

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA) INC

GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 124 - FEBRUARY 2023

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GSG New South Wales Chapter

Leader: **Peter Olde, p 0432 110 463** | **e <u>peter.olde@exemail.com.au</u>** For details about the NSW chapter please contact Peter, contact via email is preferred.

Sunday, 26 March

- VENUE: Peter & Margret Olde's home, 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale (10am)
- **TOPIC:** Grafting Miscellany. James Indsto will give an update on his grafting techniques and results. Please come along and share some thoughts on your techniques.

Saturday, 6 May

VENUE: Hawkesbury Community Nursery, 10 Mulgrave Rd., Mulgrave (10am)

TOPIC: The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is mainly a volunteer run nursery that propagates and sells Hawkesbury indigenous native plants. Chris Cheetham personally propagates a range of interesting Grevillea species. It would not be appropriate for other nurseries to sell at this meeting but plants, cuttings and seed can be exchanged.

GSG Victorian Chapter

Leader: **Neil Marriott**, 693 Panrock Reservoir Rd, Stawell, Vic. 3380 **p 0458 177 989 <u>neil@whitegumsaustralia.com</u>.** Contact Neil to reserve a bed for below.

Living Collection Easter Working Bee 7 – 10 April

Come along and help us clean up the weeds that have taken over. There is spare accommodation, or bring your caravan. We will organise trips to the Grampians and local native nurseries for participants. We will provide meals for you and free cutting material from the gardens.

GSG South Australian Chapter

Leader: **Alf Stephens**, 21 Hillsdale Ave, Coromandel Valley SA **p 0418 404 408** | e <u>alfstephens@adam.com.au</u>

GSG West Australian Chapter

Leader: John Ewing, 2a Enid Rd, Kalamunda WA p 0408 628 781 | e jrewing45@gmail.com

GSG SE Queensland Chapter

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

Sunday, 26 February

VENUE: Denis Cox & Jan Glazebrook have offered their home & garden, 87 Daintree Drive, Logan Village. Daintree is a circuit, and No 87 is on the second intersection with Diamentina Drive. Best parking is on the eastern side of Diamentina Drive, and entry via Denis' back gate. BYO chair, morning tea to share & your own lunch.

TOPIC: Why are 'standards' dying?

Sunday, 30 April

VENUE: Peter Bevan, Pete's Hobby Nursery, Lowood

TOPIC: Tip pruning vs heavy pruning, plus working bee on Saturday on Rail Trail

A FEW WORDS FROM PETER

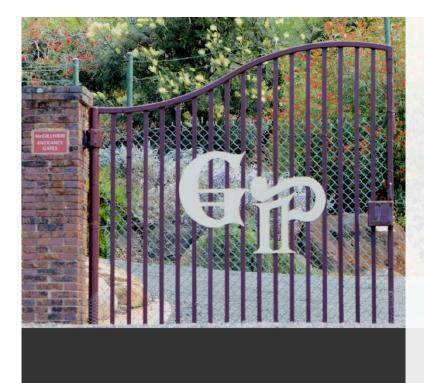
Peter Olde, NSW

I am hoping for a better year than last. People propagating tell me it was a poor year for striking cuttings and grafting with low success rates. Let's kick off the year with a meeting to discuss the issues and develop ideas to get better rates of success.

At the last meeting it was decided that, rather than the SG leader organise meetings into the future, members would ask for a meeting to be advertised at their chosen venue, probably their home or institution. I thank Chris Cheetham for organising the next meeting. I am prepared to hold a meeting at Oakdale during the latter part of the year too. If there is any interest among you, please contact me.

I have mentioned once before about volunteering at Oakdale. We have a large collection of grevilleas here and if any member wishes to come along on a Monday or Tuesday to assist in the multiplicity of jobs to do, please contact me by email and we will get it happening. Activities include weeding, planting, pruning. Maybe you could help me get my glasshouse erected. I only bought it as a flat pack 3 years ago and it is still sitting there. I am resolved that this is the year to get it up and running. As a result of some personal stresses and family matters the PIG group is taking a long time to get running. I have started of course but not in an organised way that permits me to get the Group involved. I am hoping to distribute the first PIG newsletter later this year. My publication agenda is also somewhat overwhelming.

I will be attending the next Queensland get-together if you are up that way in April. Also, please give some serious thought to making a contribution to the newsletter this year. Some of the articles in this newsletter can give you the idea of how to make an entry-level contribution. Special thanks to Margaret Pieroni for her small article on the *Grevillea trifida* in Western Australia.



Illawarra Grevillea Park

NEXT OPEN DAYS - AUTUMN 2023

May 6, 7, 13, 14

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

SE QLD STUDY GROUP MEETING, SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2022

R. Reddick, Qld

Location: at Mt Clunie Cabins, hosted by Jim Standing

The meeting was attended by 14 members. Denis Cox again called for someone to take over as chairman; After some discussion, six members (Peter B, Chris R, Adrian W, Helen H, Ross R and Don C) agreed to 'run' our 2023 meetings, whilst Denis still remains chairman.

General Business

- Comment from P Olde via email re Bonni Yee's bunchy top in Grevillea: "Common problem; maybe a psyllid. Spray with Mortein or similar. Should resolve with time.". Someone has used '5-star insecticide', at rate of 1ml/1L, with success.
- Peter B moved that April meeting at Lowood could be 2-day, Sat & Sun event; we invite Peter Olde to attend, and we have a 'light' working bee on the 'Rail Trail' to identify & label the existing species & new seedlings. Peter B offered to put-on a BBQ on Saturday evening.
- Ps, Peter O has accepted!
- Last meeting, Don introduced us to a slow-release fertilizer by Katek, called 'Super growth', NPK: 3.5-1.8-4.0. Another one mentioned today with similar properties is 'Organic Booster', NPK: 3.8-2.1-2.2.
- The giant G. 'Golden Lyre' that had adorned the eastern lawn at Mt Clunie had succumbed to the conditions and was removed with help from Jim's Zetor tractor. Insert photo Golden Lyre



 Denis has become 'keeper' of Merv Hodge's grafting notes/table. He has converted it to electronic format (pdf). The resultant file is quite large. Please email me if you would like a copy sent to you.

After the meeting, people dispersed in all directions to see and photograph their favourite part of the garden.

