



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 339 – July 2018

ROGER and SHEILA's GREAT ADVENTURE Pt II

Once again we enjoyed some great stories and wonderful photos from Roger Wileman as he delivered part two of his recent trip to Western and Central Australia.

Roger's sister has a property at Gorge Rock, near Corrigin, about 300km east-south-east of Perth. She asked Roger to 'mind the farm' while she took a holiday, and he did. So for part of this trip he had a home base, which he put to good use, driving on every road and track in the area in search of new, unusual and interesting plants. Sheila joined him a little later and they explored the south-west, then up to Uluru and home.

Roger feels that the real wildflower country starts at the Cocklebidy Roadhouse on the Nullabor in Western Australia. However, the first plant he showed us was *Eucalyptus youngiana*, a tallish plant with, in South Australia, large yellow flowers. As you head further west, the flowers change to red. They are easy to grow in a garden, and the flower buds are large and attractive in their own right.



Yellow flowered *Eucalyptus youngiana*

Hakea francissiana, named for Mr. Francis, the first curator of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens is an interesting plant in this area, with very variable

colouring, even on a single plant. Flowers vary from deep red to pale pink, almost white. One particular specimen near Kondinin took Roger's eye with both red and pink flowers on the same tree.



Hakea francissiana.

A spectacular grey leafed form of *Isopogon divergens* grows around Kulin, south of Roger's home base. It is a plant of about 1 metre with paler mauve flower than the green leafed form.



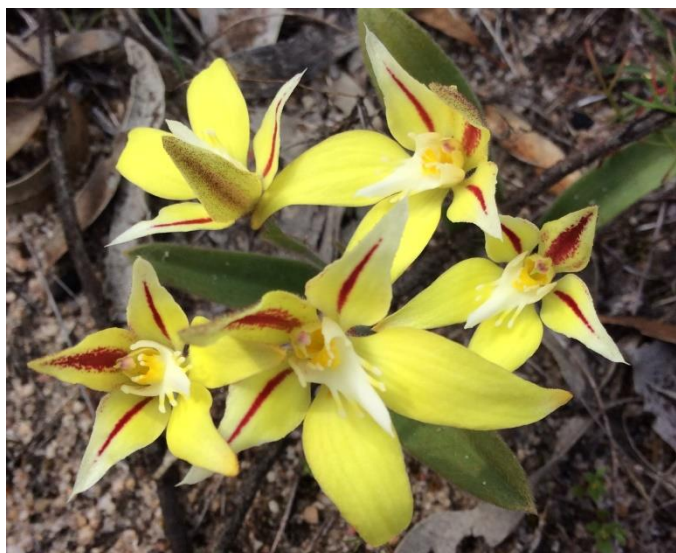
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Roger visited the township of Yallingup in search of interesting plants. Many of the houses were built for German interns during the war. Roger thought he'd start looking in the local pub – as one does! Here he met a character with a lovely four year old Holden Sport which had only done 800km. He swears that he took the photo (below) because of interest in the vehicle. ☺



Orchids are always a delight and many of the Western Australian species are particularly spectacular. At a spot between Corrigin and Gorge Rock Roger found a multitude of orchids in a most unlikely-looking spot. There were hundreds of huge spider orchids, and many others and in one morning he and a group of enthusiasts found forty two species in flower.



***Caladenia flava* – Cowslip orchid**

Caladenia flava, the Cowslip orchid is interesting in that there are several named subspecies but many unnamed subspecies. Names like *C.flava ssp 'Late Red'* and the like, mean that there is a lot of work still to be done on this species.

Hakeas such as *H. recurva*, *H. Gilbertii* and *H. pendens* are attractive plants with red and white flowers, and *H. priesii* with yellow flowers, and all have a rich perfume. But the points on the leaves are so sharp that even the slightest touch will cause them to break off in the skin. Roger described *Hakea pritzelii* as an untidy shrub but magnificent when in flower. Perhaps none are recommended for the garden?



