

Golden

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

Issue No. 332 – July 2024

Grevillea chrysophaea – Golden Grevillea

This Month

Event	Exploration of Foster's Gully in Morwell National Park.
Location	Morwell National Park, Kerry Rd carpark, off Jumbuk Rd.
Date	Thursday 11 July
Time	10:00 AM

This month's meeting will be a walk through Foster's Gully, led by Mike Beamish. Mike says it is prime time for fungi with a slim possibility of spotting some winter flowering orchids. Don't forget weather appropriate gear (hats, raincoats, umbrellas) and good walking footwear for wet tracks. BYO some lunch, we can have it at the Jackson's house. Hot tea, coffee, chocolate supplied, along with oven, microwave or toaster available for your use.

In this issue:

Page

2	Leader's Report – Jan Workman
2	Latrobe Valley group events calendar
3	Editor's Notes – Col Jackson
4 – 5	Plants in my Garden – Mike Beamish
5 – 6	June meeting at Sale Common – Mike Beamish
7	Jill's Snippet – Brisbane's Roma St Gardens – Jill Fidler
8 – 9	Coming event of interest
9	Rainfall registration charts

The field trip to Sale Common was an enjoyable and interesting wetland to visit. Acres and acres of area was covered with water as far as the eye could see with the river flowing nearby. River gums and Melaleucas were in abundance as well as waterbirds.

Whilst there I thought of other native animals that might live in this environment and remembered an article I had read on the predation of turtles by foxes. This area is accessed by boardwalks and paths, and I confirmed with Mike that foxes would use these structures too, to access their prey just like visitors who access good vantage points.

Foxes have been sourcing turtles for food since being introduced into Australia for hunting purposes.

The numbers of turtles along the Murray River have been rapidly declining over recent years. Foxes dig up turtle nests, eating turtle eggs and catch the female turtles as they leave the safety of the river to lay their eggs. Due to this predation on young fertile female turtles, there will only be an aging population left.

I can only hope that at Sale Common there are enough isolated islands so female turtles and their eggs can be safe from this introduced predator.

(There are an estimated 170 million foxes in Australia!)

Mike, (through his sister Sandra) has booked the residence 'Homeleigh' at Buchan for the weekend Friday October 25th to Monday 28th. This residence belongs to the Victorian Speleological Association and consists of 16 bedrooms off hallways around common kitchen, dining and lounge areas (somewhat similar to Edski Lodge at Baw Baw). If you would like to check it out, go to www.rimstone.org.au. We have booked for 16 people since this is the maximum we can book for without a deposit, but if we have more takers, we can increase the booking later on providing there is room. It is possible that others may book rooms for that weekend as well, but unlikely if they know a large group will be there. We could book the place for exclusive use if we were willing to pay a non-refundable \$750 deposit. A booking for 17 or more people requires a 50% non-refundable deposit (\$255 minimum), so don't want to do either of those in case we don't get the interest. Rates are \$30 per person per night or \$60 per family per night. **The managers would like a list of attendees ASAP, so we need to get RSVP's as soon as we can. Please let Mike know if you wish to attend this meeting as soon as possible.** We will be asking around at the next meeting.

2024 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar				
Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
July	Thu	11	Fungi and winter orchids walk around Foster's Gully in Morwell National Park.	10AM
August			Annual General Meeting	
September				
October	Fri-Mon	25-28	A trip to Buchan, staying 3 nights at Homeleigh and exploring the surrounding area.	
November				
December			Christmas Break-up.	

June for the Jacksons has been a trip to the Simpson Desert. A group of people we travel with wanted to do a Madigan Line desert crossing last year, but due to rainfall and flooding in the outback we postponed it to this year. Guess what happened? Rain and flooding again, so we decided to just deal with it and have a plan B if we couldn't complete the Madigan crossing. It turned out the rain had made the sandy parts of the travel easier on the vehicles and brought a lot of life to the desert. To cater for fuel, we travelled up the Hay River to Jervois, before returning into the desert and coming out at Birdsville. The growth and flowering in the desert were quite amazing with huge quantities of birds. Anywhere there were trees with hollows (gums along the Hay River, Gidgee in the desert) there were literally thousands of Budgies making the most of the good times.



Once we got through to Birdsville, the rest of our group were set to head home, all with work and other commitments. This prompted Mary and I to consider doing a solo east to west crossing

of the desert. It is something I had thought about years ago but never actually got to do it. After consulting the weather forecasts for areas all around the Simpson (we didn't want to get stuck waiting for roads to open after rain), we finally filled all fuel and water, said goodbyes to the others, and headed east back into the desert. As a safety precaution, one of our friends lent us a little gizmo that tracked our progress via satellite and could be used to send out SOS and text messages in an emergency.



