

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants



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Newsletter No. 82 – February 2009

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GSG VIC Programme 2008

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Despite extensive effort on behalf of Max McDowall to get members along to Vic Chapter excursions, there has been a very disappointing response. As a result Max has decided to resign from this role and we have decided to put the Vic chapter into recess until further notice.

Special thanks to Neil Marriott and Geoff Roche from the Victoria chapter for this splendid edition of the newsletter. Please note deadlines on back page for the following newsletter.

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GSG S.E. QLD Programme 2009

Morning tea at 9.30am, meetings commence at 10.00am. For more information contact **Noreen Baxter** on (07) 3202 5008 or **Beverley Leggett** on (07) 3870 8517.

Sunday, 22 February

VENUE: Bernard & Rona Wilson,
120 Avalon Rd, Sheldon, 4157

PHONE: (07) 3206 3399

SUBJECT: Review of survival of grevilleas following wet summer

Sunday, 26 April

VENUE: Helen Howard,
62 Helendale Drive, Helidon, 4352

PHONE: (07) 4697 7418 (M) 0447 199 462

SUBJECT: New Hybrids

Sunday, 28 June

VENUE: Kerry & Annabel Rathie,
5 Salston Street, Greenbank, 4124

PHONE: (07) 3200 0268

SUBJECT: Growing Grevilleas on their own roots

Sunday, 30 August

VENUE: Merv. & Olwyn Hodge,
81-81 Loganview Rd, Logan Reserve, 4133

PHONE: (07) 5546 3322

SUBJECT: Growing Grevilleas from cuttings

Sunday, 25 October

VENUE: Fran & Jim Standing,
Mt. Clunie Cabins, Mt. Clunie Road,
Woodenbong, NSW 2476

PHONE: (07) 4666 5118

SUBJECT: Pests, Diseases and Solutions

Sunday, 29 November

VENUE: Denis Cox & Jan Glazebrook,
87 Daintree Dr. Logan Village, 4207

PHONE: (07) 5546 8590

SUBJECT: Growing Grevilleas from seed

Welcome to the Grevillea Study Group Newsletter for 2009

As indicated in previous newsletter I have decided not to hold the Autumn Plant Sale this year. I may revive it when time permits me to organise it in the future. It is not simply a matter of organising the event and it is over. Organising means more than a month full time work from me. After it is over, there is more work that continues all year. This includes selling the unsold plants. I have been willing to do this up until now but there has been no relief and very little assistance. Having said that, I would like to acknowledge the people who so generously contributed their time, especially Gordon Meiklejohn. There were many others.

I have a number of serious projects to complete that are beginning to overwhelm me through the delays encountered by organising activities within the Study Group. Some of the projects I want to complete include taxonomic studies, a history project and a book on the hybrids that keeps getting interrupted by extraneous activities. As a result of these pressures, I have decided to close all activities of the Study Group in New South Wales. If someone wishes to organise and run them I have no objection but unfortunately I do not have the time at present. Frankly I do not think the interest is there either. Only six people turned up on our annual field trip last year even though this was well publicised beforehand. There was a reasonably good turn-up to the Christmas Party. Meeting numbers generally though are well down and it seems that most people would rather be somewhere else. The study group in New South Wales will now revert to a newsletter group, which was the original intention of study groups anyway. There are so few enthusiasts that I am beginning to wonder whether anything has been achieved. Where are all the eager new faces? Very few, I am afraid.

I want to congratulate the Queensland group for the continuity and ongoing enthusiasm of their members. They are an inspiration. Great credit is due to the organisers and leaders and I hope to occasionally attend their meetings. My own real interest is less about the garden than the wild and I have decided to focus there for a while. I hope you will all understand.

Illawarra Grevillea Park OPEN DAYS 2009

April, Sat 25 & Sun 26
May, Sat 2 & Sun 3
July, Sat 18 & Sun 19
July, Sat 25 & Sun 26
September, Sat 26 & Sun 27
October, Sat 3 & Sun 4

Each year the Park is open on the last full weekend in April, first weekend of May, last two full weekends in July, last weekend in September and first weekend in October
Opening hrs are 10am - 4pm

Location

The Park is located at the rear of Bulli Showground, Princess Highway, Bulli. (Turn at the Woonona-Bulli Sports Club)

Admission

\$5 adults, children accompanied by adults are free

Barbeque and picnic facilities available

Bring your lunch and make it a family day!

The park is open from 10am to 4pm.
For more information email

info@grevilleapark.org

Pronunciation of Grevillea Names Part 1

At the request of Peter Olde, co-author of *The Grevillea Book* (P. Olde and N. Marriott, Kangaroo Press 1994 and 1995) and for those who wish to learn and use the reformed Latin pronunciations for Botanical names (see my articles in Newsletters 79 and 81), I plan to produce a systematic series of short instructive articles, each describing some aspect of the reformed academic Latin pronunciations for the Grevillea names. These articles are needed in the interest of consistency because, while many of the published pronunciation guides given in the individual species' monographs in Volumes 2 and 3 conform, at least in part, to the reformed pronunciation, other analogous pronunciation guides are anglicised.

