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Dryandra ionthocarpa subsp. *chrysophoenix*. See page 4

Margaret Pieroni

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Hello and welcome to our second Newsletter for 2013.

This newsletter seems to be a little more on the technical or scientific side but it's all in the interest of learning more about dryandras and in understanding how and why they behave like they do. As Margaret clearly shows in her article on *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*, all is not what it seems – just because you think you can count 852 individual plants, with their suckering habit from underground stems, DNA analysis can show a very different story, only 16 discrete plants, with so-called “new” populations often consisting of a single plant. Margaret should be justifiably proud of the role she played (not so far acknowledged) in persuading DEC of the need to establish the actual numbers because of their clonal nature. An Interim Recovery Plan has been developed but so far we have not seen a report. Unfortunately, with another taxon, more research has failed to substantiate that subsp. *retrorsa* is sufficiently different to subsp. *mucronulata* to warrant their continued separation so *D. mucronulata* now becomes a single taxon. Like Margaret, I am unhappy about the decision as it means that the “large flowered” form (*retrorsa*) is no longer classified as an endangered plant. On the brighter side, Alex George has named a new subspecies for *D. meganotia*, subsp. *recurvistylis*. This had previously been described as *Banksia recurvistylis* but Alex treated it as he had done for species like *D. armata* and *D. kippistiana* and it becomes a subspecies of *Dryandra meganotia*. You win some, you lose some.

Alex George tells us about the famous Tresco Abbey Gardens on the Isles of Scilly off the south-west coast of England. I am always fascinated by gardens in other countries where they are growing our Australian plants and it was good to see the dryandras in flower. I have found similar gardens in New Zealand so please let us know with a short article if you find Australian plants overseas. Margaret undertook a brave trip in the height of summer to see what might be flowering in the whetbelt area. Given that dryandras are thought of as being winter-spring flowering, it was surprising what they found and I have included some photos. Margaret's own garden has had its ups and downs and I was sorry to see she had lost *D. longifolia* subsp. *archeos* and her pink flowering *D. drummondii* subsp. *drummondii*. But I was intrigued with the “flat” *D. calophylla*, it will be great in a couple of years, and I can certainly vouch for the dwarf *D. cuneata*, a great little plant with lovely flowers.

A couple of reminders. Margaret is going to the Biennial ANPSA Conference in Queensland so if you are intending to go, please catch up. She is presenting a short paper and will be dealing with the hybrid problem in *D. subpinnatifida* var. *imberbis* (see NL 61) and also about the latest status of *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*. Thanks to all members who completed the Dryandra Survey but before I write it up, I would like to get some more material so if you can provide what information you can and send me the completed forms over the next couple of months, I would be grateful. Finally, it is the start of a new membership year and I have attached a copy of the subscription form. Fees are the same as last year, paper copy within Australia, \$10.00, overseas \$12.00, email copy \$5.00, please forward to Margaret.

Happy Dryandra growing

Tony

Revision of *Dryandra mucronulata*

Back in the eighties, when Alex George was working on his revision of *Dryandra*, he told me about a collection by the late Ken Newbey of an undescribed species. The location was '8 km south of Broomehill' and several of us spent quite a bit of time, while in the vicinity, driving around, trying to find it. Later, when I saw a plant growing in a friend's garden in Mandurah, south of Perth, that I couldn't identify, I showed it to Alex who recognized it as the aff. *mucronulata* that we'd been looking for. He described it and named it *Dryandra mucronulata* subsp. *retrorsa*.



Bud and flower

Tony Cavanagh

I found out who had supplied the seeds to my friend and tracked her down to Albany. When I contacted her, she told me that she'd collected the seeds from a population of a few shrubs, north of Tambellup but that they had long been cleared. I was given some seeds by my friend and successfully grew it in my Perth garden. (See Newsletter no. 28). It was also growing in the garden of Doug McKenzie at Ocean Grove, in Victoria.

