

86 <u>Newsletter No.</u>

GSG VIC Programme 2010

For more details contact Neil Marriott (Vic Leader), on (03) 5356 2404 or 0458 177 989, or email neilmarriott@westnet.com.au

Despite extensive effort on behalf of Max McDowall to get members along to Vic Chapter excursions, there has been a very disappointing response. As a result Max has decided to resign from this role and we have decided to put the Vic chapter into recess until further notice.

Vic GSG Field Trip on Melbourne Cup weekend - more details in next newsletter.

Please note: Change of address reminder The post office box we had for a number of years has now been cancelled. Please forward all correspondence for the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor to 32 Blanche Street OATLEY NSW 2223.

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GSG S.E. QLD Programme 2010

Morning tea at 9.30am, meetings commence at 10.00am. For more information contact Noreen Baxter on (07) 3202 5008 or Beverley Leggett on (07) 3870 8517.

Sunday, 27 June 2010

VENUE:	Nev & Shirley Deeth, 19 Richards Road, Samford, 4520	
PHONE:	(07) 3289 2466	
SUBJECT:	Grevilleas affected by Phytophthora	

Sunday, 29 August 2010

- VENUE: Substitute venue - to be advised, contact Noreen Baxter
- PHONE: (07) 3202 5008
- **SUBJECT:** New ideas in grafting and interesting new Grevilleas

Sunday, 31 October 2010

- VENUE: Fran & Jim Standing, Mt. Clunie Cabins, Mt. Clunie Road, Woodenbong, NSW 2476
- PHONE: (07) 4666 5118
- **SUBJECT:** Ground cover Grevilleas

Sunday, 28 November 2010

- VENUE: Merv. & Olwyn Hodge, 81-81 Loganview Rd, Logan Reserve, 4133
- PHONE: (07) 5546 3322
- SUBJECT: Understorey pruning

Illawarra Grevillea Park - Open days 2010

July, Sat 17 & Sun 18 and July, Sat 24 & Sun 25 September, Sat 25 & Sun 26 and October, Sat 2 & Sun 3

Location - The Park is located at the rear of Bulli Showground, Princess Highway, Bulli. (Turn at the Woonona-Bulli Sports Club)

Admission - \$5 adults, children accompanied by adults are free

Opening hours - the park is open from 10am to 4pm.

Barbeque and picnic facilities available - bring your lunch and make it a family day!

For more information - email: info@grevilleapark.org or visit: www.grevilleapark.org

This newsletter has been compiled mostly from articles submitted by our Queensland chapter. They should be congratulated for the effort they have made and the interest the group shows in this beautiful genus. Last year they conducted their first field trip to look at various species in the wild but did not make it south of the border. Next time hopefully. Next newsletter is the responsibility of the New South Wales members. Let us hope that someone other than the leader will submit some articles for us.

The response to my call in the last newsletter for people willing to take ownership of various species or to volunteer in other ways met with a resounding silence. Not a single volunteer. Perhaps we should consider why we belong to a study group if we cannot attempt an interesting and relatively easy study.

Victorian Chapter are organising a field trip for the November Cup week-end. Details are not to hand at present but should be available in the next newsletter.

Plans are well advanced for the Fred Rogers Seminar in Bairnesdale. Dawn Barr is the indefatigable organiser and she is to be acknowledged for what is a thankless job, especially trying to get the speakers to submit their papers in time for publication.

Unfortunately the cultivar book will not be on the market at the conference. A release in December is now the most likely. The editing task is quite formidable and will require several more months. Hopefully people will see it as a worthwhile purchase. It will certainly be a comprehensive reference and working with such a beautiful genus is always such a pleasure.

Catch you next time, Peter

Noreen Baxter

P.M. Olde

Grevillea Study Group (SEQ) - Field trip 25/26 July 2009

The Grevillea Study Group (SEQ) meetings are on the last Sunday morning every second month followed in the afternoon by the Small Plants Interest Group, so many members belong to both groups. Following discussion on "Grevilleas Growing Within 200k of Brisbane" at the October 2008 meeting Jan Glazebrook and Denis Cox developed an itinerary for a drive to see some of these species in the bush. So although the itinerary was designed to visit specific Grevillea sites, every plant seen was of interest at each site. A report including all the plants seen is available but this report specifically relates to the Grevilleas.



Grevillea hodgei

The aim was to see Grevillea leiophylla at Deception Bay: Grevillea humilis ssp lucens in the Beerwah State Forest Scientific Area; Grevillea hodgei at the top of Rupari Hill, Beerwah; Grevillea reptans at Tin Can Bay; Grevillea floribunda ssp tenella (Durong form) on the road between Tingoora and Durong; Grevillea floribunda ssp tenella (Crows Nest form) at Crows Nest; Grevillea quadricauda in Helidon Hills; and Grevillea singuliflora in Helidon Hills.

The trip started at 8am, Saturday 25 July, 2009 when fifteen members, including Jan and Denis, gathered at Freshwater National Park, Priests Road, Deception Bay. Barbara Henderson, leader of the Wallum Study Group and an expert on the Beerwah State Forest, met the group at the start and guided them through the Beerwah State Forest Scientific Area and onto Rupari Hill, Beerwah. Barbara's assistance was greatly appreciated as she has such a deep knowledge of these areas and also took the group beyond the "locked gate" areas. After Beerwah the group travelled on to a site at Tin Can Bay then to Gympie for the night, returning home via Durong, Crows Nest and Helidon Hills on the Sunday.

A "Plant List" was compiled at each site. Most of the field identifications were made by Jan Glazebrook and Denis Cox. The list was then circulated to all participants for the inclusion of any additional plants spotted by other participants. In all 260 sightings were recorded of 164 plant species.

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A number of specimens of *Grevillea leiophylla* were found in Freshwater National Park, Deception Bay. Unfortunately it was not in flower at this time.

In the Beerwah State Forest Scientific Area four sites were visited. At two of the sites *Grevillea humilis ssp lucens* was found in full bloom.

The next area visited was Rupari Hill, Tower Lane, Beerwah where a very health colony of *Grevillea hodgei* made a spectacular display.



A quick lunch stop was taken during the drive from Beerwah to the Reserve bounded by Trevally Street & Coral Trout Street in Tin Can Bay where, although not in flower, *Grevillea reptans* was seen.

