



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 290 – October 2013

DENDROBIUM SPECIOSUM with Roger Wileman

The speaker at our September meeting was our very own Roger Wileman. Roger, as we all know, has a vast knowledge of Australian plants. He has constructed a palatial orchid house at St. Alban's Park, where he grows some wonderful plants – orchids, pitcher plants and others. Tonight, he spoke to us about the Australian orchid, *Dendrobium speciosum*.

D. speciosum was discovered at Port Jackson in 1800, but was first described in England in 1804 by Sir James Edward Smith, from a specimen sent to him by Surgeon General J. White.

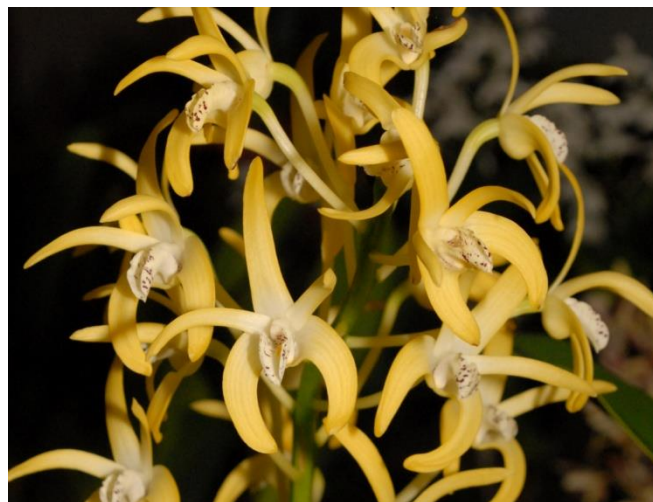
It grows east of the Great Divide from Cooktown in far north Queensland to Genoa in Victoria, near the NSW border. It has a virtually unbroken distribution throughout that area. However, in the southern areas it is a lithophytes - growing on rocks, where in its northern range it is an epiphyte – growing on the trunks and branches of other plants.



D. speciosum on a Eucalypt – Photo Brian Walters

There are up to five thick, leathery leaves originating from the top of each tuber. The tubers can be quite large, up to 45 cm long. They are thicker at the base and taper towards the top. The showy flowers grow in long racemes on long stems with over 100 small sweetly scented flowers usually from August to

October. The colour varies from white to creamy yellow. The labellum is covered with purple dots and veined with red and purple.



One of Roger's *D. speciosum* plants

There is a revision of this species underway at the moment. It is suggested that *D. speciosum* will be divided into about six new genera and species, giving some separation to the epiphytes and lithophytes.

The aborigines used *D. speciosum* as a food plant, roasting the tubers then grinding them to make a sort of cake, high in starch.

Huge numbers of the plant were lost in its southern distribution during the last drought. Those growing on rocks were unable to sustain themselves, and may be lost forever.

D. speciosum hybridises readily with other orchid species, like *D. tetragonum*, and so is a very popular plant with the orchid enthusiast and on the show table. Some of the hybrids maintain the heavily scented *speciosum* trait.

They will grow readily in Victoria's colder climates, even when outside. They cannot be put into the ground, however, as wet feet will kill them. But in a pot, on a log or rock, they are very hardy plants, and very long lived.

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Roger grows in plants in a medium that drains very readily, to avoid the wet roots. He uses pine bark, scoria, coconut husk, charcoal and perlite in various combinations. The medium should be changed every two years, as it becomes acidic as it starts to break down, and retards the plants' growth. Roger puts them back into the same sized pot, as they prefer to have their roots restricted. He does not water the plants at all in the winter. Through spring and autumn, he waters about once a week, and in summer, every two or three days.

Roger feeds the plants weekly in spring, summer and autumn with 'Pete's Mix', at half the strength shown on the package. Other orchid foods are suitable, but they need to be higher in lime than most. This weekly regime provides way more nutrients than would be available in the wild, but it allows the plants to flower to their fullest potential – the aim of the ornamental orchid grower.



