



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 276 – July 2012

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE - **THANK YOU**

The weekend of June 16th and 17th was the APS Victoria Quarterly conference, hosted by our group with great success.

The weather was very kind on Saturday morning for the first of the garden visits, Frank and Tina's garden in Highton, and the gardens at Narana. The weather did turn a little cold and damp in the afternoon. Enthusiasm was not dampened, however, and a very interesting afternoon was had at Sue McDonald's magic Ocean Grove park/garden and the wonderful remnant bush block of Peter and Brenda Smith at Marcus Hill.

Saturday night dinner at Narana was a great success and the speaker, Neil Anderton was interesting and informative.

Sunday morning dawned overcast and chilly, but many of the delegates made the journey to Phil and Alexis Vaughan's outstanding garden at Curlewis, and Margaret Guenzel's little treasure in Ocean Grove. Most made it to Arthur and Linda's before the skies opened, and enjoyed a very friendly and sensationally catered BBQ lunch.



Dinner at Narana

Many very kind remarks were received about the venue, the gardens and our hospitality. On behalf of the Committee, a big thank you goes to ...

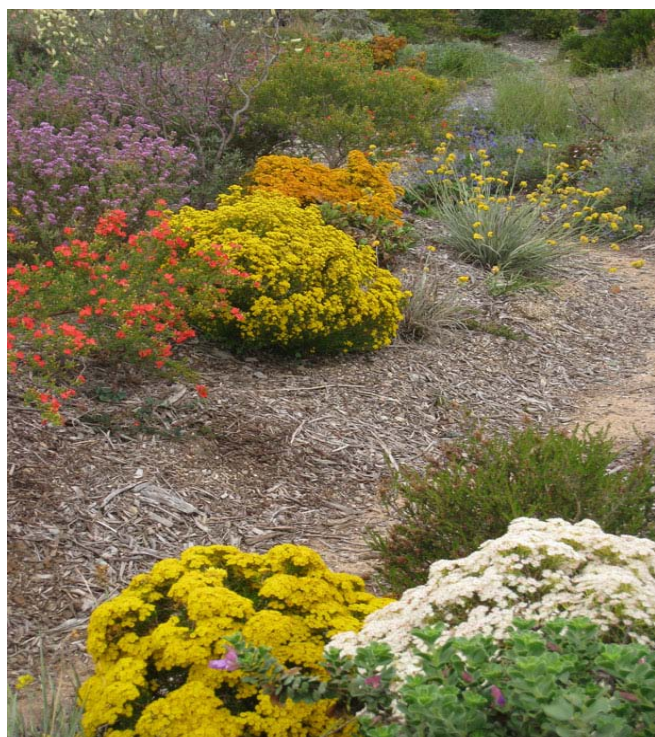
All the many APS Geelong folk who helped out over the weekend. Your time was freely given and greatly appreciated. Special mention to Diane Prowse for her superlative organisational skills, and to Tina and Penny for lunch.

Frank Scheelings, Sue McDonald, Peter and Brenda Smith, Phillip and Alexis Vaughan and Margaret Guenzel, for making your fabulous gardens available for garden visits over the weekend. Nothing but positive comments were heard.

To Arthur and Linda Pape for once again allowing us the use of your 'party room' and for your generous hospitality.

To our guest speaker Neil Anderton and caterers Scoff for a memorable Saturday night dinner.

And lastly to Rob Barker and the folks at Narana Creations for allowing us the use of your wonderful



Vaughan's Garden at Curlewis

President: Harry Webb - harry.webb@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings - ftscheelings@gmail.com

Secretary: Bruce McGinness - brucesm@unimelb.edu.au

Editor: Ade Foster - adefoster@internode.on.net

Australian Plants Society – Geelong P.O. Box 2012 Geelong. 3220

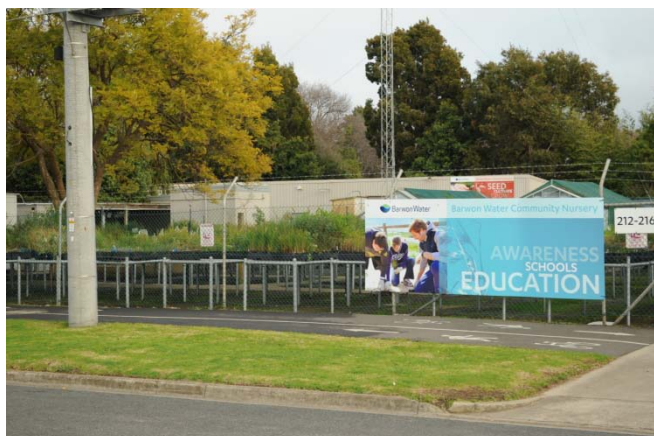
facility at Grovedale. Your kindness ensured a very successful and much talked about conference.

