



Correa Mail

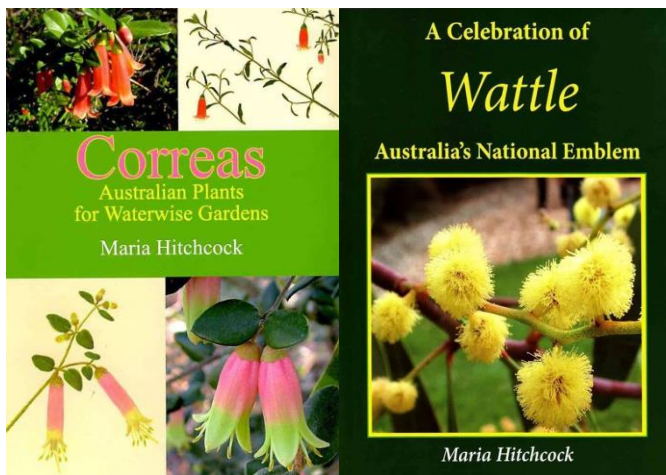
Newsletter No 345 – April, 2019

MARCH MEETING Maria Hitchcock – Correas

We were pleased to welcome Maria Hitchcock OAM as the speaker at our March meeting. Maria was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2018 for services to conservation and environment.

As the author of 'A Celebration of Wattle', she was responsible for having the Golden Wattle officially gazetted as our national floral emblem and for re-establishing 'National Wattle Day'.

Maria holds the National Correa collection in her Armidale garden, with over 200 species growing there. She is also the author of 'Correas - Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens' and it is about Correas that she travelled to talk to us.



Maria is a life member of APS, the leader of the Correa Study Group (1992-2007) and now the leader of the Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group. She is also developing a collection of Waratahs in her 1 acre garden. She has BAs in German, Archaeology and Botany and a Master of Professional Studies (Aboriginal Studies). She is also a horticulturalist and owner/manager of Cool Natives Online Nursery.

Correas are found the eastern and southern states from southern Queensland through New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. They are mostly restricted to the coastal areas although *C. reflexa* has a much broader distribution. It is found in south central Queensland inland from about Mackay through the western half of New South Wales, across all of Victoria

and large part of southern South Australia. West of Adelaide it becomes a coastal plant and extends just over the border into Western Australia.

After a brief introduction Maria took us through a selection of slides of just some of her favourite Correas emanating from each of the main species beginning with *Correa aemula* a scrambling shrub which is known from the Grampians in Victoria and from Kangaroo Island.



Correa aemula

Correa 'Pink Frost' is a wiry shrub with deep coral pink flowers – a hybrid of *C. aemula* x *C. pulchella*.

Correa alba is a small shrub to about 1.5 x 1.5m. The leaves are oval and grey/green with a hairy under-surface. Unlike other Correa species, the white flowers are split and the typical tubular bell becomes more star-shaped. It is restricted to the coastal areas of NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. There is an 'inland' form called *Correa alba* Bairnsdale Form which grows on a ridge near Bairnsdale in Gippsland on what used to be the coastline some thousands of years ago.

C. alba also has a pink form which is known as *C.* 'Blush' which Maria believes originated on the Blythe

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Headland in Tasmania. There are many hybrids including Coconut Ice, Ice Pink, White Tips, Ice Maiden, Candy Pink, Catie Bec and many others.



Correa alba

Correa backhouseana is a small open shrub from Victoria and Tasmania. There is a variety 'Parker River' from the Otways, although this is not known in cultivation. *C. backhouseana* is the parent of a number of hybrids including old favourite 'Redex' and 'Marian's Marvel'.

Correa baeuerlenii is from coastal NSW from about Bega to Bateman's Bay. It has shiny green leaves and yellow/green flowers with a curiously shaped calyx which gives rise to the common name 'Chef's Hat Correa'. It is a dense shrub which prefers a shady position.



