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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.

NSW re-activated meeting: Sunday August 9 @10 am at the home of Ian Cox, 5 Ivy Place, Kenthurst. BYO morning tea.

AGENDA: Visit Ian's Garden. Discuss proposed future meetings and field trips, and set a programme.

Let Peter know if you are intending to come – peter.olde@exemail.com.au

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.

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, 28 June 2020

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

.....
Sunday, 6 September 2020 (in lieu of 30 August)

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

Hopefully the Covid pandemic is coming to an end and life can resume, albeit at arm's length.

I have decided to re-activate the Grevillea SG in New South Wales with an inaugural meeting at the home of Ian Cox, 5 Ivy Pl., Kenthurst. BYO morning tea. There we will discuss a programme for the next year and visit Ian's garden. A mixture of garden visits, walks and meetings is envisaged for the future. Cuttings will be allowed at all activities. Ian has many Grevillea species and cultivars in his garden among them a magnificent *G. bipinnatifida* and *G. formosa*. I will be bringing some cuttings of rare species that are not in cultivation including *G. pinifolia*, *G. elongata*, *G. merceri* MS, *G. pieroniae* MS and a few others.

In Western Australia, John Ewing has offered to try and start an active Study Grevillea SG Chapter. If you are interested in joining please contact him direct for details jrewing45@gmail.com

Last year I attended a working conference in Melbourne examining the conservation imperatives around Grevillea for the IUCN International Proteaceae RED list. The full list should be published soon and I will report next newsletter. It seems the rarity of many species has been overlooked, especially in Western Australia.

The dreadful drought in eastern Australia that lay at the heart of the devastating summer bushfires, may not be ended. Euphoric rains in February which absolutely filled our dams and deeply wet our soils has had little follow-

up, scarcely sufficient to keep the dams topped up and the drinking water supplies intact. Regular light showers do little to inspire confidence and the lack of heavy downpours keeps me watching the forecasts. Are we destined to rely on storms, as we have for so many decades now.?

A couple of our senior members, Fran Standing (Queensland) and Margaret Pieroni (WA) have received some challenging medical diagnoses recently and I know you will all join me in wishing them well. Over the years, both have been ardent active study group members assisting in any way they could.

In April, Sutherland Group New South Wales APS organised and recorded a very interesting zoom talk by Dr Peter Weston on the distribution of plants from Gondwana to the present day. This included discussions about many Proteaceae genera. You can catch the talk at this URL <https://youtu.be/IlkiYpBFbgk>. It was well summarised by Dan Clarke in their May Newsletter (APS-SGN-2020-05e.pdf). The implication that Proteaceae in South Africa relied on cross-water dispersal and not connection by land with Gondwana is fascinating in itself but it is even more fascinating that cross-water dispersal events occurred three times in the Proteaceae and twice in Restionaceae (thanks to Dr Barbara Briggs for pointing this out to me). Although Syzygium/Eugenia are well represented members of the Myrtaceae in Africa, there are no Eucalypts. Why is it so?? No answers have been forthcoming to date except an hypothesis by Dr Weston that the circumpolar Antarctic current may have played a role.



Illawarra Grevillea Park

NEXT OPEN DAYS 2020

July 4 & 5, 11 & 12

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 Illawarragrevilleapark@gmail.com or
visit Illawarragrevilleapark.com.au

Illawarra Grevillea Park
Reopening July 2020

SUMMARY OF MEETING REPORT, SE QLD GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP, SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2020

At The Home Of Bill & Bev Weir At Chandler

Attendance: 14 GSG members attended.

Apologies: Received from Lorna, Adrian & Gail, Peter Bevan & Alan Lee.

GSG membership dependent on membership of an ANPSA body

It was reiterated that membership of Branches & of Study Groups is open to all members of an ANPSA body, e.g. NPQ or another States body. Visitors are welcome at Branch or Study Group meetings for 3 attendances, after which it is expected that they apply for membership of the State body of their liking; usually NPQ for Queenslanders.

September Spring flower show

Initially, we were asked to find a 'quirky' name for the 'Spring flower show' to attract more visitors; we decided 'it said it all!' Theme of the show - 'Captain Cook 250 years'. As I recall, Study Groups are being restricted for space this year. We decided to offer to mount a display of specimens identified by Banks, etc, on the 1770 expedition, and to incorporate it with the 'Brisbane flowers' display. Ross to investigate a list of plants discovered (in Queensland, but it was still NSW then) & sent back to UK. Ray & Noreen have since sent me an interesting article to read.

Discussion topic: Drought survivors.

- Grevilleas recently planted didn't cope well.
- Most established specimens seemed to do OK.
- Material on *G. banksii* did better.
- Items grafted on *G. robusta* seemed to throw robusta regrowth.
- *G. Dorothy Gordon* on *G. banksii* did well; we postulated because of *G. beadleana* parentage, it sent it's roots down to the water table!
- For small gardens, water-well pots helped.
- *G. venusta* didn't 'turn a hair', the more light pruning, the better it did.
- *G. 'Tango'* had its best flowering in the dry year.
- Northern Aust species, eg *agrifolia*, *angulata*, *prasina*, etc, generally did not do well in our dry conditions (in SE Qld.)

- The longer the drought, the harder it is for plants to come back; cracked soils break the roots, then 'the wet' promotes root-rot.
- Non-native Osmocote is not good for Grevilleas in pots.
- Osmocote (for natives) is available in bulk from Garden City Plastics, suppliers of pots & containers for propagation, growing media & fertilizers.

After lunch Jan Glazebrook called those present together for the Small Plants Meeting. Twelve members were in attendance. Jan thanked everyone for attending and our hosts: Bev and Bill Weir.

Presentation: Jan Glazebrook gave a great presentation on daisies in the *Calotis* & *Brachyscombe* genera.

In discussion Jan focussed on the differentiation of these plants by the seeds. *Brachyscombe* seeds are flat and have a tuft of hairs at the top of the seed. She gathered a variety of seeds, and after being prepared by Chris Reddick, they were passed around the group with a hand lens so everyone could view the hairs or the horns in the case of one specific *Calotis*. Everyone got absorbed into the process of viewing the seeds amid much mirth. Jan then discussed a number of *Brachyscombe* and *Calotis* species that she had brought along to demonstrate the differences. Thank you, Jan, for the enjoyment you gave us all with an informative and entertaining session.

