

Australian Pea Flower Study Group

PEA MAIL

Newsletter No. 5 - June 2023

ISSN:2652-8258

Editor: Shirley McLaran | 10 Aurora Court Warners Bay NSW 2282

Website: <https://anpsa.org.au/pea-flowerSG> | Email: fabpeamail@gmail.com

Introduction

The featured genus in this issue is *Bossiaea* with its showy flowers and varied, fascinating foliage. It is great to see how popular they are in cultivation. I was pleasantly surprised by all the contributions. Thank you.

The inaugural 'Pea Forage' was held on the Central Coast of New South Wales in August. Over the weekend, 24 members foraged in Brisbane Water National Park, Bouddi National Park and Wyrribalong National Park. Stories from the weekend will be shared in the next newsletter.

On a personal level, I bought a house in June and have a small yard in which I plan to experiment with propagating and growing pea-flowered plants. There was not one plant to be seen when I moved in, so the grass and pavers are slowly making way for gardens. So far, the Western Australia species *Gastrolobium celsianum*, *Gastrolobium praemorsum* 'Brown Butterfly', *Gastrolobium sericeum* 'Lemon Drops', and *Eutaxia epacridoides* are doing well in the ground. *Kennedia prostrata* is looking happy in a hanging pot.

Hap-pea hunting

Shirley McLaran

Study Group Leader and Newsletter Editor



Bossiaea linophylla

In This Issue

- Bossiaeas of the Central Coast, NSW
- *Bossiaea* - distinctive plants in a garden
- A Learning Experience East of Tarago with Tim Hayes of the APS Southern Tablelands Group
- Growing Bossiaeas in the northern Adelaide Hills
- Innes National Park in Winter

An introduction to the genus *Bossiaea* Vent.

Shirley McLaran

Bossiaea is a morphologically diverse genus of shrubs, subshrubs and small trees, endemic to Australia, occurring in all states and mainland territories, from sea level to 1500m. Diversity is greatest in the southwest of Western Australia and the southeast of Australia. The habitats they occupy are also diverse. The genus name honours Joseph Hugues Boissieu La Martinière, a botanist on La Pérouse's expedition to Australia (1785-1788). The genus was formally described in 1800 by Frenchman Étienne Pierre Ventenat. *Bossiaea heterophylla* was the first species described.

Distribution and habitat

There are approximately 80 species in the genus with half occurring in Western Australia and the other half in the remainder of Australia (referred to hereafter as the eastern Australian species). Of the species found in Western Australia, *Bossiaea walkeri* extends across southern Australia into SA, NSW and Victoria and *Bossiaea bossiaeooides* extends across northern Australia into the NT and Queensland. Many of the Western Australian species occupy heathland and understorey of eucalypt-dominated woodland, while some species are associated with salt lake systems. The eastern Australian species are mostly understorey shrubs of open forests and woodlands in regions with an annual rainfall greater than 500mm. The arid land species *Bossiaea walkeri*, is the exception. *Bossiaea* is absent from Central Australia. Four species occur in south-eastern New South Wales and Victoria at moderate to high altitudes, one of which, *Bossiaea foliosa*, extends into the alpine zone.

Flowers

Many species of *Bossiaea* wear the 'bacon and egg' label, that is, the petals are yellow or orange-yellow with red markings and occasionally elements of pink, purple, burgundy, brown or green. Some species are uniformly coloured.

In four Western Australian species, *Bossiaea cucullata*, *Bossiaea dentata*, *Bossiaea preissii* and *Bossiaea walkeri*, the flowers are pendulous, the apex of the standard pointing downwards towards the ground. With the exception of *Bossiaea preissii* the standard and wing petals are reduced in size and the keel petals are elongated and typically pink, red or burgundy which suggests that they are adapted for pollination by birds. *Bossiaea rupicola* (Qld and NSW) and *Bossiaea carinalis* (Qld) also have red flowers with elongated keels and reduced standards and wing petals, but the flowers are not pendulous.

Belonging to the Bossiaeeae tribe, the stalks of the stamens (filaments) are fused into a sheath that is open on the upper side, anthers alternately long and short. In comparison, genera in the Mirbelieae tribe have free stamens.



***Bossiaea ornata*, Sullivan Rock, WA**



***Bossiaea dentata*, Lucky Bay, WA**

Foliage

Species are characterised by the presence or absence of leaves. Generally, if leaves are present, stipules are also present at the base of the leaf stalk. Leaf blades are highly variable in shape. Leaves are commonly **unifoliolate** arranged **distichously** on the stem. Several species have opposite leaves. Where leaves are present, branches may be terete or compressed. The presence of spines at the end of branchlets is another diagnostic character.

