Golden

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

Issue No. 329 – April 2024

Grevillea chrysophaea – Golden Grevillea

This Month

Event	Day trip to Glen Nayook Rainforest Walk
Location	Meeting at Neerim South Main Street roundabout toilet block at 10:00
Date	Saturday April 20
Time	10:00 AM

Glen Nayook is described as a "delightful fern glen and remnant of mountain ash rainforest", with a 1.5km return walk along the Tarago River to a fern gully where the river runs underground for 100 meters. Bring a picnic lunch or there will be an opportunity to buy something at Neerim South. Consider calling a friend to carpool and maybe bring along a camp chair for lunch time.

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Leader's Report

By Jan Workman

The latest field trip was to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens including the Cranbourne Botanic Garden Friends' plant sale.

I was excited to visit the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens to see how established the Gardens are and how the land had been developed. I lived at Cranbourne during the 1980s & early 1990s and was hearing a lot of talk regarding the development of a Botanic Garden focussed on Australian Natives at the old sand pit mining site. The site chosen was used at that time by locals riding their 'off road' motor bikes, BMX riders, horse riders and dog walkers including greyhound trainers. Twitchers and plant enthusiasts could be found exploring the site with binoculars and cameras. Children would play there and build cubby houses. Sometimes a burnt-out vehicle would contaminate the site.

Over the years since, I often wondered what the development at the old sand pit looked like. Well; I was 'blown away' with what has been achieved at the site. I went on a 30-minute tour of the Botanic Gardens in a small tourist train on wheels with a very informative and experienced guide.

At the start of the tour, we visited the earliest development of the sand pit where the Arid Garden is situated. I was emotionally moved thinking back to those earlier times spent walking my dog in the sand pit wasteland.

Jill's Snippet – Mathieson Park

By Jill Fidler

We are fortunate to have an abundance of parks, reserves and walking trails in Latrobe Valley. Close to home is Mathison Park in Churchill. Many of you will remember the meetings we have had there. Thanks to a grant from the Latrobe City Council a new path has been added, named by the Mathison Park committee - "Forest Path", winding its way through the native plantation at the southern end from Hare's House. Gravel lined at each end leading up to the forest and changing to a grassed path allowing the native grasses to remain undisturbed. The native plantation was established about 20 years ago with trees provided by Loy Yang Power and planted by the committee over several days. I have previously written about this park with particular reference to the magnificent stand of Wollemi Pines about halfway up the hill. Add Lake Hyland - a popular fishing spot - picnic facilities and playgrounds and this is an easy choice for a day out. Contributing to the successful maintenance and improvements to the park are the small group of volunteers – the Mathison Park Committee. There is much more information on the website.

Editor's Notes

By Col Jackson

If you have been like me, you have been watching your garden wilt and die over the past month. We have had extraordinarily low rainfall across our group in February, from a high of 25ml at Tanjil South to a low of 6ml at Moe South. Little wonder Daryl has been 'cracking the sads' with his garden! I have been concentrating on watering a few recently planted treasures, a task that is always fraught with danger as it can be just as easy to over water as it is to under water, often with the same result; a dead plant. In the hope of finding inspiration for this article, I had a good look around the garden and found that there were good stories. Despite the dry, Banksia's are booming, some flowers out now and lots of new buds coming. Scaevola ground covers are still covered in their tiny flowers. Some Grevilleas are working well to the delight of the local honeyeaters. And my little patch of Parakeelyas (*Calandrinia reticulata*) produces a cloud of pink flowers and native bees on any sunny day. Planting these in a partially buried broken pot has worked well over the warm months but it remains to be seen how they perform in winter. What can I say other than Australian native plants are AWESOME!

At our Christmas break up last November, Sonya brought along a tray of 20 cuttings she had just taken, each in its own forestry tube of potting mix. I have had them in my hothouse since then, checking them periodically, bringing out those that had struck roots and discarding those that had died. I have just brought the last of them out of the hothouse now, with a total of 14 surviving. Not a bad tally for anyone let alone a beginner. I would encourage all of you to give cuttings a try; you could gain an extra plant for your garden or maybe a gift for a friend, not to mention the sense of pleasure and achievement you get from creating your own new plant.

Our recent visit to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens was another successful outing for me. I have seen these gardens develop from the very beginning and while they have always been great, they are getting better and better as they mature. As always, the plant sale was another attractant for me, and I was able to restrain myself to only 15 new plants. Check out Mike and Cathy's photos on page 5.

Plants in my Garden 206

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* 'Buchan'.

Family: Rutaceae.

Derivation:

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

reflexa: From the Latin word *reflexus*, meaning bent, angled or curved backwards.

