



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 258 – October 2010

OUR LAST MEETING – Members' Night

Only a few members took up the invitation to do a little presentation at our members' night.

Brendon Stahl spoke to us about his fabulous trip to the Kimberley in July. He started in Darwin, then joined an APT 15 day 4WD truck tour through the top end, and Kimberley. They visited such iconic places as Kakadu and Katherine Gorge, and saw crocodile, jabirus and jacanas.

From Kununurra they took a helicopter flight over the Bungle Bungles, and walked to Cathedral Gorge. After a cruise on Chamberlain Gorge, they were entertained by little archer fish, which spat drops of water at the tourists to get food pellets.

They travelled the Gibb River Road and on to the Mitchell Plateau with another helicopter flight over the spectacular Mitchell Falls. At Murunbabidi they saw the unique 'Bradshaw' rock art before rejoining the Gibb River Road and on to Barnett River and Galvan's Gorge.

Further stops were at Bell Gorge, Windjana Gorge to admire the freshwater crocodiles and at Fitzroy Crossing for a cruise through Geikie Gorge, then on to Broome.



Kapok Bush - *Cochlospermum fraseri*

Brendon and his companions encountered many unique native plants, the most notable were Boabs, *Grevillea pteridifolia*, *Cochlospermum fraseri* – the Kapok Bush, and *Brachychiton paradoxum* – the Kimberley Rose.

Next up Dianne Prowse and Ken Westley showed us some beautiful photos of their trip to the Kimberley, coincidentally taken with the same tour company, but starting and finishing in Broome.



Blue Grevillea – *Grevillea agrifolia*

Their slide-show featured a host of the Kimberley plants, including Blue Grevillea - *Grevillea agrifolia*, Blue Water Lily - *Nymphaea violacea*, Boab - *Adansonia gregorii*, Camel Bush - *Trichodesma zeylanicum*, Cockroach Bush - *Senna notabilis*, Kimberley Ghost Gum - *Corymbia bella*, Kapok Bush - *Cochlospermum fraseri*, Kimberley Heath - *Calytrix exstipulata*, Mitchell Plateau Fan Palm - *Livistona eastonii*, Pindan Wattle - *Acacia tumida*, Purple Mulla-Mulla - *Ptilotus exaltatus*, River Cadjeput - *Melaleuca leucadendra*, Silky Grevillea - *Grevillea pteridifolia*, Silverleaf Grevillea - *Grevillea refracta*, and Wickham's Grevillea - *Grevillea wickhamii*.



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Carmel Adlem then took us on a photo tour of the Inverawe Native Garden in Margate, just south of Hobart, a 22 acre property on the river which has been planted with over 7000 natives. It features mostly Tasmanian endemic species, but also other Australian and exotic plants, so there's something for everyone. Apart from the plants, there are sculptures, over 80 species of birds and spectacular views across the river. Have a more detailed look on their website - www.inverawe.com.au

Harry Webb's slideshow of his garden showed just what can be done in a few short years on a very small house block. By utilising the nature strip as well as the garden, Harry has managed to fit a surprising number of plants onto his property. And he has got the passers-by asking questions

Kardinia College Indigenous Garden

We were pleased to have a visitor from Kardinia College, Sarah Daniele, who saw Harry's fabulous garden display and stopped to ask him for help. Sarah works as a lab technician at the Kardinia College, where they are instituting an indigenous garden, and a volcanic plains garden on the school grounds. Sarah sought some advice from members on propagation of hakeas and acacias from seed. If anyone would like to offer assistance to Sarah and the students at Kardinia, she can be contacted at –

danieles@kardinia.vic.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday 19th October. The speaker will be Judith McGinness, who will talk to us on a subject that we are all too familiar with ... Weeds! So, bring your specimen natives as usual, and

a couple of weeds for I.D as well. No excuses, we all have them!

Kawarra Wildlife Art Show – Rodger Elliot

Following the success of the inaugural Wildlife Art @ Karwarra Exhibition in 2008 it was decided to make it a biennial event. We will be holding the second Wildlife Art Exhibition later this year. As with the first Exhibition it will be organised by Karwarra with the support of the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia Inc.

