

# Golden

Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society  
Latrobe Valley Group Inc.  
No. A0045337C

Issue No. 323 – September 2023

*Grevillea chrysophaea* – Golden Grevillea

## This Month

- Event      A talk and slide show on Antarctica by Jan Workman.  
Location    **Morwell Senior Citizens Centre – 2-4 Maryvale Crescent, Morwell.**  
              **Near the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden.**  
Date        Thursday September 28.  
Time        2 PM

Earlier this year Jan was on a tour to Antarctica. Although I don't expect many photos of plants, I imagine there will be many interesting and spectacular scenes to see.

**PLEASE NOTE: We are trialling a new venue, the Morwell Senior Citizens Centre at 2 Maryvale Crescent, Morwell. This is near the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden.**

The meeting is not until late in September due to Jan's availability, so I will send out a reminder later in the month.

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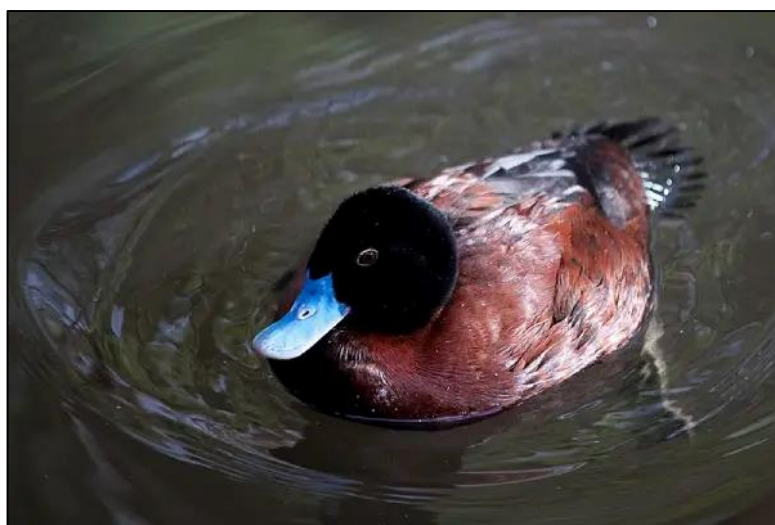
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**C**ongratulations to our new committee consisting of familiar faces. Our new leader Jan is off on one of her many interesting trips and will be sending us snippets from time to time. I was missing in action for our AGM but pleased to still be 'on the team'. Winter is almost a memory. As I drive around the Valley appreciating the sea of green, I cross my fingers that the dire predictions for a long hot summer are exaggerated.

One particular gem in Traralgon is the Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve, 'The Res'. Glowing green and gold and teeming with birds including the Blue-beaked Duck, *Oxyura australis*. As breeding time is imminent, the males' normally slate blue beak shines bright blue, offsetting his deep chestnut plumage. The plumage of females, as often with birds, remains black with brown tips. The resident pair of adult black swans are quite aggressive at the moment. Our friend Doris was bailed up recently as she was carrying a picnic basket.

Gardening Australia has returned to our TV screens and is regularly featuring articles regarding native plants as they did last season. Native orchids were on display at the recent Orchid Exhibition at Mid Valley Shopping Centre.

Details of the programme for the rest of the year are below and I look forward to seeing you all there.



2023 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar				
Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
Sept	Thursday	28	Antarctica talk and slide show by Jan Workman <i>Note: this will be held in a new venue, Morwell Senior Citizens Centre - 2-4 Maryvale Crescent, Morwell</i>	2 PM
Oct	Fri - Sun	27 to 29	A trip to Blackwood/Wombat State Forest/Melton Botanic Gardens, staying at Blackwood.	
Jan	Mon-Fri	15 to 19	Trip to Mt Baw Baw staying at Edski Lodge. Pencil this one into your calendar.	
<i>If you have any ideas for possible speakers, subjects, places to go, please let us know.</i>				

**W**ith aches and pains increasingly letting me know that I am pushing the limits of maintaining a large native garden on a steep bush block, the rewards of views into Australian nature are ever more valuable. Just the other morning as I was carrying out my ablutions in the ensuite, I could hear a Lyrebird singing close by. A careful peek out the bedroom window showed a male Lyrebird displaying to a female, something I have only seen about three times in my life, never before on our block, and certainly NEVER in our garden! It does somehow pay for the tidy-up work I have to do after they have been foraging in the garden.

The last few weeks I have been very busy trying to catch up on about four months of garden neglect; weeding, pruning, planting, and mulching. It has been slow and frustrating progress, but I am gradually getting it to some sort of conclusion.

