ISSN: 0728-151X July 2012

DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 63

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA)

Dryandra subpinnatifida subsp. ***bipinnatifida.*** **See page 8.** **Margaret Pieroni**

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DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP

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Hello and welcome to our July Newsletter. I am still experimenting with the layout but Margaret and I hope that you enjoy it and find the colour pictures and articles interesting.

We have several new contributors to this issue. It was great to have Kevin Collins' account of that fascinating piece of coastline around Cheyne Beach. When you are used to seeing plants as large shrubs, it is almost unbelievable to see them less than 0.5 m high, and, as Kevin says, most come true to seed, making them of great horticultural interest. Kevin also updates us on what he is growing at Banksia Farm, a place of great success for Proteaceous plants. Thanks to Margaret for providing the map and directions to the area; she was obviously captivated by it, as well as the large number of interesting plants. Well worth a visit.

Thanks to Liesbeth Uijtewaal and Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate for updates on their dryandras. I am always amazed that Liesbeth manages to keep so many Australian plants alive in what surely must be trying conditions - -10ºC to -4ºC is not my idea of paradise for our plants! It was good to get the feedback from Phil and Catriona about progress of both un-grafted and grafted dryandras at Ulladulla, seemingly a rather wet area of New South Wales. Their range of uncommon plants is very impressive and I am pleased that Phil is continuing with his grafting, albeit using *Banksia integrifolia.* Alex George and Margaret report on garden experiences, Alex verifying the difficulties I experienced in trying to establish new plants among mature specimens. I think that his suggestion of selecting plants that spread as they mature is a good one, allowing them to replace ones that may die. And Margaret demonstrates yet again that we shouldn't be too hasty in pulling out plants that have apparently died. If they are lignotuberous, they may just resprout when conditions change. She also continues the story of the search for the many new species of dryandra in her "Looking back" series. We are trying to include pictures of many of these species that haven't been illustrated in the Newsletter previously; we hope that you enjoy them.

Please continue with contributions, or suggestions and comments. Subscriptions are now due for the 2012-2013 year and a membership application form is included on the last page of this Newsletter. Please note that the fee for paper copy is now $10.00 for delivery within Australia while delivery by email is $5.00. If you want email delivery, please notify Margaret of your email address when paying your subscription.

Happy *Dryandra* growing

Tony

Trip to Cheyne Beach and Snippets from Banksia Farm

By Kevin Collins, May 2012

Trip to Cheyne Beach, east of Albany. A recent trip in February 2012, to this beach and the windswept south east headland rekindled my love for and enhanced my appreciation of the amazing botanical treasures of this area. It is not unlike the headlands at Two Peoples Bay, Point Anne and Quagi Beach. They are all rugged, very windswept provenances, where plants have evolved to withstand the torrid conditions. I have seen similar

Cheyne Beach, site 5, Margaret Pieroni

plant evolution at Green Cape and Eden in NSW, on similar headlands. Species that grow just a few kilometers inland, as trees or large shrubs, graduate to lower forms, approaching the coast and many are prostrate on these headlands. One I

Typical low shrubs on headlands, Margaret Pieroni

had previously collected and grown in Mount Barker township gardens, from this site is the lovely, prostrate form of *Banksia dryandroides.* I have proven that they grow true to type, from seed as have: *B. media, B. grandis, B. ilicifolia, B. quercifolia* and *B. praemorsa.* Another stunning plant at Cheyne Beach and Quagi is the prostrate *Eucalyptus preissiana* which grows only 0.5 m tall and 5m wide. Nurseryman, George Lullfitz from Perth promoted this one. Another, well known adaptation is *Banksia media* which is very prostrate at Point Anne and Quagi Beach headlands. A form I coined "Flat Out" is 0.2m tall or less.

At Cheyne Beach headland, I enjoyed finding *Dryandra brownii,* an unusual, very prostrate form of *D. calophylla,* (how strange – a prostrate form of a low, ground creeping plant), *D. arctotidis,* low large-flowered forms of *D. cuneata, D armata, D. blechnifolia* and a very low, 0.3m form of *D. mucronulata* on the cliff tops, just metres from the ocean. One location had six species growing almost side by side.

