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GSG NSW Programme 2021

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.

Sunday, 29 August 2021

VENUE: Home of John and Jeanette Elton 99 Edward Wollstonecraft Lane, Coolangatta NSW

PHONE: 04 2483 0925

TIME: 10am – please bring a chair, your own lunch and something to share for morning tea which will be taken from 9.30

TOPIC: John will demonstrate and talk about his grafting technique. There will be an extensive garden visit. John and Jeanette have a magnificent garden, laden with grevilleas. Cuttings will be allowed but please ask first. We will also talk about next year's programme.

Please ensure that you have had at least one Covid vaccination, two preferred, and remember to social distance. Do not come if you are feeling off.

October

I am negotiating a meeting with Richard Tomkin from Changers Green Nursery, Qunaba, Queensland. More in the next newsletter.

I will contact people who have registered for email notifications if another garden visit to my garden is warranted in September – Covid 19 dependent.

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.

GSG SE Qld Programme 2021

*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, 29 August 2021

VENUE: GSG meeting – Judy Goodwin, Highfields.

Saturday 4 and Sunday, 5 September 2021

VENUE: Spring native flower show & Plants market, Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens auditorium. Show Theme: 'Discovering Australia's Flora 1770'.

Sunday, 11 September 2021

VENUE: Carolle Gadd's Gympie Open Garden.

Sunday, 16 October 2021

VENUE: Rosewood plants market

A FEW WORDS FROM PETER

Peter Olde, NSW

I really was surprised at the rapidity with which everything has shut down across the country. I was due to give a talk on July 2 on the genus *Grevillea* to the July Forum, held every year by Southern Tablelands APS at Goulburn. Now suddenly, for the second year, it has had to be cancelled again. I have to tell you sadly that for the same reason we have had to cancel Phil Vaughan's visit and the field trip to the Putty Rd for late July. Our next meeting hopefully will be at the home of John and Jeanette Elton, 99 Edward Wollstonecraft Lane, Coolangatta NSW. 04 2483 0925. Coolangatta New South Wales is situated on the NSW South Coast only 2 hours drive from Sydney and 2.5 hours from Canberra. Let us hope that by Sunday 29th August we will be out of lockdown. Stay tuned.

A number of our members have passed away recently, Fran Standing, Betty Rymer and Brian Freeman, the last very suddenly and unexpectedly. I took the trouble to drive to his renowned *Grevillea* collection near Victor Harbour, a few days after his funeral, and was shown around by Alf Stephens and Gill Muller. What a pleasure to have such informed guides to the home of a man I had never actually met but whose fame and reputation reverberated widely among enthusiasts, especially in Victoria and South Australia. Another generous soul in Fran Standing will be greatly missed by the Queensland chapter. One of the most memorable features of Fran and Jim is/was their generosity, always ready to lend a hand without expectation of reward. Jim and Helen Howard came to our last meeting and spent two days volunteering at our Oakdale garden. What they achieved put me to shame. Betty Rymer was one of our oldest members. We had not seen her for quite a while. Her age confined her to home but she was a most enthusiastic member who attended all our events, including field trips and flower shows.

I am making a serious effort to publish my taxonomic work and several papers have been published in the New South Wales botanical journal *Telopea*, with many more to come. It is taking a lot of my time but it needs to be done before the herbarium moves to Mt Annan. All my international and state loans have to be returned by then.

We are still looking for assistance with indexing the newsletters. What we need is someone who can work from home and has a computer. No special botanical or horticultural skills are required. If you want to assist the Study Group, think about volunteering your time. The work is not onerous but requires a degree of persistence.

I recently received a request for assistance in the conservation of *Grevillea calliantha* in Western Australia. Leonie Monks, Research Scientist, Biodiversity and Conservation Science, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is proposing to propagate all the known clones and grow them out in a conservation orchard garden from which they will gather seed for sowing back into the wild. She was concerned about the location of the garden and whether the critically endangered species was likely to hybridise with any other local species. Let us hope they can rescue this species satisfactorily.

There are a number of articles written by NSW members that we have had for a while. They are being held over till the NSW edition in September/October. Just in case the authors are wondering what has happened to them.

Special thanks for the contributions from our Queensland chapter. For a while there it looked like we had no material. On the subject of obituaries – please keep them to half a page. There are too many of us dying and we need to keep to the topic of *Grevilleas* otherwise we must retile the newsletter 'Necrology'. Thanks for some excellent words and writing that had to be cut for the newsletter.



Illawarra Grevillea Park

NEXT OPEN DAYS – WINTER 2021

Saturday 10 July, Sunday 11 July

Opening hrs are 10am – 4pm

Location

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

Admission

\$7 adults, children with adults are free

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

MEETING REPORT: SE QLD GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP AT GLENCOE

Ross Reddick, Qld

At the home of Matt & Lorelei Bartkowski, Glencoe on Sunday 28 February, 2021.

We paid respect to 2 of our long term & valued members, who had died since our last meeting in November. We had a minute's silence to remember Claire Shackel (27 Dec) & Fran Standing (20 Feb).

