



AUSTRALIAN  
PLANTS SOCIETY  
— Geelong —

# Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 286 – June 2013

## PLANT TABLE

John and Roger

Because of the small numbers at the meeting, the table was also a bit sparse, but no less interesting for that.

Grevilleas were well represented, offering a lovely splash of colour through the autumn and into winter. Among them were *G. dielsiana*, orange form, *G. 'Moonlight'*, a perennial favourite and *G. 'Billy Bonkers'* (apparently named after Mark Thompson's dog) - all from Frank's garden. Carmel brought along *G. 'Ellendale Pool'*, a cultivar of *G. fililoba*, with delicate almost fern-like foliage and compact, pendulous pink flowers.

There were several Eremophilas on the table and a more variable range of colour and form is hard to imagine. The particular specimen of *E. oppositifolia* had grey/green leaves and deep pink flowers, while *E. glabra* 'Kalbarri Carpet' has striking silver foliage and deep yellow flowers.



*Eremophila glabra* – "Kalbarri Carpet"

*E. decipiens* is a green shrub with prolific orange/red flowers, and *E. polyclada* has lime-green foliage and large brilliant white blooms.

There was a lovely little Correa, a *C. alba* x *C. pulchella* with dainty white flowers flushed with pink; a deep red *Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'*; a lovely, deep mauve Pandorea and a stunning *Banksia prionotes*.

Hopefully, the nice drop of rain in the past week will continue and the next meeting's table will be groaning under the weight of early winter flowers.



*Banksia prionotes*

## PLANT of the MONTH – almost by Frank Scheelings

The raffle was a mammoth affair with ten plants up for grabs, thanks to the kindness of Roger Wileman and Graeme Woods. John Bell won the raffle and selected *Grevillea dielsiana* as the Plant Of The Month for May. Frank was the lucky (?) one who brought it along and so he writes the article for this month. He

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also won the honour last month with *Grevillea 'Moonlight'*. Due to his New Zealand holiday, he missed the dead-line so here is last month's Plant Of The Month as well.

*Grevillea Moonlight* is variously reported to be a selected form of *G. whiteana*, or, a hybrid of *G. banksii* (white form) and *G. whiteana*. A large shrub to small tree, Moonlight reaches a height of 4–5 m and a spread of 2-3 m.

The creamy white flowers are in evidence all year with prolific flowering in spring and summer. They are highly attractive to birds and insects, and are a great addition to any garden. Removing the old flower heads will encourage more flowers next season.

It grows vigorously in the local climate, and can become quite large quite quickly. It prefers full sun and a well-drained position. Moonlight responds well to pruning generally, and can be kept in check with judicious, even vigorous, use of the secateurs.



***Grevillea 'Moonlight'* – a must-have plant**

***Grevillea dielsiana*** is a spreading shrub endemic to the Geraldton area in Western Australia. Its height usually ranges between 0.6m and 2m. The flowers vary in colour with pink, red, orange and yellow forms being observed within their natural distribution. The leaves are in three parts, deeply divided and very sharp. The plant is generally open and straggly, but flowers profusely in autumn, winter and spring. Plant in full sun, with good drainage and well away from paths and access areas!



***Grevillea dielsiana* – Diel's grevillea**

**PLANT SPECIES LIST “RESIDENTIAL STYLE GUIDE” FOR A LOCAL SUBDIVISION.** By Debbie Gaskill

Some years ago my husband and I looked at blocks of land in the amusingly-named Yellow Gums Estate then being developed in Ocean Grove. Like many subdivisions these days the prospectus included a list of mandated native plants. I can't remember the details but the list didn't contain much that I would have chosen personally.

In a recent discussion with a friend she mentioned that her daughter and son-in-law had bought a block in another big development in our area, conveniently close to a local vinyard. She mentioned, too, the planting list from which owners are to pick the plants for their front yards. Fortunately you can grow pretty much what you want in your back yard though they don't want large exotics, which I think is fair enough. The young people took their list to a local nursery where upon the nurseryman threw up his hands in horror and said something that could be translated as “my goodness, I wonder who chooses these plants?”

This morning I did a 'google' search and found the residential style guide for this estate and had a little look at the planting list. If you want to do so too you can do your own search. The list is at the end of the document (appendix 2). The list includes 20 each of ground covers and shrubs and 17 trees.

