

Golden

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

Issue No. 325 – November 2023

Grevillea chrysophaea – Golden Grevillea

This Month

Event Christmas Break-up.
Location Jackson's residence – 130 Tebb Terrace, Jeeralang Junction.
Date Saturday 18th of November
Time 2 PM onwards

With no planned events and an early start to our new year due to the Edski trip (see page 5) it was decided to have our Christmas break-up in November. The venue is the Jackson's place, arrive anytime from 2 PM for a garden walk, drinks and chat. We are aiming for dinner at about 5ish. Bring your own food; for cooking there are hotplates, oven, microwave oven, and woodfired BBQ plate available. Bring along your own outdoor chairs just to be sure.

In this issue:

Page

- 2 Leader's Report – Jan Workman
- 3 Editor's Notes – Col Jackson
- 4 - 5 Plants in my Garden – Mike Beamish
- 5 APS Latrobe Valley Calendars
- 5 January Meeting Reminder – Mt Baw Baw Edski Lodge
- 6 A squatter in the spare room – Daryl Radnell
- 6 September meeting report – Jill Fidler
- 6 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar
- 7 - 10 A Spring welcome home – Daryl Radnell
- 11 Coming events of interest
- 11 Rainfall registration charts

Part 2 of 'My Meanderings' is about some of the things I found interesting on my way up to Byron Bay.

There are some old relics of Australia's first Blast Furnace at Mittagong. It started off as a cold-air blast furnace in 1863 but failed to meet expectations. By 1864 it had been converted into a hot-air blast furnace.

The Iron works had a checkered history of never quite meeting expectations and seemingly lots of ironmongers invested good money after bad trying to make a profit from this installation. In 1874 a British engineer refurbished the ironworks only to close it down 3 years later due to limited output resulting in investors shares being worthless.

At North Ryde I discovered a pedestrian bridge constructed in the form of a helix.



The new (huge) bridge over the Clarence River has some amazing artwork on four of the pillars and are known as the sentinels.



Lake Alexandra near Mittagong is a beautiful setting for family gatherings and picnics. It also displays information of the local inhabitants including the native and unfortunately one non-native turtle species.

As you walk around the lake you learn about the life cycle of the turtles and how to protect and spot a turtle. Once a year a community turtle count is conducted with the focus being on encouraging as many children as possible to be involved. Schools and community groups are a big focus for this yearly event.

I am writing this from Patong, Thailand so must give my apologies for not attending October's trip away.

Regards to all, Jan.

Although not a 'high rainfall' spring, at least we had enough in September to keep the garden moving along well on its own. My fill-in paper daisies planted in August and early September have all taken off and have got plenty of lush leaf growth. The Kangaroo Paws (*Anigosanthos* ssp.) are reaching for the sky with stems of 1 to 2 metres and the buds are really starting to show promise for some good colour.



My Wollemi Pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) has made slow and troubled progress since I planted it out about 10 years ago. The usual pesky herbivores have stunted its growth and I suspect it would rather have better drained soil. Despite this it has put on slow but steady growth and now stands about 1.8 metres high. For the first time, this year it has put on cones. A little research has informed me that these are the male cones.



Apparently, the female cones (when it decides to have them) come out on higher branches than the male ones and are globular in shape.

There is plenty of outstanding flowering happening all round the garden. A spread of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* is growing around rocks, complemented with these beautiful blue flowers of *Orthrosanthus polystachyus* standing tall above



Another small project I finally got around to doing is in the photo at right. I half-buried an old broken ceramic pot in the rocky bank in the hope that it will provide a bit of sandy, free-draining soil for some Parakeelyas (*Calandrinia reticulata*). These are plants that should have gone in the ground last year and were looking pretty sick, however, since being in their new home they have started putting on a lot of new growth.

For lots of photos of some fantastic spring flowering, check out Daryl's article further on in the newsletter.



Species: *Correa eburnea*.

Family: Rutaceae.

Derivation:

Correa: Named after Jose Francisco Correa de Serra (1751-1823), permanent secretary, Royal Academy of Sciences, Lisbon, Portugal.

eburnea: From Latin *eburneus*, meaning "resembling ivory in colour", referring to the ivory-white or cream-coloured hairs on the leaves and calyx.

Common Name: Deep Creek Correa.

Distribution: Restricted to the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia, where it occurs in coastal areas between Deep Creek Conservation Park and Waitpinga and in the Gorge River between Second Valley and Yankalilla.

Description: A large spreading shrub to 4m tall in ideal conditions. The mid-green, papery, ovate leaves are up to 50mm long, with a smooth, glossy and indented upper surface and covered in fine cream-coloured hairs underneath. Flowers are up to 25mm long, tubular, with barely recurved tips and exerted anthers, held between a pair of apple-green, round to heart-shaped, leafy bracts. Flower colour is pale green fading to cream towards the tips.



Opinion: My specimen is in the front garden bed in quite heavy shade, underneath the White Cedar. It was given to me as a gift for providing a presentation to a sister Australian Plants Society group a few years back and is now about 1.5m high and spreading a couple of metres, including over the adjacent pathway. Yes, it's on the list for pruning, along with a lot of other plants growing along that pathway, so there will be an opportunity for a bunch of cuttings in the not-too-distant future. Apparently, cuttings will strike fairly easily in the warmer seasons, but there is not a lot of information out there on its cultivation ►

requirements, as although it was known of back in the 1930's, it was only collected and described in the 1990's and only a few enthusiasts are growing it. My plant looks healthy enough but seems to be a bit brittle, with some branches splitting from the main trunks. Maybe it's the weight of the foliage or perhaps it's the neighbourhood wandering cats jumping all over it in pursuit of the honeyeaters that come in for a feed.

