



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 363 - November, 2020

OCTOBER MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was conducted via Zoom, and was very well attended. Following reports from the President and Treasurer, the results of the annual Photo Competition were announced. This was followed by a presentation of photos from our recent excursions to Anglesea and Inverleigh. Reports of these are included in this edition of the Correa Mail.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bruce McGinness

This year has shown we are a resilient club with members maintaining contact with each other during lock down and are still sharing their passion for native plants. I thank everyone who has made an effort to keep us connected through the various means available to us now.



Notre president estimé – Bruce McGinness

As always, I like to thank the members who make this club such a fun place to be, but I must also acknowledge the passing of two valued members

Geoff Wilson: An enthusiastic member who had created a number of gardens with Australian Native plants in the different locations he had lived. Geoff was a skilled scientist who brought his academic rigour to the growing of Australian plants. Geoff and Bev

regularly attended club meetings and functions and contributed regularly with samples brought from their home garden.

June Parrott: A long-standing enthusiastic member involved with many plant sales and excursions. June also spent many years as a committee member of APS Geelong. June was a teacher and later a teacher trainer who had instructed a number of the members when they were younger.

The committee who give their time and ideas to running a club is critical for the survival of a club; a big thankyou once again to those members for volunteering for these positions. Secretarial duties are never much fun so having someone like Peter Nuzum who willing gave his time to fill the secretary's job is much appreciated. The same goes for our treasurer Frank Scheelings who for a time as long as I can remember has been treasurer and has done a fine job looking after the club's finances. Matt Leach our vice president is a wonderful soundboard for me to run ideas past and I am very grateful for his sage advice. Ade Foster produces ten newsletters a year to a high standard. Ade's dedication and skill in producing a well-regarded record of the club's activities and sourcing interesting articles from our members and elsewhere for our newsletter, is much appreciated. Ade is also the driver behind keeping us connected with Facebook and Zoom; so again, thankyou Ade for the well needed prodding to keep us in the modern times.

After much initial agonising we cancelled the plant sale and within a week of making the decision in March it proved to be totally the right decision with the state closing all public gatherings. Thank you to the members who put in the initial work in organising the plant sale. We have proposed the date of 17th April 2021 for the next plant sale and we will see how likely that it is going ahead in the following weeks

I would like to thank Ade and Penny Foster for hosting the Christmas party at their residence, as always at our social functions we had a great time and we appreciate the trouble that Ade and Penny went to in hosting a large group of people.

APS Geelong members have given presentations that were entertaining and packed with well researched

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information. Thank you to Peter Nuzum and Ade Foster for going to the significant effort of preparing and presenting to the club.

A field trip to Inverleigh Flora and Flora Reserve in October was well attended with two groups of ten guided by Matt Leach and Ade Foster to the best wildflower locations in the reserve. A follow up field trip was led by Frank Scheelings to the Anglesea Heath who knows the area well.



Sheila Walter made a valiant effort to get the group together at her property Water Land but was thwarted by the second wave of The Virus. Hopefully there will be an opportunity later in 2020 to get together. Even if it is not possible in 2020, I am optimistic that the club will be as strong or stronger in 2021 as we adapt to new ways of sharing our passion of native plants.

All the committee have kindly volunteered to be re-elected, but this shouldn't stop anyone who is interested in being nominated for the committee or any of the executive positions tonight. I have come to the end of the third year as being president of the group and while am happy to stand for nomination as president for another year it will be certainly my last year as president.

To be honest it is not an onerous job with all the wonderful support of the committee and members, but a new person will come in with fresh ideas. I personally would love to see one of the many talented women in the club be nominated as a president for this year or next year. We need fresh ideas to stay relevant so that we can boldly go where no plant club has gone before and to live long and prosper.

TREASURER'S REPORT **by Frank Scheelings**

Frank gave a brief report on the financial state of the club for an unusual year, to say the least. Income was down, mainly because of the cancellation of our major fund-raiser for the year, the plant sale. Expenditure showed a few purchases which reflect the current state of the nation, including the purchase of a licence for

Zoom to enable us to hold our general and committee meetings online.



Long-serving Treasurer – Frank Scheelings.

The end result was a total income of \$1068.10, a total expenditure of \$1433.20 for an operating loss for the year of -\$365.10. The club's bank balance exceeds \$14,000.

ELECTIONS

Following the reports, the President declared all committee positions vacant and handed the chair to Phil Royce who called for nominations. All committee positions were filled. With single nominations received for all positions, no votes were needed. The results of the election and your 'new' committee for 2020.2021 are as follows.

