



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

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WELCOME TO 2015

We've had a very interesting summer so far. It's been relatively cool and quite wet, which has encouraged lots of growth in the garden – especially weeds! – and a few of my spring-flowering plants have had a little burst of extra summer flowers. Very unusual.

The year, for me, as editor, has started out extremely well. I've had several contributions of articles already, with short one from Liz Wells appearing in this edition, and a series by Roger Wileman starting next issue. I am very grateful to those who have taken the time to contribute, and look forward to receiving articles from many more of you in future.

Our December Christmas BBQ was a great night. Thanks to all the members who helped with the catering, set-up and clean-up, and a huge THANK YOU to Roger and Sheila for making their home available for us. A great night was had by all.

Now, on to business

February 17th February is always our first gathering for the year and it usually takes the form of a BBQ get-together. This year it will be at the BBQ area on Warralily Blvd, just off the Barwon Heads Rd, Warralily. This will be on the regular meeting night, Tuesday 17th February at 6.00 pm. The club does not cater this at all, so **BYO everything.**

March 17th This is the first 'regular' meeting for the year, and the speaker will be our own Roger Wileman, who will talk to us about his recent trip to Western Australia for the wildflower season. I've seen some of Roger's photos from this trip ... don't miss it!

April 21st Our April meeting will be addressed by some of the members and will take the form of a 'Botany 101' lesson ... explaining a bit of basic

botanical terminology, plant structures and identification tips.

Most of the speakers for the 2015 year have been finalised and we'll bring you a comprehensive list next issue.

KING'S PARK, PERTH.

Ade Foster

Penny and I spent a delightful weekend in Perth during January, ostensibly to attend a birthday party. Really it was an excuse to spend another day at King's Park, which is truly one of the must visit places in Western Australia. While the summer is not the ideal time to visit, and it was really quite hot on the day we were there, it is still a treasure-trove of Australian plants.

We usually visit in late winter, or early spring, when the park is a riot of colour. Even so, several plants really caught my eye on this occasion.

Agonis flexuosa is a common tree in gardens and streets around Geelong. With its weeping habit and masses of white flowers, it is a popular garden plant, even though it grows quite large. There are some huge, gnarled and very old specimens as street trees in Queenscliff. The one at King's Park is a very rare and beautiful variegated form, with white and yellow leaves instead of the green ones we are used to.



***Agonis flexuosa* – Variegated Peppermint**

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Another interesting tree was *Lambertia orbifolia*, the Round-leafed Honeysuckle. It is a large, open shrub, or small tree to about 5 metres. It has bright green rounded leaves and bright red fuschia-like flowers, which may occur in May-August, October-December, or January-February, depending on the conditions.



***Lambertia orbifolia*, Round-leafed Honeysuckle**

Banksia scabrella, the Burma Road Banksia, is a beautiful plant. It is a low spreading shrub, 1.5 metres by 3 metres, with the lower branches often resting on the ground. The leaves are very narrow and the flowers are soft and rounded, yeallow with long purplish styles. It occurs naturally in the sandplains around Geraldton on the WA coast.



***Banksia scabrella* – Burma Road banksia**

Banksia lindleyana, the Porcupine banksia is a new one for me. It is a medium shrub to about 3 metres, with bright yellow flowers. New branches and leaves are coated with a dense mat of orange hairs, which are lost with age.



***B. linleyana* flower, not quite open.**

If you get a chance to visit Perth, be sure to make time for a trip to King's Park. It's just 5 minutes from the city, and is a real gem.

REGELIA VELUTINA

by Liz Wells

On a trip to south west Western Australia last October I had the pleasure of seeing this beautiful plant at Barron's Peak in the Fitzgerald River National Park. It is also known as Barron's Regelia. It is a shrub that grows to about 3 metres high and wide on well drained gravelly soil and rocky outcrops, also on sand plain and in woodland. It is a member of the myrtaceae family.



***Regelia velutina* – Barren's Regelia**

Regelia have small, soft, blue/grey foliage and showy, deep red flowers in the spring. I have had one in the garden for about 4 years which has flowered for the first time this December. My plant is in well drained sandy loam, about 1.2 metres high and wide. It has been tolerant of frost and the moist air in winter and grows in full sun. Prune for cut flowers and to maintain bushiness. It is a bird attracting plant and would go well along a fence line.