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Eremophila Study Group Newsletter No. 112

NOVEMBER 2015

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICES
In recent weeks I have emailed those of you with email access to seek subscriptions. While the rate remains at $5 p.a., I encourage people to send subs for multiple years – saves us both time! Membership runs from July to June so current subscriptions will run from July 2015. Anyone paying over $5 gets their membership extended appropriately.

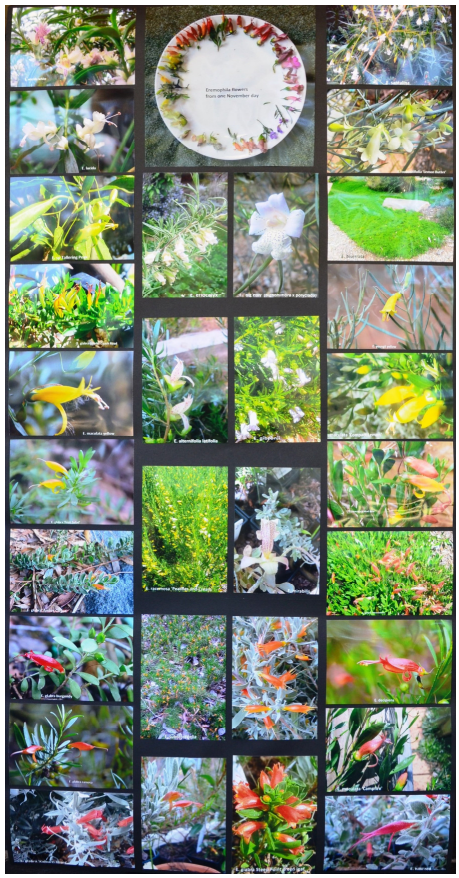
To those of you only contactable by post, this newsletter includes a membership form which you must send back with a cheque made out to Eremophila Study Group or direct deposit to our bank account – for details see page 16. If you are on email and have received this newsletter by SnailMail, please email me so we can communicate more efficiently!

If you want to remain a member you need to send subscriptions by 31 Jan 2016

Contents

Letter from the Editor

Summer is on us now and I am just back from a day at the ANPSA biennial conference where I was very happy to tell people about the Eremophila genus and its Study Group at a 15-minute presentation on Monday 14 November. This was supplemented by a fabulous display panel put together by Ian Tranter (below), using photos taken by the both of us.



The excitement of the conference was tempered by the news of Colin Jennings' death on 6 November. Colin was study group leader from 1989 to 2015 – our longest serving leader, during whose time the study group and our knowledge of Eremophilas grew substantially. We send our sympathies to Colin's wife Myrnie and his family at this sad time and of course our heartfelt thanks to Colin for his work for the study group. Colin was, as many of you know, ill from about 2011 and we are grateful for his dedication to the study group during very trying times.

I was bold enough to suggest, at the conference, some topics which I would like to see addressed by the study group. These included upgrading the newsletter (commenced!) consolidating active membership (underway), propagation, continued work on horticulture and identification, and addressing the vexed issue of hybrids and cultivars. I also got some good ideas from other Study Group leaders on how to make Study Group information more accessible – more of that later.

Also apologies to those who were expecting to see me on Tuesday night at the conference when there were "round robin" study group get meetings. Despite being in contact with the conference organisers since mid-year, I wasn't told about the study

group meetings until the Friday before the event, by which time I was committed to a work function!

I am going to seek input from members on these and other things, including subs, through a survey. Those of you on email should have already received your survey, and those using post will find it included in this newsletter – please return your responses by the end of December.

