AUSTRALASIAN PLANT SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

PENTACHONDRA

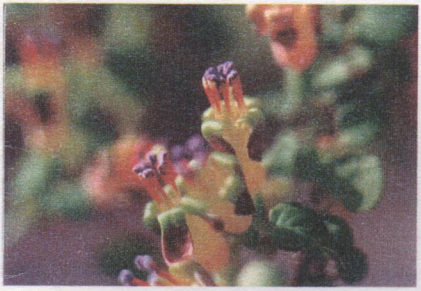
DECEMBER 2004



Acacia dealbata



Callistemon speciosus



Fuchsia procumbens



Myosotidium hortensia

AUSTRALASIAN PLANT SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 33

December 2004

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Editorial

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Bicton College on June 12th 2004

A minute's silence was observed in memory of the late Einion Hughes.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted nem.con.

2. Election of Officers:

Those elected were:

President	J. Irons
Chairman	K. Larkin
Secretary	vacant
Treasurer	A. Entwistle
Newsletter Editor	S. Hyams
Webmaster	K. Larkin

3. After some discussion it was agreed that the newsletter's present cover could be improved. "Newsletter of the Australasian Plant Society" should be given greater prominence.

4. It was decided that the possibility of a Society stand at the 2005 Tatton Park Show should be aired at the July 3rd northern meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3pm.

It was followed by a tour of the college gardens, which hold the National Collections of Pittosporum and Podocarpaceae. Some members visited Pleasant View Nursery on the Sunday morning. The proprietor, APS member Christine Yeo, took them round the associated gardens and showed them her National Collection of Salvias.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE!

All subscriptions are due on January 1st. Please make cheque payable to Australasian Plant Society and send to Tony Entwistle, 'Ophrys', 113 Station Road, Delamere, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2HZ

Single member	£6.00
Household	£9.00
Overseas	£9.00

All members are reminded that **unless they pay by Standing Order**, subscriptions for 2005 are due on January 1st 2005. Members who do not pay by direct debit are reminded that if payment is not received by the end of March, membership will be deemed to have terminated. No further reminders will be issued.

A WELCOME FROM KEITH

At the AGM this year I was elected Chairman of our Society, and I wanted to introduce myself and some thoughts I have about it.

We are a small specialist society, and it is unlikely that growing Australasian plants will be anything other than a minority interest. Nonetheless, we need to look for ways of fostering interest in these plants to as wide an audience as possible.

The backbone of any Society such as ours is the active involvement of its members. There is a tremendous range of plants open to us to experiment with, and even the "experts" cannot try other than a small proportion of the plants, and only in their growing environment.

There must have been many successes by our members which remain unknown to us, and we would all like to know of the plants you have succeeded with and the cultivation conditions in which they were achieved. Writing an article can seem quite formidable if you have not done it before, but a simple letter would be ideal and other members can supplement with further information if appropriate. Adding to what has been in an article is also welcome. Everyone has something interesting to say about these plants, and we want to know of your successes!

The main event of the society is the AGM, and I would like this to become far more than just a necessary administration meeting. Plants can be brought for display, exchange or sale, experiences discussed as well as viewing plants at the location the meeting is held at, and possibly a talk. It would be good for the Society for this to become an annual focal point.

The North has for some time had occasional regional meetings which have been well attended. These are ideal supplements to the AGM, especially for those who do not wish to travel as far as the AGM might require. We would like a few members to volunteer to host such meetings - don't worry about having to have a pristine garden full of unusual plants. All that is needed is the willingness to have a few fellow enthusiasts to your garden to make friends and learn more about these plants.

You will see elsewhere that the RHS is planning to cover Australian Plants and Gardens in its January issue next year, and a meeting on the plants in March. These are ideal opportunities for us to extend the membership of the society, and I would like us to be able to offer them the sort of support

and interest to retain them as members.

So if you would like to join in, please let me (or any other committee member if appropriate) know, either by e-mail to keith.larkin@virgin.net or phone on 01926 422596.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Keith Larkin

*****

TREASURER'S COMMENTS

In my treasurer's report in the Dec 03 newsletter, I seem to have aroused some concern when I said that I thought the current membership of 200 was about right - our late secretary suggested 1000 and one member even 7000 (as in the Fuchsia Society).

My main concern, however, was to stop the slow decline in our present membership (now 170, and only 7 new members so far this year).

We are a very specialised society, as Peter Thompson says in his letter. I would not agree with his description of us as "anachronistic"- maybe hopefully opportunistic would be better - but I know what he means. It is difficult to know how we can attract many new members; certainly our modest subscription cannot deter anyone, as this has not been raised since 1995, which must be unique for societies.

It seems to be a fact that membership of small societies is generally falling, and not just horticultural ones. Even in Australia, some state APS membership is falling. Why this should be is very difficult to explain. Large societies as the RHS are doing well, and perhaps gardeners feel that one "big" one is enough.

Tony Entwistle

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The minimal attendance at this year's AGM raises the problem of future sites.

Attendance in past years has been poor except for those held in what I might call "middle England" eg the ones at Ness, Pershore and Sheffield. The reason for "moving around" was to enable members in that area to have the opportunity of attending, but this does not seem to have happened. Of the current UK membership(9% of the total membership is overseas, including Ireland). approx 5% is from Wales, 5% from Scotland. and of the English members 48% live north of a line through Wolverhampton., 42% south; so there may be some logic in keeping to the middle.

Tony Entwistle

Condolences

We are sad to report the sudden death of Einion Hughes on 8th May. We send our sympathies to all those who shared his life. A celebration of his life, penned by Tim Longville, can be read in this issue.

Report on the
Northern Members Meeting
held on Saturday 3rd July 2004

The meeting was held at the home and garden of Anne and Dennis Rowlinson who live in Stockport. The society is extremely grateful to them for inviting members to invade their territory and for supplying a delicious lunch.

As if expecting a visit, *Callistemon sieberi* was in flower for the first time, and *Billardiera longiflora* was flowering like mad. *Mutisia spinosa pulchella*, with its bright pink flowers, was admired by a lot of members.

*****

'There were 20 members in attendance - some members coming from North Yorkshire and Penrith stretching down to Derby. There were 10 apologies received. The weather forecast had been very bad, and at first it was rather dull and overcast, but gradually the weather improved till, in the afternoon, some sunshine appeared. The meeting started around 11.00 when members went on a tour round the garden. This got quite lively, and there was plenty of discussion between members about various plants around the garden.

'We then all had lunch and afterwards we listened to a short talk on the Daisy family, illustrated by plants and photographs, given by Jeff Irons.

'This was followed by some lively discussions on various topics of interest to individual members; again most were illustrated by photographs or by plants brought in for the purpose.

'One or two useful books containing propagation methods and information of interest to members were reported on.

'The meeting closed around 5pm, followed by a plant swap - most members had brought plants they thought would interest other members and another lot of discussions took place as they were being swapped.

'Anne and I were delighted to hold the meeting and enjoyed the sound of members chatting to each other and exchanging views. We think it was a good way for members to meet and discuss methods of germination and growing techniques.'

Dennis Rowlinson

P.S. A discussion on the possible presence of the Society at Tatton Park in 2005 decided against it. There was general agreement that an organising team was essential, and it was not possible to put one together from the members present. Without a team too much work would fall on a few members, both in growing plants and in staffing the stand.

Job Vacancies

The Society has a couple of vacancies. Firstly, we are in need of a Secretary. This post does not involve too much work, mainly arranging the annual meeting, which can be done in consultation with the other committee members.

The other post is that of Editor. As mentioned previously, I am keen to relinquish this position in order to spend more time pursuing other interests.

If you are interested in either position, please contact Jeff Irons. Any help required will be happily given.

*****

As mentioned in the AGM news, a minute's silence was held for Einion Hughes. Tim Longville writes a wonderful article celebrating his life.

Einion Owen Hughes: An Appreciation

Einion died aged 53 on 8 May as the result of a brain haemorrhage.

'Now then, sir...,' spoken in a heavily-Welsh-accented rush, is what I remember as the almost invariable opening-line, whether on the phone or in the flesh. It was just as invariably accompanied by his patented snuffle-cum-chuckle-cum-wheeze. 'In the flesh' it was also accompanied by his slightly Bunter-ish figure, stocky, solid, pink-faced, snub-nosed, and almost perpetually beaming with his characteristic combination of enjoyment, interest, and excitement.

And then, whether in the flesh or on the phone, he was off, rocket-launched into his latest urgent enthusiasm. Often it was a description of whatever new plant, old book or new or old piece of pop music he'd just fallen in love with. Sometimes it was an absolutely unmissable bit of information he just had to impart, now, this instant. Sometimes it was an obscure, devious and difficult question he had to ask (about plants or books or music - or life). Not infrequently it was a particularly juicy piece of gossip: gossip being something for which he had an insatiable but entirely unmalicious appetite.

All of which is to say that he was not someone whose own life was *consumed* by gardening or gardens or plants. Those things were important elements in his life but no more than that. He was very knowledgeable about many plants of many different kinds (the APS was only one of many societies and specialist groups to which he belonged and to which he made invaluable contributions) but he was mildly shocked if anyone treated him as 'an expert' in respect of any of them. I think he felt that real experts were specialists and that was something he, almost by definition, wasn't. That was partly out of the bubbling abundance of enthusiasm and energy characteristic of this instinctive Jack of many trades, but it was also born out of a strange underlying diffidence.

For example, he wrote informatively and entertainingly on a wide range of horticultural subjects for a wide range of specialist magazines. For many of

the editors of those magazines (and I speak as someone who in the past was one of them) he was the perfect 'Mr Reliable': somebody you could always ask to fill a last-minute gap, knowing that he'd not only oblige but do so to a high standard. And his writing was always enjoyable as well as informative because he had the good sense to write very much as he spoke: in a continual bubble of enthusiasm and anecdote. So it's not surprising that several other friends apart from myself tried to convince him that his writing was a talent worth taking more seriously. He tried, dutifully, half-heartedly, once or twice. The attempts never lasted long. Mostly, with slightly embarrassed self-deprecation he just pooh-poohed the very idea that he could have a talent or skill or fund of knowledge deserving more intensive cultivation. His preferred method, with writing as with all of his enthusiasms, was to tackle Item A quickly, and then move on to (the often quite unrelated) Item B.

