

# GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 126 – NOVEMBER 2023

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### GSG New South Wales Chapter

*We gather at 9:30 am for shared morning tea and a meeting at 10:00am, BYO lunch. Note the earlier time of 9.00 am for the July meeting.*

*Leader: Peter Olde, p 0432 110 463 | e [peter.olde@exemail.com.au](mailto:peter.olde@exemail.com.au)*

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

#### Saturday, 25 November 2023

**VENUE:** Christmas meeting at the home of Tony Sexton,  
26 Crana Road, Brownlow Hill (Camden)

**TOPIC:** John Elton – Feedback and discussion about The Grafting Project

### GSG Victorian Chapter

*Leader: Neil Marriott, 693 Panrock Reservoir Rd, Stawell, Vic. 3380 p 0458 177 989  
[neil@whitegumsaustralia.com](mailto:neil@whitegumsaustralia.com).*

### GSG South Australian Chapter

*Leader: Alf Stephens, 21 Hillsdale Ave, Coromandel Valley SA  
p 0418 404 408 | e [alfstephens@adam.com.au](mailto:alfstephens@adam.com.au)*

### GSG West Australian Chapter

*Leader: John Ewing, 2a Enid Rd, Kalamunda WA  
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### GSG SE Queensland Chapter

*We gather at 9:30am for shared morning tea and a meeting at 10:00am. 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 November

**VENUE:** Peacehaven Botanic Park, Highfields – 56 Kuhls Road, Highfields

**TOPIC:** Helen Howard – grafting workshop

#### Saturday & Sunday, 24 & 25 February

**VENUE:** Mt Clunie cabins – 369 Mt Clunie Rd, Koreelah, Via Woodenbong, host Jim Standing

**TOPIC:** Watering habits for keeping established Grevilleas alive in dry times, incl experiences at Mt Clunie

#### Sunday, 28 April

**VENUE:** Home of Alan Lee – 23 Lucas Rd, Tamborine

**TOPIC:** Small garden Grevilleas; & Qld chapter making an item for newsletter

#### Sunday, 30 June

**VENUE:** Smarty Plants Nursery – 424A Tallegalla Rd, Tallegalla, host Chris Nikolic

**TOPIC:** Grafting vs cuttings

## A FEW WORDS FROM PETER

Peter Olde, NSW

I returned on October 21 from an eight-week long stay in Western Australia where I set myself the task of revising *Grevillea trifida* sens. lat. Although I did not get it fully reduced (there will be some unassigned specimens that warrant further study) I managed to delimit some 10 new taxa which took most of the time I was there (including field trips). The species include

1. sp. Nyabing,
2. sp. suckering Cranbrook (Yeriminup Rd, Aurora Rd etc,)
3. sp. Mt Barker
4. *G. trifida* s. str.,
5. *G. brevicuspis*, reinstated
6. *G.* sp. Scotsdale Reserve
7. *G.* sp. lignotuberous Williams–Capercup
8. *G.* sp. extinct S of Toompup,
9. *G.* sp. columnar Denmark,
10. ?*G. prominens* Mt William.

I also report on the new species from Western Australia at Kulikup. I have submitted a paper to *Telopea* on the new species at Kulikup related to *G. acropogon* to get this name out there and facilitate conservation procedures. Dr Rachel Binks from the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (What a ridiculous name for a state department) is co-author. It was through her that I received notice of its existence. She is also working on variation in *G. brachystylis* and I hope to be able to assist in the delimitation of two new species in that complex. I have delimited two species in *G. stenobotrya* sens. lat. with more to come assuredly. I revised the whole of Group 8 and will recognise new taxa therein including a magnificent form of *G. prominens* that I was urged to check out by another DBCA officer, Andrew Webb.

I also visited and met some other wonderful people interested in the WA flora including Don and Joy Williams. I was a bit crook when I visited them at Hi Vallee where Joy, a nurse in her younger days, got me going again. I caught up with Alex George and purchased a couple of his later books. He told me that they (a team of people) are preparing an update on the life of James Drummond about which much more is known since the publication by Rica Erikson in 1969. I also caught up with John Ewing (study group leader in Western Australia) who is recovering from cancer treatment and also with Cec and Graeme McConnell, who have moved into Keith Alcock's old mansion at Kalamunda. They have a bush block at Badgingarra which we visited on a very hot day that was not conducive to plant exploration. Two species grow on their property: *G. synapheae* subsp. *minyulo* (*G. minyulo*) and *G. calliantha*. I am preparing an article and update on the latter species.

Another important DBCA officer, Anne Harris, from Wanneroo explored the populations of *G. lawrenceana* with me. We were able to clarify their identification, one of which was actually *G. vestita*, and curb her worries about hybridisation and identification. She showed me two populations (at Timaru Nature Reserve and near Moora) that might be *G. obtusifolia* but, without close study, I am thinking two new species in the *G. thelemanniana* group.

Not forgetting the hybrids, I also visited Digby Grows at Kings Park and I have reported on this in this issue. Kings Park is looking magnificent and the displays around the visitors centre are breath-taking. However, like all governments do, the budget is being cut and I suppose it won't be long when this is all a tourist attraction of the past. Go there and visit before it is too late though there is no immediate concern.

## ACTIVITY REPORTS

## SE QLD STUDY GROUP MEETING REPORTS

R. Reddick, Qld

**Sunday 25 June 2023 at 23 Lucas Road, Tamborine home, garden & nursery of Alan & Rebecca Lee**
**Opening**

Denis Cox welcomed all 15 members & 1 visitor and noted 5 apologies, as per attendance book. He thanked Alan & Rebecca for hosting.

**General Business**

Don Capner, reported that the *Grevillea scortechini* on Thulimbah School Road is being overrun by non-native grasses, trees & shrubs. Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium, Southern Downs Region Council have the area signed as having endangered plants, but it still needs help.

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**Discussion topic: Interstock grafting**

Interstock is used as an intermediary, as it is generally not reliable on its own roots;

Rootstock/scion have 'rejection' attitudes (like human transplants often have);

We all went to the Nursery where we saw the 'interstock' grafting results (at pot stage).

Alan has experimented with various interstocks; his front garden shows the long-term results.

**Nursery tour and garden stroll**

Alan has what I would call a display garden, but he tells me it is his working/cuttings/grafting -material garden. Alan's front garden shows the long-term results of all grafting methods.

**Sunday 27 August 2023 at 84 Huntingdale St, Pullenvale, home & garden of Alistair & Kylie Barros**

**Opening:** Denis welcomed all 21 members and noted 6 apologies, as per attendance book.

He thanked Alistair & Kylie for hosting.

**Show & tell**

Denis' collection:

G. 'Coral Glow', a chance seedling at Logan Village, lovely pink to red;

G. 'Dorothy Gordon', like it or not, bird attractor; known to drop dead after heavy rain;

G. 'Bulli Beauty', tall, good looking shrub, discovered at Illawarra Grevillea Park at Bulli;

G. 'Ivory Whip', Richard's best (along with G. 'Lana Maree'), flowers all year;

Cream flowered decumbent *G. banksii*, 1.2M tall X very wide plant;

*G. candelabra*, pink & white flowers, a mutant form of *G. banksii* (not a hybrid!)?, comes true to form from seed), bare root cuttings into potting mix for best results.

Laylee's collection:

Phil Vaughan's *G. nivea*, bright red fine flower

From Alistair's garden:

*G. microstegia*, very fine toothbrush shaped, hanging flower; endemic to Vic.

Chris Purchase ID please; *G. 'Lemon Baby'*, very large, stunning yellow, changing to pink flowers for most of the year.

