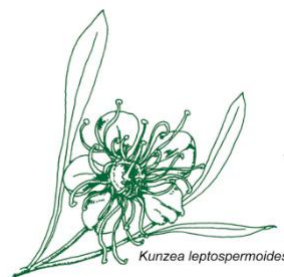




KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah
Preservation by Cultivation



August 2021

We held our July meeting at the new hall – Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall. The members who attended agreed that it was a very comfortable hall so we will continue to meet there for the foreseeable future.

Meetings will now normally be on the **FOURTH FRIDAY** of the month as the hall is not available on the third Friday. However the September meeting will be on the fourth *Thursday* as the hall is not available on the Friday for that month.

**Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall
2-8 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East**

Parking is available behind the hall (Melway map 50 B8) and can also be accessed via Knaith Road.

August Meeting

FRIDAY 27th August

Meeting starts at 8.00pm

Registration from 7:30pm

Note: this is an IN PERSON meeting, if CoVid allows it.

“Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rev Hugh Davies and Danny DeVito – A Look at the Genus Daviesia”

Bill Aitchison

Daviesia is the most diverse genus of pea-flowered legumes in Australia. Species are found throughout Australia, but nowhere else in the world. In this presentation, Bill will discuss how daviesias differ from other pea-flowered plants, why there are only a few that are commonly cultivated, and he will show us some of the interesting species.



Bill Aitchison!

NOTE: This meeting is to be held under CoVid-safe conditions, meaning that numbers are limited and you will need to **register in advance** to attend. It is not possible to decide on the night (“walk-ups”). See page 8 for a summary of what you will need to do to attend the meeting.

Membership renewals are now due.

Garden Visit

**Sunday 22nd August
at 2 pm**

Gloria and Graham Bower garden

32 Fuller Street, Mitcham (Melway map 49 C11)

You have all heard of try, try, try again? This is our third attempt at having this garden visit. We were thwarted by CoVid in June and July. Let’s hope that it is third time lucky!

APS Maroondah visited Gloria and Graham Bower’s previous garden in Croydon some years ago. They have since moved to Mitcham in 2015.

The Bowers have done a considerable amount of work in the garden since they have been there. They have concentrated on planting Australian plants and the deep block has a number of separate areas. A water feature was added a couple of years ago.

Gloria and Graham would love to welcome you to their garden.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of APS Maroondah Inc will be held at 8 pm on

Thursday 23rd September

at the Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall,
2-8 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East.

This meeting will be part of our normal monthly meeting.

NOTE: Unfortunately, following the latest announcement regarding CoVid lockdown, the August activities will not be able to go ahead.

Outback Queensland

Our advertised speaker, Andre Messina, was ill on the day of our meeting and thought it unwise to risk bringing germs to our meeting. We will hear from Andre on another occasion. Our own Peter Rogers was able to fill in, and presented us with a wonderful tour through outback Queensland.

written up by Sue Guymer

Peter's tour took us west from Winton in Queensland as far as Threeways in the Northern Territory. Alison and Peter travelled here in late winter.

A beautiful eucalypt that featured along the way was the Western Bloodwood, *Eucalyptus terminalis*. *Grevillea wickhamii* is quite widely spread across the top end. Apple Bushes, *Pterocaulon sphacelatum* and *P. serrulatum*, are interesting small plants seen here. The lovely *Ptilotus obovatus* is also here. Other plants seen include *Eremophila longifolia*, *E. alatisepala*, *E. duttonii* and *E. gilesii*, *Grevillea stenobotrya*, *Isotoma petraea*, *Pimelea decora*, *Cullen pustulatum*, *Owenia acidula* (Sour Plum), *Abutilon fraseri*, *Acacia cowleana*, *A. chisholmii* and *A. lysiphloia*, *Corymbia aparrerinja* (Ghost Gum), *Ptilotus polystachyus*, *P. exaltatus*, *P. sessilifolius* and *P. macrocephala*, *Senna notabilis*, *Crotalaria novae-hollandiae*, *Trichodesma zeylandicum*, *Brachychiton australis*, *Acacia phlebocarpa*, *Hakea lorea*, *Eremophila bignoniiflora* and *E. latrobei* ssp *filiformis*, *Cullen balsamicum*, *Solanum chippendalei*, *Scleroleana bicornis* and *S. cornishiana*, *Cassia oligophylla*, *Acacia holosericea*, *A. spondylophylla* and *A. chippendalei*, *Calytrix exstipulata*, *Capparis lasiantha* (Native Orange), *Bauhinia cunninghamii*, *Goodenia ramelii*, *Dysphania kalpari*, *Acacia retivenea* ssp *retivenea*, *Keraudrenia integrifolia*, *Ptilotus schwartzii* and *Senna venusta*.

Crossing into the Northern Territory is almost a vegetation change. Thickets of *Grevillea dryandri* ssp *dryandri* were seen, also *G. refracta* and *G. juncifolia*.

The gorgeous orange-flowered *Petalostylis cassioides*, *Chamaecrista symonii*, *Heliotropium pulvinum*, several *Sida* species, *Ptilotus calostachyus*, *Gossypium sturtianum* (Sturt Desert Rose), several *Solanum* species, *Diplopeltis stuartii*, *Hakea macrocarpa*, *Scaevola parvibarbata* and *Indigofera linifolia*.

