

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants



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Newsletter No. 87 – October 2010

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GSG VIC Programme 2010

For more details contact **Neil Marriott** (Vic Leader), on 03 5356 2404 or 0458 177 989, or email neilm@netconnect.com.au

GSG Field Trip 5th – 8th/9th November 2010

Leaders: Neil Marriott and Martin Rigg. Please register an expression of interest with Neil by October 30th. Note: Cold weather gear and good footwear will be essential. Camping gear as well as options to stay in motels etc.

Fri afternoon and early Sat morning: garden visit to home of Martin Rigg and Diana Leggat (02 6027 0636 & 0419 922 389) at 42 Haring Lane Yackandandah (camping space available – or local overnight accommodation may need to be booked well ahead at Township Motel or Yackandandah Motel).

Sat: Morning at Martin's – garden tour of extensive gardens full of rare and unusual plants. 11am depart for Mt Benambra (*G. callichlaena*) near Mitta Mitta, camp sth of Mitta Mitta (cabins at Mitta caravan park).

Sun: Head south to Omeo region (*G. neurophylla*, *G. lanigera* and *G. willisii* on way)

Mon: Hells Gate, Brumby Point, Mt Tambo (*G. brevifolia*), sth to Tambo Crossing and Mt Elizabeth (*G. polychroma*).

Tues: Benambra-Corryong road (*G. neurophylla*), Mt Sassafra (*G. victoriae* subsp. *nivalis*).

Vic participants can return home Tues via Corryong and Murray Valley Hwy. NSW participants can return home via The Alpine Way and Bemboka State Forest east of Bega. Neil will have maps available for all participants meeting at Martin and Diana's.

GSG S.E. QLD Programme 2010

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, 31 October 2010

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

PHONE: (07) 4666 5118

SUBJECT: Ground cover Grevilleas

Sunday, 28 November 2010

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

PHONE: (07) 5546 3322

SUBJECT: Understorey pruning

Inside this issue:

- Obituary – Vale Sandra Parkinson
- *Grevillea quadricauda*
- New species of Grevillea
- Grevilleas in America
- The interesting parable of *Grevillea* 'Noelli'
- Spinosaad internet download
- *Grevillea* 'Red Salento'

Peter Olde

Editorial

As 2010 passes through spring and draws to a summer close, I want to thank the east coast chapters for their assistance in producing their respective newsletters during the year and for all the time and effort that this entails. It was and is greatly appreciated. We must not overlook Christine and Belinda, the former for her voluntary work in newsletter despatch but also acting as treasurer, and the latter for the newsletter layout.

I want to encourage members to put together some articles based on research that can easily be undertaken on the internet nowadays. It must be remembered that study groups are facilitated by the leader but rely on the research and contributions of the members. Many people have lost sight of this fact and act as though it is just a source of information to which they are entitled by paying their membership and which the leader alone must provide.

A number of people have volunteered to undertake the study of various species local to their area. We need more but at least we have a start which is most encouraging. Peter Vaughan – *Grevillea montana*, Geoff Roche – *Grevillea dryophylla*, Ian Evans – *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, Neil Marriott – *Grevillea alpina*, Ray Brown – *Grevillea oleoides* will make an excellent contribution I am sure. Thanks to you. I look forward to your reports in due course. Of course, most of these people are also interested in other species as well. I will be looking at *Grevillea lanigera* next year, as well as a number of other species.

In August, following the Fred Rogers Seminar, I undertook a field trip to Victoria that was organised by Max McDowall and Ian Evans to study *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*. This was a very productive trip. All the

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plants were in good flower. It was most heartening to see how many people behind the scenes are actively promoting and propagating the local forms. This has saved some provenances from extinction, the last plants now growing in horticulture having disappeared from the wild. It was interesting to see how many of the Yarra River clones were root-suckering, an important character in understanding their taxonomy. The trip led to a meeting with Brian Bainbridge whose group had recently discovered two plants in Kalkallo Cemetery, an area from which it has never been previously recorded.

The Fred Rogers Seminar, organised by Dawn Barr, was a smashing success, as they all usually are. The many speakers were able to entertain and inform the crowd of over 200 registrants and there were four busloads of people out looking at gardens on the Sunday. *Grevillea* has featured twice this decade and hopefully there will be another interesting topic in two years time. A full report should appear in the next newsletter.

Special acknowledgement to Tony Cavanagh and Bernie Shanahan for their offers of assistance in indexing the Study Group Newsletter. This is a huge and tedious task. Work has progressed to Issue 14. Any other person interested in assisting will be most gratefully welcomed.

I heard that Ken Forbes, active member of the Study Group in New South Wales from the Nowra area, has recently had a heart attack. After a session with the surgeons we understand his recovery is well advanced and we wish him well.

