



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 270– December 2011

December Christmas Break-up BBQ

Our Christmas break-up will once again be hosted by Gaeton and Pauline Limsowtin at their Lara home. **Saturday December 3rd** is the date to remember, and **6.00 pm** is the time to be there. (There was an error in the last newsletter where I said 4.00pm)

The address is 40 Gebbies Rd., which runs off Kees Rd, just up from the 5 -Ways. Number 40 is at the end of a long driveway.

Gaeton has a wood-fired pizza oven in his yard, and those who attended last year will attest to the quality of his home-made pizzas. There will also be the traditional BBQ. Please bring a salad or desert item to share, as well as your own chair, plate, cutlery and glass. The club will supply meat, bread, pizzas, wine and orange juice. You bring anything else you might want or need, including soft drinks or your favourite tittle. We hope to see you all there.

November Meeting

Garden visits and BBQ

Members visited our garden in Belmont, and Frank and Tina's garden in Highton, in lieu of our usual meeting. About 25 members risked the weather, and got a reasonable look at our garden before the skies opened. By the time we made it to Frank and Tina's it was raining steadily and the BBQ was moved indoors. Thanks to Frank and Tina for allowing so many into their home for what turned out to be a really entertaining evening.

Ade and Penny's Garden

We moved to our house in 1987 with three young kids, and no concept of what gardening was. Our large suburban block was mostly lawn, with a couple of apricot trees in the back and some Coastal Wattles, *Acacia longifolia ssp. sophorae*, along the front fence.

While the kids were living at home we maintained the lawn as a play area, but the dog ate the fallen

apricots, pits and all, and poisoned himself, so the apricots had to go. The wattles became too big, so in 1990, I cut them down and replaced them with some natives – alternate plantings of *Callistemon viminalis* and *Grevillea' Superb'*, recommended by the local nursery. For some reason, the Callistemons failed, but the Grevilleas thrived and are there still.

As the kids moved out, my motivation to mow large areas of lawn diminished (if it ever really existed), so I made wide garden beds around the fence line to cut down the area of grass. By now I had decided that I liked grevilleas, and they seemed to grow well, so most of the plants I bought were grevilleas. As the drought intensified the lawn became an issue and so it was replaced entirely with garden beds.



Back Garden 2005

I prepared the soil - a rich, dark loam – and made beds with treated pine sleepers. These were filled with about 20cm of propagating sand which acts as a mulch and a good medium for easy weed removal. My choice of plants was very haphazard, with little thought to suitability or garden design. I just bunged 'em in. Those that grew and flowered stayed, those that didn't were pulled out and replaced with others. I

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take a little more care now, but still like the 'bung 'em in' approach.



Back Garden 2010

The front garden is now also mostly grevilleas and the nature strip has been dug up, mulched with red-gum chips and planted out too. I'm not sure what the council thinks of this, but I like it. So now I have no lawn, and 106 grevilleas, with about 80 different species or cultivars. My favourite is the old original, *Grevillea 'Superb'* which is always in flower and always attractive to the birds. I love my *Grevillea georgiana*, although it is very prickly, and weeding under it is a dangerous pass-time. Some of the more unusual plants include *G. leptobotrys*, *G. leucoclada*, *G. bronwenae* and *G. flexuosa*.



***Grevillea fililoba* - Ellendale Lace**

Tony's Homemade Bread

Those who were at the November BBQ will have tasted Tony Cavanagh's fabulous home-baked bread. A number of you asked Tony about the recipe, so here it is.

Ingredients

600gm quality bread flour(s)
1tbsp baker's yeast (freeze dried)
2tsp bread improver
1tsp salt (or to taste)
2tsp sugar (or to taste)
500cc warm water (350cc cold water, 150cc boiling water gives the ideal temperature of 38-40°C)
1tbsp virgin olive oil

Well greased 1kg bread tin



Weigh out and thoroughly mix the dry ingredients in a large non-metal bowl and heat in microwave oven for 30-35 sec on High. Also heat your cooking oven for 40-45 sec to give you a warm spot to raise the dough (temperature should be 28-30°C after this). Stir in the olive oil and gradually blend in the water until you have a moist but not too sticky dough (don't worry if you don't use all the water). I mix the dough for a few minutes with a spoon but don't knead it at this stage. Cover with glad-wrap type sheet and stand in the oven for 45-60 min, or until the dough has doubled in size.

