

Dianella admixta



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

A00131128P

PO Box 8835 Armadale 3143

Email: aps.se.melb@gmail.com

Or semelb@apsvic.org.au

MAY 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 JUNE newsletter is May 25th

Tuesday May 7th 2019

8pm Hughesdale Community Hall

Cnr Kangaroo and Poath Roads, Hughesdale

Speaker: Christine Huf Topic: Forensics in the Garden

Christine writes:

I spent 12 years in the Air Force, the majority of which I was a photographer. I then joined Victoria Police, spent my first 2 1/2 years at Melton in Uniform before becoming a Crime Scene Officer at Sunshine for the next 2 years. I was then fortunate to gain my dream job as a Crime Scene Examiner at the Major Crime Scene Unit at the Victoria Police Forensic Services Department (VPFSD) where I have been for almost 7 years. My role is to attend and examine crime scenes of a complex nature, the majority involving homicides or suspicious deaths. I record the scenes and collect evidence, some of which goes to other units at the VPFSD for further examination, including Botany, Biology, Chemistry, Drug Analysis, Fingerprints, Ballistics, Crash Reconstruction to name a few. I also work with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) to assist in recording the cause of death of these cases.

I have been involved in several cases requiring Botanical expertise to assist in solving them. Although I am unable to discuss some of these cases (either not resolved yet at court or waiting for final appeal periods to be completed) I have researched cases from other jurisdictions and will show how my worlds of Forensics and Gardening coincide.

Please note, I will be discussing topics involving death but will not show photos of deceased persons. There may be photos that could be uncomfortable for some members, including blood.

2.

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										63.6
Highbett	7.5	9.9	26.7										44.1
Hampton	6	5											
Cranbourne South	30	24	25										79
Caulfield Sth	5.6	10	12										27.6
Elsternwick	7	7	14										28

APRIL MEETING

Speaker: John Thompson

Topic: "Correas and their "Rellies"

A potted history of the Rutaceae since 1699

Rutaceae:

Note - the name comes from the 'rue' plant of Eurasia – a shrub with small yellow flowers and evergreen leaves which yields an acrid volatile oil, formerly used in medicine as a narcotic and stimulant. From Don Perrin's "A Dictionary of Botanical Names". 1990 edition

Some of the genera in this family include Astrolasia, Acronychia, Boronia, Citrus, Crowea, Correa, Eriostemon, Chorilaena, Diplolaena, Geleznovia, Geijera, Flindersia, Philotheca, Leonema, Nematolepis as well as Rhadinothamnum (the blister bush, *R. anceps*, is included in this). Citrus is the most familiar world-wide, as well as Boronia. Many are strongly scented.

There are approximately 1000 species in the family, 160 genera. In Australia we have 320 species in 45 genera, mostly endemic. They are mostly grouped around the coast, but some occur inland.

In 1699, the first known European collection from the family, *Diplolaena grandiflora*, was made by William Dampier whilst visiting Dirk Hartog Is. The next was by Banks and Solander on the Cook expedition. They collected *Eriostemon myoporoides* and *Zieria smithii*. The first Correa collected was at Botany Bay, 1770 and named after the Portuguese ambassador and botanist Jose Francisco Correia de Serra.

History of Cultivation

The first appeared in Europe in the nineteenth century. By the mid 1800s there were many selections bred in Britain eg *Correa "Harrisii"*. In Australia, gardeners were offered the Michael Guilfoyle catalogue in the 1850s and this included *Boronia serrulata* and *Boronia planata*, plus two *Eriostemons*.

Jean Galbraith's byline was 'Correa' in the publication "Australian Native Flowers".

Nindethana started in 1938 in NSW by George Althofer and its catalogue included nine correas.

By 2010, the Goldfields Revegetation nursery catalogue had a whole page, mostly of *Correa reflexa* and *C. pulchella* forms.

SGAP started in 1957. It now has a Boronia Study Group and a Correa Study Group.

More information about the Rutaceae can be found in Roger Elliot and David Jones' "Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants" and Maria Hitchcock's "Correas".

Utilisation of Rutaceae

1. Indigenous uses:

Wilga (*Geijera*) leaves used as an anaesthetic, wood for spears.