**Discussion topic: Fertilizers for different soils**

All soils are different;

Members use: low phosphorous,

Katek- made near Gympie, pelletised chook, very smelly;

Blood & Bone with well composted stable stuff;

Troforte, from big green hardware house;

Neutrog Bush tucker; use sparingly and often, preferably when rain expected;

Use after pruning & when growth-spurt expected;

Soil pH 6.5 ideal, Laylee has 7.5-7.9;

If pH is high, graft onto *G. robusta*, and mulch (*G. robusta* will tolerate higher pH)

Heavy soils out west suit eg *G. olivacea*.

Comment: every plant has a finite life and often we try to do the impossible with them.

**Sunday 29 October 2023 at 15 Borghardt Road, Highfields, Home of Judy & Chris Goodwin**

**Opening:** Denis welcomed the 23 members & visitors and thanked Chris & Judy for hosting at their wonderful garden.

**General Business**

Last 2023 Venue: November 26 – Peacehaven Botanic Park, 56 Kuhls Road, Highfields.

(We visited this Botanic Park this morning, to use their beaut new conveniences; *G. rhyolitica* was in superb flower. I am also advised Helen Howard will be here, doing a grafting workshop for the Botanic Park's volunteers on Sat, then us on Sunday. Jan & Denis will bring a laptop & projector for presentations at meetings.)

**Show & tell**

Two separate specimens of *G. 'Aphrodites Dream'* were presented, developed by Kings Park & Botanic Gardens in Perth, hybrid GR111; discussion over parentage ensued – *G. banksii* subsp *candelabra* X *G. concinna* subsp *lehmannii*.

**Discussion topic: Alternate methods of propagation, layering, marcotting, etc**

Don experimented with marcotting (air layering) and presented a *Grevillea* & a *Banksia* success, that has been about 12 months in the making. He described his process using sphagnum moss. (I also watched a 7-minute you-tube video of 'Daleys Fruit nursery' on marcotting, that explained their method of creating a new Longan fruit tree, very well. They worked on a woody branch and used coir for their medium.) Other propagation methods mentioned, but not explained in full were, Approach grafting, Budding & Tissue culture.

## NSW CHAPTER GSG MEETING REPORTS

Christine Guthrie, NSW

**Saturday 24 June 2023 at the home of Peter Olde, 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale**

**Welcome:** Peter welcomed 22 members with 9 apologies.

**President's Report**

New species of *Grevillea* from WA are being found at least once or twice per year, including one related to *Grevillea synapheae* found at Nyabing and a species with hairy foliage related to *G. acropogon* which genetic testing has shown to be a distinct species. There are 399 species of *Grevillea* at the moment and this number is likely to rise to over 500 in the future.

**Guest Speaker:** Phillip Vaughan from Pomonal in Victoria, on Grafting and Intergrafts.

Phillip has been propagating for 40 years and is particularly interested in long term compatibility of grafts with their root stocks. He believes there should be a 4-5 year trial before being released into the market. Incompatibility can be seen when the root stock is huge and the scion is small, or vice versa, or the scion simply falls off after being established. There is no universal root stock, it depends on location, soil type and climate. Phillip has had success with *G. 'Bronze Rambler'*, *G. 'Carrington Cross'* and *G. 'Barkly's Daughter'*. *G. robusta* produces long internodes. Don't be afraid to trial root stocks and interstocks suitable for your area.

Use woody material for grafting, terminal material is too soft. When doing a mummy graft, the buds need to be active; remove the leaves and cover with tape. Two buds are enough otherwise the graft is too long. If using a wedge graft, it should not be too short or it will fall off in the long term – more contact makes for a stronger plant. Phillip uses the wedge graft as he finds it easier. If both sides of the graft match you should get a better result. Without heat or mist, November – February are the best months to graft.

Some of Phillip's successes are: *G. candicans* on *G. 'Carrington Cross'*, *G. georgeana* on *G. robusta*, and *G. quercifolia* on *G. robusta*. *G. 'Canning Cumquat'* also grows well on *G. robusta*. This is a stunning plant that has bright orange flowers for six months. *G. excelsior* grows well using *G. 'Moonlight'* as an interstock. Phillip is a great believer in 'all ducks being in a row' ie you need to have everything as good as possible such as potting mix, time of year, hygiene, the right root stock and the right scion material.

There are some interesting plants coming out from Kings Park that are being bred scientifically and methodically, including *G. 'Red Coral'*, *G. 'Spirit of Anzac'*.

*G. 'Black Shiraz'*, a cross between *G. beadleana* and *G. scortechinii*, has been released recently. It was bred by a chap in Tamworth apparently but is a very average plant

Phillip recounted some of his many stories about his extensive experience finding and collecting plants in WA, with other notable plant collectors. You need to have a permit, and it should be noted that a permit is necessary to lodge a specimen in a herbarium.

**Saturday 29 July 2023 at the Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan**

**Welcome:** Peter welcomed 20 members with 2 apologies and thanked Peter Cuneo who worked for 34 years at the Australian Botanic Garden at Mt Annan, with the horticulture team and at the seed bank.

**President's Report**

- Chris Cheetham's field trip following the May meeting revealed a new species – *Grevillea juniperina* ssp *trinervis*.
- There is a need for a seed herbarium, with seed and follicles for each species pinned to a sheet. Any volunteers?
- There is also a need for a database with successful grafting information, including compatibility, timing, location, type of graft. John Elton offered to work out suitable categories and present them at the next meeting. Christine Guthrie offered to collate the information gathered. There is already a spreadsheet circulating put together by Neville White, Brian Weir and Richard Tomkin?

Preceding the meeting, Peter Cuneo led an inspection of the herbarium building. It is constructed of rammed earth walls, 45 cm thick and is in the shape of a modified waratah seed pod. It has the capacity to house 3 million specimens in 5 large rooms. There is a Botanical Identification Service and volunteers assist with mounting specimens. To date 1.1 million specimens have been digitized, reducing the number of loan requests. Peter Olde showed us his well-equipped office. This is where he works whenever he can get there.

Following the meeting, Ryan Newett showed us around the nursery precinct. The nursery supplies plants to the horticultural team for display and natural areas, the science team, volunteers and contract growing particularly for government departments and private contractors involved in conservation projects. We also saw the extensive *Grevillea* collection in pots, used for propagation and research.

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Peter Cuneo inspecting *Grevillea nivea* in Mt Annan's potted Grevillea Collection



*Grevillea sericea* subsp. *sericea* in the collection

Peter Cuneo then gave us a tour of the seed bank including the seed processing room, drying room, seed storage area and the tissue culture area. Many members showed an interest in volunteering for mounting specimens. There are also opportunities for volunteers to work in the gardens and with the Friends at propagating. The sale of plants helps the Botanic Garden fund its operations.

**Saturday 26 August 2023 at the home of John & Jeannette Elton, 99 Edward Wollstonecraft Lane, Coolangatta NSW**

**Welcome:** Peter welcomed 14 members and visitors with 4 apologies.

- There is a problem with road verges where many containing rare and endangered species are not being maintained. More *Grevillea calliantha* is being grown in cultivation than remains in the wild.
- Peter bought Phil's plants that were left over from the last meeting and he brought some along for sale. One was donated for the raffle.
- Peter would like members to consider suitable discussion topics for future meetings including

taxonomy and standards. Possibly check topics discussed at SE Qld meetings.

