has been observed by Peter Olde and myself to reproduce by root suckers in the wild. However it has not been observed doing this under cultivation –this is probably because most plants are propagated by grafting, rather than by seed or cuttings. However this summer, one of our old, original cutting grown plants with coarse, divided leaves has suddenly begun sending up beautiful vigorous young suckers –not in the garden bed, but in the hard ground surrounding the bed!!



Grevillea maxwellii sucker coming up between rocks

Since then, several more *Grevilleas* have exhibited this reproductive mode in the gardens, the first being *Grevillea maxwellii*, a most beautiful, but sadly critically endangered species from the Pallanup River, below the Stirling Range in WA. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time this species has been recorded to have the ability to reproduce by root suckers.



Grevillea oncogyne – root suckers

**GREAT GREVILLEA GARDENS:
JEREMY AND BENITA TSCHARKE, NICHOLSON, EAST GIPPSLAND**

Neil R Marriott, Vic

My first article in this series was on the amazing garden of Robert and Norma Brown, of Nicholson in East Gippsland. Imagine my amazement when Robert took me around the corner from his place to visit the garden of Jeremy and Benita Tschärke! The first visit was several years ago, but even then, I could see that this was soon going to become a truly exceptional garden. Jeremy is mad on outback Australian plants, and so has an extensive collection of desert Acacias, Eucalypts and Ptilotus to mention but a few.

Then Jeremy got the Grevillea bug visiting Roberts nursery and garden, and with the excellent tuition from Robert, Jeremy was soon grafting his own plants. In fact he now has his own little backyard nursery 'Gidgee Mallee Nursery' (gidgeemallee@gmail.com), reflecting his love for the plants of the outback! If you want to see some of his beautiful outback photos have a look at his facebook site Jeremy Lynton.



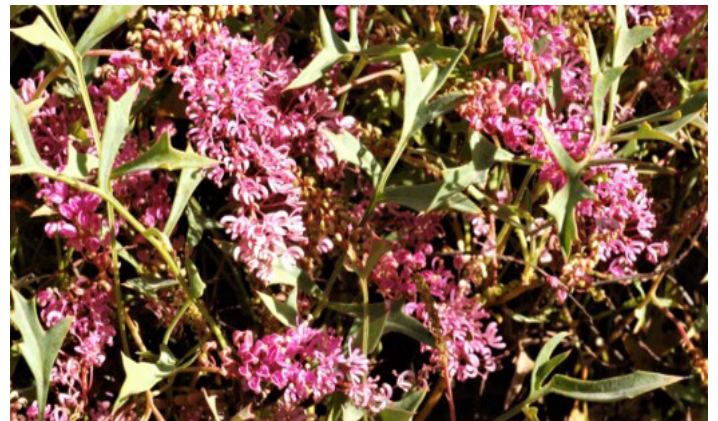
Part of the huge *Grevillea scapigera* in Jeremy's garden

To show how keen Jeremy is about propagating rare and elusive outback plants, he propagated lots of Grevilleas, Eremophila and other inland plants AS HE TRAVELLED on a recent outback Australia trip he undertook! By the time he dropped in to visit us on his way back home, he had already successfully grafted a number of Grevilleas and Eremophila! Jeremy set up a mini-hothouse in a slide out drawer in his Landcruiser, which he could open out into the sunshine every time he stopped anywhere! How good is that??

Jeremy's garden covers several hectares and has an extensive collection of almost everything! Not just plants either – Jeremy is also into our beautiful native birds, and breeds rare species like Gouldian Finches and numerous native parrots. He also has tropical frogs, fish and much more!! But it is his Grevillea collection that really stands out, with many rare and endangered species grafted for

garden planting or as standards, often both. Undoubtedly Jeremy has the very best, and largest *Grevillea scapigera* plants I have ever seen, covering several metres in width!! He also has spectacular *Grevillea leptobotrys* with several forms all thriving, as well as an extensive array of the rarest, showiest and most attractive plants you would ever want to see – must be something in the Nicholson soils, or is it the climate, or is it simply the skills of the gardeners? Whatever, it makes for a wonderful couple of gardens, just bursting with Grevilleas!

