

Golden

Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society
Latrobe Valley Group Inc.
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Grevillea chrysophaea - Golden Grevillea

This Month

Event: Visit to Beamish and Jackson gardens.

Location: Starting at the Beamish garden, 13 Limonite Rd, Boolarra, then on to the Jackson garden at 130 Tebb Terrace, Jeeralang Junction.

Date: Sunday April 11.

Time: Arriving 10:30 am at Boolarra.

We will start our garden visits at Boolarra then move on to the Jackson's for lunch, followed by a walk around the garden. BYO lunch: a wood-fired BBQ plate will be available along with access to kitchen appliances. Hot water, tea, coffee will be supplied.

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I mentioned last month that I would be attending the APS Vic quarterly weekend in Warrnambool. The delegates meeting was on the morning of Saturday the 19th and 30 members from around the state presented their reports. There are a few things of general interest in the minutes. Marj Seaton asks for more cleaned seed, especially Banksia and Dryandra for the Seed Bank. If you have any available, please mail in clearly marked envelopes to the address in Growing Australian magazine. Many gardening books collected for bushfire victims are still available; from time to time a reminder email will be sent to district groups. A You Tube channel has been set up to load APS Vic videos. The first, 'Australian Plants' is now available. It is 90 minutes long but highly recommended. The entire minutes from the meeting are also available on the APS website.

After the meeting and the all-important delicious, packed lunch prepared by Warrnambool district members, delegates were joined by about 30 other members and we braved a torrential downpour for a book launch. An SOS call to Surfside Caravan Park had us housed in their Bush Kitchen. A 'Welcome to Country' ceremony was conducted by local Gunditjmara man Brett Clarke, who related interesting highlights from his life and lit a fragrant cleansing fire. Kevin Sparrow then presented the 3rd edition of his book 'Plants of the Great south West' and signed many copies. We then split into to 2 groups to visit 2 local gardens. The gardens were both quite newly established on large blocks and we were all envious of the amazing growth over about 2 years, and in awe of the work and dedication involved.

On Sunday we met at Swan Reserve (more about this elsewhere in the newsletter) for a guided tour led by Kevin Sparrow. The final visit was to another local property in nearby Cudjee. The owners have lived there for 27 years and have established a peaceful place aptly named 'Wren Haven' after the first birds encountered all those years ago. We spent a couple of delightful hours wandering round and browsing the large collection of plants on sale grown by Yarra Yarra Growers of Eltham. I brought a collection of mint bushes (for Col to work on) and we were given a large pot for our raffle. It is inspiring to talk with so many passionate Aussie plant people. Thanks so much for all your work in arranging the Rokeby walk, Judy. Sorry you were so poorly rewarded and best wishes for the next few frustrating recovery weeks. Jill Fidler



While wandering in the garden recently, I noticed a 'lump' on a flower head of *Plectranthus argentatus*. A closer inspection revealed it to be a rabble of native bees. (I did a quick Google search for the collective noun of bees; it suggested hive, grist, nest, and rabble...rabble seemed to suit the situation best.) They were clustering around a few flowers at the top of the stem but did not appear to be feeding. I kept an



eye on them for a few hours and saw that occasionally one would fly away but then every now and then one would re-join the group (or 'rabble'). By early afternoon I noticed that they had dispersed, and I haven't seen them showing this behaviour again. This encounter prompted me to re-visit my newest bee motel, a collection of wood and some reed stems installed in an old concrete brick less than a year ago. To my delight, I found that several of the holes I had drilled in the wood, and some of the reeds, have been filled with wax at the end, presumably indicating that they are now containing young of the next generation.

With a garden visit looming, and not much looking great in the garden, I have taken the opportunity to carry out some slightly overdue strategic pruning and tidying. Several plants were obstructing walkways; others simply needed a tidy-up or reduction. Of course, there were the usual few summer fatalities, some expected but others a bit of a surprise. My *Banksia dryandroides*, a small shrub that had been growing happily in well-drained soil on the back batter since about 2000, succumbed suddenly early this year for no known reason. However, it was loaded with a bucket-full of seed cones which I intend to get to work on to extract the seeds with the view of donating them to the APS seed bank.

There is not much in flower in the garden, so it was a pleasant surprise to find that *Rhododendron lochiaie* in the courtyard at the back of the house was pumping out some crimson red blooms. This plant has rarely flowered and is only a straggly half metre high even though it has been in the ground for at least 10 years. As it is native to the mountain range inland from Cairns, I guess I am lucky that it is willing to grow and flower at all this far from home.