Not surprisingly, Peter also found some mistletoes! *Amyema quandang* var *quandang* (Grey Mistletoe) is widespread, and *Amyema bifurcatum* var *bifurcatum* (Forked Mistletoe) was found up on an escarpment. Others found were *Lysiana subfalcata*, *Amyema sanguineum* var *sanguineum* and *Lysiana spathulata* ssp *spathulata*.

Birds seen on the trip included Red-winged Parrots, Brown Goshawks, Red-backed Kingfishers, Crested Bellbirds, Spinifex Pigeons, Hall's Babbler, Grey-crowned Babbler, Zebra Finch, Plum-headed Finch, Australian Bustard, Black-fronted Dotterel, Budgerigar (seen in large flocks), Glossy Ibis, Cockatiels, Great Egret, Brown Honeyeater, Rainbow Bee-eater, Orange Chats, Painted Finch, Great Crested Grebe, Grey-headed Honeyeater, Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Whistling Kite, Paperbark Flycatcher, Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, Buff-sided Robin, Bar-breasted Honeyeater, Weebill, Sacred Kingfisher, Grey Falcon (probably the second-rarest bird in Australia) and Australian Pratincole.

Many thanks to Peter for stepping in and brightening up a cold winter's night.



Amyema quandang var *quandang*
(Grey mistletoe)



Petalostylis cassioides (Butterfly Bush)



Pterocaulon sphacelatum (Apple Bush)



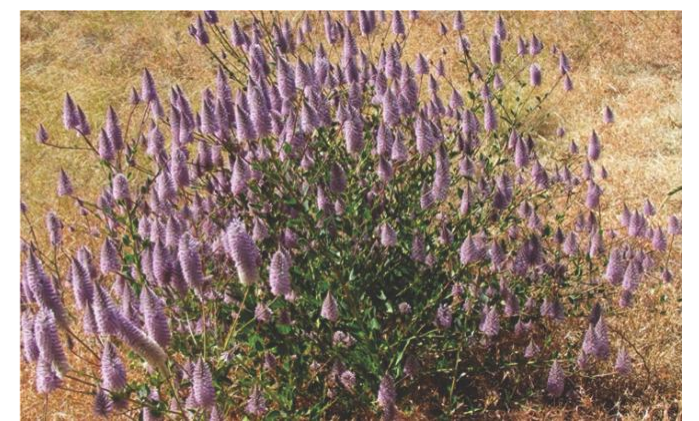
Senna notabilis (Cockroach Bush)



Lysiana subfalcata (Northern mistletoe)



Eremophila latrobei ssp *filiformis* (Crimson turkey bush)



Ptilotus exaltatus (Tall Mulla Mulla)



Eucalyptus terminalis (Western Bloodwood)



Gossypium sturtianum (Sturt's Desert Rose)



Orange Chat



Red-backed Kingfisher



Calytrix exstipulata (Turkey bush)



Grevillea refracta (Silver leaf Grevillea)



Hakea lorea (Corkwood)



Grevillea wickhamii (Wickham's Grevillea)



Grevillea stenobotrya (Sandhill Grevillea)



Peter and Alison trying to make us all envious!



Waterhole at Clem Walton Dam.

Specimen Table is back!

written up by Bill Aitchison

Thanks to Bev Fox who brought along a few specimens to show at our July meeting.

She displayed 4 peas, being 2 Hoveas (*Hovea lanceolata* – quite a big bush in her garden, and a really lovely *H. lorata*), and 2 Chorizemas (*Chorizema retrorsum* – a scrambling low growing plant, and *C. cordatum*).

Bev also brought along 2 specimens from the Rutaceae family (*Zieria* 'Pink Crystals' – looking beautiful at the moment, and *Philotheca verrucosa*). The species name *verrucosa* means covered with warts, in reference to the glandular warts on the branchlets – and we noted how warty the specimen was).



Philotheca verrucosa



Chorizema retrorsum



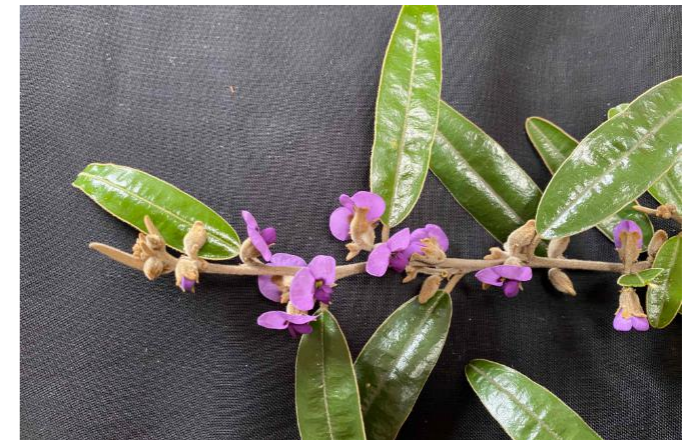
Chorizema cordatum



Hovea lorata



Zieria 'Pink Crystals'



Hovea lanceolata

What's happening at Karwarra Garden?

