



Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc.

P. O. Box 669, Bendigo, Victoria, 3552.

Reg. No. A0014487F

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BNPG is a district group of Australian Plants Society - Victoria and Bendigo membership requires membership of APS - Vic.

July 2018 Newsletter

Greetings - How are your daisies growing? APSVIC want photos of your 'Great Plant Out' daisies so send them to our email and we'll pass them on. No buds on mine yet but I wait with baited breath! And welcome to our newest member Adrian Buman. This BUMPER issue includes a report on Tony Cavanagh's May Dryandra presentation and the June Grevilleas presented by Graeme Woods. On Tuesday we will be hearing from Brad Creme about the new 'Garden For The Future' which is a new extension of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens. The following Sunday we are 'excursioning' to the said new garden for a guided tour with Brad. Oh - and sorry for the typo last month - Single membership with optional Australian Plants is \$62, not \$57 as published in the last months newsletter! - Sandy

7.30 pm Tuesday 17 July 2018
Garden For The Future - Brad Creme
Plant of the Evening - Tony Brown
Supper - Bev Culvenor and Lea Harris
NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING
7.30 pm 14 August 2018, 35A Murphy St, East Bendigo

Garden For The Future Excursion
Bendigo Botanical Gardens, White Hills
Sunday 22 July, 2018
2 pm for guided tour
followed by bring and share arvo tea.
Tea and Coffee supplied.
Meet at the Hamelin Street end of the new car park area that runs beside the gardens between Bosquet and Hamelin Streets.

Available for Purchase - \$10
Wattles of the Mt. Alexander Region
A field guide published by the Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests (Mt. A. region) in association with Castlemaine Field Nats and Connecting Country.

June Plant of the Evening

Lisa Iles

Viola hederacea - Native or Wild! Violet

Found in eastern Australia, this ground cover is a low spreading plant that is a good soil binder and easily propagated. Lisa showed us two methods. One was to take a runner and lay it across a pot filled with mix, then gently peg the runner onto the mix and over time new roots form and the new pot can be cut away from the parent plant. The other way is to just snip down into the roots and soil and cut off a chunk of violet about 3 cm square and pop in a new pot or the garden. "Easy!" said Lisa. Just about any month is good for dividing these vigorous and long lived plants. The cheerful white and mauve flowers sit up on tall (100mm) bright green stems above the mat of green leaves.

They prefer a sheltered spot with some shade. Some forms can cope with really cold snow but most like it a bit warmer. They look lovely dripping down from hanging pots and the flowers last well in water.

Grow them just about anywhere including indoors but just not in a windy spot or full sun. Enjoy these cheerful little plants.



If you joined before December 31, 2017
Have You Renewed?
So, including the APSVIC membership, what does it cost?
Single: \$47 (\$62*) - with *emailed* BNPG newsletter
\$52 (\$67*) - with posted BNPG newsletter
Household: \$52 (\$67*) - with *emailed* BNPG newsletter
\$57 (\$72*) - with posted BNPG newsletter
Student: \$32 (\$47*) - with *emailed* newsletter
* \$15 added if you wish to receive the *optional* quarterly magazine 'Australian Plants'
We accept payment by cash, cheque, EFTPos or EFT.
Renewal forms will be available at our June and July meetings and will be sent to those unable to attend those meetings.
Thankyou from Treasurer Karin and the Committee
(APSVIC fees have increased by \$3 for single membership and \$5 for household membership. The Bendigo fee has not increased.)

Meetings are held at the Golden Square Community Hall, Old High St, Golden Square, on the third Tuesday of each month from February to November. The room is open from 7.10 pm, for viewing of display specimens. Program begins at 7.30 pm.

June 2018 Presentation

Grevilleas

Graeme Woods

(Photos are from Graeme's presentation)

Graeme is a collector and grows every alphabetica grevillea as they are one of the few geneses that actually have names from A - Z!!!

