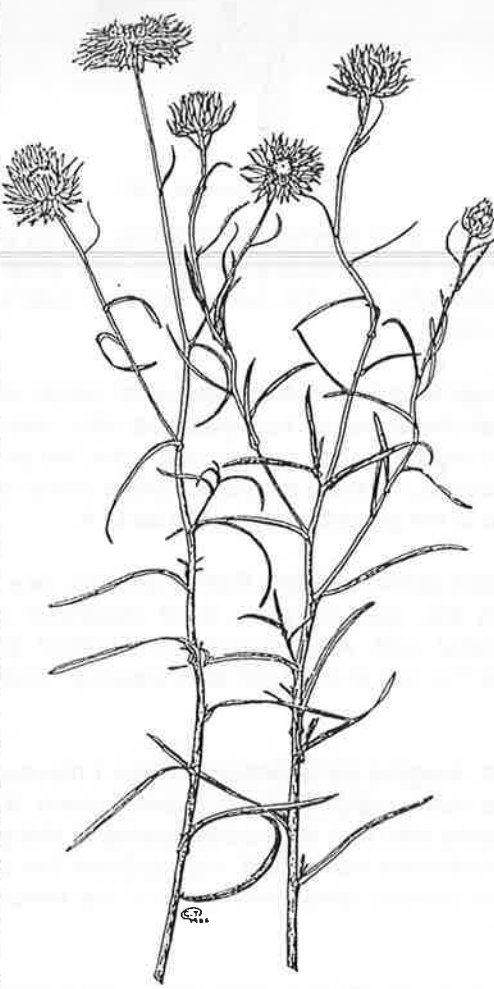



**ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS****THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 55**

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## SPECIES AND FORMS NEW TO MEMBERS

### The Saga of *Olearia pannosa* at Upper Lurg

by Julie Strudwick

For the benefit of those not familiar with the area, Upper Lurg is 25km by road, approximately E.S.E. of Benalla in N.E. Victoria. It is in foothill country. My garden, situated within a large bush block, straddles a narrow ridge with steep sides and is tiered with rock and log retaining walls. It has excellent drainage and is high enough to avoid frost. For these reasons I felt *O. pannosa* should do well here, which eventually proved to be true, but it took five years of trial and error to accomplish it. The saga began in:

**1992** My introduction to this beautiful plant took place at a Shepparton SGAP Flower Show where a flowering specimen was on display. I was lucky enough to secure the specimen after the show and made 2 cuttings from it which both struck. Unfortunately, both rotted off at ground level before they were ready to plant.

**1994** Ted and Cynthia Beasley, the Shepparton members who had supplied the above specimen, gave me a plant when they were moving to Canberra. It was about 30cm high but only had a small tuft of leaves at the top. I kept it in the pot hoping for some side growth to appear so that I could cut it back to a better shape and, incidentally, use the top as another cutting. In hindsight I probably should have planted it right away as it, too, died.

**1995** In July Corinne Hampel very kindly sent me some cuttings from South Australia, all of which struck but, again, all rotted off while still in the pots. I realized that all these losses had occurred after rain and wondered if the plants were getting too wet while being watered regularly, then getting rain while the potting mix was damp anyway. I determined that, if I could get more material, I'd keep the plants under cover when rain was about until I could get them planted out. I felt that, once in the ground, they would be O.K.

**1996** Through the kind offices of Judy Barker I was given a plant grown by John Barrie, and this one was planted promptly and protected by a wire guard 45cm high. Judy also gave me some South Australian seed from the Eyre Native Seeds later in the year which germinated well. After keeping the potted plants sheltered from rain till they grew sufficiently, I planted 8 and took the rest to the 1997 May meeting. (Did any of these survive?)

**1997** John Barrie's plant produced one bud which was a thrill. Imagine my heartbreak when I discovered one morning that, not only was the bud gone, but the plant had been stripped almost to bare stems. It had obviously been discovered by one of the resident Black Wallabies who had no trouble getting at the plant inside the small guard. I promptly 'locked the stable door after the horses had bolted' and replaced the small guard with a 90cm one, and crossed my fingers the plant would reshoot. Meantime, three of the seedlings planted were still surviving El Nino but were not going to flower.

**1998** The 'pruned' plant had re-shot and I took a few cuttings. All struck and were doing well being put under cover during rain. Alas, one day when I was away from home and had watered the plants in the morning, there was an unexpected storm and I lost these, too. Later in the year an area I had fenced off from the wallabies was extended to also enclose *O. pannosa* which had grown beautifully and was filling the guard. In removing the guard I broke off a whole branch which produced 23 cuttings, all of which rooted. The plant flowered in September with flower-heads 2.5–3cm across on individual axillary stems to 30cm long, and it was a joy to see. The three surviving seedlings were looking happy but did not flower, and there was no viable seed on the main plant.

**1999** The cuttings all survived this time and I was able to take 15 plants to the May meeting as well as sharing some round to nearby members and planting some more. One of the latter was eaten, probably by a rabbit (point of entry to fenced area now blocked!) but the others are surviving. At the time of writing



*Olearia pannosa* x 2/3

(August) the main plant is a little over 1m high x 1.5m across, and has in excess of 200 buds. Two of the seedling plants are also covered in buds and, as one of them is adjacent to the main plant, I'm hoping for some seed this year.

The main plant and one of the seedlings are in a small rockery facing S-E. They, and the other plants, get a lot of sun on the foliage but have root protection. They get no water except rain. The seedling plants are noticeably different from the main plant, having much more slender stems, narrower grey leaves and a more upright habit. The main plant had to be tied up after removal of the guard in order to avoid smothering other gems nearby. It is a sprawling plant which probably should be cut back hard if I can bear to do it.

If you get a chance to grow this plant, grab it and, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again. This beautiful daisy is well worth the effort.

27. 9. 99 — I mentioned in the article the differences between John Barrie's plant and the seedling ones. The flowers also showed some differences in being larger — up to 7cm diameter — and with more revolute and slightly twisted 'petals'. I assume the seed came from a different area from that of John's material. It would appear to be a variable species.

12. 10. 99 — Julie rang to say that she had collected some seed from the seedling plant, and that it was cream at first, then turned to pink, then to bright cochineal red, and after about four days it became brown. Seed from John's plant was cream at first, and then turned brown. The leaves of the seedling plant are shallowly cordate at the base, and so it would probably be ssp. *cardiophylla*.

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### *Argentipallium obtusifolium*

#### BLUNT EVERLASTING

(syn. *Helichrysum obtusifolium*)

From August to October this beautiful everlasting lights up the heathlands around Anglesea and sets my camera clicking in much the same way that Snow Gum trunks are said to do among alpine photographers. It is so neat with its upright woody stems, and the profusion of white everlastings and white, densely hairy stems makes a pleasing contrast with the blunt, dark green leaves. The dazzling sight of a mass of these plants on a sunny day always makes me determined to have another go at growing this species.

In the Anglesea district plants are much-branched woody perennials, 10–40cm high. Sparse blunt-tipped, linear leaves, 0.5–1.5cm long, are quite thick and have revolute margins. The upper surfaces are glabrous and the under surfaces are white. Flower-heads are single and terminal, 1–3cm across, with blunt radiating bracts. Buds are shining brown, sometimes red-brown. The fruits are dark brown, papillose, 1 x 0.5mm, and have a pappus (2mm long) composed of about 16 barbed bristles which are more strongly barbed at the apex. The flowering period may begin as early as late July and may extend into November.

In November last year I collected a little seed from the edges of Ted's Track at Aireys Inlet. I remembered that it had germinated fairly successfully after treatment with a hemicellulose solution we made some years ago. It should therefore respond to SISP. Our theory that species from areas near the coast (at least in Victoria) could have a dormant period of about three months suggested that it should be stored at room temperature until March or April. I forgot about it until May, then retrieved it from the seed room and soaked a teaspoon of seed in water (as a control) and another in SISP solution for 30 hours. After 22 days seedlings began to appear in the SISP trial. After five months nothing has germinated in the control margarine container.



