



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 393 - September, 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Our Annual General Meeting was held at The Ballroom on Tuesday 15th August in accordance with the rules of the club. Ade presided over the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Ade Foster

In the absence of a President the committee would like to present this report of the past year.

2022/23 has been a mixed bag for APS Geelong. Although we had a few new members join the club, many old ones have dropped out, leaving us with fewer members than in past years. Many factors may have contributed to this ... we are all getting older, there is still some reluctance to gather together since Covid, and, with internet and online interactions, clubs are fast becoming a thing of the past. We'll talk a little more about this in our agenda discussion.

The Committee has worked diligently on your behalf. We've been without a President for most of the last year and a half, and members have taken turns to conduct our committee meetings. Committee members have had their own health issues, but despite this we find ourselves at another AGM to report on a pretty successful year.

Frank Scheelings, our long time treasurer will not be standing for election again this year. Frank has been a club member almost since its inception and has served on the committee in various roles for most of his time here. His contribution to the club can't be measured and we thank him and wish him well in his retirement.

Our Secretary, Peter, has managed to keep us operating well, despite many difficulties. He should be congratulated for his tenacity, and willingness to take on the many tasks that the position requires of him.

Thanks to Bruce who has attended APS Victoria meetings as our representative. Bruce enjoys such events, but it takes time and effort of his part and it's greatly appreciated.

We've had an interesting mix of speakers at our meetings, and via zoom. It is always a battle to find speakers, and we thank those members who have assisted us with this.



Retiring Treasurer – Frank Scheelings

Our plant sale was a great success again, however, the workload on our aging membership has led to discussions about the format for next year's sale. As this is really the only fund-raiser we do for the year, it is important that it continues, but equally important that we make it an easier event for our members.

Our social events are always fun ...

- The Trivia Night to kick off the year always brings out the best (and worst) in us, and a big thank you to Nicole and Matt is in order.
- Susan Meyer spoke to us in April about the revegetation of her block at Lal Lal. We followed up with a most enjoyable visit to the property and a guided tour by Susan. We hope to go back in spring when there are a few more plants in flower.
- We donated native plants to Northern Bay College to improve the amenity of the school grounds. A small group, led by Dianne Royce, attended a working bee at the school to get the plants started.
- Kellee Resissinger, Director of the Geelong Botanic Gardens spoke to us in July, and invited to join her for a walk in the gardens the following Sunday

President: Position Vacant

Secretary: Peter Nuzum: apsgeelong@gmail.com

Treasurer: bsmcginness@gmail.com or sheiladeakin@optusnet.com.au ... Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net

Australian Plants Society, Geelong - Website: www.apsgeelong.org

morning. A hardy group attended and much lively discussion ensued.

So thanks to all those who have contributed to the club in the last year.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Frank Scheelings

The financial report again was restricted to a current bank balance due to difficulties with a Quickbooks program. The club has \$14137.52 in the bank and is in a sound financial position. As we don't need the money, Frank recommended that we leave our fees at the current very low rates of \$15 single and \$20 family. This was accepted by those present.

AGENDA ITEM: THE FUTURE OF THE APS GEELONG

This was an agenda item for discussion, led by Ade. There are a number of issues that have the committee worried about the club's future:

- Falling membership
- Aging Members
- Poor attendance at meetings
- Poor attendance at excursions
- No president for the last 18 months
- The likelihood of no treasurer after the AGM
- Increased workload for our secretary
- Lack of support for newsletter and online presence

There was much discussion about the format of the club, the way meetings are held, excursion attendance and online presence. While no real solutions were found, the discussion gives the new committee a basis from which to move forward.

ELECTIONS FOR COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

All committee positions were declared vacant and Nicole Leach presided over the elections. No formal nominations were received, so Nicole called for nominations from the floor.

Nominations were received, and duly seconded for ...

President: no nominations - **position vacant**.

Vice President: Carmel Addlem

Secretary: Peter Nuzum

Treasurer: Bruce McGinness, Shelia Deakin – jointly elected.

General Committee Members: Matt Leach, Ade Foster, Deb Peeters, Chris Walker-Cook.

All were elected unopposed. Our thanks goes to these folks for putting themselves out there for the club.

