



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2019 No 445

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

www.facebook.com/warrnamboolsgap



'Plants of the Great South West',
 book on plants of South West Victoria



\$20, available from
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EDITORIAL

Hi members,

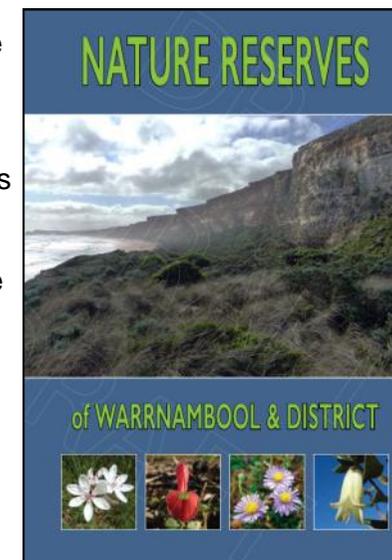
The rain this week was very welcome, I can see our garden perking up already after the extremely dry conditions we have been experiencing over the summer..

This month, we will be launching the new "**Nature Reserves of Warrnambool & District**" booklet edited by John Hargreaves. The book will be launched officially by Warrnambool City Councillor, David Owen. Before this, John will be giving us a presentation on the Beauty of the Belfast Coastal Reserve. Come along and congratulate David on his efforts over the past month in standing up for our beaches.

Bunnings BBQ Saturday March 16th: Volunteers wanted. Please let John Sherwood know when you are available to help man our BBQ. Times are: 8.30 - 10.30 - set up and first sales, 10.30 - 12.30, 12.30 - 14.30 - lunchtime. 14.30 - 16.30 - last sales and cleanup. In addition we need someone on call to handle last minute orders to keep stocks up.

Our first **Committee Meeting** for the year will be on February 26th at Joan Krygger's home at 18 Hibiscus Av at 5.00pm. We are still to organise speakers for most of the year, if you have any suggestions, please pass your ideas on to a committee member.

Finally, could committee members please **bring along a plate of supper**, we might get quite a few people attending. Thanks, Kevin



We wish to acknowledge the Maar people as the traditional owners of the land on which we live and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Next Meeting: Friday 22nd 8.00pm. Book Launch - Speaker, John Hargreaves - Belfast Coastal Reserve

Group Diary Of Activities

February 22nd: Members Night from 8.00pm. Speaker is John Hargreaves followed by launch of the Revised "Nature Reserves of Warrnambool & District" booklet.

February 26th: Committee Meeting at Joan Krygger's, at 5.00pm
18 Hibiscus Ave, Warrnambool.

March 16th: Bunnings BBQ - Volunteers needed.

March 20th: APS Colac Group Members Night 7.30 - speaker is Maria Hitchcock speaking on the subject of Correas.

March 22nd: Members Night - Speaker Graeme Ward subject - soils.

March 26th: Committee Meeting. TBA

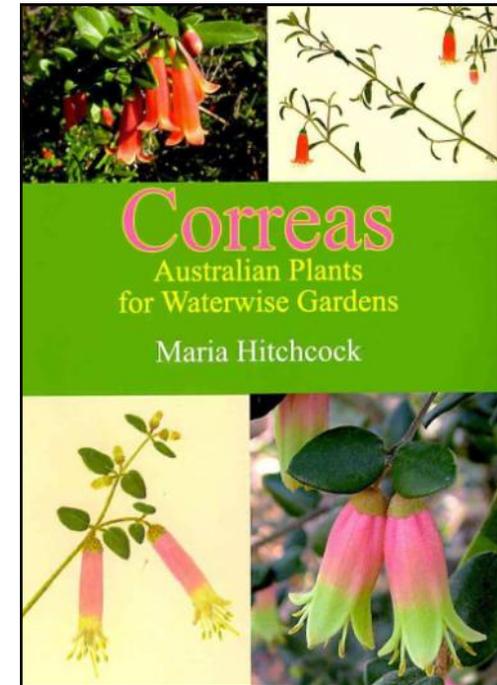
April 27th: APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale
'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. (Mel 431 D6).

María Hitchcock Speaking To Colac Group

María Hitchcock, author of "Correas" will be the guest speaker at APS Colac Group Members Night on Wednesday 20th March from 7.30pm.

All members are welcome to attend.

Venue is:
"The Neighbourhood House",
23 Miller St,
Colac.



Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month

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Public Officer: John Sherwood. **APS Reps:** vacant, **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper Organiser:** Liz Halls.

