



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 332– October 2017

September meeting

Before the festivities began we set about to re-elect the committee that was elected at our unofficial AGM back in July. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were tabled and all positions were back up for election. The same committee members were voted back into their positions unopposed. So your 2017-18 OFFICIAL committee is as follows:

President: Bruce McGinness
Vice-President: Matt Leach
Secretary: Phil Royce
Treasurer: Frank Scheelings
General committee members: Carmel Addlem
 Matt Baars
 Dianne Royce
 Sheila Deakin
 Roger Wileman
 Denise Cromer

The September meeting was plant propagation, cuttings and division night. We had Matt Leach, Frank Scheelings and Matt Baars showing us a little about how to propagate native plants from seeds, by cuttings and plant division.

Propagating from seed

Matt Leach

Younger Matt kicked things off with his presentation about propagation from seed. He indicated that researching the seeds you want to propagate is important, as you find out what the seed you're collecting should look like, as opposed to packing etc. Researching should also tell you how long from flowering to fruiting maturity and whether the seeds mature on the plant or are they released.

He asked us all to consider getting permission and/or relevant permits before collecting seeds from places

such as other people's gardens, National Parks and council reserves. Matt told us the ideal conditions for collecting seed and which plants and/or parts of the plant we should collect from.



Matt's seedling set up in his Dad's hothouse in Inverleigh (left) and his Bush house with seedlings hardening off in front (*Ed - aka 'The Nursery'*) in our backyard at Lara.

9. Breaking dormancy

Baking

- Mimics the effect of drought.
- Heating in a microwave.
- Example: *Acacia* sp.

Scorching or smoke treatment

- Mimics the effect of a bushfire.
- Lighting a fire on top of seeds.
- Example: *Banksia* sp.

Repeated wetting

- Mimics the rainy season or flood effect.
- Soak under running water ~7-14 days.
- Example: *Fabaceae* (Peas) sp.

Cutting/abraising/peeling

- Nick with a sharp knife.
- Example: *Grevillea* sp.

Soaking

- In near-boiling water.
- Example: *Swainsona* sp.

Moist chilling (stratification)

- Mimics the alpine effect.
- Wrap in moist medium and wrap in plastic.
- Place in the freezer.
- Example: *Alpine Eucalypts*.

Passing through animals

- Example: *Quandong* (Emu).

Matt had also bought in a few samples of how he collects and propagates his seeds and kept reiterating that correct labelling is paramount. He also mentioned different ways of breaking dormancy, different germination times and passed around some *Acacia* seeds he'd smoked out at Inverleigh earlier that day.

Knowing germination times

Species	Approx. germination time
<i>Acacia</i> (after treatment)	7-20 days
<i>Anigozanthos</i>	14-21 days
<i>Asteraceae</i>	3-10 days
<i>Banksia</i>	3-6 weeks
<i>Casuarina</i>	14-21 days
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	7-20 days
<i>Hakea</i>	2-5 weeks
<i>Isopogon</i> , <i>Petrophile</i>	2-3 weeks
<i>Liliaceae</i> , <i>Iridaceae</i>	14-21 days
<i>Melaleuca</i> , <i>Leptospermum</i> , <i>Callistemon</i>	14-21 days
<i>Fabaceae</i> (after treatment)	7-21 days
<i>Pittosporaceae</i>	3-12 weeks

Australian Plants Society – Geelong

P.O. Box 2012, Geelong. 3220.

Email: apsgeelong@gmail.com ; Website: www.apsgeelong.org ; Facebook page: www.facebook.com/APSGeelong

President: Bruce McGinness – bsmcginness@gmail.com

Vice-President: Matthew Leach – m.n.leach@hotmail.com

Secretary: Philip Royce – phil.i.royce@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Nicole Leach (interim) – avidbookworm@hotmail.com

Matt's assistant (*Ed – me!*) then demonstrated how he sows his seeds (as he has to wear a mask when handling soils and potting mixes) and explained to us all about the difference between seed and tree leaves, as well as the process of pricking out.

Matt recommended the book, *From Seeds to Leaves: A Complete Guide to Growing Australian Trees and Shrubs from Seed*, by Doug & Robin E. Stewart, as a great source of information on propagating different sorts of Australian natives from seed.

