



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 277 – August 2012

APS GEELONG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There was a pleasing turn-out for the annual general meeting with thirty members present. It may have been the letter from the committee which prompted such a response, or perhaps the now-famous photo competition. Whatever the reason, it was a good crowd. I will report on all aspects of the meeting, in no particular order.

President's Address

Harry Webb

To begin with folks, I would like to thank all members on the committee for their hard work throughout the year, and especially to Dianne who is relinquishing her membership of the committee after 10 years. Also to Roger who too is coming off the committee. He is certainly now one of the veterans of our group. And of course Ade who will still do the great job on our newsletter.

For our celebration events we have had great times at Gaetan and Pauline's home as well as Arthur and Linda's.

A real shock to the system was our cancellation of the annual plants sale as a result of the incursion of myrtle rust into Victoria. On top of that we had prohibitive restrictions placed on us, so that we were obliged to leave our meeting venue at the Botanic Gardens. But, thanks to the initiative of Ade who was quick off the mark, and followed through promptly to get us into this present venue. Other members of our club worked with Ade, meaning that the transition was very smooth, and it also resolved our other problem, with a place to eat at the Bell Park Sports and Recreation Centre.

Sadly as you have already heard, our relations have not been at all cordial with the State executive of the APS, but this did not prevent the excellent work of our committee in hosting the quarterly meeting of the APS in Geelong. This received many accolades from the visiting attendees who were delighted by all the

arrangements made for them. And, the support of our group members was absolutely great.

I think that you will agree that we have had a wide variety of speakers, who have been informative as well as entertaining. Judging by the interaction between the speakers and members there has been a great, relaxed atmosphere in our meetings, as well as growth in environmental knowledge. I congratulate Liz Wells and our committee for following through with guest speakers, and we do not take their initiatives for granted.



Our President – Harry Webb

Our specimen table continues to brighten up our evenings together. It has always educated and

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encouraged us, and it has also brought some real good humour into our group.

And then there have been those kind ladies, Tina and Penny, and others, who have often brought resplendent food to whet our appetites at many of our meetings.

I have represented our group at three of the four state committee meetings, at Morwell, Melton and Geelong, being absent from one which was held in NSW.

But to you all, thank you for all that you have done to make our group informative, educational, encouraging and just a great place to be!

Election of Office Bearers.

All committee positions became vacant, and Denise Cromer agreed to take the chair for the elections. Nominations were taken and the following people were elected unopposed to make up your committee for 2012 / 2013.

President:	Harry Webb
Vice-President:	Sheila Deakin
Treasurer:	Frank Scheelings
Secretary:	Bruce McGinness
General Members:	Liz Wells, Roger Wileman, Carmel Addlem, Arthur Pape, Matt Baars and Phil Royce.

We welcome Matt back to the committee after a few years' absence, and welcome Phil for the first of (we hope) many terms. We congratulate all members on their elections, and look forward to them continuing the great work of previous committees.

Relations With APS Victoria Committee of Management.

As you will be aware from the letter circulated prior to the AGM there are some ongoing issues with the APS Vic COM. Here is a brief summary of the situation.

The problems began with the directive from APS Vic that there be no 'trafficking' of *Myrtaceae*, due to the discovery of the fungal disease, Myrtle Rust, in Victoria. This led to the cancellation of our plant sale and our participation in the Sustainable Garden Expo on Geelong's waterfront. Several members contacted the APS Vic President, Cathy Powers, to discuss their concerns with the wording and efficacy of her committee's directive.

Then we received a letter from Geelong Botanic Gardens stating that no plant material of any kind could be brought into the garden's meeting room, so we needed to find a new meeting venue where we could continue to have a plant table. There was quite heated debate at a committee meeting as to whether

we were precluded by the APS Vic directive from bringing *Myrtaceae* to our meetings. Cathy was contacted during the meeting for her ruling which I will paraphrase as "You are an independent group and are entitled to make your own decisions." The overwhelming vote of our committee was to go ahead with our plant table, taking care, and using commonsense, when dealing with *Myrtaceae*. The APS Vic COM was displeased with that decision.

