



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 310 – August 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015/2015

Matt Baars

We have had another interesting year, with a variety of speakers and members nights. We have among our members a great amount of knowledge and interests, and it is gratifying when these members are willing and able to pass these on to the group as speakers, and at supper and other social occasions.

Our numbers are stable; we lose a few members and gain a few members. It is good to see the variety of faces, both old and new, which turn up to our meetings. The committee members feel that this means we are providing good meetings and events that are both entertaining and informative.



The Plant Sale was again a great success, even with fewer growers in attendance and more people than ever passing through the gates of Arthur and Linda Pape's pleasantly presented property. The weekend

seems to have come into its own with more and more people marking it on the calendar as a must do.

The event could not happen without the dedicated help of all the volunteers who put in a lot of time to make the weekend the success it is, I particularly thank Roger, who organised the selection of tube stock from John Mahoney and the potting up day. He also organised the pick up the potting mix and the pots. Thanks to those people who turned up to pot up these plants into 5" pots and then Roger and Sheila who watered and looked after the plants until the sale. Also thanks to Frank and Bruce who donated a lot of plants that they had grown to our stall at the sale. Thanks to those people who turned up before the sale and put in some hard work preparing the kitchen and property. Again I thank Arthur and Linda Pape for allowing us to use their property.

We had only two excursions during the past year. One was in October to a group of gardens in Indented Head and the property 'Redgums' in Drysdale, this trip was organised by Ade. It was a great day and we saw some fantastic gardens. We also had a trip to the Melton Botanic Gardens, despite the weather this was a great day, we all appreciated the work of the friends group. We want to take more trips in the coming year, particularly to members' gardens. I encourage all members to make suggestions for excursions, we certainly have the funds.

I would like to thank all those members who have helped set up, work at and clean up at our meetings. It may not seem like much, but every little bit helps and allows the committee members to have some time to meet up and chat with people that they only see at the meetings.

A particular mention must be made of our Newsletter editor – Ade. I think it is a great newsletter, interesting and colourful. I know he puts a lot of work into it and he also administers our Facebook page, which is a great forum to post plant photos and information. There have been some fantastic photos posted by members.

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I thank the committee members and those members who put in a lot of their time performing the secretarial duties – a special mention for Bruce, finances, organising the plant sale, speaking presentations, excursions, library, meeting suppers - Tina and Penny, break up function and the monthly meetings, without these efforts this group would not be the success it is. There are expenses involved in these activities that are not recorded or asked for and I feel that it should be noted by members that this occurs.

Finally I thank Denise, who has after many years as a committee member has decided to have a break. Denise has been a valuable member of our committee contributing valued input and effort.

I thank all the committee members for their efforts and volunteering their homes and providing supper for our meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank Scheelings

Financial statements can be a little difficult, so I won't be reproducing Frank's report here. Anyone who is interested can email Frank, and I'm sure he will be happy to forward a statement and answer any questions. The general tone of the report is as follows:-

Current Bank Balance - \$11,100. The committee will consider ways to spend a little more of this money for the benefit of members. Income for 2014/15 - \$ 5,200, the majority of which came from the plant sale. Major expenses- \$ 3,100 which included a donation of \$400 to the Melton Botanic Gardens.

The club is in a sound financial position with fairly steady membership.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21ST July

The AGM was well attended, though I think this may have more to do with the photo competition than the elections – call me a cynic ☺

Matt addressed the members and then declared all positions vacant. Ade Foster took the chair and nominations for all committee positions were sought. The following were nominated and were elected unopposed :-

President: Matt Baars
Vice-President: Phil Royce
Secretary: Bruce McGinness
Treasurer: Frank Scheelings
General Members: Roger Wileman, Sheila Deakin, Carmel Addlem,

We could always use another general member if anyone is interested?

I was asked to edit the Correa Mail again, and was happy to accept. This edition will begin my sixth year as Editor.

Denise Cromer did not seek re-election. I would like to thank Denise on behalf of all members for her considerable contribution to club as committee member. Her calm manner and good humour saw us through quite a few 'exciting' committee meetings, and added greatly to the fine job the committee has done.

