



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 338 – June 2018

GARDEN DIVERSITY

Chris Long

Our speaker for the May meeting was Chris Long, the President of APS Victoria, who spoke to us about diversity of gardens and gardeners. His basic tenet is that all gardens are good, and all gardeners benefit from their gardens.

Chris has done a bit of travelling and began by showing us some 'Grand' gardens from around the world. The Cranbourne Botanic Gardens is a great place to enjoy Australian plants in a controlled and contrived manner, and the 'Red Earth' garden is a good example of a grand garden design. Botanic gardens in Melbourne and Ballarat are wonderful gardens in the European Style. The formal gardens at Hampton Court Palace are a spectacular example of this style.



Hampton Palace Gardens during the Flower Show

They were lucky enough to have a family member living within walking distance of Kew Gardens, and so spent many hours wandering through and enjoying the open parklands and formal plantings. They also attended the Chelsea Flower Show which was a life-long ambition, and Chris was taken by a 'floral' display of vegetables arranged to look like flowers.

Sconbrunn Palace Gardens in Vienna were created in about 1780 and have been open to the public since. They are another example of the lavish, but highly regimented gardens which were typical of the royalty and landed gentry of the time. The gardens at Versailles are very controlled with intricately patterned lawns and trees and shrubs in planters. Most of the pots need to be wheeled indoors for the winter and wheeled

out again in the spring – a major undertaking. There are long avenues of clipped trees creating an impression of immense size.



Versailles Palace Gardens.

Chris then told us an amazing story of the health benefits of gardening. A Norwegian nurseryman, Aasmund Bryn, was in poor health and given a few years to live. He moved to the island of Sør-Hidle 30 minutes off the coast at Stavanger to live out his days. He had a little holiday hut on the island, at the northern tip where weather conditions were such that nothing would grow.

He planted a windbreak and put in a few plants and gradually developed a garden. As his garden grew so his health improved and he was able to build an amazing, almost tropical garden and lived for ten years longer than expected.



Flor og Fjaere Gardens

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The gardens are now open to the public and feature a restaurant, nursery and guided tours. They have the northern most palm garden in the world, an arid garden which features Eucalypts, and they propagate and plant 150,000 bedding plants each year.

Chris then took us from the majesty of these grand gardens to his own garden in suburban Seaford close to the shores of Port Phillip. The garden is on grey sand, which is hydrophobic and presents a challenge for plant selection. Chris believes that every garden has a story and perhaps every plant has a story. He gave us a few of those stories relevant to his own garden.

Chris has 'reclaimed' the nature strip in front of his home and has planted it with lomandras, poas and a bit of 'colour' in the centre. Like your editor, Chris didn't seek council permission for the make-over, and so far, has had no come-back.

The front garden is small and features a large yellow kangaroo paw- *Anigozanthos flavidus*, a dwarf Woolly-bush - *Adenanthos sericeus*, Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty', Waxflower - *Philotheca myoporoides*, *Thryptomene saxiola* and others.



A. flavidus

The back garden is a mix of natives, exotics, fruit trees and lawn. Chris is not a militant 'natives only' gardener, and enjoys all plants, though he has a soft spot for the Australian natives. As with all gardens it is an ever-changing entity, and the loss of a tree to the strong winds gives space for three new plants. As Chris says "Every loss is an opportunity."

Banksias should grow well at Seaford as there are many indigenous Banksias in the area, but Chris has struggled with them. Chris was given a *Banksia ericifolia*

'Orange Glow' and put it in with little hope of success, but last year it produced thirteen flowers. Persistence pays.

Chris has an interesting attitude to some plants like Flannel flowers - *Actinotus*, or *Geleznovia* – and other grafted plants. They are expensive, but so is a bunch of flowers. A grafted plant may last two or three years, and that amounts to more enjoyment than he would get from a bunch of flowers for the same cost. The *Geleznovia* met an even more interesting end when it was pinched from the front garden.

Eremophilas are a group which does well in the sand at Seaford. *Eremophila calorhabdos* is an unusual shrub with masses of deep pink flowers in spikes on the upright stems. *Eremophila glabra* 'Kalbarri Carpet' is a great groundcover, spreading up to 5m with small orange/yellow flowers, a great favourite with honeyeaters. *Eremophila* 'Beryl's Blue' and *Eremophila glabra* 'Shark's Bay' are two other great plants in Chris's garden.



Eremophila calorhabdos

And sometimes mistakes turn out for the best. Chris remembers climbing the Kurrajong trees at his grandmother's place when he was a kid. He bought a *Brachychiton* from a nursery and planted it but it turned out to be the wrong species. Annoyed, he pulled it out and was going to compost it, but had a change of heart. He put it back in the ground in a different spot, and it grew beautifully. Now five metres tall it is the dominant tree in the garden ... and he likes it.

