Study Group Round Up
July 2014

Reading through the various Study Group Newsletters is always interesting and intriguing because of the diversity of rich information that each Study Group brings to the table every quarter. It is so encouraging to read of the amazing people out there from all walks of life, who with such care and concern for Australian plants cement the preservation of our flora either through the professional work they do or in the flourishing of native plants in their home gardens.

EPACRIS No. 37

A detailed account of the fight to save 'Wartook Gardens' on January 16th of this year describes the impending threat of bushfire.
Royce and Jeanne Raleigh's property was thankfully, "virtually unscathed'. And, "We have already noticed that the garden has become a refuge for birdlife. We have never seen so many Blue Wrens. It is great."
The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, was announced the winner of the World Landscape of The Year Award.
The World Architectural Festival, held on October 4th, 2013 in Singapore is comprised of three major awards.
Such a win is testament to the outstanding design and plant content.
The recent formation of a Save Our Flora Project in NSW aims to develop a national register of individuals who grow or wish to grow threatened native plants. Anyone interested in joining this group is encouraged to email saveourflora@gmail.com
Maria Hitchcock and Bob Ross have been detrimental to this project flourishing.

HAKEA No. 55

Members have written in with their accounts of how the hakea species in their respective gardens have endured the summer heat. With little rainfall, the plants have managed to flower well and set seed.
One study group member writes of her 'sad looking Hakea bucculenta' . After removing dead wood, seed capsules, surrounding grass and a sprinkling of organic fertilizer, the specimen has developed new leaves.

ACACIA No. 125

Acacia equisetifolia has been recently described as a new and rare species.
It's only known location is in Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory and is critically endangered.
On French Island, located near Melbourne, a result of research undertaken on koalas discovered that during times of high temperatures, the locals preferred hugging the trunks of trees other than eucalypts.
Acacia mearnsii was the koalas' choice of residence. Acacia mearnsii exhibited a cooler mid trunk temperature thus regulating the koalas' body temperature more effectively.
Introduced in 1790 in England and included in the initial Australian plant importation, Acacia linifolia was noted as growing in a London nursery. The

plants didn't produce viable seed, although they flowered in greenhouses and glasshouses.

DRYANDRA No. 67
Dryandra anatona and Dryandra Montana, both declared rare and endangered can be found in the Stirling Ranges of Western Australia.
Declared as Rare Flora in 1987 under the Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950, in 1995 D. montana, due to habitat loss because of phytopthera cinnamomi and wildfires, the plant was identified as World Conservation Red List Category; Critically Endangered.
Four populations still survive 900 metres above sea level.
Extensive efforts are underway to save this species with promising results.
A detailed description of the Dryandra Trip in March of this year through the Southern and South Eastern parts of Western Australia delivered sightings of around 50 dryandra species, 15 of which were flowering.

BORONIA AND ALLIED GENERA No. 2
One member tells of boronia species growing in the Moreton District of Queensland. The nine species are b. anethifolia, b. falcifolia, b. occidentalis, b. parvifolia, b. polygalifolia, b. rivularis, b. rosmanifolia, b. safrolifera and b. splendida.
Further reports indicate a portion of these species extend beyond the mentioned area.
Sound advice id given when purchasing and planting boronias and a botanically rich and botanically diverse area in the D'Aguilar Range North West of Brisbane is vividly described.
Diana's Bath gives refuge to species of acacia, banksia, boronia, hibbertia, lomandra, leptospermum, pultenaea, ground orchids, crowea, cissus, eucalyptus and members of the Ericaceae family.

GREVILLEA No. 98
The Department of Parks and Wildlife of Western Australia germinated seeds from the critically endangered Grevillea brachystylis subsp. grandis, at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre as part of the translocation program to save this species.
Once the seeds germinated to check viability, Kings Park and Botanic Gardens Nursery grew on the seedlings for planting within a secure nature reserve in close proximity to the remaining eight small roadside populations. Numbers have been boosted to 260 thriving plants.
A successful and eventful Grevillea Study Group field trip to Canberra, the Snowy Mountains and beyond, yielded some rewarding sightings of a number of grevillea species.
Originating in Queensland, Grevillea decora is recommended as a beautiful plant, flowering in the winter months. Although frost sensitive, g. decora increases in vigour as it matures, reaching a height between 2 to 5 metres.
Birds are drawn to the stunning mauve/pink flowers.

HIBISCUS No. 30

A paper presented at the ANSPA Conference 2013 by Dr. Dion Harrison titled Breeding and Developing Australian Species: A Geneticists Perspective, gives an insight into the detailed involvement of the development of cultivars for Australian and Overseas markets.

Lead Field Ecologist, Martin Bennett travels vast distances throughout Queensland and has captured beautiful images of Hibiscus meraukensis, h. divaricatus (a gold flowering form), and h. heterophyllus (a vivid yellow form).

Colleen Keena writes about the Pollination and Pollination Syndromes 'characteristics or traits of flowers pollinated by different vectors'.

GARDEN DESIGN NO. 86

The Wildlife Art Museum of Australia (WAMA) is being established close to Halls Gap with the stunning Grampians/Gariwerd providing an awesome backdrop. WAMA is dedicated to not only serving as a major arts and cultural destination but to the preservation of native flora endemic to the Grampians region in a covenanted area.

The old administration building at Burnley College has been transformed with a superbly designed green roof laboratory. Unique garden beds feature different forms of experimental growing media. Research on indigenous and exotic plants for their performance for a variety of uses in these different conditions should uncover interesting and valuable results.