*Argentipallium obtusifolium* x 1/2

I remembered that seedlings I had been lucky enough to germinate in the past had gradually died. We had thought at the time that this species probably needed a mycorrhizal association for good growth. Natalie, that font of knowledge, suggested that a little soil from the base of the plants growing along Ted's Track should be sprinkled on top of the tubes. I followed her advice but the soil proved to be less a nice, sprinkleable sand than a plastic, colloidal material. So six weeks after the seed was sown (11/6/99) all the soil collected was put into the base of a larger marg. container. I cut off the base of the marg. container with the seedlings and carefully lowered the top part into the larger container. The seedlings sulked for a fortnight and then began to grow. Finally about 30 seedlings were potted on in clumps of three per forestry tube, and I was pleased to observe that the roots, though fragile, were quite long. This might seem too great an effort to expend on any species but I would go to any lengths to get Blunt Everlastings growing at Hawthorn. The end is not yet in sight because the seedlings are no more than 3cm high. Anything could befall them before they reach maturity.

By mid-October something has befallen three of the tubes. Their contents have died! Perhaps I should be looking into the mycorrhizal material that is advertised in Australian Horticulture.

The Anglesea area is fire prone. Seedlings of the daisies occurring in the district are always among the first to regenerate after fire. With this in mind I am trialling *Olearia teretifolia* and *Ixodia achillaeoides* with the smoke-impregnated vermiculite material put out by Regen (Regen 2000 Germinator). Both species have responded with good germination — much better than that of the controls which were untreated. For my next trick I would like to do a comparison of the germination of *Argentipallium obtusifolium* when pretreated with SISF and with the R 2000 Germinator. I will be forced to count the seeds in the trials. Woe is me! These seeds are tiny!

by Judy Barker

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## THE SPINY EVERLASTING

by Paul Slattery

(This excellent answer was received by ADSG in response to queries sent to Paul after the startling news of his find had been reported.)



*Acanthocladium dockeri* x 1.22  
(pressed specimen)

The story of the rediscovery of *Acanthocladium dockeri* has certainly caused a sensation in some circles. I'll try to give you as much anecdotal information as I can. You may not be aware of the fact, but I found a second patch of *A. dockeri* on a back road, a few kilometres from here.

The first patch I found is just down my hill along a steep roadside (safe from Council equipment and grazing stock) along a fairly busy gravel road, which is very unlikely to be ever bituminized. Approximately 200 plants of all ages from very old woody plants down to young plants only 2–3 inches tall, in one big patch of about 2 chains by about 15 feet. If free standing, it looks as if once the plant is about 18–24" tall, it falls over itself and sprawls along the ground. However, some plants have climbed the nearby cyclone (netting) fence like a creeper. One particular plant is very interesting. It has climbed the fence to a height of about 3–4 feet and has stems no more than ½" thick. It has grown since my father put the cyclone netting in place 35–40 years ago. Adjacent is a thick 1" dead stem that has been snapped off — obviously by Dad when he put up the fence. It makes you wonder how old that plant is. For such a rare plant it seems able to survive land disturbance. By studying the lay of the land, it seems to me that considerable digging away occurred when the road was properly formed many years ago.

This is possibly because the plant seems more likely to send up suckers rather than depend on seed. One batch of seed was tested last week by Manfred Jusaitis of the State Herbarium (North Terrace, Adelaide) and it was found to be unviable. More seed will be tested, however, throughout the spring.

The second patch is on a much quieter road and is spread over about 400 metres in many smaller patches on both sides of the road. But here there are no older woody plants. One adjacent landowner sheepishly admitted that he had slashed some, but I expect that most of the disturbance would have been caused by

the local council (shire) ten to fifteen years ago when they re-metalled the road. But despite this, the daisies have come back again. Because these two patches are nothing special and because the plant seems able to recover from disturbance, I am personally sure that there are other patches in the Mid North just waiting to be found.

It seems that the older plants are earlier at flowering than the younger ones, and Site 1 is earlier than Site 2. Site 1 is on the edge of a limestone rise, while the bulk of Site 2 is on flatter clay-loam. Neither site is situated in particularly good grassland. From memory Site 2 has scattered native grasses, but not much diversity. In Site 1 these daisies are growing amongst Rohrlach's Blue-bush (*Maireana rohrlachii*), and some Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*) and *Lomandra* are also present. The family has always been aware of the plants, but because of the boring, nondescript (some say ugly) appearance, has shown no interest. We suspect that even botanists have driven past, not noticing it. Rest assured, John Barrie has!

Another astounding point is that at Site 1 up to 10 plants are 'surviving' in the adjacent wheat crop, despite the land being cultivated over the past eleven years straight. This paddock no longer belongs to the family, my brother sold it in 1991 when he left farming.

In the middle of October there is to be a meeting here to discuss practical ways of protecting the patches. The Threatened Plant Action Group will be present and hopefully a number of relevant landowners also.

The media coverage has been quite good. The local regional papers and television have given good coverage. The one very poor effort was by the Adelaide *Advertiser*. Not only did they print a poor illustration (they only placed it on page 13 compared with the Melbourne *Age* page 3), but they only printed it in the metropolitan issue — nothing about it was mentioned in the State issue.

Thanks for sending the *Age* cutting and also the excerpt from *Extinct and Endangered Plants of Australia*. Surprisingly, the latter didn't mention the previous sighting at Overland Corner in South Australia in 1910. I have had access to *Plants of Western NSW* and *Flora of SA*, but neither mentioned much about its first discovery. I had been wondering who this Docker bloke had been.

2/10/99 — A third patch of *Acanthocladium dockeri* has been discovered 70km to the south, near Brinkworth. I think everyone now shares my early optimism about the existence of other patches because it is obvious that the Spiny Daisy loves disturbed land, which is astounding for something that is supposed to be extinct/endangered.

The third patch illustrates this perfectly. It is on the edge of a bitumen road which was made about ten to fifteen years ago. The site was so disturbed that the whole roadside is covered thickly by introduced weeds. The patch consists of about 30 plants spread along about half a chain. At the base of the road embankment (8 feet away) is a smaller patch.

I understand that it was the publicity from my find which encouraged a local woman to inquire about this patch. Adjacent to the road is an old railway corridor which the locals are gradually revegetating.

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## **ANOTHER NON-DISCOVERY by a NON-MEMBER**

by **Lee Barker**

Last November I had the rare privilege of not finding the sought-after *Rhodanthe polycephala* and *Rhodanthe pyrethrum* in Western Australia, but instead came home with photographs and what could have been seeds (but looked more like dust particles) of another weed-like object called *R. corymbosa*.

My involvement with daisies, undesirable as it may be, seems to be inescapable. On a damp day in August, as I walked in the rain to give my pig-augmented heart its daily exercise, my enjoyment of Mozart was interrupted by an ABC bulletin, to which I paid scant attention. But as I awaited the return of Mozart a South Australian gentleman by the name of Slattery caught my attention by mentioning the words 'Spiny Daisy'. Since all such matters must be reported to our Leader, I listened attentively to Mr Slattery, a citizen of the small town of Laura, between Port Pirie and Peterborough, and found his comments of great interest, even to a non-member.

For several years he had noticed an area of rather scruffy-looking flowers at the roadside near Laura, and deemed it not to be worth closer observation. But he had recently joined a local conservation group, and

when the flowers appeared this year, he collected a specimen, and arranged an identification. To the undoubted astonishment of the identifier, this scruffy object turned out to be a Spiny Everlasting, *Acanthocladium dockeri*, reportedly first discovered during the Burke and Wills expedition, described by the Venerable von Mueller in 1861, (the year of the end of the expedition), but last gathered in 1910 from a single collection near Overland Corner, between Waikerie and Renmark, north of the Murray River.