I have avoided the style of quasi-phonetic representation used there for the pronunciations of the species' names with idiosyncratic English syllables of up to three letters (like 'you' and 'eye' used to represent the sounds for **U** and **I**, etc.), because then the pronunciations of the individual names have to be learned one-by-one. I prefer instead to set out instructive general rules which can be applied to large groups of names having common features. Of course, some of the names listed have more than one issue with the pronunciation, and will need to be considered again in later articles. (Note: Letters with normal bold font represent the standard English vowel sounds, with upper case for the long sounds, while those in bold italics represent the reformed Latin sounds).

Pronunciation of simple 'a'

In Latin words, the letter **a** is invariably pronounced as either a long or short '**ah**' sound as in **aria**, **extra**, **father**, **sonata**, **can't**, & **about**. This Latin pronunciation is also customary in Australia for plant names **ending** in **-ana**, **-ara**, **-ala**, **-alis**, **-aria** (not as in **area**), **-aris**, **-ata**, and indeed in all English words with final **a**, and in many words with **a** before **r**.

Examples: *commutata*, *corrugata*, *costata*, *intricata*, *miniata*, *montana*, *pythara*, *sulcata*, *rivularis*, *striata*, *umbellulata*, *uncinulata*.

The letter **a** should be pronounced likewise in **the stem** (the preceding syllables) and in certain other endings which tend to be anglicised.

Examples: *acanthifolia*, *acrobotrya*, *acuaria*, *adenotricha*, *adpressa*, *agrifolia*, *albiflora*, *annulifera*, *arenaria*, *aspera*, *aspleniifolia*, *brachystachya*, *brachystylis*, *calliantha*, *candicans*, *capitellata*, *ceratocarpa*, *crassifolia*, (*G. rigida* subsp.) *distans*, *fasciculata*, *fastigiata*, *glossadenia*, *haplantha*, *incrassata*, *lanigera*, *latifolia*, *leucadendron*, *nana*, *pachylostyla*, *paniculata*, *parallela*, *parallelinervis*, *paradoxa*, *patulifolia*, *phanerophlebia*, *pinaster*, *polyacida*, *prasina*, *pythara*, *rara*, *ramosissima*, *rosmarinifolia*, *saccata*, *sarissa*, *scabra*, *scabrida*, *scapigera*, *sphacelata*, *stenostachya*, *synapheae* subsp. *pachyphylla*, *tripartita*, *variifolia*.

It is helpful to **practice saying these names aloud**. Understandably, in some descriptive plant names, we will tend to pronounce **a** like the **a** in **cat** by analogy with common English words of similar meaning. e.g. *alpina* or *magnifica*. However, by conscious correct practice, one can easily rid oneself of the habit.

Note that initial **a** including the negative prefix **a-** should be pronounced likewise and not like the English long **A** and that **c** should be pronounced like **k**.

Examples: *acerata*, *acerosa*, *aneura*, *apiciloba*, *aprica*.

Treat similarly the following new names published since the *Grevillea Book*: *acropogon*, *agrifolia*, *amplexans* subsp. *adpressa*, *angustiloba*, *bipinnatifida* subsp. *pagna*, *callichlaena*, *commutata*, *cratista*, *dilatata*, *divaricata*, *ecarinata* *halmaturina*, (*hookeriana* subsp.) *digitata*, *humilis* subsp. *maritima*, *ilicifolia* subsp. *lobata*, *irrasa*, (*juniperina* subsp.) *amphitricha*, *macrodelta*, (*manglesioides* subsp.) *metaxa*, *metamorphia*, *monslacana*, *nematophylla* subsp. *supraplana* & *planicosta*, *oxyantha*, *pallida*, *parvula*, *synapheae* subsp. *latiloba*, *tripartita* subsp. *macrostylis*, (*victoriae* subsp.) *nivalis*.

Note: Grevillea names derived from Personal or Geographic Names have not been included in this article. Their pronunciations should **not** be latinised but should follow those of the original names, except for the Latin endings. Some other exceptions, and issues such as the pronunciation of **a** in diphthongs will be discussed in later articles.

Panrock Ridge Working Bee, Easter 20-24th March 2008

Participants: Neil and Wendy Marriott, Max and Regina McDowall, Craig Dodgson with his chainsaw.

This event was scheduled in response to continuing expressions of interest since the previous event in November 2006. However, notwithstanding the promise of provided meals, most of the usual participants were unable to attend or had to withdraw for family and health reasons. Others have explained that Easter and Melbourne Cup weekends are unavailable for them but that they would like to come at some other time in the future.

We hope that we will be able to arrange some time in 2009 that would suit these others if they should volunteer, and then invite the regular participants to come as well. All previous participants have thoroughly enjoyed these events with associated guided tours of the Panrock Ridge venue, experiencing Neil's and Wendy's hospitality and their knowledge of the Flora, participating in field trips to the nearby Grampians, workshops and visiting other gardens and nurseries in addition to the working bee activities.

