



Crowea exalata ssp magnifolia
(Image by Maria Hitchcock)

Australian Plants Society Armidale & District Group

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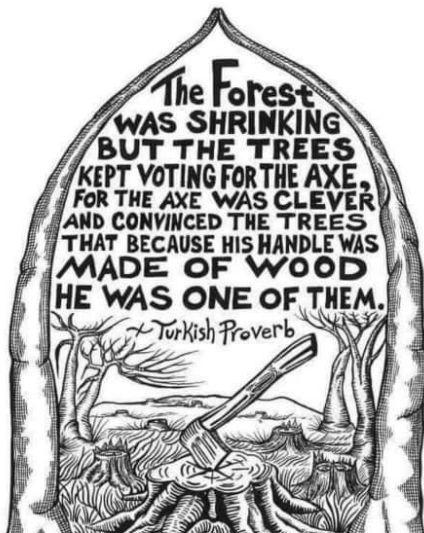
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I trust that your Christmas and New Year celebrations were enjoyable and that in your travels you had more luck than Santa Claus.



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From the Editor – John Nevin

We have just experienced a couple of historic years with a pandemic of COVID and the extremes of climate change. Here at Saumarez Ponds, we have been keeping rainfall records for close on fifty years. In 2019, we experienced our driest year with 290 mm rain for the year. As we rely on rainfall for our water supply, this had a devastating effect on the plants with many exotics and natives, even quite mature trees, succumbing to the conditions.

The cycle then changed and we have had increased rainfall with 1100 mm in 2020, 1170 mm in 2021, and in the year just past 1020 mm. The only other year that went close to this was 2011 with 1010 mm. From a completely depleted water table, we went to a saturated, overflowing one. While planting in late spring, the hole dug for the plant would overflow with water from the saturated soil.

This certainly stressed the plants, with many species not coping and a new series of deaths throughout the garden. This was particularly apparent where I had not mounded the garden beds to assist drainage. Any beds without mounding had a very high mortality. Many small trees just fell over and died as the liquefied soils could not secure the plant roots. As a result of this, I will not be replanting non mounded beds, but embarking on a long term plan to mound those beds that are not already mounded, and then plant into them.

We seem to have oscillated to another climate position as of the end of October. At that stage, our soils were saturated with water pouring out of the soil. One night, we had 60 mm rain. The already saturated soils could not cope, and this 60 litres per square metre ran straight off with flooding at the bottom of our block with water across the road. La Nina has now moved to a neutral position and the Indian Ocean dipole has reversed. For the last two months of the year, rainfall has been very much below average, with the soil drying out, dam levels falling, and plants showing signs of thirst. For the first time in years we have had a working bee to water plantings in the Arboretum in town. El Nino is with us again. We will have to learn and adapt to these rapidly changing extremes of climate if we are to be successful in our gardening.

John Nevin – Editor.



I think Megan Herbert summed it up well in her cartoon in the SMH of 9/1/2023.

Office Bearers 2023

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Eremophila Standards

by John Elton

(Those who belong to the **Eremophila Study Group** will have received an email from Ian Cox about a get together at John and Jeanette Elton's garden. Ian also attached an article about John's experiences grafting Eremophila standards. I have include this in our Newsletter with the permission of both Ian and John. We have had experience with Standard Grevilleas and Acacias, but this is the first mention I have had of Standard Eremophilas. John Nevin – Editor)

I had been asked to put together something on growing Eremophila standards. This is quite new to me, but I am having a ball experimenting with how different plants can look when grown on a stick. Grafting them has been relatively easy, as has been keeping an attractive habit while the plants are still young. However, pruning as the plants age will, I am sure, be more of a challenge. Ray Brown at the Illawarra Grevillea Park has also been doing quite a few which are now being trialled in the Park.

Initially, I didn't give a geat deal of thought to what I grafted. I just wanted to see what could be done and how they grew. Often it was whatever good grafting material was in the garden – this explains why I grafted half a dozen Pink Panthas, not the most obvious plant to start with.

Why standards?

I like the idea of being able to display plants in unique ways. Often this will bring flowers and foliage closer to the eye level. Instead of looking at *Eremophila subteretifolia* running along the ground, a totally different perspective is gained as it cascades horizontally. *Eremophila biserrata* layers as it grows towards the ground.

For bushes, standards have the additional benefit of being able to put something underneath so you can plant more, which is always a bonus. I have begun to use my Pink Pantha grafts as second tier plantings. The results are not yet in, but

imagine the effect of the grey and bright pink of Pink Pantha sitting above and behind a Westringia.

I also feel there is great potential for many of these plants to be impressive pot plants. Slower growth in pots may allow some larger plants to be grown as standards. The bane of many grafted Eremophilas is continual growth from the understock – not so with standards. And if you have rabbits, problem solved.

Understock

Myoporum bateae is my preferred understock since it grows straight, and in a pot, only takes a season or so to reach the desired height. I have tried *Myoporum insulare* and *montanum* but they require much more effort to grow upright, constantly needing to be staked, with mixed results at best. The stem of these species is also lumpy and often twisted. I now only use them for small standards (about 30-40 cm).