In leafless species, stipules are united to form a scale. There are 25 leafless species, 13 in Western Australia and 12 in eastern Australia. Branches and branchlets of leafless species are mostly broadly winged and are called cladodes.

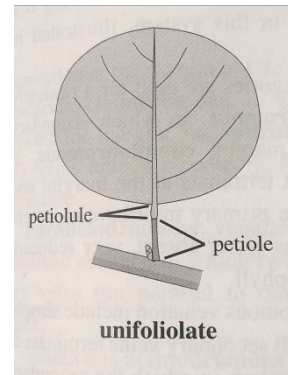


***Bossiaea bracteata*,**
Alpine National Park, Victoria

Image: [Chris Clarke](#) (CC BY)

Unifoliolate leaf

Appears to be a simple leaf but is actually a single leaflet attached to the tip of the petiole (stalk of the leaf). It is understood to be an ancestrally compound leaf reduced to a single leaflet. This type of leaf is recognisable by the articulation (joint) between petiole and petiolule (stalk of the leaflet). The articulation may be geniculate (bent like a knee); marked by a change in diameter from petiole to petiolule; or obscure. In addition the articulation may be spurred or ridged. *Bossiaea stephensonii* and *Bossiaea kiamensis* are two examples of geniculate articulation with a spur.



(Simpson, Plant Systematics, 2010)

Distichous (2-ranked):

The leaves are arranged in two rows on opposite sides of a stem and in the same plane, as can be seen in *Bossiaea rhombifolia* (right).

***Bossiaea rhombifolia*,**
Lake Macquarie, NSW



An introduction to the genus *Bossiaea* Vent.

Shirley McLaran

Fruit

Fruits are flattened pods, oblong to circular, with a thickened upper suture. On maturity, the valves of the pod roll back lengthwise to release the seeds. The seeds are plump with a small hilum and a hooded cap-like aril. In some species the valves remain on the plant and are present in the next flowering period exposing the silvery inner surface.

Cultivation

Several *Bossiaea* species do very well in cultivation as shown by member experiences in the pages following.



***Bossiaea heterophylla*,
Bateau Bay, NSW**



***Bossiaea oligosperma*, Windellama, NSW**



***Bossiaea ornata*, Sullivan Rock, WA**

McDougall, K. L. (2009) Four new species related to *Bossiaea bracteosa* F. Muell. ex Benth. in southeastern Australia *Telopea* 12(3)

Ross, J. H. (2006) A Conspectus of the Western Australian *Bossiaea* species (Bossiaeeae: Fabaceae) *Muelleria* 23

Simpson, M. G. (2010) *Plant Systematics* Second Edition Elsevier

Thompson, I. R. (2012) A revision of eastern Australian *Bossiaea* (Fabaceae: Bossiaeeae) *Muelleria* 30(2)

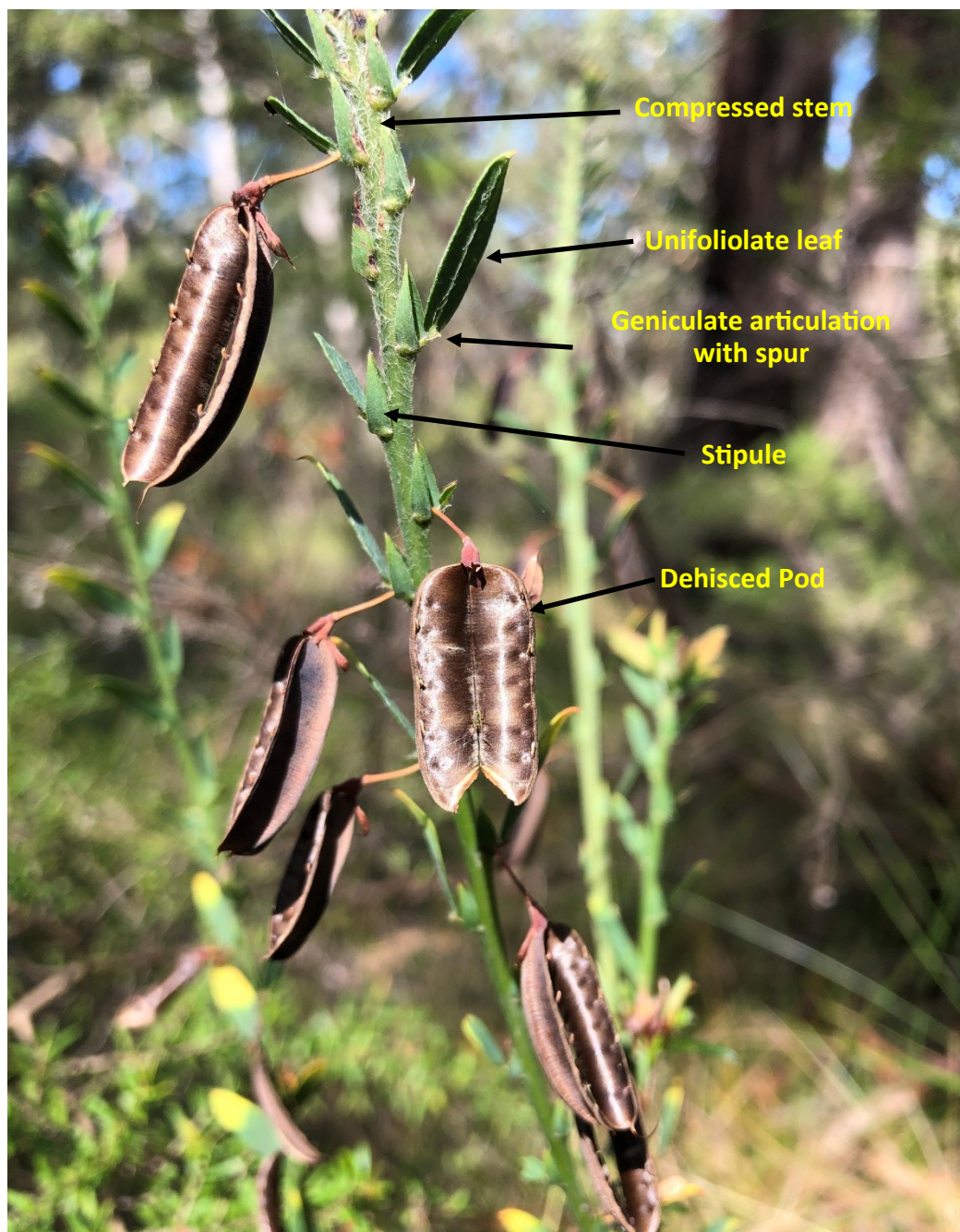
The glossary of botanical terms from PlantNET (The NSW Plant Information Network System) is available here.

<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-in/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&glossary=yes&alpha=A>

An introduction to the genus *Bossiaea* Vent.

Shirley McLaran

Bossiaea stephensonii has been a favourite of mine since I noticed the large leaf-like stipules. This photo exhibits some of the characters discussed in the preceding pages.



Bossiaea stephensonii, Lake Macquarie, NSW

Bossiaeas of the Central Coast, NSW

Shirley McLaran, NSW

In preparation for the pea forage to be held on the Central Coast, NSW in August, I familiarised myself with the species expected to be seen over the weekend. Five species of *Bossiaea* that occur there have flattened stems more or less, and two of those are leafless.

Leaves present

The three species with leaves are *Bossiaea heterophylla*, *Bossiaea stephensonii* and *Bossiaea obcordata*.

Bossiaea obcordata (Spiny Bossiaea) is recognised by spinescent branchlets and heart-shaped leaves attached to the petiole at the tapering end. It is widespread in dry sclerophyll forest and heath in New South Wales and Victoria and just reaching into the southern border region of Queensland.

Bossiaea heterophylla (Variable Bossiaea) leaves are ovate to linear and are often variable in shape on the same plant, the basis for its name. It grows in a variety of habitats in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Bossiaea stephensonii is sometimes mistaken for *Bossiaea heterophylla* because the leaves are similar. A close look reveals *Bossiaea stephensonii* has erect, triangular, leaf-like stipules and long hairs. It is endemic to NSW where it occurs near the coast from Port Macquarie to Wollongong.



Barbara Melville

Bossiaea stephensonii



Bossiaea heterophylla



Bossiaea obcordata

Bossiaeas of the Central Coast, NSW

Shirley McLaran, NSW

Leaves absent

Bossiaea ensata (Sword Bossiaea) and *Bossiaea scolopendria* (Plank Plant) have flattened winged stems called cladodes.

Bossiaea ensata is the smaller of the two and generally has fewer flowers. The flowers are smaller and the foliage is more lax than those of *Bossiaea scolopendria* that tends to be taller and more erect with large flowers on stout pedicels.

Bossiaea ensata grows in sandy soils in heathland and open forest in south-east Queensland, eastern New South Wales and north-east Victoria. *Bossiaea scolopendria* grows in heathland and forest, especially on Hawkesbury sandstone from Gosford to the Sassafras area.



