AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY — Geelong —

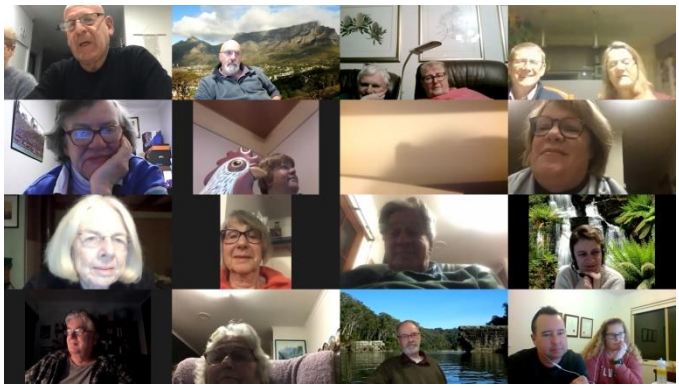
Correa Mail

Newsletter No 361 – September, 2020

WELCOME to the September edition of the Correa Mail. It was great to get back to some semblance of normality this month, by holding our first on-line meeting. The rain over the last couple of weeks is a welcome sight, but it has encouraged the weeds to sprout. Oh well, we've got not much else to do! ☺

OUR FIRST ZOOM MEETING **August 18th**

Our first Zoom meeting was held on our regular 3rd Tuesday of the month at the usual time of 7.30 pm. I think it was a great success!



We had 21 people join the meeting and heard short presentations from four of our members. Ade spoke about a few of the things that are flowering in his garden in Belmont, particularly those which are flowering 'out of time', as many plants appear to be this year.

Roger Wileman gave a brief introduction to the Verticordias, and showed us some great pics of these amazing plants. Matt Leach took us on a pictorial guided tour of the garden at Leach's Inverleigh property and had us oohing and aahing at the delights to be found there. Finally, Frank Scheelings showed us some of his wonderful shots of the wildlife that is encountered in his Highton garden, close to the Barwon River reserve.

The meeting was recorded and those who were unable to attend can view it here …..

http://apsgeelong.org/webinars.html

As is the case with new technology, there are often a few bugs to be sorted out and I encountered one here. The recording failed to activate and I missed my own and Roger's presentation. However, technology has its advantages and I've redone those two presentations and spliced them into the video for all to watch.

The committee is determined to continue the Zoom meeting at least for the foreseeable future, and we hope to continue the format of members giving short presentations, with guest speakers as well.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Last month, in the POTM article, I wrote about *Grevillea nivea* 'Scarlet King', and mentioned the lack of information available in my library and on-line. Phil Vaughan, of Vaughan's Australian Plants, in Pomonal, came to my rescue. Phil writes …

"During the 1990's, when we lived in Pomonal, (the first time,) I was regularly collecting in Western Australia with an ex-Victorian mate named John Cullen. John, at that time, was also sending material back to Mt Annan as part of work he was doing for them. One of the grevilleas he sent me was un-named variety, which for a long time, we referred to as Grevillea sp. John Cullen. He had found it near Bremmer Bay and it was thought, at that time, to have affinities to G. rigida.

This plant was later described by Olde and Marriott as Grevillea nivea. It commonly grows to 2-3mts high by 2-5mt wide. 5-6 years ago, while collecting at a place called Whalebone Beach, WA, Angus Stewart and

myself found dwarf variants, around 1.2 x 1.2, growing close to the sea.

John Cullen is one of the better collectors around, being responsible for many of the grevillea species in cultivation. He is also the person who found and sent back seed and pressings of Banksia rosserae, although never given the rightful credit for that discovery. He was recognised for his collecting work by Peter Olde, who named Grevillea obliquistma ssp cullenii, from east of Laverton, in his honour.

Grevillea Nivea is sold as a grafted plant. The name 'Scarlett King' came about when a friend, Tony Blackmore, through his nursery, Exclusive Natives, began producing grafted plants through the trade and he introduced that cultivar name.

Hopefully, this information may help to shed some light on the origins of Grevillea nivea."

