



AUSTRALIAN  
PLANTS SOCIETY  
— Geelong —

# Correa Mail

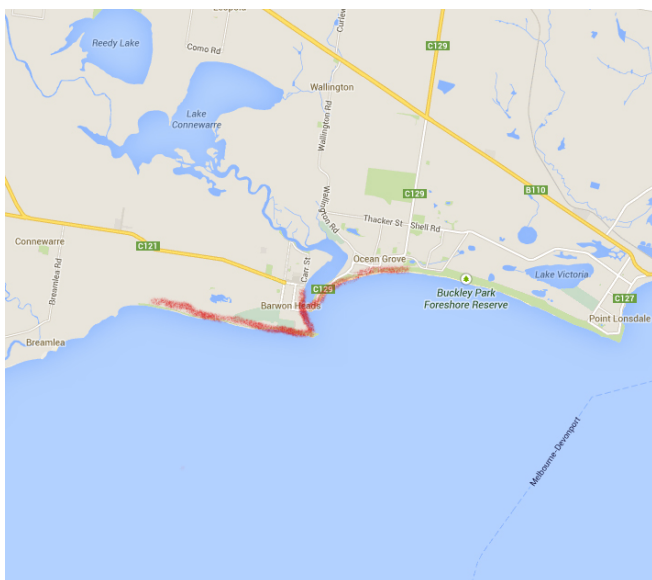
Newsletter No. 300 – September 2014

## AUGUST MEETING

Brett Deihm

Brett is a Team Leader in Natural Resource Management with The Barwon Coast Management Committee, one of the many bodies which is charged with care of the Barwon coast. We were especially grateful to Brett for coming to speak to us as we suffered a serious head trauma just six weeks previously.

Barwon Coast is a combined foreshore management body who shares responsibility with a startling number of other groups. They look after the Crown Land of Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads, from Collendina, around to Black Rock; the City of Greater Geelong – Buckley Park, Pt. Lonsdale and Breamlea; Barwon Water - Black Rock; and Great Ocean Road Committee looks after Torquay and beyond. Parks Victoria has little bits here and there throughout the area.



The area shown in red is Barwon Coast responsibility

No tax-payer revenue is received by Barwon Coast. Rather, they are funded by revenue from the caravan and camp-grounds in the area. The group is divided

into three: Natural Resource Management, Caravan Parks care and maintenance, and Visitor services and infrastructure.

Brett's talk concerned mainly the orchids found in the area, and his work in cultivating and returning endangered orchids to their natural environment. He started a rundown on the three major Environmental Vegetation Communities, or EVCs, which dominate the Barwon coast. EVC 858 is Alkaline Scrub, formerly known as Moonah Woodland, which is a stabilised dune system (normally the secondary or rear dune) with high levels of organic litter. EVC 1 is Coastal Dune Scrub or Coastal Grassland Mosaic which is characterised as a dynamic dune system, gaining and waning with the winds. It is an area of high plant recruitment and many 'pioneer' plants – including invasive weeds. It is a barrier protecting the inland communities. ECV 161 is Coastal Heathland Scrub – areas of Limestone outcrops and calcareous sands, of which Barwon Heads Bluff is an example. The plant communities are very stable and, exposed to the elements, they are areas of low plant recruitment.

There are seven species of orchids so far described in the area for which Brett has responsibility. None are rare or endangered in the wider landscape. But in the dunes and coastal scrub all are uncommon and three are listed as rare.

The Slaty Helmet-Orchid, *Corybas incurvus*, grows in extensive colonies in most habitats. A small but thriving colony exists on the Barwon Heads golf Club grounds.

*Pterostylis pedunculata*, the Maroonhood, is rare, and only a few plants have been found. This is one that Brett is cultivating, (from plants rescued from a development area), and returning to the dunes.

*Microtis arenaria*, the Sand Leek-orchid or Notched Onion-orchid is rare in the area and is again being rescued from development in the 13<sup>th</sup> Beach area' and reinstated by Brett's team.