Grevilleas are in the Proteaceae family as are Macadamias and you can see a similarity in the flower. Proteaceae are found from Africa to South America and even in Japan but not grevilleas. Many grevilleas grow at Graeme's but about 50 only like Queensland and New Caledonia - not cold old Gisborne! Grevilleas are found going in desert to snow and in forms from tiny shrubs to giant trees.



Part of Graeme's garden

There are three (maybe more!) **flower shapes**. Spider e.g. *G.buxifolia*; Upright cone - *G.eriobotria*; and Toothbrush - *G.capiana* with its iridescent orange flowers. It is possible that grevilleas may change name to hakea but probably not the toothbrush ones as they are quite different. **Leaves** are narrow, oval, needle, holly, saw-tooth, fishbone, large lobbed or fern-like.

The **growing** secret is to plant on mounds with good drainage. Don't worry about the PH, just dig a decent big hole and drop in a small handful of native friendly fertilizer before popping the plant in. Graeme uses Neutrog's 'Rooster Booster'. It is weird soil at Gisborne - like talcum powder on top of clay - but the grevilleas don't seem to mind - and they are only watered through the first summer.

G.robusta was once used as root stock for grafted grevilleas but being from the wet areas of Queensland the plant would need constant water. Both Neil Marriot and Marilyn Sprague now successfully use *G. semperflorens* instead of *G. robusta*. **Prune** plants to shape.

They like sandy soil, pots and pipes. If your soil has an iron deficiency give it some iron chelates and Epsom Salts.

Cuttings are best done from October to April. **Grafts** are more successful when the day temperatures are consistently around 40 degrees. **Seeds** can be planted all year around but need some warmth in the colder months. And don't trust the seeds to be true to the parent plant! They are up there with the promiscuous correas and will cross with anything. For example, the Western Australian *G. bipinnatifida* has crossed with the Queensland *G.banksia* and produced numerous hybrids including 'Coconut Ice' and 'Robyn Gordon'.

Now for the alphabet growing in Graeme's garden ...many but not all! (the 'G' for 'Grevillea' has been purposely left off each name - ed)

Armigera has pale greenish yellow tooth brush flowers with blackish maroon styles (long spider leg bit - ed). In Roman armies the armourers were known as 'armigers' hence the name of this plant as it is armed with prickles!

Batrachioides was thought to be extinct for over 100 years. Peter Olde rediscovered it growing at Mt Lesueur, WA, in 1991. Graeme then made reference to our Bendigo President Ian Evans, putting him right up there with Alex George, Peter Olde and Neil Marriott with regard to their grevillea hunting, preservation and overall knowledge of the species.



Cagiana often has deep orange styles and also comes with dark red styles.

Dielsiana (right) is a beauty. Flowers are dark red or yellow/orange.



Erion means like wool and *stachys* refers to the 'ear of corn' flower head shape of *Eriostachya*. (left) The

flowers are a beautiful golden yellow and each individual flower head opens in turn like a slow Mexican wave. They just drip with honey!

Yellow stems with red flowers feature on *fastigiata*

Georgeana was named after the aforementioned Alex George - did you see him on Gardening Australia the other week? Floristically it is considered the best flower yet the whole plant is the worst for being ratty and prickly. Each raspberry pink lobe is tipped with snow white anthers making it very showy. There is also a washed-out pale pink form.



Globosa is for Collingwood supporters! A tiny white-flowered plant, it has anthers that start as green and turn black - not dead, just green turning to black! The spider flowers are almost ball shaped.

Black styles are the feature of the green tooth brush flowered *hookeriana*.

Graeme fondly remembers one enthusiastic APS member going to a nursery and asking for an 'in sickness and for



poorer' grevillea. She meant 'In sickness and in health!' and it was a way of remembering the name *insignis* which is also known as 'Wax Grevillea'. The flowers are a pretty cream through to deep pink and the Holly-like leaves are really prickly so don't plant under your clothes lines!

