



In line with government restrictions relating to social distancing during the Covid 19 pandemic all meetings and other group activities are cancelled until further notice.

Welcome to the winter edition of our Covid era newsletter.

One thing I'm sure we've all found out during these times of restriction is how important our gardens are to our well being. There's always something to do in a garden and it's a way of exercising without leaving home!

All the articles in this newsletter have been sent in by Grampians Group members and it's clear they are an interesting and knowledgeable lot!

Membership reminder: if you haven't already done so, please renew your membership by **1st September**. This will enable Anita to process them in time for you to receive the December edition of Growing Australian. If we can't hold meetings in the near future the committee is considering how we could have 'virtual' meetings, as some other groups have done.

Even though we can't have meetings, the group still has to meet its obligations as an incorporated body, and this includes holding our AGM. All members will receive details by email of this process and how it will be organised in the next few days.

### **2020 AGM TIMELINE:**

**Friday 21st August** - email to members advising of new AGM date, agenda and asking for nominations for any of the committee positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & Membership Officer and 4 ordinary committee positions.

**Sunday 30th August** - deadline for receipt of nominations from financial members.

**Monday 31st August** - email to APSGG members advising who has nominated and calling for any proxy votes to be received no later than 2pm on Wednesday 9th September. Login details for the online meeting to be sent for those who wish to be involved. A copy of the outgoing President's report and annual Treasurer's report will be included with this email.

**Thursday 10th September** - Online AGM begins at 2pm.

## Banksias Flowering at Great Western Mid July.

Ross McGregor has sent these pictures of the delights we could have seen if the visit to their garden had not been cancelled. Next year perhaps????



spinulosa



blechnifolia in bud



lullfitzii



leptophylla var. melletica



praemorsa



scabella



cunninghamii



ericifolia



sphaerocarpa  
var. sphaerocarpa



media



saxicola



oblongifolia



conferta



candolleana



tricuspis



menziesii



baueri



ornata

## Hakeas: Stars of Winter

Many spectacular Hakeas are at their best from June to September. Here are some of them.



The rarely seen 'Blue Hakea', *Hakea lehmanniana*, with its strange corona - like seed pods.



*Hakea orthorhyncha* in full flower with flowers bursting from the trunk



*Hakea multilineata*. Fiona Lucas chose this as her champion with flower spike 46cm long.



The scented flowers of *Hakea decurrens*, one our local favourites



*Hakea francisiana* usually the first flowers occur in May and continue into November. A long lived species.

## See What You Could Find In The Undergrowth by David Handscombe

When we are busy in the garden or looking at wildflowers in the bush we should keep an eye out for other colourful treasures. It was September 2013, the location, Stirling Ranges National Park, we had just returned to the car from a short walk looking at the wildflowers when I heard Linda say, "Get off the car little jumping spider." Straight away my ears pricked up and I rushed around to have a look. I had heard that W.A. was a bit of a hot spot for peacock spiders, and sure enough on taking a close look with a hand lens I could see colour on its abdomen. Peacock spiders are a type of jumping spider (family Salticidae, Genus *Maratus*) and only occur in Australia. I had watched utube clips of these little beauties and hoped to come across some in WA. I grabbed the camera, fitted a macro lense with every extension tube I had and tried to get a photo, see photo 1. I recognised the species as *Maratus pavonis*, the most widespread of all the Peacock Spiders and the one you are most likely to see around your property because unlike most Peacock Spiders, it tolerates disturbed areas.

So why are they called Peacock Spiders? The reason is simple, the males, when trying to impress a female will put on an extraordinary display, raising their third pair of legs in the air and waving them around, this will be followed by lifting the abdomen vertically, extending folds of skin on either side and commencing a little dance, see Photo 2, much like a male peacock raises its tail and fans it out to display its colourful feathers. This is a crucial time for a male Peacock Spider, if the female is not impressed by the display he will probably end up as lunch. Time is also critical for the male as they reach maturity in early spring, at which time they go through their final moult, their colourful body markings are now visible and they have until mid summer to mate, before they all die.