***Correa baeuerlenii* – Chef's hat Correa**

Correa calycina is a rare plant from South Australia. It is found on the Fleurieu Peninsula in the ranges of the Hindmarsh and Inman River Catchments., where it lives in small populations along rocky banks of watercourses and near wet gully swamps. It is a difficult plant in cultivation.

Correa decumbens is low-growing or prostrate shrub from South Australia. It is unusual in that the flowers are presented vertically rather than hanging as most Correas do. Flowers are deep pink and yellow/green

and the flowers of hybrids often show unusual presentation of flowers - vertical or horizontal. Maria has produced a hybrid which she has named, modestly, 'Bella Maria'.

Correa eburnea is a rare Correa, again from South Australia where it is only found around Deep Creek, near Cape Jarvis. It has large, shiny, dark green leaves and small green/yellow flowers in Autumn and Winter.

Correa glabra is a medium to large shrub reaching 2.7 metres in parts of its natural range which extends from southern Queensland to South Australia. It can have green, yellow or red flowers and is the parent for many hybrids including 'Ivory Beacon', 'Mt. Barker Beauty' and 'Barossa Gold'. There are many varieties including 'Coliban River', 'Inglewood Gold' both *C. glabra* var. *glabra* and the delightful 'Bron'.



***Correa glabra* var. *turnbulli* – 'Bron'**

Correa lawrencenana is a rare plant with small populations in various locations. The flowers vary from pale cream/yellow and pink/red, depending on the variety. *Var. cordifolia* is from the south coast of NSW and has pinkish flowers; *var. genoensis* is from the Genoa River area in far eastern Victoria; *var. glandulifera* is from the Washpool NP near Tenterfield, NSW; *var. grampiana* is from the Grampians NP in Victoria; *var. latrobeana* is from the Gippsland region of Victoria with a red form from Bentley's Plain, near Swift's Creek; *var. lawrenceana* is from Tasmania and *var. macrocalyx* is from the mid-north coast of NSW.

Correa pulchella is well named, 'pulchella' being from the Latin meaning beautiful. *C. pulchella* originated in South Australia and has vibrant pink flowers. It is the parent plant of a plethora of hybrids and varieties, all of which are worthy of inclusion in the garden. 'Coffin Bay' is a dense ground cover growing 50cm x 1m with fat, brilliant orange flowers which are highly attractive to birds. C.'Dusky Bells' is an old favourite – a hybrid with *C. reflexa* – which is a dense shrub with masses of deep pink flowers from Autumn through Winter and into Spring. It can be very vigorous if left to its own devices. C.'Coralie', developed by David and Barbara Pye and is

a very hardy small shrub with soft-pink flowers. C. 'Pink Mist' is a great garden plant – a small dense shrub with masses of baby pink flowers in autumn and winter. One of the most attractive plants in Maria's slideshow was Correa 'Wreck of the Ethel' a variety from the Innes NP at the tip of the Yorke Peninsular in South Australia. Also sold as C. 'Orange Glow' it is a stunner.



***Correa pulchella* - 'Wreck Of The Ethel'.**

The last group in Maria's talk was *Correa reflexa*, the most widespread and probably the most variable. Maria feels that much work is needed to reclassify the Genus, which may lead to several new genera arising.

C. reflexa has a good number of distinct forms many of which have been given varietal names, among them *C. reflexa* var. *reflexa*; var. *nummulariifolia*; var. *insularis*; and var. *coriacea*. It is quite promiscuous and has naturally hybridised with *C. alba*, *C. decumbens*, *C. aemula* and *C. pulchella*, which further adds to confusion over its identity.

It is a very variable species and may be semi-prostrate or a 1.2 m erect shrub. The leaves may be rough and hairy or almost smooth above and slightly furry beneath with flat, wavy or recurved margins.