The Robust Gnat-orchid, *Cyrtostylis robusta*, is superficially similar to the very common Gnat Orchid,

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*C. reniformis*. It is found in just one location in a hidden swale in the dunes. Unfortunately, this area is a well-used 'secret' party area for the young summer tourists, so Brett is concerned for its long-term survival.

*Caladina pusilla* or Tiny Caladenia has been recently discovered by Brett's team, but has not been seen in flower as yet.

*Thelymitra pauciflora*, the slender sun-orchid was not discovered in the area until a careless cigarette butt started a fire near Collendina Caravan Park and the orchid was found in good numbers in the exposed areas.

*Caladenia latifolia* or Pink Fairies is the most common, found reasonably widely in the swales, or valleys between the primary and secondary dunes, where most organic litter accumulates.



***Caladenia latifolia* – Pink Fairies**

These orchids are mostly associated with plant 'allies' in the coastal areas, and are almost always found with *Leptospermum laevigatum*, the Coastal Tea-tree and *Leucopogon parviflorus*, the Coastal Beard-Heath.

The orchid colonies and numbers are monitored, as are all of the plant communities under Barwon Coast management. Orchids are being cultivated and relocated into suitable, safe areas to ensure the ongoing viability.

So, by protecting the coastal dune plant communities, Barwon Coast is helping to protect the rare and endangered native orchids.

## ON THE TABLE

with Matt Baars

Considering it is still winter, the plant table was groaning under the weight of this month's specimens. Again, the Acacias were conspicuous, and *Acacia imbricata* was chosen as plant of the month. *A. boormanii* is a fine specimen which occurs along the Snowy River. Its fine foliage and delicate pale lemon flowers make it an asset in any garden. The Australian floral emblem, *A. pycnantha* is an attractive tree, but a little large for the average suburban garden. An very interesting specimen is *A. pravissima*. It is a tall shrub, or small tree with triangular phyllodes and pale yellow flowers. The sandpaper wattle, *A. denticulosa*, has large, rough phyllodes which when mature give plant its common name.



***Acacia pravissima***

Hakeas were also prominent and variable. While *H. bucculenta*, *H. mutlilineata* and *H. francissiana* are all superficially similar with longish, narrow leaves and large, upright reddish flowers, the Frog Hakea, *H. nitida*, has whitish flowers which grow close to the stems. Its common name comes from the seed pods which resemble a frog (if you take hallucinatory drugs). *H. macreana* is a large tree, quite spiky, as are many hakeas, and bearing tiny white flowers.

A genus not common in gardens is *Hovea*. *Hovea lanceolatum* grows in rocky areas, often along creeks, and is quite common in the Grampians. It is a very



showy shrub with shiny green leaves and rich purple pea-flowers in late winter and spring.



***Hovea lanceolatum* – Photo M. Fagg**

A couple of unusual Eucalypts (or more properly one Euc. and one Corymbia) are worth a mention. There was an example of *E. caesia*, allegedly ‘Silver Princess’ which had large, very pale salmon flowers. The *Corymbia ficifolia* had startling, pure, white flowers. Roger told us a most amusing tale of discovering this plant, which our legal department has strongly urged me not to publish ☺

Grevilleas, as usual, were well represented. *Grevillea ‘Caloundra Gem*, is a large shrub to 3m with lovely pink and red upright flowers. *G. Peaches’n’Cream* is an old favourite, and a very showy plant, ideal for smaller gardens growing to just 1.5 metres. *G. flexuosa* is a large spreading shrub with sharp, holly-like leaves and masses of lemon-yellow, cylindrical flowers in late winter and spring. *G. zygoloba ‘Pink’* is a medium shrub with white and pink, heavily scented flowers. *G. paradoxa* is a very prickly plant of the Western Australian sand-belt. It is an upright, open shrub with terminal pink/red flowers. And among the single genera present was a Rulingea, a Philotheca, a Darwinia, a Dodonea, A Phebalium, and a couple of Bankias. A fabulous and varied table. Can’t wait for spring!

