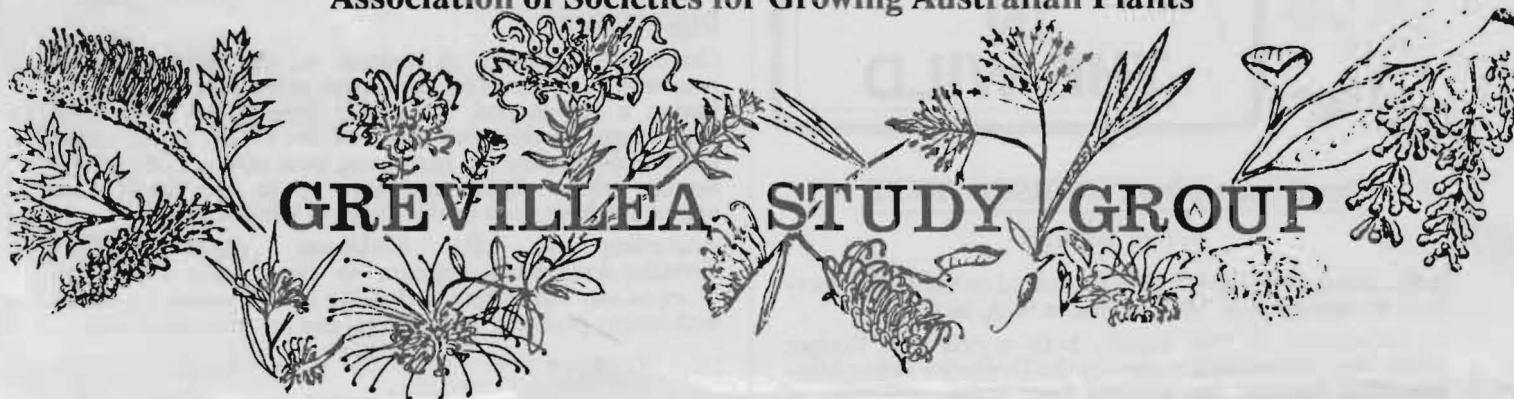


Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants



GREVILLEA STUDY GROUP

REF NO. ISSN 0725-8755

MARCH 1989

NEWSLETTER NO. 22

Welcome to our first newsletter of 1989.

After Sydney's mild, wet summer we are having somewhat of a heatwave which, I believe, is even worse in other states, particularly South Australia. I wonder if the plants in our gardens can keep up with what's going on weather-wise.

* * * * *

In our garden, we have lost yet another *Grevillea johnsonii* this summer - they manage to grow to about 2 m x 2 m in 2 years and then drop dead. They are beautiful in the meantime, but perhaps I should take Peter's advice and graft one.

* * * * *

I know I keep saying I will feature grafting in our next newsletter, but I still don't have enough information to publish. Please, any articles on grafting, or any topic to do with Grevilleas would be gratefully received. Thank you to those members who have sent articles or just notes with their subscriptions.

* * * * *

Some members have requested that they have access to the names and addresses of other members in their areas. If members require a list of names and addresses of other members in their States, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to me (Christine Guthrie, 32 Blanche St, OATLEY NSW 2223) and I will send you the list you require.

* * * * *

This newsletter features a couple of interesting articles on *Grevillea robusta*, two new species of *Grevillea* and a sequel to "Go West Young Man".

ACTIVITIES

NEWS in BRIEF

SATURDAY, APRIL 1st 10.00 am

Working bee at Ray Brown's nursery at 29 Gwythir Ave, Bulli 2516.

The Illawarra Grevillea Park will soon be ready to be planted out, so we need to do a list and catalogue the Grevilleas in the collection prior to planting. A landscape plan will also need to be discussed. Come along and stay for whatever time is convenient, and support Ray in this venture. It will ultimately be a great benefit to the Grevillea Study Group.

* * * * *

SUNDAY, APRIL 30th

NSW Region is holding a "corroboree" at Mirrambeena Regional Park, Georges Hall in Sydney. Bring the family for a picnic and meet with our leader, Peter, who will be holding a "workshop" on *Plants of the Sydney Region*, from 1.30pm. Plants, cutting material exchange and seeds will be available at the northern end of the park. For further information contact Pat Kenyon (02) 651 2765.