Propagating from cuttings

Matt Baars

Older Matt showed us ways to strike cuttings. He said that the principals for collection are similar to what younger Matt discussed in his talk.

Matt had quite a few interesting points for collecting and preparing successful cuttings. When preparing cuttings, cut from the plant of interest, don't break or rip.



Matt finds that he has success with heel cuttings for his harder wooded natives. He then carefully trims off this heel with a sharp budding knife or secateurs, otherwise the heel will rot and the cutting won't take. Don't cut

into the stem, but trim them to keep the size small. Some cutting material will allow you to strip the leaves and others will rip the bark – this is bad, but you need to remove some leaves (keeping in mind that a plant's leaves is where water is gained and lost) and all seeds, flowers and flower buds so that the cutting can put all of its energy into growing.

Matt said that tip cutting was pretty self-explanatory, cut the young tips of the plant when the plant isn't flowering, but don't rip the bark.



For Hakeas, Matt's advice was to take a piece of branch to propagate that is a thick as a pencil. The underneath cambium layer is where all the action is, so scrape off a little of

the outer bark, as this is where the roots will grow out of.

For plant with large foliage, strip the leaves, but leave 1.5-2 leaves attached and only use material that springs back.

Rooting stimulation hormone stimulates and increases the chances of successful root production in your cuttings. Matt told us that there are three main types of rooting hormone: #1 is for soft cutting material, #2

is for medium cutting material and #3 is for hardwood material. It has a base of talc and the hormone itself only has a short shelf life. You dip the end of your cutting in the appropriate rooting hormone, being careful not to add too much as it can cake and inhibit the production of roots.

Matt also told us to never push a cutting directly into your propagation mix, always make a hole first, whether it be with a dibbler or the end of a pencil.

Water in your new cuttings and place in a coldframe or make your own using a plastic bottle or some wire and a plastic bag. Allow your pots to drain well after watering before putting into these.

Plant division

Frank Scheelings

Frank bought us in one of his specialised pieces of surgical equipment to demonstrate plant division – as well as Tina's orange *Anigozanthos* (Kangaroo Paw) plant.

There is no finesse to the process, says Frank, as he wields a (hopefully not Tina's) meat cleaver over the plant. Concerned comments from the gallery for Frank's patients, many thankful that he doesn't perform their colonoscopies.

Division is where new plants are formed by the separation of the parent plant. Monocotyledon plants are suitable for division in this way as they often have short roots and often develop runners or rhizomes, which can be divided. Monocots differ to dicots by having one seed leaf, as opposed to two in a dicot. Monocots also tend to have long, strappy leaves with a single vein and the flowers are usually round with petals in threes (or multiples of three).

Frank said to remove the soil from the root ball, then try and find a natural plane in the roots and try to break them apart with your hands first (before getting stuck into the roots with your kitchen meat cleaver). There may be some unavoidable collateral damage, but that should be minimal.

Suckering plants, such as *Myoporum sp.* Or *Acacia boormanii* are also suitable for division. Just cover a piece of stem with a little soil, wait until it has developed roots, then separate from the parent plant and re-pot.

The best time to divide your plants is after flowering in Autumn. Once separated, you can either re-pot into new pots or plant directly into the ground. Frank says that there is no need to trim the tops off your separated plants, but it's a good idea to clear out the dead foliage at the time.

Frank also recommended purchasing 50L bags of potting mix from Bourkey's Front Yard for roughly \$10 a bag.

On the table

with Dorothy Parkes

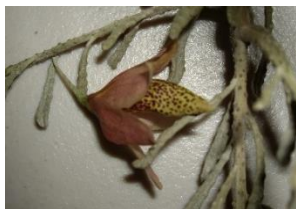
A wonderful and thorough plant table was presented by Dorothy, with help from Bruce as the game show co-host – well done Dorothy! Spring has sprung and not a specimen from the Leach garden this month....!

There were a number of Banksias bought in by Barbara and John Bell – *Banksia coccinea*, *B. media*, *B. prionotes*, *B. speciosa* and *B. baueri*, as well as *Chamelaucium 'Paddy's Pink'*, the large-flowered *Leptospermum sericum* and a white flowering and a blue flowering *Styphandra glauca*. They must have a fabulous show in their garden at the moment, I can't wait to see it at the Christmas gathering.



