

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

April 2020

Volume 7, Issue 3

April news...!

Hello and welcome to our April 2020 edition!

What a difference a month and the ongoing COVID-19 situation makes. First up, I sincerely hope our newsletter finds all our readers in good health and safely ensconced at home wherever, and as much as possible.

In line with current government health advice our meetings and gatherings will be in hibernation until further notice, see various notices at right and pages 2 and 11.

Without our regular meetings, and therefore meeting reports, our newsletter will be looking somewhat different than usual for possibly some months. However, that doesn't mean it has to stop. I am happy to spend my regular time at the keyboard, assembling a bit of reading, and hopefully plenty of images to share with everyone. But, I will be looking for a great deal of help from our members and friends...

It doesn't need to be much, just a photo of something in flower, or of interest, from your gardens, and a line or two; This can be just a



Marianthus bicolor Photo: J. Petts

species name, or more if you feel like it. So, if as many of you as possible can please send in just one little thing each month, I can put a few pages together for the interest of all.

The May newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday May 11th.

I would dearly love to hear from a goodly number of members and friends, so please send contributions in by Monday May 4th. Email to:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Stay healthy, safe, happy in your gardens & cheers until next time, Jeanine

Inside this issue:

General Meeting Information Pg 2

Membership Pg 2

Gardens for Wildlife Pg 2

March Meeting Report—Plan B: Expanded Flower Table Pg 3

Cuttings from a specimen table... Pg 9

Reminders, APS Vic Diary Dates etc... Committee & Contact Information Pg 11

Facebook Group

Expression of interest???

How many of our members use Facebook?

What? If anything?, do you think of creating an APS Mitchell Members & Friends Facebook Group to communicate and interact with each other via?

It would, of course, be subject to there being enough interest, and then finding a volunteer Facebook user, or two, maybe 3, to set up and administer such a group page.

Unfortunately, the committee doesn't have a lot of experience or skill in this arena, or ongoing time to devote to it. We would need any avid Facebook users amongst the group to step forward to help make this happen.

Please email your thoughts on the topic or interest in volunteering as our resident Facebook guru/s to:

Jeanine: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Mitchell Diary Dates..

Due to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation, all group meetings, outings and gatherings are suspended until further notice.

The following dates remaining in the diary are subject to potential postponement or cancellation, being wholly dependent upon government health advice and instruction of the time:

- **1st Weekend in October - Garden Visit: The garden of Dawn McCormack Heathcote Junction. Date & details to be advised.**
- **Saturday October 17th, Spring Plant Expo & Sale Kilmore Memorial Hall, Sydney St Kilmore**



Gardens for Wildlife News...

If anyone is interested in topic of nest boxes, a paper written by Phoebe Macak, Wildlife Ecology Scientist at the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, "Nest boxes for wildlife in Victoria: An overview of nest box distribution and use" has just been published in The Victorian Naturalist Volume 137 Issue 1 (Feb 2020) and is available for an \$8.00 fee. The paper is based on the results from the [Looking for nest boxes in Victoria project](#) 2018 (Biodiversity On-ground Actions – Regional Partnerships Landscapes and Targeted Action program), and looks at who is installing nest boxes, where, what fauna they aim to target, and the monitoring undertaken. A range of resources can be found at:

<https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/research/people-and-nature/use-of-nest-boxes-in-victoria> where you will find Links to:

The paper mentioned above: Macak, P.V. (2020) Nest boxes for wildlife in Victoria: an overview of nest box distribution and use. The Victorian Naturalist 137(1): 4-14

Results summarised in a booklet (free to download in PDF or DOCX): *How many nest boxes are in Victoria? – project and results summary (PDF, 1.5 MB)*

Two fact sheets on nest boxes (general guide and monitoring) (free to download in PDF or DOCX):

Use of nest boxes fact sheet – general guide

Learning from nest boxes fact sheet – monitoring and storing data



Bat Box installed at Melton Botanic Garden.
Photo: J Petts

**MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE
3rd MONDAY OF THE MONTH
(February to November)
unless otherwise advised**

**Commencing 7:30 pm in the
John Taylor Room, Kilmore
Library, Sydney Street,
Kilmore Vic 3764**

Entry \$2.00 Gold Coin

Guest Speaker

Door Prizes

Plant Sales

**Use of the APS Mitchell free
Library**

Supper & Chat

VISITORS VERY WELCOME

Members & Visitors are
encouraged to bring along
exhibits for our "Show & Tell"
Flower Specimen Table

Please label plants



Meetings Postponed until further notice...

