



# Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 321– September 2016

## August Meeting

In an attempt to encourage other members to have a say at meetings, apart from the usual suspects, we tried a Ladies' Night. It was just an opportunity for the ladies to talk about something that they were interested in, and the first night, though small, was a great success.

Gladys Hastie talked to us about her interest of cooking with Australian plants. She brought along samples of three of her favourites, the 'Myrtles', *Backhousia* sp.

Lemon Myrtle, *B. citriodora*, is a large sub-tropical tree with lemon scented wood, bark, flowers and leaves. The dried leaves are used to favour cakes and biscuits, syrups, icings and toppings and meat and fish dishes. If it is grown in a large self-watering pot, it can be kept manageable at around 1.5 metres. Gladys's samples were very strongly scented and flavoured and Gladys suggested using less than is required in the recipes.



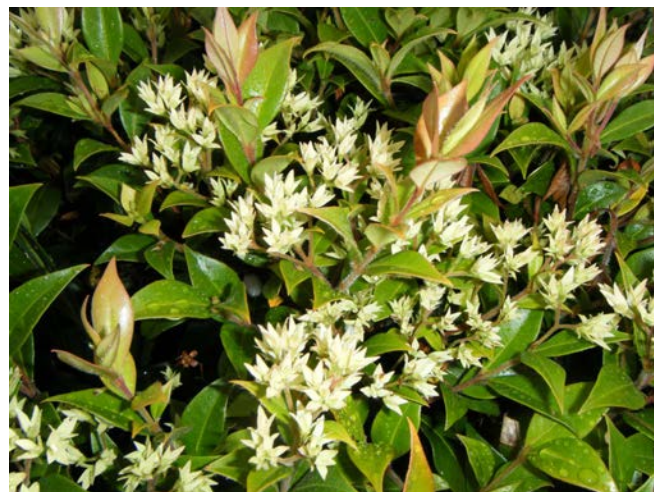
**The leaves and flowers of Lemon Myrtle**

Aniseed myrtle, *B. anisata*, is a tall rain-forest tree from Queensland and northern NSW. It needs a semi-shaded frost-free and moist position in our climate.

## Ladies' Night

The dried leaves are used in cakes and biscuits to give a flavour similar to star anise. The dried and ground leaves had a very subtle, sweet aniseed smell.

Cinnamon Myrtle, *B. myrtifolia*, is a medium sized tree from the rain-forests of NSW and QLD. In our area it needs protection from drought, frosts and strong sunlight. It can be successfully grown in a large, self-watering pot which can be moved to avoid the extremes of our weather. The dried leaves are used in cakes, icings and curries to give a subtle cinnamon flavour.



**Leaves and flowers of Cinnamon Myrtle**

Gladys dries the leaves in her oven at a low temperature, 50°C for about 90 minutes. She then grinds them up in a coffee grinder, before putting the grinds through a fine sieve. She uses ten different native plants in cooking, and interest shared by their son, who is a trained chef.

Sheila Deakin took the floor next, to tell us about three plants in her garden. It would seem that, even though it's Sheila's house, it's Roger's garden. Sheila found an *Allocasuarina glauca* growing as a standard, and despite Roger's protest that it wouldn't suit 'his' garden she stuck to her guns. For several seasons it



looked rather unwell and she was doubting the wisdom of her \$100 outlay. But now, it is magnificent. As my old Gran would have said, "That's one up against your duck-house, Roger."



**Standard *Allocasuarina glauca***

As we all know, Roger is a great collector and grower of orchids, and they decided recently to divide some of the many Dendrobiums in his collection. They set up a couple of trestle table, and divided 20 plants, with a total of 86 flower spikes! It's going to be a good year.



**Roger and the Dendrobiums**

We also know of Roger's artistic bent with natural materials ... rock carvings, sculptures, mobiles, all made with driftwood or other 'found' items. He obtained some unusual plants from John Mahoney - *Acacia lasiocalyx* – and planted them into a wonderful log planter. An asset to any garden, no matter who 'owns' it ☺



**Rogers' wonderful log planter.**

Last up was Carmel Addlem, who told us about her late father, Vic Wilmott, and his passion for wood carving with native timbers. Being the middle of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, she thought it timely to bring us a wood turned 'Olympic Torch' which was her favourite piece from her Dad's many works of art.





The frame is made from Jarrah, and the torch beautifully turned from *Xanthorrhoea* sp. A magnificent piece of wood art, and great way to remember her Dad.

#### PHOTO COMPETITION.

Our annual photo competition was again a great display of the photographic talents of our members. The three categories were well represented with photos taken with all sorts of cameras, from iPhones to professional standard DSLRs.

There were three categories again ... Australian Plants, Australian Landscapes and Australian Wildlife. Each entry was numbered and members present voted for their favourite shots – one vote for each category.

In the **AUSTRALIAN PLANTS** section the winner was, in true APS Geelong style, a controversial one. The photo, by Roger Wileman, was of a fungus, *Mycena vinacea*, which was taken in the car-park at the You Yangs. Fungi, of course, are not plants at all, however, the ~~rable~~ members voted to allow it.

