

Golden

Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society
Latrobe Valley Group Inc.
No. A0045337C

Issue No. 311 – August 2022

Grevillea chrysophaea – Golden Grevillea

This Month

Event Annual General Meeting, optional sit-down meal and slide show on a recent Kimberley trip by Jan Workman.

Location MORWELL Bowling Club, 52 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell.

Date Thursday August 11

Time 12:00 noon for lunch (optional), 1:30 for AGM start.

Those who wish to should arrive for the lunch at 12:00 noon. Meals are from the club menu. Please give some thought to putting your hand up for a committee position, the duties are not too onerous and are generally shared by the committee. Our newest member, Jan, has just returned from a trip to the Kimberley and has a slide show of photos to present after the AGM.

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Has time become a casualty of climate change? The date of our monthly newsletter seems to come round more quickly than ever. This month is our Annual General Meeting (details in this newsletter) which means all committee positions are declared vacant. Election for these positions have been like a revolving door in recent years, with most of us taking turns to occupy one chair or another. This year it would be great to see some new hands in the air. While we have all been happy to be involved, we are keen to assure everyone that tasks are shared and (apart from the newsletter) take very little time. So, how about putting up your hand?

Last month in my piece about bees, I mentioned bee turf, a product a seed marketing company in British Columbia, Canada have developed as an alternative to normal turf seed. Along with grass seed, it contains seeds for a mixture of flowering, low growing plants that provide forage for bees and other pollinating insects. This has encouraged a movement called 'No Mow May and September' (a concept first established in Europe), allowing the plants to flower. Here the concept would be similar, choosing months that small herbaceous plants are in flower. In Australia, maintaining a manicured lawn is so entrenched it could prove to be difficult to establish this idea, but there must be thousands of conservation minded people with areas they could set aside for a couple of months a year [*Our group member John does this to allow native orchids and other plants in his lawn to flower and set seed Ed.*]. I found a company in Queensland, Jimboomba Turf Growers, who are producing a similar product. Hopefully more will emerge. Users have reported reduced aphids and fire and drought tolerance as advantages.

I'm sure many of you regularly visit the APS Victoria website and via that site, their Facebook page. There you will find all you ever wanted to know about Australian Native Plants...but wait, there's more. Hundreds of discussions, videos, coming events, group and personal stories both plant and conservation related. Particularly relevant as the latest State of the Environment report that has just been released, providing shocking reading even for those who have been tirelessly working to reverse extinction trends for years. On this subject, there is a report titled 'Australia's Imperilled Plants', naming 50 critically endangered, some with fewer than 20 living specimens. Regarding fauna, even our beloved Gang Gang Cockatoo has appeared on the list.

Finally, on a cheery note, I include a photo from the Living Desert Fauna and Flora Sanctuary of Broken Hill; the spectacular Sturt's Desert Pea (*Swainsona Formosa*), is in full bloom now. Which brings to mind the F.J. Rogers Seminar, Fabulous Peas, 15th - 16th October 2022. Not too late to register.



With our run of cold weather there is no pretending that winter isn't here. Our new wood fire has been gobbling up the wood and the wood stack has been disappearing. While loading the wheelbarrow the other day I discovered an interesting structure hanging inside the wood storage, shown in the photo at right. It is spherical and seems to be made from a papery substance, like thin papier mâché. It could have been buried in the wood stack for many years as this stack contains our oldest wood. When I first saw it, I thought "Paper Wasps", but an internet search showed their nests are nothing like this. It remains a puzzle and if anyone can shed light on this conundrum, I would be grateful.



In the garden, *Grevillea intricata* is a real asset at this time of

year, with its steady progression of creamy yellow flowers. The foliage forms a very tight shrub that even small birds probably can't penetrate with the needle-like foliage knitting together to form an almost impenetrable barrier. Good protection for lizards and other critters in the warmer weather and a nice show of flowers for now.



Another *Grevillea* doing great things is *Grevillea* 'Bonfire', so aptly named as it throws red fire into the sky every time it flowers, and it does flower for a lot of the year. The problem I have with it is that it grows too large for its position in the garden. Either I misread the label, was hoping it wouldn't reach those proportions or the plant just has no idea of how big it is supposed to grow. I have taken to pruning back about a third of it every year or so to keep it under control. I have been



trying for many years now to propagate it so that I can move it to a more suitable position but have had no success. I tried taking cuttings in all seasons, bottom heat, hormones of different strengths, all to no avail. In the propagation game it eludes me every time. I couldn't resist taking this photo of an old wallaby that I regularly see on my occasional morning bike ride to Jumbuk. If it's a cold morning with warm sunshine, he's in his favourite spot on the side of the road warming his old bones with a few rays. He just sits there, very grey on the face, with his torn ear and watches me ride past only a couple of metres away. I will miss him when he stops showing up on those early morning rides.

Plants in my Garden 189

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Correa* 'O.M.G.'.