**General Discussion**

- Planting for colour – consider flowering times and complementary colours. A blue *Grevillea*? There are two populations of *G.shiresii*, one with green flowers and one with bluish flowers.
- ABC's Gardening Australia on Friday 25 August featured the Illawarra *Grevillea* Park and Ray Brown's method of pruning with a hedge trimmer. This should be done in October/November. If done in March/April the new growth is too soft to withstand the cold or stress of winter.
- Standards – advantages are they are easier to graft, there is good air flow around the plant to minimize humidity problems, they are clean as they are up off the ground, providing excellent clean material for propagation and they take up a lot less space in the garden (especially for spreading prostrate scions). To prune a standard, cut out dead material and prune underneath the plant and tip prune on top to encourage good layers on top of the plant. No stake is needed if grafted on to *G. robusta*. Josh Miller uses a long graft on a standard, the more growth rings, the stronger the graft. The graft needs to grow quickly so there is a strong union. A longer rootstock usually provides more vigour and "push".
- Standards can be used as a feature plant to create a focal point in the garden or used as 'hedge' to provide a background for other plants.
- Grafting Should the rootstock be grown in a larger pot to provide this vigour? The graft can be ugly if the rootstock is too thick, time is lost waiting for the rootstock to grow and a smaller diameter graft looks better.
- In Victoria, grafts are only done in the warmer months and a mummy graft is used. Josh doesn't like mummy grafts as there is too much pressure on the buds and they die off. He puts a plastic bag over the graft and puts it in the shade as full sun will fry the plant. John Elton uses a mummy graft but leaves the bud exposed and covers with a plastic bag.
- Brain Weir soaks his pots in water containing fertiliser which is said to fertilise the bottom roots to provide vigour. Fertilising from the top only fertilises the roots near the top of the pot. This method is only suitable in backyard situations, not commercially.
- Why Graft? Tropical grevilleas usually don't need grafting. Grafting can be done when the species is difficult to propagate by cuttings. Some *G. lavandulacea* hybrids are short lived and may need grafting.

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Following lunch, John led a tour of his amazing extensive garden. John's soil is a loam derived from the nearby volcanic Coolangatta Mountain. John also only waters when conditions are really dry and then only selectively. Garden beds are thickly mulched with wood chip and heavy pruning takes two months, in October and November. Whatever John is doing, it is working fabulously. It is a real credit to him.



John Elton's Garden – *Grevillea* 'Cooroora Cascade' and *Prostanthera nivea*



Standard *Grevillea bipinnatifida* in John's Garden

**Saturday 30 September 2023 at Boongala Gardens, the home of Malcolm & Jenny Johnston, 76 Pitt Town Road, Kenthurst NSW**

**Welcome:** Jonathan Steeds chaired the meeting in Peter's absence and welcomed 21 members and visitors with 8 apologies. Special thanks go to Malcolm & Jenny Johnstone for hosting the meeting, and for providing seating and hot water.

**Guest Presentation:** Malcolm Johnston.

Malcolm & Jenny's 11 acre property was an orchard and chook farm with no grass. They planted trees 50 years ago and began planting out the gardens 25 years ago. They named the property Boongala Gardens after Jenny's uncle (Sid Cadwell) who owned a nursery called Boongala, meaning shaded place. A lot of the timber and materials from the old chook sheds and old farm machinery have been incorporated into infrastructure and sculptures spread around the gardens.

The property has about 45 cm of top soil over yellow sandy clay. The gardens are mulched annually and watered extensively when necessary. Around 2,000 *Lomandras* were planted to stabilize the soil and they provide perfect habitat for bandicoots which aerate the soil. Other wildlife includes Blue Tongue Lizards, Ring Tail Possums and many species of birds. Information boards appear all around the gardens.

In 2007 Angus Stewart did a story about the gardens. In 2010 Graham Ross presented the gardens on *Better Homes and Gardens*, and Costa Georgiades has featured them on *Gardening Australia*.

Following the meeting, Malcolm led an hour walk through the extensive rainforest area on the southern slopes of the property. The gardens are a credit to the hard work of Malcolm and Jenny and well worth a visit. They also had many plants for sale.

Saturday 28 October 2023 at the home of Peter Olde, 140 Russell Lane Oakdale NSW

**Welcome:** Peter welcomed 30 members and visitors with 7 apologies and special thanks to Richard Tomkin and Dave Madden who had driven down from Bundaberg for the meeting. Richard had brought along some of his grafted *Grevilleas* for sale.

**Business Arising from Minutes**

Discussion about the grafting database took place. Of note were the following points.

- It is intended to be applicable to grafting in more southern regions of the country where climatic conditions are markedly different than in northern areas such as QLD.
- Temperature is considered to be a major factor in the success or otherwise of grafting *Grevilleas* (and other genera). Night-time temperature above 15 degrees C is considered to be desirable by many grafters.
- To get the best germination rate from Silky Oak seeds it is recommended that they be stored in a refrigerator for some time (up to three years according to Richard Tomkin).
- Peter asked members to consider submitting articles for the newsletter.

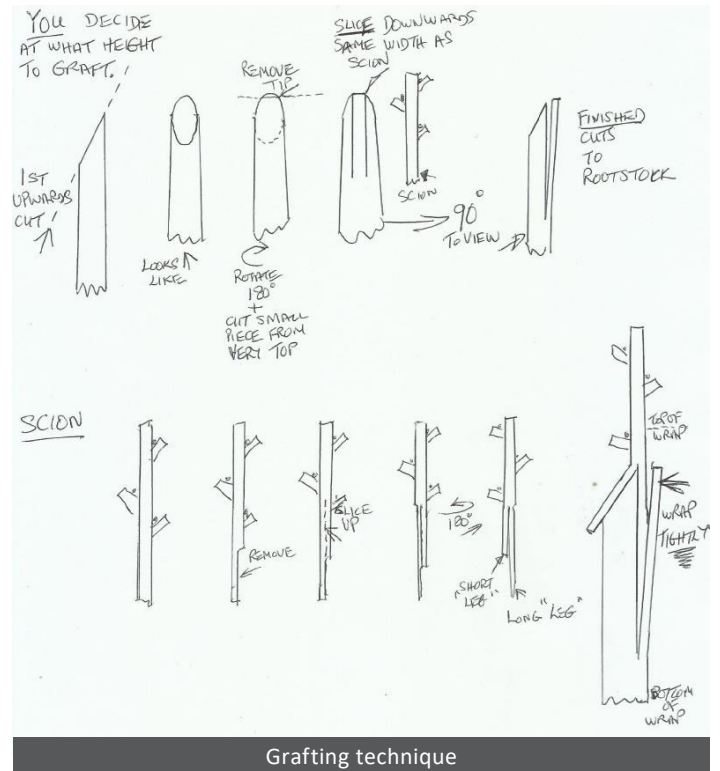
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**Guest Presentation:** Richard Tomkin, Proprietor Changers Green Nursery, Bundaberg QLD.

Richard spoke about the process of hybridising Grevilleas and the intricacies involved. He also gave a description of how he propagates his Silky Oak rootstocks in tubes. He puts potting mix in first, a thin layer of sand over that, then three seeds and a covering of sand. The sand assists in warding off the dreaded damping off disease. The plants are thinned to one seedling after germination has occurred.

Another technique mentioned by Richard is the use of an interstock between the Silky Oak rootstock and the desirable scion. This allows incompatibility with the rootstock to be overcome in many instances (but increases the cost of the final product!). A database of compatibility between various species and hybrids is available on the Grevillea Q & A's Facebook page that he manages. For those not familiar with this Facebook page there is a wealth of useful information in it. There are some 5,700 members of the group.

Richard then demonstrated a particular grafting technique that he has devised to help overcome the difficulties posed by having differing scion and rootstock diameters. It is a modification of a saddle graft. It also works with scions and rootstocks that are the same diameter and can even be adapted to attach scions that are thicker than the rootstock.