One bizarre enthusiasm, for example, was rescuing from (to my mind, deserved!) oblivion obscure pieces of 70s or early 80s pop music. Many were deplorable pieces of overblown kitsch. Hence, each new discovery was gleefully flaunted, once he realised how much I didn't share his taste for them! Another, almost equally bizarre, was unearthing obscure authors writing in his favourite genre: thrillers. At the time of his death, he was in fact working on an extended article which contrived to combine his enthusiasm for thrillers with his enthusiasm for plants and gardens. He'd discovered an author - sadly, I can't remember his name - whose Agatha-Christie-like novels all had gardening 'backdrops'. Does anyone reading this share his strange-to-me thriller-enthusiasm sufficiently to be able to identify that author?

A third enthusiasm - and a major one, and the one most likely to be shared by most people reading this - was revising for the umpteenth time the tiny plant-stuffed front and back gardens around his bungalow in Rhyl. After several visits in the past few years to Helen Dillon's garden in Dublin, his latest and as it turned out his last enthusiastic plan for the front garden was, he told me sternly last year, for 'less spottiness' and more 'colour co-ordination'. Sadly, I never saw the 'blue' and 'red' borders which were the result. But it was a pleasure just to imagine this addicted acquirer of plants self-denyingly refusing to acquire any new ones and even throwing out old ones which didn't 'fit'- and to wonder how long that self-denial could possibly last... The back garden, however, remained what it had been for years: a grass-less maze of raised brick-built beds, all constructed by Einion himself and each with its own carefully calculated soil-mix for a specific group of plants. It also remained unregenerately a home for the hundreds of individual specimens of rarities and [in climatic terms] sometimes nearimpossibilities, whose wildly varying needs he loved to try to accommodate. After all, self-denial in pursuit of stylishness can only go so far. Enthusiasm, to parody the would-be philosopher in Boswell's *Life of Dr Johnson, will* keep breaking in... Well, it certainly did if your name was Einion Owen Hughes...

He attended just as seriously and enthusiastically to the needs of his chapel in Rhyl and to those of the old people, many of them women, who made up the bulk of the 'customers' for his professional services as the 'Mobile Librarian' for Denbighshire. Those needs weren't just their need for books. He talked to them, he listened to them, he posted their letters for them, he did their shopping for them. As a 'final service,' he even attended their

funerals. Ironically, some who survived him probably attended his own.

All of which is evidence that, just as his gossip was never malicious, so his knowledge and talents and energies were never self-promoting. Few people I've known have had less 'side'. Far from wanting to promote himself, he was always interested in promoting someone or something else. It might be X whose book you really should read, Y whose new CD you really should listen to, or Z whose nursery or garden you really should visit. And of course often it was a plant which you really must get for your garden. And if you couldn't find a nursery which stocked it, he always had a specimen himself which he'd happily divide or take cuttings from or collect seed of... My own garden contains many such plant-gifts from him, whose wildly varied character reminds me of the civilized good sense of his eclectic enthusiasms. There are lathyrus from Europe, watsonias from South Africa, grevilleas from Australia, rhododendrons from the Far East... (One fine hybrid he gave me, 'Michael's Pride; was flowering here for the first time when I heard of his death. A true hallo-and-goodbye moment...)

After his death, one friend described him as 'one of life's enablers'. Another spoke of his `niceness' and 'selflessness'. A third mentioned his 'helpfulness and sympathy whenever you had a difficulty.' At his funeral, which was largely in Welsh, one of the few moments of clarity for this nonWelsh speaker was when the minister, who'd known him for years and was clearly speaking from the heart, broke into English to say that he had been 'much loved' by many. All conventional phrases, of course, but how else to describe someone without whose energising presence so many people's lives will be so much the poorer?

Many thanks to Tim Longville for giving us an insight into the life of a much-missed member of the APS.

At the funeral, the APS was represented by Tony Entwistle, Jeff Irons and Tim Longville.

Keeping Up To Date

Following the article on Dundee Botanic Gardens in the last issue, Jeff Irons has picked up on some incorrect names.

'It was a shock to see the name *Leptospermum pubescens* which is 200 years out of date! More surprising was *Leptospermum lanigerum* var. *lanigerum*. There have been var. *canescens*, var. *pilliger*, var. *pubescens* and var. *montanum*, but never a var. *lanigerum!*

'The name *Callistemon salignus* var. *viridiflorus* is equally surprising and almost as out of date!

'Returning to the tea-trees: it is worth noting that *L. pubescens* var. *parviflorum* is *L. myrtifolium*, and *L. pubescens* var. *grandifolium* is *L. grandifolium.*'

Ed - I have to admit that I find keeping up to date with name changes just about impossible as I don't have the time to read the relevant literature. I'm happy enough just getting a plant to thrive!

Brooms, Palms and Dragons

Jeff Irons

Several of the species in the APS Seed List are either difficult to find in British reference books or are not there at all. Quite often the information about them is incomplete or wrong. ***Richea*** species fall into this category, so I thought that a few notes about them would not go amiss.

Some years ago *Richea scoparia* was the species most often encountered. Nowadays that honour probably goes to *R. dracophylla*.



Richea dracophylla

The specific name dracophylla refers to a fancied resemblance between its leaves and those of some *Dracaena*. I cannot see it!

The species is a fairly fast growing branched shrub, about 2m high, occasionally up to 5m.

The evergreen leaves are outward curving, sharp pointed and

because they can be up to 30cm long this is a plant that makes a statement in the garden. Some branches bear large terminal heads of white flowers.

Unfortunately this denizen of wet forests is the least hardy in the genus. It needs a sheltered site. About 20 years ago I tried it outdoors, in a corner of the garden and under a tree. To my surprise it survived two winters, before succumbing to the third. It was then 80cm high. Nowadays the species is probably hardy in near coastal southern and western Britain, but not inland.

Seedlings can be expected to bloom after about 5 or 6 years. The white flowers, in showy heads, are unusual because they are at their most decorative *before* they open. This is because the flowers open by a split forming round the corolla, so that the top drops off; a characteristic feature of all richeas.

R. pandanifolia is the giant of the genus. Though plants seen in the wild are usually less than half that height, this species can be as much as 15m tall. Its leaves form terminal rosettes at the top of a trunk, rather like those of a *Pandanus*. Since they can be up to 1.5m long this is a very dramatic plant. An additional decorative feature is that old leaves do not drop off but form a skirt, hanging down round the trunk. In the wild it is usually seen at the edge of sub-alpine forests. Stunted specimens can be found in the alpine parts of Tasmania.

As far as I know it has never been available from British nurseries. That situation may change in the fairly near future, because some of the APS' nursery owning members have requested and received seed. Flowering takes place after 10-15 years. An 8 year old specimen in my garden is 12cm high and 20cm across. This fits in with the growth rates recorded for plants in the Tasmanian bush. APS seed has been taken from both red and white flowered specimens. They are the typical form, ssp. *pandanifolia*. The society has not offered seeds of the sparsely branched ssp. *ramulosa*.

The only way that I can fit the specific name to *R. scoparia* is that like Broom it can form extensive colonies. Otherwise it is completely different. The outward curving sharp pointed leaves are typically *Richea*, the flowers are pink, orange or white, never yellow. Every visitor to Tasmania's Mount Wellington will have seen this species, for it grows only a few feet away from where their vehicle was parked, in the spaces between boulders. Elsewhere it can make dense thickets that are a substantial barrier to foot progress. Nowadays I keep several specimens of every plant grown. In the past I did not do that, so can report only that my one 'Scoparia' took 17 years to produce a flower head. Now 21 years old, its dense mound is 60cm high and 50cm across.

Richeas are in the same plant family as *Erica* and *Rhododendron*. Their seeds need the same treatment. Sow them on the surface of moist peat, or preferably sphagnum, and wait. The dried seeds that we get need time to germinate. Some may come up after the first winter, with more in the autumn, or it may take up to 5 years before germination occurs. My experience, gained with 6 species and the one natural hybrid, is that most have just one germination but that *R. pandanifolia* and *R. x curtisiae* germinate successively, in spring and autumn, over several years. Seedlings should be transplanted into an ericaceous mix as soon as they can be handled. Usually that will be when they are 2 or 3 years old. *R. x curtisiae* can be transplanted when only a few months old.

These are my kind of plant. They are tough, easy, evergreen and stand up to neglect. They do not appear to be affected by any pests or diseases. They do not grow excessively quickly and rarely require pruning. Several

of them manage to look neat without adopting a displeasing 'bun' shape. They can be grown in the ground or in the confines of a pot. Their only need is for moist soil and a moist atmosphere. On top of all that patient gardeners are rewarded by attractive flowers. What more could one want?

Secrets?

Have you discovered a foolproof way of rooting cuttings of your favourite australasian plants?

Do you know a way to germinate those more difficult seeds?

If so, let us know. Then we can all benefit.

Gulliver in the Land of the Botanists
By Pat Anderson

I don't seem to read much about my favourite Oz plant in Pentachondra; maybe because people think that like Banksia it is really a no-goer in most of the UK? Well, I live 100 m up in the Tees valley, and although admittedly have a walled garden, it is open on the south side and the winds as usual prevail from the SW - even in winter, and there's also a little too much shade in that season.

I have accumulated several Callistemon over the last few years as I continue trying to grow some of them outside. At this latitude only global warming could really help, but this year, in the warmest corner between the high wall and the greenhouse facing SW, an unknown callistemon bought four years ago from Seaforde in Northern Ireland has flowered spectacularly in mid-June with dozens of lemon yellow 'bottles' - up to four separate 9 x 4 cm flowers off each stem - against a background of pale mauve-pink new growth. This bush is about two metres tall. A week or two later - lasting into July - its companion, a low-growing small-leaved variety - *C. pallidus* ? - produced proportionately lush blooms (3 x 2 cm). And the third occupant of the site, a tall, more etiolated, red-flowered plant, is slowly developing several (but not many) long and relatively sparse bottles. The final callistemon in this bed is I believe *viridiflorus*; it has always done well there and this year was no exception, with many flowers up to 7 x 4 cm. All these Callistemons are favourites with bumble bees, butterflies and - if the flowers last - wasps and hoverflies. The bed is nourished only with ash from the nearby 'ghat' on which we burn all non-compostible garden waste.

