

GRANTHAMIANA HYBRIDS

by T. J. Savage, Wirlinga, NSW

The date of finding the species *Camellia granthamiana* is quite recent. In October 1955 a single plant was found in the Hong Kong New Territories and from this one original plant most of the present material in the Western World originated until the further discovery of new plants about 1978. It was given its name by J. R. Sealy for Lord Grantham, the then governor of Hong Kong, and published in the 1956 *Journal of the RHS*, LXXXI, 182; also by Mr R. Dean, then superintendent of the Parks and Gardens of Hong Kong in the 1956 *American Camellia Yearbook*, pp. 9–11, and with detailed figures in Hooker's *Icones Plantarum*, t3552, 1956.

The species bears white, single flowers of up to 12 cm across of 8 petals and a large golden boss of stamens in the centre. It has been likened to a poached egg in appearance and sometimes referred to as the Poached Egg Camellia. It has lustrous green leaves with deeply impressed venation on the upper surface, and was soon regarded as an interesting subject for hybridisation.

Dean supplied scions as well as some seed to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, as well as to the USA and the UK. In Melbourne these were propagated under the supervision of the late A. W. Jessep, then Director of the gardens. The plants grown from seed lacked vigour and were lost, but those from the scions prospered and soon were available to some members of the ACRS who were interested in hybridisation.

Chromosome counts by Albert E. Longley in 1958 established that the species was tetraploid ($2n=60$), however, it was found that it would cross with both diploid and hexaploid camellia cultivars. Two hybrid cultivars reached the market in 1968. In Australia it was **Autumn Glory**, a cross with *C. japonica* **Spencer's Pink** originated by Erica McMinn of Camellia Lodge, Victoria. This is a large, to 12 cm across, single flower of soft pink, tending creamy towards the centre and, in general, a form similar to its *C. granthamiana* parent. The second cultivar came from Nuccio's Nurseries, California and was a cross with the *C. reticulata* hybrid **Buddha**. It was a large, orchid pink, semi-double, up to 15 cm across, with crinkled petals and named **China Lady**.

These have been followed by further cultivars in order of their release to the public as follows:

Grannie. First published in the *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin*, 1975, Vol. IX, No.1, p.30, Reg. No. 107. A *C. saluenensis* × *C. granthamiana* seedling originated in NZ by Les Jury. It has a light pink coloured, single flower of about 10 cm across.

Lois Shinault. This appeared in the ACS 1976, *American Camellia Yearbook*, p.152 as a seedling of the *C. reticulata* **Dataohong** × *C. granthamiana*, originated by Al Smith, California. It is a medium sized, orchid pink shading to lighter pink at the centre, semi-double, about 11 cm across.

Promises. SCCS 1978, *Camellia Nomenclature*, p. 173. A *C. reticulata* **Dataohong** × *C. granthamiana* seedling

originated by Dr W Homeyer, Georgia, USA. A large rose pink semi-double with occasional rabbit ear. Size up to 14 cm across.

Hongkong Girl. JCS 1990, *Japanese Camellia Cultivar List*, p. 28. A seedling of *C. reticulata* hybrid **Show Girl** × *C. granthamiana*. A medium sized, pale rose pink semi-double; originated in Osaka prefecture, Japan.

Byakuran (White Orchid), Apr. 1990, JCS *Japanese Camellia Cultivar List*, p. 27. Large size, imbricated double white. Originated in Osaka prefecture, Japan as a seedling of *C.j.* **Silver Chalice** × *C. granthamiana*.

Parisienne. *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin*, 1992, Vol. XVII, No. 4, p. 46, Reg No. 303. A seedling of *C. granthamiana* hybrid **Grannie** × *C. × williamsii* **Jury's Yellow**, raised by Les Jury, NZ. The flowers are a cherry red with an occasional rose shade, semi-double, 11 cm across with 18 petals.