Lyndal Thorburn

Leader and Newsletter Editor,
Eremophila Study Group

VOLUNTEERS AND INPUT NEEDED
See page 4 re the member survey
See page 4 seeking help scanning and indexing past Newsletters for online release
Photo of Geoff Needham (former ESG leader) required please see page 12

What's New in the Study Group

State activities

The Study Group has about 130 members with most being in Victoria and NSW. With Colin being ill over the last few years the Study Group has largely run itself with the assistance of a number of very keen individuals, in particular:

- Ken Warnes in SA who set up and ran the September 2013 workshop at Owen
- Jan Glazebrook in Queensland who organises three meetings per year for Queenslanders. Email *janglazebrook (at) gmail.com* if you would like to join her mail list
- Charles Farrugia in NSW who hosts a three or four get-togethers in NSW each year. Email *eremgenus4719 (at) hotmail.com* if you would like to get on the list for notices of the next meeting
- Ian Tranter in the ACT who is busy building lists of hybrids and cultivars and is making sure this information includes accurate information on their source
- Russell Wait who is an avid collector and who co-founded the Study Group with Ken Warnes.

I have discovered that the Study Group Leader is allowed to offer Honorary Memberships to those who have contributed substantially to the work of the study Group over time. I am pleased to announce that **Russell Wait** and **Ken Warnes** have both accepted Honorary Membership of the Study Group for their more than 45 years (each) of dedication to the genus. *Ken has just survived the Pinery fires – see page 16 for the "Stop Press" item on this.*

Member survey

I have decided that the first thing to do, now I have sorted out the finances (see below) and membership list is a **survey of members**. Those on email should have received a link to an online survey which asks for your input and ideas for the future (and thanks to the 30 who have already responded!). For those of you on post, this survey is included in this Newsletter. Please return it as soon as possible. The survey can be found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Eremophila

PLEASE RETURN YOUR MEMBER SURVEY BEFORE END DECEMBER

Newsletter Back copies

The second thing to do is to make the newsletters more widely available – I am seeking volunteers who would have some time to scan in clean copies of newsletters (back from the year dot) and, separately, index these so we can all find information more easily. The idea is to upload the old Newsletters online together with an index which will be updated annually. This will be publicly available however there will be a time lag so paid-up members get access to the information first.

For an example of what I have in mind, see what the Grevillea Study Group has done at http://anpsa.org.au/grevSG/GSG-news.html . I am happy for people to volunteer to do batches (we have had just over 100 newsletters since the Study Group started).

IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER SOME TIME FOR SCANNING OR INDEXING PAST NEWSLETTERS PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR

Finances

The bank account has been stable in the last twelve months, with an opening balance of $3,821.04 at 1 July 2014 and a closing balance on 30 June of $3,821.33 once two lots of interest were paid.

Eremophila lucida

Special Bees for Eremophila

On 17 September Australian media reported on four new native bee species (*Euhesma spp.*) found by South Australian researchers at Cane River Conservation Park in the Pilbara region, WA, and Bon Bon State Reserve, south of Coober Pedy, in SA. Of the four, three special narrow heads and unusual long mouth parts allowing them to feed on emu bush flowers. The bees have narrow faces and very long mouth parts to collect the nectar through a narrow constriction at the base of the Eremophila flowers. More information is available in the journal ZooKeys (http://zookeys.pensoft.net/articles.php?id=6185).

Eremophila latrobei

Feature species for this Newsletter is *E latrobei*. According to Bob Chinnock's *Eremophila and Allied Genera*, this species grows from 0.5m to 4m tall with a red to carmine flower, rarely yellow, spotted to unspotted with 4 exserted stamens and is closely allied to *E. forrestii*.[1] White forms are also known.

Russell Wait, who has collected the species throughout WA and SA, reports that the height is often due to soil and aspect – it varies from 0.3 m on the top of ranges (where it is often wider than high) to 4m on better class country where it is generally a narrow shrub. The leaf length varies 5-70 mm and the width from 1-8mm wide.

Sub-species

Chinnock recognises three sub-species: *glabra* which has glabrous (smooth) sepals and non-filiform leaves; *latrobei* which has stellate-pubescent hairs on the sepals and non-filiform leaves; and Bob added *filiformis* which has narrow green leaves and a dense tomentum (matted woolly downy hairs) covering the pedicel and calyx.