At the end of a long day the weary travellers headed into Gympie, went to dinner at the Services Club then back to the Caravan Park for the night.

Sunday everyone was up early for the drive from Gympie via Kilkivan, Murgon, and Wondai to Tingoora for morning tea stop. Then it was on towards Durong for the first plant stop which was at a roadside cutting reached by turning off the Bunya Highway 1k S of Tingoora onto Chinchilla-Wondai Road (approximately 38 k from Tingoora and 26k before Durong) where, just over a hill crest, everyone was delighted to find numerous *Grevillea floribunda* ssp *tenella* (Durong form) plants.

Backtracking to the Bunya Highway the group then went on through Kingaroy, Yarraman, Cooyar to Hartmann Park in Crows Nest. Unfortunately, although some 24 species of plants were seen in the Park, the group failed to find the *Grevillea floribunda ssp tenella* (Crows Nest form). However, the Park proved to be a very pleasant spot for a late lunch.

The final section for the weekend was through Hampton, Ravensbourne NP to Helidon Hills via Seventeen Mile road, with a short side trip down Gold Creek Road, to see *Grevillea quadricauda* then back to Seventeen Mile road and finally into Helidon. *Grevillea singuliflora* is also in this area, but time and energy were running out so the group opted not to walk the half a kilometre through the bush to find it. As this site is only a short trip from Brisbane a day trip to this area might be taken sometime in the future.

By this time only six of the group had the stamina left to carry onto Helen Howard's for a very, very late afternoon tea, the others opted to head straight home.

It was a wonderful weekend, with many, many photographs being taken to record the trip. A selection of the photographs were collected and combined to make a DVD for all the participants to enjoy. Even though the initial plant identifications given to the photographs were reviewed twice: firstly by Merle Gynther and Bev Leggett then finally by Jan Glazebrook and Denis Cox persons amendments might be necessary in the future. Many, many thanks to Jan and Denis for organising the trip and generally making sure we all enjoyed it; to everyone who assisted in identifying the plants; and to the photographers for sharing their photographs with the rest of the group. Also thank you to Barbara Henderson for her time and energy in sharing her knowledge and guiding us through the Beerwah area.





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Grevillea Study Group (SEQ) 2009 Report

The GSG (SEQ) is very fortunate to have a solid core of experienced and knowledgeable Grevillea growers among the members. The main focus of each meeting is to discuss a subject related to Grevilleas, during which time the experienced members discuss their practices and the rest of us soak up a little of their knowledge. These discussions generate ideas that sometimes slowly develop into another activity.

We continue to meet six times a year. The number of members attending ranges from 13 to 21 per meeting plus one or two visitors. Interestingly, at the meeting held at Mount Clunie in October 2009 there were eight visitors from nearby areas of NSW which was marvellous not only because some of the visitors had a wealth of knowledge to share, but also because of the introduction of fresh ideas.

2009 Highlights

Our April meeting was at the Helidon home of Helen Howard. This was a young garden and developing into something really special. The topic for discussion was "New Hybrids" and those present were treated to a preview of some amazing hybrids that are being grown by members. Sadly shortly after our visit the Helen moved and is now extremely busy running the "Good Earth Nursery" at Highfield. We wish her every success in her new business venture and hope she will still be able to come along to GSG meetings, indeed a meeting is scheduled at the nursery in 2010.

The June 2009 meeting was held at the home of Kerry & Annabel Rathie. As usual we enjoyed a guided tour of the garden. Kerry has a fascinating garden with a great variety of "special interest" plants ranging from Grevilleas to Brachychitons. In June 2008 the meeting topic was "Growing Grevilleas On Their Own Roots", this topic was repeated at the June 2009 meeting, by which time an Access programme had been developed with the intention of trying to record data on this category of Grevilleas. This is an ongoing project which, to date has 101 records on some 64 species of Grevilleas, with some members are still to provide more information. This information has already proved useful in discussing what Grevilleas are being grown on their own roots in Brisbane with the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens staff.

At the October 2008 meeting the topic for discussion was "Grevilleas Growing Within 200k of Brisbane". Denis Cox came to that meeting with a list of all the Grevilleas that he could find in that category and where they were growing. This generated a lot of discussion and the idea of a group trip sprang to life. Jan Glazebrook and Denis agreed to organise the excursion which took place on **25/26 July 2009** and was thoroughly enjoyed by a group of fifteen members and spouses. A separate report has been written on this activity.

The **August** meeting was held at the home of Merv and Olwyn Hodge. Merv had warned us that the garden would not be "up to its usual standard" as his health restricts him nowadays. Well we must have been there at the right time as every plant seemed to be at its peak, the garden was a mass of flowers and birds. Merv and Helen Howard both demonstrated their grafting techniques. It has been great to see Merv back at a few more meetings this year.

September 2009: Once again Jan Glazebrook and Denis Cox did a great job setting up the "Grevillea Display" for the SGAP Region Flower Show at Mt Coot-tha. All members contribute flowers then Jan and Denis, with a little assistance from some other members, set up the display and label all the flowers.

October saw the group return to enjoy the hospitality of Fran and Jim Standing at Mount Clunie. Once again some members went up on the Saturday afternoon and gathered for a communal evening meal, before reviewing the photographs from the July Excursion. Eight NSW visitors attended the meeting on Sunday so there was a lot of interesting discussion on "Pests, Diseases and Solutions" followed by a lengthy tour of the grounds with Fran and Jim. Despite being in drought the grounds were just as wonderful as last year. After the meeting many members accepted Fran's invitation to take cuttings and some seeds home. It was another great weekend.

November, our final meeting for 2009, was at the home of Jan Glazebrook and Denis Cox. This is another magnificent garden. The topic was "Growing Grevilleas from Seed". Jan shared some of her germinating techniques with the group and it will be very interesting to see if others with less experience can emulate Jan's success.

All up 2009 would seem to have been a successful and active year for members. Our calendar of meetings and discussion topics has been organised for the early part of 2010 and it is hoped that this will continue to meet the needs and interests of our members.