No doubt our Leader will fill you in on the intimate botanical details, but the drawings by Mr Dashorst on p.1494 of the *Flora of South Australia* Part III strongly support Mr Slattery's broad-brush description of 'scruffy'.

(While not wishing to usurp the information in a future report about *R. corymbosa*, I am able to advise that the weed-like object's dust particles turned out, under the masterly ministrations of our Leader, to be viable seeds. At the time of writing there are three pots each of numerous plants, all of which are at least three times the size of the originals at Bakers Hill, and laden with what should any day now be lots of flowers.)

**Editor's Addendum:** The day after Lee made this momentous announcement and wrote out his contribution, an article titled 'Still daisy after all these years...' appeared on p.3 of *The Age*. It was encouraging that *The Age* accorded the news such prominence. There is a picture of Paul Slattery (looking a bit like Tim Fisher) with his dog. They are both squatting behind several clumps of the daisy in question, which doesn't look a bit scruffy to me but I am known to be biased. The article claims that about 200 of the yellow-flowering daisies were growing in two clumps and appeared to spread by suckering rather than by seeding. The blue-grey leaves taper into a spine not unlike a prickle.

The night after the article appeared in the *Age* John Barrie rang from Coonalpyn to tell me about Paul's find. He claimed that he had gone to school with Paul and, furthermore, that Paul's cousin had been best man at John and Julie's wedding. On this slender footing I wrote to Paul to congratulate him and to ask whether he could send us a little seed. He sent this very full answer, a little seed and a small piece of the tip of the plant, a photocopy of which accompanies the article.

*Acanthocladium dockeri* was originally found by Dr Beckler, a botanist and medical officer taking part in the Burke and Wills expedition. It is a small woody shrub with white woolly stems, flowering in September and October. Individual flower-heads are 8–10mm long, grouped in clusters which are surrounded by bracts. This information was gleaned from *Extinct and Endangered Plants of Australia* by Leigh, Boden and Briggs (1984).

All I can add from Paul's specimen is that the bracts are shining and golden, in 4–5 rows. The leaf immediately below the head has a small transparent papery tip, and the stems and leaves are densely covered in white woolly hairs. The pappus is white, about 5mm long, composed of 40–50 bristles connected at the base. The bristles are minutely barbed along the shaft, and the barbs are longer and more numerous at the apex. The body is about 1–1.3 x 0.5 mm, grey-brown, papillose, conical. There are not many whole fruits, and they may not be mature. It looks to a biased eye as though it could be a fascinating plant in good conditions.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORT — Alpine National Park, north of Licola to Mt Howitt Car Park, 12/3/99–13/3/99

by Esma and Alf Salkin

Return trip 628km. Distance north of Licola to Mt Howitt Car Park 80km. First 20km to Wellington River Bridge sealed. Road to Arbuckle Jct. very dusty. Road west to Mt Howitt Car Park recently graded — good condition.

East to Moroka area in a burnt out section (hot fire January 1988).

Aim: to check out *Cassinia uncata* at Bennison Lookout (just south of the burnt area). *C. uncata* — no plants were evident at the old site but all vegetation was heavily masked in dust. *C. uncata* seems to have been replaced by another *Cassinia* (? affin. *C. longifolia*). I did find 1 specimen of *C. uncata* at 23.9km north of Licola Heyfield Jct. but specimens were very desiccated. About 2km west of Arbuckle Jct. the burnt area ceases and then you enter Snow Gum woodlands and intermittent snow plains. This area has experienced a second dry season and this affected the *Brachyscome* aff. *tadgellii* site. I was too late to collect seed of *B. spathulata* (good form) and too early for seed of *Cassinia* spp. *Rhodanthe anthemoides* and *Helichrysum scorpioides* (the most widespread daisy in flower) were heavily predated by insects and therefore no seed.

I didn't find *B. aff. nivalis* on Racecourse Plain. There is also a *B. aff. tenuiscapa* at Mt Reynard nearby but the area was burnt out. I didn't check out the sites of *R. anthemoides* and *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *tricolor* near Higgins Plain. This was burnt and appeared to be covered with an annual grass (0.3m high). I walked through some of this type of regeneration on Lost Plain further along the road.

Regeneration of understorey plants is meagre. We found 1 plant of *Brachyscome spathulata*, a good plant of *Ozothamnus hookeri* (seeding), *Celmisia* spp., *Dianella tasmanica* and *Drimys*. The perennials seem to be regenerating better than the annuals. Michael Marmach reports that east of here, up near Tarli Karng, there were masses of *Styloidium* in flower as well as a 'white daisy'.

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## UPDATE from HELIDON

by Esther Cook

Despite reports of good rains in South East Queensland, our bit of the world is very dry again, with only 24 hours runoff in the creek since September twelve months ago. Our underground water is low quality and quantity again, and makes us glad that we have a number of commercial cultivars of riceflower, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (syn. *Helichrysum diosmifolium*) that were bred during the drought.

The sheer variety of seedlings never ceases to amaze me. I was walking along one row today (26 June, 1999), checking the offspring of one particular parent for early signs of the form that suits the cut-flower market — short internodes and long, straight stems, not too woody or wispy. The plants, 30–50cm high, are just beginning to bud up. I will not really know how they rate until their first major harvest next year, but a lot of them could probably be discarded now on bush form alone.

Some have very fine, tiny silvery green leaves, with fine branches sticking out untidily. Some have sturdy dark green branches sticking out untidily. One bush has good upright stems, but every single stem has a kink in it! A few have good, straight, upright stems but a 'lanky' look, a long primary internode before the whorl of secondary buds. These lanky types can look very elegant in a good season if all the corymbs are large, but in a poor season small heads look very lonely sitting way above the next level of buds. We prefer short internodes, with the corymbs forming a denser cluster. If the heads are small, the stems can simply be cut shorter to balance them. Only four out of forty have the same form as the parent, an excellent commercial type. I wonder if any of the four will have flowers better than Mum's, or will be ready for harvest at a different time.

We have about 50 commercial cultivars at present. We would like to cut that down by at least half, but every time we think we have found the perfect cultivar for a particular harvest slot it has a bad year and we are glad to fall back on less temperamental types for our bread and butter.

There is another problem with relying too heavily on the best cultivars. Some appear to degrade after several generations of being propagated vegetatively. Even young plants on their first harvest may have wispy stems and small heads.

One obvious avenue to explore is compensating for the huge quantities of plant material taken away in harvest, though that should not affect young plants. We have tried different fertiliser regimes, especially last year when a group of us tested a number of foliar fertilisers under the DOOR scheme (Let's DO OUR OWN RESEARCH). This confirmed our observations over less formal trials in earlier years, that in a good season, with plenty of rain at regular intervals, fertilisers make no short-term difference. In addition, we grow jumbo sorghum between crops, to starve out any nematodes. The whole sorghum crop is ploughed into the soil just before coming into head, when it is at its bulkiest. This provides plenty of organic material for the first year or two, so general nutrition should not be the problem until further down the track.

The answer may lie in a build up of soil pathogens, the lack of a specific trace element or beneficial soil organism, or a breakdown of the plant's immune system.

The vascular system of riceflower is interesting. You may remember around 1995 we had a lot of problems with 'white tip', which killed young plants and led to stunted older plants with coarse 'witches' brooms' growing from the bleached, woody tips. *Helminthosporium* fungus (now *Exserohilum rostratum*) was isolated in a post-graduate research project. When the researcher went to complete Koch's cycle by injecting healthy little clones with the fungus, she found that it was already present in their vascular system, though without any visible signs or ill effects at all. This capacity of plants to develop immunity to pathogens is actually used commercially in USA. *Helminthosporium maydis*, which kills maize but doesn't hurt potatoes, is used to inoculate potatoes to protect them from more virulent fungi, rather as having cow-pox used to protect people from small-pox. While the tests on the original 'white tip' in riceflower were inconclusive, the change in the vascular system was very interesting. Perhaps the 'clonal drift' which has been observed in vegetatively propagated materials over several generations is an accumulation of changes in the vascular system.