Desert lime, *Citrus glauca*, edible fruit

Leopardwood, *Flindersia*, pleasant gum (bark shown right)



3.

Stinkwood, *Zieria arborescens*, (Tasmania), leaves relieve pain and headache
Northern Doughwood, *Melicope vitiflora*, alleviates toothache.

2. Arts and Crafts:

John showed paintings by Harriet Scott and by Ellis Rowan.

Stamps 1999 45c stamp (right) featured a correa and another 80c stamp celebrated Cook's voyage

May Gibbs "Boronia Babies" from 1917

Lino Cuts by Lorraine Weir

Timber: *Geijera parviflora*'s hard wood is good for wood turning; *Flindersia* sp is used for furniture and we saw the back of a guitar made from its wood; *Nematolepis squamea* (satin wood) has been used to make a drum and *Halfordia kendack* is used for veneers.

Glass by Amanda Louden – a vase decorated with *Diplolaena angustifolia* was shown.

3. Bush Food: *Acronychia*, Citrus especially finger lime (right) but also others in jams, sauces and drinks, Citrus hybrids such as 'Blood lime' and "Sunrise lime" in cooking. *Correa alba* leaves were used as a tea substitute by early settlers especially among Bass Strait sealers.



4. Cut flowers: *Boronia heterophylla* and *megastigma*, *Crowea exalata* and *saligna*, *Eriostemon australasicus* and *Geleznowea verrucosa* are popular.
5. Fragrance: *Boronia megastigma* – over 30 000 plants are needed to give 20ml oil.



Approximately 12 – 20 of the population are unable to smell boronia (anosmia).

In our Garden – plants suitable for the home garden.

Asterolasia asteriscopea, *A. correifolia*, *A. hexapetala*, *A. phebalioides*

Boronia species eg *B. crenulata*, *B. clavata* are hardier in our conditions. Will take full sun as they withstand dry hot conditions in nature. *B. denticulata* may be okay. *B. megastigma* is tricky to establish. Keep moist – morning sun, supplementary watering. Preferably buy as tube stock.

Chorilaena quercifolia (right) is vigorous (H: 2 – 3m, W: 2 – 3m). There is a green and a red form. Can be hedged, clip regularly. Don't let dry out.

Correa sp. eg *C. bauerlenii*, the chef's cap correa, semi shade,

C. pulchella will grow in full sun and will take lime. Lots of different forms. *Correa reflexa* many varieties, reds and yellows or green. *Correa* hybrids such as *C. "Candy Pink"* and *C. "Marian's Marvel"*

Seedlings can have variable colours.

Croweas: eg *C. exalata* and *C. saligna*

Diplolaenas: eg *D. angustifolia* best grafted, *D. microcephala* lemon flowers, difficult to establish, *D. grandiflora* best grafted, flowers all year H: 1.5 – 2m, greyish leaf.

Leionemas: split from *phebaliums*. *L. coxii* has white flowers, semi shade.

Nematolepis sp: *N. phebalioides* (right)

Phebaliums: There are many, most being squamulosum types. Eg *P. sp aff squamulosum* – bright yellow, *P. squamulosum*, many forms, hardy and can set seed. *P. whitei*, yellow, *P. Woombye* pink. These last two hard to grow and best grafted.

Philotheca sp: many *Eriostemons* have been transferred into this genus.

P. myoporoides fairly bullet proof, insect attractant. *P. verrucosa* more challenging. Both of these worth growing.

Zieria sp: *Z. cytisoides* pink (right), *Z. smithii* white, both recommended.



Growing Rutaceae:

Propagation is easiest from cuttings. Seed can be difficult to germinate though seedlings sometimes just pop up. Must take cuttings for selected forms for these to remain true.

4.

For grafting, *Correa glabra* makes a good stock.

Pests and Diseases:

Caterpillars include leaf miners and leaf rollers.

Scale is probably the worst problem especially on Leionemas and Boronias. Clear by cutting off or running a hand over to squash the insects.

Galls occur, especially on citrus. (citrus gall wasp)

(Pictures for this article taken from the web)

Pick of the Bunch - April 2019

Ptilotus manglesii (Lindl) F. Muell.