Owen Brown 1923-2009, Grevillea Breeder

I am writing to record something of the life and death at the age of 86 of Owen Brown who passed away on 15 December 2009 after a long battle with prostate cancer. Owen lived with his wife Anne at Golden Beach, Caloundra, Queensland and was well known to many for his love affair with grevilleas which began after he retired. After World War 2 during which he served as a coast watcher and paratrooper, Owen ultimately ended up at Barnes Milling in Brisbane where he was manager for many years. He was also a qualified accountant. Later, he and Anne owned and operated a number of hot bread shops along the Sunshine Coast. In 1981, they purchased a small acreage at Little Mountain. They were soon visiting nurseries all over the place in search of plants with which to vegetate the property. At one stage he was spending nearly \$100 per week on plants. Owen decided to learn to grow plants for himself as a cheaper alternative. He was an avid reader and researched every book on the subject he could lay his hands on, one of them being Don Burke's Growing Grevilleas, a book he claimed was a major influence on his activities. He became obsessed with the subject, to the exclusion of almost everything else. He began growing grevilleas from seed. One of the first plants he produced was Grevillea 'Caloundra Gem' which was released by Lakkari Nurserv in 1986 and is still sold today. From his first cultivar, he learned more than the average gardener. He sold his product into the horticulture industry. This would become a feature of his later work, whereby he continuously tried to interest business people in his hybrids. Perhaps commercial gain was in his blood but the plants he produced soon became available to the general public. He soon progressed into growing more hybrid grevilleas.

Although he did actually cross-pollinate a number of plants, his main technique was to germinate seed off known cultivars growing in his garden. 'The birds did all the work' he once remarked to me. He kept a close watch on the seedlings as they grew in his seedling trays and were later potted up until they flowered. If it looked a bit different to his keen, discerning eye, he would select it out. His next achievement came around 1987 when he bred G. Crimson 'Yul-lo' and 1989 when he bred Grevillea Golden 'Yul-lo'. The last was used in the bouquets for the 2000 Paralympic Games. These he sold to Ed Bunker of the WONS Nursery Group. He also bred Grevillea 'Gossamer' which was produced by Australia Park Nursery. Around 1989, he moved into a smaller house at Golden Beach where he promptly turned the small backyard into a plant breeding institute.

Before long, he had so many plants, he did not know what to do with them. So he teamed up with the

developers of the Pelican Waters subdivision, which planted out literally thousands of his plants, thereby extending his garden without having to maintain it. From this production, some of his most beautiful cultivars emerged. The Coastal series were marketed in the 1990s and after 2000 by Birkdale Nursery until it closed recently. Peter Lewis was then the manager there. Some never reached the market. Grevillea 'Coastal Dawn', 'Coastal Glimpse', 'Coastal Impressive', 'Coastal Prestige', 'Coastal Sunset' and 'Coastal Twilight' are some that I call to mind that achieved commercial penetration while Birkdale had its doors still open. Most of them were PBR protected too but I notice that PBR has now lapsed on all the Coastal series. Many of his plants were given to his children. One of the most beautiful he named after his daughter, Grevillea 'Judith Anne'. However, when he sold the rights to Queensland Tubes, they changed the name to Grevillea 'Molly'. Owen was incensed. The last two to be marketed from his efforts were sold to Australis Plants, Grevillea 'Pink Delight' and Grevillea 'Red Delight'. Australis had earlier marketed Grevillea 'Gypsy Moon' a really lovely cultivar selected from Owen's plants growing at Pelican Waters, over which he retained the rights.

Owen had a very robust personality and a very romantic attachment to his flowers, taking great care in capturing their beauty in an appropriate name. He was persistent, perhaps a little obsessive, enthusiastic, but a very positive man right to the end. His illness was scarcely ever mentioned. Sudoku exercised his mind over the last few months but he had recently purchased a *Grevillea* 'Wattlebird Yellow' whose progeny he had planned to work with. He passed on his love of native plants and grevilleas in particular to his granddaughter Megan. At his funeral, the coffin was covered in *Grevillea* blooms. Owen and Anne had one son and three daughters, nine grand-children.



Owen Brown 1923-2009

Helen Howard

Grevillea quadricauda

I have been doing a bit of research into *Grevillea quadricauda* and have found it to be a very interesting plant. It is not at all common in cultivation. In fact, I do not know anyone who is growing it. *Grevillea quadricauda* is listed as **vulnerable** under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) as, prior to the commencement of the EPBC Act, it was listed as vulnerable under Schedule 1 of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth). The species is also listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW) and as vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006* (Queensland).

In October 2008 Peter Olde & I visited the Helidon area in Queensland to see if this Grevillea was still growing in the bush where he found it some years ago. He was amazed that it had completely disappeared from the places he had seen and photographed it for the Grevillea Book. We were left thinking that it was worth doing a bit of a serious search but in spite of nearly an hour searching nearby bushland, nothing was found at that time. There are two colour forms shown in the Grevillea Book (Volume 3:) and one of them (green and white) is only found at Helidon where both colours occur together on different plants.

Since then I have been able to find a few more plants. One beautiful plant exists in the bush close to Grantham. Martin Bennett who is well known for his "Land for wildlife" work, around the area gave me directions to this plant which stood alone on land that had been graded. I was so excited to get a chance to see this beautiful Grevillea in the bush and I was also excited to see little seedlings in the gravel directly underneath this bush. Jan and Denis Cox were also very helpful with directions to a few more plants down Gold mine road off 17 mile road in the Helidon Hills. At last, thanks to their guidance I managed to track down a few more plants in the area where it should have been. A few weeks ago I mentioned my interest in this Grevillea to Clinton Smith a new Member to Toowoomba SGAP.. Clinton is 16 years old and is studying horticulture .He has the potential to become a botanist; his passion for plants is so intense and wonderful to see in such a young person. To my amazement he went up 15 mile road (close to Helidon at the back of Murphy's Creek) and he and his mother found 15 to 20 plants in different growth stages an the side of the road.

So this is wonderful to rediscover a plant that was feared lost or almost wiped out. I am so thankful for connections in the plant world to relate a good news story to those of you that follow the 'Life and Times' of these precious plants. I am delighted to relate also that I will continue to monitor this Grevillea and report on its status down the track.

If anyone knows more about *Grevillea quadricauda* I would love to be able to put together a more informed report for future information to be available for the *Grevillea* enthusiasts of this world. This is an ideal plant for small gardens and has a beautiful form. New growth is delightful and it must be hardy as the area around Helidon gets frost. More information would be gratefully received.