IN THE WILD

AN AMAZING DISCOVERY IN THE GRAMPIANS

Neil Marriott, Vic

In November 1966, the wonderful botanist Cliff Beauglehole discovered a new Grevillea on the edge of Halls Gap in the Grampians. Then in 2000, botanist Bob Makinson described and named this Grevillea as *Grevillea gariwerdensis* in recognition of its home, the Grampians/Gariwerd, with the Beauglehole location being the Type location for species. Sadly in 2006 a massive wildfire ran through most of the Grampians, including the site of this new Grevillea. All plants were burnt out, and in attempts to protect private property "assets" in Halls Gap, this whole area just outside Halls Gap was regularly burnt by Parks Vic staff every few years. This rapidly resulted in the sad conclusion that *Grevillea gariwerdensis* at its Type Location was now presumed to be extinct! Numerous searches by a number of botanists had failed to find a single remaining plant!

On a recent field trip with staff from Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, I took them to this former site of *Grevillea gariwerdensis*, and within a short time we rediscovered a number of seedlings emerging from the recently burnt swampy heathland. Walking in further we found more and more, until eventually we counted several hundred young plants.

IN THE WILD

Fortunately, Cranbourne have a permit to take flora from the Park, and a few seedlings were carefully dug up and returned to the botanic gardens for growing on. This will secure the Type of the species for the future. Staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne are carrying out DNA research into the *Grevillea linearifolia* complex, so it will be interesting to see the results of comparative tests on all other populations of *Grevillea gariwerdensis* in the Park.

Cranbourne will also now contact Parks Victoria in an attempt to ensure this site is not burnt again for many years, thus allowing this rare and beautiful Grevillea to recover, flower and set copious seed to secure it against any future wildfires.



Grevillea gariwerdensis seedlings at the Type location - Photo Neil Marriott

GREVILLEA GARIWERDENSIS (GARIWERD GREVILLEA) – FURTHER RESEARCH

Neil Marriott, Vic

Following the wonderful rediscovery of *Grevillea gariwerdensis* at the Type Location just outside Halls Gap in late winter 2022, a subsequent field trip was organised, again with staff from Cranbourne Botanical Gardens heading out into the Grampians in late spring. Target species for the trip were members of the *Grevillea linearifolia* group to assist with research being carried out by the team at Cranbourne and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne into this complex group of Grevilleas. I was very happy to help as it meant returning to old collection sites for Grampians Grevilleas that have been impacted on in recent years by a combination of climate change and inappropriate burning regimes by Parks Victoria.

The largest population of *Grevillea gariwerdensis* occurs along the Mt Zero Rd, just north of Plantation Picnic Ground, but sadly two thirds of this population was burnt out several years ago during an out of control "control burn"!! The great surprise for us was the abundant evidence of seedling recruitment over the several hectares of this population, which is very important because this population contains plants that range in flower colour from pure white, through beautiful shades of pink, to a deep pinky-mauve. Material from all perimeters of the population was collected to ensure as wide a genetic diversity as possible.



Grevillea gariwerdensis Mt Zero Rd, nth of Plantation Picnic Ground - pale pink form - Photo Neil Marriott

There is one more, isolated population of *Grevillea gariwerdensis* growing in open damp heathland in the Victoria Valley many kilometres from the other populations. This population is distinct, in being only sub-shrubs to c 0.4m tall and reproducing by root suckers. Again, the entire population was burnt out in the 2006 wildfire, and subsequent searches have failed to re-locate this population.

Recent discussions with Peter Olde indicate that it is highly probable that this taxon will be a new species! We are organising a further trip this autumn with Cranbourne staff to hopefully relocate this rare Grevillea and collect material for propagation and DNA research. Stay tuned.

IN THE WILD

THREE "NEW" GREVILLEAS FOR WESTERN VICTORIA

This sounds like something rather exciting, but sadly is three new populations of NSW Grevilleas that have gone feral in our district near the Grampians. We discovered two populations of *Grevillea* arenaria ssp canescens growing along two separate roadsides south of Great Western. The populations are fairly uniform with at least 100 plants at each site which are several kms apart. One population is adjacent to a garden that is the probable source of the plants, but the other is on an isolated section of the road reserve. There is evidence of active seedling recruitment at both sites.

None of these populations were from planted sources, they have just gone feral, one from nearby garden, the other who knows, but I am a member of the Landcare group for that area and they definitely haven't been planted.



Grevillea arenaria ssp canescens - Photo Neil Marriott



Grevillea arenaria ssp canescens population on Moyston Rd - Photo Neil Marriott



- Photo Neil Marriott

GREVILLEA SERICEA, A COLONISING POPULATION IN WESTERN VICTORIA

Neil Marriott, Vic

Late last year I stopped on the Western Highway near the caravan park at our turnoff and discovered a fairly large population of Grevillea sericea ssp sericea. This site had been scalped of its original native vegetation, which includes lovely low plants of the local *Grevillea alpina*. I was amazed to find, in the stony clay subsoil a mass of established plants and many seedlings of both G. sericea and G. alpina, not root suckers. It is probable that the G. sericea arose from garden plants growing in the adjoining caravan park. The G. alpina seedlings from adjoining indigenous plants There are also numerous plants of Gastrolobium celsianum Swan River Pea, a WA species also planted in the caravan park. This clearly shows the colonising ability of many of our Grevillea species.



Grevillea sericea ssp sericea growing on Western Highway, Stawell, Vic. - Photo Neil Marriott

Neil Marriott, Vic

GREVILLEA 'BARKLY'S DAUGHTER'

Peter Olde, NSW

If you were to go to a specialist native nursery or even a general nursery you might be persuaded to buy a plant labelled *Grevillea barklyana*. The robust screening plant with sawtooth leaves that you bought has many desirable features. It is easily propagated, is hardy and long-lived, and has bird-attracting flowers. You might even be persuaded to use it as a grafting rootstock for certain species of toothbrush *Grevillea*. However, for all its good points and the accompanying nursery label asserting it's identity as *Grevillea barklyana*, it is most likely a misidentified hybrid.

