

Dianella admixta



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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APRIL NEWSLETTER 2018

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
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SECRETARY: Helen Appleby
TREASURER: Catherine Irwin irwincs@hotmail.com
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marj Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
COMMITTEE: Amanda Loudon 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.

Deadline for the May newsletter is April 20th

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday April 3, 2018

8pm Hughesdale Community Hall

Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale

Speaker: Alex Smart Topic: "Eucalyptus camaldulensis"

Alex Smart is a retired toolmaker with a lifetime interest in Australian plants and natural history. He is currently President APS-Wilson Park Berwick Group, a former President and now a Life Member Cranbourne Friends-RBGV

He is also a former President of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc. In 2017, he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for work in Conservation and Environment.

He has led a pilgrimage to the Nuytsia floribunda tree at Cranbourne for some years with 2018 being the last (the tree has since succumbed to disease and wind and been removed)

Those of you who know Alex will appreciate his great sense of humour and his dedication to all things involving Aussie plants. This should prove a really interesting talk about an iconic Australian tree. We hope you can come.

2.

RAINFALL RECORDS

The following are our rainfall records for 2018 (in mm) so far.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh South	67.6	1											68.6
Highett	52.2	1.6											53.8
Hampton													
Cranbourne South	47	4											51
Caulfield Sth	76	1											77
Elsternwick	63.3	1											64.3

PHOTO COMPETITION

It is suggested that members submit up to three photographs of the largest file size possible (to enable good clear prints), preferably of flowers or floral scenes of some kind, to be voted on by those present at the AGM. It was agreed that we would want landscape format, and that the calendar part would be large enough to write in engagements. More details later (as we work them out!) but in the meantime, start perusing your photographic libraries and/or get out there with your cameras and take some shots in preparation.

MARCH MEETING

"The Top End"

Speaker: Mike Beamish

Write-up by Norm Seaton

Mike showed a selection of photographs mostly from the Katherine to Darwin and Kimberley, part of an extended trip made from May to October 2016. We saw spectacular landscapes, general vegetation, specific plants and a range of wildlife including skinks, dragons, turtles, crocodiles, birds and occasional mammals. Some features seen are noted below.

West McDonnell Ranges Gorge



Grevillea wickhamii, mistletoe, caper bush (flowers change from white to pink as they age, right), Bootlatch hakea (colour variation), Byblis filifolia (left).



Devils Marbles at sunset – granite formations south of Tennant Creek Roper River, Mataranka Springs and Elsey NP near Mataranka

Cabbage tree palm, Caltrop (Tribulus terrestris, widespread weed, yellow flowers), harlequin mistletoe (right), agile wallaby.



Katherine Gorge

Blue-winged kookaburra, freshwater crocodile, Eucalyptus foelscheana (yellow flowers)

Edith Falls – 60km north of Katherine (swimming allowed after crocodiles removed)

Northern salmon gum, yellow water lily (nymphoides), Turkey bush (Calytrix extipulata), Crotonaria (yellow pea plant), Penda (Xanthostemon chrysanthus), Grevillea dryandii.

Umbrawarra Gorge (right)

Lasiandra, Stylidium, Swamp wattle, climbing maidenhair fern, Golden bladderwort, Coleus-like plant (blue flower), club moss, fernleaf grevillea.

Butterfly Gorge (4m high termite mounds)



3.

Florence Falls, Lost City, Litchfield NP (is being continually heavily burnt)



Carpentaria palm, Brachychiton, comb fern, mauve Stylidium, Pandanus palm, Cycad, Eucalyptus miniata (Darwin woolly butt – red flowers), 1m long water monitor (left).



Timber Creek (on highway Katherine to Broome)

Yellow penda (right), water lily, green tree frog,

Keep River NP (near WA –NT border)

Victoria cabbage palm, Grevillea pteridifolia, dingo.

Lake Argyle

Short-eared rock wallaby (on island for protection), Kapok tree (large yellow flowers), Grevillea decurrens, jacana (Jesus bird, lily trotter), black kite, giant water lily (Nymphaea gigantea - on Parry's Lagoon).

El Questro, Zebedee Springs, Chamberlain Gorge

Grevillea, Brachychiton viscidulus (Kimberly Rose, right), known for big barramundi, and archer fish.

Gibb River Road

Droseras (large), mistletoe.

Home Valley Station (Colman Range, Pentecost River, Bindoola Falls)

Bauhinia, mangrove

Durack River Station

Melaleuca, red flowers (M. nervosa?)



SPECIMEN TABLE

The dryness of the end of summer is having a marked effect on the number and variety of specimens being offered. Most of us only had around one or two millimetres of rain for February and soils are becoming hydrophobic. Let's hope March serves us a few decent falls.



Robert showed us *Crowea saligna* and compared it with *Crowea exalata*. This last has a smaller leaf and grows to about 1/2 m x 1/2 m. Robert recommended *Crowea saligna* as an ideal plant for smaller gardens. Both grow in semi-shade with well drained moist soil and would be good fill in plants.