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 21st - 24th

This year the NSW Wildflower Exhibition will be held in conjunction with "Spring in the Gardens" at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Later in the year we will be asking for helpers to mount a Grevillea Study Group display for this event.

VALE Ken Newbey

It is with sadness we note the passing away of Ken Newbey in July last year. He was one of the most respected authorities on the plant life and ecology of Western Australia's south-west. He was a tireless worker for raising the conservation ethic in the farming community, while collecting and making exhaustive studies of plants of the south-west.

Ken will be remembered for his outstanding contribution to W.A.'s natural history and commemorated in the plant names *Grevillea newbeyi*, *Acacia newbeyi*, *Eucalyptus newbeyi* and *Thysanotus newbeyi*.

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IN THE WILD

Grevillea lissopleura UNDISCOVERED

by Neil Marriott

In the last *Grevillea* newsletter, I reported on the re-discovery of *G. lissopleura* near Mt. Holland in W.A. in 1987.

As mentioned in that article, both myself and Rodger Elliott were completely fooled by the *Dryandra/Petrophile*-like trifid foliage; the original (and only) collection of *G. lissopleura* by Ken Newbey had narrow, entire leaves. Unfortunately, I took this foliage difference to be natural genetic variation within the species, as is common in so many of the *Grevilleas*.

However, when Peter and I recollected it again (this time in flower and fruit) in October 1988, we had a few doubts about its true identity. Sure enough, on returning from the West, Peter took a pressing to Don McGillivray for clarification; it took Don only one look to announce that our "*Dryandra* or *Petrophile*" *Grevillea* was, in fact, a new species.

So now we have *Grevillea sp.nova Mt.Holland* but we still await the rediscovery of the real *G. lissopleura*!! So come on all you Study Group members - off to the west in the not too distant future; here is a chance to rediscover a rare *Grevillea* for which we have a fairly "precise" location. And who knows, in this beautiful and almost botanically unexplored area, you too may discover a new *Grevillea* species.

Grevillea donaldiana

Reprinted from an article by Kevin F. Kenneally
in the magazine
"The Western Australian Naturalist".

A new species *Grevillea donaldiana* occurring in the Kimberley Division (Northern Botanical Province) of Western Australia is described and illustrated. It differs from all other members of the Proteaceae by having only three tepals instead of the usual four.

For some years the Western Australia Naturalists' Club (Inc.) has been instrumental in promoting long range Kimberley field trips. The aims of these expeditions are to increase knowledge of the region, involve amateurs in biological survey techniques and at the same time minimizing the cost to scientists in mounting collecting expeditions to remote areas. It was on one of these trips to the Sale River region undertaken in May 1986 that *Grevillea donaldiana* was first collected.

On the journey up the Sale River from Doubtful Bay, I observed through binoculars a number of flowering trees of an unknown *Grevillea* species which were growing on the scree slopes and ledges above the sheer sandstone cliffs that abut the river. In many instances, the flowering branches of the *Grevillea* projected out from the cliffs, to hang above the river.

Distribution Known only from the Sale River (Gardner District, Northern Botanical Province - Beard, 1980) where it occurs as a scattered population on sandstone scree below massive cliffs.

Habit: A shrub or tree to 10 metres.

Flowering Period: May

Etymology: The specific epithet honours Donald J. McGillivray for his contribution to Australian botany particularly his study of the genus *Grevillea*.

DISCUSSION

Grevillea donaldiana is unique in the Proteaceae in possessing only three tepals instead of the usual four and in having a cup-shaped, irregularly lobed toral rim. Toral appendages of this sort have not been seen in any other species of *Grevillea* (R. Makinson, pers. comm.) Occasional flowers exhibit digyny and have up to five tepals. This appears to have arisen by the fusion of two florets.

According to R. Makinson (pers. comm.) *Grevillea donaldiana* appears to be closely related to *G. myosodes* but differs in that the latter species is a shrub with longer pedicels, wider leaves and an entire toral rim.

