



Crowea exalata ssp magnifolia
(Image by Maria Hitchcock)

Australian Plants Society Armidale & District Group

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Winter Edition 2022

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Eric and Penelope Sinclair might appreciate this one with the current tight rental market.



Belenois java – Caper White butterfly

Have you been visited by thousands of these butterflies? They visit our garden at the end of September each year. They usually breed on caper shrubs, such as *Capparis mitchellii* – the Australian Native Orange, in the inland and migrate to the east. Why they migrate to areas where there are no food plants for their caterpillars is not understood.

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From the Editor – John Nevin

This winter edition of the newsletter is somewhat late again but I hope to have the timing of them fixed by Christmas. It has been a challenging year in the garden. We went from record low rainfall during the drought to record high rainfall over the past two years with another *La Nina* predicted for this spring and summer. These contrasting conditions have really been a stress test for our plants. I had earlier written a list of plants that died with the drought and those that thrived.

The wet has been an entirely different experience. I have spoken to many members who have experienced significant losses with water logging. In our case, many of our garden beds are raised as a result of years of barrowing soil mix into place. Where beds were raised, plant losses were minimal. However, in poorly drained soils, the deaths have been numerous, especially of *Correa*, *Prostanthera*, and *Phebalium* plants. I will need to rethink what to replant in those less well drained sites.

My other issue has been with the supply chain for goods with COVID and the variable weather. Much of the tip mulch that I installed ten years ago has rotted down and a weed explosion has occurred. Supplies of appropriate mulch has been unobtainable until recently, resulting in lost opportunity for infrastructure work through the winter months. I am now as busy as a bricklayer in Beirut trying to catch up.

Most of our activities have been outings for working bees or garden visits and at this stage talks that used to be a regular feature are on hold. People seem to enjoy outings more than the talks. The Arboretum has looked terrific of late. We are getting up to a dozen at our working bees and the results are impressive. Catching up on the backlog of weed control and mulching is progressing well with the vision of weed free, mulched beds becoming a reality. This will pay dividends with easier maintenance and more time for planting and pruning. It is great to see how much use the area now gets for recreation of the townsfolk.

I don't believe any local members went to the conference in Kiama. It was very successful with about 250 attendees and an interesting mix of talks and field trips. These are a great way to network with others with a love of our flora and a great opportunity to do the associated pre and post conference excursions to top flora areas in the state where the conference is being held.

We are off to the Fred Rogers Seminar in Melbourne shortly. The topic is pea plants and the hosting group have a large number of pea plants for sale. We hope to add these to our garden as the pea group is currently underrepresented. Good gardening everyone – growing conditions are perfect at present.

Office Bearers 2022

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Howell Revisited

by Barbara Nevin

On the Monday of the October Long Weekend John and I took a drive towards Inverell to look for *Acacia cheelii* growing on a large granite outcrop near Bundarra in order to have a photograph for this newsletter. There was a profusion of beautiful flowers along Thunderbolts Way in shades of yellow, pink, white, cream, purple and mauve.

There were numerous wattles in flower and many more starting to set seed. The drive could probably be called 'Wattle Way' with the large number of species seen. They included *Acacia granitica*, *rubida*, *neriifolia*, *ulicifolia*, *decora*, *cheelii*, *dawsonii*, *falciformis*, *fimbriata*, *flexifolia*, *viscidula*, *implexa*, *leptoclada*, *leucoclada ssp leucoclada*, *paradoxa*, *pruinosa*, *montana*, *triptera* and *venulosa*. So, from this list it is apparent about a third of the wattles of the Northern Tablelands occur along this drive.

Other plants in flower included four species of *Leptospermum*, two of *Brachyscome*, many peas including *Daviesia latifolia*, *Hakea microcarpa*, Flannel flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*), *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Grevillea ramosissima*, *Hardenbergia violacea* (this looked beautiful for purple October, a la Maria), *Leucochrysum albicans*, *Swainsona galegifolia* and *Homoranthus prolixus*.

On our way, we drove down to Copeton Dam. The Dam itself was full to overflowing. The area is granite country with many granite domes with wildflowers putting on a great display. We visited a spot near the Old Inverell Road where we knew *Crowea exalata ssp magnifolia* grew in profusion. The area had been badly affected by the drought and burnt out in later bushfires. This had destroyed most of the large *Crowea* plants, but fortunately, there were many seedlings emerging to replace

them. The drive would be great for anyone in late September or early October with many granite outcrops just waiting to be explored.



Above L – *Acacia triptera*. Above R – *Hakea microcarpa*.

Below L – *Kunzea parvifolia*. Below R – *Daviesia latifolia*.

The *Hakea* and *Kunzea* like moist situations and were flourishing in the table drains.