PLANT TABLE

with Denise Cromer

Acacias were the dominant genus on the table tonight with a spectacular display of 12 different species. *Acacia bayleyana*, the Cootamundra wattle, was represented with three different forms - the well-known 'normal' form a beautiful tree when in flower; var. *purpurea* with deep purple new growth and branchlets; and a prostrate form from Frank Scheelings' garden. This is a plant which may cause some difficulties given that it will grow as large as a normal form tree, and so covers a great deal of ground in a suburban garden.



Our National Floral emblem – *Acacia pycnantha*

Also featured were *A. myrtifolia*; *A. rigens*, with very fine needle-like phyllodes; *A. cardiophylla*; *A. podalyriifolia*, the Mount Morgan wattle; *A. notibilis*, with large flat phyllodes; *A. boormanii*, a lovely plant which can sucker freely; and the spectacular *A. leprosa* 'Scarlet Blaze' with orange/red flowers.

Hakeas are always prolific in the winter months and we saw *H. multilineata*, both white and pink forms; *H. bucculenta* with spectacular red flowers; *H. francissiana*; *H. decurrens* with beautiful pink and white flowers and lethally spiked foliage; *H. lehmanniana*, the blue flowering hakea; *H. rigida*, and *H. orthorhynchus*.



***Hakea lehmanniana* – Photo Roger Wileman**

Eremophilas were also well represented. A very deep maroon example of *E. maculata* ssp *brevifolia* caused some discussion as to its identity ... again. *E. complanata* is a delicate mauve flowering plant which tolerates shady or over-shadowed positions. *E. racemosa* has a variety of colour forms and the one on the table was spectacular, with yellow flowers aging through orange and finally to pink/mauve. We also had specimens of *E. maculata* yellow form, and *E. oppositifolia*.

The other group well represented were the Banksias. Frank brought along a wonderful selection of stems of *B. praemorsa* showing the bud, the magnificent 25cm deep-yellow flower and a group of buds joined by fasciation which looked very interesting. Among the other beautiful banksias on show were *B. spinulosa*, and *B. menziesii*.

We also had thryptomenes, Boronias, Hredenbergias, Grevilleas, Hypocalimnas, Darwinias and Epacris. One plant which created a bit of interest was the unusual Pandorea 'Theodore', a mild-mannered climber with cream flowers, heavily streaked with deep purple.



***Pandorea 'Theodore'* – photo Matt Leach**

PLANT OF THE MONTH

The raffle was finally won by yours truly, (an event which has been denied me for over 7 years) and I chose my favourite *Grevillea brownwenae* as plant of the month. This specimen was brought along by Olivia Clarke, and she writes:-

Grevillea brownwenae is an erect slender small shrub (0.5 to 1.8 metres) with long, hairy leaves and scarlet red flowers along the stems. The species was first formally described by botanist Gregory John Keighery in 1990. Endemic to South Western Australia, it has grown really well in an open, sunny position in my Anglesea garden. The flowers appear from June to December and the plant benefits from regular pruning after flowering. Although the flowers are supposed to be followed by ovoid fruits, I have yet to see them in the three and a half years since planting.



***Grevillea brownwenae* – Photo Olivia Clarke**

TASMANIAN CONIFERS

by Roger Wileman.

Roger continues his series on the conifers of Tasmania, this month ...

***Diselma archeri*.**

Chestnut pine

This pine is another native to Tasmania, in the Cupressaceae family. It is the sole species in the Genus *Diselma*. It is endemic to the alpine areas of Tasmania, south west and central highlands and Lake St Clare, at an altitude ranging from 910 - 1220 m.

Diselma archeri is a large shrub or a small tree growing from 1m - 6m. The leaves are scale-like, 2-3 mm long arranged in four rows in opposite pairs, giving the branches a square appearance.



***Diselma archeri* – Chestnut Pine**

It is dioecious, the seed cones of both male and female are found on the same plant. The cones are amongst the smallest of any conifer in the world, just 2-3 mm long. They appear green ripening to brown in about 7-8 months from pollination and have four scales arranged in two opposite pairs. Each scale bears a small bract, and the upper scales carry two small winged seeds.

It is of interest that few seedlings have ever been found in their natural location. New, small plants are the result of branches being layered in peat bogs.

Diselma archeri is very hardy, very slow growing, and would be suitable for cool growing areas of Victoria, in a rockery or container. It requires well composted soil and plenty of moisture. This plant is very rare in cultivation and is available from native nurseries in Tasmania who sell just 1-2 per year. It is funny to think that the two plants I have were bought from Bunnings at Waurin Ponds. I will be trying to grow them in a container on the south side of the house.

