



KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah
Preservation by Cultivation



August 2020

Even More Isolated

Unfortunately Corona virus is still a very serious problem in our society. It seems likely to be quite some time until we can physically get together again. Hopefully, this is a time when you find this newsletter to be even more valuable, and even more so if you all contribute something of what you are able to do in your garden patch.

We have a few different things this time – a crossword, humour, items relating to history and art.

Membership Renewal Time

The membership renewal form for the year 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 was distributed with July's newsletter. Your committee made a late decision to reduce our subscription rates, on a one-off basis, in view of the lack of meetings and outings which can be provided under Covid19 restrictions.

If you haven't paid yet, please contact APS Maroondah's Membership Secretary Jan Nicholls on 9893 4422.

Mt Cannibal

Last month we told you about a donation to the Friends of Mt Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve to help with revegetation following the fires of March 2019.

We were recently alerted to a proposal to create a quarry in the area, and checked with the Friends as to whether this was endangering the reserve. Friends' member Sue Harris supplied the following response:

"The proposed Hanson quarry's western boundary, if it does succeed in gaining a permit, would be 500m

from the eastern boundary of Mt Cannibal. We are of course opposing the proposal and so too is the whole community. The proposal has been about for many years but is now at the Environment Effects Statement (EES) stage. The EES process has been postponed at present. We dearly hope it does not succeed."

We hope that this reassures our members. If you would like to show your opposition to the quarry please visit www.savemountcannibal.org.

Artistic Inspiration

Michael and Sally Cook's daughter Nicola is a talented artist. She has painted three murals in their garden that reflect the natural environment. These provide inspiration and cheer to Michael and Sally, especially in these times of isolation.

Michael thought that they would brighten up our days as well by sharing in *Kunzea*. They are distributed through this newsletter.



Correas

Sue Guymer

I love correas! This is one of my favourite genera. They are generally easy to grow, have glowing flowers on the dark days of winter, and have a variety of lovely foliage forms and flower colours.

There are only 11 species within the genus, which extends to about 20 taxa when the varieties within species are included. But there is a multitude of forms – some with cultivar names and some identified by their place of origin.

We are mainly growing many *Correa pulchella* and *C. reflexa* forms which are probably the most commonly available correas. However, we also have *C. calycina* var *halmatuorum* – a particular favourite with glowing lime green flowers, and leaves and stems which are covered in rusty hairs.

Another favourite is *Correa backhouseana* var *backhouseana* x *C. reflexa* var *reflexa* 'Marian's Marvel'. We had a lovely plant by our front door for many years. I took the photo below and we used it on our wedding invitations. That plant has since died but we have another.

One interesting feature of correas is that they are very promiscuous! If you have more than one correa in your garden, you are likely to find that you soon have little hybrid correa babies emerging. Some of these will

be weak and unwanted, but occasionally you will get one that turns into an attractive, desirable plant.

Our correas are finishing their flowering (late July), so we look forward to the full flush of wattle yellow now.



Correa backhouseana var *backhouseana* x *C. reflexa* var *reflexa* 'Marian's Marvel'



Correa calycina var *halmatuorum*



Correa pulchella



Correa reflexa 'Red Empress'



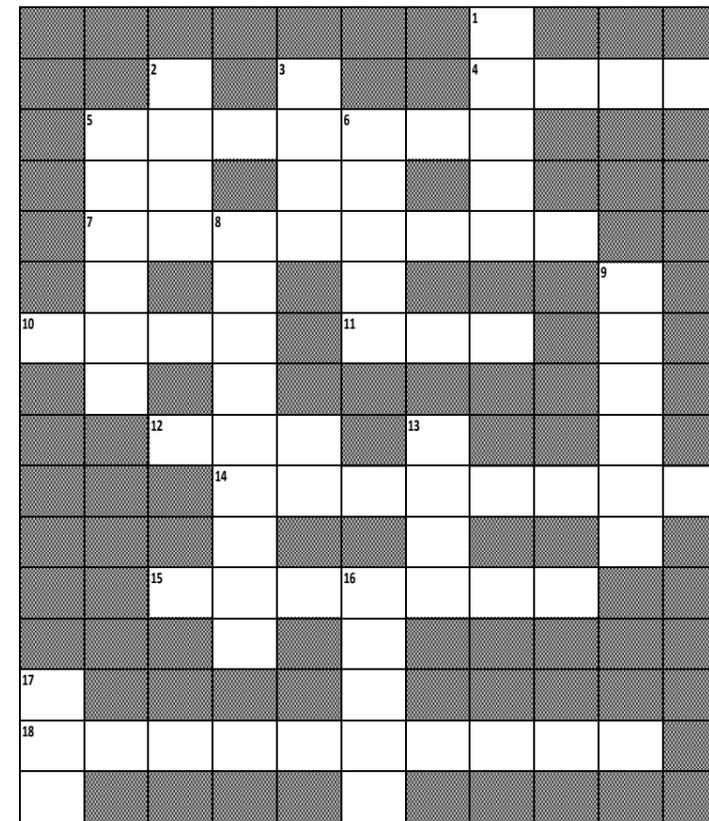
Correa pulchella 'Little Cate'