Dallas Boulton

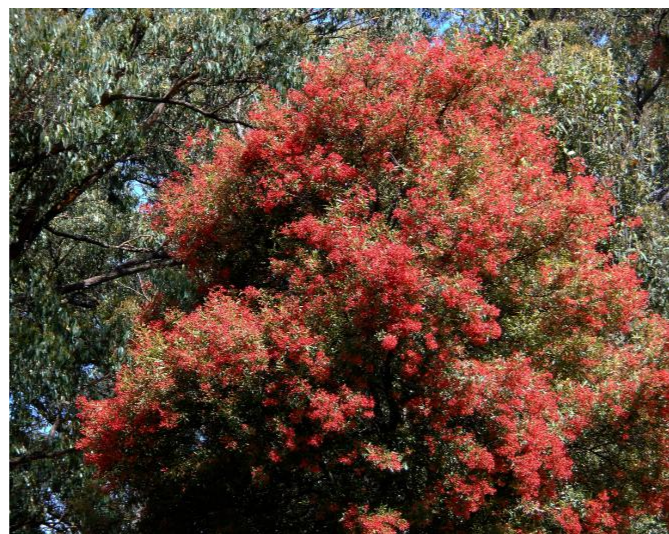
I am sure many of you will want to know how Karwarra, the lovely Australian Native Botanic Garden in Kalorama, has been impacted by the recent storms in the Dandenongs.

One large tree fell near the hall, causing minimal damage around the entrance, but there is a lot of work to be done in the lower areas of the garden and the bush section. Tree work in those areas is ongoing, and an arborist has been called in to check all trees.

Since the wild storms, the hall is being used as a community recovery hub to assist affected residents who need help. The garden has been closed to visitors for some time, but is now open again at the normal times. Shelley is once again on the lookout for volunteers to open up the garden for three hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact her on 9728 4256 if you can help.

Unfortunately the Friends of Karwarra have had to delay (again) their 50th birthday celebrations, which had been planned for October this year. Please support this event when it has been re-scheduled sometime in 2022.

Fortunately, the garden beds around the buildings



Graeme Nicholls

Ceratopetalum gummiferum flowering at Karwarra Garden.

have not been impacted, and there is plenty in flower, with all the winter- and early spring-flowering plants on display. Come and have a look when lockdowns permit it.



Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden & Nursery


An inspirational public garden displaying colourful Australian native plants, including rare and special plants.

Retail nursery selling a wide range of small tubes and 140cm pots.

Open Tuesday – Friday 10am-4pm,
Saturday & Sunday 1pm-4pm.
Free entry.


New banner for the F.J.C.Rogers Seminar on Peas


Sue Guymer






AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY VICTORIA Inc.

F.J.C. ROGERS SEMINAR FABULOUS PEAS






15 & 16 October 2022
Mt Evelyn Victoria

Expressions of Interest
fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com
<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022/>

The Organising Committee for the 14th FJC Rogers Seminar on “Fabulous Peas” has produced a banner to promote the seminar across the state at plant sales, quarterly weekends and district group member meetings.

We think it looks fabulous (like the peas!) and thank Graeme Nicholls for putting together the artwork.

From left to right, starting at the top row and working down, the peas are:

- *Dillwynia hispida* (photo Ivan Margitta) – the lovely Red Parrot Pea is widespread across western Victoria, in SA and NSW.
- *Crotalaria laburnifolia* (Ivan Margitta) – controversy! “The Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants” (volume 3 released in 1984) considers this to be a species of inland rivers in WA, NT and Queensland. However, current websites of Australian herbaria consider it to be an introduced, naturalised species. Probably not our best choice!
- *Gastrolobium bilobum* (Ivan Margitta) – a bushy shrub from south west WA. Very attractive flowerheads.
- *Hovea stricta* (Peter Rogers) – small shrub from south west WA with striking deep purple flowers.
- *Kennedia prostrata* (Marion King) – widespread distribution, including our local area. Often sold as ‘Running Postman’.
- *Gompholobium scabrum* (Alison Rogers) – common name Painted Lady presumably due to the beautiful colour combination of pink, purple and red.
- *Chorizema aciculare* ssp *aciculare* (Peter Rogers) – another of the spectacular little beauties from south west WA.
- *Dillwynia glaberrima* (Ivan Margitta) – Smooth Parrot-pea is a small to medium shrub occurring mainly in the southern half of Victoria in dry sclerophyll forests and lowland heaths. Also in other states.
- *Gompholobium knightianum* (Peter Rogers) – one of the gorgeous peas from the south west of Western Australia and is a long-flowering species.
- *Gompholobium huegelii* (Peter Rogers) – Common Wedge-pea has lovely clear yellow flowers to brighten up any garden. Widely distributed around Victoria and in NSW and Tasmania.
- *Swainsona formosa* (Peter Rogers) – grafted Sturt Desert Peas will be for sale at the seminar.

Rutaceae Ruminations

Marilyn Bull and George Stolfo

This is the second in a series of articles on members of the Rutaceae family written by Marilyn and illustrated by George.

