



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (Formally SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
June 2015 No 405**

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

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Incorporation No: AOO1312OX

ABN: 51672752196

Web: www.warrnambool.org/sgap

Hi members,

EDITORIAL

Change was definitely in the air at our Annual Meeting held last month, firstly members approved our plans to change our name to "Australian Plants Society - Warrnambool & District" and also our proposed "Statement of Purposes" as outlined in last months newsletter. Following this all positions were declared vacant and the following members were elected.

President: Kevin Sparrow. **Vice President:** Bob Artis. **Secretary:** John Sherwood. **Treasurer:** Mike Halls. **Newsletter Editor:** Kevin Sparrow. **History Book Co-Ordinator:** Joyce Sparrow, **Other Committee Members:** Kerry Artis, and I am very pleased to see Laura Weedon and Louise Sheba both being elected for the first time. We look forward to working with them both, it is always good to see some new faces with new ideas come on board to give our committee a fresh look. I would also like to thank Marilyn Berry for her contribution to the group over many years following her decision not to stand for re-election. We hope that we will continue to see both her and John for many years to come at our many activities. Note that the positions of **Publicity Officer** and **Librarian** remain vacant. (Yes we do have an extensive Library at the rear of the hall behind the stage, members are welcome to borrow any books at any time, talk to a committee member). Also if you would like to know more about either position, you are welcome to contact me to discuss the roles if you are interested.

We have been lucky to score a **Bunnings BBQ** fundraiser day again this year, the day we have been allocated is Saturday 18th July. This doesn't give us much time for planning and as in previous years, we will need a roster of volunteers to man the BBQ over the whole day. Please contact Bob Artis 0417 321225 if you can help us out in one of the 3 hour sessions.

Members Night this month is a chance for interested members to learn some **propagation** techniques and everyone will get the opportunity to take home a pot of cuttings that they can grow on. Also free packets of seed will be available for members to try. Having the ability to grow your own plants is a skill worth getting so please make the effort to come along. Committee members to bring along a plate please.

As usual we will be having a pre-meeting meal at the RSL at 6.30pm, Hope to see you on Friday 26th Cheers, Kevin

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

DIARY OF EVENTS:

- 26th June** - Propagation Night.
- 30th June** - Committee - Sherwoods
- 18th July** - Bunnings BBQ
- 24th July** - Julie Eagles speaking about the clearing and revegetating at Community Gardens and old quarry site at Albert Park.
- 28th July** - Committee - Sparrows
- 19th August** 7.30pm at HIRL at Hamilton. We are invited to attend their meeting where Cathy Powers will be speaking on diversity and distribution of native orchids.
- 28th August** - Adam Miller speaking on Genes & Fragmented Landscape.
- 19th/20th September** WAMA Grampians Trip.
- 25th Sept** - Brian Lacy "Brian & Betty's Gardening Story"
- 23rd October** - Lisette Mill. Wildlife Motion Cameras
- 27th November** - Rod Bird
- Xmas Breakup Date TBC**

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



\$20, available from Kevin Sparrow at ksparrow93@gmail.com
Ph: 55626217

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Members Night: Friday 26th June from 8.00pm

PROPAGATION NIGHT: Come along and learn some propagation techniques and take home a pot of cuttings.

April Display Table Report By Kerry Artis

Mike Hall's *John Amor Correa* has done very well. It is a *Correa reflexa* and has quite a large bell. *Templetonia retusa* Cocky's Tongue grows well on limestone and is salt tolerant, growing to 2m high by 3m across, some plants can be quite leggy while others are neat and compact. It is the first to flower coming up to the winter months with large, red, pea flowers. *Acacia podalyriifolia* Ovens Wattle is 15' high and 10' across and has beautiful yellow ball flowers and silver-grey foliage.

