

Leader:

DENNIS MARGAN
58 B NORMAN AVE
THORNLEIGH 2120

Hello again everyone,

It is about that time of the year again. It is very difficult to maintain a lot of the Goodeniaceae here in Sydney when the temperature starts to drop while the humidity remains high. It has not been particularly wet however a very heavy storm did a considerable amount of damage. I haven't been available for the past month or so and the plants have had to fend for themselves. I have taken up a new position recently and as part of this transition, I am on an extended period of familiarisation with the cattle feedlot industry. I have been interstate and will be overseas for most of the next 3-4 months. This will mean limited access to my time after mid-May. I will be trying to fulfill all those requests for cutting material arising from the last newsletter. It has been suggested that some of the species I have chosen are not readily available and I concede that point. However the object of the exercise is partly to get members actively seeking species thereby getting them well distributed and growing in member's gardens. I personally don't have all the species and forms I mentioned but I hope members will be motivated to search them out particularly wild sourced material because we are in dire need of unambiguous correctly sourced material. Below I have listed possible sources of the species I listed:

- G. ovata I have the Colo River upright form.
Bruce Schroder has an upright and a
 prostrate form.
- G. varia I have about 3-4 forms.
Ida Jackson can provide the Kangaroo Is
 forms (2 forms)
- G. pterygosperma I have this species.
Bruce Schroder, Jeanette Closs and
 Margaret Randall also have the
 species.
- G. viscida I have this species as have Bev Truscott
 and Bruce Schroder.
- D. linearis I have 4 forms although I am having
 difficulty maintaining a large supply
 of material
Neil Marriot (Stawell) is a good source.
Bruce Schroder has 4 forms and Margaret
 Randall has 2 forms.

- D. trigona I have the two larger flower forms although the blue is in short supply. Neil Marriot has all three forms and Bruce Schroder the pink and dwarf forms.
- D. purpurea I have only the local dark blue form as has Bruce Schroder.
Who will offer to collect the others?
- D. rosmarinifolia I have small plants of the "pink" form. Again Neil Marriot has both as has Margaret Randall.
- S. aemula I have 3 variants inc Kangaroo Is form. Ida Jackson has Kangaroo Is form and quite a few members (Klaus Querenger, Margaret Randall) have the Diamond Head/Purple Fanfare form. Jeanette Closs has this species although I dont know whether it was collected locally.
- S. albida I have white and pink form. Jeanette Closs appears to have the blue form and the white form.
- S. ramossissima I have a variant not the local type form. Jeanette Closs has a form.
- S. crassifolia I believe that I finally have this species flourishing however I need to see it flowering first. Ida Jackson can supply the Kangaroo Is form. Bev Truscott apparently has a particularly good form as well the usual pale blue.
- L. formosa I am now reduced to the Beaumaris Red form. Max Hewett (Verticordia study group) has a number of forms however members in Victoria should have access to more forms (Bruce Schroder). Neil Marriot again is a good source.
- L. laricina I have lost this but we should have it. Anyone?
- L. biloba Max Hewett is the best source in NSW. Neil Mariott and Bruce Schroder in Victoria.

NOTE 1: Neil Marriot owns White Gums Nursery near Stawell.

NOTE 2: I have deleted G. glomerata from my list (for the present). Two reasons. Firstly I appear to have wrongly identified the plants in my garden as G. glomerata which isn't supposed to have a rosette of basal leaves and secondly there is insufficient material at present of the species I do have. Could members to whom I have sent cuttings in the recent past please note the possible incorrect naming.

I have included a list (for active members) of the species that Bruce Schroder and Jeanette Closs are growing (separate sheets. Some have apparently died however the number of species on the list suggest that both are contacts to cultivate and I am sure they would be willing to supply cutting material. Ida Jackson, as usual, has offered to supply any of the species from Kangaroo Is, particularly *G. ovata*, *G. varia*, *S. aemula* and *S. crassifolia*. Remember that Greg Howell has offered material to the group, his specialty is *Scaevola* sp. (he is at the Dept of Botany, Melbourne University). Unfortunately I cannot be active in this area at present however I will be calling on people myself about September.

Margaret Randall is a relatively new member to our group. She classes herself as a gardener with an interest in native plants but willing to try anything. Currently she has growing *Cooperhooia barbata*, *Dampiera linearis* (2 forms), *D. humilis* (?), *D. rosmarinifolia* (2 forms), *Diaspasis filifolia*, *Goodenia pterygosperma*, *Lechenaultia formosa* (Beaumaris Red), *L. biloba*, *L. acutiloba* and *Scaevola* "Purple Fanfare".

Bruce Schroder is also a relatively new introduction to our group however he is obviously a keen collector and grower of Goodeniaceae (see included list). Both he and Jeanette Closs are having problems with the *Scaevola* key I distributed. Both make the comment that it is easier if you know the answer however I feel that defeats the purpose of the key. Bruce also argues that it is difficult to even classify the genera in this family for example *Velleia* sp., *Cooperhooia* sp. and *Goodenia* sp, and what about *Brunonia* sp. which I believe is at present not included in the family. As I mentioned in the last newsletter I wait with interest the keys from the Flora of Australia and the Flora of NSW both due out this year. My only published key is that in Flora of the Sydney Region (see attached). I apologise for the copies of the *Scaevola* key I sent out. It is unfortunately an exact replica of the copy given to me by Roger Carolin (he is obviously in need of a new printing tape). It is too big a job to retype it, particularly as it to be published very shortly.

