

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY (Australia) Inc.

EPACRIS STUDY GROUP

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NEWSLETTER No. 35 **AUTUMN 2013**

Greetings to all Epacris Study Group members.

Welcome to Autumn, and we hope that both you and your garden have managed to survive the challenges of our recent summer.

There have certainly been some weather extremes, including a very long, hot, dry period in many regions, while in other areas there have been heavy rains and flooding or in some cases the challenge of bushfires.

We would be very pleased to hear how your *Epacris* plants have fared during recent months. Undoubtedly there will have been some losses, or perhaps after some autumn rain and a good pruning the plants may be able to put on fresh new growth or re-shoot from the below-ground roots. We would love to hear of your experiences, both good and not-so-good.

This Newsletter is somewhat shorter than our usual size, due primarily to the fact that Rodger and I are currently in the process of moving house. After years of frequent travel to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne Vic., we have now decided that it is time to reduce our "road-miles" so will be moving to Berwick within the next few weeks. Any mail will be forwarded from Heathmont to Berwick until at least late 2013, and full details of the new address will be provided in our next Newsletter. Fortunately email contact details will remain as above.

It was mentioned in Newsletter 33 that I would be very happy if someone else would like to take over the position of Epacris Study Group Leader, but to date we have not been overwhelmed with offers! Please give it some thought and let me know if you are interested. While changing contact details associated with our house-move it might be a very good time to make the full change to the new Study Group Leader.

We extend warm greetings and welcome to the new Victorian Study Group Liaison Officer, Maya Zweck. She takes over from Annie Treasure who has held this position for a number of years. Maya is a professional horticulturist with a particular interest in propagation and grafting, including some of the Australian plant species commonly regarded as difficult to cultivate on their own roots.

Some very exciting news since our last Newsletter is that the founding Secretary/ Treasurer of our Study Group, Dick Burns, was honoured with an Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day awards in January. It is an honour richly deserved and further details of Dick's work over the years is included on Page 2. Well done, and warmest Congratulations to Dick with our thanks for your involvement in getting our Epacris Study Group "up and running"!

Happy gardening, and best wishes for a 'garden friendly' autumn in your area.

Gwen Elliot

Dick Burns honoured with an Order of Australia Medal

It was a wonderful surprise and with much pleasure that we learnt of **Dick Burns** receiving a Medal in the General Division of the **Order of Australia** on Australia Day 2013.

His official title will now be **Richard Burns OAM**.

The citation for the award, as listed in our newspapers read **Richard Alfred Burns**, Penguin, Tas. For service to botany, as an author and conservationist.

Those who know Dick could of course add many sentences and paragraphs to this citation as we all appreciate just how much he has done over many many years in sharing his passion for Australian plants and the environment.

Dick was founding Secretary/Treasurer of the **Epacris Study Group** with Ron Crowden as Study Group Leader, in September 1992 and continued in that position through to 1998.

**Sincere congratulations Dick,
from all members of the Epacris Study Group.**

The March 2013 issue of 'EUCRYPHIA', the quarterly newsletter of the Australian Plants Society, Tasmania contains the following article of congratulations to Dick.

“Richard Alfred (Dick) Burns OAM

Our wonderful contributor, Life Member, Dick Burns, North West Group representative on Council, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours for services to botany, as an author and conservationist. Our Society believes this honour is richly deserved.

When Dick moved to Tasmania in 1970 to teach mathematics and science in North West Tasmanian high schools he immediately became involved in bushwalking with the North West Walking Club. After serving in many positions including Secretary, Conservation Officer and President, he was made a life member of that organization in 1981.

During his many bush walks he honed his botanical skills and learned to recognise our special Tasmanian flora. Dick also joined the Society for Growing Australian Plants (now the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc.) as a foundation member of the North West Group of the Tasmanian region. He has served in many positions in our Society, including President and Secretary of the North West Group, Vice President, Secretary and Nomenclature Officer of APST Inc. and was made a Life Member in 1989. Dick has also held the positions of Secretary and Newsletter Editor for our Australia-wide organization Australian Native Plants Society, Australia and was awarded the ANPSA Australian Plants Award in 2005.

While bushwalking throughout Tasmania, Dick found species of plants that he wanted to identify and at times sought help from the Tasmanian Herbarium. This led to him collecting plant specimens for the Herbarium and other institutions such as the Washington Botanic Gardens. He collected for the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) for over ten years and helped to set up the Tasmanian plants section in the Gardens in Canberra. He was made an honorary member of the Friends of the Gardens in recognition of his work. Dick has also collected and propagated many plants for the Tasmanian Arboretum where he is Curator of the Tasmanian section.