Boronia thujona

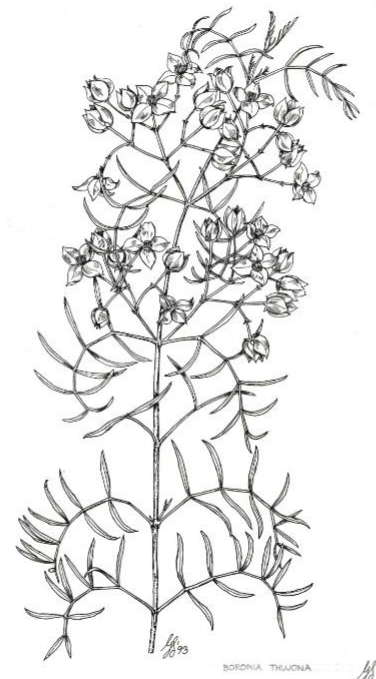
Bronzy Boronia is a beautiful shrub up to 4m high. It has a very restricted distribution, predominantly coming from the Sydney sandstones in NSW. Like all boronias (and members of the Rutaceae) it has aromatic leaves. It is quite strong but not as camphorous in my opinion as *B. pinnata* which it is very similar too.

There are several features which attract me to this species. It has bright pink flowers to 20mm wide in loose clusters. The leaves are pinnate, often bronzy, and often curved back. There were several specimens at Karwarra Garden.

B. thujona is very similar to, but larger than, *B. pinnata*. The leaves are a little darker on top and have 3-15 leaflets. *B. pinnata* has the same colour top and bottom and has only 5-11 leaflets. *B. thujona* can be identified by inspecting the margins of the leaflets which have fine glands, giving the appearance of the margins being wavy or slightly toothed. *B. pinnata* has smooth margins.

This boronia is naturally found in gullies and heaths of dry sclerophyll forests, on sandstone. It likes cool, moist soils in dappled shade or partial shade.

Boronia thujona is seldom seen in nurseries but you can get lucky. It is probably more available in Sydney. It is certainly well worth looking out for.



BORONIA THUJONA

Covid Safe Meetings - Changes to Meeting Provisions for August

Bruce Schroder

Based on the State Government's 2²m rule, and the layout of the new hall, attendance at the meetings has been increased to 50 participants. We have been able to achieve this by ensuring "Family Bubbles" are seated together, prospective attendees registering their intention to attend prior to the meeting with our secretary and using QR codes to record attendance.

We will be having plant sales and the specimen table at our meeting. It must be stressed though that we are still obliged to consider social distancing so please think of others around you when looking and purchasing.

At this stage we still won't be having supper at the conclusion of the meeting.

If you wish to attend, please email stating name(s) and phone numbers to maroondah@apsvic.org.au. If you have no access to email, ring the secretary, Peter Rogers (9801 6946) and advise him. Please only register if you plan to attend, not if you'd like to leave your options open in case something better turns up! There will be no seats kept spare for walk-ups on the night. It will be first in best-dressed and you will be advised whether you are successful in your registration.

Meeting time will remain at 8pm but because of the extra activities necessary both in preparation of the hall by the Committee and in sanitisation and registration by attendees, doors will be **open** to registered attendees at **7:30pm**.

A list of attendees will be placed at the entry registration table to be signed by each attendee, acknowledging a number of precautionary questions re overseas travel, illness symptoms, etc.

We remind you to respect that members still need to retain adequately social distance.

The following additional provisions will be in place:

- You should carry a mask in case you need to wear it at the meeting. You will be reminded if this is the case.
- Inside the foyer will be a number of sanitising stations where you will be required to sanitise your hands before entering the main hall and to also ensure sign-in pens are only handled by sanitised hands.
- For contact tracing purposes and to allow us to have 50 attendees, we are obliged to collect participant data using a QR code, or use the manual sign-in if you don't have a smart phone.
- No \$2 entry payment required and no name badges.
- Once inside the hall, please, no milling around for a chat with long-lost friends. Proceed to one of the chairs that will already be set out, suitably distanced and sanitised. Chairs must not be moved from their positions or exchanged for another chair. The only exception is for family groups who can move immediately adjacent chairs together to create a "family bubble".
- If you wish to inspect the plant sales section or the specimen table, please respect social distancing and minimise your stay to allow others access.
- At the end of the meeting, please vacate your chair and the building as soon as possible as Committee Members will need to sanitise the building.

Spring Plant Shows and Sales

We are nearly at the start of spring. Public sales in September and October include APS Wilson Park on 4th September, APS Bendigo on 18th and 19th September, APS Grampians on 2nd and 3rd October, APS Echuca-Moama on 9th October, Friends of RBG Cranbourne on 9th and 10th October, APS Mitchell on 16th October, and APS Ballarat on 23rd and 24th October. Details are shown in the Programme on the last page of this newsletter.

Note that the Yarra Yarra Expo, scheduled in September, has been cancelled because of CoVid fears.

Wimmera Health Care Group
Friends of the Foundation
presents
Wartook Gardens
Grampians Open Garden
Saturday and Sunday
October 2 & 3, 2021
10am to 4pm
\$10 entry (children free)
2866 Northern Grampians Road, Wartook

Jeanne and Royce Raleigh have converted an open paddock into a 5 acre multi-award winning garden, one of Victoria's best native gardens, with 1000's of species of native plants from all over Australia, including Acacia, Beaufortia, Dampiera, Dryandra, Eremaea, Eucalyptus, Hakea, Lechenaultia, Melaleuca, Regelia, plus many other unusual, low rainfall area plants. There are 69 garden beds, with over 1 km of paths, suitable for wheelchairs. Plants There is also an exotic section with 150 roses, irises, bulbs, aquilegias etc, and lots of bird activity, as almost 130 species have been recorded in the garden. There will be plants for sale, and a BBQ lunch available by Laharum Hall Committee. Lots of seating.

