



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 405 - September, 2024

I hadn't planned on a September issue, but there's a lot happening, so ...

AUGUST MEETING - AGM & Photo Competition

Our August Meeting was the Annual General Meeting.

Carmel gave a report of the club's activities for 2024 and thanked the committee for their efforts on our behalf.

Our September speakers were Graham and Maree Goods who talked about the Little Desert Flora and Fauna – The Weird and The Wonderful. In October Jason Caruso spoke about smaller Eucalypts for the suburban garden. In November it was Miriam Foord talking about the ABNSPA Biennial Conference. Just fourteen members attended our Christmas break-up BBQ at Fyansford.



The Little Desert in Flower – Photo: Graham Goods

In January we had a long weekend at Mt. Hotham, staying at the wonderful Kalyna Ski Lodge. The facilities were first class and we shared the weekend with members from the Keilor Plains APS group. Chris Clarke from Keilor was a great asset with his knowledge of the plants of the high country. We were joined by Alex, from the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens who has a house at Dinner Plain. It was a great weekend which will be repeated.



The mighty Mt. Hotham Crew

In February we had speaker, Zoe Brittain who spoke about her work with Marine Algae. March was our Pizza and Plant Based Trivia night. In April Ade spoke about frogs and other amphibians. Our annual plant sale was another great success with record numbers through the gate, and a lessening of the workload by having Corio Lions Club look after the BBQ and Cruizin Coffee handling the drinks and snacks.

In May we had Roger and Bruce regale us with tales of cycling the Munda Biddi Trail in WA. In June we had a most interesting talk from Grant Baverstock about bats and their place in the world and in July Ross Shepherd spoke about his passion for Banksias and the foundation of the Banksia Arboretum in Seaford.



Cycling the Munda Biddi Trail

President: Position Vacant Secretary: Peter Nuzum: apsgeelong@gmail.com
Treasurer: Penny Foster: pennysf11@gmail.com Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net
Australian Plants Society, Geelong - Website: www.apsgeelong.org

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented in Penny's absence. The club is in a good financial position with a current bank balance of \$11,105.50. Our two main sources of income were members' fees and the plant sale, while the main expenses were rent and speakers' costs.

The committee has taken a position of subsidizing some activities for members to encourage more participation and has also made donations to a number of worthy causes.

While our numbers are small in comparison to previous years much thought and effort is given to ways to encourage new members.

Elections: Following the presentation of reports, Nicole Leach took the floor to conduct elections. As per our club rules, all committee positions were vacated and elections for all positions were held. The results were as follows:

President: Still vacant
Vice President: Carmel Addlem
Secretary : Peter Nuzum
Treasurer : Penny Foster

General committee members:

Sheila Deakin
Matt Leach
Bruce McGinness
Tracy Hind
Lyhn Barfield
Ade Foster

While it is concerning that yet again we have no President, the committee will continue to function, as it has for the past few years, by sharing the duties.

We would like to acknowledge retiring committee members Deb Peeters and Chris Walker-Cook for their great contributions to the club and wish them well.

Life memberships:

The previous committee voted to award four Life Memberships for outstanding contributions to the club over many years. Accordingly presentations were made to John and Barbara Bell, Matt and Pam Baars, Roger Wileman and Sheila Deakin and Frank and Tina Scheelings. Congratulations and thank you.



JOTTINGS FROM THE SECRETARY - Peter Nuzum

Club activities :

- We will be having a bus trip to Bendigo on Sunday 29th of this month. We have 20 people going so it should be a great day. The day will involve a visit to Marilyn Sprague's garden followed by a visit to the APS Bendigo wildflower show.
- Plans are also being made for next year with a visit to the Cranbourne Botanical Garden's plant sale,

followed by a visit to the Seaford Arboretum. More details later.



Members enjoying the Seaford Arboretum

- The Alpine trip will be on again in January to Mount Hotham. More details soon.

Some up-coming Victorian activities:

- Garden DesignFest is coming up in November. This activity is taking place with Melbourne gardens. Maybe we can do something similar in Geelong and district. What do people think? Please let me know your thoughts on this.
- Angair Wildflower & Art Show will be on 21 & 22 September
- ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne on 30 September to 4 October. Visit <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/> for details

Activities/Speakers for next year:

We are starting to plan next year's activities/speakers so if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Fees:

Please remember that annual subscriptions are overdue so if you are still to pay, please use direct debit and let Penny know you have paid.

DeakinSeaweed's Seaweed Culture Revitalisation Project:

People no doubt remember Zoe Brittain and her talk on seaweed and marine algae. Well, Zoe is planning to take a group of indigenous students to a national marine conference and asked us for assistance. At our last committee meeting, we agreed to help them out with a \$500 donation.

SEPTEMBER MEETING – Sept 17th - by Lyhn Barfield

Our next speaker on 17th September will be Stephen Murphy. His web site is recreatingthecountry.com.au



Stephen's valuable work is focused on design to restore our lost bioiversity, whether it be for farms, our own backyard, including nature strips or denuded open spaces wherever they may be. 'Reveging' is coming more often to our collective consciousness and, not before time. We continue to lose species to extinction, largely due to land clearing and deforestation. Stephen recently released his book *Recreating The Country* and will bring some copies. For those interested it is \$35.00 and card will be available.

2024 MEETINGS and OUTINGS

Sept Meeting	Stephen Murphy – see above
Oct Meeting	RSPCA Koala Hospital
Nov Meeting	Ian Evans - Brachychitons
Dec 7th	Christmas Break-up BBQ

Lots more in the pipeline. Stay tuned!

PHOTO COMPETITION

Some wonderful entries were received this year. Thanks to Bruce for setting up the photos for veiwing, and to Nicole for arranging the voting process and presenting the entries and winners at the AGM. Our Winners.

