

In My Garden

Our Currowan garden recovers from drought and fire.

The northern side of our garden caught fire when the fire of 4th January burned through our Currowan property. Almost everything in the forested surrounds that hadn't burned in the 5th December fire burned in this, the second fire. Having experienced the earlier fire, and now slightly better prepared with equipment, we saved the house and sheds, and most of the garden, in a five-hour battle.

This note covers a few things happening in our garden's recovery.

The *Glochidion ferdinandii* (Cheesetree) lost its lower branches to the fire, but is recovering.

Elaeocarpus reticulatus (Blueberry Ash) had a log burning underneath it for an hour, and its lower branches were burned, but the tree is recovering.

Grevillea "Winpara Gem #1" was badly burnt, but is recovering well.

Grevillea "Canterbury Gold" was scorched on one side, but remained undamaged on the other side, and is reshooting.

A *Callistemon salignus* that was totally burned is reshooting from the base of its trunk.

Acacia cognata, *Grevillea "Winpara Gem #2"*, *Isopogon cuneatus*, *Isopogon anethifolius*, *Prosanthera "Poorinda Ballerina"*, *Hibbertia cuneiformis*, *Callistemon* spp. and several *Correa* spp. were totally burned and have not recovered.

Solanum aviculare was totally burned but seedlings are appearing below the dead tree.

Grevillea "Ocean Reef" (a W.A. P1 species) was badly singed, but has bounced back with new growth. No flowers yet, but its value may lie in its potential as a rootstock for other WA species.

An unlabelled Grevillea of the Robyn Gordon type mostly refused to burn when all around it died; it has recovered.

Grevillea macleayana from the Ulladulla area and *Grevillea "Lady O"* were just beyond the fire edge and are flowering well this year.

The *Pandorea jasminoides* was not burnt; it is flowering magnificently, as are various *Callistemon*, *Grevillea* and *Kangaroo Paws* in the unburned part of the garden.



Hibbertia racemosa, in its wallaby proof enclosure, requires a very well drained soil and plenty of sun to perform its best.

Marjorie Aphorpe



Glochidion ferdinandii is rarely grown, but is a lovely small tree ideally suited to most gardens. Your editor has some healthy seedlings ready to plant out when we next meet. Orders taken.



Callistemon salignus regrowth suckering from the base

Hibbertia racemosa is coming into flower and will carry on through the winter. This may be a short-lived shrub as the W.A. parent plant died after three years of rapid growth, but it is easily struck from cuttings, so a new generation is well underway.

Pandorea "Lady Di", a beautiful white-flowered form given as cuttings on our

APS visit to Horse Island, is finally flowering after struggling during drought.

Callistemon citrinus is just coming into flower, reflecting the season displaced by drought, and floods in February.