102 spikes! – photo Norm and Jenny Martin

PLANT TABLE

with Frank Scheelings

Grevilleas were on display tonight, which is not unusual at this time of year. Among them were *G. georgiana* with its deep pink and white, upright blooms; *G. bronwenae*, an upright, grafted plant with small but profuse red/orange flowers; *G. magnifica* with red and blue/green terminal flowers; *G. 'Blood Orange'* whose name says it all; *G. endlicheriana* – the Spindly Grevillea – with delicate pink/mauve flowers and two of the 'Winpara' cultivars which flower profusely, but have the flowers hidden inside the outer foliage of the shrub.

There were several Hakeas, among them *H. prostrata*, which has profuse yellowish flowers and extremely sharp pointed holly-like leaves! ; *H. cinerea* which has lovely bright yellow flowers and *H. macraeana* with white flowers close to the stalk.

Dryandras also featured tonight; The lovely *D. formosa* with long 'fish-bone' foliage and deep golden

flowers, and *D. 'Honey Pots'* with burnt gold flowers hidden away among the foliage.



Dryandra Formosa – Showy Dryandra

Phebaliums were well represented too, and Frank encouraged members to grow them *Phebalium whitei* has longish deep green leaves and masses of soft lemon yellow blooms, *P. nottii*, a shrub to 3 metres has bright pink flowers. Interestingly, the stamens are offset to the side of the flowers. There was also an unidentified Phebalium with deep green leaves and white flowers.

The *Chamelauceums* are coming into flower now, and there were several on display. *C. uncinatum* 'Seton's Form' with very large white and pink flowers, from Frank's garden, is an example of the many cultivars of this plant. Colours range from white through pink and purple to reddish. There were several forms of *C. floribundum* with much smaller flowers and finer foliage, also varying in colour from white to deep red.

There were also several *Dendrobium kingianum* orchid hybrids in white, pink and mauve.



Our plant table - September

There were a several Thomasias, *T. purpurea* and *T. quercifolia* both with pink/mauve flowers and *T. schultzii*,(?) with dirty white flowers.

One interesting plant was *Alyogyne huegii* 'Blue Heeler'. Unlike the usual forms of this plant which grow quite large, with big, showy purple, mauve and bluish flowers, 'Blue Heeler' is tiny – up to 40cm – with delicate blue/ purple flowers.

A lovely deep pink *Lasiopetalum* , a butter yellow *Senna artemoides*, the deep purple *Indigofera australis*, and many others, added even more colour to a very heavily laden table.

PLANT OF THE MONTH *Pandorea pandorana*

Tina won the raffle and selected the lovely *Pandorea pandorana*, brought in by our President, Harry Webb. Harry writes ...

Pandorea pandorana is a plant that I really like. When I sit in my lounge chair I look out directly to my fence, but instead of seeing the bare fence I observe the Aussie plants and climbers. It is the *Pandorea pandorana* that catches my eye at the moment.

P. pandorana, commonly known as the Wonga Wonga Vine, is a species of woody climbing vine in the family Bignoniaceae. It is found in Australia, Malaysia and the south-western Pacific region. It forms large pointed pods filled with papery seeds. It is easy to germinate, having two-lobed dicotyledons. It is a popular garden plant, common cultivars include the yellow-flowered *P. 'Golden Showers'*, the white-flowered *P. 'Snowbells'*.



P. pandorana is a fast-growing climbing plant. It can be found in eastern Australia from Queensland to Tasmania growing vigorously over tall trees. It is also a spectacular garden plant. I have made a number of cuttings, and they are so easy to grow, meaning that

in the small tubes the lovely cream-like flowers are bursting out without any trouble.

