



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 320– August 2016

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The 2016 Annual General Meeting was attended by a small number of members. Matt Baars presented his President's address, which follows below. Frank Scheelings presented the Treasurer's Report, and copies were tabled for members to read. In a nutshell, Income for the year was \$6410, expenditure was \$4135, with a net income for the year \$2275. The bank balance is healthy at around \$13,000, and an interest was expressed in spending some of it to benefit members.

Matt declared all positions on the Committee vacant, and handed the chair to Phil Royce who conducted the elections. The following were elected unopposed

- President – Matt Baars
- Vice-President – Carmel Addlem
- Secretary – Bruce McGinness
- Treasurer – Frank Scheelings

Committee General Members :-

- Sheila Deakin
- Roger Wileman
- Matt Leach

I was asked to continue editing the newsletter.

On behalf of all members I would like to congratulate our Committee on their election, and thanks them for their on-going good work on behalf of us all.

I would also like to thank out-going committee member, Phil Royce, who served the last year as Vice-President and attended APS Vic meetings on our behalf. Phil has retired mostly for health reasons and we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Matt Baars

We have had another interesting year, with a variety of speakers and member's 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.



The Plant Sale was again a great success, with a good number of growers in attendance and on Saturday, more people than ever passing through the gates of Arthur and Linda Pape's pleasantly presented property. This year Sunday was a particularly quiet and in discussion with growers we will be looking at making it a one day event.

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. 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 in view of the extremely trying time they were having with Arthur's health. I am very

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pleased at the great outcome for Arthur as he continues to improve.

We had three excursions during the past year. Thanks to those members who opened up their gardens. We want to take more trips in the coming year, particularly to member's gardens. I encourage all members to make suggestions for excursions, we certainly have the funds.

We also had a fund raising BBQ at Bunnings. It was a busy day, but fun. I thank those committee members who put in a lot of time to organise this and all the people who worked on the day. It was a good fund raiser and we have reapplied to do it again next year.

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 and Web pages, which is are great forums to post plant photos and information. There have been some fantastic photos posted by members.

I thank the committee members and others 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 - especially 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.

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.

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

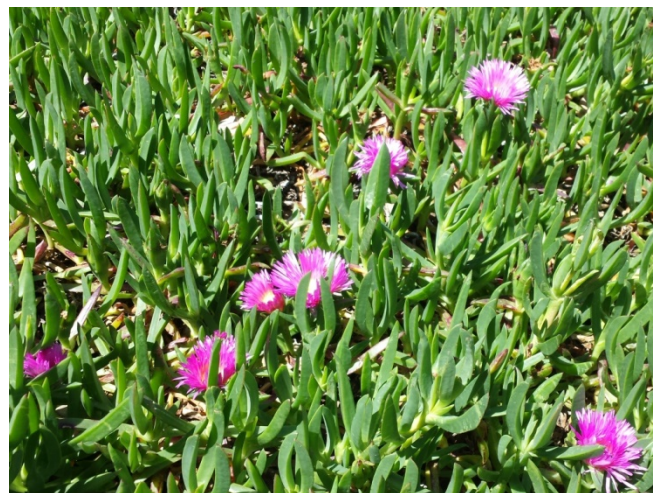
AUSTRALIAN SUCCULENTS

Attila Kapitany

Our speaker at the last meeting was Attila Kapitany. Attila will be well known to many of you from his appearances on Gardening Australia, ABC Radio's Gardening Show and others. He writes regularly for gardening magazines and journals and has authored, or co-authored seven books. If you have heard him speak you cannot doubt his enthusiasm. I can't remember a more colourful, animated or entertaining speaker.

Attila's main interest is in 'succulent' plants, and he took some time to define exactly what he meant by this. It depends on whether you use the word

'succulent' as a noun or an adjective. As a noun - 'Pig-face is a succulent' – the word has a definite meaning and refers to a specific group of plants, like the Pig-face, *Carpobrotus*, with which we are all familiar.



Carpobrotus rossii

But, if you use the word as an adjective – 'Pigface is a succulent plant' then it broadens the meaning, and the list of plants it refers to, considerably. My dictionary defines succulent, in part, as 'tender, juicy'. And it is in this context that Attila uses it. If a plant has fleshy water-storing leaves, or stems, or even roots, then by Attila's definition, it is a succulent plant.

Many people think Australia has very few succulent plants – Pig-face and Common Purslane, *Portulaca oleracea* come to mind, but few others. However, with Attila's definition plants like *Xanthorrhoea*, *Stylidium*, *Davesia*, *Adansonia* (Boab), *Crassula*, *Doryanthes* (Gynea Lily), *Dendrobium* and *Leschenaultia* all qualify. Some have 'typical' succulent leaves, some succulent stems or trunks, and others succulent root systems.