I don't claim to recognise all the plants on the list but many seem unsuitable. The subdivision contains large houses on small blocks, very few of which would have garden areas with full sun. The ground cover list

contains a lot of strappy plants and grasses – *Dianellas*, *Lomandras*, *Poas* and the like. The shrub species include over-large (for a small garden) or pretty boring ones like *Banksia marginata*, *Leptospermum laevigatum* and *Myoporum insulare* (hardly a shrub even by their own definition at 6X3 metres). The trees include *Acacia dealbata*, *melanoxylon* and *pycnantha*, the Bellarine Yellow Gum (*E leucoxylon ssp Bellarinensis*), *E scoparia*, *nicholli*, *ovata* and *viminalis* and *Melia azedarach*.

Given that a lot of the people putting in gardens in this estate will be inexperienced or non-gardeners I am rather concerned that many of these people will fork out a lot of money to follow the guide and will be disappointed with the results or the suitability of the plants. At the very least the list could have identified plants suitable for shade.

I have no idea what can be done about this but it doesn't help the cause of encouraging people to grow native.

**Editor's Note:** *Oakdene estate can be found at <http://www.oakdeneestate.com.au/> The Plant List is part of the .pdf download on the 'Design Guidelines' page.*

## THE FIRST GREVILLEAS CULTIVATED IN ENGLAND

By Tony Cavanagh

At a meeting late last year, Roger was doing the plant table and was talking about one of my specimens of *Grevillea buxifolia*. He commented that it was one of the first grevilleas grown in England and probably one of the first to be flowered in an English glasshouse. This set me thinking about what other grevilleas might also have been grown, say up to 1800, and how plant material got there.



*Grevillea buxifolia* – Grey Spider-flower

Australia as we know was first settled in 1788 at Botany Bay and the First Fleet ships reaches England from about March 1789 onwards. Most carried seed and plant material for the King's garden at Kew but

also for private nurserymen. However, we should not forget that James Cook had made three voyages to the Pacific from 1769, the most famous being the first in which the botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander collected many thousands of plant specimens including the very first *Grevillea*, later named *G. mucronulata*, at Botany Bay and later three northern species, *G. pteridifolia*, *G. glauca* and *G. parallela* at Endeavour River. If they brought back seed from any of these species, the gardeners in England were not successful in raising plants and only five species of Australian plants are known to have been grown from seed brought back by Banks and Solander.

In fact, it wasn't until 1792 that more *Grevillea* seed reached England, this time collected by a military man, Colonel William Paterson, a commander in the New South Wales Corps. He had a long term interest in natural history and was well known to Joseph Banks; later Banks was to sponsor him for membership of the (English) Royal Society. He only had nine days in Sydney before being transferred to Norfolk Island but in this time collected seed from at least three, or perhaps four *Grevilleas* – *G. sericea*, *G. linearifolia* and *G. buxifolia*, and what is now *G. sericea* subsp. *riparia* although because of confusion with names, these are not certain. It seems that he collected the type specimen of *G. speciosa* but seed was introduced by Alan Cunningham around 1820. It now seems that although Banks tried to ensure that all Botany Bay plant specimens, seeds etc were sent to him for Kew Gardens, Paterson (and others) also sent seeds to several of the well known English nurseries, most notably that of Lee and Kennedy who in fact successfully raised the first *Grevilleas* seen in cultivation. The first to flower was *G. buxifolia* in 1795 at the Lee and Kennedy Nursery. Plants were quickly sold or exchanged and a wealthy individual George Hibbert, later also grew and flowered a plant nearly six feet high. *G. linearifolia* was next to flower, at Lee and Kennedy around 1800 and *G. sericea* in about 1806, at another nursery Loddiges.



*Grevillea sericea* – Silky grevillea

So there we have it. And despite what was suggested at the meeting, I was not there when these plants were being named.

**Editor's Note:** *The claims of contributors as to their age are not verified by the editor and should be taken cum grano salis ☺*

### APS Geelong and Facebook

A year or so back, we started our webpage, and began to use email correspondence and electronically distributed newsletters. In short, we've entered, (and in some cases been dragged into) the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The natural extension is to start with social media, and so we have a Facebook page. This does not mean the end of the world as we know it, rather it gives us an ability to spread the word to a whole new audience.

Many businesses rely heavily on Facebook to advertise and keep the community apprised of what's happening. In our case, we can keep each other, and the community at large, up to date with APS Geelong happenings, what's in your garden, tips and ideas etc. The possibilities are almost endless.



So, if you have a Facebook account, 'like' the **Australian Plants Society – Geelong** page, and you can start to contribute photos, comments, ideas ... whatever you like. Your friends will see the activity and may become interested enough to become members. If you don't have a Facebook account, lash out and get one ... it's free and can be fun.

The more 'likes' we get, the more we can use Facebook to promote Australian native plants and APS Geelong. So be in it, you've got nothing to lose ☺ Let's see photos of your garden, or a plant you saw on bush-walk, or in a friends garden; or ask a question about a plant. It's another way we can share our knowledge and enjoyment of our fabulous flora.

And, if you haven't checked out the webpage recently there are a few photos up from the April Plant sale .... <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~apsgeelong/> or google APS Geelong.

### NOTES FROM THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

We received a comprehensive report on the last APS Victoria quarterly conference hosted by APS Maroondah. Rather than repeat it here, it will be attached as an appendix to this issue.

One of the notes is worth mentioning here .... *'Neil Marriott, Conservation Officer, noted that Study Groups should be made aware of the*

*recommendations concerning use of recycled paper. He has also written to Denis Napthine, the new Premier of Victoria, commenting on past unacceptable decisions in the conservation area and noting that Victoria needs a new focus. Manufacturers of copy paper may still be using old growth timber and we should avoid this. APS Vic will sign an Ethical Paper Pledge and an email regarding this will be sent out to District Groups. APS Vic recommends that members make their own assessment and use products that meet their personal standards and ethical values. A check will be made of the paper being used for Growing Australian.'*



I am happy to report that APS Geelong uses recycled paper to print copies of the 'Correa Mail'. Only five issues are mailed each month, the rest are sent electronically. We also use recycled paper envelopes, and all correspondence from and within the committee is electronic. So, we're already on the ball. ☺

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### OUR NEXT MEETING.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Kerrie Maloney will talk to us about eco-dyeing and eco-printing of fabrics. Eco print is a water-based printing process used to apply colour to cloth from plants. It uses relatively small quantities of plant material in a recycled dye-bath. In this presentation Kerrie will explain and demonstrate the principles of eco dyeing using eucalypt leaves. The bundling technique, which prints the plants directly onto your fabric, will also be demonstrated and you will also be shown how to use found metal objects for interesting effects.

Kerrie will bring along lots of dyed garments, scarves and some printed papers that have been dyed using eco dyeing principles for you to look at.

Kerrie is secondary school teacher who has a passion for arts and craft and all things related to textile or fibre arts. She uses eco dyeing as the process uses a renewable resource and the waste at the end is generally less toxic and easily disposed of or composted.

**15 June** – Quarterly Gathering hosted by APS Mitchell.

**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.

**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.

### CLUB FUNCTIONS, BUS-TRIPS OR DRIVE YOURSELF OUTINGS for 2013

**September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>** is the ANGAIR Wildflower Weekend and Art Show at Anglesea. We have been invited to visit Bill and Olivia Clarke's garden after the Wildflower show on Saturday 21st, with perhaps a bush-walk / orchid hunt in the afternoon. We will keep you posted.

**Rocklands Reservoir** in the southern Grampians is a beautiful place in spring, and **October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** is the Pomonal Wildflower Show. We are seeking expressions of interest for a 2 or 3 day trip to this area, staying in three bedroom self-contained chalets at Southern Grampians Wilderness Resort at Rocklands. Meals could be cook yourself, or catered, depending on numbers. If you might be interested, let me know. Spaces are limited and firm numbers will be required by the June meeting. Again, we'll keep you posted, meanwhile you can have a look yourself at ...

[www.grampiansresort.com.au](http://www.grampiansresort.com.au)



**Rockland Reservoir.**

### PLANT SALE PROPAGATING DAY

We have decided that for the 2014 Plant Sale, we will propagate our own plants as a club activity. This will give us a source of quality, saleable plants for maximum profit, while getting back to basics of our club, growing Australian plants.

**September 7** will be the big day. Seeds will be sourced from the APS Victoria seed-bank, and seeds and cutting material from members' gardens. Please have a look around your garden for plants you think are worth propagating and let us know. We will then compile a list of plants which we think will suit our requirements.

We will all get together and get the ball rolling – planting seeds, taking cuttings, teaching and learning. A BBQ (once the work is finished) will round out a good day.

When the plants are ready to be potted on – sometime in January - we will have another get-together and transfer them to 5" pots. This will be at Arthur and Linda's place where they will be looked after in a greenhouse with automatic watering system. We may also do some grafting of special plants on this day.

Members will be encouraged to make visits to check on the progress and do any maintenance required up to the sale next April.

This is a great way to have plants ready for the next sale, at little or no cost to the club, and to have a couple of great social occasions to boot.

We will be making our own labels for the plants, so if you have a good photo of any of the plants on our final list please let us know. Alternatively if you have one of the plants in your garden, Frank or Ade would be happy to come and take a photo for inclusion on the label. It is important that we can show our buyers what the flowers are like, as many of the plants are not in flower in April.

Watch this space for more details.

### WIDER GEELONG FLORA LECTURE

**June 11<sup>th</sup>**



The topic of Geelong Field Naturalists flora lecture for July will be '*Caladenia pumila* - Back From Beyond The Brink.' Thought extinct for almost 90 years, a single Dwarf Spider-orchid, *C. pumila*, was found at the Inverleigh Common in 2009.



***Caladenia (Arachnorchis) pumila* - Inverleigh**

Neil Anderton will discuss the rediscovery, protection and propagation efforts to date of this delightful little orchid. The meeting commences at 7.30 p.m. at the Friends Room at the Geelong Botanic Gardens on Tuesday June 11th. The entrance is at the

intersection of Holt Rd and Eastern Park Circuit.  
(Melway 452 G4)

## FUTURE SPEAKERS

**July:** AGM and Photo Competition.  
**August:** T.B.A  
**September:** Roger Wileman – *Dendrobium speciosum*  
**October:** Members' Night – Your Favourite Plant  
**November:** Graeme Woods - Hakeas

## WHAT'S IN THE BUSH Eucalypt Secrets

*This article appeared on the ABC Science website on March 5<sup>th</sup>. I found it interesting, I hope you do too.*

### Eucalypt Reveals Smelly Secret - by Dani Cooper

Biologists have uncovered a yellowbox eucalyptus tree that is able to change the smell of its leaves from one side of the tree to the other to protect itself against predation.

The finding, published in the online journal [BMC Plant Biology](#), answers a 20-year-old mystery surrounding a eucalyptus tree in a sheep paddock at Yeoval, New South Wales. The tree at the centre of the study was almost totally defoliated by insects in 1990, but one branch was left completely untouched. Lead author Amanda Padovan, a doctoral student at the Australian National University's Research School of Biology, says their study shows the yellowbox *Eucalyptus melliodora* is able to control which leaves are attacked by predators by alterations in its genes.



***Eucalyptus melliodora* – Yellow Box**

Padovan says the tree, which is estimated to be 75 years old, has developed this ability known as "genetic mosaicism" as a survival mechanism. "If an insect outbreak occurs then a part of the plant won't be

eaten and therefore it will still be able to grow and reproduce," she says.

The research team collected leaves from both sides of the tree and through gene sequencing found there were 10 genes that contained differences between the leaves from each side.

Padovan says one of the main defences the eucalyptus uses against predation is its distinctive smell, which is the result of a "cocktail of terpene oils", including monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes, and formylated phloroglucinol compounds or FPCs that make animals nauseous.

The gene sequencing revealed leaves that were predation-resistant had five fewer monoterpenes and nine fewer sesquiterpenes than the leaves that were "tastier". However the concentration of FPCs and the remaining monoterpenes was far higher.

As a result, says Padovan, the leaves on the part of the tree that was not eaten had a strong eucalyptus smell whereas the leaves that were attractive to the insects had a stronger florally smell.

Padovan says it appears the impact on vertebrates such as koalas is similar as feeding experiments in the laboratory show koalas reject the same leaves as the insects. She says although they have searched the area nearby they have only found one yellowbox tree like this, however she suspects the trait "is more common than we know".

"Trees can't get up and walk away from unfavourable conditions and so we believe this genetic mosaicism is a way for trees to survive changing conditions throughout their life," she says. "We believe all trees have the ability in that they can acquire mutations in their stem cells, however we believe the mutation must be favourable - in this case the mutation led to resistance against feeding -- to allow an entire branch to develop."

Padovan is now using gene sequencing on an ironbark eucalyptus *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* to see if it has similar mosaic properties.

## AGM AT JULY MEETING.

As usual, all positions on the committee become vacant and elections are held to appoint a new committee for the following year.

While most of the current committee have expressed willingness to stand again, a couple are not seeking re-election, and a couple would be happy to stand down if some-one else wanted a committee position. So ...

Give it some thought. If you have some skills that we could use, or just an interest in making our club better, we could use you on the APS Geelong Committee.