Karwarra Garden has once again invited artists who have previously exhibited at Karwarra and with Wildlife Art Society of Australasia Inc. plus also a number of other artists to participate in the Exhibition.



Echidna-'Ooh water!' – Janet Matthews

Venue: Karwarra Australian Plant Garden Hall at Kalorama in the Dandenong Ranges. Saturday 23 October – Sunday 7 November, 10 am. – 4 pm. each day except Mondays.

The Exhibition will be opened at 2 pm on Saturday 23 October by the very well known cartoonist Jeff Hook.

Enquiries to Rodger Elliot by phone: 9879 1427 or by email: rgelliot@optusnet.com.au

President: Harry Webb - harry.webb@bigpond.com Secretary: Denise Cromer – Ph 5245 8979
Treasurer: Frank Scheelings - Ph 52297494 Editor: Ade Foster - adefoster@internode.on.net



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Other Items of Interest

1-3 October. ABC Gardening Expo, 10.00 am to 4.30 pm. Caulfield Racecourse, Station Street, Caulfield. Entry \$17 per person.

2-3 October. Wartook Gardens open, North Grampians

2-3 October. Grampians APS Show – “You can do it Too” – showing gardeners can create their own wonderful low water use garden using our fabulous native plants.

16-17 October. Stringybark Suburban Sustainability Festival, Rowville Community Centre (Foothills APS). 10 am TO 5.00 pm.

16-17 October. South Gippsland APS Native Plant Sale and Flower Show. 10 am – 4.00 pm. Leongatha Recreation Reserve, Exhibition Shed.

16-17 October. APS Ballarat Group Flower Show. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

16 & 17 October. Growing Friends Plant Sale, Cranbourne RBG 10 am to 4 pm

16 & 17 October Hawthorn Community Garden with John Patrick 351 Riversdale Rd. Hawthorn East. 10am – 4.30 pm. Talks at 11.00am and 3.00 pm. \$6 entry

23 October to 7 November. Wildlife Art Exhibition, Karwarra Gardens, Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Kalorama.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

These gardens, open in October, all feature Australian plants. Given that there are three in Torquay, it would be great if members could go along, and perhaps write a short report for the next newsletter. Any input you can make to your newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

2-3 October.

Iron House Garden 189 Brunswick Rd, Brunswick. 1850s iron house, front garden of exotics designed by John Patrick; rear courtyard planted with eucalypts

and other plants native to nearby Merri Creek. (43x18) (NEW)

Waldershare 140 Grossmans Rd, Torquay. Graceful curving beds filled with great range of Australian plants; elegant outdoor areas, gravel garden, veg. garden, indigenous boundary planting. (3.5 ac) (NEW)

Hall Garden 108 Cahills Rd, Yarrawonga. Sculptured to collect water, ephemeral wetland, huge variety of Australian plants for dry conditions. Veg. garden. (2.5 ac.) (NEW)

9-10 October

Girraween 349 Diamond Creek Rd, Diamond Creek. Hundreds of grafted eremophilas and many other rare Australian plants in large, sweeping plantings. Exotics round house. Sculptures and unusual Eastern-style dwellings add calming influence. (7.5 ac.) (NEW)

Sam Cox's Garden 12 Lorimer Rd, Wattle Glen. Mudbrick house surrounded by designer Sam Cox's varied and interesting garden. Waterfall with big rocks, chooks, revegetated bushland. (1 ac.)

Yankalilla 121 Knafel Rd, Taggerty. Low maintenance, waterwise, plants in informal groups blend with bushland below Cathedral Peak. Veg. garden, orchard. (2.5 ac.) (NEW)

16-17 October

Vinen Garden 84 Stoney Creek Rd, Beaconsfield Upper. Natives and exotics blend well, plants suited for dry shade under gums and maples. (0.3 ac.) (NEW)

Moravale Lodge 203 Belgrave-Hallam Rd, Narre Warren North. Pretty, large dam fringed with willows, boundaries thickly planted with natives. Exotics near house, fernery, fruit trees etc. (2 ac.) (NEW)

31st October

Firetail 17 Enfield Drive, Torquay. Young Aust. plant garden merges with surrounding bush.



