



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY SOUTH EAST NSW GROUP

Newsletter No. 95- February 2013

NEXT MEETING- SATURDAY 2nd March 2013 AT 10.30AM

BOURDA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

**Bourda National Park, Kalaru
(just off Sapphire Coast Drive)**

Details page 2

Don't forget SHOW and TELL (bring samples of native plants)
Please bring morning tea, lunch and a chair...also walking shoes, water and a hat.

<u>FUTURE MEETINGS</u>		
DATE	GENERAL/COMMITTEE	TIME/LOCATION
Wed 1 st May	Committee	Mog Bremners, Tilba
Sat 1 st June	General	ERBG

Pseuderanthemum variabile: a charming forest inhabitant

By Jennifer Liney

Growing in a variety of coastal habitats, particularly in moist forests and rainforest margins, is a small persistent flowering plant with lanceolate to ovate shaped dark green leaves about 5cm long and up to 4cm wide with cystoliths – now that is a good word - (i.e., short hairs with a little transparent gland at the base) on the upper surface, and often purple underneath.

The flowers are a pretty faintly pink to pale mauve with five petals that are arranged about the flower's centre with two small petals at the top and three larger ones below. The central lower petal has tiny dark purple spots near the throat of the flower; this would be to guide nectar feeding animals or insects in the right direction – all in the interests of pollination. The flowers are from 1½ to 2cm wide across through the longest axis, so they are not very big, but because of the intensity of the colour, they are quite noticeable. They are terminal on a short spike, but only one or two flowers mature at any one time.

This is *Pseuderanthemum variabile*, flowering during the warmer months of January to March.

(Photo by Jackie Miles, copied with permission from her website

<http://thebegavalley.org.au/plants.html>)

When the plant is growing in the shade in fairly moist conditions, the leaves are quite large (for *Pseuderanthemum*) and very dark green; also the flowers are a deeper hue than those of plants in dryer, more open situations, where they appear to be smaller and rather faded. It is commonly called Pastel Flower, quite an appropriate name.



Butterfly larva feed on the plants at night, while bearded dragons have a liking for the flowers.

The generic name is quite a mouthful, but it does make sense when taken apart. It was first named *Eranthus variable* by Robert Brown in 1810 (he collected it from 'Port Jackson') after a northern hemisphere genus *Eranthemum*, which means lovely flower in old Greek. Robert Brown considered that this New Holland species resembled the genus he knew. The specific name *variabile* is self-explanatory – as one would imagine, it means variable. However, Ludwig Adolf Timotheus Radlkofer, (a name that has a grand ring to it) a 19th century German physician who later gained a PhD in botany and who worked extensively in Europe and the US, argued that though the species might resemble *Eranthemum*, it is only a resemblance, so in 1884 he published a paper which added the prefix *pseudo* to the name, thus indicating that it is a false *Eranthemum*, and not the real deal.

Radlkofer never travelled to Australia. Instead botanists from all over the world sent him specimens to work on. His collection still exists and is housed in Munich.

This explanation of the name came as quite a surprise to me. I had always assumed that it had some connection with anthers. Which goes to show that one should never make assumptions; take the time to look it up.

Welcome to new members

Lesley Vincent recently joined APS SE. She will soon be living near Batemans Bay. We extend a warm welcome to her and her husband and hope to meet them soon at one of our events.

Bournda Environmental Education Centre 2nd March 2013

Doug Reckord, Principal of this education facility has offered to spend time with our group explaining how the Centre operates, what its role is and how he goes about achieving that. The Centre, under his leadership, has developed a valuable database which he will happily demonstrate to us. Nearby Scotts Bay, with its historic cottage is just a short stroll away and its garden provides a contrast with the surrounding bushland. We will take a short walk in the immediate area and if we have time, a short drive to Bournda Lagoon.

To get there from the north, drive to Sapphire Coast Drive from Bega or Bermagui, turn onto Sapphire Coast Drive and travel about 5-6kms, turn left at Hobart Beach sign, left at the Scott's Bay sign and left again to the BEEC.