Trunk of a Boab, *Adansonia gregorii* – massively swollen with stored water in a good season.

Some of the lesser known, but equally interesting 'succulent' families include Cladrinia, Peperomia, Dischidia and Mymercodia – the Ant Plant.

Attila showed us a plethora of his amazing photographs, which he either raced through with an extensive vocabulary of exclamations, squeaks and moans of delight, or dwelled on with gusty sighs of pleasure. His travels with wife, Michelle, seeking out new, interesting and unusual plants, has given him a huge collection of photographs, and a library of stories, which kept us all entertained for ninety minutes.



Myrmecodia tuberosa

ON THE TABLE

with Frank Scheelings

Frank conducted the plant table with considerable heckling from the small but vocal crowd.

As usual, Grevilleas featured strongly among the plants on the table. *Grevillea paniculata* is a low shrub, with very fine, prickly leaves and tiny white and pale pink flowers. *G. sericea* is a tough erect specimen shrub, to 2m with masses of small pink/mauve flowers in late winter and spring. *G. dimorpha* is a small grevillea, with deep green leaves, providing rich red flowers at any time of the year, but mostly in late winter/spring. Among the hybrids were *G. 'Superb'*, *G. 'Ellendale Pool'*, *G. Winpara Gem'*, *G. 'Winpara Gold'*, and *G. 'Long John'*. Also known as 'Elegance', *G. 'Long John'* is a hybrid of *G. longifolia*, and *G. johnsonii*, and has the best features of both. It is a fast growing, large shrub, with lovely, big, coral-ref spider flowers.

The Chamelauciums have started early this year, and some lovely specimens of *C. uncinatum* ranging from palest pink, through to deep mauve. 'Seaton's form' features huge flowers in pale pink. *C. floribundum* is a dense shrub with tiny white flowers.

Thryptomenes have been particularly good this year, and there were specimens of *T. beakeacea*, *T. saxicola* and *T. calycina*, ranging from vibrant mauve to white with deep red centres.

Acacia aphylla is a medium shrub, spiny, and lacking 'leaves' or phyllodes. It has bright, lemon

yellow flowers. *A. willdenowiana* is a small shrub, less than 1m, with pale cream to pale yellow flowers. *A. baileyana* is the well-known 'Cootamundra Wattle', a medium tree with feathery foliage and masses of bright yellow flowers.



Darwinia meeboldii

Darwinia meeboldii is a straggly shrub with large bracts around the flowers which form a pendent "bell" - usually white with red tips. A group of 8 small flowers are concealed inside. *D. squarrosa* has a similar habit, with pink or pink/cream flowers.

RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES

We'd like to thank those who bring plants along for the door prize and raffle. It's gratifying that members are happy to grow plants for the benefit of others. Grahme Parkes won the raffle, and chose *Thryptomene calycina* as Plant of the Month.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

***Thryptomene calycina*.**

By Matt Leach

Thryptomene calycina, the Grampians Thryptomene is a small to medium plant, always bushy, with many branches spreading to ascending. The leaves are small, 0.5-1.5cm x 0.2-0.5cm, oblong to ovate, and coloured a deep green. They are flat above, but keeled below, and end in a point.

Flowering occurs from June to November. Flowers are small, about 0.5cm across, mainly on the new growth, forming leafy spikes and are often profuse. They are very showy white flowers, ageing to pink, which gives the appearance of having two different coloured flowers on the one plant.

In the wild, *T. calycina* is restricted to the Grampians and western Black Range in Western Victoria. It is used in floristry as a filler plant for floral arrangements, and large quantities are exported each year. There are several varieties sold in the nursery trade as Cascading Lace, Coral Lace, Ivory Lace and Taylors White.



Thryptomene calycina withstands extended wet periods in winter. In my garden it has been very tolerant of drought, without supplementary water through the summer. Pruning all spent flowers after flowering will help keep the plant a very compact shape. It can also be great as a hedging plant.

Pruning the spent flowers will also help to lessen the amount of seedlings that will come up around plants. *Thryptomene calycina* is known to be a weedy species in some regions and can infiltrate natural bushland.



In my garden I have three plants, two bought as *Thryptomene calycina*, flowers vary from pure white, to one having a little pink within the flower. The third plant is a seedling off the pure white one. The two older plants are both 1m x 1m in height. One plant is around 20 years old, and the other is ten years old. They are in full sun, to semi shade, but they don't like

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US !!

APS GEELONG 50th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Our usual Tuesday meeting night in October happens to be our 50th birthday, and we would like to invite all

members to our Birthday Bash. A formal Invitation for all members will follow.