Jeremy tells me that he and his dad and neighbour's stayed and protected their house and gardens in the face of the horrific East Gippsland bushfires that came so close to his house!! Tragically much of the priceless East Gippsland bushland and forests were destroyed, but fortunately Jeremy's and Roberts properties were untouched!



Spectacular *Grevillea leptobotrys* – Dryandra Forest form

But it is not just the plants, it is the sheer quality of them, as well as the absolute mass flowering for most of them that really sets Jeremy's garden way above most Grevillea collections! I have seen a vast number of Grevillea in my time, but many of Jeremy's were flowering better than any others I have ever seen. I was SO, SO envious!!



Grevillea cirsiifolia massed with flower

CONTINUED >



Grevillea quercifolia full of flower



Grevillea aquifolium Carpenter Rocks form, SA smothered in flowers

So next time you are in East Gippsland, make sure you contact Jeremy and Robert and leave yourself a full day to see their brilliant gardens! You may be lucky to be able to buy some of their rarities, and you will get some of the best Grevillea photos you have ever taken!!

GREVILLEAS IN CULTIVATION AT MAIN RIDGE, VICTORIA

Craig Dodgson (with Max McDowall)

My house is on a bush block of about 4.5 acres toward the southern end of the Mornington Peninsula, receiving higher rainfall than around Melbourne. The soil is well-drained chocolate to reddish-brown loam. The bushy canopy is dominated by large messmate gums (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) with understory including *Indigofera australis*, *Acacia verticillata*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. implexa*, *Goodia lotifolia*, *Bossiaea* sp. *Pultenaea gunnii* and *Daviesia latifolia*. The ground flora include *Tetratheca ciliata*, *Epacris impressa*, *Stylidium graminifolium*, *Lomatia*, *Lomandra longifolia* and *L. filiformis*, orchids (*Chiloglottis valida* and *Pterostylis longifolia*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum* sp.) and Tickfoil (*Desmodium triflorum*).

Some of the larger grevilleas were planted several decades ago by my parents, but most of the rest have been planted by me in the past 3-10 years. *Grevillea banksii* hybrids and some plants grafted (gr) on *G. robusta* stocks have not thrived well.

Because of the bush canopy many plants do not receive optimal sunshine which restricts their growth somewhat. Furthermore, infestation by grevillea leaf miner insects has been a serious problem in recent seasons which disfigures the plants they attack.

List of Grevillea species and vigour (1+ to 5+)

- G. aquifolium* 0.5 x 0.5m - 10yr
- G. aspleniifolia* 1.5 x 3m - 25yr 3+
- G. barklyana* 4 x 2.5m - 25-30yr, with numerous transplanted seedlings varying in leaf division
- G. barklyana* x 'Copper Rocket' 1.5 x 1 m - 2yr 3+

- G. baueri* subsp *baueri* 0.5 x 0.5m - 1yr
- G. beadleana* 2.5 x 2.5m - 6 yr 4+, since died and replaced
- G. bipinnatifida* (gr) prostrate x 2m - 1.5yr 2+
- G. caleyi* x *beadleana* 0.5 x 1.5m - 2+
- G. crithmifolia* 1.5 x 0.5m - full sun 3+
- G. diminuta* 1.5 x 1 - 10yr 3+
- G. fastigiata* 1 x 0.5m - 3yr 1+, slow growing
- G. fililoba* ('Ellendale Pool') 0.5 x 1.5 m - 4yr 2+
- G. flexuosa* 1.5 x 1.5m - 1.5yr 2+
- G. formosa* x 'Lassiters Gold' 1.5 x 1m - 2yr 2+
- G. hockingsii* 2 x 2m - 3+
- G. hookeriana* prostrate x 1m - 2-3yr 2+
- G. iaspicula* 1 x 0.5m - 3yr 2+
- G. lanigera* forms - 3+
- G. lavandulacea* forms - 3+
- G. leptobotrys* (gr) - 15yr 2+
- G. maccutcheonii* 0.4 x 0.4m - 3 yr 2+, (from Barry Teague)
- G. nivea* 'Scarlet King' 0.5 x 1m - 4yr 2+
- G. polybractea* 0.5 x 0.5m - 4yr 2+
- G. rhyolytica* 0.5 x 0.5m - 3yr 3+
- G. rosmarinifolia* (typical form) 1.5 x 1.5m - 3-4 yr 2+
- G. sericea* 2 x 1 m - 10yr 5+
- G. shiressii* - 3-5+ self-seeds prolifically and hybridises x *oleioides* or x *speciosa*
- G. tetragonoloba* 0.8 m - 2 yr 1
- G. thyrsoides* x 'Pick-of-the-Crop' prostrate x 1.5 m - 3 yr 2+
- G. vestita* 2 x 1.5m - 6yr 3+
- G. victoriae* 2 x 1.5m - 20 yr 3+, sets many seedlings

