



**Australian Plants Society**  
*Loddon-Murray Group*  
 Native Plant Newsletter  
 January—March 2017 Edition



**OUR TRIP TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA By Don and Lorraine Mathews**

What a year to visit WA, much of the state had had drenching rain at the right time for both crops and wildflowers.

Setting off in mid August we met up with Keith and Ann at Ceduna. Leaving Ceduna we stopped at the “Head of the Bight” hoping to see a whale or two, to our amazement there must have been 20 or more with their calves easily viewed from a platform just above them.

The Nullarbor scenery changes constantly from plains of saltbush (*Maireana*), to low Eucalypts and Acacias all looking healthy after the rain.

An overnight stop in Eucla and then Balladonia where we said our goodbyes to Keith and Ann and headed north to Southern Cross, where the wildflower season was just starting with *Hakea*'s, *Grevillea*'s *Ptilotus*, *Acacia*'s and *Leptospermums*.

The further north we went the more prolific the roadsides became making it difficult to go very far without stopping to look at the flowers we have in our gardens and many we have never seen before.

Catching up with the *Bienvenu*'s again we made the trip up to Pinda, east of Geraldton, where we saw the most amazing display of *Lechenaultia macrantha* along the roadside.

Travelling down south we caught up with Barry and Elva at Badgingarra, spending a fascinating day finding Orchids, *Macropidia*, *Dampieras*, *Conostylis*, *Calytrix*, *Verticordias* and *Anigozanthos humilis* dotted everywhere.

A visit to “High Valley Farm” to see acres of remnant vegetation containing rare species on their working farm, the owners only too happy to share their wealth of knowledge.

Gradually heading down south we met up with the Teague's at Mt Barker and spent the day with them at the “Banksia Farm” where we also caught up with Neil and Wendy Marriott on their “Birds wing Tour”.

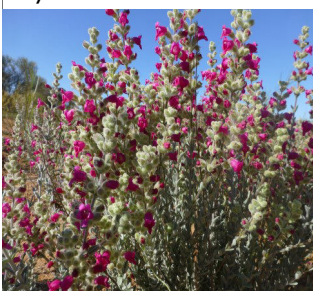
Kevin Collins gave a very informative talk before we were able to wander through their gardens.

Leaving Barry and Elva we headed for Albany then Esperance, both beautiful places with a diverse range of plants, we came across various wildflowers shows in local halls and at Ravensthorpe two artists were on cherry pickers painting the most beautiful mural of Honey Possums and Honey Eaters on Banksia flowers on the silos, from here we were given the details of a seed collector in Hopetoun, their property overlooked the Southern Ocean and was surrounded by natural bush, another special day.

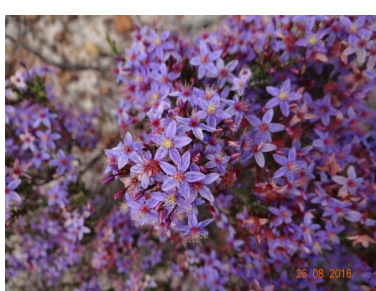
In the six weeks of our trip it was great to catch up with likeminded friends so far from home.

Sadly it was time to head for home with truly wonderful memories and no doubt we will be back.

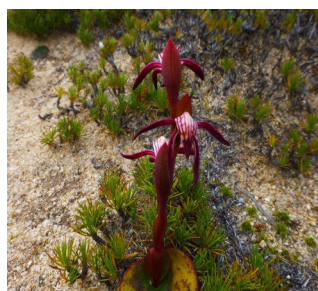
*Pityrodia terminalis*



*Calytrix lechenaultii*



Orchid



*Daviesia pachyphylla* Ouch Bush





## WILD FLOWER COUNTRY DRIVE by Ann Bienvenu

September Western Australia's Wildflower Country situated along the new Wildflower Country Drive from Geraldton to Dalwallinu, an area of grain growing, sheep farming and mining.

We stayed at the small Historic town of Morawa surrounded by wildflowers.

The highlight of our trip was seeing the Wreath *Lechenaultia Macrantha*. We found the best place to find them was at Pindar north of Morawa. They line the edges of an unsealed sandy gravel road for 300-400 metres. There were 4 wheel drives, cars and caravans even a TV film crew lining both sides of the road.

