



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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OCTOBER 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
SECRETARY:	Helen Appleby
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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 theNOVEMBER newsletter is OCTOBER 20th*******

Tuesday October 1st 2019

8pm Hughesdale Community Hall - Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale

Speaker: John Arnott

Topic: "Care for the Rare"

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is leading the "Care for the Rare" program, which has been created to safeguard rare and threatened Victorian plant species against extinction in the wild. This program highlights the important role that all botanic gardens play in plant conservation and empowers local communities to protect plants indigenous to their region.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is currently working collaboratively with the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Victoria network, to assess the potential of botanic gardens across the state to nurture rare and threatened plants. The plants are selected because they are either near to where the species naturally occur or the growing conditions in the wild are similar to those within the botanic garden. Six gardens have been chosen for the first round of the program.

John, who is the Manager of Horticulture at Cranbourne Gardens, has been actively involved in this program and will fill us in on some of its details.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW OVERDUE. Please pay Norm if you haven't already paid. November's newsletter will be the last for those who haven't paid by then.

RAINFALL RECORDS for 2019

The following are our rainfall records so far 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	81	73.1	64.2	70.2*					370.5
Highett	7.5	9.9	26.7	9.3	56.7	50.1	47.4						207.6
Hampton	6	5	27	7	57	47	34						183
Cranbourne South	30	24	25	24	105	94	72	133					507
Caulfield Sth	5.6	10	12	12	64.75	56	20						180.35
Elsternwick	7	7	14	12	55.5	63.5	36.5	53					248.5

*To August 22

November Gathering

At the July meeting it was agreed that we would hold our Annual Gathering at Kuranga Nursery in Mount Evelyn. The date will be Saturday November 16th, so put this in your diaries.

This is a change from the date previously mentioned as Kuranga was booked out on 17th. The club will subsidise members with \$10 to go to either lunch or a plant.

A table will be booked and we will collect numbers at the October meeting.

September Meeting

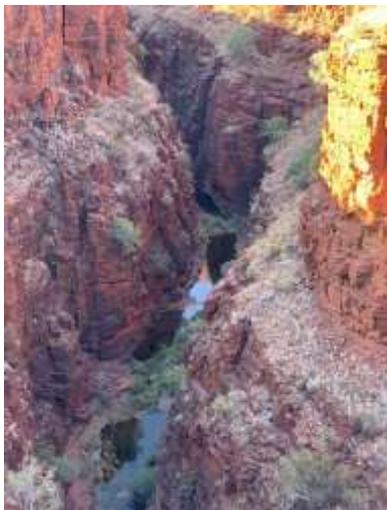
Write-up by Pam Sherlock

Mike Beamish was our Speaker tonight, speaking on the 2016 trip with his wife Cathy, to the Pilbara area of Western Australia.

The trip started with flights from Melbourne, via Darwin to Broome, from where Mike and Cathy drove out along the Great Northern Highway for Port Hedland, the Iron Ore country, to the Cape Range National Park and Quobba near Carnarvon.

Around Port Hedland they noticed unusual acacias with orangey-yellow blooms and stems with half a leaf on one side but none on the other!

As the weather turned wet, our travellers found a camping area further on within a gorge, safe and dry. They photographed Hakea bootlace corkwood (right), Eremophila longifolia, (River) Lobelia quarrangularis, Stemodia grossa (which smells like Vicks



Vaporub,) River stylidium, Triumfetta chaetocarpa (yellow urchins) and Indigophera monophylla (single leaf), in Beabee South Gorge.

They visited the Albert Tognoline Lookout and headed for the Muzima Gorge in the Hammersley.



Reaching the Karijini National Park at the Dales Gorge, they found Ptilotus colostechys (Weeping Mulla) and Amyema lilliana (wormwood nissalto) before moving on to the Joffre Gorge (*left*).

Here was a spectacular gorge with high cliffs, a river and waterfall, Ironbarks, woolly corcherus, and the spectacular Desert Velvet Firebush they spotted Spinifex pigeons here.

3.

