



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)**  
**Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter**  
**AUGUST 2018 No 440**

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

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'Plants of the Great South West',  
book on plants of South West Victoria

\$20, available from

Kevin Sparrow at

[ksparrow93@gmail.com](mailto:ksparrow93@gmail.com)

Ph: 55626217

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## EDITORIAL

**Hi members,**

We are already seeing the first signs of the coming spring although the weather is still bleak at times with a very cold breeze and continuing rain. I can't wait for some warmer weather, Joyce and I have recently returned from north Queensland having been on a 15 day Gold Class tour of the out-back. We left Cairns at a lazy 30 deg and flew into Melbourne to 14 deg! UGH!! On our tour we went on a helicopter flight (over Canarvan Gorge), 2 train trips (The Gulflander and The Savannahlander), 3 boat rides (Thomson River at Longreach, cruise into the Gulf of Carpentaria where we watched the sun go down on a sand bar over a glass of wine, and a cruise at spectacular Cobbold Gorge). In between we visited the Outback Hall of Fame and Qantas Museum at Longreach, Dinosaur Centre at Winton, went down a mine at Mt Isa and had a tour of the Undara Lava Tubes. Something different to see and do every day and it was very enjoyable.

How are you going with the **Xerochrysum seed** from the "Great Plant Out" that came with your APS Vic newsletter earlier this year? I planted mine about 4 months ago and had a great germination rate. In fact I have far to many for my use. So I will bring some plants along to the next meeting for sale if you would like some.

Our day trip this month is to the **Peter Francis Points Arboretum** at Coleraine on Saturday 25th August. We will be given a guided tour of the arboretum from 11.00am so meet us there or meet first at Swan Reserve in Warrnambool at 9.00am from where we can car pool and travel up together. More information on page 3.

Our speaker this month is our own **Bob Artis** who will be telling us about his recent trip to the Pilbara and Kimberley regions an area that is high on our bucket list to visit. Don't forget to bring along some of those early spring blooms for our display table. Hope to see you on Friday. 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.**

**Next Members Night: Friday 24th August 8.00pm - Speaker Bob Artis- Trip to Pilbara/Kimberley Region**

## Group Diary Of Activities

**24th Aug** – Bob Artis speaking on his recent trip to the Pilbara/ Kimberley region 8.00pm.

**25th Aug** - Guided tour of Peter Francis Points Reserve at Coleraine. From 11.00am. See page 3.

**28th Aug** - Committee Meeting, Halls at 127 Rooneys Road. 5.00pm

**28th September** - Kevin - Growing Orchids in Warrnambool

**29th September** - Visit to Rail Reserve at Woolsthorpe. Meet at Swan Reserve in Warrnambool at 1.00 pm. See page 4.

**2nd October** - Committee Meeting. Joan Krygger 5.00pm

**6th & 7th October** - Pomonal Native Flower Show (9.00am—4.30pm)

**20th & 21st October 2018 FJC Rogers Seminar – Goodeniaceae**  
Co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians.

*This will be our annual weekend away trip this year, please book your own accommodation and book into the seminar. Then please let us know you are coming so we can all get together when we arrive.*

Monthly newsletters have begun, contact Maree Goods to get on their mailing list at fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com

**26th October** - Matt King speaking on the Maam/Tozer Landcare Grant

**23rd November** - Anne Langmaid - Report on her 2017 WA Trip

**8th December** - Christmas Function - joining with Warrnambool Coast-care/Landcare Network at Warrnambool Community Gardens from 12.00pm.

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

**President:** Dorothy Mattner Phone: 55676477 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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**Newsletter Editor:** Kevin Sparrow, 35 Swan Street, Warrnambool. Phone: 55626217 Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com

**Public Officer:** John Sherwood. **APS Reps:** vacant, **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper Organiser:** Liz Halls.

**Other Committee Members:** Kerry Artis, Michael Mattner. Bob Artis, Andrew Gray, Joan Krygger

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.