#### **PLANT OF THE MONTH**

#### ***Acacia imbricata***

Penny Foster won the raffle and was cunningly guided to choose *Acacia imbricata*. It is a largish shrub endemic to South Australia, first described by Ferdinand von Mueller from material collected at Tumby Bay.

Our specimen was brought in by Geoff Wilson. Geoff writes ....

My *Acacia imbricata* is 6 years old and 2m high by 3m wide. The flowers are spread along about 120cm of the branches. Each year I cut it back twice by about 20% as it keeps growing over our path. We are in a very windy spot with strong south-westerlies. In the

first few years it was severely damaged by the wind several times with branches broken off at the base. Each time it survived after I staked up the remaining branches and tarred the wounds, so it is very tough. We have it growing in full sun.



***Acacia imbricata*, from Geoff’s garden**

#### **FIELD TRIP – OCEAN GROVE / BARWON HEADS**

**Led by Brett Deihm**

Eight hardy souls, (who had lain awake all night, listening to thunder and a torrential down-pour), braved a cold morning and brisk breeze to join Brett at the car-park behind Collendina Beach. After a brief outline of the mornings’ activities, he led us off to show us some of the ‘off-the track’ plants in the immediate area.

The scrub looks, superficially, like a mass of tea-tree and acacia, but once you look closer there are many and varied species to be seen.



***Senecio sp.* – Found in open areas atop the dunes.**

Many of the Coastal Wattles, *A. Longifolia ssp sophorae*, which were in full and magnificent bloom, carried paler yellow robes of Small-leaf Clematis, *Clematis microphylla*. Other taller shrubs, like Coast Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and Coast Beard-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), form a closed scrub with Seaberry Saltbush (*Rhagodia candolleana*) and Bower Spinach (*Tetragonia implexicoma*) the dominant understorey species.

Coast Daisy-bush (*Olearia axillaris*), Coast Bonefruit (*Threlkeldia diffusa*), Coast Sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma gladiatum*), Small-flower Flax-lily (*Dianella brevicaulis*) are also present in good numbers.

Here are also a number of interesting and uncommon species to be found.

Among these was the Shiny Bog-rush, *Schoenus nitens*, a tiny perennial grass-like herb which looks like the Common Bog-rush, *Schoenus apogon*, but in miniature. It would be very easily overlooked, and may be more common than is thought. Another interesting and beautiful plant, is the Coastal Swainson Pea, *Swainsonia lessertiifolia*, a sprawling shrub confined to coastal dune systems, with rich purple pea-flowers.



***Swainsonia lessertiifolia* – Coastal Swainson Pea**

Brett walked us off the track and through the dunes into a remarkably diverse plant community. Weeds are a problem and are being slowly dealt with by a gang of ‘volunteers’. *Polygala myrtifolia*, a pioneering garden escapee, originally from southern Africa is of major concern. It is very vigorous and invasive, and is being dealt with by cutting back and poisoning. A slow, but proven method. Bridal veil creeper is also a problem, but is being dealt with by biological means. A fungal ‘rust’ disease is sprayed over the area by helicopter, and while it doesn’t kill the plant it greatly

reduces its vigour, allowing indigenous species to out-compete it. Another interesting weed is Acacia Cyclops, which was intentionally introduced to stabilize the dunes, and is now being removed by hand. Sea wheatgrass and Marram grass were also introduced to assist with stabilization, but have been fundamental in changing to nature of the dunes, and so, are being removed and replaced with indigenous grasses.

Brett then took us to look at the areas where four of the six species of orchids can be found in the dunes. *Caladenia latifolia*, Pink Fairies is reasonably widespread and common in the swales between the dunes, but *Cyrtistylus robusta*, the Large Gnat-orchid and *Microtis arenaria*, the Sand Leek-orchid or Notched Onion Orchid, are very uncommon and are being cultivated and re-introduced to degraded areas. *Caladenia pusilla*, *Pterostylis pauciflora* and *Corybas incurvus* are also found in the area.