THE IDEAL “30 cm BY 30 cm” PLANT?

By Tony Cavanagh

Many of us I am sure have places in the garden for a small plant that does NOT grow large over the years and retains a compact, domed shape of around 30 cm by 30 cm (or in the old terminology, 1 foot by 1 foot). I have to say that I have been searching for such plants over many years and really have not found any that I liked until I took some cuttings from a “compact form” of *Ixodia*. That was all the information I had and it could even have been one of the named forms such as Hill’s Daisy. I am pretty sure it is a form of *I.*

archilaeoides and what I liked so much about it is that, unlike the common form of this plant which can be tall and straggly, this one retains its compact shape, with smaller flower heads, tiny flowers and has bright green foliage. It strikes readily from cuttings, flowers within a few months and seems to have flowers on and off for most of the year. It grows best in damper areas - plants in dry positions grow slowly and never look their best. It does strikingly well in a waterwell pot!



Compact *Ixodia* from Tony’s garden

So here is a challenge. Can anyone name other suitable candidates for the “30 cm by 30 cm” category? Remember, they need to form a compact “ball”, not be too spreading and certainly should never grow taller than 50 cm. Any takers?

Further Note: Since this short article was written for the last issue of the Vic. Region Newsletter *Growing Australian*, I have found another possible candidate. This is the low growing shrub I bought several years ago as “Mallee Princess,” lovely dark green foliage with masses of flower-heads with pink-white star flowers. I have found it difficult to propagate from cuttings and despite its name, the plant I gave my daughter, who lives in the Victorian Mallee out of Mildura, died in less than six months. I am inclined to think that it does best in a lightly shaded, well drained bed and needs some water in a dry summer. If anyone else is growing it, I would like to hear of their experiences.

On a final note, I have been unable to find out who introduced it to cultivation, where the original plants grew (it seems to be coastal South Australia but where does “Mallee” come from?, or even whether it is a garden hybrid or a selected form of a naturally occurring species. In the nursery trade, it is often called *Pomaderris obcordata* “Mallee Princess” but the botanist are currently arguing about the validity of the application of the name *Pomaderris obcordata*, saying things like that it has been misapplied to

another *Pomaderris*, *P. paniculosa*, which from pictures that I have seen, seems to have smaller flowerheads and is much less attractive. Anyway, love to hear from anyone who knows more about it or is growing “Mallee Princess” successfully.



Pomaderris ‘Mallee Princess’

CAN PLANTS ‘HEAR’?

Perhaps they can sort of. A small, flowering mustard plant called *Arabidopsis thaliana* can detect the vibrations that caterpillars trigger when they chew on its leaves, and according to a new study undertaken at the University of Missouri, the plants respond by launching a chemical defense.

Many plants release chemicals in response to being eaten; chemicals which make the plant less palatable to the animal involved. In this case they are glucosinolates – the substance which gives the plant its spicy, mustard taste.



Cabbage white caterpillar on *A. thaliana*

But, scientists attached special speakers which play acoustic vibration rather than airborne sound to leaves of the study plants. One group was played ‘silence’ while the other was played a recording of Cabbage white caterpillars munching on a mustard plant.

The plants who ‘heard’ the vibrations caused by caterpillars produced greater amounts of the defensive chemical, in the same way that they would if they were actually being eaten.

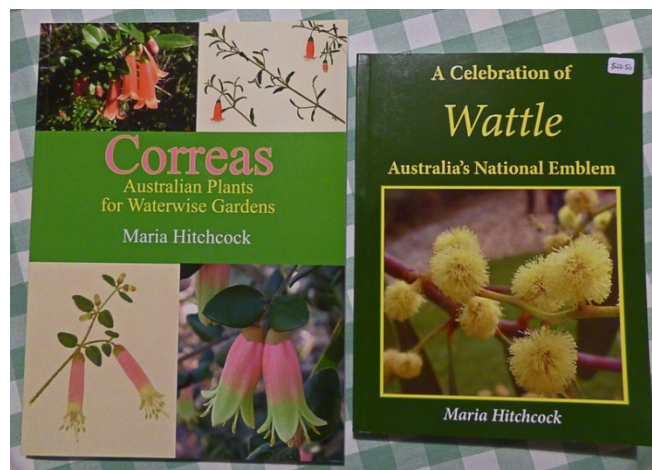
So, maybe there is credence in the old hippie belief that talking nicely, or playing music to your plants does have some benefit. Just don’t do it while the neighbours are listening. ☺