President:	Bruce McGinness
Vice President:	Matt Leach
Treasurer:	Frank Scheelings
Secretary:	Peter Nuzum
General Members:	Deborah Peeters, Carmel Addlem, Sheila Deakin, Matt Baars, Dianne Royce, Ade Foster.

The meeting was also attended by the President of APS Victoria, Chris Clarke. Chris gave us a brief description of the good works being done by APS Victoria, and the benefits of being a member of the State body. He noted that very few of our members are also members of APS Victoria and urged us to consider joining.

PHOTO COMPITITION

Like everything else, thanks to Covid, our photo comp was held online. Many reported that they preferred this format as it gave them time and a better viewing option than 5 x 7 photos on the table. Food for thought.

Winners were clear cut ... 2nd and 3rd decided by a toss of the coin.

Winners in each category were :-



1st Australian Plant - Di Royce – ‘Eucalyptus rhodantha’



1st Australian Wildlife – Nicole Leach – ‘Pink Robin’



1st Australian Landscape – Frank Scheelings – ‘Sunset’



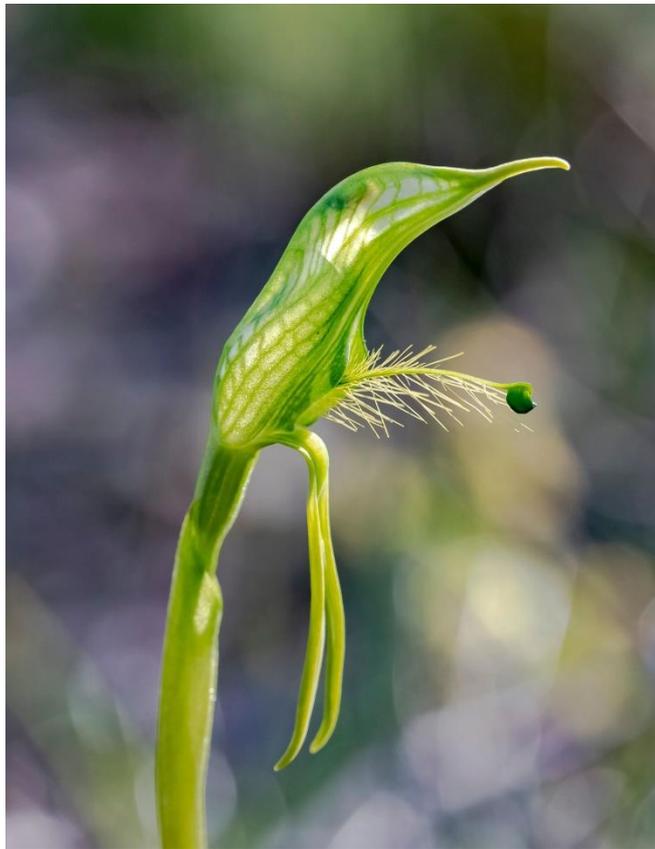
2nd Australian Plants – Jenny Epstein – Fungus



2nd Australian Wildlife – Ade Foster – ‘Emu Hairdo’



2nd Aust Landscape – Annette Packett – ‘Desert Plant’



3rd Plants – Frank Scheelings – ‘Pterostylis unicornis’



3rd Aust Wildlife – Frank Scheelings - ‘Zebra Finches’



3rd Aus Landscapes – Ade Foster – ‘Mutawintji’

EXCURSIONS in OCTOBER

INVERLEIGH NATURE CONSERVATION RESERVE.

By Ade Foster

Saturday 3rd October dawned warm and very windy. Twenty members gathered at the Common Rd, entrance to the reserve at 10.00 am for our first foray since Covid 19 brought our meetings to an end. It was, loosely, a follow-up to Ade’s talk about the Orchids of Inverleigh NCR at our last Zoom meeting.

We divided into two groups and, armed with masks and maps of likely hunting spots, headed out to see what we could find. Matt Leach took one group on ahead, while Ade waited with the others until the last water-bottle losing stragglers arrived. Diuris orchids, Golden Moths, were prolific, and were in abundance wherever we stopped.



Diuris sp. – Golden Moths

There were many other little plants in flower. *Pimelea humilis* – the Humble Rice-flower, *Pultenea pedunculata* – the Matted Bush-pea, *Buchardia umbellata* – Milkmaids and the beautiful little Blue Squill - *Chamaescilla corymbosa* were all noted along the fire track which follows Common Road.