Chris showed us some more wonderful photos of the plants in his garden, and then took us on a pictorial tour of some of the diverse gardens in his neighbourhood.

The newer houses all seem to have a latest fashion with rock beds and strap-leaf plants. The older houses featured lawns and neat garden beds with roses and the like. Some had interesting sculptures and feature trees and one was assiduously weeded to maintain a bare sand yard with not a blade of grass or plant in sight, both front and back.

Chris's point is that all gardens are good, regardless of the personal tastes of the observer. Diversity is good for the planet, for the garden and for the gardener.

ON THE TABLE

with Matt Leach

Matt took us through a colourful table with emphasis on the more unusual plants, or those which aroused the interest of our members.

Grevillea priessii 'Seaspray' is a low, dense bush with grey-green foliage and masses of red-orange to deep red flowers, mostly from May to September. As its name suggests, it is a salt tolerant plant and hardy in coastal situations.



Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' – Photo: Brian Walters.

Hakea petiolaris is a shrub or small tree with spherical flowers similar to the well-known *H. laurina* – the Pin-Cushion Hakea. *Hakea myrtoides* is a small shrub to 500mm with a wonderful floral display in various shades of pink in the winter months. These two are the parents of a very popular garden plant – *Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty'.

Eremophila mackinlayi commonly known as desert pride, is a small, sometimes spreading, sometimes erect shrub with branches and leaves covered with a thick layer of greyish hairs. It bears masses of deep lilac-coloured to purple flowers.

There were several *Thryptomenes* in varying shades of mauve and some discussion was had as to their species. It was decided that there was most likely *T. beackiaceae* and *T. stenophylla*.

A prostrate acacia was of particular interest – *Acacia alata*. This came from the garden of Carmel Addlem, and is a prostrate shrub with flattened phyllodes (called cladodes) which resemble winged stems, hence the common name 'Winged Wattle'. It is native to Western Australia and is found in the coastal plains and hills from Geraldton to Albany.



Acacia alata – Photo: World of Flowering Plants

PLANT OF THE MONTH - *Templetonia retusa*

Templetonia retusa or Cocky's Tongues is a shrub which grows on coastal cliffs and hillsides from around Carnarvon in Western Australia to Kangaroo Island in South Australia. It grows to 2 metres in height often with an upright habit, but may be a more sprawling shrub in some places. The leaves are grey/green with a blunt, indented tip. The 'typical' pea-flowers are large and deep red but orange/red, white and yellow flowering plants have been seen. They flower mostly in winter to spring and have a reasonably long flowering period.

Templetonia retusa is a tough plant well suited to Geelong's climate, and has been in cultivation for many years. It requires well drained soils in full sun or part shade and will tolerate a light to moderate frost.



Propagation can be from seed once the seed has been treated by either abrasion or by the use of boiling

water. It grows readily from cuttings. Our specimen was brought along by Julie Oataway who writes ...

My Cocky's Tongue bush is 10 years old growing 2m x 2m on the side of a dam bank - clay soil with sand overlay. It gets no extra water and flowers in Autumn for about a month. I thought it was on grafted stock but on closer inspection it's on its own root stock. I have seen great bushes of it in flower in WA. It is lovely to see. It seems to be always on slopes so it must need good drainage as mine has.



FUTURE MEETINGS

19th June	Roger and Sheila Western Australian Wanderings Part ii
17th July	AGM and Photo Competition
21st August	Frank and Tina Scheelings will tell us about their recent trips.
18th September	T.B.A
16th October	Cathy Powers – Moths
20th November	Tony Cavanagh - Dryandras

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **17th July, 2018**

Our annual general meeting will be held at 7.30 on 17th July, 2018 at the Ballroom, Calvert Street, Hamlyn Heights. All committee positions will be declared vacant, and elections will be held to appoint a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and general committee members. Nominations can be sent to our current Secretary at phil.i.royce@gmail.com or nominations will be accepted from the floor on the night.

The business of the AGM will be:

- confirm the minutes of the previous AGM,
- receive & consider the annual reports of the President and Treasurer,
- conduct the election of the next committee,
- vote on any special resolutions proposed by members and received in accordance with our Rules of Incorporation (note that the Committee has no plans to present any).

You must be a current financial member to stand for a position on the committee, or to vote at the AGM. A membership form is included with this newsletter so that you can be a financial member on the date of the AGM and have your say.

There are three ways for you to pay....