As the plant grows, I remove most of the side branches. These can be easily struck for the next round of standards. If the graft fails, it only takes a couple of months for the new growth on the rootstock to develop. I use 6 to 1 perlite and peat mix with purple clonex. Cuttings are easily struck at any time except winter. I only fertilise the understock in the pots. I use slow release Osmocote which I find is the safest and most effective fertiliser for all my native plants. Once in the ground, I see no need to fertilise.

Grafting

I usually graft as close to the top of the rootstock as possible, although grafting at any point along the stem seems to work okay. The growth needs to be active – fresh, but firm. I use a wedge graft.

Progress/Maintenance

To date, I have grafted the following:-



***Eremophila* 'Kalbarri Carpet'** – this is the oldest graft and is grown as a ball on a 1.6 metre standard. It is tip pruned regularly to keep it compact and any wayward branches are pruned. It does not hang down. This requires very little maintenance. The plant pictured has now been in the ground for a couple of years.



***Eremophila* 'Fruit Salad'** – Grown as a 1.2 metre standard. I thought that this would grow with a habit similar to 'Kalbarri Carpet', but it has proved to be far less dense. I have tried pruning it a little harder, but I still feel it is too open to be worthwhile as a standard. The plant pictured has been in the ground for 18 months.



***Eremophila* 'Pink Pantha'**- Grown as 0.6 to 1.0 metre standard. These are coming along nicely and are constantly tip pruned to keep them compact. My aim is to use a hedger 3-4 times a year to keep them smaller and tighter. Time will tell if this works. These are mainly grown as second tier plantings and so they will not really appear like standards. They are really just plants lifted off the ground so that they are high enough to sit above as a contrast to the plants in front. This plant has been in the ground for 9 months.

Eremophila subteretifolia* and *biserrata – Best grown as standards up to 1.8 metres high. Just as they do on the ground, these groundcovers grow very quickly and will take only 12-18 months to reach the ground. They can then be left to grow as a ground cover or pruned so that the stem of the standard is exposed. This is best grown as a specimen plant. Plant it where it can make a statement. The *biserrata* on the left has been in the ground for 18 months. It was badly damaged by a storm when it had only been in the ground for a couple of months. There was only a small shoot jutting out of the graft. But as you can see, it has come back really well. On the right is *Eremophila subteretifolia* that has been in

the ground for 4 months. By the end of Autumn I expect this to have completely covered the *Myoporum bateae* rootstock.



Eremophila biserrata
standard



Eremophila subteretifolia
standard

Eremophila nivea – This is grown as a short standard. Already a wonderful specimen plant that displays its foliage and flowers perfectly, the idea of trying it as a standard came from left field. So far it looks somewhat different on a stick as it branches out from a single stem instead of several stems at ground level.

It grows so quickly that it is easy to shape and keep compact. Initially it has been tip pruned every couple of weeks. It will probably need more regular pruning than one planted conventionally.

This is another plant that could be used as a second tier planting, although I like it as a ‘stand-alone’ plant.





Eremophila waitii – a short standard. I have one of these ready to go (left). This looks as though it is going to look fantastic as a standard. Its natural habit will probably mean that it needs nothing more than a yearly prune. Of all the upright plants that I have grafted as a standard, this is the one that I think has the greatest potential. Fingers crossed!



Eremophila muelleriana – a short standard. This is one that I am looking forward to seeing develop. I have been frustrated by the unseemly rootstock which never stops growing and which detracts from the plant. I am hoping that lifting it 40 cm off the ground will give me everything that this great plant has to offer without the problems. This plant has only been in the ground for a couple of months.



Eremophila delisseri – Trialled as a short standard. Only recently grafted and slower growing so I am reserving my judgement. Having said this, I think it will be pretty good. I like the way it can sprawl and look a little crazy, and I intend to let it find its own path. The only thing I am doing is the occasional tip pruning. In the ground for a couple of months.



Eremophila fraseri X cuneifolia – Short standard. I expect that this plant will be heavier on the stick than most others. It will be interesting to see if the *Myoporum bateae* can take the weight. I will just prune this as I think that it needs it. In the ground for a couple of months.

The future?

The next 12-18 months should tell me a great deal about which of the Eremophilas that I am growing are worth the effort. Most of my plants are still in their infancy. I have plants of *glandulifera*, 'Yanna Road', *punicea*, *goodwinii* X *prostrata*, *glabra* 'Murchison', *glabra* 'Streaky Bay', *glabra* 'Amber Carpet', and another *glabra* species somewhat like *subflocossa* in its foliage that have taken in the last month. There are many others that I would like to trial, particularly *cuneifolia* and perhaps *hygrophana*. Any Eremophila that has a compact growth habit is worth a go. Some of the prostrate *glabras*, like 'Bella Gold', also have potential.

Work needs to be done growing the standards in the ground as compared to pots. How different will the growth rate and habit be? Will the maintenance regime, particularly pruning be different? How long will the plants be suitable in pots and what fertilising regime will they require?

A yet to be answered question is whether the standards will be long lived. We all lose plants. There have been so few standards planted that one cannot draw too many conclusions from the odd plant that may have turned up its heels.

Hopefully, I will have a few *nivea* and *waitii* standards ready to sell at the September open days at the Grevillea Park (this date has passed. Editor). It will be interesting to see if people see them as desirable. Time will tell if this is just my interest or whether there is a broader appeal.