As it turned out, it was the best decision. We travelled slowly, (some days averaging only 12 kilometres per hour) and stopped whenever there was something special to photograph. We didn't see plants that we hadn't seen before, but we did see a huge amount of plants. Sometimes, looking from a dune top, it was difficult to see any red sand, just a carpet of green, yellow and white. A very memorable part of our travels.



Back home a quick look around the garden has bad and good news. The Parakeelyas that I hoped would make it through the winter in their special position have been ravaged by wallabies and one of my self-sown Paper Daisies has been producing flowers in a lovely hue. I think it could well be given the name of 'Desert Sunset'.



Plants in my Garden 209

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Atractocarpus chartaceus*
(syn. *Randia chartacea*).

Family: Rubiaceae.

Derivation:

Atractocarpus: From Greek *atractos*, meaning spindle, and *karpos*, meaning fruit, referring to the shape of the fruits.

chartaceus: From Latin *charta*, meaning paper and referring to the thin papery leaves.



Common Name: Native or Narrow-leaved Gardenia.

Distribution: Coastal, subtropical forests of eastern Australia from the Richmond River in NSW to Gladstone in QLD, with a small disjunct population 370km to the north in Eungella National Park, near Mackay.



Description: An understory shrub or small tree to 6m in height. Leaves are dark green and glabrous (smooth) on top and dull grey-green underneath. Juvenile leaves are long and ▶

narrow to 25cm x 1cm, mature leaves are broadly oblanceolate 15cm x 5cm, both with prominent veins on both surfaces. The species is dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers are borne on separate plants. Flowers are cream, with 5 or 6 petals, up to 30mm in diameter, fragrant and borne terminally or in the leaf axils. Fruits are spindle-shaped berries to 30mm long and 18mm in diameter, red when fully ripe with sweet, edible pulp containing several 5mm long seeds.

Opinion: I have had this plant for decades, it's positioned on the north-facing wall of the house underneath the eaves and the Omeo Gum planted nearby, so is in pretty solid shade and is protected from the worst of the frosts. This is probably why it is still only barely a metre tall and rarely flowers. The glossy green leaves are pleasant to look at though, even if they're prone to attack by scale insects. The easiest way to control the scale is to check the plant every now and then and scrape/crush the little blighters off with your fingernails. It's a bit messy, but it's effective and you should probably wash your hands more anyway! I've never had any fruits on my plant to test their edibility, but if there ever is any, I doubt I'd beat the birds or possums to them. I've also never tried to propagate this species, cuttings would be my only option, there is probably enough material for a couple of attempts but the word in the bible is that firm young growth or juvenile shoots are the go and striking can be slow. Maybe I'll give it a go next summer.

Sources: Elliot & Jones - Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 8 (as *Randia chartacea*).

Online - Wikipedia.

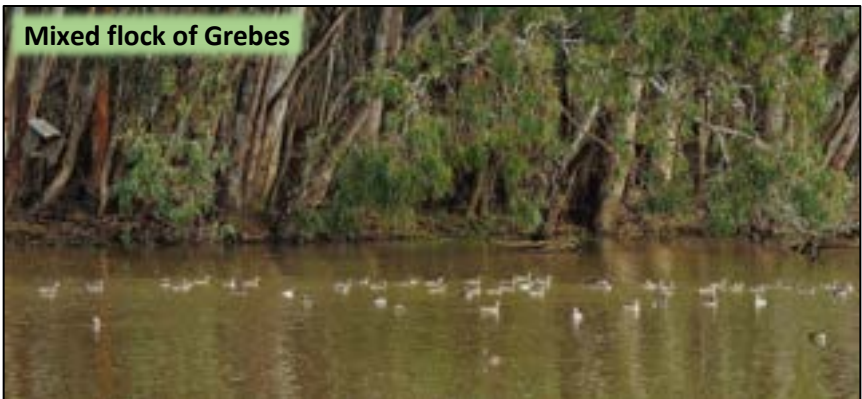
June Meeting at Sale Common

By Mike Beamish

Six of us turned up for the walk on the Sale Common in June, with five apologies. The weather was of course cold and showery, but we managed to stay dry for most of the time. Those of us silly enough to not bring a coat (just me, not a cloud in the sky when we left home) at least had a broly to keep the drizzle off. The only native flowers we saw for the day were some Water Buttons (*Cotula* daisies) and Water Pepper (*Persicaria* sp.), but the waterbirds were great. Cathy got some reasonable shots, for your enjoyment here. ▶



