

Golden

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

This Month

Event: Visit to Heyfield Wetlands and Woolenook Native Nursery.

Location: Traralgon-Maffra Rd, Heyfield.

Date: Friday June 11.

Time: Arriving 10:30 am at Heyfield Wetlands.

Please make your own transport or car-pooling arrangements, meeting at the Heyfield Wetlands Information Centre at 10:30 am. We will travel on to Maffra to Woolenook Native Nursery after lunch (see page 6 for details).

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Leader's Report

By Jill Fidler

Fifteen members were blessed with fine weather for our recent trip to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens. We joined the early birds at the plant sale which was already busy. With the business end of the day completed and plants packed away in our cars, we drifted off with a plan to meet later. It really is an amazing place to walk around. With only a day to spend, we confined our wanderings to the formal part of the garden although there are 10 kilometres of bush walking tracks and 6 kilometres of cycling tracks in the surrounding bush.

The 363 hectares which contains the garden as we know it, was originally used for sandmining in the 1820's to supply the builders developing Melbourne. From 1889 to 1953 the site was used by the military and private licence holders for sand mining, grazing, and logging. In 1970 it was named as a division of Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria and the dream was born. The wild site was opened to the Public in 1989. An Australian Garden was planned and developed over the years with a focus on conservation and research, opening formally as a garden in 2006 with 15,000 visitors on the first day.

The garden is now home to 17,000 plants of 1,700 species, with 25 rare or threatened. In 2016 Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria released its Landscape Succession Strategy Melbourne Gardens 2016-2036: adapting a world-renowned botanical landscape to climate change. It is a first for botanic gardens in Australia and will guide the planning of collections better suited to change.

I remember my first visit with Latrobe APS many, many years ago, before it was officially a garden and have difficulty remembering how it was then; I guess we are all involved in developing gardens and know they are never finished. We will continue to visit this treasure and notice changes every time.

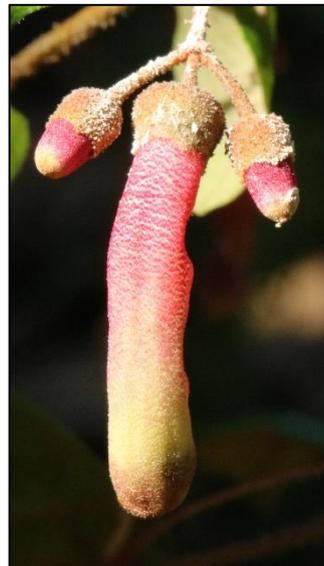
I look forward to seeing you in Maffra for our next meeting and hope you still have a few garden spots to fill.



Autumn is nearly done; by the time you receive this we will have started winter, and a rather dismal start it is. Here we are again in state-wide lockdown, one week at this stage, hopefully that will be enough to sort out this latest incursion of Covid into our lives. Our strategy of keeping a conservative profile for our meetings is continuing with predominantly outdoor visits: this month to Heyfield Wetlands and Woolenook Nursery at Maffra. I will check with the latest rules and with Woolenook and send out a note to you all just before June 11 to confirm our meeting plans (see page 6).

As every Australian native gardener realises, summer tends to be a time of withdrawal and rest in the garden while late autumn and winter become a time of plenty. Unlike northern hemisphere plants which often shut down for the cold winter months, the Aussies respond to the extra rainfall and start to put on some of their best. Last month I mentioned that the Banksias were taking off; this month they have multiplied magnificently and are the dominant flowering plant in the garden. I have taken opportunities to make the most of the periods of calm, sunny autumn weather and carried out some planting into vacant places in the garden. I have even tackled some hard landscaping, moving a series of (large) rocks that had become overgrown and were no longer displayed to my satisfaction. That tested out the heart valve, I can tell you!

The new flowering plants for this month are definitely correas. With their propensity to hybridise, I am no longer certain what is what, so I just enjoy the flowers. Shown here is a selection of what is attracting the Eastern Spinebills in my garden.



Species: *Lomatia myricoides*.

Family: Proteaceae.

Derivation:

Lomatia: From Greek, *loma*, meaning a fringe or border, referring to the papery wing that surrounds the seeds.

myricoides: From the genus *Myrica* and the Greek suffix *-oides*, meaning similar to. Thus, the leaves were thought to resemble those of *Myrica*.

Common Name: River Lomatia, Long-leaf Lomatia.

Distribution: Common along streams and slopes in mountain forests, from the Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne, Victoria, east and north along the ranges to about Newcastle, NSW.

Description: A shrub to 5m tall, with glabrous green leaves, paler beneath, to 20cm long by 2cm wide and usually with broadly toothed margins. Fragrant flowers appear over summer, in axillary or terminal racemes to 10cm long, crowded with creamy individuals about 1cm across. Seed capsules are thin, woody follicles to 25mm long, containing many papery winged seeds.