From the south, take Sapphire Coast Drive at Merimbula, travel about 17kms to Hobart Beach sign, turn right, then left to Scott's Bay, left to BEEC.

Newsletters from other regions

Did you know you can access newsletters from groups, near and far, through the APS NSW website at www.austplants.com.au ?

To do so you will need your APS membership number which can be found on your membership card. The login screen is at the right side of the page. Follow the instructions or refer to the instructions in the Native Plants of New South Wales journal, October 2012, page 34.

The Canberra group advertises its activities and plant sales and has other useful information at

<http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au/> ,

Pro White

by Leigh Murray

When I first started gardening, I didn't value white flowers much at all. Most of all I loved pinks, and then purples and yellows. Favourite plants included *Crowea* 'Poorinda Ecstasy' with bright pink starry flowers, purple *Hardenbergia violacea* and the delightful *Thysanotus*, and yellow *Acacia beckleri* and *A. spectabilis*.

Over the years, my Think Pink view has been somewhat modified by some special white-flowering plants: three adored by butterflies, one that can look magnificent in flower along the top of a fence, and an outstanding specimen plant.



Of the three adored by butterflies, one is a *Leptospermum*, species unknown, which we call Butterfly because it's such a drawcard. (To my untrained eye, it looks rather like *L. brevipes* or *L. scoparium*; it grows to about 4m.) It's hugely popular in early summer. *Bursaria spinosa*, which occurs naturally on our land at Queanbeyan, is a major attraction for butterflies, as is *Baekkea densifolia*, which also pulls in the bees (native and exotic). (I've just discovered that it's now called *Harmogia densifolia*.)

(Photo of *Leptospermum brevipes* by Jackie Miles, copied with her permission from her native plants website

<http://thebegavalley.org.au/plants.html>)

Clematis aristata looks magnificent in flower. It likes to climb high, but it can also be trained along a fence. It was in that spot that we fell in love with it. White flowers stand out in the early evening – they're real eye-catchers.

For a specimen plant, *Myoporum floribundum* (common name 'Snow in Summer') is hard to beat. Even unprepossessing examples, as ours often are, grab attention. A good example in full bloom is a knockout. They have a delicate appearance, with a beautiful weeping form. The tiny white flowers appear mainly in early summer (with occasional smaller repeat flowerings if tip-pruned), clustered along the tops of the branches, looking like snow. Insects, especially small ones, are strongly attracted to the flowers, so there's usually an entourage. It grows quite well in Queanbeyan although it prefers more moisture and less exposure than it gets on our rocky ridge. I've lost plants at Tuross; perhaps it doesn't like salt-laden winds. It's very easy to strike from cuttings – I just put pieces in glass jars of water on the kitchen sill, and pot them up when there are good roots.

Insects love white flowers, particularly small white flowers – and now, because I love watching butterflies and bees and beetles, so do I.

How to care for your plants in a heatwave

by Bernie Kocur

At Cobargo, close to the bushfires at Kybeyan and Brogo, we managed to protect our potted plants in our nursery from the searing winds and 45° heat by following a few simple steps.

When we hear forecasts of high temperatures, we water the plants thoroughly the day before, again the morning of the predicted hot weather and again at about 3.00pm.

When we water we wet both the soil and foliage. Because water is limited at our place we do not water plants in the ground. However if you do have access to sufficient water, a good wetting at some or all of these times may save them.

Footnote from the Editor : others have suggested that pruning any damaged plants is best left till after the hot weather has disappeared for the year. If you prune while it is still hot, new growth will appear and may subsequently be burnt.

Can you help the Canberra group?

From an email

We are still seeking images for the ANPS's new edition and have listed below plants for which we need images and which are likely to be flowering in February. If you already have images on file we would be pleased to have them; otherwise perhaps you might consider taking photographs of currently flowering plants.

How to contribute your images

Please rename your image files according to the following standard rule (please use the scientific plant name):

plant_name(your_name)number.jpg

For example:

Plant: *Grevillea alpina* Name: John Smith

Number: (1) habit, (2) flower, (3) leaves, (4) bark, (5) fruit .