PETER OLDE AWARDED OAM FOR SERVICE TO AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FLORA

From The Leader, June 8 2020

Congratulations are in order for Mr Peter Maurice OLDE, being awarded 'Medal (OAM) in the General Division', for service to Australian native flora.

When Peter Olde, a newly returned Vietnam War veteran, was establishing gardens in his Illawong home in the 1970s, a friend suggested growing plants native to Australia was the patriotic thing to do.

"That rather took my fancy," he said as he looked back on how his interest in native flora developed.

"I had never thought about it before, but it seemed that it was like running the flag up for Australia and doing something important for the environment at the same time."

Mr Olde not only embraced the idea, but embarked on a voyage of discovery that led to him becoming a world expert in this field and pre-eminent in knowledge of Grevillea.

His contribution to the knowledge of Australian native flora, made in a totally voluntary capacity, led to him being awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Mr Olde joined the Australian Plants Society (APS) Sutherland group in in 1977, quickly becoming president and serving until 1982.

He became leader of APS's Grevillea Study Group in 1980, a position he continues to hold. He was appointed NSW life member in 1998 and received the Australian Plant Medal in 2015.

Mr Olde said his interest in Grevillea was aroused by the ability and power of the genus to attract native birdlife to his garden.

He has since co-written the three volume Grevillea Book and, from 1993, been Honorary Research Associate at the National Herbarium of NSW at the Botanic Gardens.

He has described many new species of Grevillea and collected over 5000 specimens all over Australia. Grevillea oldei was named in his honour

In 2003, he and his wife Margaret established a hobby farm at Oakdale to display native plants to their full potential.

Silky Oakes, as it is called, was a regular participant in the ABC's Open Gardens Australia program, which ended in 2015.

The park-like garden, which is filled with hundreds of native plants, including many species and cultivars of Grevillea, can still be viewed by appointment.

"Our aim was to create a garden that would display the best of Australia's native plants in the most beautiful manner possible," Mr Olde said.

"We now have one of the largest collections of Grevillea in Australia."



Peter Olde is a world expert on Grevillea

NEW MEMBERS

Geoff & Jenny Kenna, Alice Springs, NT

We are looking forward to being members of the GSG. We grow most of the Grevilleas found in southern NT but find it difficult to grow the tropical north species – too hot and dry, and too cold. We grow a number of WA species and are particularly interested in the species that aren't usually found in cultivation. Obviously, these are difficult to come by.

Ian Roberts, Blyth, SA

I grow a lot of Grevilleas on my 40 acre property (getting harder to keep them going with dry & hot summers!!), & propagate a few for sale in my "slightly larger than a hobby" nursery. With strongly alkaline soils in most of SA, I'm always on the lookout for suitable species or hybrids to provide gardeners in our region. I've managed to get lots of *G. huegellii* back into revegetation projects locally using smoked water treatment.

Web site: www.medikagallery.com.au

Marjorie Althorpe, Currowan, NSW

We actually live in Currowan, surrounded by state forest, Grevilleas are the genus that seems to do best in our soil (phyllite gravel and clay on steep hillsides) and climate (frost for 4 months of the year; in drought at the present). My husband Cliff grows the NSW grevilleas, and I am persisting with several WA coastal species to see if they will adapt to our very different conditions. Why these? Well, I can access cuttings from neighbouring bushland in Perth when I visit there. At present (November 2019), we have most of our garden species in flower, and an enormous *Grevillea robusta* in flower and crowded with birds. I have no expertise in Grevilleas, but at ANSPA in Albany I wandered into a meeting of the Grevillea Study Group, and listened to a discussion led by Peter Olde on DNA relationships in the group, and the need for more funding to further this investigation. I am willing to contribute something to such an endeavour, if it goes ahead.

Bernie Farrell, Wyoming NSW

I've been growing Australian plants for around 35 years in Sydney, Melbourne & most recently the Central Coast of NSW. Grevilleas have long been my favourites. Richard Tomkin has been pushing the GSG on his Facebook pages which prompted me to join.

Lindy Harris, Wandin North, Vic

I live in Wandin North in the Yarra Valley in Melbourne's outer east. Until recently, for 10 years, I was the Curator at Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden in Kalorama in the Dandenongs. Before that, I was 5 years at RBG Cranbourne Australian Garden, before that 16 years at Kurunga and before that at Austraflo, so I'm more than fond of Australian native plants and I'm not a youngster. In theory I've retired but I work odd days in retail at Kurunga Nursery.

I'm still on the BGANZ 'Care for the Rare' working group and my interest is in Threatened plants and threatened grevilleas. During my time at Karwarra I had managed to source various Threatened Victorian plants including grevilleas for inclusion in the collection. I continue to be on the lookout for said; Victorian in particular but any others that are likely to grow in cultivation up on the mountain.

Hoping to travel about Australia a bit more, now that we are both retired. Fortunately my partner is as dotty about Australian plants as I am.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PETER MARTIN, PETER OLDE AND BRIAN FREEMAN, APRIL 2020

From Peter Martin:

Hello Peter (O), Brian and families

I hope you are all well in these difficult times. I thought it was time I let you know why I am off the scene and what I have been doing.

At Christmas time 2015, with our daughter and her family from Adelaide, we went to Port Lincoln for a couple of weeks holiday. We liked the place so much that we, that is Heather and I, decided that we should have a long holiday there as there was so much to see and do and two weeks didn't do it justice. We cleaned up our place in Buxton, rented it out for 12 months and moved to Port Lincoln in March 2016.

At the end of our first year the landlord offered us a further 12 months at the same rent so we said "Yes" and stayed on. However, we found the 7 hour drive to Adelaide too taxing and decided to move to Goolwa which is only 1 1/2 hours away. We have been here for the last 2 years and intend to stay for as long as our health allows. In fact, we have negotiated to purchase the house we are living in and should become the proud owners early next month. Our house was on the market at the time it was destroyed but the insurance has almost covered the expected sale price so we are not so badly off. However, our poor tenants lost everything.