***Banksia baxteri* almost prostrate, Kevin Collins**

The highlight on the day was seeing *Banksia baxteri,* 0.4m X 5m in peak bloom. Other banksias to catch my eye were: *B. sphaerocarpa* var. *caesia* with 12 blooms, approx. 0.2m X 1m and *B. grandis,* not in flower, 0.4m X 5m.

Prostrate *D. calophylla,* Margaret Pieroni

These plants are in an area which shows no sign of fire in the past 15-20 years. I am, of course, very keen to trial the *D. calophylla, D. mucronulata* and *D. cuneata* to see if they remain very prostrate or low, as well as *B. baxteri, B. grandis* and *B. sphaerocarpa* to see if they follow the evolutionary trend – I'm sure they will.

Other Proteaceae which would excite Paul Kennedy and other *Hakea* lovers are very low forms of *H. cucullata* (approx. 0.5m tall), *H. lasiantha* (1.5m tall) and *H. ceratophylla* (0.2m tall).

Back at Banksia Farm

New Gardens. We have enjoyed a strange, cool summer with occasional drizzle and rainy spells. This has augured well for my new 'mountain' garden beds. Three large mounds approx. 3-5 m tall, of sandy loam with lots of fibrous, rotted grass material were left to decompose for a couple of years after scoop-cleaning and enlarging my 20 year old, fresh water dam. Small seedlings were planted in May/June, in grow bags and hand watered, just a few times, in late spring. Most dryandras planted are flourishing: *D. subulata, D. obtusa, D. speciosa, D. brownii, D. ferruginea* ssp. *pumila, D. octotriginta, D. drummondii* ssp. *hiemalis,* prostrate *D. cuneata* and *D. nivea.* Only *D. arctotidis* and *D. nivea* var. *uliginosa* failed. Other species, thriving at the base where it is damp are: *Boronia, Patersonia, Velleia, Lechenaultia* and, higher on the mounds, darwinias and verticordias.

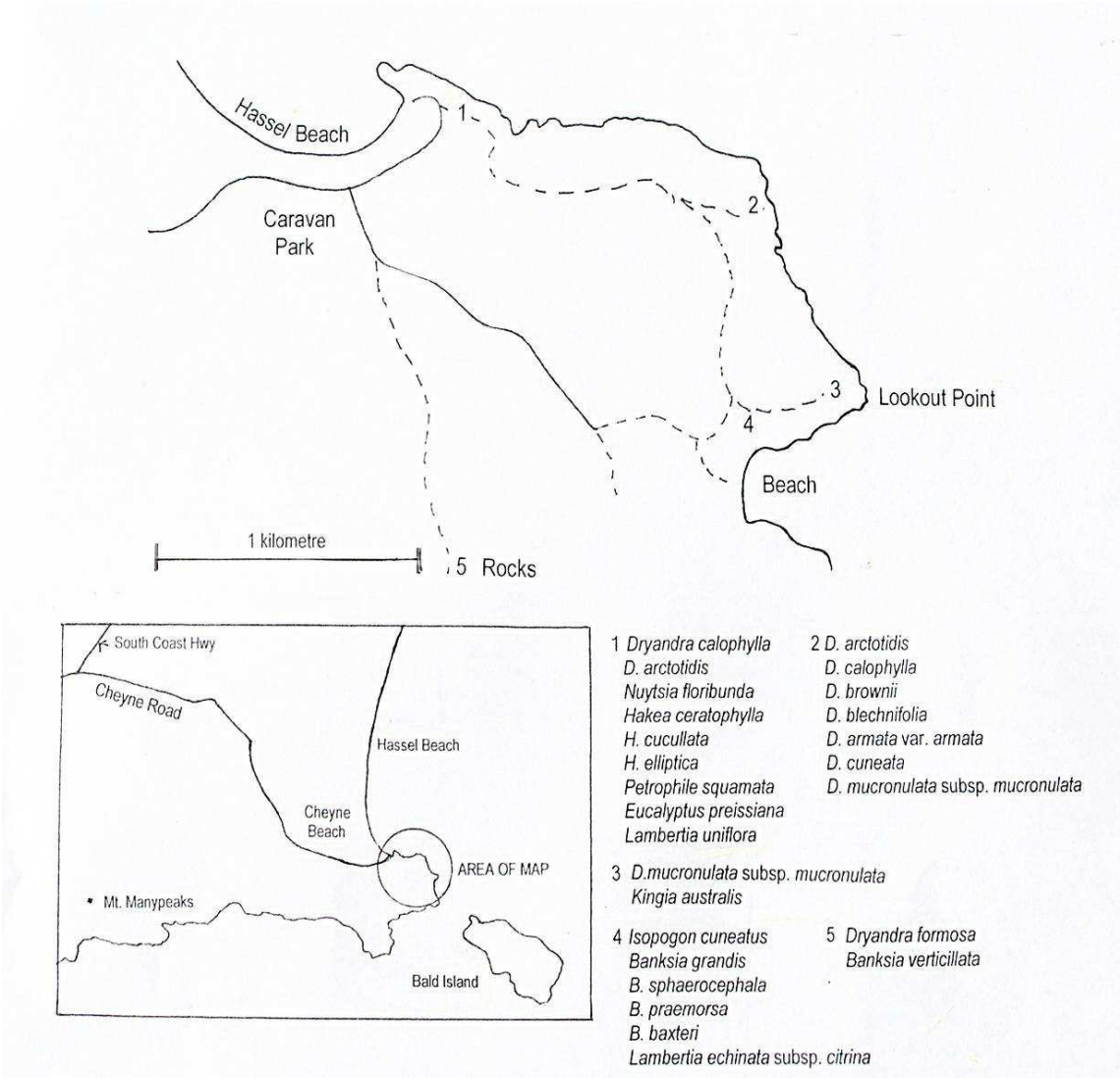
My favourite dryandras: *D. drummondii* ssp. *hiemalis, D. nervosa,* with its pink new foliage, *D. tenuifolia* var. *reptans, D. praemorsa* var. *splendens, D. borealis* ssp. *borealis, D. pulchella* and *D. octotriginta.* Might change tomorrow!

