



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 336 – April 2018

March Meeting -

Propagating

Our speaker for March was Tony Hughes, a well-known propagator and lecturer in horticulture. Tony did his apprenticeship with John Mahoney and taught at The Gordon for 16 years. He spent a few years in Mildura, but is back at the Gordon now, teaching propagation and plant identification, and does one day a week at Federation University in Ballarat. He has done 'more than 1,000,000' cuttings in his life and is passionate about natives.

Tony says that striking cuttings is the easy part – caring for them until they are ready for planting is the hard part. He works in a large hothouse on the East Geelong campus (formerly East Tech) where a grant has been made to upgrade to computerised heat and watering systems.

The first tip is to take clean, healthy material. Make sure the material has been watered the night before, and has been washed in clean water to remove dirt and fungal spores. Look for caterpillars and other pests and remove them. Take tip/semi hardwood cuttings and look carefully for healthy leaf buds at the start.

Next it is important to match the hormone strength to the cutting type. Tony uses Indolebutyric acid (IBA) which works on 95% of native plants. As an aside, he said that honey doesn't work, but mashed Weeping Willow, *Salix babylonica*, is as good as the powdered stuff he buys, and is a good organic option. Tony uses powder form as it is easier to keep free from contamination. If the rooting hormone is too strong, large callouses appear on the base of the cutting and the plant tends to be sickly.

Matching the leaf area to the size of the stem will help promote root growth. Tip/semi hardwood cuttings have an established vascular system so food is stored, and sufficient meristematic (actively growing) tissue which can be encouraged to grow roots. If there is too much leaf area the cutting cannot supply sufficient water to maintain them and the cutting will die. With some plants the leaves can simply be cut in half, but plants with hairy leaves do not take kindly to this method. In this case reduce the leaves by cutting through the segments.

Choosing the right medium is the next stage. The medium must provide mechanical support for the plant, and provide aeration and water. 4:1 medium Perlite and

peat moss makes a great medium. Use a dust mask when handling perlite and wet it to control dust. The pH should be around 5.5 – 6.

Tony prefers 'squat pots' placed on a shallow tray with geo-cloth to provide water through capillary action. It is important to provide water without wetting the foliage. He suggests watering before midday in winter is essential or the humidity levels over night will be too great and fungal issues will result. Don't feed the cuttings. Feeding encourages leaf growth before the new plant has a sufficient root structure to support it.

Once the cuttings have established roots they need to be potted on. A very gentle tug will show if roots are established. Remove the cuttings from the medium carefully as the roots are very fragile. Tony likes to lay the pot sideways and tip the contents gently along the table. Cuttings without roots can be put back in. About 40% of these will be viable. Don't handle the roots as you will remove the root hairs and cause 'fatal' damage.

A very informative and enjoyable talk was followed by a lively question and answer session.

ON THE TABLE

with Nicole Leach

Nicole walked us through a colourful table which was dominated by Banksias and Grevilleas.

Among the true species Grevilleas was *G. bipinnatifida*, which, in its natural state is a low-growing, sometimes prostrate plant found in and around the Perth district of Western Australia. In cultivation it has a number of varieties and forms and is the parent plant of many of the popular 'Queensland' hybrids. It has deeply lobed, soft looking foliage which is deceptively sharp and orange-red flowers appearing most of the year.

G. paradoxa, a plant of the wheatbelt and sandplains of Western Australia. It is an erect, sometimes spreading shrub with very sharp divided leaves. The flowers are reddish purple and presented in an upright manner of the ends of the branches, giving rise to the common name – Bottlebrush grevillea.

Grevillea sericea is an open shrub to 2m with soft, light green foliage and smallish pink/mauve spider flowers from autumn to spring. It is native to the NSW central coast woodlands and is a popular plant in cultivation, where it appears in many forms and colour variations.



Grevillea paradoxa

The Banksias were a visual treat with flowers ranging from the deep purple 'golf balls' of *B. violacea* to the large orange/brown of *B. grossa*.

Banksia robur, the Swamp Banksia, grows in swampy areas of coastal New South Wales and Queensland from the Illawarra district to about Gladstone. It has very large, bright green, glossy, serrated leaves which may be 40 x 15cm. The flower spikes are equally impressive with the buds a deep blue/green turning more yellow/green as the mature.