During a visit to Burrendong Arboretum last year I discovered a plant of *Grevillea pinifolia* in cultivation. It has been growing there for over 20 years and is often propagated for sale. This very rare Western Australian species may one day need more places like Burrendong where it can find refuge. I know of no plants in the wild any longer, though there may surely be some hopefully.

Suellen Harris

Vale Sandra Parkinson (27 January 1965 – 11 July 2009)

Many will remember Sandra Parkinson from the *Grevillea* Study Group Autumn plant sales that were held at Mt Annan and, later at Peter Olde's farm Oakdale. We remember her support for the event, her cheery manner and the interesting range of plants that Wirin Wirra nursery supplied. Sandra passed away last year after a long battle with cancer.

Sandra was the youngest of a large family of eight and grew up on the seaside in Wollongong. Sandra enjoyed the outdoors, the ocean where she met Terry, the bush and her beloved native plants. Her move to a bush block at Tomerong was complete when Sandra and Terry opened up their native plant nursery, Wirin Wirra there. She was a member of the Nowra Group, indeed the most colourful member dressed in her hippie clothes and her favourite colour, purple.

We all remember Sandra arriving with fresh plants after negotiating that steep winding road with a full truckload of plants and always with her cheerful smile. When her life changed after her diagnosis, we witnessed her dogged determination to fight her cancer. Even during those times she turned up at our shows to deliver or collect plants. We could only watch and hope as she and Terry battled courageously through those latter years.

Courage, generous and a tremendous zest for life were the hallmarks of this remarkable young woman. Our deepest sympathy goes to Terry, Jayden, Brenton, Ashton and Ethan.

We all miss this beautiful woman with the widest of smiles and her most positive outlook of life. Sandra once said that all her dreams had come true.



New species of *Grevillea*

Three new *Grevillea* taxa, *Grevillea hislopii*, *Grevillea althoferorum* subsp. *fragilis* and *Grevillea bracteosa* subsp. *howatharra* have been described and named in Western Australia's Journal of Systematic Botany. Detailed descriptions can be downloaded from the website at:

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/images/stories/nature/science/nuytsia/18/223-234.pdf>

OLDE, P.M. AND MARRIOTT, N.R., (2008). Recognition of new taxa in *Grevillea* (Proteaceae: Grevilleoideae) from south-west Western Australia. *Nuytsia* 18 : 223–234.

Grevillea hislopii



Grevillea hislopii

This is a low-growing to mounded *Grevillea* discovered by Fred and Jean Hort in September 2000 in undisturbed natural Wandoo bushland very near to Perth. It was brought to my attention by Mike Hislop, identifications botanist at the WA herbarium. It is closely related to *Grevillea umbellulata* but was also confused with *Grevillea occidentalis*, both of them grey-flowered species similar to *Grevillea buxifolia* and *Grevillea sphacelata* in the east. It is a very floriferous insect-pollinated species with tight heads of lightly perfumed flowers and has performed well in cultivation in the eastern states to date. It is known from four populations, at three of which it is reasonably abundant.

Grevillea hislopii is most closely related to *G. occidentalis* R.Br. (Brown 1810: 173) which differs in having an appressed indumentum of fine, straight, mutually aligned hairs on the leaf abaxial surface, the mucro black, the conflorescences larger (1.5cm long, c. 3cm wide), the flowers abaxially oriented, pedicels longer (3.5–10mm

long) and the pollen-presenter oblique at c. 50°. *Grevillea hislopii* is also related to *G. umbellulata* Meisn. which has an allopatric but overlapping distribution. *Grevillea umbellulata* differs in having sericeous branchlets, the adaxial surface of leaves smooth, conflorescences with flowers loose (i.e. not in a tight, dense head), narrower floral bracts 0.2–0.7mm wide, pedicels 3–7mm long.

It can be summarised as a shrub with simple leaves 1–3cm long, 1.2–6mm wide, linear to narrow-elliptic with brown mucro at tip, scabrid on the upper surface and with a spreading indumentum on the underside; conflorescences subglobose with a villous indumentum (peduncles, floral rachises, bracts, pedicels, outer surface of perianth, ovary, style), the floral bracts persistent, 2–2.5mm long, 0.7–1.2mm wide. The flowers are adaxially oriented. Pistils 6mm long.