The species was first described by English botanist Henry Charles Andrews in 1800 as *Bignonia pandorana*, before being given its current binomial name in 1928 by Steenis. Both the generic and specific name are derived from Greek mythological figure Pandora. The Scottish botanist Robert Brown had described it as *Tecoma australis* but this name was ruled invalid. A form found in dryer inland regions was previously known as *P. doratoxylon*.

The subspecies *austrocaledonica*, known locally as Boat Vine, is known from New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Lord Howe Island.

P. pandorana has a profusion of flowers in early spring and is a dense evergreen creeper all year round. The only drawback is its brief flowering time. It flowers only for two to three weeks in spring (between early August and October depending on its location).



Pandorea pandorana – 'Wonga Gold'

P. pandorana prefers an open, sunny position and a mild climate without heavy frosts. It will tolerate light shade. Train the twining stems in the early stages of growth. Light pruning is desirable after flowering to maintain a tidy shape. It needs little other care other than water in dry times.

It is an ideal choice to clothe a fence or wall, disguise a shed or stump or simply create an evergreen screen.

OUR NEXT MEETING

Members' Night

The October Meeting will be a members' night where you are all invited to bring along a plant, some photos, or tell us a story about your garden, a trip away, a special plant ... whatever you think might be interesting to those present.

Members' nights work best when lots of you contribute, so don't be shy ☺

For example, Matt will be giving us a demonstration of sharpening your garden tools, something which all of us can use.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Hakeas

Graeme Woods is the speaker for November, and his topic is hakeas, of which he has a large collection. Most of you will remember when Graeme spoke to us last year about Grevilleas. We followed up in November, with a visit to Graeme and Ros's garden in Gisborne. Graeme is a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker, and I know you will enjoy the last meeting for 2013.

2014 SPEAKERS.

Your committee has been hard at work arranging the 2014 calendar. We have the first half of the year locked away, and would like to hear from you if you would like to speak, or know of anyone interesting who would make a good speaker.

January	In recess
February	BBQ at Arthur and Linda's
March	Wilma Trew – 'The Tree Project'
April	Frank vs. Ade – 'Birds'
May	Matt Baars – 'Weed-busting'
June	To be confirmed
July	A.G.M and Photo Competition.

XMAS BREAK-UP

Saturday December 7th is the date, and Liz Wells' place near Meredith is the place. There'll be a lamb on the spit – BYO everything else. Campsites are available for those who don't want to make the long drive back to Geelong in less than perfect condition.

INAUGURAL DICK SOUTHCOMBE WIDER GEELONG FLORA LECTURE

Tuesday 8 October



In recognition of Dick's work in establishing the Wider Geelong Flora Lecture series with John Arnott, then Director of the Geelong Botanic

Gardens, the GFNC is initiating an annual Dick Southcombe Wider Geelong Flora Lecture. We are delighted to have Professor Tim Entwistle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, to present the inaugural lecture – 'Foraging for freshwater red algae in Australia'.

Although now a busy administrator, having worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew before taking the position at RBG, Tim will be talking to us about his

own research area which is freshwater algae. He has described dozens of new species, two new genera and a new family of algae and worked with ecologists on some of the first research into the distribution, seasonality and environmental responses of steam algae in Australia. Tim's research was recently recognised by the naming of a newly described seaweed species, *Entwistleia bella* after him. The extremely rare seaweed also represents the first known member of a new algal order, Entwistleiales, also named after Tim.



Entwistleia bella – near Hobart

This will be an opportunity to discover an area most of us know little about – as Tim puts it, 'something a little bit different for everyone!'

GBG Meeting Rooms, 7.00 p.m. for a cuppa before a 7.30 (sharp) start. Contact: John Bell 5261 3543

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

Oct 5th & 6th - Graceburn, 10 Graceburn Ave, Carnegie. Designed by Phillip Johnson, this garden features water collected from roof diverted into a swale, and large rocks sculptured into a tranquil billabong.

Oct 5th & 6th, Taminick, 59 Stotts Lane, Frankston South. This large Australian plant garden with abundant plantings of local species features a lovely frog pond.

