



~ Invitation ~

Sundowner for the Sun Bears

Wednesday 2nd December

5.30pm until sundown

A special event to launch the Woolly Bear Grevilleas in WA.

Join us for a cuppa and Lions Christmas cake. Buy a ticket in the raffle to win your own toy sun bear.

RSVP essential: 94546260

- Meet Mary Hutton, founder of **Free the Bears Fund** and hear about the work of FTB.
- Find out the story behind this special grevillea and be first to buy your own *Grevillea Woolly Bear Mian*, raising funds for 'Free the Bears Fund Inc'.
- Welcome back Claire Hooper who will informally MC the event.



Grevillea Woolly Bear® 'Mian'

A new Aussie plant to help
'Free The Bears' Fund.

Longtime FTB member Sue Forrester and her husband Bill Molyneux, owners of Austraflo, the leading Australian native plant development company, are releasing a brand new Grevillea this year to raise funds for *Free The Bears*.

Launched at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show in April, Woolly Bear® 'Mian' will be available in WA nurseries in summer 2009.

Hardy, adaptable, and well suited to a range of soils and climates, 'Mian' has beautiful woolly foliage and furry golden red bunches of flowers. Honeyeaters love it, and it makes a fabulous specimen or hedge plant, and for those who have small spaces, it thrives in containers and tubs.

Sue & Bill named this plant in



Grevillea Woolly Bear Mian

honour of Cambodian Sun Bear Mian, whom they also help to sponsor. Further varieties in the Woolly Bear® range will become available soon, and each will be named for a real bear. The next to follow will be Woolly Bear® 'Hero', named for Hero the rescued 'dancing' bear in India.

Free The Bears Fund Inc

Free The Bears Fund was registered as a non-profit charity in 1995 with an aim to Protect, Preserve and Enrich the lives of bears throughout the world.

To this end, the fund has constructed sanctuaries in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Indonesia, Vietnam and India. Across S.E. Asia over 700 bears have been rescued from markets, poachers, restaurants and the wildlife trade. The bear is then taken to the sanctuary to live in freedom and peace.

The fund has been welcomed by the Governments in S.E. Asia and is working closely with them to bring about the closure of bile farms in Vietnam and Laos.

Free The Bears Fund employs local people to care for the bears in the sanctuaries thus helping to address the poverty issues.

100% of all donations and sponsorships go directly to care for the bears.

– Mary Hutton, Founder
Free the Bears Foundation

<http://www.freethebears.org.au/>





Special Feature: Grevillea Woolly Bear[®] Mian

*A new Grevillea ~
with a special purpose.*

*By Sue Forrester & Bill Molyneux,
Australora Pty Ltd, Dixons Creek,
Victoria ***

Out there in the bush

You'd think the chances of finding a brand new species of Grevillea ~ new to science, new to horticulture ~ at the start of the 21st century would be pretty low. After all, surely every bit of Australia has already been walked over by somebody with a keen botanical eye.

But about eight years ago that's exactly what happened. A packet of plant material arrived in our mail box, with a question mark on the slip of paper included. It took about five minutes for us to be certain that what we held in our hands was something completely new to Australia's botanical records.

In a locality not particularly off the beaten track, on a mountain top in north east Victoria, a population of a stunningly lovely grevillea had been noted by an observant orchid photographer, and specimens duly sent to us for identification. It was clearly a grevillea which bore a relationship to the Royal Grevillea (*G. victoriae*), but was in fact vastly different in many characteristics.

Three survey trips later during subsequent years and the mystery plant was given its scientific name, detailed in a botanical paper



Grevillea Woolly Bear Mian

co-authored by Bill Molyneux and a botanist colleague at the Melbourne Herbarium.

The outstanding feature of its flowers ~ apart from their vivid burnt-orange colour and fist-size bunches ~ is their mantle of rusty-gold 'fur'. Thus the plant was named *Grevillea callichlaena*, meaning 'lovely cloak' (calli = lovely, chlaena = cloak or covering).

During the preparation of the botanical paper, we often referred to the plant colloquially as 'Woolly Bear'. The name became a shorthand tag in our many discussions; it was a bit more romantic than 'that new grevillea we're working on ...'

And what about the garden?

With the market demand higher than ever for plants which tolerate dry conditions, attract honeyeaters, and fill a range of landscape design criteria, we very quickly recognized that here was a plant which ticked all those boxes. It slots into that 'small to medium' shrub size, around a metre high and wide, perhaps a little more

but can be pruned very easily. Add to that its neon-bright flowers which match any of the showy members of this genus, and soft grey-green foliage adorned with silky purple new tips, and we constantly asked ourselves how it could possibly have been overlooked since botanical exploration of Australia began?

With a small amount of cutting material, some early propagation trials were made and a few plants struck. At this stage, the thinking was that it would be a fine landscape plant that would readily adapt to gardens and add a great deal to the urban environment.

But as these baby plants developed into sturdy youngsters and industry colleagues were also impressed with their appearance, our thinking stretched.

Perhaps this startling new plant could achieve an even higher purpose than just filling a spot in our gardens?



Mian the rescued sun bear cub

