



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 355 – March, 2020

FEBRUARY MEMBERS' NIGHT

Our first meeting for the year was a Members' Night, which was well attended. Despite the invitation only three members brought along photos to show.

Bruce started off with some shots of interesting plants from his garden in Rippleside. He uses pots quite extensively and has a lovely display of *Xerochrysum* growing in a pot in what he described as a 'wicking bed.' Sand was added to the bottom of the pot and covered with shade cloth. A 90mm plastic pipe was inserted to aid watering, and the pot topped with potting mix.

Hakea archaeoides is a plant of upright habit found naturally in northern coastal NSW. The flowers displayed on the leaf axils, tight against the branches.



Hakea archaeoides

Bruce has had some success growing *Xanthorrea australis* in a pot, and his plant flowered quite spectacularly last year. He wondered what happened after the flower spike died and withered, and noted that new shoots of the grass-like leaves appear from the base of the old flower spike.

Brachychiton bidwillii, is a variable small tree from the rainforests of Queensland ranging from just north of the NSW border up to Bowen. Bruce is growing his specimen in a pot.



Brachychiton bidwillii

Also growing in as pot is Bruce's *Macadamia integrifolia*. Macadamias are native to Queensland and produce decorative trusses of cream flowers, followed by edible, nutritious nuts. Bruce's plant flowered profusely but produced just two nuts.



Macadamia integrifolia

Ade was next up and showed us a few of the plants in his garden that were in flower in February. He noted many unusual and early flowerings – most of his *Correas* are in bloom – and wondered if other members had similar experiences.

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Ade's Correa 'Canberra Bells' in full bloom in February

Roger Wileman gave several members a particularly attractive *Derwentia (perfolita?)* which he'd grown from cuttings. Ade's has spread nicely and flowered profusely last spring. After the flowers were finished he cut each stem back by about 20cm to keep the size manageable. The plant is flowering again on the new growth generated after the pruning.



One of Ade's favourites is a ground cover, *Hemiandra pungens*, the snakebush. He had one for many years, scrambling over rocks near his back deck. After it died he replaced it with one purchased at our plant sale, which has been flowering now since October.



Frank Scheelings entertained us for some time with a collection of fabulous photos from his garden. *Verticordia monodelpha*, the Pink Morrison or Woolly Feather-flower is a compact shrub from south west WA. It has clumps of pink/magenta flowers in late spring and summer.



The Regelias are an interesting group of five species, and Frank has a few different ones growing. *Regelia megacephala* is a taller shrub than others in its genus, with small, rounded leaves and clusters of purplish-red flowers from October to December.



Regelia megacephala



The Mirbelias are a variable group of pea-flowered plants occurring in every state except South Australia

and Tasmania. Frank's image was, I think, incorrectly named when it appeared on our Facebook page. Named as *M. oxylobioides*, further research suggests that it might be *M. dilatata*, the Holly-leaved Mirbelia. Regardless, it puts on a stunning display.

PLANT TABLE

with Matt Leach

It was a smaller than usual plant table this month, but nonetheless a most interesting one.

Agonis flexuosa 'Variegata' an unusual form of the Willow Myrtle and is a small tree with variegated leaves and an elegant, weeping habit. It bears large numbers of whitish flowers in spring.

Backhousia citriodora, the Lemon Myrtle, is a great favourite for its shape and lemon scented leaves, often used in cooking. It is most attractive when in flower with most of the plant covered by creamy white flowers.



B. citriodora – Photo M. Fagg – ANBG Website

Eremophilas were in abundance on the table with many unnamed or unknown hybrids. Among them was an *E. bignoniiflora x longifolia*, and an *E. maculata x racemosa*, the latter a large shrub with yellow/orange flowers. *Eremophila mackinlayi*, known as Desert Pride, is a small shrub, quite widely distributed in Western Australia. It had large deep mauve to purple flowers. Also on the table was an *E. glabra* with tiny pale reddish flowers, and an old favourite *E. 'Summertime Blue'*.

Grevilleas were well represented, as usual. Among them were well known cultivars such as Moonlight, Peaches'n'Cream, Billy Bonkers, Bush lemons and Wendy's Sunshine. True species included *G.*

bipinnatifida, one of the parent plants of the Robyn Gordon complex, and so many of the 'Queensland hybrids'. *Grevillea plurijuga* is a low-growing plant with purple/red flowers growing on long trailing stems. In the wild these trails across the ground but our specimen is on a four metre standard growing in Frank's garden. Matt Baars brought in a hybrid *G. juncifolia x G. spinulosa* which has large, deep yellow flowers.



G. juncifolia x G. spinulosa

Two Croweas added some vivid colour to the table. *Crowea exalata* is a native of the coastal slopes of Victoria and NSW and has star-shaped, pink flowers. *Crowea 'Festival'* is a hybrid of *C. exalata* and *C. saligna* which was a seedling which came up in the garden of former Australian Plant Society members, Arthur and Irene Cooper. It has large, almost shocking pink flowers.