Hello to all my valued Friends of Good Earth

I am sorry that I have to let you know my Nursery has moved on from it's premises on the New England Highway – nursery is closed as a retail concern, cafe closed in april. New owners at the premises on New England so I had to move on to greener pastures! My business is now Mobile and I will enjoy visiting people in their gardens and giving talks for Garden clubs. On Thursdays I will be available for gardening advice and sales of Native Plants for Friends of

Peacehaven Botanical Park on Kuhl's Rd Highfields. In the background I will now continue to Graft and save rarer Australian plants.

At Peacehaven Botanical Park there is some wonderful work going on and Robert Campbell is the driving force behind the achievement. The planted trees are doing so well.

I wish to take this opportunity to say a really heartfelt thank you for caring to do business with me. I hope to continue to look after your plant needs where ever I can.

Cheers for the moment, Helen - Telephone 0402 555 573 Email: helen@goodearthnursery.com.au

New species in flora

Two species from the northern part of Australia are here reviewed, *Grevillea agrifolia* R. Br. and *Grevillea wickhamii* Meisner.

Grevillea agrifolia was discovered and first collected by Allan Cunningham in 1819 during P.P. King's second circumnavigation of the continent in 'H.M. *Mermaid*'. The collection was named by Robert Brown in 1830. The inflorescences are decurved and closely resemble those of *Grevillea angulata* and related species. The ovary isglabrous but the style is usually hairy.

Key to the subspecies of Grevillea agrifolia

- 1. Mature fruit (15–)18–23mm long; pericarp 2.8–3.1(–?4.6mm thick) at centre face; most leaves > 40mm wide subsp. *agrifolia*
- 1* Mature fruit 11–15mm long; pericarp < 1.5mm thick at centre face; most leaves < 40mm wide subsp. *microcarpa*

Subsp. *agrifolia* is a very widespread taxon occurring across the Top End from the Victoria River district in the N.T. to the Kimberley in W.A. It is usually found near water courses or drainage lines in sandy loam or gravel, sometimes on rocks. It is also found on the adjacent offshore islands in W.A. It is typically a shrub to 2m or thereabouts (up to 4.5m high) with large grey concolorous leaves, usually toothed around the apex and with large woody obloid fruits that have a thick bony wall. Seed is winged all round. A variant collected by G. F. Hill in 1901 from Mission Station, Napier Broome Bay W.A. with large leaves and fruits was once recognised (Ewart & Rees 1911: 68) as var. *major*.

Subsp. *microcarpa* is endemic to W.A. between the King Edward River and Kalumburu. It occurs in scattered large populations and in only one seen is it sympatric with subsp. agrifolia. While travelling in the Kimberley in 1990, I came upon a population of plants at the King Edward River growing with a large population of Grevillea agrifolia. Neil Marriott had earlier commented on it during a trip there. The former was growing in the rocks along the river while G. agrifolia was confined to the better drained higher rocks. The riverine population had small olive green leaves and smaller fruits and because of these differences and its sympatric occurrence here with G. agrifolia, I recognised it as a distinct species, Grevillea microcarpa. The taxa grow so

close together at King Edward River that I was able to hold a branch of both taxa attached to living plants at the same time. In nature, plants in populations that maintain their morphology without interbreeding in sympatry are species in my view, not subspecies. Bob Makinson decided otherwise and reduced it to subspecies. I strongly disagree with this but since all the botanical institutions have accepted the Flora version then that is the version that stands for the present. The Flora version is that (Vol 17A:128) 'the nominated differences in leaves, fruits and stylar indumentum are not absolute and at various locations [none cited] there is considerable intergradation as well as (at others) no intergradation. Influences of microhabitat in these situations should be considered. In view of the relatively high frequency of intergrades, separate species are hard to maintain....'.

It is true that there is variation in stylar indumentum and the leaf measurements can overlap. However, I did not find the same to be true of leaf colour nor the fruit morphology. Measuring fruits can be tricky because it is difficult to know if fruits with specimens are mature (see overlap in key). You could argue that specimens of subsp. agrifolia sometimes (rarely) have small fruits. The measurements do abut at 15mm but I felt these were immatures. Research is also hampered by lack of fruits with specimens. I believe that the conclusion reached owes its reason to the lack of field experience with this taxon. Subspecies in sympatry in Grevillea are not accepted (although other groups, notably Acacia, do recognise them). The Biological Species Concept which maintains this tenet is no longer widely accepted by botanists. However, the principle itself that taxa in sympatry should be recognised as species is still widely accepted as a proof of nature. One should also remember that nature recognises and maintains minute morphological differences between closely related species in sympatry. Witness the minute differences between Grevillea sericea and Grevillea linearifolia, (there are numerous overlaps on any number of characters), that are widely recognised and maintained by systematists. In the end, regardless of the disputation about rank, Grevillea microcarpa still has a name and, along with it, a conservation imperative.

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Grevillea wickhamii has been the focus of some detailed study for the Flora by Bob Makinson, including field work. I have little knowledge of the species other that subsp. *cratista* which I think should have been distinguished at specific rank. I have only seen this and subsp. *aprica* in the wild and have not closely studied the species in the herbarium. I therefore bow to greater knowledge on the subject and the extensive novel research. The species was first collected during the Wickham Voyage to northern Australia in 1839 by Captain J.C. Wickham himself. It was named by Meisner in 1856. Six subspecies are now recognised.