Owing to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation;

All meetings, outings and gatherings of APS Mitchell District Group are suspended until further notice.

Further advice regarding APS Mitchell activities will be provided via monthly newsletters and/or email.

In the interim, keep busy in your gardens and around your homes, stay safe and healthy.

We'll be looking forward to seeing everyone hale & hearty in the future, hearing about how your plants have grown, gardens progressed, and any other projects you may have undertaken. We will plan to resume activities as soon as government health department advice and instruction declares conditions safe for social gatherings and acceptable to resume.



Ptilotus spathulatus - Pussy Tails
Photo: J Petts

Memberships...

For all membership enquiries, information and forms and please contact Christine Cram: Phone: 5793 8270 or Email to the attention of the

Membership Officer: aps.mitchell@gmail.com

Membership information, forms and contact information can also be found at our website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

March Meeting Report— Plan B: Expanded flower table...

By Jeanine Petts

Sometimes things just don't go as planned, and our March meeting turned out to be no exception. After receiving an early afternoon phone call from our Guest Speaker, who, reluctantly, but prudently, cancelled his attendance due to concerns regarding the developing Covid-19 situation, Norbert quickly came up with a plan B: To host an extended specimen flower table discussion for the evening instead. A flurry of behind the scenes activity and organising then ensued, with messages and emails being sent out, resulting in a number of members heading out into their gardens to snip specimens. Yours truly also snapped some photos along the way, then threw together a quick photo gallery and a short PowerPoint slide show (just lucky the usual cake baking had been done in the morning).

As was potentially anticipated, only 11 members turned out for the meeting. Very fortunately bringing with them plenty of floral specimens to share & discuss. A certain someone, had forgotten their notebook, and was very kindly given a spare note book by our newest member Maureen T, who had just joined that evening – A very big and special many thanks to Maureen!!! For without this very much appreciated and generous gesture, meeting notes would have been scribbled on the backs of whatever scraps of paper could have been scrounged from the depths of one's handbag.

After having a little more time than usual to sign in and organise a pre meeting cuppa etc., Norbert called us together and opened our decidedly casual feeling meeting. He began by saying we were possibly on the cusp of suspending meetings for a while, and also explained we had no plant sales for the evening as Mike Williams was currently recovering from minor surgery (Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mike Williams. Ed.).

Dawn B, Bill, Ian & Christine, Norbert, Susan* (*apologies if I have misremembered your name), and myself had all brought specimens to share and discuss. Susan's, specimen, an Elephants Tongue, while not a native, was lovely to see for it being something quite different from usual, and was of great interest to hear, how well it grows, it's ease of propagation and the size it's leaves can potentially grow to (as vouched by Christine who has a large specimen growing). As I had managed to cobble together a slideshow presentation, I ended up leading the way with our native specimens of the evening, beginning with:

Anigozanthos flavidus Hybrid Pink, a Clumping perennial with strap-like leaves & flower spikes up to 70cm in summer/autumn. Suits most well drained soils and an open position. Can be divided. Extra moisture in dry periods is beneficial for better flowering. Currently in a second flush of flowering.

Marianthus bicolor, a Non-vigorous twining climber growing to 1m x 1m. White flowers with violet streaks October - June. Suits most soils grow in part shade - sun.

Viola hederacea - Native Violet, a creeping ground cover that grows in sun or shade that does best in moist clay soil. An adaptable fast growing, dense, mat forming plant with long runners. Bears white - mauve flowers most of the year.

Pelargonium rodneyanum - Magenta Stork's Bill, is a local/regional species that grows in full sun-partial shade with a preference for dry-moist well drained soil. A showy perennial herb that grows to 30cm, spreads and self-seeds readily in suitable sites. Bears magenta flowers October - February (sometimes longer), and makes a very attractive wild-flower border plant.