C. reflexa var. *nummulariifolia* and var. *insularis* are uncommon. Both have smallish leaves and yellow-green flowers and are found on Flinders Island and Kangaroo Island respectively. They are not known in cultivation. *C. reflexa* var. *reflexa* flowers are yellow near Warrnambool, red and green at Anglesea and Buchan in Victoria and green in Moonbi, NSW. The Moonbi flowers are almost hidden under extensive bracts.

Correa reflexa var. *speciosa* from the Brisbane Ranges is a small shrub to about 800mm with large, bright red and green flowers in Autumn and Winter. A variety

named 'Red Empress' may be available commercially. It spreads via suckers and is highly attractive to birds. Other varietals of this plant are C. 'Clearview Giant' and C. 'Fat Fred' and C. 'Yeerung'.



One lovely little plant, a variety of *C. reflexa* var. *reflexa* was particularly well received by our secretary Phil Royce and his wife, Committee member Di. A groundcover or rockery plant it is just 200mm x 600mm and bears large bright pink flowers. It is called *Correa* 'Di's Favourite'. And I think it was!



I thank Maria for the use of her wonderful photos in this report and urge you to visit the [Correa Collection website](#) for more great photos and information.

THANK YOU Roger and Sheila went out of their way to welcome Maria Hitchcock to Geelong for our last meeting. They worked hard to make her stay a pleasant one. A big thank you from us at APS Geelong for everything you do to support our club. ☺

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Grevillea Peaches'n'Cream*
by Ade Foster

Our last meeting began with a minute's silence for the death of a legend – my Grevillea Peaches'n'Cream. This plant has achieved its legend status by providing flowers for every meeting in the last two years or so. Our President, Bruce McGinness, departed from tradition and decreed that it should be the plant of the month. When I told him I have already written about it twice, Bruce suggested that I 'just make something up.' So I did.

PEACHES, THE BRAVE LITTLE GREVILLEA
by Ade Foster

Once upon a time in a faraway land called the Kingdom of APSGeelong, there lived a kindly old knight, Sir Ade, The Overweight.



The knight, Sir Ade, The Overweight

One fine day, Sir Ade was waddling through that dark and primeval forest known to all as Bunning's Nursery, when he heard a tiny voice call "Pick me, good knight, pick me!" There, crouching miserably among the tall and imposing plants, was a little Grevillea called Peaches'n'Cream.

Sir Ade was about to dismiss this miserable specimen as unworthy of his fine castle grounds, when a sudden breeze stirred the little grevillea, revealing a tiny yellow flower bud. Sir Ade was entranced and, gently lifting the little plant, he made his stately way to where the forest ended. Here, fierce warrior women forced the kindly

knight to part with a great quantity of gold, in return for the little plant. This he did with hardly a complaint, as was his way.

Loading the little Grevillea, whom Sir Ade christened Peaches, into his carriage, he whipped up the horses and they galloped off to his castle in that part of the Kingdom called Belmont. The good Knight planted Peaches in the ground outside his castle moat, in a wild place known to the commoners as 'The Nature Strip'. Here, errant urchins, stray hounds and piddling feral felines conspired to thwart her attempts to grow strong and true.

Others in the kingdom heaped scorn upon little Peaches, but her spirit was strong. Sir Frank, the Boastful claimed his grevilleas were bigger, but Peaches paid no mind. Sir Roger, the Oracle cast doubt upon her family origins, but Peaches ignored his aspersions. Sir Matt, the Elder sneered whenever Sir Ade mentioned his little prodigy, but she stayed calm and continued to grow true. Only Sir Ade treated her kindly, supplying her with refreshing spring water and a magic witch's brew of seaweeds, which she loved. He trimmed and pruned and snipped and cajoled and, slowly but surely, bravely, she responded.



Princess Peaches in all her glory

In time Peaches grew into a beautiful Princess and news of her beauty spread throughout the Kingdom of APSGeelong. Sir Ade would display her blooms every month while the detractors gazed gloomily and their own unfloriferous efforts. They were bigger than Sir Frank's, more colourful than Sir Roger's and more numerous than Sir Matt's. She could produce them at will, and in any weather. She was indeed a Princess among plants, and Sir Ade was rightly proud.