## Visit to Peter Francis Points Arboretum at Coleraine Saturday 25th August 11.00am



### PETER FRANCIS POINTS ARBORETUM

We will be given a guided tour of the reserve by Margaret Rutter, who is the President of the Arboretum Management Committee. Meet at the reserve at 11.00am or at Swan Reserve in Warrnambool at 9.00am to car pool.

The Peter Francis Points Arboretum, or 'The Points', is a native Australian plant collection, located on the edge of the town of Coleraine, Western Victoria. Situated on 37 hectares, the collection contains in excess of 10,000 plants, and includes 63 rare and endangered native species.

'The Points' contains a collection of Eucalypts (registered with the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia Inc), and features a range of walking trails. It is a beautiful location for a picnic, as well as an unique botanical reference.

As an amazing reversal of land misuse, 'The Points' was transformed from an abandoned quarry and rubbish dump into one of the largest arboretums of eucalyptus and native plants in the world. 'The Points' offers spectacular views of Coleraine and the surrounding area, whilst providing a colourful, interactive and relaxing environment for schools, field naturalist clubs, garden clubs, landscape groups, farm tree groups and tourists.

Our collections have been developed over the past 50 years, and include species sourced from all over Australia, and some indigenous to this area of Western Victoria. Several threatened species are also represented and nurtured here. The Eucalyptus genus is featured at the Arboretum, as well as a diverse range of other native trees and plants. Our Eucalyptus Collection and Banksia Collection are each registered with the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia (GPCAA). 'The Points' gets its name from two peaks of land on the site. The soil zones range from ironstone gravels, sands and loams, through to black cracking clays. This range of soil types allows great diversity in plantings. As well as a respected botanical reference, The Points is a valued attraction for locals and tourists. Several walking tracks weave through the 37-hectare site, for visitors to explore our collections and the natural bushland atmosphere they create. Take a picnic or enjoy a BBQ at the playground, to make a day of your visit.



**Peter Francis Points Arboretum Inc (A0022586F) Points Rd, Coleraine Vic | PO Box 29, Coleraine, VIC 3315  
www.thepoints.org.au | enquiries@thepoints.org.au | ph: 0434 729 211**

## Visit To Railway Reserve at Woolsthorpe Saturday 29th September



Visit To Woolsthorpe Railway Reserve Plus Look For Orchids on Saturday 29th September.

Lisette Mill <[basalttobay@gmail.com](mailto:basalttobay@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Kevin, we could meet at the railway siding at Warrong first (cnr Gunns Rd and Warrong Siding Rd) - that's where the ecological burn was in April and where we could get members to park off the road and walk into the site helping us look for orchids etc. The SA Weed orchid is here too and we could use that timing to cut and paint the tubers or at least gps where they are.

Then drive up that road stopping part way to the scar tree and again encouraging members to walk to the tree along the track stopping at places as things are found. Then walk back to cars and carry on to Woolsthorpe and back to Koroit.

**ED: I suggest we meet at Swan Reserve at 1.00 pm and travel out in convoy. Hopefully this way no-one will get lost....**

## *FJC Rogers Seminar - Horsham*

**20/21st October 2018 FJC Rogers Seminar – Goodeniaceae -**  
Hosted by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians.

**Saturday 20 October, 2018 - Presentations, Plant Sales & Dinner**  
**Sunday 21 October, 2018 - Coach Tour - Garden Visits**

**Seminar address: Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Trinity Drive, Horsham, Victoria**

*We have decided to make this our weekend away this year in Horsham. Members will need to book into the seminar themselves and book their own accommodation for Friday 19th and Saturday 20th (suggested).*

**Email: [fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com](mailto:fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com)**

**Website: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar/>**



## Plant of The Month by Kevin Sparrow

**Botanical Name:**

*Diplolaena angustifolia*

**Common Name:**

Yanchep Rose

**Plant Family:** Is a member of the Rutaceae family which includes citrus, correa, boronia and crowea among many others.

**Description:** A shrub to 1 metre in height which is endemic to the Perth region of WA. Winter flowering, it produces many small flowers with long bright stamens that are crowded into the heads surrounded by petal-like bracts, so that the whole thing resembles a many-stamened single flower.



