



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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JUNE NEWSLETTER 2019

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, February to December except November.

The venue is the Hughesdale Community Hall, Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale (MEL 69 C7)

Visitors are always very welcome.

COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: John Thompson thomme@netspace.net.au
DEPUTY LEADER: Helen Appleby
SECRETARY: Helen Appleby
TREASURER: Catherine Irwin irwincs@hotmail.com
PUBLIC OFFICER: Helen Appleby
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marj Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
COMMITTEE: Amanda Louden amandalouden@icloud.com

Please forward any newsletter contributions, comments or photos to Marj at 36 Voumard Street, Oakleigh South 3167 or to the email address above.

Note: Deadline for the JULY newsletter is June 25th

Tuesday June 4th 2019

8pm Hughesdale Community Hall

Speakers: Chris Larkin and Janet Hodgkiss Topic: "Pruning Australian natives"

Janet and Chris are both members of APS Foothills. Their presentation will cover the art (Chris) and the science (Janet) of pruning of Australian plants. As this topic is vital to the successful management of an Australian Garden, please come along and find out what you are doing right/wrong in your own patch.

RAINFALL RECORDS for 2019

The following are our rainfall records for 2019 (in mm).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh South	11.4	17	35.2	18.4									82.
Highett	7.5	9.9	26.7	9.3									53.4
Hampton	6	5	27	7									45
Cranbourne South	30	24	25	24									103
Caulfield Sth	5.6	10	12	12									39.6
Elsternwick	7	7	14	12									40

June Meeting

Supper: Mandy Loudon (Please bring milk)

Write-up: John Thompson

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MAY MEETING

Speaker: Christine Huf

This was a talk of a different nature from those we usually hear. Christine presented us with four cases where forensic evidence using plants and soil was important in gaining guilty verdicts in murder cases. She also mentioned that Cannabis was frequently associated with her cases. This report will not give a full description of each of these cases but include relevant information leading to convictions.

Case one involved two girls from Soham in the UK who went missing from a BBQ in 2002. The girls' bodies were recovered in a ditch about 12 miles from Soham. Formal identification was made using DNA. Even though the major suspect had thoroughly washed and vacuumed his car, replaced the boot floor mat with carpet and replaced all four tyres, forensic examination revealed traces of chalk, brick dust and concrete on the underside of the car and this matched the surface of the track where the girls' bodies were found thirteen days later. Stinging nettles had been trampled and this indicated the point of entry into the ditch and from the rate of growth of the side shoots present, a forensic ecologist was able to determine that the nettles had been disturbed 13 – 14 days earlier. Pollen from some of 64 different plants was found in the suspect's car and on his shoes, including some rare plants. The suspect was eventually found guilty and given a 40 year sentence.



Case Two commenced with the finding of several boxes of body parts widely separated in the Fort Lauderdale and Miami areas of the USA. All boxes contained plant material, concrete and one had some blue rope. DNA and fingerprints established the identity of the victim, a resident of the Dominican Republic. A botanist was able to identify pollen as belonging to two plants, an umbrella tree and the invasive Chinese privet. A known acquaintance lived in Fort Lauderdale; his house was searched and found to have cement bags, a shovel covered with concrete, a blue rope, a sledgehammer and sharp tools. The house also had the two identified plants growing in the garden. The botanist stated that he had never before seen the privet growing in this locality. The accumulated evidence led to a conviction and 25 years prison term.

Case Three: A wife had gone missing from a shopping centre in NSW. We were introduced to 'luminol', a substance which reacts with haemoglobin and is used to detect the presence of blood. This substance glows a bright blue in pitch black darkness. Although areas at the house glowed brightly, the blood was found to be non-human. Phone records indicated that the lady's phone had last been used at Kurrajong Heights in the Blue Mountains. The Air Wing was called in and they located a body on a fire trail about 40km from where she was last seen. The husband's car was then investigated and found to have vegetation wedged under the vehicle. A botanist examined the vegetation and visited the crime scene where the body of the woman had been found, and was able to identify most of the plants found on the vehicle. The suite of plants identified at the site included *Pultenea scabra*, *Austrostipa pubescens*, *Acacia linifolia*, *Austrostipa rudis* and *Leptospermum trinervium* and this combination was not found at either the home or the shopping centre from which she disappeared. The husband was found guilty and gained a 27 year sentence.

Case Four: One in which Christine had a direct involvement. The case initially involved a dispute over a person (A), friend of (B), parking in a street to the annoyance of a resident (C). Threats of violence led to a shot, a fast car chase, a crash and a violent brawl resulting in the death 16 days later of (B). Speed cameras confirmed



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the presence of the two vehicles. A sawn off firearm was located under C's car seat. A piece of the wood was found at B's home and another at the scene of the crash of the two cars. Burnt wood on the firearm was too burnt to enable full comparison with the two fresher pieces but a botanist gave an opinion that the pieces were from the same species and that there was no observable differences with the burnt stock. C's sentence was for ten years given for manslaughter of B and two years for injuring person A in the brawl.

