



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
APRIL 2019 No 447

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

www.facebook.com/warrnamboolsgap



'Plants of the Great South West',
book on plants of South West Victoria



\$20, available from
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EDITORIAL

Hi members,

As **Kevin Collins** (from WA Banksia Farm) will be speaking to APS Colac on Wednesday 15th May from 7.30pm, at their invitation, we have decided to visit our friends at Colac on this day to hear Kevin speak on Banksias. All members are welcome to attend this event.

As a group we will be meeting up at **Paul Kennedy's home** at 210 Aireys St, Elliminyt (Colac) at 3.30pm for a cuppa and a quick walk around his garden. (Bring something to share with the cuppa). Following this at about 4.30 - 5.00pm, we will travel a short distance to **Multiflora Nursery** at 131 Wilson St, Colac where Rao (APS member) will be giving us a guided tour of his nursery and propagation houses and from where we will be able to purchase some of his special plants. At about 6.00 - 6.30 pm we will adjourn to the **City Bowls Club** in Gravesend St, for a meal.

APS Colac meets at **Colac Neighborhood House** at 23 Miller St, Colac at 7.30pm. These locations are all short distances away from each other. Colac is just 1 hr, 20 min from Warrnambool, we will be travelling home after, but there is plenty of accommodation available if you prefer to stay over night. This is a great opportunity to hear a renowned and knowledgeable speaker, speak on his favourite subject. Members are welcome to just attend the talk if this suits better. Contact me for more information and for suggested accommodation on 55626217 or ksparrow93@gmail.com

On pages 6 and 7, I have reprinted one of **Kevin's Blogs** from his web site (<http://www.banksiafarm.com.au>) on why he does not accept the controversial re-classification of Dryandra. Its very interesting to get his opinion on this and no doubt, he will be telling us more on the night.

On Sat 27th April, John will be giving us a tour of the **Byaduk Caves and Harmens Valley**, meet at the Macarthur Store at 1.00pm.

Our speaker this month is **Ian Bodycoat** who will be speaking to us on the Warrnambool/Port Fairy Rail Trail, their work to date and plans for the future. That's about all for this month, see you next Friday. Don't forget to bring something along from your garden. Cheers, Kevin

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

Next Meeting: Friday 26th April 8.00pm - Speaker, Ian Bodycoat speaking on the Port Fairy Rail Trail

<i>Group Diary Of Activities</i>	<i>María Hitchcock Speaking To Colac Group</i>
<p>April 26th: Members Night speaker Ian Bodycoat Port Fairy Rail Trail.</p> <p>April 27th: Visit to Byaduk Caves and Harmen's Valley. Meet at Macarthur Store at 1.00pm.</p> <p>April 27th: APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. (Mel 431 D6).</p> <p>April 30th: Committee Meeting at Mattners at Cudgee at 5.00pm.</p> <p>May 15th: Group visit to Colac APS Members Night, speaker is Kevin Collins speaking on Banksias. Garden and Nursery visit included, meet at Paul Kennedy's at 210 Aireys St, Elliminyt (Colac) at 3.30pm. Or come to the Venue at 23 Miller Street, Colac at 7.30pm</p> <p>May 24th: AGM / Jacqui Balazs speaking on the Warrnambool CC Draft Coastal Management Plan.</p> <p>May 28th: Committee Meeting at Artis" at 5.00pm.</p>	<p>June 8/9/10th: Correa Study Group visit to Warrnambool, Portland and beyond.</p> <p>June 28th: Toni Ryan speaking on Hooded Plovers at Belfast Coastal Reserve.</p> <p>July: No members Night planned.</p> <p>Aug 23rd: Reto & Yvonne speaking on their time in the Kimberleys.</p> <p>Sept 27th: Dave Williams, Maremma Dogs and Bandicoots.</p> <p>Oct 25th: Members Night - Speaker Adam Miller - Friends of the Forgotten Woodlands</p> <p>Nov 16/17th: Replenish our Planet Festival at Koroit BG.</p> <p>Nov 22nd: Members Night. TBA</p> <p>Spring 2020: Proposed APS Vic. Quarterly Meeting in Warrnambool.</p>
Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month	
<p>President: Dorothy Mattner Phone: 55676477 dmmattner@bigpond.com Vice President: Kevin Sparrow Ph: 55626217</p> <p>Secretary: Mike Halls, 127 Rooneys Rd, Warrnambool 3280 Phone: 55626519 Email: mandehalls@bigpond.com</p> <p>Treasurer: John Sherwood. 26 McConnell St, Warrnambool Phone: 55628064 Email: jsher@deakin.edu.au</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Kevin Sparrow, 35 Swan Street, Warrnambool. Phone: 55626217 Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com</p> <p>Public Officer: John Sherwood. APS Reps: vacant, Group Historian: Joyce Sparrow. Supper Organiser: Liz Halls.</p> <p>Other Committee Members: Kerry Artis, Michael Mattner. Bob Artis, Andrew Gray, Joan Krygger</p>	
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.
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March Display Table by Kerry Artis