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Boardwalk along wetland, fire pit, sculptures, big aviaries. (2.5 ac.) (NEW)

Obliqua 15 Enfield Drive, Torquay. Plants either edible or native. Massed plantings, fruit trees, veg. garden, fire pit, bushland beyond. Interesting sculptures. (1ac.) (NEW)

Note: Both gardens open Sunday only, joint \$10 ticket.

FROM NICKY ZANEN - Secretary APS Victoria

The FJC Rogers Seminar on Grevilleas hosted by Bairnsdale ANPS was great. Thank you all Bairnsdale members. It was also a super time to catch up with old friends. Lucky it was held in August, and not this September. Hopefully none of you are being affected by the excessive water at the moment.

The minutes are available at <http://com.apsvic.org.au> Please contact Nicky Zanen if you have difficulty accessing the minutes or if you would prefer a hard copy sent to you by mail. Phone 03 9761 1933 and leave a message, or email apsvicsec@yahoo.com.au.

Our next Growing Australian newsletter will be mailed in the second half of September. Look out for it - it is the first full colour edition. With it, for members who have subscribed through Victoria, will be the last two copies of Australian Plants. Any members who wish to subscribe for future editions of AP (published by APS NSW) need to contact New South Wales directly. The subscription form can be downloaded <http://anpsa.org.au/apform.pdf> and the subscription rate is \$24.

And finally, if you plan to go to Hamilton for our next Quarterly Gathering, try and book your accommodation as soon as possible. Weekend 13/14th November 2010.

ON THE TABLE.

The specimen table was a riot of colour this month with a good showing of Acacias. Especially notable were *A. buxifolia*, and *A. Montana*, which are lovely delicate wattles, and *A. gracifolia* with its stunning soft foliage and weeping habit. Grevilleas featured well with some striking colours from Scarlet King, *G. georgiana* and *G. flexuosa*. There were *Rodanthe* and *Isopogon*, *Banksias* and *Conostylus*, *Eremophilas*, *Phebaliums* and the beautiful *Melaleuca filifolia* with its startling purple flowers with gold tips.

Sheila Deakin brought in three magnificent *Dendrobium speciosum* varieties in pots. *D. speciosum* are found on the east coast from north Queensland to Eastern Victoria



Dendrobium speciosum – King Orchid



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The Specimen Table – Labels for your specimens

The specimen table is a highlight of the meeting for many of us. Since few of us are experts, with an expert's vast knowledge, it would be helpful if specimens were labelled. Diane and Ken have made a wide selection of labels which are on the table for you to use to identify your specimens ... or you can label them at home before you bring them in. Obviously, if you don't know what the plant is you can't label it, but if you do thanks for taking the time ☺

PLANT OF THE MONTH - *Chorizema cordatum*

Harry won the raffle, and selected *Chorizema cordatum* as our plant of the month. It was brought in by Annette Packett, who writes ...

I have had a Chorizema cordatum growing in my garden for the past four years. Each spring it amazes me with its vibrant colour. The lovely, brightly coloured pea flowers of red, orange pink and yellow make a spectacular display. One year we were away on holidays and upon returning, I discovered that snails had been enjoying the new growth of this plant. (Yes I have to admit to having snails in my garden!)

The genus Chorizema includes about twenty-five species ... all but one are endemic to W.A. They are shrubs or twiners producing masses of spectacular pea flowers in spring.

Chorizema cordatum is an erect or spreading shrub growing up to 1 metre high. It has oblong to ovate leaves to 6cm., with variably toothed margins. It bears sprays of magnificent flowers.

To successfully grow, this plant needs a well drained soil with added compost and a good mulch. It grows best in half shade to full sun. Tip prune regularly to keep the plant bushy. It will also benefit from a good prune after flowering.

The plant for much of the year is not particularly attractive, but it is well worth having in the garden for the display it produces ... even if it is only for a few weeks each year.