Attendance: 14 members & 6 visitors,

Financial Report: Treasurer – Bev has provided this report in her absence

Closing Balance: \$1640.73

Inward emails:

- **From Liz Bourne**, of Stanthorpe rare wildflower consortium, via Peter Olde, discussing the listing of *G. scortechinni* on the Granite Belt as 'critically endangered' and that prosecution of the farmer who destroyed the population at Thulimbah is still to proceed.
- **From Helen Howard**, advising the Youtube video of Mt Clunie, by ABC Canberra journalist Craig Allen is available at <https://youtu.be/8n8o7cq7P5s>. Craig & his family are regular visitors to Mt Clunie cabins.
- **From Peter Olde**, a paper addressing the emergence of new Grevillea species on New Caledonia, taking their total from 3 to 10.
- **From Laylee P**, advising Yamba Sunshine mentioned in GSG 2011 N/L as a Honey Gem Seedling; Lots of them available at that big green hardware store's nursery.
- **From Joan Wilkinson**, offering to do an article on the Grevilleas she has planted over the past decade, at her favourite golf course, Indooroopilly.

General Business:

- Flowers for Claire's private family funeral, by Jan G & Sybil Curtis (Claire's sister).
- Flowers for Fran's Funeral from:- Family, GSG, Laylee & NPQ Logan River branch; organised by Helen Howard. Thank you Helen. Not an exotic in sight!
- New Grevillea species in New Caledonia; Species gone from 3 to 10!!
- Destruction of Black Grevillea at Thulimbah; prosecution & conservation!

Discussion topic:

Recent cultivars in the Nursery trade.

Jan prepared a list of recent cultivars/hybrids and backed it up with a photo presentation on the laptop. From the names, you can often imagine the colour, or the origin species, or even the location from where the original material was sourced. Look out for them in your favourite nursery or search on-line!

- Raspberry Dream
- Tangerine Dream
- Canning Cumquat
- Purple Haze
- Ochre Pokers
- Carramar Gold
- Panrock Princess
- Inferno
- Just Peachy
- Orange Wow
- Ninderry Gold
- Flame n Beauty
- Honey Bird Orange
- Kimberley Moon
- Lime and Soda
- Scarlet Moon
- Cream Passion
- Fire Drops
- Pink Profusion

Also, mentioned at meeting, check out Grevilleas. Q&A's on Facebook!

Garden tour & lunch:

On a very warm & sunny day, many stayed under cover, out of the sun. Many however toured the expansive gardens There was the Bee garden with all sorts of bee attracting natives, edibles, etc. then the Grevillea garden & Eremophila garden. Everyone wondering if it ever rains at Glencoe and how much work it must take to keep plants alive during such dry times.

MEETING REPORT: SE QLD GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP AT CUDGEN

Ross Reddick, Qld

At the home of Helen Howard at Cudgen, NSW on Sunday 18 April, 2021.

Attendance: 14 members & 1 visitor

Financial Report: Treasurer – Bev Weir

Apologies from 3 members:

- **From Peter Olde**, discussing Obituary for Fran (Chris & Helen collaborating on this)
- **From Helen Howard**, discussing directions & parking arrangements for this meeting.
- **From Peter Olde**, revisiting Loretta Taylor's membership.

Outward emails:

- Minutes & meeting reminder emailed.
- Responses to above inward emails.
- Ross moved acceptance of inward & endorsement of outgoing.

General Business:

Ian P advised he has 20 *G. robusta* seedlings for grafting, at wholesale prices.

GSG participation at the Spring flower show & plant sale; Theme 'Discovering Australia's Flora 1770'. We agreed to develop a display of *G. banksii* and its cultivars. Details to be fleshed out at

Future meetings:

Discussion topic; Recent Grevillea cultivars/hybrids (since 'The Grevillea Book')

Garden tour:

Helen has a compact garden, full-sun location on red volcanic soil with potatoes & sweet potatoes growing on the rest of the property. Helen had prepared her garden beautifully; The landlord has allowed her some flexibility in the plantings, but has required some of the remnant exotic trees and shrubs be retained.

GRAFTING TALK AND GARDEN VISIT: CATRIONA AND PHIL TRICKETT, LITTLE FOREST

Peter Olde, NSW

The weather was not propitious and there were COVID concerns which deterred a dozen or so, but in the end, on 28 March 2021, more than 30 people arrived on the Trickett doorstep on a fine and sunny Sunday. Entry through the front gate demanded a drive past a stunning flowering array of *Banksia vincentia* in full bloom, strategically placed among other banksias which adorn the acreage. Perhaps the sorriest sight was a *Banksia occidentalis* which had been grafted by Phil some years ago and was now over 1 m high, covered in faded flowers. I had hoped the bright red blooms would have been a feature of the day but the flowering had finished and we had to resort to our memories or imagination. Robin Powell, garden writer for the Sydney Morning Herald, summed up the beauty for its readers.

<https://www.smh.com.au/culture/art-and-design/how-wa-s-banksias-are-growing-on-the-east-coast-20210503-p570el.html?btis>

This is not to say that the garden lacked interest for the Grevillea Study Group. Species in other genera, Isopogon, Petrophile, Hakea and Grevillea abound, along with their demonstrated love for Eremophila. As if this was not enough, Phil gave his customary talk on cutting grafts which Kevin Stokes recorded but I here point you to two similar references for details on the content.

http://aff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter_24_7_16.pdf

https://nativeplantscbr.com.au/wp-content/uploads/ANPS_Mar_2017.pdf

At three hours south of Sydney, the journey was one for the intrepid among us fronting up for a day visit. However, we were able to share socially with those members further south, including John Knight, Mark and Carolyn Noake, Norm and Lesley Hulands. Thanks to all who attended, especially those who brought plants for sale - Brian Roach, Jonathon Steeds and Olga Blacha.