Friday: Max went out before breakfast with his pruning saw and cut down many dead branches of small trees in the Eucalyptus & Acacia arboretum alongside the driveway. We all continued after breakfast, Craig with his chainsaw and Neil with his trailer and removed dead trees from both sides of the driveway near the Grevillea Garden enclosure. We then proceeded to the Grevillea garden and cut regenerating suckers and saplings of *Acacia implexa*, treated the stumps with Glyphosate weedkiller, and removed some dying trees.

Saturday: We cut down many dead trees in the Rain Forest Garden, pruning old or dead branches from shrubby grevilleas and particularly from a large *Grevillea magnifica* subsp. *remota* in the Grevillea Garden. Craig and Neil also began to hang gates at all the 5 entrances to The Grevillea Garden.

Sunday: Continued hanging gates. Clearing of dead branches of Grevilleas etc. on the slopes west of the house.

Monday morning: Left for home – Neil and Wendy for Dunkeld. Craig remained for a while to complete hanging of the gates.

During the weekend, we enjoyed a tour of the Panrock Ridge property, garden visits to the beautiful gardens of Neil & Alison Macumber and Craig & Sharon Beeching near Pomonal, and then on to dinner at the Hall's Gap Hotel, joined by the Macumbers and Beechings. Despite the small turnout a huge amount of work was achieved and a number of new grevillea seedlings were discovered coming up in the ashes of dead grevilleas. One exciting discovery was an area of several dozen wonderful young plants of *Grevillea magnifica* – both subspecies that have sprung up on the ridge above the Grevillea Garden – these will be a spectacular sight in a few years, with one plant already in bud at less than 2 years of age!

Our deepest thanks to Max and Regina and Craig for their wonderful work. The Grevillea collection is gradually getting back on its feet, and with a good wet winter we will now be in a position to begin replanting the many grafted and struck plants we have ready to go in.

Direct deposits can be made into the Grevillea Study Group account

BSB 112-879

Account Number 016526630

(St George Bank).

Please notify the Treasurer of transfer by email
(bruce.moffatt@tpg.com.au)

or by post to

**Grevillea Study Group,
PO Box 275 Penshurst NSW 2222**

Maryborough Field Trip, 30-31st August 2008

Participants: Geoffrey Roche, Bob & Beth Stewart, Brian & Caroline Hendrickson, Eileen & Lyall Courtney, Max & Regina McDowall, Bob O'Neill, Peter Smith, Neil Marriott, Ian Evans.

Following a number of discussions with Max McDowall, Bob Stewart and myself, Geoff Roche decided to organise an impromptu weekend to check out as many of the Grevilleas as we could in the Maryborough – Bendigo district. Despite the fact that Max had just stood down as convener of the GSG Vic Group, he immediately got stuck into contacting as many of the Victorian members as he could to promote the weekend. On the ground, Geoff and Ian Evans got out and checked as many sites as they could to organise a fabulous itinerary for us. Despite the short notice, we finished up with around 15 participants – better than we often get for well promoted trips!

On Saturday morning we met at Beaufort and proceeded to Waterloo where we met up with our leaders Bob Stewart, Geoff Roche and Ian Evans. We then proceeded up into the hills to find several populations of *Grevillea floripendula* and *Grevillea micrantha*, pale pink form. Sadly, due to the drought, many of the Musical Gully plants were dead and gone, however, a few beautiful yellow flowered populations of *Grevillea floripendula* were found further south along the Musical Gully Track. We then proceeded to Battery Dam in the Craigie State Forest where we met up with several more participants. Despite the drought we were looking for shelter from rain that set in for much of the day!!

After lunch Geoff lead us to various sites close to Maryborough where they have found several populations of a distinctive form of what looks superficially like a *Grevillea rosmarinifolia/lanigera* hybrid? This unusual small grey-green shrub was unfortunately not in flower, but appears intermediate between the above two species, despite the fact that neither parent grows in the district!! It cannot be of garden origin either as the garden form of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* and its progeny have a robust habit and green leaves. The population appears uniform and occurs in at least four locations around Maryborough. We then went on to Geoff's garden at 36 Brown St. for a garden visit. Geoff has spent many hundreds of hours digging out wonderful gardens amongst the rock on his property. These are planted with many grevilleas and other shrubs and include practically every population of all grevillea species in the region.

We then headed off to book in to our overnight accommodation at Moonlight Inn – a wonderful spot with wonderful hosts and rather reminiscent of Fawlty Towers!! Once checked in, we returned to Bob's and Beth's for a superb tea of lovely hot soup and casseroles provided by Beth and the other participants. We had a superb evening of discussions on everything before we all headed back to our accommodation.

