



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
OCTOBER 2020 No 467

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

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'Plants of the Great South West 3',
book on plants of South West Victoria
\$25, available soon from
Kevin Sparrow at
ksparrow93@gmail.com
Ph: 55626217



New Edition
available now.



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EDITORIAL

Hello members,

Sad to say, as most members would be aware by now, that our good friend and member, Sue Sherwood has passed away. Our condolences and best wishes to John and family as they begin their lives now without her.

Message from President Dorothy Mattner:

On behalf of APS Warrnambool and District I would like to pass on our condolences to John Sherwood, Karen, Jen and family on the sad passing of Sue. John and Sue have been valued members for many years. Sue has been a big part of our group and was always there to lend a hand. In the past helping out at our flower shows and in more recent times helping with the Bunnings BBQ. A loyal member and friend we will miss her smile at our meetings and future outings. Goodbye is hard to say, so I will say farewell to our friend Sue.

Members contributed flowers from their gardens for Joyce to assemble in floral arrangements for the funeral. The Waratahs contributed by the Halls were a main feature but selections were also made from all the contributions made by members. There was so many that Joyce put together a second arrangement on behalf of our group. Photo right is the display for the casket. On page 2 is the arrangement on behalf of our group. Thank you to all members who made a contribution.

Sales of the new book are going gangbusters both are available from Collins Booksellers or through me. (I can post out) At our next Zoom Meeting, I will be giving a presentation on the book, so don't forget to check in. Also have something on hand from your garden for Show and Tell purposes.

That's about all for now, see you on Zoom on Friday 23rd. Cheers, Kevin



We wish to acknowledge the Maar people as the traditional owners of the land on which we live and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

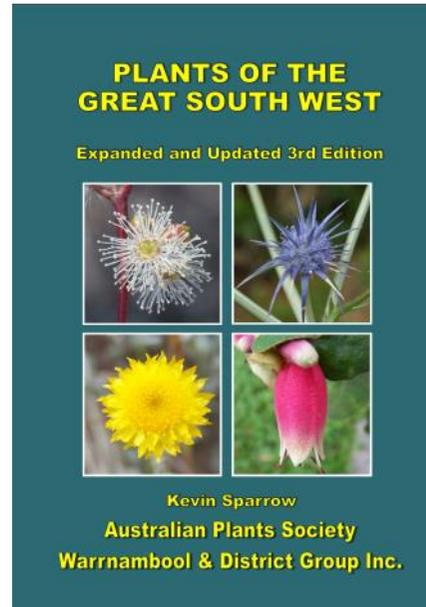
**Members Night: Kevin Sparrow speaking on his new book, Plants of the Great South 3 on Zoom
on Friday 23rd October at 7.30pm**

Group Diary Of Activities

October 23rd: Kevin Sparrow speaking on his new book "Plants of the Great South West 3" via Zoom From 7.30pm
Log on anytime after 7.00pm

The proposed **visit to SGAP members gardens in Hamilton**, has been put off indefinitely until government regulations allow.

October 27th: Committee Meeting on Zoom from 5.00pm



Floral Arrangement on behalf of our group



Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month

President: Dorothy Mattner Phone: 0447 676 477 dmmattner@bigpond.com **Vice President:** Kevin Sparrow Ph: 55626217
Secretary: Mike Halls, 127 Rooneys Rd, Warrnambool 3280 Phone: 55626519 Email: mandehalls@bigpond.com
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Public Officer: John Sherwood. **APS Reps:** Bob Artis, **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper Organiser:** Liz Halls.
Other Committee Members: Michael Mattner, Andrew Gray, Joan Krygger, David Handscombe.