Elsewhere in the garden I have two more *C. viridiflorus*, one of which last year sent out roots away through the holes in the base of the 'long Tom' which I had sunk in a stony raised and relatively exposed bed, but one which also houses a healthy *Olearia nummulifolia*, several Celmisia and a *Prostanthera cuneata* . This prevented my taking it indoors or into a more sheltered site - but it has survived well although the flowers (3 cm x 3 cm) are somewhat smaller than usual - I suppose reflecting the compression the roots have suffered. The other *C. viridiflorus* is in a shadowy and shallow bed which lies on top of what was a hundred years ago a gravel path. It likes this and is in late June a mass of bottles was seething with bumble bees. A young *C. subulatus* "Crimson Tail" and a *C. pitioides* share this bed and alongside is a small (20 cm) *C. pallidus* - no flowers yet on any but they seem happy. None of these have as yet shown frost damage.

The *C. subulatus* which probably isn't (see later) grows in a small shrubbery and, didn't flower this year. It had been getting very etiolated so I hacked it back to 30 cm; lots of healthy shoots have appeared so I have great hopes for next year.

An alleged *C. sieberi* (200 cm) I moved from that shrubbery into the raised bed mentioned above. That slowed it down a bit but it now is putting up good new shoots and I have great hoped for it next season.

The rest of my Callistemons, all red flowered varieties, are with one exception potted. I have tried one or two of them outside. *C.* 'Red Clusters' grew for three years with its feet below the pavers of the patio but we had a late frost one year which nearly demolished it. Since then it has been three years in a pot which goes indoors only when serious frost is threatened, and this year it produced its first flower spikes from an originally thumb-thick main stem beginning in the first week in July.

The *C. violaceus* (also once rescued) is blind this year, but the *C. citrinus* 'Spendens' which has always been in a pot produced several wonderful scarlet brushes with golden anthers, 6 x 6 cm, on each stem, beginning in mid-June. These darken slowly as the gold flecks of pollen disappear and long dark anther threads remain for a few weeks as the seed capsules swell and slowly harden into the fire-resistant gumnut-like cases.

Lastly, planted in the unheated greenhouse bed, is my WA *C. glaucus* (syn *speciosus*) which this year in early June burst out in a fabulous show of huge scarlet flowers about 6 x 6 cm each with at least three on each main stem. This was grown from seed bought in Australia; it's only a shame that it lasts for such a relatively short time and that it is demeaned by the hoi

polloi of tomatoes, courgettes and potted plants which surround it.

In the early summer as my favourites were coming into flower, I re-read a small item in Pentachondra which mentioned the Old Walled Garden in Kent, whose owners hold the National Collection - of Callistemons. At last, I hoped, here was someone who might sort out my naming 'worries' (things Aussies never have).

I sent leaf samples, and this was their reply (reprinted with permission):

"THE OLD WALLED GARDEN
Oxon Hoath Rd,
Hadlow,
Tonbridge,
Kent TN11 9SS

Dear Mr Anderson,

I have tried to identify the samples you sent me and this is the best I can come up with. It's more a definite case of what they are not & a possible case of what they could be.

Firstly your "pallidus" is not pallidus. This is more likely to be a form of pityoides or sieberi which are now considered linked and we could well lose one as a separate species under the new revision.

Your sieberi probably is a sieberi but as there are so many different variations of this about, it would be hard to say for sure if it's the species or a cultivar.
"subulatus": I think this is a cultivar of subulatus. It's not the species, the habit is wrong although the leaves look pretty close to the real thing. It should have a very definite weep.

Safe to say I have no idea what your "pachyphyllus" is except that it is not pachyphyllus. It's unusual to have a mauve juvenile growth with yellow flowers. Normally on the paler flowering varieties there is little pigment in the leaves. It is definitely a cultivar but I would simply be guessing if I were to say what of.

I will say though that your "pityoides" is pityoides (although as previously mentioned, don't be too happy with this as we are not sure if this is a valid name anymore!)

This is probably a rather depressing little letter. I am sorry but it is very typical of the situation with Callistemon at the moment as so many plants have been raised by seed & the hybridisation of the family is notorious.... "

Mrs Angrave went on to recommend me some of her favourites and needless to say I intend to take her up on some of them:

"..... *C. pallidus* 'Candle Glow' - lovely low growing yellow, although none available at the moment.

C. pallidus 'Father Christmas' (awful name, but lovely plant) - white stamens with red anthers make it a very unusual sight.
C. subulatus 'Phil May' - ground cover form, nice and neat though

rather short, red brushes with very golden anthers. Lovely bronze juvenile growth.

C. subulatus, the species, very pretty habit!

C. sieberi Injune - very slender, arching branches similar to subulatus though with a silver sheen from its hirsute juvenile growth. brushes are long, slender and pale pink.

Of the citrinus hybrids I would recommend White Anzac and Burgundy - both very different colour forms and both seemingly fairly hardy. Mauve Mist is another good one - again a very different colour though the name comes from the juvenile growth as this really does resemble a mauve mist! We also have our own hybrid we call Poph (there is a reason for the name I promise). It is a really good hardy pink with golden anthers.

There are so many cultivars it's really quite hard to choose....."

FOOTNOTE

It wasn't long after this exchange that I attended a meeting of the NW Group of APS at Dennis Rowlinson's. There, Jeff Irons put me out of some of my agony by identifying a couple of photographs as *C. pallidus* (my previous 'Pachyphyllus') and this is confirmed for it flowered yellow rather than red; and the other as *C. pityoides* - mine had been labelled 'pallidus'). Another member pointed out that *C. viridiflorus* has a strong tendency to keep its old brown anthers for a long time after flowering: this I certainly can confirm in all three of my plants believed to be of this species - although I can discern virtually no green overtone in their pale yellow brushes. And as I send this off to Sue I have just obtained an unlabelled plant from Seaforde which looks like *pinifolius* as its leaves are distinctly needle-tipped, and has flowered yellow this year - or maybe it's a slightly different *sieberi*?



Garden reports

I've only received one winter report this issue. During the next months, please find time to jot down some notes while you're having a cuppa, and send them to me so that we can all learn something from each other.

GROWING BOTTLEBRUSHES FROM SEED

Seed of bottlebrush plants

Collect the seed capsules from last year's flowers. It takes about 12 months from the time of flowering for seed to reach maturity. Place in a paper bag on a sunny windowsill. The capsules will open over a period of 2-3 weeks releasing hundreds of small seeds.

Bog Method of Seed Germination

STEP ONE

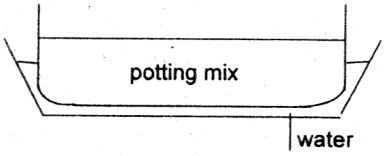
Fill a shallow container with drainage holes, with a potting mix and press down firmly.

STEP TWO

Place seeds on top of mix. Don't sow too thickly or seedlings will be overcrowded,

STEP THREE

Place seedling container in a watertight tray. Add water to the outer tray until the level is halfway up the level of the propagating mixture in the seedling container. The propagating mix will absorb the water. Maintain the same level until germination occurs. It is not necessary to cover seeds with a fine



layer of potting mix. Place in a warm place out of direct sunlight.

STEP FOUR

Following germination, remove the container from the watertight tray and water plants in the normal way. Seedlings can be pricked out when 2cm high.

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This BOG METHOD can be used on Calothamnus, Eucalyptus, Leptospermum and Melaleuca.

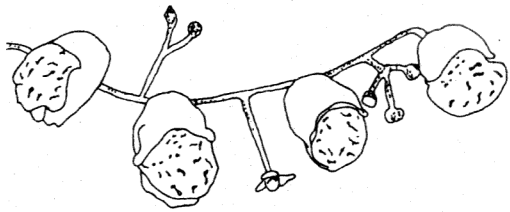
EASY PLANTS

JOVELLANA

by Brian Halliwell

Jovellana, named for Caspar Melchior de Jovellanos, an 18th century Peruvian botanical patron, is a genus of 6 species: 4 in Chile and 2 in New Zealand. Belonging to Scrophulariaceae, the New Zealand representatives are ***J. sinclairii*** and ***J. repens.*** Both are referred to as Maori calceolarias, and because of a similarity of flowers were formerly included in that genus. Both are perennials that become woody with age and can varyingly be described as shrubs or herbs. In the milder winters of the last decade, both seem to be hardy over most of the British Isles, though damage can occur if winters are extreme. Both have been used for conservatory decoration, and *J. repens* can be seen in some alpine houses. They are uncommon, although both are listed in the Plant Finder. Seed is sometimes offered. The seed, which is fine, should be sown thinly on a well drained, lime free, soil based compost, and left uncovered. In gentle heat germination usually occurs within 14 days. Seedlings, which are prone to damping off diseases, are slow to

develop but as soon as they are large enough to handle should be potted on in a soil based ericaceous mix. Keep young plants cool, and provide shade from strong sun.
Increase of established plants can be by cuttings, taken in late summer, of new non-flowering growth. Keep rooted cuttings in frost free conditions over winter, and plant into permanent positions in late May.



Jovellana sinclairii

J. sinclairii seems better in shade, requiring a cool moist lime free soil which does not dry out. It is well suited to growing in a bog garden or at the side of a pond or stream. *J repens* is usually grown in a shady position on a rock garden, or in a peat bed.

J. sinclairii was discovered by Andrew Sinclair in 1842, as is suggested by the specific epithet. It occurs alongside streams in the Hicks Bay and Hawkes Bay areas of New Zealand's North Island, extending from sea level to about 1500ft. Growing to about 18", there are opposite oval leaves about 2" long and a little over an inch wide; these are bright green above and paler beneath, with both surfaces covered with soft hairs. Blooms, in many flowered panicles appear in mid-summer. Each flower is about ½" in diameter, in the form of a pouch with 2 lips, the outside of the pouch is white splashed with yellow, and inside the throat there is purple spotting. I have never seen seed set on cultivated plants, but would expect it to be in dry capsules, as in *Calceolaria*.