On the down side, I lost all my gardens. When I was there in early January the only surviving plant was a Kangaroo Paw. Some of the Grevilleas may have rejuvenated since but because of the extreme heat of the fire, aluminium window frames were melted, I doubt that very much. There was nothing there that was out of the ordinary but still it is a bit of a wrench. I will have a chance here to get back into the garden seriously once we own the place. It is a real mess, having been basically ignored for most of the last 5 or more years. I foresee a slow remove and replace programme.

Since I have been here, I have joined the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group. I go down, usually, 1/2 day a week and enjoy getting my hands dirty. They have a huge programme

which is to replant the Island which was stripped bare in the late 1800s to feed the paddle wheelers. Over 500,000 trees, shrubs and ground cover plants have been planted so far but the estimate is that we have 90 years work still to do.

I don't think I mentioned that we are living on Hindmarsh Island (remember Secret Women's Business) and our backyard slopes down to the water. The lagoon on which we are located comes off the Murray River just upstream from the Goolwa Barrage. Unfortunately, the only fish of note are European Carp but they grow quite big (the record for the family is 63cm held by my grandson) but most that we catch are over 40cm and most are closer to 50cm. They are fun to catch. The pelicans love me.

As far as I can find out the only grevillea that is growing in the area is *Grevillea lavandulacea*. The boss at Landcare has told me she knows where there is a good wild population so once the current health problem (C-19) is over, and she recovers from a badly injured knee, I will get her to show me where it is so I can once again try some propagation. I note in a recent newsletter Peter, you mentioned some rare grevilleas on Kangaroo Island. If there any others in addition to *G.lavandulacea* in this area please let me know and I will try and find a population.

There are some people in Landcare with a very good knowledge of the flora on Hindmarsh Island who I am sure would be happy to help with my search.

Stay safe, Peter Martin

From Peter Olde:

Hi Peter (M)

Thank you for updating us on your situation. Brian Freeman down your way has a spectacular native garden which I have not visited but am keen to do so. Will let you know if I am travelling there after all the coronavirus scare is over. Hoping Brian can send me his address and phone.

On Kangaroo Island there are three species worth looking at: *G. muricata*, *G. quinquenervis* and *G. rogersii*. I still think *G. rogersii* is a distinct species, although it is officially *G. lavandulacea* ssp. *rogersii* (Flora of Australia 2000). *G. muricata* is relatively rare I believe but is a lovely species that is worth growing. All three like high pH soils but we know very little about them in cultivation.

Peter I did not realise that your house at Buxton, NSW was burnt down. I am very sorry to hear that. I certainly miss your readiness to assist with GSG plant sales. Of course, we are not holding them anymore.

With your permission, we may use some of your email information in the GSG newsletter.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you and Heather well for the future at Goolwa.

Best Regards, Peter Olde

[CONTINUED >](#)

From Brian Freeman:

Hi all,

Yes, happy to show you around anytime the travel and visiting restrictions are lifted. I put a photo of the plants that I have propagated on our apssafleurieusa facebook and other sites and on my own site today - Brian Freeman <https://www.facebook.com/brian.freeman.1044186>. As the Goolwa Peter may know, we have an Australian Plants Society, SA, Fleurieu Group that is reasonably active on the Fleurieu Peninsula as well (closed for meetings at

present) that welcomes visitors. *Grevillea lavandulacea* (Victor Harbor form) is reasonably widespread on the Fleurieu Peninsula and range in colour from pink/red to red/pink and I have some of the rare white one growing in the garden. I have them grafted onto *G. robusta*, but thinking they may not be long term compatible, so now trialling different interstocks. Sadly there is only one of the four left in the patch that I found them. I had found four plants over a couple of years.

Brian

GREVILLEAS – WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?

Richard Tomkin, Qld

Recently someone asked how to make a seedling flower as soon as possible. Also there was another post on Grevilleas Q & A about a grevillea that flowered incredibly well and then died. Then there was the owner of a *Grevillea* 'Orange Wow' who is annoyed that their plant hasn't flowered.

No doubt all three are experiencing something that all growers have experienced at some time.

Our current knowledge tells us that all plants, not just grevilleas, flower to set seed and thereby enable the plant to pass on its specific genetics. Flowers for you and me to enjoy are totally irrelevant. As are fruits that we eat and enjoy. To force a plant, whatever it may be, to flower we have to make

it "feel" that it is unwell and therefore "needs" to set seed. To do this, we need to lower the plants food and/or water to make it less happy. Nitrogen is the enemy of flowering. It will make the plant grow like crazy at the expense of flowering. Having a quick pee anywhere near the plant may set back flowering for months! Feeding another plant within a few metres may also not help. Lawns are a real danger!

So, slow the watering, feeding etc and allow many months for past fertilisers to run out.

PS. Lawns really are a waste of good Grevillea-growing soil!

RHESUS MACAQUE SUCKLING NECTAR IN GREVILLEA ROBUSTA

<https://www.facebook.com/1060442107/posts/10219495366749059/?d=n>

Observation of Amitabh Singh Dhillon
amitabhdhillon@gmail.com

The video was recorded on 30.4.2020 in the Shivalik Hill Range (Morni Hills near Chandigarh India) at an altitude of 1000 metres.

There was a small group of monkeys including a baby monkey suckling the flowers of *Grevillea robusta* trees that have been in bloom since start of April.

Thank you Amitabh for sharing this observation!

GRAFTING ON *GREVILLEA BANKSII*

Denis Cox, Qld

Because we live on a dry sandstone ridge, many of the plants we have grafted on *Grevillea robusta* struggle. If we had unlimited water, it would not be a problem, but only having water tanks and what falls out of the sky, supplementary watering is not an option.

However, *Grevillea banksii* does really well in our conditions and we have many forms growing here. From the perfectly prostrate form known as *G.* 'Ruby Red' through procumbent red and white flowering forms, the shrub form known as var. *Forsterii*, to upright tree forms, they all perform remarkably well here. In fact, one of the procumbent white flowering forms (pictured) is most probably one of the parents of *G.* 'Peaches & Cream', which arose as a chance seedling under a *G. bipinnatifida* in our garden. We get many seedlings coming up in our sandy, gravelly soil, but most of them are nothing out of the ordinary, although still beautiful plants in their own right.