Bossiaea ensata



Bossiaea scolopendria in flower



Bossiaea scolopendria pods

PlantNET (The NSW Plant Information Network System). Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Sydney. <https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au> [accessed 13/11/2023]
Thompson, I. R. (2012) A revision of eastern Australian *Bossiaea* (Fabaceae: Bossiaeeae)

Bossiaea oligosperma

Tim Hayes, NSW

The species featured here is *Bossiaea oligosperma*. The photo shown was taken in an area (Windellama) south of where I live. The species is common in the area occupying roadsides and sizeable areas on private properties. However, its Conservation Rating is ‘Vulnerable’ in both the Commonwealth and New South Wales.

This species was declared in 1981, in a sense ‘splitting it’ from *Bossiaea rhombifolia*. *Bossiaea oligosperma* has two main occurrences: the Warragamba area in the Southern Blue Mountains and the Windellama area in the Southern Tablelands. The two species look similar in a general way; attention to detail reveals the differences.



“Easily identified from *Bossiaea rhombifolia* as it has few seeds and hence its common name Few Seeded *Bossiaea*” (Bill Handke)

Photo of foliage provided by Bill Handke



Bossiaea - distinctive plants in a garden

Bill Handke OAM, ACT

Bossiaea plants have a very different look to that of most native peas – and other plants. While there is much variation across the pea family, *Bossiaea* species with flattened branches stand out as unusual, while the various prostrate bossiaea are colourful fillers between other garden plants.

In my garden in Canberra I have 49 pea species, which include 10 *Bossiaea* species (with multiple specimens of some of them).

Those bossiaea with flattened branches include *Bossiaea grayi* (Murrumbidgee Bossiaea), a rare and threatened species that only occurs along a small section of the Murrumbidgee River within the ACT and nearby NSW); *Bossiaea riparia* (River Leafless Bossiaea) which grows in exposed spots in the higher parts of the ACT and in the ranges to the south; *Bossiaea scolopendria* (Plank Bossiaea) an erect open plant that grows around the Gosford district; and *Bossiaea walkeri* (Cactus Bossiaea) a stiff tall shrub that grows in dry mallee country in western NSW, South Australia and Western Australia.

(Bossiaea with flattened branches are generally “stiff” plants).

Then there are a number of prostrate ones: *Bossiaea prostrata* (Creeping Bossiaea), a low spreading plant with weak trailing branches mostly found east of the Dividing Range in NSW but also through southern Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia; *Bossiaea buxifolia* (Matted Bossiaea), another widespread prostrate woodland plant that looks similar to *Bossiaea prostrata* but has smaller more densely-packed leaves; and *Bossiaea cordigera* (Wiry Bossiaea), a plant from the hills north of Melbourne and northern Tasmania that has a stiff wiry form.

Three others in the garden have very different forms: their common names are very apt. They are *Bossiaea foliosa* (Leafy Bossiaea) a tall shrub that grows in higher areas, often in dense stands under gums, has tiny densely-packed leaves and stand-out bright yellow flowers; *Bossiaea cinerea* (Showy Bossiaea) with wedge-shaped leaves growing in sandy heath, woodland or forest south of Bega and southern Victoria, widespread in Tasmania and in south-east South Australia, preferring some shade; and *Bossiaea linophylla* (Narrow-leaf Bossiaea) a tall thinly-leafed shrub from south-west Western Australia.

Continued over page



Bossiaea grayi



Bossiaea walkeri



Bossiaea foliosa

Bossiaea - distinctive plants in a garden (continued)

Unlike many native peas, these *Bossiaea* tolerate, perhaps enjoy, moist soils – even *Bossiaea walkeri* from dry inland areas has responded with a burst of growth during a very wet winter and spring. But severe frosty winters can be a trial for both *Bossiaea prostrata* and *Bossiaea buxifolia* if not under the protection of some over-storey. *Bossiaea buxifolia* growing in a nature reserve a few hundred metres from where I live, are all under the protection of eucalypts.

This genus of plants is a delight in nature, and in a garden.

Bill Handke OAM



Bossiaea buxifolia

Bossiaea grayi

Fran Middleton, ACT

Bossiaea grayi (Murrumbidgee Bossiaea) is endemic to the Australian Capital Territory where it grows in woodland on the banks of the Murrumbidgee, Paddy's and Cotter Rivers. It was first formally described in 2009 and is known at only ten sites. It was declared as endangered in 2012 because of its small number and fragmented distribution. While walking with members of ANPSC some years ago I came across one large plant (1.5 X 1.5m) growing on the river's edge on a sand wash.