Grevillea althoferorum



Grevillea althoferorum

A new rare subspecies of *Grevillea althoferorum* has also been described, subsp. *fragilis*. It occurs further to the south than subsp. *althoferorum*, at Bullsbrook. It grows in deep yellow sand in *Banksia–Corymbia* woodland with *Corymbia calophylla*, *Banksia menziesii*, *B. attenuata*, *B. grandis*, *Adenanthos cygnorum*, *Hibbertia* sp., *Ptilotus manglesii*, *Xanthorrhoea* sp., *Mesomelaena tetragona*, *Stirlingia latifolia*, *Lobelia* sp., *Isopogon* spp. and *Petrophile* spp. It closely resembles subsp. *althoferorum* but is smaller and more delicate in all its foliar parts, has a smaller perianth limb and longer pollen-presenter. Both subspecies are considered to be extremely rare and known from single populations only.

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Grevillea bracteosa*Grevillea bracteosa* subsp. *howatharra*

After determining that the small-conflorescence form of *Grevillea bracteosa* was the form from which the type specimen was gathered by Drummond, it was decided to recognise the larger-flowered form that was first brought to attention growing in Howatharra Reserve, north-east of Geraldton, the area which is reflected in the name of the new subspecies, subsp. *howatharra*. This subspecies is very rare and known from only three disjunct populations, some in farmed land and some beside a railway line. It is poorly conserved unlike its relative subsp. *bracteosa*, and a few plants only are found in a reserve. Substantial newly discovered populations of subsp. *bracteosa* were reported by Fred Hort in a recent newsletter which was very exciting and pleasing. Subsp. *howatharra* has larger flowers, wider conflorescences, larger floral bracts and style-end, longer pedicels and is altogether a more striking plant than subsp. *bracteosa*. Flower colour is consistently pale to deep pink. Subsp. *howatharra* is cultivated in the east but few people realise just how rare it is in the wild.

Another new *Grevillea* species, *Grevillea nivea*, was described and named in Western Australia's Journal of Systematic Botany in 2009.

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/images/stories/nature/science/nuytsia/19/2/229-243.pdf>

OLDE, P.M. AND MARRIOTT, N.R., (2009). *Grevillea tetragonoloba* (Proteaceae:

Grevilleoideae) recircumscribed, with notes on its typification and a new segregate species, *Grevillea nivea*, described. Nuytsia 19 (2):229–243.

Grevillea nivea

Grevillea nivea has been known in horticulture as *Grevillea* 'Scarlet King' and has now been formally described and named. This species is the third species that has been segregated and described from *Grevillea tetragonoloba* Meisner sensu McGillivray. Previous separations were *Grevillea rigida*, with two subspecies and *Grevillea fastigiata*. Recognition of *Grevillea nivea* leaves *Grevillea tetragonoloba* more narrowly described. It has a glandular floral and branchlet indumentum with distinctive globular waxy balls on the floral parts, especially the base of the perianth and pedicels, and on the curve, that can be seen readily under the microscope. It has leaf lobes narrower (0.7–1.1mm wide), fewer (5–8) and mostly longer 3–8cm (respectively 1.1–1.5mm, 9–15, 1.5–4.5cm for *G. nivea*). The new species has white branchlets and floral rachises, lacks glandular hairs and waxy deposits, and has bright red predominant flower colour. *Grevillea tetragonoloba* has orange red flowers with a strong percentage of rusty hairs. *Grevillea nivea* grows near the coast in granite rocks overlooking the sea west of Bremer Bay. It is a magnificent horticultural species and has achieved wide penetration in among gardenlovers of the genus.

Illawarra Grevillea Park OPEN DAYS 2010

October, Sat 2 & Sun 3

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.

Admission

\$5 adults, children accompanied by adults are free

Barbeque and picnic facilities available

email info@grevilleapark.org or visit www.grevilleapark.org

Grevilleas in America

Monterey Bay Nursery, California

What I am sending is pretty much everything I know about grevilleas in America.

Early years

In 1950, Maunsell Van Rensselaer (1897-1972) and nurseryman Ray Hartman cofounded the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation in Los Altos, California. Van Rensselaer served as director from 1950 to 1971. During this time, probably in the 1960s, he imported some *Grevillea* species as trials for drought-tolerant Californian landscapes. These plants included *G. diminuta*, *G. victoriae*, *G. lanigera*, *G. tridentifera*, *G. 'Canberra'*, *G. 'Mrs. Clearview David'*, *G. 'Constance'*, *G. gaudichaudii*, and *G. sulphurea*. This is most likely not a complete list, but these were certainly among the imports and survived until the seventies, when I became aware of them. This list is documented elsewhere and would be worth investigating. You can probably pull it from the internet.



Maunsell Van Rensselaer
(1897-1972)

From people I spoke with who knew Van Rensselaer and spoke with him about the plants (Barry Coate, Marshall Olbrich, Lester Hawkins, and Ken Taylor), he didn't particularly like them because he felt they were too rough and droughty looking, and too fine textured, too woody, too prickly and too open to be accepted by California gardeners. At the time landscape themes were somewhere between tropical foliage and low-maintenance knockoffs of Japanese landscape gardens. So Van Rensselaer was probably right about how they would have been accepted at that time.

