



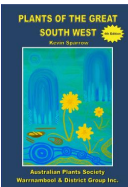

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP) Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter MARCH 2024 No 507

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

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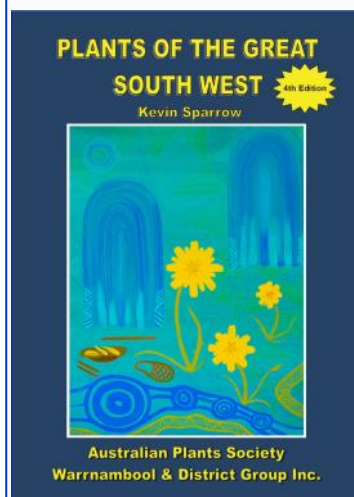
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On Eastern Maar Country

EDITORIAL

Hello members,

What has happened to our rainfall? It is so dry with no rain recorded during Feb and very little in March so far. Our gardens are struggling, see the report on page 5 from Sue Blood. Time to do a rain dance, Sue!



You will notice from the image on the left, that we have finally finished the 4th Edition of Plants of the Great South West and books are available from local bookshops. You can also purchase direct from me at the next meeting (pay by card, we have a card reader). How is it different from the last one, I hear you say. LOTS!! It is now 528 pages (up from 448 previously) with an extra 120 species photographed and described (now 725 species) Front cover has indigenous artwork by Lee-Anne Clarke featuring Yam Daisies, looks great don't you think? Also Brett Clarke has written a chapter on the 6 aboriginal seasons, it makes a lot more sense than the 4 we have!

This month our speaker is Lynsey Poore talking about the Chelsea Flower Show. Lynsey is president of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne.

I will be book some tables for dinner at the RSL at 6.30pm before our meeting, why not come along and meet our speaker. Please let me know numbers before I book. Hope to catch up on Friday 22nd. Cheers, Kevin

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We acknowledge the Eastern Maar people as the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Next Members Activity: Friday 22nd March 8.00pm at Mozart Hall - speaker is Lynsey Poore.

Members Activities

March 22nd 8.00pm: Members Night at Mozart Hall speaker is Lynsey Poore talking about the Chelsea Flower Show.

March 25th 2.00pm: Committee Meeting at Sparrows - 35 Swan Street.

April 26th 8.00pm: Members Night at Mozart Hall - speaker John Sherwood - Ningaloo.

April 29th 2.00pm - Committee Meeting TBA

May 25th 8.00pm: AGM night. Speaker TBA

Display by Joyce Sparrow for Ken Arthur's Funeral.



Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month

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Public Officer: John Sherwood. **APS Rep:** Vacant **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper:** Liz Halls.

Other Committee Members: Dorothy Mattner, Michael Mattner, Linda Handscombe, Ross Dawson.

The APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.

APS Warrnambool & District is a District Group of the Australian Plants Society (Vic)

All members are required to also be a member of APS Vic.

Propagation of *Correa Grannys Grave* by Kevin Sparrow

We have been working with Warrnambool City Council on protecting and propagating correas from the small remnant area containing the Grannys Grave Correa a form of *Correa reflexa*. This involved the filling out of permit exemption applications before we could then take cuttings to grow these plants on. There has always been two forms of the correa with one form in particular being available from nurseries. This is a semi prostrate form which our group registered in the 1990's to get into the nursery trade. There are a number of other similar forms remaining on site now under threat, so we are planning to propagate from them and grow them offsite to eventually plant them back into a safe area so they can survive.

Information was needed for the exemption to legally take cuttings, and this included: the vegetation removal plan (method, removal techniques, mitigation measures, person/organisation performing the work, and period of time the works will be undertaken over, the size and extent of cuttings to be taken (and what will be left) and the propagation process. David and Linda and I met on site with Kristy Roche (WCC) in December to carry out the removal of cuttings. We sprayed our shoes to minimize the chance of us carrying in any contaminants.

Cuttings and plants were labelled with an identification number so we can identify where the cuttings were taken from. Photos: Linda Handscombe.



Propagation of *Correa Grannys Grave* Part 2.



Cuttings were prepared and placed into individual pots of medium with care taken to prevent mixing up of the different plants.

3 months later and cuttings are already producing roots and will be potted on into individual pots.