***Microtis arenaria* – Sand Leek-orchid**

After a BBQ lunch while sheltering from a passing shower, we moved to the Barwon Heads Bluff, where we followed the base of the bluff examining the plants which inhabit this harshest of coastal environments.

Brett’s deep knowledge of the plant communities and their biology ensured that all our myriad questions were answered. I think he may have been surprised at how much interest we showed in the area, how much knowledge of plants our group had, and just how many questions we asked. His enthusiasm for his little patch was evident and quite



contagious, making for a very enjoyable and informative outing for us all.



Gather 'round young'uns, Uncle Matt has a story.

Although this genus is in the mulberry family, its flower and fruiting stages differ from the others in the group. There are about 45 species found in Australia and they come in many different forms. The fruit, or figs, are eaten by birds and mammals.

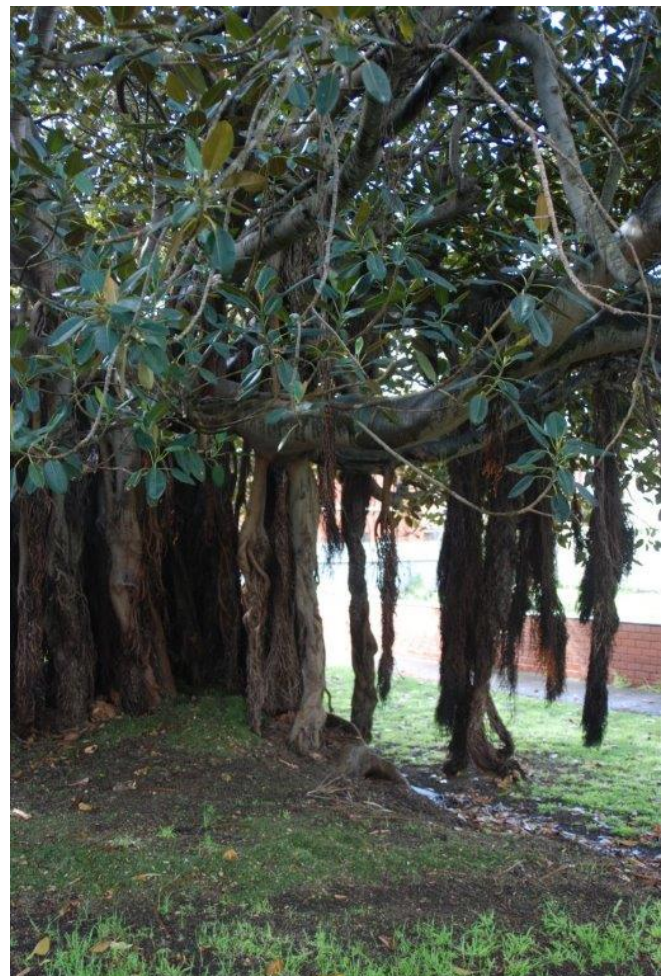


I should have paid more attention to detail as this particular tree is *Ficus macrophylla* ssp *columnaris* an endemic to Lord Howe Island in the South Pacific ocean. It is similar to the well-known Moreton Bay Fig but has column like aerial roots, many thick trunks and somewhat smaller leaves.

#### A FAVOURITE TREE

Roger Wileman

This spectacular tree is growing in Learmonth St, Queenscliff. It is a very old tree growing in the nature strip, which I have admired for many years, infact decades. I have always thought it to be *Ficus macrophylla* from the east coast of Australia. *F. macrophylla* can grow into enormous proportions, with some ancient specimens reaching 40m wide and 30m high with a massive buttressed trunk.





They can grow 20 metres high and can cover up two hectares with many trunks. The mature size of these trees would prevent most people from planting one in the garden. However, some of the smaller *Ficus* species that are very rarely grown would be an asset to any garden.