Family: Rutaceae.

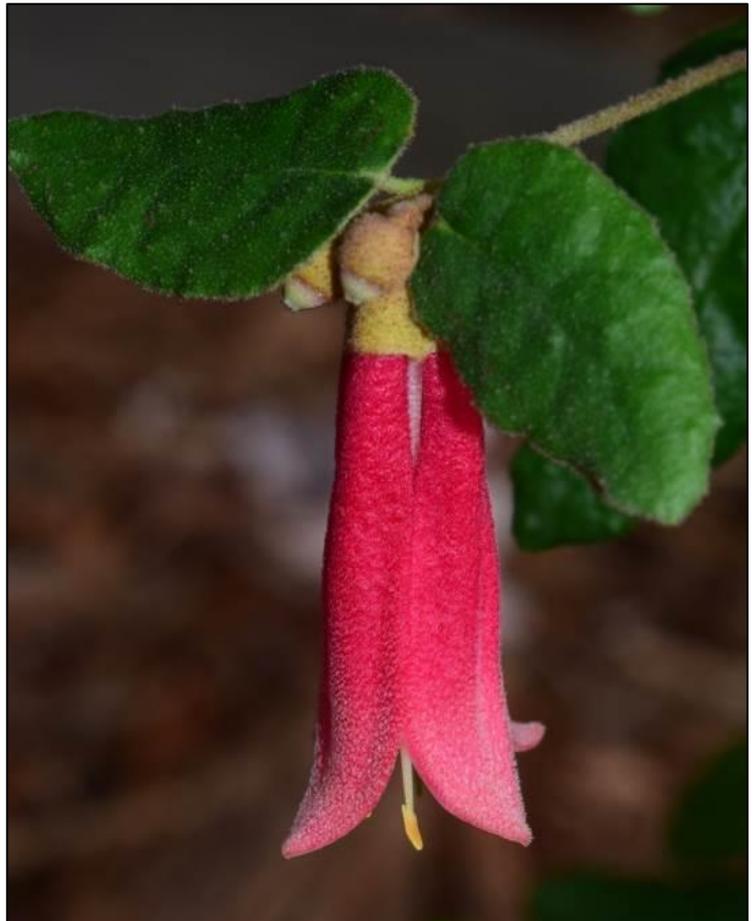
Derivation:

Correa: Named after Jose Francisco Correa de Serra (1751-1823), permanent secretary, Royal Academy of Sciences, Lisbon, Portugal.

Common Name: None.

Distribution: This *Correa* is a hybrid derived from a controlled breeding program, so doesn't have a natural distribution. It is subject to Plant Breeders Rights legislation.

Description: A medium shrub to 1.5m tall and broad, with broadly ovate, dark green leaves and prolific, large, red, bell-shaped flowers in autumn and winter.



Opinion: I'm generally not a fan of man-made hybrids, much preferring either species or natural hybrids. There are only eleven species of *Correa* however, and they are very promiscuous, so there are heaps of natural hybrids/varieties out there in the wild and dozens of cultivars/selections are/have been developed by the nursery industry and enthusiasts over the years. O.M.G. is one of the *Correa* 'Winter Bells' range developed by Bywong Nursery (just north of the ACT border in southern NSW) and apparently its name was chosen because of customers exclaiming (I prefer exclaiming, but my spellchecker doesn't like it!) all over it when they see it. It's a wonder it hasn't been killed by all the lightning strikes brought on by the nearby blaspheming.

My specimen was part of a gift for delivering a presentation to a sister APS group back in September 2018, was planted at the end of my northern driveway in the following autumn and has not yet lived up to its name. It would only be about 60cm tall, is pretty sparse and leggy and although it puts on a few flowers each autumn and winter, it has not yet inspired any exclamations from me or anyone else. Still, it's only young! Maybe I'll give it a tip prune to see if it will thicken up and flower more, but it would be illegal for me to use those tips for propagation without permission from the PBR holder.

Sources: Online - Google.

White Woman's Waterhole.

By Col Jackson

Our July meeting was at White Woman's Waterhole near Won Wron. Although a few members had been there before, it was my first visit. The waterhole is nestled in amongst tall gum trees, possibly Yellow Stringybark and Grey Gum, has a pleasant day-visit and camping area, and some very interesting forest walking tracks. I was impressed enough with it to contemplate a camping trip for a few days mid-week sometime (read 'camping' as meaning caravan off grid with all luxuries) and really explore the bush in this area. During our walk we saw numerous orchids, Common Heath in flower, some local *Correas* and lots of fungi.

The area, however, has a rather sombre history. The following is taken from the internet; <https://www.batalukculturaltrail.com.au>, and can be seen on the local signage at the car park.

Captive or a devious fiction?

Perhaps the biggest story to come out of Gippsland in the 1840s was the search for a lost white woman said to have been held captive by some Gunaikurnai people.

