



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 373 - October, 2021

SEPTEMBER MEETING Warrnambool Gardens

Bruce McGinness attended the APS Victoria quarterly conference in Warrnambool earlier this year. He visited some local gardens and was impressed with what he saw. He contacted the owners of two of the gardens to seek their permission and proposed a visit to Warrnambool by our members, so we could see these wonderful gardens for ourselves.

The gardens are owned by Ross Dawson and Sue Blood and by David and Linda Hanscome. They agreed to talk to our September meeting and show us a little of their gardens.

Both gardens are quite young and on quite large acreages. They began life pretty much as open paddocks. With the introduction of many tons of landscaping rocks, local scoria mulch, organic mulch, hundreds of hours of labour and wonderful imaginations they have transformed the land.

ROSS AND SUE moved from Melbourne and began their garden in 2016. The property is on the highway with views to the ocean, so the task was to block out sights and sounds of the traffic without restricting the sea view. The front garden was to be entirely native, while the back was for exotics and food production. Ross and Sue grow all their own vegetables.

As can be seen from the 'before and after' photos of the front entrance to their property, they have done an amazing amount in a very short time.



The entrance in 2016



The entrance today

The Warrnambool wind was a problem but existing trees and structures and *Poa* grasses were used to give protection until the new plants were old enough to withstand the onslaught.



The front Garden today



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As well as being totally self-sufficient for vegetables that also grow heritage fruits, berries and native 'bush tucker' plants in the back food garden.

DAVID AND LINDA's garden grew from a different beginning. They purchased the block in 2015 when David retired from his position as Park Ranger in the Grampians. The previous owner left quite a mess which took some time to clear away.



The Entrance in 2015

There were some native trees which planted as a requirement of the sub-division. To add to these David bought two of every plant that was growing on his Pomonal block. Hence the name 'The Ark Garden' and the need for three trips in a six ton truck to transport them all.



The entrance today

The truckloads of plants were stored in a temporary glasshouse while building and landscaping took place



The garden gradually grew as plants matured, and a propagating station and more greenhouses were erected. Plants, especially *Chamelaucium*, are also grown for the cut-flowers for weddings and the like.



Both gardens are a tribute to passion and sheer hard work. If you want to see some wonderful photos, and hear Sue and Ross and David, and Linda talk more about their gardens, their presentations are available in full on our website at ...

<http://apsgeelong.org/webinars.html>

And, of course, you can join us in Warrnambool for the weekend of 21st and 22nd November when we will be their guests for a personal tour.

VIRTUAL PLANT TABLE.

Once again, our request for photos for the plant table was very well received and we had some great shots from Joy Sutton, Peter Nuzum, Matt Leach, Roger Wileman, Tony Cavanagh, Bruce McGinness, Jennie Epstein, Frank Scheelings, Carmel Addlem and Ade Foster.

And once again, it was a wonderful illustration of just how colourful and diverse our native gardens can be. Peter Nuzum showed us a number of plants that are doing particularly well this year, among them *Eremophilas* and *Chorizemas*. And, he says, they will be pruned quite heavily when flowering is complete, a

necessary part of keeping the garden plants under control.

Jot Sutton's contribution included Hakeas, Eucalypts, Banksias and this wonderful which is flowering for the first time.



Matt had a large range of photos from the family's Inverleigh property and, as usual, there were many beautiful, unusual and uncommon plants in his presentation. This *Olearia pimelioides* was spectacular.



Carmel Addlem showed us some wonderful plants growing in her garden, and it's pleasing to note that the names were all there and all correct. Each of us is learning a great deal from these plant table discussions. Roger Wileman, as always, had some unusual plants to

show us, and this *Chamelaucium drummondii*, was of particular interest.



Frank Scheelings showed us a wonderful collection of plants from his garden in Highton, and Roger and Matt were able to assist Frank with names which had escaped him. Jennie Epstein and Bruce McGinness showed us some of their favourites and Tony Cavanagh waxed lyrical about the *Philothea* and *Leschenaultia* that are doing so well in his Ocean Grove garden at the moment.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sadly, due to covid restrictions on visiting peoples' houses and group numbers, we have had to cancel these excursions.