Our Last Meeting

Barwon Water Nursery

Our speaker was David Sutherland who stepped in when the original speaker was unavailable. We were all pleased that he did. David is the Natural Resources Services Section Co-ordinator for Barwon Water, but started as a 'propagator' at the Barwon water Nursery. He previously owned his own wholesale and retail nursery, and claims he got the job at Barwon Water because the only other applicant was wheelchair bound, and there were no ramps in the nursery. He now looks after all the projects from gardening to land-scaping to revegetation from Apollo Bay to Little River.

In his early days, in the late 80s, the Barwon water nursery grew many exotic plants as well as natives. The Barwon River was landscaped with beds of Canna lilies and roses, and the nursery grew dahlias to brighten up executive's desks. He began propagating indigenous plants with assistance and advice from Mark Trengrove. A list of 36 species indigenous to the river valley was obtained and work on propagation began. The nursery was flooded in 1995 but most of the plants were in styrene foam fruit boxes and floated, so not all was lost.



The Barwon Water Nursery, Swanston Street

When Wurdi Boluc Reservoir was enlarged there was some concern about the aquatic plants and wetland plants that would be swamped. Geoff Carr and Mark Trengrove helped identify those most likely to be affected and they were taken and propagated at the nursery for future replanting. When the works were completed and the lake shore had moved out half a kilometre all round, the plants were taken in truckloads to be reintroduced. To David's surprise all the species they had so carefully cultivated had naturally re-established themselves around the waters' edge.

David established a herbarium, a collection of plants of the Barwon Valley, the Black Rock area and the western grasslands along Barwon's course. 350 plant specimens were carefully preserved with advice from the National herbarium. The entire collection was donated to the National herbarium some months ago. Barwon Water also operates a small seed bank of the indigenous species of the area for their own use, and for other the benefit of others.

David spoke about three of the rarer plants that he has worked with in his time at Barwon water. The Lara grevillea, *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, our club emblem, now extinct in the wild, has been rescued and is being cultivated at the Barwon water nursery for possible reintroduction in the future.

Plectranthus paviflorus grows on one site at Buckley Falls and another on the Werribee river. It grows readily from cuttings and is sold in nurseries as Cockspur or Blue Spires.

Myoporum parvifolium, Creeping boobialla, growing naturally on only one site, near the old Corio distillery, is sold in many nurseries as a ground cover. It is interesting that plants can be so common in nurseries and gardens, yet almost extinct 'in the wild'.

While the Barwon River is now managed by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, David and Barwon Water had responsibility for the Barwon from Buckley Falls to Lake Connewarre for many years. Revegetation of the river was a major operation and many exotics were removed and replaced by mainly indigenous and some 'native' species. Sites like the Yellinko wetlands beside the Princes Bridge are now valuable wildlife habitat as a direct result.



Wal Whiteside Walk, complete with Oak

The Wal Whiteside Walk transformed a paddock which ran from Breakwater to Landy Field into a delightful stretch of river, despite some personal interference from the man himself who planted oak, plane and fruit in 'his' walk, when no-one was looking. Most of the planting was done by local schools and

Department of Corrections, a great connection between Barwon Water and the community.

In the last three years the nursery has undergone a major improvement with much more space and capacity for much greater production. The old glasshouses remain, and are still very effective. Community groups are now involved with the nursery ... Landcare, Friends of and environmental groups are assisted with use of the facilities to propagate plants for their particular environmental projects.

Groups like Bupa Aged Care, Geelong Aged Care, Grace Mackellar, Karingal and Vision Australia are all involved with and assisted by the Barwon Water Nursery in a Community Partnership to foster the use of indigenous plants in their gardening projects.



