



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 360 – August, 2020

WELCOME to the August edition of the Correa Mail. A lot is, or should, be happening in your gardens now, with many plants coming into flower. I have a good number which have been flowering for months, but would usually flower in September/October. It is a strange year indeed.

AUGUST MEETING **Virtual Garden Tours**

Obviously we can't meet for our regular, monthly gatherings at The Ballroom. So we are going to trial online meetings via ZOOM. On the usual third Tuesday - **18th August - at 7.30 pm** you'll be able to tune in via your computer or device for a visit to some of the committee members' gardens. More information later in this issue

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **September 15th**

Following a successful Committee Meeting via ZOOM we will conduct our Annual General Meeting in a like manner. More information will be forthcoming

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Annual subscriptions are due, and a new Membership form is attached to this newsletter, or can be downloaded from our website –

<http://www.apsgeelong.org/join.html>

We understand that we cannot provide all the things one generally receives from membership of APS Geelong. However, our fees are so low when compared to other clubs, that we think you will still get value for money. And remember, you can't vote at the AGM unless you are a financial member.

VISIT TO SHEILA and RIC's GARDEN

Sadly, with the Covid-19 second wave we had to cancel our planned garden visit. A tentative future date has been set for September 12th. Let's all hope we can have some semblance of normality by then.

PLANT OF THE MONTH ***Grevillea 'Scarlet King'***

This month's Plant Of The Month is putting on its best ever show in my garden at the moment.



Ade's Grevillea 'Scarlet King'

Grevillea 'Scarlet King' is a cultivar of *Grevillea nivea*. In doing some research, both in my library and online, I have discovered that *Grevillea nivea* is a bit of a puzzle. My three volume set of '*The Grevillea Book*', by Peter Olde and Neil Marriot, published in 1995, does not have a listing for *Grevillea nivea*.

On Florabase, the online database of all things Western Australian flora, this plant is listed as *Grevillea nivea* - Olde & Marriott, with the Scientific Description given as *C. Hollister, N.S. Lander and K.R. Thiele, Tuesday 11 February 2020*.

So, I must assume it is a relatively recent discovery.

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Layers of colour

Grevillea nivea is found in a very small area around the Fitzgerald River National Park in Western Australia. 'Scarlet King' is a layered plant which grows to about 3 metres high by 3.5 metres wide. Branches are whitish (hence *nivea* – from the Latin for white) and leaves are dull green, narrow and mildly sharp. The flowers are the 'toothbrush' type and are the most vivid scarlet red.



Scarlet toothbrush flowers of G. 'Scarlet King'.

My plant is about 14 years old, and has been shaded by neighbour's trees for most of that time. The block next door was cleared last year and the plant has been receiving full sun for the last nine months. I prune mine after flowering to give it what I think is an interesting shape. It has a very low water requirement in summer, and is most attractive to honeyeaters and bees. It is a plant I would recommend to anyone who has the space.

A LOCAL REVEGETATION PROJECT by Peter Nuzum

On a bleak Sunday, an intrepid group of APS members joined with others from Bellarine Landcare to help revegetate Karen Bartlett's property which backs onto Lake Connewarre - and the views were marvellous.

This work involved planting various indigenous plants with an emphasis on grasses and, in particular, kangaroo grass.



The mud and clay were marvellous and I certainly felt six feet tall by the end of my stint.



It was very pleasing to see the large number of young people getting involved which gives us hope for the future.



All in all, a very pleasing day and I am sure that Karen and partner were very happy with what was achieved.

OUR FIRST ZOOM MEETING

August 18th

As mentioned earlier we will trial meetings via the teleconferencing medium called ZOOM. All you need is a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone and you can take part.



For those unfamiliar with the software, it's free, simple to set up and, with five minutes practice, is very easy to use. You don't need a camera on your computer, or a microphone to watch the lecture, but you do if you want to take part in a question and answer-type session. Most laptops have everything needed to be fully involved. You can buy a camera/microphone combo for your desktop computer for about \$40.

If you don't have ZOOM on your computer/tablet, you can download it here.

<https://zoom.us/download>

Choose the first option 'Zoom Client for Meetings'. If you're unsure about installing or operating ZOOM, I'm happy to give a free lesson. Call me on 0416 610 113 or email adefoster@internode.on.net for assistance. There are also lots of videos that will show you how to go download and install on your computer or phone.

Closer to the date an email will go out with a link which you can click to join the meeting. Alternatively, there is a meeting ID number and a Passcode that you can enter manually.

ZOOM is a really great way for us to continue to share our love of native plants without leaving the warm and COVID-safe environment of our own homes. I hope you will all take this opportunity to join us.

'See' you all on Tuesday, 18th August at 7.30 pm.

WHAT'S FLOWERING IN THE BUSH?

I visited Inverleigh Common on 29th July, with a couple of workmates, Yvette and Kye, to show them a

huge colony of Slaty Helmet-orchids, *Corybas incurvus*, which Frank Scheelings and I found the week before.



Corybas incurvus – Slaty Helmet-orchid

After photographing them and two species of greenhood orchids, we moved to another part of the Common, where I knew there were some Bird-orchids, *Chiloglottis* sp., about to flower. They weren't quite ready, but on the way back to the car, Kye found a small colony of Veined Helmet-orchids, *C. diemenicus*. In all our wanderings at Inverleigh, Frank and I had not seen this species there, so I was quite excited. (One must understand that orchid hunters aren't like normal people, and little things get them quite excited.)



Corybas diemenicus – Veined Helmet-orchid

Corybas is a large genus with about 100 species found in Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, on the Polynesian islands and throughout much of South-east Asia. There are between 8 and 20 species found in Australia, depending on which book one reads.

All have a single, ground-hugging, green leaf with a small reddish-brown flower which is less than 25mm high. They tend to be found in damp areas of forest, often associated with bracken and moss beds.

While they are not uncommon, their small size, cryptic colouration and habit of growing in difficult walking terrain means they often go un-noticed.