

Correa Mail

Newsletter No 341 – September 2018

OUR LOGO

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY — Geelong —

Folks have asked about our logo. So, briefly, here is the story. It was chosen by our committee in 2010 as a symbol of our reason for

existing. It depicts

Grevillea rosmarinifolia 'Lara Form', a small plant once growing between Lara and Little River. Sadly, it is now extinct in the wild. It was found along the railway reserve, where works in 1977 reduced it to just three plants. In 1988 further works destroyed the site completely and 'Lara Form' was lost to the basalt plains. The then Shire of Corio nursery and later Barwon Water nursery were propagating this beautiful plant from cuttings taken before the last ones were destroyed. Just what has become of these plants we are unsure, but, 'Lara Form' survives in more than just the logo of APS Geelong. Annie Hilliard sent this photo of the plant which she purchased from a nursery over 20 years ago, flowering in her Lara garden. Thanks Annie!



The logo was designed by Skye Luckins of Isle of Skye Graphic Designers.

ALPINE PLANTS

With Frank Scheelings

At our last meeting, Frank gave us a presentation on Alpine plants – a sort of teaser for our planned Alpine weekend next summer. For many years, Franks, Tina and family holidayed at Bright and Frank would sometimes (often?) walk the 'high country'. It was here that he gained his interest in native plants and honed his photographic skills.

The Australian Alpine areas on the mainland are those above 1370 metres. In Tasmania, because of the lower latitude, it is those areas above 915 metres. The mainland alpine area covers about 5200 km², and in Tasmania 6480 km² – just 0.15% of the total Australian landmass.



For the purposes of Frank's talk he defined alpine plants as those growing above the tree-line, in the alpine and sub-alpine regions. Here there are several alpine plant communities:—

The Alpine Herbfields. These are divided into Tall and Short Herbfields. Tall Alpine herbfield occurs on well-drained slopes and hilltops of the subalpine and alpine zones in the more sheltered sites. There you find tussock grasses and small herbs growing together to form a continuous cover. Common plants here include Snow Daisies (*Celmisia spp*), Snow Grasses (*Poa spp*.) and Billy Buttons (*Craspedia spp*.)

President: Bruce McGinness – <u>brucesm@gmail.com</u> Secr Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – <u>ftscheelings@gmail.com</u> B 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



Craspedia spp.

Short alpine herbfield is found in the alpine and subalpine zones, specifically below long lasting snow patches. The environment here is is colder and the growing season shorter. Soils are usually wetter than in the Tall Herbfields. Here you find such plants as Alpine Marsh Marigold (*Caltha introloba*), Alpine Wallaby Grass (*Danthonia nudiflora*), Alpine Plantain (*Plantago sp.*)



Plantago sp.

Sod Tussock Grasslands – These occur on the less well-drained areas of the subalpine zone. There are separate grass tussocks, the tops often forming a closed canopy of interlacing leaves. Shade-tolerant herbs maybe found in the spaces between the tussocks. Among many plants found here are Prickly Snow Grass (*Poa costiniana*) and Mountain Gentian (*Gentianella diemensis*).



Gentianella diemensis

Heaths are found in the less sheltered areas of the subalpine zone and in the alpine zone on the shallow, stony, well-drained soils of stony slopes and on rocky ridges. Dominated by shrubs, the community is sparsely populated by woody heaths interspersed with herbs and tussock grasses. Some of the plants encountered on the heathlands include Yellow Kunzea (Kunzea ericifolia), Alpine Grevillea (Grevillea australis), Leafy Bossiaea (Bossiaea foliosa) and Mountain Plum Pine (Podocarpus lawrencei).



Mountain Plum Pine male cones

Alpine bogs occur in the subalpine and alpine zones on permanently wet sites and are dominated by hummock forming Sphagnum Moss (*Sphagnum cristatum*) growing with sedges, rushes and wetland heaths. Bogs are generally spring-fed seepages on hillsides and edges of valleys.

Fens: In still wetter parts - such as valley floors - Sphagnum disappears and the sedges form a fen.



An alpine fen

Feldmark communities only occur in the alpine zone on exposed ridges at the highest elevations where they are exposed to high winds, coldest temperatures and severe frosts. They are characterised by an open community of sparsely growing, dwarf plants dominated by cushion-forming or prostrate species only a few inches high with bare earth and rock in between.