Grafting technique

Notes: Remove 2 or 3 leaves from rootstock to allow clear access. Remove, or most, leaves from scion. Leave buds and/or short side shoots. There are many photos to see on Facebook Grevilleas Q & A's.

IN THE WILD

NEW EFFORTS TO MANAGE CATS IN THE JARRAH FORESTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**DBCA Media**

A feral cat-specific bait, Eradicat®, is being trialled in the northern jarrah forest for the first time in an effort to manage the devastating impact of this introduced predator.

The trial is being undertaken by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' lead wildlife recovery program, Western Shield, with funding support from the Alcoa Foundation.

Western Shield Coordinator Ashley Millar said the trial aims to protect vulnerable native animals in the northern jarrah forest such as the numbat, woylie, chuditch and quokka.

"Eradicat® is quite different to what we have traditionally deployed as part of Western Shield in the northern jarrah forest, which has previously only targeted foxes in this biome," Mr Millar said.

"The Eradicat® bait is more suited to feral cats and something they will find easier to chew. It has been developed to be attractive to feral cats and will not cause harm to native animals.

The high tolerance of native animals to Eradicat® is due to their evolution alongside native plants which contain a

natural version of the same toxin. These plants from the *Gastrolobium* genus are otherwise known as 'poison peas'.

"We've used Eradicat® in areas with similar native fauna, like Dryandra Woodland National Park in the Wheatbelt, and it's shown really promising results—particularly for woylie and numbat populations. Of course, we are hoping for similar results in the northern jarrah forest too, though we understand each ecosystem is different and this may not occur."

The trial of Eradicat® forms part of an enhanced program to manage foxes and feral cats across more than 500,000 hectares of forest habitat from Avon Valley National Park north-east of Perth to State forest south of Collie.

"The effectiveness of the baiting program in managing foxes and feral cats will be measured using automated wildlife cameras that measure the activity of feral predators. Monitoring native animals will provide information on the response of fauna to baiting," Mr Millar said.

Feral cats occur across Australia and threaten the persistence of over 100 native animal species across the country including the critically endangered woylie, which is found in the northern jarrah forest.



THREE BEAUTIFUL GREVILLEAS

Mike Beamish

Travelling in September, we stumbled across three species putting on a show.

Around Narrandera in the NSW Riverina, the Rusty Spider Flower *Grevillea floribunda* was having a good year. The locals told me the population in the hills adjacent to the eastern side of town has increased substantially in the last couple of years, from a handful of plants to a couple of hundred. Perhaps three mild summers in a row has helped.



*Grevillea floribunda* at Narrandera



*Grevillea floribunda*

Walking around Lake Fyans and Heatherlie Quarry in the Grampians, there were numerous examples of the local variant of Cat's Claws *G. alpina*, brilliant vivid colours lighting up the bush.



*Grevillea floribunda* in bud



Cat's Claws *Grevillea alpina*

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*Grevillea alpina*

And fully exposed in the middle of a rock ledge beside a waterfall on Dead Bullock Creek, a lovely example of Grampians Grevillea *G. confertifolia*. Thanks to Neil Marriott for guiding us around this little piece of paradise.



*Grevillea confertifolia*



*Grevillea confertifolia*, flower

**GREVILLEA HODGEI**

Joan Dillon, Qld

Reproduced from 'Banksia Bytes' September 2023 Newsletter of NPQ Sunshine Coast in Save Our Flora E-Bulletin No 55 October 2023.



*Grevillea hodgei* – Photo by Joan Dillon

*Grevillea hodgei*, is now critically endangered and restricted to the Coochin Hills. A few years back Ian and Chrissie

McMaster took cuttings from a plant on Rupari Hill prior to the area being cleared to make way for communication towers. Habitat loss in the name of "progress". The surviving cutting was entrusted to my care while they were overseas, quite a responsibility. It sulked in the shadehouse for some months and eventually decided to grow, much to my relief. A flower was produced, and a seedling later appeared on the shadehouse floor.

*Grevillea hodgei* was sold for some years as Coochin Hills Grevillea, possibly before it was officially named. It then went out of fashion as other grevilleas with similar flowers but different growth habit came on the market. My two plants are now thriving down in the back paddock in heavy dark colluvial soil which is very different from that in the Coochin Hills or Rupari Hill. It makes me wonder how widespread it was in the past prior to clearing for pineapples and other crops. *Grevillea hodgei* was first formally described in 1994 by Peter M. Olde and Neil R. Marriott in The Grevillea Book from specimens Marriott collected near the Coochin Hills in the Glasshouse Mountains near Beerwah in 1992. The specific epithet (*hodgei*) honours Mervyn William Hodge. Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grevillea\\_hodgei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grevillea_hodgei)



**GREVILLEA PIERONIAE, A PIONEER IN THE STIRLING RANGE**

Peter Olde, NSW

At the time of publication of the name *G. pieroniae* there was considerable concern as to the long-term viability of the species because of its declining small populations (three). Threats were perceived as to the effects of rabbits and other wildlife predated young seedlings. Since this section of the park had not recently burnt, there were concerns about a wildfire expected at any season. Soon after publication, the area was in fact subject to a hot bushfire. I visited the site on my last trip to Western Australia and I am pleased to report the emergence of thousands of plants, spreading into the distance as far as the eye could see. Margaret Pieroni was also very pleased. Margaret did a painting of the species which hangs on the wall of her home at Denmark, near Albany.



*Grevillea pieroniae*



Margaret Pieroni with her namesake



Habitat *Grevillea pieroniae*



*Grevillea pieroniae* in the Stirling Range



## A NEW SPECIES FROM KULIKUP IN SOUTH-WEST WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS RELATED TO *GREVILLEA ACROPOGON*

Peter Olde, NSW

Even before I arrived in Perth this year, I was asked to consider whether a recently discovered northern population of *G. acropogon* at Kulikup was a possible new species. Kulikup is a small area c. 220 km SSE of Perth in the Boyup Brook LGA. It was once a railway siding but since 1912 the name Kulikup was applied to the townsite area. The word is Noongar Aboriginal but its precise meaning is unknown. Sometime in the last year or so, maybe longer, a species of *Grevillea* was collected there. At first it was thought to be a new location of *G. acropogon*. Genomic testing of this population by Dr. Rachel Binks at PERTH and her student showed that, *G. species* Kulikup was genetically distinct, even though the only morphological difference that could be identified was the profuse indumentum on the leaves and branches. Was it sufficiently different to be recognised as distinct, they wondered? Just a few hairs on the leaves. Actually, quite a lot of hairs! But there is a lesson to be learned here in the recognition of species more broadly.

I examined the specimen at PERTH while working there recently and also visited the site. I could only compare the specimen to the somewhat abbreviated description of *G. acropogon* published in Flora of Australia. Many characters are not described in that treatment. I therefore first had to prepare a full description of *G. acropogon*. I have used specimens in cultivation which I sent originally when Neil Marriott and I managed to find it in the wild in 2001. We actually found it after several unsuccessful attempts, on 9/11 2001. Yes, on the same day the Twin Towers were attacked in New York. I digress.

When I visited the plants on 9 September 2023, I was assisted by Leonie Monk, DBCA officer at Perth and local DBCA officer Andrew Webb who gave me directions. There I met Mark the new owner of the property who has just constructed a large new home there. Mark told me that when he bought the place not that long ago, the local conservation group advised him about the new species of *Grevillea* on the property and he was urged to protect it by not clearing the area and turning it into yet another crop. Mark was only too happy for this and proudly takes ownership of his rare new plant. There are plans to fence the area to give the plants further protection.

Back in Perth, after completing the full description of *G. acropogon* and making a comparison, character by character, with the new population at Kulikup, there was little new to be learned. However, the morphological differences are considered sufficient in combination with the genetic results.