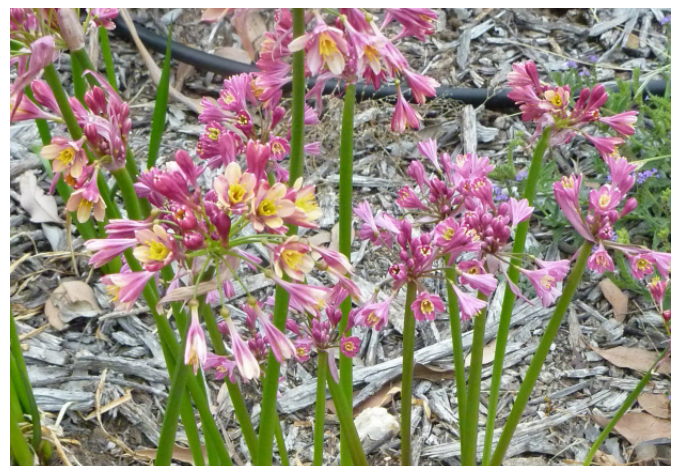
Banksia ericifolia occurs naturally in heath or shrub-woodland vegetation along the central coast of New South Wales inland to the ranges between Collaroy and Jervis Bay. It is said to be the first plant collected by Joseph Banks in 1770. It is a striking plants with large spikes of red/orange flowers contrasting with the light green leaves. It is very attractive to birds and insects alike.

Banksia elderiana is called the Swordfish banksia (rather erroneously, I think). Its leaves are narrow and very long – up to 350mm x 20mm and are deeply toothed, resembling the rostrum of a sawfish, rather than a swordfish. But, what would I know? ☺ The plant is found in the sandy desert areas between Kalgoorlie and Esperance in Western Australia and reaches a height of about 3 metres. The large, bright yellow flower spikes tend to hang down from the tangled branchlets.



***Banksia elderiana* – Photo: Kelley MacDonald**

But there were other plants besides Banksias and Grevilleas. One interesting plant was *Calostemma* from Matt Leach's garden. Known as the garland lily, *Calostemma* are related to Daffodils and Nerines and show a similar habit. There are two species – *C. purpureum* and *C. luteum* – purple/red and yellow flowering respectively. Leaves form from the bulb during winter, and die off during spring. The plant flowers during summer when there are no leaves.



Garland lily - *Calostemma purpureum*

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Grevillea plurijuga

President: Bruce McGinness – brucesm@gmail.com

Secretary: Phil Royce: phil.i.royce@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com

Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net

Australian Plants Society, Geelong: P.O.Box 2012, Geelong . 3220

Website: www.apsgeelong.org

by Matt Leach

Grevillea plurijuga is a spreading dwarf to medium shrub, but my two mature plants are 10 years old that are prostrate 0.5 x 3 metres with the flowering stems another metre past the leaves. The leaves are green, glossy with a purple-red tinge of new growth. Measuring 13 x 3 centimetres, they are divided, stiff and pointed. The flowers are pink to almost a mauve, up to 15 cm long and held upright in a loosely arranged terminal bud. They are seen from late spring right through to mid-autumn.



Grevillea plurijuga is found on sandy soils, open heaths, open shrub mallee, mallee spinifex and tall eucalypt shrubland in the central Eyre and Roe Districts (Point Culver to Cundeelie, Norseman, and Esperance to Southern Cross) of southern Western Australia. There are two forms of *Grevillea plurijuga* with the main form a mounded robust shrub to 1-2m high with many flowers at the base of the plant. This form comes from Ponton Creek, Cundeelie, Kalgoorlie to Mount Ragged. The other form occurs primarily in the south of the species range from near Esperance to Point Culver. It forms a dense low mound sometimes attaining a height of 1 metre but usually prostrate.

In cultivation it is a hardy plant growing well in warm to hot, dry climates or cool to wet climates. It tolerates drought and frosts down to minus -6. I must say I have never seen any frost damage on my plants.