ON THE TABLE -

with Ade

Our plant table was a wonderful display again, and the feature, as is often the case at this time of year, was the Acacias. We had more than twenty different species on the table including *A. glaucoptera* with flattened stems and individual flowers on little pedicels; *A. striata*, an open shrub with fine phyllodes; *A. rigens* – Nealie or Needle-bush with very long, very slender phyllodes.



Acacia rigens

A. covenyi, The Blue-bush Wattle, a hardy shrub with masses of lemon-yellow flowers; *A. cultriformis*, Cut-leaf Acacia, a cascading plant useful on rockeries and steep slopes; *A. spectabilis*, the Mudgee or Pillaga Wattle is a common plant in cultivation, and for good reason. It's deep golden flowers make it one of the more spectacular small acacias; *A. floribunda* with tiny lemon yellow flowers and *Acacia howittii* – Honey Bun, a dense, rounded shrub with very pale flowers.



Acacia howittii 'Honey Bun'

There were several colour variations of *Dodenaea boroniifolia*, from deep crimson to pale red/orange. It is a shrub found in eastern Australia from central Queensland to western Victoria.

Thomasia pygmaea is a low, spreading shrub from the south of WA. It has small, lantern-like pink/purple flowers speckled with red/maroon. It is a most attractive little plant growing in a pot at Bruce's house.



***Thomasia pygmaea* – Photo: Brian Walters**

Another *Thomasia* was a delightful hybrid of *T. solenacea* x *querqifolia*.

Many variations of *Philotheca myoporoides* were also on the table. They are all lovely compact plants with masses of white and pink, star-shaped flowers in late winter and spring.

Olearia homolepis is a shrub from south west WA featuring purple daisy flowers. It grows well in local gardens and is easily propagated by cutting.

There were a good number of Hakeas on the table. *Hakea neurophylla* has large veined leaves and pink stem hugging flowers; *H. grammatophylla* has very long, veined leaves and soft red/orange flowers; *H. trifurcata* has narrow needle-sharp leaves with white and pink flowers; *H. decurrens* is a local plant with sharp leaves and, usually, white flowers. Our specimen was pink. *Hakea lissocarpha* is a strongly scented plant with prickly leaves and white to pink flowers. Perhaps the most interesting Hakea was *H. lehmanniana*, the Blue Hakea, from south west WA. It typically has long, narrow, very sharp leaves with the blue flowers close to the stems. Our specimen had quite short, sharp leaves, which gave it a pine-like appearance.



***Hakea lehmanniana* – Blue Hakea**

Others of interest were dryandras, grevilleas, and correas. *Astartia fascicularis* is a very curious plant. It is related to the teatrees, but bears the common name of False Baeckea just to confuse us mortals. It is a neat shrub to about 1m and bears masses of pink/white flowers in most months of the year. The leaves are small and rounded and are carried close to the stem.



***Astartia fascicularis* – False Baeckea**

PLANT of the MONTH –

Grevillea magnifica

Susan Meyers won the door prize and selected *Grevillea magnifica* as the Plant of the Month.

G. magnifica is an open, shrubby plant to 2m x 2m. The flowers occur on long stems, up to 4m, which are held above the foliage. The flowers are tubular, green, red and white and make a striking feature.

Once considered a subspecies of *G. petrophiloides*, it appears to be easier to cultivate than that plant. It may struggle in poorly drained soils or high humidity.

It is found in a couple of areas of the south west of WA where it grows in rocky areas with sandy soils and good drainage.



Grevillea magnifica

2023 MEETINGS and OUTINGS

Sept 2	Visit to Inverleigh gardens
Sept meeting	Marie Goods – Little Desert Flora
Sept 23	APS Victoria AGM
Oct 8	Open Day Geelong Botanic Gardens
Oct 17	Jason Caruso – Eucs for the garden
Nov meeting	Miriam Ford – Prostanthera etc.
Dec 10	Xmas break-up BBQ

SEPTEMBER 2nd EXCURSION – Inverleigh Gardens

Don't forget On Saturday, September 2nd we have been invited to join with members from The Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens to visit the Leach's garden in Inverleigh, and the garden of their neighbours, the Kerdels. We'll meet Matt at 42 Gregory Drive, Inverleigh at 1:30 pm.

Please park in the vacant block next door at 52 Gregory Drive



OCTOBER 8th – OPEN DAY GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

We've been invited to take part in the Geelong Botanic Gardens Open Day on October 8th. GBG is expecting a crowd of 500+ visitors and is planning on showcasing their beautiful garden space, complete with live music, entertainment for families and community-based garden groups.