The Bell's specimens of *Banksia media* yellow & burgundy varieties, *B. baueri* (and Bruce the hand model) and *B. coccinea*.

Frank raided his home garden and the garden around his practice again and bought us in the usual specimen of *Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream'*, he also bought in a few other specimens of *G. nana*, *G. zygaloba*, *G. flexuosa* as well as a *G. alpina* hybrid. Frank also bought us in a collection of *Eremophilas*: *E. maculata*, *E. miribilis*, *E. oppositifolia* and *E. drummondii*, together with samples of *Thryptomene calycina*, *Hakea neurophylla* and *Isopogon anemonifolius*, just to name a few. *Eremophila miribilis* had the most interesting yellow spotty flowers with its orange bract still attached.



Frank's specimen of *Eremophila miribilis*.

Even Carmel was in on the act, bringing in the plant of the month, a pot of *Pterostylis curta*, as well as samples of *Grevillea olivacea*, *Xerochrysum bracteatum* and *Prostranthera ovalifolia*.

Matt B. bought us in a couple of samples of the quite prickly *Epacris longiflora*, *Thomasia purpurea* and *Indigofera australis*.

Plant of the month

Pterostylis curta

Not by Carmel Addlem

Nicole Leach (yes, *that's me*) won the door prize, choosing one of Sheila's beautiful bunches of Waratahs as the prize and Carmel's pot of *Pterostylis curta* (Blunt Greenhood) as the plant of the month.



Carmel's pot of Blunt Greenhoods.

Taken from the Flora of Victoria website: Flowering herb up to 30 cm tall with 2-6 rosette. The flower is 3–3.5 cm long, white and green with brown in the hood. Flowers between

July and October.

It is widespread and common in many Victorian habitats which include open-forest, wet sclerophyll forest and coastal scrub, often in moist shaded areas on heavy to well-drained soils.

Upcoming events

Pre-meeting dinners

Members are very welcome to attend the pre-meeting dinners each month. They are held at The Sphinx Hotel, 2 Thompson Rd, North Geelong from 6pm.

October meeting – Cathy Powers – Moths (TBC)

November meeting – Rare Plant Auction

Rare and difficult to purchase plants up for auction.

December Christmas gathering

Saturday the 2nd of December at Barbara and John Bell's place. More info to come.

For upcoming APS events and plant sales, visit: <https://apsvic.org.au/events/2017-09/>

Excursions

We have a number of excursions planned for the coming months. Please let us know of your interest so that a bus can be arranged if required.

Pomonal wildflower show 7th & 8th October

Always an amazing display, and a great weekend or day trip.

Bev and John Hanson's garden in Warrandyte.

This trip has been arranged for Sunday 29th October. If there is sufficient interest in travelling by bus, a subsidised rate will be provided to members.

Otherwise members can take their own cars, and if they wish, car pool with others. The address is 104 Webb St Warrandyte (Melways 35 G2).

We need to confirm number and transport arrangements, so please advise Secretary via apsgeelong@gmail.com by 9th October if you are attending.

Bev Hanson spoke to us in March 2016 on her landscaping ideas — her garden looks impressive. Check out the website below for photos and a write up: www.anpsa.org.au/design/hanson.html

Landscape design course

Bev and her friend Jenny Drummond are running a landscape design course focussing on the use of mainly native plants on Saturday the 28th of October, which is the day before we visit Bev and John's garden. It will be held at the Senior Citizen's Centre at 903 Main Rd, Eltham, running from 2 to 4.30pm and costs \$40, or \$30 concession.

If you are interested in taking part in this course, contact: bandjhanson@hotmail.com or phone 03 98443906.

Melton Botanic Gardens.

Sunday 26th November. The nursery should be open (It scheduled to be open on the 4th Sunday of the month)

Atherton Arboretum, Queensland

Bruce McGinness

A recent plant collecting trip to the Atherton Arboretum which surrounds the CSIRO tropical plant research centre gave me an opportunity to try out skills learnt at a recent tropical plant family identification course. Identification of tropical species is very challenging; the flora of tropical and sub tropical Australia is alien to temperate forest dwellers like me and lot more work is required before I could hope to become competent in tropical plant ID. The Atherton Arboretum is well worth a visit if you are visiting the Queensland tablelands.