(An interesting account of a member experimenting and trialling new concepts with Australian plants. The Grevillea Park at Bulli, near Wollongong is open to the public on several weekends each year. Well worth a visit to see a marvellous display garden put together by Ray Brown and his team of volunteers. There is also a plant sale held in conjunction and many hard to source plants can be bought at reasonable prices. Editor)

St Peter's Open Gardens 2022 at Keith and Colleen Finlayson's by Penelope Sinclair

We had a wonderful venue for our contribution to this weekend of open gardens on the weekend of November 5th-6th. The activity was not able to be held during the COVID shutdowns and it was good to be able to participate again.

Keith and Colleen are relatively new members of our Group and they put in a big effort on the Society's behalf. The garden was looking great with many colourful and interesting plants and there was ample room to set up our plant stalls.



Prostanthera phyllicifolia



Chorizema cordatum



Grevillea longifolia



Orchard with berries & espaliered fruit trees

Members had visited the Mole Station Native Nursery a couple of weeks previously and returned with a range of plants for sale, from ground covers to shrubs and trees. Over 300 people visited the garden during the weekend and sales were good. Plants remaining will be sold at the Markets, used in the Arboretum, and may be obtained by contacting Patrick Laher. The money raised from sales goes towards obtaining plants for use in our Arboretum plantings.



Volunteers taking a breather



Sales underway

Armidale Bicentennial Arboretum Annual Report November 2021- October 2022

by Patrick Laher, Arboretum Coordinator, Armidale & District APS

An awful year for much of eastern Australia, with flooding disasters across most of NSW. And in my small patch of NSW, saturation and a long duration of plants under water spelled disaster, especially for *Grevillea* and *Prostanthera*.

The Arboretum plants were largely unaffected, and where it was particularly wet, we planted species that enjoy a moist situation such as *Banksia ericifolia* and *Banksia seminuda*.

We were fortunate to receive truckloads of fresh mulch, which were arranged by Billy Hyde, Armidale Regional Council Works Supervisor.

Only small sections of three beds will require attention next year. Mulching was clearly the major accomplishment during the year, but members also hand weeded, sprayed, planted, whipper snipped and picked up prunings and rubbish.

Thanks to the following for their wonderful efforts: Deirdre Waters, Phil Rose, Peter Shephard, Colin Wilson, Eric Sinclair, Leontine Barnett, Penelope Sinclair, John Nevin, Ken Barnett, Greg Horsley, Geoff Derrin, Lee Horsley and Liisa Atherton.

Summary and Comparison Table

	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total labour hours	214.5	115	92.5	158.25
No. of working bees	10	9	12	14
No. of shrubs planted	180	127	53	69
Plants at cost	\$958	\$1139	\$552	\$78
Stakes/mulch/tree guards	\$73.87	\$113.80		

Stock on hand – stakes, plastic tree guards, plant labels, balance of St. Peters plants.

Armidale Sunday Markets Annual Report November 2021- October 2022

NSW didn't come out of Covid lockdown until February 2022. We are now getting used to our new site in the East Mall section. It provides protection from the summer sun, and in winter, the sun comes in under the verandah to warm us up. Our buying public are getting used to our location but the numbers attending haven't as yet reached pre pandemic levels, and neither have the stallholders. I'm not sure about the future continuation of the PCYC Markets in its present format.

John Nevin has continued to be our source of flowers for the display stand. Colin Wilson does the setting up and Phil Rose comes along to help pack up – a great team effort.

<u>Comparison Table</u>	2022	2021	2020	2019
November	-	-	-	18
December	-	-	-	-
January	-	-	-	-
February	19	-	-	21
March	16	-	-	22
April	20	-	-	21
May	17	13	-	-
June	11	17	-	-
July	18	12	-	-
August	40	-	-	-
September	36	-	-	-
October	29	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	206	42	nil	82

St. Peters Armidale Gardens Weekend 5th & 6th November 2022

We were very fortunate with the weekend weather, as the week leading up was cold and wet. Member participation was outstanding and we were never short of helpers at any stage of the weekend. I believe in excess of 300 people visited the beautiful garden of Keith and Colleen Finlayson. A total of 104 plants were either sold/gifted/died prior to the weekend.

Approximately 466 plants were added to local gardens as a result of this weekend. The 140 plants left over will be used at the Markets, sold to members/friends or donated to the Arboretum.

Statistics

Start number of plants	606
Less sold/gifted/died	104
New start number	502
Plants unsold Sunday	140
Plants sold on weekend	362

Comparison Table

	2022	2018	2017	2016
	362	372	293	376

A big thank you to all those who contributed to the weekend, including those who picked up plants from Mole Station Native Nursery, those who looked after them until the sale and all those who worked on the roster over the weekend.