Phil Piet. SCCS 1992, *Camellia Nomenclature*, p. 154. A seedling of *C. granthamiana* × *C. × williamsii* **Elsie Jury**, raised by Meyer Piet, California, USA. A large to very large pink and white semi-double, about 15 cm across.

Pink Granthamiana. Nuccio's Nurseries Advert, ACS, 1993, *The Camellia Journal*, Vol. 48, No. 4, p. 28. Large pink single *C. granthamiana* style flower, very similar to **Autumn Glory**.

China Festival. Seibu Maizuru Institute of Botany, 1993, *Seibu no Tsubaki*, No. 6. A large, dark red, peony form seedling of *C. granthamiana* × *C. reticulata* hybrid **Dr Clifford Parks**. Originated at the Seibu Maizuru farm, Japan.

Haru-no-uta (Spring Song), 1997, *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin* No. 127, Vol. XX (2), p. 9 colour plate. A *C. hiemalis* × *C. granthamiana* seedling originated in Japan. Very large, pink, informal double with emarginate, fluted petals and some small erect centre petals intermixed with stamens.

Most of these cultivars have the typical large central stamen boss inherited from their *C. granthamiana* parent and are early to mid-season flowering.

Reference

- Sealy, J. R. (1958). A Revision of the Genus *Camellia*, pp. 165–167.
Savage, T. J. (1970). *Camellia News*, No. 35, *Camellia granthamiana*, pp. 14–16.

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KYLIE'S COLUMN

A World Slide Show — A Schindler's List

At the end of June 1996, I was approached by Dr Ross Hayter, with a letter from the American Camellia Society about preparing a set of five to ten slides entitled 'Favourite Camellias of Australia' and a commentary. The topic 'favourite' camellias of Australia was always going to be difficult. It's not necessarily the camellias that do best, but what people go mad over. You may even have trouble growing it, or may not be able to grow it at all.

I did not believe from the original letter that it meant just 'Australian' cultivars, so I looked across the board, and am glad now that I did for most of the other countries took it this way too.

So, where did I start?

Time was a factor; or lack of it. As there was only one flowering season, sasanquas had to be discounted as they were already finished. I considered the National Slide Library, but felt that a batch of fresh unseen slides would be the best way to go. Slides are not a popular medium for me, and I had only taken three films of them ever. I do not own a projector. (Dad's projector is out of the Stone Age and sounds rather like a noisy toaster when on, but it had blown another expensive globe and was disabled.)

How did I construct a list?

Based on what people had said, what was being published in other branch newsletters, and results from ours and other surveys, I compiled a 'diplomatic' list of 25 cultivars. I use the word *diplomatic* because favourites vary with personal preference, so I compiled an initial list of Australian and overseas cultivars. They were not my personal favourites, and since compiling this slide show I realise that I do not have a 'favourite' camellia. There are just too many wonderful ones. I tried to mix both old and new cultivars, but gave particular preference to those newer camellias that had become the new current favourites, but of which little has been written.

Taking the slides

Finally I had constructed a rough list. Luckily we went to Wollongong and Nowra in July where I was 'exposed' to a number of favourite NSW varieties and I expended one 36 slide film straddled over the two shows. (I think some people thought I was from the press because I was clicking so vigorously and then taking out my list and crossing things off!) As soon as I got home I had this film developed. After craning through a small viewer I was fairly pleased, except that many of the camellias were on the show bench and not a very pretty picture with ribbons and cards, etc. I then straddled a 24 slide film over the Narrandera and Wagga shows. I also went to the Wagga Camellia Gardens and used a separate 24 slide film there. At the Albury Camellia Show I knew exactly what was missing and filled up another 24 slide film. As camellias bloomed in our garden over the time, I also snapped the ones from the list, taking special care to set up the photograph (taking the camellia on stone, wood, grass, and other nature backgrounds).

Compiling the slides

The actual compilation was the easy part. Only the best of the best made it. Slides were ousted if the overall appearance was ugly (show bench clutter) or the colour was not spot on. The form of the flower too had to be the norm. There was no way known at this point that I was going to squeeze the numbers down to 10...especially if I was going to be diplomatic. So, I got the slides down to 19. I felt terrible — I was outing six varieties, like the Jews who missed Schindler's List! I had also gone to great lengths to get a map of the Hume Branch area and its relationship to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. One of the slides was this map.

