



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

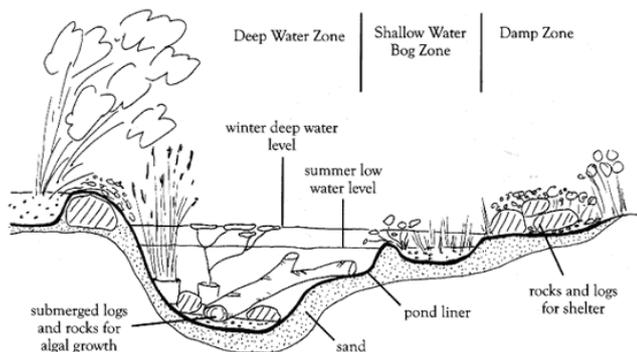
Newsletter No. 260 – December 2010

November Meeting – Frog-scaping Your Garden

At our last meeting on 16th November we talked about attracting wild-life, frogs in particular, to our gardens. We've already made a great start by planting natives, so what can we do to attract, and keep, wildlife in our gardens?

Frogs can be encouraged with a pond, which can be a simple hole lined with a waterproof membrane, to a water-feature to rival the palaces of Japan. First, dig a hole

Ponds may be lined with plastic, may be pre-formed plastic or fibre-glass, or manufactured from stone and concrete, and can start from as little as \$50. The only real limit is your imagination. Whatever the manufacture, the basic design is the same.



The water depth should be about 600mm grading down to shallows. Different depths provide a temperature gradient, which is important for the well-being of tadpoles, and provides shelter from predators. The pond should contain rocks and logs for shelter, and water-plants as a food source for tadpoles.

The surrounding garden should be planted with a variety of dense, low-growing, clumping and flowering plants to provide shelter and insect food for the frogs. Lots of rocks, logs and leaf-litter provide a good habitat. Don't be too tidy around your pond, frogs love rank vegetation.

Once your pond is in place, it's only a matter of time before the frogs find you.

A few tips:-

- Put your pond away from the house, and your neighbour's house. Frogs can be loud.
- Site your pond so that it will receive some shade on hot days. This helps to maintain water temperature and prevent evaporation.
- Keep water-plants in pots for easier maintenance. Mount them on bricks to achieve the correct level in the pond. Cover the soil in the pot with wet-sand before immersing in the pond to prevent the potting medium from floating away.
- If you have a water tank at your house, the overflow can be directed into your pond rather than the storm water system. Periodic flooding encourages breeding.
- It is illegal to transport tadpoles from your local swamp to your pond. Don't do it!



Brown Treefrog – *Litoria ewingii* – a common local

We also talked at some length about the use of nesting boxes, food supplements and habitat creation to attract birds, possums, bats and reptiles. Ade has a comprehensive collection of plans for nest boxes and recipes for bird food and he is happy to supply copies to interested members. Contact him at

adefoster@internode.on.net



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 260 – December 2010

On The Table

The specimen table was loaded with spring colour again, and the Callistamons made a particularly vivid display. From the bright red of *C. phoniceus* and 'Harkness', through the mauves and pinks of "Purple Splendour", "Perth Pink" and "Mauve Mist", all the Callistamons seem to be having a very good year.

Grevilleas, too, were on display, both visually and olfactorily. *G. leucoptera* and *G. zygoloba* thrilled half the members and disgusted the other half with their perfume. Some perceive it as honey-like, the others as rotten socks! *G. Georgiana* with its striking red and white flowers, and a beautiful white form of *G. petrophiloides* added to the list.

Melaleucas were well represented with *M. diosmafolia*, *M. citrinus*, *M. wilsonii*, and two striking purple ones in *M. pentagona* and *M. decussate*.

Margaret's large flannel flower, *Actinotus sp.*, and a delightful Eucalyptus hybrid of *E. woodwardii* and *E. torquata* called "Torwood" were particularly notable.

As was the White Cedar, *Melia azedarach*. *M. azedarach* is a species of deciduous tree in the mahogany family, Meliaceae, which is native to India, southern China and Australia. It has beautiful mauve and white, strongly scented flowers. In the tropical rainforests of Northern Australia it can achieve a height of 45m.



It produces loose bunches of toxic, yellow fruit which stay on the tree over winter, gradually turning white. The leaves have been used as a natural insecticide to keep with stored food, but must not be eaten as they too are highly poisonous. A diluted infusion of leaves and trees has been used in the past to aid with difficult births, as it is said to induce uterus relaxation.