Oct 19th & 20th - Geoff Olive's Garden, 1964 Maroondah Hwy, Buxton. This is an Australian garden harmonising with a mud-brick house and overlooking an ornamental dam.

Oct 2th & 27th - Aussie Oasis, 34 Herbert St, Parkdale. This garden features an arid garden at the front, and a dramatic cascading billabong water feature, which emulates a river gorge. Designed by Phillip Johnson.

Oct 26th & 27th - Van Riet Garden, Shanley St, Wangaratta South. The seven year old garden in a dry area of the foot of the Warby Range is testament to the resilience of Australian dryland plants.

Nov 9th & 10th - Valleyview, 23 Sutherland St, Teesdale. A predominantly native garden full of contrasts.

FROM the APS VICORIA CALENDAR

5th & 6th October -3 APS Grampians Pomonal Annual Flower Show, plant sale and garden displays.

5th October - APS Mitchell Spring Plant Expo.

6th October - Wartook Gardens (northern Grampians) has an Open Day for the Hospital. Gardens are located on 2866 Northern Grampians Rd, Wartook, admission \$10 for adults, from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. Plants for sale propagated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants.

13th October - Brisbane Ranges Wildflower Show, Anakie Hall, Staughton Vale Rd, Anakie. Cash sales only. Adult \$5, children under 16 free. Wildflower displays, bus tours, workshops, environmental stalls.

19th & 20th October - APS South Gippsland Native Flower Show, Leongatha Recreation Reserve Exhibition Shed. 10 am to 4 pm

19th & 20th October - APS Ballarat Flower Show from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm at Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Gillies St, Wendouree

9th November – APS Vic Quarterly and AGM hosted by APS Wilson Park.

PLANT SALE PROPAGATING DAY

September 7th was our propagating day, graciously hosted by Sheila and Roger. About twenty-five members attended, with a plethora of plants suitable for cuttings. It was nice to have Bram McLeod from Kardinia College along to learn the techniques which he can put to good use with his students at the school.

I was particularly looking forward to this day with our local experts, so that I could learn the definitive method of taking cuttings. Did I say definitive?

Roger began with a demonstration, carefully selecting the right piece of plant material, and meticulously removing excess leaves with a very sharp, sterilized razor blade. Being careful not to touch, and therefore contaminate the 'growing end' of the cutting, it was placed in a shallow bowl of water. Once sufficient cuttings were made, they were gently shaken to remove excess water, and the end was dipped in a rooting hormone powder to promote the growth of roots. The propagating mix (perlite, peat moss and sand) was put into sterilized three inch pots, a hole made with a stick, and the cutting carefully inserted – ten or twelve to a pot. The pot was labelled (with a marking pen or pencil on strips cut from an old venetian blind) and placed on a tray.



Members hard at it

As members settled in with their various plants to begin the task, I realised that there were as many methods as there were members! Some removed leaves as Roger had done, carefully, with a keen blade. Some preferred fine, sharp secateurs, while others just ripped the offending appendages off with their fingers, taking no care whatsoever to avoid damage to the 'bark'. Some took great care not to touch the 'growing end' while others hacked at it with fearsome knives, claiming that the roots sprouted from the damaged section, or that the rooting compound bound better to the damaged portion. Some crammed cuttings into the pot claiming this helped the success rate, while others insisted that an individual cutting should not touch others in the pot.



A tray ready for the next step

So while I learned a lot, I'm still unsure about the 'best' method –or even if there *is* one.

Roger will take care of the cuttings in his orchid house until early next year, when they will be transported to Arthur and Linda's to be re-potted and cared for in a greenhouse with an automatic watering system, until they are ready for sale.

Roger has also planted out seeds of 120 different species, one of which – a *Chorizema* from Margaret Guenzel – germinated in just five days.

Our thanks must go to Roger and Sheila for their hospitality, to the ladies who contributed to a

delicious lunch, and to all the members who attended a fun and informative day.



