

Golden

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

This Month

Event Bunyip State Park bush foods walk.
Location Meeting at Mortimer Picnic Ground.
Date Thursday 10 November
Time Meeting at 10:30

This walk will be led by Julie and Anthony of Peppermint Ridge. Consider car-pooling with a friend(s). Turn off the Princes Freeway north onto the Tynong North Rd. Follow this until it meets the Gembrook-Tonimbuk Rd, turning left onto the Gembrook-Tonimbuk Rd. Continue west until reaching Triangle Rd, and Mortimer picnic ground. (See map on pg. 2). Bring your lunch, drinks, chairs, and appropriate gear for the weather. There are toilets at the picnic ground.

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Last month I mentioned a trip to Canberra. As usual I ran out of time to see all the places on my list. However, I did manage to visit the Australian National Botanic Gardens where I joined a tour led by one of the many volunteers who undergo many months of training. I had just wandered aimlessly on previous visits and found this trip very rewarding. It was prime Wattle time and I saw many species from other states. Of particular interest to me was a Huon Pine (*Lagostrobos franklinii*), native to the wet southwest of Tasmania happily growing near a group of *Livistona fulva*, tall solitary pines restricted in distribution to the Blackdown Tablelands in Central Queensland. An example repeated throughout the gardens, of plants often thousands of kilometres from their native habitat, thriving due to attention to soil type and planting aspect.

The opening of a large Native Bee Hotel in the Gardens in 2016 has encouraged a nationwide movement, with the legacy of sanctuary for millions of native bees in home gardens, parks and botanic gardens ranging from simple designs to the creative such as Colin's in Jeeralang.

Tongue in cheek, I sent our Editor a snap of me at Floriade last month, which he duly published but couldn't identify the flowers pictured. I won't do so here but will say, although the festival does feature European plants, there was a very neat native garden too.

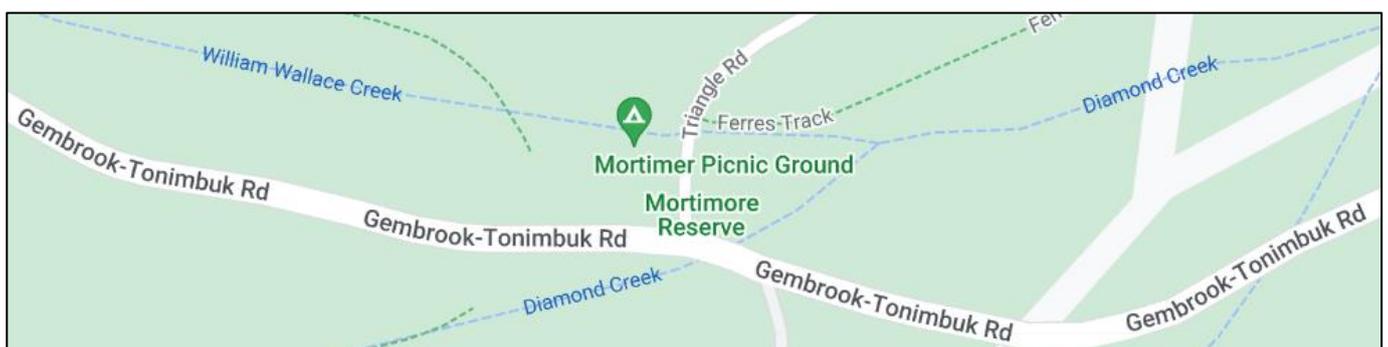
Our excursion last month was to Steve and Briany's garden at Gormandale. We last visited in 2019 and those on that trip were able to appreciate the difference this time. Briany is passionate about native plants and goes to enormous lengths to track down rare species. The result is a photographers' delight. The day was showery, but Colin managed to capture many of the plants in flower. Thanks Steve and Briany, who made time in their busy lives to share their progress. We look forward to accepting the invitation to visit again.



