



Newsletter

April 2021

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Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published in **November 2021**

We would love to hear from you about your garden or what is going on in the local bush with plants of the Goodeniaceae family.
Photos are appreciated too.

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A Word from the Leader

Royce Raleigh

As we find in many areas Covid Restrictions are not as severe as they previously were and many APS Groups are getting back to meetings, outings and excursions.

We hope that all members enjoyed their Christmas.

I mentioned last November that we had had good rains for most of the year and the garden was looking good. Since then apart from a good fall in early January we have had very little rain for the last 4 months. Both our large dams are dry and we are totally reliant on Wimmera Mallee Water for our gardening and stock water.

We have managed to continue planting and renovating tired garden beds and because of our severe frosts we have to be careful where we plant many species. We have just filled a narrow garden bed with over 40 *Lechenaultias* under some large *Callistemons*. We look forward to their growth and flowering. I will keep you posted.



This part of a garden bed we replanted in Feb/Mar 2020. You can see good growth of 3 forms of *Lechenaultia biloba*, *Lechenaultia formosa*, and *Boronia purdeana* on the right.

A big thank you to all those who have made a contribution to the current newsletter. We all have had *Scaevola* seedlings come up in the garden, but Hazel's *Scaevola argentea* x Wild Wonder certainly looks a floriferous plant with massed flowering.

A gem to be included in anybody's garden. Maybe other members can send in some photos of some of their seedlings, particularly any that have proved vigorous plants in the garden.

We will watch the development of Neil Duncan's sand bed with interest.

We are most envious of your *Scaevola phlebopetalum* which looks great. We hope that it continues to thrive as we have lost ours to frost. Is this a problem for you?

Growing it in a tub may be the solution for us.

Thank you, Margaret for your “Goodeniaceae in Denmark” article. You are so lucky to have those species growing naturally. Jeanne and I and other members will be delighted to see such a clear photo of *Goodenia eatoniana*. The splash of white in the centre makes it a most attractive flower.

Thanks Maree, for drawing our attention to the different forms of *Scaevola calendulacea* in the Swan Reserve in

Warrnambool. The Reserve features many interesting plants and is well worth a visit.

We would like to see many more photos and comments for the next newsletter. Get the camera out as your Goodeniaceae begin to flower.

Happy gardening in 2021!

A couple of new *Dampieras* in the garden

Text and Photos: Royce Raleigh

Here are two more new *Dampieras* that we have planted in the last year. Jeanne was able to propagate them.



There are quite a few hairs on the leaves and the stems. Unfortunately my camera is unable to take really good close up shots. Hopefully I will some better information on this and the next *Dampiera* for the next newsletter.



One of the new very fine *Dampieras* that we have recently planted. The leaves are so tiny and when it flowers later in the year I will try and get some good closeups.

“Old and New Relationships within the Goodeniaceae”

This was the title of a talk to be delivered this week to the WA Wildflower Society in Perth by Dr Kelly Shepherd. Unfortunately it was cancelled due to Covid issues in Perth.

We will try to get a synopsis of the talk for the next newsletter.

Nature Changes - *Scaevola argentea* x 'Wild Wonder'

Text and Photos: Hazel Dempster

This amazing plant surfaced from a batch of self-sown seedlings of *Scaevola argentea*, a colourful ground cover with soft silver foliage. The different looking seedling enticed me to grow it on successfully to become a very floriferous mound flowering all summer and more. Propagates easily

from branched cuttings and proving quite resilient to hot Perth summers with occasional deep watering. I gave it the name of *Scaevola argentea* x 'Wild Wonder'



Above and below: *Scaevola argentea* x Wild Wonder





Scaevola argentea - one of the parent plants.



Scaevola argentea x Wild Wonder

It has been available for a while, being grown at The Wildflower Society Lansdale nursery and I am at the Australian Native Nursery south of Perth where I am growing it. I did give some to Digby at KP but he said it didn't meet his Scaevola credentials. I believe is as good any they have released, and more drought resistant it is all WA. Daughter Sue uses it in her Western Wildflower Garden programmes and her clients love it.

Neil Marriot and Phil Vaughan did have plants of it. I haven't registered the name yet but must do with so ACC? I don't think I will be out and about as much as I used to. Will endeavour to get further articles to you as I am now doing a lot more propagation of WA species introducing them and trialling to increasing numbers wholesale nursery conditions

Scaevola creates a potted, beachy-oasis in suburban Melbourne

Text and Photos: Janet Hodgkiss

I have been entranced by Scaevola ever since I was a child. I grew up in South Africa and can still remember the wonder I felt when I first came across a *Scaevola plumieri* flowering in the dunes. I knew the plant well, and loved its thick, paddle-like leaves but I'd never seen this white 'half-flower' and it absolutely fascinated me. I could barely contain my excitement when, 25 years later, on my first visit to Australia and during a visit to the Pinnacles in WA, I discovered a Scaevola growing next to one of the rocks, flowering, and in the most incredible shade of blue!

