



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 381 - July, 2022

JUNE MEETING -

MEMBERS' NIGHT

Although attendance was small, almost everyone there contributed something to a very interesting Members' Night.

We kicked off with Tony Cavanagh who showed us a wonderful flowering of his *Hakea orthorrhyncha*, called Bird Beak Hakea because of the curious shape of the seed pods.



Hakea orthorrhyncha, Bird Beak Hakea

Tony's *Dryandra nervosa*, a photo of which featured in his book 'The Dryandras', has split at the trunk forming an interesting triple plant. He followed up on his 'Correa Mail' article about growing pineapples (April 2021) at Ocean Grove, with some photos of the plants he has put into the ground as an experiment.

Sheila followed with a story of hardship and deprivation, which she finally overcame by buying the plant she wanted for the garden, a standardised *Casuarina glauca*, 'Cousin It'. It is a strange, non-flowering plant originating at Bulli south of Sydney. The stems grow horizontally and mould over surfaces such as rocks and logs, or trailing down walls. The reason for its form and failure to produce flowers is not known.



Sheila's 'Cousin It' – *Casuarina glauca*

Cuttings taken from prostrate plants near Booderee National Park in 1989 were established in Canberra's Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Ade told us about the Correas flowering in his garden at the moment, *C. backhouseana*, *C. pulchella* 'Gypsy', *C. reflexa* – Anglesea and Brisbane Ranges forms, various *c. alba* forms and cultivars, Catie Bec, Little Cate, Pink Mist and Canberra Bells.



C. backhouseana - Anglesea

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Roger went on to make us all envious with his beautiful Waratah 'Shady Lady' plants. These are a hybrid of *Telopea speciosissima* and *T. oreades*, and are growing on the south side of the house.



T. speciosissima is the Floral emblem of NSW and is found on the south/central coast from the Watagan Mountains south to around Ulladulla.

T. oreades is found in south-eastern Australia in moist forest or temperate rainforest. It occurs in East Gippsland, from Orbost to the

vicinity of Eden across the border in New South Wales. There is a more northerly population around the Monga Valley, near Braidwood.

Roger cuts his waratahs back by about a metre each year and as a result they produce numerous blooms on long, straight stems.

Roger also showed us photos of the Native Rhododenron, *Rhododenron viriosum*. Roger wrote an article about this plant in 'Correa Mail' 326 – March 2017.

Next up was Chris Walker-Cook who showed us some great shots from his garden of a couple of ground-cover plants. In Chris's view these are often overlooked. The first was *Dicondra repens* – Kidney weed.



D. repens is a tough low-growing herbaceous plant that spreads quite rapidly and fills all the nooks and crannies in your garden. Native to all states of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

He also showed us another ground-cover, *Lobelia pedunculata*, Matted Pratia. It is found in south-east

Australia, from around Brisbane to the South Australian border and in Tasmania. It flowers throughout the year and prefers a moist situation.



Sheila took the floor again and told us about the recovery of a group of *Eucalyptus caesia* 'Silver Princess' that had become too big for the garden. Roger cut them back to the lignotuber, and Sheila documented their recovery.



The plants grew back vigorously and Roger had to decide which of the emergent 'trunks' he would keep, and which would be removed to provide the most pleasing result.

Peter followed with a few of his favourite plants. He determined which are his favourite by the simple process of noting which ones survive his ministrations, or lack thereof. Among them were *Alyogyne hueglijii*, *Gastrolobium celsium*, *Guichenotia macrantha*,

Hymenospermum flavum, *Kennedia nigricans* and *Plectranthus parvifolius*.



Peter's *Plectranthus parvifolius* – Spur Flower

Coleus australis, also known as *C. parvifolius*, *Plectranthus parvifolius* and *P. australis* is a low shrub found mostly in shaded, rocky areas along watercourses in the eastern Australia, New Zealand, Polynesia and Hawaii.

Our final presenter was Frank, with a sad tale of the collapse of a large retaining wall in his Highton garden. The damage was considerable and the cost of repairs even more so. But the loss of the mature plants was something we could all identify with.



It was not only the loss of the retaining wall, but it's part in the Scheelings' family history – 'Lumberjack Tina' will be forever remembered for her herculean efforts of transporting red-gum sleepers. The landscapers brought machines through the neighbouring vacant block and showed scant regard for Frank's surviving plants.



But after many hours of work, much concrete and steel, many treated pine sleepers and many cubic metres of soil the job began to take shape.



A load of mulch, plants and a lot of rabbit-proofing completed the job. The end result is wonderful



Matt Leach gave us a lovely presentation of both garden plants, and plants he and Nicole have encountered on their wanderings. *Cymbidium madidum* is a native orchid occurring in Queensland and New South Wales. It is an epiphyte that acts like a terrestrial as it rarely grows on bark, but is found in hollows and crooks of branches where leaf detritus has collected. Matt's specimen is flowering well this year.



Matt's *Cymbidium madidum*

Several native terrestrials featured, including *Thynniorchus huntianus* – the Elbow-orchid and *Thelymitra malvina* – the Purple-tufted Sun-orchid.

A stunning daisy plant *Coronidium elatum* - Tall Everlasting, made quite an impression on members present, as did a magnificent *Grevillea* hybrid, *calliantha x asparagoides*.



***Coronidium elatum* -Tall Everlasting**

No presentation from Matt would be complete without on *Banksia*, and *Banksia grossa* made the cut this time. A rather interesting plant is *Hibiscus insularis* – the

Phillip Island Hibiscus. And no, it's not the Philip Island in Victoria, but rather the Philip Island found just south of Norfolk Island. The entire natural population of this plant is just two clumps which are 'clones'. It has been propagated and planted more widely on Phillip Island, but only vegetatively which does not increase the genetic diversity. Apparently no seedlings of this plant have ever been found.



***Hibiscus insularis* – the Phillip Island Hibiscus**

Nicole Leach followed with a wonderful visual journey through the high country around Kosciuszko National Park. Matt and Nicole travelled there in January/February this year.



Nicole's talk followed their journey and included some great photos of the area, the wildlife and the plant-life, all enhanced by her story-telling. They walked Sawpit Creek and the Sawpit Creek waterfall, before heading to Thredbo Village.



In Nicole's words, 'orchids were everywhere'. And there was plenty of other wildlife, too. Red-necked Wallabies, and a good number of birds were sighted.



Next stop was Lake Jindabyne and more orchids. *Pterostylis decurva*, the Summer Greenhood and *P. monticola*, the Large Mountain Greenhood were found among the Royal Bluebells, *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* and Mountain Baeckea – *Baeckea utilis*.

On the third day they made the Kosciuszko Summit and Rainbow Lake walks.



Among fields of daisies and other high country plants were multitudes of Leek-orchids. *Prasophyllum alpestre*, the Mauve Leek Orchid, *P. sphacelatum*, the Large Alpine Leek Orchid, *P. sp. aff alpestre*, the Bog Leek Orchid and *P. tadgellianum*, the Small Alpine Leek Orchid, all vying for attention along the way.

Day four took them to Eucumbene Dam, Alpine Creek and Talbingo Dam. The walks and plant life were amazing. The Mountain Banksia, *B. canei* has to be included.



Day five saw them on Long Plains Road and Blue Water Holes, where the leek orchids kept on coming. *Prasophyllum candidum*, the Kiandra Leek Orchid, *P. stipatum*, Highland Leek Orchid and *P. viriosum* the Strong Leek Orchid were intermingled with Magenta Bunny orchids, *Eriochilus magentus*, and *Leptorhynchos squamatus*, the Scaly Buttons.



Day six found them at Yarangobilly Caves, Three Mile Dam, among masses of *Stylidium montanum*, the Alpine Triggerplant, and Bullocks Hill Campground, a certainly necessary but unplanned stop due to battery issues with the car.



Sadly, the battery continued to plague them as they made their way home through Chiltern and the Mount Pilot National Park.

Sheila nervously took on the role of Plant Table guru this month and made it a real treat for us all. There were a small number of plants but a great variety nonetheless.

Banksias featured as the often do when Matt Leach brings plants for the table, among them *Banksia grossa*, *B. occidentalis*, *B. sphaerocarpa* and two forms of *B. spinulosa* – ‘Birthday Candles’ and ‘Black Magic’.



Banksia spinulosa – ‘Black Magic’

Acacias were well represented also. *Acacia podalyriifolia*, The Mt Morgan or Queensland Silver Wattle is a quick-growing but short-lived small tree. *Acacia wildenowiana* is a small, scrambling shrub from south west WA.

Grevilleas always make up a large part of our plant table, and tonight was no exception.

Grevillea zygoloba ‘Pink’ is a contentious plant always. Half the population find the ‘perfume’ offensive, akin to smelly feet or swamp vegetation. The other half (me included) find it a rich smell of honey and quite intoxicating on a warm spring evening.