J. repens was discovered around 1840 by the Reverend William Colenso, an early New Zealand missionary. It occurs in the East Cape area of the North Island, and in the South island is scattered in various locations as far south as Otara Gorge, from sea level to about 2000'. Much branched, there are many prostrate stems which tend to root at the nodes, forming mats about 2' across. Opposite leaves, which are thin and oval, are about an inch in diameter and covered with short soft hairs. The inflorescence is in the form of a few flowered panicle. Each flower is ¼" in diameter, and the two lipped pouch is white on the outside and spotted or flushed purple inside.

Smoke molecule discovered

Many thanks to Tony Entwistle who sent me an article from the King's Park Magazine from which the following information is derived.

On 8th July 2004, the 'Science' Journal published findings by scientists from King's Park Botanic Gardens in WA, working in collaboration with the University of WA and Murdoch University. They had isolated and identified a new molecule that stimulates seed germination.

In previous issues of Pentachondra we've already read about bush smoke aiding the germination of seeds of Australian and South African native plants. But which constituent of the smoke was responsible still remained a mystery. Now it has been discovered that a butenolide chemical can induce germination in a wide range of plants including Australian wildflowers. The butenolide is left on the soil surface after a bush fire, and washed into the soil with subsequent rains.

Q & A

Q: My garden has soil that is slightly alkaline. I wonder whether, rather than put them in the ground, it would be better to plant two acacias (*baileyana* and *boormannii*) in large pots, partly plunged in a raised bed. What do you think?

A: Most acacias will tolerate soil that is slightly alkaline and several will grow in strongly alkaline soil. We think that you should try growing your acacias in the ground. Since you live inland winter hardiness will be a problem. A raised bed will help matters there. Partly plunging the pots is not recommended. This will leave the plants with only a small amount of soil round their collars. It is better to have the whole of the root system below soil level. A winter mulch of conifer branches during the first few years will help to protect the plants.

Q: Leptospermum and Drimys have failed to survive in my ordinary garden soil. Can you recommend any species that will grow in it.

A: *Leptospermum laevigatum* has a history of growing well in the alkaline soils of the Irish Republic. You should try that, along with *L. lanigerum* and *L. nitidum*. We have no information about Drimys. You can make your soil more suitable for this South American genus by reducing its pH. This can be achieved by digging in Flowers of Sulphur (obtainable from your local horticultural sundriesman). As a first stab try one or even two handfuls per square yard. The best time for application is autumn, when the soil is both warm and moist. It will be necessary to repeat the treatment every few years by sprinkling sulphur over the ground in autumn/winter.

Send us your horticultural questions for inclusion in the next issue of your newsletter.

To be or not to be "Pentachondra" (with apologies to the Bard)

Helen Beaufort-Murphy

I had often wondered why the APS Newsletter was called Pentachondra, but I had not seen any mention of the origin of the name choice. In addition, I knew almost nothing about the genus other than it was an Epacrid. However, in view of the numerous comments about the name in the May 2004 Newsletter (which arrived yesterday), I immediately got out some of my books on the floras of the Southern Hemisphere (references 1,2,3,4,5 and 6) to find out more about the genus.

According to Willis (2) there are a total of 4 species in the genus *Pentachondra*, which are found in Australia, Tasmania or New Zealand. However, the other 5 references only mention one species, namely *Pentachondra pumila*, which is an extremely attractive dwarf evergreen shrub, with fringed white flowers, and brilliant red berries. The immature berries are green the first year and do not mature and become red until the second year, so that a given plant can have flowers, as well as green and red berries at the same time.

The species is frost hardy and forms large prostrate mats in the alpine areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania (3,4) as well as the alpine areas of the North, South and Stewart Islands of New Zealand (5). In New Zealand it is a common plant in the alpine cushion bogs and open snowfields between 2,500-5,500ft (600-1,500m) (5) where it forms "extensive sheets of closely matted twigs with small dark purple leaves" (6) up to 50cm across (5). Philipson (6) also points out that although it is profuse and widespread in nature it



Pentachondra pumila

can be difficult to cultivate. Which he thought might have been because the plants probably rely on the association of a fungus on their roots for nutrition, as do other Epacrid and Ericad species. However, there are now a number of fungal cultures available for inoculating Orchids and many other types of plants so maybe this will make it possible to cultivate

Pentachondra pumila more easily and thus enable it to become a popular plant for the alpine garden.

Consequently, I feel that the unusual wide distribution, hardiness and attractiveness, of *Pentachondra pumila* make it an excellent representative species of the Australasian Flora and therefore an ideal choice for the name of the APS Newsletter.

Are there any other Australasian plant species that are found in Australia, Tasmania and all of the New Zealand islands? Apart from the fact that I find plant distribution and evolution absolutely fascinating I have also found that the knowledge of a species geographical distribution and habitat details can provide valuable information regarding its successful cultivation.

Another reason for keeping the name 'Pentachondra' might be that once a product is identified by a particular name it is usually best to maintain it, otherwise people may not recognize it by a new name and lose interest in it.

References

1. Australian Plants. T. Ross and J. Irons. Privately printed. 1997.

2. A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns. J.C. Willis. Cambridge Press. 1966.

3. A Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania. Launceston Field Naturalist Club. Reed. 1994.

4. Key Guide to Australian Wildflowers. L. Cronin. Reed. 1995.

5. New Zealand Alpine Plants. A.F. Mark and N.M. Adams. Godwit. 1995.

6. Rock Garden Plants of the Southern Alps. W.R. Philipson and D. Hearn. Caxton. 1962.

Exchange & Mart

No offers and requests received for this issue! Maybe everyone is waiting for their seedlings to grow a bit before putting them up for sale. Hopefully there will be plants on offer next May.

Send me your news -

have you bought seed or seedlings/rooted cuttings from the Exchange & Mart column? Let all the members know how you have got on with your purchases. Myself, I bought some of Tony's 'eucalyptus' and 'melaleuca seed' offered in the last issue, and now have a small collection of young plants. Sown in compost, 75% volume multipurpose & 25% volume vermiculite, covered with clingfilm, and placed on a soil cable, the first seeds germinated within a couple of weeks.

At a Garden Centre near you.....

It is often said that Garden Centres only stock "run-of-the mill" plants, but it is always worth looking around. In my local centre I was surprised to see a nice batch of *Acacia pataczekii*. This is perhaps the hardiest of all Acacias, from Tasmania, and there is one outside at Kew which has been there for at least 25 years. It has tough-looking elliptic leaves, and globular yellow flowers - not the showiest of the wattles. Also in the centre was *Eucryphia milliganii*.

Tony Entwistle

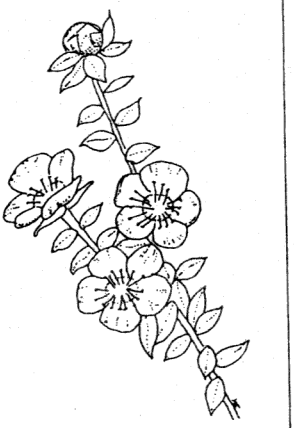
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As Tony has already mentioned, its always worth looking at your local garden centre for antipodean plants. As well as the expected range of phormiums, eucalypts and hebes, many of the following plants have been available at the garden centre where I work, or could have been ordered if requested.

Anigozanthos flavidus - the Tall Kangaroo Paw. Available with either green-yellow or rusty red paws, this is possibly one of the easiest Kangaroo Paws to cultivate in the UK.

Grow in a well-drained sandy compost in containers and keep slightly moist. In summer, position plants outdoors. Overwinter under glass, keeping on the dry side.

Several bottlebrushes can be easily obtained. Examples include : *Callistemon* 'Captain Cook' with scarlet brushes, *rigidus* also with scarlet flower spikes and often reckoned to be one of the hardiest bottlebrushes, and *pallidus* with its dense clusters of cream to greenish yellow flowers. Another bottlebrush is *Callistemon* 'Splendens' which has large flat deep green leaves and large vivid crimson brushes.



Leptospermum scoparium

Tea Trees are represented by *Leptospermum scoparium* 'Martinii' with its large, single deep red-pink flowers, 'Red Damask' with its double crimson flowers, 'Snow White', 'Pink Queen' and 'Pompon'.

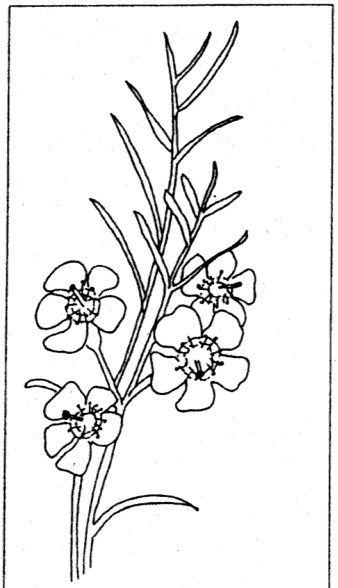
A couple of Tasmanian eucryphias available are *E. milliganii*, which is a small shrubby tree with cup-shaped white flowers, and *E. lucida* which has fragrant pendulous flowers, upto 5cm across.

As well as the easily available australian mint bush *Prostanthera cuneata, P.* 'Poorinda Petite' bearing a mass of mauve flowers could be found on the plant bench.

From South Island, New Zealand and Stewart Island comes the Muttonbird Scrub. *Senecio reinoldii* (syn *Brachyglottis rotundifolia*) is a medium-sized shrub, with

thick leathery round leaves 5-13cm long, shining green above and felted below. Yellow flowers are produced in terminal panicles.

Occasionally, in the houseplant department, there can be found *Metrosideros excelsa*, the New Zealand Christmas Tree, so called because the red flowers adorn the plant during the antipodean festive season.



Chamelaucium uncinatum

Another plant found from time to time on the houseplant bench is *Chamelaucium uncinatum*, the Geraldton Wax Flower. The long lasting waxy flowers, available in pink, red or white, are popular in wedding bouquets. The wax flower is ideal for a cool greenhouse or conservatory. Best grown in ericaceous compost in good light but not direct sunlight, especially in summer.

Dodonaea viscosa 'Purpurea' is a purple-leaved form of the hop-bush found in New Zealand. Large clusters of papery, reddish, three-winged fruits nestle amongst dark purple leaves.

