



AUSTRALIAN  
PLANTS SOCIETY  
— Geelong —

# Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 261 – February 2011

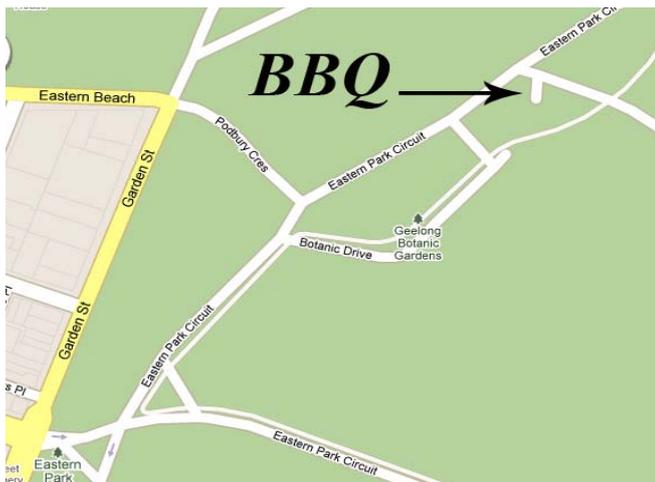
## Happy New Year

Welcome to 2011. The Correa Mail is a little lighter this month, with nothing much happening at the club over the Christmas/New Year break. We look forward to another successful year kicking off with our BBQ at Eastern Gardens.

## Our Next Meeting

February 15<sup>th</sup>

Our February meeting will be the traditional BBQ get-together. We will meet at the BBQs in Eastern Gardens, on Eastern Park Circuit, at 6.30 pm. The BBQs are between the Botanic Gardens and the bay, near the playpark, just northeast of the main entrance to the Botanic Gardens. We hope to see you all there



## UP-COMING EVENTS

### Mid-week Excursion

We'll take a guided walk through the Geelong Botanic Gardens on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 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.

Later, 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. Cost will be \$15-\$20 for the bus, (depending on numbers) plus garden entry and food. More details will follow. Please indicate your interest at the BBQ, or phone / email me.

## Open Garden Scheme

March/ April

Things are understandable quiet over the Christmas / New Year period, but here are a few to look forward to in the near future:-

### 5-6 March

Plant Fair at Bolobek 370 Mount Macedon Road, Mount Macedon. A beautiful, famous garden with much to admire and be inspired by. The setting for a great plant fair, featuring the best nurseries from around Victoria and interstate. Several excellent Australian plant nurseries will be there.

### 9-10 April

Cummins Garden 4 Mowbray Court, Doncaster East. Permaculture, informal garden featuring Australian and indigenous plants. Water feature in courtyard, veg. garden, chooks, etc. (0.25 ac.)

### 23- 24 April

Crimsons Rest 74b Falkingham Road, Mount Evelyn. Terraced garden filled with unusual native and exotic plants chosen for hardiness, structure and colour. Sculpture etc.(0.33 ac.) (NEW)

King Parrot Retreat 26-66 Wentworths Road, Strath Creek. Primarily Australian plant collections in large landscape. Olives, conifers and proteas too. Creek, bush tucker. (74 ac.)

## Vale Bill Gunn

Debbie Gaskill

In early December Bill Gunn passed away aged 95. Bill and his wife Doris and 2 daughters emigrated from Scotland in the fifties. They were very active in APS activities for many years (decades actually) their work being recognised by life membership awards. Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing Bill a little will remember a kind and generous man with



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many talents and interests. As well as his passion for botany (he was an excellent botanic artist) he was a keen fisherman and a football aficionado. He refereed school soccer matches to the end of his teaching career in the early 80's. He was a native plant purist and despaired of Doris' tendency to sneak "foreign" plants into their garden.

The Gunns lived next to my in laws in Ocean Grove for some years and (fellow Brits) they became good friends. My father in law once asked Bill if he was going to watch the Edinburgh Tattoo on TV that night. Punctuated by some choice Caledonian epithets he made it very clear that he had come 12,000 miles to escape the sound of bagpipe music and, no, he would not be watching the Tattoo.

Our sympathy goes to Doris, Pat and Seona and their families.

## Another Favourite

by Tony Cavanagh

Another favourite is a plant that has done well for me and I think is fairly uncommon in gardens, *Acacia assimilis* subsp. *atroviridis*

A few years ago, I obtained seeds of a few of the smaller acacias which I was interested in growing. One was apparently misnamed but I have subsequently found out that it is definitely one of the forms of an uncommon Western Australian species, *Acacia assimilis* and probably subsp. *atroviridis*. I may have been lucky with the position I chose but it has proved to be very attractive and floriferous plant and reliable after some five years in the garden.