Questions:

1. How can a court be sure that photos taken have not been altered? Christine described the process by which she seals first and second photos for filing, then takes working photos for analysis.
2. In 10 years, how different will forensics be? Australia is very advanced in forensic examination. Advancements have been amazing over the last three years and Christine expects similar advancements in the future.
3. How long will DNA be reliable? Depends on storage, but a very long time.
4. If the government legalised cannabis, would there be no work? Highly unlikely, cases are multiplying.

Many thanks to Christine for a fascinating insight into the work she does.

SPECIMEN TABLE **May Meeting**

We had three contributors.

For **Marj** it is correa time. Mostly versions of *Correa reflexa*, but also one *C. pulchella*. *C. reflexa* included "Tucker Time" (lots of flowers, red and yellow), right, *mannii* (red), "Fat Fred" (fat flower in red and yellow), "Brisbane Ranges form" with dark red flowers, "pink bells", (pale pink with a white turn back). *C. pulchella* is low growing but the orange/pink flowers are prolific and glow in the garden.

Marj also had *Hypercalymma xanthopetalum* (xantho- means yellow) and referred to the plants growing on Howson Hill at Cranbourne Garden where they are still in full flower and cover a big area. Small flowers along the stem initially appear to be wattle flowers but are not. It is a long flowering low plant ideal for most gardens.

Templetonia retusa (*prostrate*), below, is one that Marj has



many plants are flowering.

John thinks **Mandy's** *Acacia beckleri* is actually *A. gladiformis*. Whereas Marj's flowers are more terminal, Mandy's occur at the base of the stems, and are slightly brighter in colour. Mandy's has slightly narrower leaves.

Her second wattle was the long flowering *Acacia jibberdingensis* – a slender open shrub with bright yellow rod flowers and long narrow phyllodes.



brought in before. Salmon and cream coloured flowers contrast with greyish green leaves. The plant is growing in shade which may have helped it survive the summer, as two taller varieties didn't cope at all well in full sun.

Her last sample was a wattle. Both she and Mandy have plants sold as *Acacia beckleri* but very different from each other in size of leaf and flower as well as bush height. They both give a burst of colour at a time when not so

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Adenanthos ileticos has small greyish triangular leaves and tiny typical adenanthos shaped flowers. The appearance is of fragility. It lasts for ages in a vase.

The curly form of *Grevillea nudiflora* has profuse red flowers on long arms forming a dense low mat. The straight leaf form flowers a bit later.

Grafted *Diplolaena grandiflora*, right, flowers nearly all year. Mandy's is currently about 2m high and 1.25m wide. It is a plant which hails from the Shark Bay region of WA. Its woolly leaves help protect it from sun and salt spray.



John offered three different thryptomenes. *T. stenophylla*, *T. hyporhytis* and *T. denticulata*. All had pink/purple flowers and are small shrubs. John particularly talked about *T. denticulata*, recommending it as a long flowering and attractive small plant for any home garden.

Webbing caterpillar can affect any of these with small leaves, but they are easily removed.

Ivory Curl, *Buckinghamia celsissima*, right, is a rain forest tree but grows readily in Melbourne, though perhaps not to rain forest height. John suggested 5 – 8 m likely. The creamy curling flowers are insect attracting.



Epacris calvertiana var *versicolor*, left, has pink flowers in profusion. Slightly prickly leaves. *Rhododendron lochiae* from tropical northern Queensland was named in honour of Lady Loch, wife of Sir Henry Brougham Loch who was governor of Victoria from 1884 to 1895. The striking pink/red flowers can have straight or curved tubes and were previously considered different species but are now considered as only one.

Pick of the Bunch - May 2019

Adenanthos ileticos E. C. Nelson

Club-leaf Adenanthos

Specimen grown by Amanda Loudén, text by John Thompson

Adenanthos ileticos is a small to medium sized lignotuberous shrub 0.5m - 2m x 0.5m - 1.5m. It is found on sandy rises growing in tall shrubby heath and open woodland. It only occurs in an area to the north and north east of Esperance and whilst listed as Rare Flora it is not under any immediate threat.

The grey green leaves have three club shaped lobes and the flowers are a pale reddish pink. Flowering can occur at any time of the year.

Plants prefer a sunny or semi shaded position in a well-drained soil. They are mainly grown for their decorative foliage, which lasts well in a vase, rather than their flowers, which although bird attracting tend to be inconspicuous. The plants form a woody rootstock from which they are able to resprout. Propagation is from seed or from cuttings of firm young growth.