Clerodendrum longiflorum var. *glabrum* (left) and the *Elattostachys megalantha* fruit.

Since the 1970's the grounds around the laboratories and offices have been planted out with hundreds of

different tropical plant species which are identified with numbered tags.

Visitors need to visit the office first to sign in, while there it is well worth collecting a binder which gives you the identification to the numbered plants on the property. As a bonus I brought home a few ticks which were found embedded in my skin; so long sleeves and long trousers are recommended.



Ficus nodosa fruit

Get there soon if you want to see the arboretum because I suspect it's long term survival may be threatened with continued CSIRO cutbacks.

The battle for the Acacias

Ade Foster

When I first became interested in Australian Plants I had to overcome what was for me a serious obstacle. Plant people tend to use 'scientific' names for plants — *Acacia baileyana* rather than Cootamundra Wattle, and I found this difficult and unfamiliar. This is generally not the case with birds and animals. We don't feed the local *Gymnorhina tibicen hypoleuca*, we feed the magpies. And, we don't swear at the *Pseudocheirus peregrinus* who chews the new growth on our plants ... it's a bloody ring-tailed possum! Perhaps the exception to this is dinosaurs. Even little kids know *Triceratops* and *Tyrannosaurus*.

When the first dinosaur bone was found, back in the 1600s, it was the base of the femur - the medial and lateral condyles of a large herbivore. These are the two bulbous parts which join with the tibia and fibula as part of the knee joint. It was then thought to be part of the leg bone of a giant human, as dinosaurs were unknown. About a hundred years later a scientist decided that it was not a leg bone at all, but the fossilized remains of a giant male's reproductive organs, and 'officially' named it *Scrotum humanus*. Luckily the rules of scientific nomenclature were ignored in this case, and Dinosaur became the accepted name for this group of animals.

But what has this to do with Acacia battles you ask? I'm getting there. While you were all enjoying the August meeting, Penny and I were on safari in the Greater Kruger National Park in South Africa, where the locals

are not happy. The predominant flora in the area we visit is known locally as 'thorn scrub' or Acacia scrub. Acacias were first described from Africa in 1753, and the flat-topped camel-thorn tree is recognised world-wide as a symbol of that continent. There are 163 species of thorn-tree in Africa.



African Umbrella thorn (left), *Vachellia tortilis* (Photo by Q. Robur) and a close up of the thorns of the *Vachellia horridus*.

Because of similarities with flower and phyllode structures the name Acacia was also applied to almost 1000 different species in Australia. Indeed, our floral emblem is *Acacia pycnantha*, the Golden Wattle which has given rise to our sporting colours, the famous green and gold. The Africans wanted the name for themselves and *Racosperma* was suggested for the Australian genus. It was further complicated as there were plants in the genus *Acacia* in Asia and in the Americas.



Australian Acacias: *A. baileyana* (left – photo: <http://www.eranurseries.com.au/acacia-baileyana>) and the spiny *A. paradoxa*.

At the 17th International Botanical Conference in Vienna, a group of Australian botanists lobbied hard for the name *Acacia* to be applied solely to the Australian species. This went against the accepted rules of scientific nomenclature where the first named species has the right to the name. But, they were successful. 55% of Nomenclature Section members voted against giving *Acacia* to Australia, but a 60% majority was needed to stop it happening. There were complaints that Australia only won because, as a rich country, it could fly in more voting delegates than African and Latin American nations.

However, despite fierce argument that the African species had the 'right' to the name, the decision was upheld at the next conference, coincidentally held in Melbourne in 2011. The Africans now have 163 thorn trees in the genus *Vachellia*, and as I said earlier, they are not happy about it. The safari rangers and guides I have spoken to refuse to use it and still refer to *Acacia*,

with scowls and good-natured jibes at 'upstart Australians'.

I think the final word should be left to that authoritative group, Monty Python's Flying Circus. They have immortalised the wattle as Australian in their well-known 'Bruces' sketch, where the Philosophy Department Heads at the University of Woolloomooloo (coincidentally all named Bruce) open each faculty meeting with a prayer

"This here's a wattle,
The emblem of our land.
You can stick it in a bottle,
You can hold it in your hand.
Amen. "

The Blue Mountains National Park

Matt Leach

In November last year, Nicole and I took our annual trip to see our good friends and their two girls in Dubbo. We thought we'd make a bit of a holiday of it, so we packed up my parent's camper trailer and made our way home via the Blue Mountains (and Canberra). It was a place that neither of us had been before, but had wanted to see what all the fuss was about.