I spotted at Bunnings last week a potted Wollemi pine for the bargain price of \$85. Good to know they are no longer endangered. Cathy would like me to let you know there are still plenty of 2023 calendars for purchase at \$15 each, there have already been a few orders but need more. Also, Mike has half a dozen bags of Bushtucker fertiliser in his shed which he will be happy to pass on to anyone who wants one at \$30 per bag.

Our next meeting in the Bunyip State Park will be led by Julie and Anthony of Peppermint Ridge. It will be focussed on bush foods, both plant and other, in this very diverse park.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.



If I could give you a bit of advice, it would be 'don't renovate. If you really felt the need to go ahead anyway, I would say 'don't do it in the spring'. My garden has suffered another month of neglect as I have been running around trying to keep ahead of the various tradespeople arriving at home. As you can imagine, grass and weeds are proliferating, and planting, pruning and fertilising all need to be done.

The bush in the gully is a mass of white flowers where Snowy Daisy-bush (*Olearia lirata*) has filled much of the understory. Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*) is also a standout with literally



hundreds of small yellow flowers gracing the track sides and bush. This is a plant that has also crept into the garden, popping up as a pioneering plant in some of my newer garden areas. I have let it go as a temporary 'filler' plant, and while it can be leggy and untidy as it ages, I have now found that if I prune it hard each year, it bushes up to become a plant worthy of a



position in the garden. Both plants are great at feeding insects, and so are an important link at the bottom of the food chain.

And on the subject of 'food chain', this prickly little fellow was wandering around the other day sussing out ants' nests. I was able to anticipate his route and position myself so that he passed close by while I photographed and filmed.



Our resident Bower Bird seems to have permanently located his bower in our garden. He is now comfortable enough for me to work in the garden close by while he is re-arranging and decorating his bower, all the time chortling away with his mimicry of other birds. From time to time a rival male gets in and wrecks all his hard work, but he just starts up again. I guess a bird must



have a project! His collection of blue 'jewellery' includes plastic bottle caps, electricians' tape, pegs, mostly collected from the wider neighbourhood, and some blue rosella feathers and a few pale-yellow daisy flowers.

We also have a wattlebird nest in the 'cup' of the tree fern outside our kitchen window. We can't see the nest, but the parents are regularly visiting and feeding. Like we need more wattlebirds!

Species: *Goodia lotifolia*.

Family: Fabaceae.

Derivation:

Goodia: Named after Peter Good, a gardener at Kew, who accompanied Robert Brown on Flinders' voyage to Australia and died in Sydney in 1803.

lotifolia: From Latin *lotus*, the Lotus genus, and *folium*, meaning leaf. Thus, this species has leaves like a Lotus plant.

Common Name: Golden-tip, Clover Tree.

Distribution: A common understorey shrub or small tree in forests, usually in moist, shady locations, but occasionally in drier sites, along the coast and ranges of Qld, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. Records of this species in SA & WA seem to have now been attributed to *G. medicaginea*, but some taxonomists don't recognise the latter species.



Description: Up to 5m tall and broad, often suckering, sometimes with reddish branches. Leaves are trifoliate, like large clover leaves and the leaflets are ovate to obovate, up to 35mm long and 20mm wide, bluish to grey-green on top and paler underneath. Flowers occur over winter and spring and are a typical pea-flower shape about 15mm across in terminal or leaf-opposed racemes, bright yellow with a reddish blotch at the base of the standard petal. These form into 3cm long brown pods, which will spring open in warm weather to eject the ripe seeds away from the parent plant.

Opinion: This species has led a chequered life in my garden. I can't remember the provenance of the original plant, whether I obtained it from a nursery or grew it myself from seed or cuttings obtained locally, but I remember that it was a bit of a nuisance, suckering madly around the garden bed. Eventually, the area became so overgrown I pulled it all out and started over. The original plant was cut down to a stump, thinking it would re-sprout or continue suckering, but no, it promptly carked it and disappeared from the garden.▶

Another characteristic of this species is its prolific flowering and consequent development of abundant seed pods, which then commence firing their ripe seeds all over the place during the warm days of summer. Hence, after a couple of seasons there must be a pretty substantial build-up of seed stored in the soil and mulch. Not surprisingly, a couple of years ago some seedlings started to appear around the original location, as well as in the vegetable garden on the other side of the adjoining fence and in the pots in my nursery area, also on the other side of the fence. Some of these I've dug up and transplanted into pots, others just fade away on their own, but one I've left to its own devices roughly in the area of the original and this one has sprung up into a leggy shrub about 3m tall and is now flowering full tilt. No doubt in a month or two, there will be more seeds pinging off the fence!