According to Ken Warnes, the distinction between the first two subspecies is clear-cut in Queensland where Lindsay Smith first described them (disregarding some around Charleville and the Northern Territory border areas) but distinguishing between the two may be difficult in other areas, especially with some of the narrow green-leaved forms in WA. Russell Wait notes that *ssp. filiformis* is distinguished from *ssp. latrobei* in its more northern distribution and generally longer leaves. Brown and Buirchell recognise a fourth sub-species, *tuberculosa*, named for the warty lumps on the leaves.[2]

Ssp. latrobei

E. latrobei ssp. latrobei is distributed from Western Australia approx. 32°S to 23° N in a band that extends east along the same approximate latitudes through the Northern Territory, South Australia, Queensland and NSW, stopping at about 178° east.

The plant at the left, photographed by Russell Wait in his Victorian garden, is from Scropes Range in NSW but is a common form in NSW and into Qld. It is generally about 1m high in cultivation and Russell has grown it for many years. It generally grows on hills in stony or rocky country. This plant looks similar to a grafted plant that Lyndal Thorburn has had since the late 1980's and was labelled Pink Satin[3]. It still grows in her frosty Queanbeyan garden (right).

[1] Chinnock, R (1989): Eremophila and Allied Genera, page 500
[2] A Field Guide to the Eremophilas of Western Australia, p. 165
[3] Note that there is an Eremophila Pink Satin available through the nursery trade which is a form of *E. maculata*

Lyndal's plant has been growing happily in a tub for all that time. It flowers in spring and autumn and has bursts of flower following rain.

At left is a form from the southern range it WA and just into the wheat belt. According to Russell, who also collected this plant, the forms with pronounced tubercule seem to be more southern in WA and are generally only about 1m high. This is the form that was named *var. tuberculosa* in early literature.

The plant at left was collected from a Range in central WA, in rocky barren soil with on stunted plants around them, and is now growing (grafted) in Russell Wait's garden. Russell reports that the grafts are hard to maintain as they do not appear to be compatible with the *Myoporum* stock he is using

The specimen at left grows at Murchison (WA) in loamy soil and was about 1 m high when collected by Russell Wait. It is in the transition zone between the green leafed forms and the grey.

At right is a variety from Gascoyne Junction (on the Carnarvon Mullewa Road, WA – also from Russell) is where it grows on top and side of a range in low vegetation and very similar to one that grows in the Grey Range only a more open bush, and only 0.5m high.

The final two examples of *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei* are from the Murchison on loamy country (one photo by Russell Wait of the bush, left, and a close-up of leaves and flowers, below). The bush is about 1.5m high.

The final specimen, below those, is from western Queensland and was about 1.3 m high and is an unusual colour.

Ssp. glabra

Ssp. glabra is found in approximately the same range as *ssp. latrobei*, but is a little further north in WA and the NT and is not found in NSW. In SA it is found further south and west that *ssp. latrobei.* The example at left, grown by Lyndal Thorburn from a plant collected by Ken Warnes, is from Lake Gairdner (north-west of Port Augusta and slightly south-east of Woomera, SA). Lyndal's plant is growing in a tub while its frost

tolerance is being tested – so far so good.

Ken has also supplied photos of a *ssp. glabra* he grows that was collected at Ooldea Railway Siding (bush – left and flower - below)

Ken also has a great specimen of *ssp. glabra* collected west of Papunya (below).

Tim Kolaczyk, a new study group member, planted an *E. latrobei ssp. glabra* (two pics below) just over a year ago into a raised bed of mainly red sand (excellent drainage). It was collected approx. 70km NW of Quilpie (Queensland) on the Diamantina Developmental Road. The plant now stands at 80 cm, has gone through a mild winter (for Oakwood: minus 6^{o} the minimum temperature recorded) and it did not suffer any setbacks. Recently Oakwood had 106mm of rain and now with some summer heat the plant is "enjoying itself". It flowered first in late August this second flowering in November follows 160 mm of rain over a period of 2 weeks.