Plant of the month

Hakea Archaeoides

Rolf Baden won the raffle and his selection for plant of the month was the startling *Hakea Archaeoides*, brought in by Roger Wileman.



Hakea archaeoides

Roger writes:

"The specimen on the table is a hakea I have known for many years as *Hakea trineura*, but in fact this plant is now named *Hakea Archaeoides*. This beautiful hakea comes from the Gibraltar Range near the NSW-QLD border. The plant in my garden is approx 30 yrs



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 260 – December 2010

old and 3.0m high and 2.0 m wide, and flowers in abundance from October to mid November.

The flowers are pendulous, 50-60mm long, the new buds are green, turning to deep yellow, and when the stamens form and open, they are a beautiful deep red-copper colour. Flowers are mainly on the outer branches but will also appear on the trunk of the plant. When flowering is finished, the whole plant puts on a show of beautiful bronze new growth. My plant does not set very much seed but I have collected and planted what was there. It will also grow easily from cuttings which will flower in the pot.

Hakea Trineura has yellow flowers and is from the Maryborough- Rockhampton area in Queensland."

A favourite

by Tony Cavanagh

Grevillea umbellulata subsp. *Acerosa*, a long-time favourite of mine has rather an involved name but was better known for many years (and is possibly still available) as "*Grevillea acerosa*". However, Peter Olde and Neil Marriott decided when they published vol.3 of *The Grevillea Book* in 1995 that it was one of two subspecies of *G. umbellulata*, originally described by the Swiss botanist Meisner in 1848.



Subsp. *acerosa* has been in cultivation since the mid 1950s and has the reputation for being very hardy with a spectacular display of flowers in late winter and spring. Although in the wild it often grows in winter-wet depressions, in cultivation it can withstand

extended periods of dryness and frosts down to -6 C. It comes from WA being widespread around Hyden, Dumbleyung and Mt. Ravensthorpe. It flowers best in near full sun but can tolerate some shade. I have found that it does not thrive in very dry conditions, merely hanging on and flowering poorly.

Come spring it is a joy as the whole bush is covered by the white-grey flowers so that you can't see the foliage. It is low growing, 30 to 50 cm high with up to 1 m spread, and rarely requires much attention in the garden, although light pruning helps flowering. I believe that I bought my plant from a nursery in the 1980s and we have propagated it from cuttings with few troubles. I have never tried it in a pot but it would probably be very satisfactory.



Up-coming events.

Our Next Meeting

APS Geelong is in recess until February, 2011, when our next meeting will be held on the 15th. As usual, it will take the form of a social BBQ gathering. The details will be in the February newsletter, so mark 15th February in your calendars now!

Up-coming events.

March 2011

We have a number of events planned for March 2011. The Barwon Water Expo is on March 12/13 and we will be looking for volunteers to assist with our display. The 2010 expo was a great success, let's make 2011 even better.



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 260 – December 2010

We'll take a guided walk through the Geelong Botanic Gardens on Wednesday 23rd, looking at plants used by the Aboriginal people, particularly the Wathaurong. Led by Liz Bennetto, one of the G.B.G.'s experienced guides, the walk will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will take about an hour. The cost will be \$3.30 per person, with the club covering members' costs. We'll see many Australian and indigenous plants, which have specialist uses for food, tools and medicine.

Then, on the 26th or 27th, we are planning a bus trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne. We hope to fill a 28 seat bus with enthusiastic members for a day trip to the fabulous Australian Gardens. Details in February newsletter

Up-coming events.

April 2011

April 9th and 10th will be the Autumn Plant Sale at Arthur and Linda's Lovely Banks property. We'll need lots of help to make sure that our plant sale continues to be a huge success. Be sure to keep this weekend free. Volunteer rosters will be available at the February BBQ meeting.

We still have a number of plants that were not sold at the last plant sale. If you are interested in quality natives at the bargain price of \$5.00 each for a 6" pot, see Frank Scheelings.

New Garden !

Debbie Gaskill

As many of you know we have recently moved from 3 acres in Wallington to a smallish block in Ocean Grove. For various reasons including overseas travel and renovations we have only been in the house permanently since the start of August.

Like most blocks in the old part of OG the block runs north-south. The house, however, incorporates a number of courtyards which allow north light to come into the living area. The courtyards also give us the chance to incorporate outdoor areas "into" the house itself.

