



APS Bendigo
Growing Australian Plants

Australian Plants Society Bendigo

June 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*

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

Greetings -

Some members are wondering “When do meetings start up again?” Answer is that we don’t know. Maybe you could let us know your feelings. In the meantime, please enjoy the newsletters and keep the photos of your gardens or the bush rolling in. Close ups and vista photos of the one plant are good and names and a bit of info also appreciated. And don’t forget to send pics of bugs, birdies and other beasties!

Remember Lea’s request for info to pass on to new gardeners? Well Lorene has risen to the challenge. To inspire you to add your own wisdom, here’s just *part* of her answer, “**A native gardener who is starting out:** Keep all the tags from the plants you buy, are given, or win as raffle prizes. Record a list of the planting date and a second list of where they are in your garden. After a few years it’s easy to forget! Delete any that die and remove these tags from your collection to avoid confusion. Over time, you will learn what does well, where. We have a list now from March 2013 when we started and we have noticed the best results in our area are from those planted in March and April.”

And the other questions - so you can’t say you can’t remember them!

- * 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?

So much to read and be inspired by in this issue. Tony tours the Garden For The Future, and talks about propagating, Lorene shares a ‘joy’, Sharon and Eric add their bits and there’s a bit of a correa fest on the back page but no room for my *Correa pulchella* hybrid ‘Pink Carpet’ so here it is! And I can’t let President Tony have all the glory! Here are pics of my seedlings sown late April, and now in June. →



I used jiffy pots because I had some. They are not dead yet! Mind you - I originally had 70 pop up and just over 20 perished and withered away . . . sigh. But still chuffed by those what have survived! A touch of Seamungus and GoGo and Bush Tucker have helped. Will soon be divided up and put in both pots and garden. - Sandy

Next Meeting - ain’t this month!
Topic - Let’s talk (to ourselves) about the weather . . .
Supper - see the page 2 delight!
NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING
Just as well we live in the time of email and phones!

A Question Of Fees

APS Vic has decided that they will waive the Victorian component of the 2020/21 fees for members who are suffering financial hardship due to Covid-19.

If you have difficulty renewing your membership because of financial stress caused by the Corona Virus, please contact our treasurer Karin to discuss your options in confidence. Ph:0400 625 089 karin@harding.id.au

Fees for APS Vic and Bendigo are due in July. Renewal forms will be sent to all Bendigo members together with a reminder and clear instructions about the hardship option.

Current Fee Structure:

\$47 Single, emailed news	(\$35 APS Vic; \$12 B’go)
\$52 Single, posted news	(\$35 APS Vic; \$27* B’go)
\$52 Household, emailed news	(\$40 APS Vic; \$12 B’go)
\$57 Household, posted news	(\$40 APS Vic; \$27* B’go)
\$32 Student, emailed news	(\$26 APS Vic; \$12 B’go)

Plus the optional \$15 Australian Plants magazine (Growing Australian mag is included in your membership)

*Note that the price for posted news has risen in accordance with a motion moved at our last AGM. The rise reflects the current cost of printing and postage.

To aid Karin in balancing the financial year books
Please do not pay your fees until after 1 July 2020



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.

From the Hidden File . . .

Yes, in March your resourceful editor decided to create a new email folder for items to be included in the next newsletter . . . then promptly forgot about it. Luckily she got the 'tidies' and found a few treasures!! Firstly, in late March from Frances McD. "So many beautiful flowering (cream and pink) gums and natives at present. I've got some wattle out too which is pretty. The bees from my beehive love it."



Then from Christine in late April. "Pimelea - this grows on my property! It is in flower. I look at it now and again. Nothing spectacular! I am surprised its still alive. I should attempt to take a cutting but I am too apprehensive!" Not being sure of the exact species Marilyn was consulted and she replied, "Lucky Christine having *Pimelea spinescens subspecies spinescens* 'SpinyRice Flower'. It is listed as Critically Endangered. There are some protected plants growing along the Eppalock Rd. as part of a recovery plan which Goldfields Revegetation was involved in years ago growing them from seed and putting them back into protected areas. Christine's are very healthy plants that obviously loved this season". Hands up if you think Christine should collect some seed or do a cutting or two!



A plant of joy!