Along with the commonly available *Acacia dealbata*, other wattles on the plant benches are *A. longifolia*, the Sydney Golden Wattle which has dark green phyllodes and bright yellow flowers in 4-8cm spikes, *A. baileyana* var. *purpurea* which has purplish new growth, and *A. pataczekii*.

The australian grevilleas are represented by *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, 'Canberra Gem', 'Fireworks', 'Robyn Gordon', *semperflorens* and *johnsonii*. Here in Yorkshire, I have grown 'Canberra Gem' successfully outside in a half barrel for several years.

Climbers are represented by *Sollya heterophylla, Hardenbergia violacea* and *Billardiera longiflora*. All three climbers can be successfully grown in containers by those members living in cooler areas. *Sollya heterophylla*, known as the bluebell creeper, is a vigorous climber with dainty pendent bluebell flowers. *Billardiera longiflora* produces greenish-yellow tubular flowers followed by blue cylindrical fruit. *Hardenbergia violacea* has racemes of mauve-purple pea flowers.

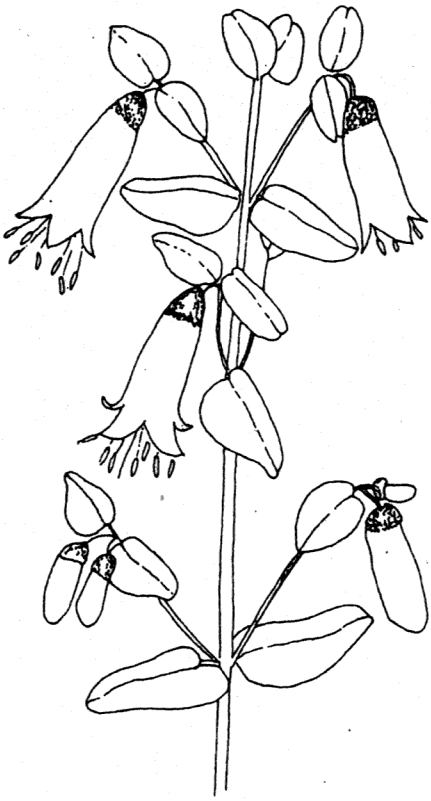
So, don't forget your local garden centre when you are looking for something a little bit different. Its always worth asking!

Sue Hyams

CORREAS – an update

Jeff Irons

While looking through the 2004-5 Plant Finder I noticed that several of those listed have promotional names. Pat Anderson's latest index to the society's Newsletter includes very few of these cultivars and on referring to the various issues I found that it is a long time since descriptions of correas, especially cultivars, were given. As far as I am able to, this article will bring things up to date.



Correa 'Marian's Marvel'

'Federation Belle' makes as good a starting point as any, because its full history is known. The cultivar was found as a chance seedling, growing in gravel, close to a 2m high plant of 'Marian's Marvel' in the garden at Mole Station in the Torrington district of northern N.S.W. Since *C. reflexa* var. *speciosa* was growing nearby, it is presumed to be a hybrid between the two. Credence is given to this hypothesis by the fact that *C. reflexa* var. *speciosa* has occasional variations in shape, such as a two petalled corolla. 'Federation Belle' also has such variations. When 2 years old the plant was 30cm x 45cm with a rounded shape and medium density. Because of its parentage, an unpruned specimen could eventually be 3m or more high. Similar to 'Marian's Marvel', it has rose coloured flowers, about 28 x 13mm covered with transparent stellate hairs becoming pale green

towards their tips, with scattered rust coloured stellate hairs. The stamens do not stick very far out of the flower. They have oblong yellow anthers and pale green filaments. the style is green and the corolla tips are barely reflexed.

Since the garden's owner, Sarah Caldwell, runs a nursery she was approached by the Shire of Tenterfield to provide a plant for its Australian Centenary of Federation celebrations. Sarah chose her new *Correa* seedling. The Shire wanted it to be called Tenterfield Bell. After discussions with Maria Hitchcock, a local friend who is also leader of Australia's Correa Study Group, Sarah chose the name 'Federation Belle'. The two women thought that since the hybrid is not indigenous to Tenterfield it should not be called after the shire. 'Federation Belle' seemed to be both appropriate and sufficiently catchy to make the plant marketable. It was launched officially in April 2001 as part of Tenterfield's Centenary celebrations.

'Marian's Marvel' was named after the late Marianne Beek . Born in Jakarta, of Dutch parents, she gave up trying to get people to use her proper name, and accepted their Anglicisation. A shrub to 3m, it bears red flowers with green tips from November to May. It is passably hardy in Britain and in a suitable situation will withstand frosts down to –7°C.

'Dusky Bells' has been sold other several other names, most commonly as 'Carmine Pink'. In the past it has not been winter hardy in Britain, but in mild areas could be tried now. A low growing plant, it has flowers of the colour implied by its name.

'Ivory Bells' is an American hybrid between *C. alba* var. *pannosa* and C. *backhouseana.* A spreading shrub, it grows to a height of 1-2m and has ivory flowers up to 2.5cm long.

'Gwen' (I do not know who she is or was) is *C. alba var. pannosa x reflexa.* A relatively small shrub, it can reach 1-2m. The white flowers, suffused pink split into 5 lobes. They are about 2cm x 1.5cm. This cultivar may be winter hardy in mild areas.

'Poorinda Mary' (*C. backhouseana var. backhouseana x reflexa*) makes a shrub up to 1.5m high and has pink flowers with lime green tips. It may be winter hardy in mild areas.

Turning to selected wild forms. 'Pinkie' is a pale pink suffused selection of *C. alba* obtained by Graham Hutchins from the nurserywoman Margaret Kinsey during his 1985 visit to Tasmania. The species is quite variable and can be white or pink. There is an interesting geographic variation in flower colour. In eastern Victoria this species has white flowers. In western Victoria the flowers are pink, getting pinker the further west one goes. In much of

northern Tasmania they are white (though I have seen pink flowered plants at Low Head, near Devonport) and as one goes down the State's east coast they become progressively pinker. The strongest hues, much pinker than Pinkie, occur around Swansea. In Australia another, different, *Correa* is sold as 'Pinky'. 'Inglewood Gold' has white flowers suffused pink. A form of *C. glabra var. glabra,* it will grow to 1.5m. 'Yanakie' is a selection of *C. reflexa var. scabridula* that only reaches 0.5m. There are at least 7 different selections of this *variety* and I do not know how this one differs from the others. The description of *variety scabridula* as a whole can be summarised as: flowers red with green lobes, trumpet shaped; found in Western Victoria and inland South Australia on mallee heath. It is unlikely to be winter hardy in Britain. Scabri means rough and ula is a diminutive. Possibly it refers to the leaves.

Australia has many other *Correa* cultivars and new ones are now being bred in California. It seems likely that some of them will find their way to Britain.

Four Oaks Show September 04

Though as big as ever there did not seem to be as many new plants or cultivars on display this year and certainly very few Australasians apart from Hebes and Phormiums.

Agresco (Israel) told me they had stopped export of most Australian plants because of lack of demand, and no longer grew e.g. Grevilleas.

Neil Pike of Ausfern also told me that he could not as previously promised import individual Australian plants from Melbourne as he could not obtain quantities less than standard "trays" (minimum about 50). So unless you want, say, 50 Telopeas, forget the idea.

I did some searching for low-phosphate composts. Scott's confirmed that "Osmocote for Australian natives" would never be available in GB.

Memon BV (Netherlands) produce a range of "Monterra" granular organic fertilisers (mostly from malt) with NPK 4-1-5 or 5-1-5 (from Mydas Horticulture, PO Box 198. Plymouth). Hercules Products (Stevens Rd, Balby, Doncaster) produce a peat substitute "Neopeat" from coir (NPK 0.5-0.03-0.25), which is finely ground and would make a good sowing medium mixed with sand

Tony Entwistle

Late Exchange & Mart Entry

Seed available of *Vestia foetida* (Chile). It flowered very well with me this year. Handsome shrub with tubular yellow flowers. Proved quite hardy outside for many years (survived unscathed for several winters in North Yorkshire too). Send a SAE if interested.

Tony Entwistle (address inside back cover)

The Wee Jasper Grevillea

Jeff Irons

A *Grevillea laspiculla* was listed in the 2003-4 Plant Finder. The name looks very much like a mis-spelling of *iaspicula.* As at least one of the society's members will realise immediately, this botanical name is a clever botanical latinization of the Greek word iaspis (jasper), with the diminutive ending ula put after it. So the name means **"little jasper"**.

This *Grevillea* is known only from seven small sites on limestone outcrops between **Wee Jasper** and Lake Burrinjuck. Since this is a cold part of New South Wales, the Wee Jasper Grevillea should grow well in many parts of Britain. I recall seeing a magnificent specimen at the entrance to the Australian National Botanic Garden in Canberra. In early November the 2m x 2m plant was covered with its red and cream flowers.

The wild stocks are threatened by aggressive weeds such as blackberry. Because the species is very sensitive to the use of herbicides on plants near to it, weeds are now being grubbed out manually. Livestock have been excluded by fencing. These measures should help to ensure its future. Potential future sites have been fenced off, in readiness for planting with young specimens.

Liesbeth Uijtewaal de Vries gave me a young plant of the Wee Jasper Grevillea that she had propagated from the one given to her by Tony Parry. In turn I propagated mine, so can report that early summer cuttings root easily. Unfortunately the species is not in the 2004-5 Plant Finder. Keep an eye out for it, both in the offerings of APS members and in nurseries. Many *Grevillea* species can be cold tender if planted out when young, but quite hardy if planted out as large specimens - 1 to 2m high. Since there is no information about the performance of this species in Britain it is probably best to play safe and plant out a large specimen after cuttings have been rooted.

Did you know that Cuba was the first country to feature a Grevillea on a postage stamp? In 1965 it issued a stamp bearing a picture of *G. banksii.*

Australia had to wait until 2002 before its populace could see a one on a stamp. The Honey grevillea (*G. juncifolia*) is featured in a set of 5 stamps depicting aboriginal bush tucker. The sweet honey is either sucked from the flower or extracted by steeping the flowers in water.