Because *G. banksii* does so well here, I have grafted several grevilleas onto it to see if they perform better than those on *G. robusta*. I have several forms of *G. bipinnatifida* on *G. banksii*, as well as *G. beadleana* and a *G.* 'Dorothy Gordon', all doing very well. From what I have tried so far, it seems that members of group 35 in Olde and Marriott's *Grevillea* Book seem to do best on *G. banksii*. This probably makes sense, as they are possibly more closely related.

I intend to continue this experiment and graft more species onto *G. banksii*. It might be that I will have to use interstocks for some species, but only time will tell. I don't believe that *G. banksii* will replace *G. robusta* as the best general purpose rootstock for most people, but it is probably the best in my conditions.

CHANGERS GREEN NURSERY

Richard Tomkin, Qld

It's been many years since I wrote anything for the GSG and many *Grevilleas* have come, and gone, over those years.

For those who have no idea as to who I am, here's a quick run down.

Around 40 years ago I saw a few plants in my late mother's garden and fell in love with *Grevilleas* there and then. Having failed miserably to produce some of these magnificent plants from cuttings, I went to see the late Merv Hodge who showed me how he grafted his *Grevillea*.

Years later, Changers Green Nursery was producing quite a few grafted specimens and we had a collection of over 350 varieties, hybrids and species.

Due to ill health my family, Lana & Andrew, sold the 5 acres just out of Gin Gin, Qld and we moved to Bargara along with one very large truckload of tubes and potted plants.

Perhaps foolishly, I had by then (3 years ago) placed my mobile phone number on all of our hybrid labels and I spent HOURS a day answering questions on how to grow, prune, feed, debug, plant etc and select *Grevilleas*.

So, I started a page on Facebook - GREVILLEAS Q&A's. Currently there are 2,450 members from 42 Countries!!!

I urge all of you to join and help me and every other member of the GSG in helping any novice, and those who have been growing *Grevilleas* for many years, in their quest for knowledge on or about growing this fantastic genus.

CONTINUED >

Over the years Peter Olde (and Ian Evans) have sent me a number of new species and collections from all over Australia and, like Phil Vaughan, I have attempted, not always with success, to graft these rare or new plants so that we can all enjoy having them in our gardens and, in some cases, save them from extinction.

Recent collections of *Grevillea leptobotrys* forms are looking promising although some are still in the ones and twos (two is just so much better than one).



Some of you will know of the hybrid Grevilleas that we have bred over the years but just in case, here's a list.

G. 'Billy Bonkers', G. 'Lana Maree' (my wife), G. 'Lollypops', G. Ivory Whip, G. 'Flamingo', G. 'Jester' (named after my late mother, Joan Esther), G. 'Bush Lemons', G. 'Loopy Lou', G. 'Droopy Drawers', G. 'Soopa Doopa', G. 'Big Foot', G. 'Muffin', G. 'Orange Wow', G. 'Red Ripper', G. 'Miami Pink', G. 'Lime & Soda', G. 'Silva Sulfa'. To be released in late spring, G. 'Lemon Baby', 1m tall x 2m wide.

After the Drought

One issue has arisen after the so called long dry spell, is the sudden death of dozens of plants. This is from Australian growers. Many were well established, cutting grown, and had been growing well until it got dry, then the plants went in to a dormant phase and, after rain, had started to grow. They then died.

The reason may not be obvious but here goes:

The dry was so long that the root tips died back along with some pretty impressive leaf drop. When the rain arrived, after such a long time, the tips of the roots had not healed and were "open" to any pathogen around. So, whereas the tip would normally be sealed and able to withstand an assault, no such luck this time.

One may find that the application of some phosphoric acid will help if it's not too late, or buy a grafted one.

Weed Control

This is another big issue. The use of Glyphosate (Round Up) by growers has shown that Grevilleas, in particular, are VERY sensitive to the fumes that arise from this product. It's not "overspray" (although that's a no no) it's the gasses. Plants will have yellow to dead and withered new growth and old leaves will drop. There is no cure other than a quick foliar application of a seaweed based fertilizer and a lot of hope. Chuck it out! Sprays used metres away can and will cause irreparable damage. Some will say this is rubbish. Come and join the Facebook page and see the damage for yourselves.

I'd better stop here but feel free to contact me

Richard Tomkin

Changers Green Nursery PO Box 8243, Barga Qld 4670

rTomkin1@bigpond.com

0428 463 016

Fb - Grevilleas Q&A's, Grevilleas For Sale (anyone can sell here), Australian Plant Breeders and Propagators, Changers Green Nursery, Richard Tomkin (personal page), also on Instagram.

SEED CURATOR UPDATE

Jeremy Tscharke, Vic

Its exciting to be give my first update as the seed curator for the study group.

Firstly, let me introduce myself.

I am a passionate 40-year-old conservationist, who has worked in National Park management for 20 years.

My first job as a 14-year-old was in a native wholesale nursery – collecting, cleaning, sorting and propagating native seed and cuttings for mass revegetation projects. We also spent hours in specially designed ponds propagating aquatic plants that would ultimately end up in wetlands around the state.

My love for Grevilleas really began in about 2003, when I was approached by Peter Olde, who wanted to know if I knew the location of a single *G. rosmarinifolia* plant, that was genetically pure growing on the basalt. I knew the plant well and was keen to show him and the accompanying Grevillea Study Group (GSG) members. It turns out that this plant (which is still there) is one of a few in the *rosmarinifolia* group that sucker. But that's a whole story in itself.

In the many years since, I have worked all over the state of Victoria, and encountered many of the amazing Grevilleas on offer. Currently my family (Benita my wife, and Abe my 4-year-old son) and I live in East Gippsland, not far from Bairnsdale, and just around the corner from the well known and loved grevillea grafter Robert Brown (of Grevilleas Maximus).