Thanks Phil, it certainly has.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING October 20th

Our Annual General Meeting will be conducted online, via Zoom, on October 20th at 7.30 pm. More information will be forthcoming in an email from our secretary, Peter Nuzum.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Annual subscriptions are due, and a new Membership form is attached to this newsletter, or can be downloaded from our website –

http://www.apsgeelong.org/join.html

We understand that we cannot provide all the things one generally receives from membership of APS Geelong. However, our fees are so low when compared to other clubs, that we think you will still get value for money. And remember, you can't vote at the AGM unless you are a financial member.

NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUPS By Phil Royce

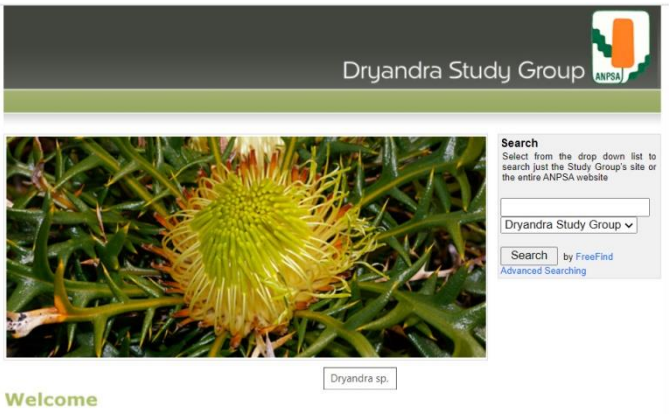
Just as APS Geelong sits under the broader group of APS Victoria, APS Victoria sits under a broader group as well - ANPSA - Australian Native Plant Society (Australia). One of the many things that ANPSA does is to operate Study Groups (SG).

A Study Group is a collection of people who really enjoy something in particular about Australian native plants, be it a specific genus or native plant tucker. Currently, there are 17 active SGs. Each group has a couple of 'doers', a leader, secretary and treasurer, and a newsletter, (produced by an editor. The newsletters are much like our Correa Mail, prepared by Ade, but not published as frequently.

In my role as the APS Victoria Study Group Liaison Officer, I receive a copy of the newsletter from each SG and provide a summary to the APS Victoria newsletter editor for publication in its own *newsletter 'Growing Australian'* which comes out quarterly.

Over the two years so far, I've found some really interesting SGs that you may also find interesting. The list of the active 17 SGs can be seen by typing anspa.org.au into your search engine. When the page comes up just select 'Study Groups'.

As well as the expected Eucalyptus, Grevillea, Eremophila and so on, there's Australian Pea Flowers (recently reactivated), Australian Food Plants, Australian Plants for Containers and Dryandra (edited by our own Tony Cavanagh).



To see the current year's newsletters, you'll need to be a member of APS Vic. But if you're not an APS Vic member you can see all the previous newsletters (some SGs go back 20+ years).

In addition to the active groups, there are also groups that are currently closed, like Bonsai. This may be for several reasons, like the retirement of a 'driving force' member. Despite this, you can still read their published newsletters simply by clicking the name of the group.

My observation has been that the articles/stories in the newsletters show two kinds of members: the passionate who can travel far and wide to see and/or collect a new or rare species of the groups' study plant, like our Roger Wileman; and the 'merely interested' who just read newsletter from cover to cover, like me.

A REMNANT PLANT Pt II. *Kennedia prostrata*
By Ade Foster

Back in March, 2019, I wrote an article for *The Correa Mail* entitled '*A Remnant Plant*'. It told how I started my native garden during the drought in about 2002/03. One of the plants I put in was *Kennedia prostrata*, the

Running Postman. It died after a couple of years, but in January 2019, a tiny plant appeared from a seed that had lain there for fifteen years.

The baby *Kennedia*, January 2019

I waxed lyrical about my hopes for the original plant. '*I had visions of it spreading across the yard, brightening my day with its lovely, bright red pea-flowers*'. And now, some 17 years later, my visions for the plant have been realised.

The same Kennedia, August 2020

As you can see it has completely covered the garden bed in which it was growing and has spread across the path and into the next bed. Sometimes the best way to garden is to do nothing and leave the plants to do their thing. ☺

PLANT OF THE MONTH **Ade Foster**

One of my favourite garden plants is *Eremophila cuneifolia.* I was given my specimen by the ever-generous Roger Wileman about 5 years ago. It is grafted onto a Myoprum root stock and has been a feature of my front garden.

