



KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah
Preservation by Cultivation



September 2021

Unfortunately due to ongoing CoVid restrictions, we are unable to have an in-person meeting in September. Instead it will be held on Zoom – not what we planned, but the best we can do in the circumstances.

The meeting will be on Thursday 23rd September at 7.30 pm. Peter Rogers will email the link to this meeting closer to the time.

As this will be our Annual General Meeting, it is important that as many members as possible attend via Zoom.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) plus Grand Specimen Table

The AGM will be first on the programme. The President's Report, Financial Report and last year's AGM Minutes are included in this newsletter.

We do ask that you seriously consider whether you could join the new Committee. We desperately need new ideas and opinions to keep the group interesting. Please contact a current Committee member (details at end of this newsletter) to volunteer or to find out more.

There will be a Grand Specimen Table presentation. It will be a recording of our 2011 GST which featured some gorgeous spring flowers.

Spring Plant Shows

Unfortunately, the CoVid situation has meant that the sales and garden openings in early September had to be either cancelled or deferred.

The future of Spring Plant Sales is also unknown for: APS Grampians on 2nd and 3rd October, APS Echuca-Moama on 9th October, Friends of RBG Cranbourne on 9th and 10th October, APS Mitchell on 16th October, and APS Ballarat on 23rd and 24th October.

Expressions of Interest for Pea Seminar

The Organising Committee of the 14th FJC Rogers' Seminar on "Fabulous Peas" is collecting expressions of interest from people who are considering attending.

If you put your name on the list, you will be kept informed and be sent the newsletters which are about to commence.

Please put your name on the list rather than just assuming that we will know you are coming, as it helps us to plan for numbers.

Email to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

History repeating

Sue Guymer

We were recently sent this drawing by one of our book customers. It was a cartoon which May Gibbs produced to raise spirits during the 1919-20 Spanish Flu pandemic. Sounds familiar!



Chris has Lots of Plants

Chris Fletcher, who provides plants for sale at our meetings, currently has a lot of stock of plants which were to go to APS Yarra Yarra Plant Expo. With the cancellation of the Expo these plants can be offered to our members.

Chris has provided the following list. Most of the species are in tubes (\$3) but there may be some in 6 inch pots (\$6). Contact Chris on 0419 331 325 to work out how to collect your plants.

Actinotus helianthii

Acacia assimilis, glaucoptera, willdenowiana, howitii
prostrate, *glandulicarpa, farinosa, maxwellii,*
merinthophora, restiacea, rubida, rupicola,
sessilispicata, williamsonii

Ammobium alatum

Aotus ericoides

Astartea winter pink

Baeckea astarteoides, ramosissima

Boronia crenulata, megastigma lutea

Bossiaea linophylla, praetermissa

Bauera sessiliflora

Brachyscome 'Piliga Posy'

Callistemon brachyandrus

Conostylis aculeata

Calothamnus hirsutus

Chamelaucium ciliatum, uncinatum

Chrysocephalum apiculatum, baxteri, ramosissimum

Correa reflexa assorted

Cryptandra scortechinii

Crowea exalata x saligna

Chorizema cordatum, diversifolia, retrorsum

Dampiera dysantha, heterophylla, linearis, trigona

Dodonea filifolia, lophantha, sinualata

Darwinia taxifolia ssp macroleana

Epacris gunnii, longifolia

Eutaxia cuneata, obovatum

Eutaxia microphylla shrub

Eriostemon nudiflora

Eremophila biserrata, complanata, decipiens, lehmanii,
maculata, venuta x maculata, gibbifolia, mackinlayi

Grevillea bauera, buxifolia, endlicheriana, dimorpha,
'Forest Rambler', glabrata, 'Gold Rush', jephcotii,
juniperina yellow and red, *lanigera 'Mt Tamboritha',*
lanigera x alpina, 'Lillyanne', linearifolia prostrate,
oleiodes, 'Pryors Hybrid', sericea, 'White Wings'

Goodenia amplexicaulis, elongata, gracilis,
macmillanii, pusilla, willisii

Hardenbergia violacea pink, white and purple

Helipteryx anthemoides double

Hibbertia aspera, empetrifolia, fascicularis, grossularia,
obtusifolia, penduncularis large flowers, *racemosa,*
stellaris

Hovea acutifolia, elliptica, lanceolata

Hypocalymma angustifolium, cordifolium, linifolia

Isotoma fluviatilis

Jacksonia scoparia

Kennedia carinata, coccinea, eximea, microphylla

Kunzea micromera

Kunzea preissiana, pulchella

Lechenaultia biloba

Leptospermum brevipes

Lambertia formosa, inermis, multiflorus, orbifolia,
uniflora

Melaleuca fulgens, spathulata

Micromyrtus ciliata

Mirbelia dilatata

Myoporum floribundum

Olearia homelepis, minor, phlogopappa, tomentosa

Pimelea ferrineus pink and white, *nivea, sylvestris*

Phebalium glandulosum

Prostranthera aspalathoides, baxteri, cryptandroides,
denticulata, eurybioides, florifera, incisa, 'Poorinda
ballerina', staurophylla, stricta