Sunday morning and the weather had cleared as we returned to Bob and Beth's, where we not only admired their lovely garden, but also Bob's huge collection of tropical fish, including populations of most species of Australian Rainbow Fish. Bob and Beth have a good range of grevilleas and a large collection of hakeas as well as lots of other beauties. We then moved on again to the next neighbours, Brian and Caroline Hendrickson, for another wonderful treat – Brian and Caroline have beautifully landscaped their large garden and it is absolutely full of rare and unusual grevilleas as well as a host of other plants. One of these was the largest *Hakea francisiana* plant in full flower that I have ever seen!

After dragging ourselves away from the beautiful gardens, we departed for the Muckleford area east of Maldon along 'Pipeline Track' near where where 'Donkey Farm Track' (north of the Castlemaine-Maldon Road) crosses the Maldon-Castlemaine railway line. Here we searched for and found the locally rare *Grevillea micrantha*. Sadly, here too much of the population has died out with the drought. Fortunately we did not meet up with the cranky old bloke who abused us for being on the rail reserve the last time we visited the site!!

We then drove on through a heavy shower toward Bendigo via the Calder Freeway to the vicinity of the Sandhurst Reservoir east of railway, where Ian Evans led us to a superb colony of free-flowering *Grevillea alpina* (Goldfields Race) and *Grevillea dryophylla* (yellow-flowered form) growing beside the railway line. After much admiration and photography, we continued on to Marilyn Spragues' superb 'Goldfields Revegetation Nursery' at Mandurang. We had barely arrived before a wild storm sent us rushing for shelter. Marilyn organised mugs of hot tea and we had lunch as the storm passed over.

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After lunch the weather cleared rapidly and Marilyn lead us on a tour of her wonderful garden, full of central Victorian grevilleas and nearly every other goldfield, grassland, wetland and riparian plant that occurs in the region. We then plundered the nursery, filling our cars with rarities before heading on our way. Thank you Marilyn for your wonderful hospitality. Sadly, Marilyn's nursery is under threat of closure due to the local water authority's failure to guarantee a supply of water for the coming summer!

We then continued along Mandurang South Road to where the road runs near and parallel to Coliban Main Channel where we found a few remnants of the once beautiful suckering population of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* and *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* x *alpina*. Further south along Sutton Grange Road we found a free- flowering population of tall *Grevillea alpina* (Goldfields Race) and low *Grevillea dryophylla* as well as a host of other shrubs including *Hakea decurrens* subsp. *physocarpa*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Acacia lanigera*, *Philotheca verrucosa* and *Hovea linearis*.

We then proceeded to the Calder Highway at Elphinstone where Ian lead us to an amazing population of vigorously suckering *Grevillea*

rosmarinifolia. Several were in flower and the best with bright red flowers drew much admiration. From here we drove a short distance south where Ian showed us a population of tall *Grevillea alpina* – Goldfields Race with very large orange flowers. Unfortunately, we also found a large number of hybrids between the indigenous *Grevillea alpina* and nearby garden escapees of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* – common garden form. This is now a serious weed across much of Victoria and is swamping the gene pool of many indigenous grevilleas by hybridising with them. We pulled up as many as we could but several were too large to remove.

At a final brief late afternoon tea stop near a railway cutting south of the Pyrenees Highway, we searched in vain for another population of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*-Chewton/Mandurang form before saying our farewells and heading off on our separate ways. All in all it was a wonderful weekend from which we gained several new members for the Study Group. Huge thanks must go to Geoff, Bob and Ian for all their work in organising this trip. Thanks also to Max for his promotion of the trip and to everyone else involved in one way or another.

Geoff Roche

***Grevillea rosmarinifolia* in the Graytown State Forest revisited**

Having a special interest in Victorian Grevilleas and having a reason to travel regularly between my home in Maryborough in central Victoria and Albury, I was very interested in the McDowalls' Jan 2007 report on this unique form. Max describes the population as 'young, open bushes, 50-80 x 50-80cm. Flower colour ranged from deep red through scarlet and orange to cream with a green stigma. Mature foliage was bright to dull green, pungent, ascending; margins entire, hairy, 50-90% revolute on terete, hairy branchlets.' This form seems to share many characteristics with the so-called 'Whipstick form' of *G. rosmarinifolia*. (This form would be more accurately described as the 'Bagshot form'. According to recent reports, the remaining population of this interesting form, from which *Grevillea* 'Limelight' was selected, has been destroyed by development, and is now extinct in the wild.)

My first attempt at finding Darroch's Road, off the Graytown-Rushworth Road, was a disaster. I didn't realise that Max's directions were from Shepparton and I ended up on the wrong end of the road – no Grevilleas! For my next try, I enlisted the company of Bob Stewart and we headed off with clearer directions. We eventually found 15-20 plants. Unfortunately, most were not in flower, but there appeared to be a green form, and what has been described as 'burnt orange', though it appears to me to lack orange, burnt or otherwise. There were a number of quite healthy plants up to 80cm high. We took some cuttings for Marilyn Sprague at Goldfields Revegetation Nursery to strike for us, and headed home, quite chuffed that the plants were doing reasonably well in the drought-ravaged, stony clay in which they grow.