Bev Truscott has also written about her successes and failures. She is growing a number of species in pots including hanging baskets. She has *Goodenia viscida* flowering in a pot but also suffering in the heat. Tended to get overgrown in the garden and was successfully transplanted. *Scaevola albida* has been in a pot for two years and is struggling (I find they get very leggy without severe pruning). Bev is growing *S. aemula* "Diamond Head" in a hanging basket where it is thriving. Bev obviously is keen on pruning (as is her two small boys) and I think this is very likely the reason for her reported excellent results (this is another of those species which gets very leggy). It is being shaded by a plum tree and dries out occasionally. Some recent successes are *Goodenia grandiflora* var *Macmillanii*, *G. bellidifolia* and *G. tenella*. The latter is frequently stripped by insects. As I mentioned before Bev is also growing *S. crassifolia*, both the usual form and one with vivid pale blue flowers.

Also had contact with Gary Leske from Port Pirie. He has just completed the herculean task of mulching all his garden with yellow quartz pebbles. He has obtained nice growth with his *Dampiera alata*, less success with his *D. diversifolia* (probably not suited to very dry climates, it likes lots of water but not humidity), and no success at all with *D. tetragona*. *D. lavandulacea* is however one to really shine. It is now suckering in the clay areas adjacent to the sandy bed in which it was planted. Also a few plants appearing between slate steps on the clay. Needs minimal watering and ideally suited to South Australian conditions. Gary is not having any success with *Lechenaultia*. Most of the survivors are struggling (mainly *L. biloba*). No success with *L. tubiflora*, either in sand or gravel beds. *Lechenaultia* do seem to like heavy but well-drained soils. He raves lyrical about *Goodenia humilis* with its long flowering period and self-seeding. Tends to invade all open areas and paths. Seem to like clay and hot, dry conditions. I have species from the Canberra region and Tasmania (courtesy of Jeanette Closs) and the latter is also spectacular. *S. paludosa* is growing however flowering not impressive. *S. striata* is still making moderate growth (mine keep dying). *S. crassifolia* is just in the ground and already has shown a good display of flowers. Gary has tried *Goodenia ovata* which I think really shows dedication in his area. It apparently dies back readily but comes again. Gary adds fairly concentrated solutions of Ferrous sulphate to the root area of his plants when chlorosis occurs and the *Dampieras* in particular respond well.

Current active members in the group are

Canberra

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

New South Wales

Jonathan Lidbetter, 29 George St, Pennant Hills, 2120

Philip Strong, 6 Jetty Ave, Charmhaven, 2263

Queensland

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

Pat Shaw, 5 Fleetwood St, Macgregor, 4109

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

Leon Steinhardt, Lot 56, Leurette Rd, M/S 231, Laidley, 4341

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

Peter Aldridge, 66 Ogilvie St, Essendon, 3040

Joan Hales, M^cDonalds Rd, Glen Alvie, 3979

Rita Luff, 95 Seebeck Rd, Rowville, 3178

Dr M. McDowall, 10 Russell St, Bulleen, 3105

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

Bruce Schroder, 17 Jubilee Rd, Montrose, 3765

Beverley Truscott, 22 Acacia Ave, South Oakleigh, 3167

Western Australia

Hazel Dempster, GPO Box W2040, Perth 6001 (this address no longer functiona)

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

Please Note: Quite a number of members are unfinancial for this financial year. Unfortunately we will be unable to carry them past the next newsletter. In fact it is getting close to the next round of collections in July. For the foreseeable future the subscription rate will remain at \$5.00 for local members.

On a more pleasant note it is good to welcome Bev Truscott and Pat Shaw back to the group after a short break. Bev just couldn't keep away. Pat and her late husband, Harvey, are almost legends in the native plant world. Harvey was working on grafting *Lehenaultia* when he suddenly died and he was a great loss to the group and to Pat, who hasn't been in the best of health. She appears to have recovered her old vitality and judging from her latest letter she hasn't lost her nose for interesting plants. A trip to the SGAP Conference in Perth was all she needed - I think I needed it too but I missed out! Plants included *Scaevola microphylla* (?), *S. platyphylla*, *S. pilosa*, *S. striata*, *S. oxyclona*, *S. nitida*, *S. crassifolia* and a species which has pure white flowers and is upright upright.

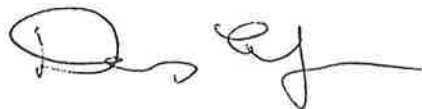
The Queenslanders seem to be really keen on Scaevolas however Pat also sent back some Lechenaultia cuttings. She also queried an appropriate potting mix for Lechenaultia sp. The only success I had in this regard was some plants of L. formosa and L. biloba I grew for one of the early Sydney Wildflower Shows. I was able to grow a number of forms for about 2-3 years and they looked magnificent (my opinion) in an almost total soil mix containing a lot of coarse sand and a mulch of quartzite. One of the problems was that I still receive complaints about back problems rather criminally (I think) attributed to moving my pots (12"). I hope Pat can really motor along now and start brightening her life with our tremendous little plants. You have to admit we have a huge range of species to select from.

Getting back to mundane matters our current account is still positive (\$140.92) however I will have to change banks as the Royal Bank has been taken over (again!), this time by ANZ, and they are now going to charge an account fee each month. We are apparently not exempt.

I do sometimes walk around with my eyes open. On a leisurely walk in the Blue Mountains a few weeks ago I came across one or two plants of what appeared to be a Goodenia from the flower. It was upright, about 0.5 m tall, with single flowers held on terminal leafy stems much as in *G. ovata* however the stems, although branching, tended to come from near the ground more like herbs and the long narrow pointed leaves surrounded the stems almost completely with no obvious petiole. I am not too sure that sessile or decurrent would describe it however it was possibly *G. decurrens*.

I have run out of things to say so goodbye until next time.

Regards



Dennis Margan