

## Grevilleas A-Z: Summary of talk by Graeme Woods (May 2016)

The day his passion for grevilleas was ignited was when he went to Beasley's nursery and there was *Grevillea magnifica* waving its big beautiful arms. It cost \$140 then-some 20 years ago. This is when such grafted plants were first appearing in nurseries.

The genus now consists of up to 400 species and at least 100 subspecies. They are widespread and can be found all over Australia. They come in wide ranging sizes from the giant *G. robusta* to small ground covers such as *G. alpina*. There is a species for every letter of the alphabet.



*Grevillea petrophiloides*



*Grevillea armigera* important than pH as an issue for success. They do not survive transplanting very well so it is best to leave them where they are first established. They do enjoy some fertilizer, it is good for best flowering and is important if growing on sandy soil. If the plant is in pipes or pots then fertilize once a year.

Graeme has 100s of grevilleas, in raised beds. Many people come to get stock for propagation. He plants in summer in Gisborne, where temperatures are less harsh and they grow well in the warmth. He hand waters until established then only waters if needed. He suggests to just prune to keep the shape.

There are essentially 3 types of flowers: Spider (also known as cluster type, erect and pendant), cone shaped (terminal) flower, and toothbrush. Leaves come in variety of shapes and sizes. When planting a grevillea dig a good hole, plant it for life, it is very important to ensure good drainage which is more



*Grevillea leucopteris*

**With regard to Propagation: Grafting** is done in consistent warm weather and is quite an art. It is best to buy from an expert. Standards are usually on *G. robusta* rootstock (which can be demanding, water wise) and some grafters are using alternatives eg Bronze Rambler. **Cuttings** are best done in October to April, the warmer months. **Seeds** - to quote Graeme *do not trust a grevillea, they are sex mad!* You could get anything. The cross breeding started when *G. bipinnatifida* was introduced to Qld and many hybrids arose: eg Robyn Gordon, Coconut Ice, Moonlight.



*Grevillea paradoxa*

Graeme showed us lovely images of the various grevilleas, all from his collection on his property.

A story to gladden the heart and inspire us to keep growing natives: *G. scapigera*: the Corrigin grevillea, was endemic to the wheatbelt, WA. It became extinct in the wild due to land clearing. Kings Park undertook tissue culture of the species using stock from different growers who had obtained their source material from different locations in the wild. This allowed for improved genetic diversity. Now, there are heaps growing back in the wild.

*Report by M. Ford - May 2016*