



Wildflower Society of WA ***Northern Suburbs Branch*** **Newsletter - February 2014**

Next Meeting :- February 25th

7-30pm, Henderson Environmental Centre, Groat St. North Beach

Digby Growns, BGPA

**“Breeding New Grevillea Cultivars
With a West Australian Flavour”**

Coming Events :-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 25 March | - | Peter Coyle
“The Great Western Woodlands
A Botanical Wonderland” |
| 22 April | - | Giles Hardy, Murdoch Uni
“Phytophthora Diseases in the South-
West of WA and What They Mean for
Natural and Managed Ecosystems” |
| 27 May | - | Judy Fisher
“Can the Soil Seed Bank Tell Us What
to Propagate—A Star Swamp Study” |
| 24 June | - | Keith Lightbody
“Tips for Successful Wildflower
Photography” |

Last November’s Guest Speaker

Greg Keighery

Coppercups and Relatives



Greg Keighery came along to the November meeting, to ask ‘what’s in a name’? Genetic work currently underway by Greg and others is looking at a group of myrtaceae which are hard to tell apart, raising genetic issues of just where they belong. The group comprises six genera in all – three found only in WA and comprising Actinodium, Chamelaucium and Pileanthus species,

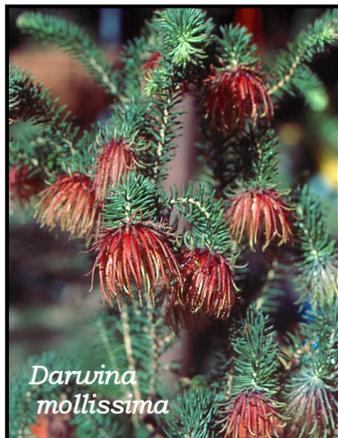


Actinodium cunninghamii
(Blood Red form)

two found in WA and other parts of Australia and comprising Darwinia and Verticordia species, and one exclusive to Eastern Australia – Homoranthus species. All species have similar flowers and nuts.

Greg took us through each of the West Australian genera, pointing out key features of similarity and difference, such as reproductive organs, pollen dispersal and the presence or not of hairs. He stressed that the current genetic work being undertaken is extremely complicated and uncertain, in comparison to studies and changes already completed on other genera. Many species do not ‘fit the mould’ and, in some cases there are only a few species within the genera in WA.

Greg gave some insights into what we can expect to see coming out of the genetic data and some possible name changes. Chamelaucium has 27 taxa and it looks like it will stay. Pileanthus, the



Darwinia mollissima

oldest name in the group, will also stay. Actinodium has only 3 taxa, all found in WA and including the Albany Swamp Daisy. It is closely related to Darwinia and the thinking is that Actinodium will move into an expanded Darwinia.

Northern Suburbs

Free guided nature walks.

Each Month

Run approx 1 hour.

Start at 8am.

1st Saturday Landsdale Conservation Park.

Meet in Landsdale Rd approx 100 metres east of Evandale Rd, Darch.

Contact Phylis 93499105

2nd Saturday Koondoola Regional Bushland.

Meet in Koondoola Ave Opposite Burbridge Ave.

Contact Phylis 93499105

3rd Saturday Lake Gwelup Reserve.

Meet Scout Hall car park near tennis Courts, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup.

Contact Christine 94472983

4th Saturday Star Swamp Bushland

Meet at the Henderson Centre at the end of Groat St, North Beach.

Contact Christine 94472983

5th Saturday Trigg Bushland

Meet in the car park between St Mary’s School and Millington Reserve (off Elliot rd)

Karrinyup.

Contact David 94489192

However, Greg pointed out that Chemelaucium, Darwinia, Verticordia and Homoranthus will all hybridise, so another question is, should they be combined? Probably not is the current answer, but thinking is that the 22 taxa of Homorathus and Darwinia found in Eastern Australia will split off and remain as Darwinia, while what we in WA know as Darwinia (eg various 'bells') will revert to the old name of Genetyllis. And if Actinodium disappears, then what we now know under this genera, will become Genetyllis.