So began my passion for the more blue and less purple or mauve, Scaevolae. At the FJC Rogers Seminar on Goodeniaceae in 2018, I was pleased to pick up an enchanting, pale sky-blue *Scaevola porocarya* (Striate-fruit Scaevola). Along with a *Scaevola nitida* (or maybe it's *S. crassifolia*) and a *Scaevola calendulacea*, the *S. porocarya* has been perfect for creating 'coolness' in my garden and creating a beachy-oasis feel. Best of all though, as a relative newbie to my garden, it seems to be coping very well with the rather extreme conditions in my courtyard garden.



Scaevola porocarya.



Scaevola porocarya flowering stems.

I live in a small rental property, and the owners' idea of a care- and maintenance-free garden for tenants, along with the attendant microclimate, has governed how I garden for more than a decade.



Scaevola calendulacea.

When I moved in, they'd removed all the plants and shrubs except for a citrus tree in the corner (cut back to below the graft, so all it does is very enthusiastically grow leaves and thorns!), and a raggedy camellia hedge that screens me from my neighbour. They'd laid down weed matting and spread a substantial layer of creamy-white river pebbles over the top, and while the 27m2 rectangular space looked very spartan and bleak, I am very thankful they did not choose artificial lawn over the pebbles! About a third of the space is taken up with utilities (space for bins, potting bench, rainwater tank, washing line) and while the pebbles form a lovely natural, neutral surface, if you've ever walked on a pebble beach, you'll know just how uncomfortable and difficult a surface it is to walk on. I got around this by constructing wooden panels to form a removable 'boardwalk' which to my delight, inadvertently created a beach-like atmosphere.

I can't easily dig through the pebbles and weed mat to plant, nor would I want to, because the area where I live only has a thin layer of soil overlying rock solid, perfect brick-making clay! In summer my garden is in full sun and can get very hot and dry, especially when the north wind blows and the sun reflects off the white pebbles. In winter, the shadow of the house puts it into shade all day, and along with rain, can make it cold and damp. So, my entire back garden is in pots, mostly 10L bucket size, because these are easy to move around if it looks like plants may be needing more sun, and, if/when I move, I can take my garden with me. Growing plants in pots is more labour intensive though because they are totally reliant on you for food and water, so choosing plants that are naturally tough, like my Scaevolae, helps reduce the worry should you miss an occasional watering or feeding.

I generally feed everything (my Aussie natives and exotic 'sentimentals' alike) with a little sprinkle of slow-release fertiliser formulated for natives in spring, and then perhaps once or twice later in the year when they look like they might be hungry again. As you can see, I don't follow a strict 'according-to-the-packet' schedule because I've found with pot-grown plants, the amount of natural rainfall and size of the pot will determine how quickly nutrients are either used by the plant, or leached from the potting mix. I like using granules because it's an easy and non-messy way to

supply essential nutrients, but whenever I repot anything, I make sure the potting mix includes a good proportion of homemade compost. I don't use a 'specially formulated for natives' bought potting mix either, although I do buy the best I can afford on the day, always choosing one that has no added fertiliser or water retaining granules. In this way, I have a basic mix that I can easily modify according to different plants' needs, such as adding perlite or coarse river sand to lighten the mix. If my plants look like they need a quick boost in between slow-release feedings, then they get a drink of liquid fertiliser, an apology for any neglect and loads of encouragement and love!

To ensure my pots don't dry out in summer, they all get a good watering in the mornings, especially on our 35oC+ days, and they all stand in saucers so that any excess water can be absorbed during the day.

In winter the story is a bit different. I water very rarely during winter because we usually get enough rain, although I do check my pots every few days to be sure that the soil is still a bit damp. Those endless grey days don't always mean that it's rained and your pots can still dry out! I have learnt to up-end all the saucers in winter because while a plant suffering from dehydration can be saved if it's not left too late, it is impossible to resurrect a completely drowned plant whose roots have started to rot.

The Scaevolae I mentioned earlier are all very forgiving and seem to be very tolerant of life in a pot. I've propagated the *Scaevola nitida/crassifolia* several times already, to replace plants that got too leggy. I say *nitida/crassifolia* because I got the two species from two different, reputable sources as tubestock, but when they grew, matured and flowered, they looked identical to me, and I can't figure out which of the two species they are, or if they are just one and not two different species. From my reading, it seems they may be very similar in appearance and not that easy to tell apart, so it is possible that one of the growers may have misidentified their plant. If anyone knows what the determining difference/s between the two species is, I'd be interested to know.