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An interesting feature of this population was described by Max. On his first visit in 2000, he found plants 'confined to an area NE of the road and not at all on the SW side.' Max revisited the location in 2005 and 'failed to find any of the original plants on the NE side... but... more plants were located, mostly on the SW side, 2–2.5km from the junction.' Bob and I only found plants from 2.5km from the junction, with a few plants along Four Mile Road to the south of Max's location. On a subsequent visit in 2008, I discovered that most of the plants that Bob and I had found had disappeared – not died, vanished! I found no plants along Darroch's Rd but only along Four Mile Rd. These plants seem to 'move' quite regularly. I strongly suspect that wallabies are the culprits. They will eat virtually anything in these very tough times. It would be nice to see

some of this area fenced off, or I am afraid that this interesting *G. rosmarinifolia* form may be lost to us in the wild.

* Just a few further comments on Max's report. He did not see any *G. alpina* for 'several kilometres'. There are a number of low, quite old plants along the western edge of Darroch's Rd, close to the original *G. rosmarinifolia* site. This form is very similar to the Rushworth form – white/blush pink. This is a little unusual as the two populations are separated by the 'Whroo' form – green and white. I found no evidence of the supposed *G. alpina* x *rosmarinifolia* hybrids reported from this area. However, beside the Graytown-Rushworth Rd. at 'Whistle Stop', near Whroo, there are plants which do appear to be this hybrid.

Geoff Roche

A new location for *Grevillea ilicifolia* subsp. *lobata* in Central Victoria

Following up on our interest in local Grevilleas, Bob Stewart and I were fascinated by this most easterly form, commonly referred to as the 'Dunolly Form' near Archdale. This plant has been described by Max McDowall and Neil Marriott in a report of the GSG Field Trip after the F.J.C Rogers Seminar on Grevillea as 'a spreading mat, (up to) 0.5m high and up to 2m across. Flowers have a bluish perianth with yellowish-apricot styles.'

Bob and I visited this population at Erskine's No.2 Reserve in early 2008 and found 20-30 plants growing relatively healthily in sandy soil in very dry conditions. In May there was no evidence of flowering other than some signs that they had recently shed seed and that some insect was eating the seeds in the pods before they ripened. New flowers were forming. On subsequent visits to this Archdale population we have seen signs of successful intermittent flowering. Is this 'natural' or a drought response? On a recent visit in January 2009 we found a good deal of evidence of seed shedding and further budding up. Pursuing our interest in this plant, we enlisted the support of the wonderfully knowledgeable Ian Evans to help us explore old reports of this species from Newitt's Lane

and surrounds, quite close to Bealiba. We had some doubts about this locality as this land has been subdivided and 'developed' in recent times. Our doubts were confirmed – we could only find a few remnant specimens of *Grevillea alpina* along Newitt's Lane -1m tall with pink and white flowers.

A little frustrated, Ian suggested that we explore a nearby narrow unmarked track between two overgrazed paddocks. Less than 50m in, Bob spotted a small plant of *Grevillea ilicifolia* growing right beside the track. Further investigation revealed a population of some 20 plants. Ian found a beauty about 0.5m high and about 1.5m across. These are similar to the Archdale form, though in some plants the leaves are significantly greener. Some plants in this population also have very long lobes. We again found evidence of intermittent flowering and seed shedding. A good deal of seed had been shed just before a recent visit in Jan 2009. There were also many buds and one flower-style was a dusky pink. It seems to be similar to those at Archdale as described by Max and Neil. Should we describe this form as the 'Bealiba form' rather than the 'Dunolly form', as there are often reports of it from nearby? We will explore further!

Neil R Marriott

A new location for *Grevillea alpina x dryophylla*?

Following recent discussions with Max McDowall I discovered that Max and Regina had found a new population of *Grevillea alpina x dryophylla*. This is extremely significant as this natural hybrid, originally discovered by Ian Evans near Bendigo, and now extinct at that site, is one of the few examples in the *Grevillea* genus where quite separate groups have crossed. Current DNA analysis may even result in some of these groups becoming separate genera, so this sort of cross may in fact be an inter-generic hybrid. This is uncommon but can occur occasionally, for example *Myoporum x Eremophila* hybrids are known and several are in cultivation.

Max and Regina found a small population of this hybrid swarm around the intersection of the Sunraysia Highway and Horse Paddock Road about 2km south of St Arnaud. As soon as the weather cools down I will be going over to try and relocate these grevilleas. However recently Geoff Roche searched the site and could not relocate any hybrids which does not bode well for this unusual plant.

On working on our new book on *Grevillea* Hybrids we have found that there are a number of natural hybrids in cultivation that need to be registered with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority. As a result we are doing this and have given the Bendigo *Grevillea alpina x dryophylla* the name

Grevillea 'Bendigo Beauty'. It is currently very uncommon in cultivation, however it is available at Goldfields Revegetation Nursery, Mandurang. It is a very free flowering dense rounded and beautiful plant worthy of far wider cultivation in dry and well drained areas. It will be interesting to see how it varies from the population that Max has discovered if we can ever relocate it.