Community planting at Black Rock

School groups form a large part of Barwon Water Nursery's educational program. Groups are taught how to take and propagate cuttings. How to collect and germinate seeds, and how to care for plants in their gardens. This has become formalised more recently into a set of teaching standards in school curriculums – 'Hands on Horticulture', as David called it. They also talk about history of Geelong and its flora, the effects of industrialisation on the local flora, and a Koori plant program in association with Annette Laidlaw from Narana.

Groups like Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers and the like are involved with Barwon Water Nursery in some way or another.

The Black Rock treatment plant has become a project for the nursery at present. Mounds have been made around the existing plants and the new plant to represent sand-dunes and are being planted out in indigenous flora to hide the treatment plants from casual view. A plot of 110 hectares has been purchased as a buffer between the farmland and the treatment plant, and is in the process of being planted out – almost 100,000 plants to date. This is a great link in the wildlife corridor from Breamlea through to Lake Connewarre.

David is also involved in the revegetation project around the Anglesea borefields, in association with Angair. Plants are dug up from the area prior to

earthworks, taken to the nursery and propagated so that plants are ready to be replaced immediately the earthworks are complete.

Another on-going project is the protection of the Bannockburn yellow-gums. After the debacle when the ponds were installed in 1997, Barwon Water's attitude to environmental issue changes considerably they now work actively to protect the remaining trees on Harvey's Block, and in other areas.

Pipelines now run through farmlands rather than along significant roadside reserves, as an example. 66 Ha of floodplain around the aquaduct near breakwater are being restored to original condition. Weeds are being controlled and revegetation has begun. The old pipeline along the creek at Breamlea has been removed and revegetation works will restore the creek banks to original condition.



Replanting at the Aquaduct

David's talk was informative, very entertaining and refreshing. It's nice to know that the Barwon Water is using our rates in some very valuable and worthwhile projects.

PLANT TABLE

Roger conducted an entertaining plant table with the dominant genera being Correa. Harry and Frank had a lively discussion about the identity of a lovely pale pink one that may (or may not) have been *C. alba* x. There were several cultivars of *C. pulchella* in varying shades of pink, and a glorious salmon one - perhaps Autumn Blaze? A red and white one called *C. 'Redex'* was compared to *C. 'Federation Bells'*. Tony Cavanagh reported that Noisy Miners at Ocean Grove do quite a bit of damage to the flowers on his Correas. Correa 'Marion's Marvel' was another standout. With large yellow and pink flowers, it is a favourite with the spinebill's in Roy Whiteside's garden.

There were plenty of grevilleas, in fact a surprising number for late June. Perhaps the most interesting was Grevillea "Orange Marmalade". This plant is a great screening or hedge plant with a broad green,

leaf. The flowers are a beautiful orange and red, open spider flower, and, while not prolific, make a great show. It is a hybrid of *G. venusta* and *G. glossadenia*, and may grow to 3m x 3m.



Grevillea 'Orange Marmalade' at Frank's surgery

There were a couple of interesting *Dryandras* ... *D. quercifolia* pink form, and *D. nobilis* with a tiny yellow flower. The shrub is 3m x 2.5 m and puts on a great display every year. The *Banksias* are beginning to appear, and the lovely *Banksia praemorsa* 'Moonlight' delighted us all with its lemon yellow 200mm flowers. Frank's *B. prionotes* is hanging in there, despite losing several large branches in recent years, victims of borers and strong winds. They are stunning flowers in all phases, with striking orange and white contrasts.

Hakeas were interesting as much for their common names as their flowers. *Hakea ornithorhynchus*, the bird-beak hakea, has seed pods that resembles birds' beaks (for those with great imaginations or little ornithological knowledge) and *Hakea nitida*, the Frog hakes, or Shiny hakea, with seed-pods resembling frogs (see parentheses after *H. ornithorhynchus*) and a heavy scent. *Hakea verrucosa* (or was it *pendans*?) has delicate mauve/ pink flowers.