Second place was a tie between Matt Baars' photo of the Blueberry Ash, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, a large rain-forest tree from Southern Queensland and NSW, and Ade Foster's photo of *Geleznovia verrucosa*, a sand plain species from southern Western Australia

Third place was another of Roger Wileman's photos of *Drosera aberrans*, a sundew, taken near Scarsdale.



= 2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Blueberry Ash, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*



= 2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Yellow Bells - *Geleznovia verrucosa*



1<sup>st</sup> Place : Sundew – *Drosera aberrans*



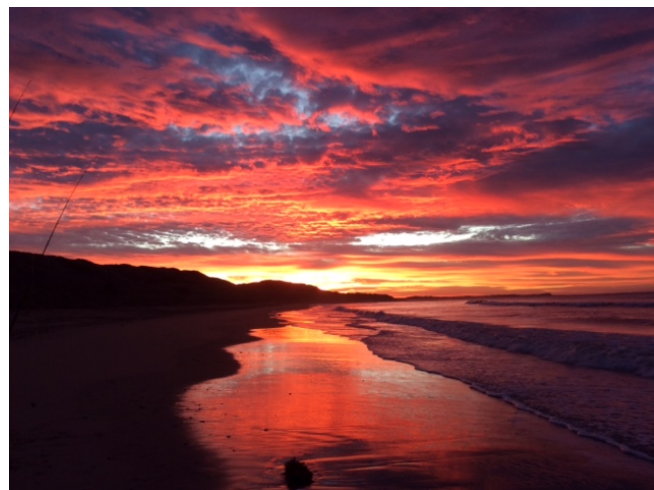


**3<sup>rd</sup> Place : Sundew – *Drosera aberrans***

The Australian Landscape section was a corker, with some amazing images of our fabulous country. First place was awarded to Geoff Wilson's beautiful photo of a Boab tree, *Adansonia gregorii*, taken at Galvan Gorge in the Kimberley region of WA.

Geoff also took out the second place with a stunning shot of the Pentecost River near the Gibb River Rd crossing.

Third went again to Roger Wileman for an incredibly beautiful photo of a sunrise at Breamlea Beach



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place : Winter Sunrise at Breamlea**

The **AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE** section was a great display and first place was shared by arch-photographic rivals, Frank Scheelings and Ade Foster. Frank showed a unique portrait of an Australian Pelican from Balyang Sanctuary, and Ade, a shot of a Blue-winged Kookaburra from Alligator Creek, QLD. Second place was an arty shot of a Superb Fairy-wren in flight, from Geoff Wilson, and third place went to Tina Scheelings for her lovely photo of White-tailed Black Cockatoos taken in Western Australia.



**=1<sup>st</sup> Place : Australian Pelican Portrait**



**= 1<sup>st</sup> Place : Blue-winged Kookaburra**





2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Superb Fairy-wren



3<sup>rd</sup> Place : White-tailed Black Cockatoos

## ON THE TABLE

with Sheila Deakin

Sheila conducted the plant table discussion this month, and a very colourful table it was. Acacias were the main feature with some very nice examples of smaller wattles suitable for the average garden.

*Acacia vestita* is a large shrub with soft foliage and a lovely weeping habit. *A. wilhelmiana* is a small erect shrub from the more arid central and south-west parts of NSW. *A. boormannii*, the Snowy River wattle, is a many stemmed shrub with soft downy foliage and deep lemon yellow flowers. *A. adunca*, Wallangarra Wattle is a large shrub with narrow drooping foliage. It is very floriferous. Others included *A. notabilis*, the Mallee Golden Wattle, *A. aphylla*, the Leafless Rock-wattle, and *A. rigens*, the Needle Wattle or Nealie.

Once again, Grevilleas were very well represented with true species *nivea*, *bronwenae*, *flexuosa*, *zygoloba*, *hookeriana*, *lanigera*, *rosmarinifolia*, *dielsiana*, *aquifolium*, *levis* and *sericea*; as well as many hybrids and cultivars.

Chamelauicums are in flower, a little early perhaps, and there were a good selection of colours and forms.

Among them *C. uncinatum*, *C. floribundum*, *C. 'Purple Pride'*, *C. ? Seton's Form*, and a lovely, but unidentified white one, with crinkly petals.

There was a beautiful deep purple *Melaleuca* which created some discussion. It was either *M. fulgens*, or *M. radula*, but no consensus was reached.

Among the other notables on the table were *Eucalyptus websteriana*, a smallish mallee with large, creamy-yellow flowers. *Phebalium coxii* (now *Leionema coxii* ?) has dark green, shiny, serrated leaves and clusters of pale yellow flowers. The leaves, when crushed, are very fragrant, reminiscent of fresh passionfruit. *Eremophila splendens* is a vigorous shrub with grey-green, hairy leaves and orange-red flowers



*Eucalyptus websteriana*

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*

Annette Packett's specimen of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* was chosen as Plant of The Month. The 'Lara Form' of this plant is our club's emblem. Annette writes ...