Knock dough out of the bowl onto a well-floured board and dust the dough with flour. I cut it in half and knead each piece separately for about 3 minutes each, adding flour as necessary if the dough becomes sticky. I find the simplest way is to "stretch" the dough by pushing it away from you, turning through 90° each time, until the dough is elastic and not sticky. I finally form it into two balls and punch these down several times to expel any air. Place balls of dough into the bread tin, flattening each out as necessary so they fill the base of the tin, spray with water and add sesame seeds or any other desired seeds.

Return to oven and leave for about 40 minutes or until dough is about 2cm above the top of the tin. Turn oven on at this point, about 175-180°C for a fan-forced oven, 200-205°C for normal oven, and cook for about 35 min or until bread sounds hollow when tapped underneath. When cooked, turn out on to a wire tray. This bread will keep for several months in

a freezer. I slice it the same day and seal it in a plastic bag for freezer storage. We remove slices as required, thawing them in the microwave for about 12-15sec per slice but bread for toast can be put straight into the toaster.

NOTES: Always use good quality bread flours such as “No Knead”, “Laucke” or “Defiance”. This loaf only costs about \$2.00 so there is no point in trying to economise.

I always use 50% unbleached white flour with heavier flours such as wholemeal as a 100% wholemeal loaf can be quite dense. The loaf I made for the breakup was 50% white flour with 50% “Defiance” Hi-Fibre Grain which makes a healthy but light loaf.

12 Months On

Debbie Gaskill

As those of you with nothing better to do with your time may remember, I put together a short article towards the end of last year describing the efforts we had made to start a garden in a smallish house block in Ocean Grove.

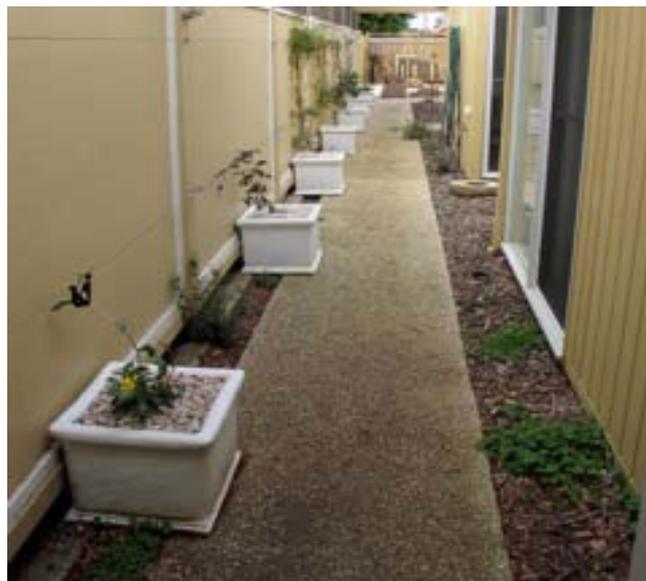
We started off working on a long, thin north-south running piece of ground along our east fence. As this area gets sun only in the morning in winter and to early afternoon later in the year, we have concentrated on shade loving plants. The area was originally covered over with pebble mix concrete, much of which we have removed and replaced with a narrow garden bed. 2 pre-existing small courtyards have become entirely garden.



East Side – March 2010

Plants that that have done well here include many correas and the climbers I have established in large pots. These are *Hibbertia dentata* and *H. scandens* as well as *Billiardiera ringens* and *B. scandens*. *Cyathea cooperi* has done well as has *Persoonia chamaepitys* and the *Clematis gentianoides* x ‘Southern Stars’. I have used *Viola hederacea* as a linking plant to try to

have some common theme between the various small beds. This has been quite successful as the violas don’t seem to need any sun at all.



East Side – November 2011

Our arrival in Ocean Grove last year coincided with several major storms in August-September and some of the earliest plantings were badly water affected for some time. In fact we have had to spend a lot of time (and money) improving the drainage on the whole block as there are no storm water drains in our street and the block is below street level.

The other area we have completed is the front yard which is north-facing but sheltered behind a brick wall. Because of all the drains that had to be dug there was a lot of spare soil which has been landscaped to form raised areas in this garden. These have been covered with pebbles. Those plants that have been there for 12 months have really showed their appreciation of the raised beds. In fact our *Acacia acinacea* has spent so much energy growing it failed to flower at all this spring. Other plants which have flourished here include *E. erythrocorys*, the white happy wanderer and various grevilleas.

