



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
JULY 2018 No 439

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

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

\$20, available from

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EDITORIAL

Hi members,

How are you coping with the cold weather this week? Well I hope, some of our plants are struggling too. Cold and wet is the worst of both worlds, they can handle one or the other much better than when they have both of them to contend with. This applies to dryland plants like some of our eremophilas especially when they are growing in pots. Some of the more sensitive ones I have put in my hothouse for the winter while others are under cover out of the rain.

This month we won't be asking you to go out into the cold weather to a Members Night, we have decided not to have one! Instead we have organised a day event, a visit to Ewan Roberts Native Nursery at Codrington on **Saturday 28th July**. Ewan will give us a tour of his nursery as well as having lots of plants for sale. Meet at Swan Reserve Car Park at 1.00pm, we can organise a car pool and travel over in a convoy. Or you can meet up with us at around 1.45—2.00pm at the nursery.

Former Curator, Ray Clay will be giving us a guided tour of the **Peter Francis Points Arboretum** at Coleraine from 11.00am on Saturday **25th Aug**.

The proposed visit to the old Railway Reserve at Woolsthorpe with Lisette Mill from Basalt To Bay Landcare on **Saturday 29th September** is now confirmed. (See page 3 for update) We will meet at Swan Reserve in Warrnambool at 1.00 pm and travel out in convoy so no-one gets lost.

Christmas Breakup 8th December: This year we will be doing something a bit different, we will be joining with members of Warrnambool Coast-care/Landcare Network for a BBQ at Warrnambool Community Gardens which will be followed by an inspection of their Bush Tucker garden. 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: No Members Night This Month. Day trip to Codrington Nursery Sat 28th 2.00pm

Group Diary Of Activities

27th July - No Meeting planned.

28th July - Trip to Codrington Nursery. Meet at Swan Reserve at 1.00 pm.

31st July - Committee Meeting - Andrew Gray, 158 Skene St, Warrnambool. 5.00pm

24th Aug- Bob Artis speaking on his recent trip to the Pilbara/ Kimberley region.

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

28th Aug - Committee Meeting, Venue TBC

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.

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

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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.

FJC Rogers Seminar

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).

NOTE: Early Bird rate closes at the end of June so get your bookings in before then.

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



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

Lisette Mill <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....

Display Table - June 2018 by Kerry Artis

Senna artemisioides has a very pretty yellow flower with silvery grey leaves and is one of **Liz Halls** favourite shrubs. It is 35 years old and can be a hardy plant in areas without severe frosts. *Melaleuca fulgens* is 20 years old, has a mauve flower and likes full sun and good drainage, *Anigozanthos* 'Little Joey' has many flowers at the moment, Liz waters it in the summer when the garden is drying out. *Templetonia retusa*, 'Cocky's Tongue' (Photo below centre) is a spreading shrub to 2m with beautiful, red, pea flowers and grey leaves, suitable for limestone areas. Halls have two, one hedged and not flowering very well and the other flowering beautifully. Other plants flowering in Liz's garden are *Eucalyptus caesia* 'Silver Princess' (Photo below right), *Thryptomene saxicola*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *Grevillea magnifica* and a *Crowea*.

Sue Sherwood brought along *Thryptomene saxicola* which is looking very nice with small, dainty, pink flowers along the (Photo below right) arching stems, *Correa pulchella* is doing well and *Eremophila* 'Kalbarri Gem' has many flowers, grey foliage and is a spreading ground cover. Sue's *Templetonia retusa* is a tall shrub and flowering nicely.