Key to the subspecies of Grevillea wickhamii

- 1 Outer surface of perianth glabrous; floral rachis and pedicels glabrous; follicle 10–15mm long
- 2 Pollen-presenter elliptical to oblong-elliptical in face view, ≤ 1mm wide; floral rachis 10–20 (–40)mm long; nectary rising < 0.5mm above the toral rim, its margin even to undulate or obscurely toothed subsp. wickhamii
- 2* Pollen-presenter circular to broadly elliptical or slightly obovate, 1.0–1.3mm wide; floral rachis (15–) 30–60 (–70)mm long; nectary usually rising < 0.5mm above the toral rim, its margin usually conspicuously dentate (a large triangular tooth at each end of the arc) subsp. macrodonta
- 1* Outer surface of perianth with hairs; floral rachis and pedicels usually with hairs, rarely glabrous; follicle (13–) 15–20mm long 3 Outer surface of perianth with a very open indumentum of simple short erect hairs (sometimes inconspicuous and/or restricted to the limb segments), occasionally also with a few appressed biramous hairs; floral rachis similar or rarely glabrous or subsericeous with biramous hairs subsp. hispidula

- 3* Outer surface of perianth with an open to dense indumentum of ±appressed biramous hairs (sometimes restricted to the limb); floral rachis densely subsericeous with biramous hairs only
- 4 Pollen-presenter elliptic to oblong-elliptic in face view, ≤ 1mm wide; style with simple erect glandular hairs only; perianth pale creamy yellow subsp. **pallida**
- 4* Pollen-presenter circular to broadly elliptical or slightly obovate, 1.0–2.0mm wide; style usually with mixed appressed-biramous and simple erect glandular hairs, rarely only one type or the other; perianth bright red to orange below a yellow to orange limb, or very rarely pink or golden-yellow throughout
- 5 Erect to spreading single-stemmed to multistemmed shrub 2–4m tall; pedicels 3–5mm long; floral rachis 15–40 (–50)mm long subsp. **aprica**
- 5* Erect single-stemmed shrub or small tree 3–8m tall; pedicels 6–9mm long; floral rachis 30–120mm long subsp. **cratista**

Subsp wickhamii was first recognised as distinct from subsp. aprica by Don McGillivray (1986). The concept employed by Makinson in the Flora corresponds closely with the subspecies as circumscribed by McGillivray (1993:206), but 'the reliance on fruit size is misplaced as there is overlap on this feature with the other subspecies' (17A:135). It is a narrow endemic found only in the West Kimberley and offshore islands, from the Mt Bell area to E of Gibb River Stn, and N to Bachsten Ck and the King Edward R., also on islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago. It is one of only two taxa with glabrous floral rachises, perianths and pedicels. The styles have simple erect glandular hairs only. Flower colour for this subspecies is given as perianth red, often with a yellow limb, or rarely yellowish throughout; style yellow with a greenish tip.



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Subsp. *macrodonta* Makinson is the second taxon in the glabrous-flowered group. It is distinguished by having more conspicuous leaf toothing than subsp. *wickhamii*. There are also differences cited in the pollen-presenter, the length of the floral rachises and the prominence of the nectary. This taxon occurs further to the south from Goldsworthy N along the coastal plain to Broome and E to Edgar Ra. and Derby and beyond (possibly to the Napier Ra.). Flowers have the perianth red to deep orange or rarely bright yellow, often with a paler (to yellow) limb; style yellow, usually with a greenish tip.

Subsp. aprica McGill. is by far the most widespread of the subspecies and is one of four that have hairs on the floral parts, notably the floral rachis. It is widespread in northern inland Australia; in W.A., S of the Kimberley from Margaret R. to the N.T. border, and disjunctly near Docker R. and S of Port Hedland; I collected in the Rawlinson Range. It also occurs throughout N.T. south from about Larrimah, and into NW Qld where it occurs patchilv from Lawn Hill area to Mt Isa, Cloncurry and Winton. It normally has red and yellow flowers but pure yellow flowers have been collected in Queensland. Perianths are red or orange, usually with a paler limb, or rarely golden yellow. The style matches the perianth colour or paler, yellow to orange or occasionally red. The styles also have a mixture of glandular and biramous hairs. In this taxon, the outer surface of perianth has an open to dense indumentum of ±appressed biramous hairs (sometimes restricted to the limb); floral rachis densely subsericeous with biramous hairs only. These characteristics are shared with two other subspecies but not subsp. hispidula.

Subsp. *hispidula* Makinson is distinguished by a glandular-hispid indumentum on the floral parts, including the peridanth, pedicels and floral rachis. It occurs in W.A. in the Hamersley Ra. and Pilbara areas, and E to Lake Disappointment and Windy Corner and grows in open eucalypt and *Acacia* associations with *Triodia*, in red loamy to sandy soils, often near drainage lines. It has leaves 2–5 (–7)cm long and 2–3.5cm wide, and pedicels 3–6mm long. There is a resemblance to *G. byrnesii*, which has a similar glandular-hispid indumentum on the floral parts and similarly shaped leaves. *Grevillea byrnesii* however has larger leaves 7.5–12cm long and 3.5–7cm wide, longer unit conflorescences (rachis 50–120mm long), and longer pedicels 6–9mm long. The range of subsp. *hispidula* approaches that of subsp. *aprica* along the upper Fortescue R.

Subsp. *pallida* Makinson occurs in northwestern W.A., known as yet only from a small population at the Type locality in Prince Regent Nature Reserve. Possibly also on Koolan Is.. It grows in *Eucalyptus–Terminalia–Livistona* woodland associations on lower slopes near creeks, in skeletal soils over sandstone. It resembles paleflowered forms of subsp. *aprica*, but has a smaller, narrower pollenpresenter, generally shorter inflorescences and occurs in a different biotope. Biramous hairs on the perianth, pedicels and floral rachis are relatively dense but it has styles only with glandular hairs.

Subsp. cratista Makinson is found exclusively in the Bungle Bungle National Park is distinctively robust in habit and conflorescences. It is very closely related and similar to subsp. aprica, but is a more robust plant to small tree size, with a single main trunk and the branches horizontal to widely ascending. It also has longer pedicels 6-9mm long, longer unit conflorescences (ultimate floral rachises 30-100mm long) and rather larger flowers; the conflorescences also tend to be more branched (and the branches less basal) and borne on older wood than in subsp. aprica. The torus structure in subsp. cratista is subtly different from the other subspecies, being a little wider and with a less-pronounced and laterdeveloping dorsal extension. The development of the flower buds also appears different, with the limb developing faster relative to the lower portion of the perianth. Rye (in J.R.Wheeler (ed.) et al., Fl. Kimberley Region 475 (1992)) regarded this taxon as a distinct species based on the longer and hairy pedicels, gynoecium (pistil) length, and the blackening perianth limb. The last is not a unique feature in the species, and subsp. aprica shares the hairy pedicels; pistil length is not disjunct from other subspecies. Subspecies rank seems appropriate. Subsp. cratista is similar to G. byrnesii, which has larger leaves 7.5-12cm long, 35-70mm wide, and the outer surface of the perianth with simple erect glandular hairs only. Flower colour: perianth red to deep pink, blackening from limb after anthesis; style more or less matching.