ANGAIR WILDFLOWERS, BBQ LUNCH AND ORCHIDS By Frank Scheelings

What a fantastic day we all had, perfect weather, great camaraderie and BBQ at Bill and Olivia's Anglesea "shack", and an eye-opening experience of their wonderfully landscaped garden.



The usual suspects at the ANGAIR wildflower show

Prior to our lunch visit we visited the Angair wildflower show, where the mysteries of identification of all the different pea flowers were clearly on display and promptly forgotten. A comprehensive collection of the Anglesea wildflowers currently in flower were beautifully presented and clearly named, as well as a lovely display of terrestrial orchids. Some of our members took the opportunity to go on a field tour with Margaret McDonald, but most of us sensibly opted for Devonshire tea provided by the Red Cross ladies.

The garden visit was breathtaking - magnificent water feature of 2 ponds linked by a rocky creek bed with flowing water. Resident Jacky lizard, nesting wattle birds and begging magpie kept us company during lunch. Olivia started lunch off with a hearty cup of delicious pea soup after which the BBQ was fired up and we proceeded to cook our various

offerings. Olivia's tomato relish would have disappeared into my hamper except for the watchful eyes of Matt!!



Bill and Olivia's fabulously landscaped native garden

After lunch we went to a spot Ade and I had reconnoitered previously for our orchid hunt. An activity enjoyed by all with a total of 21 orchid species identified, until we were chased home by the mozzies. Luckily my brain did not let me down too badly as I was able to remember the names of most species, albeit sometimes 15 minutes later.

Alas the perfect day was spoiled by one of our members, who will remain nameless but has the initials 'Philip Royce', plucking bodily from the ground a beautiful donkey or Leopard orchid, being under the misguided belief that it was a weed! It is understood that excommunication proceedings are under way and he has been referred for counseling.



Pheladenia deformis – Bluebeard Orchid

Following is a list of species found

- Glossodia major* - Waxlip Orchid
- Pyrorchis nigricans* - Red beaks
- Letoceras menziesii* - Hare orchid
- Acianthus caudatus* - Mayfly orchid
- Cyrtostylis reniformis* - Gnat orchid

Thelymitra antennifera - Rabbit ears

Thelymitra sp - Sun orchid (in bud)

Diuris pardina - Leopard orchid



Diuris pardalina – Leopard Orchid

Pterostylis pedunculata - Maroon hood

Pterostylis nana - Dwarf greenhood

Pterostylis nutans - Nodding greenhood

Pterostylis plumosa - Bearded greenhood

Caladenia carnea - Pink fingers

Caladenia pusila - Tiny caladenia

Caladenia catenata or *maritima*

Caladenia clavigera - Plain lipped spider orchid

Caladenia cardiochila - Heart-lipped spider orchid

Caladenia venusta - Large white spider orchid

Caladenia oenochila - Red-lipped spider orchid

Caladenia australis - Southern spider orchid

Caladenia latifolia - Pink fairies

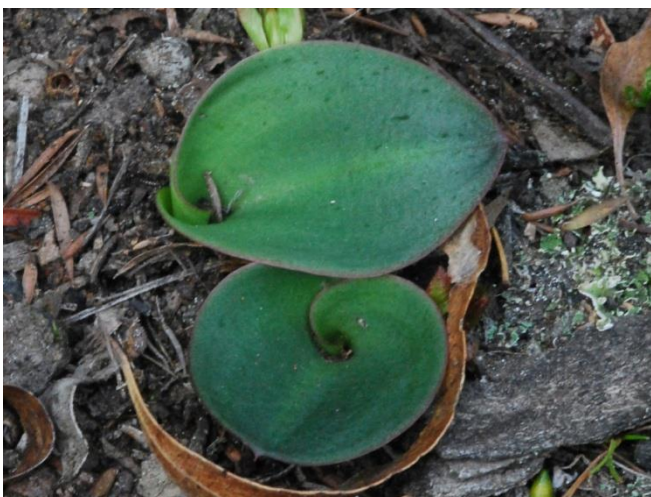
Pheladenia deformis - Bluebeard orchid

Pterostylis sanguinea - Banded greenhood

RED BEAKS ORCHID

by Frank Scheelings

Those who came on the orchid hunt would have noticed lots of large, broad, leathery oval leaves up to 6 cm across lying flat on the ground.