Cherree Densley showed us some new *Correas* that have been introduced by Peter Olerenshaw that have lots of small flowers and are very pretty. These new *Correas* are being bred in Canberra. *Correa Elegant Green* comes from the Mt Clay area and is rare, *Correa Mt Richmond* has a red bell and is a spindly, small shrub, *Correa 'Dandenong Ranges'* has just flowered. *Adenanthus 'Silver Streak'* has beautiful foliage and makes a lovely shelter and *Eucalyptus diversifolia* Soap Mallet Eucalypt is a lovely small tree suitable for the smaller garden.

Kevin Sparrow has a *Kennedia prostrata* in the white flowered form running everywhere, being a vigorous plant that germinates readily. *Lysiosepalum involucreatum* is growing really well, *Hakea clavata* was grown by cutting 15 years ago and is now shoulder height. It has stiff leaves and small clusters of white/pink flowers which Kevin saw nearly growing on the beach at Cape La Grand east of Esperance WA. Kevin showed a number of *Correas* including *Correa 'Autumn Blaze'* which has a vibrant orange flower.

Other plants on show were *Hakea cycloptera*, *Hakea scoparia*, *Eremophila maculata* 'Cerise Pink', *Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'*, *Thryptomene saxicola* in the white form, *Calothamnus rupestris*, *Correa 'Candy Pink'*, *Eremophila glabra*, *Correa 'Federation Belle'*, *Correa 'Marions Marvel'* *Thryptomene*, *Banksia seminuda* *Eremophila maculata*, *Correa 'Coconut Ice'*, *Correa moonlight*, *Diplolaena grandiflora*, *Eremophila dielsiana*, *Correa 'Supermarket'*.



Above: *Correa reflexa* "John Amor"

From The Committee

We have organized our group's **annual trip this year** to the Grampians and it will be held on the weekend of Saturday 19/Sunday 20th September. The committee has arranged for some cabins to be available at the Park Gate Big 4 Caravan Park at Halls Gap on Friday 18/Saturday 19th. If you would also like to come and have not already indicated this to the committee, please contact Bob Artis on 0417 321225, or you can make your own arrangements. Its also possible for you to travel up on the Saturday and meet up with our group members either at the WAMA site at 9.00am or later at one of the gardens. Please contact Kevin 55626217 or on the day on 0458 189323 for details.

Program: Saturday 19th 9.00am start with Neil Marriott showing us around the proposed WAMA Art and Botanical Garden complex site.

10.30am: Visit to Wayne Farey's garden and then at 11.30am Phil Williams' Garden and nursery at Pomonal.

12.30pm Lunch at Neil's garden at Panrock Ridge and tour of his gardens.

After lunch Neil will lead us on a tour of the Ironbark State Forest north of Stawell which is very rich in wildflowers.

Sunday: Possible visit to Phil Vaughan's new nursery TBA.

Membership fees are now due again following our Annual Meeting last month, APS Victoria fees remain unchanged, however our local fees are now \$15 Single/ \$20 per family due to increases in postage and other expenses. Attached is a membership form which contains both APS Vic fees and our local fees together, so please use this form to make your payment to our Treasurer, Mike Halls. (See form for address) Your APS Vic fees will be passed on for you. If you only joined our group post March this year, please ignore this as your membership will last to the end of June next year.

Leaders Report 22 May 2015 by Bob Artis

The time has come for me to think of what has taken place in our group over the last twelve months.

Over the last 12 months we have had an attendance at our meeting nights from 18 to as low as 8 but it is mainly around the 14 mark.

We have had some very entertaining speakers over that period and I hope everyone has enjoyed them as much as I have.

We had a very profitable day running a sausage sizzle at Bunning's once again this year and I would like to thank all those that helped out on that day and in the lead up to the day, we made a profit in the order of around \$800. This goes a long way to helping run our club, thank you to all those that help make this work.

We have had several outings over the year, to Kurri Kurri, to Tozer Reserve, Great Ocean Rd Excursion and of course the trip as a group to our friends in Horsham to spend the weekend with them, all of these have been well attended.

We have been able to gain some new members this year and I welcome them to our group and I hope that you get what you are looking for and lots of enjoyment as members of our group.

