



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.

November 2018 Newsletter

Greetings - guess what?

We're getting a new name!

Yes indeed, at our AGM we voted unanimously to change our group name to **APS Bendigo Incorporated**. Once all the paper work is through Consumer Affairs you will begin to see the new name appear on official documents etc. How exciting! As mentioned in the last newsletter this brings us into line with most Victorian groups and quickly identifies us as members of the Australian Plant Society. We also thanked Ian Evans for his past eight years as President and welcomed Tony Brown as our new President. Ian is still on the committee as a general member. Other than that the committee remains the same with the addition of Lea Harris who has filled a general committee position that has been vacant for a few years.

At our next meeting we will be welcoming Marilyn Bull who is the author of the much respected **Flora of Melbourne : A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area**. With luck she will have some for sale at our meeting. Her love affair with Australian plants has taken her far and wide across our country and on Tuesday she will be speaking about the flora of the Pilbara and Mt. Augustus, Western Australia.

And didn't we have a 'lovely' time the day we went to Bung Bong! Hosts Neville and Helen made us very welcome on our second visit to this marvellous garden. That's Neville in the lead in the photo. For more info re the garden see the November 2017 newsletter which I am sending with this newsletter!! If you took any photos at Bung Bong (and I know there were lots!) please consider sending them to me for future newsletters etc. That goes for the Flower Show photos too - did anyone get a photo of Sandy Mc's wonderful scarlet *Lechenaultia*????

That reminds me. Feeling a bit smug! I now know how to spell lechenaultia! With no 's' between the 'e' and the 'c'. But you cry, it's name after Mr. Leschenault! Sure is, but it's something to do the Latin. It was just one of the things I didn't quite understand at the recent Fred Rogers Seminar **BUT** what I did learn was amazing! For instance, just how do you propagate plants in the Goodeniaceae family - it's so easy! A report about the seminar will appear in a later newsletter.

Lastly - for bits of info and some requests please do check the 'Committee Column' on the last page and let us know what you think!

See you on Tuesday - Sandy

7.30 pm Tuesday 20 November 2018

Marilyn Bull - remote WA & Mt. Augustus

Plant of the Evening - Eric and Joan!

Supper - Jan Waller & Jan Orr

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 pm 12 February 2019, 35A Murphy St, East Bendigo

Committee 2018 -2019

President: Tony Brown Vice President: Rod Orr
Secretary: Sandra Birch Treasurer: Karin Harding
General Committee: Ian Evans, Joan Sullivan,
Eric Wilkinson, Lisa Iles, & Lea Harris

BUNG BONG 2018

A taste of what we saw!



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.

October 2018 Presentation
Top End Grevilleas - Ian Evans
 Photos - I. Evans

Ian Evans and good friend Peter Olde (Leader of the Grevillea Study Group) embarked on a trip a few months ago to collect herbarium specimens and material for DNA extraction from **all** grevilleas growing in the north of the Northern Territory and Western Australia. To aid them they had GPS locations from previous field trips and advice from locals along the way.

As they located each plant they collected 10 - 20 leaves which were placed in silica beads which dry them to a degree so that the DNA is not destroyed. The samples were labelled and packed then sent to the Australian National University and matching herbarium specimens were pressed for distribution to all State herbariums. This packing happened every night. Such was the scope that their small two week trip grew to five.

Peter came down to Bendigo from his home at Oakdale in NSW. They then travelled to Alice Springs stopping at the Devil's Marbles, then on to Katherine and to Palmerston where they spent a day and a half at the herbarium. There were a few new specimens at the herbarium but unfortunately insufficient information regarding location, site, description etc. so it was little use them trying to locate these plants. They then went to Dingo Beach and Jabiru and Oenpelli then back to Katherine and the gorge then to Towns River and back west through Timber Creek into WA.

Grevillea wickhamii was found just about everywhere they went. It has red flowers but at Elliott River they found an orange yellow form **subsp aprica** which has orange/yellow flowers. There are also subspecies **macrodonta; cratista; pallida; and wickhamii!** They all have similar holly shaped leaves. *Two photos of the best aprica they saw.*



G. benthamiana 'Fergusson River Grevillea' from north of Katherine dies very quickly but reproduces readily from seed. As the styles are released the red flowers start go black as they age well before the flower starts to die which makes a dramatic display.



G. dryandri ssp dryandri with their very vivid red flowers grow from Cairns to Darwin and just into WA. Unfortunately they, and just about every other plant Ian and Peter found, will **NOT** grow in Bendigo!

Glowing red **G. longicupsis** has lime green leaves and grows west of Darwin. It is only knee high among the other low growing plants including a low growing eucalypt (or Corymbia?).



Ian is holding one of the euc. leaves in his left hand.

G. aurea reproduces from seed each year or when fire goes through. It is a very popular garden plant in Darwin and grows naturally on the sides of gorges. Common name is a bit scary - Death Adder Gorge Grevillea - but the bright yellow through apricot to rust red flowers are very showy.



As they travelled they wanted to find the creamy white **G. pyramidalis ssp longiloba** but a car park extension had wiped it out! Luckily they found one on a road side. Ian accidentally dropped a pod of this plant. Now then, there are five grevilleas with caustic seed pods which were used by the aboriginals for ceremonial scaring of their skin. Guess what happened when he picked the pod up without protection? Yep - his hand was still burning a week later!



This is a little mistletoe that grows on grevilleas. It is only small consisting of a few leaves and a couple of flowers.

