



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 278 – September 2012

OUR LAST MEETING

Members were invited to tell us a little about whatever they have been up to, and John Bell started the evening with a very interesting talk about an epic walk he undertook last Spring/Summer along the Australian Alpine Walking Track. In John's words ...

This walk starts at Walhalla and finishes at Tharwa just south of Canberra. It is 650 kms long and my son Craig and myself took forty-one days of walking plus two rest days to complete the walk. We took four days prior to commencement to place our seven food drops along the way. These were in thirty litre plastic boxes which were wrapped in poly tarp and sealed. We started on November 18th and finished on December 30th.

It took us fifteen days to get Mt. Hotham where Barbara met us and we spent a rest day at Wandiligong. Another fifteen days walking saw us at Thredbo where my brother met us and took us off the mountain to Jindabyne for a rest day. After another eleven days we reached Tharwa.



Spectacular views along the track

Members' Night

We left the track on several occasions to spend time on the Cobberas Range and later we went up on to the Main Range of the Snowies and across the Rolling Ground and onto Gungahen, Mawson's Hut and rejoining the track at Valentine's Hut. We did a side trip to Mt Jugungal as well. We saw lyre birds, foxes, feral cats, wild dogs and hundreds of brumbies. Water was plentiful and we only had one long (seventy five minutes) search for water at Low Saddle.



John's Camp at Limestone Creek

On nine occasions we were able to spend the night in a hut. River crossings were plentiful but were mostly just above knee level but the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee were chest deep and flowing quite strongly and caused us some concern. We had many thunder storms usually in the late afternoon and by that time we were usually set up for the night. Overall a great experience and yes we were still talking to each other on day forty one.

Matt Baar then told us of their recent trip to Queensland where they visited, among other places, the Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackway. One of the best dinosaur trackway sites in the world is preserved at Lark Quarry, 110 km southwest of Winton, central

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

western Queensland. Over 3000 individual footprints are preserved on a trackway surface, roughly the size of a tennis court. It is the most concentrated set of dinosaur footprints in the world. Four types of dinosaur footprints are preserved:

- A large *theropod* (meat-eating) dinosaur. These footprints are nearly 60cm long and have sharp claw marks on the three large toes.
- Small to medium sized, blunt-toed prints belonging to *ornithopod* (plant-eating) dinosaurs.
- Small sharp-toed impressions belonging to small omnivorous dinosaurs known as *coelurosaurs*.
- A few prints belonging to a large *ornithopod* dinosaur.

Prints from the *theropod* dinosaur form a trackway consisting of eleven prints. This animal was walking south at approximately 6-8km per hour. The thousands of prints from the small *coelurosaurs* and *ornithopods* form numerous trackways, which are all heading in a northerly direction. Estimates for the speeds of the small *ornithopods* are between 10-30km per hour and for the smaller *coelurosaurs* 9-15km per hour. These animals were running at great speed for their size.



Scientists interpret the site to represent a stampede of small dinosaurs which were surprised on a lakes edge by a large carnivorous dinosaur. The number of small dinosaurs exceeds 170 individuals, and all were running in the same direction.

Lark Quarry was excavated in 1976-77 and an Environmental Park established to protect the site. It is now housed in a secure building and interpretation centre