Yellow & Royal Spoonbills



Mixed flock of Grebes



Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*



Male Darter



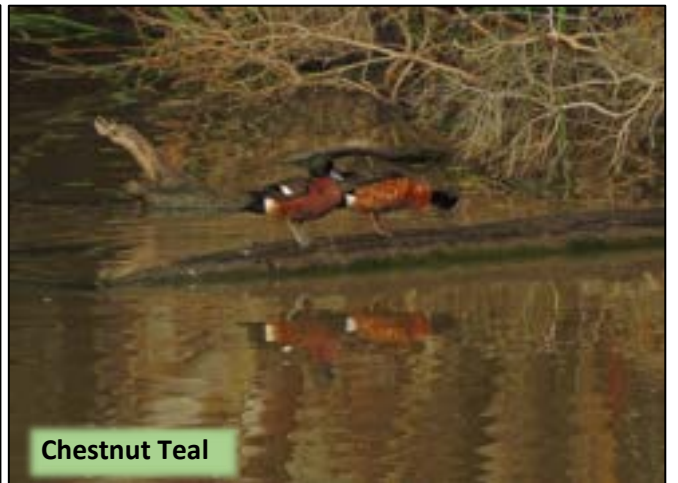
Whistling Kite



Juvenile Darter & Azure Kingfisher



White-faced Heron



Chestnut Teal

Jill's Snippet – Brisbane's Roma St Parklands

By Jill Fidler

I am just back from a short trip to Brisbane, as always, the weather was boringly warm and welcoming. I never miss a visit to Roma Street Parklands. Opened in 2001, at 16 hectares, it is the biggest urban sub-tropical garden in the world and always a highlight. Looking better than ever and bustling with activity from new plantings to hundreds of holidaying children enjoying the amazing playgrounds. In a corner of the Spectacle Garden, an area of constantly changing displays, there is a section titled Garden of Native Cultivars. Different from native plantings elsewhere in the garden and showcasing the development and hybridisation of native plants with the aim of producing better and more reliable specimens to enhance Australian gardens. Once upon a time, Western Australia was the only reliable source of Kangaroo Paws and they struggled to survive in the Queensland climate. This year, 'Joey Paws' or '*Anigozanthos hybrida* Joey Sprite' (for short) a miniature form is on display.



Brilliant colours, flowering nearly year-round, waterwise, thus ideal for pots or mass plantings. Our native daisy, *Bracteanthea* are also available in miniature form, with white or golden flowers on short stems. There were many other shrubs and small trees on



display, all suitable garden specimens. The staff at the garden and I'm sure in many other nurseries, are constantly trialling new varieties and updating displays, providing planting ideas to keep us busy.



Coming events of interest

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

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

5 September 2024 – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar - Goroke. 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 by Phillip Johnson - 3:30PM. "Connected Through Nature". As part of the ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, this session is open to the public, free of charge, at The Round, Nunawading. Phillip Johnson is a Landscape Designer and 2013 Gold and Best in Show winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London. "*By healing our environment, we heal ourselves at the same time*".

5 October 2024 – Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

12 & 13 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

19th October, 2024 – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show, Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. (Next to the Conservatory). 10am to 4pm. Native Plants for Sale.

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

24 to 30 March 2025 – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>.

16 to 24 August 2025 - A focus on banksias - title to be advised. Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Includes plant sales, plant walks, exhibitions and displays in the auditorium. ►

August 2025 - 15th FJC Rogers Seminar 2025, On Epacridaceae. Date to be confirmed. Hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula in the Mornington Secondary College.

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	172	40								381
Brian	Drouin (east)	121	28	14	173	45								381
Warren	Yarragon	97	16	15	153	33	52							365
Wayne	Tanjil South	137	25	38	169									369
Peter	Mirboo North													0
Judy	Moe South	100	6	17	265	35								423
Mike	Boolarra	89	12	11	137	35								283
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	71	15	14	130	18	75							323

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

Leader:	Jan Workman	0429029279	jantw@y7mail.com
Deputy-leader:	Jill Fidler	0407871603	jillsgarden71@gmail.com
Secretary:	Cathy Beamish	0459196543	cathy.beamish@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Mike Beamish	0447452755	mcandcjb@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Col Jackson	0429095527	coljackson57@hotmail.com
Librarian:	Pamela Cox	0429194733	theroseglen@yahoo.com.au
Publicity	Delma Hodges	0408398385	rj3dh2@aussiebb.com.au



COPYRIGHT: ARTICLES OR INFORMATION ARE NEEDED FOR EVERY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOURCE AND ORIGINAL AUTHOR. SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR; note SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH. MEMBERSHIP FEES; per ANNUM: TO BE PAID BY 30TH JUNE FOR BOTH LATROBE VALLEY GROUP Inc. AND AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP Victoria) Inc.

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