Prostrate dryandras. The very prostrate *D. cuneata* from Cape le Grande is very hardy and flowers for most of the year. It is flowering well, at the moment. I have plenty of seed if anyone wishes to try it. The *D. longifolia* ssp.c*alcicola,* the low, coastal forms from Quagi are flourishing and the flattest form, even though it is growing in a shady understorey, is remaining approx. 0.3m tall and ground-spreading. Others are approx 1.5m tall.

Potted *Dryandra prionotes*. My two plants have recently been potted up into larger pots and unfortunately, I have had the oldest one up and die, just when I was hoping for cross pollination. They both flowered, last year but no seed has set, to date. These were grown from underground stem pieces.

Species on the wanted list to complete our arboretum. (Some of these are losses in the past few years from drought and/or dieback infection): *D. montana, D. anatona, D. fuscobractea, D. insulanemorecincta, D, kippistiana* var. *kippistiana* and var. *paenepeccata, D. aurantia, D. columnaris* (I have seedlings in nursery), *D. corvijuga, D. erythrocephala* var. *inopinata, D. glauca, D. hirsuta, D.* aff. *meganotia* (I have seedlings in nursery), *D. fraseri* var. *ashbyi, D.* sp. Boyup Brook (one established and seedlings in nursery), *D. mimica, D. pulchella, D. pallida, D. rufistylis, D. tridentata* (I have seedlings in nursery) , *D. ferruginea* ssp. *obliquiloba, D. cypholoba* and *D. xylothemelia.* I am keen to obtain these rare and difficult species as I currently have *Banksia croajingolensis* coming into flower to complete the Banksia Arboretum flowering so I will now concentrate back on dryandras.

***Dryandra fililoba* – narrow leafed form.** I am convinced that this form requires subspecies classification. It may be a stable hybrid with another species? It flowers at a different time of the year, has more pink in the petiole sections, narrower leaves, smaller flowers and seed follicles. (See article and photo in Newsletter no. 60. M P).



Another Great Dryandra Day

By Margaret Pieroni, June 2012

Since Kevin Collins told me about the prostrate dryandras he'd seen several months ago, at Cheyne Beach, I'd been keen to visit the area to see them, especially the intriguing *D. calophylla* plants. Yesterday, my friend Julie and I drove up to Mt. Barker and Kevin took us there in his 4WD vehicle.

The area is a peninsula with a rough track around the coast with several sidetracks going off to various fishing spots and lookouts. The track is not long and can be walked although the deep sand can be tiring and it is hilly. The views from almost anywhere on the route are magnificent. There are wonderful large granite rock formations at the water's edge and on the tops of the hills and views of Bald Island, just off shore and Mt. Manypeaks to the west..