It would be another 15 months before I came across another Peacock Spider, when I found a jumping spider on the wall of our orchid house at Pomonal, and low and behold upon closer inspection, *Maratus pavonis* again, see photo 3. You can get an indication of the size of these spiders by looking at what it's sitting on, the bract of a *Xerochrysum*. The males can be up to 5mm in length depending on the species, whereas the females are larger, stockier and aren't colourful.



Over the next few years we often found Peacock Spiders in the nursery or garden and occasionally work colleagues found them in the Grampians. I was convinced that there should be more species in the area other than *pavonis*. I decided would look in the Spring of 2017 and



as chance would have it my details were passed on to Stuart Harris, from Canberra, who, with two others from Western Australia were planning a citizen science survey for Peacock Spiders in the Grampians for October 2017. I teamed up with them and straight away we had success. Over a three day period we found four more species, firstly *Maratus chrysomeles*, see photo 4, followed by *Maratus prozysniskii*, see photo 5.



Photo 6

Then came *Maratus harrisi*, see photo 6 and *Maratus vespitillio*, see photo 7. So in a matter of days the Grampians went from 1 to 5 species. A few weeks later while on patrol in the northern end of the Grampians I stopped for lunch near Stapylton campground and straight away spotted a small spider in the leaf litter. Upon closer inspection it had different markings to the five



Photo 7

species I was now familiar with. This little beauty turned out to be another species, *Maratus calcitrans*, see photo 8, bringing the total to 6. The last species I found in December 2018 while undertaking monitoring of a cultural site near Mount Difficult in the northern end of the Park. It looked like it had colourful skin flaps and interesting markings on its abdomen, bingo, the 7th species, *Maratus plumosus*, see photo 9.



Photo 8

So how do you photograph something as small as a Peacock Spider? Most arthropods can be slowed down by cooling them,

putting them on a cold surface or in the fridge for a short time. Unfortunately jumping spiders don't tend to respond to this and generally remain quite active. They are curious however and have extremely good eye sight so will usually turn to look at you when you approach, but you have to be quick or they will soon lose



Photo 9



Photo 10

interest. I find the best way to keep them still for a while is to feed them a fly or other small insect, see Photo 10 *Maratus harrisi* eating a fly. The last three photos are



Photo 11

*Maratus pavonis* eating a fly, Photo 11, *Maratus vespitillio* display dance, Photo 12 and a comparison of *Maratus vespitillio* male displaying to an uninterested female, Photo 13. for pictures of other species try looking at Jergan Otto's website, [www.peacockspider.org](http://www.peacockspider.org)



Photo 13



Photo 12

# Correas

At our August meeting, David Pye was going to talk about Correas.

Hopefully sometime in 2021, he can visit and tell us the latest about this vast collection of plants, including some propagation tips.

For a bit of fun, refresh your knowledge on Correas by doing these quizzes.

## Quiz 1.

Correas are divided into several species but *Correa pulchella* and *Correa reflexa*, are the most commonly cultivated. These have many cultivars.

Make the Correa name by connecting a word from each column.

- |                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Little       | A. Blaze  |
| 2. Orange       | B. Red    |
| 3. Dusty        | C. Giant  |
| 4. Flinders     | D. Bells  |
| 5. Autumn       | E. Gold   |
| 6. Green        | F. Ranges |
| 7. Old          | G. Point  |
| 8. Mallee       | H. Glow   |
| 9. Petal        | I. Pink   |
| 10. Mt Richmond | J. Cate   |

## Quiz 2.

Correas attract birds to your garden. Using same directions as above, make the full bird name and connect it to the why and how they are attracted to Correas.

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Red         | A. Blue Wren   |
| 2. New Holland | B. Rosella     |
| 3. Superb      | C. Spine bill  |
| 4. Crimson     | D. Wattlebird  |
| 5. Eastern     | E. Honey eater |
- Feeds on nectar
  - Ripping flowers off bushes
  - Have long curved beaks that are designed for tubular flowers
  - Tongue has a 'brush' on its end to collect nectar
  - Provides protection

## Quiz 3. True or False

- All Correas have uniform green coloured foliage.
- The Chef's Hat Correa shares the same colour as a Restaurant chef hat ?
- Maria Hitchcock is the author of Correas: Australian Plants for Water Wise Gardens.
- Jane Edmanson has demonstrated how to do cuttings of Correa Alba on a Gardening Australia show?
- Correa is a genus of 11 species of flowering plants, their leaves are arranged in opposite pairs, and have tubular bells with four sepals, four petals and 4 stamens?
- Correa reflexa is sometimes known as native fuchsia?
- A Grampians Correa does exist?
- Correa glabra has scented leaves of cinnamon?
- The most colourful bells belong to the Correa pulchella species.
- There are under a 100 named cultivars?