Ssp. filiformis

Ssp. filiformis is only found in WA, between Port Hedland and the Gibson Desert – centred on Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route.

The specimen at left, also growing in Russell Wait's garden, was collected in the Carnarvon Ranges, generally growing under mulga in rocky country and on a hill side. Plants were about 1.3 m high.

Ken Warnes also says that he has found that narrow-leaved varieties tend to be found on sand hills.

Propagation and horticulture

Many growers refer to grey-leaved and green-leaved forms rather than the official subspecies. According to Ken Warnes as a general rule *ssp glabra* from the southern areas is tolerant of frost but most forms of *ssp latrobei* are susceptible to frost, and the further north they are collected the worse they become. *Ssp latrobei* is generally found on hills and rocky areas which provides some protection. The one exception is a robust, almost white-leaved form found west of Papunya and down the Sandy Blight Junction Road on open sand-plain and which is quite frost tolerant (see pic previous page).

Ssp glabra is more commonly found on flat country, often under mulga. One of Ray Isaacson's collections from the Qld-NT border with green leaves (which doesn't fit the ssp. distinctions) can be severely affected as well but it has the largest flower of all and is a valued specimen.

Winter die-back in persistent wet periods is a problem and Ken's mature plants have been lost, both green and grey foliage forms. Lyndal Thorburn, on the other hand, has been growing a grey-leaved pink form of *E. latrobei ssp. latrobei* in a tub for over 25 years – it is grafted and has overhead cover from Eucalypts and has never had any frost damage (down to about minus 4 degrees), for at least 20 years – its overhead protection may help.

Ken also notes that one of the features of the species in most forms is the rapid floral response to rain. Three weeks seems long enough to set buds and flower, often with a mass display of colour which lasts for a few weeks. This is repeated throughout the year except for mid-Summer.

Ken reports that grafting is usually successful with all forms but long term compatibility with *Myoporum* species can be an issue (as noted above). He grafts *ssp. latrobei* because he has been unable to strike it because it doesn't like the humidity of his propagation system.. Ken has had trouble with aggressive and persistent shooting

below the graft is a problem and both he and Russell have had plants simply detach from the base after several years. Lyndal's pink flowering *ssp. latrobei* has been fine on its graft but this year inexplicably the stock has thrown out a long shoot – shows it pays to be vigilant.

Lyndal has had success with cuttings of *ssp. glabra* – low strike rates of around 10% with IBA 1000 or IBA 2000 (in hotbed with a bottle over the top to reduce water on the leaves), but no success at all with higher hormone strengths (noting that Clonex Purple is 3000 ppm and Clonex Red is 8000 ppm). Lyndal makes her 1000 ppm or 2000 ppm mixes by diluting Clonex Purple. Ken has had success with cutting *ssp. glabra*

Hybrids

E latrobei naturally hybridizes with quite a few species including *E. bowmanii*, *E. forrestii, E. margarehae* and *E. ringen* MS. Ken Warnes reports finding several hybrids with *E. forrestii* down the Sandy Blight Junction Road and Russell also notes that this particular hybridization occurs over 1000km in WA. These are the ones in cultivation:

- *E. bowmanii ssp. latifolia* x *E. latrobei ssp. glabra*
- *E. glabra x E.latrobei*
- *E. latrobei x E. punicea*
- *E. latrobei x E. compacta*
- *E. gilesii x E. latrobei,* otherwise known as E. Yana Road (left). This is believed to be a natural hybrid with *E. gilesii* originally collected by Charles Cockburn of "Brookvale Park".[4] Yana is a rail siding between Charleville and Cunnamulla. The form is often misspelled as Yanna Road in the nursery trade.

Uses

A 1993 paper entitled "A Review of the uses of Eremophila (Myoporaceae) by Australian Aborigines" reported that *E. latrobei* leaves were used in decoction as a body wash to treat parasites, to "smoke" babies and (also externally) for colds and influenza.[5]

Eremophilas growing in the shade

In the last newsletter I sought ideas for Eremophilas that will grow in the shade.

