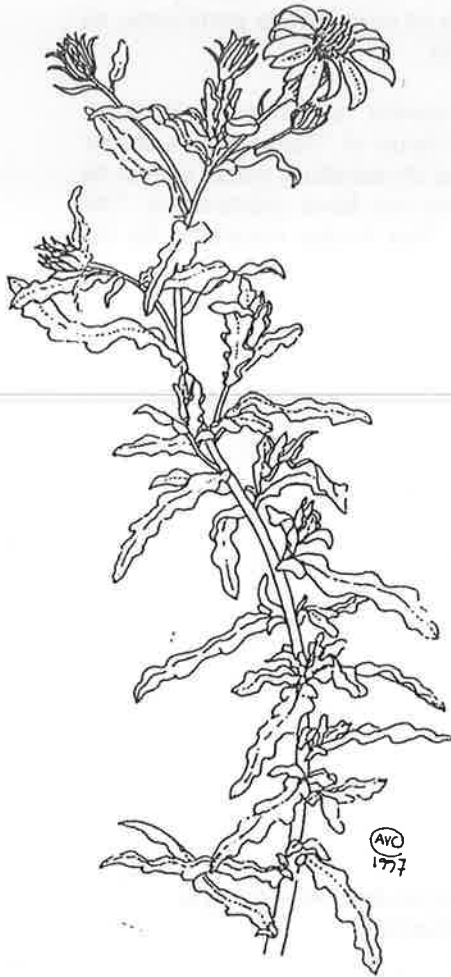


ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS**ABN 56 654 053 676****THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 65**

Olearia asterotricha x 75%
(illustrated by Ailsa Campbell)

Office Bearers		1
Leader's letter and coming events		2
Species or forms new to members		
<i>Olearia viscosa</i>	Joy Greig	3
<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Barrie Hadlow	3
<i>Asteridea chaetopoda</i>	Joy Greig	4
<i>Podolepis</i> sp. 1	Judy Barker	5
To the garden, and to olearias in particular	Barbara Buchanan	5
My silver-foliaged daisies	Joy Greig	6
Surprise at Surat	Barrie Hadlow	7
The Kuranga Mystery	Judy Barker	8
<i>Lawrencella davenportii</i>	John Barrie	9
Yam Daisy Update	Bev Courtney	9
Letter from Barwon Heads	Margaret Guenzel	10
A little piece of serendipity	Barbara Buchanan	11
Snippets		11
Members' reports — Ros Cornish, Matt Hurst, John and Julie Barrie, June Rogers		12
Report from a friend of AD SG	Beryl Birch	13
ADSG Christmas Break-up report	Judy Barker	14
Show and tell (November Meeting)		15
More book news, new members, seed donors, seed wanted, Seed Bank list		16–18

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WEB PAGE

<http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/daisy.html>

DEADLINE FOR JULY NEWSLETTER — 1st JUNE 2003

LEADER'S LETTER

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are fit and well and ready for another year.

The less said about the summer we have just had the better. It is certainly one we will all want to forget. Hopefully by the time this newsletter reaches you the long awaited rains will have started the process of rejuvenation in our gardens and in the fire-ravaged bush.

On a more positive note, March is a favourable time for sowing seed so now you should be trying something new from the seed bank and/or preparing for our plant sale in September (27th). Also, we may have the opportunity to assist with plantings in one or two public gardens later in the year, so don't worry if you happen to grow more plants than you need. They will undoubtedly be put to very good use.

We are planning a quieter program for this year but we still have the deferred 'Mallacoota Meeting' on the agenda for October, so please keep the dates of 17th to 20th free. I encourage all members to participate, as it will be a great chance to meet other daisy fanatics and swap ideas and plants.

We have been given excellent reviews for 'Everlastings of Australia' in several reputable publications. Members must have seen the article by Jane Edmanson in the December issue of 'Gardening Australia' which profiled the many varieties of native daisies. 'Australian Horticulture' had an excellent article written by Gwen Elliot in the October issue which highlighted annuals and also gave our book prominence. The November issue of 'Greening Australia' magazine was glowing in its praise. This is very rewarding for the study group, and has generated a number of enquiries from the public.

Regards,

Joy



COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 19 th March	10.00am–3.00pm	General Meeting at John Armstrong's, 25 Grove Rd, Vermont. Tel. 9874 4132 Judy will speak on <i>Leptorhynchos</i> .
Tuesday 15 th April	10.00am–3.00pm	General Meeting at Joy Greig's, Unit 1, 1A Buchanan St, Boronia. Tel. 9762 7799
Tuesday 20 th May	10.00am–3.00pm	General Meeting at Natalie Peate's 26 Kardinia Cres., Warranwood. Tel. 9876 3648

Members are most welcome to attend these meetings. Bring lunch and flowering specimens (if any) for Show and Tell or identification. Spare pots of daisies are often exchanged or bestowed if members find that germination has exceeded expectation and, as Joy points out above, a home will always be found for excess plants if ADSSG helps with the plantings in public gardens. Arrival and departure times are flexible, the atmosphere is not serious, and the subjects discussed range widely.

SPECIES OR FORMS NEW TO MEMBERS

Olearia viscosa (Labill.) Benth.

(Viscid Daisy Bush)

This daisy has been suggested by members of APS Bairnsdale District as a suitable companion plant for rainforest fringes.

O. viscosa is a common species in wet sclerophyll forest in Tasmania, growing to about 3m high. It also occurs in small pockets of temperate rainforest margins in the vicinity of Lake Tyers in Victoria.

In the wild the plant flowers from November to February.

It is a bushy shrub with sticky branchlets and aromatic, lanceolate or elliptical, more or less flat leaves to about 12cm long. The upper surface is usually green and sticky, while the lower surface is densely covered with whitish or yellowish T-shaped hairs. White, or creamy (or rarely mauve) flower-heads about 1.5cm in diameter occur in profuse, branched, terminal clusters. The involucre is narrow with graduated seriate bracts which have ciliate margins. There are usually 4 to 6 ray florets with one or two of these being more prominent. Yellow disc florets normally number 3 to 5. The cypsela has 6–8 longitudinal ribs, and the pappus bristles are straw-coloured or pinkish.

O. viscosa is not often cultivated, but it should do well in semi-shaded, moist, acidic soils. It may be propagated from fresh seed or cuttings of firm new growth.

(*Permission to reproduce this illustration from the *Flora of Victoria* Vol 4 was given by Dr. Neville Walsh.)



Olearia viscosa, flowering branches x 0.5; involucre x 3 (illustrated by Gloria Thornlinson).*

by Joy Greig

Olearia argophylla

MUSK DAISY-BUSH

The largest 'daisy' in our garden, *Olearia argophylla*, is looking superb at present despite the dry conditions. About three years old, it is now approximately 1.5m in height and 1.0m in width, and is covered in a stunning display of white flowers for up to 50cm length along most young stems. Our plant has decided to be multiple trunked, so should eventually be a large shrub. In the ACT's Brindabella Range it is fairly common at altitudes of > 700m, often on cooler southern slopes that are more moist, and with more shade than most other mountain aspects in this high country. It qualifies for 'tree' status so is atypical for a 'daisy' in this regard I suspect, and as 'Muskwood' has been used by wood turners in Australia since at least the early 19th century (personal observation National Gallery of Australia).

The leaf margins of this olearia have shallow teeth; the leaves themselves are a deep green with a superb silver undersurface (Burbidge and Gray describe appressed hairs as responsible).

The pointed elliptical leaves are quite large — on our plant to c. 13cm in length with prominent lateral veins, and are held ascending on younger shoots to horizontal and descending with age. An immensely attractive daisy, growing (as Thistle Harris says in *Alpine Plants of Australia*) as a tree to 15m from NSW (+ ACT) to Vic and Tas. It is a favourite of mine!

by Barrie Hadlow



Olearia argophylla x 1/3 (pressed specimen)

Asteridea chaetopoda

I was reminded of this little gem when Maree Goods sent me a photo for identification. Maree has been daisy spotting in the Percival Lakes area in the Great Sandy Desert, Western Australia.

The photo instantly reminded me of a little plant which Natalie, Peg and I found between Cue and Meekatharra on our seed collecting trip in 1996. It was growing in small depressions in saline red soils in association with the dolomite plant, *Halosarcia halocnemoides*. It was a rounded tuft of silvery foliage to about 8cm high with many wiry reddish stems radiating out to a height of about 16cm. At the end of each stem a yellow flower-head with a white hairy involucre danced in the breeze.

We collected a specimen and took a photo, but as it was not one of the everlastings we were seeking at the time, I merely filed them away for future reference. It was a little while before I remembered that it was a species of *Asteridea* and not the related *Podolepis* which first came to mind when I saw Maree's photo.