Source: GSG Newsletter, Feb 2003

In March 2003, another Grevillea featured on an Australian postage stamp. The 'Superb' Grevillea, bred by Merv Hodge (Qld), was released in 1981. It is a cross between Queensland species *Grevillea banksii* and the Western Australian species *G. bipinnatifida.*

THE WINTER OF 03/04 IN CHESHIRE

By Tony Entwistle

A fairly mild one, with scattered cold frosty spells, none long-lived (minimum -8C), and no really icy desiccating winds, and hardly any snow..

So many Australasians survived unscathed or with minimal damage.

These included all Acacias, Correas, Olearias, *Ceratopetalum gummiferum, Pseudopanax arboreus, Acradenia frankliniі, Eucalyptus globulus* and *nichollsii*.

There were casualties, some not logical. *Hakea sericea* died at the first frost (too big to overwinter inside) and I also lost *Banksia integrifolia*, which had survived for several prior years. *Grevillea juniperina sulphurea* also died, though *G.* 'Canberra Gem' next to it flowered happily all winter. In my greenhouse I also lost *Darwinia taxifolia* and *Lechenaultia biloba*.

Prostanthera cuneata of course survived, but I have a surprising tale about this. In late February the main road sewer outside my house blocked and in consequence a large area of my front garden became covered in some 6" of raw malodorous sewage. Though remedied by the council speedily, my Prostanthera was in the middle of all this for 24 hours, and I had assumed this would be fatal- but not at all! This year it has put on tremendous growth and never flowered so well- so some Australians are tough! (This is not a practical tip!)

BED AND BREAKFAST

Murray and Irene MacDonald

Hillview
Hill Place
Staffin Road
Portree
Isle of Skye
IV51 9GS

Tel 01478 61 2722



APS member Murray MacDonald offers B&B on the Isle of Skye, an ideal base for visiting Armadale Castle Gardens, on Skye, or Inverewe on the mainland.

Despite two visits to Skye this summer, the nearest I got to Armadale Gardens was the gift shop on my way to the ferry! But I'll be back, especially as I've adopted a collared lizard at Skye Serpentarium.

I did get to Inverewe though, although as it was in late July, the majority of the Australasian collection was past flowering.

Sue

The name Acacia

Jeff Irons

Members will know that there has been a battle over the name *Acacia* and that we have been calling some species *Racosperma*. Although we shall not know for certain until July 2005, it looks as though the battle has been won and that most Australian species will remain *Acacia*.

The story began in 1754 when the English botanist Miller named the genus *Acacia*. Before then what we now know as acacias were put into various genera. Subsequently one of the 24 species, the African *A. nilotica* was chosen as the 'type species'. Because Miller's concept of the genus was very broad when new, very different species were discovered they had to be called *Acacia*. The great variation in the genus caused botanists to create various divisions within it, though no proposal was satisfactory. Eventually two camps grew up. One wanted to change the names of many species. The other wanted to do something very radical, something that botanists rarely agree to. It was to change the type species. It is now almost certain that the latter group has won. The Australian *A. penninervis* will become the new type species. Seven Australian species will become *Vachellia* and two will be called *Senegalia*. The remaining 948 Australian species will remain *Acacia*.

Details of the changes can be found on

www.worldwidewattle.com/infogallery/taxonomy/.

*****

Still on the subject of acacias.....

APS member Frank Hytten has dropped us a note about some young plants he rceived via the APS exchange facility.

"*Acacia dealbata* ssp. *subalpina* was grown on in a cold frame and by the end of August 2003 was about 4 inches high, with a good root system. At that stage it was transferred to a sheltered, well drained, south east facing scree bed close to the house. By mid 2004 it looked very healthy but had not put on much growth. How big does this ssp. grow?"

Ed: We don't know! Seedlings vary quite a bit and yours appear to be one of the smaller ones. With luck it will be no more than 2m high, though it could be much larger. Acacias seem to put on most of their growth in the second part of the year. In mild areas they can go on growing right up to Christmas. It may be that the low growth rate of your seedling is the

result of the very acute drainage in your scree bed. Don't worry if your plant does eventually get too big. If that happens, cut it back to a 1m stump in June and wait. The normal form of *Acacia dealbata* is notorious for its drain-clogging propensity. Subspecies *alpina*, being smaller should have a less extensive root system and not pose as many problems.

Frank also reported that he had a rooted cutting of Marilyn Gray's 'blue' form of *Prostanthera cuneata*. Like the rest of us he has found that it is slow growing and by June 2004 was only about 15cm high.

Apparently Jeff Irons, Jeff Layman and Liesbeth van Uijtewall de Vries have had the same experience. Liesbeth's specimen has flowered.

Seedlist 2005

To apply for a seedlist, send a SAE (at least 6" x 9") to:

RJ Christmas
Osbourne House
Wrexham Road
Pen-y-ffordd
Chester
Flintshire CH4 0HT

An electronic version can be obtained by contacting - morayacacia@aol.com

The seedlist will be available from 31st March.

'The Garden' - Special Issue

As Keith mentioned on Page 2, the RHS are planning a special issue of 'The Garden' in January 2005 on Australian Plants and Gardens. Clare Foggett, a staff writer for the magazine contacted Keith. She was interested in hearing from people successfully growing Callistemons in the UK, especially people in the North, to try to dispel the myth that they are too tender for this country.

Clearance Sale

I have 10 copies left of the Aussie Info-Pack (2003 issue). This will not be repeated. Please note that those left are not well photocopied and some pages are difficult but not impossible to read. No colour supplement.

Sale offer at only £2 per copy which is little more than the cost of P&P.

Tony Entwistle

Notice board

Royal Horticultural Society Seminar "Plants from Down Under"

RHS Lawrence Hall, Westminster, London
Wednesday 16th March 2005

The seminar will focus on plants that originate in the temperate areas of Australia, with emphasis on their uses and cultivation both under glass and in the open air in British gardens.

Fee for seminar £15.00
Timings 10am - 5pm

One of the speakers will be our very own Jeff Irons who is hoping to have a display of photographs and possibly a few plants.

For further information please contact RHS Ticket Line at 020 7821 3408

THANK YOU to all those members who have sent in articles and snippets of news. I desperately need news and views for the Spring 2005 issue, so please jot down your thoughts and send them to me.

Deadline for the April 2005 issue is March 19th.

Articles can be sent on disk. Acceptable formats are Microsoft Word, RFT and TXT.

Typewritten reports are also welcome.

Short handwritten reports are also welcome but please print place names and botanical names - its not always easy to read other people's handwriting!

If writing about success/failure in your own garden, please try to include information about your local climate, soil type, shelter, growing aspect etc.

Please send/email to Sue Hyams (address on inside of back cover).

Sollya heterophylla



Sollya heterophylla

Commonly known as the Australian Bluebell or the Bluebell Creeper, this vigorous climber has stiff, twining branches. The leaves are oval, pointed and shiny. Flowers are dainty pendent bluebells. It is easy to grow from seed and cultivate in a pot. Although these days this plant is commonly seen in garden centres and recommended for garden culture, I have not managed to get plants in the open garden to survive the winter. Possibly this is due to the fact that it is native to the sandy and gravelly soils of Western Australia.

In Australia, *Sollya heterophylla* has become a serious coastal weed. This evergreen twining climber strangles the indigenous vegetation eventually killing it.

Popular as a garden plant because of the abundance of blue bell-shaped flowers about 1cm long, hanging in clusters, it is thought that the resulting fruits, blue-purple in colour attract birds and foxes. They in turn spread the seeds.

Billardiera longiflora

This twining shrub with wiry stems is commonly known as the purple apple berry or mountain blue berry. This is because the fruits of this climber are blue-purple in colour. *Billardiera longiflora* produces greenish-yellow tubular flowers with five slightly protruding stamens. This climber/scrambler is native to the damp shaded areas of forests in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania.



Billardiera longiflora

Sue Hyams

Wahlenbergias

Jeff Irons

Judging the genus *Wahlenbergia* from the species generally available gives the impression that most of them come from New Zealand and a lesser number from Australia. In fact this genus, named after the Swedish botanist Göran Wahlenberg, is centred on southern Africa and has representatives in places as far apart as Britain and Japan. New Zealand has only 10 of its 150 odd species and Australia has about another 15.



Wahlenbergia gloriosa

I've tried most of the Antipodean species and only three of them have given what I want in a plant and only two have turned out to be reliable perennials. Other growers, in areas with different climates, might reach a different conclusion.

At every Southport and Tatton Park Flower Show nurserymen offer specimens of the Royal Bluebell, *Wahlenbergia gloriosa*. Only a few inches, high this stoloniferous plant has large open bells of a gorgeous royal blue. Given a gritty soil and full sun it will bloom from late June, through to August every year, expanding and gradually shifting position. When this sub-alpine plant was chosen as the floral emblem of the Australian Capital Territory people rushed out to buy it, only to find that it would not survive in the warmer conditions of Canberra. Although it also occurs lower down, the common "Bluebell" above Australian snowlines is *Wahlenbergia ceracea*. This, the Waxy Bluebell, has proved reliably perennial in my garden. Designed to be supported by grass, its foot long stems straggle along the ground before curving upwards, to display their pale blue campanula like flowers from July onwards.

In her revision of New Zealand wahlenbergias Judith Petterson wrote that horticulturally *W. akaroa* is far and away the best of that country's species. Despite that as far as I can tell in Britain only Aberconwy Nursery sells it. The species is not stoloniferous but has a basal rosette of leaves. The plentiful flowers, which can be shades of pale blue or white, appear from June through to October. With me it is not long lived but there are always self sown

seedlings to ensure succession. As well as that, it can be grown and flowered as an annual.

These three are my pick of the wahlenbergias. If you know of others that can match them do write to Sue about them.

Royal Bluebell in Yorkshire

I have grown this bluebell for several years here in North Yorkshire. Although the plants I now have are shadows of their former selves, they still managed to produce a handful of upturned bells this summer. Growing in scree/rockery situations in a naturally sandy loam, they produced a wonderful display of upturned bluebell flowers for the first few years of their life. However, a succession of wet winters have now affected their survival and the plants have dwindled to a few rosettes of foliage. I really need to raise new plants from the abundant seed produced, and dig more grit into the planting holes. I've never tried to protect the plants with a piece of glass during the winter (as advocated by the alpine enthusiast) - the glass is more likely to blow away in the north east gales!