Scaevola nitida or *crassifolia*.

My *Scaevola calendulacea* cascades over the edge of its pot and trails along the white pebbles looking like a frothy wave, while the *Scaevola porocarya*, at about 1.2m from the top of the pot, adds a bit of height. The flowering stems on my plant seem to have a drooping habit but I am not sure if this is the norm, or a result of the shadier winter conditions. Either way, I like the willowy look. The pale blue flowers are quite large, started appearing in winter (late June) and the plant continued to flower for ages, providing welcome colour for well over four months.

I am very pleased with how these three Scaevolae have brought height and form interest to my tiny garden without overwhelming, and I particularly love how the various shades of sea- and sky-blue enhance the beachy oasis feel.

Bathroom Tiles

Photos: Margaret Pieroni

Below are photos of tiles in the bathroom in my house in Denmark.



My New Sand Bed

Text and Photos: Neil Duncan

During the lockdown last year I spent some time reducing the lawn and putting in a sand bed. The bed is only about 15cm deep over a loam soil. Most of the plants are the *dampiera*, *scaevola* and *lechenaultia* I had obtained at the FC Rogers conference in Horsham with a few other plants needing good drainage put in as well. They were planted in April but didn't do much till late spring when most decided to grow although a few needed to be replaced. They really only started to look good in the last month with the *Scaevola*

platyphylla and *Scaevola phlebopetala* looking outstanding and the *Lechenaultia formosa* putting on a bright show. The bed is not big about 7m x 4m with a Tuscan gravel mulch. The sand was a washed sand so absolutely nothing in it. I had some spare soil to add to it but only about 5% of the total and added native Osmocote at planting. Once established I gave them a top dressing of Bush Tucker. Hopefully in spring the other plants will also put on a great show.



New garden bed.



Scaevola phlebopetala .



Scaevola phlebopetala .



Lechenaultia formosa.



Lechenaultia formosa "Fiery Red".



Scaevola platyphylla.



Scaevola platyphylla.



Lechenaultia formosa orange growing in a pot.

Goodeniaceae in Denmark

Text and Photos: Margaret Pieroni

My property is a one acre block on the lower slopes of Mount Hallowell, west of the town of Denmark, with tall eucalypts, Karri, Marri and Jarrah occurring together and a rich understorey of plants including 5 in Goodeniaceae. They are: *Dampiera linearis*, *D. hederacea*, *Goodenia eatoniana*, *Scaevola striata* and *S. microphylla*. These plants are all growing in the undisturbed natural vegetation on the block in laterite gravel and clay and not in a garden situation. In cultivation, they would form bushier and more floriferous plants. I have propagated *D. hederacea* and *S. microphylla* from cuttings to plant back in areas disturbed during the building of my house.



Dampiera linearis. Photo taken in November 2020.

G. eatoniana is one of my favourite plants. I once had a pure white-flowered plant and a variegated one that was destroyed when the Shire workers slashed and ripped from the ground, the plants growing on the road verge. The plants die back over summer and they flower for quite a few weeks in November to December. The verge in front of a house further down my street was once covered with a blue carpet of *G. eatoniana* and it had quite a few plants again, last year. The first leaves to appear form a rosette and the spreading, flowering branches have different shaped, stem-clasping



Above & below: *Goodenia eatoniana*. Photos taken in November 2020.



leaves. This habit of growth lent itself to a design for the tiles that I painted for my bathroom.

D. hederacea is also a very beautiful species. In a good year, it is the dominant flowering plant in the karri forest west of Denmark for many weeks in spring.



Dampiera hederacea. Photo taken in November 2020.

Scaevola calendulacea

Text and Photos: Maree Goods



Is it, or not *Scaevola calendulacea*?

At the APS Victoria Quarterly weekend held in Warrnambool in March 2021 one of the excursions was to the Swan Reserve. Keven Sparrow was our host.