There are so many questions about growing riceflower (or most natives, I guess) that it becomes very frustrating for a layman like myself to know where to start looking for answers. Our main solution has been to work on breeding longer-lasting, more dependable types, which maintain sturdy flower stems after several harvests. Any gain in plantation life is a big plus, as it is the small plants that take most of our time and effort.

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## DAISIES AT MYRRHEE

by Barbara Buchanan

The box of plants that came from the Group last October largely went into the bed outside the 'dining' area window (sunblasted in summer and shaded all winter) and they provided wonderful colour. The *Cephalopterum drummondii* were almost in flower and started the show, then the *Rhodanthe humboldtiana* carried on, and went on and on. As I have a sand mulch I am hoping I may get self-sown seedlings. Good old *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* did its bit and of course is still a green patch — I probably should trim back again. The *Waitzia suaveolens* were not as effective, two of the four plants died early — they were pretty but sparse, not just in flowers, but in foliage. Of course they are, I shouldn't hold it against them. The *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida* were disappointing — soil not suitable? *Podolepis rugata* added its bit, and I hope there are still a couple of plants alive.

The *Bracteantha viscosa* plants went on forever, paused at the height of summer, and then started again. I have a couple of pots of seedlings which should be pricked out because I would like to scatter plants through my woodland. Again, like the *Waitzia*, a bit sparse in the bed in a massed display. And finally the *Pluchea dentex*, also sparse, but flowering on, and on, and on.

I did not have my usual display of *Bracteantha bracteata* seedlings which have given a cloth-of-gold effect in good years. I am hoping it was just the drought and not a decline due to inbreeding.

The other plant I wanted to tell you about is *Cassinia arcuata*. I wrote of it before when it appeared right on the edge of the drive. It is a pretty miserable, spindly thing in the bush. I cut back this volunteer (and scattered the tops hoping more might come in more acceptable places). It has grown thicker and, if we have rain, is a pleasant green. It was covered in buds/flowers of a dull bronze in late summer, but when we had rain in May it became quite a bright shiny spot, most attractive. On the edge of the drive it probably benefits from run-off, and had there been any rain over summer it might have looked better for longer. I would say it is a pioneer, a plant of disturbed ground.

We have just had six biggish dead trees cut down and cut up for firewood. The oldest was *Eucalyptus globulus*, 20–25 years old. We can only put it down to the drought, and there are another four still standing. It is amazing how much extra sunlight is let in by removing a dead tree. Although we had good rain in May and early June we still need a lot more to replenish dams and streams. It has been a warm sunny winter so far — dare I say it, hardly any frost.

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## NATIONAL OLEARIA COLLECTION

As promised, we sent a packet of fresh seed of about ten species of *Olearia* to Anne James, the curator of the National Collection of *Olearia*, at the Talbot Botanical Gardens in Dublin. Anne has replied saying, "I am delighted to have all this fresh seed and I hope they all germinate for us. I will forward a report in due course on how they have performed.

While the majority of the species are easily identified, those members of the *phlogopappa* and *virgata* groups here in Ireland are not readily distinguishable one from another. I wonder if you could let me know sometime if there is a marked difference in the sub-species and varieties in the wild. In the Walled garden, these species etc. are being grown close together so that their nomenclature can be verified. Over the years, I have received many plants of these two groups from nurseries under varying names to discover that they are identical with those already growing in the garden. Example: *O. phlogopappa* has come as *O. phlogopappa*, *stellulata*, x *scillonensis* and McComber's blue, yet all the plants appear identical and have been verified as such at the National Botanic Garden, Glasnevin. *O. phlogopappa* var. *subrepanda* is stated to have much smaller leaves than the type, yet the leaf size given in Curtis' Flora of Tasmania for *O. phlogopappa* is sufficiently variable to include this sub-species. The white flower, however, is generally larger.



*O. frostii* I have purchased on at least four occasions, but none have proven hardy. *O. lirata* sent from Inverwee is identical with our *O. virgata* 'Dartonii'."

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## A FEW DAISY CLUES FROM JOHN BARRIE

by Eleanor Handreck

(This is an extract reproduced with permission from the South Australian APS Journal, August 1999 edition. Eleanor took notes at the annual Propagation Night held in April 1999 from a workshop presentation given by John Barrie. Four speakers have twenty minutes in which to present their topic, and each little workshop is presented four times during the evening.)

- Daisy seed will not germinate well if the surface of the ground is covered with thick mulch.
- It will germinate well if, in autumn, it is scattered over VERY coarse gravel. The gravel will get cold at night, with the result that moisture will condense on the stones. This moisture often induces production of mucilage from the seed body so that the seed will then stick to the stones and be anchored in readiness for germination.
- Daisy plants need a lot of sunshine.
- Everlasting daisies retain their colour and structure best if they are NOT overhead watered.
- Dunk pots of daisies into a 10% methylated spirits and water solution to kill mealy bug in the potting mix.

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## DOINGS FROM THE DAISY PATCH

by John and Julie Barrie

How many of us have been frustrated when trying to germinate *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* seeds? My classic mistake with most daisy seed is to germinate it in a hothouse. I have had some good germination with many species, followed by spectacular losses as they damp off. I have never used fungicides to combat the problem but early prick-out and moving to an airy aspect usually works. Timing is crucial as a couple of days can mean live or die for the seedlings.

*Ozothamnus diosmifolius* has always defied my attempts at germinating it until this autumn, and that was by default. I have a tunnel house with ends facing north and south and with opening panels at each end for ventilation. Screens were never fitted as the number of chewing critters is only a couple in front of the blue wrens that flit in and out most of the time! A large she-oak at the south end has occasionally taken advantage of the pots inside the tunnel to proliferate among the daisies and other anonymous species that pass through. This autumn the she-oaks did not have it all to themselves; at the same end of the tunnel are a couple of *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, one coastal form and one inland form. Their little parachutes found their way into the tunnel and seedlings appeared through the autumn, germinating and surviving in the very environment that destroyed most other daisy seedlings. The twenty odd seedlings have leaves that vary dramatically from the cotyledons to the mature ones, and considerable variation appears between the individual plants also. I anxiously wait for flowering to see what hybrid forms turn up.

Down wind a few metres are a couple of appealing pale-pearly, cluster-headed daisies from Buckaringa Gorge (Flinders Ranges, SA). In the wild I only ever found two plants, spreading to 2½ metres wide and about head high. They have tightly packed buds in a flat-topped compound umbel to 70mm across, doming slightly as the flowers mature. The leaves are narrow, to 40mm long, and the tips seem to roll under (except in the dried specimen I am looking at!) producing a bifurcate effect such as I expect to see in *Ozothamnus retusus* (syn. *O. bilobus*). A challenge for a Botanical Daisyologist! Maybe these also are mixed among my seedlings.

In April Julie and I did an afternoon trip to Telowie Gorge via Port Germein Gorge which is north-west of Laura, my boyhood town (also poet C.J. Dennis'), and the home of the recently rediscovered daisy, *Acanthocladium dockeri*. Telowie Gorge was weed infested but rewarding if you walked an extra bit past where most people turn around. It was a stop at the western end of Port Germein Gorge that produced an interesting *Brachyscome*. There on a steep crumbly cliff were well-formed pale mauve flower-heads with a growth habit like that of *B. multifida*. The leaves rarely show secondary division and the lobes are somewhat

broader than those of most forms of *B. multifida*. Judy confirmed that *B. multifida* does not occur in South Australia so I hope my cutting grown plants set seed for the Brachyscomeacheneologists to identify.