Alex had also collected it, years before in a reserve off Albany Highway, north west of Cranbrook. While returning to Perth in September 1994, on a Wildflower Society trip to the Stirling Ranges with Kevin Coate we stopped at the location. Everyone on the bus looked for the plants; to no avail. The following year, in March, while on a trip to Albany, I noticed some plants next to Albany Highway, west of Cranbrook. The leaves were narrower than usual for *D. mucronulata* and stood out stiffly from the branches rather than drooping. Closer inspection showed the characteristic curved-back (retrorse) leaf lobes. With more information about the

dryandra being made available, several more populations were discovered on private properties, including the Newbey location. In November 1999, I visited a property just north of Alex's location, with Kevin Collins to look at *D. porrecta* and *D. lepidorhiza*, in particular. On arrival, the owner told us that he was too busy to accompany us on a tour of his vast property but that he had an unusual *dryandra* he wanted to take us to, first. Kevin and I immediately guessed it would be *D. mucronulata* subsp. *retrorsa* and indeed it was.

A few years ago, I went with Sarah Barrett from the Dept of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Albany, to see a population of *D. ferruginea* that she had discovered on the south boundary of the Stirling Range National Park. As we drove west from Chester Pass Road, we looked at some plants of *D. mucronulata*. I was unable to tell if they were subsp. *mucronulata* or subsp. *retrorsa*. These were the first of several that I looked at in other locations, subsequently, that appear to be intermediate between the two.

A paper published in *Nutysia* in July, this year was titled A Review of *Banksia mucronulata* (Proteaceae) The description of the species reads:

'*Banksia mucronulata* (R.Br.) A. R. Mast & K. R. Thiele is a non-lignotuberous shrub endemic to the south-west of Western Australia and comprising two recognized subspecies. *Banksia mucronulata* subsp. *mucronulata* occurs in the western and central parts of the Stirling Range National Park and south to Albany and Cheyne Beach, and is not considered threatened. *Banksia mucronulata* subsp. *retrorsa* (A.S. George) A. R. Mast & K. R. Thiele is restricted to areas of remnant vegetation in the southern Wheatbelt region near the towns of Tambellup, Cranbrook and Broomehill (George 1996), and is gazetted as Declared Rare (Threatened) Flora under the *Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and ranked as Critically Endangered.'

After examining 81 specimens of subsp. *mucronulata* and 29 specimens subsp. *retrorsa*, the author of the paper, Kristine J. Brooks found that the species is variable across its range with many intermediate forms and that there are 'no consistent differences between the two subspecies. Therefore subsp. *retrorsa* is reduced to synonymy under

Banksia mucronulata. *Banksia mucronulata* is known from over 15,000 square km and in at least 50 locations and does not require a conservation rating.'

I was extremely disappointed to get this news as this means that the magnificent large-flowered form of an otherwise rather insignificant species as far as flowers go, is no longer protected. The leaves of the (ex) subsp. *retrorsa* are narrow and stiff so that they don't hide the flowers as much as subsp. *mucronulata*. This makes it a lovely plant for the garden as can be seen in the photo in *The Dryandras* and it would be a shame if it were lost. It only grows on private properties though the one Kevin and I visited has a 300 acre reserve on the property where it grows.

I would like to know if anyone is growing this plant, especially the pink form, and whether we could get some seeds for members to grow. In the meantime, I will try to obtain seeds from a private property, when it is in flower.

Intermediate forms occur often in nature, between varieties and subspecies of a species. They usually occur, unsurprisingly, in the centre of the geographical range of the species. Some examples in *Dryandra* are: *D. subpinnatifida* var. *subpinnatifida* and var. *imberbis*, *D. tenuifolia* var. *tenuifolia* and var. *reptans*, possibly the *D. fraseri* from the Three Springs/Arrino area (var. *fraseri* and var. *ashbyi*) and *D. ferruginea* from south of the Stirling Range, near where we saw the aforementioned *D. mucronulata* intermediate, (subsp. *ferruginea* and subsp. *pumila*). It happens and it's messy but has to be accepted.

Some species also blend, often forming hybrid swarms. An example is *D. purdieana* near the southern edge of its range and *D. cirsioides* at its northern end. Sometimes merging species become stable hybrids and are given species status. I suspect that *D. echinata* is such a species – a stable hybrid between *D. polycephala* and *D. hewardiana* and *D. kippistiana* var. *paenepeccata* - a stable hybrid between *D. kippistiana* var. *kippistiana* and *D. sclerophylla*. I can't prove this, of course, it's just my theory. To quote Robyn Williams of ABC fame: 'Botany is not a science – it's an opinion'.