Of course the modern hybrids and species selections didn't exist at that time, even in Australia. The palette was relatively restricted. Still, I remember seeing very large *G. 'Canberra'* and *G. 'Constance'* at Western Hills Nursery in the early seventies, over 10' tall, established plants that clearly had been there for a while. So *Grevilleas* were certainly known and experimented

with. But their climatic/soil/cultural requirements were misunderstood and most importantly their nutrient preferences were almost unknown.

One side note related to the SHF connection, in California *G. 'Mrs. Clearview David'* appears to be masquerading as *G. 'Canberra'* or 'Canberra Gem'. Once the Arboretum at UCSC had re-imported them all from Rodger and Gwen Elliot, and I saw that 'Pink Pearl' is a synonym for 'Canberra Gem' in one of the newer books, I realized that most likely SHF had most likely mixed up the two in prop, or production, at some point and they haven't been straight in this country since. Since it would be almost impossible to undo at this point, we sell 'Pink Pearl' (actually 'Canberra Gem') and 'Canberra' (actually 'Mrs. Clearview David') under those names with a note in our catalog explaining what I think really happened. If you come here expect to see the names improperly applied, at least as far as I can tell (and of course such a thing would never happen at our nursery, just like I know it would never happen at yours!)

There have been lots of varieties sold here in the past 30, and we have sold a large number of those varieties ourselves. Almost all have come through UCSC at some point. Of those early SHF introductions, only *G. 'Canberra Gem/Pink Pearl'*, *G. 'Canberra Gem/Mrs. Clearview David'*, *G. gaudichaudii*, and *G. 'Constance'* are sold now to any degree. The rest exist as peripheral varieties if they exist at all, or different forms are sold. *G. lanigera* "type form" is the one other old form you still see occasionally, and they were used in a large freeway project in the SF Bay Area (Highway 85) just a few years ago. I don't know where they got them, I never see them on availability lists. Most of those landscape plants are dead now from drought or disease.

Some other *Grevillea* notes:

I was working at the UCSC Arboretum shortly after Ray Collett started bringing in unrooted cuttings from Australia and he was the first person widely successful at raising grevilleas in California. I really don't think you can overemphasize Ray's contribution because he was the first person to fully understand the biogeography and soils of

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Australia and South Africa, apply that knowledge to the care and culture of Australian and South African natives.

Almost every plant in the trade today is the result of Rodger Elliot coming to the US and finding that of all the people he had sent plants to, including Monrovia (and Hines I believe), none could keep them alive and get them to thrive except for Ray. Everyone else used too much fertilizer, or too much organic material, or kept them too wet, or too hot, or used bad water. So he decided then to only send his Austraflo plants to the Arboretum, and he would let them release the plants to the trade as they saw fit.

And so because of Ray and the UCSC Arboretum we now have the deep penetration in the trade of all these various Australian plants, with Grevilleas being by far the most popular. And except for a very few US introductions and one or two new or very old varieties, almost all of the current trade forms hail from UCSC.

We have probably raised and trialed more of their varieties than any other nursery. Wintergreen (now absorbed by Suncrest) and San Marcos Growers are close behind. My overall list shows 85 varieties we have sold to some degree.

What we currently raise is in our catalog. And I can answer questions about others if you have specific varieties in mind.

As far as truly American varieties, I can only think of a few, so this part was faster and easier than I thought! Besides 'Noelli' and 'Aromas,' the list is pretty short:

G. 'Blondie' – this is a variegated clone of *G. 'Noellii'*. Our (my) introduction. The new growth comes out brilliant golden yellow, then turns somewhat greener when mature, but still has a nice golden glow. Since I have identified a virus that seemed prevalent throughout the UCSC collection (Potato X or Y?), and at one point in not a small number of our plants, am rather sure this is actually a virused form. Still very pretty, and I would sell it if there was any demand, but no one seems to want to buy it. I can send an image if you're interested. Those of us with more discriminating taste appreciate it.

G. 'Aromas' – this is a seedling of *G. 'Noellii'*, it was developed and introduced by the now-deceased former owner of our nursery, Joe Solomone. Aromas is the closest town. Joe was

quite proud of his seedling. He just took seed off 'Noellii' intentionally with the idea of an easy knockoff. I never liked the plant, still don't. It is big (over 4 meters), very open, with shorter, much more sparse leaves, and a tall, reaching habit. The leaves are very fine but stiff, and have a nice, sharp tip. It REALLY hurts if you stick your arm into it. The flowering is even more sparse than 'Noellii' (!) and the individual flowers aren't as richly colored. Imagine Mrs. Clearview David with about 1/4th the foliage, needles half as thick, plant twice as tall and half as dense, and almost no flowers. And very annoyingly prickly. The only good thing I can say about this plant is that it is a mildly effective barrier plant. A miserable plant. Never should have been introduced.