Grevillea barklyana is a Victoria species. Ferdinand von Mueller (1860-61: 14) first mentioned his discovery of Grevillea barklyana in his annual report to the Victorian Parliament. 'On my return to Melbourne I visited the Upper Tarwan, availing myself of a track formed by Mr. Devine's prospecting party; the tall Grevillea Barklyana (sic) was discovered on this last occasion.' Sir Henry Barkly, Toorak, then the Governor of Victoria, was noted (Mueller 1860-61: 3) in the same report as one of numerous donors to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. It is somewhat surprising, given regular publication of new species in his Fragmenta *Phytographiae Australie*, that Mueller neither described nor again mentioned this species until 1871, by which time Bentham (1870: 436–7) had published a description in Flora Australiensis based on Mueller's collection, a duplicate of which he had selflessly remitted to Bentham sometime in 1870. Mueller (1871: 133) simply referred to it, (and in Latin), as a 'shrub attaining a height of 12 feet'.

The next appearance of this 'species' came when flowering specimens of 'G. barklyana' collected by J.H. Maiden at Jervis Bay, New South Wales in July 1892 were displayed at the November meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales. Maiden showed them as 'new' for New South Wales, 'hitherto recorded only from Gippsland' (Maiden 1892: 404). However, according to correspondence cited by Olde (2005), Maiden was indeed well aware that the plant he collected was a new species and urged Mueller, with whom he corresponded on the matter, to name it after the recently deceased patron of science Sir William Macleay, MP. However, the proposed taxonomic treatment lapsed after Mueller died in 1896 and Maiden did not progress the matter. Willis (1972) continued to recognise the Jervis Bay plants as a form of *G. barklyana*. Formal taxonomic recognition only eventuated when McGillivray (1986: 2) named it as G. barklyana subsp. macleayana McGill. In the diagnosis, he distinguished it from subsp. *barklyana* by its persistent floral [common] bracts, and its subvillous ovary. Subsequently, Olde (2022) showed that G. macleayana, properly considered, only had simple leaves and added this to the several points of difference. Populations with divided leaves in New South Wales could be separately recognised (G. gilmourii and G. milleriana) and they could be readily

separated from *G. barklyana*. Consequently *G. barklyana* no longer has subspecies and embraces only the Victorian populations from which it was originally described.

The earliest reference to *Grevillea barklyana* in horticultural catalogues is a Boddy's Eastern Park Nursery list dated 1960–61. On P.25 they list for sale *G. Barklyana* 'Large-leaf Grevillea' and it must be presumed that this was the true species. The hybrid, for which I here suggest the name 'Barkly's Daughter', has largely replaced the species in catalogues from c. 1990. Norwood catalogue list from 1981 suggests a label for the true species was still in demand, though no reference specimen is available. What then the origin of *G. barklyana* hybrid which has persisted in horticulture to the present. Where did it come from and who introduced it. Unfortunately, I have not been able to trace its source.



Grevillea 'Barkly's Daughter'



Here are some of the differences which together distinguish the species from the hybrid.

G. barklyana

- simple leaves often present
- leaf lobes per leaf 2-7(-11)
- widest leaves 2.5-12 cm
- leaf undersurface tomentose

G. 'Barkly's Daughter

- simple leaves absent
- leaf lobes per leaf (10–)16–23
- widest leaves 2.5-6.5 cm
- silky-tomentose

G. 'Barkly's Daughter' is very similar to G. 'Poorinda Anticipation' and G. 'Hunter Scarlet'. G. 'Poorinda Anticipation' has flowers with pink styles. G. 'Hunter Scarlet', a new cultivar from Hunter Region Botanic Garden with similar red flowers has leaves with a velutinous (like velvet) undersurface.



Grevillea 'Hunter Scarlet'

Thanks to John Knight, Neil Marriott, David Shiells for consultations.



G. barklyana foliage, Messina image, downloaded from internet



G. barklyana Composite ALA image downloaded from internet, created by Richard Hartland

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EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE RE GREVILLEA LINEARIFOLIA SUBGROUP

From Peter Olde to Tara Hopley & Laura Simmons

Your names were given to me by Neil Marriott. I am in the early stages of a taxonomic revision of the *Grevillea linearifolia* subgroup for which specimens have been collected and sampled from NSW. I was wondering if you were intending to revise the whole subgroup. I do not have any genetic component incorporated with my work to date though we have samples suitable for sequencing. I was intending to do a morphological analysis and revision, using as many characters as I can find that have not been previously studied eg generative habit. I am happy to liaise with you in any capacity.

From Tara

Thanks for getting in touch with us. Our plans for the work are very much plans at the moment. We are currently working on population genetics for a number of species which has included Grevillea neurophylla subsp neurophylla, Grevillea neurophylla subsp fluviatilis and Grevillea alpivaga. This has piqued our interest mainly in the Linearifolia subgroup, southern alliance (we mainly focus on Victorian species being a state organization). So, while we are out collecting for projects we try to value add to the trips and collect any populations that fall into this group in the hopes of undertaking the work if funding becomes available. We generally don't do any taxonomic work, we mainly focus on population genetics, though with the sometimes less clear species boundaries we find ourselves including multiple taxa with the aim of identifying any genetic groupings that may be relevant, particularly with conservation in mind. If you have collections mainly from the NSW taxa/distribution it may be worth combining our efforts, it would be good to catch up sometime and have a chat.

Tara Hopley Postdoctoral Fellow - Conservation Genetics Research

From Peter

In my opinion the taxonomy around *G. neurophylla* and the two recognised subspecies is suspect and certainly needs follow-up with a population study. *G. neurophylla* occurs widely through the Snowy though. I visited *G. alpivaga* on Mt Buffalo in the relatively recent past and forgot to check its reproductive mode (rhizomatous I think).

Another suspect is *G. patulifolia* in Victoria which could be a new species. There are many issues. The type collection (NSW) is presumed to have been rhizomatous. Although the species is also apparently extinct at the type locality, nearby populations that match the morphology are all rhizomatous. If memory serves me well, the Victorian population (on the Lakeview Track, Croajingalong NP, a few km from Lakeview) is a tall narrowly erect shrub to 1.5 m, presumed to be seed-obligate like the population at Heathcote, New South Wales. This generative difference alone is evidence of an evolutionary step though its significance has to be assessed in a species overall and it may have to be treated as a polymorphism. This could be an issue in G. gariwerdensis for which there is evidence of both types of generative habit. However, it requires a closer look at other differences in that species which varies in other ways, such as its peduncle length, that may link together.