A very attractive plant that will grow in the eastern states provided that it has good drainage and a protected part sun location.

**Propagation:** Can be grown by seed and also by cuttings. Grafted plants can sometimes be found, usually grafted onto correa root stock.

## First Sign of Spring by Kevin Sparrow



Have you ever tried to grow *Epacris impressa* (Common Heath) from seed? Not an easy task, its one that requires more than a bit of luck to germinate it, grow it on and get it to the point of being able to plant it out.

I must have done something right as I got 2 survivors to the stage where I could plant them out into the front garden. Of course the current cold and at times very wet winter conditions don't help so I planted them without any disturbance, into an open soil mix in a raised area surrounded by rocks to improve the drainage and then held my breath!

Low and behold, I was surprised yesterday to find the first little bit of color and it seems that it is a white one. They have been growing there for the past twelve months but are still quite small. I will have to make sure the ground doesn't dry right out in summer so a little bit of moisture occasionally will keep them happy, fingers crossed!

## *Secret Plantation Of Wollemi Pine - Taken From ABC News September 2014*

**Twenty years ago this month, the Wollemi Pine made headlines around the world when it was discovered in a remote canyon in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney.**

Dubbed "a living fossil", the distinctive pines captured the world's attention because it was thought they had been extinct for at least 60 million years. The Wollemi Pines, which were discovered in 1994, are about 40 metres tall and are hundreds, if not thousands, of years old. Their trunks are more than a metre in diameter and they have distinctive bark which resembles bubbling chocolate.

But the last two decades have taken their toll on the prehistoric pine and its future is now under threat from a soil-borne pathogen called Phytophthora, which most likely walked in on the boots of uninvited visitors. David Crust from the National Parks and Wildlife Service has been managing the original site and said the introduction of Phytophthora caused root rot in several of the pines. "It has impacted on a number of plants and it has caused part of those plants to die back," he said. "Obviously we're really concerned the Phytophthora could spread throughout the population and start to kill individual plants."

To ensure the species survives, an insurance population of young Wollemi Pines has been planted at another secret location in the Blue Mountains. Mr Crust said the insurance site has been specially chosen for its similarity with the original site. "That's obviously important from a scientific point of view in replicating what happens in the wild populations," he said. Access to the insurance site is strictly controlled and each piece of equipment taken in has to be washed down with fungicide to stop the spread of Phytophthora. Around a hundred saplings grown from cuttings taken from the original pines have been planted in a variety of sunny and shady locations at the site. Research scientist Cathy Offord said the growth rate of the saplings have been compared to assess how the plant grows best in the wild. "In this experiment we're finding that the higher light is giving the plants an advantage and they're growing better than plants in lower light," she said.

The location of each tree is recorded using GPS and they are regularly measured to track their progress. New South Wales Environment Minister Rob Stokes marked the 20th anniversary of the Wollemi Pine's discovery by listing it as the state's fifth iconic species, alongside the koala and the brush-tail rock wallaby. The Government also announced an extra \$25,000 in funding from the Saving our Species program to protect the Wollemi Pine.

"It sends a very clear message that the NSW Government wants to ensure that this species has a solid and permanent future," he said. "When you find a living fossil that has the same genetic make-up as fossils found that are 200 million years old, you know you have something very, very special to hang on to." But in order to hang on to this remarkable plant, there is a simple rule: do not try to find it.

The locations of the insurance population and the wild population are top secret and they need to stay that way if the species is to survive.