Norma Boschen has suggested the following:

- *E drummondi* is an excellent choice, I have seen it growing under trees in Western Australia. I have several under trees here. One seedling came up 30 cm from the trunk of a buloke tree and I didn't notice it until it flowered. It has flowered twice and grown to about a metre. high. I planted a "small collection" under a gum tree and it flowers without any water other than rain.
- Most of the glabras will grow in the shade. I have a grey ground cover that died in the open and moved itself under a shrub.

[4] Pers. comm, to Ken Warnes from Charles' daughter, Robyn
[5] Richmond, G (1993) – J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 15(2): 101-107

From Ken Warnes:
When we talk shade loving Eremophilas the list is very short but I suggest some of the smaller growing and flowering species should be worth a try. For colour, *E decipiens ssp linearifolia* with its small but bright red flowers. The majority of the rest are blue flowered and grow naturally under mallee (in SA at least). All make denser, brighter flowered specimens in full sun but try these. *E. barbata*, *E. behriana*, *E. crassifolia*, *E. gibbifolia*, *E. oblonga*, *E. parvifolia ssp. auricampa* as small shrubs, *E. clavata*, *E. caerulea* for something a little larger while *E. ionantha* could be worth a try among the mid-size species. Some of the prostrate species such as *E. biserrata*, *E. glabra* "Mingenew Gold", and *E. serpens* may be handy ground covers but could well develop sparse growth. *E. glabra* "Roseworthy/Gawler" would probably stay dense but be slow growing. Selected *E. glabra* forms and other species might grow but I doubt whether the flowering would be acceptable.

From Lyndal Thorburn:
Most of our garden is in shade and while we have tried to plant the Eremophilas in the sunnier spots it is inevitable that many are planted in less than-ideal shady patches. Almost all our plants are in shade for over half the day. The ones that have done best here are *E. decipiens ssp. linearifolia*, which has been successful under Eucalypts as well as in a tub under *Callitris rhomboidea*. We have several forms of *E. glabra* growing in the shade including a green-leafed red-flowering form which flowers most of the year. Our *E. glabra* Kalbarri carpet and *E. glabra var carnosa* have been in the shade for years, and our *E. subteretifolia* gets morning sun but is constantly overgrown by a number of Correas and another *E. glabra*. *E. longifolia* grey form has done very well planted next to a Eucalypt – it gets morning sun only, and flowers well. I have seen an enormous example of the green form of this Eremophila in a garden in north Canberra, in full shade. The garden in the morning is shown below, with *E. lehmanniana* on the left and *E. glabra* "Amber Carpet" on the right.

Australia' Eremophilas: Changing Gardens for a Changing Climate (by Norma Boschen, Maree Goods and Russell Wait), lists a number of species for shady sites, summarised below:

Eremophila barbata	heavy shade	Eremophila abietina	filtered	Eremophila acrida	light filtered
Eremophila ionantha	heavy shade, understory	Eremophila arachnoides	filtered	Eremophila battii	light filtered
		Eremophila arbuscula	filtered	Eremophila conglomera	light filtered
Eremophila glabra	varies: sun to full shade	Eremophila arenaria	filtered	Eremophila cordatisepa	light filtered
		Eremophila calorhabdos	filtered	Eremophila dalyana	light filtered
Eremophila brevifolia	filtered, understory	Eremophila christophori	filtered	Eremophila flabellata	light filtered
Eremophila caerulea	filtered, understory	Eremophila clarkei	filtered	Eremophila flaccida	light filtered
Eremophila caperata	filtered, understory	Eremophila complanata	filtered	Eremophila fraseri	light filtered
Eremophila chamaephila	filtered, understory	Eremophila debilis	filtered	Eremophila freelingii	light filtered
Eremophila clavata	filtered, understory	Eremophila decipiens	filtered	Eremophila galeata	light filtered
Eremophila crassifolia	filtered, understory	Eremophila denticulata	filtered	Eremophila hispida	light filtered
Eremophila densifolia	filtered, understory	Eremophila deserti	filtered	Eremophila hughesii	light filtered
Eremophila dichroantha	filtered, understory	Eremophila divaricata	filtered	Eremophila oblonga	light filtered
Eremophila eriocalyx	filtered, understory	Eremophila duttonii	filtered	Eremophila ovata	light filtered
Eremophila falcata	filtered, understory	Eremophila foliosissima	filtered	Eremophila perglandulo	light filtered
Eremophila fallax	filtered, understory	Eremophila forrestii	filtered	Eremophila platycalyx	light filtered
Eremophila fasciata	filtered, understory	Eremophila interstans	filtered	Eremophila platythamn	light filtered
Eremophila georgei	filtered, understory	Eremophila laanii	filtered	Eremophila punctata	light filtered
Eremophila gibbifolia	filtered, understory	Eremophila lactea	filtered	Eremophila pungens	light filtered
Eremophila gibbosa	filtered, understory	Eremophila lanceolata	filtered	Eremophila racemosa	light filtered
Eremophila gilesii	filtered, understory	Eremophila linearis	filtered	Eremophila ramiflora	light filtered
Eremophila glutinosa	filtered, understory	Eremophila linsmithii	filtered	Eremophila rostrata	light filtered
Eremophila granitica	filtered, understory	Eremophila longifolia	filtered	Eremophila rugosa	light filtered
Eremophila hygrophana	filtered, understory	Eremophila lucida	filtered	Eremophila scaberula	light filtered
Eremophila jucunda	filtered, understory	Eremophila macdonnellii	filtered	Eremophila scoparia	light filtered
Eremophila lehmanniana	filtered, understory	Eremophila oldfieldii	filtered	Eremophila simulans	light filtered
Eremophila paisleyi	filtered, understory	Eremophila oppositifolia	filtered	Eremophila spathulata	light filtered
Eremophila psilocalyx	filtered, understory	Eremophila pantonii	filtered	Eremophila spectabilis	light filtered
Eremophila saligna	filtered, understory	Eremophila papillata	filtered	Eremophila stenophylla	light filtered
Eremophila serpens	filtered, understory	Eremophila praecox	filtered	Eremophila strongyloph	light filtered
		Eremophila pterocarpa	filtered	Eremophila sturtii	light filtered
Eremophila alternifolia	understory	Eremophila punicea	filtered	Eremophila subfloccosa	light filtered
Eremophila biserrata	understory	Eremophila purpurascens	filtered	Eremophila succinea	light filtered
Eremophila dempsteri	understory	Eremophila pustulata	filtered	Eremophila ternifolia	light filtered
Eremophila koobabiensis	understory	Eremophila santalina	filtered	Eremophila veneta	light filtered
Eremophila compressa	light filtered, understory	Eremophila sargentii	filtered	Eremophila vernicosa	light filtered
		Eremophila serrulata	filtered	Eremophila veronica	light filtered
		Eremophila subteretifolia	filtered	Eremophila verticillata	light filtered
		Eremophila tetraptera	filtered	Eremophila virens	light filtered
		Eremophila weldii	filtered	Eremophila viscida	light filtered
				Eremophila youngii	light filtered

Past Contributors to Eremophila Horticulture

Two major contributors to Eremophilas in cultivation have been brought to my attention since the last newsletter. A short summary of each of their contributions appears below. I intend to write an item for the next newsletter about our past Study Group leaders – if anyone has a photo of Geoff Needham, who was the second leader, please let me know as I would like to use it.

Ray Schilling

Russ Wait writes: Ray Schilling, who passed away last year, had a big impact on Eremophilas through his propagation activities. He was a member of the Mildura APS for many years and he would bring along many flower to each meeting. There were many Eremophilas and other species on his farm at Meringur until he sold it in the 1990's and moved to Mildura, where he continued to grow many plants. His brother Harold also lives at Meringur and is a member of APS and also grows many Australian plants.