And then, tragedy struck. The subterranean aquaduct which had supplied water to the village for several hundred years cracked, and the landowner, Baron Barwonwater, sent his minions to repair the

damage. With scant regard for Peaches' fame and beauty, she was ripped from the ground and cast aside like a week old pair of bloomers. A gaping hole was all that remained – in the wild place of the Nature Strip, and in good Sir Ade's heart.



The Baron's minions murdering Peaches

The Taunters gathered in the market place in the village of Facebook, gleefully reclaiming their positions as the biggest, the best and the most numerous. But Sir Ade, the Overweight, remembering the bravery of his little Peaches, paid them scant regard and dismissed them with a haughty harrumph. He mounted his trusty steed, Ford Ranger, and set out on a quest – a quest to find another Peaches'n'Cream. He vowed to search all the nursery forests until his quest was fulfilled and he could quiet the snide knights of APSGeelong for ever.

The End

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Meeting: Dr. Dean Nicolle OAM - Eucalypts

Dean is an Australian botanist, arborist and ecologist. He is widely recognised as the leading authority on the genus *Eucalyptus*. His topic for the night will be '*Eucalypts for Gardens - Some old favourites and exciting new species.*' He has written five books on Eucalypts, including Field Guides to the Eucalypts of South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. He founded the Currency Creek Arboretum in South Australia where over 900 Eucalypt taxa are grown. Dean has a PhD in mallees.



Dr. Dean Nicolle OAM – Photo courtesy ABC Adelaide

To whet your appetite, have a listen to this [interview](#) with Spence Denny on ABC Radio Adelaide.

May Meeting: Elissa Ashton-Smith - Landcare Projects

June Meeting : Roger Wileman - Carnivorous Plants

AROUND THE GROUNDS:

13th April - APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant & Book Sale, at Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4 pm.

4th May - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, from 10 am to 3.30 pm, at Seawinds in Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Rd, Arthurs Seat. For further details call 0428 284 974.

11th May - APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh, from 9 am to 1 pm.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

April 27th

Our Plant Sale is coming up soon. As usual we would like as much help as possible on the day. There are lots of jobs – gate, BBQ, growers assistants, canteen serving etc., so you won't be bored.

We'll have rosters available at the next meeting or you can email our secretary Phil Royce at phil.i.royce@gmail.com if you would like to help.

We'll be asking for items to sell at the canteen – biscuits, slices, cakes etc., but please, nothing that needs refrigeration.

Stay tuned.

GREVILLEA MAKINSONII

by Ade Foster

On the specimen table among myriad Correas was a *Grevillea* previously unknown to our members. *Grevillea Makinsonii* was named for O.R (Bob) Makinson a conservation botanist and plant taxonomist who assisted with the revision of the Genus *Grevillea* in the eighties and nineties. He is currently vice-president of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc. He was Curator of the Australian National Herbarium in Canberra (1992--2001), and Conservation Botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney (2001--2016).

The plant has limited distribution in Western Australia. Described by Olde and Marriott as 'a low open shrub to c. 0.6 m with sparsely leafy floral branches emergent to c. 1 m.'. This perfectly describes

the plant in my garden, a grafted individual, which, I think I bought from Phillip Vaughan. The leaves are small, dark green and hairy. The small white hairs sparkle in the sunlight. The flowers, presented terminally on the 'emergent floral branches' are cream to yellow, about 60mm with green buds. They resemble the flowers of *G. synapheae* or *G. flexuosa* with which the reader may be more familiar. My plant has been constantly in flower since September. Fruits are small 5 – 6 mm with a rough ridged surface. They are bright green turning quickly to dark brown and opening to drop small seeds.



Grevillea makinsonii

G. makinsonii has a very limited distribution and is classified as Priority Three, which translates as species which are poorly known but from several locations, with suitable habitat still in existence. Such species are in need of further survey.