The *Acacia triptera* is beautiful, but spiky – one to plant where you want to keep people off.

Arboretum Working Bee by Patrick Laher

We have had several working bees since the last newsletter. On 26th August, the weather was great, and eight members planted 47 assorted species, mainly in the *Eremophila* Bed area which had been damaged when a Manna Gum had to be removed after storm damage.

WA flora grow at the Arboretum because it is frost free, so members need to keep this in mind if trying to try to grow these plants in their gardens. Frost has been the major limiting factor in growing these beauties on the Tablelands. Microclimate is a major asset for us at the Arboretum

Apart from the *Eremophila* Bed, the soil is a heavy black loam with a lot of clay, so it really needs gypsum, coarse sand and organic material worked through it. It is also high in phosphorus, which is toxic to *Proteaceae*, and because *Grevillea* have not done well, I avoid planting these species. Hybrids have done better. The ideal world is not a practical world for us at the Arboretum.

Some of the plant varieties that we planted on the 26th include beautiful *Isopogon latifolius* & *formosus*, *Chamelaucium* (Geraldton Wax), climbing *Billardiera ringens*, *Pomaderris lanigera*, a shrub form of *Hardenbergia violacea* (Bonnie Bilby), *Eremophila* varieties, cutting grown *Hakea Stockdale Sensation*, a hybrid of *Hakea laurina* which has similar pin cushion flowers, but is a better plant as it is not as tall and the flowers are more easily seen.

Members also planted three *Eucalyptus albopurpurea* (Purple Patch) in an area below the *Eremophila* Bed. I had this tree for a few years but eventually it succumbed to the frost and saturated soil. It had lovely purple flowers, so if anyone has a place for a medium sized tree, then this tree would be worth a try. Thanks to the following planters, Phil Rose, Liisa Atherton, Eric Sinclair, Colin Wilson, Penelope Sinclair, Peter Shepherd and Geoff Derrin.

For the working bee on the 30th September, we had a fantastic turn up of helpers. Members shifted three truckloads of mulch and we were able to plant out 40 thumb pots of *Lomandra longifolia* and three tubes of *Prostanthera staurophylla*.

Thanks to the following workers: Lee & Greg Horsley, Peter Shepherd, John Nevin, Ken & Leontine Barnett, Colin Wilson, Deirdre Waters, Eric & Penelope Sinclair and Liisa Atherton.



Morning tea break at the Arboretum Working Bee



Hard at work moving some of the mulch at the Arboretum Working Bee

Armidale Sunday Markets 28th August by Pat Laher

A bright sunny day brought out more people than appeared the previous months. As a result, plant sales hit a high of 40 sold and even more pleasing was the fact that most of the plants were bought by non APS members.

Unfortunately the number of stallholders didn't increase, but perhaps this might improve as we get used to living with COVID.

A good variety of plant species is always important as it's difficult to predict what the public will want to buy.

Thanks to Colin Wilson and Phil Rose for their help.

A Follow Up on Visit to David Hardin by John Nevin

At our group visit to the garden of David Hardin, I was impressed that David had a plant of *Acacia cheelii* growing. This is an attractive tree that I have seen west of Gunnedah when heading for the Pilliga. My attempts to grow it have been unsuccessful as on three occasions now, the frost of Armidale has killed the plants. Lachlan Copeland had collected it north-west of Bundarra, but I had not been able to locate it there. I had been hopeful that plants grown from that location would have more frost hardiness and would be worth a try. It turns out that David had found the plants there on his wanderings around the Tablelands and had started to grow it.

He subsequently gave me some seed to try and I am hopeful that in a few years I can add this beautiful tree to the list of Acacias growing in my garden. David sent a photo of his mother Sonya standing in front of a specimen growing in her garden in Tamworth. I had seen this before and envied it but had concluded that Armidale was too cold for it.

Inspired by the seeds and photo, I took advantage of the October Long Week End to look for the plants again along Bundarra Road. To my surprise, they were in full flower, easy to find and at least ten trees growing on a granite dome.

Hopefully, we can get this beauty into local gardens and the Arboretum as it would seem to have cold hardiness that the more western sourced trees do not have.



Above L – Sonya Hardin with her Tamworth *Acacia cheelii*
Above R – *Acacia cheelii* along Bundarra Road.



Above L – *Acacia cheelii* plants along Bundarra Road
Above R – close up of the rod flowers of *Acacia cheelii* along Bundarra Road.