Correa 'Little Cate' *C. pulchella* Cultivar – A lovely, autumn flowering shrub, just coming into flower in March. It grows to a spread of 50-60cm X 1-1.5m., and is suited to growing in full sun - part shade, preferring well drained soil. It is both drought and frost hardy, also bird attracting. A moderately dense, spreading



Anigozanthos flavidus

Hybrid Pink

Photo: J Petts



Viola hederacea

Photo: J Petts



Correa 'Little Cate'

Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 4)

March Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

shrub with dark green, rounded leaves. The bright pink flowers are profuse and prominently displayed. Flowering continues for a long period, peaking between April and July. This cultivar arose as a seedling on a grazing property in the granite hill country northeast of Boorowa, NSW. It is easily propagated from cuttings and its cultivation requirements are the same for other selections of *C. pulchella*. It also performs well in acid (pH 4.5) soil conditions. Occasional tip pruning will keep plant dense.

Correa glabra – Rock Correa, another regional species that grows in full sun, is also shade tolerant and prefers well drained soil. A shrub ranging in height & spread to 1.5 x 2m or more. It is fast growing and adapts to most soils. Although shade tolerant it does best in full sun. Pale green, bell shaped flowers are produced autumn – winter. It makes an excellent hedge or screen plant, and responds well to pruning. Self-seeded specimens in my garden have been used to line either side of the driveway.

Correa alba – White Correa, an adaptable, shrub with thick, rounded, grey-green leaves, that grows to 1.5m high x 1m wide, and can become “leggy” without pruning. It will grow in full sun - part shade, and is a very hardy, versatile plant tolerating a wide range of situations including coastal conditions and frost. Best results occur when planted in fertile well drained soil in a full sun to partly shaded situation. Pretty, white flowers occur from late summer to early winter. Tip pruning encourages bushiness and it is suitable for mass planting and bird attracting.

Xerochrysum viscosum - Sticky Everlasting, a widespread local and regional perennial daisy species that will readily self-seed in the garden if given opportunity. Grows to around 0.60m x 0.40m in full sun to semi shade. Garden specimens growing in full sun will often become a fuller more floriferous plant than some generally seen in the bush. They are drought tolerant, frost hardy and suitable for cut flowers. The bright yellow papery flowers occur over a long period from Spring and through Summer.

Calotis scapigera - Tufted Burr Daisy, a vigorous, mat forming ground cover found in Melbourne’s Western Plains, Northern Corridor, other regional areas across Victoria, and other states except Tasmania and the Northern Territory. It prefers a sunny position in moist, heavy, basalt clay soils, and also tolerates semi-shaded sites. Grows to a height of 0.20m and will spread 1m or more, by sending out runners that root at the node. White, 15mm wide, butterfly attracting flowers with a yellow center occur from Spring and throughout Summer. Burrs do transport readily by attaching to clothing etc.

Scaevola aemula - Fairy Fan-flower, is a variable ground cover plant growing to 0.15-0.20 high x 0.5 wide with somewhat succulent leaves that will slowly and quietly sucker and spread through the garden. It grows in full sun, preferring a well-drained soil. Bearing masses of bee attracting, purple-mauve, fan shaped flowers from early spring into late summer. Frost tolerant to a degree, but will be burnt back by heavy frosts and then usually grow back quite well.

Correa glabra Var. *Turnbulli*, a shrub growing to 1.5m producing Red and green bell flowers. It suits most soil types, prefers full-partial sun and tolerates both frost and drought.

Eremophila calorhabdos is a very erect sparsely branched shrub growing to 2m, that produces magenta flowers in spring and summer. Grow in full sun.

Pembertonia latisquamea (Syn *Brachyscome latisquamea*), is a small shrub to climbing scrambler to growing to 1.5m. It prefers an open, sunny to part shade position in Light to medium soil. Mauve to



Calotis scapigera
Photo: J Petts



Eremophila calorhabdos
Photo: J Petts



Pembertonia latisquamea Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 5)

March Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

pink flowers up to 5cm across are produced July to October. Also known as the Shark Bay or Climbing Daisy, it will climb/scramble over adjacent obstacles and is drought and frost resistant.