## *Acacia assimilis* subsp. *atroviridis*

The things that I like about my plant are its beautiful shape - whether in flower or not, it is a rounded dome of dense green "leaves" or a ball of gold, as I hope the pictures show, and the intricacy of the flower heads in close up. It flowers for several months in spring and the flowers really are the intense yellow the pictures show. It is growing in a lightly shaded situation in well drained soil and rarely needs watering once established. I did however, receive a fright in the heat wave in early January when we had three days in a row over 43 °, two of them reaching 46 °C, and I noticed a carpet of green under the plant. It had shed masses of its phyllodes, a standard plant protection strategy in times of stress, and I hastily poured a couple of buckets of water around it. The plant recovered and I am looking forward to its flowering again this spring.

## What's in the Bush

## Unusual flowering?

The wetter year in 2010 has seen a lot of unusual flowering in my garden ... many plants have flowered early, or late, or for longer than usual. In the Brisbane Ranges there is a lovely little acacia, *A. mitchellii*, which usually flowers in the spring/summer.



*Acacia mitchellii* – Mitchell's Wattle

It produced beautiful show of flowers along Butcher's Road in October, and by late November the shrubs



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were covered in masses of green, twisted seed pods – very attractive. We were along Butcher's Road again in early January, searching in vain for Elbow orchids and the *A.mitchellii* is in flower again. The plants still have masses of green pods from the previous flowering. Is this unusual, or are our plants opportunistic breeders, taking advantage of good seasons to set abundant seed? I don't know, but I'd like to hear from anyone who does. ☺

## ***Mingling, Morphing and Meandering***

APS Victoria Committee Management Quarterly Meeting - **Saturday 19 March 2011**

Anakie-Staughton Vale Hall  
55 Staughton Vale Rd, Anakie Junction, Vic.  
(VicRoads Map 77 G7, Melways Map 609 D4)

**9:30am arrival – meeting starts 10:00am**  
***Mix planning for our Society's future with a guided tour of the Brisbane Ranges***

This meeting will address our annual budget and be followed by two workshops in which participants are invited to contribute to the forward planning of our Society. There is no fee for attending, but **please register online at <http://www.apsvic.org.au/>**

Bring your own lunch - morning and afternoon tea provided. After the meeting there will be a ***guided tour of the Brisbane Ranges National Park***, which has been expanded by the inclusion of land previously managed by Barwon Water and inaccessible to the public. The tour will finish in time for everyone to travel home in the daylight.

APS Victoria members accompanying participants in the Committee of Management meeting may take a self-guided tour in the Brisbane Ranges (information supplied), or participate in the workshops.

## **Brendon Stahl's retirement.**

Brendan Stahl has stepped down from his role of President of APS Victoria after a three year stint. Brendon has been a very active president, travelling widely to talk to groups about his plants. He was

heavily involved in the organisation of the very successful Biennial Conference held in Geelong in September, 2009. Brendan's enthusiasm and leadership have been greatly appreciated by all members, and we thank him for his considerable efforts on our behalf. We also congratulate Cathy Powers on her appointment as President for the next three years.

## **APS Quarterly Meeting**

Brendon Stahl

The Annual Meeting elected the following :-

President :- Cathy Powers  
Vice-President :- Ross Field  
Secretary/Public Officer :- Nicky Zanen  
Lone Member Officer :- Marj Seaton  
Membership Officer :- Bob Artis  
Newsletter Editor :- Lachlan Garland  
Research Officer :- Russell Best  
Study Group Liaison Officer :- Annie Treasure

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show will be held on 30/3/11 to 3/4/11.

Volunteers are needed to man the stand for two hour shifts (free entry offered)

Other events coming up are the District Group Forum at Bundoora on 30<sup>th</sup> July and the ANPSA Biennial Conference hosted by South Australian Region in Adelaide on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2011,

At the March meeting Committee of Management members are required to vote on whether APS Victoria should go ahead with 'Volunteer Personal Accident Insurance Cover', as well as our 'Public Liability Insurance'. APS Geelong Group is to decide if they are for or against this proposal and direct me to vote accordingly

Groups in Victoria will receive APS New South Wales Quarterly Newsletters in a reciprocal arrangement,