We booked a campsite at the only holiday park in Katoomba, which was situated only a short walk from Katoomba Falls. It was a lovely, quiet holiday park once all the tourist buses to the Skyrail had stopped for the day. There was easy access to the walks around that aspect of the Blue Mountains and an uphill walk to the shops in Katoomba itself. Katoomba Cascades and Falls weren't running much, as it had been drier than usual, but to us they looked pretty nice.



Katoomba cascades (left) leading into the Katoomba falls (right).

We took the long drive to the Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens in Mount Tomah. We discovered a lot of cool climate plants growing there, both native and exotics. They specialised in growing native New South Wales plants growing at high altitudes and a large collection of Proteas. The gardens are roughly similar in size to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park, with a downwards slope that takes some effort to climb if not fit.

On our way back to Katoomba from Mount Tomah, we stopped along the Darling Causeway at a lookout site. We found a heap of wildflowers in a heathland setting, such as *Lambertia formosa* (Mountain Devil), *Sowerbaea juncea* (Rush Lily) and *Isopogon anethifolius* (Narrow-leaf Drumsticks), just to name a few.



Flowers of the *Lambertia Formosa* (left) and *Isopogon anethifolius*.

Just near the Katoomba township is a large information centre where The Three Sisters are located. According to the Scenic World website, the legend of The Three Sisters goes like this. Three Gundungurra sisters were in love with three brothers from the neighbouring Dharruk tribe, but their marriage was forbidden by tribal law. The warrior brothers decided to take the sisters by force, but the Kuradjuri (Clever man) of the Gundungurra people turned the sisters into stone to protect them. His intention was to restore the sisters back to their natural form once the war had ended, but unfortunately Kuradjuri was killed in the battle and no one has been able to break the spell to this day.

It's a very busy and beautiful place, depending on the time of day. There are lots of tourist buses that drive the tourist loop around Katoomba during the day, mainly dropping tourists to the Three Sisters and Scenic World. This is where you can access the skyrail across two of the cliff faces, as well as the cable car, walk and railway down to the base of the cliffs. Standing at another lookout, a little closer to the holiday park, we caught a glimpse of The Three Sisters as the sun was setting and had bathed them in the evening light.



The Three Sisters in the middle of the day (left) and as the sun was setting.

The walk from The Three Sisters to the Skyrail, Katoomba Falls Round walk, was full of rainforest-type plants in the descend down towards the gullies, with smaller, drier-climate plants along the top. We saw *Boronia pinnata* and *Mirbelia rubiifolia* growing along the top walks. In the gullies there was an over story of *Eucalyptus oreades* (Tall Mountain Ash), *Ceratopetalum apetalum* (Coachwood) and *Doryphora sassafras* (Sassafras) and a few *Dockrillia striolata*

(Streaked Rock Orchid) and *Liparis reflexa* (Yellow Rock Orchid) clinging to the rocks on the decent down.



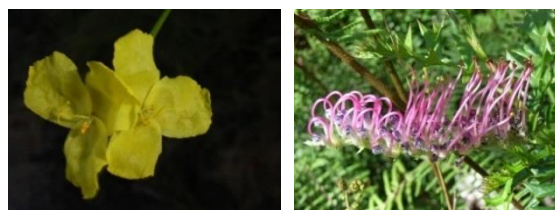
Boronia pinnata (left) and *Mirbelia rubiifolia*.

There are plenty of walks along the southern cliff, but there are also lookouts and walks along the northern cliff, looking into the valley on the other side. We stopped in at Govett's Leap at Blackheath, where we attempted to walk down to a couple of waterfalls, but Nicole wasn't keen on some of the sheer drops along the paths – she's petrified of heights!



Horseshoe Falls (left) and the Bridal Veil Falls.

We found hundreds different wildflowers in this part of the park, for example *Xyris juncea* (Dwarf Yellow-eye) which was attracting a lot of butterflies, *Grevillea acanthifolia* growing in the moist areas, and many species of *Epacris* and *Leucopogons* which were attracting a myriad of insects.



