

Newsletter

November 2020

No 19

CONTENTS

A Word from the Leader 1

West Australian Facebook page..... 2

Lechenaultia orchestris 3

Goodenia paradoxa and *G blackiana* 3

In my Garden - Goodeniaceae..... 4

Recent acquisitions at Wartook gardens 6

Garden Beds planted just prior to the Conference
(FJC Rogers Seminar - 2018) in Horsham 7

Dampieras in our Garden..... 7

A Word from the Leader

Royce Raleigh

What a year it has been!

Just when we thought we might look forward to some semblance of normality – we have had all sorts of problems in Victoria and now some angst in South Australia. The virus certainly has been mean and curtailed all of our conduct this year. We are certainly not in the clear yet.

Jeanne & I hope that all members are well, and that you have been able to take advantage of a year that has been so beneficial for gardens.

Here at Wartook we have had good regular rainfall to keep everything growing well, and our plantings this year have passed the 1,000 new plants, with still many more that need planting.

The other huge bonus for us has been the prolific bird population and the ever constant buzzing of the bees. It has been great to spend some time sitting and listening.

Our garden has not flowered as well for many years, and the comments we have heard from others is that they have experienced similar flowerings.

Therefore, I hope many of you have been able to take many photos. We hope that you will send us some for future newsletter so that others can learn and enjoy and appreciate your efforts at gardening.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published in **April 2021**
We would love to hear from you about your garden or what is going on in the local bush with plants of the Goodeniaceae family.
Photos are appreciated too.

Goodeniaceae Study Group

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For the Goodeniaceae conference (FJC Rogers Seminar 2018) this plant was quite small. It has now swamped the paler Dampiera in the middle. We still do not know which species they are. Despite our many frosts this year, the deep blue Lechenaultia in the background was not damaged by any.

We wish all members a wonderful Christmas and we are all looking forward to a much brighter and more productive 2021.

Western Australia Herbarium - Facebook Post, 8 July 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/WesternAustralianHerbarium/posts/3263246220385893>

The concluding chapter of a long-running saga in the charismatic Fan Flower family was published today in PhytoKeys. Our local Goodeniaceae guru Kelly Shepherd and Rachel Jabaily Colorado College, together with their Goodeniaceae Working Group colleagues and Brendan Lespchi Australian National Herbarium, have updated the classification of *Goodenia* and allies following almost a decade of collaborative research.

We bid a final farewell to the genera *Velleia*, *Verreauxia*, *Pentaptilon* and *Selliera*, which have now been subsumed into an expanded *Goodenia* (>250 taxa), while the monotypic genus *Diaspasis* has been formally transferred to *Scaevola*. The team have made a total of 35 name changes

to reflect our improved understanding of evolutionary relationships in the family. Details of these changes, together with modified generic descriptions and keys, can be freely accessed at <https://phytokeys.pensoft.net/article/49604/>

While some of you may lament these changes, the alternative would have knocked you for six — if *Velleia* and the other genera had been retained as distinct, then around 160 taxa in *Goodenia* would have required renaming under newly reinstated or circumscribed segregate genera!

While this may be a final chapter it is perhaps not the last word. Kelly recently spent a month with Rachel in Colorado exploring new molecular data sets on other members of Goodeniaceae. Stay tuned.



Top: *Goodenia concinna*, *G. hassallii*, *G. occidentalis*, *G. drummondii*; Middle: *G. arthrotricha*, *G. sericostachya*, *G. coerulea*, *G. reinwardtii* (*Verreauxia reinwardtii*); Bottom: *G. rosea* (*Velleia rosea*), *G. paradoxa* (*V. paradoxa*), *G. discophora* (*V. discophora*) and *G. radicans* (*Selliera radicans*). All images by Kelly Shepherd except *G. sericostachya* (F & J Hort) and *G. radicans* (J Sullivan)

Lechenaultia orchestris

You will recall in the April 2020 newsletter an article on the newly described *Lechenaultia orchestris*. Recently Dr Kelly Shepherd was on Gardening Australia speaking about new species that had been described which included *Lechenaultia orchestris*.