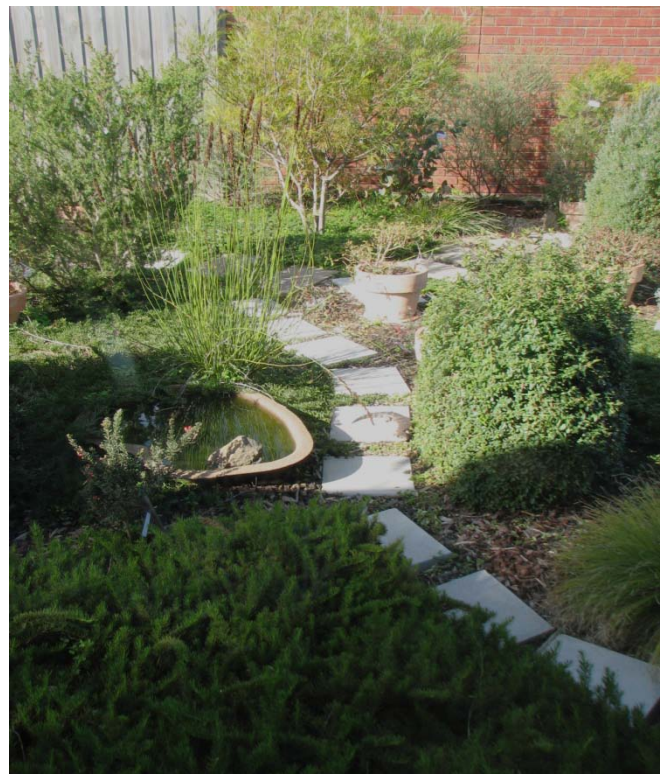
Information and photo from Museum Queensland ...

www.qm.qld.gov.au



***Ptilotus* sp. flowering along the road near Winton**

After the break Harry showed us a few pictures of his garden , which is looking a treat. Harry has done an amazing job with a small corner block, and has an amazing array of plants giving colour all year round.



My contribution was a few orchid photos – the insect orchids – which are flowering in the local bushland now. See this month's '**What's in the Bush**' for more details.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Hakea Bucculenta

Carmel won the raffle and chose *Hakea bucculenta*, which was brought in by Rolf Baden. Rolf writes

This grafted plant stands in a raised garden bed in well prepared soil, together with *Banksia praemosa*, Grevillea 'Scarlet King' and Grevillea 'Superb'. They were all planted at the same time, about 18 months ago. They are at the front of the house facing North-east. I suppose the weekly watering with the exchange water from my fish-tanks must be good for them. This *Hakea* is now 2 m high and 1.8 m wide. It is, as are all the others, very attractive to native birds. A lovely plant to have, it is a native of Western Australia, with attractive red flowers in winter/spring.



Hakea Bucculenta – Red pokers

WHAT'S IN A NAME –

Tony Cavanagh

Plants Named After People (con't)

Once again I am indebted to Tony Cavanagh for his remarkable contribution to the Correea Mail

Flindersia. Again, like *Daviesia*, you may not have heard of this name but I have included it because as far as I know, it is the only genus of Australian plants

named after the great navigator Captain Matthew Flinders. There are around 17 species in the group, all trees, mostly from Queensland and New South Wales where they usually grow in rainforests; some are important timber trees. They are rarely cultivated although the specimen illustrated, *F. maculosa* (leopardwood) is sometimes grown as a park tree for its stately shape and unusual scaly and mottled bark, grey, brown, orange, cream and white. It prefers the dry inland where I photographed this one at Myall Park, some 400 km inland from Brisbane.



The bark of *F. maculosa*

The name commemorates Matthew Flinders (born 16 Mar. 1774, died 19 July 1814), navigator and cartographer, who suggested the name "Australia" for our continent in a map of 1804. It is often not realised that he was associated with Australia from 1794 when he arrived as a midshipman and he and the surgeon George Bass (after whom Bass Strait is named) made two expeditions in the tiny whaleboats *Tom Thumb* exploring the south coast. In 1798 he was given command of the *Norfolk* in which he sailed through Bass Strait and circumnavigated Tasmania, thus proving it was an island. But it was his mapping and circumnavigation of the Australian continent in the *Investigator* between 1801 and 1803 for which he is justly honoured. On his return to England, he suffered shipwreck, a long voyage in an open boat and over six years imprisonment in Mauritius before finally arriving in October 1810. Despite failing health, he worked on his major book *A voyage to Terra Australis* and its atlas right up to his death. The botanist on the

Investigator voyage was the famous Robert Brown who named *Flindersia* in his honour.