Asteridea chaetopoda is a perennial sub-shrub with linear leaves, 2–4cm long, that are blunt-tipped and densely covered in white-woolly hairs. Stems are also densely hairy. Yellow flower-heads are about 1cm across, and are borne terminally on glabrescent reddish stalks at least twice as high as the foliage. The florets are all tubular, and the involucre is covered in white woolly and glandular hairs. The cypsela is small, golden brown, with a few very long, plumose, white pappus bristles.

Silvery foliage and prominent flower-heads make this a very ornamental species which would be a charming small garden plant. As far as I know it is not often cultivated, but I certainly want to give it a try. It should be suited to sunny situations in well-drained soils that receive inundation occasionally.

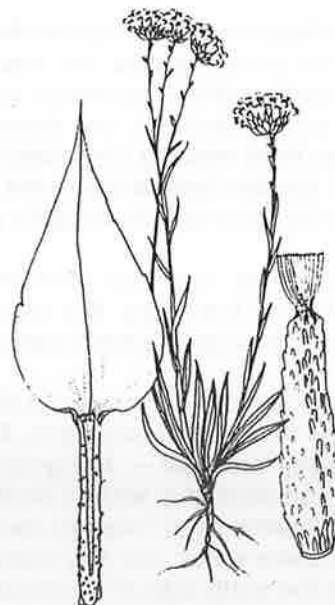
by **Joy Greig**

***Podolepis* sp. 1**

Basalt Podolepis

This species was a gift from Faye Candy, grown from seed supplied by ADSG as *Podolepis jaceoides*. The plant is more upright and handsome than other forms of *P. jaceoides* I have grown in the past. It was propagated from seed provided by Greg Powell from plants growing at Serendip Sanctuary at Lara near Geelong. Esma suggested it might be *Podolepis* sp. 1, the Basalt Podolepis, and so it proved to be when the involucre bracts were examined under the microscope. *Podolepis* sp. 1 occurs mainly on the basalt plains west and north of Melbourne, where it is said to be extremely rare.

Plants are erect at first, to about 40cm high. The stems are sparsely hairy with tangled, cobwebby hairs, and they branch two or three times in the top half. Linear leaves are basal and cauline, 2–13.5cm x 2–6mm, sessile, the surfaces are glabrous, dark green above and paler below, with acute tips. The margins are often recurved, the midribs are very prominent on the undersurfaces and may have scattered short hairs. The involucre heads are hemispherical, 1.5–2.5cm across, opening to bright, lemon yellow flower-heads, to 5cm across, with about 30 ray florets. Outer involucre bracts are ovate, pale brown, translucent and papery, with acuminate tips. Inner bracts have long green claws with glandular hairs. The flower stalks are 8–20cm.



Podolepis sp. 1
Habit x 0.2; intermediate bract x 5;
cypsela x 20
(drawn by Enid Mayfield)*

Flowering period: Flowers opened in late October in our garden and continued into mid-January. Volume 4 of the *Flora of Victoria* states that sp. 1 flowers from September–November, but the extra watering of the garden must have prolonged the flowering period.

Cultivation and uses: It is growing well in sandy loam under a small acacia, where it is in sun for about half of the day in summer and most of the day for the rest of the year. During a sudden hot spell in mid-January the stems drooped to an almost horizontal position and the plant was pruned back. I'm hoping it will shoot again after good rain if we ever have such a boon. Maureen is growing it in an open, sunny position in clay soil at the top of one of her soaks. She has also been pleased with it.

Habitat: *Flora of Victoria* observes that sp. 1 'usually grows on heavy clay soils in grassland communities'.

Similar species: *Podolepis jaceoides* is distinguished by the involucre bracts, at least some of which are obtuse or subacute. The leaves are narrow-lanceolate to oblanceolate and usually hairy.

The Basalt Podolepis seems to be a most attractive perennial for summer colour in gardens. Further experience will tell us how it copes with winter in the garden. If other members have asked for *P. jaceoides*, and have been supplied with seed labelled 'Serendip Sanctuary, Lara' or even 'GP, Lara' they have been growing *Podolepis* sp. 1.

Reference: Walsh, N. G. and Entwisle, T. J. (eds) (1999). *Flora of Victoria* Vol. 4, pp. 777–782.
(* Permission to reproduce this illustration from the *Flora of Victoria* Vol 4 was given by Dr Neville Walsh.)

by **Judy Barker**

To The Garden, and To Olearias In Particular

by **Barbara Buchanan**

We have been blessed with a reasonable amount of rain here although the dam hasn't filled and many dams out in the flat area are almost dry. Our paddocks are still very green, helped by the steady super applications over the past few years. Because of the number of warm days flowering has been early and shortish. Col Jennings (from the Melaleuca Study Group) suggests that the intense flowering he has been seeing is a response to the dry conditions — plants being desperate to reproduce themselves in case they die. My olearias have two strategies — one lot smother themselves and the other has a succession of a few flowers over a very long time.

The 'Gogoflappas' are the outstanding examples of the first type although there was one bush flowering for much of the winter. Maybe this was due to earlier pruning but I'd have expected that to delay flowering. *Olearia stellulata* (thank heavens I no longer have to try and decide if it's *stellulata* or *lirata* because I never could be sure) is another, and these two give me great problems in keeping them attractive year round. I have never liked wielding the secateurs over much but I am trying to overcome this disadvantage. I suspect these two species have a senescent period in the wild and grow again from the base, thus creating a mass of dead twigs which is both unsightly and highly flammable.

O. elliptica, which has large varnished leaves, flowers late summer/autumn and also smothers itself — at least the tops of the stems. It is very useful because of the flowering time but again as the bush ages I am puzzled as to how best to keep it attractive. Probably I should cut one third of the stems right out at the base.

I have some confusion again about the identity of 3 more current profuse flowerers. One I have always called the fine-leaf form of *O. erubescens*. It came from Jenny Rejske from one of her mountain walks. I think it has terrific garden potential — low growing, say 0.5m, attractive shiny leaves and neat habit — which at the moment is smothered in white. I have 4–5 bushes myself now and propagate for our local group. I think they really appreciated what I was on about when I took a stem to our last meeting. They are generally in places which get some water, one has managed without any, and positions range from lots of sun to fairly shaded. One is on the north side of the house in full winter shade and full summer sun. Perhaps they seem a little slow to start to grow, but then forge slowly and steadily ahead. The oldest bush would be approaching 10 years, is no longer watered, and is less than 1m across and 0.5m high.

There is an altogether larger plant which I have grown as *O. erubescens* large leaf form, and this is still the nearest I can get to it. But this is quite an untidy bush despite dead-heading, and prone to rusting on the leaves which I have put down to mildew. Still, the young plants I have in are currently very showy. They are in more open, unwatered positions to see if that helps. I find it hard to believe there are fewer than 7 (mostly 5) ray florets on both of these plants as the mass of 'petals' is so solid that the leaves are quite hidden.

The other olearias which I have been spreading among our group are 'a few at a time, most of the time' flowerers. *O. astroloba* sprawls amongst other plants, flowering at the tips of long (up to 1m) stems. Having had great success with my first cuttings I've had more trouble lately which I put down to mildew on the leaves. I know I should dip them in bleach, but with my spur of the moment propagating I'd probably never get around to doing any cuttings. Anyway I've just potted on a pot of seedlings. I let them get quite big — well the tops were still not much over an inch but the roots were very well developed — because the early leaves had smooth margins and I wondered if there was a mix up. The strong roots probably are the reason for the hardiness of the plant. The little spots of blue are a real joy especially in the depths of winter. One of my plants has been severely eaten by rabbits twice but has come back well.

O. passerinoides is different — a real contrast in form as it is a solid mass of fine light leaflets. The oldest plant is getting a bit woody and straggly underneath but, by and large, they are a pleasing solid shape with often the bonus of a few scattered flowers.

I forgot *O. iodochroa* in the flower-in-a-burst group, but maybe it is actually halfway. Very tough, drought and frost resistant, with neat, tiny, shiny leaves and growing about 1/3m x 1/3m, it starts flowering in autumn with beautiful purple-blue flowers, a wonderful intense colour. This fades over winter — same flowers or new ones? — so that by now they are quite pale, almost white. This is another plant I inflict on the group. All of them strike readily from cuttings and I usually have a few on the bench either for myself or to give away.

I have had various other Ollies for longer or shorter periods and always welcome the chance to try new ones.

My Silver Foliaged Daisies

by Joy Greig

I have developed a penchant for silver foliaged plants. I find them an excellent foil against which to display other small pretties such as leschenaultias, halganias, and brachyscomes.