There followed a series of letters, emails, replies and counter-replies which were not well received by either side. Committee members, and others, were so upset by the tone and content of the correspondence that they indicated they would refuse to be members APS Vic in future. There was talk of forming a break-away group, leaving APS Geelong short of members and a working committee. It has been compulsory for several years that Geelong members must also be members of the Victorian umbrella group, because our Public Liability Insurance is obtained through membership of APS Vic.

In an attempt to calm this situation and keep APS Geelong a strong club, a motion was put to the meeting that "It will no longer be a requirement that members of APS Geelong also be members of APS Vic, and to that end APS Geelong will source public liability insurance elsewhere. This will be funded by APS Geelong for a period of 1 year, and then reviewed."

The motion was carried with 27 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

The committee is exploring several options for insurance, and will report to members in due course. Meanwhile, fees remain unchanged for the 2012/13 year and are now due. A membership form is included with this edition.

It is important to note that Geelong members are free and encouraged to remain members of APS Victoria, if they wish. There are many benefits of this association and the committee in no way wishes to cut ties with APS Vic or to encourage Geelong members to do so. We are simply offering our members the option.

Treasurer's report

Frank Scheelings

As a result of the cancellation of the plant sale, our major fund-raiser each year, and the added expenses associated with our move to The Ballroom, we recorded a loss for the financial year of \$ 1877.00.

Capital purchases for the year included storage cupboards for The Ballroom, a new urn, projector screen and display stands.

Our Christmas function was over-catered, with numbers based on the previous years' attendance.

Our bank balance is healthy and with the re-introduction of the plant sale in 2013, we look forward to a profitable future.

Phabulous Photo Competition

The number of entries this year was astounding, and the quality of images even more so. Proof indeed that we all have a good photo in us. We just need a camera, and some idea of where to point it. The winners are (envelope please)

Australian Plants - Rolf Baden and Tony Cavanagh
Wildlife- Roger Wileman and Frank Scheelings
Landscape – Dianne Prowse and Ken Westley



Rolf Baden's Photo of a Cycad taken at the Geelong Botanic Gardens



Tony Cavanagh's beautiful photo is a close-up of the flowers of *Verticordia longistylis*.

Tony tells us:- The name is obvious, the styles on this species being the longest of any in the genus. The flowers of the so-called Blue Spruce verticordia are supposed to be insignificant but as you can see in close-up, they are very attractive and unusual. The plant is quite rare in the wild, being restricted to a small area near the lower Fitzgerald River in WA but fortunately, it has proved to be very hardy in cultivation and easy to propagate from cuttings. The very bluish foliage makes it a quite attractive garden

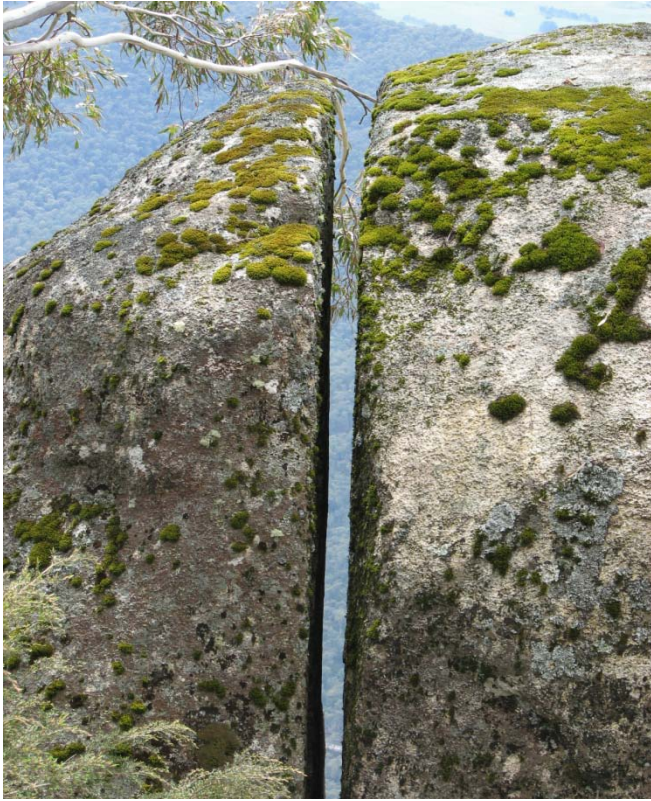
plant. It flowers in summer and after good rainfall, flowering can be quite prolific



Roger Wileman's photo of the wonderfully cryptic Tawny Frogmouths was taken at Marooma near Ararat.