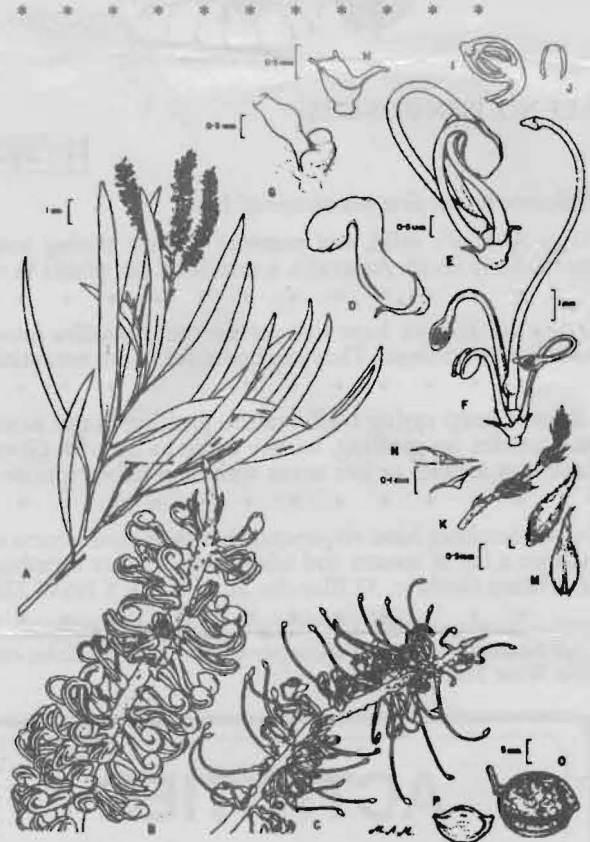


Figure 1. *Grevillea donaldiana*. A - flowering branch; B - young inflorescence; C - mature inflorescence; D - flower bud; E - unopened flower; F - flower; G - nectary; H - toral rim; I - tepal limb with anther; J - dorsal surface anther; K - sterile apex of inflorescence; L - inflorescence bract, dorsal surface; M - inflorescence bract, ventral surface; N - bifid trichomes from bracts; O - fruit; P - seed. A-N from K.F.Kenneally 9676 (the Type); O and P from K.Coate s.n.

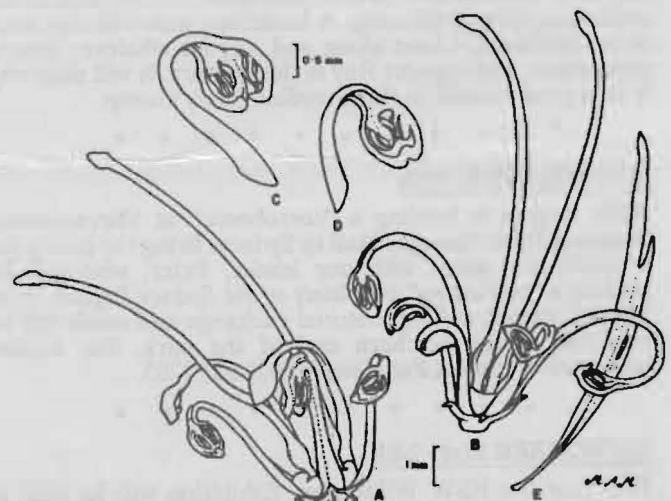


Figure 2. *Grevillea donaldiana*. A & B - digynous flowers; C & D - tepal limb with twinned anthers; E - leaf. (From Kenneally 9676 - the Type.)



IN THE WILD

Grevillea robusta - A Popular Multipurpose Tree in Kenya

by P. MILIMO, Kenyan Forest Research Institute, Nairobi

There are about 250 species of *Grevillea* and most occur in Australia. They range in size from small prostrate shrubs to tall trees of which *G. robusta* is the largest. *Grevillea robusta* was introduced to Kenya early this century as a shade tree in coffee and tea crops. By 1910, the Forest Department has started planting it in mixed stands with cypress (*Cupressus lusitanica* and *C. macrocarpa*). Today it is grown in 19 of the 42 districts in Kenya. Mean annual rainfall in these districts is from 600 to 1100mm in a range of altitudes, from sea level to 2000mm. The species grows on a variety of soils although it prefers deep soils to accommodate its deep roots. Tolerance to frost and dry conditions exceeds that found in its natural environment. *G. robusta* occurs naturally in a restricted region in eastern Australia where the climate is humid-subhumid and subtropical. Mean annual rainfall is 700 - 1700mm and frosts are light and infrequent. It typically occurs in fringing forest along streams or in rainforest.