Correa reflexa 'Jewel'

Crossword

A little diversion for you – with some relevance to Maroondah members.



Clues

Across

- 4 Phyllode or ____ (4)
 5 Genus featured in "Australian Plants Revealed" exhibitions (7)
 7 Botanist on the "Endeavour", Daniel ____ (8)
 10 In April 2020 Kunzea, Michael Cook told us of his invertebrate "species" Pizza ____ (4)
 11 Highly valued food of First Nations Australians, Murnong or ____ Daisy (3)
 12 Lomandra or ____ Rush (3)
 14 Joe Wilson's quiz in June 2020 Kunzea focussed on this genus (8)
 15 Nurseryman specialising in grafted plants - Phil ____ (7)
 18 Local First Nations people of eastern Melbourne (10)

Down

- 1 Free portion of grass leaf is called the ____ (5)
 2 Tuberos Pacific food crop which is a weed in northern Australia (4)
 3 Migratory sea bird (4)
 5 Expert on habitat gardening, AB ____ (6)
 6 Soil type near coast (5)
 8 Family of plants which are subject of 2020 FJC Rogers Seminar (9)
 9 Fern genus (6)
 13 Classic story (4)
 16 Goodeniaceae hunter Maree ____ (5)
 17 Bristle-like appendage of a grass (3)

The solution is shown on page 7.

Flowering in Ray and Eva's garden



Epacris impressa deep pink



Epacris longiflora



Kennedia prostrata



Epacris impressa 'Cranbourne Bells'

A Native Garden 50 years ago

Bill Aitchison

Sue and I recently had some communication with Tom Banfield, an APS member who lives in Ararat. In our communication with Tom, he explained that he used to be Vicar at St David's Church, East Doncaster, and that the original design of the gardens around the church was all natives.

We asked Tom if he would write a few words relating to the establishment of the gardens, and his article appears below, together with a couple of photographs that he has provided. Tom comments that "this is an apology of an article by a 90+ year old with fading memory", but notes that he has always been interested in native plants, and often as a youngster accompanied his aunt, Lorna Banfield, on her field naturalists trips in the Grampians area. Today, there are still a few natives in the gardens at St Davids, but the majority of the plants are exotic.

Tom wrote as follows:

"St David's Church East Doncaster (opposite Tunstall Square) was built in 1970. When the parish was first set up, the church members were having their services and meetings in private homes, and after services were started in the East Doncaster Methodist Church Hall for some time, the land was purchased for a church building in Doncaster Road, and land for a Vicarage adjacent to it but facing Wembley Gardens. In our initial briefings the architect took into consideration that the building would not have a very good outlook, as its front faced a petrol station and, on either side, the back of house blocks. It was suggested that the building should not be built in the style of a small cathedral, but rather in the style of a

domestic house. In view of the fact that it had no outlook, it was suggested that building be set in and facing a courtyard (as one of our members described houses in Spain), with just a plain fence or wall facing the boundaries and the building facing a central courtyard.

The resulting design from the architect covered these suggestions. Behind the altar in the worship room a large window faced a walled garden which hid the garage opposite and provided a barrier to the sound of the traffic passing on Doncaster Road. The fence planted with native creepers, helped with the effectiveness of the sound barrier. Opposite the north wall was all windows and this gave views of the courtyard which was planned to have native garden beds around a central lawn. This area became an enclosed area when the St John's wing was added in 1976. On the right of the entrance narthex was another garden area.

The design and planting of the gardens were guided by Geoff and Alice Clague, members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP, now APS). The Clagues had a very nice native garden around their home, and were enthusiastic growers of Australian native plants. It is over 40 years since I left East Doncaster, and I have forgotten the names of other keen native plant enthusiasts, but one couple, Ken and Margaret Milburn I remember were leading members of the garden team. They helped me with advice on planting the front garden of the Vicarage which was all natives. This was when I first joined SGAP."