Patrick Laher – Coordinator Plant Sales, Armidale & District APS

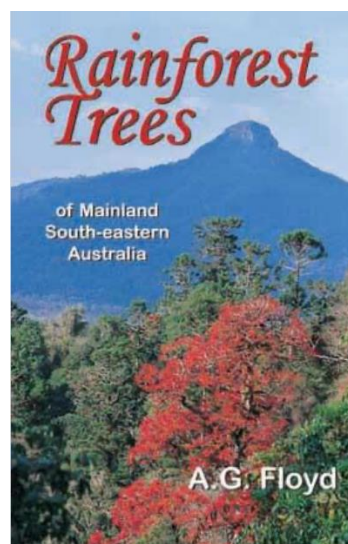
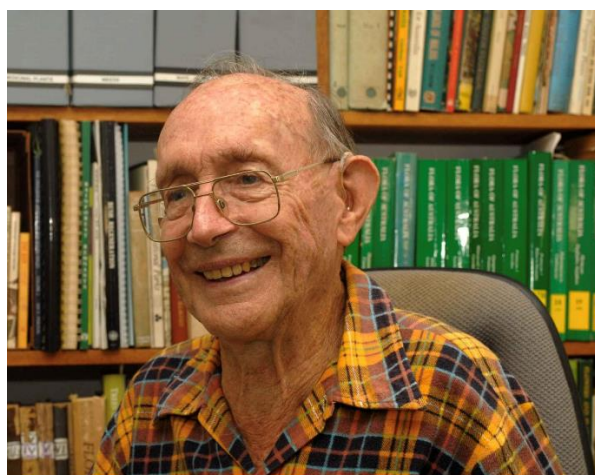
Annual Financial Report for 11 months to 31st December Armidale and District Branch of APS NSW

By Phil Rose, Treasurer

Total income	\$7471.42
Membership rebates	\$380.00
Plant sales	\$7047.75
Interest	\$7.56
Additional TD Interest	\$36.11
Total expenses	\$7099.83
Plant purchases	\$5960.48
Arboretum	\$ 687.73
Plant freight	\$ 158.60
Print postage	\$31.02
Market stall	\$90.00
PO Box	\$139.00
Flora Foundation	\$ 33.00
Surplus	\$371.59

Opening balances 1/01/2022		
Operating account	\$2346.96	
Term deposits	\$9376.03	\$11722.99
Closing balances 30/11/2022		
Operating account	\$6040.63	
Term deposits	\$6053.95	\$12094.58
Increase in funds		\$371.59

Death of Alex Floyd by John Nevin



One of the giants of Australian Botany, Alex Floyd, has died in Coffs Harbour on Monday 12th December at the age of 96. He was born at Hampton, Victoria in 1926. In 1947, he entered the University of Melbourne where he excelled in Botany. He moved to the Australian Forestry School in Canberra in 1949.

His career included service with the Department of Forestry in Papua New Guinea and thirty years with the Forestry Commission of NSW.

Because of his outstanding knowledge of rainforest flora, the Forestry Commission arranged for his secondment to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service so that he could undertake a review of the conservation status of the State's rainforest communities. He retired from the Public Service in 1988.

He was instrumental in establishing the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden at Coffs Harbour and the herbarium that he built up during his time at Forestry was transferred to the herbarium at the Regional Botanic Garden when he

retired. While working he produced detailed keys to the rainforest plants of NSW and later compiled these into a book 'Rainforest Trees of Mainland South-eastern Australia' in 1989. This book quickly became the bible for rainforest scholars because of its extraordinary detail. He also wrote the two-volume set 'Australian Rainforests in New South Wales' in 1990.

He had two genera of plants named in his honour:

Floydia and *Alexfloydia*.

Several species of plant also bear his name:

Acacia floydii Tind.

Bosistoa floydii T.G. Hartley

Cryptocarya floydii Kosterm.

Endiandra floydii Craven & S.R. Jones

Zieria floydii J.A. Armstr.

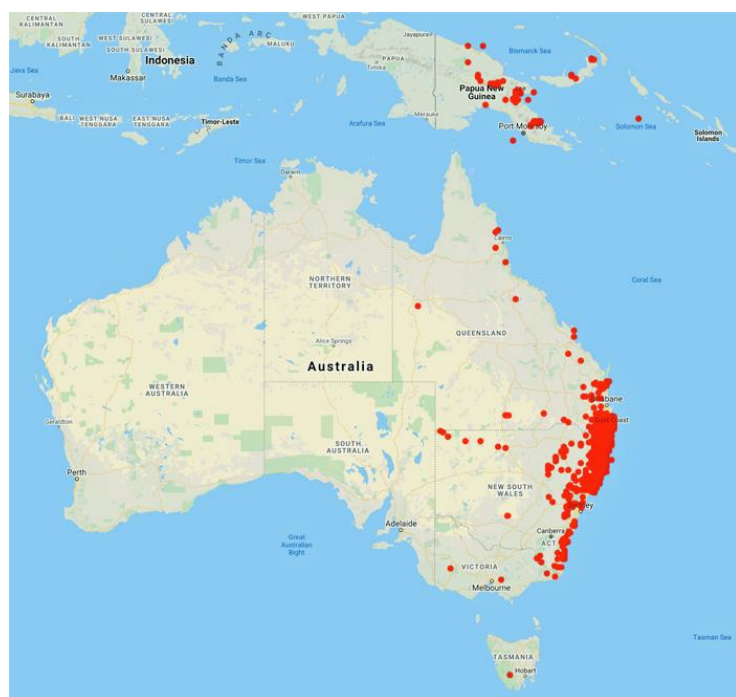
In 2008, Floyd was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia "for service to botany, particularly through research and identification of sub-tropical rainforest plants and through support for the North coast Regional Botanic Gardens, and to conservation and environmental education."

In 2020, he related to a reporter that fifty years ago he accompanied a member of the Ulitarra Conservation Society paddling a canoe down Coffs Creek to examine the state of the natural bushland. "We discovered a remarkable area on a bend that was still 50 per cent natural bush and decided it was the perfect spot for a botanical garden, though at the time it was the night soil dump."