Correas have an interesting and may I say a very confusing 'family tree' to understand and remember. Correas belong to the Rutaceae family, as do citrus. From a 'parent' species, there are many hybrids and then there are the cultivars and even self-seeded new varieties. The main thing to know is that there is a spot in your garden for a Correa; you will find one that likes shade, or sun or in-between, likes a rockery or cottage garden or likes to be a ground cover, shrub or tree. They are generally easy to grow and can be found at most nurseries or the 'Big Green Shed'.

If you want to know more about how to identify Correas, I would suggest the following:

- Join the Correa study group. Details are found in the *Growing Australian* magazine.
- Look online at ANSPA website, there are many past newsletters from the Study Group.
- Join the Correa Lovers FB page, there your questions can be answered and you can see some great photos.
- Or buy/borrow the '*Correa, Australian Plants for Water wise Garden*' by Maria Hitchcock. This is an excellent reference book.

Andrea Shelley

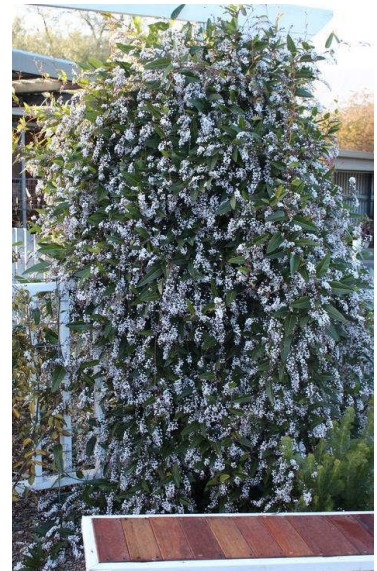
Kevin Moulinox sent these pictures of plants providing some winter colour in their new garden in Stawell



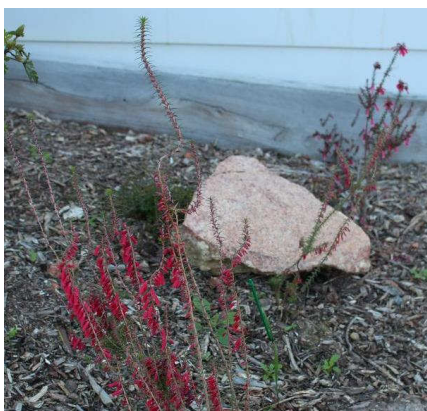
*Anigozanthos Rufus*



*Thryptomene denticulata*



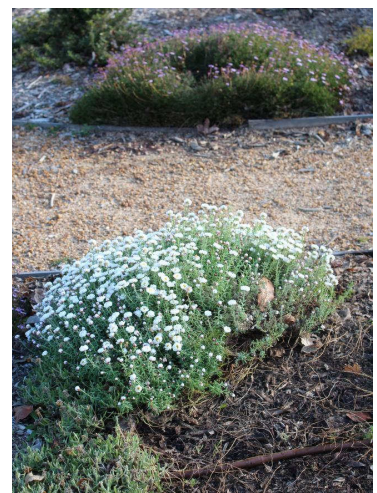
*Hardenbergia violacea*  
*White form*



*3 different epacris in a group*



*Anigozanthos Species*



*Helipterum sp (front)*  
*Brachyscome sp (back)*

# Weeds!

I have many in my garden.

## **Capeweed in house garden**

Last year I started removing capeweed to the north of the house and continued this year. I dug out those patches and planted 2 trays of weeping grass that Phil B gave me.

They are looking good, the only problem was that when they first went in the wallabies started eating them and pulled them out before they had taken root!

We put some wire rings around them to solve that problem. Plus we have had no rain, so I am going to have to water them.

Today Clive sprayed more patches of capeweed (MCPA plus Dicamba) around the house so we will see if this reduces the amount.

I have divided my house garden into sections and are working on each section one at a time clearing all the solitary capeweed, reducing the amount to the thicker patches which we can spray or focus on next year.