Margaret Pieroni 25/12/12

Dryandra ionthocarpa subsp. *chrysophoenix*

Just before Alex George's revision of *Dryandra* was published in *the Flora of Australia* (Vol. 17B) in 1996, *D. ionthocarpa* was discovered near Brookton. As this location is about 300 km north of the very restricted population of *D. ionthocarpa* at Kamballup, I wanted to see the plants for myself.

I had the opportunity to go to the location which is in a reserve, south east of Aldersyde. The very few plants there were not flowering. But I could see that they were different from *D. ionthocarpa* which is a small, mounded plant without a lignotuber. I wrote in an article for our newsletter no. 39 (July 2000) that: "The 'new' ones have a lignotuber and underground stems. This means that it is very difficult to estimate the number of plants in the population, as foliage and flowers at the branch tips appear to be separate plants when the older, underground parts in the centre of the plants die. There may be only about 6 or 7 plants, or, possibly only one. Seed set appears to be almost nil. The leaves are more rigid and the lobes more triangular than those of *D. ionthocarpa* (Kamballup)."

In early October, 1999, I revisited the reserve and found the plants in bud so two weeks later, with friend and Study Group member, Shirley Loney, I returned.

On the way to the reserve, just outside the small town of Aldersyde, we stopped to look at an area that looked similar to the reserve and discovered another population. The area had been burned and the plants were in full bloom. (See newsletter no. 39 for article and colour photos). I found one plant that had not been burned with a few seed follicles. They were not viable but I was able to draw one for the book, nevertheless. The flowers are more colourful than those of subsp. *ionthocarpa*, with golden hairs on the long limbs.

Alex George, in 2005, published the description of this new taxon and named it *Dryandra ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*.

In 2007, I was asked by the Dept. of Environment and Conservation (DEC), at Narrogin whether I could supply a photo of *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix* for the cover of an interim recovery plan. I asked for and received a copy of the plan and

made some suggestions, pointing out that they wouldn't find any viable seed and that because of the nature of the plants with their underground stems, it would be necessary to establish the number of actual plants. They had counted 852 plants and discovered another 3 populations.



Typical plant habit Margaret Pieroni

The leaf sampling was carried out and the analysis revealed that there are, in all, just 16 plants or clones as they call them. A 'new' populations turns out to be only one plant. DEC has now made new recommendations for a recovery program and I have asked for a progress report. As the plants are a fair distance apart, I also suggested that they attempt to hand pollinate the flowers in order to obtain some viable seed.

Margaret Pieroni 14/6/13

A new *Dryandra*, *D. meganotia* ssp. *recurvistylis*

(Editor's note: Alex George kindly provided me with a copy of his paper from the 30 December 2012 issue of the *Western Australian Naturalist* in which he made a new combination for a distinct form of *D. meganotia*. What follows is some background, a summary from the paper with a photograph of this nice, somewhat larger-flowered form.)

When we published *The Dryandras* in 2006, *D. meganotia* was known from populations in the area called "Great Southern", from Harrismith to Kulin

and Nyabing, often near granite outcrops such as Yilliminning Rock. But even then, we noted that another population had been discovered "further north, near Wandering". These plants had been found by Fred and Jean Hort who have done so much pioneer work in discovering new species and different forms of many WA plants. The original



D. meganotia s. *recurvistylis* plant Margaret Pieroni

plants of the new population were found in the Wandering Conservation Park some 80 km from the closest known *D. meganotia* at Yilliminning Rock, although the Horts subsequently found two more populations in and around the Monadnocks Reserve which is in the same area but closer to Perth. Margaret wrote up these discoveries in NL 47 "Not a new *Dryandra*" and with more details and drawings of leaves and seeds in NL 59 "Comments on *Banksia recurvistylis*". As soon as she saw the small, very hairy seeds of the new taxon, Margaret was convinced it was at least an aff. *meganotia* and was more than surprised when Kevin Thiele from the WA Herbarium described it as a new species, *Banksia recurvistylis* in 2009.