A number of years ago a good friend found and photographed a beautiful natural hybrid between *Grevillea steiglitziana* and *Grevillea chrysophaea* in the Brisbane Ranges. Unfortunately he collected no live material and sadly when he returned the plant had died. If any members EVER find an unusual hybrid between different groups in the genus they should immediately let myself or Peter Olde know so it can be photographed, GPS'd and material collected.



Grevillea 'Bendigo Beauty'

Neil R Marriott

An unusual method of reproduction in *Grevillea australis*

With the ongoing drought come climate change many grevilleas and other plants are dying in our gardens here in the Black Range. Included in this last summer were two plants of the decumbent form of *Grevillea australis* from the Victorian Alps. As I began to remove the dead plants I noticed that on both specimens there were some surviving branches that had layered where they ran along the ground. I have noticed this in other genera including *Prostanthera*, *Correa* and *Eremophila* but never before in *Grevillea*. I carefully cut the dead plants away from the live branches and now 12 months later all are still alive and growing well. I find it strange that the original plants died yet the layered branches have survived!! Below

is a photo of the cut stems on two of the plants. Has anyone else noted this in any other grevillea species or hybrids? If so let us know.



New *Grevillea australis* plants growing from layers

Who is 'Hairy Mary'?

Although according to some authorities, *Grevillea lanigera* does not grow in Western Victoria, there have been reports of its existence in several locations in the West – one of these from my home town of Maryborough. These reports have generally been dismissed as *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* crosses – arising from garden escapees. May I, with no botanical expertise, beg to differ with this explanation? I base my view purely on historical research, observation of the plants and their surroundings and extensively on the knowledge of local Maryborough Field Naturalist legends, Lyle and Eileen Courtney. It was the Courtneys who first showed me the local populations of '*Grevillea lanigera*'. This was the stimulus for the recent grevillea crawl as described by Neil in his account in this Newsletter. Neil describes the plant (affectionately referred to locally as 'Hairy Mary' – hairy alluding to the hairy branchlets and leaves typical of *G. lanigera*, and 'Mary' as short for Maryborough) as a 'distinct form of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia/lanigera* hybrid?', which appears intermediate between these two species'. The leaves of Hairy Mary are quite terete and nothing like those of local *Grevillea alpina* forms. Obviously, we need to examine this plant in more detail once flowering material becomes available. Cuttings have been taken and we keep our fingers crossed, as populations of this plant are rapidly declining.

I present the following reasons for being skeptical about the *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* influence in 'Hairy Mary':

1. The National Herbarium has long listed *Grevillea lanigera* as growing in three areas of Western Victoria. The website cites one population North of Maryborough, and another South of

Maryborough. (Good luck if you try to locate species populations from this website!)

2. I assume that the southerly report refers to the Brisbane Ranges. The 'Friends of the Brisbane Ranges' website has *Grevillea lanigera* on its plants species list for the Brisbane Ranges.
3. The late Cliff Beauglehole, in his 'Flora Survey of North Central Victoria' which was completed and published in 1982, cites it from Maryborough and the Brisbane Ranges. Cliff stayed with the Courtneys while he did the survey of the local populations.
4. The four local sites are spread all around Maryborough – too much of a coincidence that *G. rosmarinifolia* could hybridise with the local *G. alpina* to produce 'Hairy Mary'?
5. There is no local form of *G. rosmarinifolia* within 50km of Maryborough-Tarnagulla to the north and Castlemaine to the east.
6. Local populations of 'Hairy Mary' precede any housing development and are situated in relatively isolated bushland. Lyle Courtney has known of it's existence here for over 50 years.
7. It was growing on the Courtney's bush block well before any houses were built in the area. Lyle can remember populations of dozens of plants.
8. 'Hairy Mary' has pink flowers. There are a number of local *G. alpina* colour forms, but none is pink.
9. To our knowledge, there are no garden *G. rosmarinifolia* plants in the area. I sincerely hope that this provides food for thought. We will certainly be investigating other possible sites and will keep you informed of our progress. Is it possible that 'Hairy Mary' is its very own species?

Holly-leaf Grevilleas

Gareth Holmes continues his Post Graduate PhD phylogeny work at Melbourne University into the SE Australian holly-leaf group of Grevilleas. I hope to provide an up to date report on this important work for the next newsletter.

Grevillea aquifolium research

Trisha Downing also a Post Graduate researcher from Melbourne University is in the middle of extensive research into *Grevillea aquifolium* for her PhD. She has just returned from an extensive collecting trip through western Victoria and SE Sth

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Australia collecting as many clones of this species as possible (197 collections all up!!). It turns out that the population we collected in the Woakwine Range on our SA field trip last year had never been recorded before and there were no specimens in the SA Herbarium. This property has recently been sold to Forestry SA and the rare plants will be well looked after. This property is now called the Bray Junction Native Forest Reserve. Trisha also collected the species from the Bagdad Forest Reserve northeast of Robe, on the advice of the Forestry SA contact she had – these were similar to the Woakwine population. It would be good if members travelling in this region could keep an eye out for this population. While on the trip Trisha also collected her new *Grevillea angustiloba* ssp *wirregaensis* from a number of new localities in SA.