To open up some more garden space, I have removed a prostrate Hop Bush (*Dodonaea* sp.) ground cover. This has provided effective ground cover that suppresses weeds, but the flowers are insignificant. In addition, it had sprawled into an area that receives full shade in the winter, with the result that the leaves get mildew and drop off. With the ground cover removed, and a few rocks added for lizard habitat, it is turned into a *Brachyscombe* daisy patch with various varieties



mixed to provide a range of little daisy flowers from white, through pinks and purples. Of course, my usual plant guards had to be installed to prevent those aforementioned pesky Lyrebirds from scratching them out or covering them with mulch! You can see the shadow line of the house and how it affects this area in winter.

Part of this garden make-over involved removing a Vanilla Lilly that had been beside the path for many years. It was a fine-looking plant and flowered well but the flowers always drooped over the path. I dug the tubers out with the collection shown in the photo. A great harvest, you might think, but I have tried roasting these before, and I can tell you they will not be on the menu while I can still buy carrots at the local supermarket!

The wattles in the garden and the bush are now flowering or have flowered. Golden Wattle (*A. pycnantha*) is living up to its name, standing as a tower of shining gold in the sunlight. My few remaining Boronias are filling the air with scent, *Hakea varia* is showing its delicate creamy flowers, and yes, those leaves are as vicious as they look.



**Species:** *Pomaderris elliptica*.

**Family:** Rhamnaceae.

**Derivation:**

*Pomaderris*: From Greek *poma*, meaning "lid or cover", plus *derris*, meaning "a covering of leather or skin", referring to the membranous valves of the fruit.

*elliptica*: From Greek *ellipticus*, meaning "having the form of an ellipse".

**Common Name:** None.

**Distribution:** From the northern coast and ranges of NSW, southwards into Victoria and west as far as the Brisbane Ranges, and also in Tasmania, usually on granitic soils.

**Description:** A small to medium shrub, with spreading to ascending branches, up to 4m tall with a 3m spread. Leaves are up to 9cm long x 4.5cm wide, narrowly elliptical to ovate, mid-green and hairless on the upper surface, whitish and hairy underneath, with prominent venation. Flowers occur in springtime and are small individually, but they form in hemispherical or pyramidal terminal panicles to 12cm across, pale yellow in colour, and are profuse and conspicuous.

**Opinion:** This is another plant consigned to history at this point, having died of what I think was old age. Over the last 2 or 3 seasons it became progressively thinner in canopy, some outer branches died back, and main branches began splitting in the junctions, so I was eventually forced to remove it completely. It was probably two decades old when it died and was about 4m tall and wide on the western wall of the house. Possibly it was a bit too warm and dry for it (as an understory forest species) over summer, but it had shade and protection from the taller plants growing on the boundary fence. Over the years, several seedlings had germinated in the garden around it, some of which I successfully transplanted into pots, but none have survived to this day. So, I'm hoping and waiting for another seedling to pop up, to continue this species' presence in the garden. ►





Seems a bit chancy, you may think, but Pomaderris species are notoriously difficult to propagate from either cuttings or seed and I've tried many a time to get various species going, including this one, with absolutely no success in my imperfect conditions. The best I've ever done is with a Velvet Pomaderris that struck from one of several dozen cuttings, survived to about 30cm in a pot for a couple of years, was planted in the garden, grew to about 60cm tall over the next couple of years, then dropped dead just as it was about to flower for the first time. Rats! No others have even come close to surviving for that length of time.

**Sources:** Elliot & Jones - Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 7.  
Corrick & Fuhrer - Wildflowers of Victoria.  
Sharr - WA Plant Names and their Meanings.  
Online - VicFlora: Flora of Victoria, PlantNET: NSW Flora Online.

## *October Blackwood Trip.*

**R**emember we have booked the Blackwood Outdoor Education Centre's 'The Residence' (24 beds in 5 bedrooms) to arrive **Friday, October 27** and depart **Sunday, October 29** for a total cost of \$450 for the whole weekend (regardless of how many attend) to be invoiced after the event. If members wish to refresh their memories, here's the website <https://www.blackwoodssoec.vic.edu.au/>. At this stage we have 3 couples confirmed as going. If we have more than 5 member-groups who wish to attend, then it will be handy if people are willing to share bedrooms. Cathy and Mike can take the motorhome and park it in the driveway if we need to free up a room. If members attend but don't want to stay at The Residence, we'll have to consider how to divide the costs. Let Mike know if you need any other info.