After two years of lobbying, Council agreed to the proposal and this led to the establishment of the North Coast Botanic Gardens.

Those of us who went to the APS NSW gathering at Coffs Harbour a few years ago were privileged to have Alex give us a guided tour of the Gardens that he was instrumental in creating.

Alex Floyd – Ave atque vale.



Collecting localities for
'Floyd, A. G.' from the
Australian Virtual
Herbarium 2021 – data
from 3,206 specimens.

Grafting using the cutting graft technique

by Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate

Advantages of this method over traditional method of grafting onto rooted stock plants:

- The time and effort growing stock seedlings is unnecessary, allowing for cheap and easy experimentation which is likely to encourage greater participation in grafting.
- Growers can choose a rootstock from their own garden, from a plant which is proven to be vigorous and hardy in their conditions.
- Given practice, cutting grafts are easier and quicker than the traditional method.

Steps for successful cutting grafts:

- 1. Assemble tools:** Stanley knife, Stanley knife blade, secateurs (**Figure 1**).
- 2. Scion (species being grafted):** Take a cutting of your chosen scion. Select firm, semi-hard scion material and trim to around 5-8 cm in length. New tip growth should be avoided as this will tend to wilt quickly resulting in the graft failing.
- 3. Stock:** Take a cutting of your chosen stock. This cutting should be chosen to match the diameter of the scion material and should be around 8-10 cm in length. Remove all leaves from the stock cutting apart from one leaf at the very tip of the cutting (**Figure 2**). All other leaves can be removed – be careful not to strip the bark when removing leaves. Keeping the top leaf is vital to prevent any ‘dieback’ around the graft union.
- 4. Use the blade of a Stanley knife to make a 1 cm slit down the middle of the stock cutting (**Figure 3**).** NOTE: correct technique is vital to avoid cutting yourself – hold the blade in your left hand and the stock cutting in your right hand, then move the cutting to the blade, wiggle the cutting slowly onto the blade until the 1 cm cut through the middle of the cutting has been completed. The left hand holding the blade does not move. You will only cut yourself if you push the blade into the cutting and it slips!
- 5. Use a Stanley knife (only the blade is used to make the slit, whereas this step uses the knife itself) to cut a wedge in the bottom of the scion stem of around 1 cm so that this can be inserted into the stock cutting.**
- 6. Insert the wedge-cut scion into the cut at the top of the stock cutting (**Figure 4**).** Then tape the graft union using Parafilm (the piece of tape should be about 5 cm long and 1 cm wide – cut tape into pieces of this size) so that the graft union is totally covered and is waterproof (**Figure 5**). The tape should be stretched as it is wrapped so that the taping is tight and the tape adheres to itself.
- 7. Treat the resulting cutting graft as you do a cutting, i.e. nick the bottom of the stock, insert into Clonex Purple Gel for 5 seconds then place into cutting mix.**
- 8. Roots should appear on the stock within 2 months in the warmer months (may take longer in the cooler months).**
- 9. Once the cutting graft is potted up the graft should have taken and the plant can be grown as for a normal cutting.**

Choose the right species as your stock

Stock plant species used in cutting grafts must satisfy three criteria:

- The species must be tough and long-lived in your garden conditions
- Cuttings from this species must strike roots readily and consistently
- The species must be compatible with the species being grafted onto this stock species

Recommended stock species

- Isopogon – ‘Coaldale Cracker’, *anethifolius*, *anemonifolius*
- Eremophila – *Myoporum* species
- Prostanthera – *lanceolata*, *phyllicifolia*, *linearis*
- Hakea – *salicifolia*
- Grevillea – ‘Carrington Cross’
- Banksia – *integrifolia* (difficult!!) – don’t use hormone on Banksia cuttings



Figure 1.



Figure 3.



Figure 2.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

This is a handout from a grafting demonstration given at the Kiama Conference by Phil and Catriona. They have previously visited Armidale and run a workshop for us – newer members may find the technique valuable. Editor.

Display your Native Plants at the Armidale Show 2023

By Penelope Sinclair

Members might like to consider entering specimens in the Native Plant Section at the Armidale Show which will be on March 3rd-4th 2023.

It's easy to do and is a great way of highlighting our wonderful plants. The procedures are outlined below. If you have any questions contact Barbara Nevin, Patrick Laher or Penelope Sinclair.

Google **Armidale Show 2023**. Information and forms will be found on the Armidale Show website – currently these are given as for 2022 but this will be updated later. Navigate to **Schedules**. There you will find Conditions and Entry Forms. Scroll down and click on **Section 20- Cut Flowers**. Here you will find the **NATIVE SECTION Class Numbers 38-46**. You could also enter the **Decorative Section** and the **Pot Plant Section**. There is a fee of \$2 per entry. APS Armidale donates a \$20 voucher from the Armidale Tree Group Nursery for the Champion exhibit from Numbers 38-43 in the Native Section.