Kevin Sparrow showed us *Eremophila* 'Summertime Blue' (photo right upper), a very prolific grower which flowers like crazy and is very easy to grow. It will grow in a variety of soils, prefers full sun but can also be grown in filtered shade, is tolerant of frost and responds to light to heavy pruning. *Eremophila nivea* is a grafted plant that is growing very well. It is a pretty shrub with silver-grey foliage and mauve-purple flowers. Other *Eremophilas* shown by Kevin included *maculata*, *splendens*, *foliosissima* which is a grafted plant and *subfloccosa* ssp *lanata*. The *Scaevola* plants are very pretty. *Scaevola aemula* is easy to strike and Kevin brought along *striata*, *ramosissima* (photo left lower) and *albida* in the pink form. *Wahlenbergia* sp has white flowers and pops up everywhere but is easy to pull out when in the wrong spot. *Isotoma axillaris* has pretty, blue, star-like flowers and likes full sun.

Kerry Artis brought along *Scaevola aemula* which is flowering profusely with its lovely, mauve, fan shaped flowers, was bought at the Goodeniaceae weekend and has flowered ever since. *Veronica arenaria* has very pretty, blue flowers from September to May, grows to 50cm and likes a well drained soil. Kerry also brought along a variegated plant that grows to about 70cm high and has lovely, dense foliage and purple flowers.

June Preece displayed *Correa* 'Marion's Marvel' that is just in bud and is the first to come out of June's *Correas*. *Grevillea bipinnatifida* is a low growing shrub with prickly leaves and red flowers that is thirty years old and *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* is flowering beautifully with pink, white and deep pink all on the same plant.

Other plants on display were *Goodenia varia*, *Correa reflexa* 'Split Belle', *Correa pulchella* 'Autumn Blaze' (photo right lower), *Correa* 'Ivory Bells', a *Correa alba* hybrid and *Banksia integrifolia*.



What Is The Fuss About Social Media and How Does It Work by Kevin Sparrow



Social media is a fact of life and it will not be going away! Like many things, it can be used for good or for bad. Used for good, it can be a useful tool especially for community groups who lack the funds to advertise their activities. It is free but you do need to understand it and how to get the best out of it. I can see all you non Facebook people screwing up your noses now at the thought. There are other social media platforms but for this article, I will keep my comments solely about Facebook.

Facebook is a news service that the average person can use to keep up with the world, their families and promote themselves or their involvements. In the current day where many of our newspapers are busy pushing a blatantly political view, the average person can have their say on current issues and share it among their friends. By becoming "friends" with people on Facebook, their posts will be shared with them. By putting up a post on Facebook, it is like dropping a pebble in a pond and watching the ripples extend out to your friends through your network. If your network friends also re-share your post to their friends (drop the pebble in their pond) and they share it to their friends, in no time your post has gone out to hundreds of people. Of course, a "large pebble" post, one that appeals to the average person is much more likely to be shared. Photos for example of cute animals/ beautiful flowers etc. will most likely be shared. Boring things will go nowhere. Of course you have to rely on your network to re-share and it works both ways. (Ask them to re-share and offer to re-share theirs). If they put up something, you need to "Like", "Comment" or "Share" the post. This signals to Facebook that you are interested in this persons posts so you are more likely to get their posts in future. To start off with, only a small number of your friends posts will go through to you unless you do any of the above. "Like" will only show minor interest, while "Commenting" and "Sharing" will show a stronger wish to receive their posts in future. The more you "Share", the more the posts will be spread around. If you do nothing, the post will stop with you. A good network will willingly re-share posts so that your activities and special events can be freely promoted throughout the community. Contact your friends and family on Facebook and ask them to be "friends" to build up your network. You can spend a lot of money on newspaper advertising but if people don't buy newspapers, they don't see them. This is free! Everybody has a mobile phone in their pocket AND they use them!

How can community groups benefit from this? We are unlikely to get a surge of new members, that is not the aim. But we can become much better known within the community and of our interests and activities that we carry out. In a time when many community groups are aging and struggling to find new members, this can only help. To do nothing, is to admit defeat and eventual closure through lack of members.