Little information is available on this plant other than description. However, a recent survey was conducted by the Blackwood Basin Group, a non-profit, community-based organisation that coordinates environmental management within the Blackwood River Catchment. They have also worked as consultants with 54 other catchment groups including that in which *G. makinsonii* is found. They found small populations at five sites within a very small geographical area between Arrino, Eneabba, Three Springs, Mt Adams and Yandanooka in Western Australia.



***G. makinsonii* fruits**

My plant seems to be happy and has achieved the size quoted by Marriott and Olde in just seven months. I have been collecting the seeds which I have given to Roger Wileman in the hope that more of us can enjoy this lovely, rare little plant.

HELP NEEDED ... PLEASE READ.

At our last committee meeting the issue of set-up and pack-up of the room for our monthly meeting was discussed. The same crew is always there at 7.00 pm to set up. Some members arrive during this time, and rather than help, just stand around and talk. After the meeting the same crew, with one or two extras, does the pack-up. Those members who don't help with the set-up leave their raffle tickets and other rubbish lying around and trot off home, leaving the faithful few to pack-up, clean and vacuum the room. Often they are still there at 10.30 and that's simply unfair.

Strategies to enlist more help were discussed. I suggested locking the doors until the pack-up is complete. Others suggested a roster system, or some other method to encourage all members to help out. No consensus was reached, so I'm asking for your help.

Please arrive ten minutes early and help to set-up a few chairs or place specimens in the test-tubes. After the meeting stay for ten minutes and help clean-up – remove plant material, pack-up tubes and blocks, pack away chairs and tables assist with vacuuming. The regulars will appreciate it and we won't have to institute clean-up rosters like they did as punishment when I was in high school. ☺

NAME GAMES

by Ade Foster

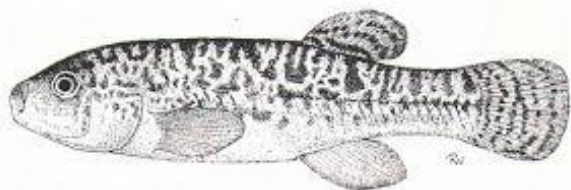
A couple of weeks ago Frank Scheelings and I were driving somewhere, talking our usual eclectic rubbish, when the topic turned the scientific names of plants, animals and birds, and how they are derived. Specifically, why do some names end in –i and some in –ii? For example: *Eucalyptus bakeri* and *Eucalyptus banksii*. We had no real idea so I decided to investigate. What an interesting – and confusing – exercise it has been.

The more educated of the readers, particularly those who may have studied Latin at high school, university and especially medical school, may have some issues with my explanations. To you, I plead blissful ignorance of the grammatical rules of a dead language. Indeed, I struggle with grammar, and the parts thereof, in my mother tongue. That being so

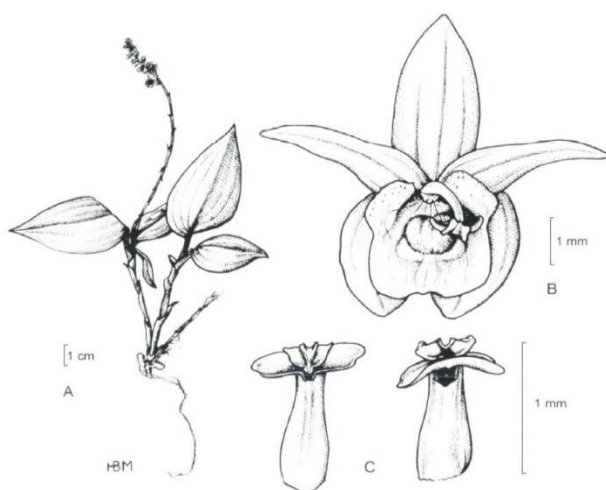
The 'scientific' or 'latin' names are more properly called binomial nomenclature. This is true for plants. For animals it is the very closely spelled *binominal* nomenclature. And, they have slightly different rules. The ICNafp (International Code of Nomenclature for

algae, fungi, and plants) governs the naming of species and groups within those taxonomic groups, while the ICZN (International Code of Zoological Nomenclature) governs naming of animal species. These systems of naming species are credited to Carl Linnaeus, Swedish botanist, physician, and zoologist, effectively beginning with his work *Species Plantarum* in 1753.

