



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 284 – April 2013

PLANT SALE

Our Annual Plant Sale is on again next weekend, April 6th and 7th, and we'd like all members to assist in some way over the weekend. The forced cancellation of last year's sale has meant less support from growers for the 2013 event. We need to make an impression on the buying public if we want our sale, the best sale in Victoria by far, to continue.

If you have not yet put your name on a roster, and would like to do so, please contact Bruce McGinness on 0448 892704 or brucesm@unimelb.edu.au

We also have a flower table at the sale to demonstrate just how magnificent natives can be. Please bring along anything of interest from your garden to add to the table.

There will be the usual BBQ dinner and hilarity for the workers on Saturday after the sale has closed for the day funded by the club as a thankyou.

See you there!

MARCH MEETING

Caring For The Barwon

Our speaker was Trent Wallace, who is with Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. Trent talked to us about their work in maintaining and improving the Barwon in and around Geelong.

The Corangamite CMA was established in 1997 to ensure the protection and sustainable development of land, vegetation and water resources within their allotted area. About 380,000 people live in the catchment's 13,340 square kilometres of south-western Victoria and 175 kilometres of coastal fringe.

The region is defined by four river basins – the Moorabool, Barwon, Lake Corangamite and Otway Coast. It includes all or part of the cities of Ballarat and Greater Geelong, the Borough of Queenscliffe and the shires of Moorabool, Surf Coast, Corangamite, Golden Plains, Colac Otway and Moyne.

Please Help!

The CCMA is currently engaged in a number of projects which will improve the health and aesthetics of the river and the creatures who live in and along it.

Work is almost complete on a fish-ladder which will allow migrating fish, especially the rare Australian Grayling, access to the fresh waters of the Barwon, currently denied them by the first breakwater.

Ongoing work with removal of exotic trees will increase the amenity of the river for users, human and animal, and reduce problems caused by deciduous leaves and invasive root systems. The CCMA are planting around 10,000 trees a year to this end.



The Barwon near Ceres - magnificent

The health of the Barwon in Geelong is also affected by its tributaries, particularly the Moorabool River. During the last drought, the Moorabool ceased to flow and the level of the Barwon dropped. The CCMA were able to obtain an entitlement of 2.5 thousand megalitres per annum from Lal Lal to improve flow in the Moorabool. Additionally, water from the Batesford Quarry, previously discharged into the bay, is being redirected to assist with flows in the Moorabool and Barwon.

Work is done with Landcare groups and the like, to maintain the health of the river and its tributaries

President: Harry Webb - harry.webb@bigpond.com Secretary: Denise Cromer – deniseandphill@gmail.com
Treasurer: Frank Scheelings - Ph 52297494 Editor: Ade Foster - adefoster@internode.on.net
Australian Plants Society – Geelong P.O. Box 2012 Geelong. 3220

upstream, where there are still some stretches of the river in almost pristine condition.

The CCMA also encourages volunteers to assist in monitoring the health of the river with their involvement in the Waterwatch and Estuary watch programs.

Unlike most CMAs, the Corangamite CMA also manages some parcels of land along a 20k stretch of the Barwon in and around Geelong. They assumed control of this land from Barwon Water in 1997. They then contracted Barwon Water to manage it until 2006, when they took over management with the use of CCMA contractors. Their involvement includes enforcement of by-laws regarding river use, dogs and litter, weed control, reed control and indigenous planting of the margins.

By liaising with other interested groups, such as Barwon Water, City of Geelong, Parks Victoria and any number of user and friend's groups, the CCMA is ensuring the health of this wonderful river into the future.

Visit the CCMA website. It's a great resource, and you can read much more about individual projects and successes. <http://www.ccma.vic.gov.au/>

PLANT TABLE

Tony Cavanagh

Because of the time of year and very dry summer in the region, there were a very few plants on the table. However, among them were some very interesting specimens.

Eremophilas don't mind hot, dry climates and there were a few on display this month. *E. polyclada* is a large shrub, 2m x 2m in Frank's garden. The vivid green foliage and large white flowers make it an attractive plant for any garden. Frank recommends a hard prune to keep it in check. There were two different forms of *E. maculata*, and a hybrid *E. maculata* x *E. brevifolia*, each with deep purple flowers with the characteristic spotted throat. *E. 'Summertime Blue'* is a leggy shrub with striking blue flowers. *E. racemosa* (formerly *bicolor*) is interesting in that the flowers change colour quite dramatically as they age.