From the eastern end of Hassel Beach, we drove up onto the headland and almost immediately saw the first 'flattened' *D. calophylla* plants. (site 1). The area is close to town and there has been a lot of rubbish dumping but no sign of recent fires. Curiously, the dwarfed plants with their dense foliage have almost hidden most of the rubbish. The leaves of *D. calophylla* lie almost flat and the plants are very attractive. Together with the out-cropping granite rocks and the other small, compact plants, the effect is of a wonderful natural rock garden with spectacular views of the hills and the sea. Two other prostrate dryandras with 'underground' stems, *D. arctotidis* and *D. blechnifolia*, also growing in the vicinity, have shorter leaves than normal, rather than lying flat.

At Lookout Point, I photographed a particularly beautiful domed *D. mucronulata* subsp. *mucronulata* with dense foliage, less than 50 cm high and more than 1m wide. On looking inside the bush we discovered that it was flowering. The flower heads were completely hidden below the spreading leaves.

***D.mucronulata* flowering, Margaret Pieroni**

It was a beautiful, mostly sunny day, with just a slight breeze - ideal for a visit to what must sometimes be a very windy place. On the extreme headlands, even the leaves of sedges such as the Semaphore Sedge, *Mesomelaena tetragona* were lying flat, looking as though they had been trampled.

Continuing around the track, above a beautiful east-facing, little beach (site 4), is an area with a different suite of plants where the plants were low and dense. Here we saw more of the beautiful Rose Cone Flower, *Isopogon cuneatus* than I have ever seen in one place. They were just beginning to flower. Closer to the beach, *Banksia praemorsa* grows. We also found *D. blechnifolia* with glowing golden flowers.

***D. blechnifolia* in flower, Margaret Pieroni**

Near the western end of the track, behind the caravan park, there is a track leading off to the south and towards the very conspicuous large rock formations on the hills. We had often wondered where it led so we decided to investigate it. We arrived at one of the most interesting group of rocks on a granite hill top and found *D. formosa,* some still with an odd flower head or two and the rare *Banksia verticillata.*

I have drawn a map of this very special place for members who might be visiting this part of WA. The turn off to Cheyne Beach is about 50 km east of Albany and 131km from Jerramungup.

Notes from Members

(From Liesbeth Uijtewaal, March 2012)
Thanks a lot for the newsletter. I had a very quick look just now and will have a better read tomorrow. It's good to have more colour pics in it! Very clever of you to do it this way.

I've planted quite a few Dryandra seeds this month and as usual only a few germinate with the majority rotting away. I put the pre-germination box in the fridge straight away for some 8 hours a day, I feel it makes those seeds that are viable germinate a lot quicker. It tricks them into thinking it's autumn and thus the perfect time to grow! Unlike before I don't add any fertilizer to the potting mix now when I plant the seeds that have germinated. I germinated some *D. proteoides* last year and all seedlings are still going strong whereas before, with only half-strength Osmocote, quite a few would have dropped dead by now. What a simple solution to a frustrating problem! Once the seedlings start to grow I add just a little fertilizer.

The buds of *D. formosa* look very promising, I'm looking forward to the flowers! Cross fingers the heaters in the greenhouses will continue to function well since all of a sudden it's very cold after a very mild winter so far. Temps will be around -4C during the day and below -10C at night. We're not at all pleased with that! (And I guess the plants aren't either! (Ed.))

I hope you're well down there with sufficient moisture in the garden.

(From Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett)

Right now it is still raining outside, thus we are cooped up inside and not out in the garden where we have so much to do. At the moment we are making gravel paths and mulching as part of our strategy against the kikuyu grass. It is hard to keep up the mowing with all the rain. We even got some hail last week, fortunately we had no substantive damage. However, many of our ungrafted plants are not enjoying the damp although lots of the dryandras seem to be coping so far. Wind seems to be more of a problem. Luckily our local swamp wallabies have largely left the dryandras alone, although the new shoots of the *D. polycephala*, *D. praemorsa var. splendens* and *D. quercifolia* have been pruned by them.