We will have a flower table similar to the one at our plant sale, and be chatting to folks about using native plants in the garden. And, we'll be on the lookout for new members. If you have an hour or so to spare, please come and help out. We'll give you more information nearer the date.

THE RARE WEE JASPER GREVILLEA - Ade Foster

My Dad was a great fisherman, and by that I mean he fished a lot. I won't comment on his prowess. His favourite fishing spot was Wee Jasper, in the hills north west of Canberra, where the Goodradigbee River meets the Burrinjuck Dam. Dad and I spent many happy times at Wee Jasper in my younger days, hunting the wily Rainbow Trout. My Dad's ashes have been scattered here, in the river he loved so much.



The Goodradigbee River at Wee Jasper

But, in all my trips there and the subsequent years roaming that part of the world, I was unaware of the Wee Jasper Grevillea, *Grevillea iaspicula*, until recently. It is known from only ten, rocky sites in the area. There may be as few as one hundred plants left in the wild, making it a very rare plant indeed.

It was first collected as late as 1966, but not named until 1986. The specific epithet '*iaspis*' is Latin for the mineral jasper and '*ul*' meaning small ... so, Wee Jasper.

It is a smallish shrub to about 1.5 metres with hairy, somewhat wrinkled leaves. The inflorescences are presented on the ends of the branchlets and hang in tight clusters of ten flowers or so. They appear mostly in the winter, and are cream/green with pink/red styles. In my garden they are attractive to native birds and butterflies. Flowering can occur from May right through to November.



The flowers of Grevillea iaspicula

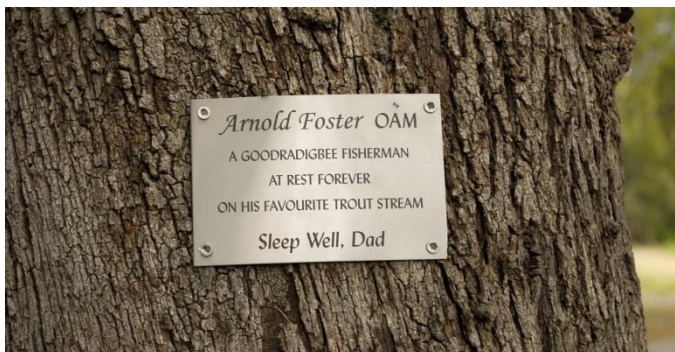
I was lucky enough to find one at our plant sale in 2022 and happily paid for a somewhat straggly specimen which had clearly been in the pot too long. Once in the garden, I held my breath and trimmed the longer stems in the hope that it would encourage the poor thing to bush out. It worked and the plant is looking quite healthy with a good number of flowers at the moment. Regular pruning after flowering is recommended.



***Grevillea iaspicula* in my garden**

G. iaspicula will tolerate quite heavy soils as long as they are well drained, and likes a shaded or part sun position. Propagation is quite successful from cuttings taken in late winter ... difficult for me, because this is peak flowering period, and I'm psychologically incapable of trimming a plant while it's flowering 😊 Roots take a couple of months to develop. Some success has been had growing them from the seeds which are released in summer.

It is a very attractive plant and would make a wonderful addition to any garden especially given its rarity in the wild. It has a special place in my garden and in my heart.



RARE PLANT FOUND in VICTORIA at RAAKAJLIM

I was sad to miss the talk by Fiona Murdoch about revegetation of their mallee property, Raakajlim, at our May meeting. However, I have been following her journey on Facebook.

Fiona recently posted, with some excitement, that she has discovered a rare plant, only recently known from Victoria, *Pterocaulon sphacelatum*, growing on their property. Known as Apple Bush or Fruit Salad Plant, it was first discovered in Victoria at Hattah Kulkyne NP in 2018.



Photo: [Raakajlim - Mallee conservation](#)

It is a reasonably common plant, even a weed in Western Australia and the west of the Northern Territory and can be found in the drier woodlands of western New South Wales.

The genus name, *Pterocaulon* comes from the Greek 'pteron', a wing, and 'kaulos', a stem, and describes the leaves and stems which give a somewhat flattened appearance. The specific epithet is also from the Greek, 'sphakelos', meaning gangrene, mortification, a spasm or convulsion. I can't even guess at the reasons for this.

