



APS Bendigo
Growing Australian Plants

Australian Plants Society Bendigo

May 2020 Newsletter

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Reg. No. A0014487F

*We are a district group of Australian Plants Society - Victoria
and Bendigo membership requires membership of APSVIC*

----- STOP PRESS -----

Until further notice our meetings will be in recess but NOT our gardening and overall enjoyment of Australian Plants!

Greetings -

Who is cultivating a fine crop of weeds! I know I am. At least the ground is soft enough now to facilitate weed murder! On a good note, my Swan River Daisy seedlings are going great guns.

Thanks so much to those who have sent me snippets and pics by email or added to our FaceBook. I'm a bit jealous of those who live close to the bush and can easily go for an isolated wander. The tiny strip of herbaceous plants along my front fence line has now grown sufficiently to cause those passing to stop and have a good look. Feeling chuffed! If I'm outside I answer questions and let people know where I sourced the plants - Goldfields, Neangar and Habitat so far. Although heaven knows why my *Clematis microphylla* and *Pycnosorus globosus* are bursting into flower out of season.

Remember the saga of 'Ern's Stick'? Well, like all good sagas the story continues. See Eric's article on page 2.

Oh - and thank you to lapsed but about to return member Elaine H... who decided my garage should be officially named 'Murphy Street Poo Distributers'. Not sure what Neutrog would make of that!!

And in April's newsletter Lea asked for people to take up the challenge and answer a few simple questions . . .

- * what is the **one** thing you would tell a native gardener who is starting out;
- * what is the **one** thing you wish somebody else had told you **or** are glad somebody did tell you; and
- * if you could go back in time **what** would you tell yourself, about gardening with natives?

Please send us your thoughts and Lea will use the answers for a brochure to be handed out at our Flower Shows.

Which reminds me, last month you were all challenged to prepare a 5 - 10 minute "Plant of the Evening" talk for when meetings start up again. Well, for all those that are eager, there's no need to wait - just send me a short blurb and a photo or two of your selected plant and I can put it in our newsletters. Ta muchly in advance!!!

Lastly, about a week after my dear old mum died in 2011 a friend and I were enjoying a walk at the foot of One Tree Hill. (Bendigo) Suddenly we stood stock still and gawped. A field of greenhood orchids. Neither of us had ever seen them in 'the wild' even though we had walked that track many times. I was amused and looked over my shoulder for mum as she often spoke of finding the 'little darlings' and I was always miffed at my failure. Well, it's greenhood time again and the photos have been flooding in. They almost look like meerkats - or bandicoots on alert? - Sandy

Next Meeting - in the future!

Topic - How many plants have you propagated and are they still alive??

Supper - Good recipe on page 2!

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Who knows - but still (*fingers crossed*) planning our Flower Show

Interested in Peas???

A study group has been reactivated to study plants with pea flowers and has been renamed Australian Pea Flower Study Group. In the past, a study group for this purpose has operated under the name Fabaceae Study Group, as pea flowers were previously recognised as a separate family. If you are interested in the identification, classification, cultivation, propagation or conservation of Australia's pea flowers, consider joining the Australian Pea Flower Study Group. The study group webpage can be found here:

<http://anpsa.org.au/pea-flowerSG/index.html>

There is a section on the webpage that can be completed and submitted on-line. **Membership for emailed newsletters is free**

- Shirley McLaran



Greenhoods *Pterostylis* - photos from Tony and Bev B. No wonder they are hard sometimes hard to find! There are about thirty in this photo! →



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 7.00 pm, for viewing of display specimens. Program begins at 7.30 pm.

Ern's Stick

or as *Eric more politely heads this article ...*

THE ERN PERKINS DEMO RED GUM

By Eric Wilkinson, 6th May 2020

I read the item in the APS Bendigo April Newsletter about the late Ern Perkins June 2013 Red Gum demonstration with interest. However, the follow up statement that this Red Gum had been planted in the late Ian O'Halloran's paddock at Chewton is not correct, so I have written these notes to set the record straight.

I don't have to go as far as Chewton to see Ern's Red Gum "stick". It is here at my California Gully home, still in a nursery pot. What actually happened is that after the meeting at which Ian showed us that it had survived Ern's demo, and had sprouted new leaves, he gave it to me to take home to see if Mary would like to have a go at turning it into a bonsai. She did some trimming with that in view, and I potted it on into a larger nursery pot to boost its growth. Over the years since then it has survived near death experiences, in which all the leaves crisped brown after being exposed to extreme heat in a couple of recent summers. Both times I kept watering it and it sprouted new leaves again.