The area I look after professionally covers national parks from near Sale to (and including) the Snowy River, the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, and the Eastern Alps. There are so many beautiful grevilleas growing in this area – again, perhaps a story for another time.

About 8 years ago, I was introduced to Robert Brown at a market where he was selling many of his amazing wild type grafted grevilleas. We soon got to talking about the genus in more detail, and before I knew it, I had been invited around to his place to see his amazing garden. I was blown away at the number of wild type grevilleas Robert had collected and successfully grown into amazing specimen plants.

Grafting of native plants was a skill that I had longed to learn since my days in the nursery at age 14, so with as much courage as I could muster, I asked Robert if he would share some secrets with me or mentor me in a few grafts. The time and effort he invested in my learning and our friendship that has developed since is priceless. He encouraged me to begin my own collection of wild type grevilleas, and to join the GSG.

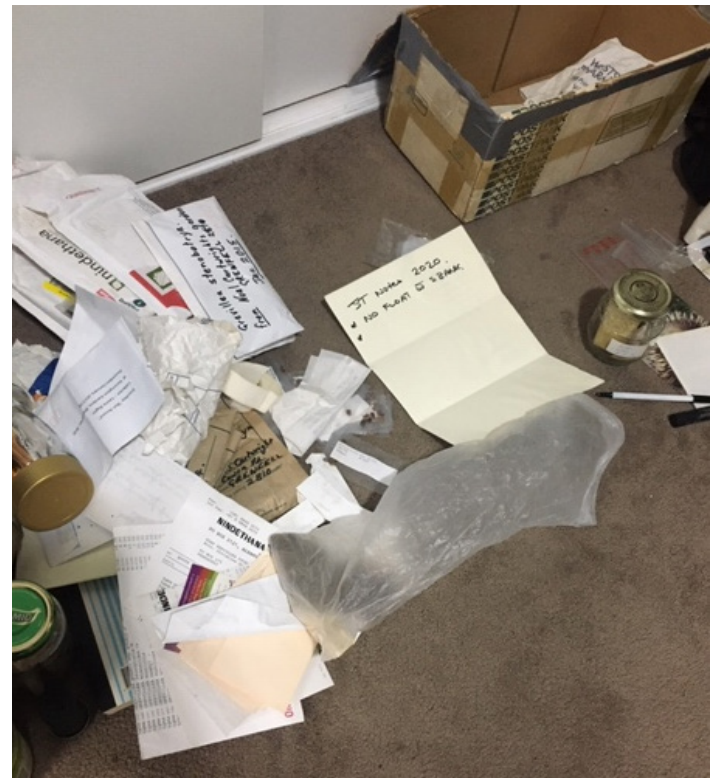
I now graft as many plants as I can each year and enjoy the network of likeminded folk I have met here and on the "Grevilleas. Q&A's Facebook page" – hosted by Richard Tomkin (one to check out when you have time).

I have been collecting and cataloging seed for my own small hobby nursery for quite some time, so when the call was made for a seed curator for the GSG it made sense to volunteer.

Since then, we (like much of the East coast) following unprecedented drought, experienced some of the worse fires in our nation's history – the fire came within 1 kilometre of us and resulted in many sleepless nights. Many of our friends were not as lucky as us, with countless houses, livestock and assets (thankfully no lives) lost. Here in East Gippsland we refer to the event as the "forgotten fires", as many folks outside the region have rightfully been distracted with the COVID pandemic.

Of the 110 Parks and reserves that I am responsible for at work, 90 % have been severely burned. We are actively trying to understand the effects the fire has had on flora and fauna – its safe to say that we cannot assume things to be common anymore just because they were before the fire. Recovery work will be an ongoing effort for many years to come – hopefully I can write about this another time.

It was during the fires that Peter sent me the seed bank (pictured below as opened)



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Since receiving it, I have re-packaged, re-labeled and treated the seed for mites. The seed has been categorized based on its collection provenance (wild collected or garden collected) so that growers of the seed understand if they can expect true to type seedlings, or potential hybrids.

Much of the seed is of an unknown age or is quite old. I am planning on undertaking some germination trials of the older seed in spring before putting too much more effort into cataloging storing and sharing it around.

Unfortunately, there is also considerable amounts of seed that have breached their packets and moved in with neighboring packets – I'll make these "mixed seed" batches available for lucky dip growers before spring.

There is however a fair bit of recently collected seed – mostly from gardens that should be good. Once weighed I'll send out an update of available species and quantities.

It's fair to say that the seed bank still requires a lot of work before I can easily begin taking requests for seed to be posted out – but it is my commitment to have this sorted out by mid-winter allowing plenty of time to post out before spring germination.

In the meantime, if you want to help the seed bank, you can do so in the following ways:

1. Do you have access to fresh seed?

If so, please collect, AND CLEAN the seed and label as follows:

- i. Species (common name and botanical)
- ii. Location collected – if garden – please state this
- iii. Date collected
- iv. Name of collector.

Place the seed in a brown paper bag (ensuring its dry) and tape up both ends to ensure it cannot escape.

Post it to:

Jeremy Tcharke
PO Box 521
Bairnsdale VIC 3875

2. I am looking for a Library flip file as pictured below for the groups seed bank.



If you have one not in use that you can donate to the study group, please let me know.

3. Do you have a small nursery? Are you willing to help with some viability trials?

Give me a hoy on jtscharke1@gmail.com

In my next update, I'll provide a detailed list of species available, quantities and the process for ordering seed. I thank you for being patient until then.

FOREST FLAME

The late Merv Hodge, Qld

Hi folks, a couple of my long time correspondents asked about *Grevillea* 'Forest Flame'.

It is a hybrid of mine that I have had at least as far back as 2013. The first photo taken was on our Apple iPad on 1/9/2013. Others were taken on 6/09/2014 on my then camera a Sony DSC-HX300. The Camera was dropped and the flash no longer worked. It was necessary to send it to Adelaide for a quote to fix it so I pensioned it off and bought a new Camera.

For some reason the earliest download into the computer that I have recorded was on 4/6/2017, so I assume that any reference to it would have been after that. I thought that I had forwarded photos featuring the hybrid since then but apparently not. I have hundreds of shots of it, many showing birds feeding on it.