Pycnosorus globosus

Rulingia hermanniifolia

Scaevola aemula, crassifolia, depauperata, 'Mauve
Clusters', ramosissima

Spyridium obcordatum, parvifolium, vexiliferum,
vexiliferum fine leaf

Thryptomene saxicola

Templetonia retusa

Westringia ericola, glabra

Xerochrysum viscosum

Veronica arenaria, decora, perfoliata mauve and white

Wahlenbergia double, gloriosa

Blue *Poa sieberiana*

Blue *Themida triandra*

Libertia paniculata

Patersonia fragilis

Thelionema caespitosum



Hibbertia stellaris

Graeme Nicholls

Gunbarrel Highway

Geoff Lay

Jannie and I were lucky enough to tour the Gunbarrel Highway between lockdowns.

Despite the name, this highway is a one-lane dirt road for 1,500km traversing the central deserts of Western Australia through to Alice Springs.

Due to good rains in the last few years, what can be desolate red sand was covered in green, and the flowers, though low, were magnificent. And we finally saw a camel!



Camels on road at Sandy Blight Rd.



Gunbarrel Highway at Gibson Desert.



Dicrastylis exsuccosa



Ptilotus latifolius



Calandrinia pumila



Ptilotus xerophilus



Tribulus hirsutus

Nature Strip Lockdown Activity

Elaine Provan

An article in the September 2020 issue of *Kunzea*, written by Trevor Blake, inspired me to go ahead with improving our nature strip which consisted of copious onion weed, along with clover and barren patches - nothing worth keeping.

Gradually I removed the onion and other weeds, added some better soil and a small strip of gravel along the gutter edge for use by people getting out of parked cars.

We purchased many native tube stock from Greenlink Nursery (within 5kms from home) in late September. In December we mulched over the area, to retain the moisture over summer.

These photos show the progress, which is slow, but I am assured that this spring the growth will improve the spread of the *Pelargonium australe*, *Dichondra repens*, *Wahlenbergia communis*, *Brachyscome multifida*, Wallaby Grass and some Billy Buttons. Not nearly as spectacular as Trevor's nature strip, but far better than the weedy nothingness that was there before.

I am surprised at the number of passing people who have admired our effort and the improvement in the area. As we are opposite the Maranoa Gardens it is spreading the joy and interest in native plants.



Before . . .



Planting . . .



Early growth . . .



Looking good . . .

Rutaceae Ruminations

Marilyn Bull and George Stolfo

This is the third in a series of articles on members of the Rutaceae family written by Marilyn and illustrated by George.

Asterolasia phebaloides

The asterolasias are a small genus of 5 species in the Rutaceae family. Flowers are generally bright yellow, however *Asterolasia hexapetala* and *A. asteriscophora* ssp. *albiflora* have white flowers.

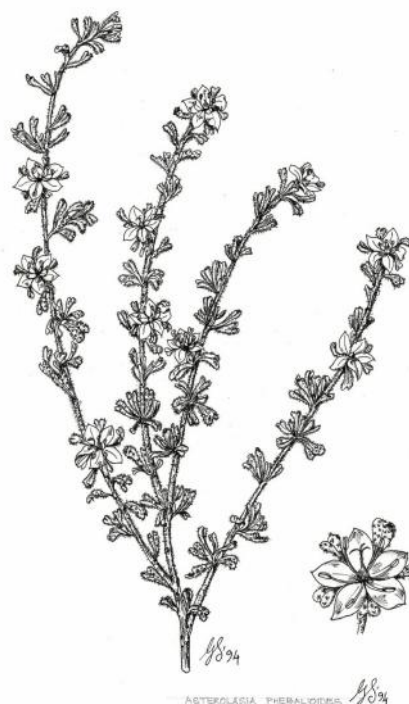
While I like all the asterolasias, the small *A. phebaloides* (Downy Star-bush) is a particular favourite. I have a few dotted around the garden, quietly minding their own business until spring when they burst forth with lots of golden starry flowers, occurring singly along densely hairy stems. It is suggested that this small shrub can grow to 1m in height but I have never had it taller than around half a metre. Perhaps that is because it only seems to live for a few years for me.

Asterolasia phebaloides (meaning like a phebalium) is distinguished from other asterolasias by the single stalkless flowers and the dull hairy leaves which are partly or strongly folded.