It will be held at Arthur and Linda Pape's place on Tuesday 18th October from 6.30 pm. There will be fabulous finger food and drinks provided.

To help make the night a success we are hoping to invite any of the original members who are still with us, and long-serving past members. And here, we need your help. If you know of any past members who have contributed to the growth of the club, we would love to hear from you. If you can provide us with contact details, that would help too.

Please send the names of any likely candidates and address, email addresses or phone numbers, if you have them, to me, Ade Foster, at :

adefoster@internode.on.net

or by mail to:

8 Hazel Street, Belmont. 3216

We'd love to have your input here, but we need the contacts by **late August**, so don't be shy.

OUR NEXT MEETING

August 16th

MEMBERS' NIGHT AND PHOTO COMPETITION.

Members' night is an opportunity for members - particularly the ladies - to talk to us for a few minutes about anything that tickles their fancy. If you have a favourite plant, flower, photo or whatever, please show it to us on the night. You don't need to know a lot about it, just bring it along and start the discussion.

We will also have the **Annual Photo Competition** held over from July. It will take the same form as last year. There are three categories - Australian Plants, Australian Landscapes and Australian Wildlife. Photos are to be taken in Australia, of Australian native plants or birds/animals/insects/spiders etc. The photos should be printed in maximum 5" x 7" (12cm x 17cm). No limit to how many you enter. Winners are determined by popular vote, with prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category. Winners will be published in the newsletter and in our Facebook page.



***Eucalyptus macrocarpa* by Roger Wileman. One of last years' winning entries**

UPCOMING MEETINGS and OUTINGS

September 20th – Bill Atchinson – Acacias

Bill will be familiar to most of you as the bookseller at our plant sale every April. Bill has a wide knowledge of Acacias, and will share some of that knowledge with us in September

October 16th Visit to Leach's Garden at Inverleigh, and the Inverleigh Common. Anyone who has seen the plants Matt brings along to the meetings, or the photos from the garden on our Facebook page, will not want to miss this one.

October 18th - 50th Birthday Celebrations.

October 18th is exactly 50 years since our first meeting, and we will be celebrating with a special evening. More details to follow.

November 15th – David Radbourn.

David is a renowned Landscape Architect who has been responsible for many gardens in and around Anglesea. We will follow his talk with an excursion to visit several of those gardens on the following Sunday.

November 19th - Anglesea garden visits. A chance to see some of the gardens landscaped by David Radbourn, the speaker from our November meeting.

BANKSIA CANEI

by Roger Wileman

Banksia canei, the Mountain Banksia is an interesting plant which grows in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, between Melbourne and Canberra.

The specific name commemorates William "Bill" Cane, 1911-1987, a pioneer native plant nurseryman, who established the Clearview nursery at Brewers Hill near Maffra in 1947. Many hybrids grevilleas were developed at his nursery - many bearing the "Clearview" name - David, John, Robyn, and Crosbie Morrison, to name a few. 'Clearview David' was registered on the 12th of March 1976.

Bill was involved in the establishment of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, and was growing selected colours of *Corymbia ficifolia* from cuttings as early as 1958. I was Bill Cane who drew Dr Jim Willis's attention to the difference of *Banksia canei*.

The first specimen was collected by Dr Jim Willis (1910- 1995) near Wulgulemerang, in Eastern Victoria, on the 27 November 1962. Willis was born in Oakleigh, Victoria and joined the National Herbarium in 1937 and remained until 1972. He became Assistant Government Botanist and Acting Director of the Royal

Botanic Gardens and Herbarium. He once said that the title of Dr in front of his name did open a few doors in his life although he was not a medical doctor.

I was a plumber and my title also opened a lot of doors but they were always where the leak or blockage was. ☺

Banksia canei is a very attractive plant that is rarely seen in gardens or nurseries. The plants resemble *Banksia marginate*, but are more closely related to *Banksia saxicola*, which grows at Wilson Promontory and the Grampians (Mt William car park). *Banksia canei* is usually a good compact plant that grows from 1.5 m to 3.0 m high and up to 2 m wide. Most of the 'wild' populations I have seen have been less than 2 m high. The buds have a light greenish colour before opening, maturing into a really bright yellow. The flowers, which appear from January to June, are well presented and almost on the outside of the plants. There is some variation in leaf shape and size.



***Banksia canei* – The Mountain Banksia**

While *B. canei* grows in a wide range of soils and conditions, they require a bit more water than most Banksias and have been grown successfully in England for a number of years. The plants in the photo were taken 10 km north of Omeo and I have seen it growing in the high country between Dargo- Omeo and above Licola.

I have some seed and hope to have some plants available early next year.