The *Chamelauceums* have also begun to flower, and these seem to be earlier every year. C. 'Purple Pride' has small, deep purple and pink flowers, and C. Seaton's Form' with large pink and white flowers were among the best. They are great as cut flowers, and the shrubs are well served with a hard prune for this purpose, producing more flowers the following year. We heard of a planting of these in a park in Fremantle, where they have grown so large, and thrown so many seedlings, that the 'Friend's' group has had to organise working bees to remove them.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Dryandra nobilis

Carmel won the raffle and with little respect for the formidable body of work he has already submitted

for this month's Correa Mail, chose *Dryandra nobilis*, brought in by Tony Cavanagh.

Dryandra nobilis, the Golden *Dryandra*, occurs on lateritic rises of south-western W.A., from Eneabba in the north to Katanning in the south. Much of its distribution roughly follows the boundary between the Jarrah Forest and Avon Wheatbelt biogeographic regions, but at its northern limits it extends into the Swan Coastal Plain and Geraldton Sandplains.^[11] For most of its range it grows in eucalypt woodland and tall shrubland, but at its northern extents it grows amongst thick kwonga. With large pinnatifid leaves with triangular lobe, and a golden or reddish pink inflorescence, it is a popular garden plant. It can grow quite large measuring 4m x 4m in parks in Western Australia. It is a spectacular sight when in full flower in late winter and early spring.



***Dryandra nobilis* – photo ukwildflowers.com**

PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS by Merv Hodge

Editor's Note: This article was supplied by Tony Cavanagh and had previously appeared in the *Grevillea Study Group Newsletter* No. 74 of July 2006. It is used with the permission of Peter Olde, Leader of the *Grevillea Study Group* and the author, Merv Hodge, of Brisbane. We are grateful to him for so readily granting us permission to use it. It is a topic which I am sure has worried all of us in the past and the information here will hopefully answer many of the questions we may have.

A Brief Biography of Merv Hodge:

Merv is a long term member of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Plants Society having joined the (then) Society for Growing Australian Plants in

1960. He has served in every position on the Committee of the Queensland Branch and also been responsible for establishing two new branches in the state, serving on their committees as well. He has also served on the Committee of the Australian co-ordinating group ASGAP and for his services to Australian plants, he and his wife Olwyn were awarded Honorary Life Membership in 1990 and he received the Australian Plants Award – Amateur Category in 2009. Merv has a long term interest in Grevilleas and founded the Study Group in 1978. *Grevillea hodgei*, former *G. "Coochin Hills"*, was named in his honour by Peter Olde and Neil Marriott in 1994. He operated a nursery for many years where he grew many rare and unusual grevilleas and is renowned for the number of *Grevillea* hybrids he developed and/or introduced into cultivation. The article below is the first of several that we will reproduce which illustrate Merv's tremendous depth of knowledge about Australian plants.)

Transplanting: Normally if someone suggests transplanting a native plant, my reaction is "not a good idea". Many years ago, we attempted to transplant plants from private land with the owner's or developer's permission and more often than not, we were unsuccessful. It involved taking a large root ball. Unfortunately it is a pity that we could not have had better results because most of those areas are now covered with bricks and mortar, towns, bitumen or concrete and none of the original native flora can be seen.



***Grevillea Hodgei* – named for the author**

Some time ago, an old friend suggested I should bare root plants and treat them like cuttings. He sent me bare rooted seedlings and I potted them into potting

mix and placed them under mist and most survived. When I first tried this for myself, I was very careful to avoid damaging the roots. I carried a bucket of water, placed the uprooted seedlings into it straight away, then potted them up and placed them under mist within minutes. This was mostly successful.

Currently, if I notice interesting seedlings I am a little more casual about it. I usually pluck them out of the ground and carry them without water (only for a couple of minutes) to the potting bin., pot them up, saturate the mix then straight down to the tunnel house and place them in fog (we no longer use mist). This is usually successful and I have transplanted numerous *Grevillea* seedlings (a few up to 25 cm high), flannel flower seedlings, *Acacia macradenia* seedlings and a few *Eugenia reinwardtiana* seedlings (around 45 cm high), *Philotheca difformis* seedlings and so forth. All of these are self-sown in our garden.