The Downy Star-bush prefers a shady spot in well-drained soils. Mine are in light loamy clay. In nature it grows in sandy or rocky soils. I suspect it would be unhappy in heavy clay soil.

This small shrub is found in a few places in western Victoria but is relatively common in the Grampians and the Little Desert.

It is generally available. Karwarra Garden Nursery frequently have it in tubes; a great way to buy lots and scatter them around, or grow them *en masse* for a stunning spring effect.



Looking Back ...

Nicky Zanen

I was looking for a photograph and came across these taken 10 years ago, at the ANPSA 2011 Conference held in Adelaide. Several Maroondah members attended the Conference.

These photographs were taken during a visit to Currency Creek Arboretum where we were hosted by Dean Nicolle. You might spot Jannie and Geoff Lay, and Barbara Rooks.



Dean Nicolle speaking to the visitors to the Arboretum.



Jannie Lay has found something interesting to photograph.



Barbara Rooks is keen to get a cuppa!

What's in a name

plants named after people

Tony Cavanagh

This is an excerpt from a fascinating series of articles published in *Growing Australian* magazine some years ago. It is reprinted here by permission. This month the plants begin with the letter D.

Darwinia

There are around 70 species in this genus, most of them found in Western Australia. They are all low shrubs to 0.3–0.4 m high (a few up to 2 m) and a spread of up to 1.5 m.

The WA species in particular have colourful and often spectacularly displayed bell-like 'flowers' which are in fact bracts; you need to look inside the bells to see the small flowers. Only a few species are grown, some common ones being *Darwinia citriodora* (hardy), *D. lejoystyla* (difficult), *D. macrostegia*, *D. meeboldii* (both spectacular but difficult), and *D. oxylepis* (not reliable). They strike moderately well from cuttings but perform much better in Victoria when grafted. They need excellent drainage, a semi-shade to sunny position and benefit from regular pruning.

The name immediately makes us think of Charles Darwin but in fact the genus was named after Dr Erasmus Darwin (12 December 1731–18 April 1802), his grandfather. Darwin is described as a naturalist, poet, philosopher and physician, and is best known botanically for his translations into English of the works of the great Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus. Given the number of WA species, it is perhaps surprising that the original (type) specimen came from Port Jackson and was described by the English botanist Edward Rudge in 1815.



Darwinia oxylepis form

Dodonaea

Plants in this genus are commonly known as 'hops' or 'hop bushes' because the decorative fruiting capsules (deep red in species such as *Dodonaea viscosa*) were used by early settlers as a substitute for hops in brewing beer. They can also be green or yellow and are much more prominent than the small and insignificant flowers. The ferny foliage of other species such as *D. microzyga* is an added garden attraction.

Only a few species are cultivated, probably the most common being *D. viscosa* of which there are around seven subspecies. They are usually propagated by cuttings and seem reliable in most situations. There are around 69 species, 60 of them Australian, the others growing in tropical regions of America, Africa and Asia. In fact, it is believed that the type specimen, *D. viscosa*, was in cultivation in Europe in 1754 and the original may have come from the West Indies. Botanists on Cook's first voyage collected it in Hawaii.

The genus is named after the Flemish physician and botanist Rembert Dodoens (29 June 1517–10 March 1585) who also had no connection with Australian plants. He was Professor of Medicine at Leiden University and was a prolific writer of books on medicine and plants. One of his herbals (dealing largely with medicinal plants) was in his time the most translated book after the Bible. The naming was by the Head Gardener of the Chelsea Physic Garden and prolific author, Philip Miller, 'whose knowledge of living plants was unsurpassed in his lifetime'.



Dodonea viscosa

Dryandra

Technically speaking, I should not be using this name as *Dryandra* was transferred into *Banksia* recently as a result of DNA and other genetic studies. However, the move is still very controversial and not finalised, so for the moment let's stay with the name.

The genus is confined to the south-west of WA, and currently consists of 137 taxa (species, subspecies and varieties) with perhaps a new subspecies to come. Many from the southern areas of WA do well in Victoria, but are often 'fussy' and require excellent drainage and a mainly sunny situation. The large flower heads are often well presented, spectacular in shades of yellow and pink, and their foliage variation makes them attractive garden plants. They range from prostrate plants through medium to large shrubs with a few becoming small trees.



The name commemorates Jonas Dryander (5 March 1748–19 October 1810), a Swedish botanist who was a pupil of the great Carl Linnaeus.



Dryandra quercifolia

He came to England in 1777 and in 1782 was appointed as Joseph Banks' librarian and botanist, working on his large plant collections. He was also librarian to the Royal Society and one of the founders, as well as librarian and Vice President, of the Linnean Society of London so had a very active role in science in England. The genus was named in his honour by Robert Brown in 1810. Brown succeeded Dryander as librarian/botanist to Banks on Dryander's death in 1810.