The integration of *G. robusta* today into Kenya's landscape shows its popularity. Reasons for the steadily increasing demand for seed and seedlings from the Kenyan Forestry Seed centre are its adaptability under different site conditions, fast growth rate, and ability to produce sawlogs, poles and fuelwood on small farms without reducing crop yields significantly. It also has considerable appeal as an ornamental tree.

Although the future of the species as a shade tree is questionable, due to its association with high incidences of the root-rot fungus *Armillaria mellea*, it will continue to be planted in many sites as an ornamental, in shelterbelts, in boundary plantings and intercropped with agricultural crops.

The wood is a good fuel because it dries quickly, but people in the Embu and Kakamega districts in western Kenya prefer to buy fuelwood rather than fell their own trees. Timber is sawn on a small-scale by pitsawyers and small sawmills. It is marketed for furniture and sometimes for general construction. In central Kenya branches are lopped for fuelwood and the leaves are turned into the soil as green manure.

In Kenya, as in most countries where *G. robusta* is grown, the initial introduction of seed was probably from a narrow genetic base of only a few trees. With cultivation for about a century, there is a real possibility of a high level of inbreeding and a substantial reduction in tree vigour. The introduction of new provenances to broaden the genetic base is highly desirable. Concurrently, research into ways of improving seed yield, quantity and viability is needed to reduce the cost of seedling production.

There is also a case to be made for the introduction of some of the other tree forms of *Grevillea* for specific sites. In India, *G. pteridifolia* has grown very well on sites where bauxite has been mined (Prasad and Chadhar 1987) and in Zimbabwe *G. glauca* has shown promise in trials in drier areas.

Reprinted from *ACIAR Forestry Newsletter* (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Forestry Program).

NEWS in BRIEF

Mr D. McKay of Emu Plains in Sydney's western suburbs, would like advice on which *Grevilleas* (shrubs and ground cover) would be best suited to this area. Please write to him at 7 Dartmoor Circuit, EMU PLAINS 2750 if you can help.

TRIP REPORT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1988

Part 1

by Peter Olde

About 12 noon on September 23 1988, Merv Hodge arrived at my Hillsdale office after an all-night bus trip from Brisbane and began to excitedly discuss our pending trip to Western Australia. The trip was designed to finalise photographs for use in a pending book on *Grevilleas*. At some point during my reply to his discussions, I glanced across at him and noticed he had fallen asleep. In retrospect, this was to set the tone for an exhausting four weeks during which we travelled over 15,000 km.

Our first stop was at Stawell, Victoria to collect my co-author, Neil Marriott, a 14 hour journey from Sydney. We had already packed the Landcruiser up to the gunnels and stacked the roof rack to resemble something out of World War 2. In Stawell, we had to find room for a tent, clothing and food, car fridge and recovery equipment as well as Neil. It was at this point that I realised that things were going to be a little crowded. This was especially noticeable as we set out from Stawell on Monday 26 September at 7 a.m. I turned to Merv, who was in the back seat, to find him sitting with his knees under his chin. He is smiling, I thought, but this could soon change.

We arrived at Kimba in South Australia about 12 hours later. I never cease to be amazed at the time it takes to travel this stretch. It seems so close on the map. We booked into a caravan park for a good night's rest. At this point, I began to realise the depth of the problem we had. Tired and hungry, we felt just like dropping into bed. However, in order to get to our gear, the whole van had to be unpacked. Furthermore, it was beginning to rain. Those who know me well will tell you that I have a particular aversion to doing things twice when once should be enough. Some call it laziness. They could be right. But unstacking a van in the rain you just stacked 12 hours ago to find your toothbrush is bound to shorten my fuse.