If you missed it you can view this segment on <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/more-to-discover/12772136>



Lechenaultia orchestris

Goodenia paradoxa and *Goodenia blackiana*

Text and Photos: Maree Goods

Recently Graham and I had a weekend in the Grampians with our family. We were able to sneak off for a couple of hours and go flower hunting. Two species of Goodeniaceae we found were *Goodenia paradoxa* (previously known as

Velleia paradoxa) and *G blackiana*. What amazed us was how *G blackiana* was growing out of the rock face. It is amazing how plants get their roots down through the small cracks in the rock face.



Above: *Goodenia blackiana*.

Left top and bottom: *Goodenia paradoxa*.

Goodeniaceae

This time last year our SE APS members met at the ERBG to learn about the family Goodeniaceae. John Knight had been to the Goodeniaceae conference and provided the knowledge and know how of all things Goodeniaceae. We delighted in the images of these lovely plants in beautiful gardens depicted in a PowerPoint presentation by John.

Many plants and flowers were shown by other members in our very popular show and tell session.

We also had the opportunity to learn how to propagate from both stem and leaf cuttings. Most of us either propagated on the site or gathered some cutting material to take home and put our new knowledge to good use.

I definitely had a go at both stem and leaf cuttings and did not waste a piece of plant. Consequently, I had about 20ish little pots of new plants. Being mindful of the need to keep them moist and in a cloche I rigged up a very rough covering. This was not terribly successful so placed them in the greenhouse and very lightly watered them.

I was not very successful with the leaf cuttings; I think the overhead watering made them rot in the pots. But by September I had really lovely plants from most of the stem cuttings.

Most were left in the pots but thinking I could keep up with watering during the drought I decided to plant eight of them. About half survived in the ground, amazingly so because we evacuated our property four times during January so they were on their own. After the rains these gorgeous little plants have grown and flowered. This is what they look like now.



lobelia sp. from Pt Anne, W.A. south coast



Scaevola striata Royal Robe from W.A.



Scaevola nitida



We saw so much devastation during our travels; entire swathes of forests and open ground burned.

We also learned that fire travels through wood mulch; never thought of it before I saw Bob and Ruth's garden at Sunshine Bay.

But cleverly, Bob had put in some paths to separate spaces in one garden and it made such a difference.

Determined to minimise (as best we can) such damage to our house and gardens, we



removed all wood mulch nearest the house and put rock mulch on the ground. It was prettied up by strategically placing terracotta pots with the lovely Goodeniaceae plants we made this time last year.

They are so lovely growing and flowering with the weekly water. I have potted up two or three or five plants into a black plastic pot. I have filled the terracotta pots with scoria and inserted the plant pots inside the scoria. Scoria is a bit painful on the hands but the plants love the warmth and the root development is amazingly good.

There is definite value in naming plants as they are being processed. Please note they are not named and defer to a higher authority to tell me what they are or key them out in good time.

Some plants in the ground have had babies but I am so enamoured of these Goodeniaceae plants that I will annually prepare my cuttings for the following season.

Happy gardening
Carolyn

A Goodeniaceae Working Group Update: unprecedented times

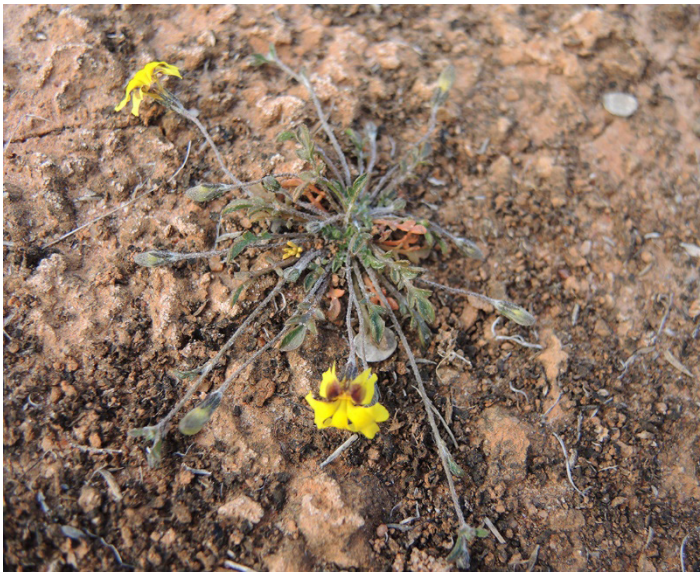
By Dr Kelly Shepherd, Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions, 17 Dick Perry Ave, Kensington, WA 6151.