Grevillea rhyolitica x victoriae, a hybrid cross (cultivar name not supplied at time of purchase) forming rounded shrub potentially growing to 1.5m x 1.5m, which, is recommended for a full sun-semi shade site. Red flowers are produced most of the year with the main flush Autumn-Spring. It is frost hardy.

Ptilotus spathulatus - Pussy Tails, a tufted perennial herbaceous ground cover plant that grows 0.20m x 0.30-0.80m. Suited to a well-drained, open site in full sun. The interesting, yellow-green, fluffy flowerheads occur August to March. It needs hot sunny site to flower well.

Grevillea humilis "Little Princess" - This lovely, low growing, pink flowering cultivar came courtesy of Ray Brown at the Illawarra Grevillea park. It is a small plant that produces its delicate pink flowers much of the year.

Acacia pendula - Weeping Myall, is found in Qld, NSW, and Victoria, and noticeable for contrasting foliage. It is naturally found in heavy clay and black soils, and is hardy, and drought resistant when in heavy soils with some moisture. A tree growing to 12m high, by 6m wide with pendulous branches sometimes reaching the ground. It bears inconspicuous, pale lemon flowers in spring, and flowering can be irregular, often influenced by rainfall & soil moisture. Suitable for a sunny site, it is a lovely specimen tree for dry inland areas.

Eucalyptus synandra, is a rare, endangered species from WA. An attractive small Mallee tree growing up to 5 -6 m with an open form, bearing pendulous flowers with pretty pink caps, and stamens that form a tube open a creamy yellow and age to pink. It needs well drained soil, is moderately frost tolerant once established (needs some frost protection when younger).

Olearia ramulosa -Twiggy Daisy Bush, another regional/local species. A fast-growing rounded shrub to 2m x 2m that prefers a sunny aspect in a sheltered position with well drained, drier, gravelly soils. It will grow under Eucalypts in dappled shade, and can be short lived in deep soils. Small, white (rarely pale mauve), butterfly attracting flowers occur throughout the year.

Brachyscome multifida - Cut-leaf Daisy, is a widespread, popular, and widely cultivated, low growing perennial daisy that reaches 0.30m x 1m. It is a very hardy and adaptable ground cover that produces lilac-mauve flowers most of the year. Suitable for a full sun - partial shade site. Annual pruning promotes better flowering.

Pelargonium australe - Austral Stork's Bill, an aromatic sprawling herbaceous perennial with that foliage turns attractive Autumn toning in colder weather. White to mauve flowers much of the year, predominately in Spring and Summer. Prefers a sunny to semi-shaded site in well-drained soil and will self-seed readily.

Melicytus dentatus - Tree Violet, is found locally and regionally. This upright spiny, small-leaved shrub grows to 3m prefers a full sun to semi shaded site in well drained soil. It bears masses of very fragrant, tiny, yellow, bell-shaped flowers August - November that are followed by creamy to purplish berries summer to autumn. The berries are a favoured food source for birds and skinks, who, facilitate the spread of seedlings. An adaptable habitat plant providing screening, shelter, and nesting sites that is naturally found in a range of settings.



Grevillea rhyolitica x victoriae
7 months after planting
from tube stock .

Photo: J Petts



Grevillea humilis 'Little
Princess'

Photo: J Petts



Melicytus dentatus Berries

Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 6)

March Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Banksia baueri - Possum Banksia or Woolly Banksia, is a bird attracting, medium sized, much-branched shrub from W.A. that grows to 2m x 3m. It has tough, toothed leaves, and large unusual flowers almost resembling a furry animal nestling in the leaves. The large flower spikes (30cm x 15-20cm) occur late winter-spring. Suitable for growing in a full sun to light shade site with well drained soil. It tolerates dry conditions and moderate frost.

Acacia glaucoptera (Low growing purple leaved form), is another hardy plant grown for its attractive and unusual foliage. It forms a low, dome shaped shrub growing 1.5-3m wide. A site with good drainage is essential, in full sun to part shade. Yellow flowers occur in spring.

Halgania preissiana "Purple Haze", is a suckering, dwarf shrub growing to 0.3m high x 0.4m wide. Preferring a site in well-drained soil and tolerating dry soils, it likes an aspect with hot overhead sun. Blue flowers are usually produced early spring-late spring.