For a look at the garden, the final link will serve:
<http://anpsa.org.au/design/gardens/bate-trickett.html>

NSW GSG MEETING: 29 MAY 2021

Christine Guthrie, NSW

The meeting was attended by 31 members. Unfortunately, due to the COVID lockdown in Victoria and subsequent restrictions in NSW, it was necessary for Vaughan's Nursery to defer their visit. The visit and talk will now take place in July on a date to be decided.

Euan Mills, chief propagator and grafting expert from the Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan, reported on a recent trip to Robert Brown's extensive garden in Nicholson, East Gippsland. Euan took his grafting gear and collected a lot of cutting material from over 50 rare, and rare in cultivation, grevillea species.

Kevin Stokes, a volunteer from Hunter Region Botanic Garden, reported on their grevillea collection. For some time, there was no pruning, mulching or fertilising but this has now been addressed and the results are good. They are aiming to have a good collection of species with some hybrids. The collection is currently being catalogued on a database, including details of the plants and their location on a map. The garden, located on the highway just north of the bridge at Hexham, is open most days from 9am to 4pm.

Helen Howard, based near Kyogle, came to the meeting and kindly agreed to demonstrate her grafting methods. Helen was a chief grafter of eucalypts for Stan Henry for many years and also for Australis plants who sold grafted grevilleas wholesale from Queensland. She has made strenuous efforts to graft all the grevilleas that were growing in Merv Hodge's garden, before and after he passed away. Helen uses a whip graft on one side for grevilleas and on 2 sides for eucalypts. For six years Helen professionally grafted 45 eucalypts per hour! Details of Helen's grafting talk are given below.

DETAILS OF HELEN'S GRAFTING TALK

Kevin Stokes, NSW

This year the GSG has concentrated on grafting as a propagation method and so far there has been three sessions each one demonstrating the different methods favoured by the demonstrators. The first meeting favoured the top wedge as the preferred graft and in the second cutting grafts were demonstrated as the successful method to graft.

Last Saturday we were fortunate to be given another excellent demonstration by Helen Howard.

Helen uses the whip graft as her preferred method and has long time expertise and experience with impressive results. Helen made the task look easy and took the meeting through each step clearly demonstrating the different stages and passing each stage around the gathering so that each person could see more clearly what Helen was doing.

Helen uses a disposable scalpel size 11, available at chemist shops, to form the graft and 5 ml of household bleach to two cups of water to treat the stock and scion before joining, while emphasising the need to keep the components moist before binding with Parafilm. Helen also pointed out that to graft Eucalypts it is necessary to use a stronger bleach solution (10% of normal strength bleach) and that the whip graft is the only truly successful graft she has found to work well on Eucalyptus.

The grafts were formed with one or two leaves left on the stock leaving enough room to form the whip graft and one or two shortened leaves near the top of the scion which may be left clear of the Parafilm that was applied in the mummy graft fashion. Latent buds and top shoot should also be left intact when removing leaves on the material to use for the scion.

The stock was prepared to include a growth bud near the cut and the scion cut was opposite a bud leaving the bud to be covered with the tape towards the tip of the scion cut. Other grafting measures have also been used by Helen but she has found the whip graft to be the quickest and most convenient to use in a commercial nursery where time and success are paramount.

It is a privilege to be tutored by experts that graft every day and are willing to pass on some of their knowledge to GSG members while leaving digits intact. If only they could pass on how to fix bumbling fingers. Ten are not enough sometimes when grafting.

UPDATE ON DESTRUCTION OF BLACK GREVILLEAS IN QUEENSLAND

Liz Bourne, Secretary,
Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium

My brother passed on to me the latest issue of the newsletter of the Grevillea Study Group where you mentioned the destruction of some of our black grevilleas (*Grevillea scortechinii* subsp. *scortechinii*) near Stanthorpe. This occurred during the construction of a water pipeline along a roadside by a local farmer. He had been given development approval by the local Council but was told and shown the significance of the grevilleas that occurred here and directed to consult with the state and Federal environmental agencies before he began any work. He failed to do this and so far has adopted quite a belligerent attitude towards authorities.

We stumbled on the destruction of what we estimated to be 20% of the known population of 1,500 plants last October and immediately alerted the Council who issued a stop work order the next day. Compliance officers from the Department of Environment and Science then investigated the matter and have taken statements from a number of witnesses with a view to launching a prosecution. The case is clear cut and I think they will be proceeding with this even though it may take some time to work its way through the legal processes.

This species only occurs along roadsides, railway lines and on a limited number of private properties across the Granite Belt. It is in no conservation reserve. Because we believed its conservation status deserved to be higher than “vulnerable” at the state and Federal level, in 2019 we prepared a detailed nomination to our state Species Technical Committee, to get this lifted to “endangered”. On the basis of our nomination, they determined that it should be listed as “critically endangered” and this was gazetted last August. I understand that the nomination has also been accepted by the Federal Government’s Threatened Species Scientific Committee and is just waiting advertising of their decision.

Because of the lack of habitat protection for this species and its vulnerability to destruction in its current locations, we are interested in getting approval to get some propagated so they can be translocated to some suitable areas where they can be better protected and managed. Little is known about the ecological requirements of this species except they do seem to do well in disturbed, open areas. It is a species deserving of being in commercial production but this would require a conservation plan to be developed which would be a time consuming and possibly technically challenging task. Our priority at present is to get it into some more secure habitat.