New Species of *Verticordia* named after Elizabeth George by Nevin

In November 2020, in the Journal *Nuytsia*, a new *Verticordia* was described that was named *Verticordia elizabethiae* after Elizabeth George who worked on this group of plants and published 'Verticordia – Turner of Hearts'. For those attending APS interstate conferences, Elizabeth was an enthusiastic attendee. After publishing her book in 2002 (which was illustrated by friend and botanical artist Margaret Pieroni) she died a few years later of ovarian cancer. Alex George named *Verticordia halophila* which grew in saline environments back in 1993. The new species was first collected by Charles Gardner in 1926 from a salt lake near Southern Cross. The plant Gardner collected was felt to be the same as the more westerly *Verticordia halophila*. Recently those plants have been more carefully looked at and been found to have some genetic differences. Closer examination has also confirmed morphological differences between the plants. As a result, the more easterly plant has been named *Verticordia elizabethiae* after Elizabeth George.

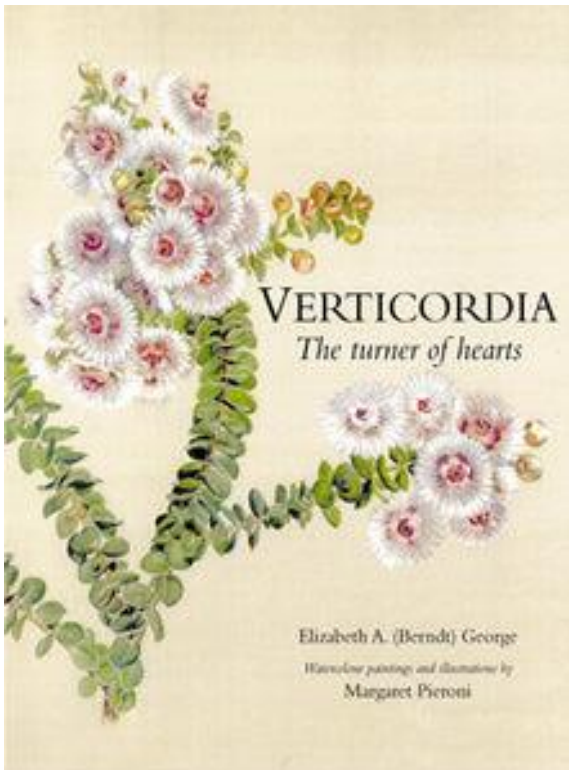
The newly described plant occurs in the Coolgardie bioregion growing on flats surrounding salt lakes. It flowers from October to December. It is thought to be critically endangered but more survey work is required. It is pleasing to see Elizabeth honoured in this way. She spent several decades collecting and studying *Verticordia*, the taxonomy of which was a mess prior her work.



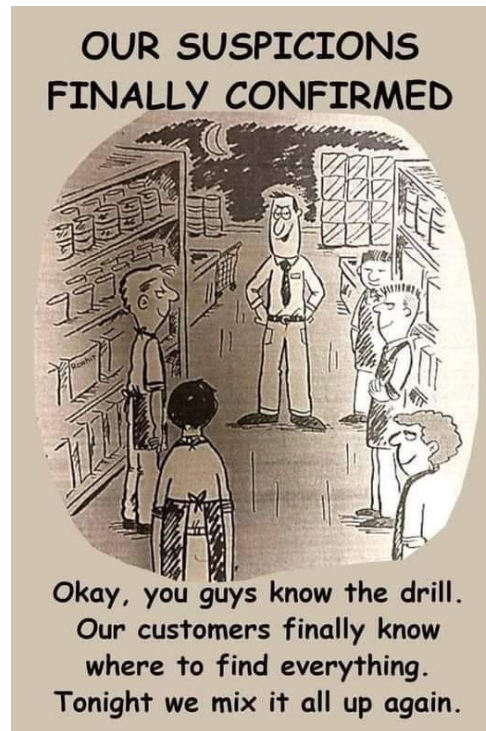
Verticordia elizabethiae at the type location showing habitat.



Verticordia elizabethiae – leaves and flowers; note particularly the short, grey, green leaves.
Images taken by Rob Davis



Above L – the cover of Elizabeth George’s book on *Verticordia*.
Above R – Elizabeth George (1935-2012)