I have sent a few grafted plants interstate bare rooted quite successfully. These were wrapped in damp (not wet) newspaper, placed in a suitable plastic bag, sealed and then sent by the fastest postal service. If they are received within a few days, they survive OK. Of course it is then up to the person at the other end to successfully complete the operation. Using the same method, I recently received a small number of waratah seedlings from a friend in N.S.W. who has a small waratah plantation. These were 15-20 cm high and all survived the whole operation without losing a leaf.

Most members do not have fog or mist facilities so I tried a simple alternative which is quite successful. Cut the bottom 25 cm off a plastic milk or soft drink bottle and remove the lid. After potting up the plant, place the bottomless bottle over the plant so that it rests on the potting mix and then press it slightly into the mix, (it will fit inside a 140 mm pot). Select a small stake longer than the bottle and depth of pot combined. This should be inserted through the open top of the bottle right down to the bottom of the pot, leaving a small amount protruding through the open top. This should prevent the bottle from falling or blowing off.

Place in a well lit spot out of direct sunlight. Water through the open top and around the sides every couple of days. It should be possible to remove the bottle after a couple of weeks. Leave it in the shade for another couple of weeks, depending on the weather. The bottle will make a humid environment to prevent the plant from drying out and the open top will allow sufficient air exchange for the plant. The same method can be used for striking cuttings or for

grafting plants, but leave the bottle on for about four weeks for grafted plants and as long as necessary for cuttings to strike.

If sending bare rooted cuttings interstate, be aware of current quarantine regulations that are required for the state of destination for pests and diseases. You should also observe current regulations for protected plants, even those obtained from private land. When trying to transport a large established native plant, I repeat my first statement “not a good idea”, unless it is a fig tree, umbrella tree or cycad, or you employ a professional with the necessary equipment.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

by Tony Cavanagh

Tony continues his series of articles about plants named after people.

Correa. This is a genus of only 11 species but with 26 varieties and some 157 cultivars/forms, there are many “different” correas available. They have long been known as very hardy plants in all but very dry situations and are especially good for dry shade where they will usually flower quite well. Though it is possible to raise them from seed, they are much easier from cuttings. As seen from the number of known cultivars, they readily hybridise and have suffered in the nursery business because some hybrids have been sold under a variety of names. See Maria Hitchcock's book *Correas Australian plants for waterwise gardens* for the last word.



Abbe Correa

The first *Correa* (later identified as *Correa alba* var. *alba*) was collected by Banks and Solander in Botany Bay in April 1770. The genus was named after the Portuguese ambassador and botanist Abbe Correa by Henry Andrews in 1798 from a plant cultivated and flowered in London. (It was also flowered in France in 1803 so Correas have a long history in cultivation). Abbe Correa's full name was Jose Correia da Serra (born 1750, died 1824) and although he was an ordained priest, he had many years interest in science. He lived for some years in England where he befriended Sir Joseph Banks and was elected to both the (English) Royal Society and as a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The English botanist, artist and publisher Henry Andrews honoured him in 1798 with this new genus.



Correa 'Portland Belle'

Crowea. Again, a small genus of only three species, closely related to *Eriostemon* and *Philotheca*. Two of these, *saligna* and *exalata*, are widely grown, the third, *C. angustifolia* comes from WA and is uncommon in Victoria. There are also several hybrids, “Festival”, “Poorinda Ecstasy” and the little-known “Poorinda Glory”. They are small spreading shrubs that do well in shade or sun and even dry situations but not a hot dry position. They are also good container plants and the flowers last well in water if picked at the late bud stage. Flower colours are usually pink, sometimes white, and there are several large flowered forms although I have found these difficult to keep alive in the garden

The genus was named after James Crowe (born 1750, died 1807), English surgeon and botanist, by James Smith, a botanist with a major interest in the Australian flora in the late 18th and early 19th century. Crowe was possibly a friend of his because I have been unable to locate any other information about him, or even a picture. Hence there are two pictures of Croweas.



Crowea exalata

Dampiera. This is a much larger group of some 60-70 species, most of them from WA. Relatively few are in cultivation but *diversifolia*, *rosmarinifolia* and *linearis* are three of the better known ones. They are all small shrubs (herbs), often clumping, nearly always blue to purple flowers, occasionally pink, with a yellow centre, flowers often prolific. They need good drainage and generally perform best in light shade although some of the WA ones do better in Victoria in sun. They make excellent rockery and container plants and also suit a hanging basket. Once established, some like *D. rosmarinifolia* can tolerate extended periods of dryness.