Red Grevillea or Rock Grevillea, **G. heliosperma**, grows 5 m tall on the tops of ridges.





Dimidiata means 'halved or incomplete'. *G. dimidiata* is another caustic bush. The leaf is about 25 - 30cm long and the centre vein runs down the lower edge of the leaf hence you only get one half of the leaf!



On a short 8k walk across a grassy plain they saw birds in a distant tree. Creeping closer a cloud of Black Cockatoos erupted from the grasses and the tree - Ian was quick enough to catch the action.

Growing at the top of a gorge *Grevillea sp nova (unknown)* affinity *dryandri* has flowers as big as the plants which are 30cm high. The flower stems are 40cm long. There will be no flowers until the wet season.



G. microcarpa is a newer species. It has small fruit and green flowers. But look out for green ant nests that looks just like the flowers. Ian told us with great authority that when you mistakenly grab the nest it only stings for a while!!!



G. cunninghamii was named by Cunningham in 1826 or there about. It has red flowers and a very unusual leaf - a bit like *G. longicupsis*.

At McGowan's Beach (which was full of Victorians fishing!) they camped near the water. Next day they rose at dawn to find the fishermen all watching a croc just near the campsite! A Quick Pack Up!



At King Edward River the very pretty *G. latifolia* has only been collected once in 50 years - it was last seen at the car park. They asked some rangers who said the carpark had been relocated but they refused entry to the 'sacred' site.

G. mimosoides is so named as it resembles acacias.



It took 2.5 hrs to travel the 45ks to the Bungle Bungles but was worth the trip. They also visited the Wolfe Creek Meteorite Park. (below) The actual meteorite is buried some 600 m down in the ground. The plants in the foreground amongst the rocks are grevilleas.



Finally the Tanami Track. 1,138 k's long 980 k's of dust. At least Peter was able to look at some *G. eriostachya* 'Yellow Flame Grevillea' with its long yellow flowers. It was the only one they saw in flower even though it grows over a wide area. In all it was a very successful trip and some grevilleas may get new species names. And as for us, we only saw the first 100 of Ian's slides - wonder when we get to see the remaining 1,200?

- Thank you Ian for our 'way out there' trip!



The October Specimen Table



Lysiosepalum abollatum was brought along by both Joan and Bev C. They told us it forms a nice dense mound with almost no pruning. It has hairs on the stems and leaves and is very rare both in its natural environment and in cultivation which is a pity as the soft pink flowers cover the bush for two months. Common name 'Woolly Lysiosepalum'. Good luck finding it in a nursery but if you smile at Ian he may have one for sale!

John & Jan Waller's contribution was red flowered ***Grevillea longistyla x johnsonii*** which they purchased from Phillip Vaughan. Their plant was pruned by a kangaroo landing on it when young and is now held together with budding tape and doing really well!

Ian said it is a hybrid with a different name to the well known 'Elegance' and re the budding tape - he suggested the plant be put out of its misery!



Eremophila densiflora ssp densiflora was from Bev B's garden. It is 50cm high, totally prostrate and smothers weeds reasonably well. There is a purple leaf form that is very frost tender but Bev's green leaf form is much hardier. The tiny purple flowers are carried on the ends of the stems and while not flowering for long it makes up for that with a wonderful show.

Prostanthera aspalathoides is commonly known as 'Scarlet Mint Bush' and usually has scarlet flowers but Bev C's plant has orange flowers. It grows to about 40cm tall. (There is a tall form from near Boort that gets to just over a metre.) Bev B agreed that it is a fairly reliable plant but said it doesn't like summer watering so you have to stop your husband watering it! It gives off a wonderful mint aroma when the foliage is disturbed so is good near pathways and it easily strikes from cuttings.



Committee Column

Please let the committee know if you have ideas for the group such as guest speakers, topics for discussion, flower show ideas, excursions etc.

Talking of the Flower Show, committee are wondering if anyone from the general membership is interested in being on a sub-committee. We're also wondering if our current venue (which is very good for lots of reasons) is the best option out there - so, do you know of any large halls with good passing traffic, reasonable hire fees, parking, capable of having nursery sales indoors and, be available all day on the Friday for set up??

And still on the 'ideas from members' front - sometimes we are able to get grants for particular things. Is there anything you can think of that may well be of value to our group?

Regarding the proposed outing to the Ceramet Solar site at Bridgewater we are waiting to hear what dates are available. Shall let everyone know as soon as we hear. Another idea is to go to MIFGS next year (Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show). This would mean car-pooling, going by train and tram, or by bus. If we hire a bus then we have to park it somewhere but there is a company that runs a bus on the Friday with cost of at least \$75 per person, including show entry. What do you think? Let us know - Ta

FJC Rogers Seminar garden visit



BNPG DIARY

Tuesday 19 February 2019 - bring specimens and a shared tea

Tuesday 19 March - Garden Diversity with Chris Long

Tuesday 16 April - Landscapes and Plants of the Deserts of Northern South Australia with John Lindner

Tuesday 21 May - Poisonous Plants with Derek Fraser

Tuesday 18 June - Palatable Plants with Ken Wellard

Other Diary Dates

16 & 17 March - Cranbourne Friends Autumn Plant Sale - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

13 April - APS Yarra Yarra Plant & Book Sale. At Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4 pm.

27 April - APS Geelong Plant Sale at 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. (Mel 431 D6). 8.30 am to 5.00 pm

4 May - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, 10 am to 3.30 pm, at Seawinds in Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Rd, Arthurs Seat

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club

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