## FAT-TAILED DUNNART

by Liz Wells

I know this beautiful little Fat tailed Dunnart, *Sminthopsis audata*, which I found recently, is not a native plant but I feel it is part of my native garden. I have planted and watched the garden grow into a haven for birds, insects, frogs and now a mammal. This little dunnart is by no means the rarest or most restricted mammal in Australia but to me it is special because it appeared on my property. I found it, dead unfortunately, in one of my post holes. It was a male and appeared to be in good condition, with no signs of injury. My knowledge of this beautiful little animal is nil ... the information here is from my iPad.

Dunnarts are in the family *Dasyuridae*, the same family as the Tasmanian Devil. There are 19 species in Australia. Dunnarts are senelparous which means that an individual will only live long enough to breed once in a life time. This breeding occurs in winter ( August, September) at a time when there is little food available. The males strip their bodies of vital energy, and so an individual male trades long term survival in return for short term breeding success.



Fat-tailed dunnart – *Sminthopsis audata*

Following the breeding season there is a complete die – off of the physiologically exhausted males. Breeding is intensively competitive ... males produce large amounts of testosterone and mate guarding occurs in the form of protracted copulation for up to twelve hours. The females can store sperm for up to

three days in specialized sperm storage crypts in the ovary and do not ovulate until the end of the breeding season. Many litters have multiple paternity.

Females may live two to three years, however this is unusual. Most females die following the weaning of their first litter. Litter size is determined by the number of teats in the pouch. This may be as few as four; usually eight and in some populations, ten. The number of teats may be governed by the amount of food available.

Females give birth a mere thirteen days after conception to tiny young. They are about one eighth of the size of a new born mouse. The young suckle for around sixty five days moving from the pouch to the mothers back once they grow too large to fit the pouch.

## UP-COMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

16<sup>th</sup> September

Our speaker in September is Brad Ferrier. Brad is a landscape architect who works extensively with natives.

### PRE-MEETING DINNERS

Some of the members meet at the Dragon's Bistro, just across the footy oval from the Ballroom, for dinner before our monthly meetings. Meals are good and cheap – just \$10 or \$12 – and drinks are very reasonably priced. If you would like to come and join us pre-meeting, please phone Denise Cromer, by Sunday night, to confirm your attendance. Then, she can let management know how many seats we'll need. Denise's mobile number is 0417117460.

### GARDEN VISIT – Indented Head / Drysdale

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October will see those of us not attending the FJC Rogers seminar visiting some gardens in Indented Head and Drysdale. We will meet at Indented Head for morning tea at 9.30, then travel to a group of four predominantly native gardens in Glenrana Drive. A couple of hours here, then we'll move to Drysdale for lunch and a wander around 'Red Gums' in Drakes Road. An impressive stand of remnant red gums was the inspiration for designer Sam Cox in this beautiful Australian plant garden. Extensive rock work, large naturalistic water features and grassed areas complement a wonderful variety of species including eucalypts, callistemons, acacias, banksias and grevilleas.

The FJC Rogers Seminar is on **18th and 19th October 2014** at the [All Seasons International Conference Centre, 171-183 Mclvor Road, Bendigo](#)

### Brachychitons and Related genera

The *Brachychiton* genus is a member of the *Sterculiaceae* sub-family which includes ....

- *Androclava*
- *Brachychiton*
- *Commersonia*
- *Guichenotia*
- *Keraudrenia*
- *Lasiopetalum*
- *Pterospermum*
- *Sterculia*
- *Thomasia*



These genera contain the plants from which chocolate and cola extract are derived. The name "Sterculiaceae" comes from Sterculius, an ancient Roman god who concerned himself with fertilization.

A number of species of *Brachychiton* are well known in cultivation. The best known is the spectacular Illawarra Flame Tree (*B. acerifolius*) and others widely grown are the Kurrajong (*B. populneus*) and the bottle tree (*B. rupestris*). This seminar is open to all interested persons

### CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP BBQ.

Roger and Sheila have volunteered their house for the break-up this year. **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** is the date, and **5.00 pm** is the time. After input from members, and much discussion at the Committee meeting, it was decided that the club will provide sausages, hamburgers, vegie-burgers and bread. You are asked to bring a salad or desert to share, and your own eating utensils, plates, glasses and chairs. Most importantly, you should bring your own drinks. In a departure from previous years, the club **will not be providing any drinks** except tea and coffee.