Our last Working group update was provided by Dr Rachel Jabaily (Colorado College (CC), Colorado Springs USA), which detailed the excellent work her students were undertaking in molecular sequencing a large number of accessions of *Dampiera* and *Lechenaultia* as well as *Goodenia pinnatifida sens. lat.* for our project. She sent this around the time the first lock down unexpectedly began at CC due to Covid-19. At the time we also had to cut short our visit by 3 weeks to head home to the safety of Western Australia. What followed has been unprecedented. No one could have predicted how challenging the pandemic would be and Rachel has spent months at home, adapting her classes for online teaching while still providing pastoral care for her students and taking care of her own family. Despite these challenges we have made progress as Caroline, one of Rachel's students, worked over her summer break on the data set to produce some preliminary phylogenetic trees of the *Goodenia pinnatifida sens. lat.* group.

These results have allowed me to plan some further field work. For example, one sample I included in the *pinnatifida* molecular study was from an unusual specimen collected in 2006 by our identification botanist Rob Davis. Rachel's analyses have now confirmed that while it is allied to *G. pinnatifida*, it appears to be genetically distinct from it. So, on a recent field trip with Dr Carol Wilkins targeting species of *Lasiopetalum* (Mavaceae) (one of my other great loves),

we made a long detour out to Rob's original collection site east of Esperance. To our amazement the tiny little plants were still there after 14 years and some were even flowering! I was able to make a collection and will now be able to study these to confirm if this is indeed a new species. If so, I will now need to think of an appropriate name for it!





Recent acquisitions at Wartook gardens

Text and Photos: Royce Raleigh

Three plants that have delighted us this year are *Dampiera eriocephala*, *Lechenaultia heteromera* and a recently acquired *Lechenaultia stenosepala*.

Dampiera eriocephala has been such an intense colour. Although Jeanne and I had seen the plant often in WA, we

have not seen it in flower in the wild. Some years ago Marilyn Sprague had some lovely plants in her garden at Bendigo and recently we saw some beautiful plants in Ian Evans garden at Mailor's Flat (near Bendigo)



Dampiera eriocephala. The flowers make a striking show.



Lechenaultia heteromera – Claw Lechenaultia.

Although a small plant we are delighted after having seen Maree's great photos of the plant in the wild – in the Photo Guide. As you can see the claw is very distinctive.

This plant is mainly known near the Fitzgerald River National Park and a little east of Hopetoun.



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Lechenaultia stenosepala is found north of Perth around Gin Gin and Three Springs area.

Dampieras in our Garden

Text and Photos: Royce Raleigh

I will go through some of the ones that we do know first, and then some of the unknown ones



The blue *D. teres* always puts on a great show and some plants are now 2 metres across. This pink form although slow to establish has flourished this year making a gorgeous show.



Dampiera pedunculata is one of the best low growing Dampieras and strikes readily in March from firm new growth.



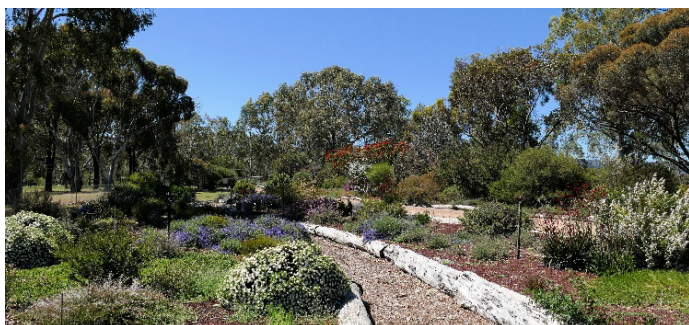
Dampiera fascicularis a relatively new addition but appears to be establishing well

Garden Beds planted just prior to the Conference (FJC Rogers Seminar 2018) in Horsham

Text and Photos: Royce Raleigh

Those at the conference will remember that these beds had only recently been planted at the time and although we have had some losses this picture taken November 8th 2020 will give some idea of growth.