Huge tracts of the Victorian high country were burned in bushfires which raged in 2003 and again in 2006 with over 1,000,000 Ha involved. Frank was shocked at the devastation but equally amazed at the regeneration taking place. Given the lack of suitable growing conditions and the resultant slow growth rate, it will be many years before the area can be said to have recovered.



Snow Gums showing regrowth after the fires

Frank showed us an amazing variety of photographs of the plants and wildlife encountered in his alpine ramblings. Insects are there in abundance, especially flies, although these decreased markedly after the cattle were excluded. Despite the number of insects, Frank recorded very few birds.

Of particular note were number of species of daisy that Frank had recorded, many of which he has been unable to satisfactorily identify. They would make a great addition to local gardens, but, it seems, they are unaccustomed to the warmer conditions and don't do well.



Leucochrysum albicans

I could fill pages with Frank's wonderful, evocative photographs, and I'm sure all those present are looking forward to our summer weekend in the high country.

ON THE TABLE

with Roger Wileman

Roger talked us through a large and very varied table, with so many specimens that we did not have time to discuss them all.

Hakeas were the feature plant of the night with a number of interesting plants on show. Following an article in a recent Correa Mail, *Hakea lehmanniana* made an appearance. It's most striking feature is the vivid purple/blue flowers although it seems they are not very long lasting. *Hakea francissiana*, a popular plant, was represented with three colour forms – pink, pale salmon/pink and red. *Hakea neurophylla* has masses of tiny, pink, stem-hugging flowers. *Hakea nitida* is called the frog hakea for the shape of its seed pods, said to look like a frog. *Hakea lissocarpha* is a stunning small shrub with exceptionally sharply pointed leaves, even for a Hakea. It is covered in tiny pink and white flowers.



Hakea lissocarpha

Hakea bucculenta, the Grass-leafed hakea, is often confused with H. francissiana. Our specimen had vivid red/orange flowers. Hakea multilineata usually has pink flowers. The specimen on the table came from seed from a plant growing in the Charles Gardner Reserve near Tammin in Western Australia. Flowers on this plant are deep crimson and white. Hakea corymbosa is an interesting plant with the common name of Cauliflower Hakea for its shape. Flowers are green turning to a pale yellow as they age. They are very attractive to birds and insects. Hakea prostrata can be a prostrate shrub as the name suggests, or may be a sprawling or even upright plant to about 2 metres. It has flat, divided, sharply pointed leaves and usually white or cream flowers, but occasionally pale red.



Hakea prostrata

The Hakeas, generally, are hardy shrubs, with attractive, often strongly scented flowers. But almost without exception they are sharp, prickly characters well suited to keeping burglars at bay.

Grevilleas featured strongly, as they always do on our tables. The number of true species and an amazing array of colourful hybrids make them very popular. There seems to be grevilleas in flower in every month of the year, and many flower to some degree all year. Among the hybrids were Flamingo, Superb, Moonlight, Molly, Peachs'n'Cream, Sylvia, and Winpara Gold, all tough reliable plants. True species G. confertifolia, G. sericiea, G. lanigera 'Mt. Tamboritha', G. paniculata, G. endlicheriana, G. buxifoli 'Evelyn's Coronet', and G. bipinnatifida. Grevillea tetragonoloba is a spreading shrub to about two metres in its natural habitat, the south west of WA between Albany and Esperance. It has linear, pointed leaves with deep red or brownish red 'toothbrush' flowers. Grevillea hookeriana is a shrub to about 2 metres, though some have a much lower, sprawling habit. Flowers vary from deep red to black. Our specimen was the black-flowered form, although this is a slightly deception description. The flower 'body' is greenish and the styles are a very dark red/black.



Grevillea hookeriana Black form – Photo John Tann

They are a very attractive plant but the prolific flowers tend to be a little camouflaged. The stand-out grevillea on the table this month is a small plant from Flinders Island in South Australia, which was presented as *Grevillea rogersii*. It is a low spreading shrub with small dark green leaves and small, vivid, rich red single flowers. It is, in fact, *G. lavandulacea ssp rogersii* although I believe it was once recognised as a separate species.

