



# Correa Mail

Newsletter No 409 - January, 2025

## DECEMBER MEETING - CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas BBQ break-up was held in St.Helen's Park on 8<sup>th</sup> December. It turned out to be a bit of a blustery day with just nine hardy members in attendance. The new shelter was put to good use and the protection from the wind greatly appreciated. The BBQs are a little distant from the shelter, but we're all young and fit and managed the trek without too much incident.



**Hardy Members attend Christmas Party**

There was a great deal of joyful conversation. Judith's tales and descriptions of folks she's encountered in her travels had us all in stitches. We were greatly entertained by a lady using a metal detector to find 'treasure' in the surrounding lawns, and a brief chat revealed she had found the princely sum of five dollars by her efforts.

Penny and I were very pleasantly surprised by a card and lovely gift of an *Eremophila* as a thank you for our contributions to the committee. Most unnecessary but very much appreciated.

By Ade Foster

## NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

An APS Geelong committee meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November. In addition to the usual articles of business there was some reassignment of duties amongst the committee members due to Ade and Penny Foster taking a well-earned step back from the load they have been carrying for quite a few years. The committee thanked Ade and Penny on behalf of all members for their years of service.

Ade and Penny's former work was reassigned as follows:

- Treasurer – Bruce McGuiness and Sheila Deakin will perform this role jointly
- Newsletter – Tracey Hind will perform this role
- New Members – Peter Nuzum will perform this role in his capacity as Secretary
- Plant Sale – Ade Foster continuing to manage
- Website – Ade Foster will continue to manage the APS Geelong website

The committee welcomes those taking on the reassigned roles and noted appreciation for their efforts. – Editors Note: *I cannot possibly hope to fill Ade's shoes with the newsletter, so please bear with me as I do my best!*

## MOUNT HOTHAM ALPINE TRIP

Twenty-six plant enthusiasts from eight different APS District Groups gathered at Kalyna Lodge at Mount Hotham from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January to explore the peaceful and beautiful surrounds. A broad age range of attendees (from under fifty years to over ninety years) ensured a commensurate diversity of activities.

President: Position Vacant  
Treasurer: Bruce McGuiness/Sheila Deakin

Secretary: Peter Nuzum: [apsgeelong@gmail.com](mailto:apsgeelong@gmail.com)  
Editor: Tracey Hind: [mailto:apsgeelongnews@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:apsgeelongnews@gmail.com)

Australian Plants Society, Geelong - Website: [www.apsgeelong.org](http://www.apsgeelong.org)

The often-fickle alpine weather was perfect, even getting a bit too warm for strenuous walking in the afternoons.

Apart from the stunning scenery and flora the standout for me was how well a diverse group of people got along, how much incredible knowledge was shared and how many new friendships were made. Because of the hot, dry spring this year, many species that were in full bloom when we visited the area on the same dates last year had already finished flowering this year. These environmental sensitivities to climactic activity was interesting to observe.

This was a very economical trip, costing \$50 per person per night, couples and singles had a room to themselves. If we run this trip again be quick to book because many of the attendees were very keen to repeat the experience and insisted that they be notified of any other trip.

The following photographs are a sample of what we observed and experienced.

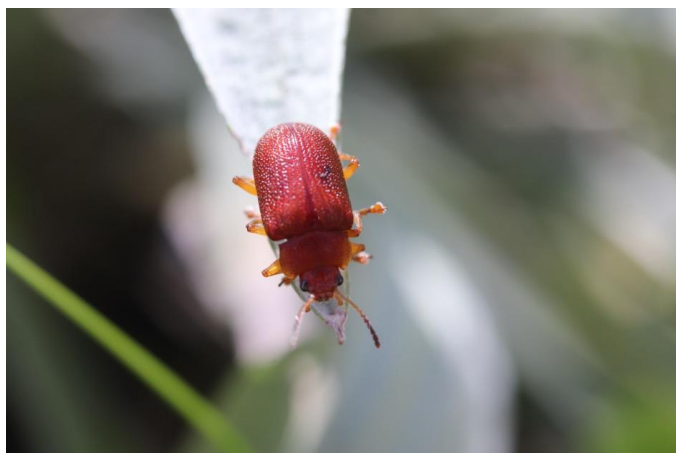
Story by Bruce McGinness. Photo credits mostly to Nicole Leach