Kevin Sparrow showed a pretty, orange *Lechenaultia formosa* that he has growing under an old bird bath, providing very good drainage, and the plant has done very well. These are easy to grow by cutting and it is suggested that they could be grown as two year plants as they are often short lived. *Eremophila youngii* a yellow coloured form, *Eremophila* 'Fairy Floss' (*racemosa* x *maculata*) has a fluffy flower and *Eremophila oppositifolia* has a pink flower with the leaves opposite each other. Kevin also had many *Correas*, *numularifolia*, *reflexa* with cream flowers, *pulchella* in the pink form, *reflexa* 'Granny's Grave', 'Raelene Goldie' (Photo below left), 'Ivory Bells', 'Lemon + Lime', *pulchella*, 'Mannii', 'Pink Pixie', 'John Amor' and two hybrids.



Display Table - June 2018 by Kerry Artis

Grevillea 'Winpara Gold' is a sprawling tree of 3m high by 2m wide and was brought along by **June Preece**. It is over twenty years old, along with *Banksia integrifolia* 'squat', a prostrate plant of 2 m wide with a dome in the centre and branches drooping around the sides. *Brachysema latifolium* is a prostrate plant over 30 years old and has made a lovely ground cover, growing under a spinning gum, *Acacia iteaphylla* grew from seed and *Banksia praemorsa* 'High Noon' is a tall tree with yellow flowers.

Michael Mattner's *Grevillea* 'Ivory Whip' is a hybrid similar to 'Coconut Ice', the birds love it and it is 1.5m x 1.5m, *Banksia grossa* (Photo below right) is 1m across and looking beautiful, a Western Australian plant, *Banksia* 'Giant Candles' is 4m high and was very yellow for a time, now it is a lush green and doing much better. Both *Banksia candolleana* (Photo below centre) and *Banksia lanata* are looking great, both from Western Australia, *B. lanata* is 1m x 1m and from the Eneabba area and *B. candolleana* is 1.5 high and wide. *Banksia littoralis* (Photo below left) is from the south west coast of WA and *Banksia spinulosa* var *collina* grows around the Hawkesbury area.

The beautiful *Hakea* 'Stockdale Sensation' was shown by **Bob Artis**. It tolerates most soil types, likes a well drained soil in full sun and has many pin cushion type flowers which start cream and end up maroon. A hybrid of *Hakea laurina*. *Dianella* 'Little Devil' is a strappy plant that is just starting to flower and these will be followed by cobalt blue berries, *Grevillea* 'Winter Wonder' has red and yellow flowers on the end of the branches, grows to 1.5m tall, likes full sun and is drought and frost tolerant once established.



Using Fusilade Forte In Our Garden - By Dorothy Mattner

Ideally we would not be using any herbicides on our gardens, but for those who find the need for some help at times it's good to know that help is out there. We all know the scenario, not long after you have established your new garden bed, in comes the weeds! As if they have been waiting in the wings watching your every move ready to strike. In a smaller garden you may have a better chance of getting on top of them before they take hold, but go away for any length of time and before you know it you have a bad infestation. Most weeds are easy pulled by hand and this can be a rewarding job, with the exception of those grass varieties like Kikuyu that establish themselves right under the ground hugging stems of something like a *Banksia blechnifolia*, as it did in our garden and it soon became impossible to eradicate.

A past member of our group told me about the herbicide 'Fusilade Forte' I am calling it the holy grail of herbicides because you can spray directly onto Australian Native plants without harm, it will only kill the grass that is growing through the plant. I must admit this does not feel right in any way, after all you usually stay well away from any plants if you are spraying. I know, it's hard to believe but it works on those hard to manage invading grasses. It does take longer to take effect than other weed killers, such as Round Up, but it does work. It was suggested that the addition of a wetting agent would speed the process up. I am yet to try this, in most cases the grass has taken about four to five weeks to die.

Both our *Banksia blechnifolia* and *Banksia media* will require another spray in a few sections but this was expected with the degree of infestation. Fusilade Forte is designed to be mainly used on larger crops therefore was only available in larger quantities, but now as more gardeners are putting it to use, it can be bought in a 1 Litre bottle, I bought mine from Landline, they did not have it in stock but it only took a few days for it to be ordered in.