We have given you plenty of advanced warning so there is no reason why you can't be there to celebrate the wonderful club we have forged over the years. And besides, there's only 16 Fridays until Christmas!

The dates are set for our Plant Sale in 2015. Put 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April in your diaries now, and be the first to volunteer to help at our major fund-raiser.

Not only will you get the joy that comes from helping out, but we'll even feed those who come along to work. And, as an added bonus, there is a BBQ dinner for the growers, and all those who have worked (or will work) over the weekend. This is on the Saturday night, starting at 5.00 pm.

So don't be shy, we need you all to put your volunteer faces on and join in the fun.

### THE EUCALYPT AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW ?

Trolling the internet is a bit of a habit, and time-waster, for me. A blog entitled 'The 16 Most Amazing Trees InThe World' caught my eye, and introduced me to an immensely interesting tree, *Eucalyptus deglupta* ... The Rainbow Gum.

*Eucalyptus deglupta* is a very tall tree, commonly known as the Rainbow eucalyptus, Mindanao gum, or Rainbow gum. It is the only *Eucalyptus* species found naturally in the Northern Hemisphere. Its natural distribution spans New Britain, New Guinea, Seram, Sulawesi and Mindanao.



The amazing coloured bark of *E. deglupta*



It is one of only four species of *Eucalyptus* that are not endemic to Australia. The other three extra-Australian species are *E. urophylla*, *E. orophila* and *E. wetarensis*, which occur in Timor and adjacent islands.

The unique multi-hued bark is the most distinctive feature of the tree. Patches of outer bark are shed annually at different times, showing a bright green inner bark. This then darkens and matures to give blue, purple, orange and then maroon tones. A search of the internet will show you some startling trunk colours, and lead you, as it did me, to think they have been photo-shopped. Not so!

*Eucalyptus deglupta* is grown widely around the world in tree plantations, mainly for pulpwood used in making paper. It is the dominant species used for pulpwood plantations in the Philippines. It does not produce the aromatic oils that our Australian species do, causing me to wonder about its inclusion in *Eucalyptus*.

*Eucalyptus deglupta* is cultivated as an ornamental tree, for planting in tropical and subtropical climate gardens and parks. Unfortunately for those of us in southern climes, it is not resistant to frosts. It is endangered in parts of its natural range due to loss of habitat and logging for timber and firewood.



**Flowers and buds of *E.deglupta***

#### **WILD ORCHIDS BACK FROM THE BRINK**

**From The Age, 10/8/14 by John Elder**

*Thanks to Margaret Guenzel for the heads up on this fascinating article*

Over the past seven years, Noushka Reiter has brought 30 species of native orchid back from the brink of extinction, including the Audas' spider orchid of which, two years ago, there were only five left flowering in the world. The Bendigo spider orchid was in even more trouble, with only three thought to be

existing in central Victoria. The first five years of her work was experimenting and solving the problem of how to propagate large numbers of the flowering plants in the laboratory - a highly complex business involving lusty wasps, come-hither mycorrhiza fungus (vital for germination) and immaculate timing.

"Orchids are the sexual deviants of the plant kingdom. They also have an unparalleled ability to intertwine with all elements of the environment around them, which is what makes them the most interesting species to study and work with," Dr Reiter says. "But it takes a lot of finesse to manage their sex lives." The grunt work of re-introducing thousands of plants, largely to the west and south-west of Victoria, has been carried out by hundreds of volunteers. "They travel long distances and spend hours on their hands and knees, but thankfully, they seem to love it," Dr Reiter says.