## **Weed orchids in our paddocks.**

We found someone who was happy to spend hours digging out weed orchids and we employed her to dig them out just recently.

In 4 weeks at 2 hours per day she has managed to clear out some large patches and we now have two wheelbarrow loads of weed orchids which I will now put under black plastic in the sunshine to kill.

Disappointingly they had spread through the bracken in an area we did not see last year. I found some old seed heads that I must have missed last year (there is always one or ten..) and put in a stake to mark that spot, so that I can go back next year (hopefully) and check if any are growing. We are always hoping the corellas or choughs will eat the tubers, but they just seem to ignore them..

## **Amsinkia under our gum trees.**

We have three large patches under 3 large red gums which are getting smaller. We have spent the last 2 years attacking them, the first year with spray and then last year trying to weed them and whipper snip them (not successful as they sprout at the base). This year Clive has got in early to spray them (metsulphuron plus a penetrant) and we will go back and check them. Not much rain so maybe they wont do as well.

## **Thistles everywhere.**

We have at least four different ones and this year they all look a bit funny in colour so not sure if it is just lack of rain or they have changed variety?

The big flat ones we dig out whenever we see them and we check their favourite haunts as we walk around the property.

The slender or scotch or whatever that one is, we are pulling up/spraying/whipper snipping them. I tried to clear one triangle of the property completely last year by hand and will go back this year to see how that has gone. It will be interesting to see how many there are and if this was successful and worth the effort.

Last year we whipper snipped a lot as well, but then found they just resprouted from the base! This was frustrating as then we had thousands of tiny stalks with developing seed heads on them!! One year we whipper snipped them just at the right time, before they seeded and they did not flower again and they have not returned to that tree which has been very heartening to see.

They are very cunning and seem to be able to adapt to some of our methods to remove them! Spraying did seem successful, so this year we will spray some big patches again. I think we will focus on areas we have done before and consolidate on our gains there. I am concerned that if I don't get back to an area I did last year, that it will then seed this year, and that I will find that next year it will get out of hand again.

We found a patch of soldier thistles which I think we are mostly on top of as it was only small, but we will check again this year.

**Horehound** we continue to remove by hand and luckily it is now in very tiny patches, but surprisingly still coming up after 7 years.

Cheers

Catherine Pye



## Celebrating Garden Volunteers by Phil Williams

When we bought our block of land in Pomonal in 1976(!!!) we chose it because it was the only one on the estate which had any natural vegetation remaining. In particular we liked the various heath species including Flame, Golden, Daphne, Cranberry and Honey Pots. We soon found out that these plants are not available in nurseries and are notoriously difficult to propagate, especially for beginners like us.

Over the years we developed our native garden around our house and left the rest of the block to its own devices. Gradually the number of heaths and other 'locals' increased, until now I can go for a walk in the Grampians without leaving home.

This has proved a sanity saver during Covid lockdown periods.

All the plants pictured below have self seeded without any human intervention except *G. alpina*



*Grevillea alpina*. Cutting grown plant from local roadside plant



Grampians She Oak  
*Allocasuarina grampiana*  
Male flowers (left) female flowers (right)



Flame Heaths  
*Stenanthera conostephioides*



Golden heath *Styphelia adscendens* growing with Flame heath and *Xanthorrhoea*



*Thryptomene calycina*



New flower spike emerging on *Xanthorrhoea glauca*

Based on his own experiences here is Phill Bennet's advice on how to deal with two of the worst weeds in the Pomonal area

## Have you seen the Cape Tulip and the South African Weed Orchid on your property?

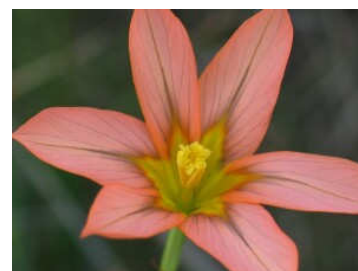
Identify them first, then dig out or spot spray

Now (July- September) is a good time to dig up these invasive weeds while the ground is damp and soft or spot spray.