It is expensive to purchase, but not to use, as a little goes a very long way and it is something you don't need to use very often. Over all I am happy with the result of using the herbicide, for those hard to get at places. As with all herbicides please read the directions and take care when using them.

ED: I would suggest spraying the grass before it has set seed, that way the seed will not be released ready to germinate next year. Also spray again for a number of years in a row to reduce the seed bank that has built up in the soil.



Unravelling The Secrets Of The Orchid - Text taken from Royal Botanic Gardens Of Victoria email

Did you know that Victoria is home to over 400 species of orchid, many of which cannot be found elsewhere on Earth? Sadly, a huge number are also facing extinction.

The Orchid Conservation Program, led by Dr Noushka Reiter and colleagues from RMIT and ANU, has recently discovered that the secret to conserving the endangered Metallic Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra epipactoides*) isn't in the plants you can see, but the fungi you can't.

Unravelling the secrets of the orchid

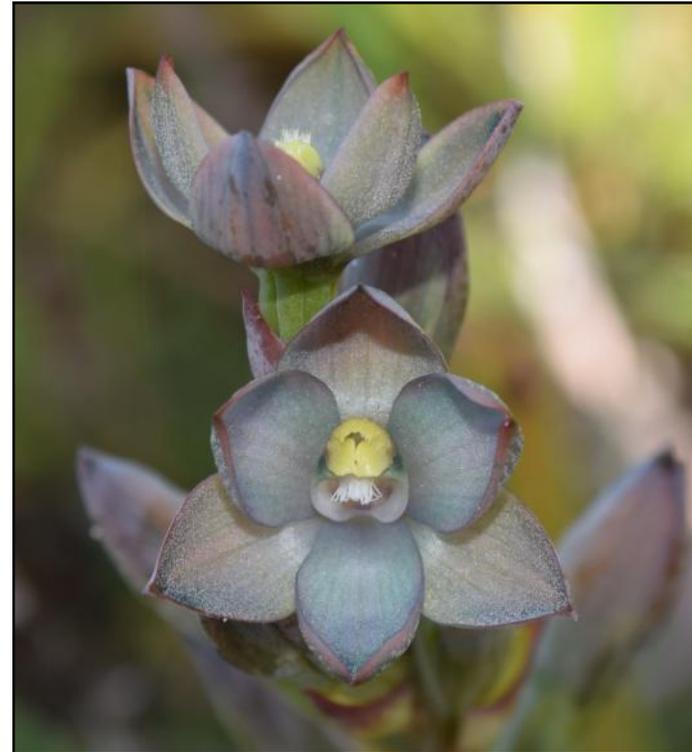
The orchid conservation program, led by Noushka Reiter and colleagues from RMIT and ANU, has recently discovered that the secret to conserving the endangered Metallic Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra epipactoides*) isn't in the plants you can see, but the fungi you can't.

Now presumed extinct in NSW, this orchid survives in Western Victoria and the south-east corner of South Australia. It grows in heathland near the coast, but rising temperatures mean that some locations might not be viable in the future.

The team have been investigating what will give this orchid the best chance of success and have discovered the importance of the mycorrhizal fungi providing nutrients and, in some, defending the plant from disease. Orchids, like many plants, are dependent on their mycorrhizal partners to survive. In this case they cannot even germinate without their fungal allies.

Fungi are particularly important for orchid conservation. Successful re-introductions and translocations depend upon matching orchids and fungi for each location. It turns out that different fungi are needed for different habitats.

This fantastic conservation program is entirely dependant on donations. If you would like to support us, please contact our Development team.



(Photo: Kevin Sparrow - *Thelymitra epipactoides*)

Coastal Connections By Jarred Obst

Hello and welcome to the May/June edition of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's '**Coastal Connections**' email.

Winter has arrived in typical southwest fashion; sunny and calm one day - raging seas, wind and rain the next!!