Eremophila cuneifolia (from the Latin *cuneus* – a wedge, and *folius* – a leaf) is native to central west Western Australia. The first specimen was collected by the explorer Charles Crossland, near Mount Hale on the upper reaches of the Murchison River. The species was first described by Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig Kraenzlin in 1929.

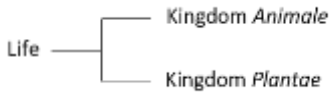
It is a small, spreading shrub to about 1 metre in height. The branches and leaf axils are covered in a stick resin. The flowers appear singly on small, hairy stems. The large sepals are a pale, pink/mauve and the petals are a pale to dark purple. The inside of the floral tube is paler, with dark purple spots.

Grafted plants will tolerate most soil types, but a well-drained, sunny position is important. Flowering occurs most prolifically in the spring, but my plant has some flowers all year round. A good prune after flowering will encourage a better shape.

CLASSIFICATION OF LIFE by Nicole Leach

The classification of life (plants, animals etc) is a science in itself called Taxonomy. Taxonomy involves placing organisms in a hierarchical structure, but have you ever wondered how the current day classification has come to be? Let me take you riiiiiiiight back in history….

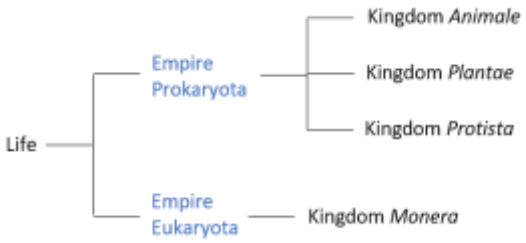
In the fourth century, Greek Philosopher Aristotle and his student Theophrastus classified life into two different kingdoms based on the way they move and their nutritional needs. They were kingdoms *Plantae* & *Animalia*.



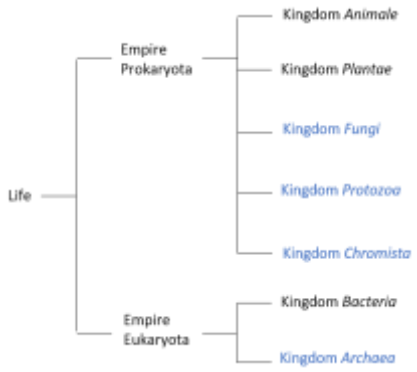
In 1735, Swedish Botanist, Carl Linneaus, further broke the two-kingdom system into three – animale, vegetabile and mineral (Lapideum). This was then reassessed by Dutch businessman and Biologist, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek in 1674 to include microscopic creatures into Linneaus' three kingdom system, revoking kingdom status for the mineral group. In 1860, British Naturalist John Hogg proposed that the third kingdom include lower creatures or primary organic beings as kingdom *Protoctista*. In 1866, German Zoologist Ernst Haeckel revised the content of Hogg's kingdom *Protoctista* as single cell organisms that were not either animals or plants (kingdom *Protista*). Kingdoms *Animalia* and *Plantae* therefore contained all multicelled organisms.

In 1938, the three Kingdom system was further reassessed by American Biologist Herbert F. Haeckel with the development of the electron microscope. Under electron microscope Haeckel found that single cell organisms (kingdom *Protista*) either had a defined nucleus (eukaryote) or not (prokaryote). The prokaryotes (undefined nucleus) within the *Protista* kingdom were separated to form their own kingdom, *Monera*.

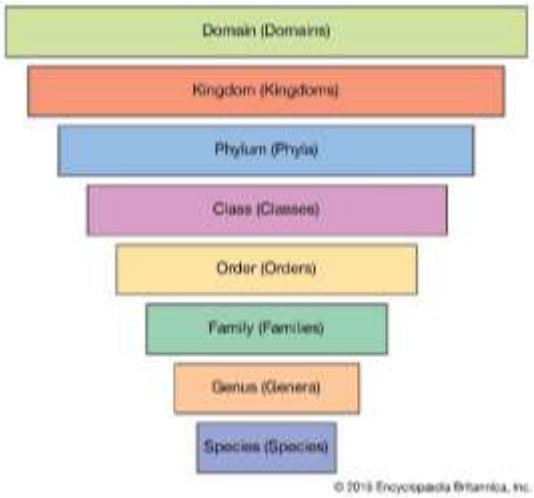
In the 1960s Stanier and van Niel revisited French Biologist Edouard Chatton's further classification by dividing life into two empires – Bacteria and Eukaryota, based on the status of their nucleus (as described above). *Monera* being the only kingdom within empire Bacteria and Eukayota containing kingdoms *Animale*, *Plantae* and *Protista*.