2022 – Setting up – foliage arrangements & Grevillea specimens



2022 – After judging – Correa species and species AOV (any other variety)



Have a go, at the Show – you too could be a proud grand champion like this one in 2014

December Garden Visit and Barbecue at Hitchcocks

We usually end the year with a garden visit in December combined with the Annual General Meeting. We were delighted to be hosted by Don and Maria Hitchcock at their garden. The AGM went smoothly with Patrick Laher elected President. We also have some new blood on the executive so we can look forward to some fresh ideas for our group activities. Thanks were expressed to key members who have kept the group in good order, especially Penelope Sinclair, Patrick Laher and Phil Rose.

After the AGM we had a guided tour of the garden with Maria. Maria has certainly been busy mulching as, like all of us, her garden experienced an explosion of weed growth after the breaking of the drought. The new water feature has matured with good growth of surrounding plants.

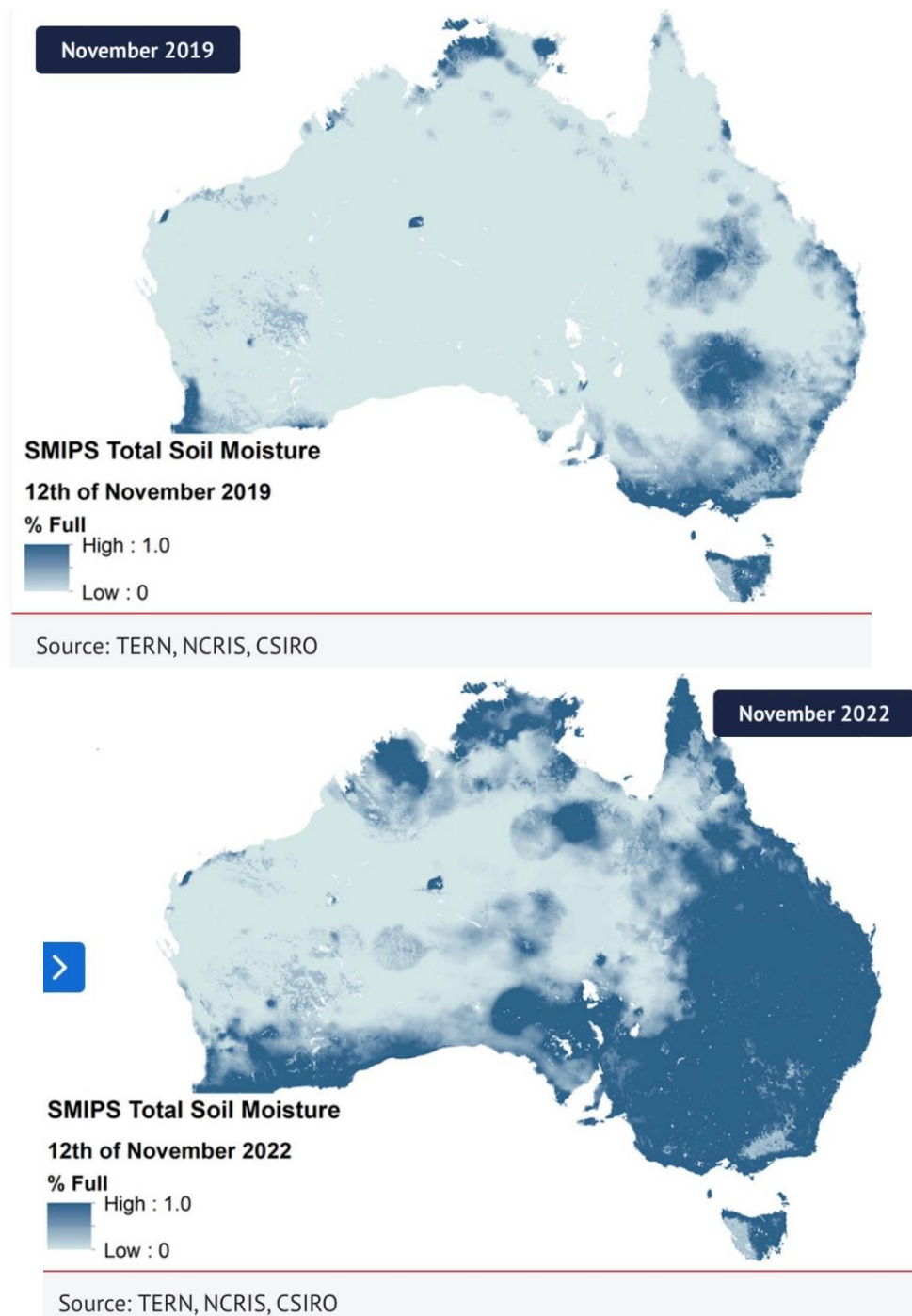
Following the garden tour, we had a pleasant barbecue lunch with Chef Don demonstrating his expertise with his new electric solar powered Barbecue. All in all, a very pleasant day. Thanks to our hosts Don and Maria Hitchcock.



Some Weather Records for Saumarez Ponds

By John Nevin

The past three years have been quite extraordinary for the variation in rainfall for the country. We moved to our current home in March 1977 and have kept rainfall records since then. From the driest year in our experience we have gone to a couple of years of our wettest. This is well demonstrated by charts showing the soil water content over this period. Little wonder our plants that were not well drained were struggling.



For the interest of members, I post our rainfall records for the past few decades. What has been your experience?

