



AUSTRALIAN
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— Geelong —

Correa Mail

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Our Last Meeting

Tony Cavanagh

I missed the last meeting, and I'm grateful to Frank and Tony himself, for these notes on what was a most interesting talk. The topic was 'What's In A Name?' which explored the people who have given their names (or had their names given) to our native flora.

Tony gave a few examples of plants named after folk - *Acacia baileyana*, *A. baueri*, *A. drummondii*, *A. oswaldii*, *A. symonii*, *Banksia baueri*, *B. caleyi*, *B. canei*, *B. lullfitzii*, *B. menziesii*, *B. victoriae*, *Bauera sessiliflora*; *Beaufortia sparsa*; *Billardiera bicolor*; *Boronia fraseri*, *Brunonia australis*; *Calytrix fraseri*; *Correa backhousiana*; *Crowea saligna*, *Darwinia oldfieldii*; *Dryandra baxteri*, *D. brownii*, *D. drummondii*, *D. fraseri*, and posed the question 'Who were these people and why were plants named after them?'



Sir Joseph Banks and Charles Greville, who gave their names to *Banksia* and *Grevillea*

Plant names are always in two parts, the so-called Linnean Binomial, named after the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778). The first name is the "genus" to which the plant belongs, the second part, its "species" name. While there might be many species in a genus, and many different plants have the same species name, the binomial name combination is unique, eg there is only one plant in the world called *Banksia baxteri*. They are controlled by a set of International rules, and are always derived from Greek or Latin terms. They may be named after people or places or features of the plant itself such as its leaves or flowers or habit. Plant names can change

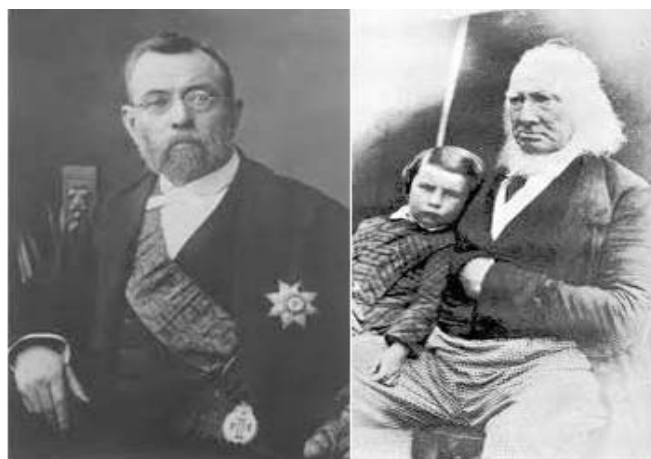
with time, often due to additional research (*Dryandra* into *Banksia*) or better understanding. Botanists often disagree about the status of a particular species, hence many name changes.

Species names may be descriptive of the plant, for example, they may describe features of the plant: *intricata* (entangled); *linearifolia* (with linear leaves); *longifolia* (with long leaves); *microcarpa* (with small fruits); *procumbens* (sprawling) or features of the flowers: *aurea* (gold coloured); *longistyla* (with a long style); *megacephala* (with large flower heads); *speciosus* (beautiful); *viridis* (green colour).

They may describe other botanical features: *undulata* (wavy margins to leaves); *bracteosum* (with conspicuous bracts); *nervosum* (with prominent nerves); *petiolare* (with petioles) or perhaps habitat or where plants live: *alpina* (alpine areas); *arida* (in the desert), *basaltica* (in basalt areas); *littorea* (near sea shore); *queenslandicus* (from Qld.)

There are some awful names which make one wonder 'what were they thinking?' : *infundibularis* (funnel shaped), refers to fan-shaped leaves clasping the stem; *insulanemorecincta*, refers to habitat of "islands of heath in the midst of a forest."

This all makes sense, but, why are plants names after people? Famous people are commemorated, be they royalty, politicians, botanists, botanical patrons, growers and gardeners. People like Queen Victoria, *Hakea victoria*, Sir Joseph Banks and the *Banksias*, or Mary, Duchess of Beaufort who was a plant collector and has given her name to the *Beaufortias*.



Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller and James Drummond

Then there were those who contributed to botany or were botanical collectors like Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, the Victorian Government botanist, or James Drummond the botanist and seed collector.

Of course, one mustn't forget one's friends, family and colleagues. The "ultimate" in naming plants after mates is *Grevillea*. Peter Olde and Neil Marriott wrote *The Grevillea book* with many new species named after people: ***althoferi*** (after Peter & Hazel Althofer of Burrendong Arboretum); ***byrnesii*** (after Norm Byrnes, botanist); ***christinae*** (after Christine Cornish); ***crowleyae*** (after naturalist Val Crowley who discovered this rare plant); ***donaldiana*** (after Don McGillivray, outstanding botanist of *Grevillea*); ***georgeana*** (after Alex George, WA botanist of the Proteaceae); ***guthrieana*** (after Christine Guthrie, treasurer and newsletter editor of the *Grevillea* Study Group); ***hockingsii*** (after David Hockings who discovered the species); ***hodgei*** (after Mervyn Hodge, outstanding grower and grafter of *Grevillea*); ***lullfitzii*** (after Fred Lullfitz, WA nurseryman and collector); ***makinsonii*** (after Bob Makinson botanist who assisted with the *Grevillea* revision); ***marriottii*** (after Neil Marriott); ***masonii*** (after David Mason, grower and collector); ***molyneuxii*** (after Bill Molyneux, nurseryman and collector); ***newbeyi*** (after Ken Newby WA farmer & collector); ***oldei*** (after Peter Olde); ***raybrownii*** (after Ray Brown, nurseryman); ***roycei*** (after Robert Royce, curator of the WA Herbarium); ***wittweri*** (after Ernie Wittwer, senior nurseryman at King's Park).

Many a well-known genus has been named after not so well-known people – generally amateur collectors, or work-mates. *Baeckea* after Abraham Baeck, a Swedish naturalist; *Boronia*, named after Francesco Borone, 18th century Italian botanist;



***Boronia 'Aussie Rose'* after Francesco Borone**

Correa, after Josef Correa de Serra 18th-19th century Portuguese botanist; *Crowea*, after James Crowe, 18th-19th century English physician and plant lover; *Dodonea*, after Rembert Dodoens, 16th century Flemish botanist; *Hakea*, after Baron Christian L. von Hake, 18th-19th century German patron of botany; *Billardiera*, named after J.J.H. de Labillardiere, botanist on the Bruny d'Entrecasteaux expedition to Australia of 1791. He collected over 4000 plant specimens; *Lechenaultia*, named after Jean-Baptiste L.C.T. Leschenault de la Tour, botanist on the Baudin expedition to Australia 1800-1804.

Kunzea preissii, was named after two German botanists, Gustav Kunze and Ludwig Preiss. Preiss spent three years in WA and gathered over 200,000 specimens which formed the basis of several publications on the flora. Kunze worked on Preiss's specimens.



***Kunzea preissii*, named after two German botanists.**

As always, Tony was informative and knowledgeable. A few tricky questions from the floor have given him some homework, and I'm sure he'll be back. Watch out for "What's in a Name II" coming to a theatre near you!

Plant of the Month

***Hakea francisiana* x**

The plant of the month was a hybrid *Hakea*, one of Frank Scheelings's, and he writes :-

The name *Hakea* is derived from Baron von Hake – a 19th century German botany patron, and *Francisiana* is from George Francis first director of Adelaide botanical gardens, who found the species.

The specimen, I am told, is a *Hakea francisiana* hybrid which grows in the garden of my surgery. It is a

grafted plant, currently about 3 meters high and coming in to full flower. It is known as the grass-leaved hakea due to the long, thin leaves to 25 cm long and 7 mm wide, with 5 to 7 veins. A number of other Hakeas share this common name and there can be difficulty distinguishing the various species on cursory inspection. This group includes *H. multilineata*, *H. bucculenta*, *H. minima*, *H. grammatophylla* and *H. coriacea*. Differentiation is by looking at the number of veins in the leaf, the shape of the fruit and some fine details in the flower. Wrigley and Fagg in *Banksias, Waratahs and Grevilleas* give a brief key to these species.