### Cape Tulip (one leaf) (*Moraea flaccida*)



This Cape Tulip usually only has 1 leaf per plant and grows from a Corm (bulb) with stiff, erect, flower stems are somewhat zigzagged and branched to about 30 to 60cm high. Flowers are orange or salmon pink (occasionally yellow) with a yellow patch in the centre.



All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested. It is poisonous to animals but is generally avoided by grazing animals. It severely impedes the growth and regeneration of indigenous ground flora.



The fruit is green at first, turning brown when mature; a thin 3-valved capsule to 5 cm long, opening at the top to discharge numerous brown irregularly shaped seeds to 2 mm long.

This weed can produce up to 150 seeds per capsule with up to 8 capsules per plant potentially amounting to 1200 seeds per plant. Seed viability is up to 2 years and the time to reproductive maturity is 2 to 3 years. Most germinate in the autumn following formation.



Corms are white, about 1-2 cm in diameter, enclosed in a light brown loose fibrous cover. One to three new corms are produced above the old corm each year and it typically has at least one dormant corm. The corms can be up to at least 150mm below the surface.

### South African Weed Orchid (*Disa bracteata*)



South African Weed Orchid has underground tubers/bulbs. Dormant for much of the year, it sprouts from around June with a rosette of green leaves with the undersides of a purple tinge, followed by flower spikes (like asparagus) up to 40cms (usually 5 - 20cm long) developing into very tiny seeds as the weather dries out during summer. The young plant can be seen with only one leaf in the first year, and produces flowers in second or third year.



Tubers/bulbs have 1 - 3 tubers, similar in appearance to a small potato, about 20 mm in size. The plant also has a mass of fleshy roots and there is no main tap root. The tubers will only be about 5 cm below the surface, hence easy to dig up.



The seeds are black, minute and dust-like, contained within the capsular fruit. The species is self-pollinating and each plant produces hundreds of thousands or millions of airborne seeds and remain viable for 7+ years. Seed set and dispersal starts at the end of November or as the weather dries out. The main form of dispersal is wind, but seed can also be spread on shoes, clothing and vehicles, as well as in water and through animal and soil movement.

These orchid weeds are distinct from Onion and Leek Orchids while the native Onion Orchids only have a single leaf emerging at the base of the stem.

### Measures for the control of noxious weeds



These plants you dig up should be incinerated or sealed in a black plastic garbage bag and left in the sun to cook otherwise because of the energy stored in the bulbs/corms/tubers they can continue to ripen if left on the ground or not properly discarded.

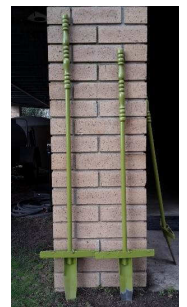


If you don't have the capacity to dig up all of the plants then at least pick off, mow or whipper snipper the flower head stems when they are about to flower (by around mid-October) to avoid

the seeds developing.

Because we had so many Cape Tulips over our 12ha property it's taken us 2 to 3 years of eradication to see a significant impact, and we had friends helping as well as spraying by Project Platypus.

I have a couple of Tulip/African Orchid spades made up and can loan out for a short time (and Jallukar Landcare Group have 6 for their members to borrow)



### Application of a registered herbicide

I use a 15 litre Knapsack sprayer for spot spraying as we have quite a few of these weeds including Bridal Creeper, Thistles and Arum Lilly, and particularly in areas where they are difficult to dig up.

These herbicides instructions usually provide for quantities for 100 litre batches, so here are my calculated rates for the 15L knapsack.

I mix together these 3 ingredients with clean water:-

- 2.3 to 3 grams of Metsulfuron (granuals). (Kitchen scales only measure in 1 gram graduations so I add 3 grams). Mix well as it takes a little while to dissolve.
- 30ml of Devour (Penetrant/wetting agent) is for the Metsulfuron to be effective, and
- 15 to 25ml of Rhodamine marker (Red dye) if you want to see where you've sprayed. It also comes in granular form. (Careful as this stuff stains your fingers for days if you don't wash it off immediately). It takes a month before you see initial effects of Metsulfuron. Cape tulip start turning yellow from the tips and the weed orchids start wilting.