The newsletter article prompted me to do something about this poor neglected little tree, which was alive but not thriving. It is a tough little survivor, but it was not really at the stage of being able to turn it into a bonsai. Mary is no longer here to do that, so I will have to see whether I can. I made the first steps in the process on the 27th April, and took photos of each stage.

Step 1 was to cut off most of the top growth.



Step 2 was to get it out of the pot, remove weeds and as much of the potting mix as I could, and then comb out the roots with a root rake.

Step 3 was to remove two thick roots and to trim the fibrous roots to an even, but shortened, spread.



Step 4 was to plant it in a wider and shallower pot in new native potting mix, with Native Osmocote added. This should encourage sideways growth of the fibrous roots, and develop a root ball which will fit better into a bonsai pot.

The good rains last week were well timed, and ten days later the plant has shown no signs of stress, although it has not yet opened any new buds. I am hoping that it will back bud along the bare trunk below the top growth, which would allow me to cut it back to a more compact shape. If it does not back bud then I will remove the trunk all the way down to the bottom side branch, and turn that into a new trunk with an interesting twist.

When we get back to being able to hold meetings again I will bring the plant along to the specimen table, or maybe even make it a Plant of the Evening, and hopefully it will have a nice new lot of leaves by then. *(Look forward to that - Ed.)*



Third Tuesday of the Month Recipe

Janet Justin

Date and Ginger Loaf

- 1 1/2 cups SR flour
- 3/4 cup chopped dates
- 1/2 cup chopped preserved ginger
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 egg
- 1 tblspn boiling water
- 1 tblspn chopped butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tspn bicarbonate soda

Put all ingredients except egg and flour in a basin and pour over boiling water.

Stir until butter has melted, then cool.

Add the egg and flour.

Put into a greased loaf tin.

Bake in moderate oven for 45-60 mins.

Serve with butter. Enjoy!

Note: This is one of the easiest recipes I make. I usually double the recipe to make two loaves and freeze one. I also use half whole meal flour to make it a little healthier.

- Janet J

Growing at Ian's

Photos and text from Ian Evans - May 2020

In the late Autumn, when Winter is getting nearer, the mornings are cold, and some days are overcast and just too depressing to be out in the garden. But when we have a frosty morning it is usually followed by a nice sunny day and it's a pleasure to walk around the garden, overlooking the weeds popping, up just to check out what's in flower.

Some of plants in the garden putting on a show at present are:

Thryptomene strongylophylla. This is a young plant and is only 10 months old. I don't have a lot of success with *Thryptomene* but so far this one is looking good.

Thryptomene strongylophylla will grow into a small shrub about 1m x 1m and likes a well-drained site and full sun. I have planted it with this in mind so hopefully it grows to its full potential.



Chrysocephalum ramosissimum, a low growing ground cover that also suckers and benefits from a heavy prune in late spring and it quickly responds but sending up a multitude of suckers. It also likes to be given an occasional water during the Summer months. A carpet of yellow and green.



Brachyscome 'Pink Bliss' a low growing ground cover that suckers lightly and benefits from pruning in early spring. It also likes to be given an occasional water during the Summer months. A carpet of bright pink!

An Anigozanthos Hybrid one of the 'Bush Gem Landscape Series' **Anigozanthos 'Rampaging Roy Slaven'** is a medium height Kangaroo Paw growing to about 80-100cm with brilliant orange-red flowers. Like most of the hybrid Kangaroo Paws it responds to having the flower stems removed either to be used as a cut flower or pruned at ground level after flowering, also at this time any leaves that are attached to the old flower stem or leaves that have black spots should be removed. Following the prune, the Kangaroo Paw should be fertilized with a native plant fertilizer and be thoroughly watered, I find if you can do this they will flower again in Autumn.

N.B \$0.10 from the sale of all Anigozanthos 'Rampaging Roy Slaven' is donated to ASPECT a charity for people with autism and their families.

- IE



Growing at Tony's

Photos and text from Tony Brown - May 2020



A selection from my garden, starting with the deep pink and hairy standard grevillea, *G. thyrsoides* which was featured last month.

I bought it at a Sunday market about three or four years ago. Ones I bought from other sellers sadly haven't survived.

Next is this orange flowered groundcover grevillea - name not known.



Planted in a very hot and dry rocky area is red flowered *G. thelemanniana* (right) which has sent its roots under the rocks. I grew it from a cutting about 3 years ago.