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Adenanthos is a member of the Proteaceae family, a family of c.1500 species in c.80 genera occurring mainly in the Southern Hemisphere in tropical and temperate regions with c.900 species in 45 genera in Australia. It includes such genera as *Banksia*, *Conospermum*, *Grevillea*,

Hakea, *Isopogon*, *Lomatia*, *Persoonia*, *Stenocarpus*, *Telopea* and *Xylomelum*.

There are c.33 species of *Adenanthos*, all but two are endemic to WA with *A. macropodianus* endemic to Kangaroo Island and *A. terminalis* occurring in SA and extending across to western Victoria. At least two naturally occurring hybrids have been recorded.

The species was first collected by John Wrigley of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra in 1968. When the revision of the genus was published in 1978 it was recognised as a new species and given the name of its collector - see below.

The name, *Adenanthos*, is from the Greek, *aden*, gland and *anthos*, a flower, referring to the prominent nectaries of the flower. The specific name, *ileticos*, from the Greek word for wriggle, is a pun on the name, Wrigley.

2019 DIARY

- June 4** Chris Larkin and Janet Hodgkiss: "Pruning Australian Natives"
June 15 APS Geelong host APS Vic Committee of Management Meeting
July 2 **AGM**, Members' slides – **Note: brought forward from August.**
August 6 Neil Humphries: "Perfumes and Oils"
September 3 Mike Beamish: The Pilbara
September 30 – October 4 ANPSA 2019 Conference "Blooming diversity" in Albany. See Growing Australian or previous newsletters.
October 1 John Arnott: "Care for the Rare"
November 5 Sit down dinner – venue not yet arranged.
December 3 Members' slide night, extended supper and 'clear the decks' gold coin donation plants sale.

Plant Sales and Shows 2019

- July 27, 28** Cranbourne Friends Winter Plant Sale 10-4
September 14, 15 APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community Centre, 10-4
September 21, 22 50th Anniversary of Anglesea Wildflower Weekend and Art Show. Anglesea Memorial Hall. 3 McMillan St, Anglesea. 10-4
October 5, 6 APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9:30 – 5 Sat, 10-4 Sun
October 26, 27 Cranbourne Friends Spring Plant Sale 10-4

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APS Fees are due on 1st July 2019

APS Victoria

Fees will remain the same as last year:
Single \$35, Household \$40, Student \$26
Optional annual subscription to Australian Plants (4 issues) \$15
Fees may be paid for one, two or three years.

APS South East Melbourne Fees

Fees will remain the same as last year:
Single \$10, Household \$15
Fees may be paid for one, two or three years.

Fees can be paid to Catherine Irwin for both APS Vic and APS South East Melbourne in cash, by cheque or by paying directly online. If you choose to pay online, please print a copy of the receipt and give to Catherine at a meeting or email it to her at: irwincs@hotmail.com
Preferably please pay Catherine rather than the Victorian Membership Officer so we know who has paid and for how long. Catherine will then forward APS Vic's share of your fees to their Membership Officer.

Details for online payments are:

Local membership and APS Vic:

Commonwealth Bank BSB 063209

Account number: 1002 6413

Account name: Australian Plant Society – South East Region Inc

As a reference, give your surname, 'plus Aust plants' if you are adding your subscription to Australian Plants, and the number of years you are paying for eg 'one year', or 'two years'. The website allows up to three years.

If you wish to pay for the two groups separately, use the following for APS Vic only:

Commonwealth Bank BSB 063106

Account number: 10055993

Give a reference which includes your surname and the number of years you are paying for.

ADVANCE NOTICE: AUGUST MEETING

Tuesday 2nd July 2019 8pm

To fit in with our speakers' schedules, we are holding our AGM earlier this year in conjunction with our regular meeting where members' slides will be shown.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA:

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

3. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2019/2020

- ALL POSITIONS WILL BE DECLARED VACANT. WE ARE IN NEED OF EXTRA COMMITTEE MEMBERS. WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE COMMITTEE WE WILL BE IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION TO CONTINUE INTO THE FUTURE. OUR COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY TWO MONTHS AT DIFFERENT HOUSES AND THE POSITIONS ARE NOT ONEROUS, BUT WE DO NEED SOME NEW IDEAS FOR SPEAKERS SO PLEASE CONSIDER NOMINATING.

- NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE IN WRITING, SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER AND HAVE THE SIGNATURE OF THE PROPOSED OFFICE HOLDER. HOWEVER, NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL OR ON THE NIGHT. YOU MAY NOMINATE YOURSELF!

- I,
- NOMINATE
- FOR THE POSITION OF
- SECONDER:.....
- SIGNATURE OF NOMINATED MEMBER:.....

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PHOTO GALLERY

Some visitors to Ray and Eva's garden:

