

Report on the propagation record 2019-2020

Introduction

This report spans the 2019-20 financial year, a period which included record breaking summer heat (with only 57mm of rain and thick smoke), a hailstorm in January 2020, and the initiation of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in a lost ANBG plant sale and many cancelled working bees.

Facilities and Maintenance

The move of some stock from Googong to other sites, mainly Queanbeyan, was achieved early in 2019-20. Following setup of facilities at Bruce (CIT) the first cutting bee there was held in September 2019.

Despite the lack of sales in 2020, material in the hotbeds and on potting tables still needed to be maintained. Minders at both sites took on additional tasks to look after these plants and keep them fit for future sale, because working bees were banned from March to July 2020. At both sites, the plants that could not be sold in March were potted up and many hundreds of pots were washed by a "skeleton crew" (of John and Masumi for CIT and Lyndal and Tom for Qbn) given the ban on formal bees.

Propagation

For 2019-20 the Propagation Group set 355 punnets, containing 4,465 cuttings and seeds. During the same period, 2,361 rooted cuttings were potted up. This is a rooting rate of 52.9%, the highest in some years.

The two sites at Queanbeyan and Bruce (CIT) were maintained during the year. The Bruce HB performed very well in its first year at its new location within the CIT shadehouse, even though the HB is in an open location exposed to the cold, the heat and more sun. At the time of writing the hotbed is about half full and we have approximately five tables full of plants.

The arrangement with CIT seems to be going well and we have approached them to offer speakers (in 2021) for their students.

Sales

The October 2019 sale went ahead as usual. At this sale the Prop Group provided 1180 plants from all sites (490 from Googong, 666 plants from Qbn and 24 plants from Nola) and of these 1,134 were sold for a total of \$7510. No plants were available from Bruce since we just had our first cutting bee in September 2019 and there were no plants in pots at that stage.

With the ANBG sale banned due to COVID 19, some creative activity by members resulted in the following:

- Approximately 200 plants sold through a direct ordering system from the Queanbeyan igloo during March/April, to members only, total income \$1000
- ~20 plants sold direct from Qbn igloo to neighbours at full retail price

- As it became clear that the Spring Sale wasn't going ahead, other plants were sold to local growers and to individuals including local members and APS NSW members on the South Coast. These will be reported in 2020-21

Donations

~40 *Libertia paniculata* in medium pots were donated to the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens in March. These were part of about 100 seedlings that were germinated in 2019 (unexpectedly successful!). Di Clark, nursery supervisor, is also President of the APS NSW SE Region group – it is likely these plants found a home through this group.

We understand that there was a donation of plants from CIT stock to CIT but have no details of numbers.

New species

New plants are an interesting aspect of being a member of the propagation group. In 2019-20 there were ~50 new species or varieties which were new to ANPS (see attached table). Only those that have been progressed to potting up and have numbers sufficient for sale will be entered into the Plant Label Database (in train). Some seeds which didn't germinate are from commercial suppliers and were out of date.

Plans for 2020-21

Propagation has continued in the first half of 20-21 and two successful working bees were held in January 2021, one at each site. Bees through the year are to include some training of participants in particular administrative and propagation tasks to ensure that others are available for backup as required. The Prop Group planning meeting on 31 January 2021 agreed that we would participate in a sale if it was held at ANBG and that a Plan B would be to continue the direct sales from Qbn or CIT, with improvements to be made to the process.

With regard to the facilities, Lyndal will continue to mind the Qbn hotbed and Ian the Qbn igloo. The sale of Qbn infrastructure to Tom and Lyndal, approved by Council, has not been finalised but is in train. We need a minder for CIT and will ask others in the group for volunteers – we have some assistants willing to help but not take the lead.

The group also decided to participate in a trial being managed by CIT, as a community social inclusion program, on a new potting mix additive, after checking with Council and ensuring that the scale of the project was manageable.

A proposal on managing donations is to be prepared to go to Council.

Attachment - New species 2019-20

Genus	Species	Variety	Comment
<i>Adenanthos</i>	<i>cunninghamii</i> x		Didn't strike
<i>Austromyrtus</i>	<i>dulcis</i> x <i>tenuifolia</i>	Copper Tops	
<i>Banksia</i>	<i>praemorsa</i>		2 colour forms (yellow, wine red)
<i>Calothamnus</i>	<i>validus</i>		
<i>Citrus</i>	<i>glauca</i>	Australian Outback	Didn't strike
<i>Correa</i>	<i>continentale</i>	Horizontalis	
<i>Correa</i>	<i>turnbullii</i>		Prev. a reflexa ssp.
<i>Correa</i>		Coastal Prolific	
<i>Dodonaea</i>	<i>subglandulifera</i>		
<i>Epacris</i>	<i>longiflora</i>	double white	Didn't strike
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>duttonii</i> x <i>maculata</i>		
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>ericalyx</i>		2 new colours (blue, yellow)
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>glabra</i>		New forms – Ravensthorpe (now Phillips' River – ACRA pending), upright red, Quomba
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>latrobei</i>	white	
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>lehmanniana</i>	large leaf form	May not need separate label
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>maculata</i>	(Wilcannia)	
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>maculata</i>		New colour forms – bright yellow, pink mini, Walpy Fran, (ACRA reg)
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>maculata</i> x <i>glabra</i>	Crazy Mac	
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>oppositifolia</i>	ssp rubra	
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>paisleyii</i>		Didn't strike
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>weldii</i>	purple form	New colour form (existing = mauve)
<i>Eremophila</i>	<i>wilsii</i>		Didn't strike
<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>lavandulacea</i> x <i>alpina</i>	Jelly Baby	PBR NOT FOR SALE
<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>mccutcheonii</i>		Didn't strike
<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>oldei</i> x <i>speciosa</i>		Didn't strike
<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>wickhamii</i> x	yellow	Didn't strike
<i>Hakea</i>	<i>lorea</i>	ssp. lorea	
<i>Hakea</i>	<i>minyma</i>		
<i>Kennedia</i>	<i>prorepens</i>		
<i>Leptospermum</i>	<i>polygalifolium</i> 'Cardwell' x 'Rhiannon'	Outrageous	
<i>Leptospermum</i>	<i>spectabilis</i> x	Aphrodite	
<i>Melaleuca</i>	<i>nesophila</i>	Narrow Nessie	PBR – NOT FOR SALE
<i>Melaleuca</i>	<i>trichophylla</i>		
<i>Olearia</i>	<i>sp.</i>	ID TBC	From South Coast
<i>Ozothamnus</i>	<i>hookerii</i>		
<i>Ptilotis</i>	<i>exaltatus</i>	prostrate	Didn't germinate (commercial)

<i>Ptilotis</i>	<i>polakii</i>		Didn't germinate (commercial)
<i>Ptilotis</i>	<i>rotundifolius</i>		Didn't germinate (commercial)
<i>Ptilotus</i>	<i>exaltatus</i>	prostrate	Didn't germinate (commercial)
<i>Ptilotus</i>	<i>polakii</i>		
<i>Ranunculus</i>	<i>amphitricus</i>	(DIVISION)	Didn't sell 2020 – donated in Jan 21 to Cool Country Natives
<i>Senna</i>	<i>barronfieldii</i>		
<i>Verticordia</i>	<i>densifolia</i>		Didn't germinate (commercial)
<i>Verticordia</i>	<i>nitens</i>		Didn't germinate (commercial)