Pandorea pandorana, the Wonga Wonga vine, is a vigorous climber with bright green foliage and usually white flowers. This specimen had vivid pink flowers with a deep red centre.

There were two forms of *Billardiera bicolor*, the Painted Billardiera. Both have white flowers with reddish stripes, but one is a climber, the other a small compact shrub.

Frank brought along an attractive specimen of *Regelia ciliata*. This description is from the ANBG website. *Regelia ciliata* is a small ornamental shrub which closely resembles *Melaleuca* and *Beaufortia*. It

is included in the large family Myrtaceae. The genus *Regelia* contains five species all of which are confined to the south-west of Western Australia. It grows naturally in low-lying sand flats which often become waterlogged in winter.



Regelia ciliata

However, unlike many Western Australian species which do not adapt readily to the soils and weather patterns of eastern Australia, *R. ciliata* will grow easily in most situations. It has a rigid spreading habit, growing to a height of 1.3 m to 1.5 m across with paper-like bark covering the stems. The small heart-shaped leaves lie close to the stems and are attractively arranged in opposite pairs.

The grey-green colour of the foliage provides a pleasing contrast to the mauve flowers which are produced over a prolonged period. The flowers are borne in dense heads 20-50 mm across at the ends of short branchlets. Stem growth continues through the flowers during or after flowering. The grey capsular fruits are fused together in roughly globular clusters around the branches and remain on the plant for long periods.

Regelia ciliata is extremely hardy and is easily propagated from seed or cuttings. The fine seed is soon shed if the fruit is placed in a paper bag in a warm place. Seed germinates readily but plants take a number of years to flower. Plants grown from cuttings develop quickly and can produce flowers the following year. Tip cuttings taken in March/April produce roots within six weeks. Treat the cuttings with a suitable cutting hormone. This versatile plant will grow in full sun or shade, in damp or dry conditions. It responds well to periodic light pruning for shaping and to encourage bushiness. The plant should be kept well

mulched and treated with a complete fertiliser in spring and autumn.

Alyogyne hakeifolia is a vigorous shrub which does well in our coastal regions. The specimens on show were white and a deep mauve/pink with thin, needle-like leaves.

Tony brought along a couple of *Spirydium*. These plants always seem to be in flower, but, as Tony pointed out, the white 'flowers' are in fact modified leaves. The actual flowers are tiny and can be found in the centre of the false flowers.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This month the raffle was won by Liz Wells, well known APS Geelong Committee member. The other raffle prizes were won by Arthur, Matt and Harry, (also members of the Committee). Shamed by this obvious rorting of the system, Harry donated another plant in an attempt to balance the ledger somewhat. This was won by Carmel (do I need to say it? ... a member of the Committee!) Given that tickets were sold and distributed by Roger (yet another Committee member), a Royal Commission is being sought as we go to press. Alternatively, we could all ensure that we win the raffle by becoming Committee members at the next AGM ☺

Liz chose an unusual plant for the plant of the month, a Tropical Pitcher Plant, *Nepenthes mirabilis*, brought along by Roger Wileman. Roger writes:



The pitcher of *Nepenthes mirabilis*

Nepenthes mirabilis is a fascinating native plant, found in Australia from north east Cape York to as far south as Innisfail, Queensland. I have it growing in my orchid house along with some other *Nepenthes* species and hybrids. They seem to like my conditions and are growing and flowering very well. This is a new genus to add to my knowledge and I feel it will become another passion.



The flowers of *Nepenthes mirabilis*

N. mirabilis is one species from approximately 70 species that range from south east China, Madagascar, New Caledonia, Sarawak and Ceylon, the main concentration being in Borneo. Occurring from sea level to an altitude of 3000 metres, they thrive in nutrient deficient soil with high acidity such as peat swamps.

The plants are usually vines or epiphytes and the climbing shoots on some species can reach 18 metres in length. The pitchers vary in length from 12 cm to 30 cm, depending on species. The lid on top of the pitchers does not move but is fixed in position, unlike *Dionea*, the Venus fly trap, which closes to trap prey. The inside edge of the pitcher has nectar secreting glands that serve to attract insects to the pitcher. A group of digestive glands are situated below the waxy zone within the upper part of the pitcher, and juices secreted by these glands aid the digesting of the insects that drown when they cannot climb out. This is the plants source of nitrogen.