Dick wrote three identikit books that were published by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, SIGNIFICANT FLORA OF CRADLE MOUNTAIN, DAY WALK AREAS, 2001, A GUIDE TO THE FLORA OF FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK, 2004 and THE DIVERSE FLORA OF LAKE ST. CLAIR DAY WALK AREAS, 2006. He recently wrote PATHFINDERS IN TASMANIAN BOTANY, AN HONOUR ROLL OF PEOPLE CONNECTED THROUGH NAMING TASMANIAN PLANTS, 2012, published by the Tasmanian Arboretum Inc. His latest publication, the identikit booklet EXPLORING THE FLORA OF CRADLE MOUNTAIN DAY WALK AREAS, 2012 he published himself.

Dick has been a member of the Friends of Cradle Valley (formerly the Cradle Mountain Advisory Group) since its inception and was Secretary from 1999 to 2005. He was a representative on the Steering Committee for implementing the Cradle Mountain Infrastructure Strategy and has also been an active member of, and plant advisor to, Penguin Coastcare.

He has led many eminent botanists around various parts of Tasmania, especially Cradle Mountain, and been the botanical guide on coach tours in Tasmania and across Australia from Sydney to Western Australia for several years.

Congratulations Dick and best wishes for many more years enjoying Tasmanian plants.

Bruce Champion”

LOOKING BACK INTO THE HISTORY OF EPACRIS CULTIVATION

It is well documented that plants of Epacris have been grown in England since the early days of European settlement in Australia.

I recently came across the following extract from an article printed in the Royal Horticultural Society's magazine 'THE GARDEN' dated July 16, 1884 and thought it would be of interest to many Epacris Study Group members. Unfortunately we do not have the illustrating plate referred to in the first sentence.

"GARDEN FLORA - Hybrid Epacrises

The accompanying plate represents some of the most beautiful of garden Epacrises of which thanks to the skilful hybridist we now possess a host of great value for decorative purposes.

Since the introduction of the first species from Australia, now almost a century ago, Australian Heaths, as they are sometimes called, have always held a foremost position amongst garden plants, and although not now so generally grown as they were a little time back, in the days when hard-wooded plants were everywhere popular, they are un eclipsed by the majority of greenhouse subjects now cultivated, and will find favour long after many of these are discarded.

As is the case with their African cousins the Ericas, the original species of Epacris have been employed by the hybridist with such good effect as to obtain them from a race of superior kinds for garden purposes and the species have therefore almost totally disappeared from cultivation.

That the species would freely intercross is evident from the difficulty experienced by botanists in circumscribing them by any definite characters, as nearly the whole of the twenty-six species known seem to pass into each other by small gradations.

Of these twenty-six species all but four are found only in the cooler regions of Australia. There are no Ericas in Australia, their place being filled by the Epacrises."

EPACRIS IN CULTIVATION as listed in English Gardening Publications between 1839 and 1908

The following is a listing of references to Epacris cultivated, with the issue of the gardening magazines in which they were featured and notes on flower colour

<i>Epacris</i> 'Alba Odorata'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	white
<i>Epacris</i> 'Ardentissima'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	crimson
<i>Epacris</i> 'Atleena'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1845	rose & white
<i>Epacris</i> 'Butterfly'	The Garden	1884, June 26	carmine & white
<i>Epacris</i> 'Campanulata'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1907, December 21	lilac rose
<i>Epacris</i> 'Candidissima'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	white
<i>Epacris</i> 'Carminata'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	carmine
<i>Epacris</i> 'Carnea'	The Garden	1884, July 26	deep pink
<i>Epacris</i> 'Ceroeflora'	Thomson & Morgan	1938	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Coccinea'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1907, December 21	scarlet
<i>Epacris</i> 'Comberi'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1932, February 13	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Copelandii'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1839	scarlet
<i>Epacris</i> 'Coruseans'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1843	dark red
<i>Epacris</i> 'Craegii'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1842	white
<i>Epacris</i> 'Criterion'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Delicata'	The Garden	1884, July 26	rose & white
<i>Epacris</i> 'Densiflora'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1906, March 3	rose & white
<i>Epacris</i> 'Devoniana'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1902, January 25,	scarlet crimson
<i>Epacris</i> 'Diadem'	The Garden	1884, February 16	rosy carmine
<i>Epacris</i> 'Dubia'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1846	white