The dryandras which seem to be doing well on their own roots include *D. drummondii subsp. drummondii* (flowered last spring and currently has a new flower emerging), *D. bipinnatifida subsp. multifida*, *D. shuttleworthiana* and *D. polycephala* (all over 12 months in the ground), with recent plantings *D. nivea* and *D. calophylla* looking promising. These plants are on a slope in fairly well drained soil, however given the weather the ground is permanently damp to wet. We also had a *D. nobilis var. fragrans* in a similar position which did really well but was broken off at the base by very strong winds. In another more level area *D. praemorsa var. praemorsa*, *D. praemorsa var. splendens* and *D. quercifolia* are doing well after more than 12 months in the ground, while a recently planted *D. catoglypta* is looking good so far.

We have only had a few losses of ungrafted plants, not as many as expected given how wet our soil is in these times. These include *D. catoglypta*, *D. nobilis subsp. nobilis*, and two plants of *D. subpinnatifida var. subpinnatifida*. All Phil's grafts are still growing vigorously - *D. longifolia subsp. longifolia*, *D. longifolia subsp. calcicola*, *D. cirsioides* and *D. foliolata* are now more than two years old. He also has some 'new' grafts in the ground which look promising . *D. polycephala* is the most notable. We have two plants grafted in July last year which are already 0.3m high! Other promising grafts include *D. armata var. armata*, *D. nivea subsp. nivea*, *D. tenuifolia var. reptans*, *D. fraseri var. fraseri*, and *D. fraseri var. ashbyi*. All of the dryandra grafts use *B. integrifolia* as the rootstock.

We were interested to see the article about Don and Joy Williams in the July Newsletter, their award is great news and well deserved.

On the subject of 'My Favourite Dryandra', this is such a difficult and interesting question! Last issue we started to list all our favourites, and ended up with a very long list! We love *Dryandra nobilis* (both subspecies) and all the mounded and ground hugging species, but it so hard to nominate just a few, we seem to really like just about all of them. Agree with Tony about *D. tridentata*, but also like *D. carlinoides* and *D. kippistiana* for the flowers. But there are so many lovely ones, both for flowers and for foliage. We were interested to hear that Tony has had trouble growing *D. polycephala* in Victoria, as this is one we had no problems with in Canberra, and it also seems to be going well here on the south coast on its own roots. Is this Alex's favourite dryandra? (I believe it is, Ed.)

Establishing new plants among mature ones
By Alex George, May 2012

In the previous Newsletter, Tony Cavanagh raised the matter of the difficulty of establishing native plants among mature ones. This is a problem that I've been aware of for many years and it's especially relevant for anyone wanting to replace a dead plant with another of the same species. It seems to occur in nature as well as in the garden—in the South-West of W.A., you rarely see seedlings (at least of woody plants) except after a bushfire when the old stuff has been removed by fire. Why this is so is unclear, but I suspect that it has to do with several factors. It is known that many plants release exudates from their roots, and possibly foliage, that inhibit the growth of other plants close to them. The obvious benefit to the plant is keeping out competition for resources. Light is possibly another factor. Many native plants require full sunlight to succeed, and mature plants reduce the amount reaching the soil surface. This effect can also be seen when trying to establish species from open habitats under trees:

they either fail or become spindly and don't flower well. In the wild, a fire may alter the chemistry of exudates in the soil, and it certainly removes the canopy to let in light.

Twice I've experienced the success that comes with establishing a native garden from scratch. In the 1970s we cleared old pines (left over from a plantation) around the W.A. Herbarium building in South Perth and planted natives in bare ground. We had considerable success, probably around 75%, and everything grew well. The same happened in my garden at Kardinya, where I cleared out old exotics and a lawn and, again, planted in bare ground, with a similar success rate. I suspect that, as this garden matures, it will become hard to interplant with new ones. With that in mind, however, I've chosen plants that will continue to fill the space as they mature, i.e. if anything dies I'll leave the other plants to fill the gap.

Dryandra bipinnatifida* subsp. *bipinnatifida
By Margaret Pieroni, April 2012

Among the dryandras that were not thriving in my garden in Attadale was *D. bipinnatifida* subsp. *bipinnatifida.* Others were: *D. viscida, D. pseudoplumosa* and *D. longifolia* subsp. *archeos.* For years, they had not grown at all since they were planted out and, in fact, were showing signs of imminent death.
After I sold my house, I moved to Denmark to live while my new house was being built. Before leaving, I carefully dug out the small, recently-planted and non-thriving plants with all the soil attached and slipped them into large, plastic pots. On my way to Denmark, I dropped them off to Kevin Collins at the Banksia Farm, at Mt. Barker, where they remained for a year (2004), before I could plant them out into my clayey and (laterite) gravel soil.