Local legend has it that in the 1840s, a young woman, the sole survivor of a shipwreck off the nearby Ninety Mile Beach was taken and held captive by the local tribe of Bratwoloong, who inhabited this part of Gippsland.



Angus McMillan, an explorer who later squatted on land in Gippsland for his own pastoral requirements, started this story in the 1840s, with a letter to the Sydney Press. McMillan claimed he had come across a deserted Gunaikurnai camp strewn with an array of items, including female clothing and a dead baby, said by a Dr. Alexander Arbuckle to be a

white child.

The story of the captive white woman developed a life of its own, spawning numerous myths, with various versions even claiming a sighting of a white woman being hurried away. This led to search parties consisting of Angus McMillan's men and Native Police pursuing Gunaikurnai people to try to rescue her. ►



The woman, if she ever existed, was never found. A ship's figurehead, however, was recovered, leading to speculation that it may have been mistaken for the white women. This White Woman of Gippsland story is believed to have been used to justify the killings of many Aboriginal people, particularly the Gunaikurnai. Massacres of the Gunaikurnai led by

McMillan occurred at Nuntin, Boney Point, Butchers Creek, Maffra and at other unspecified locations throughout Gippsland. A massacre at nearby Warrigal Creek is recognised as one of the worst in Australian settlement history. The White Woman's Waterhole commemorates the tragedy of this story.



2022 Calendar Spot – August

By Pamela Cox

Yvonne & I were holidaying at one of our favourite destinations, Mildura. We caught up with a friend who volunteers at the Buronga inland botanical gardens who told us that the Sturt desert peas were blooming. We arrived there & saw a sea of bright red on the ground with masses of the peas. We have seen them in the desert, but it has been only a few in a clump, nothing like this spectacular display.



2022 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar				
Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
Aug	Thursday	11	Sit down meal, AGM and slideshow on a recent Kimberley trip by Jan Workman at Morwell Bowling Club, 52 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	12 noon
Oct?			Possible Spring Trip to Blackwood – to be discussed at AGM.	
Nov	Thursday	10	Bush tucker walk in Bunyip State Park with Julie and Anthony from Peppermint Ridge.	

Coming events of interest

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

27 & 28 August - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days

1 September 2022 – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar 2022, Pomonal. A one day in-person event but exploring options to make the seminar available to an online audience. Theme “Image of Biodiversity” which aims to explore how imagery is used to monitor, engage, and inspire people towards greater biodiversity conservation efforts. Follow on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wimmerabiodiversityseminar>.

3 Sept 2022 – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo. Date to be confirmed.

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. Registrations open now.

24 & 25 September 2022 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more.

24 & 25 September 2022 – APS Loddon Murray host COM and Quarterly Gathering in Swan Hill.

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.

1 & 2 October 2022 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9:30 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday.

8 October 2022 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

15 October 2022 - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo & Sale, 9am - 3pm. Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore. \$2 entry.

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 ►

22 & 23 October 2022 - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

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	65	143	73	83	128	180	113	28	1125
Brian	Drouin (east)	83	58	80	64	68	134	87	44	174	130	106	26	1054
Carolyn	Yarragon	79	30	60	65	75	117	73	102	151	93	88	20	951
Wayne	Tanjil South	108	37	89	77	175	195	90	95	207	167	112	64	1416
Peter	Mirboo North	92	53	107	81	101	274	88	78	170	87	96	45	1272
Judy	Moe South	97	25	89	79	75	175	79	83	197	101	93	37	1130
Mike	Boolarra	95	43	81	66	84	181	67	92	186	88	83	35	1098
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	79	35	98	63	71	266	56	114	120	136	117	26	1178
John	Traralgon South	83	16	135	35	26	229	58	68	91	75	68	33	915

Rainfall for 2022 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	67	30	81	94	60	170							502
Brian	Drouin (east)	74	11	76	86	75	145							467
Carolyn	Yarragon	107	5	55	68	58	191							483
Wayne	Tanjil South	83	15	63	98	107	130							496
Peter	Mirboo North													0
Judy	Moe South	73	13	64	55	93	209							507
Mike	Boolarra	72	6	74	60	54	162							427
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	68	11	85	75	46	164							447
John	Traralgon South	88	10	31	56	28	175							388

<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

Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group Inc.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2022, 1:30pm

Morwell Bowling Club, 52 Hazelwood Rd., Morwell VIC 3840

Agenda

Attendance:

Apologies:

Confirmation of previous AGM Minutes:

Business arising from previous AGM:

Correspondence:

Business arising from Correspondence:

Reports:

Election of Office Bearers:

General Business:

All committee positions become vacant. Please consider whether you can provide assistance in any of the positions; Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Website Officer and Librarian. Nominations for the positions will be received immediately prior to the election for each position. If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to nominate for a position, please advise the Leader in writing or by email prior to the AGM.