GREVILLEAS IN MY GARDENS

Merele Webb, Vic

Our half-acre block is on low-lying former creek flats at the base of the Croydon hills. It is always damp below the surface, and the large back yard needed a lot of drainage. The house runs East-West so the back is North-facing and the front is South-facing. It tilts to the East, so the front gets some sun in mid-summer.

The corporate driveway from the main road runs South-North and is exposed to cold winds and summer afternoon hot sun. It is 3 metres wide near the letter boxes and narrows to 1.5 metres past the two Units. This area was planted 3-4 years ago with bigger shrubs and three Mallee eucalyptus plants. Open areas between them have densely planted small plants and ground covers now.

In the wider area *Grevillea acropogon* is a spreading ground cover. It looks dainty and lacy but has fast-growing long arms with scratchy leaves which catch and hold through other shrubs and clumps of plants. It flowers for months with tiny dark red flowers and now has a four metre spread, poking and peeping through and over the undergrowth. It hasn't stopped growing this season.

G. rosmarinifolia, Lara low form, 10cm x 25cm, is now under the small *Eucalyptus lutens* and has late afternoon sun. A *Scaevola* and a *Chrysocephalum* are running past it. Surprisingly it has two flowers this January, out of season, but usually flowers in winter with glowing red and creamy-white flowers showing well in winter light.

G. occidentalis has established after 2 years and is growing fast in this season. It is among various small plants and sheltered by *Eremophila mackinlayi* on its South.

G. lavandulacea 'Billy Wing' is 4 years old in the same patch of plants and is much happier with the growth all round it this season giving constant scattered shade.

G. lavandulacea 'Tanunda' is more exposed west of *Eucalyptus lutens* and is now among a *Chrysocephalum* mat. It needs tufties and little shrubs to the west of it to give it more protection.

The narrow North end of the driveway is exposed to heat in summer, and tree roots from the neighbours. Growth is slow.

G. alpina 'Warby Ranges' (gr) has reached one metre in four years and this summer has dropped all old leaves, being tufty on the ends of branches. It puts on velvety new growth after rain, but will need pruning in Autumn. Less flowers this season.

G. glabella in the 80s & 90s, is fairly dainty in a lanky sort of way. It was split by possums early on, but lifts and spreads and then branches forming a loose ground cover. Flowers are well displayed around the bush and the red and pale

colour show out in low light. This plant is untroubled by the hot season and the dense roots beyond the fence. It is shaded by a dense *Banksia praemorsa* and small shrubs on its North and West. They block the heat from the driveway.

On the front South side of the house our drive runs all along the front. There are two Grevilleas. Beside the entry steps is *G. 'Moonlight'* (gr), a small tree with large creamy yellow flowers most of the year. It now screens the lounge windows from the driveway and neighbours and has flowered well this season.

G. oleoides upright form is a dense screen between veranda and driveway. It is now 2m x 1m. It provides shade and shelter for correas and has been flowering prolifically this season with a lot of new growth.

Opposite the house on the South fence line *G. lavandulacea* 'Tanunda' has survived for 6 years without much growth. *Thryptomene* Paynes Hybrid & *Eucalyptus depauperata* now shade and shelter it from the heat and sun.

The lower driveway facing North was boggy when we moved in in 2013 and close planting of *Hakea*, *Eremophilas*, *Melaleucas* & *Grevilleas*, some grafted, has enabled them to thrive. *G. 'Katharine's Sister'* (gr) has excelled itself and keeps numerous big red flower clusters above its silver foliage. Now 1.9m high, it wants to spread over the drive! It grows really fast and is a handsome silver shrub.

Grevillea 'New Blood' is spreading beneath two tall *Eremophilas* with western sun filtered by their canopies.