At Murujugu N.P near Karratha there was plenty to occupy their interest. A hill of sharp looking Rocks dominated the landscape, with native wildlife, the Euro (the common wallaby, *Macropus robusta*,) western firetail skinks, beetles amongst the *Corymba byepphylla*? (Broome Bloodwood), the pink and yellow *Dichostachys spicata* (Pied Piper Bush) and *Acacia pyrifolia* (Ranji Kenji bush.)

The Millstream - Chichester N.P yielded (primrose white cassia.)

On the Nanertaro - Wittenoom Road they came across a black-headed white snake, (*Aspidates melanocephalus*) which has black barring across the spine and sides, with white underside, a most startling creature.



Photo: Keith Townsend from the web.



Onslow, the big iron ore plain, yielded *Trichodesma*

zeylanicum (Camel Bush), Honey Grevillea, and *Crotalaria* Cunningham (Green Bird Flower, left),

N-W Coastal Hwy yielded *Hakea stenophylla*, white and spindly.

At N-W Cape were noted *Acanthocarpus robusta*, a *Banksia* Ashbyi, subspecies *beroscalange*. *Acacia binervosa*, a yellow wattle with twice-nerved leaves, *Conicarpus* vine and *Wurmbea odorata*, a pink Sweet Nancy and two Bustards! Yardie Creek saw a white *Scaevola spinescens*, *Ficus brachyrooda*, the Rock fig, Waterlillies and Wallabies, the blackfooted, flanked petrogales and *Macropus robusta*.

Coral Bay camping area, beside the beach had *Hakea sternophylla* (narrow leafed), *Pityrodia loxocarpus* (fairy floss bush). Quobba Blowholes on the west coast had an orange *Banksia*, *Diphorcanthis Australia* (a violet Purplemouth), saltbush with red berries.

Travelling further south to Carnarvon we saw Dawson's Burrowing Bee (blue) emerging from a sand hole then a "colony" of these holes in close proximity. The Gascoyne area was floriferous with *Rhodanthe chlorocephala-splendida*, white paper daisies, purple *Swainsonia pterostylis*, *Eremophila glabra* and on the way wonderful ghost gums, red dust, brown buttes, and flat plains. What a land, and what a journey!

Pick of the Bunch – September Meeting

Correa reflexa - Green Flowered Form

Correa reflexa is a small to medium shrub (0.5-2m x 1-3m). It has a far ranging distribution from south-eastern Queensland to Tasmania and to far south-eastern South Australia.

C. reflexa is a very variable species with five recognised varieties; *angustifolia*, *lobata*, *reflexa*, *scabridula* and *speciosa*. Difficulty can be experienced in distinguishing between the varieties due to hybridization and local variation in morphological characteristics.

The tubular flowers that can vary in colour occur from March through to August. They often occur in profusion and are attractive to nectar feeding birds. Plants require well-drained soil that doesn't dry out too readily and a semi shaded to sunny aspect. Propagation is from cuttings that generally strike well.

Correas are members of the **Rutaceae** family that consists of c.150 genera and c.1800 species worldwide (the most well known and economically important family members are the *Citrus. sp* - Oranges, grapefruits, lemons etc.) with 41 genera and c.350 species in Australia, occurring in all states. It includes such genera as *Asterolasia*, *Boronia*, *Diplolaena*, *Eriostemon*, *Phebalium*, *Philothea* and *Zieria*. There are eleven species of *Correa*, restricted to the eastern states and South Australia with *C. backhouseana* extending into Western Australia.

The genus *Correa* is named after José Fransesco Correa de Serra (1750-1823), a Portuguese statesman, scholar and botanist. The specific name, *reflexa*, is from the latin, *reflexus*; bent or angled backwards, referring to the bracts.

FROM THE APS Vic QUARTERLY MEETING and AGM:

- Alex Smart reported on progress for the March 2020 commemoration of Banks and Solander's visit in 1770. This will also coincide with APS Maroondah holding a Quarterly meeting on 28th March. Photos are being sought of several of the species collected by Banks/Solander and currently held as herbarium specimens. Flyers are currently being prepared. Karwarra will also be having a display at the same time.
- APS Vic will once again mount a stall at MIFGS. Dallas Boulton is co-ordinating.
- An annual Grants Scheme is to be established. Policy details are being worked out.
- Maureen Schaumann was approved for Honorary Life Membership.
- The FJC Rogers seminar organisation is well under way for October 24 and 25 next year.
- APS Bendigo (name change) will hold a one day Quarterly on 9th November 2019 at Mandurang Hall.
- APS Vic has agreed to support Clean-up Australia in its annual drive. District Groups will be contacted with a view to them participating in the 2020 Clean-up.
- At the AGM, Chris Clarke from Keilor Plains was voted in as President, Greg Brown as Vice President, Chris Long as Secretary, Bev Fox as Treasurer. No Publicity Officer or Lone Member Officer was found. Other positions continue as in 2019.
- Awards were announced as follows: Royce Raleigh – Honorary Life membership, Jeanne Raleigh – Impressa award for Outstanding service to the Australian Plants Society, Maree Goods – Impressa Award for Outstanding Service to Australian Native Plants, Shirley Carn – Certificate of Commendation. Maree's award was presented after a reading of her splendid achievements.

October meeting

Supper: Marj Seaton (unless someone nominated at the last meeting)(Please bring milk)

Write-up: Marj Seaton

of the 2019 Australian Native Plant Awards.

of these biennial awards are both fascinating experts in their quite specific fields up more than a few botanical 'wins' over the years.



Dixon won the professional award. He discovered the molecule in smoke that helps seed germinate, and has used this and other research to advise mining companies on how best to restore damaged mine sites. His work in orchid biology and relationships with micorrhizal fungi has also been groundbreaking. He's a fellow of the Linnean Society but also a very down-to-earth gardener who's passionate about entering local agricultural shows! Apparently his white Waratah was a huge success.

Glenn Leiper, winner of the amateur category, retired from teaching early to spend more time exploring the flora of the bush around his home in

Beenleigh, Qld. He started recording the different plants he saw and, along with others in the Logan River Branch of NPQ, ended up literally writing the book on the area's flora - a field guide that has been reprinted and extended so many times it's now too heavy to carry around as a field guide!



He does a lot of voluntary work with the Queensland Herbarium, leading botanists around floral hotspots, and his plant recognition is so good he had a plant named in his honour (*Androcalva leiperi*) after he spotted the unusual 15cm-high bush from a moving car.

2019 DIARY

- September 24 – October 20** Maranoa Gardens Florilegium, Town hall Gallery, Balwyn, 10 – 4:30
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 – Kuranga Nursery, Mt. Evelyn, 12:30.
November 9 APS Bendigo hosting APS Vic COMM
December 3 Members’ slide night, extended supper and ‘clear the decks’ gold coin donation plants sale. Soil testing kit available.
- 2020**
February Bill Aitchison: Small and Hybrid Acacias

Plant Sales and Shows 2019

- Sept 24 – Oct 20** Maranoa Gardens Florilegium, Town hall Gallery, 360 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn
October 5,6 APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.9:30 – 5 Sat, 10-4 Sun
October 12, 13 APS South Gippsland native plant sale and flower show. 10 – 4 Sat & Sun, South Gippsland historical Automobile Club pavilion Leongatha Recreation Reserve.
October 26,27 Cranbourne Friends Spring Plant Sale 10-4
October 26,27 APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show, Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Bot. Gardens 10-4
2020:
February 17 – April 17 “Australian Plants Revealed” Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

PROMOTIONS



APS Mitchell
Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 19th, 2019
9 am - 3 pm
 Kilmore Memorial Hall
 14 Sydney St, Kilmore

Native Plant & Flower Displays

Biodiversity Australia Display
 Gardens for Wildlife
 Native Plants, & Book Sales
 APS Victoria - Books
 Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Unusual Native Plants
 La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks
 Goldfields Revegetation indigenous and non - indigenous tubestock
 Valley of a Thousand Hills David Laurie indigenous and non - indigenous tubestock
 And much more

Entry \$2.00 (Children free) - Door Prizes - Raffle

Website www.apsmitchell.org.au
 Contact aps_mitchell@gmail.com

Supported by




**Wedding Bush
Festival**

Saturday October 12
9.30am-noon

- **Guided wildflower walks**
- **Free native plant**
- **Sausage sizzle**

 Osborne Ave, Clayton South
Presented by Friends of the Grange and the
City of Kingston. Enquiries 0403 587 611

The Grange Heathland Reserve