The species will be formally published shortly in *Telopea*. What the exercise highlights is that apparently small differences need to be accepted and not dismissed, especially if they distinguish one population from another.

*Grevillea species* Kulikup grows in a unique habitat, unlike that in which *G. acropogon* grows near Lake Unicup. The area is open woodland, occupied by almost no other species except *Eucalyptus wandoo* and *Banksia nivea*. Unfortunately, many of the banksias are dying out for reasons unknown, possibly senescence. None of the grevilleas appear to be affected and each of the 17 plants has been separately tagged by DBCA. The species regenerates readily from seed, even in the absence of fire. Its habitat is very different from adjacent natural bushland which is dense and with many competing species.



*Grevillea species* Kulikup



Habitat *Grevillea species* Kulikup

## GREVILLEA MUCRONULATA OR GREVILLEA PODALYRIIFOLIA: A MATTER OF PRIORITY

Peter Olde, NSW

In May this year I received the following important communication from Chris Cheetham.

‘The Richmond variant of *mucronulata* is lignotuberous and is merely a variety of the typical Castlereagh form. Please see attached typesheet at Melbourne herbarium.

The Richmond form is most similar to the plant on the left of the sheet. By comparison to the Castlereagh form which is clearly the same species (it is on the right of the sheet). Richmond has more lanceolate as opposed to round leaves, the mucro is less obvious and the leaf colour is a very clean, bright, light green as opposed to the dull and/or greyish colours seen elsewhere. It is more vigorous than the other lignotuberous forms, strikes from cutting more efficiently and tolerates adverse moisture and nutrient levels better than the Castlereagh form. But on the flip side is very shy to flower. The leaves and stems are also less crowded.

Like the Castlereagh form it is lignotuberous and grows to a similar maximum size.

I have never flowered the Richmond form in cultivation, but have seen it in the wild. To my knowledge, it only occurs in the WSU lands along The Driftway, Richmond. It is simply a localised genetic variant of the common Castlereagh form! The site contains many genetic individuals which have differing leaf dimensions and plant vigour (including dwarfs). That is what I mean by interbreeding. The regenerative habit is the same in all plants within the population.

Chris

For some time now I have been considering changing the name of *G. mucronulata*, which was published in 1810, to *Grevillea podalyriifolia*, which was published by Knight in 1809 [as *Lysanthe podalyriaefolia*]. Of course I am not the first to consider this. In his nomenclatural revision Don McGillivray (1993) made the decision not to change the name. I can hear you all make a sigh of relief. However, while ever there is a validly published name in the literature with priority over the existing, there is instability in the nomenclature. Robert Brown (1810: 378) clarified any doubt that might be had in relation to the identity of *Lysanthe podalyriaefolia* by treating it as a synonym of his own name (*Grevillea mucronulata*), thereby invalidating his own name with a name that predates it. In this he was followed by Meisner (1856: 357) and later, Bentham (1870: 443). The reasons behind this were political. All three believed that Knight had pre-published his own name out of hatred for Brown. They argued therefore that Knight’s work should be ignored. However, instead of proroguing the work, many authors have since accepted the priority of Knight’s names.

McGillivray argued that Knight did not provide sufficient information to justify selecting a neotype, necessitated by the fact that there is no type specimen associated with Knight’s description. In those days it was not necessary for botanists to cite or provide a specimen with their description. Knight was committing no botanical sin in this. McGillivray wrote that ‘on the basis of the available evidence, the likely application of the name is equivocal and it is not possible to select a neotype that would appear to represent the specimen(s) used in producing the protologue of *Lysanthe podalyriaefolia*; the name is therefore included in the list of names of uncertain application’.

Elsewhere, McGillivray (1993: ) gave a similar reason for not accepting priority names of Knight stating that ‘the short (c. 20 word) descriptions are inadequate.’ Underlying this blatantly incorrect statement is the real personal reason ‘as a general rule, I would not displace a well-established name with a name that had to be typified with a neotype.’ So uncertainty remains.

There are two reasons why I do not agree with McGillivray on this point.

1. The Brown synonymy can be relied on. Surely Brown was the highest authority at the time of his writing. Other Knight names were not synonymised at all. It is reasonable to believe that the names he actually mentioned are accurate. There is only doubt in those who do not want to believe.
2. Knight’s descriptions are ‘scientific’ and hence ‘adequate’. In fact Knight’s descriptions are sometimes better than Brown’s in that he gave empirical measurements with them. In the case of *Lysanthe podalyriaefolia* he wrote

**Diagnosis:** \*Folia 1-nervia. Spica 3–7-flora. Pericarpium sessile.

1. *L. Podalyriaefolia* foliis 4–6 lineas latis, 6–9 longis, suborbiculatis, subtus tomentosis: stylo petalis parum longiore dorso tomentoso.

– Podalyria-leaved *Lysanthe*.

Trans. *L. Podalyriifolia* Leaves 4 to 6 lines broad [8.48–12.72 mm], 6 to 9 long [12.72–19.08 mm], nearly orbicular, cottony underneath. Style not much longer than the petals, its back cottony.

The name *Grevillea podalyriifolia* was also in circulation as late as 1828 when Robert Sweet used it in his *Flora Australasica*.

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However with the observation by Chris Cheetham it has become apparent that the name *G. mucronulata* does not have to be replaced. The type specimen was collected at Richmond and must have come from a lignotuberous plant. If we accept generative habit as capable of distinguishing species, then *G. podalyriifolia* would represent non-lignotuberous populations from the Sydney area with large round leaves. Neotypifying this name could surely not be a problem, even if we do not know the precise provenance of the seed collected and sent back to England from which this species was ultimately described by Knight.

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*Grevillea mucronulata* Type

GREVILLEA NEWS

PHOTOGRAPHY TECHNIQUES

Below are a couple of high resolution focus stack images of *Grevillea parviflora* – the East Cessnock form and *G. montana* from East Cessnock.

Focus stacking is a technique where multiple shots at slightly differing focus points are merged together to create a final image which has a greater depth of field than the individual images. In these cases, I've used a stack of 10 images.



*Grevillea parviflora*

Mark Abell, NSW



*Grevillea montana*

## GREVILLEAS AND GOLF

Arthur Kelly, NSW

As a member of Camden Golf Club and a keen native plant grower, while playing golf I always took note of what was happening in various gardens around the course. One of these is planted on a mound of "topsoil" excavated from a drainage ditch that was constructed on the course. In reality, the mound, like all the others on the course, consists of very heavy clay with a thin layer of imported topsoil spread over the top. That anything would grow successfully in them is a minor miracle. Around 10 years ago the mound beside the 4<sup>th</sup> tee (measuring about 40m x 8m) was planted with two types of native plant – *Grevillea* "Ned Kelly" and *Callistemon* "Anzac". Surprisingly they did well and, left to their own devices, formed a dense cover on parts of the mound.

As time passed, I began to notice weed species growing amongst them. Two in particular stood out. Moth Vine, a climbing species with choko-like fruits that produce masses of fluffy seeds, and narrow leaf privet. Some of these were nearly three metres high. I often wondered whether the course staff even noticed them growing there!

One day as I walked to the 4<sup>th</sup> tee I was taken aback. The Grevilleas had been "pruned" - with a blade on a whipper snipper it transpired! They were a mess. In a light bulb moment, a thought occurred to me. Maybe I could do some garden work in lieu of paying my fees for the upcoming year. I mulled it over, contacted a friendly member of the board of directors about my plan and waited. They soon got back to me and asked me to pay my fees and told me that they would pay me for my work. Four years on and I am still working casually at the course, having now planted some 1400 trees and shrubs in that time.

Back to the Grevilleas. I pruned them hard, removed the weeds (and found 42 golf balls in that area!) and waited a while. About 70 % of them bounded back with new growth and vigour. The others failed to thrive so I removed them and planted more *Grevillea* 'Ned Kelly' in that end of the mound. In the other end I planted about 40 *Callistemon* 'Captain Cook'. That was in the autumn of 2020. They have thrived and, together with a group of volunteer members, I now prune all of them annually with a hedge trimmer. They have boomed back and flowered prolifically again each time.

I have also planted Grevilleas around other parts of the course. There are some *G.* 'Bronze Rambler' and *G.* 'Gaudichaudi' on a mound near the 7<sup>th</sup> tee. Some of these are impressive specimens, others just didn't thrive in the heavy clay "soil" and deteriorated.

More *G.* 'Bronze Rambler' have recently been planted there with the hope that they do as well as the thriving ones. A row of *G.* 'Moonlight' is doing well behind the 7<sup>th</sup> green. Some *G.* 'Peaches and Cream' and *G.* 'Honey Barbara' have improved the appearance of the front entrance to the club. Inside the bounds of the clubhouse area a range of others have thrived and brightened up the surrounds. These include *G.* 'Lady O', *G.* 'Billy Bonkers', *G.* 'Loopy Lou', two standard *G.* 'Royal Mantle' and some *G. stenomera*. I have used *G.* 'Superb' in a couple of other areas around the course too.

Like most gardeners, I have had many successes and some failures. The very wet conditions encountered in 2022 resulted in the death of some plants. Now the very dry conditions we are experiencing has stressed many too. I planted quite a few new plants in March/April this year when the soil was moist and conditions seemed ideal. Little did I know what was to follow. Some of those plants have succumbed to the big dry and we are watering as best we can to try and get the newest plantings through the heat and dry ahead. Other challenges that I have faced are some vandalism, whereby plants at the front entrance were pulled out and left on the ground and plants being run over by golfers using motorised carts. One can only re-plant and hope for better until the plants are sufficiently established to avoid these things.

Hopefully the images that follow will give some idea of what I have managed to achieve with Grevilleas at the course over the past four years. Most of the planting is complete now and maintaining them and planting replacements will occupy my time there in the future.



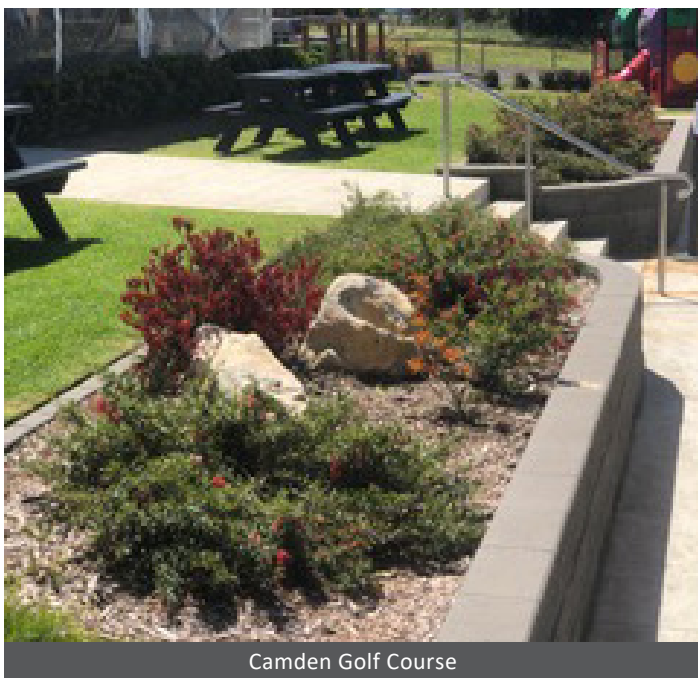
Camden Golf Course

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Camden Golf Course



Camden Golf Course



Camden Golf Course

**PATHOLOGY ON  
GREVILLEA SCORTHECHINII**

Roger Bourne, NSW

My sister in Stanthorpe QLD is hoping a member can identify this pathology on *G. scortechinii*.



**NEW MEMBER**

John Chapman, Wandana Heights, Vic

I have a keen interest in Australia Plants (Grevilleas particularly). I would like to contribute to knowledge management and dissemination relating to Grevilleas and other Australian plants.

My wife and I live in suburban Geelong, so we have space constraints. Our garden has a mix of species and hybrid cultivars. I do some small scale propagation, mostly through grafting Grevilleas although I also graft other genera (Boronia, Eremophila, Verticordia, Hibbertia, Banksia, Calytrix, finger lime etc).

## OBITUARY – MRS JEANETTE CLOSS (C. 1930–D. 2016)

Peter Olde, NSW

I am writing belatedly to record the passing of one of the great friends of Australian plants, *Grevillea* in particular, and *Dodonaea*. My late wife Margaret and I met Jeanette Closs at the September conference of Australian Plants held in Adelaide around 1980, shortly after the birth of my third daughter Melanie. She was a Tasmanian delegate and we got on famously, mainly because of her enthusiasm and kindly personality. At the conference dinner there was much gaiety and happiness around Jeanette and we had an uproarious dinner, during which my young daughter, sitting in a high chair, lent forward laid her head on the table and fell asleep.

In 1980 Jeanette was co-author of a little-known 24 page book 'Australian plants: their botany and propagation', and in 1983 was made a life member of the Tasmanian region of the Australian Plants Society. Jeanette wrote several

articles for the Grevillea Study Group newsletter and was a leader of the Tasmanian branch of the Study group around 1998. There is only one species of *Grevillea* in Tasmania so she was up against it trying to enthuse her fellow plant lovers. Nonetheless she was undeterred. We lost contact after 2004, the date of her last newsletter contribution. She was married to Don Closs (1925–2013), an ABC sports presenter with a fine tenor voice of which Jenny was very proud. She sent me a recording of him singing 'Girls were made to love and kiss' made famous by Richard Tauber, and Don's version was top drawer. In later years I heard that her health deserted her and her mobility was affected. She was a relatively tall lady and I am only guessing at her date of birth.

[Link to video](#) of Richard Tauber singing 'Girls were made to love and kiss.'

## PROPAGATION

## NSW GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP – GRAFTING PROJECT

John Elton, NSW

The purpose of this project is to develop a knowledge base to assist those who wish to undertake grafting or further develop their skills. While there has been some useful work done on compiling compatibility information, low level detail on grafting techniques and tips for success are more difficult to source.

The project therefore will rely on members to provide low level detail about their grafting experiences with both species and cultivars. This will be entered into a database for members to access.

I have been grafting for the past couple of years and have had as many failures as successes. Occasionally I will do something different and improve my strike rate. At times I take on board what someone else has done and have success. However, there are so many issues that I continue to think about. Some may have answers, others may not.

- How many buds is ideal
- Does the number of buds differ depending on the internodes / size of scion e.g., simplex vs. flexusosa
- How soft can the growing tip be and does this differ according to species/cultivar scion
- Is a growing tip required or will dormant buds suffice – again does this differ according to species/cultivar scion
- Do you need buds ready to burst or do they just need to be present as dormant buds
- For specific Grevilleas is it more critical to match up both sides of the scion (this might mean for example that some scions are grafted 30cm high)
- At what time of the year are you most likely to have most success for specific Grevilleas Spring/Summer/Autumn
- Are scions more likely to take at a particular time of the day (e.g. sap might flow better in the morning)
- Do some Grevilleas take better on say Bronze Rambler, Carrington X, Sempenflorens etc
- Can we improve scions taking by using more than parafilm e.g., some also use pegs, plumbers' tape, florist tape in addition to parafilm)
- What are the merits of plastic bags vs. mummy for different Grevilleas – and at different times of the year
- If using plastic bags should the scion be wet down before the bag is put on and does this differ according to how hot it might be (e.g., Spring vrs Summer)
- How many times do you wrap parafilm around the buds and growing tips
- Are there merits in leaving the top leaf on to protect a growing tip

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- When using an interstock do you need leaves/buds on the interstock.
- Does the length of the I/S alter the growth of the scion
- Does the type of I/S alter the growth of the scion
- Is there merit in leaving a bud in the wedge
- Is it best to take scions from new growth that emerges after a plant has been pruned
- Do some Grevilleas do better if the scion is taken from side shoots eg excelsior

This is what the database/spreadsheet might look like. Headings will be finalised after feedback from members

**General guidelines for grafting – any variations will be noted in the table below**

**Understock**

Growing strongly – some suggestions include dunking in fertiliser for 1 hour in the week or two before grafting; putting understock in the glasshouse in the weeks prior to grafting.

**Scions**

- Scions should have plenty of sap flowing through them. Ideally the scion should be just hardening off and with buds just about to burst
- Use up to 3 buds above the wedge
- Ideally there will be a growing tip but soft new growth is to be avoided
- If using a plastic bag leave the top leaf on, or if the leaf is large cut it in half
- Scions should be dipped in a 5% solution of bleach, then dipped in plain water and dried with a paper towel
- Ideally scions should be the same diameter as the understock. Try to match the scion to the appropriate spot on the understock

**Equipment**

- Sharp knife , razor blade, cutting board – cleaned with metho
- Parafilm is the suggested tape.

Species/cultivar	Amber Blaze	flexuosa	leptobotrys	Orange WOW	plurijuga	dielsiana
Best time of year to graft	Sept - Dec	Any time after flowering	Sept Oct March	Nov/Dec	Spring Summer Autumn	
Preferred U/S Cutting graft ?	robusta	robutsa	Cutting graft. Carrington X	robutsa	robutsa	Robusta Bronze Rambler
Suggested I/S if needed			CX			
Whip/wedge/saddle	Wedge	Any	Wedge	Any	Wedge	Wedge
Mummy/Plastic Bag	Bag	Bag		Bag or mummy	Bag	Bag
Easy Okay Difficult	Easy	Easy	Okay	Easy	Easy	
Other detail/ observations	Cut back after flowering around August and use new growth for scion. Best to select firmish new growth following cut back. 3 swollen buds sufficient. Leave ½ leaf on the top- should be hardened off	Best to select firmish new growth following cut back. 2 swollen buds sufficient. Leave ½ leaf on the top- should be hardened off	3 buds, either dormant or just about to emerge. Leave the last leaf as long as it has hardened off. Can graft directly onto CX for a short standard, or use CX as I/S Successful grafts on CX 7 years old	Use side shoots with 3 dormant or swollen buds. Leave ½ leaf on top (hardened of) Top leaf can drop off in plastic bag but does not seem to impact the scion taking. Mummy works well and is probably easier for this cultivar	Use new growth with 3 buds. Leave top leaf on. More success if scion and U/S same thickness	Use new growth with 3 buds. Leave top leaf on. More success i) if scion and U/S same thickness so Bronze Rambler can be more reliable ii) if buds are just about to burst iii) for robusta matching up cambium often requires scion to be positioned slightly inside the outside of the U/S

I welcome comments or suggestions . Please email [illawarragrevilleapark@gmail.com](mailto:illawarragrevilleapark@gmail.com)

## IN SEARCH OF POORINDA HYBRIDS

Stephen Hodge, NSW

My grandfather, Leo Hodge, produced the 'Poorinda' range of hybrids back in the 1960s to 80s. It seems that more than half have disappeared, and I've recently begun searching for as many as I can find, to grow in my own two acre garden here in SA for my own enjoyment and to help preserve my Pop's horticultural legacy.

I'm currently focusing on the *Grevillea* Poorindas, and have obtained 13 varieties so far, with potentially 3 more being propagated for me. One I had ordered was G. 'Poorinda Diadem', but when the plant arrived it was clear from the flower colour that it wasn't the original hybrid.

While searching online for the true Diadem, I found an article on the Australian Plants Society NSW website with what looks to be the original hybrid, both in the photo & description: <https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/grevillea-poorinda-diadem/>

I'd really love to obtain a couple of plants of this hybrid, if it's still being grown in any gardens over there. Are you able to help me, or perhaps point me in the right direction? I'd be very happy to purchase cutting material, or even live plants (provided I can somehow get them to SA).

**From Heather Miles, APS NSW**

What a great thing to do. It is so important to maintain that legacy. The photo you refer to was unfortunately taken by the late Warren Sheather probably at his previous property in Armidale, called Yallaroo. Warren did tell me before he died that he thought the people they had sold the property to loved the garden, so perhaps it might be still there. However, it's a long shot. I don't know the people and neither do the people in our local group in Armidale: <https://www.austplants.com.au/Stories-archive/7893053>.

Someone you might want to try is Maria Hitchcock: <https://www.coolnativesnursery.com/#/> who has a nursery up that way. Also, Glenda will send your email out to our experts and see if they have any other suggestions.

Our grevillea expert is Peter Olde, and perhaps he can help you with stock. I'm copying him in though I know he is currently travelling. Also, Ian Cox has an extensive grevillea garden and may have what you are after.

The other option is that we can put out the word to our members in our eNews and see if it elicits any responses. Just looking at my plant records, I have a few 'Poorindas', although I have to check they are all still alive. So perhaps others do as well. I think we can only send plant material to SA, not with any soil on it, so would have to check that before we proceed.

**From Peter Olde**

It truly pains my heart to think of your grandfather's fading to lost legacy. There is simply nowhere that is preserving our horticultural history. I have searched long and hard for Leo's *Grevillea* hybrids. There are/were a large number at the

Australian National Botanic Garden, Canberra and I managed to photograph and describe them for a new book on hybrid grevilleas that I am co-authoring, due out next year I hope.

Unfortunately, due to funding cuts most of these plants were not repropagated and the solitary plants they had gradually succumbed during the particularly severe drought experience post 2010. These plants were mainly propagated, in the initial stages anyway, by the late Bill Cane at his Clearview Nursery, Maffra Victoria. Bill Cane never produced a catalogue unfortunately but many of Leo's cultivar hybrids became popular and represent early examples of *Grevillea* hybrid horticulture.

Many were not suited to temperate or subtropical climates and did not perform well but they were popular in Victoria and Canberra. *Grevillea* hybrid cultivars need a supportive nursery to propagate and distribute them and apart from a few such as Martin Swanson at Wildtech Nursery, they now languish among the other extinct hybrids produced over the years. Nonetheless quite a proportion still exist at ANBG but you would need permission to collect and then you would have to propagate same yourself. I will put your quest to members of the *Grevillea* Study Group in the next newsletter and see what you get. The leader of the SA chapter is Alf Stephens 0418404408. Some of the *Grevillea* cultivars were short-lived but very beautiful nonetheless. Lindsay and Mary Hodge from Gormandale, Victoria were also very interested in growing Leo Hodge's hybrids and had quite a few in their garden.

**From Neil Marriott**

I can only reiterate what Peter has already said –we have a mutual friend who used to work at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra and he was furious that they were not allowed to re-propagate Leo's hybrids that were growing in the garden. So gradually they all began to die out and disappear. Today, most are now extinct in horticulture. You have probably already spoken with Lindsay and Mary Hodge and they have a good collection that you should be able to access.