## Justifying not weeding.

By Daryl Radnell

[Daryl and Judy have been holidaying in Great Britain and have come across public parks in Yorkshire that actually set aside patches that remain unmown and would often be described as being full of 'weeds'. I know this is not a 'native plants' article, but perhaps we should be doing this more often in our gardens and parks with our own native 'weeds'. Here is Daryl's take on it. Ed.]

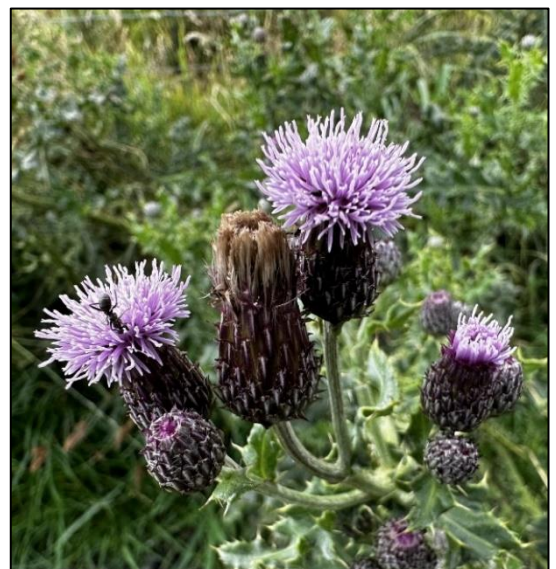
These pics are probably of no use for the newsletter being all English wildflowers (weeds), but here's a small selection of what we saw. The first pic is in a park looking toward York Cathedral, but the interesting part is the roped off areas that are unmown.



This is to allow food and habitat for the pollinators. We saw examples of this throughout Yorkshire, even on their roundabouts on the highways. A good reason (excuse?) not to go overboard on the

weeding. The 2nd shot is a closer look at one of the pollinators areas.

The photos below are, left to right, Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Bellflower (*Campanula* sp.) and Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium* sp.)



## Coming events of interest

**Note: Please check the Vic APS website for cancellations before attending.,**

**2 September 2023** – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Acoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick, from 9 am to 3 pm. To be located in the undercover fruit and vegetable market area.

**9 & 10 September 2023** – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days.

**16 & 17 September 2023** – Angair Wildflower Show & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea. 10 am to 4 pm. Wildflower display, indigenous plant sales, art show and painting sales.

**23 & 24 September 2023** – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory College, Kairn Road, Strathdale (Bendigo).

**23 & 24 September 2023** – APS Grampians host APS Vic September COMM

**30 September & 1 October 2023** – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

**7 October 2023** – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9 am to 4 pm. Flower show, native plant sales, basket weaving display, floral art and painting sales.

**7 & 8 October 2023** – Open Days at Currency Creek Arboretum, South Australia. 9 am to 4.30 pm.

**14 October 2023** – APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale. Wallan Community Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan. From 9 am to 3 pm.

**21 & 22 October 2023** - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

**21 & 22 October 2023** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

**20th April 2024** - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn plant sale. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am-4pm

**14 & 15 September 2024** APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am - 4pm

**30 September to 4 October, 2024** – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria in Melbourne.



Rainfall for 2022 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	67	30	81	94	60	170	90	198	60	172	193	89	1302
Brian	Drouin (east)	74	11	76	86	75	145	77	199	66	199	183	95	1286
Warren	Yarragon	107	5	55	68	58	191	97	163	64	144	196	107	1253
Wayne	Tanjil South	83	15	63	98	107	130	74	161	96	203	138	127	1295
Peter	Mirboo North	62	8	67	68	50	150	88	189	73	136	157	66	1113
Judy	Moe South	73	13	64	55	93	209	72	165	67	128	236	89	1264
Mike	Boolarra	72	6	74	60	54	162	69	166	66	119	168	94	1108
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	68	11	85	75	46	164	72	161	62	133	171	85	1131
John	Traralgon South	88	10	31	56	28	175	50	136	49	126	146	54	949

Rainfall for 2023 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	21	42	101	112	114	102	41						532
Brian	Drouin (east)	22	44	110	93	118	101	38						526
Warren	Yarragon	49	35	80	69	119	138	36						526
Wayne	Tanjil South	25	43	100	77	131	126							502
Peter	Mirboo North	35	57	113	96	132	94	32						559
Judy	Moe South	26	33	80	66	126	101	86						518
Mike	Boolarra	20	43	114	61	113	101	44						495
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	24	36	94	65	122	91	26						458
John	Traralgon South													0

<https://apsvic.org.au/aps-latrobe-valley/>

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Golden Grevillea  
*Grevillea chrysophaea*

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**Title page photo: *Grevillea chrysophaea* at Holey Plains State Park by Mike Beamish**