There were a couple of Darwinias – 'Coolamon Pink' and 'Stripy' both of which have quite stunning flowers, and both of which originated in th garden of Doug MacKenzie, in Ocean Grove.

Matt Leach brought along a lovely *Leionema coxii*, a delightful plant with massed, pale yellow flowers and a pleasant citrus smell. This plant was previously (and to many still is) known *as Phebalium coxii*. Some of Matt's wonderful photos of this and other Leionemas and Phebaliums were featured on our Facebook page recently.



Of the Eucalypts on show, two created some interest. *E. kruseana*, the Bookleaf Mallee, is an unusual and very attractive small tree growing to about 2 m high by 1.5 m wide. 'Bookleaf' accurately describes the tiny, rounded,

blue-grey, stalkless leaves which are closely spaced along the branches. It flowers early with large deep yellow flowers. *E. caesia* 'Silver Princess' was the source of much discussion and conjecture. The 'true' Silver Princess is *E. caesia ssp. magna*. Roger believes that many of the plants sold as 'Silver Princess' are hybrids with *E. orbifolia* or *E. crucis*, and should not use the Silver Princess name. The resultant discussion was, as always, lively.

There were several varieties of Hardenbergia on the table this month. The old faithful *H. voilacea* 'Happy Wanderer', a white and a pink form of *H. violacea*, a small semi-prostrate, deep purple form called 'Mini Haha' and a lovely white flowering form of *H. comptoniana*, from Western Australia.

Eremophila santalina is a large open shrub of weeping habit with creamy white flowers. Eremophila maculata aurea is a vigourous small shrub with bright yellow flowers. The spots of E.maculata are not present in the throat of the flowers of E. maculata aurea. A question for the more knowledgable – Is it maculata if it doesn't have spots?

Other plants of interest included *Geleznowia verrucosa*, *Guichenotia macrantha*, *Isopogon* 'Stuckey's Hybrid – a cross between *I. cuneata* and *I. buxifolia* and *Acacia howittii*, a graceful large shrub or small tree, native to southern Gippsland. It has dense but delicate foliage and a lovely weeping habit.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Hakea grammatophylla By Matt Leach

The scientific formalities first: the specific grammatophylla is derived from 'grammatus', Latin for striped with lines and 'phyllum', Latin for leaf - a reference to the fine striations on the leaves of this species.

Hakea grammatophylla is usually a small, variable shrub rarely above 1 to 2 metres, occasionally taller in cultivation. It can be either erect or sprawling. The leaves are long, flat and narrow, up 200 millimetres long by 5 to 10 millimetres wide. Theye are greyish green with a point at the tip. New leaves are bronze/gold.

The flowers are reddish pink to light pink in colour occurring as racemes to 100 to 150 millimetres. They are only lightly scented. Flowering time is March to August in its natural habitat. However, in southern Victorian gardens its flowering season is usually later - August to October.

Fruit capsules are greyish in colour with a smooth surface. Thay are 20 to 30 millimetres long, with a pointed tip which can be brittle. The seeds are retained on the plant until the plant dies naturally or is burnt.

Hakea grammatophylla is a rare species confined to the McDonald Ranges of Northern Territory where is it occurs in soil pockets amongst rocky slopes and gorges. In cultivation, it is said to do well in arid and semi-arid areas of Australia. It requires well drained soils.

Hakea grammatophylla is closely related to *H. bucculenta*, *H. francisiana*, *H. minyma*, *H. maconochieana* and *H. multilineata* which form the grass leaf Hakea group, so called because they have long linear flat leaves with longitudinal veins. All of these species with the exception of *H. minyma* have red or reddish flowers.



Matt's Hakea grammatophylla

Now, my Hakea grammatophylla is around 15 years old. I believe I purchased it from a nursery, but really can't remember ©. It wasn't a plant that i grew from seed, although at that time i had seen it growing at Peter Francis Points Arboretum. My parents also have a Hakea grammatophylla in their garden and were disappointed with the pale pink colour of this plant. I was aware that there was a dark pink form So when I purchased my plant I was very much hoping it would be the darker one.