I am conducting a study into the whole *Linearifolia* subgroup. I have identified a number of new species in an attempt to sort out the difference between *G. parviflora* and *G. humilis*. Some progress has been made. One problem utilising generative mode as a character is deciding whether seed-obligate populations among rhizomatous populations have a latent ability to sucker. Two examples come to mind. *G. parviflora* ssp. *supplicans* appears to be seed-obligate in the wild but a recent propagation trial found suckers coming up in the pot. In another example a cultivated plant of *Grevillea vestita* (unrelated group) grew in cultivation both in Perth, WA and NSW for years without suckering. When grown at Mt Barker, WA however it suckered like crazy. G. vestita is known to sucker in some populations and apparently not in others.

In Victoria, I am particularly interested in the Mt Clay form of *G. micrantha* which could be new.

In relation to *G. gariwerdensis*, the population N of Plantation Rd is claimed now to be seed-obligate. However, collections by Neil Marriott (in 1994) and myself (in 2000) have recorded this population as root-suckering. I am a bit puzzled about this. The collection records may have to be revised.

GREVILLEA NEWS

WAMA BOTANIC GARDENS, HALLS GAP

Neil Marriott, Vic

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WAMA (Wildlife Art Museum of Australia) is soon to become a wildlife art gallery surrounded by an Australian botanic garden as well as natural areas of Grampians Heathy Woodland and riparian wetlands. Wendy and I have been working with WAMA for the last 10 years to see this vision come to fruition, on the beautiful WAMA property at the foot of the Grampians/Gariwerd National Park, just outside Halls Gap. The soils are Grampians outwash sands and lateritic rises, ideal for the cultivation of a diverse range of Australian native plants.

Last year we were fortunate to receive a government grant of \$75,000, doubled dollar for dollar by our fundraising team, to develop a Grampians Endemic Garden. Working closely with Cranbourne Botanic Gardens we have rapidly propagated a good range of the approximately 77 endemic plant species occurring in the Grampians. This will become the only botanic garden that will hold plants of every species of Grampians endemic plant. Landscape architects have been contracted to design the gardens and Stage 1 has recently been developed and planted out. The various garden beds have been designed to grow plants from the major vegetation communities in the Grampians, and already many of the plants have flowered and are growing well. As well as growing every endemic plant, our aim is to grow an extensive range of all species, so as to capture as wide a genetic range of each species as possible.

There are a large number of Grevilleas growing in the Grampians, and those that are endemic are *Grevillea confertifolia*, *G. dimorpha*, *G. gariwerdensis*, *G. microstegia* as well as *G. lavandulacea*, *G. iliciifolia*, the type form of *Grevillea alpina* and many unique forms of *G. aquifolium*. There is also possibly a distinct form of *G. micrantha*. DNA research may well show that more endemic species lie within these last three named species. The Grampians

is certainly a biodiversity hotspot, supporting over 1,100 different plant species; that is over one third of all Victorian plant species. It also has the greatest concentration of Grevillea species in the state.

Our collecting of *Grevillea gariwerdensis* with Cranbourne staff has now ensured that we already have a wide range of forms and flower colours under cultivation, and this is also the case for *Grevillea confertifolia*, *G. dimorpha* and numerous endemic forms of *G. aquifolium*. All of these will be cultivated and displayed in the WAMA Endemic Gardens.

Recently we had a big day with the Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar visiting the site. Our keynote speaker at the seminar, Costa Georgiadis, was most impressed by the huge potential for the Botanic Gardens and is very keen to visit the site again in several years.



Costa Georgiadis 'Gardening Australia' host, Glenda Lewin Patron WAMAand Neil Marriott Flora Team Leader WAMA Botanic Gardens – photo Wendy Marriott

FEDERAL CONFERENCE KIAMA, NEW SOUTH WALES

Although the Federal Conference held in September 2022 is a national conference at which study groups are given much prominence, it was not well supported by members of the Grevillea Study Group. I did prepare over many weeks a talk which I will publish in the next newsletter. It was programmed for the Tuesday but a cancellation forced its delivery on the Monday and of course those who came down on the Tuesday missed it. Nowadays the conference talks are not published formally as part of the proceedings and it will be quite difficult to get hold of the paper. To some extent the prepared talk was too long for the allotted time. You can catch the talk on YouTube <u>here</u>. Or click picture to access the talk.



CONTINUED >

Peter Olde, NSW

The study group mounted a small mixed display of Grevillea species and hybrids. Most of the flowers were from our Oakdale garden and the display plants were gathered by me and Margaret my wife who has severe mobility problems. There were no NSW members to assist. Fortunately one of the Queensland attendees, a paid ticket-holder, by name of Helen Howard, came up and offered to assemble the display and pull it down later in the week. We are very grateful to Helen for her service and assistance. The display was packed with a variety of unusual species and attracted much comment and query from the attendees (when I was manning it). Helen is moving to New South Wales, she tells me, and will attend NSW Study Group meetings when she can. I thought the conference was a tremendous success and a credit to the NSW members under the guidance of Heather Miles, particularly Sutherland Group.

One of the conference tours visited out garden at Oakdale and while many things were looking good I was personally grieving the loss of many plants due to the exceptionally heavy rains. Although the rains have eased in recent months, the damage to roots has been extensive and as the weather warms up the surviving roots cannot support the plant on top. Of course most of the grevilleas have done well, too well, and are in severe need of a good pruning. More on that later.

Liesbeth & Kyrill I would like to make mention of some special acts of thoughtfulness. One of the international attendees at Kiama was **Liesbeth Uitjewaal**, an enthusiastic grower of plants from Holland, particularly Australian plants. Her background can be gleaned from other Study Group newsletters (all online thanks to Brian Walters) and at www. merrigum.com. Now I had heard of Liesbeth, because she participates enthusiastically in other study groups as a grower of plants in pots. But I had never met her, nor interacted with her through the Grevillea Study Group or at any other level. However, at Kiama, she deliberately sought me out to give me a full set of the Grevillea Books. These books she had brought from Holland (from a person who no longer needed them). She gave them back to me for distribution to someone who could better use them. Now if you have picked up all three books at once recently, you will realise their weight. Then imagine them packed in a suitcase on an international flight with its weight limitations, and you can understand what an effort it was. These books have yet to find a home because I have yet to find a person worthy of such thoughtfulness. Thank you to Liesbeth. I know there are plenty of horticulturally-worthy grevilleas she could grow. Most of the cutting material that she took home got destroyed when her luggage got lost in transit. I will make it a special point to get seed to her of as many cold-tolerant species that I can.