I don't recall if it was a manipulated or spontaneous hybrid. It almost certainly has *G. bipinnatifida* and *G. banksii* or a *G. banksii* hybrid in it.

It is drought tolerant having survived for long periods on our rockery through some very hot dry periods without supplementary watering. It is very popular with a number of birds e.g. the Eastern Spinebill, the Brown Honeyeater, the Blue-faced Honeyeater, the Little Wattlebird and the Noisy Friarbird. I'll forward some photos of them later.

My reason for not releasing it is simple. It will get confused with many similar hybrids now on the market and have wrong labels attached. Production nurseries and the uncontrollable weekend marketers are guilty of this and stick on whatever label they have on hand. I can't afford to bring out a label for it but this would not stop the confusion. My bet is that it would eventually be sold as *G.*'Superb' or *G.* 'Robyn Gordon'.

I put a name on it to make it easy for me to refer to it. I have other hybrids and it is easier than referring to it just as a number.



Grevillea 'Forest Flame'



The late Merv Hodge & his son Neil

AN ABRIDGED DESCRIPTION OF THE GARDEN AND COLLECTION OF PLANTS OF BARON HÜGEL, AT HIETZING, NEAR VIENNA

Edited by Peter Olde, NSW

Original author Maximilian Peinter, Secretary to the Imperial Horticultural Society.

Translated from *Garten Zeitung*, August 21, 1841 and reproduced in J.C. Loudon's *Gardener's Magazine* Vol 18: 150–155 (1842) in English.

The zeal which the celebrated traveller and botanist, Baron Karl von Hügel, has shown for several years past in increasing his collection of plants, is truly astonishing. He spared no expense in obtaining whatever was new, both near and at a distance, to enrich his garden, and obtain a complete collection. His efforts are now crowned with success, as he possesses at present one of the largest collections of plants on the Continent; one which, in number and value, may vie with the collections of any country.

While the plants in the garden continued to increase, greenhouses also sprang up from the designs of the baron, most tastefully arranged and extremely well adapted for the purpose. It is indeed a most delightful treat for the lovers of plants and flowers to behold this beautiful collection. When nature is sunk in the sleep of winter in the open air, here the camellia, azalea, acacia, most of the Papilionaceae, and many other families of plants, appear in their richest garb. This garden is not only interesting when the severe cold limits our visit to the greenhouse; it is even much more so to the botanist and amateur during spring and the summer months. Imposing groups of beautiful plants, splendid collections of different families in bewildering variety of colour, and all so tastefully arranged that it gives a good idea of the knowledge and taste of the proprietor.

For a full account of this rich collection I must refer to the systematic catalogue published in 1840, and shall here confine my remarks to plants at present in flower, and particularly remarkable for their beauty, rarity, or size. [This catalogue was only partly published]

The view, immediately on entering the garden, is one very rarely seen, and displays knowledge, taste, and propriety, often looked for elsewhere in vain. I particularly allude to the beautiful terrace in front of the living-rooms, where the pillars, surrounded by climbing plants, seem composed of masses of flowers; wherein the beds of flowers between the pedestals, revel, in colouring; and where the wire plant-boxes are overgrown with different species by the sides are rare specimens of *Scottia trapezoides* and *dentata*, and new species of *Acacia* and *Gnidia*. The terrace floor is tessellated, and on it are judiciously distributed stages covered with beautiful flowering plants. Single plants, remarkable for their variety or beauty, stand alone on the terrace before the pillars; and among these some

Proteaceae may be particularly mentioned. On the terrace before the sitting-room stands a colossal group of plants, consisting chiefly of the families Proteaceae, Mimosae, Myrtaceae, and several others. Different species of *Callitris* and *Casuarina* stand in the centre of the group on a small stage of ornamental iron-work, down the sides of which small varieties of plants are seen gracefully bending. The charm of the whole picture is enhanced by the splendour of *Catalpa syringaefolia* Sims (*Bignonia Catalpa* L.) in full flower, and by the delightful perfume of the blossoms of the shady lime tree, which lends its peculiar charm to the atmosphere.

A complete collection of Indian varieties of rhododendrons is situated on the further side of this group, and the whole is remarkable for beauty and luxuriance. More to the right are seen the most beautiful erythrinæ, near which are groups of *Azalea pontica* and *Paeonia Moutan* Sw. (many species) in splendid flower.

I must not omit to mention the beautiful specimens of *Acacia Cunninghamia* Hook., *Juawara*, *decora*, *homomalla*, *polymorpha*, *obovata*, *pentadenia*, *pubescens*, and *vestita*, which are in the middle part of the house, and form an avenue of overhanging trees; also, *Gompholobium polymorphum elatum*, *Oxylobium ellipticum*, *Indigofera australis*, *Corraea speciosa*, *Polygala attenuata*, *Eriostemon cuspidatus* and *buxifolius*, *Lissanthe sapida*, *Conostylis juncea*, &c, which stand in a bed like a thick forest; among which are seen *Kennedya rubicunda* and *longeracemosa*, beautifully winding round the supports of the house. The second bed is principally filled with the rarest camellias, in the most luxuriant condition. There are also other plants among them, particularly many Proteaceae; and a plant of *Grevillea robusta* is 18 ft. high, which, unfortunately, must be taken out, as it has already reached the height of the house. All lovers of plants must wish that this somewhat dangerous operation may be carefully performed. In the front part of the first bed in this division, close by the lights, are two Proteaceae planted in the ground, and in front of the other bed there are small plants in the open ground. The whole house is divided by a passage up the middle, the supports of which are decorated with twining plants, and the two side passages have wire arches over them, covered with kennedyas and climbing plants.

From this house you next enter another in which small plants are most tastefully grouped among tufa; and as you passed through an ornamental arch, and descended a few steps to this house, in like manner you now ascend a few steps to the camellia-house, to which adjoins a long row of houses intended to contain at another season of the year those plants at present grouped in the open air.

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On the left is the orchideous house, in which is a collection of 83 genera and nearly 200 species, most of them grown on the trunks of trees, or planted in little baskets, from which they hang down. As this was only used as an orchideous house last year, it cannot be expected to be very rich in flowers. This house is heated by steam.