## *An Update, Top Secret Plantation Of 'Dinosaur Trees' Wollemi Pine Are Flourishing*

*Taken from 'thenewdaily.com.au' June 25th 2018, Rachel Eddie.*

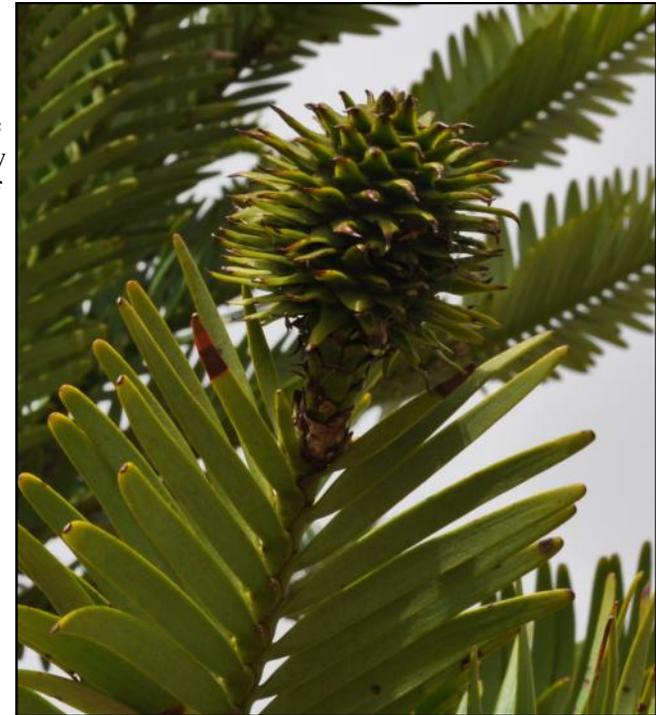
***Wollemi pines were presumed extinct until they were discovered in remote canyons of the Blue Mountains in 1994.***

A top-secret plantation of the critically endangered “dinosaur tree” Wollemi pine is flourishing, the New South Wales government says. The 200-million-year old pine was presumed extinct and only known in fossils before it was discovered in remote canyons of the Blue Mountains in 1994. An “insurance plantation” of 191 of the pines was planted in 2012 to secure its survival, in case disease or fire tore through the remaining 100 trees in the wild. “The top-secret insurance population is now naturally producing cones and seeds, marking an exciting new step towards securing the survival of this ancient iconic plant,

” Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said in a statement on Monday. “It's one of the world’s oldest and rarest plants from the time of the dinosaurs.” She said only four stands of the rare pine were growing in the canyons, making this a ‘real win for the environment’.

Cathy Offord – principal research scientist at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, who has been studying the pine since its discovery – said the insurance plantation was doing better than those in the wild. “Some 83 per cent of the insurance Wollemi pines are surviving and have increased in size by up to 37 per cent, making them mature enough to produce potentially viable seed much earlier than expected,” Dr Offord said. “We've now collected around 60 viable seeds, which are being used to find the best way for them to grow on their own.” Heidi Zimmer, a senior scientist at the Office of Environment and Heritage, said the production of cones “means we've got the science right”. “There is now a strong possibility that this insurance population may become self-sustaining,” Dr Zimmer said. The government funded the plantation using \$200,000 from its Saving Our Species program. The insurance plantation site was chosen to be some distance from the wild population to reduce the risk of disease or fire impacting both populations. The plantation is a collaboration between the department, the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Melbourne University and Western Sydney University. David Noble, a national parks officer, discovered the Wollemi pine in 1994.

The pine, or a very similar relative, was previously only known from fossils, explaining the term “dinosaur tree”. It's thought to have evolved 200 million years ago.



*Female Flower—The plants produce both male and female flowers on the same plant. Photo K Sparrow.*

## *A Matter Of National Concern - Taken From "Save Our Flora" By Maria Hitchcock*

Laurie Smith AM - Leader ANPSA Garden Design Study Group

The Winter Regional Gathering of Native Plants Queensland reinvigorated our members concern in regard to Myrtle Rust by a disturbing presentation by Dr Jarrah Wills of the Queensland Herbarium. We had been lulled into a sense of false security in the last couple of years, as this insidious air borne 'predator' of the family Myrtaceae seemed to have reduced impact. But Dr Wills explained that we are very much mistaken because Myrtle Rust has been steadily spreading north and south from its original illegal entry point into Australia in the Gosford area. It is now readily found infecting the natural bushlands as well as the constructed garden and landscape environments along coasts and hinterlands of Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland, across to Kakadu and the Kimberly's, with South Australia and southwestern Western Australia firmly in its intentions.