If anyone can help Stephen in his search you can contact him at: [stephenphodge@gmail.com](mailto:stephenphodge@gmail.com)



*Grevillea* 'Poorinda Diadem' – Photo from APS NSW website



**SEEKING HISTORY AND INFORMATION ON *GREVILLEA VENUSTA*,  
*GREVILLEA BANKSII PROSTRATE*, *GREVILLEA DRYANDRI***

Jenny White, Qld

***Grevillea venusta***

I've recently been able to obtain (yah, at last) a number of *Grevillea venusta* plants and await their delivery. Is there any information on the history of this plant or can anyone guide me in the right direction so I may do some research. I would like to write an article on this plant. I believe its habitat range is limited and I'm looking to getting a few of our local NPQ Mackay members growing them in the garden.

***Grevillea banksii prostrate***

Ditto

I have 3 wonderful specimens in my garden. I have made some attempts to find out about the history of this plant without much success. I have propagated it and shared it amongst a few local plant friends. They love it. Attached are a few pictures from my garden. At present there are quite a few babies coming up and I'm very nervous about potting them up for fear of failure. I'm very keen to see what colour the flowers of these young plants will be.

***Grevillea dryandri***

Ditto

There are three *G. dryandri* in my garden. They are very much a feature plant with magnificent leaves, flowers and seeds. There is one out the front which many neighbours and people walking past often comment on.

If anyone has the information that Jenny is seeking, please contact her - [info@shillerimages.com](mailto:info@shillerimages.com).



*Grevillea banksii prostrate*



*Grevillea dryandri* with seeds

***GREVILLEA 'JESSIE CALDWELL'***

Malcolm Johnston, NSW

Malcolm and Jenny Johnston from Boongala Gardens at Kenthurst are wondering if anyone is still growing *Grevillea 'Jessie Cadwell'*. According to Wikipedia, this plant is thought to be a hybrid of *G. longifolia* x *G. caleyi 'Nana'*. It was named after Jenny's aunt. They would like to reestablish it in their garden.

Is there anyone who could supply cutting material for this plant?  
If so, please contact them on 0466 440 056

**Grevilleas Poem**

I may grow on sandstone ridges,  
throughout deserts and on plains;  
I can tolerate the hottest sun,  
where soils are quick to drain.  
I may grow in deep moist gullies,  
or on headlands where winds blow;  
I may grow on mountain ranges,  
and can tolerate deep snow.  
My flowers are of many shapes,  
and their colours are diverse;  
My foliage is of many forms,  
when ripe my seeds disperse.  
Some birds extract my nectar,  
while others crack my seed;

My foliage offers shelter,  
for those who come to feed.  
Proteaceae is my family,  
*Grevillea* is my name;  
I can offer so much pleasure,  
when you visit my domain!

By Malcolm W. Johnston

Reprinted from Calgaroo,  
Newsletter of the Parramatta and  
Hills District Group

Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd,  
November 2023



MOONS AND DREAMS, AN UPDATE ON KINGS PARK GREVILLEAS

Peter Olde, NSW

During a recent visit to Kings Park I met with the great hybridist Digby Growns who informed me that three more hybrid cultivars have been released to market. Digby and staff have been breeding new cultivars for eleven years now. At the same time, he informed me that a previously released cultivar has been withdrawn due to difficulties in nursery management. Another cultivar *G. 'Coverall'* has been released previously but is only receiving recognition as a landscape plant because it rarely flowers and, when it occasionally does, the flowers are hidden because of their colour and position. We discussed the problem that many new hybrids are unsuited to home gardens because of their size. This was illustrated by plants *Grevillea 'RSL Anzac'* which adorns the gardens around the Visitor's Centre at Kings Park but is reaching an unexpected massive size. I felt there is something in the philosophy of 'miniaturisation' that might prove to be a future goal of all hybridists.

The three new cultivars are: *Grevillea 'Boorloo Moon'*, *Grevillea 'Coral Fusion'*, *Grevillea 'Webb's Legacy'*.

*Grevillea 'Boorloo Moon'* PBR is a hybrid between *G. scortechinii* and an unnamed hybrid (*G. 'Misty Pink'* x '*Pink Candelabra*'). It is named for the wonder of a full moon rising over Boorloo (Perth City) as viewed from Mount Eliza. The word 'moon' in the epithet refers to the rounded, silvery, moon-like limb, common to most tropical grevilleas and their hybrids. The release of '*Boorloo Moon*' was announced by Minister of Environment Hon. Reece Whitby in 2022 to recognise 150 years since the park gained legal protection as a reserve, foretelling a June 2023 release. Senior Plant Breeder Digby Growns said the masses of pink toothbrush flowers would quickly make the new grevillea hybrid a garden hit. Unfortunately, it is only available in Perth at the time of writing.



*Grevillea 'Boorloo Moon'*

*Grevillea 'Coral Fusion'* PBR is another fantastic performer created and bred by Kings Park and Botanic Garden. It is a hybrid between *G. bipinnatifida* ssp. *pagna* and another unnamed hybrid involving *G. 'Misty Pink'*. This lovely

spreading *Grevillea*, flowers 12 months of the year, bearing cylindrical, pretty coral flowers. It has very distinctive foliage. *G. 'Coral Fusion'* is expected to reach dimensions of 1.5 m height and 1.5 m width and looks superb when mass planted. Suitable for native gardens, attracting birds in to your garden. Requires full sun and well-draining soil. Apply a low phosphorous fertiliser every 6 months, or as required. Prune to maintain desired shape. Still only available in Perth.



*Grevillea 'Coral Fusion'*

*Grevillea 'Webb's Legacy'* PBR is named after Australian horticulturist Mark Webb the recently retired Chief Executive Officer of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority of Western Australia. The Authority manages Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and Bold Park in Perth, and is involved in various horticultural and restoration projects in Australia and internationally. Mark's specific interest is in the development of Australian native plants for display in home gardens and public landscapes. This medium-sized shrub grows to 2-3 m and features dark green finely divided leaves. The standout feature of *G. 'Webb's Legacy'* is its impressive clusters of golden orange flowers. Its parentage is *G. treueriana* and another unnamed hybrid involving *G. 'Golden Yu-Lo'*.



*Grevillea 'Webb's Legacy'*



AN UNUSUAL FLOWER COLOUR IN *GREVILLEA TETRAGONOLOBA*

Peter Olde, NSW

During a visit to Woogenellup last September, to a farm where wonders in conserving Australian plants is being enacted, I met the legendary Peter Luscombe, formerly a proprietor of Nindethana Seeds. Peter purchased a large acreage of cleared farmland and then proceeded to remove the weedy topsoil with a tractor and piled it up. Since the land is deep sand, this has no impact on the fertility of the soil. On to this he has spread a large variety of native seed, especially Proteaceae. Among the species, he is growing many rare species. Among them are huge plants of *Hakea victoria* and *Banksia nobilis*, as well as a population of *Grevillea tetragonoloba*. Among the plants with their usual orange-red flowers was a single plant with orange flowers, a product of natural variation likely to be found anywhere from seed-grown plants.

Orange form of *Grevillea tetragonoloba*

Peter Luscombe on his farm

**Income**

Donation	\$30.00
Interest	\$29.77

**Total income** **\$59.37**

**Expenditure**

Newsletter publishing	\$00.00
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**Total expenditure** **\$00.00**

**Bank account details**

Balance in current account  
10/11/2023 **\$3,819.44**

**DONATIONS**

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 ([grevilleanews@gmail.com](mailto:grevilleanews@gmail.com))

**SEED BANK**

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

**NEWSLETTER CONTENT**

Thanks to the NSW members who contributed to this newsletter. It is Vic's turn next time. Please send your content to [grevilleanews@optusnet.com.au](mailto:grevilleanews@optusnet.com.au) by January 31.

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