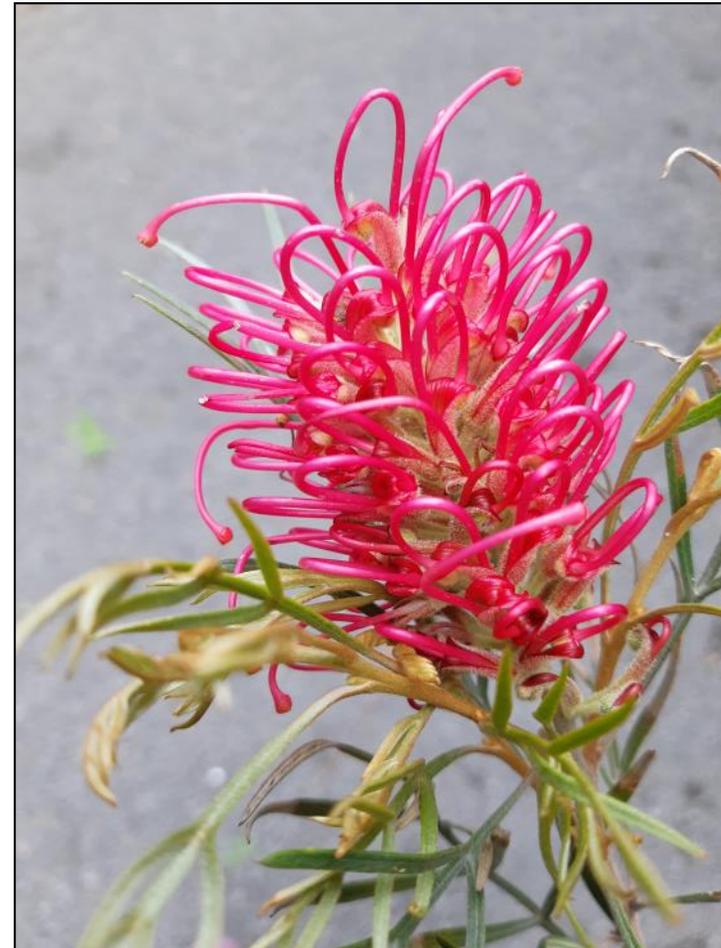
The APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.

APS Warrnambool & District is a District Group of the Australian Plants Society (Vic)

All members are required to also be a member of APS Vic.

Show and Tell - By Zoom 25th September 2020 by Kerry Artís

Linda Handscombe started our showing with a *Chamelaucium megalopetalum* hybrid, which makes a beautiful cut flower. It has big petals and starts white, changing to a pinky mauve colour, and ending up dark pink. This shrub doesn't grow as big here as it did at Pomonal and can be grown by cutting.



David Handscombe showed *Grevillea* 'lollypop', which is a subtropical hybrid that has been flowering for six months and is looking lovely. It can be pruned back hard.

Show and Tell - By Zoom 25th September 2020 by Kerry Artís

Kevin Sparrow had several *Dendrobium* orchid cultivars. These were in various colours and are putting on a lovely display in the porch area at Sparrow's front door.





Acacia binervia (above) was shown by Sue Blood. This is a beautiful bush that sometimes looks like it is dying, but it doesn't, instead it bears golden rod-like flowers and is a fast-growing tree suitable for coastal areas.

Marilyn Berry's *Thryptomene saxicola* (photo right) has been a very reliable plant with a long flowering period and a slightly pendulous habit, that has stood up to strong wind very well. It grows in sun or shade and stands up well to both heat and frost.

Grevillea 'Jelly Baby' is a dense, low mounding ground cover with jelly pink flowers and soft grey foliage, growing 30-40cm high by 1 metre wide and flowering from late winter to summer. A very good container plant and likes well drained soil. This was shown by Kerry Artis.

The Daisy Bed by Linda Handscombe

When we moved in 2019 we wondered what to do with our old iron bed. I thought of a 'Succulent Bed' but David wanted a 'Daisy Bed'.

So we erected the bed in the garden and built a timber base around the bottom. We filled it with garden soil and added some extra potting mix, perlite and Bush Tucker fertilizer.

We watered it thoroughly and then planted the border with perennial daisies

including *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *Chrysocephalum baxteri*, the branching form of *Rhodanthe anthemoides*, various coloured *Brachyscome multifida* and a local *Leptorhynchos*. We also direct sowed seed of yellow *Schoenia filifolia*, pink *Schoenia cassiniana* and pink *Rhodanthe chlorocephalum* subsp. *roseum*. A bit later on we added the APS *Brachyscome iberidifolia* seed.

The pink *Rhodanthe* took off and over the bed with the other annual daisies being crowded out. They were so dense that a bit of botrytis mold appeared in one area and those daisies collapsed. Over winter and early spring the daisies endured cold and gale force winds but still manage to look bright and cheerful and mostly upright.

Hopefully when the rampant pink *Rhodanthe* die off, we'll collect the seed in a paper bag to resow next autumn and this will give the perennial daisies a chance to thrive and next year when they're bigger, we'll sow fewer annuals in clumps in between.

A few people have commented that it looks like a grave but despite the lockdown no one is buried underneath and there are several climbers planted to scramble up and soften the canopy.



Some More From Our Garden by Dorothy Mattner



Plants L to R are: *Pomaderris elliptica* var. *elliptica*, this is from the Brisbane Ranges. *Leptospermum rotundifolium*. *Isopogon anemonifolius* and *Acacia binervia*.