You can't travel the outback with seeing *juncifolia*. It grows from Mildura right through the outback into the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The golden yellow flowers are covered in nectar which was used by the First Nation people to make an alcoholic drink.

Kenneallyi has delicate foamy white toothbrush flowers with deadly looking needle leaves.

Best planted away from human habitation is *leucopteris* which has recently changed its common name from 'Old Socks' to 'White Plumes' but still has the strongest honeyed old sock scent! If you plant too many it's a bit much. The buds are a pink before opening into wonderful white flowers. (below left)



Maccutcheonii (above right) is fairly new. If you are only going to have one grevillea get this one. Covered with a profusion of pale yellow flowers with pink styles nearly all year it only grows to 1 metre and is tough as tough!

With a smell designed to attract blow flies *manglesioides* is quite pongy!

Nivea (right) is a grevillea on its own! With white stems and soft grey-green foliage and flowers, the stunning styles are carmine red.



Oligomera has fine wispy grey-green foliage and the most wonderful large crimson cone flowers.

Paradoxa is prickly! The dark orange flowers with crimson styles open in the reverse manner to other plants hence the name.

Petrophiloides has long arms and the large pink or white cone flowers are on very long arms!

Polybotraya is another with grey-green leaves and a wonderful odour from the large long pink flowers wafts all over your property.

Cream and pink *plurijuga* (right) is one of Graeme's favourites. There are quite a few colours including purple and an almost white. Very pretty!



Quercifolia (right) has oak-like leaves and purple flowers. It is a good for a unit or small garden.

Rhyolitica with its scarlet flowers is quite common and comes from the coastal areas of NSW.



Good News! The cream *rudis* flowers can last all year! Bad News! Graeme said we won't be able to get it. No one knows why and some think it is not even a grevillea! (left)

Shuttleworthiana is a lovely plant with a bright lime tone to the green leaves and yellow flowers.

Superba - not to be confused with *superb* - has big lax stamens that hang. The flowers come in a variety of colours.

The flowers of *stenomera* are like translucent green and red pearls.

Treueriana - grows on Mt. Finck in the outback of South Australia and is a beauty but prickly as they come. The flowers are an amazing fluorescent orangey red. (right)



Cream *Umbellulata* is said to look like umbrellas. (left)

Surprise! Surprise! Gold and tan coloured *Victoriae* is from Victoria!

Wittweri flowers are a real maroon.

X... X?? There was one - *xenophylla* - but they changed the name to *kirkalocka* because it was found on Kirkalocka Station.

Yorkrakinensis is the 'Y'

Last but not least - *Zygodoba*!! It has large pale pink cone flowers and is very pretty.

We thoroughly enjoyed Graeme's presentation and were sad to hear that our meeting was his last speaking event - although he may be tempted to daytime meetings! His parting words were "Put a 'grev' in, plant it high, and have as much enjoyment as I have".

May 2018 Presentation
Dryandras
Tony Cavanagh
(Photos are from Tony 's presentation)

Years ago Tony knew that dryandras were Western Australian plants and were related to banksias and that was about it. Then, in 1974, it was suggested he set up a study group. So he did! In 2006 the book 'The Dryandras' which he co-wrote with Margaret Pieroni was published.

The first banksias were collected in 1791 by Archibald Menzies and not long after *Dryandra nivea** was collected. By 1810 there were nine dryandras being grown at the Kew glass houses in England but not as yet flowering. By 1900 there were 50 dryandras discovered and named. There are now 135 known species and sub species ranging from prostrate to small and large shrubs with one tree species up to 7 m high, offering lots of garden choice.