William Dampier

As might be expected, the name commemorates the adventurer and explorer William Dampier (born 1652, died 1715) who visited the north west coast of Australia twice, in 1688 and 1699. In his first trip,

Dampier spent time ashore and recorded details of natural history and described the local aborigines in detail. He collected no specimens but in 1697 published an account of his adventures *A New Voyage Round the World*. The book was highly successful and brought Dampier fame as an expert on the peoples and natural history of obscure countries. In 1699, on an official voyage for the Admiralty, Dampier collected some 24 specimens of Australian plants which still exist in an Herbarium at Oxford University. Robert Brown commemorated Dampier in 1810 with the new genus *Dampiera*, the species name *purpurea* describing the intense purple colour of the flowers. It is not a particularly good name as most species are this colour.



Dampiera linearis (?)

NAPOLEAN AND AUSTRALIAN PLANTS.

After Tony's last article about the first plants collected from Australia, and email from Debbie Gaskill alerted me to the fact that there is a link between the Napoleon exhibition now on at the National Gallery of Victoria and Australian Plants. It led me to do a bit of research. Thanks Deb!



Josephine's prints at the NGV – Hannah Duke

It would seem that Napoleon's wife, Josephine was a gardener and collector with exotic tastes. She bought a run-down Chateau, Malmaison, on the out-

skrts of Paris in 1799 and proceeded to fill it with all kinds of plants and animals from all over the world.

She had a particular fascination for Australia, so, in 1800, Napoleon organised an expedition, commanded by a French botanist, Nicolas Baudin. Baudin's three-year odyssey resulted in the first complete map of Australia, the discovery of 2,542 new zoological species and the emu painted on the Empress Josephine's bedroom ceiling.

When the ships returned in 1803 and 1804, Josephine made sure that she got access to the best seeds, cuttings and seedlings, before the Natural History Museum could get their hands on them.

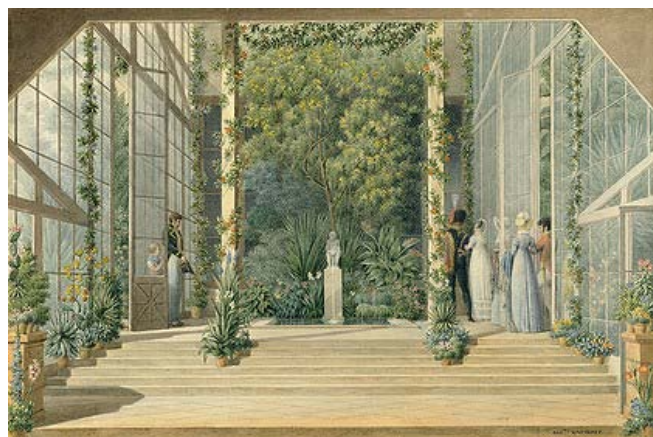
Packed in cleverly shaped devices to protect them from salt-water spray and huge fluctuations in temperature, many of the plants flourished in the rich French soil. Cuttings of the smooth-barked *Eucalyptus diversifolia*, which she grew from seed in the 70 hectares of gardens around her house, were then dispatched further afield, such as to Toulon in the south of France. Black swans, kangaroos, parrots and emus - all survivors of the sea voyage back to France - were kept in Josephine's grounds as well.



***Metrosideros glauca*, (now *Callistamon glaucus*)
original painting by Pierre-Joseph Redoute**

Sadly, though, for all that committed collecting, it appears there was never an inventory of the plants

and animals kept at Malmaison. What has survived are the watercolours and prints of botanical illustrator Pierre-Joseph Redoute, appointed as "painter of flowers" in 1805. Redoute is most famous for his volumes *Les Roses* and *Les Liliacees*. Most of the 500 plates were drawn at Malmaison, including three Australian plants; one was the yellow Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos flavidus*. But the Frenchman also captured 46 of Josephine's other Australian plants. Redoute drew the dense, upright *Melaleuca diosmifolia* with a single yellow-green flower. He painted an arching branch of *Acacia linifolia* and the leaves of the *Ficus rubiginosa*.