Xyris juncea (left) and *Grevillea acanthifolia*.

We also headed to Mount Blackheath, where Nicole was very excited to see the last flowers of the season on naturally growing *Telopea speciosissima* (NSW Waratah) on the roadside. We also discovered an unusual site, well, for us – a runway of synthetic turf on the top and side of the hill at Mount Blackheath. It belonged to the Sydney Paragliding Club and it looked like they glided over some very pretty farming land.

We also visited a couple of lookouts a little closer to Katoomba, such as Boars Head and Cahills Lookout. Nicole and I discovered wildflowers regenerating around here, as there had been a fire recently. Nicole was excited to find *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel Flower) growing in the wild.

I was very surprised to see how high and grand the Blue Mountains were. The gullies and mountains were beautiful and there was a large and diverse range of plants in flower at the time. There were plenty more lookouts to go and check out, but after four days we were pretty lookouted out. It was a perfect time to go.

Get well soon Gladys

Gladys Hastie had a pacemaker put in recently and by all reports from John, she is doing well. We'd like to send a big 'Feel better soon' to Gladys, hope we see you guys back at our meetings very soon. From all of your friends at APS Geelong xxx.

August rainfall figures

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, August rainfall in Victoria was above average across most of the State, particularly across the northwest districts. Southern and central districts saw almost average rainfall.

Location	August total (mm)
Avalon	36.6
Sheoaks	44.2
Geelong	54.0
Ballarat	62.4
Cape Otway	173.8

Information taken from the Bureau of Meteorology website:
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/vic/summary.shtml>

If you would like this to be a regular feature, please let us know. If you would like to contribute with your suburb's monthly rainfall (just so we can show how different the rainfall is over the district), please arrange with the editor to send in your monthly rainfall figures for each newsletter.

The dying out of the specialised native plant nursery...?

Nicole Leach

Matt and I are back fresh from our two week driving trip around South Australia. We like to take photos of plants and flowers that we see along the way, but we also try to seek out any indigenous or native plant nurseries in an area we are staying.

We feverishly Googled native or indigenous nurseries at in the Ayre, Yorke and Fleurieu Peninsulas, as well as the Port Augusta and Naracoorte areas. We were a little disappointed... Lots of nurseries came up in our search, but very few, none in some areas, were actually specialised native or indigenous nurseries.



The entrance to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens (left) and the Matthew Flinders Red Cliff lookout.

We certainly dropped into the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in Port Augusta – it was one of the better weather days on our trip. Matt found a few 'babies' to bring home from their small nursery, but by this stage of the holiday (about a week in) he had been starved of any nursery action. The gardens themselves were quite lovely, though we didn't wander into the outer natural scrubland of the gardens.

We Googled native and indigenous nurseries on the Fleurieu Peninsula as the two full days we had were windy and showery or winy and rainy. We decided that the windy and rainy day was the best for seeking out nurseries and Muscat in the McLaren Vale. Three popped up in our search, the first ended up being someone's garden – it didn't look like a nursery. The second was open, but disappointingly it contained mostly exotics (or weeds, as Matt calls them) and the third had closed permanently. We came across an out-of-the-way native nursery by accident within the Deep Creek Conservation Park. The owner was a lovely, eccentric fellow, who was feeding the wrens with cheese. Matt purchased more 'babies' and the gentleman gave us a small *Hovea pungens* plant on our way out!

Our trip towards home made its way through Murray Bridge – and the State Flora Nursery. More 'babies' were purchased. We decided on our last leg home to make a quick visit to Codrington Nursery between Portland and Warrnambool. And yes, more 'babies' were purchased here – all to help cover the losses from the severe frosts we had in Inverleigh.

Is this lack of indigenous or native plant nurseries due to a lack of demand by consumers? Is it due to a lack of knowledge by current nurserymen/women or the general public about native plants...?

Articles wanted

I urge you all to consider writing an article for the newsletter. It really isn't difficult, or demanding, and doesn't need to be more than a couple of paragraphs. We would love to hear from you if you feel the sudden urge to put fingers to keyboard ...

Shoot me an email at adefoster@internode.on.net (Ed - Ade's back in the driving seat from next month).