However, carnivorous plants do not live entirely on captured insects. The chlorophyll in leaves and stems and the foods manufactured in conjunction with the chlorophyll are just as important as the captured prey, as a balance between photosynthesis and carnivorism is essential. Plants do not thrive without the captured prey. A large percentage of the known *Nepenthes* species are very localized, each species found only on a single mountain.

VALE JOHN CLARK

We were sad to learn of the death of John Clark, who passed away on Saturday 2nd February. John and his wife, Joyce, owned the Lover's Leap Nursery and, on retirement, moved to Ballarat where he was an active APS member since 1990.

As a nurseryman, John was a regular at our April Plant Sale for many years. He was an authority on native plant cultivation, and was particularly knowledgeable about Hakeas.

Our condolences to Joyce and family.

VALE MARLENE MacFARLANE

Marlene passed away late last year, aged 69. She was a great supporter of our plant sale, propagating plants at her home. She was always happy to assist with a difficult or unusual plant, and will be sadly missed.

THE STURT'S DESERT PEA AS A CUT FLOWER.

By Tony Cavanagh

The desert pea always causes a lot of interest when in flower because of the contrast between the deep red body of the flower parts and black or dark brown of the boss.



Sturt's Desert Pea in Doug MacKenzie's glasshouse

What I didn't know was that the flowers keep very well in water, a spray or raceme I was given lasting more than three weeks in a vase with a couple The

racemes need to be picked as the individual pea flowers are developing and hopefully before any flower is pollinated. In pollinated flowers, the lower petals quickly fall. The desert pea can be grown on its own roots from seed treated with hot water but rarely lives more than 9-12 months. Grafted plants make ideal pot plants and if regularly tip pruned (to stop the runners going berserk) and kept controlled to about 0.7 to 1m in diameter, plants will live for several years, and present you each spring with dozens to hundreds of flowers.
of water changes.



Sturt's Desert Pea as a cut flower

NEW CLUB RULES

Phil Royce

APS Geelong Inc. is an Incorporated Association and last year the Victorian government changed the law applying to Incorporated Associations. APS Geelong Inc, like all other Incorporated Associations, has until the end of this year to respond to the changes in the law, but the response must be determined at the Association's AGM.

The purpose of this report to members is to provide some background for the discussion we will need to have at our AGM. Full details of the new legislation can be found at ...

www.consumer.vic.gov.au/clubs-and-not-for-profits/incorporated-associations

The government made changes to:

1. matters that have to be covered in an Association's Rules;
2. financial reporting;
3. the role of the Association's Public Officer; and
4. the Statement of Purpose.

The government has developed new 'Model Rules' that are the minimum needed to meet the new legislation. Incorporated Associations can adopt the Model Rules as their own. Incorporated Associations can add further rules to the Model Rules, but they can't have any less. So, APS Geelong Inc can adopt the Model Rules or develop its own but if we choose to write our own Rules then, at the very least, they must cover all of the matters in the Model Rules. The attached Appendix 1: 'Comparison of Rules', shows that our current Rules are insufficient to address all of the matters introduced by the new legislation. If an Association's current rules do not address all the items required by the new law, the relevant provision of the Model Rules addressing that item is deemed to be included in the Incorporated Association's current rules.

There is a Transition period to allow Incorporated Associations to decide their response. The Transition period ends on 26 November 2013. Until 26 November 2013, the fee for adopting the Model Rules has been waived, and the fee for an Association changing its own Rules has been reduced to \$75.20.

One of the new requirements is that the Incorporated Association's Statement of Purpose must be included in the new Rules. This provides us an opportunity to review our existing Statement of Purpose and change it if this is appropriate. The second attachment Appendix 2, shows our current Statement of Purposes and also those of APS Victoria for the information of members.

Closer to our AGM, the Committee will provide proposed motions for members to discuss and vote on. In the meantime, if any member has a query please send it to Phil Royce at phil.i.royce@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

GEELONG HOSPITAL APPEAL ANNUAL BALL

The Geelong Ballroom Dance Club is holding their annual ball to support the Geelong Hospital Appeal on 27th April at the Ballroom. They have requested that we assist them with decorating the stage with native plants for the evening. We've done it a couple of times before, and the flowers are given to folks at a nursing home after the event to brighten their days a

little. If you have some flowers you can make available, or some flowering shrubs in pots that would be suitable, or, if you can assist with collecting and arranging flowers, please contact Bruce McGinness on 0448 892704 or brucesm@unimelb.edu.au

APS EVENTS

6/7 April – APS Geelong Plant Sale, 'Wirawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks.