G. 'Penola Pearl' – an unfortunate name for a not bad but also not extraordinary variety. A found seedling of *G. lavandulacea* 'Penola,' in a container of a plant by that name. Dense dark green foliage, a nice, heavy show of pink and cream flowers. I named it that because it was halfway between 'Pink Pearl' and 'Penola' and I assumed it was a hybrid. But then I raised seed of Penola itself and realized it comes out all over the place, and that plant was just within the normal range of variation. But it wasn't distinctive enough from other good *G. rosmarinifolia* varieties, and had a name that confused it with *G. lav.* 'Penola.' We dropped it. My introduction. No longer exists except in a few gardens, somewhere.

G. 'Long John' – not an American plant, but an American name. Bestowed by my sales rep at that time, and subsequent and now current grower, Jeff Brooks, who has this amazing talent for instantly coming up with good names. Because I had the cross backwards, instead of *G. johnsonii x longistyla*, I asked him what to call *Grevillea longistyla x johnsonii*, and he got it instantly. I knew it was a good name, and that its creation would be claimed by others eventually, because it is a natural derivation once you make that mistake, so I kept it secret until after our catalogue for 1994 had come out. So anyone claiming precedence on the name has to show you a formal document prior to fall of 1993, and something that needed a lot of time to produce, since that catalog was created that summer. I know of at least four other people who have

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come to believe that they created that name, and they are all wrong. And it is a great name. Wasn't that your cross originally?

***G. lanigera* 'Jade Mound'** – just our trade name for “low form”. We are starting to put new names on varieties that have the “Australian system” designations, the names you use that I personally find clear and easy, but cause confusion here in the trade. Since they are now clonally produced, and forms such as *G. javandulacea* 'Tanunda' no longer represent a range of individuals that look like what is typical of that locale, as was the case in Australia previously, but are in fact all derived from a single plant, this makes sense and often helps plant sales considerably.

So for example 'Collaroy Plateau' is our name for the deep pink, rather upright form of *G. sericea* from that area, it sells much better that way than it did before as “deep pink form.”

That's most of it, Peter! Actually, now that I look at the list, I realize that I myself have an overt or accidental connection to every American-origin *Grevillea* in production. Wow. I didn't realize that.

I may have overlooked one or two American forms, but really almost nothing has been done here by us Californians as far as active breeding beyond a couple of interested backyard hobbyists who have contacted me, none of whom have introduced anything I am aware of.

There is one very good guy in Portland, Paul Bonine of Xera Plants, who is a friend of mine and has been testing and seeding *G. juniperina* looking for variation, and he has a couple of worthwhile but not earthshaking developments. They get cold there, I mean cold, like 7°F cold (-14°C), and he has a list of things that made it through this last very, very severe freeze without damage, including a *G. australis* I sent him, *G. juniperina* 'Molonglo' and “low red form” (the MBN name is 'Lava Cascade' – do you like it?) and some seedlings of the last that have more condensed and darkly coloured flowers. He also has an *Isopogon anethifolius*, or is it the other one, that survived with no damage (!!!).

Neil Bell (of OSU I think) had just put in a huge test of the genus at the testing ground south of Portland, it was completely nuked. He has to replace everything. I am trying to organize a trip for myself to Australia this October, perhaps a week on the east side mostly to look at nurseries, and see a few plants, then a week on the west side mostly to look at plants, and see a few nurseries. Then up to Java to visit with some of my Indonesian interns and their families (I've had a whole raft of them), and go botanizing in the upland tropics. I would try to hit WA around the middle of October. Of course, I might just get stuck there, and never come back.

If plans start to firm up I will keep you posted and perhaps we can meet at some point. I have more than a few questions on our continuing *Grevillea* propagation problems.

Luen Miller

The interesting parable of *Grevillea* 'Noelli'

Grevillea 'Noelli' was introduced by Noell Morey (fl.1935–2000). Notice, two “L”s. And he pronounced it like Christmas Noel when he was being formal but as normal Noel most of the time. He was an old-school nurseryman who had worked for Vetterly and Reinelts, the world famous begonia and bedding plant breeder at that time, in Capitola. Noell told me he was involved with breeding many plants, and worked on Pacific Giant primrose, among other things. After that he spent a lot of his time at a large, very high quality local retail nursery called Isely's.