About 9 years ago I was given a tube of this plant, uncommon in gardens. It has grown slowly to 1 metre in typical Canberra clay soil in a very exposed spot in an irrigated garden beside a footpath. In Spring, its red and yellow pea flowers look striking against the grey foliage; botanically-speaking they are flattened, winged cladodes. In Summer, I also find the contrast of the foliage and oblong seed pods quite attractive. Seeds from my plant were collected in early January 2023 for the ANPSC propagation group.

The species name, *grayi*, honours taxonomist Max Gray.



Fact sheet can be found here:

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/conservation-and-ecological-communities/threatened-species-factsheets/murrumbidgee-bossiaea>

Growing Bossiaeas in the northern Adelaide Hills

Hans Griesser, SA

Pea flower plants have been among my gardening favourites ever since, many years ago, I spotted them lighting up the bush in early spring. Among them, *Bossiaea* is a genus of special interest with the diverse and at times unusual shapes of flowers.

My property of about 10 acres in the northern Adelaide Hills ranges from a winter creek to a hilltop, and the soil varies from greyish clay with some loam near the creek to good loamy soils and rocky areas, with some rock veins coming to the surface while nearby the soil can be quite deep. Some parts are in full sun, whereas other areas are lightly to medium shaded by established gum trees. This habitat diversity allows me to cultivate quite a good range of plants; the main limitation is frost, which can be quite heavy but the protection provided by the gum trees and large shrubs allows me to grow many species that might otherwise not cope. The annual rainfall average is 800 mm but in the 20 years that I have kept records it has varied from less than 500 mm to more than 1100 mm.

There is only one *Bossiaea* native to my local area, *Bossiaea prostrata*. When not flowering, it is hard to spot in the bush, not only because it grows under and in-between other plants and grasses but also because it is quite sparse with its trailing stems with long internode distances. In the garden I give it space of its own so it can't hide, and this seems to make it a less sparse plant, quite attractive close up. I have three plants of this species and all have done well, as expected from a local, suffering only an occasional small nibble from unidentified snackers.

Bossiaea cinerea is another species that occurs in South Australia but only in the far southeast. It has grown well here, probably due to my rainfall being close enough to what it requires. Another one native to South Australia, *Bossiaea walkeri* seemed a less safe prospect, but I had grown it previously in the Dandenongs, and it seems much more adaptable than one might suspect after seeing it in the wild in sandhills at the dog fence to the west of the Gawler Ranges.

The Western Australia species *Bossiaea aquifolium* and *Bossiaea dentata* have also grown well here and the former produced lots of flowers last spring. The unusual flowers of *Bossiaea dentata* attracted interest when I showed them at a local plants group



Bossiaea aquifolium



Bossiaea dentata

Growing Bossiaeas in the northern Adelaide Hills (continued)

meeting. Another Western Australia species (possibly *Bossiaea ornata*) is growing more slowly; as it hasn't flowered yet I haven't managed to verify identity.

The eastern species *Bossiaea ensata* and *Bossiaea foliosa* have also grown well so far but have not yet flowered.

All my Bossiaeas are from seeds I germinated (thanks to Tim Hayes for some of the seeds!) as I can't recall ever seeing any Bossiaea in local nurseries or at APS SA plants sales. I find it quite straightforward with the usual hot water pretreatment and good quality, well-draining seedling mix kept not too wet. I would love to try more species.

Bossiaeas in the garden

Bev Fox, Vic

Bev writes:

"I am growing *Bossiaea aquifolium*. It is about 15 years old, a large shrub about 2.5m high x 2m wide with weeping foliage. Leaves are heart shaped, the flower is a large pea shape about 2cm in size the colour is mainly yellow with rusty brown. When in flower the flowers cover all green foliage with masses of flowers. Flowers are strongly perfumed but the smell is not pleasant. My plant is growing in well drained heavy clay with dappled shade from a nearby Eucalypt."