Frank's beautifully captured image of a brown falcon taken at Lake Murdeduke.



Ken's very interesting photo of an amazing rock formation near the Chalet at Mt. Buffalo



Dianne's haunting image of the Derwent River, Hobart, on a cold, misty morning.

UP-COMING EVENTS

1 August - 3D Gardening – Garden Design with Australian Native Plants. “Dream it, Design it, Do it” – closing date for early bird bookings.

5 August – Shirley Carne opens her garden to support Oxfam. From 10 am to 4.30 pm. Entry \$5. Stunning garden including a superb collection of epacris. 75 David Hill Road, Monbulk. Mel 124K1.

7 August – APS Maroondah ‘New Gardening Course 2012’. Creating an interesting garden. Course at Horticultural Centre, 82 Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill. Cost is \$60 for full course. Enquiries Graeme Nicholls phone 9893 4422.

11 August – Maranoa Festival, hosted by City of Boroondara. Mel 46G7. No plant sales but instead: Maranoa flower display, tours, nature trail, environmental displays, free BBQ and extensive APS book sales including the recently launched Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains – A Gardener's Guide to the Original Flora.

12 August – Friends of RBG Cranbourne Plant Sale. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

14 August – APS Maroondah ‘New Gardening Course 2012’. Structure of plants, how they work, pollination, mystery of scientific names, how to identify plants. Details as per 7 August.

19 August - APS Maroondah ‘New Gardening Course 2012’. More on plant propagation. Karwarra Gardens, Kalorama. Contact Graeme Nicholls phone 9893 4422.

25/26 August – Quarterly Gathering hosted by APS Grampians

29 August - APS Maroondah ‘New Gardening Course 2012’. Soils, how to prepare, pH explained, nutrients and toxicity. Details as per 7 August.

1/2 September - Australian Open Garden Scheme. Entry \$7. 10.00 - 4.30 pm.

* The Kennedy Garden, 13 Fairview Avenue, Wheelers Hill. Mel 71G6.

* The Moore Garden, 62 Ennismore Cres, Park Orchards. Mel 35 E12.

4 September - APS Maroondah ‘New Gardening

Course 2012'. Choosing plants for different situations.

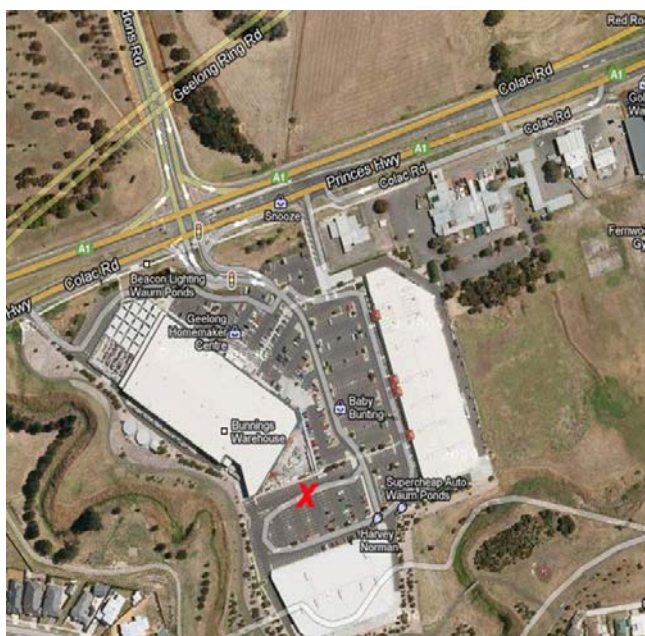
Our Next Meeting

August 21st

The August meeting is members' night. Everyone is encouraged to bring something for show'n'tell, or photos of a favourite plant, your garden, a holiday, anything at all, really. We look forward to seeing and hearing what you have to offer.

Trip To Stahl's Garden– Dean's Marsh, 9th September

Brendon's property is for sale so we thought it a good idea to pay a visit to his garden while the opportunity was there. We will meet in the car-park between Bunning's and Harvey Norman, Waurm Ponds, at 9.00am to arrange car-pooling etc. **X** marks the spot!