The two brothers brought all the coloured *E. oppositifolia* into cultivation, finding them near

where they lived. They also found the hybrid between *E. bignoniiflora x E polyclada* "Summertimes Blue" and *E. bignoniiflora x E polyclada* " Big Poly". Peter and Marion Lang grew these at their nursery in Mildura.

Ray grew many Eremophila from seed, mainly off the red *E. bignoniiflora* (collected from Lindsay Island) and producing many hybrids. *E. bignoniiflora* hybridized (at least) with *E. alternifolia (*Meringur Crimson and Meringur Pink), *E. polyclada* (Meringur Isaac), *E. purpurascens* (Meringur Ray – shown at left) and *E viscida* (Meringur Midnight). The hybrids with *E. alternifolia* are "Meringur Crimson" and "Meringur Pink".

Frank Fitzpatrick

From Jocelyn Lindner: I had intended to write to you regarding The Walpeup Dryland Garden in the North West of Victoria and the Eremophilas grown from seed by the late Frank Fitzpatrick. There has been mention of it over the years in the Newsletters.

In 1994 the Walpeup Community put forward the idea of establishing a Dryland Memorial Garden where the town's first store stood. Frank involved himself in the planning of the garden and saw the potential of Eremophilas, which grew in similar conditions to Walpeup.

He took up the challenge of growing them from seed. Between 1994 and 2006 he grew over 60 different ones which he named with the prefix Walpy. Many of these are now established in the garden & in towns along the Mallee Highway and in local private gardens. The majority are different forms of *E. maculata* but there are the following hybrids: cream *viscida x maculata* (Walpy Glen - right); *bignoniiflora x alternifolia; platycarpum x alternifolia; pink viscida x maculate;* then there is a very attractive low growing bright *pink glabra* type (Walpy Val – below over page).

Frank left Walpeup in 2006 because of health issues and moved to his family in Queensland, where he continued his interest in Eremophilas until he passed away last year. He was a member of the Eremophila Study Group.

The Volunteers from the Garden and the Mildura Rural City Council wanted to have some tribute to Frank other than the seat they already have in the garden. I had photographed and scanned the flowers of all the Eremophilas he had grown and have put

them in a booklet. The Council has printed several copies one has been completed laminated and put at the garden. If anyone is interested in further information contact Jocelyn on *lindnertutye2 (at) bigpond.com*.

Events

Know of any events that your fellow Group members might want to hear about? Tell them here! Please provide at least 4 months' notice, to allow for the Newsletter publication schedule.

Names and cultivars

Ian Tranter is compiling a list of *Eremophila* cultivars along with links to online photos. There are still lots of gaps and possible duplications of names. Ian is keen to hear of links to any online photos of cultivars, or from people who have photos they wouldn't mind putting online. He is happy to send the list with photo links to any interested Study Group members. Ian can be reached at *ian.tranter (at) exemail.com.au*

From your letters:

From Jan Hall in Yarrawonga Vic: My most showy Eremophila is now a ten year old *E. mirabilis*. It is one Eremophila that shows up from a distance, when flowering profusely. We had a cool winter with some frosts but little damage – most grow out of tip damage including my *E. elderii*. It has produced a mass of new shoots and will be better shaped for the pruning. Next to it against the house is *E. flaccida* which simply paused before continuing in its year-long flowering habit.

From Marion Simmons, Legana, Tas: I am still growing a number of species but see that some of the plants suffer from a dieback disease on some of the stems.

Marion would like to know if anyone has any suggestions to address this?

From Russell Wait, Riddells Creek, Vic: I have returned from a successful collecting trip to WA and I have quite a lot of stuff including a few hybrids that look quite interesting. *E. pinnatifida* I know of in three places and is now not growing there anymore, but I did find four plants growing elsewhere. I know of *E. viscida* growing in two places and only one small plant found. So the moral is to grow and keep them growing in cultivation. I extended the range of an unidentified species of Eremophila by about 20km.