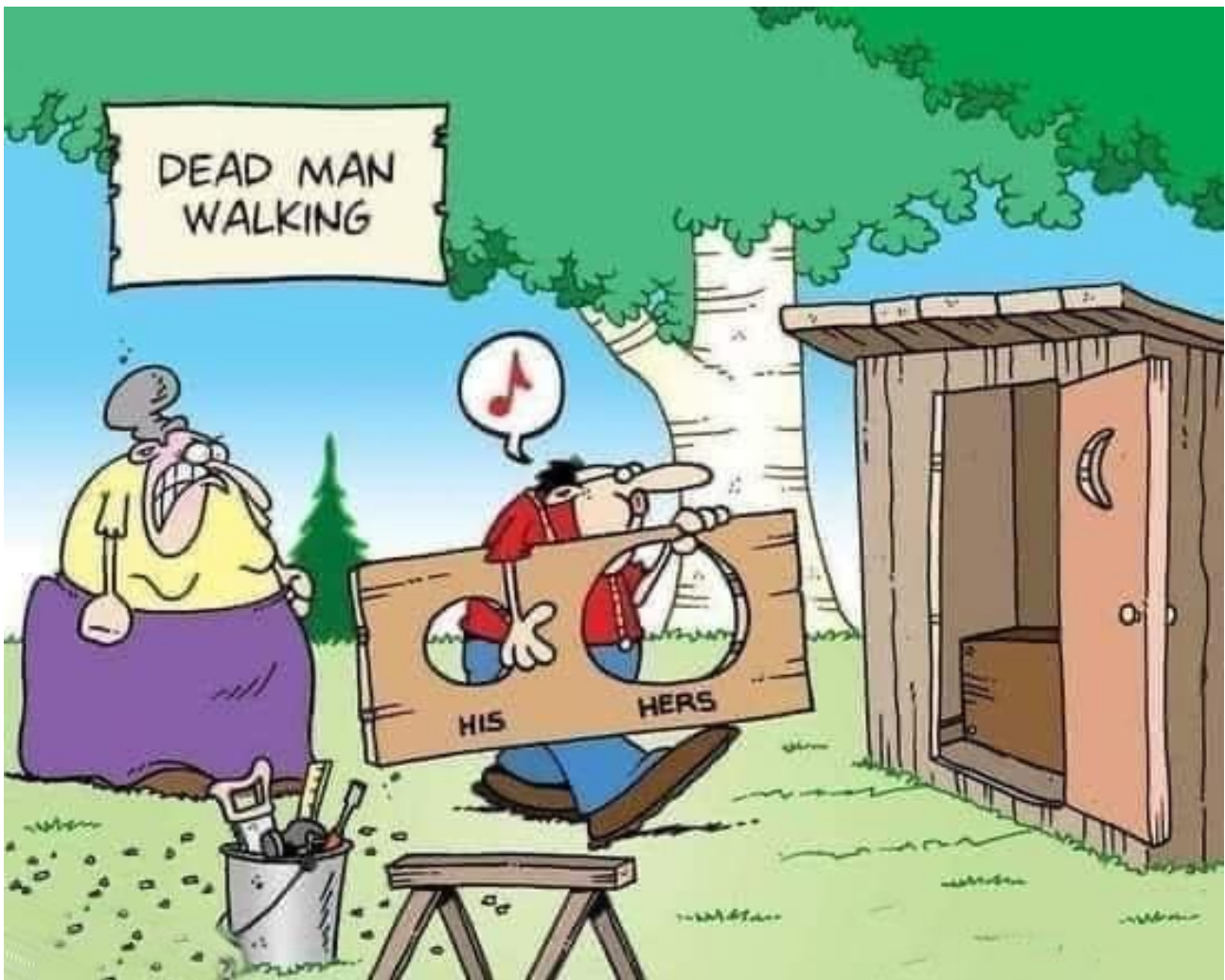
FARMER WRITING ROMANCE NOVEL



Her body tensed and quivered as she felt wave after wave surge through it. I probably should have told her about the new electric fence.

Nicknames for my colleagues in work

- Wicket keeper** - puts on gloves and stands back
- Harvey Norman** - 3 years no interest
- Sensor light** - only works if someone walks past
- Noodles** - thinks all jobs take 2 minutes
- Blister** - appears when the hard work is done
- Showbag** - full of shit
- Lantern** - not very bright and has to be carried
- Deck chair** - always folds under pressure
- Perth** - 3 hours behind everyone else
- G-spot** - you can never find him
- Bushranger** - holds everyone up
- Wheelbarrow** - only works when he's pushed
- Limo** - carries about 8 people
- Cordless** - charges all night but only works for 2 hours



These plants are not commonly grown and are horticulturally desirable. A new book by Trevor Blake is well worth getting to find out more about this group. Trevor Blake did the illustrations for the 'Encyclopedia of Australian Plants' that was written by Roger Elliot. The book can be obtained at a discount from Victorian APS. If anyone would like a copy, I shall be in Victoria and able to pick up a copy if you wish.



**Lantern Bushes of Australia;
Thomasias & Allied Genera**

A Field and Horticultural Guide

by Trevor L. Blake





Australian Native Plant Enthusiasts forum



Australian Plants Society Victoria · 22 Dec 2021 ·

Trevor Blake's new book "Lantern Bushes of Australia; Thomasias & Allied Genera" has been published!