At that time a friend of Noell's was in a local garden group called GOMBA, or Gardeners of the Monterey Bay Area. This friend exchanged seeds with a member of another garden club in Australia, and what he received back was a packet of “mixed grevillea.” Probably these seed were from open pollinated pods, pulled off whatever plants were around the yard.

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This GOMBA gardener didn't know what to do with them, and wasn't particularly interested in them, so he gave them to Noell. After they were sowed some came up, and were potted into liners. Then some died, and the remnants were moved into gallons. Slowly over time more died, some from frost, some from fertilizer, some from rot, then more died, and more died, so that after a few years only about five or six remained. One day his friend William Henderson of Henderson's Experimental Gardens in Fresno (a famous rare plant nursery of the day) visited and saw the plants and asked if he could try them. Noell said sure, gave him cuttings, and, of those, two or three rooted.

Then someone from gigantic Monrovia Nursery near LA, which was always looking for new introductions, was on a collecting expedition and paid Henderson's a visit, noticed the plants, and asked if they could try the one they liked. They later decided to introduce it and asked Henderson what the proper name was. Henderson called Noell who said, and I quote, "Hell, I don't care. Call it what you want." So Henderson generously told them to call it 'Noelli' after his friend and that is how it came to be.

What is nice about *G. 'Noelli'* is that it is soft textured, both physically and visually. It makes a wonderful, medium size mass of weeping, fine textured green needles in the landscape, doesn't get too big, doesn't need lots of water, pruning, cleaning, or attention, and has just enough flower to be interesting and call attention to itself. It is still one of the best choices available for that "drought tolerant, weeping, green, fine textured" effect in the trade here today.

It still has problems with too much phosphate, and regular garden watering, but it is more resilient than many more spectacular grevilleas. And it is easier to incorporate with other less drought-resistant plants like *Escallonia* or *Pittosporum*. And I really like the way it doesn't hurt when you stick your arm in it, unlike almost any other green, needleleaved grevilleas. It just gives way, it isn't obnoxious. It is quiet, but worthwhile. I think it will be around for a long time.

What is most interesting about 'Noelli' is not that it is a spectacular plant, because it isn't, but that it arguably was the vanguard for the genus in California. It got people used to the name. And they began to appreciate that "Australian plant look."

Another interesting thing about 'Noellii,' in relation to other grevilleas, is that the real reason it was used in California at all was simply because it had survived. It was tolerant of the production and gardening practices of the time. And it could be propagated relatively easily. And those factors are huge.

I commonly use a phrase I borrowed from the salmon fisheries industry, "domestication selection," which to them is a bad thing. It means instead of wild salmon you get fish that are really good at surviving the hatchery process and conditions. In the fish business they are always seeking to minimize the effects of domestication, so their stock is as wild as possible.

We in the plant business seek to exploit domestication selection in order to make plants less wild, more tolerant of garden conditions, and especially, easier to propagate.

Grevillea 'Noelli' survived a period when all plants were raised in a soil mix that consisted of a shovelfull of dirt, a shovelfull of sawdust, and a shovelful of well aged manure. It was also easier to propagate than some of the sister seedlings, which therefore didn't make it. It was more tolerant of surviving a few years in a container. It was more frost tolerant, because the seedlings never got any special treatment and the tender ones died. Seedlings that were arguably prettier, or tougher when finally planted out, just didn't survive the whole production process. So there is an interesting lesson there about what plants will succeed in commercial horticulture that is just as valid today, as well as some hints as to how to adapt similar plants.

And I actually used that exact *G. 'Noellii'* lesson to quickly domesticate two Australian plants, *Sollya heterophylla* 'Monterey Bay Sapphire', and *Callistemon speciosus* (sorry, I forget the new name), and make them production friendly. But that is a story for another time.

As to Noell himself, he went on to work at the Garden Center at Santa Cruz Lumber from about 1975 until sometime in the early 90's, when he retired. He died probably about 12-15 years ago. I worked with him from 1980 until 1985.

continued >

He was a good breeder. And I mean a real breeder, not just someone who sows seeds he finds. He had worked professionally with many classes of plants but as a hobby he worked mostly with lilies and their relatives. He just liked them the most as plants and as easy hybridizing subjects. You got good results quickly for your efforts, and they weren't difficult to cross. The parts are big.

He had noteworthy *Agapanthus* clones, especially good dark blue dwarfs, as good as anything on the market today. He also worked a lot with *Lycoris*, and especially *Amaryllis belladonna*, "Naked Ladies." I remember he had pinks, light pinks, dark pinks, whites, pinks with white edges, whites with pink edges, you name it. He bred the flower count up to I forget what, but it was silly. He had bred them so instead of a spray of flowers facing one direction they flowered all the way around the stalk, like a wagon wheel. Unfortunately, the actually look weird that way. They look better facing one direction.