Tom Banfield,

life member of the APS Grampians Group
Vicar of St David's East Doncaster, 1967 - 1976



Early Spring

Sue Guymer

I have mentioned before that Bill and I have a Timelines calendar which was compiled jointly by Manningham and Nillumbik Councils. A Timelines calendar is based on observation of the local native environment and how it responds to different seasons. The seasons are cyclic, sensitive to climatic variability and delineated by the occurrence and associations of natural phenomena, rather than dates.

The local Wurundjeri people recognised more seasons than the four equal seasons recognised in Western societies. The Timelines calendar was divided into six equal seasons for convenience. We have just left deep winter (June and July) and have started early spring (August and September).

The calendar tells us to look out for flowering of Ivy-leaved Violet (*Viola hederacea*), Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*), Golden Bush Peas (*Pultanea gunnii ssp gunnii*), Spider Orchids (*Caladenia* sp), Donkey Orchids (*Diuris* sp) and *Stackhousia monogyna*, in August.

I find it an uplifting thought that spring is sprung ... and it seems to fit our garden at this time.

A Shaggy Frog Story

originally appearing in the Victoria Frog Group's magazine "In the Spotlight"

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that the teller's name is Patricia Whack. So he says "Ms Whack, I'd like to get a loan to buy a boat and go on a long vacation".

Patti looks at the frog in disbelief and asks how much he wants to borrow. The frog says \$30,000. The teller asks his name, and the frog says that he is Kermit Jagger, son of Mick Jagger, and that it's OK as he knows the bank manager.

Patti explains that \$30,000 is a substantial amount of money and that he will need to secure some collateral against the loan. She asks if he has anything that he can use as collateral.

What was APS Maroondah doing in August in past years? A quick check of past year's newsletters reminds us of some things of interest.

In particular, 2016 was a stellar year for our group, being our 50th year. The August Kunzea of 2016 looked forward to our 50th Anniversary Celebration lunch to be held later in the year. It also reported on the ceremonial tree planting at Maranoa Gardens to mark the milestone. The tree was a *Stenocarpus sinuatus* (Firewheel Tree) which is the emblem of the gardens. There was a picture of Harrison and Anthony Senior helping with the planting. The boys are sons of Andrea Dennis who is a co-curator of Maranoa and a past president of APS Maroondah.

August 2009's Kunzea featured an article debunking the commonly-held belief that wattles are a significant cause of hay-fever. Wattle pollen is very obvious on the bright yellow flowers but is very heavy and so falls quickly to the ground. Irritation is caused by lighter, airborne pollens such as those released by elms, ash and oak trees, and grasses (exotic grasses produce more pollen than native Kangaroo and Wallaby grasses).

The frog says "Sure. I have this" and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about 1cm tall, bright pink and perfectly formed. Very confused, Patti explains that she'll have to consult with the manager and disappears into the back office.

She finds the manager and says: "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000. And he wants to use this as collateral". She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean what the heck is this?"

The bank manager looks back at her and says "It's a knick knack, Patti Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."



Bridal Creeper Weed

Sue Guymer

We all have weeds, no matter how vigilantly we remove them. It is always concerning to see a new weed in your garden. One which has appeared in our garden in the last few years is Bridal Veil, *Asparagus asparagoides*.

It is a smothering climber with branching wiry stems from southern Africa. The leaves are alternate and distinctively shiny bright green, which makes it easy to spot.

From seeing a single specimen a few years ago, I am now finding them all over the garden. I pull them out when small but obviously there must be seeds in the soil. You need to ensure that you remove the rhizome which forms a strong divided clump with age. Apparently they flower in spring, followed by red berries, but I haven't seen them get that far at our place.

Watch out for it!



Botanic Ridge Garden

Michael Cook

Some things are so simple that they get overlooked. Our garden has now got to the stage when copious amounts of pruning are inevitable. I looked at the various shredders on the market and all had a small orifice to direct individual green prunings through. I thought I would soon tire of a machine like this and decided to make my own.

I replaced the supposedly "treated pine" on our daughter's sandpit, as the timber I used 4 years ago had rotted, except one piece. I no longer had any use for my lawn mower as we now have no lawn. So I constructed a "drive-in" for it, to enable it to be used as a shredder. The steel "run-over" plate on the shredder box is recycled off an old computer cabinet.

I dump tangled green prunings into the receptacle and drive the mower repeatedly onto the pile. It works a treat. Most of the now fine mulched prunings collect in the catcher.