Inside the hothouse at Malmaison

After Josephine died of pneumonia at 50, the contents of the chateau and its buildings were dispersed. The property was gradually divided and sold. The hothouse was demolished. Only the chateau survives - and the engravings and paintings of Josephine's garden, hothouse and plants, many of which have now made a return of sorts to Melbourne.

OUR NEXT MEETING

July 17th AGM

July 17th is the Annual General Meeting. Please give some thought to your position in the club, and whether you might have something to offer as a committee member. All positions will be declared vacant, and at least three of the current committee will not be renominating. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, and your input will be greatly appreciated.

The photo competition is on again, and is always great fun. So bring your snaps along. There are just three categories this year:- Australian Plants, Australian Animals and Australian Landscapes. Bring your prints in any size, and any number – there are no limits, but nothing to identify the photographer, please. There are prizes for the winner and runner-up in each division, and a great opportunity to see some really great photos. Be in it!

FUTURE MEETINGS and SPEAKERS.

AUGUST MEETING

The August 21st meeting will be in the form of a show'n'tell , where any member who wishes can bring along a plant, some photos, tell us about a holiday or a memorable bush-walk, or anything that you think we might like to see/hear/listen to.

SEPTEMBER MEETING - Grassland Plants of Western Victoria

Trevor Proud will talk to us about the Plants of the volcanic plains at our September 18th Meeting. This will be followed by a bus-trip On Saturday 22nd, led by Trevor, to see the plants first-hand. There will be limited seats on the bus, as always, and a booking form will circulate prior for seat allocation on a 'first come first served' basis.

OCTOBER MEETING Western Australian Plants

Penny and I are having a weeks' holiday at Toodyay, about 80ks inland from Perth, hunting and photographing wildflowers. We are back just in time to show you our happy snaps of the fabulous W.A. flora.

NOVEMBER MEETING. **Eucalypts**

Jason Caruso will talk to us about small Eucalypts suitable for suburban gardens at our November 20th meeting. Then on Saturday 24th, we will have a bus-trip to visit Graham and Ros Woods grevillea collection in his garden at Gisborne, followed by a visit to Barb and David Pye's nursery. More information about this bus-trip in future editions.

XMAS BREAK-UP December 8th

The break-up this year will be a Saturday afternoon/evening BBQ at Liz Wells' rural property between Lethbridge and Meredith. More details later.

WHAT'S IN THE BUSH

Winter is the time most of us hide away from the weather – a time of warm fires, good books, maybe a glass of red or two. There's not much flowering and the bush is cold and wet and silent.

But if you know where to look, and look closely enough, there are little jewels to be found – the winter greenhood orchids. They are mostly small, green, insignificant things when seen individually. But, most are colonizers, and can be spectacular in the right conditions.

In and around Geelong there are four common colonizers, and a couple of less common or even quite rare ones. They all belong to the genus *Pterostylis*. Yes, I know that Jones *et.al.* will call me a 'clumper' for using this 'archaic' generic, but recent DNA testing has suggested that the trend to spilt *Pterostylis* into myriad separate genera may be more about getting published than it is about science. Besides, it is much easier for my aging brain to remember one genus rather than several. However, I digress.



Rosettes typical of *Pterostylis*

Because *Pterostylis* are cryptic, green and low-growing they can be difficult to spot until you get your eye in. The easiest way to find them is to look for the leaves. They are in the form of a rosette, hugging the ground, and are usually bright green. They do stand out in the leaf litter or amongst the grasses of their usual habitat. Not all the rosettes produce flowers, and often there will be hundreds of leaves and very few flowers. Once you have the idea, you'll be surprised how many orchids there are right beneath your feet, previously un-noticed.



A colony of *P. nutans* at Mogg's Creek

Pterostylis nutans, the Nodding greenhood will be familiar to most of us. They are very widespread in local bushland, and flower from June right up until late November. They are usually the first ones to show their presence, and can form extensive colonies. The leaves are quite large, and often have wavy margins. The flowers can range in height from 50 to 200mm depending on their position. They grow quite tall to get through the leaf litter and into available light.