Alas two lovely olearias a friend passed cuts on to me from near Paynes Find in Western Australia failed to survive. I have a specimen of each and will try to get locality data so that others who pass that way may look out for them. The first looked like a mauve form of *Olearia muelleri*, and the second has large purple flower-heads with many fine ray florets. Its leaves were narrow and a little glandulose. Although the shrub was apparently small, the stems were upright. I am sure other members would also like to try that one!

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## THE DAISIFICATION OF CANBERRA

— or THE GROWING FRIENDS PROVIDE DAISIES FOR CANBERRA

by Ros Cornish

The Growing Friends is a sub-group of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and is made up of people interested in propagating native plants. We began in 1994 and meet once a month to do some sort of propagation. We are allowed to take cuttings from ANBG plants (having first sought permission) and can acquire seed from reputable native seed specialists and SGAP Study Groups if they are unavailable from the ANBG Seed Bank. We have our own igloo, mist bed with bottom heat, access to a capillary bed with bottom heat and space under shadecloth for raising and housing our plants. We usually manage to have two modest sales per year to sell our successes to the hungry public who seem to appreciate the different plants that we have on offer compared with those from the local nurseries. Profits go to the Friends of ANBG and are used in various ways.

For the last year or so we have taken it in turns to pick a favourite family or genus, give a short talk on it, then adjourn to propagate the plants that were discussed and that would be suitable for this region. I suggested that we have a daisy focus at our 5 June meeting, concentrating on sowing seed rather than doing cuttings, as it is a difficult time of year. I prepared a list of local daisies that I thought would be worth growing but unfortunately the ANBG Seed Bank was unable to provide any of them. Thankfully, ADSG and SGAP Canberra were able to come to the rescue, providing seed of most on the list and some others which were thought to be suitable for our climate.

I had no problems preparing a talk — the information in the two ADSG publications *Australian Daisies for Gardens and Floral Art* and *Australian Brachyscomes* was spot on and exactly what the audience wanted to know. Another ADSG member in the Growing Friends, Barrie Hadlow, also has a wealth of knowledge on the subject and was of great assistance fielding questions and helping our members to sow the seed. We sowed seed from 42 different species. The accompanying table shows the species and origin of the seed and in some cases the age of the seed. We kept provenance seed separated from cultivated seed. Species from widely differing locations were also sown separately so that in total we had 55 types of daisies.

The seed was sown into punnets containing a mixture of coarse sand, vermiculite and perlite. In most cases the seed was placed on the surface and watered in before being placed in the sand capillary bed which has bottom heat. With the very fluffy seed we put a little of the mixture on the surface to prevent it blowing away. Within 5 days we had germination of a number of species (*Ammobium alatum*, *Brachyscome rigidula*, *Bracteantha* varieties, *Calocephalus citreus*, *Craspedia variabilis*, *Leptorhynchos squamatus*, *Leucochrysum* varieties, *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* Ssp. *rosea* and *Vittadinia muelleri*). *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* was the fastest to germinate and was the first to be potted on — on 24 June. After 4 weeks there were only 6 punnets which did not show signs of germination — see table. We will continue to monitor them and if necessary will try “the Hadlow method”.

At our potting on session on 3 July we concentrated on the punnets which had germinated quickly and contained lots of plants. This resulted in 33 trays, each containing 20 pots and each pot usually containing 2–3 plants. A further 300 pots were done on 13 July and 218 on 7 August. There is no doubt that many Canberra gardens will sport daisies after our next few sales.

As a thank you to ADSG for the part they have played in this project, we have bought *Australian Brachyscomes* for the Friends of ANBG and it will be used as a reference book at our sales and in our lounge for people to browse through. Many thanks to Judy Barker and Esma Salkin for their very fast response to our request for seed.

Species	Source	Germinated by 3/7/99
<i>Ammobium alatum</i>	SGAP Canberra, '99	Yes
<i>Ammobium craspedioides</i> *	ADSG — per ANBG	Yes
<i>Bedfordia salicina</i>	SGAP Canberra (Tas)	Yes
<i>Brachyscome aculeata</i>	SGAP Canberra — Square Rock, ACT, 3/97	Yes
<i>Brachyscome decipiens</i> *	ADSG — Falls Creek, Mt Jinn, Vic, 2/99	Yes
<i>Brachyscome dentata</i>	SGAP Canberra — Hoskinstown Rd, NSW, 3/97	Yes
<i>Brachyscome diversifolia</i>	SGAP Canberra — Mt Aggie, ACT, 1/99	Yes
<i>Brachyscome diversifolia</i>	ADSG (Reids Lookout, Grampians)	No
<i>Brachyscome nivalis</i> *	ADSG — Rocky Knobs, 11/95, cultd.	Yes
<i>Brachyscome procumbens</i> *	ADSG — cult., 11/94	Yes
<i>Brachyscome radicans</i>	ADSG — Eucumbene River, NSW, 2/97	Yes
<i>Brachyscome rigidula</i>	SGAP Canberra — Widgiewa Rd, NSW, 4/99	Yes
<i>Brachyscome spathulata</i>	SGAP Canberra — Widgiewa Rd, NSW, 12/98	Yes
<i>Brachyscome tadgellii</i>	ADSG	Yes
<i>Brachyscome tenuiscapa</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	ADSG — Armidale, NSW	Yes
<i>Bracteantha bracteata</i>	ADSG	Yes
<i>Bracteantha bracteata</i> (cream)	ADSG	Yes
<i>Bracteantha bracteata</i> (lemon)	ADSG	Yes
<i>Bracteantha bracteata</i> (mixed, dwarf)	ADSG	Yes
<i>Bracteantha bracteata</i> (pink & burgundy)	SGAP Canberra	Yes
<i>Bracteantha bracteata</i> (pink)	ADSG	Yes
<i>Bracteantha</i> sp. aff. <i>bracteata</i> (9005841c)	SGAP Canberra — ANBG, 4/96	Yes
<i>Bracteantha subundulata</i>	SGAP Canberra — from ADSG — Daisy Dell, Tas	No
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	SGAP Canberra 0151 Bungendore, NSW, 5/97	Yes
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	SGAP Canberra — Widgiewa Rd garden, 4/99	Yes
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	SGAP Canberra	Yes
<i>Calotis multicaulis</i>	SGAP Canberra	No
<i>Calotis scabiosifolia</i> var. <i>integrifolia</i> *	ADSG — Falls Creek, Vic, 2/97	Yes
<i>Cassinia adunca</i>	ADSG — Burninjuck Dam, NSW, 5/97	Yes
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	SGAP Canberra — ANBG, 4/98	Yes
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	Boboyan Seeds, Greening Australia	Yes
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	SGAP Canberra — Widgiewa Rd, NSW, 4/98	Yes
<i>Helichrysum collinum</i>	SGAP Canberra — Black Mountain, ACT, 12/97	Yes
<i>Helichrysum elatum</i> *	ADSG — Barrington Tops, NSW, '95	No
<i>Helichrysum elatum</i>	ADSG cultd.	Yes
<i>Helichrysum rutidolepis</i>	SGAP Canberra — Bungendore, NSW	Yes
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i> *	ADSG — Trial Harbour, Tas, 2/95	Yes
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	ADSG — Anglesea, Vic	Yes
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	SGAP Canberra — Black Mountain, ACT, 12/98	Yes
<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i> *	ADSG — Dry Ridge, Bundarra Range, Vic	Yes
<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i> *	ADSG — cultd., Vic	Yes
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i> var. <i>albicans</i>	ADSG — Longwood, Vic	Yes
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i> var. <i>albicans</i>	ADSG — Licola, Vic	Yes
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i> var. <i>tricolor</i>	ADSG	Yes
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> ssp. <i>albicans</i> var. <i>tricolor</i>	SGAP Canberra — from ADSG	Yes
<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	SGAP Canberra	Yes
<i>Olearia elliptica</i>	SGAP Canberra — cultd.	Yes
<i>Olearia megalophylla</i>	SGAP Canberra — Yerrabi Track, ACT	No
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	ADSG — Lara, near Geelong, Vic, 2/99	Yes
<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i>	ADSG — Liverpool Range, NSW	Yes
<i>Rhodanthe chlorocephala</i> ssp. <i>rosea</i>	SGAP Canberra cultd.	Yes
<i>Rhodanthe corymbiflora</i>	SGAP Canberra cultd.	Yes
<i>Rhodanthe polyphylla</i>	SGAP Canberra — from Qld, cultd. in ACT, 1/99	Yes
<i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoides</i>	SGAP Canberra — Widgiewa Rd garden, 3/98	No
<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i>	SGAP Canberra	Yes

\* stored at 4° C by ADSG but at room temperature for at least 2 weeks prior to sowing

**EXTRACT from PAT'S POTS**by Pat Webb

(Pat is the Leader of the Australian Plants for Containers Study Group. This extract was taken with permission from Newsletter No. 21, July 1999.)