APS Warrnambool has a Facebook page, I regularly put up interesting posts, photos of pretty flowers, happy people doing interesting things, anything that will paint our group in a positive light. I also "Share" posts from other APS groups, anything that might be of interest to people. It is surprising how many people actually view these posts. This can only encourage people to grow Australian Native Plants.

Finally, I used email and Facebook to promote the launch of our Nature Reserves of Warrnambool Book in February, maybe this was a fluke, but we had 50 people attend the launch AND it cost us NOTHING!

Bunnings BBQ



Last month, we again manned the BBQ at Bunnings, which was a great success with lots of money raised. Big thank you to all members who assisted with this. Photo above courtesy of John Sherwood: L to R: Sue Sherwood, Kevin Sparrow and Joyce Sparrow.

Dryandra Cladistic Classification to Banksia - Naming Dispute Written By Kevin Collins

Taken From <http://www.banksiafarm.com.au/blog/317-dryandra-cladistic-reclassification-to-banksia-naming-dispute>

I, Kevin, a plant enthusiast and banksia educator strongly disagree with the cladistic re-classification of Dryandra, and their absorption into the genus Banksia. I, along with many others including pre-eminent botanists, researchers and plant enthusiasts, do not accept the new naming and the deletion of the genus Dryandra. This is unprecedented and not warranted. The DNA observations are interesting and noteworthy but serve no useful purpose for plant observation and identity. It is undoubtedly a useful tool for scientists and should remain in that realm. For identification purpose, the previous taxonomic classification is excellent. Combining the two genera without any consideration of sub-genera, section or series division makes it a daunting and confusing genus, impossible for the non-scientist. The public do not have DNA kits to enable any conclusion on identity.

In my daily operations in talks and with hand out sheets I show the clear differences between Banksia & Dryandra as this is a question often asked.

The first and key difference is the seed holding mechanism which is also relevant to other genera of Proteaceae. Pollinated banksia flowers produce a follicle that is imbedded deep into a dense wooden core. These follicles cannot be pulled from the fruiting cone. The sub-section isostylis, are only slightly imbedded, but are still more firmly attached than Dryandra. Dryandra follicles are attached to a small wooden base by thin "umbilical cords" which can be easily broken by pulling with your fingers to remove them from the seed housing. The housing is not solid wood as in Banksia, but retained dense florets, encapsulated by retained inflorescence bracts. They are typically in small vase like containers which can be readily cut open with secateurs from the stem side to find the follicles within and simply pulled away from the base. Some have inflorescence bracts totally encapsulating the seed holder whilst others have shorter bracts that don't cover the follicles. Others have bracts that are insignificant, or fall away, eg. *D.sessilis*, in which the follicles are more visible, resembling those of the isostylis group of Banksia. The follicles however can still be broken from the base by pulling with your fingers.

- A second indicator is the retention of inflorescence bracts. The majority of Banksia have no visible or significant bracts whereas Dryandras are visible and often a key component of the housing mechanism.



Continued next page:

- A third clear difference explained is the fire ecology of the two genera. Banksia fruiting cones are protected from fire by dense floral bracts forming the outer coating of the cone. This is a woolly coating, velvet like, that singes, blackens and goes out in a fire to save the cone. The seeds deeply imbedded within the wooden core are insulated against the severe heat and saved from being cooked. Banksias with exposed follicles (ones with dead florets that fall away) will often open, without fire, however subject to maturity and timing of a fire can open and survive due to the velvet. The species with dead florets retained utilise them to block the sun, and as fuel to generate sufficient heat to split the follicles open during a fire. Dryandras in contrast do not have dense wooden cones with velvety fire resistant bracts. They rely on the retained floral parts for protection. The bushes are denser in habit with foliage closer to the seed containers, which when burnt provides the heat sufficient to pop the top of the follicles open. The retained dense flowers surrounding the follicles are the fire protection as they singe and then stop burning. Different from Banksia florets which burn mostly away generating the extra heat required to open the stronger wooden follicles in the cones. In fact most dryandra follicles once removed can be snipped on the edges and prised open with fingers to retrieve the seeds. This is not possible with banksia follicles.

- Another general difference is the nature of the plants. Dryandra's rarely exceed 2m shrubs and are predominantly 1m and less with many having underground stems with spreading habit or growing in small mounding clumps. Banksias are, with the exception of a few ground creeping varieties, larger more prominent upright shrubs with some species growing to very large trees, 30m tall and greater than 1m in trunk diameter.