This long awaited work has taken decades of painstaking work to produce. It has excellent botanical drawings of each species as well as colour photos, up to date botanical descriptions and cultivation notes. Trevor is a life member of the Australian Plants Society Victoria and a living legend who we heartily congratulate for completing this epic work.

The book has been beautifully edited by Jane Canaway and published by the APS Keilor Plains group. It is a 427 page masterpiece with a double page spread on each species of Thomasia, Androcalva, Commersonia, Guichenotia, Lasiopetalum, Lysiosepalum and Seringia. Botanical keys are included for each Genera and key distinguishing features of each species are highlighted with a distribution map included.

The book price is only \$50 per copy via APS Keilor Plains (plus postage) - as it has been produced on a purely not for profit basis. (prices in nurseries and shops will be higher)

Bill and Sue, the booksellers for APS Victoria also have copies at a discount for Australian Plant Society members. Members can e-mail Bill and Sue here - apsvicbooks@gmail.com

This link has more details including sample pages and the option to buy directly from APS Keilor Plains.

<https://www.apskeilorplains.org.au/>

***Xerochrysum* Paper by Tim Collins** by John Nevin

In June of this year Tim Collins published his long awaited paper on *Xerochrysum* in the journal 'Australian Systematic Botany'. It was a long paper (65 pages), so I will give a link to the paper for those who wish to read the source material. It is available free on the internet thanks to CSIRO Publishing.

Collins TL et al. (2022) Australian Systematic Botany 35(2), 120-185.
doi:10.1071/SB21014

Xerochrysum golden everlasting daisies have been iconic but taxonomically confusing for at least 60 years. There has been much field work done across Australia to see specimens in the field and to collect material for further study. Careful morphological review backed up by molecular analyses has resulted in eleven new species being described, several of which occur in the New England area. Due to the drought the inland has not been explored and no doubt further species will be described when this work is done.

The species are as follows, and eleven of these are new (printed in red):

1. ***Xerochrysum banksii*** – originally collected when the Endeavour was beached for repairs at 1770, North Qld.
2. ***Xerochrysum berarngutta*** – this is a local highly endangered one that grows along the escarpment near Point Lookout of the New England National Park. It is a perennial, densely hairy leaf and grows with a long thick rhizome. It flowers in February and April. The species name given to it is the traditional name of the type locality.
3. ***Xerochrysum bicolor*** – grows in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania in coastal heath or amongst rock outcrops on cliffs. It is an erect, perennial, tap-rooted herb that flowers from November to January. As it is growing over an extensive area, it is not endangered.
4. ***Xerochrysum boreale*** – is an upright, annual or perennial, tap-rooted herb. It is endemic to the northern end of the Northern Territory in the Darwin Coastal and Arnhem Coast bioregions. It flowers from August to October. As it occurs over a large area, it is not considered endangered.
5. ***Xerochrysum bracteatum*** – is an erect, annual or occasionally short-lived perennial. It is endemic to south-eastern NSW and far-eastern Vic. It is naturalised in Saint Helena, to where Napoleon was exiled – he took some of his favourite plants with him including this one that he grew at Mal Maison in Paris. It flowers from August to February. Again, because it is so widespread, it is not considered endangered.
6. ***Xerochrysum copelandii*** – as the name implies, is named after Lachlan Copeland who had a lot to do with the original collection and recognition of it as different. It has a perennial life form, is upright with a taproot or short rhizome. It occurs only on the Northern Tablelands and flowers in January and February. It tends to prefer skeletal, gravelly soils derived from metasediment or basalt and is not often seen on granite. It is common, albeit localised at most sites.