Lovely flower with attendant bee Margaret Pieroni

Features that Fred Hort emphasized as separating this new form from the Yilliminning Rock form was that the plants were erect and single stemmed

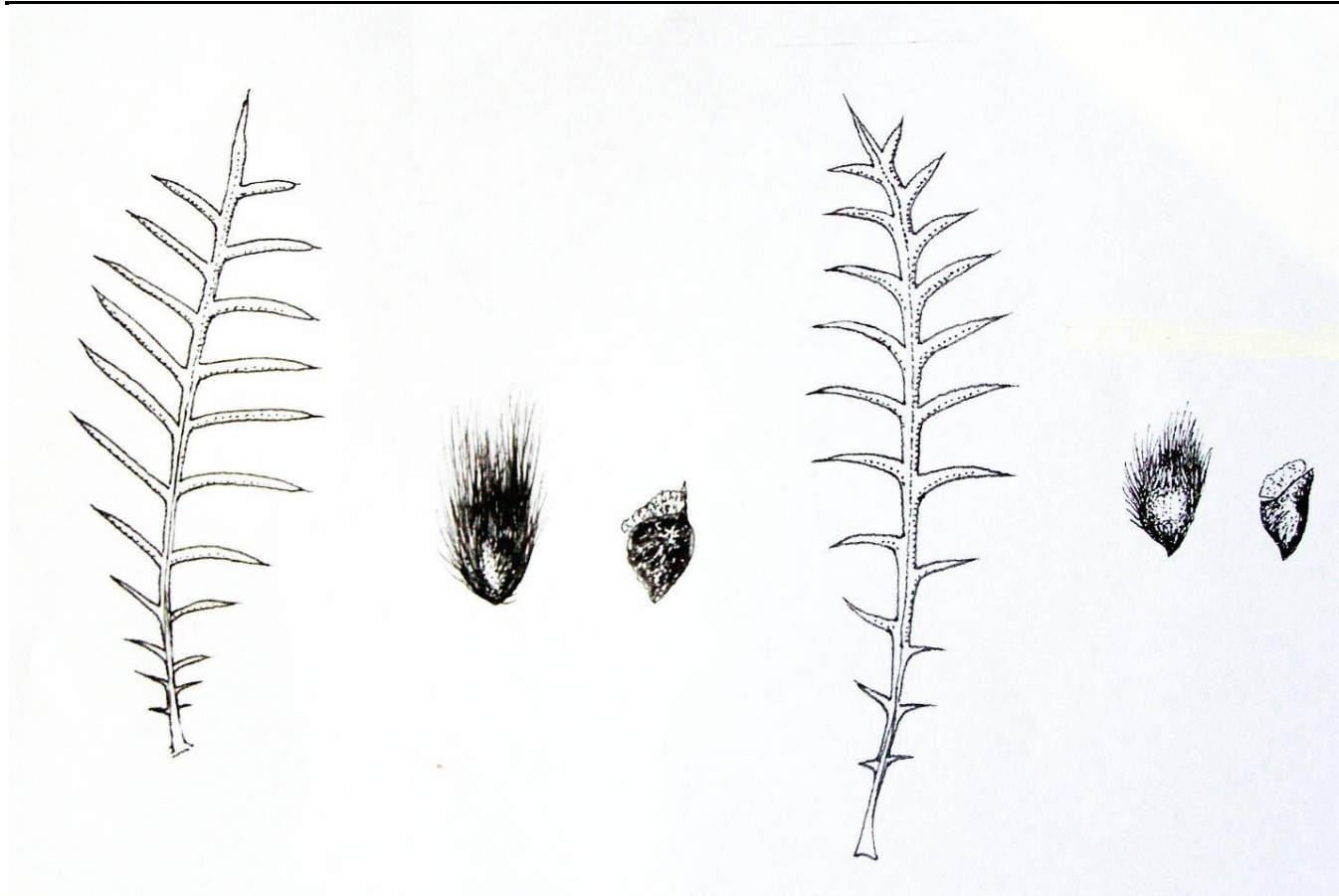
with branches from above the ground – they were in no way a suckering plant that the Yilliminning Rock plants were. They were about 1.8 m high and something over 2 m wide. Most importantly, they lacked a lignotuber which the Rock form has. Subsequently, Alex George has examined more specimens of both taxa and drew up the table below of the morphological differences between the two. Margaret has also drawn leaves and follicles and seeds for both and these are also included.