Two warm days in a row saw the sun-orchids, *Thelymitra* sp., beginning to open. These beautiful orchids require a certain temperature to open – usually around 22° - and we were very happy to find several species responding to the heat. We recorded 25° at 11.00 am, and 29° at 12.30.



***Chamaescilla corymbosa* - Blue Squill**

A little blue one was the first one found. The blue Sun-orchids are a constant source of frustration to those who want to know 'what species?' They are remarkably similar in appearance and habit. They are also quite shamefully promiscuous, so hybrids are not uncommon. Those who are sensible put them in the *T. pauciflora* 'complex' and are content. Others, less relaxed, gnash their teeth, and count the tiny bristles on the column, measure the angle of the tufts or count the number of ribs on kangaroo-gnawed leaves. This way lies madness.



***Thelymitra juncifolia* – Rush-leafed Sun-orchid**

However, we did find seven (or is it eight?) different species. The most contentious was *Thelymitra*

juncifolia, the Rush-leafed Sun-orchid. This one bears a close resemblance to another Sun-orchid, *T. ixioides*. , and some good-natured discussion was had as to which one this might be.

Editor's note: As I am the one writing this article, I will go with my identification ☺

Other Sun-orchids encountered were *T. pauciflora*, *T. arenaria*, *T. carnea*, *T. antennifera* and *T. luteocilium*.

I found a Blue-tongued lizard and caught it to show my gang. The lizard displayed its displeasure by latching firmly onto my thumb, removing several acres of skin and actually drawing blood. I am recovering nicely in the intensive care ward (otherwise known as my reclining chair) where my whinings and whimperings are being heartlessly but justifiably ignored. Thank you all for your cards and flowers.

We stopped at several places along our route to investigate the bush, and always there was something of interest, another little plant growing here that was not seen at the last spot. One of these was the tiny and uncommon Clover Glycine, *Glycine latrobeana*. This little plant is listed as vulnerable, and it was a delight to find them in quite good numbers along Woolbrook track.



Clover Glycine, *Glycine latrobeana*

Another was the wonderfully named *Platylobium obtuseangulum* – The Common Flat-pea.

Our last stop was along Old Teesdale Track, near the enclosure to protect the tiny *Caladenia pumila*. Here there were masses of *Stackhousia monogyna*, Creamy Candles and the Dainty Bird-orchid, *Chiloglottis trapeziformis*. Perhaps the most interesting find here was not a plant, but a fungus. Several Morels, *Morchella sp.*, were found along the kangaroo path we were following through the Hedge-wattles.

All in all, a great outing, and I am pleased that so many of our members took the opportunity to 'get out' again. It was also great to meet new members Sue and Michael, who have recently moved to Geelong from Nimbin, NSW.



Morel mushroom – *Morchella* sp.

ANOTHER TAKE:

THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK AND SUNDRY ORCHIDS

By Peter Nuzum

Today, an intrepid group of APS Geelong members set off to Inverleigh Common to look for orchids and snarks. To comply with coronavirus restrictions, we split up into 2 groups of 10 people ably led by Ade Foster and Matt Leach. Meeting at the Common carpark, we were briefed by our fearless snark hunter Ade who has an intimate knowledge of the orchids of the park. We then set off in 2 convoys to hunt for the tiny orchids and fearsome snarks. And, with our hopes high that we would not meet with a Boojam or a JubJub.



I, of course, was dressed for the occasion with my African shirt and Kenyan hat. After all, it was a safari and I was very hopeful of seeing some wild animals like elephants and lions but sadly, I only found 2 dead kangaroos. Or they found me with the stench of them.

As we made our way around the Common, we made many stops to look at the orchids and other plants. This was a real

education for me. I have done a lot of bushwalking in my time but with my eyes pointed upwards, admiring the majestic eucalypts, the gaudy wattles or the drooping allo-casuarinas, always on the lookout for the koalas, colourful parrots or raucous kookaburras. Now, I was introduced to a brand, new world aka Terry Pratchett's "The Carpet People" - a real miniature world ... a world of tiny orchids, pea flowers, grasses and many other tiny plants. I will leave it to Ade, Frank

and Matt to name the plants but there was an exciting new world for me and I will look down more often in future when walking in the bush.