GREVILLEA NEWS

EMAIL FROM KEVIN STOKES TO PETER OLDE

Pat Shearston, the Curator of our Herbarium has asked if it would be possible for you to visit at some stage and go through the specimens of *Grevillea humilis*, *Grevillea parviflora* etc we have in the Herbarium so we can get a clearer picture of where your thinking is in relation to the plants we have in the collection. I’m slowly getting some order back into the Grevillea Garden at Hunter Region Botanic Garden and I hope to be able to send a list species soon.

SILKY OAKS

Gregory Moore

An article by Gregory Moore (Doctor of Botany, University of Melbourne) in *The Conservation*, 24 November 2020.



Silky oaks are older than dinosaurs and literally drip nectar – but watch out for the cyanide

As we come to the end of spring, look up from the footpath or at the park, and you may spot the fiery flowers of the silky oak, *Grevillea robusta*. You may already be familiar with grevilleas – perhaps you have low-growing ground cover and shrub species in your garden. Some people love the brilliant red, yellow, orange or white flowers of grevilleas. They're also nesting and roosting havens for small native birds, and so people may plant them to attract wildlife.

Of all the grevilleas, the silky oak is the one that catches my eye. It's the largest and tallest of the species, reaching up to 30 metres. They're now blooming along the east coast and in some inland places – like huge orange light bulbs dominating the skyline.



Silky oak flowers are a magnet for birds and insects

Strong like oak

Grevilleas have an ancestry older than dinosaurs. They originated on the supercontinent Gondwana, and are closely related to banksias, waratahs and proteas. Today, the 360 species of grevilleas occur in Indonesia and Australia and are a diverse group. Their colourful, distinctive flowers lack petals and instead consist of a long tube known as a "calyx", which splits into four "lobes". Like most other grevillea, silky oak possesses proteoid or cluster roots, which are dense and fine. These roots greatly increase the absorbing surface area and allow plants to thrive in nutrient-deprived soils.

The word "*robusta*" refers to the fact that the timber is strong like real oak. The freshly split wood has a silky texture, and a pattern and light colour resembling English oak – hence the common name "silky oak".

Watch out for the cyanide

Grevilleas literally drip nectar, much to the delight of native birds and bees. Aboriginal people enjoyed the sweet nectar straight from the plant or mixed with water – the original lolly water.

But you have to know which species to taste as some, including the silky oak, contain hydrogen cyanide that could make you ill. Like other grevilleas the silky oak also contains tridecyl resorcinol, which causes an allergic reaction leading to contact dermatitis. The chemical is similar to the toxicodendron in poison ivy. So when working with silky oaks, you'd be wise to wear gloves, a face mask, protective eye wear (or face shield) and long sleeved clothing. Washing hands and showering at the end of the day is also recommended.

A prized timber

Silky oak timber was widely used in colonial times. Then it was marketed as "lacewood", and that name persists today among some who use it. Silky oak veneer was used widely in colonial table tops and other furniture. Over the years, silky oak has also been used to make window frames because it is resistant to wood rot. Overseas, silky oak timber is still widely grown, in timber plantations and as windbreaks.

But it's not widely available in Australia, due to low market demand – the allergens and cyanide it contains means people are generally reluctant to work with it. However silky oak is still highly prized by those who make guitars, and wood turners who make bowls and cabinets.

[CONTINUED >](#)

In the garden

Although an evergreen tree, some specimens are almost semi-deciduous, losing most of their foliage just prior to flowering. Some specimens of silky oak can be a bit scraggly in their canopy form. They can benefit enormously from a bit of formative pruning when they are young, and perhaps some structural pruning from a good arborist as they get older. A little attention at the right time will be amply rewarded with a safe and great looking tree that can live for 150 years or more.

Silky oak is drought-tolerant. In dry times they often flower a bit later than their usual October blooming, providing a big splash of colour in otherwise drab and difficult years. The trees can be vulnerable to frost when young, but grow well once taller. This makes the silky oak a potential winner as climate change brings warmer, drier weather.

Silky oaks have been declared an environmental weed in parts of New South Wales and Victoria where it grows outside its native distribution range. They're also

considered an invasive or invader plant in Hawaii and South Africa. However, *Grevillea robusta* is declining in its natural rainforest/wet forest habitat. In some cities in China, silky oaks have been planted along roadsides with great success. The tree has also gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit for its performance in growing under United Kingdom conditions. That just shows you how one person's weed is another's treasure.

Footnote from Peter Olde:

Dinosaurs roamed the earth for 160 million years until their sudden demise some 65.5 million years ago, in an event now known as the Cretaceous-Tertiary, or K-T, extinction event.

In the phylogeny inferred from five genetic regions combined over which a chronogram is superimposed, Mast et al. (2015) found that *Grevillea robusta* is estimated to have diverged from related species only c. 17–18 million years ago, well after the age of the official dinosaur extinction event which was survived only by avian dinosaurs.

NEW MEMBERS

Christine Guthrie, NSW

Loretta Taylor, Pimpama, Qld

I live at Pimpama on the northern end of the Gold Coast. I have one acre and a majority of natives. I love grevilleas, however I am trying to attract smaller birds to the garden. I am part of the Gold Coast NPQ group, actually the leader at present. We have our AGM tomorrow, so maybe I will be lucky and someone else wants the job. I work full time for the government in Brisbane. I look forward to meeting you all very soon!