7. ***Xerochrysum frutescens*** – an annual or sometimes short-lived perennial with shrub-like habit. This is restricted to SE Qld and NSW North Coast. It flowers from November to March. It has been recognised as floristically desirable and had been sold as ‘Dargan Hill Monarch’. It is within conservation reserves, but because of its limited geographic range is considered endangered.
8. ***Xerochrysum gudang*** – is perennial, decumbent to erect with a taproot. It is found only from northern Cape York and nearby islands. It flowers from June to October and grows on windswept, grassy herb-fields, on low rocky headlands. Population data is scant, but because of the limited geographical range, it is suggested that it be listed as vulnerable. The species name is the traditional name of the type locality.
9. ***Xerochrysum hispidum*** – is an erect, tap-rooted annual herb. It occurs sporadically after winter rainfall over much of SE Australia. It flowers in August to October. Because it is so widespread, it is not felt to be endangered. The species name *hispidus* reflects the hairy feature of the adaxial aspect of the lamina.
10. ***Xerochrysum interiore*** – is an erect, annual, tap-rooted herb occurring sporadically after winter rain over a broad area of central Australia. It flowers from July to September and grows in *Acacia* shrub-lands on sandy and gravelly loam. As it is widespread, it is not endangered.
11. ***Xerochrysum macranthum*** – is an erect, tap-rooted, annual, short-lived herb. It grows in WA from Geraldton Sandplains, Jarrah Forest and Swan Plain bioregions. Flowering is from September to December. As it is widespread, it is not considered to be endangered.
12. ***Xerochrysum macsweeneyorum*** – is an annual or biannual erect herb with taproot. This one occurs in the New England Tablelands and SE Qld as well as some populations at Bunya Mountains and Barrington Tops. It flowers from November to May and grows on basalt-derived clay soils. It is widespread and hence not endangered. This one is named for the grandfather and mother of the partner of Tim Collins, and who encouraged him to pursue his botanical interests.
13. ***Xerochrysum murapan*** – has a perennial life form and is erect with rhizome or taproot. Stems and branches become purple-red with age. This one is restricted to the Barrington Tops National Park. It flowers from February to April and occurs in eucalypt forest and woodland at altitudes of 1000 m. It is felt to be non-endangered. The species name is the colour yellow in the Gathang and Wonaruah languages.
14. ***Xerochrysum neoanglicum*** – is known to many of us as *Xerochrysum Glencoe* as it has been known from the table drains at Glencoe south of

Glen Innes for many years. It is perennial, has solitary inflorescences, and is to 50 cm tall. There is a basal leaf rosette. It is widespread through the New England bioregion and flowers from November to February. It tends to grow in frost hollows, gullies on swamp margins on a variety of soils. It has been recommended to be listed as vulnerable.



This is one growing in Canberra that I had given to my son in law to grow. After twelve months it flowered with over 20 flowers stems that were terminal and long stemmed. I suspect that it would be a hit in the florist trade, especially as the flowers are long lived after harvesting.

15. ***Xerochrysum papillosum*** – is an erect, tap-rooted, perennial herb. It occurs sporadically in Tasmania and the Bass Strait Islands and Wilsons Promontory. It flowers from August to March and occurs in sandy soils and in coastal heath. It is considered non-threatened.
16. ***Xerochrysum strictum*** – is a perennial, erect, tap-rooted herb. It is endemic to Qld from the Brigalow Belt North to Cape York. It flowers from June to November. As it is widespread it is felt to be non-threatened.
17. ***Xerochrysum viscosum*** – an erect, tap-rooted, perennial herb to 60 cm that occurs over a large area from Vic to SE Qld. Flowers October to March. Glands on the leaves and stems are fragile and leak resin leaving the leaves and stems shiny, varnished in appearance and sticky. It is not endangered.
18. ***Xerochrysum wilsonii*** – has a perennial life form, tap-rooted and erect. Endemic to the far SW of WA. Flowers November to January. All populations occur in conservation reserves but needs more study to determine conservation status. The species name honours Paul Wilson, a WA botanist who did much work with daisy taxonomy.

19. ***Xerochrysum alpinum*** – an upright, perennial, rhizomatous herb that occurs in the Tasmanian Central Highlands. Flowers from February to March and occurs in Alpine herb-fields at 900 m altitude. More study needed to determine conservation status.
20. ***Xerochrysum andrewiae*** – an erect, rhizomatous, perennial herb that has been recorded in NSW, Vic, Tasmania, Sydney Basin and Alpine regions. Flowers February to April and conservation status needs more work. The species name recognises the work of Rose Andrew, one of the paper's authors (and a member of our Armidale Group).
21. ***Xerochrysum collierianum*** – an erect, fibrous rooted herb to 25 cm that is endemic to the Central Highlands of Tasmania. Conservation status to be determined.
22. ***Xerochrysum milliganii*** – an erect, fibrous-rooted, perennial herb to 20 cm. Endemic to Central Highlands of Tasmania. Flowers January to March. Conservation status to be determined.
23. ***Xerochrysum palustre*** – an erect, rhizomatous, perennial herb to 30-60 cm. Occurs in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania, flowering between December and January. Grows in swamps below 500 m altitude. Listed as vulnerable.
24. ***Xerochrysum subundulatum*** – Procumbent or erect, rhizomatous, perennial herb, occurring in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. Flowers between January and March. Not felt to be threatened.

There were several others that were deemed worthy of further study and that may be separate species in their own right. It has been a productive few years for Tim Collins.

Garden Visit to Lesleann Waters' Garden

by Deirdre Waters

What a wet year 2022 has been, with frequent rainfall affecting some of the activities of our Australian Native Plants group in and around Armidale. Our planned visit in April to the Waters property on the western side of the Gara River had to be changed because the access road was inaccessible. Fortunately, on the eastern side of the Gara River, Lesleann and Mark Waters' property had a much better road access, and we visited their garden via that road.