G. erectiloba (gr) thrives since there have been spring rains in the last two years, and has reached the moist sub-soil. This is an outstanding shrub, upright with blue-green pinnatipartite foliage. The flowers this season have been outstanding, glowing in the afternoon sun. I used worm juice fertiliser last year and the response from every plant was sensational. This grevillea had multiple clusters of green flower buds all through the bush and flowered with a shock of colour until the 40oC days browned off 40% of them. It is flowering still in late January.

G. johnsonii is 3 metres tall but in too much shade to produce a lot of flowers.

In the backyard there are metre wide garden strips along the North fence. Tall trees shade this area. *G. 'Lady O'* thrives with a bushy *Goodenia* and has flowers all year, mostly in spring. Both shrubs are thriving in the low light.

G. 'Shirlie Howie' has survived dogs and cats by having a dense fine *Lomandra* shield its stem. It is still small, isn't growing, and isn't in a good spot.

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G. rosmarinifolia 'Knockout' is however thriving, facing North against the veranda. This flowered profusely this season and made a lot of growth when the rains came.

Facing North against the decking are two Grevilleas. *G. juncifolia* has flowered profusely in December-January It is overhung by *Eremophila alternifolia* which is a big shrubby tree of 4 metres. *G. bipinnatifida* x *juncifolia* is 3 years old, 1m x 0.75m and flowers with intense yellow flowers against the grey foliage. This has enjoyed the heat and put on new growth.

Also against the decking but facing West is *G. 'Flamingo'* (gr), 5 years old and 2 metres high. It has south protection from *Hakea multilineata*, but cold wind across the decking

from the southeast scorches off the buds from July to September, and it only flowers in late Spring. The gorgeous flowers are large and droop with their weight. It really needs more protection from the South winds.

G. rosmarinifolia lutea 60cm x 80cm, has pushed through the lower sections of *Melaleuca fulgens* & *G. 'Flamingo'* (gr). It is shaded by them and only exposed to late afternoon sun. It's flowers glow in the low winter light.

There has been mixed response to this hot season. Choosing a successful developing habitat for each plant is tricky! Dry country plants seem to cope best so this might be a pointer for landscaping gardens in the future.

GREVILLEAS IN OUR BULLEEN GARDEN

Max and Regina McDowall, Vic

G. glabella grey leaf Barellan (Riverina NSW) 1 x 1.5 m - 18yr 4+

G. glabella green leaf Barellan (Riverina NSW) 0.6 x 1m - 18yr 4+

These two plants were found during a GSG Field Trip led by Matt Hurst. They tolerate dry situations, are slow growing and healthy. Foliage and flowers are attractive, but sparse and not conspicuous.

G. juniperina x 'Poorinda Adorning' 1 x 2.5 m - 5yr 5+, hardy, vigorous scrambling prickly plant with prolific showy scarlet flowers Spr-Su. Can be maintained compact with regular hard pruning.

G. aspera Gawler Range (S.A.) 1.2 x 1.2 m - 6yr 5+

G. treueriana x 'Tirari Blaze' 1.5 x 4.5 m - 5yr 5+

G. alpina x 'Fireworks' 2 x 2 m (Ollerenshaw) - 6yr 5+, flowers well in part sun. Possibly the best and hardiest *G. alpina* hybrid

G. rhyolytica x *victoriae* 'Lady O' (Ollerenshaw) 1x1m - 5yr 3+

G. dimorpha Jimmy Creek 0.8 x 0.8 m - 20yr 3+

G. bipinnatifida 'Boystown'???? (from Neil Marriott) 1 x 1.5m - 25yr 5+, one of the showiest species.

G. preissii subsp *glabrilimba* 0.4 x 1.2m - 25yr 5+

G. dielsiana 1.2 x 1 m - 10yr 3+, on dry nature strip, kept small.

G. banksii red 3 x 3m 9pruned) - 40yr 4+, close to house NE aspect dry site.

G. hybrid Phil Hempel 1.2 x 1.2m pruned annually - 12 yr 5+, brilliant red fl Sep-Oct (possibly *G. rosmarinifolia* x *G. lavandulacea*)

G. 'Firesprite' 3.5 x 3.5 mm pruned - part sun 5+, flowers 11-12

G. thelemanniana 2 x 1.5 m hard-pruned - 8-10yr 5+, - showy red flowers.

(Note: Some prostrate species once mistakenly referred to this name include *G. humifusa* and *G. preissii* subsp. ???)