We are now starting to see a lot more birds in the garden though to date no little honeyeaters or wrens. There is not sufficient cover or food for them yet. Still it’s certainly an improvement on the one peewee which was our sole companion in August of last year. There was no garden on the block to speak of with the exception of rows of hedging pittosporums which were quite tall and leggy after 15 years in the ground. These have mostly been removed and will be replaced with more interesting native plantings.

I have encountered various problems in choosing plants. The main one has been to do with finding plants which will tolerate shade as little of the block gets full sun.



Front Yard – March 2010

Another is that our house is painted a colour I like to call hommous but which less charitable people have described as baby's first effort (or even worse). This does cause some problems with colour choice. I am trying to avoid pink for example though a few pinkies have snuck in. I got very excited initially sourcing yellow plants but have actually overdone the yellow a bit and am looking at other colours such as red, white and blue with a bit of orange thrown in for good measure.



Front Yard – November 2011

Most of the plant stock has come from other APS members and from the nurseries closest to home plus some from Gold Fields Regeneration Nursery, Meredith Wholesale Nursery and from Kuranga. At the moment we are working on the west side garden which is a much bigger task as it is wider than the other side and has had to have drainage included. The back yard is also on the go and is becoming more like a vegetable garden with herbs and a few exotics for picking. I have attached some photos but as they are rather dark they do not do justice to the area. The area along the eastern fence I am very pleased with given the problems with aspect.

Indoor Australian Plants

Harry Webb

My garden is full of Australian plants, and I am delighted to see and hear information about them at our monthly meetings. I have yet to hear a good conversation however about indoor Australian plants. But then, common sense tells us that as yet, no plants have evolved indoors, and each of us interprets the term 'indoor plant' in our own way.

Did you know that plants have been cultivated for indoor display for thousands of years? The ancient Greeks and Romans used potted plants for decoration, as did Egyptians and the Assyrians. The emperors of ancient China delighted in the display of beautiful shaped trees in pots, a custom that later spread to Japan where the art of bonsai evolved. And then, if you reflect a little, you will know that the aisles of Westminster Abbey were lined with trees for the royal wedding.

Issues that are brought to light about indoor plants in general are to do with light levels, and I am to be tested in a week's time as I babysit a number of "indoor" plants for a friend of mine for a period of a month or so.

David and Patricia Ratcliffe in their book entitled *Australian Plants for Indoors* bring attention to other issues: These include:

- The length of time that they can be maintained.
- The art of providing sufficient water without excess and methods of cleaning.
- Periods of rest outside the house or office.

The APS website points out that there are a number of Australian plants which can tolerate indoor conditions for extended periods. These are usually those species native to tropical and sub-tropical rainforests where the plants have become accustomed to low light levels. Some worth trying include *Schefflera actinophylla* (umbrella tree). *Castanospermum austral* (black bean). *Davidsonia pruriens*, (Davidson's plum), various Lilly Pillies, (*Syzygium*, *Acmena*, *Waterhousea*) and *Grevillea robusta* (silky oak).



***Castanospermum austral* - Black Bean**

Among the non-flowering plants, ferns make excellent indoor plants especially hardy ones such as *Doodia aspera* (rasp fern) and *Nephrrolepis cordifolia* (fishbone fern). Even tree ferns (*Dicksonia Antarctica* and *Cyathea sp.*) can be used before their trunks develop. There are a lot of others.

Now what about plants with flowers? Did you ever give some thought as to placing a *Pandorea pandorana* in a pot, and bringing it inside when it is in flower? And did you know that acacias have been used as houseplants overseas for many years? These include *A.longifolia*, *A.myrtifolia*, *A.paradoxa*, *A.terminalis* and a number of others.

Well folks, I am just a learner in this field, but my umbrella tree has served me well, brightening up my bathroom! And by the way, I have heard it said that indoor plants can have a good effect on health. They can reduce components of indoor air pollution and CO² as well as other unseen hindrances to our well-being. These few notes are given just to begin the conversation on indoor Australian plants!



***Pandorea pandorana* – Wonga Wonga Vine**

APS Victoria Committee Management Meeting

These are the main Points from the Committee of Management meeting held at Barham on 12th November, 2011, courtesy of Brendan Stahl.

New members now receive a \$10-00 voucher (valid for six months) from Goldfield’s Revegetation Nursery at Bendigo.

Federal Grants- Some groups were successful, some were not, grants may be available in 2012.