Around 2006 experts had started saying that dryandra are merely a group of the banksias** however Tony pointed out that the seed from a dryandra cluster sits vertically at the top of the flower head whereas the banksia seed comes out horizontally from the cone. There are other subtle differences as well. No matter what, there are so many sizes and shapes that Tony reckons they are a good garden plant especially for the beautiful flowers that come in many colours and sizes like *D.quercifolia* which is a cone, (bud)



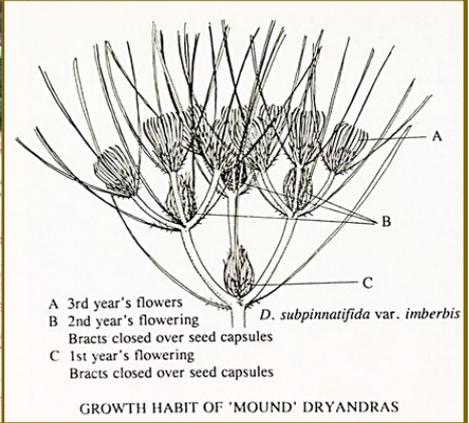
D.nervosa like a shaving brush,



and *D.nivea** with honey pots at ground level that are pollinated by marsupial mice.

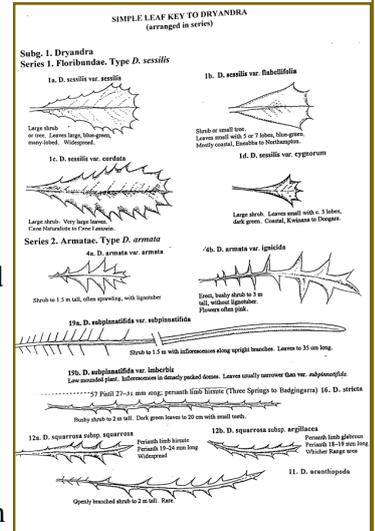


As for the many shapes, *D. columnaris* plants look like columns and the 'mounded shrubs' form domes with their growth habit. The drawing shows how mounded shrubs gain their shape. It is rare to see these two forms in other shrubs.



Foliage also comes in a variety of colours and shapes and can be prickly or soft. Many species live a long time in the garden - his *D. longifolia* are over 35 years old.

Dryandras are best propagated from seed which you can get from the Study Group or through Nindethana Seeds. Sow in March - April or late winter. Germination takes 4 to 8 weeks and the success rate is often low. Cuttings can be taken but are very difficult - those with thin small smooth hairless stems are more likely to grow.



Seed origin can affect success e.g. *D. fraseri** plants (below) grown from seed collected in the southern end of its range tend to be more successful in southern Victoria than those grown from northern seed. All dryandras like lots of sun and sandy or gravelly soils that have been mounded. They also love good air flow so don't crowd them.



Some plants get long and lanky but they don't like being cut too far back - certainly not back into the wood. Once established many can cope with extended dry periods. All species are adversely affected by Phytophthora (Cinnamon Fungus).

Tony has had up to 40 dryandras in his garden. He reckons those worth growing in Victoria are:

Prostrate to 1 metre

D.brownii - very similar are *D.lindleyana* and *D.nivea*

Tony's wife Liz's favourite *D.carlinoides* which she has used for many hospital posies. The 6 - 8 inch stem is perfect for posies and the cream flowers with pink centres are very pretty.



*D.calophylla** which spreads up to 4 metres with flower heads looking like they are popping out of the ground.

D.ferruginea which looks very like a protea has cup shaped heads 4 inches in diameter.

*D.fraseri** comes with a variation in colour of flowers heads - yellow with black bracts, yellow and pink, and lemon. Photo previous page.

D.obtusa spreads and has upright leaves and just loves the gravel.



Medium shrubs to 2.5m

*D.cuneata** has large canary yellow flowers and bright green leaves.



D.foliosissima normally grows to 1.5 m but in the Ocean Grove nature reserve it is twice that size!



*D.formosa**- another of Tony's favs (above). The very pretty flowers are golden and it can handle the salt winds.

D.nervosa with its pale new leaf growth on the top which after a couple of months changes to darker green as hairs on young leaves die and fade away.

D.polycephala (right) with its yellow bursts of flowers is another that is a very popular for flora work and lights up the garden!



D.praemorsa varieties give all yellow, or pink and yellow flowers.