The stand out best of them is *Leucophyta brownii*. When grown in the open it is a compact, rounded shrub with numerous creamy white heads displayed in summer. The var. *candidissima* from the Cape Arid region of Western Australia is of more open habit, and the foliage is whiter than the bluish-silver variety from Victoria. Both varieties grow well near the coast in open sunny situations and require no watering once

established. The flowers and/or foliage dry beautifully and can be used alone or with other species in floral arrangements.

Another good background plant is *Olearia* sp. aff. *lanuginosa*, a Victorian endemic found in coastal situations, notably the Mornington Peninsula and Moonlight Head. It is a procumbent shrub to about 50cm high with small bluish green hairy leaves on white cottony stems. Small creamy-green buds are crowded in the leaf axils at the ends of short branchlets from December to February. These open to tiny flower-heads without any obvious ligulate florets. While not providing much of a floral display, the general appearance of the shrub is a very pleasing bluish silver that contrasts well with other plants. Stems may be used fresh or air-dried for indoor decoration and this is best done at the bud stage.

Various silver foliated forms of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* are also good value. I am growing the Mt William form, which suckers lightly and fills gaps between other plants. The bright yellow flower-heads are large and long lasting, but when not in flower the foliage is an attractive contrast. A more upright, silver foliated form from Anglesea has deep orange flower-heads and is also attractive. Yet another, very prostrate silver form has not done well for me so far, but I will be trying it again.

The Langwarrin form of *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* eventually forms a large clump of lacy silvery foliage and has bright yellow flower-heads.

Leucochrysum albicans ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans* from Longwood and var. *tricolor* from the ACT have adapted fairly well to my garden conditions, but require replacing on a regular basis. Scattered among other plants, they make attractive silvery clumps with golden or white heads displayed on stems above the foliage.

Although it has grey-green foliage, *Calocephalus lacteus* has a very silvery appearance in the summer when covered with white heads. It is a lightly suckering species which does well in an open situation where it receives some moisture. I am growing it as a ground cover in water-retaining depressions in the garden. Another which enjoys this situation is *Pycnosorus globosus*, a tufted species with silvery foliage and large yellow globular flower-heads.

I have a few other species on my list of those to try, including celmisias and *Asteridea chaetopoda* (see article on p. 4).

SURPRISE AT SURAT

by Barrie Hadlow

Jenny and I have again been away; this time for three months — in Central Australia, the Kimberley, and West Timor, and have only recently arrived home. My email today is about a chance visit as we travelled south in late September, to the small Queensland town of Surat between Roma and St George. It is on the Baloo River. While there this particular morning, I went to the town library to look for literature on local flora, and found to my surprise a very good small Public Access Herbarium of district plants. It related to a publication by Nita C. Lester called *Woodlands to Weeds. Tara Shire and West to the Thomby Range*. It was published in July 2000. The printer — Toowoomba Education Centre.

The author has deposited this locally important collection at the Surat Library for all to use and enjoy. With the librarian's permission (Joanna Weinert), I photocopied a couple of specimens (yes, including a 'daisy')! This I will post to you if you wish. It is of *Brachyscome curvicarpa*. I also copied the plant name index to get a better idea which specimens are included. The following Asteraceae are included in the collection:

Actinobole uliginosum, *Ageratum houstonianum**, *Arctotheca calendula*, *Bidens bipinnata**,
Brachyscome ciliaris var. *ciliaris*, *B. curvicarpa*, *B. dentata*, *B. multifida* var. *multifida*, *B. trachycarpa*,
B. whitei, *Bracteantha bracteata* (now *Xerochrysum bracteatum*), *Calendula arvensis**,
Calocephalus sonderi, *Calotis cuneata* var. *cuneata*, *C. cuneifolia*, *C. dentex*, *C. lappulacea*, *C. squamigera*,
Camptacra barbata, *Carduus pycnocephalus**, *Cassinia laevis*, *Centipeda minima* var. *minima*,
C. thespidioides, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Cichorium intybus**, *Conyza bonariensis**, *Cotula australis*,
Craspedia uniflora (now *Craspedia variabilis*), *C. sieberiana*, *Eclipta platyglossa*, *Epaltes australis*,
Flaveria australasica, *Glossocardia bidens* (now *Glossogyne tannensis*), *Gnephosis tenuissima*,
*Hedypnois rhagadioloides**, *Helianthus annuus**, *Helichrysum collinum*, *Hypochaeris microcephala* var.
*albiflora**, *H. radicata**, *Ixiolaena brevicompta* (now *Leiocarpa brevicompta*), *I. leptolepis* (now

Leiocarpa leptolepis), *Lagenifera gracilis* (now *Lagenophora gracilis*), *Leptorhynchus panaetioides* (now *Leiocarpa panaetioides*), *Minuria integerrima*, *Olearia canescens*, *O. elliptica*, *O. pimelioides*, *O. ramulosa*, *O. ramosissima*, *O. sp. No. 1*, *O. subspicata*, *Onopordum acanthium**, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, *O. diotophyllus*, *Parthenium hysterophorus**, *Podolepis arachnoidea*, *P. longipedata*, *Pterocaulon redolens*, *P. sphacelatum*, *Pycnosorus chrysanthes*, *P. globosus*, *Rhodanthe floribunda*, *Rutidosis lanata*, *Schkuhria pinnata* var. *abrotanoides**, *Senecio glossanthus*, *S. lautus* ssp. *dissectifolius* (now *Senecio pinnatifolius* var. *pinnatifolius*), *S. murrayanus*, *S. quadridentatus*, *Sigesbeckia orientalis*, *Soliva anthemifolia**, *Sonchus asper**, *S. oleraceus**, *Stuartina hamata*, *Verbesina encelioides**, *Vittadinia dissecta* var. *dissecta*, *V. pterochaeta*, *V. pustulata*, *V. sulcata*, *Xanthium spinosum**

* denotes species of exotic origin.

So it is a long list, and includes many 'exotics' (and most of these are very undesirable weeds). However, I do think it is an excellent compilation, and it shows the vast array of daisies that may be found within one geographical area of SE Queensland.

I hope this is of interest to members; for me it certainly was so and helped me to realise that there can be surprises in store if and when you go looking at local flora in small outback communities. I imagine that the herbarium specimens in Surat are mainly 'duplicates' of others lodged with the Queensland Herbarium. Nita Lester's address, listed in her publication, is 'Talbragar', Glen Morgan, Qld.



Olearia viscidula x ½ (pressed specimen from garden)

The Kuranga Mystery

by Judy Barker

At the Warracknabeal Meeting Marian Boehm brought up a specimen for identification. It looked like an *Olearia* species with a profusion of small cream heads on relatively long stems, but it was going to need a bit of work to get a specific name to go with it. The leaves were long, narrow, green above and silvery below. Marian said it was a shrub or small tree. She kept it pruned to about 2m because it had a tendency to become top-heavy. She had bought it for \$1.00 from the Kuranga Nursery on the El Cheapo or Lucky Dip stand some years ago. It had not looked well at that time and had occasionally looked poorly after planting in the garden, but had always pulled through after treatment with a product of the Boehm Worm Farm. This plant had become known as the Kuranga Mystery as the label had been absent or lost in transit.

The specimen came back to Hawthorn in a vase of water and was taken to Kuranga within four days of our return. It was looking slightly the worse for wear at that stage but good enough for Gwen Elliot to pronounce it an olearia. She removed a piece, attached it to an ID form and promised that the staff would be in touch.

Within two days the answer came back that nobody recognised the specimen, nor did they have any idea of what it could be. The remainder of the specimen went back into water and was taken to an ADSG meeting a week later, at which point I admit it was not in a pristine state. Some of the members refused to believe it was a daisy! It had developed into a mess and I thought all chance of identification had been lost.

As we wandered around Natalie Peate's garden a month later what should we glimpse but an olearia in full flower with an identical appearance to that of the KM. Maureen agreed that it looked very similar (which was another example of how exceedingly observant our founding leader can be). Natalie thought it was *Olearia elliptica* but that turned out to be the plant next to it. She had forgotten what the plant in question was called or from whence it came. Since Natalie lives relatively close to Kurunga we were optimistic that she had gone for a bargain too. She gave me a large specimen, which was promptly pressed, as the original specimen should have been.

As Marian observed, the plant looked like a species that grew in a gully or in moist woodland, somewhat reminiscent of *O. lirata*. When the specimen was removed for examination under the microscope it had a tendency to stick to the pressing papers — a useful clue to its identity. I wrote out a description of the specimen and started looking through the *Flora of New South Wales* Vol. 3. There, right at the end of the olearias, was a drawing of one that looked just right — *Olearia viscidula*. The description tallied, as did the description in *The Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants* Vol. 7. I sent copies of both descriptions to Marian, and she and June Rogers professed themselves convinced. I am now the lucky recipient of two plants.