Hope to see you at the meeting, Col Jackson.

Species: *Melaleuca teretifolia*

Family: Myrtaceae

Derivation:

Melaleuca – from Greek *melas*, meaning black, and *leucos*, meaning white, and referring to the black burnt patches seen on the white bark of some species or alternatively, to the black trunks and white branches of some Asian species.

teretifolia – from Latin *teres*, meaning rounded, and *folius*, meaning a leaf, referring to the circular cross-section of the leaves of this species.

Common Name: None.

Distribution: Western Australia, along the coast and ranges from about Busselton, north through Perth to Dandaragan and Moora, in sandy soils and clay, usually associated with winter-wet depressions and swamps.

Description: Shrub or small tree to 5m in height. Leaves are terete (cylindrical, slightly tapering and without furrows or ridges) and alternate to 6cm long, soft, not prickly. White, cream or pink flowers occur in loose bottlebrush-like groups along the stems in Spring and Summer. Capsules persist on the branches until the death of the branch releases the seeds and can make the shrub look a bit "woody".

Opinion: My specimen came from a cutting off my Mum's plant, in her Morwell garden. If my memory is correct, this original plant came from David Grant's Davallia Native Nursery at Tyers, and so must be well over 20 years old. The cuttings (10) were taken in 2003 and potted up into tubes (5) in June 2004 and then apparently neglected for a number of years. The only survivor of the batch was potted up again into a 150mm pot in January 2010 and planted in the northern bed of the front garden in May 2010 (presumably after the autumn break), in amongst what is now a fairly dense patch of plants. Currently, it would receive a small amount of morning light but spends most of its time in full shade from the surrounding vegetation.

After planting, the cutting grew to about 60cm tall and promptly died. It was about to be ripped out and disposed of when I spied two tiny green leaf buds right at the base of the stem, almost under the soil surface. So, I left it there and it has slowly but surely continued ►



to grow, now having two main stems, one about 1.5m tall, the other shorter because the initial leader also died and re-shot. First flowering was in 2018, with a few more appearing in November 2019. It is probably wise to knock the young capsules off after the flowers have withered, but before they mature, otherwise they will turn into knobbly lumps on the old wood, making the plant less attractive in the long run. The alternative is hard pruning every few years.

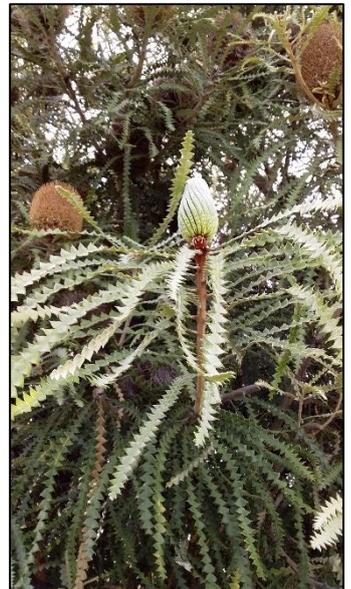


Sources: Online – ANPSA Website.
Online – FloraBase: the WA Flora.
Wrigley & Fagg – Bottlebrushes, Paperbarks & Tea Trees, etc.
Holliday – A Field Guide to Melaleucas.
Elliott & Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 6.
Sharr – WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

The James Swan Reserve.

By Jill Fidler

The James Swan Reserve is in the heart of Warrnambool. Named for a former Mayor, the area was originally the site of the saleyards and became the Information Centre in the early 1970s. In 1976, the Warrnambool APS was entrusted with establishing a waterwise garden to showcase native plants as an alternative to introduced plants commonly sold in nurseries. In 2010, a friend's group was formed to revitalise the plantings. The Marrung Aboriginal Recognition site was added, recognizing the traditional owners of the land. The reserve is organised with a number of beds, each grouping particular species. The Banksia bed is a highlight with many of the original plantings having grown to a great size. The Biodiversity bed contains several endangered species including the Spreading Dune Fan flower (*Scaevola calendulacea*) and the Coast Bitter Bush, (*Adriana quadripartita*) the only food for the Bitter Bush Butterfly. The Granny's Grave Correa, a *C. reflexa* species with lime green flowers that is unique to a popular coastal area of Warrnambool also features. There is plenty of informative signage, both regarding the history of the reserve and the plantings. The original limestone wall along the rear of the reserve has been preserved and is heritage listed. In 2017 the reserve was officially made an annex of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. Under the expert guidance of Kevin Sparrow and the Friends Group, Swan Reserve is in good hands. A small gem but a must visit.