Developed by Denis Cox

SPECIES	LOCATION
acanthifolia ssp stenomera	Tenterfied south
acerata	Gibralter Range
albiflora	St George
banksii	Ipswich north
banyabba	North NSW
beadleana	Guy Fawkes, Tenterfield, Grafton
floribunda ssp tenella	Crows Nest, Durong
helmsiae	Bahrs Scrub, Ormeau
hilliana	Ormeau
hodgei	Glasshouse Mountains
humilis ssp lucens	Glasshouse Mountains
humilis ssp maritima	Brooms Head to Bunjalung NSW
juniperina ssp allojohnsonii	Stanthorpe south
leiophylla	SEQ
linsmithii	Mt Greville
longistyla	Chinchilla
masonii	Near Grafton
mollis	Gibralter Range
quadricauda	Helidon
reptans	Tewantin north
rhizomatosa	Gibralter Range
robusta	SEQ
scortechinii ssp sarmetosa	Guyra
scortechinii ssp scortechinii	Stanthorpe – Cottonvale
singuliflora	Helidon, Barakula SF
striata	Murgon
viridiflava	Wyberba, Girraween
whiteana	Boondooma

Direct deposits can be made into the Grevillea Study Group account

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

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

or by post to Grevillea Study Group, 32 Blanche St Oatley, NSW 2223

June 2010

Health Update

Many will know Don McGillivray from his 1993 revision of Grevillea, the first since Bentham. Don was forced to retire from botany prior to its release due to the onset of Parkinson's Disease which worsened over the subsequent years to the point that he was unable to really control the muscular parts of his body. Don's considerable intelligence and memory were not noticeably affected by this disease and he exercised his mind by reading, crosswords and watching quizz shows [and answering the questions] in the later years. Don retired to the Gosford area but has recently suffered a serious decline in his physical health. He has been in Gosford Hospital for around two weeks and, at one stage, had to be revived by CPR. I visited him yesterday (Wednesday June 9) and spent two hours with him. He wouldn't let me go until eventually he was getting tired and I managed to leave. It was a wonderful experience. He was very difficult to understand as his voice had left him. He gave several hearty laughs during the time I was there, during which I did most of the talking but he was listening intently. He really enjoyed the botany talk and friendship implied in the visit. Very interested also in the DNA research and whether it supported his views. I only touched on this however. At one stage he called out to a passing nurse to say good day. He then told me that it is not often you get to say hello to the person who saved your life. He is in a very determined mood to get home. He goes fishing every Thursday and wants to get back to it again. Dont fall in, I counselled. He seemed very confident. I was able to thank him for naming a Grevillea after me and for first showing me the wonder of a microscope. He gripped my arm so tightly but could say nothing. There was tear in both our eyes. It was a very touching moment.



The following reports from Bob Makinson and Barbara Briggs tell their own story. Hi all

I saw Don in Gosford Hospital on Saturday June 5. He was out of Intensive Care and back on a ward (Medical 4 if anyone is in the area). The attached photo was

P.M. Olde

taken earlier in the week by son Andrew, before the second bout in ICU. Since then it has been touch and go at times, and on Saturday he was not looking nearly as good. He has a lot of fluid on the lungs and was barely able to vocalise for lack of breath and muscle control (the latter is partly the Parkinson's and partly weakness from the chest infection). He has lost the swallowing reflex, at least temporarily, so has an aspirator in. However, his heart function is good and he is very alert mentally, and absolutely conscious of the people around him and what they were saying. He was interested in developments here, and glad to hear that we will have a couple of new systematists soon. I talked Grevillea for a bit and he was taking it all in, and commenting as far as he could physically – nothing wrong with his memory! I read him the messages on the card from RBG staff and he asked me to thank everyone and give them his best regards.

Bob Makinson 7 June 2010

Hello all

I saw Don today (while visiting relatives in the area) and the report on his health is now much more positive. He is now stronger each day, no longer needs an aspirator and can talk. He is sitting up in a chair and is interested in news from the Gardens and Herbarium. He sends greetings to those who knew him. It is expected that he will stay in Gosford hospital for some days more and then go to a rehabilitation place for physiotherapy etc., before hopefully going home.

Barbara Briggs 8 June 2010

Hi Peter,

Thank you very much for your kind words and for spending time with dad on Wednesday. It sounds as though you had a very encouraging time together. I am very proud of the professional achievements of my father in the realm of botany but I am far more proud of the person that my father is. He has suffered much and has 'rolled with the punches'. He has left a legacy for my son and myself. My son, Joshua is a mad keen scientist and although he may not enter the world of botany he is sure to pursue science of some kind. He and my daughter Jessica are both incredibly proud of the man that their granddad is. My wife, Kylie also adores and admires dad's stubborn determination and his desire to fight 'when the chips are down'. I have been most grateful that there are people like yourself, Bob Makinson and Barbara Briggs who made the time to go and visit dad in his weakened condition. It is a great statement that exceeds professional boundaries and I am most appreciative that you give credit to dad for more than just his botanical achievements. He is being moved today to a state of the art Aged Care Facility where he can have some respite and hopefully gain enough strength to get to rehab at North Gosford Private Hospital and then hopefully recover enough to go home. He has a great faith in God. That, along with his never give up attitude make him determined to get back home. Thank you once again Peter.

Andrew McGillivray, 11 June

Using CHCs in your garden

For the first time last year I changed from Bark as the potting medium for my orchids to Coconut Husk Chips (hereafter known as CHCs).

The change was a great success with stronger more vigorous growth in most of my orchids.

A few weeks ago I planted a couple on new plants in the garden and went and bought some quite expensive water crystals to keep moisture around the growing (hopefully) root system.

As I drove home my mind wandered about a bit and finally locked on to how happy I was using CHCs for the orchids. Things like ease of use, less frequent watering and fertiliser catchment came into my mind.

It suddenly occurred to me that these are the same reasons I'm using these expensive water crystals.

Why not use CHCs in the garden I thought.

Now you might be sitting there laughing at how slow I am because you might have been using CHCs in the garden for years. But then again maybe you haven't just as I haven't, and maybe it's time we did or at least tried it.