Lawrencella davenportii

by John Barrie

(In a recent e-mail from John the following appeared: 'I see in the seed list *Lawrencella davenportii* and *L. roseum*. Can I arrange for a few seeds? The latter I have not tried but *L. davenportii* was good while it lasted.' [Good Heavens!! An e-mail was swiftly dispatched to find out how this feat was achieved.])

The answer was: '*Lawrencella davenportii* seeds were planted like crowbars stabbed into potting mix and not watered too much! The following year I laid the seed down under a layer of granite gravel, and they also germinated, some with the root at one end of the crowbar and the cotyledons at the other. When lifting them to plant on several snapped at the elbows, so in desperation I planted the cotyledons plus the piece of vertical stem as cuttings, and they all grew on well!!!' (How easy it all sounds Ed)

YAM DAISY UPDATE

by Bev Courtney

If you will remember from the last newsletter, I was trialling Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata* or *Microseris* sp. 1, whichever the botanists decide on), with a view to growing them as a food crop. In the last newsletter this is where I was at:

First trial of the Woodend form (collected December, 2000) was sown in March, 2001. Seed took 28 days to germinate and I potted up 24 plants. The plants grew slowly so I left them in the tubes over the summer of 2001/2, watering sparsely when the top growth died down. Growth resumed in autumn 2002, but three plants hadn't made it through the summer. The rest were getting bigger in the tubes and I wanted to plant them out but didn't have the planting area prepared, so in a moment of inspiration I planted 12 into one of our vegetable planter boxes (big wooden boxes full of rich compost where vegies are safe from rabbits). The plants went out in June, rapidly quadrupled in size and are already producing masses of flower buds. I plan to pull up some of these after flowering has finished and inspect the tuber/s for size and edibility. If any plants have more than one tuber I will replace some tubers to see if they resprout the following year. Aboriginal people believed that the roots of Mumong should not be collected before the plants flowered, so I will follow their example.

All of the 12 plants in the vegetable planter box grew and flowered well. I tried not to water them too much when I was watering the vegies, because I didn't want the tubers to rot. The plants opened their flowers very early in the morning and were covered in bees — exotic species, unfortunately. I did notice a few little native hoverflies around them though. Most flowers had closed by mid-afternoon.

I had planned to wait until they finished flowering before digging up the tubers to eat, but they just didn't seem to want to go that way. They kept flowering right into summer and up to Christmas. Finally, I noticed the leaves starting to die on most plants and, on investigation, found that the top growth was simply rotting away at the base.

I dug up the clumps of tubers and found some of them were also rotting. The soil looked very rich and moist and was full of tiny white crawling things, which were all over the tubers. I have no idea what they were. I managed to salvage quite a few good tubers. They were about the size and texture of a small elongated radish and about as crisp and juicy — slightly starchy, but with no flavour to speak of. Nothing to write home

about, but then I guess I've been spoiled by all the hybridised, flavourful products of agriculture which we all now enjoy.

I potted up a few tubers (back into standard potting mix) and will be interested to see if they reshoot in autumn. In hindsight, I think the soil was far too rich and may have attracted the little insects and eventually caused the top growth to die before its time. The biggest bonus was lots of good seed. Next year I'll try again, but in poorer soil.

LETTER FROM BARWON HEADS

by Margaret Guenzel

(Margaret is well known in APS Vic circles for her beautiful garden in the Dandenong foothills and for her generosity. Recently she moved to Barwon Heads, a great change of habitat. One of her good friends, Maureen Schaumann, undertook to grow for her some daisies which were reputed to withstand alkaline, seaside conditions. This letter, received in mid-December, is a report on the results.)

Ammobium craspedioides was glorious to look at for three months but is now shrivelling up. Hopefully, it will return next year. There is seed, which doesn't seem viable, but I'll try it in autumn anyway.

Next to flower nicely for me was *Brachyscome sieberi* var. *gunnii*. It has bloomed from July and is still going. There must have been two little seedlings in the tube because one part of the clump is more cream in colour than the other. I planted a *Brachyscome* 'Valencia' next to it for extra colour. *B. melanocarpa*, started flowering in September and is at its best right now — I think.

I have also in flower now:

Two *B. diversifolia* ssp. *maritima*, one of which has green foliage and lots of white flowers, the other is grey in foliage and has cream flowers. The grey one seems to be slower growing, but that could be due to a very vigorous *Senecio lautus* var. *maritimus* (now *S. pinnatifolius* var. 2) which is nice and green but has poor, moth-eaten looking flowers. I can't see anything eating it and have sprayed it with Pyrethrum, but no change. I'll rip it out. *Brachyscome parvula* looks good on and off. Maybe it needs semi-shade, which I have not got as yet, or else it doesn't like salt winds. In autumn I sowed *B. iberidifolia*. Unfortunately I planted the seedlings out too early and only two survived, looking very nice. I'll sow some more for next year.

There is a local form of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* from Drysdale. It is low growing and I have planted a few of them. *Chrysocephalum baxteri* is also growing well in some spots in the garden, in others its foliage has gone yellow and will no doubt burn when it gets hotter, but even the yellow plants flowered profusely. This has surprised me as it was the only daisy that succeeded in my dry, acidic clay in Boronia, where it flowered despite great neglect and lived longer than in gardens where it was pampered.

My tiny plant of *Podolepis jaceoides* pushed out three flowers, which are gone now, but it is clumping up nicely for next year. The other podolepis, *P. rugata*, has 100 buds on it, or so it seems. It looks very healthy and I can't wait for it to flower.

I am also growing:

Olearia phlogopappa and *O. iodochroa*, both looking good — touch wood!

Olearia lanuginosa, which has not flowered but I like it for its foliage alone.

Brachyscome multifida, a very low growing form once sold as 'compact form'.

Numerous *Xerochrysum* spp. (*Xerochrysum* 'Diamond Head' is failing.)

And last but not least some hybrid brachyscomes:

1. A low yellow form, just called Lemon hybrid, was nice but it looks sickly now.
2. 'Mauve Mystique'. This one is an excellent addition. It is very neat, low growing, hardy, with masses of flowers, quite a few even in winter. It seems it will flower for 12 months and is easily propagated too. (No parents given on the tag.)
3. 'Jumbo Tricolour' is very good, as above but bigger, large flowers 5cm above the foliage fading from mauve to white. One parent was given as *B. segmentosa*.

These are my daisies. Which ones I'll continue with I'll tell you after they have survived a full summer. They were only planted in March. I have a number of small plants too, which I will tell you about at a later stage. They are too recently planted to pass judgement on.

This may all sound too good to be true, but there are heartbreaks galore as well. Many larger plants have grown down to the limestone and don't like it. Some plants respond to spray-on iron chelate, some to

manganese chelate, and some to extra nitrogen. In some very bad spots I modified the pH from 9 to about 7 with elemental sulphur, but this can only succeed with plants which don't grow down deeper than a spade blade's length. I have already had to dig up about a dozen plants, put them back into pots and give them to my daughter. One plant liked the sandy soil, didn't mind the lime and grew well, only to shrivel up when the next storm of salt laden air hit. Anyhow, I'll soldier on and maybe in three to four years I'll have a pleasant garden.

I never had so many daisies before. My garden in Boronia had too many trees and shade. I love a shady garden, but until my trees are grown I will enjoy sun-loving plants and daisies.

A LITTLE PIECE OF SERENDIPITY

by Barbara Buchanan

Last year I was given some surplus *B. iberidifolia* a friend had raised and I also grew some *Senecio* from Mt Samaria, the very fine leaf form, *S. pinnatifolius* var. 1 (syn. *S. lautus* ssp. *dissectifolius*). I have actually seen it in the bush here but have never been able to keep it going. Both duly performed nicely, the brachyscome was varied in colour and did best where there was a bit of nutrition in the soil. I collected seed from both and sowed it in the early autumn with some other species — *Olearia astroloba* and the *Ixiolaena* sp. from Wail (that has been a bright spot ever since we got it).

It was easy enough to recognise the latter two, but the seedlings with the fine dissected leaves were a bit of a problem and I finally thought I had only the senecio. I planted a few out during winter but am not too sure how many of these survived for long — rabbits are quite fond of them. There were two tardy plants in the one pot which I finally put out in September, towards the end of planting time. I had 'planted' a few rocks to hold the hose off a corner of the 'bed', not a nicely dug and fertilized bed in the suburban sense, but an area more or less free of grass available for planting. One of the stones is a handsome hexagonal column perhaps 18" high. I dug a decent planting hole and worked in a cow pat or two and shortly realized that I had both a senecio and a brachyscome, and a very handsome dark purple form at that.