Essentially, *ssp. recurvistylis* is “bigger” all round, longer leaves, more lobes per side and longer perianth and style, producing a most attractive lemon-yellow flower head. It would make an attractive garden subject if seed could be obtained and because of its habitat in Jarah forest, it may well handle somewhat more shade than many other species.

Tony Cavanagh July 2013

Main morphological differences between *Dryandra maganotia* subsp *meganotia* and subsp *recurvistylis*

Character	subsp <i>meganotia</i>	subsp <i>recurvistylis</i>
Lignotuber	present	absent
Leaves	3-8 cm long 6-12 lobes each side	8-11 cm long 10-16 lobes each side
Perianth	22-25 mm long	29-39 mm long
Pistil	26-37 mm long	38-55 mm long



D. maganotia* subsp *recurvistylis

Dryandras at Tresco Abbey Garden

In 2005 I was able to fulfil a goal of many years and visited the Tresco Abbey Garden in the Isles of Scilly. The isles lie in the Atlantic Ocean about 40 kilometres WSW of Land’s End. They

subsp. *meganotia*

form a picturesque archipelago ranging from the largest, St Mary’s at 629 hectares, to many small rocks. Some 56 support vegetation of flowering plants. With the moderating influence of the ocean, helped by the Gulf Stream, their climate is milder than that of the English mainland. Extremes of temperature recorded are -4°C to 28°C. There is an

occasional snowfall but frosts are rare. It means that plants can be grown outdoors that on the mainland must be grown in glasshouses. The major element to combat is strong winds—several severe storms have caused much damage but each time the garden has been restored. In 1834, the islands, depressed economically, were leased by Augustus Smith from Hertfordshire, who saw them as a place to try out progressive social ideas. Smith decided to live on Tresco, at 297 hectares the second-largest island. He built an imposing residence, Tresco Abbey, close to the ruin of a monastery dating back to the 12th century. Here he developed a garden that covers about 7 hectares and has been continued by his successors who go by the name of Dorrien-Smith. It is on a south-facing slope to gain most sunlight. To shelter his garden he planted a large windbreak, mainly of Monterey Pines. Here are grown many plants from temperate regions such as southern Australia, the Cape region of South Africa and the Islands of Madeira. Palms and succulents are prominent.



D. formosa at Tresco

Alex George

While fascinated by the whole garden, I was especially interested to see what Australian plants are grown. Here are many species of *Acacia*, *Correa*, *Grevillea*, *Telopea*, *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca* and related genera, *Hardenbergia*, *Goodia*, *Kennedia* and others. There are several species of *Banksia*, including a huge *B. integrifolia* var. *integrifolia* (planted around 1890), *B. praemorsa*, *B. spinulosa* var. *collina* and *B. grandis*. In earlier years *Banksia coccinea* was grown to flowering. And there, obviously thriving, were plants of *Dryandra formosa*, *D. praemorsa* var. *praemorsa* and *D. sessilis* var. *sessilis*. The first two were in full flower in late April, the equivalent of the southern spring. I did not see insects at the flowers but I was intrigued to see bumblebees busy in *Calothamnus validus*. *D. sessilis* var. *sessilis* was a young plant and not in flower.



D. praemorsa v. *praemorsa* at Tresco Alex George

Tresco Abbey Garden in spring is a mesmerising palette of colour, and made more enticing by its island setting. There are many books on the Scillies, the best on the garden being Ronald King's *Tresco: England's Island of Flowers* (1985), and Mike Nelham's *Tresco Abbey Garden: A Personal and Pictorial History* (2000).

Alex George, Kardinya, W.A. June 2013

News from my Denmark Garden

As usual, I've had mixed success with my dryandras. The beautiful plant of *D. longifolia* subsp. *archeos* died after flowering later than usual, last year. It was more than 10 years old – one of the plants I potted up from my sandy Perth garden and 'agisted' at the Banksia Farm while my house was being built.

I set fire to the dead plant after collecting lots of seeds and seedlings are beginning to germinate in the ashes. Meanwhile, seeds that I sowed at the same time are germinating well. They came up a little earlier than the burned ones. I did the same to a plant of *D. longifolia* subsp. *calicicola* when it died many years ago, in Perth with similar results;

proving that smoke is not necessary for the germination of the seeds of this species.