Dawn Barr took the floor next, and showed the following species from her garden:

Siegfriedia darwinioides, is a very interesting, spreading shrub from southern Western Australia. Dawn has had her specimen growing in a pot for 12 years. Following the bell-like, yellowish-green to mustard-orange coloured, toothed flowers, are rusty coloured bracts, which, are held on the plant for long periods (Feb-Sept), that become an attractive feature.

Maireana sedifolia - Pearl Blue Bush, a highly ornamental and very hardy foliage plant. It needs well-drained soils, plenty of sun, and produces pinkish, pale brown fruits.

Scaevola sp., one blue flowering form, and one pink flowering form. Both are hardy, low growing ground covers that produce masses of flowers. The pink form grows to 0.20m high x 1m wide.

Thryptomene saxicola 'FC Payne', is an very commonly grown selected cultivar of this WA species. However, this is for a very good reason, as it reliably produces an excellent mass display of tiny pink flowers year-round.

Grevillea 'Jubilee', is a *G. alpina* x *rosmarinifolia* hybrid. A fine foliaged, small shrub, producing bunches of waxy golden red flowers during winter, spring, and summer. It is frost hardy, and suited to growing in a full sun - part shade aspect with well-drained soil.

Myoporum parvifolium, is another reliable ground cover that spreads well by layering and grows to cover an area 1m or more. Small, white star flowers are produced in spring and summer, and a well drained, sunny position is preferred.

Anigozanthos flavidus, was also a standout performer in Dawn's garden this year; producing at least 20 flower spikes of 1.5m high.

Calocephalus lacteus - Milk Beauty-heads, another local and regional, low growing, and free flowering perennial species. It has aromatic grey leaves, and produces creamy white flower heads from late spring and throughout summer. Grows best in moist soils in full sun to light shade.

Bill was next to pass around his share of collected specimens (not all species names were known):

Billardiera sp.

2 *Correa* species, one, a cultivar with split bells, was possibly *Correa reflexa* 'Canberra Bells'?

A *Diplolaena* species. Possibly *D. grandiflora*, a great small shrub from Western Australia with



Siegfriedia darwinioides

Image: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/4823>

Photos: T J Alford & A S George



Scaevola sp. Specimens

16/3/2020

Above: Blue. Below: Pink

Photo: J Petts



(Continued on page 7)

March Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 6)

definite wow factor. The red – orange flowers occur in spring, autumn and winter. Needs well-drained soil and a sunny to semi-shaded position.

Epacris longiflora, is a species from coastal New South Wales and South and southeast Queensland that grows as a straggly shrub to 1m. Flowers are red, tubular, 2.5cm long, with white tips, and occur most of the year, with the main flush in spring. It grows in full sun to partial shade, is frost tolerant and bird attracting. They require well drained soil with some moisture.

2 *Crocea* specimens; one white form and the pink flowering *Crocea exalata*. A small shrub of the Rutaceae family bearing star-shaped flowers that occur most of the year, with main flushes in autumn and spring. It is frost hardy, grows in sun to semi-shade, in moist, moderately draining soil.

Ceratopetalum gummiferum - New South Wales Christmas Bush, is an erect shrub to small tree growing to 5-10m high x 2-5m wide. Small white flowers occur in summer, followed by red calyces that are their showy colourful feature. They need moist, well-drained soil, in an almost frost-free site, and prefer a little shade, but colour up best in full sun.

Ian followed on with the following specimens:

Grevillea buxifolia - Grey Spider-flower from NSW grows as an open rounded shrub to 1.5m. Clusters of woolly, grey flowers occur much of the year. It prefers a well-drained soil with a sunny aspect.

Correa baeuerlenii - Chef's-Cap Correa, as its name suggests, the species has a distinctive calyx resembling a chef's cap. The flowers are green, pendulous and occur autumn to spring. Growing to a rounded shrub of 1.5m-2m, it prefers cool, moist, sheltered sites.

Hemiandra pungens - Snakebush, is a species from Western Australia, and a member of the Mint family. It produces showy pink or white flowers all year, and grows best in an open, sunny position with good drainage essential.