Lorene writes - I remember Lesley Perkins saying in a Plant of the Evening talk that it's often the tiny flowers that bring a special joy. That's how I think of our pink *Crowea exalata rubra*. It's been in for 8 years now, is still only tiny, but it blooms at different times of the year when nothing else is out and shines among its much larger neighbours. It's of the wax flower family. The stronger crowea 'Poorinda Ecstasy' is good, too!



Natureshare now linked to iNaturalist

The web site **Natureshare** is a resource of Victorian flora and fauna observations. All Natureshare observations are now being migrated to **iNaturalist** which covers all of Australia. People can easily log in at iNaturalist and start posting photos of wildflowers, birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, fish, gastropods – whatever wild thing takes your fancy - an easy to use great way to learn more about our flora and record sightings. Experts on iNaturalist will confirm your identification or add an ID if you have not. You can verify other people's identifications and add questions and comments and send messages to other users. Ideally your photos will feature leaves, flowers, fruit etc. With fungi – the underside gills are important. GPS co-ordinates also help. Once verified your observations are uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia and become an important part of our scientific record of all living things in Australia. So far there are over 1 million observations in Australia. A very important resource. Here are the links - <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au> and <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/natureshare-victoria-australia> From APSVIC Pres.

Third Tuesday of the Month Recipe Sandra Birch *Native Pepper Brownie*



Heat oven to 180°

Grease and line a lamington tin

Grind 10 or so pepper berries using a mortar and pestle, note that they will not go to a powder but will have big bits of the skin which is delicious in the finished product.

Melt:

200g (one block) of 70% dark cooking chocolate.

125g butter or substitute (add a bit of salt if using Nuttalex)

Stir in:

1 cup castor sugar (*I use a bit less*)

2 teaspoons vanilla

2 lightly beaten eggs

1 cup plain flour (*add Xanthan Gum if using Gluten Free*)

1/2 cup walnuts (*or macadamia or sunflower seeds*)

The ground pepper berries

Stick finger into mix and taste!

Add more pepper berries if you wish.

Pour into prepared tin and bake for 30 minutes. It will still be a bit gooey in the middle but will set as it cools.

Leave to cool in tin and then lift out and cut into 40 pieces (4x10)



Touring Bendigo's 'Garden of the Future'

Photos and text from Tony Brown - May 2020 - for June News

The 'Garden of the Future' extension to Bendigo Botanic Gardens is really worth a visit now. The land was purchased in the '90s, plans revealed in 2009, and the gardens opened in April 2018, at a cost of \$4.6m. After some early setbacks caused by severe frosts, the garden has now developed into a beautiful open space, both relaxing and educational.



Top L - light coming through the foliage of *Acacia glaucoptera*.
 Top R - *A. merinthophora* 'Zig Zag Wattle'
 Lower L & R - Juvenile foliage and flower *A. macradenia*

Enter the garden via Bosquet St or Hamelin St off Napier St, and travel two blocks West. There is a pavilion at the Southern end with a large oval-shaped lawn for staging community events. On the Eastern side of the lawn you will find the World Garden. The Australian arden plantation is around the Western flank, adjacent to the Bendigo Creek.

Top - *Banksia ericafolia* dwarf (flowers in bud) & *B. media* (bottom)



Red Callistemon viminalis 'Hannah Ray' - a weeping bottlebrush and the purple buds of wax flower *Chamelaucium uncinatum x verticordia plumosa* 'Paddy's Pink'. Below, a bank of silver grey *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* soon to be covered in a blanket of tiny gold everlasting daisies.



White *Correa alba* 'Star Showers' (left) and deep pink and lemon *Correa* 'Federation Belle' (right)

The garden was planted with over 30,000 plants of over 600 different species of exotic and native plants. Another feature of the garden is the circular areas of different varieties of turf, including a native, being tested for suitability to the Bendigo climate.

Silver blue *Eucalyptus cinerea* 'Argyle Apple' or 'Silver Dollar' with two turf circles in the background!



Another design feature is that the garden is in three zones, north to south. The north features architectural plants, the middle fruiting and the south features flowers. Most of the plantings have name tags or stakes nearby but some labels have been covered by the fast vegetative growth yet when the garden was opened in 2018 the plants were only small.

Many native species are in flower even now on May, with a huge display expected in Spring.
-Tony Brown

Enjoy the rest of Tony's wonderful photos starting with some grevilleas. Clear red and cream
G. banksia x bipinnatifida
'Little Robyn' elegantly drapes down onto the ground.