If you haven't read anything about CHCs here's a potted (no pun intended) version. They are the outer husk of the coconut - you know that outer shell they tear off and throw away before they get to the hard inner shell. This waste product has now been harnessed as a potting medium for orchids. And let me tell you it's great.

- · It's great because
- · It's cheap
- It's light
- · It holds water very well

· It therefore (I think) holds fertiliser very well for release when needed

Graeme Davies

 It may be a good soil conditioner (not that that matters for orchids)

That all sounds pretty good to me. Why am I hulking heavy bags of soil conditioner around when I can pick up a block of CHCs in one finger, take it home and wet it to make 60 litres of soil conditioning/water conserving/cheap stuff that I simply dig into the soil prior to planting!

You don't need 60 litres? Then buy a small block for a few dollars (yes that's all) and you're in business. (I think these small blocks are ungraded CFCs so after you've expanded the block you may have to tease the bigger pieces into smaller pieces. Alternatively you could buy the smallest size of graded product and use that as is.)

And if you want a quick zap of nitrogen for your new plant, the Brunning's product at Bunnings Hardware has already put it in.

Now I haven't tested this out yet, but the next time I plant something, I will. And I suspect it will be a good result - I think!

Of course it's possible that I'm way off the mark and have got my dendrobes mixed up with my grevilleas. BUT maybe there is some sense to what I'm thinking.

So why don't we discuss it. If you've actually used CHCs in the garden please write to The Editor and tell us your experience. If you think I'm a nut case on the loose, write and tell the Editor. If you think there may be some merit to my ramblings on CFCs, why not try it in the garden and tell us all about it - good or bad. It's only by trying things that we all learn.

Alex George

Dear Christine

From the latest newsletter it seems there is much interest in the early collectors. Members may be interested in my book Australian Botanist's Companion, published earlier this year. Among other subjects it lists all who collected plants in Australia up to 1900, with brief biographical data

etc. where I could find it - some 2600 people (see advertisment over page). For anyone able to visit the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, there's a copy in their library.

Best regards, Alex

Grevilleas - no maintenance plants?

Recently my wife Olwyn and I drove into a Service Station and I glanced at the garden beds used in their 'landscaping'. They obviously received regular maintenance – pruning, mulching, fertilising etc.

As we drove out another garden bed caught my eye. It was on the left-hand side of the Exit area. There were three or four poor emaciated grevilleas, carrying only a few flowers so shrivelled up that I could not identify the plants as we drove slowly past (Olwyn was driving). They all looked to be similar hybrids - one or more of the following: *Grevillea* 'Superb', *G.* 'Coconut Ice' or *G.* 'Robyn Gordon'. The gardener obviously knew nothing about how to get the best out of grevilleas, i.e. the same treatment he had been giving to the other garden beds such as pruning, mulching, and fertilising with care.

The Society may have been responsible for this in the very early days, saying that natives were low or no maintenance plants and would take hard conditions. Contrary to those earlier beliefs, I now advise people that the way to get the best from their grevilleas (and all the native plants) is by regular and judicious maintenance and not to forget the pruning.

Because of their poor performance here - with a few exceptions - I grow few of the southern grevillea species or hybrids in my garden. In southern areas pruning may not apply to some, but I don't grow these so I cannot comment. G. lanigera, the form known as G. 'Mt. Tamboritha' does not seem to require attention, but G. 'Poorinda Royal Mantle' certainly needs pruning just to maintain a moderate size, i.e. I have had plants of this hybrid up to 6m (about 20 feet) in diameter and still expanding. It is certainly a good living mulch. If the odd weed pops up it is only necessary to wear soft-soled shoes and walk over the plant to the offending weed. As inferred above, it may be necessary to prune around the perimeter. It grafts readily onto G. robusta for those who may have difficulty growing it. I have not tried my favourite rootstock, G. 'Towera' but I feel sure the graft would take.



In your garden

Growing Grevilleas from seed

To commence this discussion Jan Glazebrook posed the question: "Why do we grow Grevilleas from Seed?"

The responses were varied and included:

- Not everyone can propagate from cuttings (& some cannot propagate from seed either).
- The root system may not be as robust from cutting grown plants compared to seed grown plants.
- For hybridisation both when developing manipulated hybrids and also to see what hybrids develop in the garden.
- To develop smaller plants for the home garden.

As members discussed the various methods used to grow grevilleas from seeds three stages emerged:

Collecting the seeds

- It was considered best to collect the seeds early in the morning before they fall.
- Jan Glazebrook watches the seedpods and picks them as they start to change from green to a brown colour.
- Some cover the developing seedpods with a bag, as is done when intentionally hybridising a plant. Denis Cox explained that when manipulating hybridisation of plants the styles need to be of similar length for pollination to succeed; the pollen tube should not be too thick; and that hybridisation is more likely to succeed when the selected parents are closely related.

Germinating seeds

- Some seeds readily germinate in gravel, but some are more difficult.
- Jan Glazebrook demonstrated how she peels the wings off the seeds, then places the seed domed side down on a hard surface and "nicks" the edge of the seed with her fingernail to break the seed cover. The seeds are then placed in moist peat and sealed in a clip lock plastic bag and set aside to germinate. Jan showed some seeds that she had put in earlier. G teretifolia germinated to root stage in two weeks; and G. "Ruby Red" to cotyledon stage in four weeks.
- Kerry Rathie said that some Paul Kennedy, the leader of the Hakea S.G, has been germinating Hakea seeds by keeping them on damp blotting paper.
- Also Kerry commented that if the seeds appear to be aged putting the seeds in a colander and rinsing them twice in warm running water would improve the germination rate.

Handling seedlings

• Jan Glazebrook prefers to pot up the newly germinated seed before the leaves actually develop. This is done by laying the seed with its root shoot on top of the potting mix, then giving it a light sprinkle with potting mix. The root grows down into the mix and, as the days go by, the stem and leaves develop.

After germination the seedlings need to be handled with care. Never hold the stem of a germinated seed.

Tony Moss

Hello Christine,

I must tell you that I have been growing *Grevillea guthrieana* in my garden here on the NSW North Coast for a few years both on own roots and plants I have grafted onto *Grevillea robusta*. Turns out to be a much bushier more attractive plant in cultivation than the very upright sparsely foliaged

plants I have observed in the wild at Booral. Small honeyeaters love it.