Hakea pritzelii

Petrophiles are common in the area around Corrigin. *P. falcata* has large yellow flowers and shrpy pointed, divided leaves. *P. ericafolia ssp. pubesciformis* is a compact shrub with small golden yellow flowers with prominent stamens.



Grevillea heuglii

Near Lake King Roger found *Grevillea heuglii*, a low groundcover with very sharp deeply divided leaves. It has bright red flowers, but orange and yellow forms also occur.

There he also found an orange flowering form of *Grevillea yorkinensis* which usually has red flowers. *Grevillea cheilocarpa* was only discovered in the year 2000, near Dragon Rocks, not an attractive plant but interesting nonetheless. On the way to Ravensthorpe was *Grevillea insignis*, a pretty pink-flowered form with sharply pointed holly-like leaves. On the road between Varley and Dragon Rocks was *G. magnifica ssp. remota*, with flowers on stalks which reached to six metres and more.

Roger was taken with the flora at Lake King. It is a tiny village with a school, a pub, a shop and a few houses. But he describes it as 'the centre of wildflower country' with wildflowers growing through the town and right up to the doors of houses. A couple of grevilleas took his fancy here – *G. integrifolia* and *G. bififormis*.



Grevillea integrifolia

Verticordias are a prominent plant in the area, but there are so many very similar yellow flowered forms that Roger struggled to get a definitive identification. *Cyanostegia angustifolia* is a beautiful shrub growing in the streets of Lake King. Its flowers vary from pale mauve to deep blue/purple.

Another interesting Grevillea is *G. eryngioides*. It is a small clumped plant about 300mm high, which produces unusual flowers on slender, 1.5 metre high stalks. It sends out runner roots and new plants appear

along these root lines. They will grow from seed, but the main way of reproducing is via the runners.



Grevillea eryngioides* and *Cyanostegia angustifolium

Roger concluded the talk with a few photos from around Uluru. Once again we enjoyed a very entertaining and informative talk from Roger, and again I apologise for being unable to reproduce all his fabulous photos here.



***Grevillea striata* – Ironwood – Uluru.**

ON THE TABLE

with Phil Royce

A small but interesting table greeted us at the end of Roger's wonderful talk. Phil Royce walked us through

with his usual good humour, and lots of heckling from members.

Grevilleas are always a big part of our table, and, no matter the time of year there is always something to excite interest and comment. The hybrids and cultivars included 'Molly', 'Superb' and 'Lasseter's Gold', all with large, showy flowers. Among the true species were *G. paradoxa*, *G. magnifica*, *G. lanigera* and *G. bronwenae*.

Grevillea maxwellii is a small, layered shrub to about 1m, known only from one site in the far south of Western Australia. It produces great clusters of pendant, deep crimson/red flowers in winter and spring.

Grevillea thyrsoides is a low-growing shrub which produces its flowers on the end of long stalks which trail on the ground. It is a very interesting plant and makes a spectacular standard.

Some discussion was had over a specimen bought as *Grevillea drummondii*, but which some members thought might rather be *G. pimeleoides*. The plant is flowering for the first time in Ade's garden and has rather broad, dark green, hairy leaves which terminate in little points. The flowers are in clusters about the size of a ten cent piece and are egg yolk yellow maturing to orange. The jury is still out. 😊



The Grevillea in question 😊

Correas always feature in the colder months, and many of the specimens on the table were of indeterminate species. Many appear to have arisen as hybrids from other correas in the gardens of our members, and *Correa 'No Idea'* was heavily represented. Among those that were identified were *C. alba*, *C. pulchella*, *C. reflexa* and 'Pink Mist', 'Catie Bec', 'Redex' and 'Dusky Bells'.