Grevillea priesii ‘Seaspray’ is a low growing dense shrub with grey green foliage and masses of bright red flowers. This is a great, salt-tolerant plant if you live by the coast, and the birds love it.



Grevillea priesii

Grevillea bipinnatifida is one of the parents of the many ‘queensland hybrids’ and is a great plant in its own right. Matt Leach had a couple of beautiful hybrid plants. *G. calliantha* x *G. asparagoides* has deep red rather pendulous flowers and his Mum calls the plant ‘Christmas in July’. *G. georgiana* x *G. insignis* shows the best of both parents with red and white flowers of *georgiana* and the sharp holly leaves of *insignis*.

Hakeas were also on the table in good numbers. *Hakea clavata* is a shrub from WA with thick, sharply pointed leaves, and many flowers in each inflorescence. *Hakea invaginata* is a shrub with long, smooth, needle-like leaves and pink-purple flowers. Matt’s specimen had yellow flowers, leading to speculation that the ID might be wrong.

Hakea subsulcata is an upright shrub with needle leaves and pink/purple flowers. *Hakea cristata* is an attractive shrub with hard, holly-like leaves and white flowers.



Hakea invaginata – Photo: Kevin Thiele

Sheila chose from the table three *Thryptomene* – *denticulata*, *baekeacea*, *stenophyllum* and *Baeckea crassifolia* because of the similar flower colour. Questions were asked and left unanswered as to the difference between *Thryptomene* and *Baeckea*. Others of note included an orange, prostrate form of *Templetonia retusa*, a fine-leaved form of *Correa pulchella* and *Darwinia collina*, with yellow/green flowers which is restricted to the Stirling Ranges in WA.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Matt Baars

***Eucalyptus Caesia ssp. Magna* - 'Silver Princess'**

This particular plant was grown from seed collected by Roger Wileman from the Granite belt of southwest of Western Australia. I particularly wanted a true specimen, as they can easily hybridise in a plantation, garden or nursery situation.



It is growing in full sun in the front garden, in a slightly raised heavy, alkaline clay soil. It was slow to start, as were my other three, another Silver Princess and two Gungurrus – *Euc caesia ssp caesia*. The tree suffered for the first few years with discoloured foliage, but now the newer growth is green and healthy.

The tree is 4 years old and is 2.5 m tall by 2.5 wide and can grow to 8-9 m high. This tree is growing as a true mallee, with 2 trunks growing from a lignotuber, topped by weeping branches. The blue green open foliage contrasts with the deep crimson flowers, which are up to 55mm wide. The fruits are large white urn shaped and very decorative.



I think it is a great tree with Minni ritchi style lower bark and white smooth upper bark. It will fit in a small garden and you can grow other plants at its base.



THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

These are just a few of the up-coming events that the club is involved with. Please take note of the dates and put them in your diary so you don't miss out.

JULY MEETING

Prostantheras

Our speaker will be Miriam Ford, who has attended our last two plant sales as a grower. She was born and bred in country Queensland. She completed a Ph.D in cellular biology in Queensland and a post-doc in Molecular biology in the U.K. She worked as a research scientist in Melbourne for 25 years and retired in 2003. She re-trained as a primary school teacher I now 'works' part-time as a practice manager for private psychology practice.



Miriam been a member of APS Victoria for over 25 years and have served in various executive positions in my District Group, APS Yarra Yarra in North East Melbourne, and in APS Victoria where I am currently a Vice President. I chaired the 13th Fred Rogers Biennial Seminar on Mint Bushes and Allied Genera in 2020 for APS Vic.

I have a passion for growing Australian Plants and particularly the Mint Bushes.

Miriam's talk will have four sections – A brief survey of *Prostanthera* species across Australia, description of the two main types of flower morphology and their pollinators, essential oils (the latest data on chemotaxonomy) and propagation and cultivation of the Mints.

It would be great if folks could bring *Prostanthera* specimens for the Plant Table, if possible.

2022 MEETINGS

July 19th	-	Miriam Ford – ‘Australian Mint Bushes - Their Beauty, Diversity and Scentual Delights’
Aug 14th	-	Garden visit to Bill and Sue Guymer's garden in Donvale, and others nearby.
August 16th	-	AGM and Photo Competition
Sept 20th	-	David Pye – ‘Dryland Eucalypts’.
Oct 9th	-	Visit to Melton Botanic Gardens
Oct 18th	-	TBA
Nov 15th	-	Tony Hughes - Grafting
Dec ??	-	Christmas Break-up. Date TBA
April 1, 2023	-	2023 Plant Sale, tentative date

Kennedia nigricans

by Peter Nuzum

Among my favourite plants is *Kennedia nigricans*, the Black Coral-pea, with its striking yellow and black pea flowers. Contrary to certain assertions, it does not grow in Richmond, Victoria but is a native to south-west Western Australia. It is found on coastal dunes, creek margins and flats in the Esperance Plains, Jarrah Forests and Swan Coastal Plains.

It is a very vigorous climber with a height of up to 4 metres and a spread of more than 10 metres. So it will need a fence or large wall to climb on. Alternatively, it can be used as a ground cover.



Kennedia nigricans

It can be propagated from seed, softwood cuttings or semi-hardwood cuttings. If growing from seed, soak the seed overnight in boiling water to soften the outer shell and plant the swollen seeds.

The plant prefers well-drained sandy soils in full sun or partial shade. The foliage can be damaged by moderate frost but will recover in spring. Pruning extends the life of the plant. Flowering time is spring and summer and is great for attracting bird life.

APS GEELONG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held at the August meeting on the 16th. You will need to be financial members of APS Geelong if you wish to nominate for a position on the committee or to vote at the committee elections.

Your subs for 2022/2023 are now due. Please complete the attached form and return it to the Secretary at P.O. Box 2012, Geelong, 3220 along with your payment. Alternatively, you can hand your form to the secretary at the next meeting, or prior to the AGM. Payment can be made electronically, and details are on the form.

Membership subs will stay the same at a ridiculously low \$25 for a family membership ... the best deal in town.

The AGM is also the night of APS Geelong's 'Phabulous Photo Competition'. There will be three categories – Aussie Plants, Aussie Wildlife and Aussie Scenery – so, start snapping.

CORREA MAIL ARTICLES

Penny and I will be away for a couple of months, chasing some warmer weather. Phil Royce has kindly agreed to take over as Correa Mail Editor for the next two editions.

Please help Phil with this task by sending him your articles or by offering to take notes at meetings etc.

Phil can be contacted at phil.i.royce@gmail.com I'm sure he, and I, will be eternally grateful for your help.

PLANTS FOR LITTLE RIVER SCHOOL

Just a reminder that if you would like to donate one or two plants for the stall at Little River Country Fair in October, I will be collecting them once Penny and I are

back from the warm, around mid-September. Thanks in advance for your generosity and support of the school.

Correa pulchella

by Ade Foster

Following my presentation at the last meeting, I thought an article on one of the most striking Correas – *C. pulchella* – was in order.



***Correa pulchella* 'Gypsy'**

Correa pulchella is a prostrate or erect shrub which grows to less than a metre. It has smooth branchlets and leaves which are more or less glabrous, arranged in opposite pairs. They are narrow-oblong to broadly egg-shaped even trowel-shaped and 10–20 mm long, on a short pedicel.

The single, pendulous flowers appear on short side branches on a thin pedicel. The calyx is green, the corolla is cylindrical. Flowers vary from pale pink to a deep salmon pink. They can be red, orange and, rarely, white. Stamens are about the same length as the corolla. Flowering mainly occurs from April to September.



Correa pulchella

Correa pulchella is endemic to a small region of South Australia and was first described in 1827 by Robert Sweet in his book "*Flora Australasica*" from an unpublished description by John Bain Mackay. The seeds had been collected on Kangaroo Island by William Baxter who had been sent to Australia by the plant collector Francis Henschman. The genus is named after the Portuguese botanist José Correia da Serra, and the specific from the Latin '*pulchellus*' meaning beautiful.



Correa pulchella is certainly one of the most attractive *Correa* species. It prefers dry summers with low humidity and well-drained, alkaline soils. Propagation from seed is usually unsuccessful, but semi-mature stem cuttings strike readily. Regular pruning will maintain a compact shape.

C. pulchella is a parent of many hybrids and there are a number of cultivars. 'Little Cate', is a seedling selection with prominently displayed bright pink flowers. It is thought to be a hybrid between two different forms of *C. pulchella*. 'Pink Mist' is a pale-pink flowering form selected from a wild population on the southern Yorke Peninsula. The old favourite, 'Dusky Bells', is a hybrid of *Correa pulchella* × *Correa reflexa*.



CONTACTING THE SECRETARY

Please use apsgeelong@gmail.com if you wish to contact the secretary for any reason. Thanks.