A photograph of the flower would be given the filename:

grevillea_alpina(john_smith)2.jpg

Do not use spaces when naming the file.

If you can help contact Greg Quinn by the end of February on 02/6258 1536 or Greg.Quinn@anu.edu.au .

Data Base #	Plant Name	Data Base #	Plant Name
2087	<i>Anigozanthos 'Green Machine'</i>	1153	<i>Grevillea barklyana subsp. macleayana</i>
461	<i>Anigozanthos 'Orange Cross'</i>	1239	<i>Grevillea miqueliana</i>
477	<i>Astroloma pinifolium</i>	2222	<i>Hakea dactyloides</i>
480	<i>Austromyrtus dulcis</i>	2223	<i>Hakea laevipes subsp. laevipes</i>
493	<i>Baeckea linifolia</i>	1412	<i>Isopogon petiolaris</i>
620	<i>Callistemon 'Baroondah Station'</i>	1475	<i>Lechenaultia tubiflora</i>
641	<i>Callistemon linearis</i>	2043	<i>Leptospermum grandiflorum</i>
683	<i>Callistemon viridiflorus</i>	1489	<i>Leptospermum rupestre (upright)</i>
712	<i>Calytrix depressa</i>	1569	<i>Melaleuca styphelooides</i>
863	<i>Crowea exalata 'Bindelong Compact'</i>	1604	<i>Myoporum insulare</i>
36	<i>Diplodium truncatum</i>	1605	<i>Myoporum insulare (prostrate)</i>
2549	<i>Eucalyptus niphophila</i>	1615	<i>Olearia asterotricha</i>
2204	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	1639	<i>Olearia rhizomatica</i>
1085	<i>Eucalyptus viridis</i>	1653	<i>Ozothamnus ledifolius</i>
1086	<i>Eucryphia lucida</i>	2273	<i>Ozothamnus thyrsoideus</i>
1088	<i>Euryomyrtus ramosissima</i>	1821	<i>Rhodanthe chlorocephala subsp. rosea</i>
1110	<i>Goodenia hederacea (Torrington)</i>	1990	<i>Zieria granulata</i>

From the Secretary - Mog Bremner

Hello, everyone! My name is Mog Bremner and I took over from Jill Gutteridge as secretary of the SE NSW group in November last year.

As you know, the general meetings now happen 4 times a year, and this means that the newsletters will also be published 4 times a year. This might not give enough advance warning for some of the events that in the past have been publicised in the newsletters. It is not practicable for us to contact every member individually – and this would probably lead to you all being overloaded with unread stuff in your in-box!

So, if you like to attend the propagation meetings in Canberra for instance, I would like to suggest that you remember to look at the events calendar on the Canberra region's web site – the link is right up at the top of the home page. If you like to read the newsletters from other groups, you can access them through the NSW website – there are very good

instructions about how to do this in the October 2012 Native Plants for NSW magazine. There is an event calendar for everything happening in NSW on their web site, as well. If you do not to have Internet access for any reason, then I'm sure a friend, or your local library, will be able to help you

The group is also sent bulletins and updates from other regions– for instance the print newsletters from Western Australia and Queensland, and from other organisations that share similar interests with us – for instance the digital newsletters from Bush Heritage Australia and the Nature Conservation Council. If you would like to receive these also, then I suggest you could contact the regions and organisations directly.

I only joined APS very recently so I am looking forward to meeting more of the members at the general meetings – hope to see you there!

Merimbula Star-Hair: an endangered native plant in our area

By Bob Ross



Merimbula Star-hair about to flower
(Astrotricha sp. Wallagaraugh)
Photo taken last November by Bob Ross

Australian native plants are varied and fascinating as well as beautiful, and we think they are largely responsible for making Australia such a beautiful and fascinating place to live.