Year	Annual Rainfall	Year	Annual Rainfall
1996	1168 mm	2022	1016 mm
2021	1167	2021	1167
2020	1098	2020	1098
2022	1016	2019	290
2011	1010	2018	712
2010	988	2017	852
2007	986	2016	915
2004	956	2015	718
1990	954	2014	556
1989	951	2013	636
2016	915	2012	646
1998	908	2011	1010
1997	902	2010	988
1995	878	2009	821
1999	871	2008	787
2017	852	2007	985
2005	846	2006	605
1985	826	2005	846
2009	821	2004	956
2008	787	2003	741
1998	775	2002	644
1987	758	2001	668
1991	754	2000	707
2003	747	1999	871
1993	720	1998	908
2015	718	1997	902
1992	716	1996	1168
2018	712	1995	877
2000	708	1994	638
2001	668	1993	720
2012	646	1992	716
2002	644	1991	753
1994	638	1990	954
2013	637	1989	954
2006	605	1988	774
2014	556	1987	758
1986	506	1986	506
2019	290	1985	826

More Butterflies – *Heteronympha merope* (Common Brown)

By John Nevin

If you have been out gardening recently, you will have noticed that the garden is overrun with the Common Brown butterflies. These can be well disguised if resting with their wings up, but if the wings are down, their varied orange and black colours are much more noticeable.

As a result of all the rain and warm conditions in recent months, there has been much grass growth, and hence a ready food source for the caterpillars or larvae of this creature. The eggs are laid on a variety of grasses, which include *Brachypodium distachyon* (False Broom), *Cynodon dactylon* (Couch), *Ehrharta erecta* (Panic Veldt Grass), *Poa poiformis* (Coast Tussock Grass), *Microlaena stipoides* (Snow Grass) and *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass).

The **eggs** are spherical, diameter 1 mm, cream in colour and laid singly on the leaf of a grass. The eggs hatch out into bright green **caterpillars** with a brown to black head. The tail is forked and the body covered in fine hairs. The caterpillars hide by day at the base of the foodplant and emerge at night to feed. They grow to a length of about 4 cms.

Pupae form after about ten weeks. The pupae are grey-brown with dark brown markings, measure about 2 cms, and form on the surface of the soil near the base of the foodplant. After roughly four weeks, the **adult butterflies** emerge. There are colour differences between male and female butterflies. They occur across south east Australia from southern Qld across to South Australia.



Above left: the green caterpillar of the Common Brown.
Above right: the pupa of the Common Brown that forms on the ground at the base of the grass on which the caterpillar feeds.



Above left: the male butterfly with its wings open
Above right: the female butterfly with its wings open



Above left: the male butterfly with its wings closed
Above right: the female butterfly with its wings closed

Do you want to learn more about grafting?

A few years ago, before COVID hit the world, a small group of us were getting together once a month to learn more about grafting. COVID put an end to this, but now that we are all immunised and life is more back to normal, Maria Hitchcock has proposed resuming this activity. You will have received an email from her forwarded to you by Penelope Sinclair and I attach a copy here. No special knowledge is required – just a desire to learn more about plant propagation. If you are interested, then email Maria to get her to add you to the list of those participating.

"Grafting Group

I would like to revive the Grafting Group which met once a month before Covid but was disbanded. I think we now might have a few more members interested in developing their skills in this technique. We would meet as before once a month on a day to be decided by the group. We would kick off in February but possibly pause during winter. All participants would need to provide their own equipment and we would rotate among a few member's homes. If you are interested in joining this group please email maria.hitchcock@gmail.com"

Plants available from Patrick Laher

Below is a list of plants, still available for you to buy. You will need to contact Patrick Laher to obtain these.

"Current plants in stock and available for sale - updated 8-1- 2023

Adenanthus cuneata

Alyogyne huegelii West Coast Gem

Billardiera heterophylla Blue Flowers

Billardiera heterophylla White Flowers

Correa baeuerlenii

Correa Cardinal Bells

Correa Federation Belle

Correa glabra Barossa Gold.

Correa reflexa Clearview Giant

Correa reflexa Country Belle

Correa reflexa Jester

Dodonaea species Flinders Peak, Q'land

Eucalyptus scoparia

Eremophila bignoniiflora

Eremophila species Piccaninny Dawn
Eremophila youngii Yellow Canary
Grevillea lavandulacea Billy Wing
Homoranthus decumbens
Kunzea ericoides Little Snowman, light frost, grows to 1.5m
Maireana oppositifolia Smokey
Microseris lanceolata
Phebalium Dulcie's Delight
Pomaderris andromedifolia
Prostanthera species Donnybrook
Prostanthera species Rowleys Creek blue flowers
Senecio amygdalifolius
Spryridium scortechinii

Arboretum Working Bee 7th January 2023

The change of our working bees from Friday mornings to Saturday mornings has proved to be a positive, as most of our usual Friday members turned up. In addition, it allowed three additional members who previously weren't able to assist due to work commitments, the opportunity to become involved in our working bees.

It was wonderful to have 12 members turn up for watering the plants and weeding the garden beds. With the greater number of helpers, we were able to achieve both of these objectives.

The recent planting of Banksias would have especially benefited from our watering as they were looking to be under stress. Most other plant species appeared to be coping with the current dry weather. And as an indicator of climate change Mother Earth has suddenly turned off the water tap late last year!