One thing we are doing as a group in partnership with Hamilton is planning towards running in 2016, a Fred Rodgers Seminar with the subject to be Native Orchids, this is well into the planning stage and something to be looking forward to.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those on the committee for the work that you have put into the running of our group over this last year, I will not name individuals but they all know who they are, so I will just say Thank You.

As this is the third year that I have been leader I am not able to stand again so therefore this is my last report as leader, so can I just say that I have really enjoyed my time as leader of the group and look forward to the continuing pleasures of the group in the future.

Report on Last Meeting by Kevin Sparrow

Following on from our Annual Meeting last month, guest speaker, Cherree Densley showed us a presentation on the effects of the spot fire at Easter 2014 that occurred on her Mt. Clay covenanted property. Approx 6 hectares of the 76 hectare property was burned and she showed us some of the damage that occurred, some of it in the process of containing the fire. Cherree was very lucky in that the fire did not get to her holiday home that she has set up there and the only damage was to the bushland that will regrow again. Since then, regeneration has begun, with many native plants germinating from seed or shooting from blackened stumps. The Bracken Fern is one of the first plants to regrow after fire, with Blackwood Wattles and Prickly Teatree quickly following. Of course other fauna species would have been lost but hopefully these will quickly recover their numbers.

Thank you to Cherree for giving us an interesting presentation, it is many years since we have visited her block, so maybe it is time we did again as a group.



Correa Crawl visit to Point Danger and Mt. Richmond by Kevin Sparrow



Photo taken by Marcus Mentha

On Monday 8th June, 10 members and family travelled to Portland in search of the elusive correa. We defied threatening weather and as things turned out, it turned into quite a reasonable day. We all met up at the Shell service station and travelled out towards the Aluminium smelter at Point Danger where we had a great view of the Gannet colony here and at Lawrence Rocks. This is the only mainland colony in Australia and over 6000 birds choose to nest here. Along the way, we found a number of green Correa reflexa and other local species. Perhaps we were a bit early for most plants to be in flower though. After an early lunch we travelled out to Mt Richmond looking for more correas, this time some of the really attractive red colored ones. We stopped on the road on the way in and walked along Alec's Walk where we found a number of correas and other plants, again perhaps a bit early for much to be in flower. Of particular interest, was the *Pultenaea prolifera* near to the walk's entrance, see photo on page 5, not yet in flower. Following this we continued in to Mt Richmond NP and had a look around the picnic area before travelling home. Thank you to Cherree for showing us around.

Thank you to Marilyn Berry for compiling the plant list on page 5.

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

President: Kevin Sparrow Phone: 55626217 **Vice President:** Bob Artis, Brown St, Allansford. Phone: 0417 321225
Secretary: John Sherwood. 26 McConnell St, Warrnambool Phone: 55628064 Email: jsher@deakin.edu.au
Treasurer: Mike Halls, 127 Rooneys Rd, Warrnambool 3280 Phone: 55626519 Email: mandehalls@bigpond.com
Newsletter Editor: Kevin Sparrow 35 Swan Street, Warrnambool. Phone: 55626217 Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com
Publicity Officer and Librarian: Vacant **Public Officer:** John Sherwood. Phone: 55628064 **APS Reps:** vacant,
History Book Coordinator: Joyce Sparrow. **Other Committee Members:** Kerry Artis, Laura Weedon, Louise Sheba

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.