Next morning, refreshed and invigorated, I awoke to a fine sunny day. The thought of restacking the van was not so daunting and I was easily able to ignore the comments of my fellow travellers about my snoring which had apparently kept them awake. I felt fine. Surely, they were exaggerating. Today we were to search for a suspected new species at Thurlga and Buckleboo, north of Kimba. We set off early for Buckleboo but, despite several hours of careful searching, were unable to locate anything like a *Grevillea* apart from *G. huegelii*. We drove on. South-west of Kimba we had had reports of *G. sarissa subsp. umbellifera*. Around lunch time, almost hidden behind a sandy rise, Neil sighted a glimpse of red. We stopped. Sure enough, there it was. During the trip, Neil's keen sight was to prove itself time and again. It was almost as if he had a *Grevillea* detector hidden in his brain.

G. sarissa subsp. umbellifera is a beautiful plant. Located in a patch of about 10 plants only between the road and cleared paddock, the large flowers stood out, their rich redness covered in silky white down. On some plants, the flowers continued down the trunk (cauline) right to the ground. We continued the photography for some 20 minutes and collected specimens as there is only one specimen of this plant at the NSW herbarium.

The day was heating up and lunch was typically "country" try and get the sandwich into your mouth before the flies! We headed off smartly. We wanted to get onto the Nullarbor before dark. Driving in the sultry heat, it was not long before eyelids began to wilt. First, Merv and then Neil. What's wrong with these guys? Surely the snoring hadn't really kept them awake all night? Had it? I drove on.

TRIP REPORT (cont.)

Apart from meal breaks, we did not stop again until we reached Balladonia at 5.45 a.m. the next morning, Tuesday 28th September. Feeling refreshed by the mid-afternoon naps, the travelling party individually attacked the driving task with varying degrees of success. About 1 am, Neil found an extra burst of energy and drove the rest of the way unaided. Exhausted, he parked the vehicle and fell asleep. Two hours later, we were awake. The sun was beaming in, beckoning a new day. We had to meet Peter & Hazel Althofer here who were to accompany us for the rest of the trip.

Within two hours, the parties had made contact, refueled and were heading north towards Zanthus. This is an unusual and rarely travelled track but was full of interest for us. The terrain continually changed between saltbush and woodland, various species dominating the different habitats. Our first stop was at a stand of *Eucalyptus eremophila* in full flower. The bright yellow flowers were huge and the trees relatively small, enabling close inspection. Further along, we found stands of *Grevillea sarissa subsp. anfractifolia*. This is a fairly low-growing species with smaller flowers than *subsp. umbellifera*. It grew in small patches in the vicinity of salt lakes. Some stands had distinctive reddish foliage. Another species which caught our eye was a broad leaf form of *G. nematophylla*. Although not in flower, this distinctive small tree was readily recognised by its unusual leaves, which have no apparent midvein.

Travelling further north, we came upon patches of *G. plurijuga*. Most of the plants up here had relatively pale flowers but were readily associated by their leaves and habit with populations we had seen in 1986 around Balladonia. The flowers were borne on long peduncles which were often seen resting on the ground, the inflorescences sitting upright thereon, awaiting the pollinator which we never saw. Later, we were informed by an Aboriginal ranger that he had observed emus eating both the fruits and flowers of this species. Near Zanthus, the road became somewhat criss-crossed by other tracks and uncertainty entered our minds as to where we were and on which road to travel. Using compass and unerring sense of direction, Neil correctly guessed the right track and within half an hour we drove onto the East-West highway which runs beside the Trans Continental railway.

This track was in good condition and appeared to be maintained to a high standard for a dirt road. No doubt, like most of this country, it would be impassable in rain. However, our destination was further north to Queen Victoria Spring in search of two *Grevilleas*; *G. secunda* and *G. sarissa subsp. rectilepala*. In order to do this, we had to pass through an Aboriginal Reserve, formerly known as Cundelee Mission, and we needed approval. Although I had written and sought permission, no reply had been received and, ever anxious to do the right thing, I spent the next 4 hours trying to make contact with someone who would give this approval.