Peter Gray, Epping NSW

I really like growing Australian natives and have a particular interest in grevilleas. I like them because of the fantastic bird-attracting flowers which I like to cut, and the wide diversity of varieties. Unfortunately, my garden is not big enough to have all the varieties I would like.

I also like the hakeas and banksias and would love to grow some WA varieties but alas this has proven difficult. My current interest is in propagation and grafting but I'm only just starting.

Joan Hayes, Rooty Hill, NSW

I was able to attend the meeting at Peter Olde's in May and really enjoyed the day despite the freezing weather. I don't have any particular area of interest except to say that I have enjoyed growing Australian native plants for many years, now with a particular love for Grevilleas. I have a little more time on my hands now I am retired so it's time to learn more about them.

Andrew Mayo, Mandurah, WA

My interests are not confined to Grevillea but in the flora as a whole. However, I have always had a particular interest in this genus, in terms of the world populations rather than cultivation. John Ewing has been in touch with me by the way. I have been able to borrow on extended loan from the WSWA the three volumes of "Grevillea" and also McGillvray's tome - and am studying these!

Arthur Kelly, Grasmere, NSW

We have an acre of land that has been extensively planted - mostly with natives. I was a high school Agriculture teacher for 36 years. I have a passion for growing and propagating native plants and used them as a means to teach my students how to propagate plants from seed, cuttings, division, grafting etc. In my time at Camden High School around 50,000 trees and shrubs were propagated and sold to our local council, golf club, other schools and some local landholders.

In retirement I have been working casually at the local golf club (where I am a member). My role is to plant trees and shrubs to help beautify the course and to improve the habitat for native wildlife. Over two years I have planted very close to 750 plants on the course with more to come. I have propagated about 70% of them myself.

My favourite genera would be Grevilleas and Eremophilas (I am a member of that study group too). I enjoy the challenge of propagating native plants and have started to do some grafting of Grevilleas, Brachychitons, Eremophilas and Corymbias.

VALE BRIAN JESSE FREEMAN "RAJ" (7/3/1946 – 5/4/2021)

Alf Stephens, SA

Easter Monday 2021 was marked sadly by the sudden passing of respected Australian Plant Society Life Member Brian Freeman. Those fortunate enough to know Brian will always remember him as a kind hearted, "happy go lucky" character who had an enormous passion for Australian native plants. Brian was Vice President of the local Brinkworth APS in 1996 and 1998 and later President in 1999 and 2000.



In early 2001 Brian moved to a 40 acre Inman Valley property which he named "Ninbella". With its clay base and sandy topsoil, either rock hard or boggy, Brian soon realised the only way to keep the flashy WA species alive was to graft them. Brian used mummified wedge grafts for his grevilleas and deviated from the "norm" by having very deep insertions (up to 50mm) into the rootstock. He would often use clothes pegs to hold the union together until it fused.



Of the many Grevilleas he had in his collection there were a few standouts, these included: the best *Grevillea treueriana* I've ever seen, a sensational *G. "Canning Gold"* (*G. spinosa* x *G. juncifolia*), *G. excelsior* he'd stare at from the back door while grafting, and his personal favourite the white flowering form of *G. lavandulacea* (pictured). Brian found this variant growing in nearby hills overlooking Victor Harbor. With permits, he collected and submitted specimens to both the SA Herbarium and ACRA. He put forward the name of *Grevillea "Snow Spider"* as suggested by Wendy Marriott.

His garden plantings grew over time until it reached its present-day size of around 4 acres! Undoubtedly the biggest thrill for Brian was to have "Ninbella" featured on the ABC's Gardening Australia in October 2020. Since his passing, I have been desperately trying to save some of the more "special" Grevilleas from Ninbella. The reality is Ninbella will now be sold and most likely returned to pasture. Thanks to Gill Muller and the Fleurieu APS who are trying to keep Ninbella ticking over, waiting for a White Knight to ride in and continue Brian's work....



Peter Olde at Ninbella

His lasting legacy to the Koolunga district will be the revegetation corridors he helped create which still provide refuge to birds and wildlife to this day. As sad as Brian's departure has been for so many, we can look back in hindsight and be grateful that we all played a small part in the "Life of Brian".

FRANCES (FRAN) JOAN STANDING (OCT 1944 – FEB 2021)

Chris Reddick, Qld



“Mt Clunie Cabins, Fran speaking”. For anyone who ever rang Fran or Jim Standing, this is how Fran would always cheerily greet every caller. Sadly, Fran has passed away after a year-long battle with cancer.

Fran came to live on the property at Mt Clunie, Woodenbong, after having previously lived in Sydney and Canberra with her family from her first marriage. At both these places she had transformed the gardens into beautiful bird-friendly spaces which were enjoyed by neighbours and all that passed by.



The large garden beds allowed for a great variety of natives

Along with a native and very large garden came other special benefits. Fran was a passionate bird watcher. She and Jim had travelled all over Australia, to observe and find rare bird species. Having a very good memory, Fran had a wonderful knowledge of bird sounds and was always able to identify whatever was around. I loved sitting with her on the verandah with blue wrens hopping at our feet and eastern spinebills getting nectar from the Grevilleas that had been strategically planted around the house. Other wildlife included pretty face wallabies, sugar gliders, small native mammals, snakes and skinks were around. Fran's greatest love in the garden was her display of Grevillea species. She was renowned for having an extensive collection.