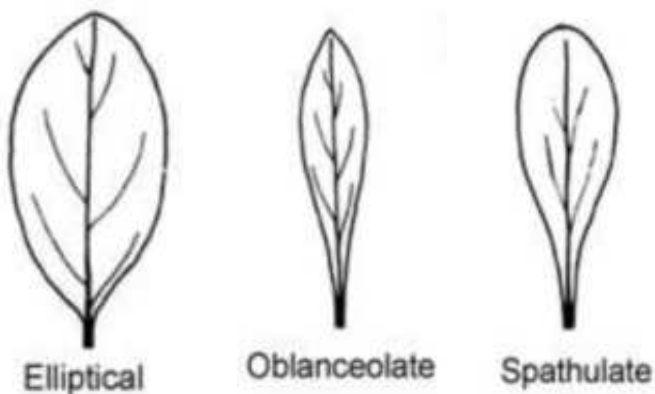
Part of the discussion was about two plants of *Scaevola*. Both were ground covers and looked very much like *Scaevola calendulacea* but one had very round leaves while the other much longer leaves. We decided they were both *Scaevola calendulacea* with variation in the leaf shape.

I was more convinced of this after my return home when I looked up Volume 8 of *Encyclopedia of Australian Plants* by W Rodger Elliot and David L Jones. Description of leaves is as follows: leaves 3-10 cm x 0.5-3 cm, elliptic to oblanceolate or spatulate.

The same is given for the leaf shape in VicFlora.
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/bb2afb1c-0d56-4541-97a7-f21bbf87b53a>

Opposite: The two leaf shapes of *Scaevola calendulacea* at the Swan Reserve.

Below: The three leaf shapes described in Volume 8 of *Encyclopedia of Australian Plants*.



Colour forms of *Lechenaultia formosa*

Text and Photos: Royce Raleigh

Most of us growing *Lechenaultia formosa* are constantly on the lookout for different colour forms.

Here are some of the colour forms that we have grown at Wartook Gardens. In order to keep them going Jeanne has managed to propagate a number of them so that we are trying to ensure multiples are dotted around the garden.



In the yellow & orange forms there are often subtle colour variations and although most members would be happy with a “yellow” and or “orange” we like to try and grow as many colour variations as we can find. There are lots more “out there” than we have.

If any members have different or interesting colour forms please send us some photos. If members have any good or interesting sources of supply of different forms please also let us know.



In the orange forms there are a number of plain orange and others with a small or large splash of yellow in the flower. Some of these on the edge of a garden bed are very striking.

Often we hear comments that many of these are “drop dead georgous” plants. However although that has proved correct in some instances we have some forms that are well over 30 years old. Soil preparation and careful supplementary summer watering seems to work for us.



Unfortunately, we have lost this plant, as the summer before last we let it get too dry. It was about 40 cm high and made a spectacular display.

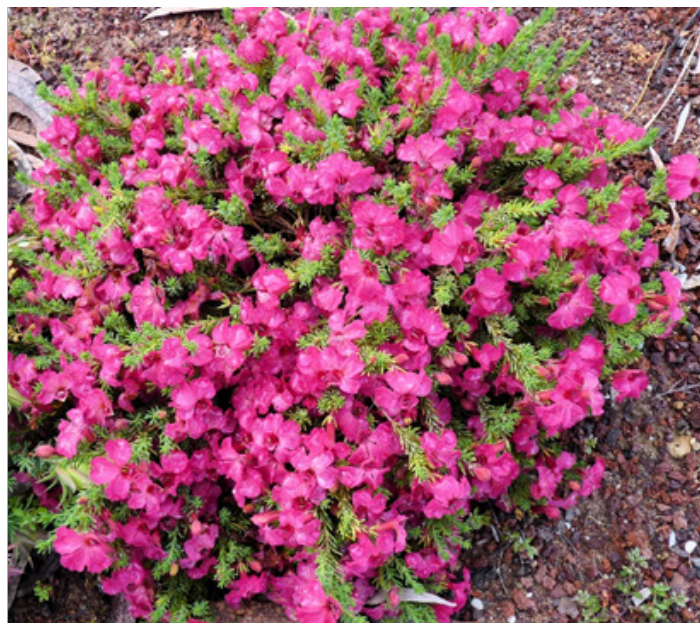
In the reds there are so many shades from bright red through to the many pinks. Many of these make a wonderful contrast when grown together with some of the colour forms of *Lechenaultia biloba*



There are number of forms of prostrate red *Lechenaultia formosa*.



Lechenaultia formosa "Lola" is another that we have unfortunately lost because again we let it get too dry the summer before last.





Lechenaultia Ultra Violet although not a *L formosa*. it is a *L formosa* cross which is much more like a *L formosa* than its other parent *L biloba*.



Lechenaultia formosa "Peaches and Cream" is another interesting colour form and we no longer have this plant.

Many of you may have some other interesting colours and it would be great to not only see the photos but where some of them may be obtained.

Goodenia ovata at the Swan Reserve, Warrnambool

Photo: Maree Goods