We began with morning tea and Lesleann's muffins, seated around a table, whose earlier use had been in the woolshed, now restored and with a plate-glass top.



Pat Laher, Phil Rose (drinking), Eliza Lockyer with Clancy, hostess Lesleann, Sandra Shepherd and Colin Wilson.



Peter Shephard, Sandra Shephard, Colin Wilson, Penelope Sinclair and Pat Laher.



A photo showing a better look at the Wool table with Ken Waters, Julia Rose, Phil Rose, Eliza Lockyer with Clancy and Lesleann Waters.



The garden occupies about two acres, with mowed pathways and a wide range of plants with something to see for almost any season – fruit trees, wattles, irises, eucalypts, gladioli, and with her love of gardening, almost any plant is grown by Lesleann.



Colin Wilson, Peter Shephard, Phil Rose, Pat Laher, Lesleann Waters and Penelope Sinclair.



Lesleann explaining some of the names of plants





Quirky items are left to provide interest such as an old gate and an old farm machine

Garden Visits August 2022 by Penelope Sinclair

22 members gathered, on Saturday August 20th at 10am, to enjoy 2 gardens. We started at the garden of Steve and Rosalie Goldsmith, enthusiastic growers of native plants for many years. This garden is in a new, relatively low-lying subdivision, off the eastern end of Erskine Street, and was only commenced in the autumn of 2017 when their new home was completed on the 900sq.m block. Steve explained that the soil, a deep reactive grey clay, characterized by soil-cracking during wet/dry/wet soil conditions which makes seedling establishment difficult. Measures to overcome this anticipated problem included the early addition of coarse sand and crusher dust to the front garden and applications of gypsum clay breaker at each planting site.

A concrete retaining wall had been built 1m in from the roadside boundary and some red loamy soil was imported to fill this area. In 2017, a cold dry year, 2 rows of drip irrigation pipe were installed behind the wall. This bed now contains a thriving hedge which includes *Callistemons*, *Banksias*, *Grevilleas* and other shrubs with smaller trailing plants along the edge. Winter tends to linger in these lower areas and there was not a lot of flowering though the *Grevilleas* were putting on a great display.

Alongside was an interesting water feature edged with the flowering *Grevilleas*. In the back garden *Eremophila maculata* was flowering well; nearby was a busy bee hive. Many plants of other genera including *Acacia*, *Westringia*, *Leionema*, *Eriostemon* and *Prostanthera* were loaded with buds, so there will be a great display as the weather warms.

The great majority of plants were sourced locally. APS members were most appreciative of the chance to see this garden and for the tips on the management of a difficult site.



Top L – inspecting the boundary elevated garden.
 Top R – *Grevillea iaspicula* flowering prolifically.
 Middle L – pond and *Grevillea juniperina*.
 Middle R – form of *Eremophila maculata*
 Bottom L – backyard beehive

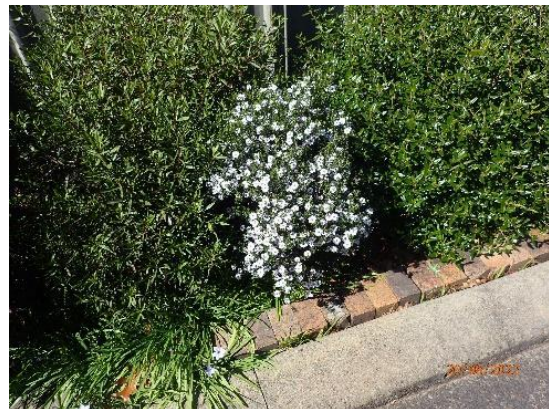
Our second garden was at the home of Geoff Derrin, who owns a unit in a block of 8, in Mossman Street on the slopes of South Hill. Geoff explained these were built about 1980 and the gardens were looked after by 2 owners who planted an extensive garden of their favourite exotic trees and shrubs. After these people died in about 2012 there was little done in the gardens until Geoff, on his retirement in 2016, offered to take on the care. There are some limitations on what he is allowed to do by other unit owners but the long term plan is to have a predominately native garden.

Geoff has gradually replaced a lot of shrubs with native plants, especially in the extensive gardens down each side of the building and at the rear. He had prepared a handout listing 150+ plants in different stages of development, many favourites and some striking unusual species. Along the eastern boundary was a fine array of shrubs including a striking *Olearia minor* tucked between the *Correa* bushes and an *Asteorlasia beckersii*.

In the back garden *Homoranthus* sp. was about to burst into flower and down the western boundary *Clematis microphylla* provided a flowering curtain over the shrubs and multiple ground covers.