My basket of red and gold *Lechenaultia formosa* from Cape Le Grand looks stunning in the late afternoon light.



Bowerbird

Sue Guymer

In earlier newsletters this year we mentioned the arrival of, firstly a lone female Satin Bowerbird, and then the whole family. We were amazed and delighted to see them in our garden and suspect that they have been driven west from the fires in eastern Victoria earlier this year.

Well, we have seen the adult male again. He has already collected a blue thing (looks like part of a toy) and dropped it in a couple of spots in our garden. I told APS Yarra Yarra member Lyhn Barfield and she was also excited. She has given me a collection of blue materials which may be good bower material.

I have placed a few pieces around the garden and we are keeping watch!



News from South East NSW

Bill Aitchison

Many of our longer term members will know John Knight. John was previously a President of APS Maroondah and is also an Honorary Life Member. You might have met John and his wife Sue when they came to Melbourne for APS Maroondah's 50th Anniversary Lunch in 2016.

He now lives near Batemans Bay in NSW and is a member of APS South East NSW. Within that Group he is a Committee member and editor of the Group's monthly newsletter – which, not surprisingly, is always an impressive production. Some of the information provided and topics discussed in recent newsletters are as follows:

Similar to our Group, APS South East NSW is still not having any gatherings in person because of Covid-19. Their newsletter is therefore the main current means of communication for members.

The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens at Batemans Bay suffered serious destruction as a result of fires last summer, but as a result of herculean efforts by Gardens' staff and volunteers, the Gardens again opened to the public for the July school holidays, just six months after the fires.

Following the fires that occurred in both December and January, there has been considerable post-fire monitoring done by APS members, with results being reported in the newsletter. One member reported that of all the local forest shrubs, *Persoonia linearis* is definitely the most fire tolerant, both in resisting burning and in quickly regenerating afterwards. Another member reported discovering a population of the rare *Hibiscus richardsonii*, which appears to be a post-disturbance coloniser, helped by the fires. In another area, *Calystegia marginata*, Forest Bindweed, had germinated en masse.

One member referred to a plant in their garden that had been planted in 1988, that was believed to be *Olearia persoonioides*. It is described as a favourite plant, usually a mass of purple flowers in spring, a small neat plant maybe 50cm tall and wide. But there is some uncertainty regarding the species name. John Knight understood *O. persoonioides* to be a fairly robust

subshrub growing in higher elevations in Tasmania. John recalls it being grown by Austriflora Nursery in Melbourne when he worked there in the 1980s. The plant he remembers had oval-shaped leaves and definitely white (not purple) flowers. So there is some uncertainty regarding the species in this member's garden, although agreement that a plant such as this, over 30 years old and a survivor, would make a great addition to any garden. Do any APS Maroondah members have experience with *O. persoonioides*, or thoughts re the identity of the plant in question?

One of their members reports that she has ceased using Glyphosate (Round Up), and has been trying out other less destructive herbicides to control weeds. One alternative that she has tried is "Slasher", described as being a herbicide which is acceptable for organic farming, and it seemed to be most effective. The following is an extract from the June newsletter:

"So far, three members have advised that they have used Slasher on winter annuals with excellent results. I am unsure whether its use is to be recommended for persistent perennial weeds, but certainly for plants like Flickweed, (*Cardamine hirsuta*, also known as Hairy Bittercress), Mouse Ear Chickweed (*Cerastium glomeratum*) and Winter Grass, (*Poa annua*) 100% success was achieved. Also, very good results were achieved on early germinating Bindii (*Soliva sessilis*)."

Have any of our members tried "Slasher"? Please let us have any comments.

John reports in the May newsletter that lockdown has given Sue and him the time to finish a rainforest garden on the south side of their house, an area 12m long and 2.6m wide. Some of the plants here are *Tasmannia lanceolata* (they have worked out how to keep the wallabies at bay from this area), *Telopea oreades* from Victoria, *Glochidion ferdinandii* (Cheesetree) and *Grevillea arenaria*.

Solution

					S					N
	I	R	E	I	D	N	U	R	U	W
					O					V
					O		E			
			N	A	H	G	U	A	V	
	A			T				E		
A	I	B	M	Y	R	O	C			
	D			M		T	A	M		
	O							I		P
	O		M	A	Y			M	R	O
					D			A		H
				R	E	D	N	A	L	O
					D		V	U		R
					V		I	S		K
F	A	E	L			S		T		



Leigh Murray
Olearia persoonioides

Home for Sale – Arthurs Creek

6 hectares in rural Arthurs Creek (within the Green Wedge), about 1¼ hours north-east of the Melbourne CBD and 10 minutes from the nearest train at Hurstbridge.