You next find yourself in a large conservatory with upright lights, in winter chiefly filled with camellias; the next has slanting lights, and leads to a large saloon, through which you pass to the living-rooms, and, on again reaching the open air, you pass by the terrace already described.

But another most delightful scene is still reserved, and that is a mosaic picture of flowers, a so-called Roccoco-garden; and we have to thank the Baron von Hügel for setting the first example of a style, since generally imitated, both here and in the vicinity. A garden laid out in this manner requires much skill and ability on the part of the gardener, as well in the arrangement as in the choice of the flowers; and he must also be careful that, throughout the whole summer, there be no lack of flowering plants. It is but justice to the baron's head gardener (M. Abel), to say that he not only has fully accomplished this task, but has also been successful in all the requisites of this garden. We now leave this part of the garden to enter the propagating department. This house is 125 ft. long, with slanting lights facing the east and west. It is heated by hot water under the direction of M. Daniel Hooibrenk, Baron Hügel's garden director, and is most admirably suited for the purpose. We have to thank M. Hooibrenk for having introduced this method of heating in Austria. He erected the first apparatus in 1837, and it has not only been imitated here, but in Hungary, and also in other countries. The utility of this method of heating in propagating plants may be easily seen when compared with the old manner, still to be met with here and there, of heating by means of tan and horse-dung, which is always

dirty, and very uncertain.

What M. Hooibrenk has effected by this means in propagation may be witnessed in the propagating garden here, where the present extensive collection was obtained by the above method ; and of these plants I need only mention the propagation of the Coniferae from cuttings, and other plants that are difficult to strike, such as *Agnostus sinuata*, *Dracophyllum attenuatum*, *Magnolia grandiflora*, *Ilex Aquifolium*, *Quadria heterophylla*, *Stadmannia australis*, *Dacrydium elatum*, *Sapium berberidifolium*, *Lomatia ilicifolia*, *Dammara australis*, *Nepenthes distillatoria*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Araucaria*, &c. ; and the innumerable specimens of these show that success is not accidental. The construction of the houses already mentioned, fourteen in number, is likewise adapted for the propagation of plants, and does great credit to the skill and knowledge of M. Hooibrenk. The apparatus for heating those houses for propagation, and for the growth of young and tender plants, is usually flues. The baron, after a complete examination of all kinds of heating, has been fully convinced that a system of smoke flues at a moderate depth in the soil is the best method of heating; but these must have all the joints or seams stopped up by means of a very effective cement, consisting of a proportionate mixture of finely-sifted or beaten clay, ashes, and stone in a powdered state, mixed with salt water; and the covering should be plates of cast iron, a few lines in thickness, When the cold is very severe, a basin of water should be placed over the place where the fire is, and thus a medium of moisture produced in the air, without which the great dryness would be very injurious.

In conclusion, allow me to add, that, by the kindness of the proprietor, every respectable person is admitted to visit the garden, which no doubt contributes greatly to increase the love for one of the noblest pleasures.

TROPICAL GREVILLEAS

Jan Glazebrook, Qld

Autumn in my garden is a time when not much is flowering but thank goodness for the tropical Grevilleas.

Grevillea decora from north Queensland comes into flower now and will continue to flower through to spring. The bright red flowers are a beacon in the garden and are enhanced by the silver grey leaves. New growth is a delightful bronze colour. The flowers are unusual in that they open from the end of the spike down.



Grevillea decora

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Another star in the garden at the moment is *Grevillea dryandra* ssp. *dasycarpa*. This metre high *Grevillea* hales from the Northern Territory and can be a little cold sensitive. It has never shown any problems in Brisbane. The enormously long flower spikes are usually divided into three branches. The flowers are relatively small but make up for this by sheer numbers. Flowers come in a variety of colours with red being the most common, but orange and pink are also found.



Grevillea dryandra ssp. *dasycarpa*

One of the most spectacular *Grevillea* coming from the Northern Territory is *G. formosa*. The beautiful golden sprays of flowers appear in late summer and early autumn. Unfortunately, it resents the cold and although it grows in Brisbane it usually has blackened leaves which detract from the display. Thankfully there are many hybrids which are a lot less cold sensitive and have been selected for beauty and hardiness. One such hybrid is *G. 'Golden Lyre'*. This is a large *grevillea* which can spread to several metres across although it rarely grows more than a metre high. When in flower it is an unforgettable sight.

A ground cover hybrid of *G. formosa* is *G. 'Cooroora Cascade'*. This *Grevillea* is great as a spill over on a wall or down a bank where the golden flowers are seen at their best. They flower in summer and autumn.



Grevillea 'Cooroora Cascade'

Another *G. formosa* hybrid is *G. 'Tango'*. The other parent is *G. bipinnatifida* which gives the flowers an orange colour. My plant took several years to produce flowers regularly, but was forgiven because of its lovely lime green foliage. This ground cover will spread to a couple of metres across.



Grevillea 'Tango'

G. 'Crowning Glory' is another *G. formosa* hybrid that has done very well for me. I don't think it was ever released for sale by Fairhill Nursery who bred a lot of the hybrid from *G. Formosa*. *G. 'Crowning Glory'* has softer orange /yellow flowers which are on a grey/green coloured foliage. The plant will spread to 4 metres across by 1 metre high.



Grevillea 'Crowning Glory'

I have grown a few seedlings of *G. 'Golden Lyre'* and all have merit in the garden. One 1m x 2m seedling I call *G. 'Green and Gold'* because of the lovely emerald green buds and golden flowers. Some of its siblings are taller and some are lower but all have similar flowers.

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Grevillea aurea is another beautiful Grevillea from the N.T. The dark orange/yellow flowers are well displayed on this upright growing plant. A seedling we have has paler flowers, it is called *G.* 'Golden Showers'. The other parent is *G. glabrescens*.

Also flowering now are *G. angulata* and *G. agrifolia* both from the N.T. Although the flowers of both these Grevilleas are not spectacular, they have attractive foliage and are worth a spot in the garden for this alone.