Fran with Jan Glazbrook and Denis Cox

Her happiness was in being able to share her garden with like-minded people, visiting garden groups from all over SE Qld, and the people who rented the cabins on their property, family and friends. She was an outstanding gardener and friend and is greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

By Helen Howard

Fran was a wonderful friend for many years. Having met Fran 15 years ago at one of Merv Hodge's Open Garden Scheme events, we instantly found a connection and so began my experiences of gardening at Mt Clunie. Fran's love of her garden and birds led her to create the present garden. When I met Fran, I was into grafting and loved pruning so we were a good combination to work together on the wonderful garden beds that Jim had constructed to create a haven for all.



GREVILLEA 'CORAL SHORE'

Carolle Gadd, Qld

A little bit about my seedling. It's about 3 years since it appeared here at Brewery Hill Native Garden, Gympie Qld. I knew it was a keeper when the first flower appeared, a gorgeous coral colour that seems to glow from a distance. I named it 'Coral Shore', the Shore part of the name is after my grandson Shore Povey, who just loves grevilleas and is always ready to help in the garden when he comes for a visit from Perth.

Grevillea 'Coral Shore' grows to around 2 metres high with a width of around 3 metres. It flowers all year round but is having a huge flush now, in Autumn. It attracts lots of birds, bees and butterflies. It has handled the frosts here, but they haven't been very heavy in the last few years.

Thanks to my good friend Richard Tomkin from Changers Green Nursery at Bargara, Qld, who has grafted some plants and has interest in trialing *G.* 'Coral Shore' from two nurseries, Mansfield in Victoria and Ausplant Nursery in Dalby, Qld.

Trialing would take 2 to 3 years and then if propagation goes ahead, it'll be another 2 to 3 years for either tissue culture or cuttings. If all was to go well the shortest time likely would be at least 3 years.



Grevillea 'Coral Shore' - Photo by Carolle Gadd

EMAIL FROM CATH WILLIAMS

Cath Williams

Email from Cath Williams to Peter Olde:

Helen Howard has asked me to email you my garden list she has told you about, so here it is. I own a wholesale nursery called Mt Nathan Nursery in the Gold Coast Hinterland at Clagiraba. We have two sites, one on Heritage Drive and one on Clagiraba Road. Heritage Drive is the one where we grow all our *Grevillea* and other native plants. We cater for the landscape industry so we do a variety of good hardy plants for planting. Our Clagiraba Road site is where I live and have this garden list planted in the ground. I am getting there, but there are still a few to plant. I just need to get the time and energy to get planting. I would love for you to come visit one day if you have time when you're up this way. It would be an honour to show you what I am trying to achieve in the garden and in the nursery. Helen has been a god send to me. It's brought my passion back into *Grevilleas* and native plants again. I did have the privilege of meeting Merv Hodge when he was still alive. He certainly was an amazing man.

Email from Peter to Cath:

Thank you for sending your amazing list. There are quite a few that I have never heard of. Helen has a way of creating a trail of new names wherever she goes. Her enthusiasm for *Grevilleas* and grafting is boundless.

Grevillea List for Cath's Garden

- Grevillea* 'Amber Blaze' Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Apricot Charm'
- Grevillea arenaria* Grafted
- Grevillea banksii* 'Bobby's Blush' Grafted
- Grevillea banksii* 'Ruby Red' Grafted
- Grevillea* beadleana Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Billy Bonkers' Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Bon Accord' Grafted
- Grevillea burrowa* Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Bush Lemons' Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Canning Cumquat' Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Carpet Layer' Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Carpet Layer'
- Grevillea* 'Carpet Queen
- Grevillea* 'Carol Ann' Ground cover
- Grevillea caleyi* Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Cherry Ripe' or 'Tucker Time'
- Grevillea* 'Coastal Dawn' Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Coke' Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Cooroora Cascade' Grafted
- Grevillea* decora Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Dorothy Gordon' Grafted
- Grevillea* 'Emerald and Ruby' Grafted

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Grevillea 'Fanfare' (2)
Grevillea 'Fire Sprite' Grafted
Grevillea dimorpha fine leaf, Grafted
Grevillea flexuosa
Grevillea 'Flora Mason'
Grevillea 'Goldfever' Grafted
Grevillea iaspicula
Grevillea 'Ivory Whip' Grafted
Grevillea 'Jolly Swagman' Grafted
Grevillea juniperina 'Molonglo' variegated
Grevillea juniperina Orange Grafted Groundcover
Grevillea kirkalocka Grafted
Grevillea 'Lime Spider' Grafted
Grevillea 'Mallee Sensation' *nudiflora* X *pectinata* Grafted
Grevillea 'New Moon'
Grevillea 'Orange Marmalade'
Grevillea 'Orange Marmalade' Grafted
Grevillea 'Paddy's Baby' Grafted
Grevillea 'Paddys Pink' Grafted
Grevillea pungens Grafted
Grevillea quadricauda Grafted
Grevillea 'Raspberry Ripple'
Grevillea 'Red Lantern'
Grevillea ripicola 'Yellow' Grafted
Grevillea scortechinii subsp. *scortechinii* Grafted Groundcover
Grevillea glabrilimba 'Sea Spray' Grafted
Grevillea x semperflorens
Grevillea sericea 'Mauve Spiders'
Grevillea 'Towera' Grafted
Grevillea 'Velvet Carpet' Grafted
Grevillea 'Wannon Wildfire' Grafted