The plants are shaped like a wreath circle – grey green leaves in the centre and white to pale pink and deep pink, the oldest flowers on the outside.

Each year after flowering finishes and the foliage dies down the road grader goes along spreading the seeds and roots further along the road. The plants were not growing further in the bush off the roadside.

Question? Where did they grow before man made the roads?

They were spectacular, we found other *Lechenaultia*'s throughout the trip to Western Australia, reds, blues and multicolour.





OUR GARDEN IN SUMMER by Lorraine Mathews

Walking around the garden *Eremophila calorhabdos* has been waving its pink flowers for weeks, *Eremophila macdonnellii*'s purple flowers contrast so well with its grey foliage.

*Grevillea banksii* ssp *forsteri* is never without its bright red flowers along with *Grevillea thyrsoides* ssp *pustulata*, other *Grevilleas* in flower now are *G juncifolia*, *G plurijuga*, *G yulo*, *G insignis*, *G peaches and cream*, *G silvia*, *G moonlight*, *G blood orange* and *G leucopteris* along with *G elendale* the birds are enjoying a feast.

The row of *Eucalyptus macrocarpas* have been spot flowering, while *Eucalyptus tetragonas* are covered in their cream flowers.

*Banksia attenuatas* look striking with the black buds against the lime green flowers, *B baxteri*, *B burdettii*, *B laevigata*, *B sceptrum*, *B speciosa*, *B victoriae* and *B occidentalis* are all putting on a show.

The orange kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos flavidus*) are ready for the slasher. While various *Melaleucas*, *Brachycomes*, *Ptilotus*, and *Eremophilas* are making a display.

The garden seems to handle our Mallee summer better than the Gardners!



*Banksia attenuata*

*Grevillea leucopteris*

*Grevillea thyrsoides* ssp *pustulata*



*Eremophila calorhabdos* Red Rods

*Grevillea juncifolia*



[Australian plants for gardens in the sun](#) by [Rodger Elliot](#) (Jan 19)

[Australian plants for year-round colour](#) by [Angus Stewart](#) (Jan 19)

[Successfully growing Australian native plants / \[Geoff Rigby\] ; Colour your garden with Australian natives](#) by [Geoff Rigby](#) (Jan 19)

[From the ground up : a complete garden guide for Victorian gardeners](#) by [Jane Edmanson](#) (Jan 19)

[Australia's Eremophilas: Changing Gardens for a Changing Climate](#) by [Norma Boschen](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SUITABLE FOR CULTIVATION. VOLUME 5 \[U1\]](#) by [W. & D. Jones Elliot](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation: v.3 \(Vol 3\)](#) by [W.Rodger Elliot](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable For Cultivation Volume 4](#) by [W. Rodger Elliot](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants: Suitable for Cultivation: Volume 7](#) by [W.Rodger Elliot](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Name That Flower: The Identification of Flowering Plants](#) by [Ian Clarke](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Plant Propagation Made Easy](#) by [Alan Toogood](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[WILDFLOWERS OF THE WESTERN STATE](#) by [ROLSH](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Growing Australian native plants](#) by [F. J. C Rogers](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation : Introductory Volume](#) by [W. Rodger Elliot and David L. Jones](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Native Plants of Gunbower Forest](#) compiled by Kate Bennetts.

[ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SUITABLE FOR CULTIVATION Volume Two \(2\)](#) by [W. Rodger and Jones Elliot, David L.](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[The Concise Australian Flora](#) by [Leonard Cronin](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Australian Native Plants: Cultivation, Use in Landscaping and Propagation](#) by [Murray Fage](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

[Practical Gardening & Landscaping with Australian Native Plants](#) by [Alec Blombery](#) (Nov 9, 2014)

## **COMMITTEE**

**President Andrew Farley 54572394**

**Vice-President Brenda Matthews 54572379**

**Treasurer Anne Hall 54522125**

**gemah2@bigpond.com**

**Secretary & Library Linda Coote 0447134913**

**coringapark@gmail.com**

**Members Lorraine Mathews 50302788**

**Ann & Keith Bienvenu 50324391**

**Barry Teague 50331020**

**Jenny Hewitt 54531902**

**Newletter Elva Teague 0427309433**

## **APS Diary Dates**

APS Committee meetings as follows:-

February 11th Cranbourne

June 17th Venue TBA

November 25th Venue TBA

7 May 2017 – APS Yarra Yarra Plant Sale.

11 to 22 June 2017 – ANPSA 12 day Natural History Kimberley Camping Tour.