After 4 to 5 years it developed flower buds and I eagerly waited for it to burst into flower. When it finally flowered fully, it was the lovely, rich, dark pink flowered form

My plant is currently about 2 metres high and 3 metres wide, bushy, but you can see through it. This year has been its best flowering. Here were hardly any flowers last year as the plant was burnt at the early bud stage by severe frosts over two consecutive nights in June. I hear some of you say 'wouldn't they have frosts from where they naturally occur?' Perhaps, but frosts have severely affected my plant - sometimes part of the raceme or all the flowers had been burnt.

This hakea has such a good colour contrast with grey leaves, gold new growth and beautiful pink to dark pink flowers. It is small enough for a suburban garden, and birds and insects love the flowers.

WEEDS IN THE GARDEN Pt II

by Phil Royce

Well, initially, Article 2 was intended to be about the weeds in our Region but that's now slipped because I've realised there are some Weed whips in APS Geelong Inc. and they sparked by interest, curiosity and annoyance (why didn't I know too!)in my gardenspecific weeds. So, from Article 1, I suspected there were three unidentified weeds in my garden:



My colleagues have given feedback (thank-you):

- The weed in the Scaevola is potentially Flatweed, Cat's ears or False Dandelion, Hypochoeris radicata, and
- 2. The Weed Everywhere is potentially Oxalis, Soursob, Sourgrass or Common Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis pes-caprae* while,
- 3. We are still working on the weed in the path (even though it's no longer there!)

OK then, I had some names. But: what's behind the name? How can I prevent or control them?

One by one, first then is Flatweed, Cat's ears or False Dandelion. Many of you will be ahead of me and can skip through to other sections of Correa Mail.

Lots of what I read said that Flatweed is often confused with the Dandelion, *Taraxacum officionale*, because they both have flat rosette arrangement of leaves and bright yellow daisy-like flowers. BUT the dandelion only has smooth leaves and one stem whereas the flatweed has hairy leaves and flowers that grow on myriad upright branches whose stems divide. Yahoo! My Ignorance is JUSTIFIED because I dig them out almost as soon as I notice them - BEFORE the flowers appear!!

Below are a couple of websites for you to refer:

http://www.herbiguide.com.au/Descriptions/hg Flatweed.htm

Now for Oxalis. One of our colleagues told me that as a child he used to eat the stalks - OMG! Oxalis pes-

caprae, a southern African native, was originally introduced into Australia as a garden ornamental. It is no longer deliberately cultivated, but is often seen as a weed of gardens. In fact, it is a Declared Noxious weed throughout Victoria.

A long-lived (i.e. perennial) herbaceous plant with upright (i.e. erect) flowering stems usually growing 15-30 cm tall, but occasionally reaching up to 45 cm in height. It produces a rosette of leaves at ground level and underground stems (i.e. rhizomes), bulbs, bulbils and tubers. The aboveground stems and leaves are short-lived (i.e. annual) and die back each year. Its bright yellow flowers have five petals and are borne in loose clusters that open only during sunny periods.

Soursob is a significant environmental weed in Victoria and South Australia and an environmental weed in Western Australia and New South Wales. It is also relatively similar to several native species of oxalis (i.e. *Oxalis chnoodes, Oxalis exilis,* and *Oxalis perennans*).

Finally, it's often mistaken for Clover, while they both can have a similar appearance with trifoliate sectioned leaves, *Oxalis* can be easily distinguishable by having Heart Shaped Leaves compared to the Oval Shaped and Serrated Leaves of Clover.

http://www.herbiguide.com.au/Descriptions/hg_Soursob.htm

http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds herbs perennial soursob

I was becoming simply overwhelmed by the amount of effort that was being made to inform people involved in agriculture, horticulture, gardening, and just living, about weeds. I thought weeds just had to go, be removed, or otherwise destroyed. And then I happened to come to this website below about EATING weeds; excuse me? Have a look:

http://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2016-05-12/edible-weeds-and-how-you-can-use-them/7406004

Next month my Article will be back on track - Weeds of the Region.

LAKE KING, WESTERN AUSTRALIA by Roger Wileman

This time last year I was In Western Australia. I towed our 21 ft caravan to the other side of Australia. The idea was to come to Gorge Rock, 25 km east of Corrigin, to look after my sister and her husband's beautiful property while they went to Texas for a month.