During this period at Zanthus, our party was joined by the local "person in charge" who, having lived many years in the town, had a fund of stories about the local "abos" with which to regale us. Take your pick from rape, murder, robbery. All the stories were amply embellished and designed to instil fear. To me, truth seemed to me to be vaguely lurking in disguise within the fanciful. Nonetheless, the stories had sufficient impact to noticeably enlarge the whites of some eyes and there was a decided reluctance to proceed. I think the story about the two people travelling to Kalgoorlie who met a group of roving Aborigines sitting across the track had the most impact. They stopped to avoid running them over and were set upon by Aborigines in the bush, having everything of value removed from the vehicle, including the lady's virginity. "Whatever you do, keep going", we were urged. Reminiscent of Bob Askin, I thought.

In fact, the reality was quite different. We had to go to the Reserve to meet the elders before permission was granted to

proceed. We were thoroughly looked over and our motives carefully questioned. Permission was granted provided we were accompanied by a Ranger. We were to meet next morning at 7 am at Zanthus.

We left the Reserve to find a camp for the night. Along the way, we stopped beside the most beautiful pink *Eremophila* which you could imagine, before finally arriving at an inviting gravel pit near town, rich in the most colourful flora. One of the most fascinating plants here was *Dichrestyles microphylla*, a beautiful, delicate, blue-flowered shrub deserving of much wider recognition. We also found plants here of *G. acacioides*, *G. juncifolia*, *G. nematophylla*, and *G. sarissa subsp. anfractifolia*.

The camp-fire glowed bright. We ate well and retold the tales of the day. I had missed some of the local "Abo" stories while on the phone that afternoon and these were trotted out yet again. Fear began to reassert itself. Our camp could be seen from the road, you know. Better put the fire out. Merv decided that the most comfortable bed would be sitting upright in the car with the doors locked. "What about us?" we chorused. He passed out the machete.

Not even 40,000 horsemen passing by would have disturbed the sleep of the weary band that night.....(to be continued)

NEWS in BRIEF

UPDATE ON FAGAN PARK (Galston)

by Tom Gibian

Those of you with long memories may recall the plans for development of this park (see Newsletter 16, March 1987).

Fagan Park opened to the public on 5th November 1988, with Premier Greiner hosting the ceremony.

There are 9 display areas featuring plants from different countries. Unfortunately there is only one Australian garden, and it was planted last of all - inevitably in a great rush, the weather was most unkind with scorching days making establishment of young plants difficult.

The Australian garden was designed by a landscape architect. It attempts to display a wide range of local flora and includes a lagoon, open forest area, woodland and heath areas. Procuring more than 1,300 of these mostly unusual species was a difficult task. There were not many *Grevillea* species in the original plan, we donated a selection of forms of *G. sericea* and *G. speciosa*. Plantings include *G. longifolia* and *G. caleyi X aspleniifolia* with large areas of prostrate *G. juniperina* forms ("Molonglo" and "Pink Lady").

Should members be in the North-West area of Sydney, I suggest they drop in and inspect the gardens at Fagan Park at Galston. Perhaps a few months' plant growth would provide optimum appearance.

* * * * *

Col Hockings from Stanthorpe in Queensland writes concerning the second recording in Queensland according to the Queensland Herbarium, of *Grevillea juniperina* (formerly *G. trinervis*). This form of the species differs from the form from the Boonoo Boonoo area in NSW which has bright scarlet red flowers.

The Stanthorpe form has flowers which are generally yellow, with the occasional dull red and a salmon pink colour form. The plants are 10-12 cm high, spreading to 70 cm.

Unfortunately, an application has been lodged with the Stanthorpe Shire Council to build an abattoir on the very block on which these unusual colour forms occur. The location is Portion 324, Parish of Folkestone, Stanthorpe Shire.

SGAP Old has decided to write a letter of protest to the Stanthorpe Shire Council, as has the local Naturalist's Club.

Hopefully, these letters will lend weight to the arguments against locating an abattoir on the site of *G. juniperina*, which is only 3 miles SE of the town on the very creek which flows through Stanthorpe.

IN YOUR GARDEN

Creating a Garden from Clay

by Joe Mercieca

I live on the flat part of Bonnet Bay (a suburb of Sydney). I hired a bobcat to turn the "soil" (more like clay) and at the same time added gypsum. Then I built the ground up with new soil and coarse sand over which I placed a weed mat and bark or wood chip.