Easter Saturday, 3rd April dawned sunny, a forecast of "fine, 20°" — perfect for John and I to go to 'Kuranga' nursery in Ringwood to see the special display of plant containers and demonstrations by Gwen Elliot. .... Gwen had a large ceramic pot full of Debco Green Wizard potting mix, nice and damp. Kuranga recommends this mix in their hand-out leaflet on Container plants. Into this pot Gwen was planning to put a mix of plants — a white *Scaevola* with *Brachyscome multifida* surrounding it.

I was particularly interested in a pot on her demonstration table full of tiny (3cm) seedlings. These were *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* (formerly *Helipterum roseum*) planted three weeks earlier. Gwen suggested sequential plantings in early spring to spread the flowering over a longer period. Today she was going to show people 'tip pruning' to encourage lateral growth; she was pinching out about a centimetre. I have come home quite inspired to have a go myself in the spring. I had *Rhodanthe* in the garden last spring/early summer but I cannot find any self-sown survivors — the slugs and snails may have beaten me — a container next time.

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**HELEN MORROW** — an appreciationby Judy Barker

After six years as Study Group Co-ordinator Helen has retired from this demanding office. We have valued her advice and assistance over those years. She was always available to answer questions, or to provide whatever help we may have needed. Before our daughter took over as catering assistant at the May meetings when I became leader, Helen would roll up her sleeves and be generalissimo in Esma's kitchen. That would be an impossibly hard job in my opinion but delicious dishes arrived without fuss. Probably the most noticeable characteristic of AD SG's association with Helen was the lack of fuss.

In July 1997 the study groups held a workshop in a classroom at VCAH in Burnley, Victoria, to produce guidelines for leaders. We understood that these guidelines would include suggestions for various activities, the leader would then choose the most appropriate for the situation. Geoff Butler had thought about the subject over a long period, and had produced a number of headings as a starting point. We were grateful for his input as we had all thought about the headings, and our minds were prepared for action. Only six leaders were able to attend this workshop but a number of leaders sent their reflections to add to the suggestions we were collecting. Helen had organised the gathering and had prepared agendas. It was held over two days and the work was quite intense. I don't know how she managed it but our labours were punctuated by beautiful morning and afternoon teas and lunches. On Saturday evening we enjoyed a Chinese dinner. The two interstate leaders were also provided with beds and breakfasts. What I found most impressive was that Helen was able to draw about thirty pages of rough notes into seven taut pages in the final draft for these guidelines. Congratulations, Helen, on this excellent work, and thank you for all the effort you expended on our behalf over that six years.

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by Margery Stutchbury

We have had a great trip so far, and really enjoyed the north, the wonderful Boab trees and the marvellous Kimberley region. We flew to the Bungles for two days which was great. Don't know if it was a daisy but there was a red papery plant there which so far I have been unable to identify. We also went to Karajini. We are limited because we don't have 4WD or an off-road van, so were not able to go to Mt Augustus. I have become expert at diving out of the car to pick something, and back in again in a flash if it looks like a daisy and it's not a good place to stop!! We are towing an 'A' van which our granddaughter named the 'Cubby House'.

From Port Hedland we came down the inland road through Newman to Meekatharra, Mt Magnet, Paynes Find and Dalwallinu, out to Cervantes, then Perth. Saw my first Paper Daisy on the road between Newman and Meekatharra — *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida* — (great excitement!!), plus (I think) *Helipterum craspedioides* — yellow. The next day was the best! Meekatharra to Mt Magnet. Lots of purple mulla mulla, *Ptilotus* sp. — very lovely with wattles also blooming. Towards Mt Magnet there were lots of *Schoenia*

*cassiniana* and *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida*, and next day carpets of pink, white, lemon and purple spreading under the mulga — *Cephalipterum drummondii* and some other pinks that I haven't identified yet. The countryside was so beautiful it brought tears to my eyes! But, of course, these are all common daisies, so I have nothing as yet exciting (ADSG-wise) to report. I did find a small white paper daisy, also another small white with pink buds and a stem looking like *R. anthemoides* near Dalwallinu, and a few pink *R. manglesii* on the way to Cervantes.

We will go up to Kalgoorlie after the S-W corner and hopefully see more papers around there. We are a bit ahead of our schedule, so should have no hurry to get home by early October. It would take years to see everything properly. Also you need time to think and look things up etc. etc.! More time than we have! We plan to have a few days in and around Perth before moving on. It was 3°C at Dalwallinu the other day! Too cold for us! I'll write when we get home and send you some pressings and hopefully seed.

P.S. My CALM licence arrived before I left home.

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### ASGAP AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP

Statement of Payments & Receipts — July 1, 1998 — June 30, 1999

RECEIPTS	\$	PAYMENTS	\$
Members' subscriptions	733.40	Newsletter	220.78
Seed sales	72.20	Postage	326.70
Bank interest	0.66	Subscriptions	75.00
Plant sales	288.95	FID	2.97
Other	20.00	Stationery	67.40
		May meeting	91.54
		Sundries	99.90
		Collection licences	60.00
		Seeds	40.55
Total receipts	1115.21	Total payments	984.84
Surplus for year	130.37		
SUMMARY			
Cash at bank at beginning of year	1330.84		
Surplus	130.37		
Cash at bank at end of year	1461.21		

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### REPORT FROM LANEENA

by Rosemary Verbeeten

The winter here has been wet. We had 130mm in August and already 50mm in September, which has just begun. It has rained consistently all year with 35mm in March being our driest month. It is a shame rainfall can't be evened out over the country. We have had a couple of monster frosts, otherwise it has generally been mild.

*Brachyscome multifida* and its forms ('Breakoday', 'Alba', pink etc.) survive the winter and the wet well but the hybrid crosses of 'Sulphur Crest', 'Sunset', 'Lemon Twist' and 'Sunburst' have all died. *Brachyscome* 'Lavender Mist' which is in a pot is still going.

*Podolepis nutans* came up well in the seed trays and I planted it out in various sections of the garden but gradually it died out and did not self-sow. *Podolepis neglecta*, however, has done extremely well. I prune the plants back after flowering and they soon shoot again. It is also self-sowing. *Craspedia paludicola* also does very well but it is a favourite with the slugs and snails. *Bracteantha bracteata* var. *albida* 'Flinders White' is another favourite in my garden. It looks good in a mass planting. It probably does well because it is a Tassie

plant. *Calocephalus lacteus* grows well but the ants love it. Does not matter where I put it in the garden, the ants soon make a nest next to it or under it. I wonder what is in their seeds that is not in other daisy seeds.

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## SNIPPETS

The Grevillea Study Group have paid a special tribute to Pat Shaw by naming a form of *Grevillea banksii* after her. It is an upright shrub to 2m growing on headlands near the town of Seventeen Seventy. The pink flowers have white styles. Pat was able to lead Peter Olde directly to a plant of this form from which he could take cuttings. Look out for *G. banksii* 'Pat Shaw'.