I had originally allowed ten days to get there but the plants and wild flowers on the way there really slowed things down. There were many stops and it is not easy to park a large caravan on the road verge while you take photos.

So I stopped at Lake King, one of the plant heavens in the West. I left the van at the small Lake King Caravan Park, a bonus as you have to go to the tavern to book in. I left the van there and went out collecting each day.



There were lots of plants out in flower that will be finished before the main flowering period in about 2 weeks - mid September. I was leaving at daylight and getting back to the van at sundown,(or Beer o clock, as we collectors call it), preparing cuttings and going through the days photos.

Last time I was there, the lake was dry. This year there has been a lot of rain and a lot of water flowing into the lake. The Red-necked Avocets were nesting in large numbers on either side of the long causeway that crosses Lake King.



Lake King it is flat and shallow, and when the water level is low, the wind will move the water from one side of the lake to the other, leaving one side dry. When winds come from the opposite direction the water will be moved back to the other side. It is a fascinating phenomenon.

The remnant vegetation along the side roads in the Lake King area is breath taking. Even the centre of the little township is a wildflower paradise. From Lake King I headed to my sisters farm at Gorge rock.



Around Corrigin the wild flowers and the terrestrial orchids were at their peak. Some of the spider orchid flowers are 150mm in length. I met with Robin Campbell who is the local native plant and orchid expert, and two orchid experts from Perth. I felt overwhelmed by their knowledge, but at my age, I'm still eager to learn. However, at my age I find I need to write everything down, need to wear glasses (and lose them) and when I'm down low taking photos I wonder how the hell I'll manage to get back up. On this morning we found 42 species of orchids.

At one of my many roadside stops I walked over to photograph a particular plant only to almost kneel on the biggest snake, a tiger snake I think only black in colour, I have heard stories of the legendary snake that Ade and Frank always rave about and how big it was? well I didn't see that snake but I know for sure that this snake was a least one metre longer.



The remnant vegetation along the roadside in some places is completely cleared, but other sections that

have left untouched are plant heaven to me. Robyn gained permission for us I to enter a private property that has 250 Hectares of land that has never been cleared, burnt or grazed. It is isolated in the middle of a huge cereal property where very few people are allowed to enter. A wonderful opportunity, we found lots of species that I have not seen before, but a bit sad to think that the vast Western Australian wheat belt was all just like this at one time. The owners of this property are fourth generation and will never clear this land. A tiny oasis to be preserved at all costs.

FUTURE MEETINGS

18th **September** Octavia Chabrier – Jan Juc

Creek Revegetation Project

16th OctoberCathy Powers – Moths20th NovemberTony Cavanagh - Dryandras

December Xmas break-up. TBA

UPCOMING EVENTS

September Garden Visit #1 Saturday, 22nd September Members are invited to Visit the Kevin Hoffman Walk followed by afternoon tea at Matt and Pam Baars' house on September 22nd. We'll meet at the work shed on Walkers Road, Lara at 1.00 pm then move on to Matt and Pam's at around 2.30. Afternoon tea supplied at Matt and Pam's. If you'd like a beer or a glass of wine, please BYO.

September Garden Visit #2 Sunday, 30th September We have been invited to visit the garden of Carolyn Jordan at 445 Wallington Road, Wallington (opposite Stawberry Farm) on Sunday afternoon. Members can meet for a BYO picnic lunch or BBQ at 12.00 noon (BYO everything), or arrive in time for the garden tour at 1.30.

October Garden Visit Saturday, 13th October.

Members are invited to visit the gardens of Frank and Tina Scheelings, and Ade and Penny Foster on October 13th. We'll meet at Frank and Tina's at 7 Admiral Court, Highton at 1.00 pm then move on to Ade and Penny's at 8 Hazel Street Belmont, around 2.30 pm. Afternoon tea supplied at Ade and Penny's. As before, if you'd like a beer or a glass of wine etc, please BYO.

Xmas Break-up. Sunday 2nd December

Our Christmas break-up will take the form of a BBQ lunch at Serendip Sanctuary, in Lara. Lunch at 12.00 noon, BYO everything. Arrive early for an exploration of the sanctuary before lunch, or have a leisurely wander after lunch. Gates close at 4.00 pm.