The plant gets its common name from the sweet, fruity smell of the leaves and stems, very suggestive of sweet apples or fruit salad. Early settlers would add a couple of leaves to tea as a sweetener.

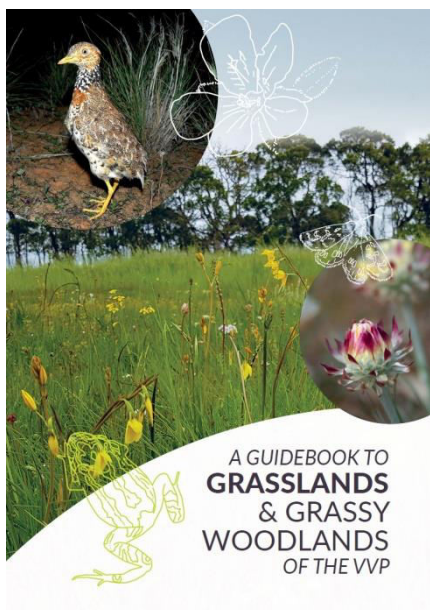
Central Australian aboriginal people had many medicinal uses for the plant as a treatment for colds. Leaves were inserted through a hole bored through the nasal septum, which seems rather drastic. Bundles of

the leaves were used as a pillow or crushed and mixed with animal fat to make a massage ointment.



By Allthingsnative - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=123577241>

GUIDEBOOK to GRASSY WOODLANDS



The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority has put out a lovely little digital *Guidebook to Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains* to support land holders, managers and the wider community.

You can download a copy here:

https://ccma.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Landholder-Guide-for-Grassy-Woodlands-and-Grasslands_spreads.pdf

PHOTO COMPETITION 2023

We had a much smaller number of entries this year, and a smaller number voting, but the winners in each category were clear cut. Two divisions had a tie for third, which was resolved by Nicole Leach's workmate (described as a non-plant – non-animal, non-landscape person) choosing her favourite photo as the eventual winner.

The photos were again of a very high standard and the slideshow, put together by Nicole Leach, drew many oohs and aahs.

Prizes were plants purchased from Special Effects nursery in Barongarook, long-time supporters of our plant sale.

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS CATEGORY



First place was Ade Foster's photo of a local Anglesea orchid, the Plumed Greenhood – *Pterostylis plumosa* with a likely pollinator.

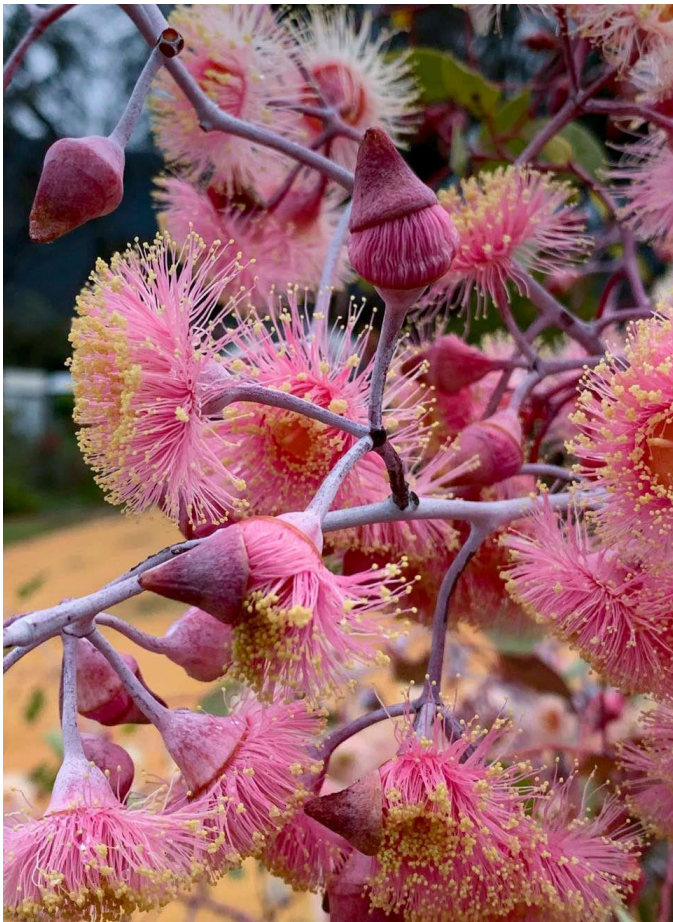


Second place was Frank Scheelings's close-up photo of a climber, *Billardiera scandens* – Common Apple-berry

AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS CATEGORY



The winning photo was by Penny Foster, Apotlebirds – *Struthidea cinerea*, wild birds photographed at Dubbo Zoo



Third place was Penny Foster's photo of the flowers of a *Eucalyptus caesia* hybrid, photographed in a garden in Pomonal.