All Proceeds to
WIMMERA HEALTH CARE GROUP
FOUNDATION
green where you live

Enquiries 5383 6200 or royce@wartookgardens.com.au

Australian Plants Society Grampians Group
POMONAL NATIVE FLOWER SHOW
Pomonal Community Hall
Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd October 2021 9.00am to 4.00pm
Admission \$5.00, children free

Cut Flower Displays
Named specimens
Book Sales
Plant Sales
Refreshments

Guest Speaker
Jane Edmanson from
'Gardening Australia'
For updated information
call 0414 933 603
or scan QR

Special Feature:
Grampians Indigenous Species

CRANBOURNE FRIENDS
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

**Growing Friends
Spring Plant Sale**
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th
October 2021 10am to 4pm
Australian Garden - Cranbourne - near the kiosk

Come along and select from a range of plants, many of which you will find in the Australian Garden.
Grasses, clumping plants, climbers, groundcovers, small & large bushes and trees.

EFTPOS available

Plant list available one week before sale - see link below

Rhodanthe chlorocephalum ssp roseum
Photo credit: Rodger Elliot
APV 048102000 Reg 840201019

In these uncertain times, please check our website before attending to ensure that the sale is going ahead.
w rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au f rbgfriendscranbourne

APS MITCHELL
Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 16th, 2021
9am - 3pm
Kilmore Memorial Hall
14 Sydney Street, Kilmore

Native Plant & Flower Displays

Gardens for Wildlife
Native Plants & Book Sales
APS Victoria - Books



Grevillea longistyla has just starting to flower in our garden.

At least that is the name on the label when we bought it. This plant, or ones very similar, are sold under various trade names, including *G. 'Elegance'*, and *G. 'Longjohn'* which is ostensibly a hybrid between *G. longistyla* and the very similar *G. johnsonii*. One nursery advertises *G. longistyla* 'Johnsonii'.

It's hard to pick the difference between these two species, which used to be considered forms of the one species. It has been suggested that the flowers of *G. longistyla* are orange/red while those of *G. johnsonii* are orange/pink. Does anyone have some further wisdom about this?

Our bush is 3 m high by 2 m wide, and about 15 years old. It needs a prune after all these years of neglect, but it flowers for so many months that I don't want to touch it just yet until it finishes flowering.

— Graeme Nicholls

Postscript: Two days after writing the above, I found that this grevillea had fallen over. The weight of the superstructure was too much for the foundation. I have tied it up vertically again, but I doubt whether it will survive. I will prune it heavily and hope for the best. Serves me right for neglecting it for so long!

Spectacular Barks on Australian Vegetation

Trevor Blake

The appeal of so much of our flora is centered around the flowers and their spectacular attributes. Have we taken as much notice of the barks? Well, let me introduce you to a group of fascinating species in the Acacia genus. This group all has one thing in common – “Minni Ritchi Bark”. It peels and curls away from the trunks and branches in a spectacular fashion, and generally the curls are in the red/orange range.

Found in semi-arid regions, I have seen *Acacia cyperophylla* var. *cyperophylla* near Dalhousie Springs, on the edge of the Simpson Desert, up out of Winton and on the Bush Heritage property of Cravens Peak, close to the NT border. It swings across the country into the Carnarvon area of WA, where the variety is entitled *Acacia cyperophylla* var. *omearana*. These are hefty trees growing to 10m tall and branching low on the trunk. Beautiful wood with spectacular wood-turning and furniture-making qualities: it is dense and very heavy. The leaves are needle-like and the flowers are golden rods.



Acacia cyperophylla trunk.



Acacia cyperophylla flower

Another with this unusual bark, that has a bushy habit and generally grows between 2-4m tall with a typical shrubby habit, is *Acacia rhodophloia*, commonly known as the Red Mulga. The leaves are sickle-shaped and flat, flowers golden and either globular or rod-shaped. Mainly located and widespread in arid areas of NT and central WA with odd occurrences in SA, Queensland and NSW. Aboriginal Traditional Elders informed us that diggings at the base of these bushes usually indicated the presence of Bilbies; our infrared cameras confirmed this information.



Acacia rhodophloia

Acacia doreta grows between 2-5m tall and is widespread in desert areas extending from the eastern WA through most of the deserts into south-central dry country of NT and north-west SA. It thrives in rocky hills and stony plains.

Acacia lysiphloia is a species found mainly in tropical areas growing from 1-4m tall as a bushy shrub with flat narrow leaves. The flowers are in golden rods on long pedicels. Its distribution extends from the Kimberley through NT into Queensland, in stony, hilly country in sands and clays. We have seen this species in Kununurra and Uluru.

The Kimberly and Pilbara regions of WA have *Acacia trachycarpa* and *Acacia gracillima* with this spectacular bark. The leaves of both species are long and narrow – the former growing as a bushy species of 1-4m tall and being found west of the Hamersley Range growing along watercourses in sands and gravels, flowering between April and October. The latter species is a more tropical tree reaching 9m tall from the King Leopold Range, where it inhabits steep rocky slopes and is endemic to Kimberley. It flowers between May and August with bright golden, cylindrical flowers.



Acacia doreta

Another with this Minni Ritchi defining attribute is *Acacia delibrata* from the WA tropical areas and concentrated in the Kimberley. Again this is found along watercourses relatively close to the coast in stony and sandy soils it is also found on some offshore islands. It can grow between 6-9m tall, flowering between May and August with pale rod flowers. The leaves are narrow, linear and flat.