Mostly he did it for fun, for amusement, but he was always moving forward, always improving himself.

Noell was always very dismissive of all his breeding efforts, and about the best he would ever say about something was "Well, I guess that one's okay, I guess it's good enough." Then he would go on to tell you how he thought it could be improved.

He was always very objective and never tried to develop his own image. He never bragged or trumpeted how good his plants were. He was quite humble. To himself he probably felt he was just being fair and objective, but I know much of what he did was superior to other introductions that received much more attention. I don't think he cared at all about that, I really don't.

I knew so much when I worked with him, at 25, and he knew so little as far as I was concerned. It is amazing how many times since then I have said, "Well, Noell was really right about that." Fortunately I was able to later tell him to his face how wrong I was and how right he was, and we both laughed about it. From everything like how exactly to stuff a plant into a pot, or do a graft, or water a plant, or fertilize, or evaluate a cultivar, it is amazing now, after 35 years in the business, I find myself doing it just like Noell.

He was as good a nurseryman and plantsman as I have ever known. And I say this not because he was my friend, because I argued and disagreed with him all the time. He had lots of faults. He had a bad temper. He was cranky and often ornery and was frequently rude to customers.

I would call him a professional acquaintance and co-worker. But he was still someone to respect and learn from and I'm glad I had the chance to work under and alongside him.

I tried looking up at the Santa Cruz newspaper (Sentinel) site the date of Noell's death

but it precedes their online archives. I will have to look around and ask a few other people. His son died before him, I suspect his wife is dead as well. There might have been a daughter. I'll send a couple of emails and see if I can track someone down who remembers.



Grevillea 'Noellii'

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,
32 Blanche St Oatley, NSW 2223**

Spinosad internet download

Spinosad is a relatively new insect killer that was discovered from soil in an abandoned rum distillery in 1982. Produced by fermentation, Spinosad can be used on outdoor ornamentals, lawns, vegetables and fruit trees, to control caterpillars, thrips, leafminers, borers, fruit flies, and more. Spinosad must be ingested by the insect, therefore it has little effect on sucking insects and non-target predatory insects. Spinosad is relatively fast acting. The pest insect dies within 1 to 2 days after ingesting the active ingredient. Will not persist in the environment. Sunlight and soil microbes break it down into carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen.

If used carefully only insects that actually ingest something that has been treated with Spinosad, such as foliage, are affected. This is different than a lot of other broad-spectrum insecticides that are toxic if the insect merely comes in contact with even the dry insecticide residue.

Key features:

- Organic active ingredient, produced by fermentation
- Can be used on vegetable & fruit crops, ornamentals & turf
- Spinosad does not significantly affect beneficial organisms including ladybugs, green lacewings, minute pirate bugs, and predatory mites.

It can harm bees when they are directly sprayed with it. Time your applications for when bees are not visiting allowing a drying time span of 3 hours.

What insects can Spinosad control?

Moth and butterfly larva including Gypsy moth, codling moth, leaf miners, bagworms, tent caterpillars, borers, thrips, Colorado potato beetle larva, leafrollers, webworms, armyworms, sawflies, gall midges, whiteflies, stinkbugs, harlequin bugs, squash vine borer, fruit flies and more.

* Can be used to control fire ants as an individual mound treatment.

Directions for mixing: (Shake well before use)

Monterey Garden Insect Spray may be applied with trigger sprayer, hand-held, backpack, or hose-end sprayers. Use a hose-end sprayer that can be adjusted to provide a dilution ratio of about 2.0 fl. oz. (4 Tbs.) of product per gallon of spray.

Add the required amount of Monterey Garden Insect Spray to the recommended amount of water, mix thoroughly, and apply uniformly to plant foliage to point of runoff. It is recommended to mix only as much spray as needed for a single treatment. In vegetable gardens it is recommended to use not more than 3.0 gallons of spray for 1,000 square feet of area. Do not use kitchen utensils for measuring. Storage life is 3 years.

Fred and Jean Hort

During the past week Jean and I have located significant new populations of *Grevillea hookeriana?* and *G. cirsiifolia* in Wearne State Forest and in Lupton CON Park. These are generally c. 20km E-NE of North Banister in the Shire of Wandering. (North Banister is a fuel stop on Albany Hwy near the jctn of North Banister - Wandering Road – 65km SSE of Armadale.)

Three new sites of *G. hookeriana?* contain well over 500 plants each and two smaller sites contain c. 20 plants each. These are found in species rich shrublands fringing surface granite outcrops. The plants are in early bud stage. We collected some samples of last season's fruit. *Grevillea crowleyae* has been recorded from the

same general area in Lupton CON and identified by Alex George 1995. We are hoping the new populations turn out to be *G. crowleyae*.