Frank's *Hakea francisiana* hybrid

The flower spikes appear from early July through to September and are tapering, cylindrical racemes to 10 cm, and vary in colour from almost cardinal red to deep mauve, and are one of the most bird-attracting flowers in the garden. The fruits appear in clusters on the branches, and are retained on the shrub. The species is very vulnerable to root rot and cinnamon fungus and is therefore often grafted on to *H. salicifolia*. The flowers wilt quickly when cut but soon recover when put in water and lasts well as a cut

flower. They can grow to over 4 meters and this should be taken into consideration if deciding to plant this beautiful tree.

What's in a Name

Tony Cavanagh

This month it's Sturt's (Desert) Pea, a plant with many names.

At the July meeting, Roger spoke to a small but very select audience about his trip last year to Cameron Corner (the junction of the boundaries of Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia). Among the many plants he saw was the Sturt Pea (also called Sturt's Desert Pea) in large patches. This led to a discussion about its name and why it was known as Sturt's Pea when it was discovered by William Dampier in 1699 in the islands off Western Australia. I have done some delving into its history and offer the following.

Dampier collected his specimens on 1 September, 1699 on what is now East Lewis Island in the Dampier Archipelago, off present-day Dampier. He describes it in his diary as "—the Blossom like a Bean Blossom, but much larger, and of a deep red Colour, looking very beautiful—". In the published account of his voyage, it was called "**Colutea Novae Hollandiae**" so this is its first name, although it has no relevance today. What is perhaps more amazing is that his specimens have survived to the present, in the Fielding-Druce Herbarium of Oxford University and have been photographed by Western Australian botanist Alex George. Even more amazing is that they still retain their red colour after some 310 years!!



Some of Dampier's specimens from 1699

The plant wasn't named until 1832 when the English botanist George Don called it "**Donia formosa**"

(beautiful). Don apparently did not see Dampier's specimen and the one he described was collected at the Ashburton River, in today's Pilbara, on 20 February, 1818 during Phillip Parker King's circumnavigation in the ship *Mermaid*. Don also used the name "**Donia speciosa**" (showy) for another specimen collected at "Regents Lake" (now Lake Cargelligo in central west New South Wales), but today the two are regarded as the same. The latter was collected on the John Oxley Lachlan River Expedition of 1817 where Alan Cunningham was the botanist. Cunningham noted in his diary for 26 July "a beautiful reclining strong growing herbaceous plant – I discovered on these sterile flats, and which proves to be a new *Kennedyia*. The flowers have much the shape and colour of *Kennedyia rubicunda*, but are twice the size." In the published account of the expedition, it was given the name ***Kennedyia speciosa***, the plants second name although it seems doubtful that this name was ever validly published. Next year, Alan Cunningham visited W.A. with King's expedition on the *Mermaid* and on 1 March, collected specimens from "Malus Island" in the Dampier Archipelago, close to where Dampier had found his.



***Clianthus puniceus*, Glory Pea, 1835, drawing from cultivated specimen**

These were sent to England, and were examined by the botanist John Lindley. More names appeared –

"***Clianthus dampieri***" and "***Clianthus oxleyi***", both in an 1835 paper. The name "*Clianthus*" (from the Greek *kleios* = glory and *anthos* = flower) was originally proposed by Daniel Solander for a New Zealand plant they had collected on the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand on 20 October, 1769 on the voyage with Cook. The full name Solander used was "*Clianthus puniceus*" (reddish-purple, a reference to the flower colour (see figure) although this was apparently only a manuscript name and it was only when Lindley published his paper "Note upon a handsome and hardy plant called *Clianthus puniceus*" in 1835 that the name was established. In the same paper, Lindley reported on notes given him by Cunningham about the Australian species. Cunningham chose to ignore Don's genus name of "*Donia*", instead transferring his two plants to "*Clianthus*" but using two new species names. The first, "*oxleyi*" was named after John Oxley, the leader of the 1817 expedition for the plants he collected at "Regent's Lake", and "*dampieri*" (Frank and Margaret to note, only one "i") for three lots, Dampier's 1699 specimens, the ones collected on King's exploration in February 1818 and his own specimens of March 1818.