UPCOMING EVENTS

CORREAS

Maria Hitchcock

The APS Keilor Plains Group has issued an invitation to members of the Geelong Group to attend a talk on Correas by Maria Hitchcock, on Friday August 7th. They are flying Maria down from Armidale, NSW, to talk to their group and would like to open up the opportunity to meet this renowned expert to a wider APS audience.



Maria has indicated that she will gear her presentation towards 'Gardening with Correas' but she will also be running through the eleven species of Correa to be found in the wild. Limited copies of Maria's books on Correas (\$26.25) and Wattles (\$22.50) will be for sale on the evening. There will also be a small number of Correa plants available for purchase.

This event will be held at the Uniting Church, Corner of Roberts Road and Glenys Avenue, Airport West, 7:50 pm for an 8:00 pm start. Contact Ros: 9376 3383

Our Next Meeting

August 18th

The speaker at our August Meeting will be Julene Cook, who will talk to us about Fungi. Julene runs a Fungi Oz – All Things Fungi Australia. Have a look at some of her fabulous photography, and more here ..

<http://www.fungioz.com/>

September: Bruce McGinness will tell us about his work with naturally occurring insecticidal properties of Australian plants. There will be a garden visit and visit to the Kevin Hoffman Walk in Lara on the Saturday after the September meeting. More details in the next edition.

October: John Arnott, Director of the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens will address us about his work at the gardens. There will be an excursion to the gardens on the following Saturday. Details to follow.

CORREA MAIL - SEPTEMBER EDITION.

Penny and I will be taking our biannual holidays this year and we will be away for all of August and most of September. Phil Royce kindly consented to publish the September and October editions in my absence.

However, Phil has had an accident and we don't want to compromise his recovery with the stress of editing our newsletter. So the September edition will be combined with the October edition, which will come out very late September or early October. Any important news regarding excursions, meetings etc., will be emailed to all of you in the meantime.

We wish Phil a speedy recovery, and look forward to his smiling face at meetings very soon.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Once again we held our Photo Competition in conjunction with the AGM, and the entries were as numerous and spectacular as ever.

Three categories were contested ... Australian Plants, Australian Animals and Australian Landscape. The photos were displayed in standard 5 x 7 format and members voted for their favourite shot in each category. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

First prize in the Australian Plants category went to Roger Wileman's amazing shot of an ancient grasstree, *Xanthorrhoea australis*, in flower after a bushfire. The photo was taken at Dadwell's Bridge, west of Stawell, in Victoria.

Roger was again the winner in the Australian Landscapes section with his moody portrait of the dry lakebed of Lake Johnson, 100 km west of Norseman in Western Australia.

The winner in the Australian animals category was Ade Foster's action shot of a sulphur-crested cockatoo in flight, taken at Lake Mokoan, Winton Wetlands in Victoria.

All the photos were of wonderful quality and showed a deep sense of pleasure that all the photographers derive from the great Australian outdoors. Here are all the winning entries.

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS



1st Place - Grasstrees at Ararat – Roger Wileman



2nd Place – Eucalyptus Synandra – Tina Scheelings

We had a 4 way tie for third place, which shows just how good the photos were. Roger not only completed the double with a winner in two categories, but two third places in Australian Plants. Obviously, he will be banned from entering next year 😊

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS = 3RD PLACES



= 3rd - Eucalyptus macrocarpa – Roger Wileman



= 3rd - Verticordia grandis – Roger Wileman



= 3rd – Arthropodium stricta – Ade Foster



= 3rd – Chorizema dicksonii – Matt Leach

AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES



1st Place – Lake Johnson W.A – Roger Wileman



1st Place – Sulphur-crested Cockatoo – Ade Foster



2nd Place – Piper's River, Tasmania – Carmel Addlem



2nd Place – Willy Wagtail at Nest – Frank Scheelings



3rd Place – Grasstrees after fire – Frank Scheelings
AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS



3rd Place – Crimson Finch – Ade Foster