View from Razorback Track



Olearia Frostii



Beetle on Carmichael Falls Track



Dead Timber Hill Track



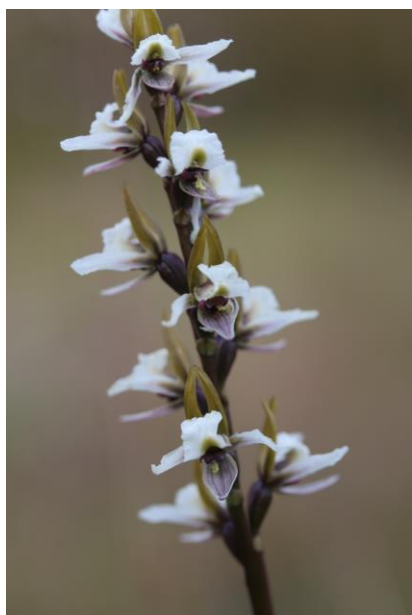
Lycopodium Fastigatum



Pterostylis Decurva



Prasophyllum Tadgellianum



Prasophyllum Suttonii

### City of Greater Geelong Bat Initiative

Last year we had a fantastic talk by Grant Baverstock about bats and their habitats, including how we can support these clever and essential species in our native gardens. Flying foxes are one of the most efficient pollinators and seed dispersers of native Australian trees and shrubs.

In great news for local bat populations the City of Greater Geelong is installing an irrigation system in Eastern Park to support a local camp of grey-headed flying foxes – also known as Fruit Bats.

The grey-headed flying fox is a threatened species and our local camp in Geelong is considered national significant. Flying foxes face several threats including habitat destruction, failing food sources, extreme heat events and disturbance.

For more information on this wonderful initiative see the [City of Greater Geelong website](#).

### 2025 GEELONG GROUP MEETINGS and OUTINGS

Now that we have well and truly settled into 2025 it's time for us to get back to regular business through our informative meetings. Please join us for our first meeting of the year at 7.30pm on February 18<sup>th</sup>. This meeting promises to be completely relevant to all of us with a truly local focus on native plants. We will hear from Sophie Small representing Bellarine Landcare on the topic of "Bellarine Peninsula Plants and their vegetation communities".

Bellarine Landcare Group works with private landholders, volunteers, government, other organisations to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment of the Bellarine Peninsula. Our Nursery volunteers grow 60,000 indigenous plants annually for revegetation and home gardens. Our Rabbit Action Group supports landholders with education on best practice rabbit control. We run regular workshops, walks and talks, and other events to help people develop skills and knowledge so that they may appreciate, understand and care for our local biodiversity.

Further APS Geelong topics for you to schedule into your busy calendars for later in the year are below:

**Mar 18** - Kelly Clitheroe – Light Pollution Effects

**Apr 5** - Plant Sale

**Apr 15** - John Lenagan – Insects and Ecosystems

**May 20** – Plant Based Trivia and Pizza

**Jun 17** - Ian Evans – Brachychitons

**July 15** Chris Larkin - Hakeas

**Aug 19** – AGM and Photo Competition

The location is The Ballroom Hamlyn Park, 1 Carey Street Hamlyn Heights. Click [here](#) to see the location on google maps.

### ADDITIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND PLANT SALES

In addition to the above activities of our local Geelong District Group, below are some more dates for further activities in the first half of 2025 that may be of great interest to many of you:

- Feb 11-13** 9<sup>th</sup> annual Victorian Biodiversity Conference (VicBioCon), Monash University, Clayton Campus.
- Mar 15-16** Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) Biodiversity Symposium – “Impacts on biodiversity during the Anthropocene – 10 years on”. Blackburn RSL, Diggers Way, Blackburn. Further information at <https://www.fncv.org.au/biodiversity-symposium/>
- Mar 22-23** Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Garden Victoria (RBGV) Autumn Plant Sale. Plant list available one week before the sale. Further information at [Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale – 22-23 March 2025 – CFRBGV Inc.](#)
- Mar 26-30** Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, Carlton Gardens. Volunteers required. Contact Chris Clarke 0439 378 897.
- Apr 12** APS Heathcote Flower Show and Plant Sale – Barrack Reserve, Heathcote 9am – 3pm.
- Apr 12** APS Yarra Yarra Plant & Book Sale – Eltham Community Centre 801 Main Rd Eltham 10am – 3pm.
- Apr 12-13** Yarra Valley Autumn Plant Fair and Garden Expo. 125 Quayle Rd., Wandin 9am – 4pm.
- Apr 26** APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. The Briars, 450 Nepean Highway, Mount Martha. 10am – 3.30pm.

**May 10** APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. St. Andrews Uniting Church, 18 Gisborne Rd., Bacchus Marsh.