A selection of these will be planted offsite to be grown on and eventually repropagated and planted back along the coast.

Photos: Linda Handscombe

Dry and Hot by Sue Blood.

We are experiencing the driest time since we moved to Illowa seven and a half years ago. As of March 12th we have not had rain for 52 days. There have been a recent series of hot days 41^o, 38^o, and 41^o which is very unusual for South West Victoria. Couple that with a hot northerly on one of these day and our plants have suffered. As we are reliant on tank water and with over 2,000 plants it is just not possible to supply water to every plant. We desperately need a number of days of steady rain. Unfortunately this doesn't appear likely in the current forecast period. Some of the damage is shown above right: *Angophora hispida* and *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*. Below: A struggling *Allocasuarina* and *Banksia occidentalis*.



Ross and I will learn from this experience but are pleased to report that our choice to use scoria as a mulch layer has been a good one for these conditions. These areas had significantly fewer losses. We will research replacement plant options ensuring that the garden copes better with such conditions in the future.



Far left: *Eucalyptus forrestiana*. The upside shown here is that Ross is delighted that the Kikuyu has died!

Centre: There is a small hope for this *Eucalyptus platypus*

Right: BUT there is always a glimpse of something magic. *Eucalyptus synandra* in flower.

Propagation Day at Handscombes by Kevin Sparrow



Last month, Linda and Dave hosted a Propagation Day at their home, with Linda hosting the cuttings session and Dave running the growing by seed session. 9 people attended, with numbers split by gender with the girls sitting in on Linda's session. Likewise us blokes attended the seed session run by Dave. Later after a cuppa, we swapped over so that we all completed both sessions. Linda demonstrated how she puts in the cuttings using Clonex Purple Gel and then potted up some Waratah's that she had struck. It was great to see how the experts do it, thank you Linda and Dave.



Propagation Day at Handscombes by Kevin Sparrow

Dave Handscombe showing us how to find the seeds including burning banksia cones and how to germinate them. Photos: Sue Blood.



Plant Profile By Dave Handscombe

Species: Grevillea 'Majestic'

Grevillea – named after Charles Greville, an algae expert and a founding member of the London Horticultural Society.

Common Name: Grevillea 'Majestic'

Family: Proteaceae

Dimensions: Height: up to 5 metres, width up to 3 metres.

Grevillea 'Majestic' is not registered as a cultivar on the ACRA site and there are no Plant Breeders Rights current.

Grevillea 'Majestic' is thought to be a seedling from Grevillea 'Misty Pink', one of the original parent species is Grevillea banksii.



Grevillea 'Majestic' needs a well drained, relatively neutral sand or sandy loam soil in a sunny location. It is tolerant of light frosts and does not require supplementary watering once established although extra watering may bring on a flush of new flowers. Warm to cool temperate or Mediterranean climates suit this cultivar well and it should do well in coastal locations. Prune regularly, particularly when young to promote a bushy habit. An attractive large shrub when in full flower (usually during late summer to early autumn), it will attract nectar feeding wildlife to the garden and has the added bonus of being suitable for cut flowers. Propagate from cuttings of firm new growth.

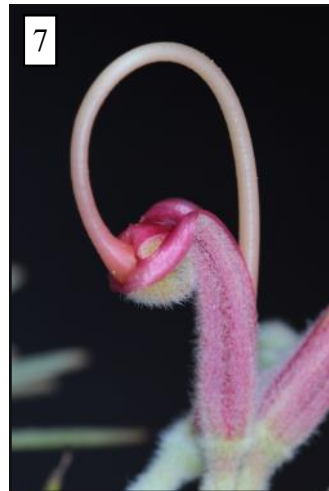


Photo Captions:

Photo 1: Grevillea 'Majestic' in full flower.

Photo 2: Different stages of opening of the flowers.

Photo 3-4: Close ups of the inflorescence.

Photo 5-7: Close ups of individual flowers showing the typical Proteaceae form.

Coastal Connections By Jarred Obst

Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's '**Coastal Connections**' email of the year.

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer, and yes believe it or not we're into the third month of 2024 already!