Igloo and Shed

G. aspleniifolia ?*longifolia* Grafted
G. bailyana Grafted
G. 'Coastal Dawn' Grafted
G. 'Coastal Sunset' Grafted
G. 'Poorinda Constance'
G. Dg/cu/rob Grafted
G. endlicheriana Grafted
G. 'Fire and Ice'
G. 'Flamingo'
G. formosa Grafted
G. 'Gin Gin Gem'
G. manglesii (syn. *G. glabrata*)
G. 'Gold Touch'

G. 'Hills Jubilee'
G. hislopilii Grafted
G. 'Honey Eater Heaven'
G. 'Honey Gem'
G. humifusa Grafted
G. 'Lady O'
G. 'Landcare' Grafted
G. banksii 'Laylee Cream' Grafted 1 x 2.5m
G. 'Lemon Supreme'
G. leptobotrys Grafted
G. 'Majestic'
G. 'Misty Pink'
G. 'Orange Wow' Grafted
G. 'Pink Surprise'
G. 'Raspberry Cascade' Grafted
G. 'Raspberry' Grafted
G. stenomera Grafted
G. 'Strawberry Frost'
G. 'Sun Kissed'
G. 'Sunset Bronze'
G. 'Soopa Doopa'
G. 'Sylvia'
G. 'White Knight'
G. willisii Grafted
G. 'Winter Delight'
G. 'Yamba Sunshine' Grafted

Explanation of the origin of some of the plants in Cath's garden by Helen Howard:

G. 'Emerald and Ruby' is a seedling that came up at Helidon planted at Mt Clunie (see photo and description)

G. 'New Moon', Cath bought at Samford sale. We will find the source.

G. 'Paddy's Baby' is a seedling of Paddy's Pink with smaller flowers which I am still trialing. It came up under *G.* 'Paddy's Pink' at Mt Clunie.

G. 'Paddy's Pink' is a seedling from Merv Hodge that he once called *G.* 'Pink Ballerina' or *G.* 'Ballerina Pink'. He gave it to Helen Howard in 2009 for release to market in 2010 (limited numbers).

G. 'Raspberry Ripple', G. 'Gold Touch', and G. 'Strawberry Frost' are from Kingfisher Nursery across the road from Mt Nathan Nursery in Heritage Drive.

G. 'Raspberry Ripple' is a Bush Magic plant.(Bushland nursery), is a hybrid of *G. juniperina* subsp. *indet.* x *G. lanigera*

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G. 'Gold Touch', a Bywong plant, a cross between G. 'Winter Wonder' and G. 'Lemondaze'.

G. 'Strawberry Frost' is a selected form of *G. oleoides*.

G. 'Raspberry Cascade' is a Mt Clunie seedling about 10 years old. Years ago I released it when I lived at Helidon. The friends I gave it to for trial had either moved on from the property or lost it on its own roots. Grafting is important in black soil. I visited a friend recently in Toowoomba and she asked me to prune this plant at the far end of their garden. What a beauty - G. 'Raspberry Cascade'!!! I had not seen it in all the years I had visited since I helped her plant when I donated plants from the Highfields nursery close down. I managed to retrieve some material. Jim says there is a good plant at a premises on the Warwick/Killarney Road. It used to be a nursery and I sold some plants to them some years ago. There is also someone at Woodenbong who has one. I can send you the photo of the original plant at Mt Clunie later. This is one of my all time favourites as its form and flowering consistency are great.

G. 'Raspberry' (temporary name) was a seedling that came up in my garden at Helidon. I gave it to Fran to plant near the shed. It has struggled for a long time on its own roots. It has *G. bipinnatifida* in it and could be a G. 'Robyn Gordon' seedling. It is doing very well now for Cath as I grafted one with an interstock of *G. bipinnatifida*. I shall see how it goes and may name it after Fran when we propagate more.

So mentally that has been a great start to the day.



Grevillea 'Emerald and Ruby' – Photo by H. Howard

This large *Grevillea* can get to 4 metres. Its lush foliage is emerald green and the flowers are rich ruby-red. Birds and bees are highly attracted to the nectar laden flowers.

GREVILLEA 'RED CANDLES'

Lawrie Smith, QLD

HISTORY: This *Grevillea* cultivar developed spontaneously in a garden beside our home 38 Sandpiper Avenue North Lakes, observed over the past three years. This plant was the most vigorous of several seedlings found (2017) in a long garden bed beside the northern boundary fence in the adjacent Melaleuca Lakes parkland.

LOCATION: The garden bed contained six mature specimens of *Grevillea* 'Honey Gem' and one *Grevillea* 'Moonlight'. There were no other species of *Grevillea* in the immediate area. Other species, *Grevillea banksii* (upright form) and *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon' are found within a radius of up to 100 metres distant from the site of the seedlings.

PROPAGATION: This seedling was potted up in 2017, grown on for a short while, then planted in a garden along the southern boundary, where it grew well. At the same time this bed was also planted with *Grevillea banksii*, G. 'Yamba Sunshine', G. 'Dorothy Gordon', *G. candelabra*.

This location was chosen as it provides full sun all day. The soil is an organic rich sandy loam, regularly watered.