For weeks now they have been making a dramatic statement in an area that is otherwise looking empty because newly planted. Any other colour form of *B. iberidifolia* would have been fun, but not the joy and excitement of the rich purple beside the gold. And there is no doubt about the value of the cowpats to give healthy plants. They actually are in short supply still because they are too sloppy while there is green clover and grass but I don't think it will be long before they are back. In spite of being hot and dry I put another *Senecio pinnatifolius* var. 1 nearby to add to the colour and hopefully cross-pollination.

I've got another colour combination that is pleasing me too, only one daisy this time, a *Podolepis* sp. (from the Wang Common I think) with a blue dampiera from Esperance. I poke this dampiera around the sunny edges everywhere. Anyway the blue and gold are very cheerful. I can't keep the podolepis going, so I do just wonder if it is one I have got from elsewhere. I am always trying them, and *Leptorhynchos* spp., with no long-term success.

Xerochrysum viscosum lives not far away. I have a patch grown from seed, which has lasted at least four seasons, now starting its fifth. I cut them back almost all to ground level and they respond beautifully. But I suspect they may be a bit low on nutrition this year. I had hoped they would spread by seedlings but maybe it is just too dry, or maybe the rabbits and roos, or the man who weeds for me with Roundup don't give them a chance. Whatever, they do make a lovely cheery patch.

So daisies are still an essential part of my garden.

(Editor's note: Barbara's report has reminded me of two things. Firstly, Julie Strudwick, who lived fairly close to Barbara, was always puzzled by the fact that she couldn't keep that fine-leaved senecio going in her garden either in spite of the fact that the species occurred in her area. Does anyone have a possible answer to the problem?

The other thing is the efficacy of cowpats. When Lee and I first visited Central Australia we travelled along a road from Ayers Rock to Kings Canyon. *Lawrencella davenportii* was quite abundant — dear little plants, 10–15cm high, with up to 5 bright pink heads about 1.5cm across. Near the northern slopes of Liddle Hills we came upon five large clumps, each one 30cm high and 25cm wide, with many heads about 5cm across. At the base of these clumps a large collection of cow manure had to be removed before the camera was brought into action. Barbara's story has reminded me to have a sack of cow manure on hand for top-dressing in autumn.)

SNIPPETS

- Plants of Tasmania, 65 Hall St, Ridgeway, Tasmania, 7054, are listing the most beautiful form of *Helichrysum leucopsideum* that Maureen and I have ever seen. Faye Candy had this plant flowering in a pot at Berwick in mid-December. White heads, 4cm across, were held at the tips of white, woolly stems. The leaves were sparse, standing out at right angles from the stems. They were sessile, stiff, linear or almost oblong, 2–4.5cm x 8mm, with sinuate margins, deep green above and white below. The white bracts were tipped deep pink above, were cerise below and curled gently up at the apex. It was a most handsome specimen — prompting us to think that we might find homes for them if a few were ordered.
- Many congratulations to John and Julie Barrie who received the Seven Star Adelaide Rose Festival Diamond Award last year for scoring the maximum number of points for their exhibit. They also won trophies for the Exceptional Creativity Award in Category 2 'Australia Floral Pavilion' and for the Best New Exhibitor in Category 2. During the Festival John was a guest speaker on "The Ups and Downs of a Waterwise Cottage Garden" — a power-point presentation burned on to a CD, which earned him many compliments. This was wonderful publicity for Australian plants.

If the Adelaide Rose Festival receives confirmation of government funding for 2004 it will probably be known as the Garden and Rose Festival or a similar title as John reports that 'so many people were surprised to see OTHER plants there!' Last year 37,600 people passed through the entrance.

The Daisy Patch (as the Barrie business is known) set up a display and sales area under cover on a site 15 x 3m, with daisies the main features. *Ixodia*, *Xerochrysums*, *Rhodanthe anthemoides*, *Schoenia cassiniana*, *Brachyscome iberidifolia* and 'Jumbo Yellow' were used along with *Dianellas*, *Thelionemas*, *Orthrosanthus*, together with an assortment of odds and sods that were in flower. Dried *Rhodanthe* species were suspended above and a large informal wreath of *R. manglesii* were set against a black backdrop. They had naturally sculptured blocks of limestone for borders with red sand and creek gravel accent. The whole effect had great appeal as attested by colour scans of the display. John observed that it would have been easier if he had not developed a collapsed lung a couple of weeks before the Festival.

- Congratulations to Anne and Matt Hurst on the birth of a brother for McKenzie. Damon Matthew was born on 12th February, weighing in at 3½ kg.
- Congratulations also to Maree and Graham Goods on the arrival of their first grandchild.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Ros Cornish of Carwoola (NSW) writes on 15/10/02: '*Podolepis hieracioides* is still flowering. Quite remarkable. I have it growing with some other *Podolepis* species, the seed of which I got from AD SG a while back — *P. jaceoides*, *P. neglecta* and *P. monticola*.

I've just about filled my new rockery with showy things (including daisies) such as dampieras, scaevolias, goodenias, hibbertias and I've just germinated some Sturt's Desert Peas. I hope they will all flourish and put on a good show over summer. Soon the *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *integrifolia* (which I've successfully transplanted from outside the fence) will be flowering, as will some *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Xerochrysum subundulatum*, *Pycnosorus globosus*, *Brachyscome aculeata* and *Craspedia variabilis*, as well as *Brachyscome formosa*, which has struggled outside the fence. I've managed to transplant it into the rockery — in fact it is already flowering I notice as I glance out of the window.'

25/11/02: 'My *Podolepis hieracioides* finished flowering at last but has already put up two new flower stalks so it will be flowering again soon, as long as the crimson rosellas don't nip them off. The rosellas are spending too much time at a loose end in the garden at the moment — in between "swimming" in the pond — and I'm losing daisy buds of various kinds.'

Matt Hurst of Wagga Wagga (NSW) reported by telephone in January 2003 that Jayfields Nursery now uses a commercial mycorrhiza mix for acacias (Nodulaid) for assisting the germination of peas, rather than the commercial mix plus the home-made nodule slurry. The germination results are just as good and the procedure is easier. Nodulaid comes in three forms (1, 2 and 3). It is kept in the fridge until needed, when the

three inoculants are combined and used in the seed mix. Matt describes them as 'black, moist and smelly'. (Nodulaid is available from Bio/Care Technology, RMB 1084, Pacific Highway, Somersby, NSW, 2250. Phone (02) 4340 2246.)

A landscape designer in Wagga, Ray Cowley, has had 95% germination from *Pycnosorus globosus* seed his father collected from the Urana area and stored in a paper bag in the dark at RT for 12 months. This is very good germination, better than that gained from either commercial or garden seed tried over the last few years. Perhaps this is the best way to store seed of this species. Ray Cowley has used *P. globosus* plants from Urana in landscape design. Matt has noticed that the plants are tall, the heads are large, and the leaves are big, wide and look fleshy. By contrast, the plants from seed supplied by AD SG are a bit shorter, the heads a little smaller, and the leaves are longer, narrower and greyer. Matt will keep an eye on the two forms to see what happens in future.

John and Julie Barrie of Coonalpyn (SA) e-mailed on 28/1/03: 'A couple of years ago I mentioned finding a purple brachyscome south of Tintinara in a winter-wet *Gahnia* swamp. I have maintained four plants from cuttings. They have their fits and starts but, despite prolific flowering, they have produced no seed. This does not help with the ID. Fortunately I was asked to inspect the neighbour's property and had the opportunity of seeking more material. It is not common but I managed a few cuts from a different plant, hoping that crossing would help produce seed. Twelve months later, with eight plants from two parents, we still have no seed. Any ideas?

I am writing up a management plan for 150 Ha of heritage scrub that was mostly burnt in January 2001. The daisy highlight was encountering a population of several hundred *Brachyscome cuneifolia* on a heavy clay flat in *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* grassy woodland. For several hundred square metres they were the dominant species with flowers on stems to 500mm long, more commonly 200–300mm. Some had the faintest of pink in the ray florets but none were as pink as the Tintinara collection. Associated species included *Lomandra* sp., *Bulbin* sp. and several orchids. This area had not been burnt. The only other brachyscome found was *Brachyscome ciliaris* though several other daisies were recorded but none so prolific nor so spectacular as the *B. cuneifolia*.