1. Fill in the form and mail it to: The Secretary, APS Geelong, P.O. Box 2012, Geelong, along with your cheque made out to 'APS Geelong'
2. Pay our Treasurer directly at the next meeting, or the AGM prior to commencement, but please have your completed membership form with you for our records.
3. You may pay online - bank details are on the bottom of the form. If you choose this method, please put your name in the transaction details, email the treasurer to confirm that you have paid - ftscheelings@gmail.com - and mail or give your completed membership form to the secretary.

If you are eligible to vote but can't attend on the 17th July, you may appoint a Proxy to vote on your behalf. Contact the Secretary to get copy of the Proxy form if required.

PHOTO COMPETITION

After the AGM we will have our annual photo competition. There are a few updated rules for this year, so please take note ...

- * Once again, there will be three categories: Australian Plants, Australian Animals, & Australian Landscapes
- * Photo format - colour or black & white, 5"x7" size only
- * All photos must be taken in Australia
- * This year, to keep it manageable, there is a cap on entries: 2 photos per person per category
- * Voting is one vote per person per category
- * Prizes of wine or chocolates will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category.

Always good fun, so get your photos ready ☺



A previous winner – *Eucalyptus synandra*. Photo by Tina Scheelings taken at Melton Botanic Gardens.

PETER FRANCIS POINTS ARBORETUM OPEN DAY

By Phil & Di Royce

On 5 May at 7.45am we took off for Coleraine to participate in the Peter Francis Points Arboretum Open Day. APS Geelong had recently renewed its membership of the Arboretum, which is consistent with one of our Purposes: To encourage and facilitate the conservation and study of Australian plants and their habitats.

The site is 32km past Hamilton and once in Coleraine is well signposted. Fortunately the weather was fine and we arrived at 10.55, just before the 11.00am kick-off. It had been a good drive, included a morning tea, and did not feature some of the 'discussions' we had had about route selection that occurred on some previous garden/plant sale visits.

Peter Francis Points Arboretum is situated on top of a hill on the edge of Coleraine and provides a great view of the town & valley that surrounds it. Peter Francis, Shire engineer Joe Wright, visionary Mary Hope, and a group of volunteers commenced creating the Arboretum in 1966 on 37 hectares of a disused and abandoned quarry that contained just one surviving tree.



And what a transformation has been achieved. Our photos don't do it justice. There are in excess of 10,000 recorded plants sourced from around Australia, including a broad range of Eucalypts. A visual treat is that the plants are scattered in natural groupings not straight lines. The hard work was rewarded in 1994 when the Points Arboretum was officially reserved as a native plant arboretum. It is now used for botanical research and educational purposes plus community recreation with the support of Parks Victoria.



There are three self-guided posted walks through the grounds starting from the same spot (the new Information Shelter). We walked along two, lead by a long-term volunteer Ray Clay and botanist/author Neville Bonney, as part of the Open Day activities. During the walks, we saw the effects of a very severe storm that occurred in March this year - 80 mature trees had either been blown over or had branches stripped!



In addition to the walks, were presentations by Rob Beulke (topic - Bonsai of Eucalypts) and Neville Bonney (topic - The Casuarina Genus). Both were entertaining, especially the Bonsai bloke whose plants did not have the classic Japanese bonsai features.

I souvenired a colour booklet about the walks that I'll bring to monthly meetings to share.

A great pleasure for us was that three other APS Geelong members had also made the trip there and were enjoying the activities: Gladys & John Hastie, and recently-joined member Joy Sutton.



A special guest speaker appeared after the sausage sizzle lunch and official welcome: ex-Premier of Victoria Denis Naphthine. My big take-away from his well-informed and entertaining talk was that he proposed that the next step for the Arboretum was to get itself approved as the 'Western Element' of the Royal Botanic Gardens, joining Melbourne and Cranbourne. After this significant challenge, Denis further engaged those present (by recruiting many children present) as he planted a *Eucalyptus caesia* Silver Princess.



We left at the Peter Francis Points Arboretum at 4.00pm, had a walk along Coleraine's main street (bumping into other visitors to the Arboretum who were enjoying ice-creams) then set sail home. Di got us home safely at about 8.00pm with a great thought to promote/encourage an overnight APS Geelong-member trip there in the future. We had had a beaut, but tiring, day.

RARE PLANT DISCOVERED – (SORT OF.)

A new population of *Acacia pupureopetala*, listed as critically endangered, has been found thriving on an abandoned mine site in far north Queensland. Known

as the Purple Wattle, it is Australia's only *Acacia* species with purple flowers.

It was previously thought to be limited to around 500 plants remaining in the wild, and occurs in the Herberton district of north-east Queensland. Previously it was known from 10 sites in five general locations in the area - Mt Emerald south of Walkamin, Stannery Hills, an area near Herberton, Irvinebank and along the Misery-Coolgara Road, north-east of Mt Garnet.