This is one of the most common orchids in Anglesea, Red beaks - *Pyrorchis nigricans* - but the flowers are not often seen, as it generally only flowers after fire.

I first noticed these leaves about 20 years ago and had no idea what they were, so I used to visit them every few months to see if they had flowered, but they never did! Eventually some years later on a trip to the Grampians I found them flowering in a burnt area at Mt Zero, so the mystery (my ignorance) was revealed. We were fortunate to find several specimens in flower, as this area had been subjected to a cool burn-off in autumn, but mass flowerings are usually only seen after hot summer fires. The 20 cm stalk appears from the edge of the leaf, and 2 to 6 flowers appear as dark, pink, downwardly curved hoods with whitish stripes, and a heavily fringed labellum. The pollinators are small native bees. As the flowers age they darken to black, thus the moniker "*nigricans*", and *Pyrorchis* refers to its need for fire for flowering.



Pyrorchis nigricans – Red Beaks

AND ... on the subject of orchids, this from the ABC News website ...

PRASOPHYLLUM AMOENUM – Dainty Leek-orchid

There is hope the endangered status of a Tasmanian orchid could be downgraded after dozens of plants were found in Hobart. Volunteers came across 180 dainty leek orchids on Mount Wellington last summer, extending its known range to more than nine kilometres.

The new information has prompted the Scientific Advisory Committee to consider changing its conservation status. Magali Wright from N-R-M South says the volunteers' work has been critical.

"We've gone from knowing that there was about 20 plants to knowing now there's about 200 plants," she said.

"We previously knew it was from Snug Tiers and there had been a few records of seeing it up on Mt

Wellington and we spent a day up there searching and we found a lot of extra plants."



Dainty Leek-orchid – Photo Peter Fehre

Volunteer Peter Fehre says the hunt for rare orchids will continue this spring and summer.

"If you talk to people in the volunteer network about whether they'd seen it, many people hadn't seen it. Now we've got more and more people who've seen it, who've recognised it and can keep their eyes open for it."

APS VIC - COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT (COM) QUARTERLY MEETING

by Phil Royce

This meeting was hosted by the APS Mornington Peninsula group on the weekend 14/15 of September. It was centred about private gardens, nurseries and public spaces from Balnarring to Langwarrin. These were all colossal - it's just great to see the variety of displays people make with our native plants. The Business meeting was held on Sunday morning in Mornington and the major items were:

- * APS Vic will participate in three horticultural sessions for children during the Royal Melbourne Show; (See link in the next article)
- * the use of membership cards will be trialled by the APS Yarra Yarra group;
- * templates for affiliated district groups to use when hosting a CoM were approved;
- * efforts to establish a Public Trust requires amendment to some APS Vic rules. These will be developed and are planned for voting at the AGM in November;
- * organised tour of the Vic High Country for up to 30 APS Vic members in Dec 2014 is being investigated;
- * progress report on planning for the 2014 FJC Rogers Seminar hosted by Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc. on *Brachychiton* and like genera;
- * membership now at about 1060 with quite a number taking up the two and three years reduced cost;

- * tabling of the first report of the APS Structure Review Sub-committee - raised a good deal of discussion;
- * approval to donate \$5000, on a dollar for dollar basis, the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne for use on plant labelling;
- * approval to donate the balance of the disbanded APS Heathland Group assets (approx \$2310) to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne for use on plant labelling; and
- * approval of new awards for service to APS Vic and district groups (Impressa Awards) together with supporting amendments to By-Laws and Supplements.