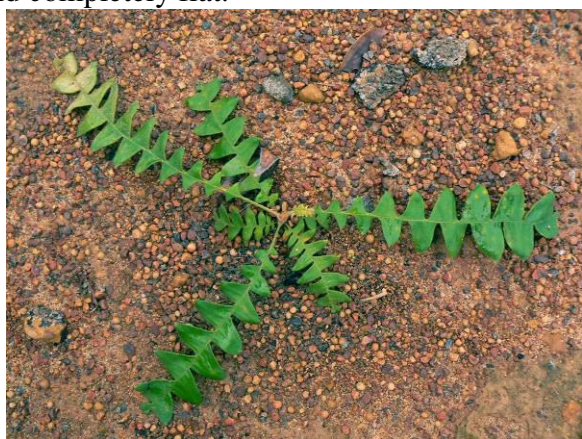


Dead pink *D. drummondii* s. *drummondii* M.P.

A large pink-flowered *D. drummondii* subsp. *drummondii* also died, leaf by leaf over many months. It doesn't seem to have set any seed. I will burn the remains, when we get some dry weather, just in case there are some follicles hidden in that dense mound. I removed the dead leaves by hand as the plant was too wet to burn.

The 'resurrected' *D. bipinnatifida* subsp. *bipinnatifida* that I wrote about in newsletter no. 63, last year, is in bud. As I predicted, it didn't flower last year after it re-sprouted so spectacularly.

Plants of the 'flat' *D. calophylla* planted out a month ago, are 30cm wide, one year from seed – and completely flat.



The flat *D. calophylla* Margaret Pieroni

The low, sprawling *D. cuneata* is flowering very well, as usual – it goes on for months. The birds love it and it produces lots of seed.



Prostrate *D. cuneata* in full flower Margaret Pieroni

D. nobilis subsp. *nobilis* has been slow growing but has just produced a terminal flower head which is a glorious golden yellow. It's probably because of the soil here, which is laterite gravel and sandy clay, similar to its natural habitat. Those of plants grown in the sand, in my Perth garden were very pale, in comparison. Seed was collected from plants growing south of Kojonup – possibly the southernmost occurrence of this taxon.

D. viscida – another transplant from Perth, which grows in laterite, as well, is thriving. It produces more and more flowers each year, forming a lovely neat mound. It took a few years to recover from the sandy soil where it appeared to be slowly dying before it was moved.

Margaret Pieroni 16/6/13

Summer-flowering Dryandras

In January, this year, my friend Julie, Kevin Collins from the Banksia Farm, Mt. Barker and I set out on a trip to the wheatbelt, hoping to find a few dryandras in flower. We expected to see: *D. erythrocephala* var. *inopinata*, *D. cynaroides*, *D. drummondii* subsp. *macrorufa* and *D. vestita*.

We drove through the Stirling Ranges, north on Formby South Road and west to Gnowangerup where there is a particularly beautiful, more colourful form of *D. tenuifolia* var. *repens*. The plants, with their long, ground hugging branches are a long way from any other populations. They grow on a rise north east of the town, just south of a water tower. I was very pleased to see that the area, though more overgrown was in better condition with less rubbish and the plants are doing well. It is good to know that not all our special dryandra spots are disappearing.

Cutting across to the north east, we joined the Rabbit Proof Fence Road. 7 km from Chester Pass Road, towards Nyabing, we stopped to find *D. drummondii* subsp. *macrorufa*. Unfortunately, only a very few plants were flowering and then with only a few flower heads. The rainfall had been poor, last year. Rainfall, in the South West has steadily declined by 17% since the 1970's and it's got to the stage where, unless there's a better than average rainfall, dryandras, (and other plants) will simply not flower.



D. drummondii s. *macrorufa*, one of the few in flower
Margaret Pieroni

About 5km north of Nyabing is one of the dryandra 'hot spots'. On a laterite gravel rise can be found: *D. ferruginea* subsp. *magna*, *D. rufistylis*, *D. octotriginta*, *D. pallida*, *D. sessilis* var. *sessilis* and *D. erythrocephala* var. *inopinata*. The latter was not in flower.