The weed mat is great as it keeps the weeds down and retains the moisture, also the roots grow just beneath the weed mat and on top of the soil. These roots are fibrous and look healthy. At first I thought that the weed mat would keep the soil too wet, but as yet I have had no problems.

I lost a few Grevilleas after planting in the ground but this may be due to keeping the plants too long in the pots.

My best performers include *G. intricata*, *G. lanigera* and *G. "Sandra Gordon"*.

Iron chelates: It is worth noting that after the heavy rains in April (1988), I applied iron chelates to the soil to maintain the slightly acid soil. The flowers, as a result, seem deeper in colour.

More Experiences with Alkaline Soil

by Eric Taylor of Narrandera, NSW

I was surprised to see Beverly O'Keefe's article in Newsletter Number 19, as my problems are virtually identical. Much of our $\frac{1}{4}$ acre garden is subject to seepage with the water table in winter reaching the surface in some spots. Even in surrounding drier areas, we still have trouble growing Grevilleas and other Proteaceae plants.

Our soil is a red sand of a deep structure, water repellent when dry. I think that salt is the main problem that we are facing in the soil with our bore water not helping when used for watering. In certain areas of our garden, Grevilleas are starting to succeed, i.e. near the street on the nature strip. Here, backfill would have been used in road making, and the removal of a large Radiata Pine would have provided a lower water table and an increased drop of acid pine needles over the years. I am also attempting to rely on our rainfall and try not to water in summer.

As my plant symptoms are the same as Beverly O'Keefe's I will not describe them, but will list a few that have succeeded in the hope that others with similar problems will try them.

The average rainfall is 425mm mainly in winter, with mild to moderate frosts. The soil is red sand with no visible clay particles anywhere and I assume that the pH is 7.0 - 7.5. Establishment rate of Grevilleas is about 30% with most failures making no attempt to establish beyond the root ball.

All below have lasted 2 years so far.

- G. brachystachya* no problems at all so far, 1 x 2 m.
- G. stenomera* easy to strike, growing well so far
- G. insignis* my favourite, growing slowly but very healthy
- G. leucoptervis* 1 year old, growing madly in several spots
- G. olivacea* looking healthy and a nice plant
- G. infundibularis* very fast growth to a spread of 2m in 18 months, unusual and I like it
- G. longistyla* going OK in a sheltered spot above seepage
- G. paniculata* progressing OK
- G. platypoda* fine leaf, growing slowly but healthy

G. crithmifolia pink and cream both doing well

G. longifolia 2m x 2m in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, fairly sheltered spot.

More recent species looking healthy

G. candelabroides *G. curviloba*

G. beadleana *G. deflexa*

G. diffusa ssp *filipendula* *G. drummondi*

G. fistulosa (dryland form) *G. macrostylis* (tripartita)

G. pectinata *G. petrophiloides* (3 forms)

G. pilosa *G. plurijuga*

G. polybractea *G. thelemanniana* (Spriggs form)

Our Sweet "Misty Pink"

by Mark and Tania Herrington of Wellington Point, Queensland

The nectar production of Grevilleas has made them renowned as bird attractants. We wanted to know how much nectar a flower produced and how much sugar was available to a bird or bee - so we measured it.

In September, nectar was collected daily by eyedropper from bagged flowers on a plant of *Grevillea* "Misty Pink" about 80 cm tall, 9 months after transplanting at Wellington Point, Qld 4160. On one day an unknown but probably small amount of nectar was lost when collection was late - we had a soggy sticky paper bag.

There were 114 florets on the flower, nectar was produced in abundant quantities on the day the style reflexed and the previous day. The total of measured nectar (from a different flower) was 7.3 ml with a sugar content of 13.8%. (We believe the total volume could have approached 9 - 10 ml if we had not delayed collection on that one day). Based on the measured quantities, *Grevillea* "Misty Pink" produced about 1 gram of sugar per inflorescence.