H. laurina (right) is one of five that I grew from seed and *H. 'Burrendong Beauty'* has been in a few years. It responds well to pruning by flowering better the next year and *H. verrucosa* is 20+ years old and is very prickly!! Hakeas are great shelter for small birds as well as providing lots of nectar! All three have pink flowers.



H. 'Burrendong Beauty'



Hakea verrucosa



Projects galore!
Lots more grafted grevilleas hardening off at Tony's.



And who lives in your bush? Tony and Carol's house is surrounded by bush and Carol saw this male Red-Headed Mouse Spider when walking near Wildflower Drive. They have a red head and blue body and wander in April/May and September in search of females and are fast movers compared to Redbacks. Venom is similar to Funnel-webs. Sorry to the arachnophobes!

From Our FaceBook Page

Here is the link for our page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1494640104166986/>

Here's an interesting one to look up on the internet! It is written by Dr. Dean Nicholle who is passionate about Eucalypts. He dispels a number of myths about these wonderful trees.



REMEMBERTHEWILD.ORG.AU

Eucalypt mythbusting: a comprehensive guide - Remember The Wild

New FaceBook member Brian lives in Central Vic and posted this picture of his standard grevillea *G. dryandroides ssp hirsute*. It is from the WA wheat belt around Corrigin and will tolerate frosts to -4 or -5. It makes a great specimen plant as a standard or low graft. Just look at the wonderful display of red flowers looking mighty like the hems of multiple petticoats!



Plant Of The May Newsletter!

Eric Wilkinson

Woolly Wattle, *Acacia lanigera* var *whanii*

When I first compiled notes on the wattles of the Bendigo area ten years or so ago, I wrote that Woolly Wattle flowered in late May and peaked in June. Over the years since then the start of flowering has come forward into early May, and even very late April. This year mine has set a new early flowering record of 19th April, so can now be regarded as an autumn flowering wattle rather than a winter one. A current description of flowering would be late April with peak flowering in May. It will be interesting to see whether this is a permanent change. If it is then it is probably due to climate change. This is a small growing wattle. Mine is several years old and still a bit less than a metre by a metre in size. - EW



Q & A Corner

Hi - I have been trying unsuccessfully to strike some *Grevillea gaudichaudii* so would appreciate some help there please. However in examining the plant I noticed lots of seeds/droppings??? and I think I have found the culprit. Would it become a beautiful butterfly if I hadn't dispatched them? Janet Ji

Thanks for you question Janet! Here's the answer to the second part from Ian and Rod. *Oenochroma vinaria* is your caterpillar 'Grevillea Looper Caterpillar'. Also found on Hakea and Banksia species. They have a natural enemy (other than humans) in the Assassin Bugs which pierce them and suck their juices! Can't find any info to say if the caterpillars do anything but eat plants. After pupating they emerge as beautiful **Pink Bellied Moths** which again there seems to be no info as to their worth!! However they may pollinate plants and most probably provide food for birds and other beasts. (The 'vinaria' possibly refers to the beautiful wine-coloured tones on the wings - Ed) And 'yes' - if you had not despatched them they would have happily continued their grevillea feast. As for an answer re striking from your grevillea, watch this space! Answer will be in the June newsletter!!



The belly!



Wikicommons CCA 2.0 dhobern

Nurseries Who Support Our Group

A bit of unashamed advertising for our members

The owners of these nurseries are APS Bendigo members and generously support our group so don't forget to support them!

Neangar
Nursery



Revegetation and Forestry Plants

8 McClelland Dr. Eaglehawk Ph: 5446 9260
neangarnursery.com.au



230 Tannery Ln. Mandurang
Ph: 5439 5384
goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au



HABITAT NATIVE
PLANT CO
Plants for your Habitat

86 Maiden Gully Rd.
Maiden Gully Ph: 0417 544 159

Current Local Native Suppliers Logistics as at 17/4/2020, subject to change.

All: Obviously the current social distancing rules apply. Please give staff and other customers the space we all need. **Remember** - it's not a social outing, please don't bring the family or the dog.

The first three nurseries are APSVIC and Bendigo members. Addresses and phone numbers above.

Goldfields Revegetation

Open: Normal hours, 9:00am to 4:30pm 7 days

Payment: Card please

Other: Please bring your own container

Neangar Nursery

Open: By appointment **only**, 9:00-5:00pm Mon to Fri
Try to avoid lunchtime

Pre-order: Please phone through your order and it will be made up ready for you.

Restrictions: Make an appointment before you come to ensure there not too many people in the nursery. No wandering about just having a look. No kids, no dogs, one person per car

Payment: By invoice with payment by bank transfer or cash

Habitat Native Plant Co.