5 May - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale & Propagation Demonstrations. Cnr Brougham St and Main Street, Eltham. From 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

18 May – APS Melton & Bacchus Plant Sale, Cnr Lerderderg St & Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh, will feature hakeas, orchids and dwarf eucalypts. From 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

15 June – Quarterly Gathering hosted by APS Mitchell.

31 Aug / 1 Sept - Bendigo native plant group is holding a flower show and wattle spectacular, with unusual wattle plants for sale in tubestock. Held at the Rotary Gateway Park in Kangaroo Flat. 10.00am to 4.30 daily.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

April 6-7 ...Pfliederer Garden, 1 Croft Cres, Reservoir. A permaculture garden surrounding a sustainable house. The rear native garden of wattles and grasses has a small ephemeral wetland.

April 27-28 ... Attila Kapitany's Garden, 1 The Lough Crt, Narre Warren North (check with Helen)

May 4-5 ... Melliodora, 5-7 St Georges Ave, Templestowe. Surrounding an Alistair Knox house is a diversely planted bush garden with unusual eucalypts and banksias and native orchids.

May 11-12 ... Fairview Garden , 7B Fairview Ave, Wheelers Hill.

June 15-16 ... Illyarrie, 7 Library Rd, Balnarring Beach. Rare and beautiful Australian plants create year round interest. Many WA species including unusual banksias and grevilleas.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

April. Phil and Di Royce have recently moved into a new house in Grovedale. Phil will talk to us about the trials and tribulations of starting a garden from scratch.

May. Liz Wells has an interesting garden on her rural property with some very interesting stories to tell.

June. Kerry Maloney will talk to us about using Australian plants to dye fabric.

July. AGM and Photo Competition.

WHAT'S IN THE BUSH PARKLAND?

Fruit Bats

On a balmy summer evening it's nice to sit outside, enjoying the cool breeze, with a glass of your favourite tippie near to hand. This summer, over my house in Belmont, those evenings are made all the more enjoyable by the sight of hundreds of fruit bats heading south-west to who knows where.



Grey-headed Flying-foxes – Eastern Gardens

The fruit-bats are Grey-headed flying foxes, *Pteropus poliocephalus*. They are endemic to the forests of south-eastern Australia and are found from the central Queensland coast to southern Victoria. They have several permanent camps in south-east Victoria, and each year disperse across parts of south-west Victoria where they feed on a variety of fruits, nectar and pollen from plants and trees in areas of native vegetation or cultivated vegetation in back yards and parks.

Of the ten permanent populations or 'camps' in Victoria, eight are in east Gippsland, one in Melbourne at Yarra Bend, and one in Geelong's Eastern Gardens. This camp varies in size from a few hundred in winter to around 10,000 in summer.

If you have fruit trees, or live near the roost site or feeding sites, you probably use one or more unprintable adjectives when referring to these beautiful native animals. They are loud, and smelly, and can be quite destructive if they arrive at your place in large numbers.

But, they are undeniably cute, beautiful in flight and amusing as they squabble amongst themselves for the best roosting sites. If you haven't seen the camp in Eastern Gardens, do yourself a favour before the numbers thin for the winter. It is quite a sight (and sound and smell).



A face only a mother could love?

THANKYOU

Working Bee

A big thanks to those who made it to Arthur and Linda's place at short notice for the working bee on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th.

A good team worked hard on the garden on Saturday, and things are looking much better as a result. We stopped for lunch and Arthur opened a bottle of red, so no more work was done that day.

A smaller crew returned on Sunday to tackle the glass-house clean-up. Spurred on by Eileen, we worked feverishly and had the place ship shape by early afternoon. As Harry often says, we have a great team at APS Geelong ... well done everyone.

GET WELL SOON

A big shout out and best wishes to Roger Wileman who has had a short stay in hospital recently after a heart-attack. Roger is home now, doing very well, and we look forward to seeing him at APS Geelong gatherings for many years to come.