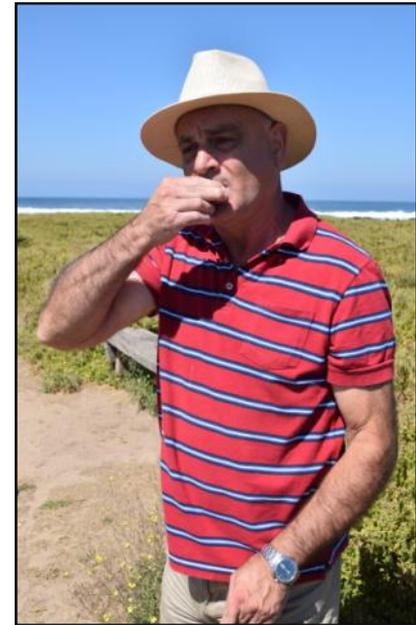
Other Committee Members: Kerry Artis, Michael Mattner. Bob Artis, Andrew Gray, Joan Krygger

The APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.

APS Warrnambool & District is a District Group of the Australian Plants Society (Vic)

All members are required to also be a member of APS Vic.

January Visit To Port Fairy Report by Kevin Sparrow



Ten members attended our first activity for the year, a day visit to Port Fairy. We began with a relaxing walk with six members walking right around Griffith Island in what turned out to be a beautiful day.

Michael decided to try some bush tucker, *Rhagodia candolleana* or Seaberry Salt-bush (photo bottom right) to see what it tasted like. Judging by the look on his face, I doubt if he will be going back for seconds!

Following this we adjourned to the Victoria Hotel for a lovely meal where ten members attended including Mary and Patrick who made the trip over from Portland. It is always great to start the year off with a friendly social activity and this was no exception.



Plant of the Month - *Eremophila Meringur Isaac* by Kevin Sparrow

Name: *Eremophila bignoniiflora x polyclada* “Meringur Isaac”

Eremophila bignoniiflora x polyclada is a naturally occurring hybrid which usually bears cream coloured flowers and has the informal name of E. “Big Poly”. This one is a spectacular purple flowered selection, with the informal name of ‘Meringur Isaac’, (photo right) which has recently been made available for cultivation. It is a very quick growing large shrub that can be propagated by cutting but I find that it grafts very easily and quickly and grows even quicker! I have recently grafted a few more of this plant, hopefully these wont take long to get going. So put your orders in!

There are a number of Meringur hybrids some listed below. These were discovered and developed by Ray Schilling, Ray’s hybrids all take the name “Meringur” after his local town in Victoria. (Ref: *Eremophila* Study Group February 2019 Newsletter)

Eremophila ‘Meringur Pink’ (bottom left) is a large, rounded bush that grows to about 4m x 2m, is frost hardy and flowers all throughout the year. It is a hybrid of *E. bignoniiflora x alternifolia*, hence the pink color.



Eremophila “Meringur Crimson” (bottom right) is a similar hybrid but is a more darker pink in color in a slightly narrower flower, more similar to *E. alternifolia* in shape. I have this one growing on its own roots and it is much, much slower to grow.

All are drought tolerant and frost hardy, grow in full sun or part shade and respond well to pruning. Cuttings can be taken from fresh, firm tip growth taken at any time during the year. Or you can graft it onto the usual *Myoporum* rootstock. A great plant to bring the birds to your garden!

Seed Propagation Report From Andrew & Michael

We have started propagating seeds received from the APS Vic Seed Bank. Michael was quick off the mark getting his seeds planted in November whilst Andrew planted in the first week of January. The number of seeds and species we have been able to plant has been limited significantly by available seed planting trays and tubes. Our preference is to use single tubes and forestry type trays over open seed raising trays (for future ease of transplanting).

At this stage we have been using personal and donated (much appreciated, and thanks in particular to Matt King and Kevin Sparrow for) planting equipment so we have incurred no expense to date in this regard. We have purchased some seed raising mix and calculated that the approximate cost is about 4 cents per plant.

Michael's planting efforts have included adding a watering system to his green house. This was a boon when he was away over the Christmas period, however some hot days "hammered" many of the young plants both inside and outside this environment. He reports that the ones that made it through these conditions are looking strong.

Andrew started with species starting with "A" and reports quicker and later germination of 20 species, primarily *Acacia*, of the 24 species planted. Some species have germinated prolifically, whereas the germination rate of others has been far less. It has been interesting to see that some of the successful germinations are from "old" stock from the Seed Bank, so it seems that Andrew and Michael's decision to have a go at planting the older seeds has paid off!



Seed Propagation Report From Andrew & Michael - Continued

Andrew has taken a low tech approach: placing seed trays under a north facing, but sheltered, pergola and hand watering, when he remembers!

Acacia are known to germinate mainly in Spring and Summer, and this experience seems to show how well they are adapted to sprouting in warm and often dry conditions. Of the other “A” seeds from the Seed Bank there are two remaining packets of seeds. These seeds were not planted because they are grass species that are better planted in Autumn.