In rockmelons, which also have productive nectaries, a nectaryless plant has been reported. No nectary means no nectar. This characteristic was controlled by a single gene. We would be interested to know of (and obtain seed/pollen/cuttings) any plant of *Grevillea* which does not produce nectar.

Miners attack Society Member

by a Keane Gardener

A ruthless, undercover insurgency of miners are sought in connection with the soulless attack of a SGAP member in the backyard last week.

The SGAP member, oozing with complacency, is believed to be in shock by the style of the attack. Such attacks are subsequently regarded as more widespread than first thought.

The miners apparent disregard of, and contempt for the average citizens belief is the most disturbing factor in this case. People have long held with sanctity that natives are the untouchables of society. The miners have made this edict hollow indeed.

The member, currently recovering from Vitamin B deficiency after a prolonged moisture intake programme, has revealed how that attack will scar for life. The brunt of the attack has been directed at faithful old Jervis. Originally from the south coast, Jervis bears the telltale signs, narrow brown lines etched capriciously all over the leaves with some areas displaying blisters. The legacy will continue as grey patches develop with time..... (cont. over page)

IN YOUR GARDEN (Cont)

Nationally, further disturbing reports concerning attacks on similar groups, especially those from temperate and subtropical areas, have flooded in.

Local authorities, however, have promised their support in order to end the holocaust. Perry Pardalote and Wally Ways, both members of the "Jump on the Bandwagon"

Party in fact claim to have monitored the situation for some time.

Higher authorities are now set to act with the implementation of the Paul Keating technique. The technique is feared and brutal but universally accepted as the "world's best", involves substantial taxing of attack sites. Simply the larger the attack, the larger the tax. Hence, poor old Jervis, innocent victim, will now have to live with the scars of surgery and possible further amputation.

PROPAGATION

Bibliography on *Grevillea robusta*

by Dr Chris Harwood, Research Scientist, CSIRO.

I am currently preparing an annotated bibliography on *Grevillea robusta* A. Cunn. The main emphasis is on forestry and agroforestry uses, but I am also covering ornament uses.

I will be carrying out isozyme studies on natural and overseas populations of the species to examine the degree of genetic variation within and between populations. CSIRO Division of Forestry and Forest Products is also planning seed collections across the natural range of the species.

I have read through the published newsletters of the Grevillea Study Group, and am aware of your forthcoming book on Grevilleas. I have noted with interest the use of *Grevillea robusta* as a stock for grafting other species and cultivars. I wonder whether you or any of your group members have any experience as a scion in grafting work. I notice that Don Burke suggests in his book "Growing Grevilleas" that *Grevillea robusta* could be dwarfed by grafting it onto *G. "Boongala spinebill"*.

The main interest in grafting, or propagation by cuttings, for the agroforestry and forestry sectors would be the possibility of selecting outstanding adult plants from the field or from provenance trials, and establishing them by grafts or cuttings in a seed orchard stand to produce genetically improved seed. In this context I am most interested in finding out whether adult *Grevillea robusta* plants can be grafted or propagated by cuttings, and then grow on vigorously to flower and seed in a short time. The forestry literature mentions that cuttings can easily be struck from 1-2 year old seedlings but does not record the performance of older plants as cuttings or scions. I would be very interested in hearing from you or any member of the Grevillea Study Group on these matters.

Dr Harwood may be contacted at CSIRO Division of Forestry and Forest Products, PO Box 4008, Queen Victoria Terrace, A.C.T. 2600, Australia.

SEED BANK

Our seed bank officer, Phil Congdon, always welcomes any donations of *Grevillea* seed.

OFFICE BEARERS

Leader: Peter Olde, 138 Fowler Road, Illawong 2234. (02) 543 2242

Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: Christine Guthrie, 32 Blanche Street, Oatley 2223. (02) 579 4093

Curator of Living Collection & Herbarium: Ray Brown, 29 Gwythir Avenue, Bulli 2516. (042) 84 9216

Seed Bank: Phil Congdon, c/- Owens Road, Martinsville 2265. (049) 48 8576

Cuttings Exchange: Hessel Saunders, Box 31, P.O. Bulli 2516.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MARCH 1989

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Subscriptions \$195.00	Newsletter Expenses 205.00
	Postage 99.26
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