The story does not end there for in 1849, Robert Brown (the same Brown who had circumnavigated Australia with Matthew Flinders in 1800-1802) examined all specimens and decided that they were one and the same species to which he applied Cunningham's name of ***Clianthus dampieri***. Thus for the next 60 years or so, this was the name used both in Australia and overseas for the plant. It became a popular and spectacular garden and glasshouse plant in Great Britain and the Continent and dozens of colour illustrations exist in horticultural and botanical magazines of the period, including colour forms with white petals and even grafted specimens.

Then in 1907, two German botanists Ascherson and Grabner, following the current rules of plant nomenclature, decided to restore what they considered was earliest species name and named it ***Clianthus speciosus*** (after "*Donia speciosa*"). So until 1950 or so, this was the name that everyone used. Then two New South Wales botanists, Neridah Ford and Joyce Vickery after a detailed appraisal of all names decided that neither Brown nor Ascherson and Grabner were correct and under rules of botanical nomenclature then operating, made the new combination ***Clianthus formosus*** (after "*Donia formosa*"). This was the name that many of us know and Roger deliberately chose to use on his slides. Even that was not to last because in 1990, another New

South Wales botanist Joy Thompson during a revision of the genus *Swainsona*, transferred it to this genus, giving us yet another name, *Swainsona formosa* under which it is usually referred to today. It was stated by Thompson to be closely related to *S. beasleyana* but some botanists were still not happy with the new choice and believed that the plant is sufficiently distinct to have its own genus. Thus Western Australian botanist Alex George in 1999 renamed it *Willdampier formosa*, thus honouring its original discoverer William Dampier as Cunningham had intended in 1835. It is probably fair to say that this new name has not been universally accepted and *Swainsona formosa* remains as the most used name.



Cultivated plant – *Swainsona formosa*

If you have read this far, you may be wondering where does the Sturt's (Desert) Pea come from, as nothing above indicates that Sturt had anything to do with the plant. This is correct from the naming point of view but in fact on 23 October 1844 during an expedition to Central Australia led by Sturt (actually Captain Charles Sturt), he wrote "*On our return, we saw the beautiful flower, the Clianthus formosa in splendid blossom on the plains. It was growing among barrenness and decay, but its long runners were covered with flowers that gave a crimson tint to the*

ground". Folklore has it that members of Sturt's expedition brought back seeds which were distributed and grown and the resulting plants were known as "Sturt's Desert Pea". In any case, the name stuck and plants grown both in Australia and overseas were mostly known by this common name, which is still used today.

So there we have it. This spectacular plant has had at least nine separate names in its 300 year history and the story is perhaps not finished yet. Who knows what DNA research might throw up in the next few years.

Editor's Note: A few years back I bought some Sturt's pea seeds at a tourist stop in South Australia. I managed to grow three plants, but all had red centres. They were still beautiful, but I admit to being a trifle disappointed.



Red-centred Sturt's Desert Pea grown from seed

Up-coming Events

3 September – APS Wilson Park Spring Plant Sale, Wilson Park, Berwick. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. Huge range of plants and books for sale. Free tube to every family. John Arnott, Manager Horticulture, Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne will be in attendance to answer your questions. Admission is free.

3-4 September – Bendigo Native Plant Group Spring Flower Show at Rotary Gateway Park Centre, High Street (Calder Highway), Kangaroo Flat. Open on Saturday from 9am to 5pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm. Display of flowers including indigenous and bonsai; video of plants which can be grown in Bendigo region; plants for sale by local nurseries; book sales; raffle;

refreshments for sale. Entry \$4 for adults, children free.