Rose Tipped Mulla Mulla

Specimen grown by John Thompson

Ptilotus manglesii is a prostrate to ascending perennial herb. It grows from Geraldton in the north to Albany in the south, with plants found scattered through the eastern wheat belt. Flowering is from late spring through to early autumn. The rose tipped flowers can be profuse and are most conspicuous.



Plants prefer a sunny position in a well-drained soil. They are very amenable to pot culture. The plants form a woody rootstock from which they are able to resprout. Propagation is from seed or from cuttings of young basal growth.

Ptilotus is a member of the Amaranthaceae family. The Amaranthaceae family consists of c.850 species in 65 genera and is widespread in most habitats

around the world. Australia has 10 genera with c.150 species with *Ptilotus* making up the bulk of the species. *Ptilotus* is largely endemic with c.90 species, 80 of which are to be found in WA with 1 extending into Indonesia.

The genus name, *Ptilotus*, is derived from the Greek, *ptilotos*, meaning winged or feathered, referring to the feathery flower heads. The specific name, *manglesii*, is in honour of Captain James Mangles RN (1786 -1867) naturalist and author.

*******Neutrog's Bush Tucker*******

As part of an agreement with APS Vic, Neutrog offers APS Vic and District Group members the opportunity, twice a year, to buy Bush Tucker direct at wholesale price commensurate with volume. Neutrog will pay the freight cost for orders of 1 tonne and over.

APS South East Melbourne is approaching other APS groups with the idea of trying to get orders so we can reach the 1 tonne necessary for us not to have to pay freight.

If you are interested in purchasing some Bush Tucker, please let Marj or Helen know **ASAP**. If we can't raise the 1 tonne necessary, we will not order.

SPECIMEN TABLE
April Meeting

Three people brought in specimens this time:

Ray is always good for a basketful –his selection included:

- *Correa reflexa*, Kangaroo Island form plus “Dusky Bells” and “Mannii”.
- *Acacia jibberdingensis* - thin leaves, yellow rods
- *Acacia linifolia* – a mass of small flowers over a long period of time. H: 2-3m

5.

- *Beaufortia squarrosa* and *B. aestiva* (right), both very attractive brushes with opposite leaves.
- *Hypercalymma xanthopetalum* – long lasting yellow flowers that people sometimes mistake for wattle flowers. Small bush that should be grown more (below)



- *Calytrix fraseri* – purple/pink flowers. Need to prune well (right).

- *Banksia spinulosa*. Ray's is over a metre high but growing under the clothes line!

- *Grevilleas* – “Robyn Gordon”, “Superb” and *eristachya* (left). This last has yellow flowers on long stems.



- *Rhododendron lochiaie*

Mandy too brought in quite a few pieces:

- *Acacia harveyi* – long flowering, lemon flowers, quite a big bush H:2m W:3m. Mandy also had *A. jibberdingensis* but hers

is growing horizontally.

- *Eucalyptus albida* – its special feature is the leaves – paler juvenile foliage appears after coppicing. Mandy's piece showed intermediate and adult leaves as well as the juvenile.
- *Correa* – a seedling that ‘popped-up’, creamy flowers. Another correa had pale pink flowers.
- *Grevillea bipinnatifida* – red flowers, prickly leaves, long styles
- *Crowea (saligna?)*- Shaded, but still flowers for a long time

John:

- *Grevillea globosa* – John has brought this one in several times and it just keeps on flowering.
- *Ptilotus manglesii* – ‘rose-tipped mulla mulla’. Low growing, H: 10 – 15cm. Flowers are magenta and white and very striking (see Pick of the Bunch and photo at the end of this newsletter).

May Meeting

Supper: Mandy Loudon (Please bring milk)

Write-up: Marj Seaton

2019 DIARY

May 7	Christine Huf. “Forensics and the Plant World”
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. Memberships due.
August 6	Neil Humphries: “Perfumes and Oils”
September 3	Mike Beamish: The Pilbara
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.

7.

PHOTO GALLERY

John's photo of his *Ptilotus manglesii*