Well, I didn't see any elephants or lions and nobody got lost to the Boojams or JubJubs but I did see a brand new world of orchids and other miniature plants. So thank you Ade for organising such a wonderful day, thank you to all our members for their delightful company and thank you Matt Baars for driving me around.

(With apologies to Lewis Carroll "The Hunting of the Snark" and Terry Pratchett "The Carpet People")

After a great weekend at Inverleigh, we tried a mid-week excursion, and though not as well attended as the weekend one, it was a tremendous success, thanks to some fine reconnaissance work from Frank Ed.

ANGLESEA ORCHID HUNT

7TH October

By Frank Scheelings

Nine intrepid, warmly clothed members braved the cold and anticipated heavy rains to go orchid hunting at Anglesea under my guidance. I had previously reconnoitred the area in anticipation.

We started at the lower end of Flaxbourne's Road searching the eastern side of the bush reserve where a controlled burn was carried out last year. Many orchids respond well to burning, and so, these areas are ideal for the enthusiast. Within minutes of leaving the cars and within ten metres of the road, six species were identified.



***Caladenia clavigera* – Plain-lip Spider-orchid**

Instruction on the floral anatomy of orchids was given and Phil Royce will be tested on his new-found knowledge at the next meeting. I suggest he familiarises himself with petal, sepal, labellum, column, calli and rosette for his exam; a fail will result in him having to do the flower table for a year.

All in all thirteen species were found in flower in this area. But, sadly, due to the poor weather conditions the

sun-orchids were not open. We had another look about 300 meters closer to Forest Road, but only *Diuris sulphurea* was added to the list.



***Pyrorchis nigricans* – Red Beaks**

The next stop was further east along Forest Road where, again, a previously burnt area was explored. Here we were able to add *Caladenia transitoria*, *Calochilus robertsonii* (Purple beard orchid), *Leptocerus menziesii* (Rabbit orchid) and *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Red Beaks) to our list. These last 2 were a bonus as these orchids generally only flower after fire. We had previously found numerous leaves of these species, but no flowers.

By now the drizzle was becoming persistent and rain becoming more threatening, so it was decided to call a halt to the proceedings. However, with two diehards in tow I managed to dash a further 200 meters further on to show where I knew *Caladenia catenata* (White Caladenia) was in flower, and then a quick drive to where a large colony of *Chiloglottis valida* (Common Bird orchid) was in flower.

The final result showed we found twenty two species in flower, five or more sun-orchids, and three species "spent". A better day might have yielded a higher species count but in general a successful and most enjoyable afternoon. A list of the species in flower follows ...

1. *Caladenia cardiochila* - Heart-lip Spider-orchid
2. *Caladenia carnea* - Pink Fingers
3. *Caladenia catenata* - White Caladenia
4. *Caladenia clavigera* - Plain-lip Spider orchid
5. *Caladenia parva* – Small Greencomb Spider-orchid

6. *Caladenia tentaculata* - Mantis Orchid
7. *Caladenia transitoria* – Green Caps
8. *Caladenia venusta* – Large White Spider-orchid
9. *Caladenia venusta x tentaculata* - Hybrid
10. *Calochilus robertsonii* - Purple Beard-orchid
11. *Chiloglottis valida* - Common Bird-orchid
12. *Diuris orientis* - Donkey Orchid
13. *Diuris sulphurea* - Tiger orchid
14. *Glossodia major* - Purple Waxlip
15. *Leptocerus menziesii* - Rabbit Orchid
16. *Microtis unifolia* - Common Onion-orchid
17. *Pterostylis melagramma* – Tall Greenhood
18. *Pterostylis nana* - Nodding Greenhood
19. *Pterostylis unicornis* – Anglesea Plumed Greenhood
20. *Pterostylis tasmanica* – Southern Plumed Greenhood
21. *Pyrorchis nigricans* - Red Beaks
22. *Thelymitra antennifera* - Rabbit ears



***Chiloglottis valida* – Common Bird-orchid**

MORE PHOTOS

A slideshow of the photos from these two excursions was presented at our AGM zoom meeting. Video of this can be found here.

<http://apsgeelong.org/webinars.html>

Apologies for the sound quality, Frank was having issues with his internet connection.

CHRISTMAS BREAK_UP

Keep 28th November free for our Christmas break-up. Because of Covid restrictions this will take the form of a BYO everything picnic lunch in a park or bushland reserve to be announced. This way we can gather, stay safe and, with appropriate caution, see off 2020 in style. Let's finish this horrid year off with a great celebration.