### PLANT TABLE -

There were no usual meetings in December or January and therefore no plant tables.

### 2025 APS GEELONG PLANT SALE -

Planning for the APS Geelong District Group 2025 Plant Sale is now well underway. The sale will be held at Lovely Banks on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April and will be an all-day event.

**WE NEED YOU** to circulate the news to your circle of family, friends and local community as widely as possible. This is our major fundraiser for the year so the more people who know about the sale, the more money we have as a Group to conduct our activities such as tours, great speakers and trips.

Please help us to get the word out by any of the following methods (or any other legal method you can think of!):

- Email the separate pdf file to folks or groups who might be interested or who might further distribute it to local audiences.
- Print the separate pdf file and put it on your supermarket, library or community centre noticeboard.
- Copy and paste the below image or the attached pdf and post it on your Facebook, Instagram, X, Tik Tok or other relevant social media avenue.



**AUSTRALIAN PLANT SALE**

SAT 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025, 8:30AM – 4:00PM

A large variety of native plants provided by specialist native nurseries for sale.

- Book sales
- BBQ & refreshments
- Kids activities

Adults \$2 each, Children free!

Wirawilla, 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY Geelong APSGEEELONG@GMAIL.COM WWW.APSGEEELONG.ORG

## FROM APS HQ

APS Geelong District Group is a member of [APS Victoria](#). And at the 2024 biennial Australian Native Plants Society (ANSPA) Conference, APS Vic took over the executive roles of ANSPA. That means that your membership of APS Geelong is part of a much bigger picture of growing and propagating Australian plants as well as helping to preserve our native plants through initiatives such as monitoring and lobbying and seed management. Your part of something that really matters!

APS Wangaratta hosted the most recent quarterly APS Management Committee meeting. APS Vic have communicated some of the highlights of that meeting for your interest:

- The Members Section of the [APS Vic website](#) includes online access to all backcopies of their publication "Growing Australian" through to March 2018. This includes searchable content. Access to other interstate publications from NSW, ACT, Tasmania, Queensland and WA is also available. (Note: you will need to ensure that you are a member of APS Vic as well as APS Geelong to enjoy these website features).
- The APS Vic Seedbank Curator called for more donations of clean seeds from members across Victoria to avoid having to spend scarce funding to buy seeds. The seedbank information sheet is available at : [Members' Area | Australian Plants Society Victoria](#). If you have seeds to donate contact Marj Seaton on 03 9570 6293.
- A summary of the ANSPA 2024 conference was provided. There were over 300 participants, 173 from Victoria and the remaining from other parts of Australia, New Zealand and The Netherlands. Subject to copyright, some powerpoint slides from the conference will be available to the public on the APS Vic website, with links to the ANSPA website.

## SEE/HEAR ANYTHING INTERESTING?

This newsletter is put together by volunteers. Do you have anything interesting to share? Let us know. It could be in the fields of any of the following:

- Native gardening
- Local conservation
- Australian Biodiversity

- Local pests/weeds
- Council or community initiatives
- Academic research or conferences
- Photos of your native garden or wildlife in your local area
- Gardening tips
- Species information that others might find useful
- Nurseries you've come across with great quality native products or really good price tags!

...anything really that you think your like-minded APS Geelong District Group members might enjoy reading or hearing about.

Send any contributions to the newsletter editor at [apsgeelongnews@gmail.com](mailto:apsgeelongnews@gmail.com)



**EREMOPHILA MACULATA**

– **By Peter Nuzum**

Eremophila Maculata is growing well in my garden and producing copious quantities of purple flowers. Apparently flower colour is quite variable comes in colours of red or yellow and various shades of these colours. This plant is also called Spotted Emu Bush and Spotted Native Fuchsia due to the spots on the inside of the flower.

In the wild, this plant grows throughout central Australia in all States in a range of soils from heavy clay to sandy soils and in low rainfall areas which makes it eminently suitable for the heavy clay and desert-like conditions here in Lara. It also enjoys full sun and is not frost-tender.

My plant is about 1.5 metres high and 3 metres across. It has been suggested that maybe I should consider pruning it after flowering and making it into a shapely bush but I tend to like the rugged look. So, I will decide after this flowering season.

I am told that propagation from seed is difficult but that cuttings of hardened, current season's growth strike

readily. I will put that to the test in the near future. All-in-all, a wonderful bush as a filler in a sunny position.



The flowers of Eremophila Maculata



The spotted inside of the flower



The bush in my garden

## GARDEN THOUGHT FOR FEBRUARY

What flower gives  
the most kisses on  
Valentine's Day?



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