It was very disturbing to see recent photographs of the Daintree rainforests where large emergent Myrtaceae tree species were dead and dying across the canopy. Similarly smaller Myrtaceae species were dying right down to the understory. This is also happening throughout the rainforests, forests and wetlands of Queensland. The same was true in the southern states, particularly the coastal heathlands of northern NSW. This should be of huge concern to all our members as the potential exists with the continuing dieback of the Myrtaceae family to change the face of the Australian landscape, and the dependent fauna in a massive way. The Australian community needs to be made aware of the situation so that comprehensive public pressure can force national and international involvement from all levels of Government, Botanic Gardens, Commercial Horticulture business, and concerned organizations like ANPSA, APS, NPQ. It is obviously of extreme and urgent importance.

**Maria has since submitted the e-petition below to the House of Representatives for approval:**

Since its accidental introduction to Australia in 2010, Myrtle Rust disease, caused by the fungal pathogen *Austropuccinia psidii*, has spread alarmingly along the east and north coast of Australia, destroying large stands of eucalypts, melaleucas, tea-trees and others. It has spread into the Daintree and other significant rainforest eco-systems in Australia and has the capacity to wipe out our hardwood forestry and tea-tree oil industries not to mention many threatened species. The Draft Action Plan is inadequate as it does not address funding or a timetable for action.

The situation requires urgent action. We therefore ask the House to approve a National Myrtle Rust Summit to be held in Canberra on a suitable date in 2019 and to involve all the major stakeholders - researchers, botanic gardens, government representatives, forestry and horticultural industry representatives, environmental and agricultural representatives and community members. The Summit should aim for a **reasonable and achievable fully funded plan of action** to be instituted as quickly as possible to halt the further spread of Myrtle Rust. We call for a co-ordinated approach involving many government agencies and community groups.



Myrtle Rust on *Rhodamnia rubescens* - Tim Low  
Image: Invasive Species Council



Myrtle Rust on *Melaleuca quinquenervia*  
Image: NSW DPI

## Upcoming Plant Sales and Flower Shows



### AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday 9am - 3pm  
1st September 2018

Wilson Botanic Park Berwick  
668 Princes Hwy, Berwick (Melways 111B)



Huge range of native & indigenous plants  
\* most storeholders are cash only

 Australian Plants Society-Wilson Park Berwick

 [plantsale@apswilsonparkberwick.org.au](mailto:plantsale@apswilsonparkberwick.org.au)

[www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au](http://www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au)

Hosted by Australian Plants Society  
Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc.



### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO

native plant fair Eltham

8 - 9 SEPTEMBER 10am - 4pm

### Eltham Community & Reception Centre

801 Main Road, Eltham

Adults \$5, Concessions \$4  
Children free



native & indigenous plants, books, talks by  
Phillip Johnson, Loretta Childs & AB Bishop  
demonstrations & workshops, gifts  
displays, refreshments & more

Organised by Australian Plants Society  
Yarra Yarra Group Inc. No. A0039676Y

### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO 2018

Native & indigenous plant stalls  
Books on related subjects  
Native flower displays - Bonsai display  
Giftware  
Children's activities  
Lots of prizes to win  
Refreshments available  
Ample parking • Wheelchair friendly

#### SPEAKERS / WORKSHOPS / DEMONSTRATIONS

#### SATURDAY

10am: Propagation from seeds & cuttings  
11.15am: Botanical art workshop - Hannah Noorda  
12.30pm: Kokedama workshop with natives  
2pm: Phillip Johnson - Designing for habitat

#### SUNDAY

10am: Propagation from seeds & cuttings  
11.15am: Art demonstration - Kate Williams  
12.30am: Kokedama workshop with natives  
2pm: AB Bishop & Loretta Childs - The Habitat  
element in our gardens

#### Participants

Birdlife Australia  
Helene Wild giftware  
Display by APS Maroondah  
Victorian Native Bonsai Club  
Display by Karwarra Native Garden  
Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens nursery  
La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary nursery  
Goldfields Revegetation nursery  
APS Yarra Yarra growers plants  
Vaughan's Australian Plants  
Natural Plantscape nursery  
Sunvalley Plants nursery  
1st Eltham Scouts

(Program correct at time of printing)  
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