Rokeby Crossover Rail Trail

By Cathy Beamish

A cool sunny morning greeted me while I was organising myself for the drive to Rokeby. This turned into fog once I got to the highway and stayed that way too until I was north of Warragul. The day then suddenly changed back to blue skies and stayed that way till mid-afternoon.

I was impressed that I managed to get to Rokeby without getting lost as my trusty navigator was stuck at work! Although, while at the carpark with nobody I knew in sight, I was beginning to wonder... A search for much needed facilities had me wandering further afield and I eventually found Judy, Brian, and Diane at the BBQ up on the hill where the market is held. Others slowly trickled in, so we had a good number of people for the walk.



We all headed back to the carpark and slowly headed off in small groups. Only four of us, Brian, Marg, Wayne, and myself managed to walk the 4kms to the old bridge. Along the way we sighted oodles of small lizards, a few birds but not as many as I had expected, a handful of flowering plants and a small grey snake that managed to scare Marg into stopping and yelping with fright!

It was a very pleasant walk in amongst the tall gum trees and other vegetation. The temperature was quite pleasant the further we walked and nowhere near the horrid levels of humidity that I was expecting. The old bridge that marked the end of the walk was way above us about 50 metres from the fence that marked the end of the track. The fence hasn't stopped people walking around it to walk up and under the dilapidated bridge for a closer look.

We had started out on our walk in the company of Judy, Helen, Sonya and young Jack, stopping along the way to point out things of interest. We last saw them as they turned around about 2km into the walk to head back for the cars. Jack was tired and Judy was sore after tripping over a twig and landing heavily on the ground. ►





By the time we got back to the car my feet were beginning to disown me! Lately they have been objecting every time I walk more than about 5kms. Very annoying. We were also greeted by a distressed Judy. Her arm was hurting way too much, and she could barely move it. I found out later that she has a small fracture in her elbow, and she will be in a cast for 2 weeks before she can start to move it. Thankfully, she is otherwise OK.

By the time I settled in for a late lunch, over half of the members had left but I had a very pleasant hour or so talking to Marilyn, Doris, Marg, and Wayne. The talking was made a little difficult by the noise being created by the tree loppers who were in the process of removing a big gum and other vegetation before putting it through the mulcher. So much for the serenity of the day!

So, a big 'thank you' to Judy and Brian for organising the day. It was a great place to walk through and I hope I will be able to take Mike back there in the near future.

2021 Calendar photo spot - April

By John Stephens

The large duck orchid or as many prefer, the Flying Duck orchid (*Caleana major*) is found from Tasmania to Queensland on the eastern coast of Australia. It is called a flying duck because that is exactly what it looks like. It grows on a single stem with the local plants usually about 30cm tall, and there is a single lance-shaped leaf. There is usually a single flower or sometimes two although I believe there can be as many as five.



Luckily, we do not have to venture far from home to see one when they appear in October. They are prevalent in the nearby wildflower reserve and we have had them in our garden. If I leave the front 'lawn' unmown it is one of the surprises that pops up each year for us to enjoy. This plant is one of those surprises.

Eucalypt borer attack

By Col Jackson

I received this request from Warren. He has a work colleague who has a Eucalyptus tree, thought to be either *E. scoparia* or *E. pulchella* which is leaking quite a bit of sap out of its trunk, presumably as a response to borer attack. This person is wondering if anyone has any idea how to tell if the tree is still sound and has killed the borers or if surgery would be required.

I have occasionally noticed gums bleeding sap but have not worried about it, always assuming it to be just part of the natural process. Warren's request prompted a brief internet search, and I came up with the following.

I quickly found that wherever eucalypts are planted in foreign countries around the world, there seems to be a problem with the Eucalyptus Longhorned Borer (*Phoracantha semipunctata*); it damages and even kills Eucalypts and can be a serious problem. This insect is a native to Australia and commonly attacks Eucalypts in this country although phenyls in the

gum sap do resist borer attack. There are also natural predators of the Longhorned Borer that tend to keep it under control or at least in a natural balance. If the tree belonging to Warren's friend is *E. scoparia* (native to the border between NSW and Queensland) or *E. pulchella* (native to south east Tasmania), it may be that it is far enough out of its natural range that it is under some stress anyway, and so has become slightly weakened and more susceptible to insect attack.