Acacia chisholmii can be located as you progress from west to east in western Queensland areas around Cloncurry and Mt Isa, on stony lateritic plains and sands in grasslands and spinifex country. Flowering from May to August, with long golden rod flowers, it is a bushy multi-stemmed shrub that grows up to 4m tall with flat, linear leaves.

Coming south into western Queensland in the Miles-Gurulumundi area and central NSW in the Bourke-Lake Cargelligo vicinities is *Acacia curranii*, which can be found on weathered sandstone. This is a low, multi-stemmed shrub that can reach 3m tall, with long fine



Acacia lysiphloia bark.



Acacia lysiphloia plant.

linear leaves, and golden elliptical flowers that are seen in August and September.

In the southern wheatbelt of WA, in the Wongan Hills, Hyden scrubland communities and granite outcrops, grows a substantial Minni Ritchi-barked shrub to small tree – *Acacia fauntleroyi*. Like so many in this group, the leaves are long and narrow, the flowers golden rod-shaped or more oval.

The last is a small branching shrub that varies in height from 0.5-2m tall with narrow rigid leaves, *Acacia repandra*. Flowers are elliptical, bright yellow, and it can be found amongst granite outcrops in sandy loams in the Wongan Hills to Holt Rock areas, flowering from June to August.

Even if you can't grow one of these fascinating wattles they are well worth keeping an eye out for in your travels.

Thank You

Merele Webb

Thank you to the Maroondah Group for your beautiful banksia card and best wishes now I'm a nonagenarian. I was an early member in the 1960's when we began meeting in lounge rooms of various members homes.

When I moved house 10 years ago I found some little typed newsletters, some from 1968. There seemed to be garden visits and many bush picnics with small children in the families to cater for.

I remember the excitement of carrying armfuls of flowering branches into the Lower Melbourne Town Hall for those early Wildflower Shows in the 1960's. Then the years of Shows in the Yarra Valley Grammar School, before transferring to the Ringwood Civic Centre. I helped Kath Deery set up her always original floor displays, and was alarmed one year to find her with moss, ferns, logs, a large plastic sheet and buckets of water to set up a pond on the carpet! Rolls of spaghnum moss held the plastic edges up, and were then covered with more moss. We just had to keep people from standing on it. Removing it afterwards was equally challenging!

The members of this Group have contributed invaluable to my knowledge and enjoyment of Aussie plants. I have learnt from you all, and thank you very much for your Birthday good wishes.

Lights in the garden

This time of the year, we lose sight of our gardens after 5:30pm. The use of low run-cost LED lighting can enhance an outdoor area near the house, and tree cover can reduce outside light pollution.

This ribbon lighting brings our fernery in after dark. I have it on a timer, which switches it off after 10pm so it doesn't disturb our neighbours.

The plant next to the *Dicksonia antarctica* is *Achronychia oblongifolia* which was given to me by the Australian Garden at Cranbourne for volunteer work.

– Michael Cook



Fernery lighting.



Hardenbergia violacea is lighting up our garden. We have two colour forms, purple and white, growing together on a north-facing lattice.



A Visit to the Pilliga Scrub

Bruce Schroder

Under the entry for *Brachyscome melanocarpa* in the second volume of the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, published in 1982, there is a reference to “an apparently unnamed species from the Pilliga Scrub in north-eastern NSW that is becoming popular in cultivation”, nominally named *Brachyscome* species ‘Pilliga’. This was nearly 40 years ago when we were all so desperate to get our hands on the rare, unusual and newly discovered Australian species for our garden collections. At that time, I had never heard of the Pilliga Scrub but it was this plant that piqued my interest in a floristically-rich area of bushland, somewhere west of the Great Divide in NSW.

Only once in the intervening years had I travelled to the area and that was no more than a blurred 100kph whizz through on the Newell Highway, on a school holiday pilgrimage to the southern Queensland theme parks for the girls, some 10-12 years later! It did present as the name suggested – dry and scrubby, but the roadside forests of Cypress Pine (*Callitris*) were the first time I had experienced bushland of any sort not dominated by eucalypts. It was always my intention to revisit the area on a more leisurely basis.

Brachyscome sp ‘Pilliga’ eventually became *Brachyscome formosa* (commonly called “Pilliga Posy”) and has been propagated in its millions since then. I never really gave “The Pilliga” much thought after that trip. It was only a couple of years ago, when Joe Wilson had to abandon a planned trip there, at the height of the NSW drought, because “there was simply nothing to see” according to local Park Rangers, that I started thinking about it once again.

Desperate to get out of Melbourne as winter was closing in, earlier this year we planned a car trip to the milder north coast of NSW via the inland rather than coastal route. This was my opportunity to finally visit the Pilliga Scrub, albeit far too early for the spring display of wildflowers. A side trip to Burrendong Arboretum was also added as an afterthought.