Almost from the moment the plants were put into the pots, they made new growth and never looked back. While at the Banksia Farm, they almost out-grew their pots and many of them flowered for the first time. Most suffered a setback after planting out and some took a few years to recover and then to thrive. I did the painting of *D. bipinnatifida* with its first flower, while it was still in the pot and then planted it out. It was two or three years before it flowered again with two flower heads. The previous year it had produced lots of leaf growth. Last year, there were 6 buds forming, earlier than usual, in spring. Just after the bracts opened and the flowers inside were showing, the plant died.

We have had very little rain, this summer and into autumn. In this part of the country it used to rain year-round. I had been hand-watering the plants just to keep them alive but it wasn't enough. I lost *D. pseudoplumosa, D. baxteri* and, just recently, *D. drummondii* subsp. *heimalis* which I had planted out last year, apparently due to drying out.

***D. bipinnatifida s. bipinnatifida* reshooting, Margaret Pieroni**

Late last year, however, while I was watering the rest of the plants, I noticed something grey and furry in the center of the dead plant of subsp. *bipinnatifida*. To my delight, it was a cluster of new leaf shoots. In the next few weeks, the plant produced more lush foliage than it has ever had. It looks much healthier than any I've seen in the wild although, I expect that many, or even most of the leaves will die before it flowers again. In the wild, plants become very spread out with lots of dead leaves and very few flowers. I'm glad I didn't pull out the 'dead' plant!

D. bipinnatifida is one of many dryandras with a lignotuber and underground stems.
D. bipinnatifida subsp. *bipinnatifida* grows in gravelly soils in the south west of the state from just east of Perth to Dunsborough and east to Perup, in forested areas.
D. bipinnatifida subsp. *multifida* occurs in sandy soils, north of Perth to Eneabba, in heathland. I was able to grow this taxon very well in my Attadale garden.

The 'Looking Back' letters

By Margaret Pieroni, June 2012

In September 1986, at the time of the letter printed in our last newsletter, Keith Alcock and I were planning a trip to the Stirling Ranges to try to find the 'Cactus Dryandra' (*D. anatona*), and the

***D. anatona* in flower, Tony Cavanagh**

species that Peter Luscombe of Nindethana Seeds told me about, that he called *D. runcinata.* This was an old name for *D. ferruginea.* It was eventually named*D. ferruginea* subsp. *pumila.*

***D. ferruginea* sub. *pumila* plant at Cranbourne, Tony Cavanagh**

The Cactus Dryandra was so called by its discoverer, a Victorian Study Group member because of its growth habit. The side branches grow out at right angles to the main trunk and shortly grow upright, parallel to the trunk. It reminded him of a Saguaro Cactus. The description of the location of the dryandra was 'at the edge of a gravel pit below twin peaks'. There is no Twin Peaks marked on the map but there is Twin Hills quite a distance from the road so we were hoping that wasn't the location.

We set out to look for the plants, along Stirling Range Drive, a road which runs through most of the length of the range, east to west between several peaks and climbing two small ones. As we drove westwards, we saw that two of the peaks, north of the road, Mt Gog and Mt. Talyuberlup did look like twin peaks with a saddle between them. Then we noticed a blocked off area that had obviously once been a gravel pit. At the far end, we found the dryandras. Subsequently, as I wrote in *The Dryandras,* this small population was wiped out by the deadly *Phytophthora cinnamomi.* Further on, on a track leading to a lookout with a spectacular 360 ° view of the ranges, we found the second dryandra, *D. ferruginea* subsp. *pumila.* This one was in flower. I asked a friend, then living in Ongerup who often visited the Stirlings to keep an eye on the Cactus Dryandra. I was very surprised when he rang me the following May to tell me that it was in flower – an unusual time of year when not many wildflowers are flowering. I arranged with a fellow Wildflower Society member to drive down from Perth, the following day to see it.

The following are exerpts from the subsequent letters sent to Keith in Victoria after our very enjoyable and successful weekend in the Stirlings. The names of the dryandras are in italics, in brackets as well as other comments. At the time of these trips, many of the dryandras were un-named and we referred to them by a 'nickname' and/or the number assigned to them by Alex George from herbarium specimens. His revision of the genus with the names and descriptions was published in 1996.