There were several Eremophilas on show. *E. maculata* ssp *brevifolia* is a robust plant with deep purple flowers. One of the many variants of *E. maculata* had maroon/red flowers with the usual spotted 'throat'. *E. decipiens* is a compact shrub to about 1m with narrow leaves and red, orange or yellow flowers. It is found over much of the southern half of Western Australia. Among the others were two cultivars of *E. glabra* – 'Kalbarri Carpet' and 'Murchison Magic'.



***Eremophila glabra* – Kalbarri Carpet**

Matt Baars showed a lovely baby pink flowered form of *Corymbia ficifolia* which he has growing in pots.

Hakeas were the other group well represented on the table – *H. pycnoneura*, *H. scoparia*, *H. subsulcata* and a potted specimen of *H. clavata* which Carmel grew by planting a single leaf rescued for a previous plant table.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - *Grevillea 'Peaches'n'Cream'*

By Ade Foster

The raffle this month was won by the multi-talented Phil Royce who chose *Grevillea Peaches'n'Cream*, which I had brought to the meeting. So

Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream' is a spectacular and very popular grevillea cultivar which has become widely available in Australia in recent years. It is a shrub that grows to 1.5 by 1.5 metres has bright green deeply divided leaves, which tend to take on a bronze sheen in winter. The large flowers, which can reach 15 cm x 9 cm, are a soft yellow when they first open, but take on various shades of pink and orange as they age. Sadly, like many of the Grevilleas in this complex, they are not good cut flowers, and fall apart after a day or two in a vase.



Mature flowers of *G. 'Peaches'n'Cream'*.

Peaches 'n' Cream is a hybrid of a white-flowered form of *Grevillea banksii*, from Queensland, and *G. bipinnatifida* from Western Australia. It was selected from a plant which appeared in a garden in Logan Village, a suburb to the south of Brisbane, in 1997. It was propagated by Queensland horticulturists and SGAP members Dennis Cox and Janice Glazebrook, and was finally registered in 2006. It is of the same parentage as 'Superb' and 'Robyn Gordon' and like these more common varieties it is a prolific and long-flowering plant.

Its smaller size makes it an ideal plant in a small garden, and it is bird attracting. My specimens are constantly visited by New Holland Honeyeaters, and Red Wattlebirds. It is tolerant of a wide range of conditions, including humidity, low rainfall and frost down to -5 °C



The plant on my nature strip taken in July

I planted two on my nature-strip about seven or eight years ago. There had been a broken water main, and Barwon Water, after digging a hole about 1.5 m2 x 2m deep to repair the mains, kindly back-filled with a lovely dark, sandy loam. The grevillea I planted in that spot loved it! The one in planted over the burst main has flourished, bearing flowers all year, but most prolific in autumn and spring. The other is slightly smaller, and bears fewer flowers, but is responding well to some Osmocote and a light pruning. I suggest cutting off the finished flower heads, but otherwise a gentle pruning to encourage flowering.

FUTURE MEETINGS

17th July	AGM and Photo Competition
21st August	Frank and Tina Scheelings will tell us about their recent trips.
18th September	T.B.A
16th October	Cathy Powers – Moths
20th November	Tony Cavanagh - Dryandras
December	Xmas break-up. TBA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	17th July, 2018

Our annual general meeting will be held at 7.30 on 17th July, 2018 at the Ballroom, Calvert Street, Hamlyn Heights. All committee positions will be declared vacant, and elections will be held to appoint a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and general committee members. Nominations can be sent to our current Secretary at phil.i.royce@gmail.com or nominations will be accepted from the floor on the night.

The business of the AGM will be:

- confirm the minutes of the previous AGM,
- receive & consider the annual reports of the President and Treasurer,
- conduct the election of the next committee,
- vote on any special resolutions proposed by members and received in accordance with our Rules of Incorporation (note that the Committee has no plans to present any).

You must be a current financial member to stand for a position on the committee, or to vote at the AGM. A membership form is included with this newsletter so that you can be a financial member on the date of the AGM and have your say.

There are three ways for you to pay....