May Gibbs was born in England in 1881. While just a baby she was brought to Australia although she did return briefly to to England in the 1890s to study art. However the inspiration of the Australian bush dominated her work.

Just a glance at the titles of her books for children reveals the importance of the Australian flora and fauna :

- Gum-Blossom Babies
- Gum-Nut Babies
- Wattle Babies
- Boronia Babies
- Flannel Flowers and other Bush Babies.

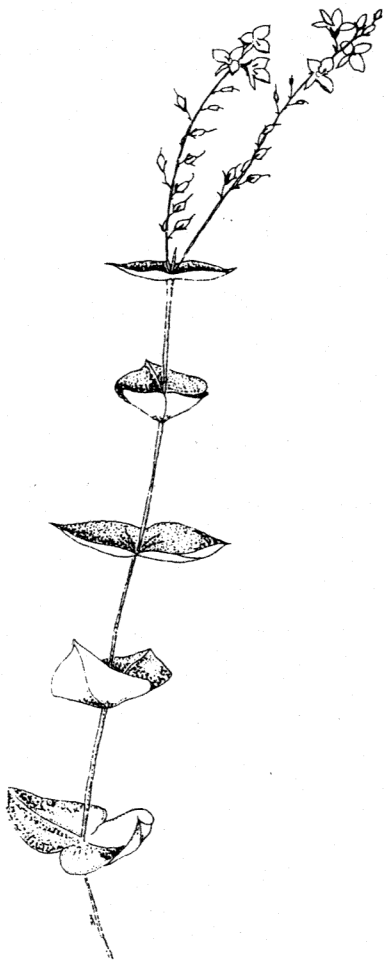
The illustrations portray anthropormorphised australian animals, eg platypus, koala, kangaroo etc, and flowers, eg banksia nuts become Bad Banksia-men. The illustrations are so popular that a series of counted cross stitch embroidery designs have been produced.

While looking through Hooker's "Companion to Curtis' Botanical Magazine" (1836), APS member Gary Dunlop came across the following reference to the edible fruits of *Solanum laciniatum*.

"The Kangaroo-apple, resembling the apple of a Potato; when so ripe as to split, it has a mealy sub-acid taste."

Recommended Plants

The Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) is given to plants that are of outstanding excellence and have a robust constitution, not needing any special conditions or treatment. They have to be widely available. Here we list some plants from Australia and New Zealand that have the coveted AGM.



Derwentia perfoliata

Hardy anywhere in Britain

Acaena microphylla
Blechnum penna-marina
Derwentia (Parahebe) perfoliata
Eucalyptus parvifolia
Eucalyptus pauciflora ssp. niphophila
Grevillea 'Canberra Gem'
Hebe 'Margret'
Hebe ochracea "James Stirling", pinguifolia
Pagei, rakaiensis, topiara
Ozothamnus ledifolius
Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius "Silver Jubilee"
Phormium cookianum ssp. cookianum Cream Delight, Tricolor
Prostanthera cuneata

Derwentia perfoliata
Diggers Speedwell.

The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs which are fused together at the base making it appear that the stem passes through the centre of the pairs. Each pair of leaves is at right angles to the pair higher or lower. Slender racemes of blue flowers are produced in the axils of the upper leaves. The plant spreads by creeping underground rhizomes.

Hardy over much of Britain

Astelia chathamica
Callistemon citrinus "Splendens"
Callistemon linearis
Dicksonia antarctica
Dicksonia fibrosa
Eucalyptus dalrympleana
Eucalyptus gunnii
Grevillea rosmarinifolia
Hebe Blue Clouds, Emerald Gem, Great Orme, Midsummer Beauty, Mrs Winder, vernicosa
Heliohebe (Hebe) hulkeana
Leptospermum scoparium Keatleyi, Kiwi, Nichollsii, Nichollsii Nanum
Parahebe lyallii
Phormium tenax, Purpureum Group, Sundowner, Yellow Wave
Pittosporum eugenioides "Variegatum"
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Pittosporum Abbotsbury Gold, Tom Thumb

Astelia chathamica is a native of the Chatham Islands where it grows in wet peaty soil. A robust plant with broad leaves with a silvery sheen which can reach 2m in length.

Plants for mild areas

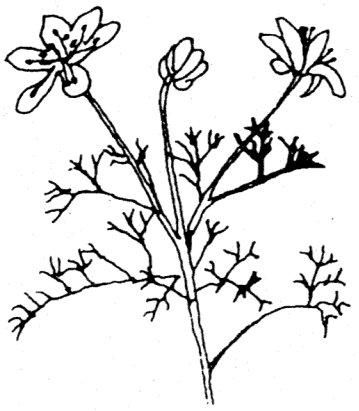
Acacia baileyana, baileyana Purpurea, dealbata, paradoxa, pravissima, retinodes
Billardiera longiflora
Clematis marmoraria
Correa alba, backhouseana
Dicksonia squarrosa

Pandorea jasminoides, Bower Climber.

This is a vigorous and attractive climbing plant ideal for a container. Foliage is deep green and glossy. Terminal clusters of large pale pink trumpet flowers with a dark red throat are produced from spring through summer.

Conservatory Plants

Araucaria heterophylla
Archontophoenix cunninghamii
Chorizema cordatum
Correa Dusky Bells, Mannii, Marian's Marvel, pulchella, reflexa
Hardenbergia comptoniana, violacea
Hibbertia scandens
Howea forsteriana (Kentia Palm)
Hoya carnosa
Pandorea jasminoides
Prostanthera ovalifolia, rotundifolia
Schefflera actinophylla



A low growing alpine clematis native to South Island, NZ.

Clematis marmoraria

E-Mail messages

With Pentachondra being published every 6 months this sometimes means we are unable to communicate with our members appropriately. To send out letters is very expensive and time consuming, but as these days many people use e-mail (for better and worse!) this provides us with the opportunity of communicating with many of our members in an easy and cost effective manner.

For instance, we were recently asked by an RHS 'The Garden' writer for information that was required quickly, which would have been ideal if we could have sent out to as many members as possible for their input. We are also only able to give quite short notice of the AGM date and location, but once it is fixed we can give you far more notice, and thereby make it easier for you to make plans to attend it. These are just two ways in which it could be used to improve our society, and I'm sure there will be more in future.

So if you would like to be included in this scheme then please send a message to webmaster@anzplantsoc.org.uk. For those of you who do not use e-mail yourself, then if you know someone else who does who would be willing to receive messages on your behalf then why not ask them to send a message, and include in it that it is intended for other than the e-mail recipient.

With the challenges of Internet life, people change their e-mail address quite frequently, so even if you have given your e-mail address in the past then please send an e-mail as above - it is really frustrating to send out a large number of e-mails only to have many of them bounce back. And please remember to let us know when you do change your e-mail address.

The messages will be only occasional, and your e-mail address will only be used for this purpose.

Thank you.

*****

A few words from Leeds

By Thomas Naylor

To keep 'Pentachondra' or not....

On a drab day in this summer of pitiless and well-nigh incessant rain I wandered alone past the local Wacky Warehouse (it may be bright orange in colour but at least it is half-timbered) and thoughts of the name 'Pentachondra' pervaded my mind. I began to formulate my own views on this matter, weighing the pros and cons as I strolled.

As I see it, in its favour, though not quite hoary with age, it is almost hallowed through usage, very nearly sanctified by tradition and cherished by generations of avid readers. On the downside the chances of the

mention of the name eliciting a response of immediate recognition are remote.

Take for example the case of a typical A.P.S. member of the more gentlemanly (as opposed to ladylike) kind, off down the boozer attempting to chat up a hot bit of skirt. The less abrupt and more considered responses to the mention of the word 'Pentachondra' would tend to range from thinking that her 'ex' who developed a taste for poverty and celibacy, Darren as he was, now Brother Augustine, had become one of them but on further reflection 'no! It was something else', to recalling, when informed that 'Pentachondra' is fact a sort of magazine, that the acme of the career of her cousin the 'stunna' was her appearance as a centrefold in a publication of a very similar name. So on balance I think that I shall permit myself to leave the decision to wiser heads.

Garden observations.....

As far as the Australasian contingent in the garden goes, I have the same old bunch of eucalypts, leptospermums and callistemons and the grevillea doing what they always do. One item of interest might be that *Cordyline stricta* grew back from the root in mid-summer after being cut back to the ground by winter frosts.

I shall confine myself now to giving an update on my Banksia. What I have been holding back is the fact that there are in fact two Banksias, both *oblongifolia*, growing a mere 60cm apart. Though they are the same age, one of them, at 180cm, is almost twice as tall as the other and produced cream/yellow flowers in succession from October 2003 to May of this year. These flowers were much visited by wasps in the Autumn but I think it unlikely that viable seed has been produced even though the cones still persist on the branches. The larger bush has at present nineteen flower buds, one of which has the appearance of a double spike, while the smaller Banksia sits like an attendant or acolyte at the feet of the Master and, as if in imitation, has succeeded in producing one solitary flower spike. Both must now await the endurance test of the impeding winter months.



Looking for a book?

Try Keith Larkin's book web site - www.keithsplantbooks.co.uk

All stock can be viewed in an easy to browse way, and includes many Australasian, South African, Monographs etc, new, discount and second-hand.

Garden Observations

By Sue Hyams

The following observations are from gardens visited this year. Although not all the plants mentioned are australasian, I think they are still worthy of mention. The visits weren't intended as a means of finding 'something to write about'; it just happened that while there, I noticed plants of interest to APS members. If you visit a garden with plants of interest to other members, drop me a line.

BODNANT 9 MAY

Following a weather forecast of a cool overcast day for most of England and sunshine in Wales, Andy (hubby) and I decided to pay Bodnant Garden a visit, somewhere we have talked about going for many years but never actually got round to.

Situated above the River Conwy in North Wales, the garden looks across the valley towards the Snowden mountains. The contours of the land, along with natural running water, have been used to great effect to create a world-known beautiful garden.