4 September – Three Open Gardens by SGAP Warrnambool & District Group. From 10 am to 4.00 pm \$10 entry includes all three. Carson Garden, 1823 Princes Highway, Rosebrook; Lemmens Garden, 14 Mountain Ash Drive, Warrnambool and Mattner garden, ‘Wrenhaven’, 11 Hervious Lane, Cudgee.

10 – 11 September - APS Yarra Yarra Native Plants Expo 2011 at Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4.00 pm both days. Entrance fee adults \$5, concession \$4, children free. Speaker program, prizes, huge flower show & plant sales, and other environmental groups represented.

17-18 September APS Quarterly Gathering & Committee of Management meeting, Morwell. Hosted by LaTrobe.

24-25 September Native Orchid Show, Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley. Admission \$4, Conc \$3. (ANOS)

24-25 September - Angair 2011 Annual Wildflower Weekend and Art Show, Memorial Hall, 3 McMillan Street, Anglesea. Guided wildflower walks and bus tours included in entry fee. Entry \$5. Weed exchange – pick up a local plant free in exchange for an environmental weed.

1-2 October - Pomonal Native Flower Show “In Your Backyard” 9.30 to 5 pm each day. Entry \$5 adults. Plants, books and bunches of native flowers for sale, and light refreshments, Indian food and local wine tastings.

2-7 October - Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) 2011 National Biennial Conference – ‘Australian Plants in a Wondrous Web’ in Adelaide.

7-9 October Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants display at Horsham Spring Garden Festival

9 October Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show 9.30 am to 4.30 pm showcasing Victoria’s wildflowers. Anakie Hall, Staughton Vale Rd, Anakie. Gold coin donation. See flyer attached or included.

15-16 October - Stringybark Suburban Sustainability Festival 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. APS Foothills will have plants for sale and a display. Entry \$3 for adults, children \$2.

15-16 October - APS South Gippsland Native Flower Show at Leongatha Recreation Reserve. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Plants and books for sale. Adult entry \$3.

22-23 October - APS Ballarat Flower Show at Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Saturday 9.30 – 5.00 pm and Sunday 9.30 am to 4.30

pm. \$3 entry includes free tea/coffee. Book sales, plant sales and a vast range of Australian products.

Grassland Management Conference

On the 10th and 11th November 2011, Wyndham City, will be hosting a grassland management conference, an event which aims to improve grassy ecosystems by creating an informed and coordinated approach to management. The conference will bring together a range of experts, project officers and representatives from agencies and organisations who have a focus on grassland management and conservation. This is an opportunity for those managing biodiversity in the plains to share research and techniques, create networks and to enhance their grassland management knowledge.

The 2011 Grassland Management conference aims to increase coordinated and effective management of grassland species to create diverse and resilient grasslands. The Conference is ideal for all those who work in the field of grassland management and conservation, including project officers, researchers, land managers and representatives from government and non government organisations.

<http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/environment/environmentalsustainability/eventsprograms/events/grasslandsconference>

Our Next Meeting

September 20th

We do not have a speaker as such for our September meeting. We will be extending the specimen table to include a more detailed description of some of the plants featured. Everyone may be asked to contribute to the evening, so please bring along your most prized specimen, and be prepared to tell us all about it, and its place in your garden.



This is mine – what about yours?

October Meeting

Bruce Mcginness will talk to us about plant tissue culture

October 18th

November Meeting

To take advantage of day-light saving, we will have a twilight visit to a couple of members' gardens followed by a bit of a sausage sizzle. Details to follow.

November 15th

December Meeting.

As usual, the December meeting will be our annual Christmas BBQ end-of-year celebration. Details to follow .

What's In The (African) Bush

Impala Lily

We were in South Africa recently, on safari in the Klaserie Game Reserve, which is part of the Greater Kruger National Park. The bush here is described as low veld thorn scrub - the predominant vegetation being several species of the ubiquitous, very spiny acacias, so different from our Australian ones. There are occasional stands of shrub Mopane with taller specimens of Tambooti, Marula and Leadwood.

dead-looking aspect. There seem to be no plants in flower.