Order and commentary

The order of the slides was important to me, but probably less important to anyone showing the slides. I started with the japonicas with earliest cultivars first, then non-retic hybrids, and reticulata hybrids. I wanted the commentary to be down to earth, and reasonably short, and I had to borrow a slide projector from Tom & Olive Savage to get the timing right.

I've never had a problem putting words together, so it was probably the easiest piece for me. I numbered the slides and then cross referenced them in the typed commentary so that the person showing the slides would have no problem.

I posted the slides, 4 pages of commentary and a letter to Betty Hotchkiss of the American Camellia Society who appeared pleased with the results. The world suddenly felt a little smaller.

What camellias were on the List?

So, what camellias made it to Schindler's List? Great Eastern, Emperor of Russia variegated, Moshio, Guilio Nuccio variegated, Elegans Variegated, Elegans Splendor, Polar Bear, Margaret Davis, Roger Hall, Desire, Tinsie (Bohukan), E G Waterhouse, Spring Festival (a slide of the bush), Pavlova, Dr Clifford Parks, Lasca Beauty, Winter's Own, Winter's Own variegated, and John Hunt (the only slide that was not mine — from the National Slide Library).

What didn't make it? *C. nitidissima*, Betty Sheffield Supreme, Night Rider, Elegans Champagne, Brushfield's Yellow/Gwenneth Morey, Royal Velvet (couldn't find one), Wirlinga Bride, Sweet Jane, Tama no ura, Nuccio's Gem (didn't turn out), Debbie (colour was not good).

As to getting the list down to ten, I just couldn't do it. These were my children! I couldn't tell any of them they were off the list! So, I left it up to Betty Hotchkiss, who picked an official list with a range of species as follows: Great Eastern, Elegans Splendor, Polar Bear, Margaret Davis, Roger Hall, E G Waterhouse, Spring Festival, Dr Clifford Parks, Winter's Own, John Hunt, and the map.

New Zealand

Anticipation Variegated, Bett's Supreme, Elegant Beauty, Itty Bit, Jubilation, Julie Felix, Nicky Crisp, Night Rider, Rose Bouquet, Sugar Dream.

Japan

Tama no ura, Enishi, Sukiya (not Sukiya Wabisuke), Shuchuka, Usu Otome (not Otome), Kishutsukasa, Miyakodori, Iwane-Shibori, Ohkan, Kyobotan.

Germany

Hogoromo, Debbie, Mrs Tingley, Black Lace, Elegans, Bob Hope, Guilio Nuccio, Margaret Davis, Dr Tinsley, Nuccio's Gem.

United Kingdom

Donation, Anticipation, Debbie, Inspiration, Adolphe Audusson.

I was surprised to see how many camellias I knew from these world lists, particularly Germany's ten which if you include my overall list, was very similar, and a single variety from each of the other countries as well.

My Schindler's List is now complete ...but I wonder if those that missed the List will ever forgive me?

National Camellia Symbol

The national camellia symbol has been confirmed by Doug Haviland (thanks Doug!) to be 'Lady Gowrie' (that's the camellia inside the front cover of *Camellia News*). 'Lady Gowrie' was registered by Professor Waterhouse and was first mentioned in print in 1952 in *Camellia Trail*. It is a pink semi-double hybrid, a seedling of *C. saluenensis*. 'Lady Gowrie variegated' is also a beautiful camellia. Both plants have a slow pendulous growth.

Lady Gowrie, the person, (formerly Lady Hore-Ruthven) shared an interest in flowers and gardening with Professor Waterhouse and his wife Janet. Her husband, Lord Gowrie (formerly Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven), became

Governor-General of Australia prior to World War II. Professor Waterhouse later named the camellia in Lady Gowrie's honour.