Grevillea 'New Blood', is a *G. juniperina* cultivar that forms a low growing spreading shrub to 0.25m high x 1 – 1.5m wide. Deep red flowers occur from Autumn to Spring, and it is frost hardy. Suited to a sunny to lightly shaded position in well-drained soil.

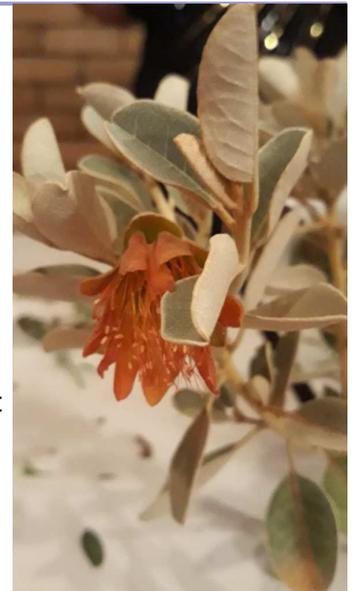
Goodenia ovata - Hop Goodenia, is a fast-growing local species that forms a rounded shrub 1-2.5m x 1-3m, with bright green leaves and bears yellow flowers much of the year. It grows well under trees and copes in a wide range of conditions; full sun to full shade, damp soils, and tolerates some waterlogging.

Grevillea 'Peaches & Cream', is a hybrid cultivar of *G. banksii* and *G. bipinnatifida* that produces bicoloured flowers nearly all year. Growing to 1.2m x 1.5 m, it is tolerant of a wide range of conditions, including humidity, drought, and frost down to –5 °C. Prefers a sunny to light shade aspect.

Chloris truncata - Windmill Grass, a species found locally with distinctive wind-mill shaped seed heads, and an attractive warm season grass that also responds well to grazing. Grows in well drained sites, prefers heavy soils and full sun.

Microlaena stipoides - Weeping Grass, a wide-spread and locally found species. Generally low growing, however, there are some taller than average forms. It is summer active and holds semi-arching, drooping seed-heads to 0.50m (taller forms can reach 1m). Prefers a moist, well-drained, sheltered position in full sun to semi-shade.

Bothriochloa macra - Red-leg Grass, a perennial species found locally



Diplolaena sp. Specimen
16/3/2020 ? *D. grandiflora*.
Photo: J Petts



Grevillea buxifolia
Photo: Brian Walters
<http://anpsa.org.au/g-bux.html>



Hemiandra pungens
Photo: Brian Walters
<http://anpsa.org.au/h-pun.html>



Grevillea 'New Blood'
Image: https://www.bywongnursery.com.au/products/grevillea-new-blood/#product_description_tab

(Continued on page 8)

March Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 7)

that is summer active, having attractive, narrow flowering heads during summer and autumn, and is winter dormant. It is named for its reddish-purple stems and likes sites with moisture and lower slopes. Grows in full sun to semi-shade.

Rumex brownii - Slender Dock or Swamp Dock, is another local perennial, herbaceous species, with 15-20cm x 1-6cm leaves mostly at the base of the stems. While not commonly considered for gardens, it is a plant that provides an important function; by allowing water to penetrate down into the soil via the hole created as its tap root dies and rots. It is also considered a frog friendly plant. Grows in moist soils, full sun to semi-shade.

Norbert was last to take the floor with his collection:

Grevillea 'Pink Surprise', is a hybrid cultivar shrub of *G. whiteana* and *G. banksii* growing to 2m or more. It produces pink, cylindrical, 18cm long flower heads.

Grevillea 'Peaches & Cream'

Grevillea insignis x *georgiana*, a cultivar with leaves as prickly as its parents. Red to deep pink flowers are produced over a long period.

Grevillea maccutcheonii - a densely leaved, spreading shrub growing to 2m. Red spider flowers occur winter to spring.

Grevillea sericea - Pink Spider Flower, an erect medium shrub growing to 1.5m x 1m. It bears clusters of white to pink flowers most of the year. A well-drained soil in a sunny position is recommended, as is regular pruning for best performance.

Grevillea lanigera 'Little Drummer', a low spreading cultivar of the "Woolly Grevillea" that grows to around 0.30m. Produces a mass display of red and yellow flowers over an extended period.