1. Fill in the form and mail it to: The Secretary, APS Geelong, P.O. Box 2012, Geelong, along with your cheque made out to 'APS Geelong'
2. Pay our Treasurer directly at the next meeting, or the AGM prior to commencement, but please have your completed membership form with you for our records.
3. You may pay online - bank details are on the bottom of the form. If you choose this method, please put your name in the transaction details, email the treasurer to confirm that you have paid - ftscheelings@gmail.com - and mail or give your completed membership form to the secretary.

If you are eligible to vote but can't attend on the 17th July, you may appoint a Proxy to vote on your behalf. Contact the Secretary to get copy of the Proxy form if required.

PHOTO COMPETITION

After the AGM we will have our annual photo competition. There are a few updated rules for this year, so please take note ...

- * Once again, there will be three categories: Australian Plants, Australian Animals, & Australian Landscapes
- * Photo format - colour or black & white, 5"x7" size only
- * All photos must be taken in Australia
- * This year, to keep it manageable, there is a cap on entries: 2 photos per person per category
- * Voting is one vote per person per category

* Prizes of wine or chocolates will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category.

Always good fun, so get your photos ready 😊



A previous 'Photo Comp' winner by Geoff Wilson

SOME EXCITEMENT IN OUR GARDEN by Ade Foster

I'm always excited when a new plant flowers for the first time, particularly when it is a species that I've not seen before, either in cultivation or in nature. This week, I've had such a moment with *Eremophila splendens*.

My *Eremophila splendens* was a raffle prize (one of the few that Carmel *didn't* win) courtesy of Bruce McGinness. We chose it because of its soft, almost furry foliage.

Eremophila splendens is restricted to Shark Bay/Steep Point area about midway along the Western coast of Western Australia. It grows in sandy soil on the heathlands with *Thryptomene* and *Melaleuca*.

It was perhaps once thought to be an unnamed subspecies of *Eremophila glabra* ... *E. glabra* subsp. Shark Bay. It is a small shrub up to 1.5 metres high. The leaves are greyish green in colour, about 40 mm long and quite hairy. The flowers are usually deep red in colour, up to 30 mm long and tubular in shape. They mainly occur in spring.

It is interesting that descriptions of the foliage vary greatly from source to source, and photographs on the internet vary from long to almost round in shape.

E. splendens has undoubtedly been cultivated as a form of *E. glabra*. But, there seems to be little available information on the viability of *E. splendens* as a garden plant. Given its natural distribution, it would be expected to prefer dry climates in a well drained, sunny position and be a plant which would be good in coastal gardens. It should strike from cuttings of hardened, current season's growth. However, the hairy foliage may cause issues of rot under misting conditions.



My first flowers.

Hans Greisser wrote an article for the ANSPA website on growing *eremophilas* in the Dandenongs. He says of *E. splendens*: *This is my favourite with its orange-red flowers, round leaves and very rapid growth, though it can become leggy quickly and needs regular pruning. Despite its hairyness, only occasional browning of branchlets occurs in winter, but this is not a real problem as the plant quickly re-shoots from below the point of attack, essentially saving pruning. A most rewarding plant in full sun and an uncrowded position, and easy to propagate as well*

The late **Corinne Hampel** wrote in her blog on the Mallee Native Plants Nursery website - *I find Eremophila splendens to be a spectacular plant when in flower. The bright red flowers glow against the foliage which is quite hairy similar to some Eremophila glabra forms. This plant needs very good drainage. It is either a sprawling low plant or can be quite upright.*

Last winter I lost some small plants to frost but I want to try again in a more sheltered location where the canopy of mallees may protect them. This is a plant that needs to be pruned after flowering to encourage new and dense growth. Mature plants get very leggy and have sparse foliage without the pruning.

So thanks Bruce! Links to the pages mentioned

<https://www.anpsa.org.au/APOL27/sep02-3.html>

<https://www.malleenativeplants.com.au/>