Grevillea plurijuga can be propagated from cuttings that have been taken from young new growth but can be slow to grow roots. It can also be grown from seed, but some treatment of the seed is necessary. Grafting onto *Grevillea robusta* has been very successful especially as a standard ... an impressive sight when fully in flower.

Plants can become leggy in shade but, in full sun, they are more successful and have a better, mounded, bushy habit which looks interesting even when not in flower. In full bloom it is one of the better *Grevilleas*. Birds and insects are strongly attracted to the many flowers



This plant is long lived and is a 'must have' plant for those that have a large area in the garden or large garden in general in the Geelong area. This is a plant that doesn't need to be grafted to grow in your garden. However, it is hard to obtain and maybe your only chance is to buy a grafted plant.

VISITS TO MEMBERS' GARDENS

18th March

About fifteen hardy members risked the gale-force winds and threatening rain for a wander around John and Barb Bell's property near Torquay. It is a mature garden on five acres (2.2Ha) and features mostly Australian plants with a few well established *Proteas*, *Leucospermum* .



John and Barb purchased the property in 1979 at which time it was a cleared paddock with a few seedling

President: Bruce McGinness – brucesm@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com

Australian Plants Society, Geelong: P.O.Box 2012, Geelong . 3220

Secretary: Phil Royce: phil.i.royce@gmail.com

Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net

Website: www.apsgeelong.org

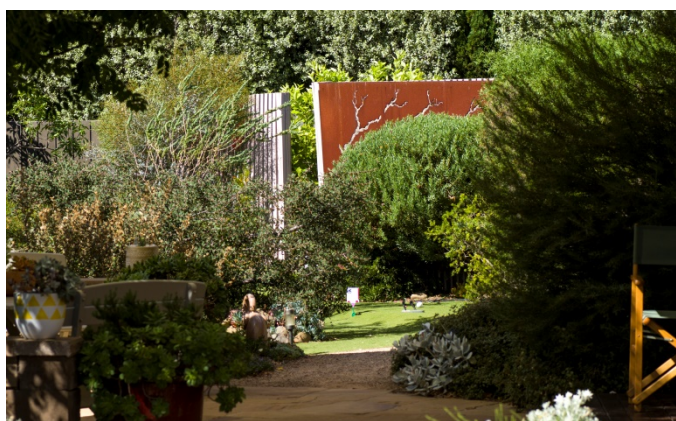
Eucalypts in one corner. Indeed, they cut two hundred bales of grass hay in their first year. They did all the work landscaping and planting.

There is a large variety of plants with, I think, an emphasis on Banksias. The garden has rambling paths and open areas among dense plantings and some really interesting and quirky 'sculptures'. John's favourite plants in the garden are *Banksia speciosa* and *Banksia coccinea*.



After a couple of hours we moved on to Phil and Di Royce's garden in Waurn Ponds – quite a contrast. The block is 785 m², with a substantial house and area set aside for vegie garden, tool sheds etc. Phil and Di purchased the property in 2011 and began the garden once the house was completed.

They have done all the landscaping and planting with the exception of the front 'grassless creek-bed' style which was built by a professional landscaper. The back garden is densely planted with small shrubs and ground-cover with a few taller 'specimen' plants. It even features a small putting green.



The garden showed the benefits of judicious pruning and regular watering, which Phil says is all down to Dianne. Their favourite plant is the much loved Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'.

Afternoon tea was taken under the spacious shaded pergola.

Thanks to John, Barb, Phil and Di for their hospitality and for sharing their wonderful gardens with us. If any other members would like to offer their gardens for future visits, please let one of the committee members know. We'd love to come and visit.



Melaleuca thymifolia in Phil and Di's garden

April Meeting

17th April

At our April meeting, APS Geelong's own Roger and Sheila will share photos and stories of their Western Australian wanderings.

PLANT SALE

21st April

Our big April Plant Sale is on again this year. Once again Arthur and Linda will host the event at their Lovely Banks property, and once again, we'll be asking all members to be in some way.

There are three main tasks on the day which we ask members to volunteer to undertake:-

Gate – taking entry money, offering parking instructions and directing traffic.

Barbeque – cooking and co-ordinating with the kitchen to keep everyone fed

Kitchen – Serving food, snack tea and coffee to patrons, workers and growers.