All of this is only me theorising, and I would be happy for anyone with any thoughts or experiences on this subject to make contact and share their knowledge.



References from the internet:

Wikipedia (*E. scoparia* and *E. pulchella*)

www.cabi.org (world-wide pest species information)

Coming events of interest

Note: Please check the Vic APS website for cancellations before attending.

17 April 2021 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks.

24 April 2021 – APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.

1 May 2021 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, Seawinds Gardens, Arthurs Seat Park, Purves Road, Arthurs Seat. 10 am - 3.30 pm

8 May 2021 - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. The venue is expected to be St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh, yet to be confirmed.

8 & 9 May 2021 - Cranbourne Growing Friends hold a weekend plant sale in the gardens from 10.00 - 4.00. Check www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au for plant list and to ensure that the sale is going ahead prior to the sale.

June APS Vic COM Shepparton – to be advised.

26 & 27 June 2021 – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

4 Sept 2021 – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick.

11 & 12 September 2021 – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.

25 & 26 September 2021 – APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting.

2 & 3 October 2021 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

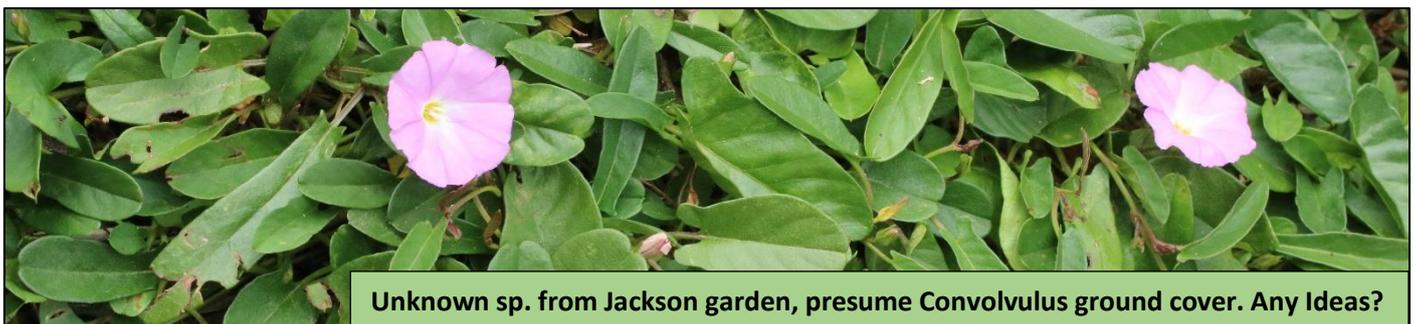
9 October 2021 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations. 9 am - 4 pm.

16 October 2021 - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.

23 & 24 October 2021 – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

13 & 14 November 2021 Garden DesignFest, Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula

20 & 21 November 2021 Garden DesignFest, Regional Victoria: Ballarat, Euroa, Geelong and Macedon Area.



Unknown sp. from Jackson garden, presume Convolvulus ground cover. Any Ideas?

Rainfall for 2020 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	121	147	40	170	123	51	64	154	70	121	89	60	1207
Brian	Drouin (east)	124	136	46	163	125	47	53	158	80	100	69	47	1148
Carolyn	Yarragon	105	171	35	138	125	48	55	138	61	120	44	49	1087
Wayne	Tanjil South	136	108	66	163	134	72	91	107	57	123	55	86	1198
Judy	Moe South	99	95	33	159	137	53	55	128	71	138	37	40	1045
Mike	Boolarra	93	126	40	159	121	73	78	115	63	133	32	63	1093
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	86	134	39	152	93	73	97	98	53	110	37	48	1019
John	Traralgon South	76	55	15	134	105	55	46	115	53	108	51	32	842

Rainfall for 2021 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	92	57											149
Brian	Drouin (east)	83	58											141
Carolyn	Yarragon	79	30											109
Wayne	Tanjil South	108												108
Judy	Moe South	97	25											122
Mike	Boolarra	95	43											138
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	79	35											114
John	Traralgon South	83	16											99

2021 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
April	Sunday	11	Garden Visits – Beamish and Jackson gardens	10:30
May				
June			Photo competition online	
July				
Aug			AGM and Members night.	

<https://apsvic.org.au/aps-latrobe-valley/>

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Golden Grevillea
Grevillea chrysophaea

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Title page photo: *Grevillea chrysophaea* at Holey Plains State Park by Mike Beamish