The business! Yes, we are turning up hybrids, some by design, others as accidents. Generally it would seem that a commercial "Winner" is dependent upon more than simply having a good plant. There are industry protocols, public perception, and a lot of luck involved in timing a release. I consider the PBR to be a severe imposition for a small grower like me since the size of our Australian market does not warrant the cost or guarantee a return. Once I release a plant without protection others could, and I suspect have, purchased, grown and sought property rights in one form or another. I don't mind sharing my product but it makes me angry when I may be deprived of the right to grow it. As a result, little of my recent material has been released, and probably won't be released as there is almost no demand for plants unless they are substantially different from what is already on the market. Brachyscomes are not popular with nurseries in SA. I suspect the number of nurserymen ringing me to ask what to do about Root Mealy Bug probably defines the problem. Apart from the Root Mealy Bug factor, much of South Australia's garden soil is alkaline and presents a challenge to the growing of many *Brachyscome* species.'

June Rogers of Horsham (Vic) writes on 16/2/03: 'Salutations for the New Year to all members of the Daisy Study Group. The weather is a little trying on us all, isn't it? This year is also a problem for the native birds and animals. I have a wallaby in the garden at present which delights in eating correas in particular, but also anything young and juicy. The kangaroos don't seem to do much damage — not yet anyway. Then I have stumpy tail lizards which "browse" on the flowers of *C. apiculatum*, any size, brachyscomes and like sized flowers. And last, but not least, is the huge flock of Eastern rosellas which also "browse" on any flowers or soft green shoots such as *Hardenbergia*. Of course, I haven't mentioned the perennial pest, the rabbit, which also chews its share. It's enough to make one put up the "For Sale" sign.

Still, there are some compensations — last year I grew and flowered one plant of *Olearia pannosa* and, dare I say it, the plant is thriving in a new garden which is almost all clay. My other "brag" is also a one only — *Calomeria amaranthoides* growing in a large pot and it is about a foot high. Now, I've just read that it's not going to flower until next year, then die! We once grew and flowered it at Ringwood so I had wanted to try it again.

REPORT FROM A FRIEND OF AD SG

Beryl Birch of Bendigo (Vic) writes that she and Frank wish to be remembered to all the Daisy crew, of whom they have happy memories. 'Only seems like yesterday we were cavorting around Buller with our noses at grass level on a Brachy hunt.'

Beryl and Frank moved to Bendigo two years ago 'to wind down but have never been so busy, though certainly at a slow pace and not venturing far.' They have started a garden despite the dry weather and have had 'some interesting surprises. The local "Waxie" doesn't seem to like our garden but garden hybrids are happy. A *Grevillea* 'Long John' covered himself in flowers, the local *Acacia ausfeldii* goes well and a low, silver-leaved eremophila is worth repeating a bit more. Correas include a few *C. reflexa* — 'Giant Bells', Mt Beckworth, 'Betts Red', 'Skye Bells', a narrow-leafed one from Marilyn and a few low, mostly green forms. Other correas include some pink pulchellas and the little orange low form. Tell Alf that David Shiells gave me a little plant of *C. reflexa* 'Wreck of the Ethel'.

Daisies are mostly *Brachyscome multifida* or hybrids and I aim to have LOTS of my beloved "Bendigo Daisy", *Xerochrysum viscosum*. Other brachyscomes include *B.* 'Maureen', 'Betty Campbell', and pet names Judy, Bev (Courtney) and Nanette.'

Ozothamnus rodwayii is a little silver dumpling and *O. diosmifolius* had pink buds opening to creamy flowers that lasted to Christmas. Quite unconcerned by hard, dry clay are Lemon Beauty-heads, *Calocephalus citreus*, also *Leucochrysum albicans* and *Helichrysum scorpioides*, each with canary-yellow flowers on their silver dresses. *Pycnosorus chrysanthes* hangs on to life — yellow pompoms above her scraggy legs. *Xerochrysum bracteatum* pines for more food and drink than she gets from me. Our plants are only one or two of a species. Those that do well will be repeated WHEN the rains come.

In nearby bushland a mostly bleak understorey has been enlivened by the gold of *Ozothamnus obcordatus*, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* and *Xerochrysum viscosum*. And how clever of *Cassinia arcuata* to flower in winter when the sun hangs low in the sky! Catching the light in its blankets of pale bronze fairy-floss, the effect is just so beautiful.'

(Beryl was famous for holding the post of Editor of the SGAP Vic. Inc. Newsletter from 1986–1993 — a very big job. Beryl and Frank were former members of AD SG. In its early days they frequently added good cheer to the meetings and expeditions. Although they retired from the Study Group they have never lost interest in daisies or in the progress of the Group.)

AD SG Christmas Break-up Report

by Judy Barker

On Tuesday 19th November a small party of AD SG members assembled at 82 Sandy Point Road, Sandy Point. Our numbers had been sadly reduced by illness, double booking, and even the malodorous demise of an animal in the ceiling of one of the members. Ultimately six of us enjoyed a very pleasant day.

We started at Rob O'Sullivan's nursery where the garden, guarded by two dogs and a group of up-market chooks, was brilliantly colourful. The road to the nursery ran between green paddocks enclosed by windbreaks of tall, shrubby indigenous plants. It was therefore a surprise to find a garden of bright-foliaged *Adenanthos* species, broad expanses of blue scaevolias and dampieras, the showy pinks and reds of verticordias and hypocalymmas, and very large heads of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* mingling with the form of *Patersonia occidentalis* from Western Australia. Maureen pointed out some unusual banksias and darwinias. All these plants and more were growing on raised beds of orange soil like desert dunes, and the house Rob had built himself nestled comfortably among them.

Rob showed us around the garden, explained how he had started the nursery and conducted us through his immaculate polyhouses, now somewhat depleted at the end of the year. We were impressed that this friendly young man had achieved so much in about six or seven years. Rob has been selling at the APS Plant Sales for some years, always good plants at reasonable prices. Needless to say, quite a few of them are growing in our gardens already, and more are about to appear. When we were let loose among the pots we found it hard to place limits on our expenditure in view of the water restrictions applying in Melbourne. We thanked Rob for spending two hours of his busy life to entertain and educate such a small group.

For a good spot for lunch Rob directed us to follow Sandy Point Road to its end. Here we came out on the hard sands of Shallow Inlet and the most beautiful view many of us had seen for some time. We could drive along the sand (a pleasure in itself) to a small grassy knoll with a nice old table and benches. Esma and Alf discussed the plants they had found at Yanakie the previous day and Barbara Rooks, one of our newer members, revealed her excellent propagation results. After lunch we wended our way to the Lacey garden, stopping several times to note Love Creeper, *Samolus repens*, *Pelargonium australe*, *Frankenia* sp., and a particularly nice form of *Olearia phlogopappa* with big clusters of large white flower-heads and greyish foliage.

Alan and Margaret Lacey made us very welcome. Their garden is exactly opposite the nursery — a dangerous location one would suspect. It is a lovely garden, a testament to their many expeditions around Australia. There were plants from everywhere, coastal and inland, all apparently happy in this seaside garden where the wind often blows. Alan had raised the beds along the drive, suspecting that the plants he wanted to grow might need good drainage but now he thinks it was not necessary. He had also installed a watering system, so very few plants had died when the Laceys recently spent time in South Australia. Many unusual melaleucas and prostantheras were flourishing, together with eremophilas, some of which had been grafted by Alan himself. *Regelia velutina* grew there, and a lovely small melaleuca of unknown identity, which had been found on one of the western trips. Alan could keep it down to about 80 x 80cm if he wished, and it was a mass of pink balls right along the many stems. It was present in many places around the garden and, although it was struck from cuttings, the strange thing was that the plants differed subtly in the arrangement of their flowers.

Behind the house was a sheltered garden where many pretty little things prospered. In a fairly shady area at the side of the house we admired a colour-coordinated set of plants in pinks, mauve-pinks, mauves and purples. Margaret, an excellent painter, had her own separate garden, fenced against rabbits and beautifully scented. Here exotic plants mingled with natives and the colours were again complementary. It would not surprise me to find that this garden is bewitched. Jenny was heard to admire the subtle colours of a *Hebe* sp. and even Maureen seemed happy among the exotics.

One of the daisies we noted was the indigenous *O. phlogopappa*, in seed in this particular situation. We were invited to collect seed for the seed bank, but could only gather a small amount before the rain came down heavily. This was a signal for us to go inside for a delicious afternoon tea provided by Margaret. We left Sandy Point much later than intended because it had been such a happy expedition. We thanked our hosts, and we thank Joy for organising our Christmas Break-up from afar.