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## MEMBERS' REPORTS

**Linda Handscombe** of Pomonal (Vic) writes on 21/6/99: 'I have given up any little pretty annual daisies because the frosts have been so rotten. I have continued growing lots of *Bracteantha bracteata* of all different colours. I have had some nice colours, which I have struck. I am still doing dried flowers and have packed them all away in paper, in boxes, as I lost a lot last year due to mould. (They were still hanging up.)

I took the girls to see the Ararat production of "The King and I" (which was great). The bad role lady came last month and bought \$100 worth of small posies as 'Thank yous' for various members of the cast, which was nice. I hope she gets all the lead roles from now on.

Our little cottage garden — mostly non-native perennials — is presently getting chopped back, and I am eyeing off the cleared area around the new frame (for the new house) for all native little things. These perennial gardens are mountains of work. The frame is 2/3's finished — then the really long slog — with David (and me) doing the rest. We can't put any plants in for quite a while until the mudbricks, roof, etc, go up.'

**June Rogers** of Horsham (Vic) writes on 22/6/99: 'I do enjoy the newsletter and I am still growing daisies. I wasn't going to get any more seed this year but can't help myself, now that I've got my igloo going again.

With some good recent rain the block has greened up again, but unfortunately the Smilax (Bridal Creeper) keeps coming through despite four forays with Roundup — it keeps me busy. And of course the weeds and grass are also thriving. I'm in the throes of planting about 50 banksias, and on Thursday I have 70 plants, mostly eucalypts, arriving from Wail.'

**Sylvia Oats** of Elizabeth East (SA) writes on 8/7/99: 'Would you have any information on *Olearia rudis*? I bought a plant a year ago and it is looking absolutely marvellous. It's about 5 feet (1.5m) high, a beautiful rounded shrub, and it is going well, so it must like lime. It has overtaken the *Hakea petiolaris*.'

**Pat Shaw** of Macgregor (Qld) telephoned her report on 22/7/99. She said that the two plants of the large-leaved *Bracteantha* sp. being grown by Bryson Easton had died (see NL 54, p. 20). It was believed that cleaning ladies had thrown out the seed he had collected. There were two cuttings, however, just coming into flower.

Pat went on to give us news of other forms of *Bracteantha bracteata*:

The Yeppoon form is a very hairy plant with a perennial habit. Her 3 year-old plant is branching and about 1m tall. It strikes readily from cuttings.

Pat has ordered four new hybrids, white, pink, lemon and yellow, all of which are low-growing forms less than 1m high. One is *Bracteantha* 'Elizabeth' — described as a two-tone pink perennial, darker pink on the tips. *Bracteantha* 'Argyle Star' is a nice white form Pat has been growing, as is an apricot-pink form which was purchased from a nursery just north of Lakes Entrance.

Pat has recently acquired *Brachyscome* 'City Lights' which was bred by workers at the University of Sydney. Her 15cm pot has a profusion of large mauve flowers. Other hybrids growing well for her are *Brachyscome* 'Jumbo Tricolor' and 'Jumbo Yellow'. The former is better looking than the latter in her conditions.

An additional bit of information was given by telephone in late September — *Brachyscome angustifolia* 'Hot Candy' has dark pink heads, and is a bushy, healthy plant.

**Bruce Wallace** of Terrigal (NSW) writes in July '99: 'The local native plant group here have started working in a local reserve, removing the lantana, privet and tobacco bush, and replanting with local rainforest trees. The area was originally partly cleared and it is this area of bush regrowth that we are involved in. The weather conditions here have been rain, rain and more rain. Since April there has hardly been a dry week. Things are just so wet, although it can also dry out very quickly.'

**Irene Cullen** of Algeester (Qld) writes on 2/8/99: 'I will forward you a small amount of seed of *Helichrysum newcastleianum* from Atherton Tablelands. It was collected in the wild on a local nurseryman's permit. Some locals have tried growing it with limited success. It grows on gravelly soil on hillsides, and has soft velvety silver leaves.' (There was not a lot of seed as Irene said. It has become one of the "Leader's Perks".... Judy)

**Maureen Schaumann** of Mulgrave (Vic) reported on 3/8/99 that the following daisies were out in her garden: *Brachyscome* 'City Lights', *B.* 'Pink Happy Face' — spreading, with lots of flower-heads, *Olearia microphylla*, *Ozothamnus rufescens*, and *Rhodanthe citrina* in a raised bed. The latter had begun to flower in July.

**Corinne Hampel** of Murray Bridge (SA) sent an email on 20/8/99: 'Just a note to say that I am in the process of potting on most of the cuttings you sent ages ago. The brachyscomes had roots within 3 weeks and they have been waiting patiently all this time. We have had a very dry season this year. No moisture down below.'

We went for a drive towards Karoonda on Sunday and I found *Olearia rudis*, *O. picridifolia* and a naturally occurring cross (all lovely bright mauve, and heads 4–5cm in diameter). There was also a white olearia which may be *O. teretifolia*. My *Olearia pannosa* plants will look lovely in a week. The bushes have not grown much but have heaps of flower buds.'

**Anne Langmaid** (Secretary of SGAP Keilor Plains Group) writes on 5/8/99: 'Thank you for your wonderful talk in July I found it inspiring. On the Sunday my eight-year old daughter and I sowed some of the seeds we had bought. Fortunately she chose the *Rhodanthe manglesii* which we labelled as Jenny's daisy. It has been coming up like a weed. Only a few seedlings have germinated from *Rhodanthe anthemoides* and *Bracteantha viscosa*. I will try again in spring. We also had some *Brachyscome iberidifolia* which germinated well initially but now is struggling. Jenny has been in charge of watering them and has been so excited by their growth. I promised she can take some for her class garden when they are a little larger. She can barely wait.'

**Julie Strudwick** of Upper Lurg (near Benalla, Vic) writes on 27/9/99: 'I have a variety of everlastings in troughs for display — *R. chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*, and the dwarf Balladonia form, *R. c. rosea* x Balladonia, and the "yellow Everlastings" mix from Gwen Elliot, mostly *Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia* but several other things have appeared as well. Some of them, eg. *R. battii*, could have been in the gravel mulch (I scrape what I can off the troughs each year when the plants are finished) but some definitely weren't as I didn't have them growing. (*R. propinqua* and a beautiful plant of *R. rubella* were among the interlopers!) The *R. c. rosea* x Balladonia have done well, with a good variety of pink and white heads with yellow and black centres. I think all the Everlastings are worth growing in 6" pots and/or troughs for sale or display but not in tubes. The sale would probably be better a bit earlier so that people have them at their best for longer but these should be good for another month or so.'

The garden was looking colourful for "the Visit" — lots of acacias, still correas and other things, including hakeas. *O. pannosa* did not quite oblige — first flowers out about two weeks later. The garden still is lovely — most acacias and the correas are finished but are replaced by prostantheras, *O. phlogopappa* and brachyscomes, etc. There is usually plenty of colour at least till the end of October. The phebaliums (and new names) have been lovely and many still are, and *Thomasia grandiflora* is a picture at present. *Leucochrysum albicans* (Longwood) has done magnificently this year — two plants which have survived in the garden since last year. This species (the local form, anyway) has never done well for me in the garden — always seems to prefer to grow in poor gravelly areas rather than better soil, but the Longwood ones are apparently happy here. *Brachyscome* 'Maureen' and 'Betty Campbell' are looking particularly beautiful at present!'