If you have any queries about the CoM, talk to Phil during one of our monthly meetings.

FLYING THE APS FLAG

APS Victoria and our President, Cathy Powers, have been at the Melbourne Show, promoting Australian Plants and their use in our gardens. They provided showbags for kids with seeds to encourage them to learn more about 'growing your own'. Watch Cathy's interview of the Melbourne Show's Youtube Channel here ... (hold Ctrl and click on the link)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWlvqm9n1kY&feature=c4-overview&list=UUA6--dLyrkoyhccxDeWhOsA>



APS Victoria President, Cathy Powers, at the Show

HOW MANY GREVILLAS ARE THERE?

By Tony Cavanagh

A good question. In part, it depends on which botanist you believe, and also on how many different "forms" you are prepared to accept. For example, there are five or six different *Grevillea alpine*, eg. Grampians, Goldfields, Northern Victoria, North eastern Victoria, Southern Hills. They are often quite distinctive but botanically, at least for the moment, they are all

called *G. alpina*. Then there are the “subspecies”; forms which are obviously related but sufficiently different to warrant being separated. Yet, not so different that they have their own species name.

Thus in recent years, *G. lavandulacea* has been split into two subspecies, *G. lavandulacea* subsp. *lavandulacea* and *G. lavandulacea* subsp. *rogersii*. Just to make it a bit more confusing, up to the year 2000, the latter existed as its own species - *G. rogersii*. But, the NSW botanist, Bob Makinson, decided after examining a large number of specimens, that it wasn't sufficiently different to remain separate.



***G. lavandulacea* – Photo Brian Walters**

One other term you need to know is “taxon” (plural “taxa”). At its simplest, a taxon refers to a discrete unit in classifying plants and animals. Thus we can talk about the taxon *G. robusta* (the silky oak) or the two taxa *G. lavandulacea* subsp. *lavandulacea* and *G. lavandulacea* subsp. *rogersii*.

I am a member of the Grevillea Study Group within ANPSA. In a recent Newsletter, Neil Marriott asked if anyone either had, or knew of, a list of all the current Grevilleas, because as far as he knew, no such list existed. I had prepared an index of all the Newsletters which among other things listed all *Grevillea* names used in the Newsletter. From this I produced a list, only to discover that Peter Olde had been working on the same thing. When we compared them, we found that I had more species and taxa than Peter but only because I was more generous in accepting names whereas Peter had stuck more with published names.

So how many are there? Well, my list came to **384** species names with **500** taxa in total, whereas Peter had **371** species and **471** taxa in total. Quite staggering really. I hasten to add that Peter's list is more accurate than mine. And we haven't even mentioned the hybrids -*G. “Robyn Gordon”*, *G. “Superb”* etc., of which my pure guess is 200-300. Peter said there were 23 new hybrids introduced this year alone. So if you ever had the thought of trying to grow all of the Grevilleas, forget it. But you should be able to find a few for the garden.



***Grevillea venusta* – Photo Liz Cavanagh**

STRYCHNINE TREE

by Roger Wileman

I heard recently of a chemist selling a treatment to a customer for his son to put on his fingernails to stop him from biting them. It sounds pretty straight forward, but the treatment contained strychnine, a highly toxic alkaloid that is used mainly for rodent control. It certainly would have cured the fingernail problem! Luckily the treatment was returned unopened.

I found, to my surprise, that the species *Strychnos nux-vomica* is an Australian native plant which is a chief source of the drug strychnine and brucine. It grows in the tropical and sub tropical northern part of Australia, India and south east Asia. It is in the *Loganiaceac* family and contains approx 150 species worldwide.



Fruit of *S.nux-vomica* – Photo Craig Nieminski

It is a medium size tree with a short thick trunk. The leaves are approx 10cm long and 7.6 cm wide, while the flowers are small, funnel shaped and purple green in colour and have a foul smell. The fruit is the size of a large apple and when ripe is orange in colour. The flesh of the fruit is soft and white and contains five flattened seeds. These seeds contain 1.5% strychnine and the dried flowers 1% strychnine.