It is difficult to believe that this country can support the hundreds of animals that live there, but it does so remarkably well. In the week we were there, we recorded twenty-six mammals, twelve of which are herbivores, with elephant, buffalo and impala in huge numbers. As a contrast, I have not seen twenty-six mammals in the Australian bush in a life-time of wandering.



Typical Low- veld thorn scrub with mopane shrub

But amidst all this brown landscape there is one rare and bright splash of colour – the Impala Lily, *Adenium multiflorum*. Named after the beautiful and graceful little antelope, the Impala lily is a deciduous, succulent shrub with startling pink and white flowers, which has become increasingly rare due to overgrazing and sadly, collection for garden use. In South Africa now, it is restricted to the Kruger Park, where it enjoys some measure of protection.



African acacia thorns!

We were there in late July - late winter, and the middle of the dry season. Almost all the trees and shrubs, including the acacias, are deciduous - the mopane and tambooti providing a touch of autumn colour. The red grass and buffalo grass are dry and golden-brown, and the bush has a desolate almost



The stems arise from a large tuber, a favourite food of baboons, and the milky latex sap was used as a poison on arrow-tips and to stun fish in waterholes. When grazed regularly the plants are small and compact, but in protected areas they can become handsome trees. Seeds have a tuft of fine white hairs and are dispersed by the wind.

In horticulture they make a wonderful garden plant, hence their rarity in the wild. They are hardy, drought tolerant, suitable for pots or garden beds, and produce masses of flowers from pale pink to deep red, over a long period. I have not seen or heard of them being available as a garden plant in Australia.



Colours vary from palest pink to deep red

Membership Renewals

Subs are now past due. If you haven't renewed your membership, please contact Frank as soon as possible, so you can continue to receive the many benefits of your association the APS Geelong. This is the last newsletter that will be mailed to un-financial members, so please get your subs in soon ☺

Australian Open Garden Scheme

September

With the coming of spring (yay!) there are so many gardens of interest open, that I have confined this list to those open in September only. There are many more in October and November .. more information in subsequent editions of the *Correa Mail*.

3-4: Lister Garden, 23 Price Ave, Montmorency. Predominantly Australian plant garden set amid beautiful rock work. 0.2ha.

3-4: Research garden, 131 Thompson Cres, Research. An exciting indigenous garden designed by Sam Cox is cleverly integrated around an innovative house. 0.13ha.

10-11: The Mosaic Garden, 64 Rathmines Rd, Hawthorn. Brilliantly executed mosaics flow across walls, steps and boulders in a unique garden created by the late Margot Knox. 20x15m.

10-11: Wild About Wattle, 28 Staton Cres, West Melton. A specialist wattle garden with more than 165 acacias of 64 different species, all on a small suburban block. 0.1ha.

10-11: Lubra Bend Homestead, 135 Simpson Lane, Yarra Glen. Through an old cypress hedge is an exciting area of Australian plants, massive rocks and water, designed by Phil Johnson. \$7 entry.

17-18: Bimbimbi, 35 Terrara Rd, Vermont. An eclectic garden of Australian natives interspersed with exotics. 0.6ha. \$7 entry.

17-18: Mossgiel, 28 Bath St, Mornington. Eremophilas in a variety of colours are a highlight in a 20 year old garden showcasing a good selection of Australian natives. .27ha.

17-18: Harris garden, 61 Stirling Rd, Metung. Interesting and quirky Australian plant garden on two levels designed to provide protection from the wind as well as improve drainage. 0.15ha.

17-18: Hope Haven, 37 Archibald Dr, Metung. Stone walls and established trees provide structure to formal and informal areas in a beautiful Australian plant garden displaying 150 grevillea varieties in deep beds. 0.4ha.

17-18: Neilson garden, 5 The Anchorage, Metung. Mature garden surrounded by bushland with views of Chinaman's Creek. Wide variety of shade loving plants including correas and prostanthera. 0.1ha.

17-18: Oodnaduna, 40 Mathiesons Rd, Eagle Point (near Paynesville). Naturalistic streams cascade and form pools throughout this spacious and thoughtfully designed Australian plant garden. 0.8ha.