There was a wonderful example of *Persoonia pinifolia*, the Pine-leaved Geebung or Australian Christmas Tree, so named for its flowering time and pine needle-like leaves. It is a small shrub to about 3 metres found naturally in the Sydney region of NSW. The terminal flowers are deep egg-yolk yellow and are followed by purple fruits.



Persoonia pinifolia – Photo: Iain Harrison, Swinburne Commons.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Swainsona galegifolia

By Matt Leach

Plant of the month was chosen by Bruce, and this month it is *Swainsona galegifolia*, the Darling Pea.

S. galegifolia is a multi-branched shrub growing to around 1m high. Shoots grow from the crown each year, depending on the amount of summer rain it receives. The shoots or canes can become unstable at times and can make it look a bit scraggy. Sometimes these unstable canes can be supported by nearby plants.



The foliage and stems are affected by severe frosts but the crown will reshoot in spring. The leaves are pinnate, up to 10cm long and grey-green in colour. Flowers are produced in a raceme of up to 15cm long with many 2.5cm long pea flowers.

Colours of the flowers can vary from pure white, clear pink, through to mauve and magenta crimson. It was this last colour form that was brought to the meeting.

Seeds are produced in swollen pods that are tinted pink. Flowers are produced in November through to March, depending on summer rains.

The plant I brought along is growing in pure clay at Inverleigh. It is about 1m in height and is 7+ years old. These plants are not usually long-lived, usually around 5 years. Mine has never produced any seed, though a lighter pink form we have has. This plant is not as upright or vigorous as this deeper pink form.

The plant is supposedly poisonous to stock but the rabbits still eat it without effect. I purchased the seed for this plant from Nindethana. The seeds required stratification treatment prior to sowing. Melton Botanic Gardens often have these for sale in their nursery.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING:

March 17th

Our next meeting will be a talk by our own Peter Nuzum and his topic - "A gem on the East coast of Kenya ... The innovative revegetation of a limestone quarry in Mombasa". It promises to be an interesting talk with some surprise plant choices for the African bush.

2020 PLANT SALE

Our Autumn Plant Sale 2020 will be held on Saturday 4th April. Once again, it will be at Arthur and Linda's property at Lovely Banks. Formal invitations will go out this week, but already four growers have signalled their intention to attend.

There will be the usual call for volunteers to help out on the day, and with pre-sale and post-sale clean-ups. It would be lovely to see some new faces or some old ones more heavily involved. There is plenty of work that needs doing and, as the old saying goes, 'Many hands make light work'.

We'll be keeping you updated with details as the date draws closer, and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to put your hand up.

A working bee to get the property in order will be held prior to the sale and an email will go out shortly with information for those keen to help.

FROM APS VICTORIA'S CALENDAR

14th and 15th March: Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale at the Australian Gardens Cranbourne near the Kiosk. Sales from 10 am to 4 pm.

25th to 29th March: 2020 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

18th April 2020: APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant & Book Sale. At Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4 pm.

NEWSLETTER TEMPORARY EDITOR

Penny and I will be away for all of June and July, and I will be absent for a good part of May, too. Is there someone, or a number of someones, who would like to take on the newsletter editor's role while I am away? That is May, June and July editions?

I will provide as much assistance as I can to make the job as easy as possible. Please contact me, or any member of the committee if you might be able to help.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS.

I often ask for contributions to the newsletter and I have a few stalwart members who are always willing to help out with interesting content. If you would like to contribute an article for the three months mentioned above, that would be of great assistance. I won't be around to do it, so please give some thought to contributing. No article is too small or too large, and anything even vaguely plant related is grist to our mill.

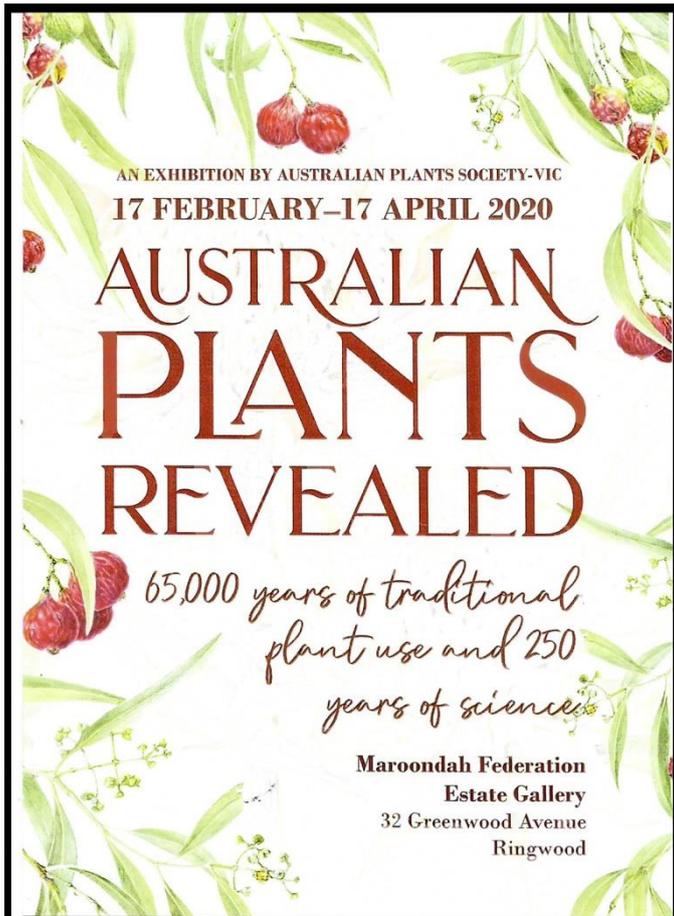
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AN EXHIBITION BY AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY-VIC
17 FEBRUARY-17 APRIL 2020