Wendy and I also think we all – as residents of Australia - have a responsibility to try to understand and look after our wonderful Australian flora. So when we recently learned that there is an ‘endangered’ species of native plant that is literally growing in our back yard, we took a special interest in it.

The common name of this native is the Merimbula Star-hair. According to the NSW Dept. of Environment and Heritage, it is different from other Star-hair species but hasn't been formally described. The Department's website says the Star-hair has “a highly restricted and severely fragmented distribution, currently known from only two localities [in NSW] about 50 km apart.” One site is SE of Eden, deep in the forest, and the other site is in and around Tura Beach, where we live. It is also found around Mallacoota in Victoria. The flowering period of this star-hair is late spring (October to December) and the plants can grow to over a metre high.

Our local Landcare group has just received a grant from the local Council to survey where the Star-hair plants are found. We think it likes to grow in disturbed areas and on the edge of forested areas. The soil in our area is deep white sand, apparently deposited by the wind during the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago. We don't know why the Star-hair is just found in these two spots in NSW, but we hope that as we find out more about it we

will be able to work out a plan to make sure that it doesn't go from the ‘endangered’ list to the list of ‘extinct’ species.

Happy 10th birthday garden

by Joy Cook

This year marks the tenth anniversary of gardening in Riverview Crescent, Tathra. The garden has come a long way in ten years. There have been several setbacks, a severe storm that did a very heavy “nature's prune”, a severe attack of Myrtle

Rust, and the death of a few prized *Eucalyptus caesia* trees and a much loved *Eucalyptus forrestiana*. Overall I would say nature has greatly rewarded me for my efforts. Those wonderful Australian plants like paint strokes on a canvas, have been an integral part and inspiration in the creating of our garden landscape. I love being outside gardening, and spending the best part of my day ‘worrying’ the garden. I like nothing better than to stand idly in the garden space and picture in my mind how an area could be improved. I have learnt over the years that many hours of thought given over to an hours labour, give a better result than many hours of impulsive action. I am also a keen bushwalker, and enjoy my time in the bush where I observe the way plants grow in their natural habitat. A lot of my inspiration comes from my time spent bushwalking.

The Bones of the Garden

Initially we were presented with a steeply sloping, western facing block covered with Kikuyu grass. The biggest step forward, and the step that set the grounding for the garden in its present state, was the hard landscaping. This involved the creation of the pond, bringing in and positioning of rocks and creation of mounds to help hold water on the block in dry weather and to slow down the flow of water when heavy storms hit. Hopefully the landscaping will remain the foundation, even when what is planted on top, changes.



The Meat on the Bones.

The plants that I refer to as ‘The Meat on the Bones’ are not necessarily the most flamboyant looking plants, but the ones that survive without too much fuss. These are the ones I use over and over again. They usually behave well, all seasons of the year, enjoy a prune and don’t suffer too badly during inclement weather and when nibbled at by the wallabies.

As the garden has aged I have learnt to be more selective with the plants I choose. They may not be the showiest of plants but they fit in with their surroundings and companions, and generally survive when planted with other plants with the same needs. eg. Plants that tolerate wet feet all planted together in damp areas, usually where the enviro cycle outlets are situated and plants that tolerate long periods without water, in the drier and higher parts of the garden, definitely far away from the reach of any spray from the enviro cycle. The ‘meat on the bones’ plants are:

- Acacia cognata*,
- Agonis flexulosa nana (dwarf form)*
- Ammobium alatum*
- Astromyrtus dulcis*
- Astrastomyrtus inophylla*
- Baekea virgata (dwarf form)*
- Banksia blechnifolia*
- Brachyscome multifida*
- Brachyscome segmentosa*
- Brachyscome melanocarpa*
- Brachyscome basaltica*
- Causarina nana (dwarf form)*
- Chryscephalum ramosissimum*
- Chryscephalum alatum*
- Crinum pedunculatum*
- Doryanthes excelsa*
- Grevillea lanigera*
- Grevillea sericea*



Grevillea 'Moonlight'
Grevillea banksii
Grevillea 'Superb'
Helichrysum rutidolepis.
Lomandras (Various forms)

Scaevola 'Purple clusters'
Syzgium (several types)
Thryptomene saxicola payne
Themeda triandra (prostrate form)
Westringia longifolia

Clothing the Garden.