Some of you will remember **Kyrill Taylor** an enthusiastic fern and eremophila grower. Kyrill passed away at the end of 2021. You can read more about him here

https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/rememberingkyrill-taylor/

Kyrill had a library of books stored in his garage at Yagoona and his wife Dorothy invited Marg and me to come over and go through it. On our arrival she handed me a full set of Grevillea books for use by someone of my choosing. Most of the remaining books went to the Illawarra Grevillea Park for resale and I thought that a note of thanks should be offered publicly for her generosity, particularly in light of the fact that she is a pensioner.

James Indsto & Peter Olde

PROPAGATION

UPDATE ON GREVILLEA GRAFTING

Email correspondence between James Indsto and Peter Olde

From James

I have been having much better results with my grafting this year. I just wish I had a few more Silky Oaks, but I am managing OK. I have been growing on some Silky Oaks to make standards up to 1.2m tall for *Grevillea bipinnatifida* and *G. thelemanniana* type varieties. I was thinking of making a 'Ray Page' standard for you and could do the grafts shortly as the stocks are coming along well. Would you know if the dark red *G. bipinnatifida* to the left front of your house is 'Ray Page'? I always found this one striking.



Grevillea 'Ray Page' – Photo Brian Weir

PROPAGATION

I did some online shopping with Trigg plants, who stock a nice range of natives. They have *G. thelemanniana* type Grevilleas as tube stock. I bought a 'Seaspray' that is considered a G. preissii or hybrid depending on what you read. The silver foliage and bright red flowers should be good. I also bought 'Red Rambler', which is supposed to be G. humifusa and 'Walkaway Wanderer', which is supposed to be G. thelemanniana, and a bit of G. fililoba from Sue Bowen. I have potted to 150mm pots and sprayed with Yates Anti Rot (phosacid) as a precaution against rots. Do you use this product?. I am sure Brian Weir would say these all graft straight to G. robusta, but it seems they might for him, but not me! However, with G. semperflorens or G. 'Carrington Cross', or G. acanthifolia interstock success is very likely. I successfully grafted to G. acanthifolia and realised later it wasn't G. 'Carrington Cross'. You might like a standard or two of these.

It would be great to visit soon. I would like to collect a few things and have another go at grafting things that failed previously, and also to collect any silky oaks and grow them on to graft maybe later this season or in spring.

I want to grow a good number of Silky Oaks this year. Because of the cool weather I am still waiting for seed to ripen, but as soon as it does, I will be collecting. You might like some seedlings to grow on.

I am having good results with Parafilm grafting tape (available from Forestry Tools). This seals very well. I expect the PVC tape I used before allowed a bit of moisture entry, or encouraged sweating, with a significant number of grafts failing due to mould. The Parafilm grafting tape is similar to Parafilm laboratory tape, but also distinct. It comes in 12mm wide rolls. It has the stretchiness of Parafilm, but is stronger and more suitable for grafting where you need to tie firmly. On a very hot day it might be a bit too stretchy. You don't need to remove it as it slowly degrades in sunlight. Some grafts have burst through it after only 3 weeks. I bought some Buddy tape too (available from Daley's Fruit Trees). This is similar, but comes in wider rolls. I even bought some tape used by ladies who do false eye lashes. I haven't got around to trialling it yet.

I have been experimenting with grafting to *G. triloba*. The bush is like a little Christmas tree with little white labels and grafts everywhere. So far *G. robusta*, *G.* 'Long John', *G. intricata*, *G. vestita*, *G. obtusifolia* and *G.* 'Billy Bonkers' are looking good. I am also trialling *G. bipinnatifida*, *G. caleyi*, *G. sericea*, *G. linearifolia*, *G. buxifolia*, *G. rhyolitica*, *G. leptobotrys*, *G. thelemanniana* and *G. lavandulacea* (and others?). It would be interesting if most, or all of these succeed. For me *G. triloba* grows well in regular loamy garden soil and has survived soggy soil. It is also relatively easy from cuttings. It may be worth persevering with this! Full results of my efforts should take another month or two.

From Peter

Your enthusiasm is inspiring. None of the fomrs of *G. bipinnatifida* at the front of the house are 'Ray Page'. It is a rather untidy shrub of poor habit elsewhere in the garden. The black-red flowers are amazing though and I have never seen this form in the wild. It would be good if a grower in WA could get a collection together of all the forms. You could maintain two gardens of them I reckon. Such an amazing species. Where is the person to replace the legendary George Lullfitz in enthusiasm and ability for growing plants??

Trigg plants provide an important online service in the sale of native plants. *G.* 'Seaspray' originated in WA with George Lullfitz. It is a form of *G. glabrilimba* that has recently been raised to specific rank. I do not know *G.* 'Red Rambler' but it could be anything! If it *is G. humifusa* it would make a fantastic standard. The problem is that it is not always 100% compatible with *G. robusta*. It needs an interstock possibly *G. semperflorens*. Regardless, it is a sensational flowering species and makes a wonderful standard. I am attaching some relevant pictures. *G.* 'Walkaway Wanderer' is probably *G. hirtella*. This was once known as *G. thelemanniana* subsp. *hirtella*.

Your trials with *G. triloba* as a rootstock should prove most interesting.



Grevillea humifusa Standard – Photo P. Olde

GREVILLEA TRIFIDA IN DENMARK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Margaret Pieroni, WA

My one acre property is west of the town of Denmark on the south coast of WA. It is on the lower slopes of Mount Hallowell, a wooded hill with granite outcrops. Above the block, the eucalypts are are Karri, *Eucalyptus diversicolor* and below it are Marri *Eucalyptus (Corymbia) calophylla* and Jarrah, *Eucalyptus marginata*. All three occur on my block which means that there is a rich diversity of plants in the understorey.