There are also lots of other things that need doing during the course of the day, so there's plenty for everyone.

We will have a clean-up and preparation on the preceding Sunday 15th April, from 9.00 am, to be sure that everything is ship shape, and a final set-up on Friday 20th April. Some members will be on hand to

President: Bruce McGinness – brucesm@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com

Australian Plants Society, Geelong: P.O.Box 2012, Geelong . 3220

Secretary: Phil Royce: phil.i.royce@gmail.com

Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net

Website: www.apsgeelong.org

assist growers with set-up from midday and any help during the afternoon to get the kitchen and canteen operational would be greatly appreciated.

As usual there will be a BBQ dinner for all the volunteers and growers on the Saturday evening after the sale. It's always a great night and a good way to wrap up the day and thank our growers for their support. The club supplies meat for the BBQ and drinks. Please bring a salad or dessert to share, and your own drinks if your tastes are exotic.

Plant Sale Display Table

Matt and Nicole will be manning (and womaning?) the display table during the day, and any flowers from your garden would be gratefully received. This table is a great way for the public to see what natives can offer their garden, and to see what the plant they have just bought might produce. It creates a great deal of interest and often sends a buyer off on a quest to find a particular plant. Please bring your contributions along as early as you can.

ACACIA PAPYROCARPA

Western Myall
By Bruce McGinness

On a visit to Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in August last year I came across the symbol of the ARBG; the Western Myall. I was intrigued by their twisted shape and great age; thankfully I also came across an information panel describing the Western Myall which I have brazenly plagiarised for this article



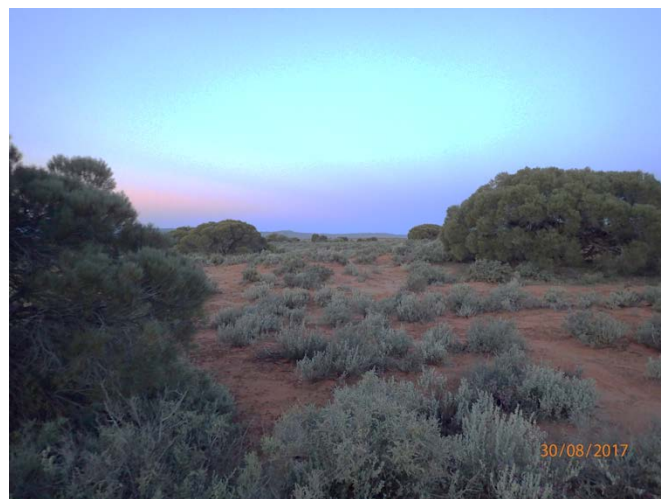
Some of the Western Myall at ALBG are believed to be more than 600 years old and are found only in arid saltbush and bluebush country, it is a long-lived and distinctive tree in these landscapes. An exceptionally

long tap root helps the Myall reach the water table deep in the earth an adaption favoured by many arid zone plants in their quest for water.

It relies on seed alone for reproduction and germination is triggered by exceptional late summer rainfall, widespread reproduction may only occur four or five times a century. With land clearance and concentrated grazing by rabbits, sheep and kangaroos, seedling growth has been suppressed for much of the twentieth century.

An interesting feature of the western Myall is that its flowers do not produce nectar.

What struck me was how uniformly spaced the trees were in their environment, I don't know why this is so and may be worth a follow-up question to the gardens; or somebody reading this may wish to enlighten us in a future article.



LOMATIAS

Ade Foster

A few years back I was wandering the Anglesea bush with Frank Scheelings hunting orchids, as was our wont in those distant days. We were walking along a stony ridge off Harrison's Track looking for Flying Duck orchids. The area had burned the previous summer, and the tiny orchids were in abundance.

Then I spotted a plant which was new to me. Admittedly, in those days, just about everything was new to me. It was rather spindly and upright with yellow-green, heavily veined, sharply-toothed, holly-like leaves. There was a raceme of creamy white, spidery flowers. Frank had earlier shown me the endemic Anglesea grevillea, *G. infecunda*, and I thought I had found a white-flowering form. I was excited and called Frank to point it out to him.