**Dr. Noushka Reiter – Photo: Jason South**

Each species needs to be planted among sympathetic vegetation, where the pollinator (those frisky wasps) is known to flourish, and they need to be planted on permanently protected land. Each plant is tagged, mulched, watered and caged until established. The population is then monitored annually until the breeding cycle is well established.

In recent years, Dr Reiter and her two daughters have been based in the Wimmera, and the laboratory work has occurred at the DEPI complex in Horsham, where thousands of orchids have been propagated over the past 20 months. The move to new digs is partly a result of the program's success and a growing species emergency - where Dr Reiter initially targeted 30 species of orchids for salvation, it is now understood that between 80 and 100 of the 400 species in Victoria require a boost in numbers to avoid winking out.



Read more on The Age website:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/crowdfunding-bid-to-save-victorian-orchids-20140808-1024d3.html#ixzz3A3KEoESi>

## UNUSUAL IDEAS FOR DISPLAYING PLANTS

A couple of months ago Cathy Powers came to our meeting to talk about Australian plants in pots. She showed us a number of interesting ways to display natives in containers. One of the most interesting was in Cathy's own garden, at the foot of the Brisbane Ranges – a huge tree stump, filled and planted with a great Grevillea. A fabulous way to not only use a resource (the stump was from their property) but to add interest, texture and colour to the garden.



**Cathy's tree-stump and Grevillea 'Superb'.**

Our own Roger and Sheila Wileman have come up with an equally interesting and ingenious way to display Roger's pride and joy ... orchids. The west side of the house has been converted, with judicious use of shade-cloth, into an orchid house. It's narrow, the full length of the house, and crowded with orchids. It's tight to navigate and to show people around. So, when the recent renovations were under way, they had a huge, clear-glass window installed in the bathroom, which looks into the orchid house. Roger

moves the best orchids in front of the window, and the effect is stunning. It's like walking into a tropical hot-house. Great ideas for displaying plants.



**Roger and Sheila's fabulous bathroom window.**

## AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME TO CLOSE.

**From the Herald Sun, 2/9/14**

Not-for-profit group Open Gardens Australia will cease operating in 2015 after 27 years opening private gardens for public education across the country, due to plummeting visitor numbers and revenue.

Visiting numbers to the gardens have taken a hit in recent years, believed to be because people have too little money and too much on their plate. Over almost three decades, OGA opened nearly 20,000 gardens and raised more than \$6 million from entry fees, donating to communities, environment and medical research groups and the CFA.

Chief executive Liz White said OGA considered raising the \$8 entry fee for garden openings, but found families were already struggling with financial difficulties. "Things are increasingly hard for households at the moment, there was no capacity to increase the fee," Ms. White said.

We're very proud of the legacy we've left in Australia."

The closure will not affect the 22 garden openings planned across Victoria through until October 12.

***These Gardens will still be open, despite the closure:-***

### **13 and 14 September**

*Pickets Garden*, a new garden. 56 Orchard Drive, Croydon. Harmonious combinations of foliage and flower are the hallmark of this Mediterranean-inspired garden. Spring bulbs, hellebores, magnolias, camellias, azaleas, daphne and clivias. Australian plantings include lilly-pillys, kangaroo paws, hakeas and wattles. Rich perimeter planting of shrubs and trees in a palette of oranges, reds, purples and mauves. 0.1ha (0.25ac) . .

*Sinclair Garden*, also a new garden. 124 McGowans Road, Donvale. The pretty cottage-style front garden gives no hint of the beautiful terraced valley behind, filled with tall eucalypts and exotic trees underplanted with indigenous species. Banksias, waratahs, xanthorrhoeas and other natives are successfully integrated with old roses, maples, weeping birches and a mature magnolia. Stunning views from the deck. 0.4 hectare (1 acre).

*Bev and John Hanson's Garden*, 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte. Parking on road and on site. Sensitively placed rocks around beautiful fern-edged ponds reflect Bev Hanson's work with Ellis Stones. Her knowledge and love of all plants is evident in the rich collection of natives leading to bushland and the separate area of generously planted exotics. Courtyards lead off the house with vistas opening through tunnels of foliage. 0.4ha (1ac).