So, as you can see there are plenty of northern Grevilleas to spice up your autumn garden.



Grevillea 'Golden Showers'



Grevillea 'Green and Gold'



Grevillea agrifolia



Grevillea angulata

NEW CULTIVARS FROM KINGS PARK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Peter Olde, NSW

Four new *Grevillea* cultivars have been released in Western Australia under licence from Kings Park and Botanic Garden. The new cultivars are *Grevillea* ‘Kimberley Moon’, *G.* ‘Tangerine Dream’, *G.* ‘Pink Profusion’, and *G.* ‘Raspberry Dream’. The new cultivars not only look spectacular but are good for the environment and easy to grow, according to Kings Park’s senior plant breeder Digby Growns. Digby featured a number of these recently on Gardening Australia, an ABC TV gardening programme, which you can view again anytime on iView. The new grevillea cultivars have long flowering periods and brilliant colours from orange and red to deep pink. These four new grevilleas add to the suite of spectacular Kings Park releases in this iconic plant group that also include *Grevillea* ‘RSL Spirit of ANZAC’, *G.* ‘Scarlet Moon’, *G.* ‘Outback Spirit’, *G.* ‘Honey Moon’ and *G.* ‘Red Coral’, the latter two not seen to date in Eastern Australian nurseries. Hopefully this will change over time. In addition to the ‘missing six’, I have been informed that a regular programme of introductions is underway with an additional nine due for release, sooner rather than later, through Benara Nursery in Western Australia. The impressive total currently is, or will soon be, 18. Each cultivar can take up to seven years to develop and test. Many are rejected.

Until recently, new cultivars being developed at Kings Park were funded in partnership with a large American Nursery, which retained priority over all new releases. However, as previously reported in the GSG newsletter, U.S.A. has banned the import of all *Grevillea* species. In consequence the work to date had to be reassessed and local release was identified as the best course of action. Can we say how fortunate we are to be able to see the developments in Australia. The following list, most of the photos, and the parentage was provided by Digby.



G. Kimberley Moon



G. 'Scarlet Moon' – Photo by C Guthrie



Raspberry Dream water droplets



Tangerine Dream Oct 2017



Digby Growns with new cultivars

CONTINUED >

- 1 Aphrodite's Dream - *G. concinna* subsp. *lemanniana* X *G. banksii* 'White Candelabra'.
- 2 Brush Tail Red - (*G. coccinea* x *G. beardiana*) X *G. dryandroides* subsp. *dryandroides*.
- 3 City Lights - *G. nivea* x *G. pteridifolia*.
- 4 Coverall - *G. scortechinii* X (*G. 'Little Honey'* x *G. formosa*)
- 5 Cupid's Dream - (*G. concinna* subsp. *lemanniana* x *G. bipinnatifida*) X (*G. Sylvia* x *G. Misty Pink*)
- 6 Gelato Dream - (*G. fastigiata* x *G. bipinnatifida*) X *G. banksii* 'Alba'
- 7 Honey Moon - *G. nivea* X (*G. Misty Pink* x *G. formosa*)
- 8 Kimberley Moon - *G. nivea* X (*G. Misty Pink* x *G. formosa*)
- 9 Outback Sunrise - *G. armigera* X (*G. Misty Pink* x *G. banksii* Ruby Red)
- 10 Pink Profusion - (*G. bipinnatifida* subsp. *pagna* x *G. bipinnatifida*)

- open pollinated
- 11 Raspberry Dream - (*G. thyrsoides* x *G. bipinnatifida*) open pollinated seedling X (*G. Crowning Glory* x (*G. Misty Pink* x *G. banksii* prostrate))
 - 12 Red Coral - *G. nivea* X *G. variifolia*
 - 13 RSL Spirit of ANZAC - *G. 'Tirari Blaze'* x *G. banksii* red prostrate
 - 14 Ruby Dream - (*G. coccinea* x *G. beardiana*) X (*G. banksii* 'Ruby Red' x *G. 'Misty Pink'*)
 - 15 Scarlet Moon - *G. nivea* x *G. Crowning Glory*
 - 16 Showtime - (*G. fastigiata* x *G. bipinnatifida*) X (*G. banksii* prostrate x *G. Pink Candelabra*)
 - 17 Tangerine Dream - *G. Gelato Dream* X ((*G. Golden Yu-Lo* x *G. banksii* prostrate) x (*G. Little Honey* x *G. formosa*))
 - 18 Torchlight - *G. nivea* x *G. pteridifolia*.

GREVILLEA ALBIFLORA

Jan Glazebrook, Qld

About thirty years ago just after joining the Grevillea Study Group we were told about a stand of *G. albiflora* that grew along the Moonie Highway between St George and Cunnamulla. This was before the time when we all had GPS, so no exact location could be given. We were told it was about thirty miles before St George. We have travelled this road many times and always kept our eyes out for it, to no avail. Then a few years ago Bryson Easton came back with exciting news. He had found the stand of *G. albiflora*. This was in late September and he reported that the plants were just starting to form buds. Bryson went back in late November or early December and found the plants in full flower.



G. albiflora flower



Bryson's partner Suzy with *Grevillea albiflora* plant

G. albiflora was growing with *G. juncifolia* and other wild flowers on a degraded red sand dune. The exact location was noted.

The following year Denis and I were passing through the area and stopped to check out the plants. There was no sign of buds on the *G. albiflora* but the *G. juncifolia* was in full flower as well as *Calytrix longiflora* and *Olearia subspectata*.

The reason it took so long to re-find the location was because we seldom travel west in summer when it flowers and because it grows with *G. juncifolia*. Although the foliage is greener the shape of the bush is similar so we mistook it to be non-flowering *G. juncifolia*. We will be stopping to check out this lovely patch of bush every time we pass that way in future.



A bunch of flowers growing with *G. albiflora*

Income

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.....
Total income \$50.59

Expenditure

Newsletter publishing \$270.00

.....
Total expenditure \$270.00

Bank account details



Balance in current account
 15/06/2020 **\$3,669.83**

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Account Number: 016526630
(St George Bank)

Please notify the Treasurer of transfer by email
 (bruce.moffatt@tpg.com.au)

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