ANGLESEA ORCHID HUNT **October**

WERRIBEE ZOO **Sunday 24th October**

The zoo will not re-open until 26th October and Safari busses will not be running before November 5th. The gardens will be past their best by then, but it may still

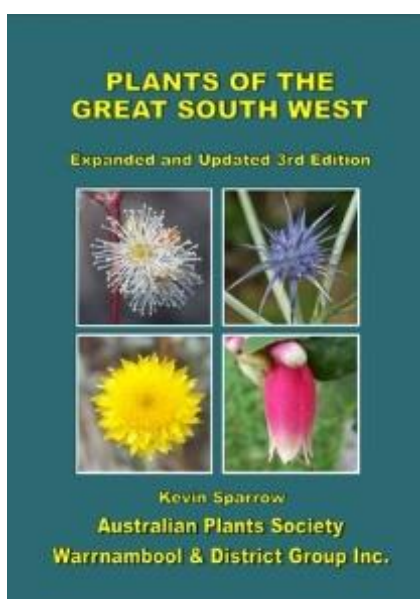
be worth a visit. Once Ade is back at work, he'll be able to make a better assessment.

LITTLE RIVER VISITS **Saturday 9th October**

This excursion will go ahead but with limitations. We will only visit the Little River Railway Station gardens and surrounds. Meet at the Station at 10.00 am. Jennie and Matt will lead groups of maximum ten participants. More details to follow via email.

Tuesday 19th October **General Meeting**

Our speaker will be Kevin Sparrow, and he'll talk to us about his particular interest, the plants of south-western Victoria. Kevin is the author of a great book, 'Plants Of The Great South West', published by the



Warnambool; and District APS Group. We hope to have copies of the book available when we visit Warrnambool in November.

At this time, we must assume that we will have another Zoom meeting, but if the situation changes radically, we will keep you informed.

Whether it be a Zoom meeting or a face to face meeting we are sure it will be one not to miss.

November 21st & 22nd. **WARNAMBOOL**

Our speakers at short notice this month have offered us the opportunity to visit their amazing gardens in November. We are hoping to make a weekend trip to Warrnambool over the 21st & 22nd to see these gardens and perhaps The Peter Francis Points Arboretum at Coleraine.

At this stage, given the roadmap out of restrictions this one will be going ahead. If you are interested, I

suggest you look for accommodation sooner rather than later. Both Warrnambool and Port Fairy have great options available, but once the Melbourne folk are out of lockdown, the options might be all taken.

Christmas Function **Sunday 5th December**

The committee has opted for an outdoor picnic style gathering for our Christmas break-up gathering. Given the uncertainty with future Covid restrictions we felt this was the best opportunity to get us together. We are looking at three venues – Eastern Gardens, St. Helen's Park and Switch Road Picnic Ground in the Brisbane Ranges. If you have a preference, please let Ade know by responding to the email that sent you this newsletter. Most votes wins! Otherwise, the committee will make a decision on your behalf.

A PROSTRATE WATTLE - *Acacia saligna*

By Ade Foster

On a walk in Belmont recently, a mate pointed out a beautiful prostrate wattle cascading down a four metre rock wall. Some quick photos and an email to Matt Leach and it was identified as a prostrate form of *Acacia saligna*.



***Acacia saligna* prostrate in Belmont.**

A. saligna has many common names, among them Coojong, Western Golden Wattle, Golden Wreath

Wattle and Port Jackson Wattle. It is native to south-western Western Australia, where it is widespread and common. It is found from north-east of Kalbarri extending south and east to around Balladonia, near the far south coast of the state.

The usual form of *A. saligna* is a shrub or small tree with a somewhat drooping habit. The phyllodes (pseudo leaves of the Acacias) are long and narrow, green or blue-green, with a prominent mid-rib. The flowers are bright golden/yellow, sometimes an orange/yellow and form massed clusters or racemes in the spring.



***Acacia saligna*, Belmont**

The prostrate forms, called 'Springtime Cascade' or 'Green Mulch' are very dense, vigorous, fast-growing plant that makes them very useful as ground-covers, or as cascading plants over a rock wall, as the Belmont plant shows.

Outside of its natural range, *A. saligna* has become widely naturalised in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and southern Queensland. It is quite invasive, although not yet declared noxious anywhere in Australia.

It is also found growing in Southern United States, in parts of South America and Mediterranean Europe. The story is different in Southern Africa where it is a very serious environmental weed and is dominating and transforming entire areas. It has invaded the sensitive

fynbos shrublands, woodlands and coastal sand dune communities and is so dense that it is displacing native vegetation.



***Acacia saligna* flowers, Belmont**

It grows along road-sides and watercourses, and limits the water available for irrigation. The recent introduction of the rust fungus, *Uromycladium tepperianum*, has reduced its population in some areas to 5-10% of its former density.