March 17th meeting at Melton will consist of two workshops :-

- Discuss relationship between APS Victoria and District Groups
- Discuss APS Victoria Administration restructure.

Each group will be encouraged to bring a plant for a raffle to cover costs of this day. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

FJC Rogers Seminar on Garden Design will be held at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Preston on November 10th and 11th, 2012.

The address for the new Membership Officer will be Post Office Box Number 44, Oakleigh South.

The member log in for the member’s area of the website is **member2012** and password is **correa\$**.

Elected Office-bearers :-

President –	Cathy Powers
Vice-President –	Ross Field
Vice-President-	Vacant
Secretary-	Mike Beamish
Minute Secretary -	Cathy Beamish
Treasurer-	Rob Lucas
Membership Officer -	Marj Seaton
Newsletter Editor -	Lachlan Garland
Publicity Officer -	Bob Artis
Research Officer -	Russell Best
Study Group Liaison Officer-	Annie Treasure

More from Our Junior Reporter

Kaitlyn Biro

You might remember that last year we published an article from Kaitlyn Biro about her beautiful, and bountiful, Straw-flowers. Well, Kaitlyn has continued the tradition with a story about her Billy Buttons ...



I got my billy buttons from the plant sale. I took it home and planted it. It was small and it grew big and now has flowers. I also planted my strawflowers again and they look very pretty.

Junior APS member ... Kaitlyn Biro

Editor’s Note: Good on you, Kaitlyn. I’ve tried with Billy Buttons, but they always flower and die. You must have the knack!



Kaitlyn's Straw-flowers, 2011

February BBQ

Saturday 18th

Arthur and Linda have kindly made their home available for our Welcome 2012 BBQ on Saturday 18th February. The address, for new members, is 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks.

Please arrive about 5.30 pm. The club will provide meat, bread, wine and orange juice. Please bring a salad or dessert to share, and any other drinks you might prefer. Contact Linda on 52761343 to confirm what you are bringing, so we don't end up with 63 desserts and no salads.

Being February the weather may be very hot, so bring your bathers. But, be warned ... Arthur has a video camera, and he's prepared to use it! If the weather is inclement, there is a Plan B and Plan C so we are covered for all contingencies. See you there ☺

Dates to Remember

2012

Your committee has been very busy and we have almost all the speakers lined up for 2012. We will publish a full list in February. Meanwhile add these dates to your calendar :-

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| March 20 th Speaker | Liz Beneto |
| • 'Plants used by the local Wautharong people' | |
| April 17 th Speaker | Graeme Wood |
| • 'Grevilleas' | |
| May 15 th Speaker | Dierdre Murphy |
| • 'Aquatic Animals of the Barwon River' | |

Also:-

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| March 10 th /11 th | Sustainable Garden Expo |
| May 23 rd | Bus-trip to Latrobe Nature Reserve |
| June 16 th /17 th | APS Quarterly Conference – Geelong |
| July 17 th | AGM and Photo Competition |

Thankyou

I'm very pleased to report that I have an abundance of articles contributed for this month. I have so many, in

fact, that I am holding a few over for the February edition. Thanks to Tony, John, Debbie, Kaitlyn, Frank and Harry for their sterling efforts.

And, perhaps a challenge to members? Tony has already provided me with 5 months worth of articles for 2012. Who wants to try and match that?

APS Victoria Quarterly Conference, June 16/17 2012

Our turn to host the Quarterly Conference has come around again. We last hosted it in June 4 years ago. We have respectfully asked the APS Vic Committee is they could let us have any other time of the year but Winter for our next hosting, probably around 2015.

Preliminary plans are well under way, with ideas for venues, caterers, garden visits etc. If you know of any interesting native plant gardens in the area, that you think would be worth a look, please let us know. Last time we looked at the Bell's garden and at Phil Vaughan's garden, so we are looking for different places for next year.

We will also need lots of assistance over the weekend, to ensure that we run a successful conference. We look forward to everyone's support

Merry Christmas

2011 has been a great year for our club, with new members, great speakers, enjoyable social outings, and a general feeling of goodwill among members. Let's hope that 2012 continues in the same vein.

To all of you, your families and loved ones, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, Hyvaa Joulua, Feliz Natal, Geseënde Kersfees, Joyeux Noel, Vrolijk Kerstfeest, Froehliche Weihnachten, Nollaig Shona Dhuit, Buone Feste Natalizie ... and Happy New Year.



*Merry
Christmas*