Seasonal Weather

A late but welcomed autumn break finally arrived in May after consistent wet weather was experienced throughout the month. Just to keep everyone guessing however, June then delivered a relatively calm and dry start to winter until a very large series of cold fronts battered our coastline between the 14th and 17th of June. This was the biggest storm system of the year which brought huge swells, very strong winds, storm tides and most interestingly, our June rainfall average in four days! This event also initiated the first stream flows in our region for the year; we are now just waiting for follow-up wet winter conditions to stamp the start of our winter/spring flow season. *For a full breakdown of recent and upcoming weather conditions, please refer to this <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/video>*

Estuary Update

Our regions estuaries displayed several key seasonal changes in recent months due to the onset of the autumn break, combined with several large swell and storm events. In particular, the mid-June rainfall event resulted in the 'first flush' of fresh-water into our estuaries for over six months, resulting in increased estuary water levels, subsequent estuary openings and increased flow rates to the southern ocean. This flush of highly oxygenated freshwater is a critical process in the yearly cycle of an intermittently closed estuary and we now hopefully have several months of high flows ahead to reset and replenish water quality conditions within our estuaries. *For a summary of recent conditions, please refer to the [Estuary Update & Estuary Photo attachments](#).*

Riverbank Restoration activities

The onset of winter coincides with a great time of year to begin revegetation works. Here are some recent events and future opportunities:

Budj Bim revegetation with Narrawong Primary School

Special thanks to the Narrawong Primary School students and staff who revegetated a section of the Fitzroy River at Tyrendarra last Thursday. These efforts contribute to a larger suite of waterway and riverbank protection works being undertaken through the Budj Bim Restoration Project. *A future community planting day will be run in Tyrendarra on the 8th of September; watch this space or let me know if you're interested in attending!*

Merri River restoration works

Congratulations to Ozfish Victoria, Rotary East Warrnambool and all community participants for a highly successful planting day on the Merri River at Cassidy's Bridge on the 2nd of June.

These revegetation efforts follow the removal of willows and installation of instream fish habitat to support native fish species. *A future event will also occur on the Merri River at Platypus Park on the 14th of July; please refer to the attached flyer for details.*

Education & Volunteering opportunities

Here are some opportunities to learn more about our regions estuaries and become involved in if interested:

Estuary Low Flow Factsheet

An Estuary Management Factsheet has recently been developed by coastal CMA's to describe the challenges and risks associated with estuary management under low flow conditions. <http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Estuary-Low-Catchment-Water-Fact-Sheet-v17-singlepage.pdf>

EstuaryWatch

The Hopkins and Merri EstuaryWatch groups recently braved the weather and ventured west to meet the Nelson Coast-care group and learn about estuarine restoration efforts in our region.

Weather aside, this was a great day and special thanks to the EstuaryWatch volunteers for their ongoing commitment to estuary monitoring in our region.

Please follow this link: http://www.estuarywatch.org.au/cb_pages/about.php if you'd like to learn more about the program and volunteering opportunities.

Mulloway Tagging Program

The second Victorian Mulloway Tagging Newsletter has recently been released by Nature Glenelg Trust.

This newsletter reports on a fantastic citizen science project underway in our region on the iconic and enigmatic Mulloway species. *Please follow this link: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/c9daf207c5a2776991cf9dfd5/files/cbc171a3-09f7-4982-825f-d0f6df6cb4c7/Newsletter_No._2_Final.pdf for details on the study and how to become involved.*

Finally, I recently came across some fantastic footage of the 1946 floods in and around Warrnambool. This is great viewing & timely reminder of the power of our environment when it decides to unleash! Please follow this link if interested <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrwILrblv0E>

All the best until my next instalment,
Regards - Jarred

Estuary Photos – June 2018



Natural opening of the Surry River estuary @ Narrawong, 17th June 2018
Photo by Martin Boyer



Fitzroy River estuary; three day opening sequence, June 2018