Melaleuca decussata - Totem Poles, a rounded shrub growing to around 2m that bears mauve flowers in late spring and summer.

Prostanthera cryptandroides, a small shrub growing to around 1m. Flowering occurs during the warmer months of the year. Naturally found growing in New South Wales and Queensland, usually in rocky areas of dry Eucalypt woodland.

Chorizema cordatum - Heart-leaved Flame Pea, a widely grown shrub from Western Australia that produces showy orange, yellow and pink flowers winter to spring.

Callistemon 'Injune', a large growing cultivar the reaches 3m with semi-weeping form. Pale pink flowers occur summer and autumn. Grows in full sun to part shade, best in well-drained soil but tolerates dry or poorly drained soils. It is a striking plant when in full flower.

Eucalyptus gregsoniana - Dwarf Snow Gum, a Mallee type species growing 2-4m tall with a rounded crown. It has shiny green leaves, smooth pale bark and is very cold tolerant. White flowers occur in spring and summer.

Olearia lepidophylla - Club-moss Daisy-bush, is an unusual and interesting looking plant with very small stem clasping leaves. Small white daisy flowers occur in summer, and Norbert reports that the plant has a strong (not pleasant) odour. Grows in a full sun to semi-shaded site.

With the show and tell session finished, our last item on evening's agenda was the plant raffle. The 8 prizes came from Gardens for Wildlife stock and a few donations. So, needless to say, spread among only 11 ticket holders, a high percentage of attendees went happily home with an extra plant or 2.



Grevillea 'Pink Surprise'
Specimen 16/3/2020
Photo: J Petts



Chorizema cordatum Image:
<http://anpsa.org.au/c-cord.html>



Callistemon 'Injune'
Image:<https://www.nativeshop.com.au/products/callistemon-injune>



Olearia lepidophylla
Photo: N Ryan

Cuttings from a specimen table...

By Dawn Barr

At our last meeting, because there was a cancellation of our guest speaker, we held a Specimen Night; bring along specimens from your own garden. After a great presentation of photos of her own garden by Jeanine, with specimens to match, members present were able to view specimens from other members gardens and take cuttings. The question was raised about what part of the plant provides the best cuttings. This also raises the question as to how to get your samples, taken at the end of the meeting, home and in a good state for striking the cuttings the next day. I remembered an article I had written for an East Gippsland APS Group several years ago and sure enough, it was still in my computer files, so I thought I would share it with you...

There seemed to be several preferences and one which intrigued me was to put your sample in a plastic bag, blow into the bag and seal the bag so that air does not escape. It was stated that there is sufficient water vapour in the expelled air to sustain the sample. It was also suggested that you put your bag in the refrigerator after you get home and deal with the cutting in the morning.

Not being one to let things lie without question, I had to find out if this statement was true. Below is an explanation of the composition of expelled air taken from the Tutor Vista.com web site.

“Respiration is a type of combustion. The red blood cells in blood pick up oxygen from the lungs and send it to other cells in different tissues. There, oxygen combines with glucose to release energy. Carbon dioxide and water are formed as a result of this reaction. The resulting products, water and carbon dioxide, are expelled when we exhale.

The red blood cells absorb only 4 - 5% of oxygen from the inhaled air. The percentage of carbon dioxide given out is more than 100 times the percentage of carbon dioxide taken in. The percentage of water vapour given out is also much higher. The quantity of nitrogen remains unaltered.”

So, logic says that even when we inhale on a hot, dry day we would still exhale more water than we take in. I guess this is why it is easy to become dehydrated on a hot day.

The aim of water in the preservation of a cutting is to maintain turgidity.

Turgor Pressure or Turgidity is a force per unit area exerted outward on a plant cell wall by the water contained in the cell vacuole, the membrane that holds the water and nutrients. This force gives the plant rigidity and keeps it erect.

Plants that lose turgidity (lose water from their cells) undergo plasmolysis, which is the contraction of material comprising the living part of a plant cell. When this happens, cells are no longer rigid and the plant loses structure, giving the "wilting" appearance. **If a cutting is dehydrated it will most likely not produce roots.** So blowing into the bag containing your cutting has value so long as you can seal the bag. Now that means you need to bring a plastic bag that you can seal to the meeting if you wish to collect cuttings from the specimen table.