Although 'Lady Gowrie' (the camellia) appears to be available in Victoria, it is scarce in NSW. Perhaps we should do more to promote the national camellia symbol.

(Information extracted in parts from ICR and E G Waterhouse of Eryldene publications.)

[Editor's Note: But see the letters column, page 5.]

Camellia Stamps

Another new camellia stamp has arrived, this time from England. It's part of a set of flowers issued on 6 January 1997 in a booklet of ten 1st Class postage stamps. The camellia is identified as *Camellia japonica* and is a variegated informal double ('Elegans variegated?') on a plain background. It looks great.

Crossword

To keep everyone busy over the Christmas break, I have put together a competitive camellia crossword based on general knowledge, branch newsletters and *Camellia News*. The crossword will appear in the December issue and it is open to all members of the ACRS. All you'll have to do is photocopy it, complete it, and send it to me at P O Box 1651, Wodonga 3689, before 1 February, 1998. The first correct entry drawn out will receive a bundle of camellia goodies!

So start re-reading those *Camellia News* and sharpen up your crossword skills.

Kylie

Elizabeth Farm Display, 26-27 July 1997

The NSW Branch's 4th biennial camellia display was, as always, a delight to arrange. Although the weather was mixed and the attendance was smaller than usual, the Macarthur house and camellias are well suited, and the atmosphere was relaxed and trouble free, thanks to the small team of capable members who came to help.

Our Floral Art wizards, Mollie and Ollie, (Mollie Savell and Olive Donnelly) — what would we do without them — created some delightful arrangements, in the old style, throughout the house. Another popular attraction was an audio-visual show 'Camellias Around the World' composed by Doug Haviland, which was screened regularly.

Plants were for sale provided by Three Bears Nursery and Paradise (Bob Cherry's) Nursery. Although sales seemed slow, the final count was good. Grafting demonstrations by Peter Levick and Malcolm Perry were attended with interest.

The display of blooms along the verandah looked most attractive on our new blue cloths. The emphasis was on blooms of quality, not quantity, and they were not overcrowded.

Some memorabilia from our camellia travels was assembled, including a collection of stamps and first-day covers from around the world. There were no stamps from Australia as camellias have never been considered a suitable subject ...maybe we should try again!!!

Although the attendance was smaller, enthusiasm for camellia growing was shown by those who attended. We do enjoy being associated with Elizabeth Farm, which is a property of the NSW Historic Houses Trust.

Margaret Levick, Show Manager

DONATION

Following the successful Congress in Melbourne, the Victorian Branch has donated \$600 for colour printing in *Camellia News*. Your editor is grateful for this support.

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ILLAWARRA BRANCH 45th ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW, WOLLONGONG

Wollongong revelled in two days of brilliant sunshine on the weekend of 19–20 July, 1997. After mid-week winds which battered our coastline and, of course marked numerous blooms in the process, we were all relieved to see the cold winds abate with a consequent rise in temperature. This produced perfect winter weather conditions for our Show.

The Official Opening took place on Saturday, 20 July, compered by Lorraine Pitt, horticultural representative of the local newspaper. The Show was officially opened by Judith Horton of Arthur Yates and Co. Limited.

During the ceremony, President Alan Daisley extended a warm welcome to the National President, Marj Mansfield. In addition he welcomed the members of the public as well as representatives of St George and Shoalhaven branches who benched blooms at the Show.

In concluding the ceremony, Alan presented Alderman David Campbell, Lord Mayor of the city with the two-volume set of The International Camellia Register for placement in Wollongong city Library.

An outstanding feature of the Show was the strong support provided by the members of St George branch. There is no doubt that our display considerably benefited both in quality and quantity and we are all grateful for such participation. Approximately 1800 blooms were benched, about 200 less than in 1996. This can be attributed to damage caused by the mid-week winds, in addition to the absence of one of our prime competitors.

It is interesting to note that blooms benched included 228 miniatures, 121 hybrids (other than reticulata) and 238 reticulata/retic hybrids. Illawarra Show invariably has a good showing of reticulatas and that figure did not surprise. However, it was interesting to see the continuing increase in miniature blooms.