Geoff has achieved a very impressive transformation of the garden. There are some areas which present problems either from unknown cause, (possibly excess phosphate within the soil), or due to competition from large old trees.

Geoff is most appreciative of the assistance of Kristine Gow in supplying many of the plants. Kristine is an APS Life Member who previously lived in Armidale but now belongs to the Southern Highlands Group.





? *Homoranthus prolixus*
Budding up for Spring



Clematis microphylla
putting on a great display

For Your Diary

15th and 16th October Mole Station visit

The purpose of this weekend is to collect plants from Mole Station Plant Nursery for sale to the public at the St. Peter's Open Gardens Weekend on the 5th & 6th November. This is our major fund raiser for the year and the opportunity for the public to purchase a great variety of native plants and to receive local growing advice.

Saturday 15th October – meet at the Lookout on top of Mount Mackenzie (just south of Tenterfield) at 10 am for morning tea. Examine the rare *Prostanthera staurophylla* which grows only on this site. We then travel to the nearby property of Janet and Neil Fordyce for lunch and explore their property. Members to bring their own morning tea and lunch.

Accommodation – members will need to arrange their own accommodation for the Saturday night. Prior to COVID, we used to stay at the Golfers Inn, 189 Pelham Street, Tenterfield. Ph. 6736 3898. The new owners bought the business twelve months ago. I suggest that members promptly book in as there are only seven units left as of 15th September. There is a variety of accommodation and prices. Saturday night we usually car pool and have dinner at a pub in Tenterfield.

Sunday 16th October – Arrive at Mole Station at 9.30 am for BYO morning tea. Sarah will provide hot water, cups and milk. After morning tea, members will have an opportunity to buy plants in tubes and pots at wholesale prices and have a look at garden plants and the operation of a commercial nursery. There will be approximately 300-400 pots plus 5 x 140 mm raffle plants that require transport to Armidale. Members will then load up as many plants as possible for a return trip to Armidale/Uralla. We usually stop in Tenterfield for a pub lunch. Leftover plants will be transported back to Armidale by a commercial operator. Members who carry APS plants back home are asked, if possible, to babysit those plants until Friday 4th November.

Friday 28th October Arboretum Working Bee 9 am to 1 pm.

Sunday 30th October Markets in the Mall

4th, 5th and 6th November St Peters Open Garden Scheme

Members that have been babysitting APS plants to bring them to the home of Keith and Colleen Finlayson, at Link Road, at 2 pm where they will be sorted and placed on APS trestle tables. They are usually sorted onto tables of prostrate, small, medium and larger species. Plants sold to the public will cost \$10 and the cost to members will be \$8. We will set up under the carport, and the trestles will be set up parallel to the carport and close to a tap.

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November – St. Peters volunteers will collect the entry fee at the entrance to the garden. There will be free entry for APS members working on the stall. APS members are asked to wear their name badge. Helpers to BYO food and drink.

Gardens will be open from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and from 10 am to 4 pm on the Sunday. We need members to collect plant monies, sell raffle tickets and offer gardening advice. First raffle prize will be a pot and choice of two plants, whilst 2nd and 3rd prizes will be a choice of two plants each. All plants are in 140 mm pots and raffle tickets are \$1 each.

Roster – **Saturday** is usually our busiest day and we need four members on duty all day, including some of our experienced growers who would be able to give advice on growing

some of our unusual plant species. The suggested time blocks are 10 am to 12.30 pm, 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm, and 2.30 pm to 4 pm.

Sunday – is generally not as busy, so three members in each time block would be suitable. However, any help would be appreciated for any day or time. Time blocks are as for Saturday. Could helpers please email Pat Laher with their preferred time sessions. (patricklaher@yahoo.com.au , mobile phone 0427 327 719).

On Sunday at the conclusion of the Open Garden, we will need to pack up trestles, any unsold plants, draw the raffle prizes etc. All helpers are invited back to Finlaysons for pizza, tea or coffee and nibbles free of charge. Bring your own drinks if wine or beer desired.

Friday 25th November – Arboretum Working Bee 9 am – 1 pm.

Sunday 30th November – Markets in the Mall

Saturday 3rd December – Annual General Meeting & Garden Visit

This will be held at the garden of Maria and Don Hitchcock. Meet at 10.30 am for morning tea. At 11 am there will be the AGM with all positions available to be contested. Then from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm a guided tour of the garden by Maria. At 12.30 pm a Bar-B-Q lunch. APS will supply meat. Members bring their own salad, bread, mugs and chairs. If you have propagated any spare plants that you would like to exchange, bring those too.

Saturday 10th December – Planning Meeting for 2023 program

This will be at the Tree Group at 2 pm and all members are welcome to attend and have some input to next year's program