From a letter dated 29/10/86…

I've been waiting for my slides of the Stirlings and the Badgingarra trips to arrive before writing. First of all I want to tell you how much I enjoyed our trip and your company, at the Stirlings. I had a great time and I was thrilled that it turned out to be so successful.

***D. echinata* in flower, Margaret Pieroni**

I forgot to ask you when you rang, whether you found the *D. stuposa* north of Narrogin? (*Keith had gone to this area, after the weekend, on his way back to Perth before returning to Victoria while I joined a group of Wildflower Society members on a bus trip to Frank Hann National Park, east of Lake King, returning through Harrismith and Corrigin*). As you see, I photographed the plants you wanted at Don and Joy's (*The Williams at Hi Vallee, Badgingarra*). I hope you will like them.

I was lucky enough to have good weather for the trip to the Williams and I photographed sp. B (*D. echinata*) and *D. carlinoides* on the way up and the New Norcia sp. B on the way home. The plants at the hill just south of Moore River National Park were not at their best but those at Mogumber West Road were magnificent. We arrived just after the grader had flattened half of the plants. I spoke to the driver about it. He said that there was plenty of 'that Parrot Bush' but I told him otherwise. He probably thinks that all dryandras look the same and probably could confuse it with *D. hewardiana,* I suppose, but it is so depressing to see so much wanton destruction . We were appalled at the clearing of the railway reserve at Harrismith when we arrived there on our bus trip. Frank and Joy Philips who are guides on Westrail bus tours were particularly upset. The reserve is one of their regular stops. (*The Mogumber West Road was sealed and widened a few years later and yet more plants were destroyed. The destruction of roadside flora is still continuing as I have observed in articles on revisits to many places, up to the present*.)

We had a very enjoyable tour of Don and Joy's property. I counted 12 *Dryandra* species there. (*At last count there are 20).*

By the way, the ?*D. cirsiodes* plants at the vermin fence, east of Lake King are probably a variant with very long leaves. I collected a bit to show Alex and he will let me know. (*D. xylothemelia*). He has been telling me what the various 'pteridifolia' forms will be and has promised to let us both have the revisions, soon.

On Sunday afternoon, I drove up to friends at Manmanning to spend the next moning with them and Elizabeth and Alex George. (*They were visiting WA from Canberra on a dryandra collecting trip*). I saw the *D. purdieana* which grows near there and on Monday we spent the morning at Wongan Hills, where Alex showed me *D. pulchella* and *D. comosa.* I took quite a few shots of *D. pulchella* but we could only find one flower head on the *D. comosa* plants, growing on the tops of the hills. Alex called the Wongan Hills Dryandra, *D.* aff. *hewardiana* (*D. wonganensis*). I was running short of film but he told me he'd taken slides for you earlier and, as it was almost finished flowering I only took two or three for myself.

Next Tuesday, I'll be going to Woodanilling. Elizabeth hopes to find another *Verticordia* from near there (*V. fimbrilepis*), and I'd like to show Alex the 'pteridifolia' form at the blue metal dump (*D. porrecta*) as well as checking on *D. preissii* and the other one (*D. lepidorhiza*). I will be meeting them there.

***D. lepidorhiza* plant & flowerheads, Tony Cavanagh**

From a letter sent 5/11/86…

I am writing in great haste as I'm about to paint a *Verticordia,* collected yesterday.

Shirley and I met Elizabeth and Alex on Robinson Road, Woodanilling, yesterday afternoon and among other things, we found and photographed the enclosed specimen, (my sp. No 2). (*D. lepidorhiza*)

We had plenty of time to meet the Georges and other friends working on the *Verticordia* project so we went via Dryandra. (*Nature Reserve*). I was hoping *D. subpinnatifida* might have flowered late, as many other species have, this year, but it was finished. We did note, however that, among the *D. nobilis* plants there are lots of *D. stuposa.* So we've planned to go back in February and October, next year.

I was disappointed on reaching the *D. preissii* plants on Robinson Road, that the plant we saw in bud has well and truly finished flowering and there was no sign of flowering on the other plants. Shirley's one, on the other side of the road had two flower heads, not quite open and many little white buds poking through the soil around the base of the plants among the new leaf shoots. (*D. lepidorhiza*).