***Darwinia oxylepis* – Gillham's Bell**

The name immediately makes us think of Charles Darwin but in fact the genus was named after Dr. Erasmus Darwin (born 12 Dec. 1731, died 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.



Erasmus darwin

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Tony Cavanagh

***Darwinia*.** There are around 70 species in this genus, most of them found in WA. 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 *D. citriodora*, (hardy), *lejosyla* (difficult), *macrostegia*, *meeboldii* (both spectacular but difficult), *oxylepis* (not reliable). They strike moderately well from cuttings but perform much better in Victoria when grafted. They need excellent drainage and semi-shade to sunny positions and benefit from regular pruning.

***Daviesia*.** You might well say "never heard of it", which is not really surprising as it is part of the Fabaceae or Pea family and we all know how difficult it is for us to identify "peas". Yet there are apparently around 200 species, some 119 in WA. They range from small, straggly shrubs to tall shrubs up to 2-3 m, and many have flat, thorny stems (or spines absent) and others lack leaves altogether. Flowers are typical "pea flowers", as seen in the attached photograph of the WA species *D. physodes*. I can't think of a species I have grown but they require reasonably well drained soil and semi shade to full sun.



Davesia physodes

Daviesia was named after the Welsh botanist and clergyman Hugh Davies (born 3 Apr. 1739, died 16 Feb. 1821) by the English botanist James Edward Smith. The genus was described in 1798, presumably from specimens sent from Port Jackson but no type specimen was nominated. You might well ask “Why Davies”? Well, he was well known to Smith and was an expert on the flora of the Island of Anglesey and was very free with his knowledge. He also wrote several books including one in which he supplied Welsh names for the scientific names of Welsh plants. He apparently had no connection with Australian plants however.



Hugh Davies

***Dodonaea*.** Plants in the genus are commonly known as “hops” or “hop bushes” because the decorative fruiting capsules (deep red in species such as *D.*

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 7 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.



***Dodonea microzyga* – Brilliant Hop-bush**

The genus is named after the Flemish physician and botanist Rembert Dodoens (born 29 June 1517, died 10 Mar 1585) who also had no connection with Australian plants. He was Professor of Medicine at the University of Leiden 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”.



Rembert Dodoens

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.



***Dryandra quercifolia* – Oak-leaved Dryandra**

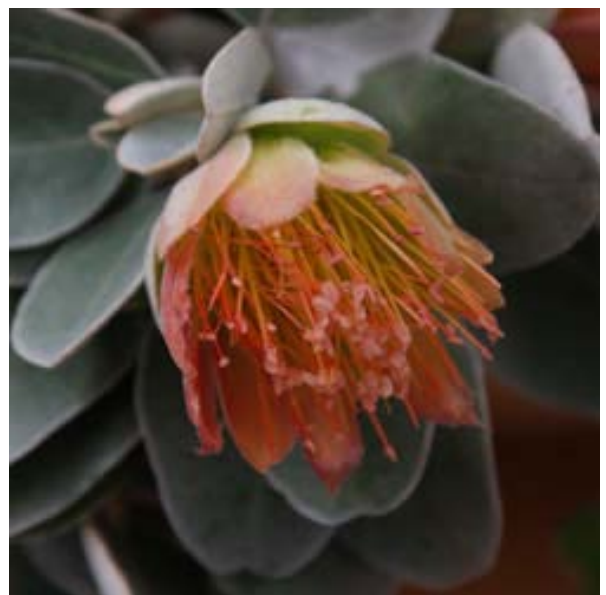
The name commemorates Jonas Dryander (born 5 Mar 1748, died 19 Oct 1810), a Swedish botanist who was a pupil of the great Carl Linnaeus. He came to England in 1777 and in 1782 was appointed as Joseph Banks' librarian and botanist, working on his large plant collections. He was also librarian to the Royal Society and one of the founders, as well as librarian and Vice President, of the Linnean Society 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.

PLANT TABLE

There were fewer specimens on the plant table this month, probably due to the AGM and photo competition. However, we once again prevailed on Philip Vaughan to share his knowledge with us. Phil started off with an un-named *Acacia*, which he and Roger collected from Docker River in W.A. a couple of years back.