**EPACRIS IN CULTIVATION as listed in English Gardening Publications
between 1839 and 1908**

continued from previous page

<i>Epacris</i> 'Eclipse'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1902, January 25,		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Elegantissima'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1845	crimson & white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Excelsior'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Exquisita'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Fireball'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	deep scarlet	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Fulgens'	The Garden	1884, July 26	red	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Her Majesty'	The Garden	1884, March 1	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Hyacinthiflora'	The Garden	1906, March 3	rose	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Hyacinthiflora Fulgens'	The Garden	1890, February 15		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Ignea'	The Garden	1884, July 26	rose	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Jubilee'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Kinghorni'	The Garden	1897, January 9	carmine & white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Kitty Todman'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Lady Alice Peel'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	salmon & white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Lady Panmure'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Laevigata'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1847	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Lineata'	The Garden	1884, July 26	rose, pale tipped	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Lowi'	The Garden	1884, July 26	red, white tipped	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Magnifica'	The Garden	1884, July 26	rose	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Miniata'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1844		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Miniata Splendens'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1908, June 20		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Model'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1902, January 25,	rose	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Mont Blanc'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1902, January 25,	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Mrs. Pim'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1879, April 19,	rose	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Multiflora'	The Garden	1884, July 26	red & white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Nivalis'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1833	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Odorata var. Alba'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1846, March 23,	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Onosmiflora'	The Floricultural Cabinet	1839	white	
<i>E. 'Onosmiflora Florepleno Nivalis'</i>	Gardeners Chronicle	1887, March 17,	white, double	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Pallida'	The Garden	1884, July 26	flesh	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Picturata'	The Garden	1884, July 26	rose	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Princess Beatrice'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1906, March 3	pale pink	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Pulchella Major'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1902, January 25	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Queen Victoria'	The Garden	1884, July 26	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Racemosa'	The Garden	1884, July 26	carmine	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Refulgens'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1907, December 21,		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Rose Perfection'	The Garden	1884, March 1	pink	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Rosea'	The Garden	1884, July 26	rose	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Rubella'	The Garden	1884, July 26	purplish rose	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Rubra'	The Garden	1884, July 26	red & white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Salmonea'	The Garden	1884, July 26	light salmon	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Sanguinea'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	blood red	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Sunset'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1902, January 25,	pink to purplish red	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Tauntoniana'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1879, April 5		
<i>Epacris</i> 'The Premier'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1884, February 16	clear rose pink	
<i>Epacris</i> 'The Bride'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1902, January 25	white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Variegata'	The Garden	1884, July 26	rose to white	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Vesta'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	white, pink-tipped	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Vesuvius'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1894, March 31	crimson & scarlet	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Viola'	The Gardeners Chronicle	1879, April 5		
<i>Epacris</i> 'Viscountess Hill'	The Garden	1884, July	scarlet	
<i>Epacris</i> 'Waltoni'	The Garden	1884, July	flesh	

Recording the flowering times of *Epacris* species**JULY 2013**

Date

_____ <i>Epacris</i> _____	In BUD <input type="checkbox"/>	In FLOWER <input type="checkbox"/>	Flowering finishing <input type="checkbox"/>
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AUGUST 2013

Date

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SEPTEMBER 2013

Date

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OCTOBER 2013

Date

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_____ *Epacris* _____ In BUD In FLOWER Flowering finishing

_____ *Epacris* _____ In BUD In FLOWER Flowering finishing

Epacris Study Group Membership

There are now two options available to members of the Australian Plant Society / Society for Growing Australian Plants and affiliated groups to also be members of the Epacris Study Group.

Members who wish to receive the Newsletters by post in spring and autumn each year can do so for a membership fee of \$5 per year for Australian members or \$10 p.a. for overseas members. Your membership expiry date is printed in the top corner of the postage label.

For those who wish to receive the Newsletters by email the membership fee for both Australian and overseas members will be \$10.00 which will cover receipt of all Newsletters issued during the next five years.

For any queries regarding membership, please contact the Study Group Leader,
Gwen Elliot, P.O. Box 655, Heathmont Vic., 3135.
Email - gwenelliot@optusnet.com.au

Epacris Study Group Membership form.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....POSTCODE.....

Phone.....

Region of APS/SGAP Membership

I/We wish to receive future Epacris Study Group Newsletters by

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- b) EMAIL to E-mail.....

Payment enclosed \$

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