Plant List for Point Danger Reserve

Acacia longifolia subsp. *sophorae*
Acacia verticillata subsp. *ovoidea*
Alyxia buxifolia
Banksia marginata
Carex appressa
Carex fascicularis
Carpobrotus rossii
Clematis microphylla
Correa reflexa var. *reflexa* →
Dianella sp.
Eucalyptus baxteri
Ficinia nodosa
Gahnia trifida
Hibbertia sp.
Lepidosperma gladiatum
Leptospermum continentale
Leucopogon parviflorus
Melaleuca halmaturorum →
Olearia axillaris
Olearia ramulosa subsp. *ramulosa*
Poa poiiformis var. *poiiformis*
Spyridium parvifolium prostrate
Tetragonia implexicoma



Weeds

- * *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera*
- * *Cortaderia selloana*
- * *Hypochaeris* sp.
- * *Melaleuca nesophila*
- * *Rhamnus alaternus*
- * *Sollya heterophylla*



Plant List for Mt. Richmond National Park

Acacia longifolia subsp. *sophorae*
Acacia mitchellii
Acacia pycnantha
Allocasuarina sp.
Apium prostratum subsp. *prostratum* var. *prostratum*
Astroloma humifusum
Banksia marginata
Beyeria leschenaultii
Billardiera sp.
Boronia nana
Bossiaea cinerea
Bossiaea prostrata
Correa reflexa var. *reflexa*
Drosera macrantha subsp. *macrantha*
Epacris impressa →
Eucalyptus baxteri
Eucalyptus falciformis
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Geranium sp.
Hakea rostrata
Hibbertia fasciculata var. *prostrata*
Hydrocotyle sp.
Hypoleana fastigiata



Indigofera australis
Isopogon ceratophyllus
Kennedia prostrata
Leucopogon parviflorus
Leucopogon virgatus var. *virgatus*
Pultenaea prolifera →
Pteridium esculentum
Shenkia australis
Spyridium parvifolium
Veronica calycina
Viola hederacea
Xanthorrhoea australis



Warrnambool's Lone Pine—The Next Generation by Lou Hollis

Taken From Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Newsletter

Although the tree is more than elderly and in decline, it was worth trying to propagate from it. What did we have to lose? That's right – nothing. So, I let other FoWBG members know that I intended giving it a try. "Oh, yes. We got some seeds from it to germinate, but when we moved them, they died." The seedlings had been moved on not long after germination. Mmm, lesson number one. Sow them in individual pots that they will be able to live in for a year or maybe even two, 'cos they don't like to be moved as babies. Dr David Shimmin got a couple to grow, and they are now in the grounds of Port Fairy Primary School. He confirmed that keeping them in the same spot as they germinated for quite some time was a good idea, as was keeping grubs and other hungry creatures away from the juicy new seedlings. Over the years, I have scrounged lots of knowledge about the large pine family, which includes the local Drooping sheoke (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) as well as the Norfolk pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), cypresses and our Lone Pine (Turkish Pine or Calabrian Pine, *Pinus brutia*). Pines are wind pollinated. Each tree can be either male or female or have both male and female pollens. Lucky for us, with only one specimen in the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens, *Pinus brutia* falls into the latter category. Pines are great parents. What do you see growing under a pine of any species? Not much except for maybe nettles or other extremely tolerant pioneer (weed) species. This is because the needles that they drop contain chemicals that inhibit the growth of almost everything but their own seeds. Pines don't have leaves in the general meaning of the word. 'Stem clasping leaflets' or 'needles' are more accurate descriptions for their photosynthesizing bits. All pine seeds consist of two parts: the wing and the actual seed. The wing is large enough to allow the wind to move it and the attached seed a reasonable distance from the trunk of the parent to a place with some needles from the parent and enough light to germinate and grow into a mature tree. Armed with some cones that ripened in late summer/autumn, I set about getting the seeds out. The cones looked a bit dull and tarnished, indicating that they were ripe. I avoided pretty ones that looked too much like what you see on a Christmas card, as the seeds in them were probably not mature enough to germinate – that's if any were pollinated!

