

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

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Goodeniaceae Study Group Newsletter No. 12
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Leader:

DENNIS MARGAN
58/B NORMAN AVE
THORNLEIGH 2120

Hello again,

Welcome to a new financial year! Unfortunately that means subscriptions are due again. The subscription fee for the foreseeable future will be \$5.00. I have included (below) an account of our current financial position. As you can see it is quite healthy and should enable us to support our activities into the near future at least.

There is not a lot of news to report from my end. The most interesting event to happen to me over the past 6 months was a visit to Riversleigh with the University of New South Wales Vertebrate Palaeontology Unit. Riversleigh is situated on the Gregory River about 200 km NW of Mt Isa. It is a lovely area and I spent 2 very exciting weeks breaking rocks looking for fossils. Riversleigh is one of the most exciting vertebrate fossil areas in the world and is currently under consideration as a World Heritage Area - it has just recently been gazetted as a National Park. While there I kept my eyes open for Goodeniaceae and other wild life (which was abundant!). I spotted two *Scaevolas*, one of which could have potential as garden plant. I will attempt to get a clear identification as soon as possible. (Note: Roger Carolin is a bit stumped on this one until it flowers!). I have passed a struck (?) cutting on to Burrendong so that it will be "safe". Roger did say that he thought the *Scaevola* sp I found near Wentworth Falls was probably *S. decurrens*, but again there was some hesitation in his voice. We will have to wait until it flowers again.

I recently attended a meeting of study group leaders at the just completed Biennial ASAGP Conference. It was very well attended and there was considerable discussion over a wide range of topics including a search for a new Study Group Co-ordinator, access to collections in Botanic Gardens (particularly Mt Annan), study group leader workshops and problems associated with running a study group. Lack of communication at all levels seemed to be a common theme.

Financial Year 1992-3

Balance at June 30, 1992	\$ 133.60
Shares in Credit Union	10.00
Total	143.60
Income	
Subscriptions from members	71.00
Subscriptions from groups	148.00
Interest	7.45
Total	226.45
Expenditure	
Newsletters/Postage	49.86
Fertiliser/Chemicals	75.00
Potting Mix	50.00
Total	174.86
Income - Expenditure	51.59
Balance at June 30, 1993 (including shares)	195.19

Membership

We have another active member of the group to welcome this newsletter. Phil (Hughes) lives near Newcastle. It is also nice to see that Burrendong Arboretum is becoming an active member of a number of study groups including our group. It is also nice to see Klaus Querengasser back on the membership list after a short "enforced" absence.

I should point out that a number of the members are currently unfinancial. I tend to carry people for a couple of newsletters hoping for a memory return however I cant do it forever. I usually attach a "red dot" to the front of the newsletter for unfinancial members.

Current active members in the group are

Canberra

Geoff Clarke, 26 Henry St, Cook, ACT, 2614

New South Wales

Burrendong Arboretum, Tara Rd, Mumbil, 2820

Phil Hughes, 81 Burwood Rd, Whitebridge, 2290

Jonathan Lidbetter, 29 George St, Pennant Hills, 2120

Miller, Robert and Stevenson, A., 7 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, 2213

Margaret Randall, R.M.B. Tocumwal, 2714

Philip Strong, 6 Jetty Ave, Charmhaven, 2263

Queensland

Klaus Querengasser, P.O. Box 73, St Lucia, Brisbane, 4067

Pat Shaw, 5 Fleetwood St, Macgregor, 4109

Jan Sked, P.O. Box 41, Lawton, 4501

South Australia

Ida Jackson, 7 Centenary Ave, Kingscote, Kangaroo Is, 5223

Gary Leske, 18 Leonard Ave, Port Pirie, 5540

Tasmania

Jeanette Closs, 176 Summerleas Road, Kingston, 7050.

Victoria

Joan Hales, McDonalds Rd, Glen Alvie, 3979

Rita Luff, 95 Seebeck Rd, Rowville, 3178

Bruce Schroder, 17 Jubilee Rd, Montrose, 3765

Beverley Truscott, 22 Acacia Ave, South Oakleigh, 3167

Western Australia

Mary Squire, Box 23, Mukinbudie, W.A. 6479

Overseas

Henri de Bono, 12 Allee des Chasseurs, 78230 Le Peco, France

Correspondence

A letter from Margaret Randall arrived last year but was misplaced while I was making up the last newsletter. Margaret has been eager to try a lot of the more difficult species and is having some success with *Lechenaultia* sp. She has been experimenting with sandy soil mixtures in pots and finds that most of her plants will grow in this medium quite happily. As I mentioned in the last newsletter I am becoming more and more convinced that this is the way to go for keeping stock plants. Margaret believes that there are three main advantages; the medium is free-draining, it is easy to tell when the medium is too dry, and the plants don't seem to get potbound as quickly.

Margaret is currently trialling a number of *Lechenaultia* sp. Of a number of plantings made in spring 91 both *L. macrantha* and *L. biloba* failed to survive the winter of 92 which was very wet and frosty. Species planted in the autumn of 92 did however survive, including *L. helmsii*, *L. hirsuta*, *L. "ultraviolet"*, *L. tubiflora* and *L. heteromera*. *L. acutiloba* planted in 91 was also unaffected and had grown to about 10" high x 18" across at the time of writing

(the letter was dated Oct 92). *Cooperhooia barbata* was a little browned off by frost but survived (Ed. - ,this is more than I can say - I have alot of difficulty with this species) and is suckering. *Scaevola "Purple Fanfare"* died during the summer. Other plantings in that autumn included *Scaevola ramosissima*, *S. "Misty Blue"*, *S. phlebopetalum*, *Dampiera wellsiiana*, *D. striata "Glasshouse Mts"* and *D. trigona*. (Ed. I notice with interest the increasing popularity of *S. phlebopetalum* in WA and the southern states. It is not available in Sydney which is a pity as it is a lovely species).

Had a letter from Philip Strong just recently. Philip is one of the foundation members but is a little up against it where he lives on the Central Coast of NSW (in terms of growing the more difficult species!). He reports that the only real success he is having in the ground is with a form of *Scaevola aemula* he collected some years ago on a coastal headland on the North Coast of NSW. As collected the flowers were very large and a very deep purple/blue. The original plants have died now but seeding has been prolific and new plants spring up all over the place. The flower colour seems to have faded somewhat from the original as he recalls it, nevertheless the plants perform well until sections of the plant begin to wilt, then bit by bit the rest of the plant inevitably succumbs. The roots however do not appear to be affected which is interesting. They look perfectly healthy and there is invariably new, healthy looking growth just above ground level.

Phil also reports that his brother-in-law is having some success growing *Lechenaultia sp* in Queensland of all places (near Noosa), mainly *L. formosa* but also a compact form of *L. biloba*. The plants are growing in a rockery. When he was there in January there had not been much rain but the humidity is always high up there. The plants came from Fairhill Nursery at Yandina, just north of Nambour.

I am currently in the process of building up stocks of plants for transfer to Study Group members. It is most obvious that the range of species available to us currently is very small, probably less than 10% of the known species in the family. There is a crying need for members to undertake some systematic collections in there area, if only to identify areas where populations of particular species can be accessed by licensed collectors. I would exhort all members to keepp there eyes open for new populations and to record the precise locations for future study. Very few of the species have closely defined ranges and every little bit of knowledge could be of value.

Dennis Margan