From Tim Kolaczyk, Oakwood NSW: Tim, a new group member, has a 3-page list of Eremophila spp. that he is growing near Inverell. Members are welcome to email him at timkol074@gmail.com and ask for a copy of the list, and he is willing to send cuttings.

From Norma Boschen: We have only had 245mls for the year, not enough for the crops but the Eremophila have flowered very well. The maculatas were dripping with flowers all the winter, some were early flowering and others in October. At present "sulcata" is looking beautiful with its pale mauve flowers. I have it on its own roots and also on a graft. A plant of *E. caerulea,* which must be 30-plus years, old is in full flower. Summertime Blue has also come out in flowers in the last week or so.

Charles Farrugia, Seven Hills, has contributed the following photos of *E. nivea* (at rear) and *E. mackinlayi ssp. spathulata*, all growing in pots (below left) plus (below right) *E. nivea* (rear), *E. glabra* (left front) and *E. gilesii* right front).

Pinery Fires

Member will have seen the news about the massive grass fire which in Pinery and Owen, SA., the latter being home to Ken Warnes, at end November. The fire burn 85,000 Ha and extended as far as Ken's farm, where he grows his Eremophilas. Ken reports that he, his family, his house and equipment are all safe, due to a massive effort by his family and the local Community Fire Service, which arrived when the fire was 150m from the house. He has lost some plants and all the drip lines, and will report on impacts (and, we hope, recovery!) in the next Newsletter. I am sure he would welcome messages of support in the meantime, particularly as he was only just recovering from a serious hand injury.

Future Newsletter Themes

Next issue of the Newsletter will feature: ***Eremophila christopherii***, so send in your stories of growing this species. It comes in three colours – white, pink and mauve.

Also please send in stories about **Eremophilas as street plantings.** Eremophila have been used successfully as features in Council plantings throughout NSW and Victoria – what about elsewhere?? Information on this could form the basis of a brochure that the Study Group could promulgate to Councils to promote horticulture – over to you!

SUBCRIPTIONS
Subscriptions can be sent by cheque made out to the Eremophila Study Group and posted to 3 Considine Close Greenleigh NSW 2620.

You can also pay by direct deposit into the Group's bank account:
BSB: 105-125 Bank name: Bank of South Australia
Account Number: 013 751 340 Account name: Eremophila Study Group
Please put your surname and local/state group membership in the deposit details

About the Eremophila Study Group

The Eremophila Study Group aims to further knowledge about the cultivation, propagation and conservation of the 200+ species of Eremophilas, an endemic genus of Australian plants. It is one of several Study Groups which operates under the auspices of the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (ANPSA). Study Groups allow members with specific interests to develop that interest to the fullest extent and to contribute in a practical way to the body of knowledge on the Australian flora. Active members collect information on the plants being studied and forward their observations to the leader who collates and publishes the information, usually in a newsletter or in other Society publications. The Study Group can record any aspect of cultivation, propagation and ecology of the plants under study. All Study Groups are expected to publish at least two newsletters per year.

Each Study Group charges a small fee to cover expenses such as newsletter production and postage. Members must also be members of an ANPSA-affiliated regional society (http://anpsa.org.au/region.html).

The Study Group aims to study the cultivation and propagation of the genus *Eremophila*; to expand cultivation of *Eremophila* in gardens; and to examine the growing requirements of the various species to improve their reliability.

For information about the Eremophila Study Group contact:
Dr Lyndal Thorburn, Study Group leader lthorburn (at) viria.com.au Ph: 0418 972 438 or 02 6297 2437

Honorary members: Ken Warnes and Russell Wait

Newsletters are available in Black and White by post and in COLOUR by email.

For more general information about Study Groups, contact: Email: jlfountain5 (at) gmail.com
Ms Jane Fountain Coordinator, Study Groups, Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)