APS GROUPS' PLANT SALES

8-9 September – APS Yarra Yarra Plants Expo- Eltham Community Centre, 10.00am – 4.00pm. \$5 entry

22nd – **23**rd **September** – Bendigo Native Plants Flower Show. Kangaroo Flat Primary School.

6th -7th October – Pomonal Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

13th **October** – APS Mitchell Plant Expo – Kilmore Memorial Hall. 9.00 am – 3.00pm.

27th – **28**th **October** – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Robert Clark Centre.

PROPOSED ALPINE TRIP Bruce McGinness

We are offering members a trip to the Victiorian High Country next year , **February 1 – 3, 2008**. Most likely this will be at Falls Creek, where many of the walks are flat and easy to negotiate. We will provide more details and seek expressions of interest soon.

The summer time in the Alps is a splendid destination with many plants out in flower accompanied by wonderful mountain vistas. In the last two years I have visited Lake Mountain, Mount Baw Baw and Mt Hotham. They each have their own particular personality due to altitude and location. Frank will be speaking at the upcoming meeting on alpine flora and will give a preview of the alpine flora that can be seen in summer. Frank prefers the Falls Creek area for alpine flowers and will no doubt feature a lot of the plants from that area in his presentation.



Myoprum sp., Lake Mountain

Lake Mountain was burnt out in the bushfires of February 2009 and is slowly recovering. Slow growing alpine plants are gradually becominging re-established. It is a destination relatively close to Geelong for an Alpine experience. With an elevation of 1433 metres it is not a

high mountain but provides an environment where alpine plants flourish with easy trails to follow through the snow gums. Marysville provides an excellent overnight base with a well-equipped caravan park just near the intersection that heads off to the mountain.

Mt Baw Baw at 1567 metres is another alpine destination with a meandering climb from the ski village to the summit taking in a range of alpine flora on the way. There are many other short walks or drives that will take you through different alpine habitats.



Gautheria appressa, Wax Berry - Mt. Baw Baw

Mt Hotham at 1861 metres is one of my favourite destinations, as the roads winds its way up to Mt Hotham from Harrietville the alpine panorama opens up and brings up one of my favourite views which is the razorback ridge winding off into the horizon to Mount Feathertop. The higher altitude brings a different palette of alpine plants with many easily accessible walks to see them. Accommodation is good value in the summer at various ski lodges on the mountain and is readily available to larger groups.



Mt. Hotham - 'Room With a View' walking track

If there is member interest in an APS Geelong group trip to an alpine destination please contact me or any committee members so that we can start planning for a trip. Some of the destinations are a long drive but it is well worth the effort of getting there to experience all the Alps have to offer.

MYRTLE RUST

Members who have been around for a few years will recall the myrtle rust debate which, eventually, led to us moving our meetings to the current location. We have had a request from Maria Hitchcock to sign a petition urging the government to do something concrete about the issue. The committee has taken the decision to give members the information so you can sign if you feel so inclined. Marias email is here ...

Hello everyone,

The Parliamentary Petitions Committee has now give approval for our petition calling for a Myrtle Rust Summit to bring together all the stakeholders - government, industry, researchers, environmental groups, community and media. I believe this is the only way we will get a strong response to this terrible disease which is spreading at an alarming pace along our coastline.

Please pass this link on through your personal and professional networks. We need as many people to sign as possible if we stand a chance of succeeding. We have a month. If you wish to sign, go to

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Petitions/House of Representatives Petitions/Petitions General/Petitions List

and search for petition is No. EN0686. Thank you for your support.

Maria

As a matter of interest, we hope to have Maria come and speak to us about Correas early next year. She is a great speaker and an authority on Correas and Acacias, among others. Her books, "Correas: Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens" and "A Celebration of Wattle - Australia's National Emblem" are both great reads.

NEXT ISSUE:

In the next edition of the Correa Mail, we'll continue Phil Royce's journey with 'Weeds', bring you an article of a South Australian trip by Matt and Nicole Leach, and article by Roger Wileman on native cocaine, and a report from Ade Foster about a recent trip by ten members to the Grampians. Plus our usual report on the speaker, our plant table, what's coming up, and much more.