Marj showed the golden *Xerochrysum bracteantha*, *Eremophila Mackinlayi* (right) and *Hypocalymma xanthopetalum*. This last has been one strongly recommended by John in the past and is a long flowering great addition to any garden, forming a mound of lemony yellow flowers. *Eremophila mackinlayi* has good sized purple flowers and grey opposite leaves. There are two forms, one larger than the other but excellent for dry spots.

Mandy's *Acacia jibberdingensis* is growing almost horizontally. The yellow rod-like flowers and narrow bright green foliage make an attractive plant. Ivory curls (*Buckinghamia celsissima*) (right) are flowering well. Mandy's is growing in a rather shady situation.



4.

After a previous meeting, Peter took home some of Mandy's black bean seeds which he germinated (very hard seed coats) and brought one in for the raffle. He suggested it would make an ideal bonsai specimen.



John's feature plant for the night was a mighty leaf of *Polyscias elegans* ("celery wood") (left). The leaf can be up to 1m long. This plant is known as a pioneer plant and grows rapidly; eg John's plant has grown 1m/year for three years. The flowers are small, the fruit is bird attracting and

importantly, the possums don't seem to like it. John also brought in *Lambertia uniflora* and two grevilleas – *G. armigera* (black styles and very prickly) and *G. globosa* (round



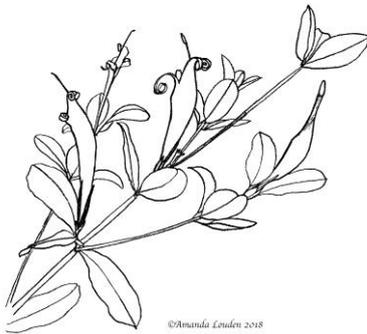
flowers that turn black, needs grafting). The *Lambertia* was chosen as our plant of the month.

Pick of the Bunch March 2018

Lambertia uniflora R.Br.

Specimen grown by John Thompson

Lambertia uniflora is a spreading, non-lignotuberous, medium sized shrub 2 - 3m high x 1 - 2m wide from an area around Albany. *L. uniflora* grows in a range of soil types, sand, laterite, granitic sand, and in a range of habitats, coastal dunes, rocky outcrops and rocky slopes of mountain ranges. The orange-red flowers are solitary and occur terminally on small branchlets. In most *Lambertias* the inflorescences consist of seven flowers (*L. orbifolia* usually in fours) so *L. uniflora* is the odd one out. The flowering period is from November to March, with a peak during summer but can occur at any time of the year.



L. uniflora will grow in most well drained soils in a sunny or partially sunny aspect. Propagation is from seed that requires pretreatment (treatment with smoke or smoked water) or from cuttings.

Lambertia 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 10 species of *Lambertia*, nine occur in the south west of Western Australia with one species (*L. formosa*) confined to eastern NSW.

The name, *Lambertia*, is after Aylmer Bourke Lambert (1761–1842), English patron of botany, who collected and grew many Australian, species; his herbarium was second only to that of Sir Joseph Banks in size and quality. The specific name, *uniflora*, means single flowered.

APRIL MEETING

WRITE-UP: Pam Sherlock

SUPPER: Ruth Evans(1 litre milk please)

DIARY OF EVENTS

- April 1** Registrations open for FJC Rogers Seminar in October
April 3 "Eucalyptus camaldulensis" . Alex Smart OAM
May 1 "Button Wrinkleworts", Ben Courtice
August 7 AGM and members' slides. Photo competition.
October 2 "Grasslands", Cathy Powers
October 20 – 21 FJC Rogers seminar, Horsham, "Goodeniaceae".
fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com See poster under 'Promotions'

Plant Sales 2018

- April 21** Geelong plant sale, 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks (Mel 431 D6), entry
 \$2 per adult or \$5 per car. 8:30am – 5pm
April 28 Yarra Yarra plant sale. Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham
May 5 APS Mornington plant sale (tentative)
May 12 APS Melton Bacchus Marsh plant sale, St. Andrews Uniting Church, Gisborne
 Road, Bacchus Marsh, 9-4

Verticordia monodelpha on
 Howson Hill, Cranbourne
 Gardens



From Amanda: currently
 flowering, Eucalyptus
 alatissima, a small mallee
 tree 4-8m



PROMOTIONS

Indigenous Plant Sale

Edendale Indigenous Plant Nursery
'Spring into Autumn' sale
for the **whole month of March.**

All our plants are local to the Nillumbik
area and are grown on site.

Select from the wide range of grasses, daisies, lilies,
shrubs and trees, or ask our fantastic staff help you
select the right plant for the right spot.

All Tube stock \$2.50 each.

All 14cm pots to \$6.50 each

Plus specials tables for \$1 and 50 cents each



Nursery is located at Edendale Farm 30 Gastons Rd
Open 9am – 4.30pm daily.



Saturday October 20, Sunday October 21
Have you booked your accommodation yet?

Registrations will open in April.

To receive newsletters email:

fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com



AUSTRALIAN TEXTILE EXHIBITION

Celebrating Australia in Textiles



Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria,
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8th – 13th May, 2018
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