By now, we were all coming to an understanding of what Greg meant when he said "it's complicated"! The remaining genus currently under the genetic microscope is Verticordia, long known for having a variety of 'genetic issues'. It looks like Verticordia will remain in part and Greg explained that it is a very 'unnatural' genus because the characteristic that holds Verticordia species together does not reflect the relationship between species. At present, it looks like Verticordia will split into three genera. Tropical species will split off as a separate genus, yellow species will also be grouped into a separate genus and pink species will remain as Verticordia.



Darwina thymoides ssp bella



Pileanthus filifolius

In the final analysis, it looks like there are still many years' work ahead of the geneticists, and a lot of discussion and argument to come before these very complicated issues are sorted. Watch this space for future name changes!

Beauty Bottler !



With all the cuttings that we have been producing over the past few months, the nursery had run out of 2 litre bottle tops. Jeff approached Schweppes at Welshpool, and Robbie, the Production Manager kindly helped out with a donation of new bottles.

Marie 'scraping the bottom of the Barrels'
It takes a lot of hard work and persistence To reach the end of the

Washing up pile. Well done Marie, Shirley and Jenny, where would we be without you?





What flower is that?

Come to the **Plant ID workshop** and learn how to find out
(pics K Smith)

Saturday 17 May 2014 to be run by Murdoch Branch at Perry House
2 – 5 p.m. Cost: \$20 for members, \$30 for non members.
RSVP close of business Thursday 8 May 2014.

COMMITTEE NEWS

– **YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU !**

Since the last General Meeting, there have been some changes to the Northern Suburbs Branch Management Committee. President Michael Wakefield, Treasurer Dave Bright and Committee Members Kerrie Wakefield and Peter Smith have all made the decision to resign from the Committee.

Thanks go to all of these members, for many years of dedicated work on the Committee and with the Branch. Vice-President, Richard Curry, has taken on the position of President with the endorsement of the Branch Management Committee.

There are now vacancies to be filled, if the Branch is to continue to operate successfully. **At the next General Meeting on Tuesday 25 February, nominations will be called for the positions of Vice-President, Treasurer and two Committee members.**

Please give some thought as to whether you are in a position to help out in any of these roles. The stronger our branch committee, the better our branch will operate.

Richard Curry

At the Nursery Now!!

Increase the biodiversity of your patch

Beautiful blues of Dampiera and Scaevola

Hardy Eremophila

Blues and Mauves for Insects
Reds , Pinks and Yellow for birds

Spectacular Verticordia

Feather flowers with a rainbow of colour for all year

Small Flowered Grevillea sps for small birds



Mini Myrtles

Thryptomene, Scholtzia,
Baeckea and Hypocalymma
with masses of mauve pink and white flowers.
Butterflies and moths love the early winter display

Brilliant colours of Copper cups (Pileanthus) Beaufortia,
Eremaea and Calytrix. Spring through summer

Colour for frog gardens

Blue lobelia, yellow and
white Villarsia and Butter-
cups



Hardy salt tolerant plants

Contrasting foliage and flowers for sandy gardens,

Feature plants for pots and raised garden beds

Especially Triggerplants or Stylidium

Strappy plants for buzz and bird pollination

WA Dianella sps , Patersonia sps, Orthrosanthus sps
Conostylis sps and Kangaroo paws.



Woolly Plants for class and contrast

Dicrastylis sps - Be quick!

Lots and Lots more!

Loads of advice on your
choice
Growing information care
sheets
Friendly conversation





*Wildflower Society of WA
Northern Suburbs Branch*

PLANT SALE

Assorted tube-stock

from \$4-00

Saturday April 26th

9-00am to 3-00pm

at

Landsdale Farm School

Cnr Landsdale and Evandale Rds

Darch

*Grow with us &
Link with Nature*