Tony Cavanagh

Honour for John Hanson

Alison Rogers

Congratulations to John Hanson who is an extremely worthy recipient of Life Membership of the Warrandyte Historical Society. This was presented at their recent AGM meeting via Zoom. The Society has been enriched by his contribution for over many years volunteering for them. The following was taken from their Facebook page.

John has taken an active involvement in promoting the history of Warrandyte to the wider community. He has been a regular on the roster for Museum openings for many years, routinely managing to encourage large numbers of visitors to "come inside" and view the museum. He has set the bar high for the number of visitors to the museum in a single afternoon and actively teaches many about the history of Warrandyte during their visit. He has been instrumental in many successful school visits to the museum being a volunteer always ready to participate with educating school groups. His background as a school teacher has aided him in relating very well to the school students and keeping them enthralled as he recounts Warrandyte's gold history to them. Tours of Fourth Hill and narrating the rich Gold History have also been a specialty of John's.

He has always been extremely dependable and reliable and very willing to help out at the Museum. He has been a great supporter and promoter of the Society for many, many years. And as many Society members and volunteers would attest to, he is a "jolly nice bloke".



August is brought to you by the colour yellow

Graeme Nicholls

Our garden faces south, and is in shadow all through winter. In August, as the days begin to lengthen, the garden emerges from its winter hibernation and looks forward hopefully to some summer sun and warmth again. This is the time when many wattles burst into golden flowers, an intimation of coming springtime displays. The colour yellow brightens up the darkness of our garden immensely at this time of the year. Apart from the acacias, here are a few of the other yellow lights that shine for us.



Eucalyptus preissiana. The large flowers are prominently displayed, and the intense yellow shines brightly amongst the variety of green and grey foliage around it in the garden. This one is the taller ssp. *preissiana*. There is a smaller ssp. *lobulata*.



Grevillea flexuosa. This lovely WA plant has grown very quickly to about 3 m high. I planted it in the street where it is now hanging out over the road a bit and attracts a lot of interest from passers-by. I will have to prune it hard after flowering has finished. It is a grafted plant.



Pheballium squamulosum. This comes in many forms. This one is our favourite. It has grown by the side of our house for about fifteen years, where it is mostly shady. Apart from the odd tip prune, it has had no attention whatever. But each year it rewards us with this stunning display in an otherwise uninspiring part of our garden.



Grevillea rosmarinifolia – yellow form. This has also been growing happily for over ten years, and is about 1 m x 1 m. It receives no sun at all during the winter months, and only part sun in summer. But the flowers are so bright, and stay on the bush for months. This should be grown more widely.

Looking Forward to 2021 and Beyond

The following activities are planned, dependent on CoVid of course.

APS Maroondah Meetings

- 23rd September THURSDAY** – Zoom
AGM and Grand Specimen Table
- 22nd October** – Chris Larkin: “Hakeas”
- 26th November** – Members’ Night

APS Maroondah Garden Visits

- 17th October** – Wait Garden, Riddells Creek.
- 21st November** – Schroder Garden, Montrose
(end-of-year function).

And beyond 2021 ...

- Sunday 11th – Friday 16th September 2022**
ANPSA Conference, hosted by APS NSW at Kiama.
(NOTE: Deferred from 2021 due to CoVid19 restrictions)
- Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October 2022**
14th FJC Rogers Seminar on “Fabulous Peas”,
hosted by APS Maroondah at Mt Evelyn.
Please send expressions of interest to
fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com.

Membership renewals are now due.

Plant Sales

Subject to CoVid restrictions

- 2nd–3rd October** – APS Grampians Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9am to 5pm Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sunday.
- 9th October** – APS Echuca-Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High St, Echuca.
- 9th–10th October** – Friends RBG Cranbourne, kiosk in Australian Garden, RBG Cranbourne. 10am to 4pm.
- 16th October** – APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.
- 23rd–24th October** – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show, Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles St, Ballarat. 10am to 4pm.
- 12th October** – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9am to 4pm. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations.

Welcome to a New Member

We welcome Sue Gwilym as a new member of APS Maroondah. Sue is no stranger to APS; she has been a member of APS Yarra Yarra for many years and also been involved at APS Victoria regional level. We look forward to seeing Sue at APS Maroondah activities.



Acacia howittii 'Twilight Glow'



Acacia genistifolia

Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

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Newsletter contributions:

Contributions for the October 2021 Newsletter should be sent to Sue Guymer at aitchguy@gmail.com no later than

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Maroondah Group website:

australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah

APS Vic website:

www.apsvic.org.au

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