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LEADER'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Thanks to Irene Cullen and Beth McRobert, AD SG was very well represented at the AS GAP Biennial Conference in Brisbane. Irene was the prime mover in erecting a display for our Study Group. Unfortunately, her plea for material for the display went astray, and I did not receive it early enough for them to use much of our contribution. Irene and Beth made dried arrangements and posters. The photographs of the finished stand looked delightful — far more impressive than anything I could have devised. It was not too late, however, to arrange a 5–10 minute talk about the work of the Group, which was delivered with great flair by Beth. Apparently it was well received. We are most grateful to Irene and Beth for their hard work, and also to Pat Shaw and John Armstrong who also assisted with the display.

At this time my husband, Lee, was having an aortic valve replacement to enhance the two heart by-passes he had in 1982 and 1992. I was touched by the concern shown by those members who knew about the problem, and I thank you all very much for it.

Peg McAllister and John Armstrong held exceedingly successful Open Garden Weekends on 25th/26th September. Many visitors passed through both gardens. It was a great deal of work for the pair of them but both gardens left lasting impressions on gardeners who may not normally consider using Australian plants. I was at Peg's for Sunday afternoon, and was bowled over by the colour and the ruddy health of her plantings. I am always bowled over — no matter when I go to Peg's. It was interesting to hear the majority of Peg's visitors thanking her or her son, Alex, as they left, and making lovely little speeches.

The following weekend Peg welcomed us back to set up another AD SG Plant Sale of small or unusual plants. The garden seemed even more colourful after the interval of one week. It appears to have been another successful event, and has added a little to our coffers. Thank you to our country visitors, and special thanks to Peg who must have been exhausted at the end of this weekend. Congratulations to Maureen for her excellent advertising efforts.

Julie Strudwick also opened her garden for visitors to the quarterly APS Vic meeting at Wangaratta in August (see p.51).

One of our new members, Theo Wade, is Margery Stutchbury's uncle, and has already collected seed of a lovely form of *Rhodanthe floribunda* from the Charleville district for the Group. Last October he outdid himself by collecting a pretty white annual WNW of Charleville on the Adavale Road. It was prolific on Ward Plain he told Margery when he sent it to her. She put it in a cupboard. Recently Margery contacted me to ask whether she could collect any seed for AD SG on a three month trip she and Graham were taking. They would be travelling from her home in Bundaberg through Emerald, Longreach, Mt Isa, Katherine, Kununurra, Broome, Geraldton, Perth, Nullarbor, Flinders Ranges, Broken Hill, Charleville, Chinchilla and back to Bundaberg. We sent back a dossier of species we still need, together with photocopies, descriptions and locations. Among them was a colour photocopy of *R. gossypina* (which still hasn't germinated!). With great acumen Margery recognised the specimen in the cupboard and sent it down for identification. Sure enough, the dark resinous hairs on the outer surface of the claw of the radiating bracts were present. Theo had collected some mature-looking seed with the plants which will be tested. It is a marvellous thing to have a member in this species-rich area.

Lee has taken a proprietary interest in the fortunes of *Rhodanthe corymbosa*. Every time he passes the pot he pauses, and wonders aloud whether it is the same 'weed' that he brought home from Western Australia last November. It is a sight to see, and could well make the biased daisy grower pause. The plants are 25–40 x 10–25cm (compared with 8–13 x 2.5–3cm), and in mid-October they are a mass of small, shining, cylindrical heads in terminal clusters. The inner bracts have short, radiating, creamy white bracts. It is a dainty species, a far cry from the poor crushed specimen Lee brought home rather doubtfully. A possible disadvantage is that it might not flower for long. It has the transient look of *R. laevis* about it.

Jan Sked has taken over from Helen as Co-ordinator of the study groups. The job description would make one wonder how any single person could fulfil the specifications without an assistant, but Jan has been Co-ordinator in the past and presumably knows the pitfalls. We wish her the best of good fortune.

My thanks to those members who helped to make this year's Angair contribution a record one for the daisy stand at the Nature Show. This Conservation Group is relatively small and the majority of the members are not young but the work they do to keep the weeds at bay is staggering. Some of the Society members who attended the AS GAP Conference at Ballarat saw a little of this lovely coastal heathland and heath woodland area. I am sure you would all be impressed at the volume of weeds cleared by the volunteers.

This will be the last newsletter for the year. Thank you to the Melbourne members for putting so many hours into the Study Group's work, to the Victorian and interstate members who write to me and send seed and news, and to all the members who help in so many ways. I am especially grateful to our treasurer, Bev, who has balanced the books again, to Maureen who hosts the Book Meetings and caters for us so deliciously, to the Project Co-ordinators, and the Book Committee. Ill health has laid many of us low this year. I wish you all good health and a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,



**CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP**

On our last meeting for the year, Tuesday 7th December, we have planned a day on the Mornington Peninsula. The arrangements are as follows:

1. We begin at Pat and John Webb's at 18 Landscape Court, Balnarring, Melways Map 193 B4 at 10.00–10.30. Pat is the Leader of the Australian Plants for Containers Study Group. She has very kindly offered to provide morning tea for us. She has issued a warning that she does not have millions of containers because she and John do not want to have to stay at home all the time to care for them.
2. We travel to Westernport Nursery at 88 Frankston-Flinders Road, Bittern, for the usual browse and buy.
3. Kathie and Peter Strickland have invited us to have our BYO lunch under their trees at 3 Beatty Avenue, Bittern, Melways Map 164 A12. Kathie suggests we go down Birdwood Street, and turn left at Beatty Avenue. Kathie and Peter have written and illustrated *Peninsula Plants* Vols 1 and 2, and *Sub Alpine Flora of the Baw Baw Plateau*, and Bev says they have a lovely garden.
4. Our next stop is at John Hodgson's garden at 122 Bayview Rd, Merricks Beach, Melways Map 192 K12. This garden recently won the Native Garden section of Mornington Shire Garden Competition. It was the garden that John Webb wrote up so glowingly in the September issue of the APS Vic Newsletter on page 10. The property is called 'Myriong', and John will be looking out for us in order to help us park our cars safely.

This sounds like a full program but if there is any time left at the end of our visit to John, Bev has invited us to call in to see how her plantings on the new block are progressing. She lives at 9 Nirvana Close, Langwarrin, Melways Map 103 K12 (or K12.5).

Please contact Judy for maps of the relevant areas if you wish to come.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW MEMBERS**

A warm welcome to the following:

Theo Wade, 117 Galatea St, Charleville, Qld, 4470.

Ruth Payne, "Mallee Springs", Orange Grove Road, Gunnedah, NSW, 2380.

**SEED DONORS**

Many thanks to the following members and friends who sent us seed: Ross Cooper, Ros Cornish, Irene Cullen, Jeff Irons, Michael Marmach, Fred Mazzaferri, Ray Purches, Esma Salkin, Maureen Schaumann, Pat Shaw, Margery Stutchbury, Merrick Savage (of the Eyre Seed Co.), Luke Sweedman (Seed Collector from Kings Park and Botanic Garden), and Theo Wade.

**HELP NEEDED**

We have run out of *Minuria integerrima*, and we receive many requests for it. If anyone has some spare seed could they keep us in mind, please?

**SEED BANK**

ADDITIONS — Garden and Commercial Seed

*Brachyscome aculeata*, *B. curvicarpa*, *B. rigidula*.

*Bracteantha bracteata* tall red hybrid (selected over several years by Fred Mazzaferri).

*Calomeria amaranthoides*.-*Cassinia subtropica* (Nerang form). *Craspedia crocata* ?

ADDITIONS — Provenance

*Bracteantha bracteata* (Hat Head). *Calomeria amaranthoides*.

*Ixiolaena leptolepis* (Baranara Gorge, Flinders Ranges). *Rhodanthe margarethae*.

DELETIONS — Provenance

*Helichrysum scorpioides* (Sawmill Spur Tk, Black Heath, Megalong Valley [J.I.], Trial Bay Tas [J.G. '95]).

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**Subscriptions were due on 30th JUNE 1999.** A red cross in the box is a further reminder.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for NL 56 is 31st JANUARY 2000.**

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