Frank told me (crushed me, really) that it was not a rare and undescribed grevillea but a Lomatia – *Lomatia*

President: Bruce McGinness – brucesm@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com

Australian Plants Society, Geelong: P.O.Box 2012, Geelong . 3220

Secretary: Phil Royce: phil.i.royce@gmail.com

Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net

Website: www.apsgeelong.org

ilicifolia. I don't think he had seen it in flower previously and we both took some photos. Mine were rubbish, and when I found them on my old hard-drive last night, I was prompted to search the 'net for a decent one and a little information about *Lomatias*.



***L.ilicifolia* after fire – Photo by Melburnian**

Lomatia is a pacific-rim genus, with twelve species found on the east coast of the Australian mainland, Tasmania, and mountain areas of western South America. There are nine species in Australia – *L. arborescens*, *fraseri*, *fraxinifolia*, *ilicifolia*, *myricoides*, and *siaifolia* are mainland species with *L. polymorpha*, *tasmanica* and *tinctoria* confined to Tasmania. *L. dentata*, *ferruginea* and *hirsuta* are found in Chile, Argentina and Peru.

They can occur as shrubs like *L ilicifolia* or *L. myricoides* or as small trees of 7 – 10 metres like *L. polymorpha* or *L. arborescens*. All have creamy-white flowers of varying depth, with the exception of *L. tasmanica*, found in a very remote part of south-western Tasmania which has deep crimson flowers.



***Lomatia tasmanica* – Photo Royal Tasmanian BG**

It would seem that *Lomatias* will grow quite readily from seed or cuttings. But, they are slow growing and flower infrequently, and as such don't seem to be common in cultivation.



***Lomatia ilicifolia* - Photo by zassle**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/zassle/31247671061/>

FUTURE MEETINGS

17th April **Western Australian Wanderings**
 Roger and Sheila will talk to us about some of their Western Australian trips. As you all know, Roger has a knack of finding rare and unusual plants and presents them in a very entertaining way, backed with some amazing photos. Roger's enthusiasm is such that this talk will be over two nights .. part 2 coming in June.

15th May	Chris Long
19th June	Roger and Sheila Part ii
17th July	AGM

CALLING ALL KEEN PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk are conducting an amateur photo competition along the walk. The competition is open to all ages and abilities. There are four categories into which you can submit your photos:

- Flowers and plants
- Wild animals, including insects, reptiles and birds
- The scenery along the Kevin Hoffman Walk
- People, pets and activities along the walk

Please note that you must have the person/people's permission to submit the photograph for the competition.

You must also be able to verify where on the walk your photo(s) were taken, so take a wider shot where you took that macro, just to show us the location. This won't count in your photo allocation.

Submit only digital photos (no watermarks or sneaky photoshopping), over 800kb in size. There is a maximum of 4 photos per person that can be submitted over all categories. Email us at ...

friendsofkevinhoffmanwalk@outlook.com

for an entry form, then submit your photos and completed form to the same address.

The 12 winning photos, as voted by the Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk committee, will be printed in a 2019 Kevin Hoffman Walk fundraiser calendar. The calendar will be available to purchase later this year. Entries close on July 8th, which gives you plenty of time. So, happy snapping down at the walk!



This is a purely gratuitous photo of the magnificent Waratah - *Telopea speciosissima*, taken by Matt Leach. I have included it here for the very good reason that I needed to fill this space. Thanks Matt!

FROM APS GRAMPIANS

A reminder of the up-coming FJC Rogers Seminar in October on the Goodeniaceae. Hosted by Wimmera Growers OF Australian Plants and APS Grampians, it is presented in and around Horsham. There are presentations, by experts, on how to identify, propagate and grow this diverse group in your garden.

More information can be had on the seminar's website

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar>



Australian Plants Society Victoria Inc.
Sat 20 & Sun 21 October 2018



Hosted by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Inc.
& Australian Plants Society Grampians Inc.

For expressions of interest email:
fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar/>



President: Bruce McGinness – brucesm@gmail.com Secretary: Phil Royce: phil.i.royce@gmail.com
Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net
Australian Plants Society, Geelong: P.O.Box 2012, Geelong . 3220 Website: www.apsgeelong.org