The most successful competitor was Chris Chapman who has swept all before him this year at Bowden Brae, St George, Epping, Illawarra and Nowra. Chris continues to bench quality blooms and any camellia show that attracts his entries can be confident of a first-class display of carefully chosen and well cared for quality blooms.

Championship Awards were as follows:

- The Champion Bloom of the Show
The A W Jessep Medal
'Masayoshi' — Exhibitor, Chris Chapman
- The Champion Japonica
The Harold Delaforce Trophy
'Masayoshi' — Exhibitor, Chris Chapman
- The Champion Reticulata
'Lasca Beauty' — Exhibitor, G. & J. Sellers
- The Champion Non-reticulata Hybrid
'Wynne Rayner' — Exhibitor, Chris Chapman
- Champion Reticulata Hybrid
The M.E. (Jack) Greentree Trophy
'Lasca Beauty' — Exhibitor, G. & J. Sellers

- The Champion Miniature
'Grace Albritton' — Exhibitor, G. Oke
- The Champion Australian Cultivar
'Imperial Splendour' — Exhibitor, Chris Chapman
- The Champion Illawarra Bloom of the Show
'Masayoshi' — Exhibitor, Chris Chapman
- Reserve Champion, Illawarra Bloom of the Show
'Imperial Splendour' — Exhibitor, Chris Chapman

Note: Selected blooms are shown on the cover of this issue.

Alan McGovern



St George & Sutherland Branch Show

The Annual Show at Flower Power Nursery, Taren Point, on 5 – 6 July, 1997 was a challenge. We seem to choose wet and windy weather to stage our Annual Camellia Shows. We sincerely thank the Management and Staff of Flower Power for their kindness and cooperation at all times and for again providing a suitable venue, the tables, raffle prizes, advertising, and a generous donation to our Branch. We thank the judges, Messrs Levick and Moyes from N.S.W. Branch for their time and expertise given in judging this show. The members of St George and Illawarra branches benched over 1100 blooms of many varieties, making an interesting display for the public and nursery. From Wattle Grove, Camden, Silverdale, Central Coast, Ourimbah, Jasper's Brush, and Illawarra they came to bench and enjoy camellias.

Marjorie Mansfield, Show Manager, is to be congratulated on a well organised and smooth-running show. We thank Mr Hank Dennis from Sutherland Rotary for his presentation and words of congratulation to the winner of the new seedling class and to Jean Manuel, MBE, for the presentation of prizes and awards to the successful exhibitors and for her encouragement to all participants.

We also thank all competitors, the clerical staff, those who set up and dismantled the show, the raffle ticket sellers and those who generally assisted to make this show another winner. To the general public we say thank you for your support and interest.

The main awards were as follows:

- Dick Harris Trophy,
Overall Highest Point Score: C. Chapman
2nd A. McGovern
3rd T. Pierson
- M. E. Greentree Trophy,
Champion Reticulata: A. McGovern
- G. W. Hooper Trophy,
Best St George Registration: A. Truran
- St George Bank Trophy,
Champion of Show: C. Chapman
- Sutherland Rotary Trophy,
New Seedling: A. Truran
- Betty Walker**

NSW Branch 28th Annual Camellia Show

The NSW Branch Annual Camellia Show was held at St Alban's War Memorial Hall, Epping NSW on 12 – 13 July 1997. It was another successful, spectacular and enjoyable Show. How do we measure success? For this Show the major ingredient was teamwork. This was evident in all the show committee activities.

Contributions include the assistance of members on the Friday in setting up the show tables, others driving to Bob Cherry's Nursery to pick blooms in preparation for the floral art exhibits, and the commitment of those who organised and volunteered to prepare refreshments.

Our gratitude extends to the supporting nurserymen: Three Bears Nursery organising a wide variety of six inch potted plants, and Camellia Grove for the spectacular display of tried favourite and newer blooms, and for donating two outstanding plants 'Betty Ridley' and 'Julia France' to raffle. The plants were won by visitors to the show, from Eastwood and Epping.