Common Name: Common Correa, Native Fuchsia.

Distribution: The species is widespread along the coast and ranges from the Victorian - South Australian border, right across Victoria and New South Wales into south-east Queensland and in the eastern half of Tasmania. The cultivar 'Buchan' is typical of the East Gippsland forest forms found around Buchan in eastern Victoria, though my specimen came from the Nowa Nowa area.

Description: An upright dense shrub with large, soft, dull green, heart-shaped leaves to 40mm long and 30mm wide, that are rough to the touch, with scattered stellate (star-shaped) hairs on top, paler and velvety underneath with rusty hairs scattered along the veins and slightly wavy, recurved margins. Flowers are long and narrow tubes with exserted anthers, mainly purplish-red grading to lime-green near the recurved tips and covered in a fine layer of stellate hairs.

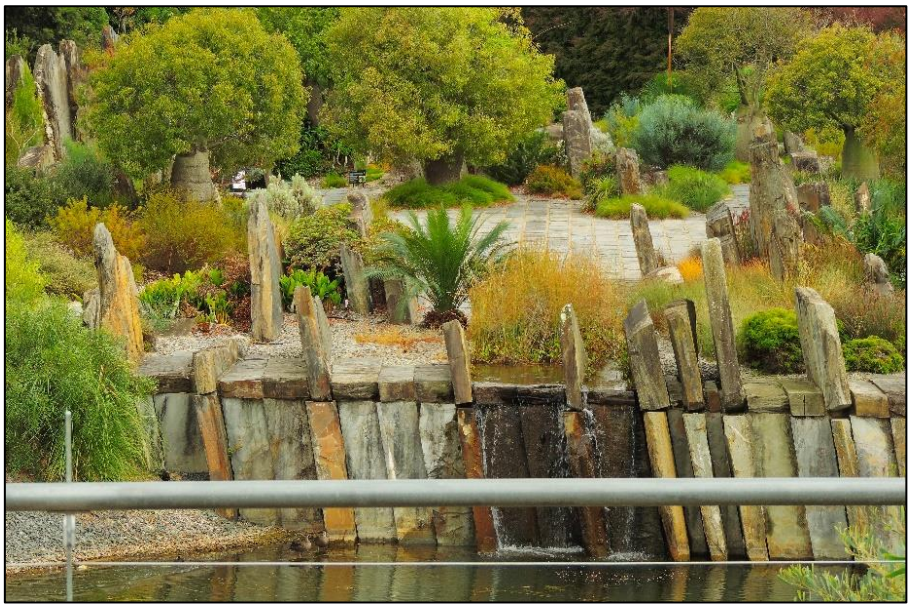
Opinion: My specimen arrived as a cutting from a group of plants near Nowa Nowa in East Gippsland and is planted in the western bed inside the boundary fence, in heavy shade as it is surrounded and overgrown by taller and denser wattles, hakeas and cypress-pines. It is now about a metre tall, but quite upright, narrow and open, probably due to the shade. I'm currently in pruning mode, so I'll tackle the neighbours to let in more light and air movement and might even take some tips off the Correa itself to see if it will thicken up. Flowering is sporadic, again probably due to the shade, but the little honeyeaters love it when it does put out its blooms.

Sources: Elliot & Jones - Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 3.
Hitchcock - Correas: Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens.

Cranbourne Botanic Garden

By Mike and Cathy Beamish

Here's a few shots from CBG on Saturday. A New Holland Honeyeater on Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream', a Blue Flower Wasp (*Austroscolia soror*) on a Grasstree, a Nose Fly (*Stomorhina discolo*) on *Grevillea gariwerdensis* in the Rarities Recovery Garden, a Brown Bandicoot *Isoodon obesulus)* and some landscape shots.



'Cracking the Sads' – summer garden woes

By Daryl Radnell

[Daryl has had some bad luck in the garden this summer. Here is his take on the events of the past month or so. Ed.]

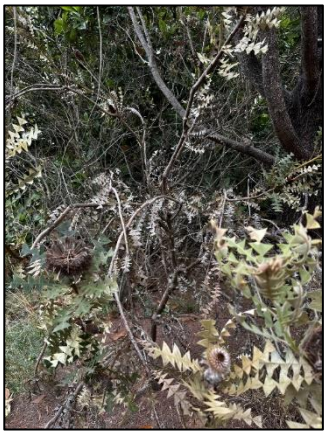
If it's not the lack of rain, it's something else. This casualty was caused by the big blow of wind a few weeks back. I don't know how I'm going to clean it up. I might have to get Mike's tree fellers in!