PLANTING: The specimen has to compete for space with the other *Grevillea* species and despite this competition for space it has not developed an upright or erect habit and has a contorted trunk. This means that so far the shrub is a bit more bushy than *Grevillea banksii* (which may be a parent??)

FLOWERS: The flowers are a deep brick red colour, quite different to the red tone of *Grevillea banksii*. The florets do not open widely and clasp the stem to provide a dense cylindrical spike.

The hooked stamens unfurl progressively into a straight style at 45 degrees each with a yellow tip stigma which contrasts effectively with the brick red colour.

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The flowers are produced terminally and most of the flower spikes are arrayed in threes. They are basically held upright over the canopy. I suspect that as the bulk of the flowers open they will give the appearance of decorative candles over the wispy grey green foliage.



FOLIAGE: The foliage is typical for *Grevillea banksii* types, green tones with silver reverse. The width and colour of the leaves for the three specimens are as follows [see photo above]:

- Top:** *Grevillea banksii* – 10mm; deep apple green
- Centre:** *Grevillea* ‘Red Candles’ – 5mm; grey green
- Bottom:** *Grevillea* ‘Honey Gem’ – 3mm; silver green

PROGENY: I suspect that one of the parents is *Grevillea banksii* – probably the upright form.

As for the other parent I wonder if it might be *Grevillea* ‘Honey Gem’ but I do not know if it is sterile, although the pollen may be viable? Certainly the irregular trunk habit of Honey Gem is common to both.

NAME: For these reasons I have named the cultivar *Grevillea* ‘Red Candles’. I think it will prove to have horticultural potential.

The following photos document the development of the first flower spike.



AUG 24



AUG 26



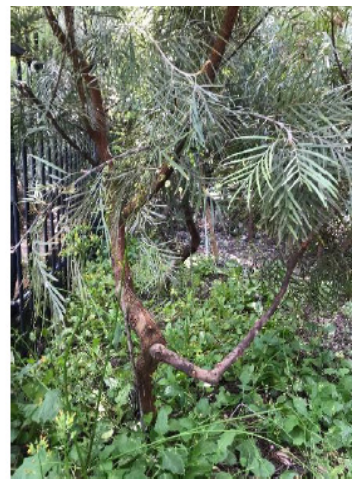
AUG 27



AUG 27



AUG 27



AUG 27

ALTERNATIVE NAME: Thinking more about the most suitable name for the cultivar - I am wondering if *Grevillea* ‘Flambe’ might be a more appropriate descriptive name? It certainly brings in the brick red and yellow colours more than just a ‘Red Candle’?

But then again the words ‘Red Candle’ links with the visually similar flowers of *Grevillea candelabra* red form, although the erect habit and broad foliage is very different.

GREVILLEA VENUSTA

Jan Glazebrook, Qld

Grevillea venusta occurs in a small area near Rockhampton. The habitat is moist Eucalypt forest with an understory of ferns and grasses. The famed Byfield fern also grows here. In the wild *G. venusta* is a straggly shrub to several meters. The flowers are not very noticeable but the birds seem able to spot them.



Grevillea venusta

When *G. venusta* is cultivated, it becomes a dense spreading shrub to 4 meters high by 5 metres wide. It makes a wonderful screening plant as it has foliage to the ground. It flowers on and off throughout the year with the main flowering season in winter and spring. It doesn't seem fussy about soil type as long as it is well drained. It will take hard pruning and responds with lots of new growth on which the flowers appear. The seed pods are also attractive and have been used in flower arrangements. Plants have proven to be long lived and hardy. Our plant at Logan Village is 30 years old and still going strong. It throws many seedlings.

A few hybrids have occurred spontaneously in gardens. The first was *G. 'Orange Marmalade'*, a large shrub with larger more showy flowers than *G. venusta*. The orange/red in the flowers is derived from the other parent *G. glossadenia* from the Atherton Tablelands in North Qld.



Grevillea 'Orange Marmalade'

A cross of *G. venusta* and *G. longistyla* arose in the garden of the late Merv Hodge in Logan Reserve. It was given the cultivar name *G. 'Firesprite'*. The red from *G. longistyla* is the dominant colour of the flowers. It is also a large shrub.



Grevillea 'Firesprite'

Both hybrids have proven to be hardy long lived plants with few pests and diseases. Give them a go.

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.....
Total income \$0.60

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.....
Total expenditure \$315.00

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OFFICE BEARERS

LEADER

Peter Olde
 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale NSW 2570
 (04) 3211 0463
peter.olde@exemail.com.au

TREASURER AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Christine Guthrie
 32 Blanche Street, Oatley NSW 2223
 (02) 9579 4093
bruce.moffatt@tpg.com.au

CURATOR OF LIVING COLLECTION

Neil Marriott
 PO Box 107, Stawell Vic 3380
 (03) 5356 2404 or 0458 177 989
neil@whitegumsaustralia.com

CURATOR OF ILLAWARRA GREVILLEA PARK, BULLI

Ray Brown
 29 Gwythir Avenue, Bulli NSW 2516
 (02) 4284 9216

CURATOR OF SEED BANK

Jeremy Tscharke
 PO Box 521, Bairnsdale Vic 3875
jtscharke1@gmail.com

ONLINE CONTACT

1. President's email address
peter.olde@exemail.com.au

2. URL for Grevillea Study Group website
<http://anpsa.org.au/grevSG/>

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