Chorizema cordatum

APS-Victoria Website

If you have access to the internet (and everyone does – your local library provides free access if you don't have it at home) check out the APS website at www.apsvic.org.au

It really is a wonderful resource. Among the wealth of information available there is help with garden design, plant ID, cultivation and propagation, links to other great sites, an open forum and much more.

The 'member's area' needs a code and password to access it, and here you can find more information that's not available to the general public. Your access code is **member2011** and the password **grevillea#**



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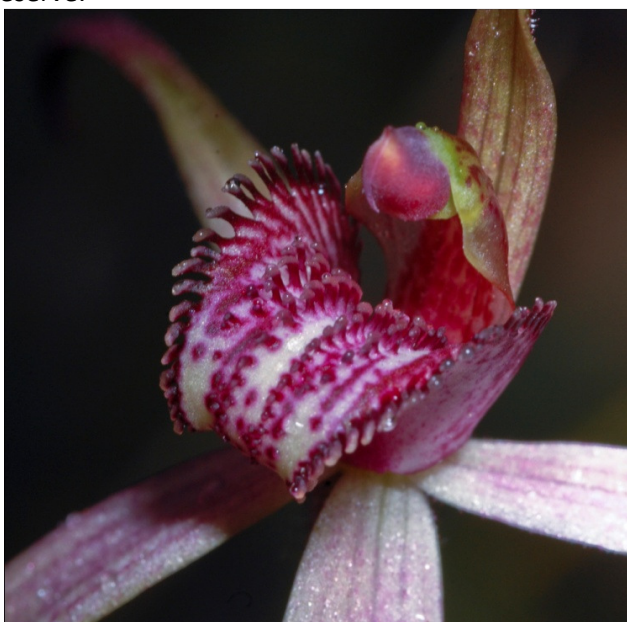
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WHAT'S IN THE BUSH? – Rare Orchids

The Inverleigh Flora and Fauna Reserve is a patch of remnant grassy woodland near the township of Inverleigh. 1050 Hectares in extent, the reserve is mostly Grey Box - *Eucalyptus macrocarpa*, Ironbark – *E. sideroxylon* and Manna Gum – *E. viminalis*, with Blackwood – *Acacia melanoxylon*, Golden Wattle – *Acacia pycnantha* and Silver Banksia – *Banksia marginata*. Since grazing ended on the reserve, the Hedge Wattle - *Acacia paradoxa*, has increased markedly, and the nature of the reserve has changed dramatically. An area of the reserve was burnt in March 2009, and this area has been interesting as the plants have re-established after the fire.

Originally a wood-block, the area was set aside as a flora and fauna reserve in 1988. It is rich in both fauna and flora, with ten species of native animals, ten species of bats, more than 130 species of birds, eight species of frogs and eight species of reptiles having been recorded in the reserve. More than 220 native plant species have been recorded in the reserve, including 36 species of orchids. Two very rare orchids are to be found at the Inverleigh flora and Fauna reserve.



Inverleigh Spider Orchid

Arachnorchis sp. aff. fragrantissima, the Inverleigh Spider Orchid, favours grassy woodlands with well drained soils and is found nowhere else in the state. It shows a great variety in colour, and flowers in the spring. It is confined at Inverleigh to a protected area about the size of a suburban house block, with possibly as few as 150 plants.

Arachnorchis pumila, the Dwarf Spider Orchid was discovered in 1922 and last seen in 1926. It was listed as extinct. Then in September 2009, a retired couple found an orchid at Inverleigh that they could not identify. It was eventually given a positive I.D. by DSE officials, and steps were taken to ensure that it survives. The area has been protected, the plant was hand-pollinated and seeds collected to establish a 'captive' breeding program. It is a beautifully delicate little orchid, which, hopefully, will be a regular sight on the Inverleigh Flora and Fauna Reserve in future.



Arachnorchis pumila – Photo courtesy Cathy Powers

Arachnorchis pumila was in flower again at Inverleigh last week. It was wonderful to see this beautiful, rare orchid in the wild.