Australian Animals: Tina Scheelings took first place with this lovely capture of a mud-crabbing Brahminy Kite



Australian Landscapes: Nicole Leach was the winner with this evocative shot of an arid inland road.

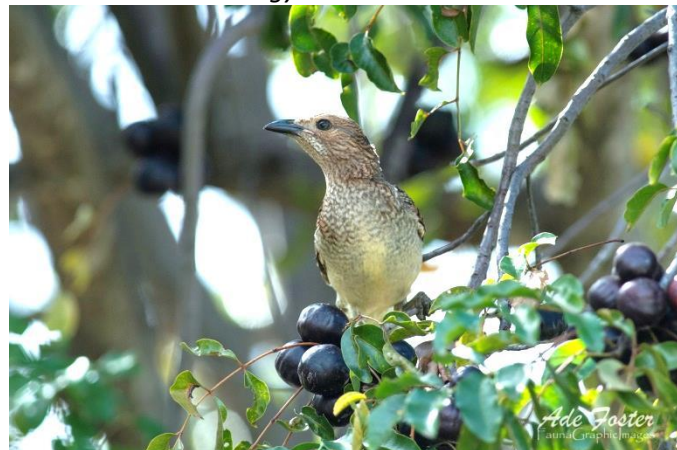


Australian Plants: Gordon Barfield took out first place with this great portrait of fungi.



BURDEKIN PLUM – by Ade Foster

On our recent Queensland trip we stopped at Rolleston for fuel and a coffee from the little coffee van in the local park. Fig-birds and Spotted Bowerbirds were feeding on the fallen fruit of one of the trees, a Burdekin Plum – *Pleiogynium timorense*.



Spotted Bowerbird in the Burdekin Plum

Also known as Tulip Plum, it is a very attractive, ornamental tree. Its native range includes Borneo, Sulawesi, the Philippines, the Moluccas, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, New Caledonia, and Queensland. It produces rounded, acidic fruits that hard and bitter until ripe. It is naturally a rainforest species, but is incredibly hardy and drought tolerant. It may be found in wet rainforest, dry sub-coastal woodlands and even sand-dunes behind mangroves. The tree is dioecious, with separate male and female plants.

Fruits are large, purple/black, round, but dorsally flattened. They contain a large stone, similar to domestic type plums. The colour and flavour of the flesh varies between varieties, but they are generally very tart and best cooked before eating. They may be eaten raw if tart is your thing.



Burdekin Plums – Rolleston, QLD.

Flowering usually occurs from January and March. The small, yellow/green flowers develop into fruit in winter. Fruit can be harvested when ripe, but needs to be stored for a few days before becoming edible. Indigenous folk buried the fruit to encourage ripening. Joseph Banks is said to have collected fruit along the Endeavour River and wrote in his journal ... *"These when gathered off from the tree were very hard and disagreeable but after being kept for a few days became soft and tasted much like indifferent Damsons"*

In cultivation, the Burdekin Plum likes a sunny position in a well-drained soil. It is very drought tolerant, but doesn't like heavy frosts. Mulching and deep-watering in the summer will keep it healthy. The glossy dark green leaves in the dense canopy provide shade in a garden setting.

In the wild, Burdekin Plum can reach 20 m, but generally about 10 m in cultivation. It will also do well in a large pot.

APS Victoria COM Report

by Lyhn Barfield

APS Vic. held their quarterly Committee of Management meeting in Bendigo the last weekend of July which also involved their 50th Birthday celebrations. These meetings are open to anyone and are a terrific way to meet other like-minded garden enthusiasts as the host club always makes available gardens to visit. In this case there were four, two of which are public spaces ... Honeyeater Reserve and the Botanic Gardens new extension.

I sat in on part of the meeting to learn the ANSPA is now fully booked, a great credit to the organizers. Neil Marriott reported on Pomonal since the February fires. APS Victoria donated \$10,000 to help re-establish the nursery and equipment which was completely wiped out on Phil Williams property. This is essentially the hub for propagating all the endemic species from the Grampians to be planted out at WAMA. He also commented on the spectacular regrowth occurring. Explosion would best way to describe it. So much so that thinning out is required, assisted by the deer coming down from the hills seeking the succulent fresh young regrowth. Plants are coming out of everywhere from seed that would have been originally taken down holes by ants.

Despite the weather being terribly cold and rainy, 20 of us started off at Marilyn Sprague's to soak up her enthusiasm. For those who don't know her, Marilyn started Goldfields Revegetation Nursery in Bendigo, but now concentrates on her extensive property propagating and growing for the cut flower industry. Wish I could tell you the name of an Australian Native

Lime with little yellow fruit which is eaten whole and is totally delicious.

I was reminded that we can use Fusilade as an herbicide instead of Glyphosate products as it is perfectly safe for natives and very effective. Does anyone else have favorite plants growing in someone else's garden they love to go back and revisit. Marilyn had an *Eremophila Abietina* in full metallic blue glory last visit so it was a sorry sight to see an empty space where it was, having been blown over by a strong wind. Another fun observation were two *Eucalyptus* 'Moon Lagoon's. The young plant has the typical blue roundish leaf, while the mature tree right beside it looked completely different with long green/yellow leaves and now used by preference by the florists for the buds.

It would seem the weather has been intermittently hectic and wild in our state over the past few months. Marilyn experienced 320 mm at the end of January, taking out their wood pile to be delivered to the neighbours some doors down. Then, two hours' drive away in February perhaps two or three weeks later, the bushfires which took out a third of the houses in Pomonal.

Let's go plant another tree.

YOU KNOW YOU DO

I saw this at a little stall in Eumundi Markets and it made me laugh. Hope you get a giggle, too.