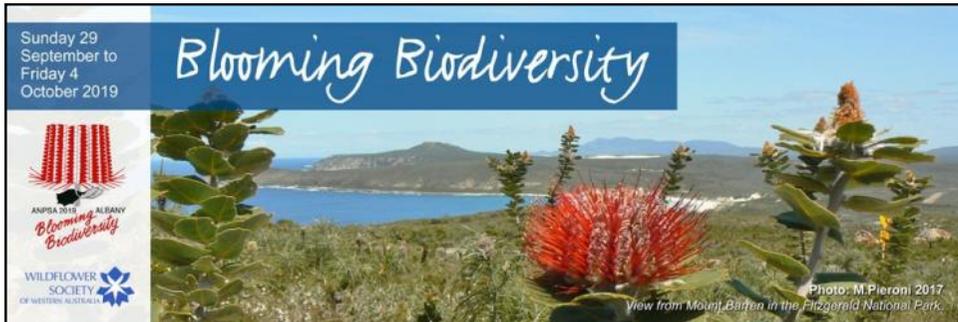
In mid February, Michael planted seeds of 12 more species. Hopefully we will be able to report some positive germination outcomes at the February meeting.

At this stage we have not made detailed notes of which species have germinated to date, but we will do so and provide more details of “most successful species we planted” in due course.

EDITOR: Can you help out Michael & Andrew with donations of individual tubes or forestry type trays, Note: NOT open seed raising trays where seedlings have to be pricked out.

Also can you collect some seeds from your garden, particularly from plants that you don’t often see in propagation. Please pass these on to Michael or Andrew or give to a committee member.





SEPTEMBER 30th to OCTOBER 4th 2019

ANPSA 2019 Conference - Blooming Biodiversity

Hosted by Wildflower Society of Western Australian in Albany, WA.

Pre and post conference tours
Between 21 September to 11 October.

Key Speakers

Professor Stephen D Hopper AC – AJ Swaby Address
Gregory John Keighery.

Details www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au
Bookings open January 2019.

NELSON'S MOST UNWANTED ESCAPEES



	<p>Polygala - <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> – a.k.a. Myrtle-Leaf Milkwort or Butterfly Bush This South African shrub to 2 m high has become invasive in coastal areas. Mauve-purple, pea-shaped flowers produced throughout the year, mostly in spring. Seeds are easily spread by birds, animals and in garden waste. Oval-shaped leaves. No similar local plants. Replace with: <i>Correa reflexa</i> (local) for colour. <i>Correa alba</i> has attractive white flowers. Cockies Tongues (<i>Templetonia retusa</i>) is just as pretty!</p>
	<p>Coprosma – <i>Coprosma repens</i> – a.k.a. Mirror Bush A New Zealand shrub to small tree to 8 m high. Leaves are glossy-green and oblong. White flowers and orange berries. Very hardy and tolerates extreme coastal conditions. Very invasive and smothers out other plants. No similar local plants. Replace with: Coast beard-heath (<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>) makes a good hedge. Coast Westringia (<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>) is a good, non-invasive screening plant.</p>
	<p>Italian Buckthorn – <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> From the Mediterranean. Woody shrub to 4 m high. Glossy, dark-green leathery leaves. Pea-sized berries ripening from green to red/black. Small pale green flowers in Spring. It is similar to our local Sea Box (<i>Alyxia buxifolia</i>) but the Buckthorn's leaves have a slightly toothed edge. This weed is already widespread in Nelson. Replace with: Sea Box (<i>Alyxia Buxifolia</i>). Almost the same and local!</p>
	<p>Sweet Pittosporum – <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> – a.k.a. Native Daphne, Wild coffee Originally from NSW, it is now a serious weed problem in the southern States. A tall shrub/small tree to 14 m. It has shiny dark green, oval leaves with wavy edges. White highly-scented flowers are followed by clusters of orange fruit. It wipes out local competitors by shading and changing soil nutrients. Replace with: Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>). Highly-scented, clouds of flowers and colourful seed pods.</p>
	<p>Cotoneaster – <i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>. Introduced from China. A tall shrub or small tree up to 4 m. Oval leaves 3 to 8 cm long, dark green and soft white hairs on the underside. Clusters of white flowers in spring and summer followed by sprays of round red berries. It could be confused with other species of Cotoneaster but all types are introduced species. Replace with: Pin-cushion hakea (<i>Hakea laurina</i>) is colourful and bird-attracting. <i>Pomaderris paniculosa</i> can be pruned for hedging.</p>
	<p>Coastal Tea-tree - <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> a.k.a. Australian Myrtle A tall bushy shrub or small tree to 6 m from coastal south-eastern Australia. Nelson is outside its natural range. It is spreading rapidly and competing with native vegetation. It has masses of white flowers 15-20 mm across that develop into woody capsules. Replace with: One of our local tea-trees, eg. Woolly (for damper areas), Heath or Prickly Tea-tree.</p>

What turns a garden plant into an environmental weed?

Environmental weeds are plants that are too successful, ie. they spread aggressively and crowd out indigenous plant populations. Check the Weeds Australia website (<http://www.weeds.org.au>) for more information.

All photos courtesy of Kevin Sparrow © Produced by Nelson Coastcare Inc June 2013