Bossiaeas on the Bench

Chris Larkin, Vic

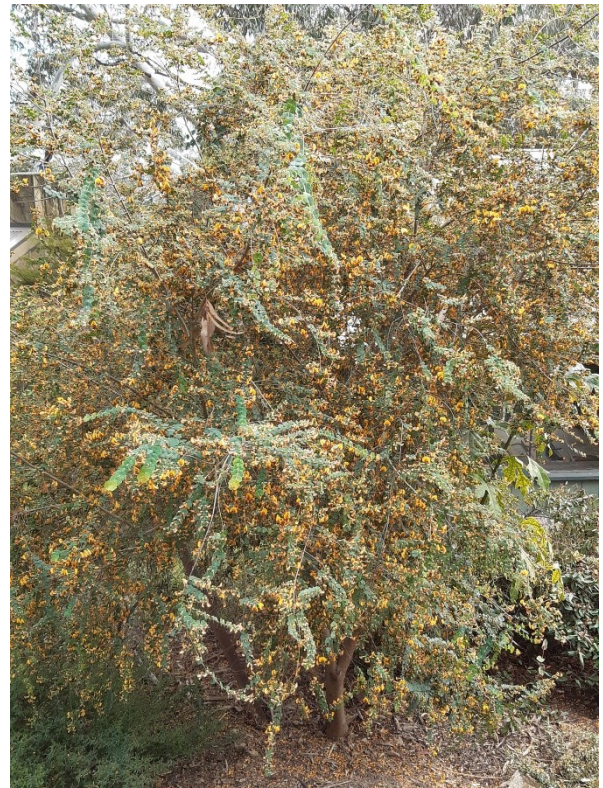
Chris gives an account of the Bossiaeas presented at the Foothills Branch in Spring 2022. Reproduced from APS Foothills News October 2022.

Last meeting, we had quite a few ‘egg and bacon’ pea plants. On the bench were species of the *Bossiaea*, *Eutaxia*, *Pultenaea* and *Oxylobium* genera . As a generalisation these plants are flowering a month or so after earlier flowering pea plants such as *Hardenbergia* and *Chorizema*.

There were three quite different *Bossiaea* species I will mention here: *Bossiaea aquifolium*, *Bossiaea ensata* and *Bossiaea linophylla* but first for an overview. The name Bossiaea has been derived from the name of the 18th Century French physician and botanist, Boissieu La Martinière. It is an endemic genus of plants with around 80 species. They grow in all states of Australia from sea level to altitudes of 1500m and from the coast to the inland. They generally like growing in moist but well drained soils in dappled shade which means they appreciate a cool root run.

It is worth noting there are three bossiaeas listed in the ‘Flora of Melbourne’ – *Bossiaea cinerea*, *Bossiaea cordigera*, identified in only one location and *Bossiaea prostrata* which is more widespread but difficult to spot unless in flower.

Bossiaea aquifolium, meaning holly leafed, and *Bossiaea linophylla* are both very showy medium sized plants from Western Australia. I first saw *Bossiaea linophylla* growing in Maranoa Gardens anything up to thirty years ago, and once seen never forgotten because of its wonderful graceful, weeping habit. However, it took me many, many years to acquire a plant for my own garden. I have pruned this plant and it has had some die-back, but it does appear to be able to reshoot along its branches and at the moment looks as good as it ever has. Touch wood. Much to my amazement it flowered twice last year.



***Bossiaea aquifolium* ▲ ▼**



Bossiaeas on the Bench (continued)

Chris Larkin, Vic

Bossiaea aquifolium is a bit of a beast with its untidy growth habit and its large size, both of which I hope are obvious from the picture. Yes, this plant must be pruned to keep it in check which no doubt reinvigorates it.

Bossiaea ensata is a much smaller understory plant of under one meter. It occurs in Qld, NSW and Vic. It is notable as a leafless plant with flattened stems. Its flowers are solitary growing on short stalks along the stems. I've had this plant for quite a long while tucked in amongst other shrubs to give it protection.

(References: 'Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants – Vol 2' by Elliot and Jones and 'Flora of Melbourne' by M. Bull)



***Bossiaea linophylla* in Chris's garden ▲ ▼**

Images: Shirley McLaran



Bossiaea ensata



Bossiaea linophylla R.Br.

Golden Cascade

Tribe: Bossiaeeae

Derivation of Name: *Bossiaea* - honours Joseph Hugues Boissieu La Martinière
linophylla - leaves similar to genus *Linum*

Description: An attractive tall, much branched shrub 2-3m high x 2-3m wide, with weeping habit. Leaves to 2.5cm long, narrow, with an acute tip. Yellow flowers with red markings are borne profusely on slender stalks. Broad stalked pods to 2cm long.

Distribution: Endemic to Western Australia. Occurs in the South-West Botanical Province, in the Avon Wheatbelt, Jarrah Forest, Warren, Esperance and Swan Coastal Plain IBRA regions.

Conservation Status: Not threatened

Cultivation: Highly ornamental species that prefers well-drained soil in a sunny or partially shaded position. Tolerant of drought and light frosts. Suitable for bird attracting, butterfly attracting, cascading plant, Floral Art, hedging, screening, shelterbelts and windbreaks.