There are more than 20 plants in the Pea (Fabaceae family) but few in Proteaceae despite the fact that the soil is laterite gravel and clay. There are two dryandras, two hakeas, one banksia, one petrophile, one synaphea and only one grevillea, *Grevillea trifida. G. quercifolia* grows less than a kilometre away, so I have propagated and planted that one in my 'garden' section. I planted a small area with other western Australian plants in order to paint them when they flowered.



Grevillea trifida habit – photo by M. Pieroni

Just north of here in Mount Lindesay National Park, *G. trifida* is found, with three other species: *G. occidentalis, G. pulchella* and *G.* quercifolia.

Since moving into my house in 2005, I have been propagating plants of various sorts from cuttings and seeds to plant back where the soil was disturbed during the building of the house. Over the years, I have observed some plants increasing in number and some declining. *G. trifida* is one of the latter.

The Denmark form of *G. trifida* has very small, crowded leaves and the shrubs grow to less than one metre. The tiny flowers are produced in spring, on long branches. The plants do not appear to be suckering.





Grevillea trifida – photo by M. Pieroni



Grevillea trifida seeds – photo by M. Pieroni

In June, this year, I sowed some seeds of *G. trifida* but they failed to germinate. I'm hoping they might be one of the species with seeds that take 12 months to germinate so I am leaving the seed tray alone. Meanwhile, I recently put in some cuttings of new growth after the flowering and I will collect some more seeds when they ripen. After I have sown hem, I will burn some dry eucalypt leaves over the seed tray which is what I often did for as long as I have been growing Australian plants from seed.

FUNGAL DISEASE ON GREVILLEA SCAPIGERA

Neil Marriott, Vic

Neil Marriott, Vic

For many years now we have been cultivating the critically endangered Grevillea scapigera, a species that is very close to extinct in the wild around Corrigin in WA. Nearly all of our plants are being grown on G. robusta rootstocks with an interstock of G. flexuosa. Here in Victoria, we have had many plants of *G* scapigera growing most successfully. However, nearly a.ll have now died out, with all being afflicted with what appears to be a fungal disease. One by one the leaves turn black and die, rendering the plant weak and soon dying, when conditions appear to be perfect. This is a most disappointing problem, and talking with a few other Grevillea growers they have had similar problems. I wonder if this is one of the problems with the plants in the wild, as most of them, growing in remnant bushland on roadsides, have now mostly died out. This is something that clearly requires closer examination. Have you experienced this with your Grevillea scapigera? Speaking with fellow Study Group member Jeremy Tscharke in East Gippsland, he tells me that he has lost his beautiful large grafted specimen, however another, that is grafted as a standard, and is therefore up off the soil surface is thriving! Further indication that fungal attack may be the problem.



THE LIVING COLLECTION

What a year we have just had –almost the whole of our vast country has gone from drought to floods. Here in the Grampians region in western Victoria we have had our wettest year <u>ever on record</u>, with over 800mm for the Black Range. This came with long spells of unusually cold wet weather, during which, sadly, a number of our young Grevilleas grafted onto *Grevillea robusta* have died. On the other hand, those already established on *G. robusta* are loving the extra wet conditions and have flowered well this spring and summer. Surprisingly, we have lost no Grevilleas growing on their own roots. Once again, I think this shows the problems using *G. robusta* as a universal rootstock for southern, cold winter, dry summer climates.

Unfortunately, along with the big rains have come huge outbreaks of weeds, and now the Living Collection is in a rather bad state, with many garden beds swamped with weeds. We desperately need some helping hands to work with us to clean them up.

Living Collection Easter Working Bee 7 - 10 April

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Please put these dates in your diary now. Come along and help us clean up the weeds that have taken over. There is spare accommodation, or bring your caravan. We will organise trips to the Grampians and local native nurseries for participants, so it won't be all just work – and lots of socialising! We will provide meals for you and free cutting material from the gardens. A great opportunity for members to get together and catch up.

Please email or phone on 0458 177989 to reserve a bed.

Labels

We were most fortunate last year to have received the most generous donation of over 330 beautiful permanent push in aluminium labels for all Grevillea species and subspecies in the Living Collection. This was made possible by the most generous actions of John O'Hara, fellow member of the Grevillea Study Group and President of the Australian Rhododendron Society, Olinda Victoria. A big thank you to John, as this will allow visitors to be able to wander around the gardens and know the names of the Grevilleas that they are looking at. Previously it was all up to me being there and remembering every name!! Thank you,J John! They are wonderful, and when they are all installed, a valuable addition to the collection.



Flowering in the Living Collection

Following the wettest year ever recorded for the region, our Grevilleas have mostly thrived with the soaking rains. Now at the height of summer, numerous species are flowering superbly due to the good subsoil moisture levels. Our huge stand of self-seeding *Grevillea magnifica* have been flowering heavily right through winter, spring and still continue into summer. Other notable species in flower now are *Grevillea oncogyne* –a distinct dwarf race that Wendy and I discovered in 2003 on Nindilbillup Rd, NE of Ravensthorpe, WA. Peter and I suspect that this warrants recognition as a new species. It appears to be root suckering.



Grevillea oncogyne - dwarf form - Photo Neil Marriott



A TRIP TO SOUTH GIPPSLAND

Late last year Wendy and I had a week's holiday on Phillip Island at the mouth of Westernport Bay. This part of Victoria is now one of the few places in Australia that is still getting good reliable rainfall, and so is proving to be a wonderful location for growing our native plants. Years ago, it had the reputation for being too cold and wet, but now it seems to be ideal, with lots of lovely native gardens, including several members of the Grevillea Study Group.

We visited several of these, including Simon Gilliland and Dave Binch, both of whom are very keen grafters. We also visited the spectacular garden of Alan and Margie Lacey at Cowes on Phillip Island. There is virtually no space left in this garden for another plant, with even the front nature strips planted out. The result is spectacular, with a host of the showiest Grevilleas as well as numerous other very showy natives creating a wonderful display, which is now being emulated by a number of neighbours on their adjoining gardens.



Neil Marriott, Vic

Simon has a large property at Cape Patterson, with a beautiful natural wetland and a lovely sandy loam rise, ideal for growing a large collection of Grevilleas and Hakeas. Notable when we visited was a lovely grafted *Grevillea candicans* in full flower as well as a wonderful range of other Grevilleas.



evillea candicans flowering in Simon Gilliand's gard – Photo Neil Marriott

We then went on to visit the home and spectacular garden of Dave Binch at Dalyston, just north of Wonthaggi. Dave has developed his large garden on two blocks of land with wonderful rich volcanic soils. This has allowed the Grevilleas, most of which are grafted onto *Grevillea robusta* to thrive, and when we visited there were many in full flower as can be seen in the photo below.