SHOW and TELL

(November Meeting)

The following species were brought to the Warranwood meeting: *Ammobium craspedioides*, *Argentipallium obtusifolium*, *Brachyscome ascendens*, *curvicarpa*, *multifida* (Esma's purple form from Middle Gippsland and the white form from Blackwood), aff. *multifida* from Hat Head, *parvula*, *procumbens*, *sieberi* var. *gunnii*, and the hybrid brachyscomes — 'Betty Campbell', 'Birthday Boy', 'Happy Face No. 2', 'Maureen', 'Metallic Blue', 'Pink Haze' and a nice, un-named hybrid of the Barrie's. Others were *Calotis cuneifolia*, *scabiosifolia* var. *integrifolia*, *Cassinia laevis*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (many forms), *baxteri*, *semipapposum* (many forms), *Leiocarpa supina*, *Leptorhynchus elongatus*, *squamatus*, *Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans*, *Microseris* sp. 3, *Olearia phlogopappa* (pink), *teretifolia*, *tomentosa* (white), *Ozothamnus cuneifolius*, *ledifolius*, *leptocephalus*, *rogersianus*, *scutellifolius*, *Podolepis lessonii*, *Pycnosorus chrysanthes*, *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (unbranched), *chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea* and ssp. *splendida*, *manglesii*, *polygalifolium*, *Schoenia filifolia* ssp. *subulifolia*, *ramosissima* and *Xerochrysum viscosum*.

Obviously November is a good month for flowering daisies. We were particularly interested in the form of *C. semipapposum* from Yorke Peninsula with orange clusters and narrow, grey-green leaves, and the form of *C. apiculatum* from Mornington which suckers and has tall single stems and bright yellow clusters.

(February Meeting)

The following specimens were displayed at the Hawthorn meeting: *Brachyscome basaltica* var. *gracilis*, 'Betty Campbell', 'Maureen', *sieberi* var. *gunnii* (cut back when first flush finishes and it will come on again), aff. *stuartii*, two hybrids of *B. formosa* x *B. procumbens* origin (both of rich purple hue, one larger than the other) and one chance hybrid with deep mauve heads which grows in a neat mound, *Calocephalus citreus*,

lacteus, *Calotis cuneifolia*, *glandulosa*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Horsham form — about 15cm high with small clusters of little heads and growing in full sun, the form previously known as 'amplexans', a form with very silver foliage which may have come from Neil Marriott's garden, and another small form with single terminal heads from Oberon (NSW), *Helichrysum calvertianum*, *rutidolepis* (alpine and Oberon forms), *scorpioides* (Anglesea), *Ixodia achillaeoides*, *Leptorhynchos tenuifolius*, *Podolepis rugata*, *Pycnosorus chrysanthes*, *thompsonianus*, *Xerochrysum bracteatum* Sandy Beach, 'Princess of Wales' (perhaps), 'Dargan Hill Monarch', a beautiful lemon hybrid and a pink hybrid.

All the daisies that flower in February are not represented in this list, merely those brought by two of the ten members present at the meeting. No wonder that more and more gardeners are asking where they would be for summer colour without daisies.

MORE BOOK NEWS

Pamela Jane wrote an article, 'Home-grown heroes and a burst of colour', for *The Sun-Herald* on 20th October, 2002. She refers to our book as 'an invaluable and comprehensive reference work for amateurs and professionals'. She confidently predicts that the readers 'will love it'.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Daisy Study Group and happy daisy growing to the following members:

Coral Hughes, 285 Old Koonwarra Road, Koonwarra, Vic, 3954.

Julie Minehan, PO Box 129, Mallacoota, Vic, 3892.

MENAI Wildflower Group, PO Box 3104, Bangor, NSW, 2234.

SEED DONORS

Many thanks for collecting seed for the ADSG Seed Bank to the following members and friends: Judy Barker, Ros Cornish, Joy Greig, Matt Hurst, Jeff Irons, Alan and Margaret Lacey, Esmá Salkin, and Margery Stutchbury. We depend very much on collections from our members to keep the seed banks so extensive. In particular we would be grateful if members could collect the species listed in the "Seed Wanted" List below.

SEED WANTED PLEASE

Brachyscome basaltica var. *gracilis*, *B. formosa*, *B. tenuiscapa* var. *pubescens*.

SEED LIST

A full seed list is published in each March newsletter. Please keep this list for reference; only additions and deletions will be recorded in other 2003 newsletters. **A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (110 x 220 mm) MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH EACH REQUEST FOR SEED. (POSTAGE REQUIRED IS USUALLY \$1 DUE TO THE BULKINESS OF SOME SEED.)** Please write to Esmá Salkin for provenance seed, or to Judy Barker for garden or commercial seed. (The addresses are on the front page.) If both types of seed are required a letter to either Esmá or Judy will suffice.

Most seed for sale comes from cultivated plants or from commercial sources. Please note that much of the seed listed above has been collected in the gardens of Study Group members, and some species may have crossed with others, especially that of *Brachyscome* or *Xerochrysum*. **One parent only is guaranteed.** Much of the seed listed has been kept in the refrigerator. The curators welcome feedback on your germination results since the task of testing the germination of so many species and the cost of such an undertaking are not feasible.

GARDEN or COMMERCIAL SEED

Judy Barker (Co-ordinator)

Ammobium alatum, *alatum* 'Bikini', *craspedioides*.

Angianthus tomentosus.

Bellida graminea.

Brachyscome aculeata, *ascendens*, *ciliaris*, *ciliocarpa*, aff. *curvicarpa*, *dentata*, *dissectifolia*,

- Brachyscome** (contd.) *diversifolia* var. *diversifolia*, *exilis*, *goniocarpa*, *gracilis*, aff. *gracilis*, *halophila*, *iberidifolia*, *lineariloba*, *melanocarpa*, *microcarpa*, *muelleri*, *multifida* (ex The Rock, NSW), *nivalis*, *nodosa*, *petrophila*, *procumbens*, *ptychocarpa*, *pusilla*, *readeri*, *rigidula*, *riparia*, *segmentosa*, *sieberi* var. *gunnii*, *spathulata* var. *spathulata*, *stuartii*, *stuartii* complex, *tadgellii* (orig. Falls Ck), *tenuiscapa* (ex Spencers Ck), *tesquorum*, *trachycarpa*, sp. (Darling Downs), *whitei*.
- Calocephalus** *citreus*, *lacteus*.
- Calomeria** *amaranthoides*.
- Calotis** *cuneifolia*, *dentex*, *lappulacea*, *plumulifera*.
- Cassinia** *leptocephala*, *uncata*.
- Chrysocephalum** *apiculatum* (Adventure Bay [Tas], Anglesea, Murray/Sunset NP, John Emms' prostrate, Mt William, Urana [NSW]), *baxteri* (orig. Wilsons Prom), *semipapposum* (alpine form, Anglesea, Frankston, Langwarrin, Lara, Mt Buller, Seymour/Bendigo).
- Helichrysum** *adenophorum* var. *adenophorum* and var. *waddelliae*, *calvertianum*, *elatum*.
- Hyalosperma** *cotula*, *praecox*, *simplex*.
- Ixiochlamys** *cuneifolia*.
- Lagenophora** *huegelii*.
- Leptorhynchus** *elongatus*, *hieracioides*, *squamatus*.
- Leucochrysum** *albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans* (orig. ACT, Longwood [Vic], Wagga Wagga [NSW]).
- Leucophyta** *brownii*.
- Microseris** sp. (NSW)
- Olearia** *argophylla*, *astroloba*, *axillaris*, *elliptica*, *erubescens*, *frostii*, *floribunda* (white), *glutinosa*, *lirata*, *pannosa*, *phlogopappa* (white, pink, blue), *pimelioides*.
- Ozothamnus** *adnatus*, *cordatus*, *costatifructus*, *diosmifolius* (white), *obcordatus*, *scutellifolius*.
- Picris** *evae*.
- Podolepis** *jaceoides*, *lessonii*, *neglecta*, *rugata*, sp. 1 (the Basalt Podolepis).
- Podotheca** *gnaphaloides*.
- Polycalymma** *stuartii*.
- Pycnosorus** *globosus*, *thompsonianus*.
- Rhodanthe** *anthemoides* (unbranched form, Liverpool Range, Whitlands), *charsleyae*, *citrina*, *chlorocephala* ssp. *rosea*, ssp. *rosea* (Balladonia form), ssp. *splendida*, *corymbiflora*, *corymbosa*, *diffusa* ssp. *diffusa* and ssp. *leucactina*, *haigii*, *humboldtiana*, *manglesii*, *polygalifolia*, *polyphylla*, *propinqua*, *pygmaea*, *spicata*, *stuartiana*, *tietkensii*.
- Schoenia** *cassiniana*, *filifolia* subsp. *filifolia* and subsp. *subulifolia*.
- Senecio** *amygdalifolius*.
- Waitzia** *suaveolens*.
- Vittadinia** *muelleri*, sp. (white).
- Xerochrysum** *bracteatum* (syn. *Bracteantha bracteata*) — (Ebor, Pambula, Sandy Beach, dwarf mixed form, mixed garden form, white forms, tall red form, tall form [Tenterfield]), *subundulatum* hybrids, *viscosum* (syn. *Bracteantha viscosa*).