Acacia pupureopetala – Photo: M. Fagg

But workers at the Target Gully remediation site, near Irvinebank, have discovered hundreds of the plants growing in a small area around an old tailings dam. The known sites have been protected for some years and this may have led, inadvertently, to a reduction in individual numbers.

It is now believed that the plant needs some disturbance for seed germination, and the work done at the rehab site seems to have met its requirements nicely.

Acacia pupureopetala is a small, sprawling, prostrate shrub. The branches are covered in dense white spreading hairs. It has consistently mauve-pink flowers appearing mostly in May – September. It sounds like it would be a good addition to a suburban garden, if it could be found in cultivation.

KUNZEA PULCHELLA.

Ade Foster

A couple of years back Penny and I had a holiday in Western Australia and did a day trip from Toodyay, east of Perth, through Dowerin, north to Cadoux then back through Wongan Hills, a round trip of about 280 km. The wildflowers were amazing and we stopped so often that the trip lasted until well after dark.

On a tiny granite outcrop near Cadoux we saw a blaze of bright red and stopped to investigate. There were about twenty dense, bushy shrubs covered in masses of deep red flowers – *Kunzea pulchella*.

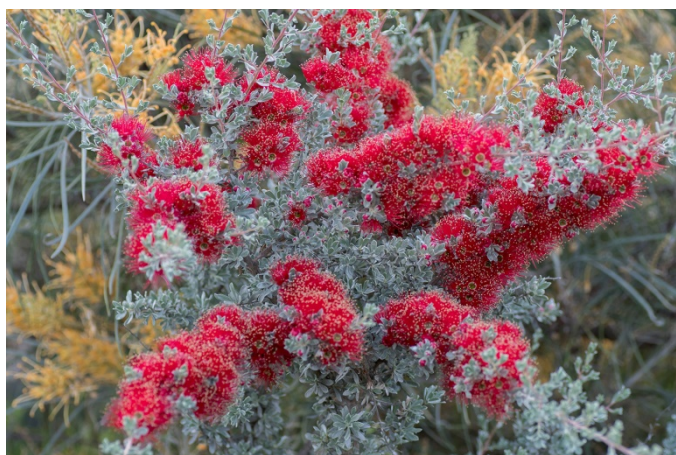


Kunzea pulchella near Cadoux, W.A.

K. pulchella is found in the wheatbelt of southern W.A from Perth, east to Kalgorlie, North to Mt. Magnet and south to about Lake Magenta. It has smallish oval, grey/green leaves and masses of bright red flowers in spring.

It is quite common in cultivation and is particularly suited to our Mediterranean climate. It does need good drainage in a sunny or slightly shaded spot.

Frank Scheelings obtained a plant for me, which flowered for the first time last year, having been in the ground for three years. A great plant which will add colour to any garden.



Kunzea pulchella flowering in my garden

CORREA MAIL EDITOR

I am now in my tenth year as editor of the Correa Mail. I'm proud of the magazine, and I'm grateful for the feedback – all positive – from members.

However, I'd like to step back and let someone else add their style to the publication. Please give some thought to taking on the job. I'll happily provide you

with templates and instructions as to how I have done it. Or, you can start from scratch and make it your own.

And, hopefully, you'll have better luck than me in getting members to contribute articles. 😊

I'd love to hear from you if you'd like to accept the challenge 😊

RARE PLANTS FOUND ON A CLIFF FACE

I've driven and walked miles looking for rare or unusual orchids. I've climbed hills that I would classify as 'very steep', and, after a few glasses of wine 'Vertical cliff faces.' But, these folks actually did it. This article by Bruce McKenzie from ABC North Coast explains ...

Botanists from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service are going to great heights to identify and record some of the rarest plants in the country. Some of the species are only known to exist along one escarpment within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage area on the New South Wales–Queensland border. A special conservation permit was required to allow a botanist to abseil down a cliff face and conduct a threatened species assessment.



Green Waxberry plant. Image by Lui Weber
Office of Environment and Heritage.

Saving Our Species project officer Justin Mallee said the effort was justified when nearly 1,000 rare green waxberry plants, *Gaultheria viridicarpa*, were discovered in the Limpinwood Nature Reserve.

"We knew a handful of these very rare plants existed along the top of the cliff line, but what we didn't know was how many plants were growing on the cliff faces, or their condition," Mr Mallee said.

The survey also revealed a thriving colony of lamington eyebright, *Euphrasia bella*. Mr Mallee said the species was last known as a small population of only five plants, recorded in 1982.

"Ninety-four lamington eyebright plants were counted [recently] ... a huge boost to our knowledge of this population," he said.