November 8th 2020 will give some idea of growth.





Dampiera sacculata is brilliant in full flower and one of our favourites. The new growth in the centre make excellent cutting material when firm. Although our plants are not yet suckering – which they do readily in the wild, we may have to wait for this to happen.

The Fox's Lair is a wonderful reserve in Narrogin WA and on their website they mention that as well as the lovely blue *D. sacculata*, there is a pale blue and the rare white form growing in the Reserve. We would love to try and get hold of those.



Dampiera coronata- a strong performer in most situations.



Dampiera diversifolia.

Dampiera diversifolia is a great plant and we have grown them up too to 2m across in the past but we need to give them protection from our very hot sun in recent years.



Dampiera lindleyi - our plants are beginning to clump up well.



Dampiera lindleyi - New growth after flowering.



There are a number of forms of *Dampiera purpurea* and this one does well for us.



This is the pinkish form of *Dampiera rosmarinifolia* which made a lovely show as did the deep blue plants along the drive – a number now more than 2m across.

Some of the new suckering growth, bears little if any relationship to the mature plant – another unknown.



This *Dampiera salahaе* was totally burnt in the 2014 fire, but has come back better than ever. A strong plant that just continues to spread.

At first glance new suckering foliage can appear similar, but mature plant can be quite different.



Now for some of the ones that we do not know!

Another “scrambly unknown”

Jeanne and I would be most appreciative if anyone could put names to any of these.



Contact us at royce@wartookgardens.com.au

Could this be *D. linearis*?





This is a *Dampiera* that we got some time ago from Marilyn Sprague. It is so attractive in flower but we still do not know what it is.



The new growth is quite tall.



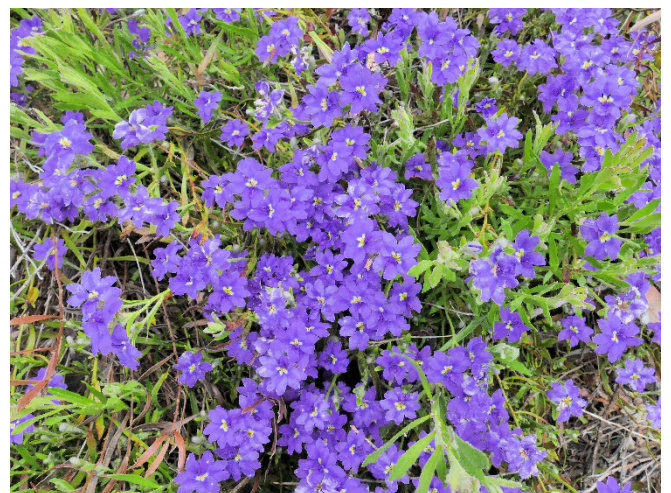
The new growth after flowering is quite striking.



Many of the stems are almost smooth but some appear to have lines or possibly the shallowest of grooves.



This plant has a similar habit to *D. adpressa* but foliage is different and flowers at a different time of the year.



A late flowering *Dampiera* which is now almost 3m across.



New growth comes up vigorously after flowering.



We have no idea where this one came from.



Unfortunately we have lost this one – the foliage appeared to be different from *D. altissima*.



A similar story to the one above.



Flowers very similar to *D. diversifolia* but foliage quite different – plus a little more upright than *D. diversifolia*.



This was a small plant planted in one of the front garden beds just prior to the Goodeniaceae Conference. It has grown vigorously and now stretches about 5-6m along this path. It has a very deep blue flower and makes a tremendous show and this is the new growth after flowering.

Another do not know!