Then, one of Phil's favourite plants, *Pimelea physoides* with its stunning green, yellow and red bell flowers. I mentioned that they have some very good specimens of this plant on the median in the Highton Village shopping centre. Phil told us that he had supplied the plants to the council, who came back regularly to have them replaced, because they were constantly being stolen. He was happy to oblige, and remarked that they never caught him stealing them once!

Diplolaena grandiflora is a large shrub with very showy peach coloured flowers. A native of W.A. found from Shark Bay to Geraldton, Phil says it will grow anywhere.



***Diplolaena grandiflora* - Tamala Rose**

Grevillea nivea is a great plant, with an interesting shape and brilliant scarlet toothbrush flowers. It is sold in nurseries as Scarlet King.

Other notables were *Templetonia reclusa*, or Cocky's Tongue and *Zieria 'Pink Crystals'* with its pungent foliage and delightful mauve/pink flowers

PLANT of the MONTH

Arthur Pape won the raffle and selected *Acmena smithii* as his choice for plant of the month. Thanks to the ANPSA website for this information.

In nature, *A.smithii* is usually a medium to large tree reaching 15 - 20 metres in height. However, in cultivation it is usually a dense-foliaged, medium tree of about 8 - 10 metres high by 6 metres wide. The leaves are glossy green, lance-shaped to elliptical, about 50 -- 100 mm long by 10 - 50 mm wide and tapering to a point. The flowers are creamish/white and occur in clusters at the ends of the branches in spring and summer. They have a fluffy appearance due to the numerous long stamens but are not especially attractive, horticulturally. The flowers are followed by fleshy fruits, white to purple in colour and about 10 - 15 mm in diameter. The fruits are edible but not particularly palatable.



The berries of *Acmena smithii*

This is a very hardy plant in cultivation, adapting to a range of climates from tropical to temperate and to most reasonably well drained soils. It will grow in full sun or fairly heavy shade. In an open position it usually retains foliage to near ground level. Several cultivars have become available, usually varying in growth habit:

- Variety 'minor' - grows to about 3 - 3.5 metres.
- 'Hot Flush' is a relatively new introduction with a moderate growth habit and reddish new growth.

- 'Hedgemaster' - low growing form to about 1 - 1.5 metres.
- 'Red Tip' - grows to about 6 metres and has flushes of burgundy new growth.

The species is resistant to at least moderate frosts and tolerates extended dry periods once established, although it will have a better appearance if adequate water is available.

The plant responds well to pruning and can be used as a tall hedge.

The most serious pest of lilly pillies is the lilly pill y psyllid (*Trioza eugeniae*). This can cause disfiguring pimples on the leaves of susceptible species. Fortunately, *A.smithii* is rarely affected by this pest. The fungal disease, Myrtle Rust, has been found on members of this genus.

Propagation is usually carried out from fresh seed, either by sowing the fruits whole or after removing the flesh. Germination may be slow and spasmodic. The species can also be grown from cuttings of firm, current season's growth.



The berries of *Acmena smithii*

According to Wikipedia, *A. smithii* belongs to the genus *Syzygium*. *Syzygium smithii*'s name dates from its 1789 description as *Eugenia smithii* by French botanist Jean Louis Marie Poiret; its specific name honouring James Edward Smith, who had described it two years earlier as *E. elliptica*. The name was unusable due to that combination having been used for another species. It gained its current binomial name in 1893 when reclassified in the genus *Syzygium* by German botanist Franz Josef Niedenzu, but was for many years widely known as *Acmena smithii*.

Common names include lilly pill y, coast satinash, Eungella gum, and in the timber trade, lilipilli satinash



Australian Plants Society Geelong

Application form for

Membership 2012/2013

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Newsletter ... By Mail(\$15) By eMail (no cost) (Please circle)

APS Geelong membership fees 2012/2013

Single Membership with newsletter by email ... \$ 15.00

Single Membership with newsletter by post ... \$ 30.00

Family Membership with newsletter by email ... \$ 20.00

Family Membership with newsletter by post ... \$ 35.00

Total ... \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cheques payable to 'SGAP Geelong' - or by electronic funds transfer ...

Account Name: SGAP Geelong Inc ... BSB: 063 505 Acc No: 00901615

Please note that your name must appear in transaction details

Please mail this form to APS Geelong, P.O. Box 2012, Geelong 3220