Fine weather on Saturday was a relief for those exhibitors who picked and later staged blooms. The modified floor plan facilitated the staging of blooms, and when completed the overall effect looked lovely.

Members who were unable to help on Friday assisted with judging, stewarding, recording results, writing prize cards, helping on the admission tables, and selling raffle tickets.

Two innovations were grafting demonstrations by two members which proved very popular, and a questionnaire prepared to assist with pre-show advertising next year. A number of members from other branches were successful exhibitors.

The Champion exhibitors were as follows:

Champion Single

Chris Chapman, 'White Tulip'

Champion Semi-double

R. & O. Daniels, 'Dr Tinsley'

Champion Informal Double

Alan Truran, 'Winter's Own variegated'

Champion Formal Double

Chris Chapman, 'Philippa Ifould'

Champion Elegans Form

Ken Tate, 'Elegans Supreme'

Champion of the Show and the Jessep Medal

Chris Chapman for the superb Formal Double
'Philippa Ifould'

Congratulations go to each winning exhibitor in the Floral Art. Much thought and effort was given to producing those eye-catching arrangements. The highest point score was achieved by Merle Davis, the recipient of the Lucy Payens Trophy, donated by the Truran family.

Rachel O'Conor

CAMELLIA DISPLAY TOMAGO HOUSE

by Lindsay Bond, NSW Branch

At the request of The Friends of Tomago House, a National Trust property on the lower Hunter River, the NSW Branch assisted in conducting a camellia display on 5 – 6 July 1997. This was to be a Hunter Bicentenary activity and revival of a once annual event conducted by the Victoria League.

Tomago House is an elaborate Georgian mansion of colonial style built in the 1840s, complete with a chapel. It was built and owned for many years by the Windeyer family and since becoming a National Trust property, has been restored to much of its former glory. It has extensive cellars, sandstone carvings, French doors, and surrounding verandahs.

President Joy Haviland and husband Doug, and Mollie Savell went to the Hunter on Friday 4 July to arrange a camellia and floral art display. Local people were involved with the floral displays, which were to be judged by popular vote. Bob Cherry provided blooms, as well as giving a talk on camellias on both days to packed houses. Other blooms came from N. & N. Missons' Nursery at Ourimbah (near Gosford) and Camellia Grove at St Ives.

One of Mollie's pieces of floral art won the Popular Vote Ballot, which did not surprise us. Bob Cherry wore a large badge provided by the organisers, proclaiming him to be an expert camellia adviser.

As we saw it, there was great interest in a fine bloom display, and it was a worthwhile effort in the promotion of the genus *Camellia*.

FELIX JURY 1912 – 1997

We record the passing on 30 March 1997 of New Zealander Felix Jury. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the New Zealand Camellia Society in 1985 in recognition of his services and will be remembered for many of the camellias he raised such as 'Water Lily', 'Rose Bouquet', 'Softly', 'Mimosa' and 'Itty Bit'. The results of his work in hybridising with other genera are recognised internationally and in 1993 he was awarded the Veitch Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Felix and Mimosa's son Mark now runs a nursery on the property and the tribute he and his wife Abbie sent out with their catalogue gives a very true picture of this quiet man: 'Felix was a sheep farmer who was the third generation Jury on the family farm. In the 1950s he turned his attention to gardening and soon to plant breeding, not for commercial gain but in the desire to create better garden plants. It was his magnolias in which he took the greatest pride, but little escaped his efforts as he bred rhododendrons, camellias, prunus, hostas, miniature narcissi, nerines, phormiums, astelias, azaleas, and our new cordyline 'Red Fountain', and other genera ... To some he was a plantsman with an extraordinary depth of knowledge. But for many he was the quiet creator of many beautiful plants which will live on in gardens throughout (New Zealand) and overseas.' (Source; *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin*, July, 1997, p. 30)