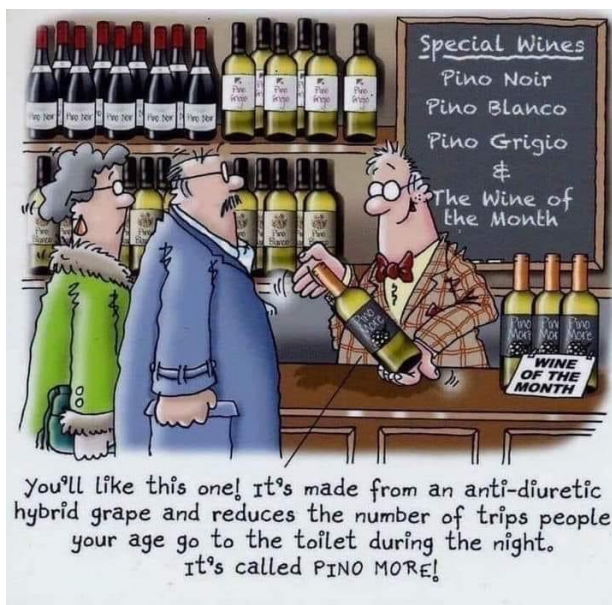
Thanks to the following members for giving up their time to help with the maintenance of the Arboretum: Peter Shephard, Keith Finlayson, Deirdre Waters, Phil Rose, John Nevin, Penelope Sinclair, Lee Horsley, Eric Sinclair, Greg Horsley, Lorena Ruiz Talonia and Rose Andrews.

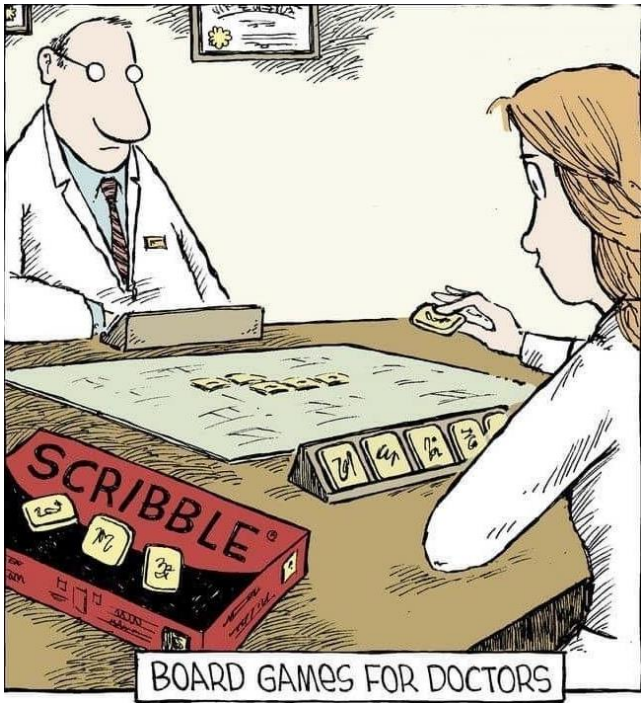
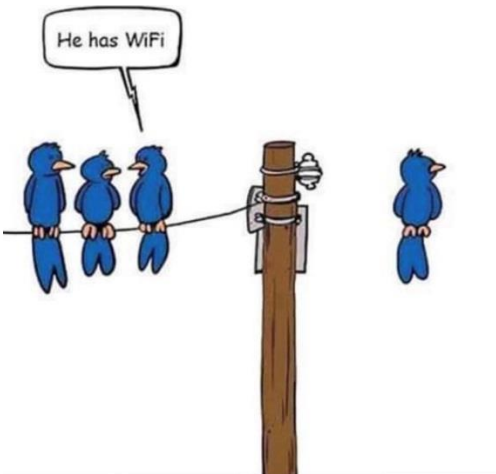
Patrick Laher
Arboretum Co-ordinator

Some Funnies by John Nevin



A bookseller with a sense of humour





For Your Diary

This information has already been emailed to members, but I include it as a guide to activities in the year ahead. More precise information will be emailed as the event nears.

Calendar 2023 Arboretum Working Bee – starts 9.00am, on last the Saturday of the month.
Markets in the Mall –8.00am-1.00 pm

- Feb.** 10th Business meeting
18th Garden Visit
25th Working Bee
26th Markets
- Mar.** 3rd -4th Armidale Show
18th Garden visit/Excursion
25th Working Bee
26th Markets
- Apr.** 7th Business Meeting
15th Garden Visit/ Excursion (School holidays)
29th Working Bee
30th Markets
- May** 20th Garden Visit/Excursion
27th Working Bee
28th Markets
- June** 2nd Business meeting
17th Solstice celebration Forum/Workshop
24th Working Bee
25th Markets
- July** 15th Forum/Workshop (School holidays)
29th Working Bee
30th Markets
- Aug.** 4th Business Meeting
19th Garden Visit - TBA
26th Working Bee
27th Markets
- Sept.** 2nd Wattle Day -TBA
16th Garden Visit/Excursion
24th Markets
30th Working Bee
- Oct.** 6th Business meeting (School holidays)
21st Mole Station Nursery Visit/Excursion
28th Working Bee
29th Markets
- Nov.** 5th-6th Open Garden/St Peter's Weekend (?)
18th Planning Meeting for 2024 (?)
25th Working Bee
26th. Markets
- Dec.** 2nd AGM, Garden Visit