Then there are the wombats. *Banksia plagiocarpa* (Hinchinbrook Banksia) had only been planted three days when a wombat hauled it out of the ground and left it to die. *Beaufortia squarosa* was another similar casualty, although I am not quite sure if it was wombats or wind. I found it lying flat one day, pretty crook but not quite dead, so I propped it up.

An unknown Hakea that was propagated by Col and gifted to us after our garden visit was fine the other week but the heat wave we had killed it quick smart. Within four days whilst I was away in Canberra it went from a green prickly shrub threatening to take over the garden to crispy brown.

This *Banksia praemorsa* was also doing fine until the dry hit. It doesn't look too much like the picture on the label anymore.

I learnt that not all dead plants are ready to come out. Unfortunately, as I was removing a Gold-Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*) shrub, I found 3 Blue Wren nests in it. Two of them were old nests but one had a chick and an unhatched egg in it. I replaced the dead shrubbery and kept an eye in it for a few days and as the parents kept attending the chick I am hopeful that they survived.



The Banksia baxteri 'Baxters Banksia' at left is one of the 'not quite dead but just rather sickly-looking specimen of a plant' category. It was one of our earlier plantings so maybe I shouldn't be surprised at its condition. It is possible that its time is just up.

There are numerous other plants that are on the sick or dead list, most of them identified. Then there is this, a stick and a tag that is too sun affected to read. So much for my record keeping.

2024 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar				
Month	**Day**	**Date**	**Activity**	**Time**
April	Sat	20	Day trip to Glen Nayook	10:00
May	Fri	10	Slide presentation by Mike at The Rose Garden meeting room, Morwell.	1:30 PM

Coming events of interest

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

6 & 7 April 2024 – APS Wangaratta take part in Off-Grid Living Festival & Campout, Chiltern Racecourse & Recreation Reserve, NE Victoria. Providing information about Australian plants – growing, maintenance, suitability and also selling plants which we have propagated ourselves.

13 April 2024 – APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

20th April 2024 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn plant sale. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am-3pm

11 May 2024 - APS Mornington host the next APS Vic COM Meeting at Fenton Square, and a visit to the Seaford Banksia Arboretum in the afternoon.

11 May 2024 – APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale, at St Andrews Uniting Church, Bacchus Marsh, 9 am to 1 pm. For more details from David Pye, Ph 0417 289 369.

27 and 28 July 2024 – APS Bendigo host COM and full weekend of activities.

5 September 2024 – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. Further details to follow.

7 September 2024 – APS Cardinia Regional Annual Plant Sale, Akoonah Park, Berwick from 8 am to 4 pm.

7 September 2024 – APS Mitchell Expo and Plant Sale, Wallan Multipurpose Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan.

14 & 15 September 2024 APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am - 3pm

21 & 22 September 2024 – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

21 & 22 September 2024 – Angair Wildflower Show & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea. 10 am to 4 pm. Wildflower display, indigenous plant sales, art show and painting sales.

28 & 29 September 2024 – 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.

30 September to 4 October, 2024 – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne hosted by APS Victoria. Visit https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/.

2 October 2024 - AJ Swaby Address at 3.30 pm as part of the ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference. A public event, at The Round, Nunawading. Phillip Johnson speaking on the Chelsea Flower Garden and Garden Design.

5 October 2024 – Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Details to follow.

19 & 20 October 2024 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

November 2024 – APS Wangaratta host APS Victoria Committee of Management meeting and AGM. Details to follow. ►

2025 15th FJC Rogers Seminar 2025 on Epacridaceae hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula.

2026 ANPSA 2026 Biennial Conference, planned to be held in Alice Springs.

Rainfall for 2023 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	21	42	101	112	114	102	41	66	66	177	80	157	1078
Brian	Drouin (east)	22	44	110	93	118	101	38	70	68	184	83	136	1067
Warren	Yarragon	49	35	80	69	119	138	36	71	78	184	74	85	1018
Wayne	Tanjil South	25	43	100	77	131	126	55	74	59	195	106	136	1127
Peter	Mirboo North	35	57	113	96	132	94	32	59	57	205	110	86	1076
Judy	Moe South	26	33	80	66	126	101	86	83	78	193	90	124	1086
Mike	Boolarra	20	43	114	61	113	101	44	62	55	182	60	92	946
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	24	36	94	65	122	91	26	51	58	200	94	105	964

Rainfall for 2024 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	135	21	13										169
Brian	Drouin (east)	121	28	14										163
Warren	Yarragon	97	16	15										127
Wayne	Tanjil South	137	25											162
Peter	Mirboo North													0
Judy	Moe South	100	6	17										123
Mike	Boolarra	89	12	11										111
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	71	15	14										100

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