However the bark contains brucine and other poisonous compounds.

The Australian Aborigines used the leaves from the strychnine tree in rivers to stun the fish to be able to catch them. It makes me wonder how many casualties it took to master this unique method of capture.

SOME ORCHIDS SEEN ON THE ORCHID HUNT 21/9/13

Sometimes you just need to fill a space☺



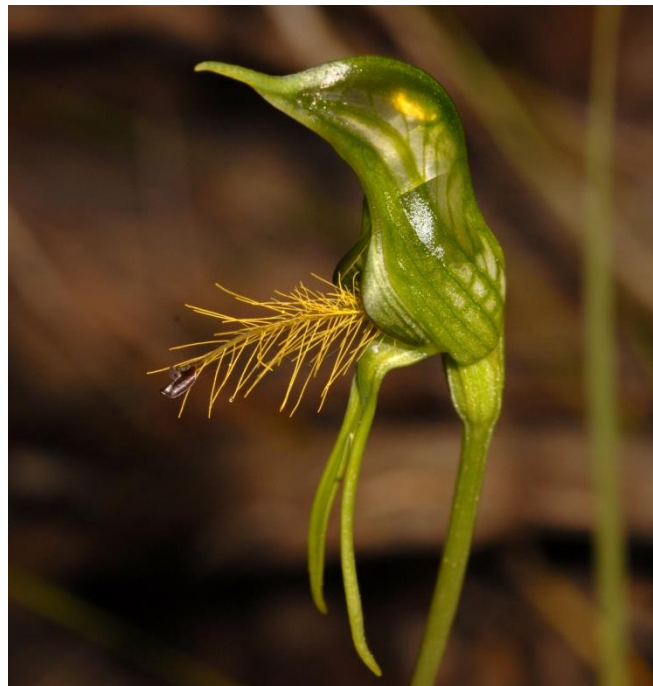
Hare Orchid – *Leptocerus menziesii*



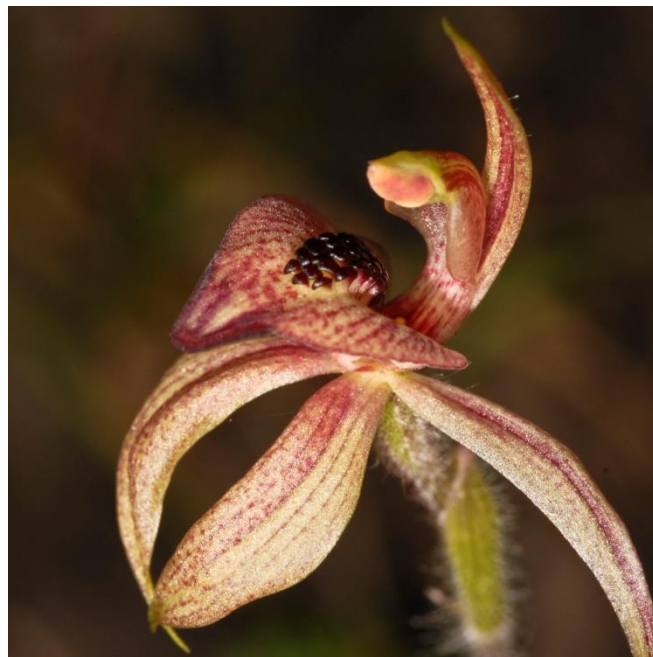
Gnat Orchid – *Cyrtostylis reniformis* with pollinators



Rabbit-ears Orchid – *Thelymitra antennifera*



Bearded Greenhood - *Pterostylis plumosa*



Heart-lipped Spider-orchid – *Caladenia cardiochila*



Pink Fairies – *Caladenia latifolia*