Thank you for all the good work you put in for the GSG. It is people like you who keep the groups going.

Regards, Tony Moss

Grevillea seedlings

After record rainfall during February and March, I anticipated lots of Grevillea seedlings appearing. This has been the case in the past when rain has fallen over several consecutive days.

When the rain finally abated, I made a careful inspection of the Grevillea area and, yes, there were seedlings, but not as many as I had expected, and strangely, most of the seedlings were from grevilleas growing naturally in sub-tropical areas.

There were countless seedlings of *Grevillea banksii* and its hybrids. As usual, *Grevillea* "Ruby Red" had a lot also. *Grevillea* "Candelabra", a *Grevillea* banksii form, had only a few. *Grevillea* longistyla had a small number and *Grevillea* mollis had many. *Grevillea* venusta and a *Grevillea* "Orange Marmalade" seedling both had large numbers. The most exciting find was a few plants found under *Grevillea* "Cooroora Cascade".

A further check a few days later found a few more seedlings, but only from the same parents as the previously mentioned species.

What can be deduced from this? Is germination dependant on more than rainfall? Does temperature or day length play an important part in germination? Are we wasting our time planting seed at times other than when they would naturally germinate in the wild?

A lack of seedlings from tropical species which I have had germinate in the past makes me think that these need to be planted when the winter dry would be broken by storms in October and November.

Seed from southern plants germinate best in autumn. Do you have an opinion on this subject?

Seed Bank

Matt Hurst

37 Heydon Ave, Wagga Wagga 2650 NSW Phone (02) 6925 1273

\$1.50 + s.a.e.

Grevillea armigera Grevillea aurea Grevillea baileyana Grevillea candelabroides	Grevillea monticola Grevillea nudiflora Grevillea paniculata Grevillea petrophiloides	
Grevillea drummondii Grevillea excelsior	Grevillea polybotrya Grevillea pulchella	
Grevillea decora	Grevillea refracta	
Grevillea floribunda	Grevillea superba	
Grevillea glauca	Grevillea teretifolia	
Grevillea johnsonii	Grevillea tetragonoloba	
Grevillea leucopteris	Grevillea triloba	
Grevillea longistyla	Grevillea wickamii ssp	
Grevillea magnifica ssp magnifica	aprica Grevillea wilsonii	

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope.

Free + s.a.e.

	Grevillea banksii – grey leaf form	Grevillea longistyla
	Grevillea banksii – red tree form	Grevillea mimosoides
	Grevillea banksii – red prostrate	Grevillea 'Moonlight'
	Grevillea bipinnatifida	Grevillea 'Moonlight x Ivanhoe'?
	Grevillea Bon Accord	Grevillea occidentalis
	Grevillea caleyi	Grevillea petrophiloides
	Grevillea crithmifolia	Grevillea plurijuga
	Grevillea decora	Grevillea preissii
	Grevillea didymobotrya	Grevillea pteridifolia
	Grevillea diversifolia ssp	Grevillea robusta
	subtersericata	Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon'
	Grevillea eriostachya	Grevillea superba
	Grevillea floribunda	Grevillea synapheae
	Grevillea goodii subsp goodie	Grevillea treueriana
	Grevillea johnsonii	Grevillea tripartite ssp macrostylis
	Grevillea johnsonii 'Orange'	Grevillea vestita
d	Grevillea leucopteris	Grevillea wilkinsonii
е.		

Please note: seed from hybrid -substitute -cultivated plants does not necessarily come true to type.

Fresh stocks of garden seed are desperately needed as most species are almost out of seed. Can members asking for seed please give an alternative list in case some species are no longer in stock. It is preferred if requests are sent with a small padded post pack. It costs less to send at approx \$1.50 per letter than padding an envelope at \$2.00 each or more so the seed will survive the trip down the sorting rollers. It's a good idea to send extra stamps with requests as extra postage is usually needed to be paid with almost every request. Leftover stamps would be sent back with your seed.

Seed bank

Financial Report - June 2010

Income	
Subscriptions	\$1230.00
Donations	10.00
Interest	84.96
	\$1324.96
Expenditure	
Newsletter publishing	\$240.00
Printing	361.08
Postage	129.20
Bank fees	2.50
	\$732.80

Amount in Interest Bearing Deposit till 1/8/2010 **\$24,971.00**

Balance in Current Account 31/5/2010 **\$9,524.41**

Balance in Business Cheque Account 14/6/2010 **\$6,013.65**

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Email Group

This email group was begun by John and Ruth Sparrow from Queensland. Free membership.

To subscribe, go to groups.yahoo.com and register, using the cyber-form provided. You must provide a user name and password as well as your email address to enable continuing access to the site which houses all emails and discussions to date.

You will receive a confirming email back and then you are able to access the site wherein you can select the groups to which you would like to subscribe. In this case search for 'grevilleas' and then subscribe.

Following this you will receive the latest emails regularly in your email to which you can respond. This is a good way to encourage new growers and those interested in the genus.

Postmessage: grevilleas@yahoogroups.com

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List owner: grevilleas-owner@yahoo.com

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 President's email address peter.olde@exemail.com.au
The email group grevilleas@yahoogroups.com
URL for Grevillea Study Group website http://asgap.org.au/grevSG/index.html

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 30 September 2010, please send your articles to peter.olde@exemail.com.au before this date.

If a cross appears in the box, your subscription is due. Please send to the Treasurer, Christine Guthrie, 32 Blanche Street, Oatley 2223.

Please make all cheques payable to the Grevillea Study Group.

2009 2010



If a cross appears in both boxes this will be your last newsletter.

Change in membership fees - reminder

GSG fees haven't increased for over 20 years. There's not too many things you can say that about! At present our newsletter costs are and have been for some time much greater than our income. We are also planning to add more colour to the newsletter using digital images, which will cost us more for printing. From January 2010, the annual subscription will increase to \$10 per year or \$40 for 5 years. If you choose to receive the newsletter by email there will be a 50% discount ie membership remains at \$5 per year - \$20 for 5 yrs. I would encourage everyone to take advantage of the savings by paying for 5 years, and choosing email - it would certainly make my job easier! Christine Guthrie

June 2010