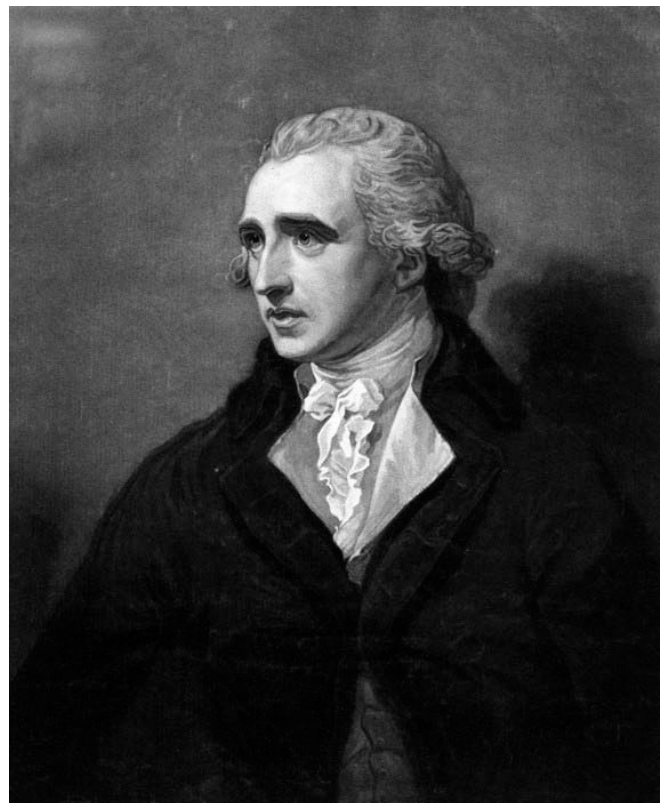
Matthew Flinders

Grevillea By my reckoning, with all the new taxa being described by Peter Olde and Neil Marriott and others, there must be well over 400 grevilleas with more to come. This would make the genus the third largest after *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus*. And there are also hundreds of hybrids and cultivars so this group has something for everyone. Found in every state and territory, they occur in nearly every habitat and all climate zones and range from prostrate to trees, with most being small to medium shrubs. Many of the most spectacular come from WA and inland areas and require grafting to grow well in Victoria but the majority of species from NSW and Victoria are hardy and grow ell on their own roots, even if they are not so flashy. The large flowered hybrid grevilleas have become popular in recent years but can become large and untidy if not pruned. But as I said, there is a *Grevillea* for everybody.



Typical spider flower of a *Grevillea* hybrid

The name commemorates Charles Francis Greville FRS (born 12 May 1749, died 23 May 1809), described as a “collector of antiquities, minerals and precious stones”, as well as a politician and “authority on tropical plant gardening”. He was very good friends with Sir Joseph Banks and was a co-founder of the Society for the Improvement of Horticulture which later became the Royal Horticultural Society. In his large property in Paddington Green in London, he indulged his passion for growing tropical plants under glass. We don’t know if he grew any Australian plants but his work would have been known to Robert Brown who named *Grevillea* in his honour in 1810.



Charles Francis Grevill

***Guichenotia*.** This genus is confined to southern WA and consists of just 6 species, all low, spreading shrubs with grey-green foliage and small, profuse flowers of pink, purple or lilac. They are closely related to

Thomasia and I like both groups because they are generally hardy, tough and very ornamental in the garden. As they come from WA, they perform best in near full sun or lightly dappled shade and require very good drainage. Once established, they are quite drought tolerant.



Guichenotia macrantha

They are named after Antoine Guichenot (1783-1867), a French gardener who came to Australia twice with French scientific exploration voyages, with Baudin in 1801-4 and with Louis de Freycinet in 1817. Almost nothing is known about him but my friend Wikipedia has these comments "the records of Baudin's voyage, together with annotations on surviving plant specimens collected by him, suggest that he was poorly educated, with atrocious spelling and little knowledge of botany, yet worked extremely hard, collecting more plant specimens than the officially appointed botanist, Jean Baptiste Leschenault de la Tour, and, despite his poor literacy, labelling them with much more useful annotations."