Opinion: I've been dabbling with this species for at least 20 years, usually without a great deal of success. I first planted some seeds in May 2001, none germinated. Then I tried some cuttings in September 2002, some of which struck roots and resulted in a planted specimen in 2004, which only lasted a couple of years before dying. More cuttings in November 2002 resulted in the gift of a plant to Colin in 2004, [gone! Ed] no idea if this plant is still alive. Some more seed was sown in 2004, again with no germination recorded. It's possible that some did germinate but either damped off or didn't survive to potting up. Then there is a gap in my magnificent record-keeping until more cuttings were taken from my garden in ►

May 2018, some of which struck but didn't survive potting up (maybe due to that urea fertiliser problem raised in recent newsletters). However, I must have made some more attempts with either cuttings or seed at some point, because there is a specimen in my back yard that I grew and planted, and which must have been large enough for cutting material in May 2018! There is also a specimen in my Mum's garden of the same size and vintage.

My specimen is now approaching 2m in height and is crammed into a narrow space near my compost bins at the bottom of the back yard. It has flowered nicely over the last couple of years and, like its close relative *Lomatia fraseri*, the Forest Lomatia, the flowers have a lovely caramel vanilla fragrance that wafts around in warm, humid weather. I presume the River Lomatia likes more moisture in the soil than its relative, given its natural habitat of stream-sides up in the mountains, where it appears to have its roots periodically inundated. Maybe that's why I've lost plants in the past, too dry for it in my garden over the warmer months? If I should happen to be blessed with some seed capsules off my plant down the track, I'll have another go at sowing them and keeping them alive through potting up. It shouldn't be that difficult; the Forest Lomatia self-seeds all over the place every year, though it too doesn't like the disturbance of lifting or re-potting.

Sources: Elliot & Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 6.
Wrigley & Fagg – Banksias, Waratahs & Grevilleas, etc.
Costermans – Native Trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia.
Online – Flora of Victoria.

2021 Calendar Spot – June

By Judy Hetherington

The Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*) is native to southeast Victoria (aren't we lucky!). It finds its food by using its feet to scatter the leaf-litter, thereby helping to aerate the topsoil, speeding composting. Researcher Alex Maisey recently calculated that superb lyrebirds move an average of 155 tonnes of soil and leaf litter per hectare in a single year! Wow!



Whenever we have visitors from the US, we always take them to Healesville Sanctuary. The visitors are never disappointed in the sanctuary with the chance to see so many Australian animals and birds. The walkthrough aviaries give us a great chance to see birds up close and personal. This picture was taken several years ago when I was lucky enough to see this beautiful lyrebird. Unfortunately, in our subsequent trips, we have not been able to see another one. They are in the list of birds contained in the enclosure but no sightings!

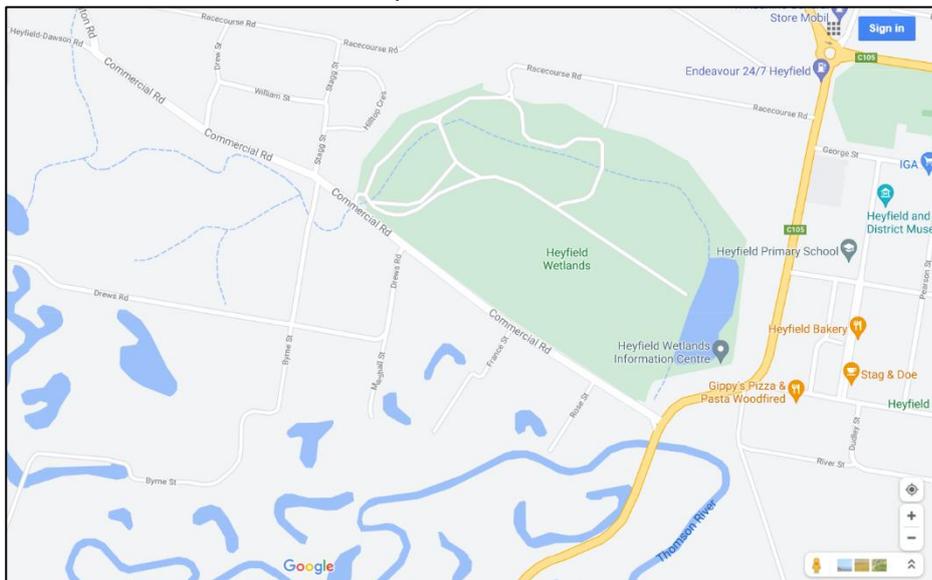
Way back in the 1980s, my girlfriend and I saw and heard multiple lyrebirds in Tara-Bulga National Park. No luck seeing them since then in the park. Maybe they are just visitor shy.

Assuming our borders open someday, hopefully we will have visitors again and we will spy the lyrebirds at Healesville Sanctuary!