I brought this plant to the display table to ask members to assist with identification. The general consensus was that it was *Grevillia rosmarinifolia*.

This plant appeared in my garden from unknown origins approximately ten years ago. It is about 60cm high by 1m across and always seems to have flowers. The plant faces west and is under a tree. It has never been given any attention and continues to be a happy, healthy plant.

*Grevillia rosmarinifolia* (Rosemary Grevillia) is a very variable shrub, 50cm—2m high and 50cm—2m across. The leaves are narrow-linear to 2 cm long. Red, red and cream, pink and cream, yellow or pale green flowers are produced most of the year. The distribution of this plant is Victoria and NSW. Propagation is from cuttings. The commonly cultivated form is very hardy in temperate climates. Most soils and aspects are satisfactory. This plant has even been reported to be hardy in Southern England. This plant may also be pruned hard for a formal hedge or a topiary subject. A smaller form from the Little

Desert Victoria rarely exceeding 70cm has most merit with flowers more prominent. It is often sold as Grevillia Desert Flame.



*Grevillea rosmarinifolia* – Photo Eric Lhote

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS and OUTINGS

##### OUR NEXT MEETING

**September 20<sup>th</sup>**

##### **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 is the leader of the APS Acacia Study Group. Bill will share some of that knowledge with us at the next meeting.

**October 16<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> - 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations.**

October 18<sup>th</sup> is exactly 50 years since our first meeting, and we will be celebrating with a special evening. Invitations will arrive soon.

##### **November 15<sup>th</sup> – 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 19<sup>th</sup> - Anglesea garden visits.** A chance to see some of the gardens landscaped by David Radbourn, the speaker from our November meeting.

**December Christmas Break-up.** This will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details to follow.

#### **ALBANY PITCHER PLANT - *Cephalotus follicularis***

**By Roger Wileman**

Carnivorous plants are native to many countries worldwide with in excess of 750 species, but the real hot spot for carnivorous plant species is Australia. Fully one third of the world's species occur here. The main concentration is in the south west of Western Australia, with 62% of our species being found there. Carnivorous plants are plants that supplement their nitrogen by consuming animals and reptiles, but in Australia our species only consume insects. So, in the true sense, they are insectivorous.

There are quite few different genera in Australia. *Drosera*, *Biblis*, *Utricularia*, and *Nepenthes* are all special and much sought after by carnivorous plant growers worldwide.

The South West of Western Australia is without a doubt the epicentre for carnivorous plants in Australia, if not the world. The vast majority of carnivorous plants in Australia are found in low lying swampy areas, permanently damp areas or spring fed swamps. They grow most often half way between the wettest and driest areas.

The country between Augusta and Albany in Western Australia has perfect conditions for these beautiful plants.





One species from the south west that is highly prized by carnivorous growers is *Cephalotus follicularis*. It is a really stunning little plant with pitchers on the end of the leaves which have evolved to trap and digest insects. The pitchers are not flowers or fruit, but part of the leaf. The flowers appear on a different part of the plant altogether. Of all the species of carnivorous plants in Australia only two have developed pitchers at the end of their leaves ... *Cephalotus* from south west and the three species of *Nepenthes* from north eastern Australia.

The actual shape of the pitcher is really ingenious. The lid does not close, or act as a trap for any insect inside, but as a shelter to stop rain water from entering the pitcher and diluting the fluid at the bottom. The lid also stops evaporation. The fluid is already inside, as the pitcher is developing , and before the lid raises. It is completely sterile at this stage.



The rim at the top of the pitcher is called the 'Peristome'. It is ribbed with inward pointing teeth, which have evolved to make entry into the pitcher easy. On the outside there are three 'runways' - one on the front and one on either side. They have upward pointing hairs which allow an easy one way climb to the Peristome. The grooves at the top are

curved down and act like teeth, forming a barrier for any insects that may try to climb out.

The inside of the pitcher is the reverse, with numerous fine hairs pointing downwards making it easy to climb down but not out. The insects are lured to the bottom by a sweet smelling nectar, consisting of enzymes and micro-organisms. But it leads to their demise when they are dissolved and used by the plant as nutriment.

The Albany pitcher plant is not as common as in the past. Land development, drainage of low lying areas and illegal collecting are a few of the reasons. They are now being grown by tissue culture which will eliminate the need for illegal collecting, but are only available in specialist nurseries. Photos were taken in one of the northern suburbs of Albany Western Australia 2008

#### OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

Our Facebook page is becoming very popular. We regularly have over 250 people read our posts and articles – people from all over the world. We've gone from 32 followers before the 2015 Plant Sale to 183 as I write. Our photos and articles are being shared by other pages in France, China, Russia, Indonesia and the UK. If you have any photos of flowers from your garden, or from a bush-walk, please send them to me for inclusion on the page. After all, our purpose is to promote Australian plants to the world!

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#### HOVEA HETEROPHYLLA

A little scrambling or climbing plant to 20cm from the Anglesea Heath. It produces tiny mauve pea-flowers in late winter and early spring. I don't know if it can be established as a garden plant, but it's a little beauty.