Sources: Sharr – WA Plant Names and their Meanings
Corrick & Fuhrer – Wildflowers of Victoria
Elliot and Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 4
Online – VicFlora: Flora of Victoria, Electronic Flora of South Australia and
FloraBase: the WA Flora.

2022 Calendar Spot – November

By Cathy Beamish

As I think most people know, Mike and I don't just look for orchids (or in his case any plants) when wandering through the bush. We also check out anything that moves, regardless of how big, small or scaley it is!

Our interest in these critters comes from hanging out with people who love to share their knowledge and interest on what they find in the bush.

In this case, we were with Cathy Powers in the Brisbane Ranges.

We found these critters after we had given up on looking for orchids. The bushes we found the beetles on were chest high and they blended in with the leaves really well,

making them a little difficult to find. They were also challenging to photograph in focus, as they were lucky if they were 10ml long and they were quite often moving.



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	90	198	60				849
Brian	Drouin (east)	74	11	76	86	75	145	77	199	66				809
Carolyn	Yarragon	107	5	55	68	58	191	97	163	64				806
Wayne	Tanjil South	83	15	63	98	107	130							496
Peter	Mirboo North													0
Judy	Moe South	73	13	64	55	93	209	72	165	67				811
Mike	Boolarra	72	6	74	60	54	162	69	166	66				727
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	68	11	85	75	46	164	72	161	62				742
John	Traralgon South	88	10	31	56	28	175							388

Gormandale Delights

By Col Jackson

Our October visit to Steve and Briany's garden near Gormandale was a little dampened by the weather but was still a spectacular show of flowers. Light rain showers persisted through the morning, so our inspection was carried out with coats and umbrellas. The garden is developing with plants maturing and enlarging, a few failing and being replaced, but overall looking very impressive. Their dedication to collecting so many Grevilleas provides the visitor with a fantastic variety of this genus to see in one place. Steve has had some success in dealing with the wet area in their newest garden but is still wrestling with drainage problems there. After lunch, the rain eased off and I took the camera around to capture a sampling of the flowers on show. Enjoy! ►







Coming events of interest

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

25 & 26 March 2023 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry. Website: rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

29 March to 2 April 2023 – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>.

1 April 2023 – APS Geelong **Australian Native Plant Sale**, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

22 April 2023 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.

29 April 2023 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. 10 am to 3 pm. The Briars, Mt Martha.

13 May 2023 – APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. The venue is expected to be St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh, to be confirmed

24 & 25 June 2023 – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

2 September 2023 – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Acoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick, from 9 am to 3 pm. To be located in the undercover fruit and vegetable market area.

9 & 10 September 2023 – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days.

16 & 17 September 2023 – Angair Wildflower Show (admin@angair.org.au – Nat Utmar, Admin, 5263 1085

23 & 24 September 2023 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory College, Kairn Road, Strathdale (Bendigo).

23 & 24 September 2023 – APS Grampians host APS Vic September COMM. To be confirmed.

30 September & 1 October 2023 – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

7 October 2023 – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9 am to 4 pm. Flower show, native plant sales, basket weaving display, floral art and painting sales.

28 & 29 October 2023 - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm. (to be confirmed)

30 September to 4 October, 2024 – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria in Melbourne.

2024 – ANPSA 2024 hosted by APS Victoria in Melbourne.

2022 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
Nov	Thursday	10	Bush tucker walk in Bunyip State Park with Julie and Anthony from Peppermint Ridge.	10:30
Dec			Christmas Break-up	

We are looking for ideas for next year's meetings. Please give some thought to what you would like to see as a guest speaker, garden visit, a trip, or any other ideas you have for our meeting subjects.



<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