Jean Baptiste Lechenault de la Tour

UP-COMING EVENTS

4 September - APS Maroondah 'New Gardening Course 2012'. Choosing plants for different situations.

8/9 September – ANPS EG (Bairnsdale) Spring Spectacular, Mechanics Hall, Omeo Highway, Lucknow. Displays, plant sales, art, photography and much more.

8/9 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. Entry \$5, concession \$4. Children free.

22/23 September ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Show, Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea from 10.00 am – 4.30 pm. Spectacular flower displays; guided walks and bus tours; native plants books, cards, craftwork and plants for sale. Entry fee \$5/\$2 pension card, children under 12 free. Visit www.angair.org.au.

23 September - APS Maroondah 'New Gardening Course 2012'. Visit to garden which illustrates what we have learned. Enquiries Graeme Nicholls ph 9893 4422.

1 October – registration deadline for 3D Gardening – 9th FJC Rogers Seminar.

OUR NEXT MEETING.

18th September

Our speaker for the September meeting is unable to make the meeting at the last minute. At the time of printing we do not have a speaker lined up. Those who receive the Correa Mail by email will get a follow-up email with details when they are known.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

Change of Plans

There is a change of venue for the Xmas break-up. It will now be held at John and Barb Bell's house, in Horseshoe Bend Road, near Torquay. Details in later editions.

WHAT'S IN THE BUSH

Winter Orchids #2

Last month, I introduced some of the winter flowering greenhood orchids found in local bushland. On 15th August, a wet and chilly Wednesday, Frank and I visited Anglesea in search of an orchid which had been reported in the area. No luck on that specific plant, but we did find eleven species of orchid in flower that day. Not bad for the middle of winter! As well as six species of greenhood, a helmet orchid and a ridiculously early (in our experience) donkey orchid,

there were three of the insect orchids. This name is my own, used to group these tiny orchids based on their common names – Mosquito, Gnat and Mayfly orchids.

All are common in the local bush, and grow in a variety of habitats. All are more or less colonial, and in some places create huge carpets of plants among the leaf litter. All have bright green, single, ground-hugging leaves which are quite noticeable among the dead leaves and twigs of the typical eucalypt forest floor.

Mosquito orchid

Acianthus pusillus

Leaf is heart-shaped and usually green on both sides. It is mostly ground-hugging, but may be a couple of centimeters up the stalk. The flower spike ranges from 50 – 150mm with up to 20 tiny brown/green flowers. It is abundant and common across most of southern Victoria, flowering from April to September, but mostly in May to July. The flowers are probably pollinated by mosquitos.



***Acianthus pusillus* – Mosquito orchid**

Acianthus caudatus

Mayfly orchid

This delightful and graceful little orchid is one of my favourites. The leaf is heart-shaped, green above and a deep purple below. It is mostly ground-hugging, but may be a couple of centimeters up the stalk. The flower spike may be up to 150mm tall with up to 5, but commonly 2 or 3 remarkable flowers. They are tiny, perhaps 5mm long, and a deep purple/maroon.

The sepals are fine filaments often as long as 40mm. Occasionally, green specimens can be found. It is not particularly common, but found in large numbers where it does occur. It is reported to emit a strong 'wet-dog' odour, although I have not noticed this, myself.



***Acianthus caudatus* – Mayfly orchid.**

The third one we encountered is *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, the Gnat orchid. The leaf of this orchid is rounded and ground-hugging. It is green on both sides, usually with a network of veins on the upper surface. The flower spike is short, up to 100mm with one to four brownish flowers to 10mm long. It is common across most of Victoria and forms immense colonies in the right conditions.



Massed colony of *Cyrtostylis reniformis*