Here is Trisha's email report on her trip:

"We collected 205 specimens (8 were *G. angustiloba* ssp *wirregaensis*, from near Wirrega; the rest were *G. aquifolium*) – herbarium vouchers and DNA samples on silica gel for all, and attempted to have at least one wet collection form each site. All individual plant collections were gps-ed separately (to do with population genetics later on).

We collected from Carpenter Rocks in the conservation park (used to be Neville Bonneys HA area/ bush block) – these were either totally prostrate or almost so, using other plants as support. Leaves are different, still holly shape, but smaller. Also, went to the Woakwine property – now owned by Forestry SA and called the Bray Junction native forest reserve. Collected from the northern and central areas, between the pine plantation blocks – plants were different to Carpenters, more like typical *G. aquifolium*. Also collected from the Bagdad forest reserve northeast of Robe, on the advice of the Forestry SA contact I had – these were similar to Woakwine.

Collected *G. angustiloba* ssp *wirregaensis* from near the silos on the rail siding near Wirrega just off the Dukes Hwy in the rail reserve (on the word of a conservation seed guy from DEH) – these are to be used in the molecular phylogeny, as Gareth didn't have any samples to use.

From Horsham, we collected from near Cooack rd in the Little Desert, both near the junction of Cooack Rd with Salt Lake track, and along the southern firebreak, north east of Cooack Rd. We had a look at Mt Arapiles, and managed to find some very small seedlings at the Bluff picnic area, but had no luck at the base near the campground. On the

way from Horsham to Halls Gap, we collected in the Deep Lead reserve (at the Stawell-Deep Lead Rd, East-West rd intersection). Collected a whole bunch of plants over a rather wide area – along the nature walk, around the dam at the picnic area and on the other side of the road to a beekeeping area. Spent so long there that my plan to collect at Stawell got pushed to the next day :)

Instead, we collected between the 1st and 2nd Wannan Creek bridges on the Grampians Rd while trying to find the weir – we had some general info from the hotel owner, but nobody really seemed to know about it. Anyway, after finding another checkpoint area for the pipeline and a track that parallels the Grampians Rd thru the swamp-ish areas to the Wannan creeks, we did eventually find the weir! Unfortunately, no 6 m plants – that area got burnt in 2006 and the area below the weir is choked with bracken and the Incense Plant (*Calomeria amarantoides*), although that is at least 2-3m tall. We did find 6-10 seedlings in roughly the area you mentioned, they are only 20-40cm tall, but their leaves are different. And, due to the really tall undergrowth, it is easy to understand why the plant was 6m tall! Seedlings were found both above and below the weir on both sides of the mostly dry creek. The track is not marked, so the biggest threat would be from maintenance crews.

Next day we collected at Stawell at the London Rd site near the rail line. Then we collected on Redman Rd and found loads of seedlings. Actually almost everywhere we went we found seedlings, including some of the places we visited in 2006 (was showing Mum the devastation from the fires, and the extent of regeneration in the 2 years since). We also collected at the Sundial carpark and along Serra Rd and Henham Track. We found 2 leaf forms at one site on Redman Rd as we got closer to Mt Cassell (did not go up onto the mountain) – the more typical form and one plant more similar to those on Mt William.

The following day we collected along the Victoria Range, both more in the valley and foothill area (Red Hill Rd), along the Glenelg River Rd (Victoria valley Rd), along Goat Track and the Victoria Range Rd, near the Cave of Hands (Manja shelter) and at the junction of Syphon Rd and Serra Rd (closed section) in the valley. Along the range road we found one rather woody plant that was 2.7m tall – tallest we have seen. We then travelled around the bottom of the Grampians and headed north to Balmoral, collecting on the Natimuk-Hamilton

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Rd (we always find it before we get to where we plan on going) and at the entrance to the Fulham streamside reserve. We also collected on the Black Range Rd and Stubgate Rd in the Black Range state park, and on the Glenisla Crossing road, between the Henty Hwy and Brimpaen Rd. These plants had flowers with either red or yellow/yellow-green/ yellow-pink styles, and some plants had bi-coloured inflorescences.