D.quercifolia (photo previous page) is named for its oak shaped leaves. It has fine black hairs on bracts. (*D.quercifolia** prostrate form)



*D.longifolia** - yep another of Tony's favs. He gets between 200 and 300 soft gold flowers per plant. The new flowers are tan at the base, and then soft gold

with lime green and tan tips. The tan and green disappear as they open.

D.nobilis grows to 3m and has a couple of hundred of the very glossy yellow flower heads.

Lots of the dryandra foliage can be used in floral art. Short stemmed flowers can be wired and put into flower arrangements as the flower head can survive for some time without water.

Now here's some good news for those with Dryandra Envy. If you can't grow a particular species but the neighbours can it MAY not be your fault. Some dryandras are very fussy about their soil and micro-climate situations, even the smallest change can make a difference so Tony's suggestion is to give everything a go and see what happens!

* good plant for growing in Bendigo region

** some of the dryandras named in this article are now listed as banksias on the internet and in other sources.

The June Specimen Table

Tony's *Hakea verrucosa* is very Prickly and has crimson flowers. It grows to about 2 - 3 m and birds love it. Tony tries not to go near his - translation - it doesn't need much attention and bites! *Verrucosa* means warty referring to the warty fruit.



Darwinia meeboldii
'Cranbrook Bell' grows

for Marilyn in a pot and in the ground. Her plants are grafted onto *Darwinia citriodora* and grow really well and are encrusted with large white bells with crimson tips. She said a whole range of difficult WA Darwinias do well on *D. citriodora*. Her plants - both pots and ground - are 1m high by 1.5 wide and looking gorgeous.

Hakea cerise pink 'Burrendong Beauty' is very popular and no wonder. Bev B's plant is very big - 1m tall by 3m wide- and very old and no longer flowering so well. Tony suggested annual pruning will improve flowering. Bev C said that since pruning hers it seems to be on steroids!



Thryptomene baeckeacea
comes from WA but is very happy at Bev B's. It forms a dense bush (a bit

bit of pruning helps) and flowers for ages. The profusion of tiny flowers come in white, pink or mauve. Bev's is a deep pink and very showy.

Eremophila abietina 'Spotted Poverty Bush' was another of Marilyn's. It has very sticky foliage, stems and calyxes.

1.5m high it flowers for a really long time over autumn, winter and spring if not longer. Marilyn's are grafted. It is always admired for the glossy green foliage and very large striking flowers which are mauve with purple spots.



Melburnian own work Wikimedia CC BY 3.0

Australian Flower Show

Bendigo 2018

Flower Display
Specialist Native Nurseries,
Books & Garden Accessories

Saturday 22 September
Sunday 23 September
9.30am - 4.30pm
Entry \$3 (children free)

Kangaroo Flat Primary School Gym
★ **Freeman Drive (off Olympic Pde)**
Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo

☎ 0400 149 319
bendigo@apsvic.org.au



Anyone interested in a tour of the Ceremat Solar Power Plant at Bridgewater? They are doing group tours and have sent an invitation. Let us know if you'd like us to organize a group visit.

BNPG DIARY

Sunday 22 July 2pm - Tour of new 'Garden of the Future' at Bendigo Botanic Gardens followed by arvo tea.

Tuesday 21 August - Sharnie Hamilton - Bush Foods

Tuesday 18 September - Pruning

Fri 21 (set up) Sat 22 & Sun 23 Sept - Our Flower Show

Tuesday 16 October - TBA

Tuesday 20 Nov - Marilyn Gray's Field Trip to Mt. Augustus

Other Diary Dates

21 & 22 July Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Winter Plant Sale - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

1 September APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, 668 Princes Highway, Berwick. 9am to 3pm.

8 & 9 September APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10am to 4 pm. Check website <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au> for plant lists.

21 & 21 October - 12th FJC Rogers Seminar at Horsham. To express interest email fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club

7.30 pm second Wednesday of the month
Golden Square Hall, Old High Street, Golden Square