Then in 1969, Biologist Robert Harding Whittaker proposed that there were five different kingdoms based on their cellular structure and other characteristics. The five kingdoms of life Whittaker classified were Kingdoms *Monera*, *Protista*, *Animalia, Plantae* and new inclusion *Fungi*. Since then, English Biologist Thomas Cavalier-Smith and colleagues have published evidence for six, seven and eight kingdom classifications. With the current, seven kingdom system (2015, below) approach likely to be reassessed in the future as technology improves and develops.



The kingdom *Plantae* is generally classified as any multicellular prokaryotic organism that has a cell wall containing cellulose and generate (mostly via photosynthesis) their own energy. The current taxonomic arrangement is as follows:



When we talk about plants we use a two-term naming system, or binomial nomenclature. This naming system was developed by Carl Linnaeus, around the same time he developed the three-kingdom system (busy man!). He found that by identifying plants (and other organisms) simply by their genus and species name was akin to a person's first name and surname to identify a person – like using *Ade Foster* to identify a bald man, with a beard and a photography and Grevillea obsession or *Matthew Leach* to identify a quietly spoken, small man with a plant and baked goods weakness. In the case of plants, their binomial nomenclature is also in *Latin* or Latin-derived (or sometimes derived from Greek or even Aboriginal language).

The reason why *Latin* (or other language) binomial names are used and preferred over common names is to avoid confusion of different plants that have the same common name – like *Roger Wileman* is a plant person, but not all plant people are named *Roger Wileman*. Also, the *Latin* genus name is a noun, where the species name an adjective (or epithet) used to describe the specific plant. Unlike people's names, binomial names are always written with the genus name starting with a capital letter and the species name all in lower case, such as *Banksia* (genus) *speciosa* (species). Australian native flora is quite diverse with an approximate 35,000 characterised species of plants, 250,000 recognized species of fungi and 3,000 species of identified lichens.

Often, we talk about plant families, consisting of multiple genera and species – like family APS Geelong with genera *Royce*, *Scheelings*, *McGinness* etc and species *Dianne*, *Phillip*, *Frank*, *Tina*, *Bruce* and *Judy* (children are subspecies

in this case). Following the general rules of taxonomy, plants in the same family have common characteristics. Examples of Families that contain Australian natives are:

Family	Genera
Fabaceae (Peas)	*Acacia, Pultenaea, Daviesia, Bossiaea*
Myrtaceae	*Eucalyptus, Callistemon, Melaleuca, Leptospermum*
Asteraceae (Daisies)	*Brachyscome, Xerochrysum, Olearia*
Proteaceae	*Banksia (and dryandra), Grevillea, Hakea, Isopogon, Telopea*
Orchidaceae	*Sarcochilus, Pterostylis, Corybas, Dendrobium, Thelymitra*
Ericaceae (Heaths, Heathers)	*Epacris, Leucopogon*
Rutaceae	*Citrus, Boronia, Correa, Eriostemon*
Euphorbiaceae	*Euphorbia, Beyeria, Bertya*
Cyperaceae (Sedges)	*Carex, Cyperus, Elocharis*
Poaceae (Grasses)	*Austrostipa, Cymbopogon, Themeda*
Xanthorrhoeaceae	*Xanthorrhoea*
Solanaceae	*Nicotiana, Solanum*
Casuarinaceae	*Casuarina, Allocasuarina*

You probably think that I have gone a little overboard in italicising words. According to naming convention, plant (in this case) genus and species are always distinguished in one way or another when written. In typed text this is usually done by *italicising* the genus and species name, but you can also <u>underline</u> to achieve the same thing. Wierdly enough, family names are not italicised. Subspecies, variety and cultivar names are also not italicised or highlighted in this way when written, though cultivar names are in ‘quotation marks’.