The first part of the name is the Generic name which gives us the genus into which the organism is placed. For example: *Banksia*, is a genus of plants within the family *Proteaceae* within the Kingdom *Plantae*. (These last two deal with Classification, which we won't go into here.) The second part of the name is the Specific name or Specific epithet, which identifies an individual species within the genus *Banksia*. For example: *Banksia drummondii*. These names must be unique within a kingdom – no other plant anywhere in the world can be called *Banksia drummondii*. However names can be reproduced in other Kingdoms. For example: *Orestias elegans* is a species of fish (kingdom Animalia) found in lakes in Peru. It is also a species of orchid (Kingdom Plantae) found in São Tomé, an island nation off the coast of Africa. There are at least 1200 such duplications. Bear with me, it gets harder. ☺



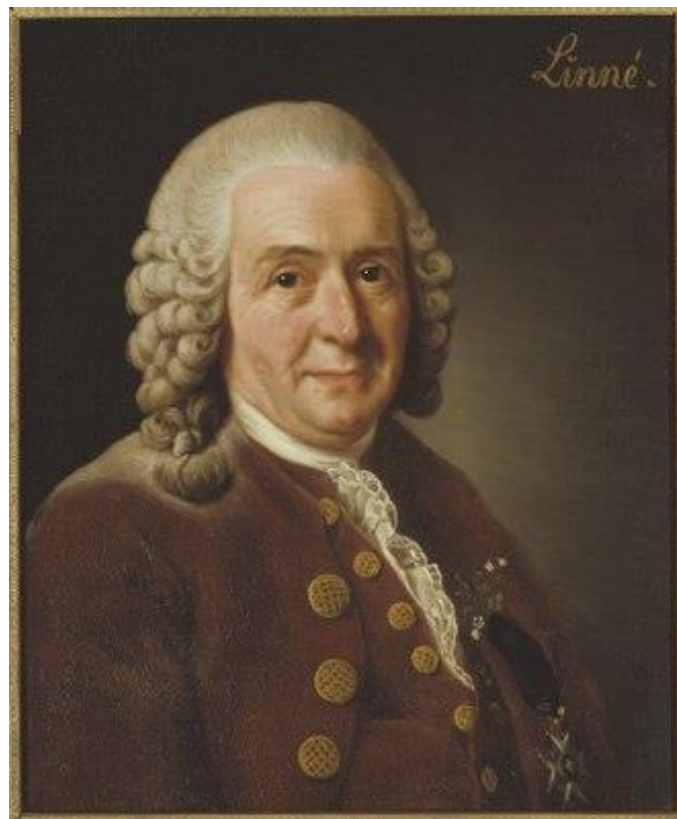
***Orestias elegans* – not an orchid**



***Orestias elegans* – not a fish**

The names may be derived from Latin or any other language, they may be descriptive, they may honour a person, they may represent a location, they may be derived from other generic names, or might even be

puns or jokes. Seriously. There is now a genus of Australian spiders known as *Backobourkia*. And no, I'm not joking. These names, regardless of their origins, are treated as Latin phrases. (hence 'Latin' names) And it is here that some confusion arises. Not all words from, say, Russian, Greek or Swedish have spellings that can be reproduced under strict Latin rules, so they are *Latinised*. Indeed *Linnaeus* is a *latinised* form of Von Linné, his real name.