Coming Events – June Meeting

Our June meeting is the visit to Heyfield Wetlands at Heyfield and Woolenook Nursery at Maffra. We will be meeting at the Heyfield Wetlands Information Centre at 10:30 AM. Referring to the map below, if coming from Traralgon, cross the Thompson River, go past Commercial Rd on the left and the Wetlands Information Centre should be on the left near the lake. If you arrive later than 10:30, phone Col Jackson or Mike Beamish to catch up.

Our intention is to walk the Wetlands, have lunch there or somewhere nearby, then travel to Woolenook Nursery at Maffra, where you will have the opportunity to browse and purchase from Mitch and Kath's selection of native and bush food plants. If things are not too busy, Mitch may be able to give us one of his enthusiastic talks while we are there. And remember, with current Covid restrictions on travel etc, an email will come out just before the 11th to let you know if we are going ahead with this.



Coming Events – Calendar Photo Competition

By Cathy Beamish

It is that time of year again where you can submit your favourite photos for our calendar competition. The rules are more-or-less the same as last year.

- Each member can submit up to 6 photos.
- All entries must be electronic and a minimum of 2MB (most phones these days meet this requirement easily).
- The composition of the photo is to contain something relative to Australian natives e.g., plant, animal, bird, insect, art or scenery.

Submission deadline is 5pm, Friday June 18. Please send them to me at: cathy.beamish@gmail.com

I will do what I did last year and allocate a number to all the photos and then randomly put them all into a PDF document and send it to you. You will then be able to scroll through the photos at your leisure to choose your favourites.

Everyone will be able to vote for their favourite photos by allocating 10 points in any way they choose e.g., either 10 points to one photo or one point to 10 photos or any combination in between.

My next email will give a closing date for your votes. Good luck to everyone and I look forward to receiving your photos. Let's see if we can break last year's record of 50 entries!

Autumn Morning Glory

By Mary Jackson

Recently during a family visit I was up very early, so with them all still sleeping soundly I decided to take their dog for an early walk as a 'calm before the storm' start to my day.

It was a quiet, eerie morning outside. When the dog and I left home the sun was just starting to rise, promising a brilliant autumn day. As we walked lower in altitude the dense fog totally obliterated the distant views. Along the roadside the mist laden cobwebs intertwined with the foliage, wire fences, bark and trees creating a collage of wet dripping diamonds sparkling brightly in the soft morning light.

To me these moments are solemn and special but also short lived. The scenery changed rapidly as the sun intensified and its brilliance exchanged the quiet lull of a cold and crisp morning for a bright, warm day.



The Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

By Yvonne McInnes

Pamela and I recently had a great holiday to the warmer climes of sunny Mildura, where we caught up with a friend and her family. While there, we visited the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens near Buronga, not far over the Murray River.



We have visited these lovely desert gardens before and were not disappointed this time. As you enter the park the road is lined with the pinkish bark of beautiful lemon scented gums (*Eucalyptus citiroidora*). There is a cafe and shop where you can purchase tea, coffee or a sandwich and a selection of native flora designed mugs, tea towels, shopping bags etc. They also stock some really yummy local honey. As you can see by the photos, the brightly coloured Sturt Desert Pea is a major attraction.



Coming events of interest

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

5 June APS Vic COM Shepparton –Cancelled. Zoom meeting at 9.30 am instead.

<https://zoom.us/j/97979857009?pwd=OStPMW9CTzhKamZvbG53T3FoTThEUT09>

Meeting ID: 979 7985 7009; Passcode: 512140

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.

4&5 Sept 2021 – Open Garden Bill Aitchison & Sue Guymer garden, Donvale. 10 am to 4.30 pm both days, bookings need to be done online. Entry \$10 per adult. Further details on the OGV Website.

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

18 & 19 September 2021 - APS Bendigo Flower Show. 9.30 - 4pm \$3 entry Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat.

25 & 26 September 2021 – APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting and ApS Vic AGM.

2 & 3 October 2021 – Wartook Gardens - Open Days for Wimmera Healthcare Foundation. BBQ lunch, morning and afternoon teas available.

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.

11 – 16 September 2022, ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales. Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website.

26 to 30 September 2022 - 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. *Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change*. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

15 & 16 October 2022 – 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae. York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

2021 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
June	Friday	13	Woolenook Native Nursery visit – Meeting at Heyfield wetland for walk then on to Maffra.	10:30
July	Saturday	10	Traralgon South garden visit and lunch meeting	
Aug			AGM and Calendar Photo winners slide show.	

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	78	88									314
Brian	Drouin (east)	83	58	80	64									285
Carolyn	Yarragon	79	30	60	65									234
Wayne	Tanjil South	108	37	89										234
Judy	Moe South	97	25	89										211
Mike	Boolarra	95	43	81	66									284
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	79	35	98	63									274
John	Traralgon South	83	16	135	35									268

<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