PROVENANCE SEED

Esmá Salkin (Co-ordinator)

Freshly collected seed is thoroughly dried and treated for insect infestation. Seed storage procedures are constantly under review. Most seed is stored in sealed foil packets at 4°C. Seed of arid and semi-arid origin is now stored at room temperature. The species stored at room temperature are delineated with the symbol #. There are a few species stored at both 4°C and room temperature (delineated with a +), and nd = no date. If members would like to undertake a comparison of the results from both temperatures, Judy and I would be pleased. Seed of *Brachyscome* spp. is usually in small amounts but collections of some species are from a number of sources.

Allopterigeron sp. — (Qld).

Ammobium *craspedioides*.

Anemocarpa *podolepidium* 8/96.

Angianthus *tomentosus*.

Argentipallium *obtusifolium* — (Vic) 11/02.

Asteridea *athrixoides* — (WA) 97#.

Brachyscome *aculeata* — (ACT) 3/95, (NSW) Alps3/99#; **basaltica** var. **gracilis** — (NSW) Kinchega 9/94; **blackii** — (NT) nd+; **ciliaris** — (NSW) Wilcannia 8/96, (SA) Flinders Ranges 8/95, Eyre Hwy 9/97#; Iron Knob 10/97#, Wirrulla 8/97, (WA) Cape Arid#, (NT) 8/96; **ciliocarpa** — 91, 9/98; **cuneifolia** — (SA) Tintinara 10/95; **dentata** — (NSW), (SA) 8/96; **erigona** — (NSW) 8/96; **exilis** — (SA) 9/94, 9/96; **aff. formosa** — (NSW) Neville 11/96; **goniocarpa** — (SA) 8/93, Tooligie 10/93#; **gracilis** — (Vic) 10/93;

- iberidifolia* complex — (WA) 10/94, Esperance 9/97; *latisquamea* — (WA) 9/92; *leptocarpa* — (Vic) 9/90; *lineariloba* — (SA) Streaky Bay 9/94, Gawler Range 10/95#, Gawler Range 9/98; *nivalis* (Vic) Falls Creek 1/97 (atypical forms), Mt McKay 2/99;
- nodosa* — (Qld) Cunnamulla, Quilpie 8/95#, (NSW) Narrabri 9/98 #; *parvula* — (Vic) Mornington, Otways 11/93; *ptychocarpa* — (NSW) Mt Canobolas 12/94, (Vic) nd; *rigidula* — (NSW) 3/94, (Vic) Falls Creek 2/99; *scapigera* — (NSW) Snowy Mts 2/97, (Vic) Dargo High Plains 1/96, Gippsland Alps 3/99;
- smithwhitei* — (Qld), (NSW) 8/97#, '91, '92; *spathulata* subsp. *spathulata* — (NSW) 2/97, (Vic) Falls Creek 2/99, Dargo High Plains 3/97, Gippsland Alps 3/99; *tadgellii* — (NSW) 2/97, (Vic) Dargo High Plains 2/96, Falls Creek 2/99, *tatei* — (SA) 10/92; *whitei* — (Qld) Quilpie 8/95, 9/93#.
- Calomeria amaranthoides* — (Vic) nd.
- Campactra barbata* — 9/98.
- Cassinia aculeata* form — (Vic) 3/99; *adunca* — (NSW) 9/96; *compacta* — (NSW); *laevis* — (Vic); ? *laevis* or ?*uncata* — (SA) 2/99; *longifolia* — (NSW) 2/02; *quinquefaria* — (NSW); *subtropica* — (Qld); *uncata* — (Vic) Longwood 4/99, (SA) Eyre Peninsula 10/95; *sp.* — (Vic) 2/02, (SA) 12/99.
- Celmisia* sp. — (Vic) Gippsland Alps 4/97, 3/99.
- Cephalopterum drummondii* (yellow, white) — (WA) 10/96.
- Chrysocephalum apiculatum* — (NSW) Gunnedah, (SA) Eyre Peninsula; *pterochaetum* — (SA) nd; *semipapposum* — (Vic) 1998, Lara 1/98, Mt Buffalo 2/98#.
- Craspedia* sp. — (SA) Yorke Peninsula 9/94
- Erigeron bellidioides* — (Vic) Falls Creek 2/99; *nitidus* — (Vic) Falls Creek; *sp.* — 1/97
- Erymophyllum glossanthus* — (WA) Mt Magnet 11/97.
- Haptotrichion colwillii* — (WA) 10/96; *conicum* — (WA) 10/96.
- Helichrysum elatum* — (Qld), (NSW) Barrington Tops 10/95, Tura Beach 10/96; *leucopsidium* (Tas) nd; *milliganii* — (Tas) nd; *rutidolepis* — (Vic) East Gippsland 4/97.
- Hyalosperma glutinosum* ssp. *glutinosum* — (WA) 10/96, 9/97; *semisterile* — (Qld) 9/98.
- Lawrencella davenportii* — (WA) 10/96; *rosea* — (WA) 10/96.
- Leiocarpa panaetioides* (syn. *Leptorhynchus panaetioides*, *Ixiolaena* sp.) — (NSW).
- Leptorhynchus squamatus* — (Vic) 3/99, Mt Buffalo 2/98#; *tenuifolius* — 2/88.
- Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans* var. *albicans* — (Vic) Winton, Alps 3/02, (ACT); var. *tricolor* — (Vic) 2/96; *fitzgibbonii*; *molle* — (Qld) 9/98; *stipitatum*.
- Leucophyta brownii* — (Vic) Sorrento 3/96.
- Microseris* sp. — (NSW) Berry Jerry SF; *sp. 2* — (Vic) Mt Buller 4/97, Mt McKay 2/99; *sp. 3* — (Vic) Woodend.
- Olearia axillaris* — (Vic) Fairhaven 5/99; *decurrens* — (SA) 8/95; *floribunda* — (NSW) 11/00, *frostii* — (Vic) Falls Ck 2/99; *imbricata* — (WA) 9/97; *megalophylla* — (Vic) Dargo High Plains 3/95; *muelleri* — (SA) Gawler Range 10/95; *phlogopappa* var. *flavescens* — (NSW) 2/97; var. *subrepanda* — (Vic) Mt Cope 1/97; *pimelioides* (NSW) Kinchega 9/94, Hungerford 9/95; *stuartii* — (NT) 8/96.
- Ozothamnus cuneifolius* — (NSW) 3/00; *diotophyllus* — (Qld) '95; *ericifolius* — (Tas) nd; *hookeri* — (Tas) nd; *sp.1* (previously thought to be *O. hookeri*) — (NSW) 5/98; *obcordatus* — (Vic) Frankston 1/96; *retusus* — (SA) 11/95; *rosmarinifolius* — (Tas) nd; *scutellifolius* — (Tas) nd; *secundiflorus* — (NSW) 2/97, (Vic) Lake Mountain 3/01; *thyrsoides* — (NSW) Snowy Mountains 2/97.
- Picris evae* — (Qld) nd.
- Podolepis kendallii* — (WA) nd; *monticola* — nd; *rugata* — (SA) Murray Bridge '92; *sp.* — (Qld) Capella.
- Podotheca wilsonii* — (WA) 10/95.
- Pterocaulon sphaceolatum* — (NT) 9/96, 8/99#.
- Pycnosorus pleiocephalus* — (SA) Gawler Range 10/95#.
- Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *splendida* — (WA); *collina* — (WA); *corymbiflora* — (SA) 11/96, (WA); *gossypina* — (Qld); *pygmaea* — (WA) 9/97; *rubella* — (WA) 9/97; *stricta* — (Qld) 9/98; *stuartiana* — (Qld) 9/98.
- Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides* — (Vic) 2/96.
- Schoenia ayersii*; *cassiniana* — (WA) 10/96; *filifolia* ssp. *arenicola* — (WA) 10/96; *filifolia* ssp. *filifolia* — (WA) 10/96; *macivorii* — (WA) 10/96.
- Stemmacantha australis* — (Qld) nd.
- Streptoglossa liatrioides* — (Qld) 8/89.
- Vittadinia cuneata* — (ACT) 6/00; *decora* — (Qld) 3/96; *gracilis* — (WA) 1/00; *sp.* — (NSW) Wagga Wagga nd.
- Xerochrysum bracteatum* (syn. *Bracteantha bracteata*); *macranthum*; *papillosum* — (Tas); *subundulatum*; *viscosum*