From My Garden - *Acacia courtii* by Ruth Lazarus

Acacia courtii typically grows to over 7 m up to a maximum height of 20 m and has slender, brittle and pendulous branchlets. Like most species of *Acacia* it has phyllodes rather than true leaves. The glaucous, ever-green and flexible phyllodes have a linear shape and are straight with a small hook at the end. They have a length of 5 to 18 cm and a width of 5 to 12 mm and have one prominent vein with several others. It blooms between November and January producing inflorescences with paired or solitary flower-spikes that have cylindrical shape with a length of 3 to 6.5 cm with loosely packed pale yellow coloured flowers. After flowering, straight woody seed pods form that have a linear shape. The shiny brown seeds inside have an oblong-elliptic shape and a length of 5.5 to 7.8 mm (0.22 to 0.31 in) with a filiform funicle that is folded four to eight times and a small oblique aril.

The plant name honours the botanist Arthur Bertram Court who was once the Assistant Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. It is endemic to the small area in mid north coast region of New South Wales around Laurieton, Kendall and Kew where it is mostly situated on rocky hillsides among the coastal ranges in three small locations where it is a part of dry forests and woodland communities.

Photo flower inset taken from web: www.herbalistics.com.au



Propagation By The Bowl Method by Dave Handscombe



Photo 1

There are many forms of plant propagation that horticulturists use. To produce a clone of a plant to retain its particular characteristics you would normally take cuttings, the easiest method (see photo 1). You could use tissue culture, but that requires some specialist equipment and techniques that most home growers don't have access to. For species that are difficult to strike from cuttings, or would not survive in the soils and climate you have, or if you wish to produce a standard you could try grafting, (see Photo 2). These methods generally use material from a mature plant so will come into flower more quickly than seed grown plants (see photo 3).



Photo 2

Growing a plant from seed brings with it a level of uncertainty because you bring genetic variability into the equation. When you grow a plant from seed you may end up with a plant with an unusual form or flower colour or it may be a hybrid, particularly if you collected the seed from a garden situation. Traditionally propagation from seed requires you to place the seed in a soil medium, keep the soil moist and wait. Seed grown plants have to reach maturity before you will see a flower, for some species this could take 10 years or more but you can produce large numbers of plants quickly (see photo 4 & 5).



Photo 3

More than 25 years ago the Grampians APS group asked Paul Kennedy, the current leader of the Hakea Study Group, to give a presentation on a method of propagation of Hakeas that he had been using that didn't use soil to start the germination process. Paul used a method that I call the bowl method. This method works well for Genera with larger seed such as Hakeas. I have successfully grown Hakeas, Banksias, Telopeas, Dryandras and to a lesser extent Grevilleas (most Grevilleas require a few extra steps to trigger the germination process) using the bowl method.



Photo 4

Propagation By The Bowl Method by Dave Handscombe



Photo 5

The method is quite simple, all you need is a bowl, some paper towel and of course some seed. I use plastic bowls that I can drill a hole in to allow water to drain out, this is because I put my bowls in the igloo with an automatic watering system and if there were no drainage hole the bowl would fill with water and drown the seed (see photo 6). You can use a bowl made from china as long as you check the seed every day and water to keep the paper towel moist. Take 2 sheets of paper towel folded over to create a twin skin and line the bowl with them.

Add a little water to the bowl so that the paper towel becomes wet. Next take the seed and put it on the paper towel around the rim of the bowl, the seed should stick to the wet paper towel. Remember to label your seed with the species and date (see photo 7). I try and place the seed so that the end where the roots will emerge is facing down but this is not critical. The first thing you should notice is the seed swelling over a few days as germination is stimulated followed by the roots emerging from the seed and growing down the paper towel (see photo 8). This will be followed shortly by the cotyledon leaves bursting from the seed coat (see photo 8). It's at this point I would normally carefully lift the seedling from the paper towel, you may have to use a plant label to tear the paper towel on either side of the root, and pot it into a forestry tube using a native plant potting mix (see photo 9). For the Proteaceae genera mentioned above now is the time to propagate because most will need warm days and cool nights. If you leave it to late in the year, when the nights are warm they won't germinate.



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

Linda and Dave Handscombe at:



Due to Covid19 and no markets we have quite a few plants for sale.

Assorted natives in maxi tubes \$7 each including Correas, various daisies, Scaevolias, Grevilleas, Ozothamnus, Chamelaucium and more

AND

Xerochrysum bracteatum [everlasting daisies] mixed colours and
Helichrysum monstrosum [straw flowers] white, orange, scarlet,
copper, red/purple, rose pink, silvery pink
In forestry tubes \$3 each or 4 for \$10

We are not running a nursery from our property and intend to sell at markets only but are happy for members to come at the moment.

Linda 0407700843
David 0429866862