There is no pre-existing garden except for fence plantings of some sort of variegated pittosporum. We have decided to leave most of them as they do screen

well, but we won't replace any which die. There is only one area which I have even thought about planting, this is the long, thin strip along the east side of the house. Originally the entire area was paved with pebble concrete. Not only is it ugly but it adds considerably to the heat generated around the house in summer.

As part of the renovations we have had the concrete lifted from the 2 east-facing courtyards and strips cut out adjacent to the fence and along the side of the house. This has left a number of small shaded areas to be planted.



The 'Before' shot – we eagerly await developments

The previous owners left behind 8 or 9 large concrete pots, so heavy they need to be trolleyed to move them. These we (well Geoff really) have changed from their previous black to white. They have been placed along the east fence and will slowly be planted with climbers to soften the wall.

Using "*Grow What Where*", I made a list of climbers which would grow in pots and take shade. There were 18 plants in the first list, but I pruned it (no pun intended) down to 5 and was able to get 4 at



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 260 – December 2010

Kuranga. These are now planted and looking happy. They are *Billardiera scandens* and *B. ringens*, *Hibbertia scandens* and *H. dentata*. All 4 are in the pots now and look happy. They all have similar (or at least not conflicting) coloured blooms and we should have flowers for big chunks of the year. The *Billardieras* are flowering now and *ringens* in particular looks great. My plan is not to buy any more till after summer in case any of them turn up their toes.

Into each of the 2 courtyards have gone one *Cyathea cooperi* a fern which did well for us at Wallington. I hope to get some other smaller ferns next time we go to Kuranga. I have also planted out a number of correas, some from Harry and some from Meredith nursery and 2 *Derwentia perfoliata* from John Bell. These last 2 have been in for 2 months now and are happy despite the low light levels.



Digger's Speedwell - *Derwentia perfoliata*

The rest of the garden doesn't bear thinking about at the moment but I'm getting a lot of pleasure looking at the 2 small courtyard beds and visualising what the whole area will be like in a year or so.

2010 End of Year BBQ Get-together

Our warm thanks to Gaeton and his daughter, Mirielle, for their hospitality in hosting our end of year 'bash' on Friday 26th. Despite the threat of inclement

weather, and a few very persistent mosquitos, a great time was had by all.



Gaeton built a wood-fired pizza oven some time back, and it was wonderfully efficient. Whether cooking a rack of sausages, or one of the twenty plus tantalising pizzas, the food was in, out and eaten in very quick time. I suspect the internet will be buzzing with searches for pizza oven plans over the next few days. Thanks also to those who helped organise the BBQ, the fabulous wine, and all the little tasty plates that kept everyone coming back for more.



Roger and Carmel in the Christmas spirit



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 260 – December 2010

What's in the Bush

Inverleigh Common

Inverleigh common this month has been a blaze of colour. A few weeks ago, everything was yellow.

Carpets of Erect Hibbertia - *Hibbertia riparis*, with Bent Goodenia – *Goodenia geniculata*, Common everlasting – *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* covered the ground. With the orange and yellow of the Smooth Parrot-pea - *Dillwynia glaberimma* and the striking yellow and brown metre-high spikes of the Tiger Orchid – *Diuris sulphurea*, it was quite a sight.



Tiger Orchid – *Diuris sulphurea*

Now, although the Hibbertia is still flowering, and the last Diuris stragglers are putting on a brave show, the bush has turned blue, mauve and purple. There are fields of chocolate lily – *Arthropodium strictum* and Vanilla lily – *Arthropodium minus* swaying in the breeze, and the scent of vanilla on the wind is almost intoxicating.

The gorgeous Fringe-lily – *Thysanotus multiflorus*, the Blue pincushion – *Brunonia australis*, and the tiny Blue-spike milkwort – *Comosperma calymega* add a different hue to the palette of the bush, as does the profusion of Bluebells – *Wahlenbergia sp.* And finally, after years of searching, we found the stunningly beautiful Purple Diuris orchid, *Diuris punctata*.



Blue Pincushion - *Brunonia australis*

THANK YOU

from The Editor

To all who have responded to my frenzied pleadings with an article for the Correa Mail, a huge THANK YOU! Tony's 'Favourite' and Debbie's 'New Garden' in this issue are exactly what we need to make the newsletter **your** newsletter. Please keep 'em coming.

Merry Christmas

We wish all members, their families and loved ones the very best for the festive season. However you celebrate Christmas, may it be a wonderful time for you, filled with peace, joy and happiness .



*Merry
Christmas*