WATTLES AT MARANOA GARDENS

by Bill Aitchison

The following article, by Bill Aitchison, appeared in the Acacia Study Group Newsletter No. 149. You'll all know Bill as the bookseller at our Autumn Plant Sales. Phil Royce is the co-ordinator for the APS Victoria Study Groups, and gained permission for us to reproduce Bill's article here. We hope to see some more interesting articles like this in future editions of 'The Correa Mail'.

Maranoa Botanic Gardens is located in the eastern Melbourne suburb of Balwyn and is managed by the City of Boroondara. It was opened to the public in 1926, and now covers an area of 2.6 hectares. It has an extensive collection of Acacias, with about 240 different species to be found in the Gardens. The Acacia collection has increased significantly in recent years and some plants are still relatively young, but there are also many, well-established and older specimens. I hope that the following article, on *Acacia binervia*, will be the first of a number of such segments in our Study Group newsletter.

Acacia binervia

One of the outstanding wattles at Maranoa Gardens is a specimen of *Acacia binervia*, located near the eastern gates to the Gardens and on the edge of the main lawn area. Andrea Dennis, who is currently Horticultural Specialist at Maranoa, advises that this

was planted in 1994 by Ian Smith, the then Head Gardener. Andrea suspects that it would have been a purchase from Kuranga Native Nursery, who was the main supplier to the Gardens at that time. At the time it was purchased, it came to the Gardens as *Acacia glaucescens*.

According to Flora of Australia, this species is a shrub or tree to 15m high. The plant at Maranoa is not this tall, it is about 8m high, but at its greatest width it is about 15m across. The Gardens staff keep the plant trimmed so as to frame a sign which is close by.



The sign framed by *A. binervia* – Photo: Bill Aitchison

The bluish grey foliage is always attractive, and the golden yellow rod like flower heads are quite magnificent when the plant flowers, generally in October. Andrea comments that “everybody that looks at that wattle when it is in flower says 'Oh wow!'”

Interestingly, in a recent episode of the ABC Gardening Australia program (6 November 2020), it was noted that “For the D’harwal people of Port Jackson, the blooming of the Kai’arrewan (*Acacia binervia*) signifies the warm, wet season of Parra’dowee and means fish are moving into bays and estuaries.”



Acacia binervia at Maranoa - Photo: Ivan Margitta

The main natural occurrence of the species is in NSW, with a limited occurrence in Victoria, in the upper Snowy River area. In NSW, it is common on the coast,

central tablelands, and central western slopes, also on the southern tablelands inland from Bega. There are some interesting aspects to this species. Firstly, deaths have been reported in livestock which have eaten its leaves.

Currently, one of my favourite television shows is a Canadian murder mystery series, Murdoch Mysteries. On the day I started writing this note on *A. binervia*, I watched an episode where a murder occurred in which the victim was injected with a lethal dose of prussic acid, and died within minutes. This is the same poison responsible for the deaths in livestock that have eaten *A. binervia*. Although the plant contains none of this chemical, its leaves do contain cyanogenetic glycosides which can break down in the stomach of animals that eat the foliage, producing prussic acid.



Acacia binervia – a photo of the only naturally occurring plant in Victoria, photo taken by Alan Gibb in October 2013

I referred above to the plant’s limited occurrence in the upper Snowy River area in Victoria. Alan Gibb tells me that there is only one plant there, and in fact this single plant is the only naturally occurring example of the species to be found in Victoria. That plant is about 4-5m high, and 3m wide. Alan has searched on a number of occasions, but has never found any recruitment of young plants nearby. He has attributed

this to being part of the damage caused by large numbers of wild horses in the area, although given the toxicity of the plant he now wonders if there may be another explanation. He wonders whether, because there is only a single plant, the seed that it produces may not be viable (the plant does produce seed).

Another interesting aspect of this species is its name, 'binervia'. This refers to the phyllodes having two nerves, whereas in fact the phyllodes usually have 3-5 main nerves.

CLOVER GLYCINE - *Glycine latrobeana*

By Ade Foster

Among the flowers in my contribution to September's Virtual Plant Table was *Glycine latrobeana*, the Clover Glycine. It is a small some would say insignificant, perennial herb found in south-eastern Australia. It has become rare and endangered, mostly due to habitat loss. Most of the plants we get to see on our flower tables, virtual or not, are the showy ones – Grevilleas, Bankias and the like – so I decided to look further into a little one.

Glycine is a genus of about 25 species, most of which are found only in Australia but several species occur in East Asia and the Pacific islands. The best known of these is very well known indeed ... the soybean (*Glycine max*) which is native to East Asia.