Pterostylis concinna, the Trim Greenhood is a delightful little flower with a jaunty upright, green and white striped hood. Common in the more open and drier forests, it too can form large colonies, but often appears in small groups among the leaf-litter. Unusually, it can often found growing in the middle of paths and tracks. Does it prefer hard packed ground, or the extra light available in the cleared space of the path?



***Pterostylis concinna* – Anglesea Heath**

Pterostylis nana, the Dwarf Greenhood lives up to its common name. The flowers are often only 50mm high but can be twice that size. Again, they are very common around Geelong, often found in association with *P. concinna*. The leaves carpet the ground in ideal conditions, and they are prolific flowerers, showing from July to October. I would love to have these in a pot, if anyone knows where I could get some?



***Pterostylis nana* – Brisbane Ranges**

Less common in the bush, but often kept in pots by orchid lovers is *Pterostylis curta*, the Blunt Greenhood. So called because the tip of the flower 'hood' is somewhat shortened given a blunt appearance to the flowers. They are short and quite robust, forming immense colonies in sandy soils, usually close to streams or wet areas. The 'tongue' of the flower is twisted through ninety degrees, giving the flower a slightly drunken appearance.



***Pterostylis curta* – Inverleigh Common**

One of the rare ones is *Pterostylis truncata*, the Brittle Greenhood. Restricted now to a few small sites west of Melbourne, it is a lovely little orchid, with a largish flower on a very short spike. It is a rich rusty red and white, and forms quite dense colonies within its restricted range. I have seen them only at a few sites within the You Yangs Regional Park .



Pterostylis truncata – You Yangs

So, if the warm fire and red wine get too much for you, take a wander through the local bush, eyes down, and discover the beauty in our winter orchids.

RECIPE. Pineapple Upside-down Cake

Penny's cake had quite a few admirers at supper at our last meeting, so here is the recipe, gleaned from Joyofbaking.com .

Topping Ingredients:

4 tablespoons (1/4 cup) (55 grams) unsalted butter, cut in small pieces
 3/4 cup (160 grams) light brown sugar
 1 medium pineapple (peeled, quartered, cored, and sliced 1/4 inch thick)
 Maraschino cherries or candied cherries (optional)

Cake Batter ingredients:

1 1/2 cups (195 grams) all purpose flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1/2 cup (113 grams) unsalted butter, at room temperature
 1 cup (200 grams) granulated white sugar
 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 2 large eggs, separated
 1/2 cup (120 ml) milk
 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar

Method: Preheat oven to 175 degrees C and place rack in the centre of the oven. Butter (or spray with a

non stick vegetable spray) a 9 inch (23 cm) round cake pan with three inch (7.5 cm) sides.

Topping: Place the butter and brown sugar in a small saucepan and stir over medium heat until the butter has melted and the sugar has dissolved. Continue cooking, without stirring, for a few more minutes or until bubbles just start to appear around the outside edges of the mixture (the sugar starts to caramelize). Then remove from heat, and pour into your prepared cake pan. Evenly arrange the fresh pineapple slices on top of the sugar mixture. (Can also garnish with cherries.)

Cake Batter: In a large bowl, sift or whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt.

In the bowl of your electric mixer, or with a hand mixer, beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and then beat in the vanilla extract. Add the egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add the flour mixture (in three additions), alternately with the milk (in two additions), ending with the dry ingredients.

In a clean bowl, whisk the egg whites with the cream of tartar just until the whites hold a firm peak. With a large spatula gently fold the beaten egg whites into the cake batter in two additions. Pour the batter into the cake pan, smoothing the top. Bake in preheated oven for 45 - 55 minutes, or until the top of the cake has browned and starts to pull away from the sides of the pan (a toothpick inserted into the cake (not the pineapple) will come out clean). Remove from oven and place on a wire rack to cool for about 10 minutes. Run a sharp knife around the edge of the pan and then invert the cake onto your serving plate. Serve with softly whipped cream.

Makes one - 9 inch (23 cm) cake. Serves 6 to 8.

Note: Can substitute one - 20 ounce (567 gram) can of pineapple slices (drained). Once drained, pat the pineapple slices dry with paper towel and arrange on top of the sugar mixture. Place a maraschino cherry in the centre of each pineapple slice.