Finally, we went to Portland (and the rain followed). No luck at Mt Richmond as you said, but I tried in the Kentbruck heath in the Lower Glenelg national park. Apparently a local field nat came across it a few years back west of the reference area (our consensus was that he walked into it – they are very prickly!). Any way, the field nat had pointed it out to a bloke from DSE and he led us to it. Great! – except that its only in an area maybe 4m long and 1-2 wide and the area is earmarked for ecological burning at any time. I collected 3 specimens, but am not sure (could not tell), whether there was 3 or more plants, or just one large clump hanging

on (clonal?). The plant/s were right on the edge of the 3m high really dense wet Melaleuca heath and will be wiped out if they widen the firebreak (which is planned). Anyway, Dave Pitts from DSE and Dave Ryan from Parks Vic Nelson office now know where it is, and Dave Ryan has promised to keep and eye out for it and send me samples if he finds it anywhere else. It wasn't in flower, but had spent inflorescence stems and very early buds. So there is the trip – the DNA samples will be worked on next year, and I hope at the very least to work out whether the Kentbruck population is clonal :)"

Sadly, like us Trisha could not re-locate the distinct population of *Grevillea aquifolium* from the foot of Mt Richmond so it looks like this one is now extinct. Is there anyone left with this in their garden?? If so please contact me urgently. Of similar concern, is the one remaining population in the Kentbruck Heath that is proposed to be destroyed for a firebreak!! I thought National Parks were to protect species!! Silly me.

Seed Bank

Matt Hurst

37 Heydon Ave, Wagga Wagga 2650 NSW
Phone (02) 6925 1273

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope.

\$1.50 + s.a.e.

<i>Grevillea armigera</i>	<i>Grevillea monticola</i>
<i>Grevillea aurea</i>	<i>Grevillea nudiflora</i>
<i>Grevillea baileyana</i>	<i>Grevillea paniculata</i>
<i>Grevillea candelabroides</i>	<i>Grevillea petrophiloides</i>
<i>Grevillea drummondii</i>	<i>Grevillea polybotrya</i>
<i>Grevillea excelsior</i>	<i>Grevillea pulchella</i>
<i>Grevillea decora</i>	<i>Grevillea refracta</i>
<i>Grevillea floribunda</i>	<i>Grevillea superba</i>
<i>Grevillea glauca</i>	<i>Grevillea teretifolia</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i>	<i>Grevillea tetragonoloba</i>
<i>Grevillea leucoptervis</i>	<i>Grevillea triloba</i>
<i>Grevillea longistyla</i>	<i>Grevillea wickamii</i> ssp
<i>Grevillea magnifica</i> ssp	<i>aprica</i>
<i>magnifica</i>	<i>Grevillea wilsonii</i>

Free + s.a.e.

<i>Grevillea banksii</i>	<i>Grevillea leucoptervis</i>
– grey leaf form	<i>Grevillea longistyla</i>
<i>Grevillea banksii</i>	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Moonlight'
– red tree form	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Moonlight x
<i>Grevillea banksii</i>	Ivanhoe'?
– red prostrate	<i>Grevillea petrophiloides</i>
<i>Grevillea Bon Accord</i>	<i>Grevillea plurijuga</i>
<i>Grevillea caleyi</i>	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>
<i>Grevillea floribunda</i>	<i>Grevillea</i> 'Sandra Gordon'
– ex The Rock NSW	<i>Grevillea superba</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i>	<i>Grevillea treueriana</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i> 'Orange'	<i>Grevillea wilkinsonii</i>

Please note: seed from hybrid -substitute -cultivated plants does not necessarily come true to type.

Fresh stocks of garden seed are desperately needed as most species are almost out of seed. Can members asking for seed please give an alternative list in case some species are no longer in stock. It is preferred if requests are sent with a small padded post pack. It costs less to send at approx \$1.50 per letter than padding an envelope at \$2.00 each or more so the seed will survive the trip down the sorting rollers. It's a good idea to send extra stamps with requests as extra postage is usually needed to be paid with almost every request. Leftover stamps would be sent back with your seed.

Financial Report – February 2009**Income**

Subscriptions	\$231.71
Plant sales	2,458.80
Donations	10.00
Interest	57.70
Seeds	7.50

\$2,765.71

Expenditure

Newsletter publishing	\$240.00
Printing	144.95
Postage	141.75
Stationery	29.25

\$555.95

Amount in Interest Bearing Deposit till 30/6/09
\$22,779.13

Balance in Current Account 9/2/09
\$8,835.63

Balance in Business Cheque Account 26/1/09
\$10,711.27

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Email Group

This email group was begun by John and Ruth Sparrow from Queensland. Free membership.

To subscribe, go to groups.yahoo.com and register, using the cyber-form provided. You must provide a user name and password as well as your email address to enable continuing access to the site which houses all emails and discussions to date.

You will receive a confirming email back and then you are able to access the site wherein you can select the groups to which you would like to subscribe. In this case search for 'grevilleas' and then subscribe.

Following this you will receive the latest emails regularly in your email to which you can respond. This is a good way to encourage new growers and those interested in the genus.

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Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 30 September 2008, please send your articles to peter.olde@exemail.com.au before this date.

If a cross appears in the box, your subscription of \$5.00 is due.

Please send to the Treasurer, Christine Guthrie, PO Box 275, Penhurst 2222.

Please make all cheques payable to the Grevillea Study Group.

2008

2009

If a cross appears in both boxes this will be your last newsletter.