Generally the climate is considered to be mild; however, in winter the occurrence of 15-20° of frost is normal. Average rainfall is 43 inches (1090m) a year. The soil is a stiff boulder-clay overlying a friable shaly rock. In some places the clay has been denuded leaving a much lighter soil.

There is a wide range of plants and features but pride of place must go to the rhododendrons and azaleas, magnolias and camellias, the very plants I had gone to see. And I wasn't disappointed. Spectacular vistas, vivid colours, natural-looking plantings on sloping ground along with streams, mosses, ferns etc. A patchwork quilt of many hues.

Apart from the genus of rhododendron, there are some noteworthy plantings :-

- Several specimens of *Embothrium coccineum* var *lanceolatum* 'Norquinco' (South America) were in full bloom - brilliant scarlet flowers.
- Given the protection of stone walls are many plantings of *Eucryphia glutinosa* (South America) and *lucida* (Tasmania).
- *Azara petiolaris* (South America) in flower.
- *Drimys winteri* (Mexico, Argentina) was in full bloom - clusters of white flowers. Also flowering was *Drimys winteri* var *latifolia*. On the west side of the house, but not in flower, was *D. lanceolata* (S.E. Australia, Tasmania).

Drimys lanceolata is commonly known as Mountain Pepper, because of the peppery taste of the leaves, bark and berries which can burn the mouth; native birds happily eat the berries. The species can be found in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. Male and female flowers, yellow-cream in colour, are found on different plants.

- *Poncirus trifoliata* (China, Korea) in bloom - orange-blossom-like flowers on rigid green branches armed with vicious spikes.

- Protected by a bowed stone wall on the lower rose terrace, *Crinodendron hookerianum* (Chile) was covered in bud, still green, just a bit to early for its deep red, hanging lantern-shaped bells.

- Clumps of *Libertia grandiflora* (New Zealand) were in full bloom - clusters of white flowers amongst iris-like foliage. This is a trouble-free plant which will grow in any well-drained soil in full sun, in shade or even under the canopy of a tree.

- On the Croquet Terrace, which is bounded by a tall, curving wall providing shelter for plants, is *Hoheria lyallii* , Mountain Ribbonwood, naturally found on the eastern side of the Southern Alps in New Zealand where it tolerates drier conditions than the other 4 species in this genus. A member of the Malvaceae, the flowers are star-like; white with five petals.

- Also given wall protection are *Colletia cruciata* (an impressive shrub from Uruguay, with flattened blue-grey spines upto 4cm across), *Sophora macrocarpa, Lomatia* sp (Australia), *Menziesia ciliicalyx* var. *purpurea* (Japan - in full bloom at time of visit; umbels of purple-pink urn-shaped flowers) and *Corokia cotoneaster* (New Zealand - commonly known as the wire-netting bush because of its interlacing branches. Small yellow flowers are produced in spring).

- Several beautiful old specimens of *Arbutus x andrachnoides* (S.E. Europe, S.W. Asia) straddle the upper rose terrace. The trunks and stems are a chestnut brown-reddish colour.

- *Athrotaxis selaginoides* - Tasmania King William Pine, capable of growing as tall as 40m in the rainforests of Tasmania. The bark is thick, spongy and fibrous.

CASTLE HOWARD 12 MAY

In the grounds of Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, away from the formal gardens is Ray Wood arboretum with rhododendrons, bamboos and various trees, including

several 2m tall pyramid-shaped, compact shrubs of *Drimys lanceolata* (Tasmania, Vic, NSW), in bud at the time of the visit, and *Helichrysum tenuifolium* in flower (the label of the latter plant indicated that it originated from Tasmania - Jeff says it is from Natal. If anyone can tell me anything about it, please let me know.)

Next door to Castle Howard Grounds is Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, to which Ray Wood also belongs. The Castle Howard Arboretum Trust (CHAT) is a charitable trust set up in 1997 as a joint venture between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Castle Howard. The aim is to conserve the collections of trees for scientific research and public enjoyment.

Amongst the many trees to be seen are various southern beeches (*Notofagus* sp) and *Eucalyptus neglecta*.

RHS HARLOW CARR 26 MAY

There aren't too many Australasian plants at the RHS's northern representative but despite this, its a wonderful garden, one that I try to visit every 4 - 6 weeks during the spring and summer months.

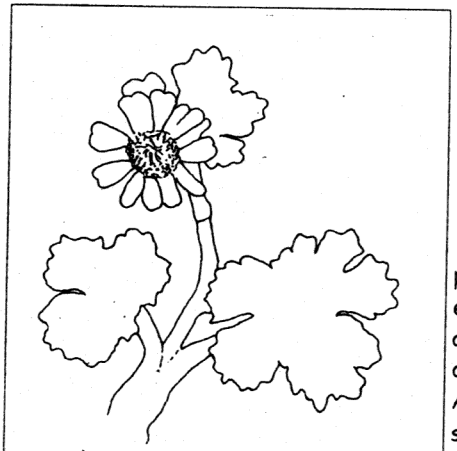
Against a backdrop of copper beeches, *Acer* 'Crimson King', blue cedars and many other trees are colourful plantings of rhododendrons, azaleas and lilacs. At the time of my visit noteworthy plants included *Magnolia sinensis*, 3m tall x 4m wide with large white pendent flowers with teracotta-crimson anthers.

Under the canopy of *Acer* 'Crimson King', a planting of *Trillium chloropetalum* var. *giganteum* was in bloom. Nearby, also in flower, was a group of *Dactylorrhiza elata*, with a 1.2m specimen of *Cardiocrinum giganteum*. Edging a neighbouring peat bed was *Cornus canadensis* in full bloom. Streamside plantings including 1.5m *Gunnera manicata, Lysichtum americanum, Meconopsis* x *sheldonii, Darmera peltata*, ferns, and Harlow Carr candleabra primula hybrids.

Just like at Bodnant, *Azara petiolaris* was covered in racemes of fragrant yellow blooms.

The few australasians present are mainly to be found in the alpine houses. In a clay pan was *Ozothamnus coralloides* from New Zealand. In a 15cm square clay pot just 7cm deep, plunged in a gravel bed, was *Corokia* x *virgata*. The plant had a 'bonsai' appearance with three main stems and was just 45cm tall. Tiny yellow flowers covered the many branches. This is a plant I grow in my garden, but not of 'bonsai' proportions! Mine is 1.5m tall x similar spread.

Also in the alpine house was New Zealand buttercup, *Ranunculus nivicola* with yellow flowers. From NSW and Victoria, *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* was



Ranunculus nivicola

growing in a round pan, 15cm deep and just 30cm in diameter. The plant was 45cm in height and spread, with pink-red spider-like flowers.

In another shallow pan *Raoulia australis* Lutescens Group had completely covered the surface and was cascading over the sides.

From New Zealand was *Helichrysum bellidioides*. It was difficult to see the size of the pot as the plant had spread to cover approximately 1 square metre of bench. Other plants were *Leptospermum scoparium* 'Nicholsii Nanum', *Pimelea prostrata*, from New Zealand with tiny 4-petalled white flowers. A creeping succulent, from South Africa, *Drosanthemum hispidum*

Ranunculus nivicola - to cultivate, this NZ buttercup prefers a deep, moist, humus-rich soil in a shady or semi-shady situation.

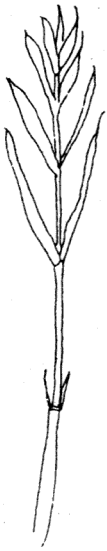
provided a carpet of yellow daisies, each upto 30mm across, covering an area of 1 square metre plus a curtain of over 60cm overhanging the bench. A wonderful sight but a strange smell - like sweaty socks!

Growing outdoors behind the alpine houses is a 1m high x 1.5m wide *Hymenanthera crassifolia* (syn *Melicytus crassifolius*). This New Zealand representative is a densely branched, twiggy, spiny shrub with leathery dark green leaves upto 2cm long. Tiny yellow flowers covered the shrub. These are followed by ovoid purple berries. Also there were three newly planted toilet bowls, two containing NZ species: *Aciphylla monroi* and *Aciphylla traversii*.

Pimelea prostrata, NZ daphne, is a low growing shrub with very small bluish leaves and a myriad of tiny white flowers. It prefers a well-drained soil and can tolerate dry conditions when established.

There are bottlebrushes, eucalypts and phormiums, but at the time of my visit, none were labelled. In fact I cannot remember ever seeing them labelled in all the time I have been visiting. This non-labelling of plants seems very common. Many of the

gardens I visited this year had some wonderful uncommon plants, all un-named.



Aciphylla monroi

Prefers drier and sunnier conditions than other speargrasses, so called because of the very sharp points on the much divided leaves. These leaves are mainly basal and as they die, it is advisable to leave them in place. Not difficult to cultivate providing good drainage and a sunny situation is available. The long taproot prefers a deep soil.

JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

During the latter part of summer I visited Inverewe Garden on the Scottish West Coast, Torosay Castle and Gardens on the Isle of Mull, Mount Stuart Gardens on the Isle of Bute as well as the grounds of Dunvegan Castle on Skye.

Unfortunately, because of the time of year (early summer visits had not been possible), and possibly because of the 'strange' summer weather we've experienced this year, the vast majority of southern hemisphere plants were past flowering. Both Torosay and Mount Stuart hold good collections of Chilean plants, in particular eucryphias, embothriums and crinodendrons, many of which were still in bloom.

Inverewe has many plants of interest to APS members : National Collections of *Brachyglottis* and *Olearia*. Situated on a peninsula on the shores of Loch Ewe this subtropical garden grows a range of exotic plants which flourish on a latitude more northerly than Moscow. This is due to the effect of the North Atlantic Drift which brings warm currents to the shores of the sea loch.

Some time in the future, preferably in early summer, I hope to return to these scottish gardens, and others, including Armadale on Skye.

*****

Can you contribute?

Please find time to jot down a few notes on gardens visited, plants grown, books read etc. We can all learn from each other's news. As Keith has already stated, don't feel that you have to write an article. Just a few notes will do, and I'll do the rest!

Thank you. Sue

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Clematis marmoraria



Olearia x scilloniensis



Bursaria spinosa



Grevillea 'Canberra Gem'