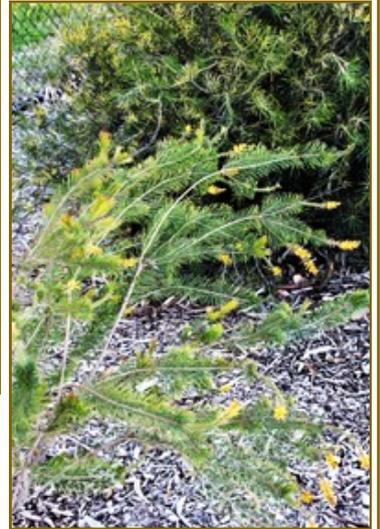
The ever popular **Grevillea banksii x Grevillea bipinnatifida**
'Peaches and Cream' and fruits forming.



Raspberry and pink **G. binnatifida ssp pagna**. And the golden one below had no name!! Grevilleas were named after Lord Charles Greville who was a patron of botany.



Now for **Hakea flabellifolia** with its wonderful foliage. 'Wedge' or 'Fan-leaved' Hakea.



Persoonia (right and below) makes a lovely feathery addition to the garden with rods of golden flowers.



Verticordia monadelpha 'Woolley Featherflower' is just waiting to burst out with masses of small fluffy white flowers! They are from WA and over-picking the lovely flowers is a problem there.

And lastly - **Pycnosorus globosus**. Debatably 'Billy Buttons' or 'Drumsticks'! Whichever you prefer they make a great statement.

So, take yourselves to have a look at this garden - several times, as things change so fast. And enjoy!



Q & A Corner

Last month Janet Ji asked about some grubs on her grevillea and they were identified as *Grevillea Looper Caterpillars*. The rest of her question related to difficulty striking *Grevillea gaudichaudii*. Grevillea Guru Ian says that this grevillea is fairly hard to strike. For best results do the cutting in warm weather and put in a place with some bottom heat. Nothing like having warm toes! Hope this helps.

Propagating!

At our last meeting which was November 2019 (imagine that!) we learnt about cuttings and had a go at doing some. Tony got busy and here is his progress report from late March 2020. On 16 February 2020 he popped four *Eremophila glabra* cuttings into a 4 inch pot. The first picture shows them about six weeks later. When tipped out of the pot you can see the roots showing through the sand and sawdust mix. Carefully removed from the potting medium the roots can clearly be seen. Then each of the four were potted up into a 6 inch pot! We look forward to news of their progress.



On a roll, on 22.2.20 Tony had a grafting masterclass with Ian using *G. scortechinii* (they think!), *G. flexuosa* and in the right photo *G. bipinnatifida* 'Ray Page' showing detail of the new growth. These progress photos were taken in late March. Note that none are Janet's difficult *G. gaudichaudii*!



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 9/6/2020, 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

It's Correa Time!

Sharon's Correa 'Orange Glow' is certainly doing just that! And her pale pink C. 'Catie Bec' is lovely too.



Tony's Correa OMG showing off its large red flowers is a purchased plant that has been in for several years.



Eric's Correa 'Little Cate' photographed in mid May 2020. He writes - This is a very attractive and prolific flowering correa, which has also proven to be very tough. The plant with its pink tubular bells is in my front garden, which has stood up to the hot north winds of summer for four years so far. It is about 90 cm high and 1.2 m wide, and will probably not grow much larger than that. I would rate it as being right up there with other tough correas which grow well in Bendigo, such as 'Dusky Bells', 'Pink Mist' and 'Marion's Marvel'.



What else is in our gardens?

Delicate pale, pale, pink *Grevillea x semperflorens* and translucent red *Grevillea preissii* (grown from a cutting and planted out 12-18 months ago) are in Tony's garden.



Sharon's 'Pin-Cushion Hakea' *H. Laurina* was grown from seed by some six years ago. This is its first ever flower! "Congratulations mum!"



We do like a good saga!

Remember President Tony's 'Hakea Zucchini'??? Well, the 4.6k delicious Tromboncino fruit is hatching babies. For anyone interested he should have some seeds to share in Spring. *Pity that someone always manages to stand in the middle of a nice garden shot!!!*



APS BENDIGO DIARY

MAYBE!

19 & 20 September 2020 - Our Flower Show

Other Diary Dates

Dentist?? Optician?? Compost Heap??? Weeding!!!!
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