When we met the others, who included Ray Garstone, a local naturalist who is very interested in the flora, they took us to a marvelous gravel pit and reserve, not far away, along Dinwoodie Road to where it meets Orchard Road – about 2kms. There were lots of beautiful specimens of our plant there, in all stages of flowering and we got lots of photos. The flowers are half-buried and look very much like *D. calophylla* but on long, scaly, underground stems.

I'll send you the copies of the slides as soon as I get them (*from the processor, which could take a week or two.*) There were plants of *D. preissii* at the same spot, as well.

From a letter sent 4/12/86

I have just been able to sit down and write after a very hectic but most enjoyable time when I had my mother and father staying with us for three weeks. (*They still lived in NSW*)

I hope you liked the slides of the Woodanilling species (*D. lepidorhiza*). I was disappointed when I got your letter and realized that you wouldn't have received the specimen that I parcelled up in a hurry and sent air mail, as you would have been away in the UK when it arrived. It really is attractive, more so than *D. calophylla* but much like it in size and form and flowering time. The pink colour is quite pretty.

The Orchard Road gravel pit and reserve is a super dryandra spot. There are quite a few of the new species, the 'armata' type (*D. armata* var. *ignicida*) and the 'giant' *D. seneciifolia* that you had seen on Robinson Road. (*We gave it this 'nickname' because the distinctive seed capsules are very similar to those of D. senneciifolia although in other respects it is quite different. It is D. rufistylis*). I plan to go back in September to photograph these two and perhaps *D. preissii,* which is also there but has only had the odd flower, this year. Woodanilling, unlike most other places I've been to this year, didn't get much rain.

Last week, I took Mum and Dad for a five-day trip to the Stirlings, (via Woodanilling), Nanarup, Two Peoples Bay, Beaufort Inlet, Bremer Bay, the Fitzgerald river National Park, Lake King and Kulin. I managed to collect most of the dryandras you wanted and a couple for Alex. The weather was pretty horrible on the south coast but we enjoyed ourselves, nonetheless.

I drove out to Gull Rock and Ledge Beach from the Nanarup Road. I'd never been out there and I discovered it is a beautiful drive. The sand heath on the way out is very rich in species and there are huge *Banksia coccinea* there. At the end of the road, there are magnificent views of King George Sound (*Albany*) and the ocean and *Dryandra formosa* and *Banksia praemorsa* on the cliff tops. The *D. formosa* shrubs were covered with flowers and fallen ones were thick on the ground. It was a pity that it was dull and there was a strong wind

blowing so that we didn't spend any time there except to photograph the dryandras.

On the way home from Kulin, I went out on the road from Dudinin to collect your no. 483. You said it was west of Dudinin in your letter but I realized that it had to be east. I used to make the same mistake when I first came to WA. (*From NSW, in 1973*). We Eastern-Staters equate inland with 'west' and it's hard to get used to the opposite. I found the plants without difficulty and we also spotted some on Riseborough Road, about halfway to 101 Gate East Road. (*D. fasciculata*).

I can't remember whether I wrote to you about our weekend at Yorkrakine Rock and Charles Gardner Reserve. There were 14 of us from the Wildflower Society with Kevin Coate on the bus and the trip was very successful. I found *D. horrida* plants in several places but no sign of flowers, yet. On the way home, we took Kitto-Rogers Road from near Charles Gardner Reserve across to Goldfields Road. (*South of Tammin in the wheat belt*). About halfway is an area of huge *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* and lots of dryandras. (*D. speciosa* subsp. *speciosa grows here.*). I collected a 'conferta' type and sent it to Alex – just in case it's different, too.

I stopped and looked at the *D. drummondii* plants on the Narrogin-Wandering Road, last week. It must flower at the same time as the northern, Tarin Rock form but the flowers are all at the base of the clumps. The dead flowers form a dense mound and the leaves grow up through them. (*These are D. drummondii* subsp. *heimalis which flowers in winter and the Tarin Rock one is D. octotriginta which is summer-flowering*). Incidentally, my Stirling Range form plant is magnificent. It has more than 40 flower heads on it.
(*D. drummondii* subsp. *drummondii*).
(Continued next Newsletter)

A.N.P.S.A. DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP

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