Burrendong was a disappointment. With the passing of the Althofer brothers (Peter and George) who first set up the arboretum on a purely voluntary basis, I

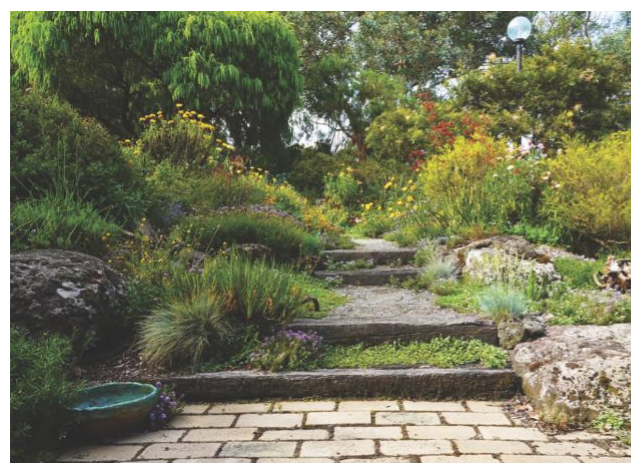
understand it has been difficult to attract volunteers to keep the park maintained. I also understand the local Council funds a small team to maintain the site, but drought and limited maintenance has sadly had a significant detrimental impact on what was clearly once an amazing facility, with a huge diversity of Australian flora.

Again, it was in the early 1980’s that I first became aware of this amazing destination for native plant lovers, putting it also on the must visit list. My first experiences of it were through Maroondah’s annual Melbourne Wildflower Show, as it was one of the many destinations I remember receiving bunches of flowers from, in the lead up to our “wildflower spectacular”. In fact I still grow, from cuttings snaffled from a Burrendong delivery, a dwarf form of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* growing at Burrendong, whose origins to this day are still a mystery. I have since discovered that an old plant still grows at Burrendong.

The Pilliga Scrub, as it turns out, is the largest area of natural bushland west of the Great Divide in NSW - over 5,000 km² of semi-arid woodland. Most land within the Pilliga is in crown tenure - either as State Forest, Nature Reserve, State Conservation Area or National Park.

With little evidence from the Newell Highway, which pretty much bisects this woodland reserve, of anything other than flat to slightly undulating open forest and scrubland, we were pleasantly surprised to learn of Dandy Gorge, in the central southern part of the reserve, after a visit to the Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre in the small town of Baradine to the west. Contrary to the time of Joe’s planned visit, there have been excellent rains in the area this year and the bushland was looking fresh and invigorated. Fortunately we had arrived long enough after the rains to enable access along most of the dirt roads, which I’m sure would have been impassable some weeks earlier.

From the Dandy Gorge visitor and camping area, there is a beautiful walk out along the top of the northern sandstone escarpment of the gorge, returning along the wide, sandy creek valley below the escarpment. Sometime earlier, the creek had clearly



The Hanson garden Open Garden

Warrandyte

Sat 4 – Sun 5 September, 2021
Open 10.00am – 4.30pm

104 Webb St, Warrandyte

Enjoy this natural bush walk which highlights the love of native orchids, wildflowers, birdlife and possums all accompanied by the sound of pond life.

Entry \$10 Students \$6 U18 free via Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/BSXOR>
opengardensvictoria.org.au

APS Maroondah Gardens in Open Gardens Victoria

Just a reminder that two native gardens belonging to Maroondah members will be open to the public on the weekend of 4th and 5th September.

Bill and Sue are still looking for more helpers (this also gives you free entry to the garden!). If you can help please contact them on atchguy@gmail.com or 9872 3583.



Mullum Waters Open Garden

Donvale

Sat 4 – Sun 5 September, 2021
Open 10.00am – 4.30pm

13 Conos Court, Donvale

Mullum Waters provides excellent habitat for many native species from native bees to frogs and birds. There is a strong emphasis on indigenous plants.

Entry \$10 Students \$6 U18 free via Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/BRTBX>
opengardensvictoria.org.au



Grevillea rosmarinifolia 'Burrendong'



Brachyscome ‘Pilliga Posy’

Brian Walters



Pimelia linifolia



Boronia glabra



Boronia anethifolia



Prostanthera granitica



Grevillea floribunda



Chloanthes parviflora



Melichrus urceolatus



Ricinocarpus bowmanii



Zieria aspathaloides

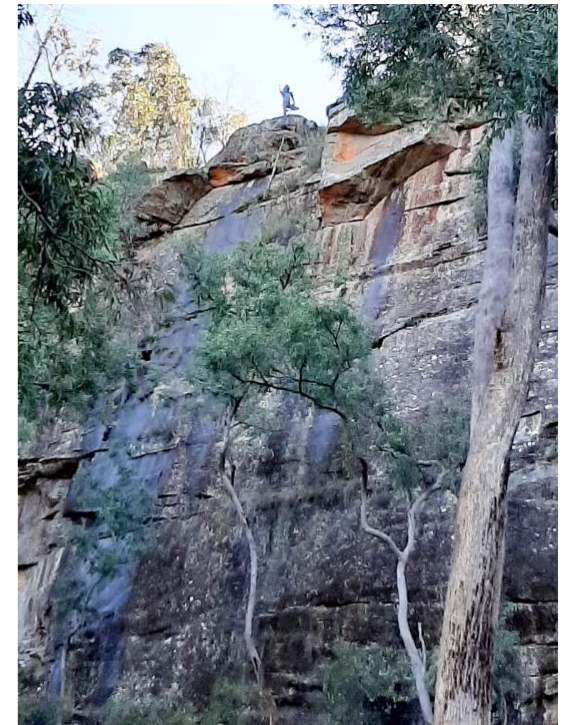
been in flood but was flowing shallowly over its sandy bed as we passed. I suspect this would have been a rare occurrence. The 2.5km walk is mostly on a relatively flat grade and takes approximately an hour, although that depends on how often you stop to take photos of wildflowers!