Seasonal Weather

Summer threw up a mixed bag of weather with somewhat severe conditions experienced at both sides of the scales. Our region came into summer very dry after missing out on spring rainfall, and then some eastern parts of our region were hit by flash flooding from heavy downpours in early January! As predicted though, warm and dry conditions then kicked back in during late summer, with barely a drop of rain being received across our coastal region throughout February. We now have some of driest conditions experienced for several years, with very low soil moisture levels and a distinct brown aspect dominating our landscape. Freshwater flows throughout our catchments also subsequently plummeted in February, with some areas dropping to levels similar to those experienced during the Millennium drought. Looking ahead, the BoM are predicting that warmer and drier than average autumn conditions may continue, so a changing season and that all important 'Autumn Break' could still be some time away...

For further details on recent and future conditions, please refer to the Bureau's Autumn Weather Outlook 2024.

Estuary Update

The lack of spring rainfall in 2023, combined with a series of large summer swell events, and extremely dry and warm February conditions has resulted in all of our regions intermittently closed salt-wedge estuaries now being **closed**. In fact, this is the first time all six of these estuaries have been closed at the same time since May 2019, highlighting the severity of current dry conditions. While this hot and dry weather patterns persist, there is a chance water quality in our estuaries can deteriorate and give rise to conditions such as algal blooms, while water levels may actually increase due to base flows slowly filling our dosed estuaries. As always highlighted though, seasonal closure is a natural occurrence which drives critical ecological processes on these highly dynamic estuaries, and conditions can and will change once the season shifts into its annual cooler and wetter cycle.

*For more information on our regions estuaries please refer to the **Estuary Update** and **Estuary Photo** attachments.*

Coastal Connections By Jarred Obst

Community Information & News

Please check out these links if you'd like to learn more about regional news and information:

[Glenelg Hopkins CMA newsletter, Feb 2024](#) – catch up on CMA news and events from across the region through our October newsletter.

[Estuary Watch Seasonal Newsletter, Feb 2024](#) – read about the monitoring and events from across the state through this fantastic citizen science program.

[Coastal Wetland Landholder Restoration Survey](#) – Deakin University are currently running a program to upscale restoration of coastal wetlands and would love to hear from you!

Lastly, I'd like to send out a big thanks to all of our community volunteers who were involved in weekend 'Clean up Australia Day' activities. Importantly, if you happen to have missed the actual day, please jump on this website [Clean Up Australia](#) as year round support is provided free of charge for any individuals or volunteer groups wanting to be involved in litter clean up activities. Also, I'm currently working out details for another **Fitzroy River estuary Clean-up** with the Beach Patrol group on Sunday 14th April. If you're interested in being involved, please keep an eye on our socials, or contact me directly for further details closer to the date.

Thanks & all the best, Regards Jarred

The Yambuk Lake estuary mouth, showing a very large and established beach berm, typical of many systems in our area following record dry February conditions.



Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales and Other Items of Interest.

IMPORTANT PLEASE CHECK APS VICTORIAN WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS

20 to 24 March 2024 – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>.

23 & 24 March 2024 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au

6 & 7 April 2024 – APS Wangaratta take part in Off-Grid Living Festival & Campout, Chiltern Racecourse & Recreation Reserve, NE Victoria. Providing information about Australian plants – growing, maintenance, suitability and also selling plants which we have propagated ourselves.

13 April 2024 – APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

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

27 April 2024 – APS Mornington Australian Native Plant Sale, Josephine's Lawn Area, The Briars, Nepean Highway, Mt Martha. No dogs. 10 am to 3.30 pm. Free talks on propagating plants, pruning and maintenance, book sales and kids corner.

Early May 2024 – APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting. To be advised.

11 May 2024 – APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale, at St Andrews Uniting Church, Bacchus Marsh, 9 am to 1 pm. For more details from David Pye, Ph 0417 289 369.

27 and 28 July 2024 – APS Bendigo host COM and full weekend of activities.

5 September 2024 – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. Further details to follow.

7 September 2024 – APS Mitchell Expo and Plant Sale, Wallan Multipurpose Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan.

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

21 & 22 September 2024 – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales and Other Items of Interest.

21 & 22 September 2024 – 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.

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



5 October 2024 – Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Details to follow.

19 & 20 October 2024 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

November 2024 – APS Wangaratta host APS Victoria Committee of Management meeting and AGM. Details to follow.

2025 15th FJC Rogers Seminar 2025 on Epacridaceae hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula.

2026 ANPSA 2026 Biennial Conference, planned to be held in Alice Springs.