A small selection of Grevilleas in Dave Binch's garden L-R: Grevillea eremophila, G bracteosa, G juncifolia, G georgiana and G albiflora – Photo Neil Marriott

AUTUMN FLOWERING GREVILLEAS

With well over 500 different species and around 1000 garden hybrids, there is a wealth of Grevilleas that are ideal for cultivation in our home gardens. The vast majority of Grevilleas are medium to large shrubs, many of which tend to be best suited to larger gardens. There are however some absolutely delightful small shrubs and groundcovers ideal for the home garden, with the added benefit being their fame at attracting our native wildlife.

Today there is a wonderful range of species and hybrids that can be purchased at your local nursery, big trade centre nurseries or for the collector wanting something a bit special, from a number of the specialist native and on line nurseries around the country. Let's look at some of those that brighten up our gardens in the autumn months –a time when there is very little in flower in the native world.

Grevillea beardiana – Beard's Toothbrush Grevillea

This beautiful small shrub comes from the southern wheatbelt region of Western Australia. In cultivation it grows to around 1m tall and 1.5m wide, with fine soft green leaves and masses of very showy toothbrush flowers from autumn right through to spring. Flowers can be bright scarlet or showy orange in colour and are very popular with our honeyeating birds. Sadly it is not very common in cultivation at present, but can be occasionally available, usually as grafted plants at specialist native nurseries.



Grevillea beardiana – Peak Charles form Neil Marriott

Grevillea bipinnatifida 'Grape Grevillea'

Undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and hardy of all our small Grevilleas, the Grape Grevillea gets its common name from the abundant trusses of spectacular big flowers that hang down from the plant like bunches of grapes. These are full of nectar and flower for many months of the year, bringing a regular supply of native birds into your garden.

The large deeply divided leaves range from deep green to silver-grey and are most attractive in their own right. Plants grow from 0.5m to 2m tall and wide but can be readily pruned back to keep low and compact if desired.

CONTINUED >

Neil Marriott, Vic

There is even a wonderful prostrate form that Peter and I discovered a number of years ago. Grevillea bipinnatifida is one of the most important species for breeding hybrids with our nurserymen, being one of the parents for a myriad of spectacular hybrids including the famous Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon', Grevillea 'Superb', Grevillea 'Ned Kelly' and Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream' to name but a few!



Grevillea bipinnatifida – Chittering Valley form Neil Marriott

Grevillea 'Collaroy Plateau'

This lovely small Grevillea is a natural hybrid that comes from the Collaroy Plateau area to the north of Sydney, NSW. It grows to around 1m x 1m and has soft entire oval leaves and masses of showy mauve-pink flowers for many months of the year. These attract native bees into the garden which are so important for our healthy environment. Can be pruned to be a taller and narrow border plant if desired.

Grevillea 'Collaroy Plateau' grows best in a dappled shade location, and coming from Sydney, it prefers an occasional drink over our long hot summers. This also ensures a continual show of its lovely flowers while there is still some moisture in the soil. It propagates readily by cuttings, and is often available at both specialist and general nurseries, or you can easily strike some cuttings yourself!



Grevillea 'Collaroy Plateau' – Photo by Neil Marriott

Grevillea 'Katydid'

Grevillea 'Katydid' is a spectacular, albeit prickly large shrub that I bred in the 1990s when I was breeding Grevillea bipinnatifida - Chittering Valley form with a number of other species in my garden. Grevillea 'Katydid' is named after my daughter Katy Marriott, whose nickname with my son Gordon as a kid was Katydid!! The amazing thing about Grevillea 'Katydid' is the fact that it flowers all year round, so is priceless for attracting native birds into your garden. Unfortunately it grows quite large, often getting to 1.5 x 2-3m across! However it responds wonderfully to heavy pruning and can even be cut back to the stump and it will re-shoot to create a lovely low shrub again. Occasionally available at Phil Vaughan's as G. batrachioides hybrid.



Grevillea 'Katydid' – Photo Neil Marriott

Grevillea 'New Blood'

This is an absolutely wonderful groundcover bred by Peter Ollerenshaw, that is ideally suited to small and larger gardens alike. It only grows to around 0.2m tall, spreading with its lovely soft bright green leaves to around 1.5m wide. Flowers are bright red and prolific for many months of the year, making it one of the showiest groundcovers you could want, while attracting native birds into your garden. It looks really nice when a number of plants are put in to create a drift of dramatic colour, especially in front of silver foliaged larger shrubs. Often available in nurseries.



Grevillea 'Bush Lemons'

There are many showy 'tropical' hybrid Grevilleas with large showy flowers and 'ferny' leaves, however *Grevillea* 'Bush Lemons' bred by fellow member Richard Tomkin has proven to be better suited to the cooler conditions of Victoria as well as being a smaller shrub, better suited to the home garden. *Grevillea* 'Bush Lemons' is an open shrub growing 1-2m tall and 1-1.5m wide with soft deeply divided leaves and masses of spectacular big lemon toothbrush shaped flowers. These continue for many months of the year, so long as there is some subsoil moisture in the soil. It grows best in a warm sunny site, and may need some protection from frosts when young. Plants can be pruned back in late spring if desired to maintain a more compact habit. Occasionally available in nurseries mainly as grafted plants, especially native specialists in NSW and Queensland.



Grevillea 'Bush Lemons' – Photo Neil Marriott

Grevillea 'Ochre Pokers'

A beautiful small spreading shrub that arose as a chance seedling after the 2006 bushfire ran though our Grevillea Study Group Living Collection. It is clearly a seedling from the nearby *Grevillea* 'Canning Classic' but what is the other parent? Under cultivation it grows slowly and steadily, flowering beautifully throughout summer and autumn with its very large ochre-orange toothbrush flowers. Our oldest plants are now less than 0.3m tall and up to 1m wide, with finely divided soft foliage. It can be struck by cuttings but is best grown as a grafted plant (not directly on *G robusta*). Occasionally available at specialist nurseries, particularly in Victoria. Makes a spectacular standard when grafted on *G. robusta* with an interstock.