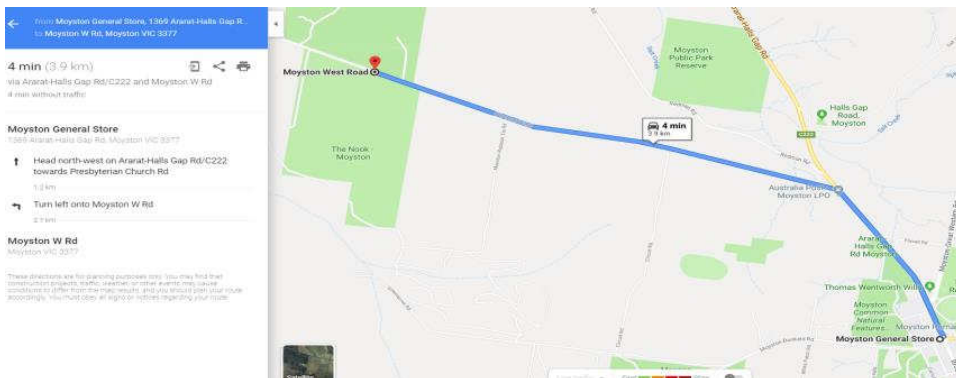
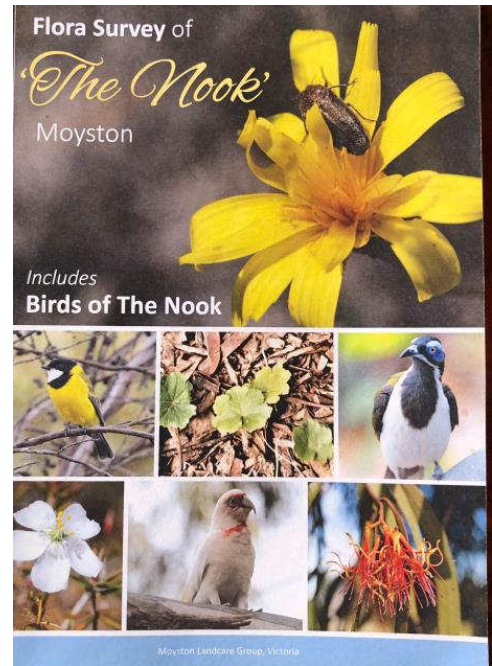
Glyphosate (e.g. Roundup) is also effective but will kill surrounding grasses and other plants.

## The Nook Book.

The Moyston Landcare group contracted Neil and Wendy Marriott of White Gums Australia, to undertake a Flora Study of the Nook (northern side of Moyston west Road), Moyston Victoria. The project was funded by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA) under the Regional Communities Grants for 2017/18.

The Landcare group engaged Neil Macumber, noted birdwatcher and naturalist, (and GAPS member) to conduct a Bird Survey to gain a more comprehensive environmental snapshot of The Nook. The Nook is an isolated reserve of crown land in the Mt William Creek catchment. With minimal gradient, little more than 20mtrs, it is a remnant displaying rich floral diversity, although surrounded by largely cleared farmland. It is famous for its orchid and important for its areas of native grassy woodland and heathy woodland, with an abundance of once common species and several more unusual species recorded for the site.

As the first edition of the book sold out quickly, Moyston Landcare have reprinted the publication and are making it available to members of Grampians APS for \$20.00. (\$22.00 at the Moyston General store). Contact Andrea to indicate your interest as she will co-ordinate the payment and delivery.



The newsletter will only continue if it has material to include. If you value the newsletter and enjoy reading it please consider making a contribution. Contributions in any form, physical or digital are welcome. Items submitted on paper, for example photos, will be scanned and returned. subject matter need not be limited to native plants, but can also include anything you think members may find interesting.  
 Email: <mailto:grampiansnewsletter@psvic.org.au> or by phone: 0438 566 250 or by post to: Phil Williams P.O. Pomonal 3381  
 Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this issue.  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/APS-Grampians-Group-960723023989990/>

## APSVic Grampians Committee 2019-20

### Office Bearers

President: John King  
 Vice President: Neil Marriott  
 Secretary: Andrea Shelley (0405 993 763)  
 Treasurer: Anita Evans (0409 524 017)

### Ordinary Members

Ross Simpson  
 Phil Williams  
 Wendy Marriott  
 Peter Shelley

### Roles

Newsletter Editor: Phil Williams  
 Memberships and Hall  
 Committee Rep: Anita Evans