G. latrobei or x *subalpina* hybrid??? 1.2 x 1.5 m pruned - 12 yr 5+, Plenty Gorge (extinct clone of one of two remaining plants).

G. rosmarinifolia 1.2 x 1.2 m - 12 yr 5+, light pink 9-11 from a small indigenous population on St Andrews reserve north of Hurstbridge.

G. georgeana grafted on *G. robusta* heavily pruned to 1 x 1 m 2 yr ago now 2.5 x 3 m - 12 yr 5+, fl 9-11 (12) full sun, spectacular plant, perfect specimen!

G. 'Superb' 2 x 1.6 m regularly pruned - 5+, flowers all year full sun

G. x 'semperflorens' 1.5 x 1.5 m pruned - 15yr 4+. fast-growing, flowers autumn-late spring.

G. fastigiata 2.5 x 2 m - 3 yr 5+, flowers spring-summer. ready for first hard pruning.

At various times we have successfully grown some forms of *G. alpina* (especially Warby Range and Everton), and forms of *G. lavandulacea*, but most are short-lived in Melbourne. These species are no longer readily available in cultivation in Melbourne, but some hybrids have proved much hardier and have many of their attractive features. This subject is worthy of a comprehensive report based on the experience of various growers. No doubt growers in other regions have had more success results.

GREVILLEAS IN MY GARDEN

Peter Smith, Vic

My garden is on a north-east facing hillside in Warrandyte, east of Melbourne. I have dry, hungry ground, recently battered with large hailstones leaving the roadways covered with shredded Red Box and other foliage.

I have been gardening here for thirty years now and have added soil and mulch to parts of the garden. I have tried and lost numerous Grevilleas. Of the survivors the oldest would be over 20 years old - *G. 'Evelyn's Coronet'* and a grafted *G. treueriana* hanging over a pond. A sprawling *G. 'Billy Bonkers'* is doing well on a mounded area. The local form of *G. rosmarinifolia*, *G. 'Lady O'*, *G. mucronulata* and even a couple of *G. alpina* (Tooborac & Grampians) seem happy where they are.

I recently lost a *G. subtiliflora* (grafted) which had lasted for many years, hanging gracefully over the driveway, before splitting last year. I have recently re-planted *G. miqueliana*, *G. shiressii* and *G. dimorpha* (fine leaf form) in more sheltered areas of the garden, having had success with these species in the past. Other new additions are *G. 'New Blood'*, *G. linearis* (ground cover), *G. petrophiloides*, *G. sericea* and *G. 'Lemon Daze'*.

With the installation of a fire bunker a couple of years back providing a depth of soil I planted *G. leucopteris*, adding a whole new dimension to the enjoyment of the garden.

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS FOR CONTAINERS STUDY GROUP

Members of the Study Group focus their activities on investigating and trialing those Australian plants that may be suitable for growing in pots or other types of containers. This Study Group has been in recess for some time but Ros and Ben Walcott have volunteered to reactivate it.

Many people live in smaller units and apartments with balconies or have small areas for gardens and so growing Australian plants in containers is a great way to have a small garden of native plants. Also growing in containers allows one to have plants that otherwise won't tolerate local conditions. Ros and Ben plan to produce a newsletter twice per year with contributions from interested members. Membership is free and all newsletters will be distributed by email.

We would like to receive a picture or two of favorite or interesting native plants in pots with a short description. If you wish to be added to the mailing list of this Study Group, just email one of us at roswaltcott5@gmail.com or benwaltcott5@gmail.com and we will add you to the distribution list. Remember, membership is free to all members of ANPSA affiliated Societies.



Banksia victoriae



Correa 'Canberra Bells'

Income

Donation for Lucid Key	600.00
Donations	50.00
Subscriptions	10.00
Interest	0.50

.....

Total income **\$660.50**

Expenditure

Newsletter publishing	\$285.00
Purchase of Lucid Key (inc GST)	\$658.90

.....

Total expenditure **\$943.90**

Bank account details

Balance in current account
16/02/2020 **\$3,889.24**

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