Grevined Ochre Pokers – Photo Neil Marr

Grevillea 'Majestic'

A most beautiful fern leaved 'tropical' Grevillea with lovely soft deep green leaves and masses of majestic pinky-red and cream bottlebrush flowers. These adorn the plant for many months of the year, flowering beautifully well into autumn so long as there is sufficient moisture in the soil. Plants can get to a fairly large size of around 3-4m tall and wide, making it a wonderful showy screen plant or large feature plant for the garden. Coming from the tropics it prefers a warm sunny site protected from heavy frosts, particularly when young. Occasionally available in nurseries particularly in NSW and Queensland.



CONTINUED >

Grevillea maccutcheonii Maccutcheon's Grevillea

A listed critically endangered species from south of Busselton in SW WA, where only 7 plants grow in shallow soil over laterite in winter wet sites. Despite its rarity, it has rapidly proven itself to be extremely adaptable and hardy under cultivation, growing readily in most soils on its own roots. There is even a plant growing in a glasshouse in the National Botanic Garden of Wales! Once plants establish in the garden they have been observed to drop large amounts of seed, which germinate readily, with numerous seedlings around the parent plant. Fortunately they do not appear to hybridise, with all seedlings growing true to type. Seedling grown plants are extremely hardy, and will flower in their second year after planting. Foliage is most attractive, with stem clasping soft leaves with 3 lobes on the ends. Plants can grow to 2m tall, however under cultivation they tend to be a lot smaller so far, only reaching to around 1m x 1.5m. Flowering is prolific, although not showy, but continues well into the autumn months, attracting numerous honeyeaters into the garden. Occasionally available at specialist native nurseries, but deserves to be more widely available.



Grevillea nivea or 'Scarlet King'

A very large and most beautiful Grevillea from limited coastal areas near Bremer Bay on the south coast of WA. This is a wonderful plant for large gardens where it can be allowed to spread to several metres tall and up to 3-4m wide. It flowers for many months of the year, almost continuously when there is sufficient subsoil moisture available. Can be readily pruned to a smaller size if desired. Often available at nurseries.



Grevillea polybotrya Caramel Grevillea

Normally flowering during the months of summer, Grevillea polybotrya will often flower beautifully right into the autumn months, particularly when summers are cooler and mild. The massed flowers are typically cream, however rarely plants can be found in the wild that have beautiful pale to deep pink buds, opening to soft pink flowers. Peter and I found several lovely pink forms with attractive ashgrey foliage, on a trip to the West and sent material back to members in the East -the struck plants are the original forebears of nearly all plants now in cultivation. These have the most amazing caramel perfume that fills the garden on warm sunny days with truly delicious caramel perfume. Plants can be propagated by seed or cuttings that strike quite easily, or by grafting on a suitable rootstock. It is not compatible with G robusta.



Grevillea polybotrya (Caramel Grevillea) – Photo Neil Marriott

Grevillea rhyolitica 'Deua Flame'

This is an attractive plant with lovely soft oval leaves and masses of pendulous bright red flowers which cover the plant for most of the year. In the wild, Grevillea rhyolitica is a rare shrub confined to the mountains around Deua National Park in southern NSW. However, under cultivation it is proving to be quite adaptable, so long as it is given a well-drained site in sun to semi shade. It prefers some subsoil moisture over the dryer months and this keeps the flowers going, attracting lots of wildlife to your garden. Plants can grow from 1.5-2m tall and wide and are naturally compact, but can be pruned lightly if needed. Often available at nurseries.



Grevillea rhyolitica 'Deua Flame' – Photo Neil Marriott

Grevillea tenuiloba 'Golden Glory'

This is one of the real gems of the West where it is sadly now a listed rare and endangered species. We discovered a small colony of this beauty at Canna north of Perth on a Birdwing wildflower tour a number of years ago and everyone was thrilled to see them. The plants were only 0.3-0.5m tall and around 1m wide and covered in spectacular pendant golden toothbrush flowers. Plants are extremely hardy once established in a sunny well drained site, but have proven to be a bit difficult to propagate from cuttings. We have a couple of spectacular plants in our Pomonal Hall garden, and Neville and Helen Collier have several as grafted standards in their wonderful garden. Often available at specialist native nurseries, occasionally as a long flowering standard.



Grevillea vestita 'Mulberry Midnight'

An absolutely spectacular Grevillea that normally flowers in early summer, but can also flower during autumn in good years. *Grevillea vestita* normally has white flowers, however this selection has the most amazing deep mulberry-black flower buds opening to soft pink flowers. It was discovered by a nursery friend Nancy Scade in a coastal suburb of Perth, and thank goodness, she took some cuttings and struck it, as it was then totally wiped out by property developers! It grows to around 1-1.5m x 1.5m with lovely ash-grey simple to toothed leaves. Cuttings strike well, as long as they are not allowed to get too wet. At present it is not readily available at nurseries, but deserves to be far more widely grown.



Grevillea vestita 'Mulberry Midnight' – Photo Neil Marriott

This is just a brief introduction to this, the most popular genus of Australian plants according to the nursery trade! I could add many more, although sadly few are readily available in our nursery industry without a bit of searching. In future articles I will write about some wonderful Grevillea selections for the other seasons. For those who are keen on our beautiful Grevillea hybrids, Peter Olde and I have finished writing a complete book on this group of plants and the manuscript is with the publishers. Keep an eye out for this in your favourite bookshops in the next year.

FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2023

ORCID: <u>https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4333-0769</u>	Income		LEADER
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			CURATOR OF LIVING COLLECTION

The newsletter is now free but groups are encouraged to make an annual donation. Individual donations are always welcome. Direct deposits can be made into the Grevillea Study Group account.

BSB: 112-879 Account Number: 016526630 (St George Bank)

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

SEED BANK

There are no changes. Please see newsletter No. 117 for details.

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Thanks to the Vic members who contributed to this newsletter. It is SE Qld's turn next time. Please send your content to grevilleanews@ optusnet.com.au by April 30.

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To be notified of the latest newsletter, email recipients must be registered. Please ensure your email address is registered and up to date and any changes are advised to Christine Guthrie at bruce.moffatt@tpg.com.au