In second place was a photo of an interesting fly, a Blue-eyed Lacewing – *Nymphes myrmeleonides*, by Frank Scheelings.



And in third Frank Scheelings again, with this beautiful portrait of an Osprey – *Pandion cristatus*, taken in WA.

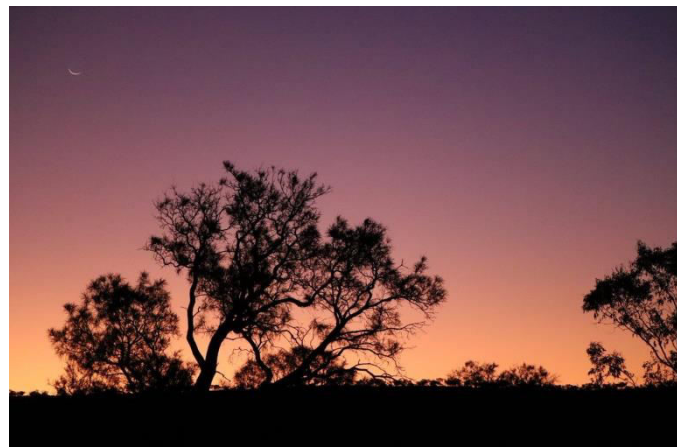
AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES CATEGORY



Our winning landscape was taken by Roger Wileman looking towards the You Yangs from Point Henry.



In second place, Frank Scheelings, with this very interesting rock formation in the Northern Territory.

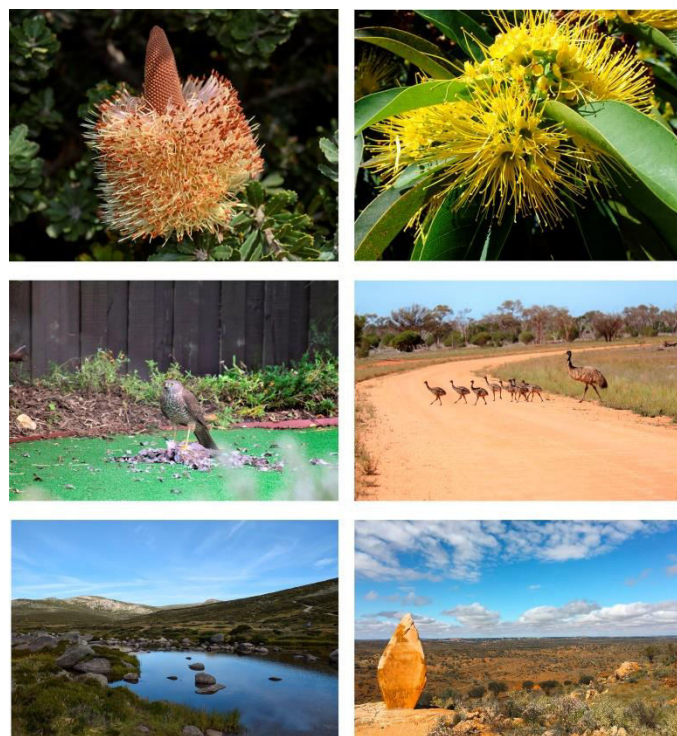


And third place, this stunning sunrise by Nicole Leach, taken at Mutawintji National Park in NSW.

For those who were not at the meeting, or who haven't taken the opportunity to look at all the entries, here's the link again ...

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/awz6elfd1i70unp/AAASiiP56GkbUTDEUugge62ya?dl=0>

And here's a sample of some of the wonderful entries ..



Thanks to Bruce for his collation of the entries, to Nicole for her presentation of all the photos and winners of the various categories and to Special Effects Nursery for helping out with the prizes.