So we will check these out later in the year. If you are over in the west we would like to show you around. We will get some material sent over if the flowers look interesting.

Three new populations of *G. cirsiifolia* are located with the *G. hookeriana*. The plants are generally scattered but in good health.

We can flag these sites on Google Earth as location references for you if you are set up with Google Earth on your computer. Let's know.

Grevillea 'Red Salento'

For the second year running British garden centres are selling *Grevillea* 'Red Salento' as a Christmas gift. Usually a plant this size would cost £5 to 10, but these are £28. That is a big premium for a fancy plastic bag! The picture should be self explanatory. The distance from the surface of the compost to the top of the plant is 50cm. I have told people that the plant is either *G. lanigera* or one of its hybrids. The back of the label calls it Red Salento and describes it as a "Cold-loving Mediterranean tub plant" that flowers round about Christmas (Nov-March) and is hardy to -8°C. No final dimensions are given. The words Mediterranean and cold-loving seem to be contradictory. At school, we were taught that the area has warm wet winters and hot dry summers. Since the label is in several languages and all the plants are similar, I assume that they have been micropropagated.

Memory can be deceptive last year's plants were called simply "Red-flowering Christmas tree". I have found that the red-flowering christmas tree is being sold by Britains largest garden retailer and is probably as big as Coles and K Mart combined. It also has stores in Europe. That makes it likely that the red Christmas tree is a very large volume production item.



Grevillea 'Red Salento'

Seed Bank

Matt Hurst

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

\$1.50 + s.a.e.

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope.

Free + 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 leucopteris</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>

<i>Grevillea banksii</i> – grey leaf form	<i>Grevillea longistyla</i>
<i>Grevillea banksii</i> – red tree form	<i>Grevillea mimosoides</i>
<i>Grevillea banksii</i> – red prostrate	<i>Grevillea 'Moonlight'</i>
<i>Grevillea bipinnatifida</i>	<i>Grevillea 'Moonlight x Ivanhoe'?</i>
<i>Grevillea Bon Accord</i>	<i>Grevillea occidentalis</i>
<i>Grevillea caleyi</i>	<i>Grevillea petrophiloides</i>
<i>Grevillea crithmifolia</i>	<i>Grevillea plurijuga</i>
<i>Grevillea decora</i>	<i>Grevillea preissii</i>
<i>Grevillea didymobotrya</i>	<i>Grevillea pteridifolia</i>
<i>Grevillea diversifolia</i> ssp	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>
<i>subtersericata</i>	<i>Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon'</i>
<i>Grevillea eriostachya</i>	<i>Grevillea superba</i>
<i>Grevillea floribunda</i>	<i>Grevillea synapheae</i>
<i>Grevillea goodii</i> subsp <i>goodie</i>	<i>Grevillea treueriana</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i>	<i>Grevillea tripartite</i> ssp <i>macrostylis</i>
<i>Grevillea johnsonii</i> 'Orange'	<i>Grevillea vestita</i>
<i>Grevillea leucopteris</i>	<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 – October 2010

Income

Subscriptions	\$620.00
Donations	35.00
Seeds	40.00
Interest	74.19

\$769.19

Expenditure

Newsletter publishing	\$240.00
Printing	332.20
Postage	106.50
Stationery	2.80
Bank fees	5.80

\$686.50

Amount in Interest Bearing Deposit till 1/3/2011

\$25,575.05

Balance in Current Account 22/9/2010

\$9,607.10

Balance in Business Cheque Account 22/9/2010

\$3,695.06

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

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.

Postmessage: grevilleas@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe: grevilleas-subscribe@yahoo.com

Unsubscribe: grevilleas-unsubscribe@yahoo.com

List owner: grevilleas-owner@yahoo.com

URL to this page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/grevilleas>

Online Contact

1. President's email address
peter.olde@exemail.com.au
2. The email group
grevilleas@yahoogroups.com
3. URL for Grevillea Study Group website
<http://asgap.org.au/grevSG/index.html>

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 30 September 2010, please send your articles to peter.olde@exemail.com.au before this date.

If a cross appears in the box, your subscription is due.

Please send to the Treasurer, Christine Guthrie, 32 Blanche Street, Oatley 2223.

Please make all cheques payable to the Grevillea Study Group.

2009 2010

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

Membership fees

The annual subscription is \$10 per year or \$40 for 5 years. If you choose to receive the newsletter by email there will be a 50% discount ie membership will be \$5 per year – \$20 for 5 yrs. I would encourage everyone to take advantage of the savings by paying for 5 years, and choosing email.