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS REVEALED

*65,000 years of traditional
 plant use and 250
 years of sciences*

**Maroondah Federation
 Estate Gallery**
 32 Greenwood Avenue
 Ringwood

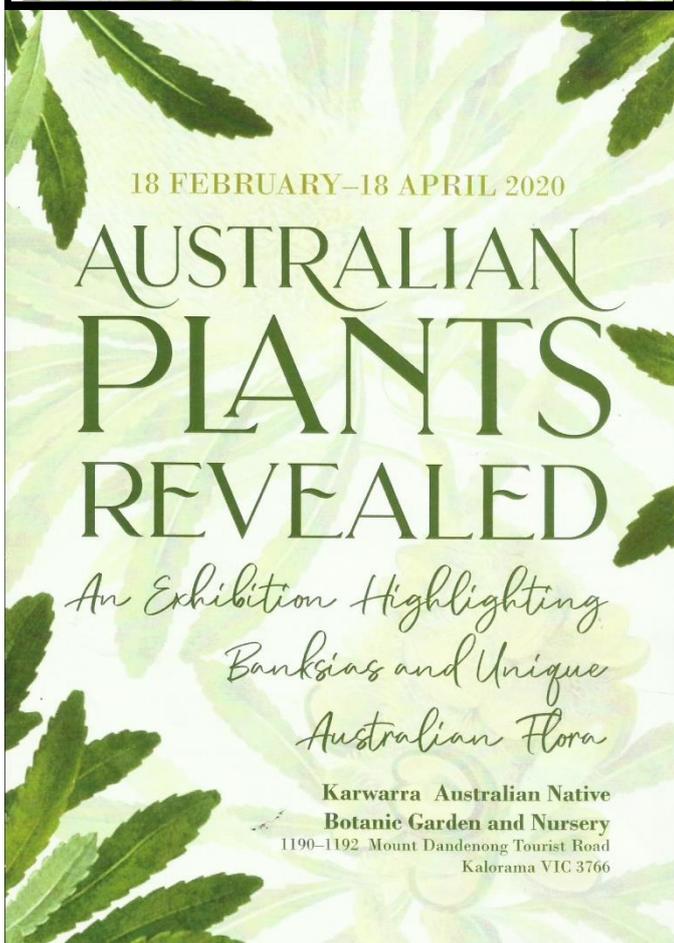


18 FEBRUARY-18 APRIL 2020

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS REVEALED

*An Exhibition Highlighting
 Banksias and Unique
 Australian Flora*

**Karwarra Australian Native
 Botanic Garden and Nursery**
 1190-1192 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road
 Kalorama VIC 3766



BONSAI EXHIBITION

VICTORIAN NATIVE BONSAI CLUB 2020

April 4th & 5th 2020,
 9am to 4pm



Preston Shire Hall,
 Corner of
 High St & Gower St,
 Preston

Adults \$5, Children under 16 free

*Callistemon
 viminalis*

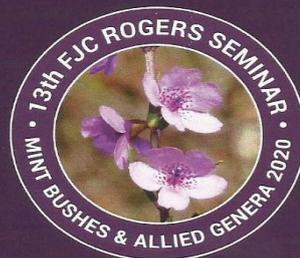
An exhibition of Australian Native Plants as Bonsai

Australian native plants and bonsai related items for sale.

For further information contact secnativeclub@gmail.com

Meetings are held at: Harry Atkinson Centre, Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg
 at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

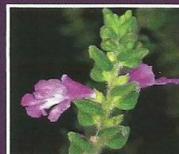
www.vicnativebonsai.com.au



**Australian
 Plants
 Society
 Victoria Inc.**

MINT BUSHES & ALLIED GENERA

LAMIACEAE, Subfamily Prostantheroideae



24 & 25 October 2020
Eltham Melbourne Victoria
 e: fjcrogersseminar2020@gmail.com