Propagation: Propagate from seed following pre-treatment with boiling water or abrasion. Do not bury too deeply.



Geographe Community Landcare Nursery <https://gcln.org.au/>

Elliot W. R. and Jones D. L. (1982) *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plant suitable for cultivation Vol. 2* Lothian

A Learning Experience East of Tarago with Tim Hayes of the APS Southern Tablelands Group

Bill Handke, ACT

Jens Svensson, Terry Murphy and I were privileged to travel out to the area east of Tarago with a most knowledgeable man, Tim Hayes, to see some native peas and other plants. Tim comes from north-west of Goulburn but has been walking through the bush in the Windellama–Oallen–Nerriga district collecting and identifying plants for over 30 years. Such is his knowledge of native peas and other plants that he has found plants there which were never previously known to exist in the Southern Tablelands - or even exist at all. So it was a real privilege and delight to spend time with him.

Interesting to us were *Dillwynia trichopoda* with its long peduncles, *Dillwynia glaucula* which Tim discovered, the virtual roadside hedges of *Bossiaea oligosperma*, the groundcover carpet of *Pultenaea microphylla*, the prostrate form of *Pultenaea subspicata*, the variable leaf of *Bossiaea heterophylla*, and the bluish leaf colour of *Gompholobium minus*. While none of the peas were flowering, it is apparent that the roadsides throughout the area will be a mass of colour come spring. And it will not be just because of the peas. Some of the other plants new to Jens, Terry and me were *Persoonia mollis* ssp. *livens*, *Persoonia microphylla* and the Wolgan Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus gregsoniana*). Tim also pointed out to us the private property where a specimen of the extremely rare *Eucalyptus recurva* (the Mongarlowe Mallee) is growing: one of the six known sites. And also one other property where another uncommon plant, *Kunzea cambagei*, grows. Now, to get some of those plants into STEP!

We are very grateful that Tim found the time for our trip. He is currently coordinating the major task of propagating 3000 tubestock for the Kanangra to Wyangala Corridor restoration project (K2W) of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative. We had a most fascinating time and learnt so much from this incredibly learned and most personable man. So thank you Tim.

Ed: STEP or Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park is a living collection at the National Arboretum Canberra. The Parade of Peas in STEP will be featured in the next issue.



Terry, Tim Hayes and Jens in front of *Bossiaea oligosperma*



Groundcover carpet of *Pultenaea microphylla*



Dillwynia trichopoda

Innes National Park in Winter

Michael Beamish, Vic

Having retired at the end of May, I was keen on a break before tackling the jobs that retirement and turning sixty tend to lay at one's feet. So, foolishly perhaps, we decided to head off on a "camping" holiday in the middle of winter, though in a motorhome rather than a tent, but out in the wilds rather than in a caravan park. As it turned out, most of our trip was beset with cold, wet and windy weather, but that's what you need to expect at that time of year. One of the places we visited was Dhillba Guuranda (Innes) National Park at the end of the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. Our first night there was in a 100km/hr gale, but luckily our campsite was fairly protected and we coped with the conditions ok. The winds persisted at a more moderate pace for our entire stay, but we still managed to walk most of the available tracks and found a few pea plants in flower, even in the depths of wintry mid-July.

The most spectacular was Cockie's Tongues, *Templetonia retusa*. There is a lot of it in a variety of forms. The most common form seems to have grey-green leaf, while dark green leaves are the other possibility, but there is still variation in how grey or dark the leaves are. Plants in protected locations can be a couple of metres tall and broad, but those on the exposed headlands can be prostrate due to wind and salt pruning. Flower colour also varies from the most common bright red to rare apricot, yellow or white specimens. More than 90% of the plants we saw showed no signs of flowering, but a lot of the prostrate plants, maybe 50%, on the exposed headlands were in advanced bud and some with open flowers. In the protected locations, it was only a very small percentage of plants that were in full flower, so these really stood out.



Templetonia retusa ▲►



Continued over page

Innes National Park in Winter (continued)

Michael Beamish, Vic

Two other peas were found to have flowers as well. Also on the exposed headlands and dunes, *Eutaxia microphylla* sported a few flowers, but nothing to really write home about. In the woodlands though, the Purple Coral Pea, *Hardenbergia violacea* was getting under way and draping its beautiful purple blooms over its neighbours, well worth a photo.



Eutaxia microphylla



Hardenbergia violacea ▲ ▼



Propagation Reminder

In Newsletter 3 (<https://anpsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/pea-flowers3.pdf>), Tim Hayes outlined his suggestion for germination trials. Whether you currently propagate pea flowers by seed or are interested in giving it a go, we would like to hear from you.