Although mid-winter, the beautiful blue day reminded me of the early days of spring in Melbourne and the anticipation of wildflowers in our local bushland. Meandering along the escarpment pathway, Jill was pleasantly surprised and I was rather excited, to find the first flowers of what in a month's time I would expect to be a bountiful early spring display. Many were familiar to me such as *Grevillea floribunda*, *Philothea salsolifolia*, *Pimelia linifolia*, *Homoranthus flavescens*, *Lomandra leucocephala* and *Stypandra glauca*. Others required some later research, including *Boronia glabra*, *Prostanthera granitica*, *Boronia anethifolia**, *Zieria aspathaloides*, *Chloanthes parviflora*, *Melichrus urceolatus* and *Ricinocarpus bowmanii*.

"Sculptures in the Scrub" is a permanent art exhibition that has been installed along the escarpment walking track in the scrubland approximately 10 years ago. Each of the 6 installations, spaced a couple of hundred metres apart, were produced by separate artists, inspired by the local environment. It is a wonderful complement to the walk and comes as quite a surprise given the remote location.

In the same vein as the "Sculptures in the Scrub", the natural sculptures along the 1.7km Sandstone Caves walking trail on the eastern side of the Newell Highway came as an amazing surprise. The colours and shapes of the wind and water worn sandstone cliffs and caves were just as photogenic as the complementary display of wildflowers, most of which we had previously seen at Dandy Gorge.

*now *Cyanothamnus anethifolia*



Sculpture 1 from bottom of escarpment.



Sculpture 3.



Sandstone Cave.



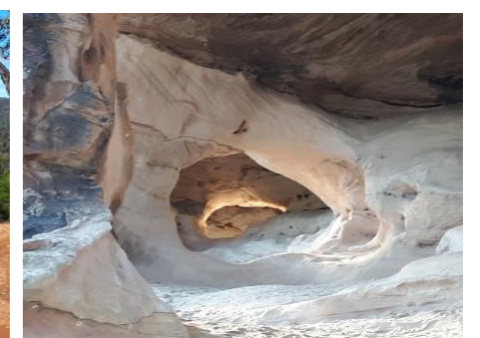
Sculpture 2.



Sculpture 5.



Sculpture 4.



Sandstone Cave.

Looking Forward to 2021 and Beyond

The following activities are planned, dependent on CoVid of course.

APS Maroondah Meetings

27th August – Bill Aitchison: *“Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rev Hugh Davies and Danny DeVito – A Look at the Genus Daviesia”*

23rd September THURSDAY
AGM and Grand Specimen Table

22nd October – Chris Larkin: *“Hakeas”*

26th November – Members’ Night

APS Maroondah Garden Visits

22nd August – Bower Garden, Mitcham.

19th September – Turner/Kowal Garden, Cranbourne South.

17th October – Wait Garden, Riddells Creek.

21st November – Schroder Garden, Montrose (end-of-year function).

And beyond 2021 ...

Sunday 11th – Friday 16th September 2022
ANPSA Conference, hosted by APS NSW at Kiama.
(NOTE: Deferred from 2021 due to CoVid19 restrictions)

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October 2022
14th FJC Rogers Seminar on *“Fabulous Peas”*, hosted by APS Maroondah at Mt Evelyn.
Please send expressions of interest to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com.

Open Gardens Victoria

4th–5th September – Two Manningham gardens featuring Australian plants:
* Hanson Garden, Warrandyte
* “Mullum Waters”, Aitchison/Guymer Garden, Donvale
Please check OGV website (opengardensvictoria.org.au) for details and bookings.

FNCV Botany group talks

Third Thursday of the month – starts at 8pm at FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn (Melway map 47 K10).
Contact Ken Griffiths at botany@fncv.org.au.

19th August – Bill Aitchison on “Acacias”.

APS Victoria and other events

25th – 26th September
APS Grampians hosting Quarterly Gathering.

Plant Sales

4th September – APS Wilson Park, Berwick.

18th–19th September – APS Bendigo Plant Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat. 9:30am to 4pm.

2nd–3rd October – APS Grampians Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9am to 5pm Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sunday.

9th October – APS Echuca-Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High St, Echuca.

9th–10th October – Friends RBG Cranbourne, kiosk in Australian Garden, RBG Cranbourne. 10am to 4pm.

16th October – APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.

23rd–24th October – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show, Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles St, Ballarat. 10am to 4pm.

12th October – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9am to 4pm. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations.

New Names for Heaths

Joe Wilson

There has been a large revision of the family Epacridaceae to sub family Epacridoideae of family Ericaceae.

From this large study of Styphelia and Astroloma, it has been concluded that all members of this large Clade should be treated as Styphelia. Also many Leucopogons are also to become Styphelias.

For a complete overview refer to the Journal of the Western Australian Herbarium, Nuytsia, Volume 32, June 2021. Go to florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au to find this journal.

Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

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Newsletter contributions:

Contributions for the September 2021 Newsletter should be sent to Sue Guymer at aitchguy@gmail.com no later than **Friday 27th August 2021**

Maroondah Group website:
australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah

APS Vic website:
www.psvic.org.au

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