A second method discussed was to sprinkle water into the bag and tie it off to prevent evaporation, until you can deal with the cuttings. Again refrigerate overnight. Middle of fridge or vegetable crisper is fine.

We need to remember that these samples on the specimen table have been collected possibly a few hours before the meeting even started, and as we collect our cuttings at the end of the meeting we can add another two hours. In this time the cut end of the sample specimen will have closed and the sample will have lost some turgidity already. When you take cuttings to carry to a meeting it is best to always have a container of water with you and immediately place the cutting in the water.

This is the method I use when collecting a cutting after a meeting. I put it in a plastic bag, close it and take it home. On arriving home I take the cutting out of the bag, snip the end of the stem to open and enable transpiration to begin again, then immediately place it in water. In the morning, with the cutting still in the water, I will then remove any flowers and buds the sample contains, as plants use different hormones for making roots than they do for producing flowers. Then I can pot up the cuttings and I am fairly certain they are turgid.

Different things work for different people so try all three methods with something from your own garden that you

(Continued on page 10)

Cuttings from a specimen table continued...

By Dawn Barr

(Continued from page 9)

don't mind if it doesn't take, rather than with that special plant from the specimen table. If you understand a little plant chemistry and biology, you understand why some cuttings succeed whilst others will not thrive or perhaps die - in much the same way as humans do depending on how well they look after their bodies. Bring a plastic bag to a meeting and do have a try with cuttings. It is great to be able to plant out something you have grown yourself and so much cheaper.

Good Luck! (Pictures and Instructions follow.)

Dawn Barr

Using Clean Secateurs take your cutting material from the garden and place it immediately in a container of water. If you are taking your cutting material to a meeting for exchange with others, it is important to keep these cuttings as Turgid as long as possible.



At the meeting the cuttings may be laid out for viewing on a table or left in the container with water.



In the sharing process take a piece about 12cm (5 ins) from the specimen you desire to propagate. Place Cuttings in a plastic bag with either air or water as described in this article and seal.



If there is plenty of material you may take more but do share, don't take the whole piece.

On arriving home, either place your bag of cuttings in the refrigerator until you have time to deal with them, or, remove any flowers and buds and the leaves from the lower end of your cutting and place the cutting in a glass of water until you have time to finish the process of propagation.

I had a friend who carried cuttings of material across Australia using the damp bag method in an Esky and grew her cuttings on successfully. She was a nursery owner with a permit to collect Australia wide.

Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

- For the various contributions of articles, answering pesky questions, event information, photos, feedback, proof-reading, researching & providing other information as needed and general support...

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APS VIC DIARY DATES...

In line with ongoing advice on COVID-19 (coronavirus), many APS-related events have been cancelled.

APS Victoria will endeavour to keep event status updated on the APS Victoria website:

<https://apsvic.org.au/events/>

APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale CANCELLED—

Please refer to the Yarra Yarra website, regarding buying online:

<https://apsyarrayarra.org.au/australian-plants-expo/autumn-plant-sale/>

Melton Bacchus Marsh May Plant Sale – CANCELLED
HAKEAS may be available for arranged pickup. If so, they will be advertised on the APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/APS-Melton-and-Bacchus-Marsh-1134800709901500/?ref=bookmarks>

October 24-25, 2020 - 13th FJC Rogers Seminar on 'Mint bushes & allied genera' -

Please note: Owing to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation, registrations for the FJC Rogers Seminar are currently on hold until a decision is made at the end of May regarding whether this event will go ahead on time.

For further information contact:

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For inclusion in the next Newsletter please forward contributions prior to the first Monday of each month.

Something to do the week of April 12 - 19 ...

Autumn Wild Pollinator Count



- Takes 10 minutes
- Watch flowers
- Report insects
- Across Australia!

What will you see?

wildpollinatorcount.com
#OzPollinators



Find a flower to watch and record what you see. You can do as many counts as you want, any time during the week, on fine weather days (most insect pollinators don't like poor weather, especially high winds, heavy rain, or frosts). Observations must be submitted via the online form. <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations/>
<https://wildpollinatorcount.com/>