Ring first or look for open sign at his gate

This fourth nursery is a member of APSVIC and Mitchell group. Being at Heathcote Peter is local to some of our members. He specializes in rare, unusual and hard to find plants. You may have met him at our Flower Shows.

Ironstone Park Nursery

Heathcote

Ph: 0419 878950

Ring first for an appointment. **Open** most days.

And lastly . . . But not least! . . .

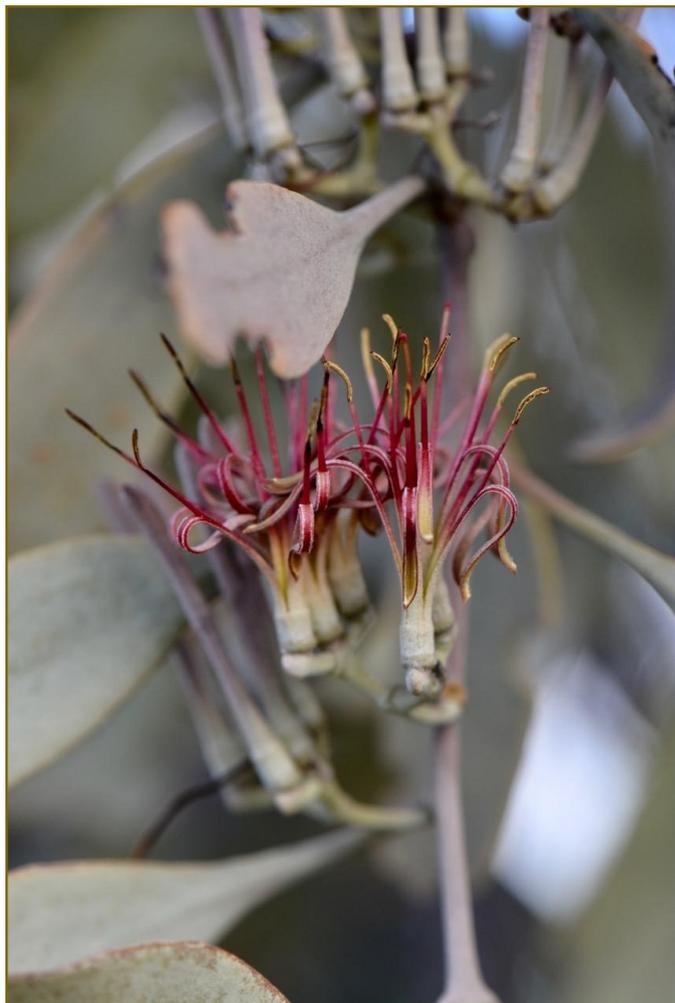
Marilyn's Wildflowers - Mandurang

Ring to place an order for cut flowers

Ph: 0488 395 384

What's been growing in the Bush?

Joy has been hunting fungi but along the way found this *Amyema quandong*, 'Grey mistletoe' growing on an Acacia at Crusoe Res. A bit reminiscent of 70's reception venues - velvet grey green with burgundy and touches of gold!



And Joy found these *Cortinarius archeri* whilst foraging. Amazing deep purple caps on electric blue stems!

And still alive at Sandy's (!) are *Brachyscome iberidifolia* 'Swan River Daisy' seedlings - soon to be transplanted (Great Australian Plant Out), and *Brachyscome* 'Hot Candy'.



What's Growing In England?!!

Last but not least, contributions from Sally M who is in lockdown on her farm in England. She hopes to be back in Oz before long, spending time with her APS Bendigo friends.



Her favourite daffodil, cream and lemon 'W. P. Milner', Prunus in the hedgerows, and the purple Snakeshead fritillary!! English yes, but in their own environment.



Bev B's over-the-back-fence bush is being lit up by very pale lemon *Acacia genistifolia* (above) which is looking lovely.

Regarding the photos of Greenhoods on page one, Tony said there are several colonies on their block and they only appear if there has been a substantial summer or early Autumn rain. Also, that Greenhoods used to be called *Pterostylis revoluta* but now called *Diplodium ampliatum*. Bev B's greenhoods are in the bush at the back of her house. She only wished the breeze would stop when she takes their photos! Don't we all wish this???

APS BENDIGO DIARY

ANTICIPATION!

19 & 20 September 2020 - Our Flower Show

Other Diary Dates

Still not much!

For more info search apsvic.org.au then 'members' then 'events'

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club

7.30 pm second Wednesday of the month *when allowed!*
Golden Square Hall, Old High Street, Golden Square