***Glycine latrobeana* – Inverleigh NCR**

According to the DEPI Recovery plan published in 2010, *G. latrobeana* is known from about 140 disjunctive populations with a total estimate of about 7000 plants. One of those populations is at Inverleigh Nature Conservation Reserve. Inverleigh NCR is remnant grassy woodland, which, along with grassland, is, or was, the prime habitat for *G. latrobeana*. As we know these are now the rarest of our native habitats, with less than 1% of the original remaining.



***Glycine latrobeana* – Inverleigh NCR**

Although The Clover Glycine is widely distributed in south-eastern Australia, it is nowhere common. It can be found sporadically from Port Pirie in South Australia, through much of Victoria to near Hobart in Tasmania.

Like many of our grassland species, the Clover Glycine suffers from a number of threats. Habitat loss, habitat degradation, weed invasion, grazing and inappropriate fire regimes have all contributed to the rarity of this lovely little plant.

G. latrobeana is a very small plant, growing only a few centimetres high. The leaves resemble the common pasture clovers such as *Trifolium repens*. Up to eight tiny, deep mauve / purple pea-flowers appear on short stems in the spring. The seed pods are long and thin with just 3 – 5 seeds within.

Several species of Australian *Glycine* were used by aborigines as food plants, although I could find nothing to suggest that Clover Glycine is among those.

A RARE PLANT 'REDISCOVERED'

An article in the ABC News online service caught my eye a couple of weeks back.

A nature photographer by the name of Dan Anderson was walking through Leseur National Park, near Jurien Bay in Western Australia when he noticed a Sundew

flower he hadn't seen before. He photographed it and posted the photo on a Facebook page for like-minded folks. The photo attracted a lot of attention and, significantly, that of Thilo Krueger, a carnivorous plant researcher at Curtin University.



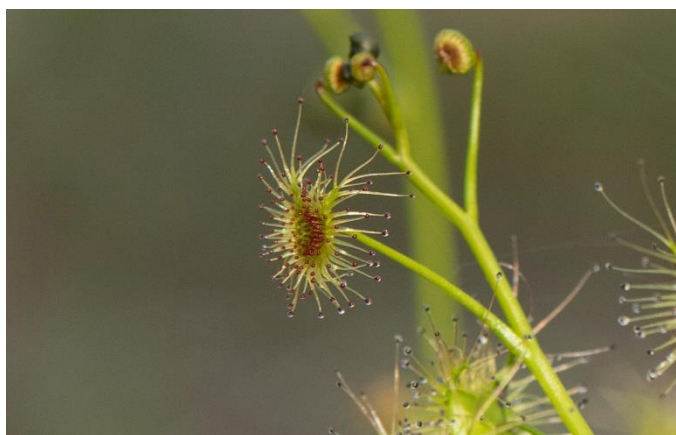
A Geelong local sundew – *D. peltata ssp peltata*

Mr. Krueger recognised it as a rare species which only grows locally in Lesueur National Park. There is just one other historical record of the plant in a herbarium sample from the 1920s.

The plant is in the process of being named by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Blue Mountains Botanical Gardens in New South Wales, and a report to name the plant should be published by late this year or early 2022.

You can read the article by Liam Bythe and see photos of the plant on the ABC News webpage here ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-08/rare-carnivorous-sundew-wildflower-wa/100439560?fbclid=IwAR0PGORyulksITZExV2PmSvhwqVdGxmKraHDXiV-O8UPWkhyCLnJxqc5Ryg>



The sticky insect catching glands of a *Drosera*

Sundews – *Drosera spp.* – are small carnivorous plants which grow in generally acid soils which are moist or wet for much of the year. They supplement their nutrients by catching insects in sticky glands on their

leaves. There are about 190 species worldwide, which make them the largest genus of carnivorous plants.

In local bushland, they form dense mats in places where soil conditions are right. The leaves are green, orange or red depending on species and some, like *D. whittakerii* are ground hugging. Flower colours of the local species range from white, through pale pink and mauve to vibrant orange. Many are disproportionately large, given the size of the plant from which they grow. *D. whittakerii* flowers are sometimes bigger than the plant itself.



***Drosera whittakerii* – Scented Sundew**

GOODENIA GENICULATA



This little *Goodenia geniculata* – The Bent Goodenia, is a small and quite common local plant and is flowering in the Brisbane Ranges at the moment. Its photo appears here for the simple reason that nature, like your editor, abhors a vacuum. ☺