Please email your pre-treatment methods and an estimate of your success rates to fabpeamail@gmail.com.

If anyone has access to quantities of seed they are willing to share with members, please let me know also.

A Local Australian Native Garden in the ACT

Alan Ford, ACT

I have an Australian native garden which is largely local plants. The two most successful peas are *Daviesia mimosoides* and *Mirbelia Oxylobioides*. My attempts at *Pultenaea* are mixed and I am still waiting to see whether some plants survive.

There were failures in this family and it may be soil or location of the block, the house is in a street which is a drainage channel from the hill above it. The water flow can be quite significant after heavy rain and some peas may not enjoy wet feet. One mystery was the failure of *Hardenbergia violacea*, which failed wherever it was placed in the garden.

Sourcing local plants is difficult although this situation is improving as the ACT Greening Australia is now holding two local plant sales per annum. Their sales will eventually have a wider variety of plants for sale, including more local peas.

So, growing local peas is an interesting and challenging life, you are always going back to the plants to see how they are surviving.

Locals peas in the garden

Bonni Yee, Qld

Daviesia ulicifolia, *Hovea acutifolia* and *Pultenaea retusa* grow naturally on Bonni's property in Nerang, South-East Queensland. Bonni is also growing them in a garden bed. They flowered spectacularly in August 2022.



Daviesia ulicifolia

Hovea acutifolia

Pultenaea retusa

New Pea-nuts

Allan Tinker	VIC	Joanne Foley	NSW
Andrew Weinert	WA	John Nevin	NSW
Cath Cooper	NSW	Miriam Ford	VIC
Cheryl Bawhey	NSW	Paul Kennedy	VIC
Frances O'Brien	NSW	Paul Maurice	NZ
Frank Box	QLD	Phillip Grimm	NSW
Greta Hollows	VIC	Ralph Cartwright	NSW
Heather Miles	NSW	Stephen Curry	NSW
Isis	NSW	Sue Fredrickson	NSW
Janet Atkins	WA	Tania Lamble	NSW
Jarrad Jones	NSW		

Financials

Balance 31.12.2022	\$155.00
Income	
Donations	5.00
Balance 30.06.2023	\$160.00

Donations

Thanks to the following groups for donations:

NPQ Pine Rivers Branch

Errata

Plant profile *Mirbelia rubiifolia* (Newsletter 4)

The specific epithet 'rubiifolia' was incorrectly acknowledged as pertaining to foliage similar to the genus *Rubus*. Dan Clarke has provided the following information:

“The earlier name for the species was *Pultenaea rubiifolia* Andrews – and an even earlier, possibly manuscript name was *Pultenaea rubiaefolia* (which seems to suggest *Rubia*)”

Ed: *Rubia* is the type genus of the Rubiaceae family, commonly known as the coffee family.

Newcastle to Melbourne, the long way (Newsletter 4)

A species observed in Beowa National Park named as *Bossiaea cinerea* is *Bossiaea cordifolia*.

Stay Connected

Facebook Group

The study group has a facebook group to provide a place for members to share photos, discuss anything related to pea flowers and communicate with other members in real-time. Only study group members will be permitted to join the group. The group is private, meaning only members can see who is in the group and what they post, however, it has been made visible so that anyone can find the group and join if interested. To join, search for 'pea flower study group' and request to join*. If you have trouble finding it, please email me for the link.



Australian Pea Flower Study Group

Study Group Email

Please send newsletter contributions, suggestions, photos and any other correspondence to the study group email:

fabpeamail@gmail.com

*If you are reading this newsletter and wish to join the study group, enquiries can be made by emailing Shirley at **fabpeamail@gmail.com**.

Next Issue

I have chosen Eutaxia for the feature genus in the next issue. It is a small genus of about 20 species most of which are endemic to Western Australia. Articles on Eutaxia or anything else are most welcome.

Photo Credits

Photos relating to articles were provided by the author of that article unless otherwise stated. Other photos were provided by the editor unless otherwise stated.

Solution to 2022 Christmas Pea Tree Challenge

If you missed the challenge, look at Newsletter 4 before you peak at the answers.



Dillwynia retorta



Aotus ericoides



Hardenbergia violacea



Leptosema aphyllum



Goodia lotifolia



Bossiaea ornata



Kennedia rubicunda



Chorizema varium



Indigofera adesmiifolia



Jacksonia scoparia



Eutaxia myrtifolia

Photo credits
1 & 2 Karlo Taliana
8 Ray Turner
Rest: Shirley McLaran