Linnaeus - Carl von Linné, Alexander Roslin, 1775

In Latin there are three genders - masculine, feminine and neuter. Each has its own endings defined by the rules of declension, and these determine the endings of the 'Latin' names. There are seven declensions of Latin nouns, pronouns and adjectives - nominative, vocative, accusative, genitive, dative, ablative and locative – but, generally only the genitive and occasionally the nominative are used. The specific names, if they are adjectives, must also match the Generic name in gender. For example: Consider *Callistamon citrinus*. The genus *Callistamon* is a masculine so the specific – *citrinus* - reflects that with the masculine ending –us. However there is some debate as to whether *Callistamon* and *Melaleuca* are one and the same. *Melaleuca* is feminine so those who think the plant belongs in that genus give it the feminine specific *citrina*, so it becomes *Melaleuca citrina*. Are you still listening?

Specific names may be nouns or adjectives. Common specific endings give a clue to their origin or meaning. A very few examples:-

- -folia relates to the foliage. *Rosmarinifolia*, meaning with foliage like the Rosemary plant. This ending is an adjective, and feminine but would be *rosmarinifolius* if the genus was masculine. Eg. *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* or *Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius*.
- -iensis relates to an area. *Eucalyptus dorrigoensis* was described from the Dorrigo area in Eastern Australia. This ending does not require a gender match to the genus.
- -i, -ii, -ae, -iae, all honour a person. *Eucalyptus bakeri*, or *Grevillea banksii* honour men and have masculine endings, and *Grevillea bronwenae* or *Eucalyptus flocktoniae* honour women and have feminine endings, regardless of the gender of the genus.

There are also endings to reflect plurality should the name honour a group of people, or many other endings which in many other ways distinguish one species from another. Confusing? Youbetcha!

So, what about the original question ...Why -i or -ii? When Ben Fortson, Professor of Greek and Latin Language, Literature and Historical Linguistics at the University of Michigan was asked for an opinion, he replied ...

“You have hit on a long-standing kerfuffle among zoologists whether masculine names in the genitive ought to be -i or -ii. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (4th edition, Sec. 31.1.2) specifies one -i, but under 31.1.3, about preservation of the original spelling, both *cuveri* and *cuverii* are admissible. The trouble comes from different conventions of Latinizing modern proper names. Originally, in Latin, names like Marcus have genitive *Marci* and names like Livius have genitive *Livii*. So do you want to Latinize the name Cameron as *Cameronus* or *Cameronius*? You have a choice. Then the genitives would be *Cameroni* or *Cameronii*. Modern custom following the Code is to use one -i.”

So, basically, it doesn't matter. There are rules, and they apply ... but only 'kinda sorta'. Whatever the first person to describe the plant decided, is the name which applies. Clearly some of them understood as little Latin as I do. You can wake up now ... it's time for bed.

NEUTROG FERTILISER AVAILABLE

Some time ago we offered members a great deal on Neutrog 'Bush Tucker', a great fertiliser for native plants. We had to buy a tonne to get the deal and we still have a few bags left. 20kg for \$30 is a real bargain. Email Phil Royce if you are interested and he can bring it

to the next meeting, or you can arrange to collect it from Phil ...

phil.i.royce@gmail.com

WHAT IS THAT TREE?

Ade Foster

Every Monday I drive my mum-in-law, Clarice, home after dinner and as we drive along Wandana Drive she admires the beautiful, pale-trunked street trees and asks me what they are. Eventually I asked 'The Oracle', Roger Wileman who took a drive out there to have a look.



They are *Eucalyptus scoparia*, the Wallangarra White Gum. *E. scoparia* is a rare tree growing in dry, well drained soils in granite outcrops on the mountainous areas of the Queensland/New South Wales near Wallangarra and Amiens.



A smallish tree to about 20m it has a spreading, open canopy above lovely, smooth bark which is white, marked with grey. The leaves are long, lanceolate and glossy green. Small

white flowers appear in late spring or early summer.

The tree withstands dry conditions and poor soils and often grows in cracks and fissures in the granite outcrops of its natural range. It has been widely planted as a street tree in southern Australia where it has proven successful in the compacted soils of suburban streets.