We sat the cones in a bowl on top of the cover on our slow combustion stove and waited a few days. Patience is a requirement if you intend growing *Pinus brutia*. The warmth induced the cones to open just enough to show the 'wings' on the seeds, but my stubby fingers were too chunky to get seeds out. Aha, tweezers to the rescue. Gently does it, and after coaxing out a number of wings with seeds attached, I realized that there were two types. The fat round seeds at the bottom of pretty brown wings would probably grow, but the flat petite ones would probably not. The cones get torn apart after the seeds are removed, just in case. As the wing is only the delivery mechanism, only the fat round seeds were planted. One seed per tree tube, in a good potting mix without those water-storing granules that rob the plant of moisture. The rule of thumb for all seeds is to cover the seed with its diameter of soil (if planting direct into the ground) or potting mix if you are using a pot. Pines are no exception. Cover with a nice blanket of chopped up needles from Mum/Dad over the top. Green ones are gathered from the ground, as the wind seems to knock these off the WBG tree. Needles that have lost their color have also lost some of the chemicals that the seedlings need. The planting takes place on the new moon closest to Anzac day. If you are familiar with the lunar planting calendar, this should give the best chance of success. Autumn is when the seeds naturally drop from the parent tree. Germination seems to be also very much aligned with the moon and seasons, as the seedlings emerge as one group on the new moon closest to the spring equinox! One seed took 18 months to germinate, and yes, it came up at the same time as the seeds planted a year after it. Germination rates are rather low. About 15% to be exact, and just like in nature not all seedlings survive past the first year or two. If you have any tips on increasing the germination and survival rates, I would love to try them. Fertilizing is not really something that we have ventured into. Each year, a new layer of chopped up needles from the parent tree is given to the seedlings (and last year's seeds), which seems to give them a boost and encourage the occasional extra germination.

Warrnambool's Lone Pine—Harvest by Pat Varley President FOWBG June 2014

Our Lone Pine has been in the spotlight this year and is likely to continue to attract attention as we approach the centenary of the Battle of Lone Pine in August 2015. In January we marked the occasion 80 years ago, when the Pine was dedicated to the AIF. The recent ceremony was attended by descendants of both Sergeant Keith McDowell, who collected the cone and Mrs Emma Gray who propagated the seeds. Dan Tehan, Federal Member for Wannan, also attended and was very moved by the story of the Lone Pine. He returned to the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens on June 11 to announce a grant of \$5,000 for signage, irrigation and seed propagation from the tree. This was the result of an application by The Friends for support from the Federal Government's ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program. Our project: Preservation, Propagation and Promotion of the Lone Pine has also been supported by both Warrnambool Legacy Club, the Warrnambool branch of the RSL and Warrnambool City Council.

Melbourne Legacy is also interested in obtaining some cones from our tree and has offered assistance. Cones were harvested from the canopy of the tree with the aid of a cherry picker on Thursday June 19. It is a little late in the season but we hope they will provide some viable seed that can be shared with Melbourne Legacy. Several of our members have had success in growing trees from seed gathered from the Lone Pine. Lou Hollis tells of her success in a separate article in this news letter. One second generation tree grown by Lou is flourishing in Toll Bar Park Lexton where it replaces a commemorative tree that died in the drought. Another will have pride of place in Penshurst's memorial avenue.

The Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens will hold their AGM on Wednesday July 22 from 12.00 noon in the TAFE conference centre.

Bart Gane will be guest speaker talking about the revival of Koroit Botanic Gardens. A light lunch will be served and we hope to see as many of your SGAP members as possible. (APS Warrnambool & District members are especially invited)



Pens Hand Crafted from Warrnambool's Lone Pine (Taken from FOWBG Web site)

The Friends of the Gardens collected dead branches pruned from the Lone Pine in the Gardens. They contacted Louis Seater, a member of the Warrnambool Triton Woodworkers and asked if he would be able to fashion some pens from the timber that could be sold to the members and community. These pens are now on sale, \$25 for members and \$40 for the public, the pens come with a brief history of the wood used. New bullet shaped pens (top) are \$60 each. Payment can be made by direct bank transfer to Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens.

NAB BSB: 083 957
Account Number: 048342632.

Orders are being taken if you would like to send an email to friends@wbgardens.com.au with your contact details or by ringing Pat Varley 03 55624800 or Mandy King 0438620343