The dwelling is a 1970s designed house by architect Kevin Borland. It has 3 bedrooms, northerly aspect, solar panels, slow combustion stove and heater, and a large carport.

The property has 2 paddocks of primarily native grasses, and a well-established landscaped native garden, as well as vegetable gardens and sheds.

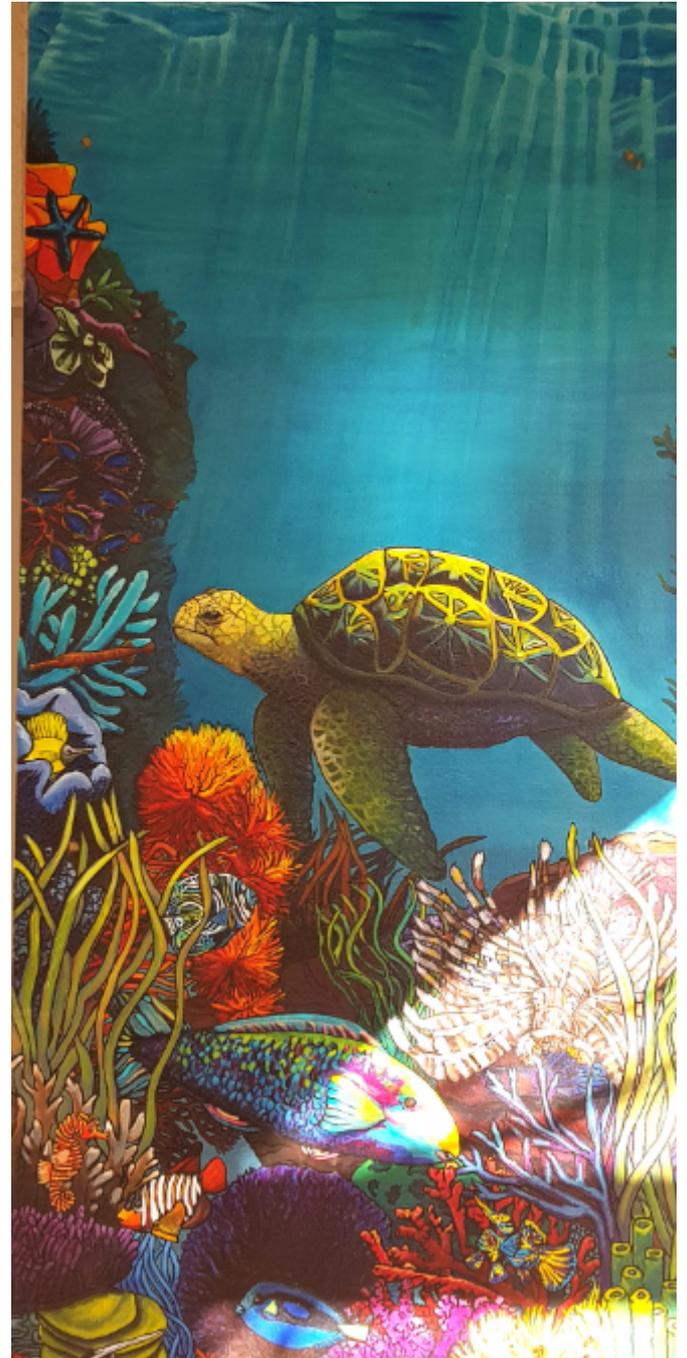
The garden includes remnant native flora and the cultivated component includes some rarely grown species (e.g. pomaderris, eucalypts, eremophilas). Many trees were grown by seed from many bushwalks and travels around Australia and there is room for much more....

Price \$1.2 million (negotiable). Please contact Jan Walsh on 0437 720 453.



*Strength may wield the ponderous spade,
May turn the clod, and wheel the compost home;
But elegance, chief grace the garden shows,
And most attractive, is the fair result
Of thought, the creature of a polished mind.*

- William Cowper



Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

Postal address: P.O. Box 33, Ringwood 3134

Email: maroondah@apsvic.org.au

Newsletter contributions:

Contributions for the September 2020 Newsletter should be sent to Sue Guymer at aitchguy@gmail.com.au no later than **Sunday 30th August 2020**

Maroondah Group website:
australianplantssoc.wix.com/maroondah

APS Vic website:

www.apsvic.org.au

Published by APS Maroondah Inc.

Registration No. A0013122B