- A further difference is the number of flowers & shapes of inflorescence (flower head). Banksias typically range from hundreds to thousands in cylindrical, spherical or occasionally domed shaped inflorescences. Dryandras have smaller flower heads with tens to hundreds of flowers in small vase like containers. Straight styled species (thistle like in appearance), looped styled species (Chinese lantern like) with other species having small cylindrical to ovoid shaped flower heads.

Taxonomy still requires visual traits for public identification. The focus of botany needs to remain in easily explained, systematic botany terms with visual traits to maintain public interest. The public interest provides the incentives for funding and preservation of our plants, animals and forests. Science based taxonomy does not provide the same stimulus and often is employed by multi-national enterprises as a tool to allow exploitation of our dwindling resources. Eg. forests & minerals. This results in loss of natural habitat, although to the contrary, may lead to techniques to save rare plants and animals but is not highly resourced in most instances.

Cladistics identify dryandra as having evolved from banksia. This finding is not in dispute. Banksias are around 50million years old and dryandra 35 million years. As dryandra have evolved from banksia with such a huge time span between I believe they should remain a separate entity or genus.

Long may our beloved dryandras live.

Plant Of The Month: *Pittosporum angustifolium* By Kevin Sparrow

Botanical Name: *Pittosporum angustifolium* Previously known as *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*

Common Name: Native Apricot

Aboriginal Name: Gumbi Gumbi

We have this growing at Swan Reserve, it has proven to be a great plant, long lived and survives in the driest of the driest conditions. And it is pretty attractive as well! Grows easy from seed.

Below taken from Facebook: Photos: K. Sparrow

Mole River Native Nursery

3 hrs ·

A very interesting plant with a lot of uses.

Pittosporum angustifolium has many common names including Native Apricot, Cattle Bush and Gumbi Gumbi.

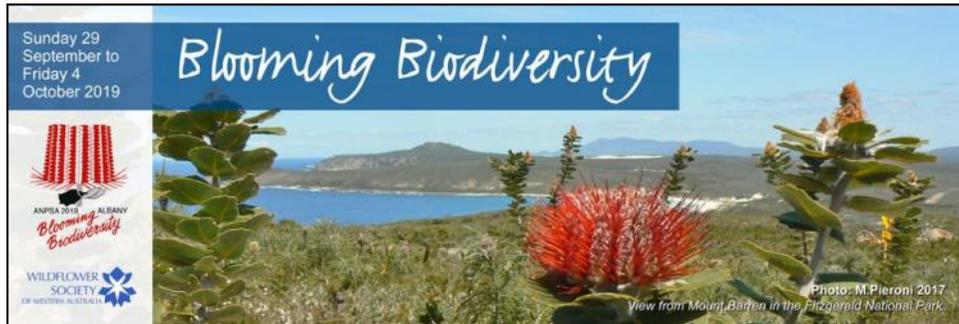
I believe it would make an attractive street tree, growing into a large shrub or small tree to about 6 m. The plant features weeping branches of fresh green foliage and scented cream flowers which develop into orange fruit. A plant for most soil types, it is also drought and frost hardy. The timber is good for turning though only small pieces are ever available. The red sticky seeds have been ground up to make flour and cattle and sheep browse on the leaves.

Traditionally the plant has been used in the treatment of eczema, skin irritations, sprained limbs, colds and internal pains. A compress of heated leaves is reputed to induce milk flow in new mothers and it also produces a chewable gum. And finally it is thought to be useful as a preventative medicine and cure for cancer though research into this is only in the early stages.

This year trees in our district are loaded with fruit which look decorative in our old kettle.



What's On



SEPTEMBER 30th to OCTOBER 4th 2019

ANPSA 2019 Conference - Blooming Biodiversity

Hosted by Wildflower Society of Western Australian in Albany, WA.

Pre and Post Conference Tours

Between 21 September to 11 October.

Key Speakers

Professor Stephen D Hopper AC – AJ Swaby Address
Gregory John Keighery.

Details www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au
Bookings open January 2019.



Draft Programme

Sat 28/9 - Albany Wildflower Show last day

Sun 29/9 - short local trips, registration, AGM, welcome reception

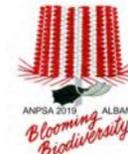
Mon 30/9 - day trips

Tues 1/10 - talks and AJ Swaby lecture

Weds 2/10 - day trips

Thurs 3/10 - talks and dinner

Fri 4/10 - conference talks and farewell



Why come

- biodiversity - extraordinary range on impoverished soils
- fascinating vegetation communities
- high proportion of endemic plants
- knowledgeable tour and trip guides
- stimulating program of speakers
- Special Interest Group gatherings