#### **20 and 21 September.**

*Yallaroo Gardens*, the new home of Bob and Dot O'Neill. 7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South. A wide range of WA leschenaultias in many colours is one highlight of a beautiful young garden filled with flowers. Over 2000 plants flourish in sweeping beds created by a knowledgeable and passionate native plant enthusiast and former Gardening Australia 'Gardener of the Year'. Vegetable gardens, covered orchard. 0.4ha (1ac).

*Alcheringa*, 46 Victoria Ave, Rosanna. The classic 1970s bush-style native garden with stone work by Gordon Ford embraces a house designed by Alistair Knox. A rock waterfall is the central feature and supports a happy frog population. Butterfly-attracting indigenous plants feature among gymea lilies, banksias, croweas, callistemons and paperbarks. Small productive area. 18m x 40m.

*Illyarrie*, 7 Library Rd, Balnarring Beach. Garden is on corner of Hansens Lane. Rare and beautiful Australian plants create year-round interest and a carpet of early spring colour in this elegant garden. Many Western Australian species thrive in the sandy soil, including unusual banksias and grevilleas, and repeat plantings create a cohesive design. Large collection of Australian orchids in flower. 0.1ha (0.25ac).

#### **28 September. 'At home with Phillip Johnson'.**

In 2013 **Phillip Johnson** and his team made history when their design for the Trailfinders Australian Garden, presented by Flemings, was awarded top honours of 'Best in Show' at the Chelsea Flower Show – a feat never before achieved by an Australian team.

You have a unique opportunity to join Phillip on an exclusive tour of his private garden at Olinda. The billabong at the heart of this tranquil haven has been transformed into a stunning natural swimming pool, providing enormous environmental benefits. Phillip will give a lecture as well as a tour of his native and indigenous wonderland, which features water capture and conservation at its core. TICKETS are \$75 including return bus trip and morning/afternoon tea. Morning session 9am–1pm; afternoon session 2pm–6pm. Bus departs Burnley Campus, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond (parking available in Yarra Boulevard). Tickets are strictly limited so bookings are essential. Book online at [www.opengarden.org.au](http://www.opengarden.org.au) or ring 03 5427 1488.

**5<sup>th</sup> October** *Bickleigh Vale Village* – Edna Walling's Masterpiece. Bickleigh Vale Rd and Edna Walling Lane, Mooroolbark.

Bickleigh Vale still remains the finest example of Walling's ability to achieve harmony between buildings and landscape. Eight of these magic gardens will be open: Abbotsley, Badgers Wood, Devon Cottage, Mistover, Sonningfield, The Barn, The Sheilan and Wimborne. \$35 for eight gardens. Not all native at all, but a rare and fascinating insight into what a famous early OZ female landscape designer achieved.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October**

*Debbie's Aussie Garden*, 24 Flowerdale Rd, Glen Iris. Completely redesigned in recent years, this vibrant and healthy garden brims with a rich diversity of Australia plants including many grevilleas. Raised beds feature drought tolerant and foliage plants. Repeat plantings of viminalia, *Eucalyptus perriniana* and adenanthos. Unusual persoonia hybrid. Pond with indigenous plants; dry creek bed. Children's activities and a sausage sizzle.

*Flowerdale Road Native Garden*, 1/29 Flowerdale Rd, Glen Iris. An exquisite small garden jam packed with a great range of native plants chosen for foliage and flower colour. The strong and thoughtful design links the front and back areas, and many pretty pots are successfully woven into the whole. The garden is an inspiring lesson in elegant small space harmony.

\$14 joint entry with Debbie's Aussie Garden and Flowerdale Road Native Garden, or \$8 each garden.

*Fairview Garden*, 7b Fairview Ave, Wheelers Hill. A stunning garden featuring lush repeat plantings in an elegant and serene design, with the native plant area near the stunning gates a lesson in design.