Dryandra country north of Nyabing, *D. ferruginea* s. *magna* & *octotriginta*
Margaret Pieroni

On the way to Katanning, two km west of the town at what was formerly the rubbish tip, are: *D. nobilis* subsp. *nobilis* and *D. acanthopoda*.

We spent the night at Katanning and the next morning showed Kevin Strathmore Hill Reserve, one of the *D. proteoides* locations that Julie and I visited, last year. Also there are: *D. armata* var. *ignicida* and *D. fililoba*. From there we drove to John's Well Reserve, on River Road, east of Woodanilling. In a former gravel pit, are: *D. preissii*, *D. armata* vars *armata* and *ignicida*, *D. rufistylis* and *D. fililoba*. The latter has smaller, softer leaves than normal. Kevin thinks it is the same as the 'mystery' plant he has growing at the Banksia Farm, which flowers at a different time from typical *D. fililoba*. I wrote about this plant in



D. fililoba at Banksia Farm
Margaret Pieroni

Newsletter no. 60. The flowers have a pink tinge. Kevin has grown several plants from seed of the original and they are all the same. The first time I visited this spot, I found a plant that differed from the rest which I thought might be a cross between *D. fililoba* and *D. preissii*. I have not been able to locate that particular plant on subsequent visits but I might have given Kevin some seeds of it. Neither of us can remember. A few km east of the reserve is *D. porrecta*.

From Narrogin, we headed west to Yilliminning Rock, the location of *D. meganotia* subsp. *meganotia* and *D. fraseri*. It was very dry there and the numbers of *D. meganotia* plants appears to be declining. They grow at the foot of a large granite rock and receive the run-off water from the rock. As with many other plants in a similar situation they are 'resurrection' plants. Many appear to be dead in summer but re-green with the rain. It seems that not all come back to life every time, though.

We continued on to Harrismith, after dealing with a tyre problem. (Thank goodness we had Kevin)! Alongside the railway line, going south, on the eastern side is one of the best dryandra locations in the state. At this site, together with parts of 'Hi-Vallee', the Williams' property near Badgingarra and Alexander Morrison National Park, nearby, there are more dryandras that can be seen growing side by side, than I know of. We counted: *D. ferruginea* subsp. *ferruginea*, *D. fililoba*, *D. rufistylis*, *D. nivea* subsp. *nivea*, *D. conferta* var. *conferta*, *D. cirsioides /purdieana*, (this is the 'problem' one that may be a cross between these two that occurs midway between the locations of *D. purdieana* in the north (eg Cadoux) and *D. cirsioides* in the south (eg Jerrumungup), *D. sessilis* var. *sessilis*, *D. vestita* (one plant had a few flowers) and *D. cynaroides*. The latter was not in flower, had not flowered and was not in bud.

South east of Kulin, we went to Hopkins Reserve to see if we could find flowers on *D. erythrocephala* var. *inopinata* but, as with *D. cynaroides*, we were disappointed again. We looked at the few plants of *D. epimicta* and also found *D. xylothemelia* there.

As we had lost some time due to the tyre we just had a quick drive through the reserve west of Corrigin where there are: *D. ferruginea* subsp. *obliquiloba*, *D. fasciculata*, *D. lindleyana* subsp. *agricola*, not seen previously on the trip and a very quick look at *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*, which is looking good, at Aldersyde, on the way back home.

Many thanks to Julie and Kevin for their excellent company on yet another very enjoyable trip.

Margaret Pieroni 27/4/13

The Dryandra Survey

Many thanks to the small number of members who returned the Dryandra Survey from the last Newsletter. It was interesting to see the range of dryandras being grown and to get your feedback on the Newsletter and on projects we could look at. However, before I finally write it up, it would be good to have some more material so I appeal to everyone who has not done so to give us what information you can and return completed forms over the next couple of months.

Tony Cavanagh

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2013- 2014

The group's year runs from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. Subscriptions are \$10.00 for Australian members and \$12.00 for overseas. The cost for receiving by email is \$5.00*. Please make cheques payable to the Dryandra Study Group and forward to Margaret. Thanks to all those who have paid.

***If you wish to receive the Newsletter by email, please include your email address:**

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