Others that I use as fillers (these I consider to be the dressing up plants) may not be as reliable but they add a bit of excitement to my gardening and present the opportunity to introduce new species.

Just as we humans change our clothes with fashion to give us a different appearance these plants allow a change of mood in the garden, giving bright spots on bleak days, light in shady areas and the odd splash of colour with their flowering.

They herald the changing of the seasons and add interest in unexpected places and an alternative food source for the wild life. They reflect the impulsive side of my personality. As they are usually small plants, if they do die, they do not leave a huge gap to be filled. They feed my need to create and give me endless pleasure searching for them when I go on nursery crawls. The most conspicuous dressing up in the garden at the moment comes from,

Epacris impressa

Epacris purpurascens

Epacris longifolia

Actinotus helianthus

Olearia lanuginosa

Dampiera trigona

Dampiera teres

Dampiera 'Mallee mauve'.

Leucophyta (Cape Leeuwin form)

Veronica formosa (blue)

Ptilotus exaltatus

Pycnosorus globulos

Eremophila nivea

Eremophila (prostate purple flowers)

Psuedanthos pimiloides



Change in the rainfall over the past two years has had a big impact, many correas died, they could not cope with being drowned in inches of rain after having adapted to eight years of drought.

The removal of two large gums will offer new opportunities or challenges.

Our garden has six outlets for the enviro cycle, (all sewerage and greywater is put onto the garden). It has to adapt to periods of heavy water logging when visitors come, or after heavy rain and long periods of drying out when we are away for weeks on end and there is no output of grey water from the house.

The gums obviously would have soaked up huge amounts of this grey water. One area where a tree has been removed has thrived, as it is on the highest contour of our block. The other is at the lowest, and has always been a little prone to water-logging and prolific weed growth even with the gum soaking up huge amounts of water. This I imagine will be the challenge to conquer with the next wet spell, and over the coming months.

I had made a deliberate decision to keep the streetscape of the garden unobtrusive, no bright colours allowed there- I wanted it to look like it belongs to the local environment, being predominately green.

As you go up the block the plants get a little more lively and colorful. It is when you get to the very top that the yellow plants start to dominate. I am not a lover of yellow in the garden, I call yellow plants extroverts, loud, demanding attention, taking control of the view, making one focus on them immediately.

Chrysocephalum ramosissimum grows exceedingly well near the enviro cycle outlets It has become one of the 'meat on

the bones' of my garden, and as much as I would love to remove this yellow flowering plant, to create a more peaceful setting, I doubt I will ever be able to find another plant that adapts so well to the huge variations in moisture that it copes with.

Over the years I have learnt that the way I want the garden to appear, is not always the way the garden is able to cope, so sometimes I have to swallow my stubborn streak, and say Happy Birthday Garden, happy birthday *Chrysocephalum ramosissimum* you have served us well for ten years.

Memberships may now be paid by direct deposit *by Sue Sullivan*

Members may now pay their annual subscription by direct deposit.

To do so please use the following account information and mail your form to the Membership officer, Jenny John. Her address is **PO Box 514, Narooma. NSW 2546.**

BSB: 802 124

Account No: **69490**

Account name: Australian Plants Society SE NSW Group

Reference: Your membership number and surname

It is essential to mail or email your membership forms to Jenny (see address below) so APS SE has your up-to-date contact details and the Treasurer can confirm your payment and send the form, as required, to APS NSW.

Contacts

President:	Position vacant		
Vic President:	Position vacant		
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Website : **<http://thebegavalley.org.au/1479.html>**

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Individual \$50.00 **Concession** \$42.00

Joint Members \$58.00 **Concession** \$50.00

A concession is available to seniors, people on a limited fixed income and full-time students. This applies in joint memberships where one person is entitled to request it. Please contact Jenny John for more information.