Sources: Hitchcock: Correas – Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens

Latrobe Valley APS 2024 calendars.

The 2024 calendars have arrived and are with the Jacksons. They are now available for purchase at \$15 each and can be picked up from the Jackson's at the November meeting (or at any other time by arrangement).

Here is a sneak preview...



January meeting reminder – Mt Baw Baw Edski Lodge

This is a reminder that we have a confirmed booking for the Edski Lodge on Mt Baw Baw from Monday, January 15th to Friday, January 19th, 2024 (4 nights).

Last year a few members joined the Native Orchid Society at Baw Baw in January and found that there were not only orchids, but many other native plants flowering at this time of year. At night we were also intrigued by the moths and insects that were attracted to the lights.

There are 10 bedrooms available with various arrangements of double beds (3 rooms) and single bunks, for a capacity of 36 guests per night. Mattresses and pillows are provided, but all bedlinen (sheets, pillowcases, blankets, doonas, etc), towels, toiletries and food must be brought along by guests. Kitchen and living areas are communal and separate male/female ablution blocks are installed.

At this stage we have 12 people confirmed as coming and have 7 bedrooms dedicated. There are still 3 remaining bedrooms available. With 12 people the cost works out at about \$150 **per person** for the entire stay of 5 days/4 nights and would reduce if more people come. If you would like to come, call Col Jackson on 0429095527.

The full Edski information pack has been attached to the newsletter email as a PDF attachment.

A squatter in the spare room.

By Daryl Radnell

While Judy and I were away overseas for a month this mother-to-be moved in and made herself at home, (and a home), in one of our storage rooms. She is a smart lady because the room is used to store different fibres for basket making etc. so she had a ready source of nesting materials at hand, or beak. She is a Grey Shrike-thrush and I think she is sitting on eggs. We watch her fly in and out from our kitchen table which is quite enjoyable. She announces her arrival with loud calls and then flies to her nest after having a look around. Apparently, it is not uncommon for them to nest near people as we give them a sense of protection from predators.



September meeting report

By Jill Fidler

Our new Leader Jan Workman is off to a flying start. Fourteen members were at the Rose Garden meeting room in Morwell to hear about her recent trip to Antarctica. Jan is an enthusiastic traveller, and we look forward to more news of her adventures. We were pleased to see Meg who hasn't been able to come to our meetings lately. I mention this, as, coincidentally she has also been to Antarctica, and they were able to compare notes. I'm sure those who came were happy with the venue. We feel it is a very good fit for our needs, a good size for our group, hot water, and fridge available, and in a relatively central for members. It is owned by the council for local organisations and is available to us on a book as we need basis. Hope to see you in November, Jill Fidler

2023 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
Nov	Sat	18	Christmas break-up at Jackson's. Starting at 2PM for a garden walk, drinks and chat. BYO meal, cooking available on stove top, oven, microwave oven or wood fired BBQ.	2PM
Dec			No event as there is an early start to the year in January at Baw Baw.	
Jan 2024	Mon-Fri	15 to 19	Trip to Mt Baw Baw staying at Edski Lodge. There are still rooms available, the price is currently \$150 per person, but will reduce if more come. See page 5 for more detail.	
If you have any ideas for possible speakers, subjects, places to go, please let us know.				

A Spring welcome home.

By Daryl Radnell

We came home after being overseas for over a month expecting a rather uninspiring garden. However, we were pleasantly surprised by the number of plants in flower. All these plants are in my 'crop-circle' garden, and this is only some of them. Needless to say, the rabbits have been busy, and the weeds will give me heaps to do when the rain eventually stops. Here is a good sample of what is going on in the garden. ▶





Banksia caleyi



Grevillea 'Shirley Howie'



Westringia fruticosa 'Smoky'



Grevillea 'Winpara Gold'



Hakea salicifolia



Banksia robur



Dendrobium speciosum



Grevillea rosmarinifolia 'Scarlet Sprite'



Westringia sp.



Westringia fruticosa



Grevillea 'Ned Kelly'



Westringia sp.



Grevillea 'Red Sunset'



Kunzea baxteri



Darwinia citriodora



Melaleuca diosmifolia

Coming events of interest

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

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

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	66	66				664
Brian	Drouin (east)	22	44	110	93	118	101	38	70	68				664
Warren	Yarragon	49	35	80	69	119	138	36	71	78				675
Wayne	Tanjil South	25	43	100	77	131	126							502
Peter	Mirboo North	35	57	113	96	132	94	32	59	57				675
Judy	Moe South	26	33	80	66	126	101	86						518
Mike	Boolarra	20	43	114	61	113	101	44	62	55				612
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	24	36	94	65	122	91	26	51	58				566

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

Leader:	Jan Workman	0429029279	jantw@y7mail.com
Deputy-leader:	Jill Fidler	0407871603	jillsgarden71@gmail.com
Secretary:	Cathy Beamish	0459196543	cathy.beamish@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Mike Beamish	0447452755	mcandcjb@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Col Jackson	0429095527	coljackson57@hotmail.com
Librarian:	Pamela Cox	0429194733	theroseglen@yahoo.com.au
Publicity	Delma Hodges	0408398385	rj3dh2@aussiebb.com.au



COPYRIGHT: ARTICLES OR INFORMATION ARE NEEDED FOR EVERY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOURCE AND ORIGINAL AUTHOR. SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR; note SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH. MEMBERSHIP FEES; per ANNUM: TO BE PAID BY 30TH JUNE FOR BOTH LATROBE VALLEY GROUP Inc. AND AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP Victoria) Inc.

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