9 & 10 September 2017 APS Yarra Yarra hold the Australian Plants Expo at Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 10 am to 4 pm.

16th & 17th September 2017 APS AGM & Quarterly meeting.

12 to 20 January 2018 – ANPSA 2018 Conference, Hobart. Pre and Post Conference tours to King Island and Tasmanian Alpine areas. To receive updates email [asgajian18@gmail.com](mailto:asgajian18@gmail.com).



## GUNBOWER FOREST OUTING by Linda Coote

1<sup>st</sup> December, 2016

The combined APS Gunbower Forest outing organised by the Echuca-Moama Group finally came to pass and a pleasant surprise was the attendance also of members of the Bendigo group. Also present were guides from the NCCMA loaded with a wealth of knowledge about the vegetation in the forest.

The group met at Gunbower and travelled along the Gunbower Island to Hipwells road, stopping to look at flora that had emerged from the recent environmental flooding event. Here we were shown the first of three fireweeds found on the island. Although named a fireweed they are not actually considered a weed.

Next stop was Cohuna to meet up with more members then headed back into the Gunbower Forest to look at an area that is a wetland created only in a flood such as our recent event and stranded when the floodwaters recede back into the waterways.

Triglochin procera, water ribbon, lined most of the waterways we looked at and Damian Cook showed us how to locate the tubers on the plants roots, dig them up and eat them. The tubers were part of an indigenous diet and tasted quite pleasant, crunchy like an apple.



Damian also spoke about the eco system and the plants that thrive in the forest when the flood recedes. The plant in the chicken wire guard in the foreground is a stiff groundsel, which is classified vulnerable in this habitat, so plants are being replanted in the forest with the hope that they will revegetate.

It was a general consensus from all those who attended this outing that our APS Groups should hold more combined activities in the future.

We received a new addition to our library *Native Plants of Gunbower Forest* compiled by Kate Bennetts that was given to us at the outing.

*The editor would like to thank all contributors to this newsletter.*

## DAY TRIP TO Mt MANNING RESERVE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We left Southern Cross about 8am and travelled 35klms north to Bullfinch which now is a very small town almost deserted. In its hey- day in the 1890's there were businesses for about 1 mile on each side of the main street due to the discovery of gold.

We went out to Mt Manning Nature Reserve to find *Dryandra arborea*.

On the way there we came across some grevillea species, the first one was *Grevillea tetroleura* which is a small plant about 40cm tall with red spider flowers there were several plants close together as it also suckers.

Also on the way were large *Acacia tetragonophylla* (common name Dead Finish) which were flowering, a very very prickly shrub. On arrival at Mt Manning we were surprised to see the habitat the plants were growing in.

The soil was rocky with breakaways and it looked like a big pile of rusting iron.

How the plants survive in the summer with over 80 days above 30c in that environment is hard to understand as it must get that hot in the summer, the plants must nearly fry,

*Dryandra arborea* is the only dryandra that is of tree proportions being in a low rainfall 200-300mls, it can flower any time of the year depending on rainfall. The foliage on dryandra arborea is pungent, strongly curved and being grey-green.

This *Dryandra* is under threat from mining.

Also growing with *Dryandra arborea* was *Grevillea georgeana* a wonderful red flowered plant, another grevillea flowering there was *Grevillea paradoxa*.

In the same area which we did not see are *Grevillea zygoloba* and *Grevillea erectiloba*.

We also came across some *Eremophila*'s namely *E. latrobei* ssp *latrobei*, *E. scoparia*, *E. latrobei* ssp *warty leaves*, and *E. oldfieldii*.

Another find most unexpected was *Brachychiton gregorii* and also growing in these conditions were several large plants of *Bossiaea walkeri*.

On the way home (Southern Cross Caravan Park) we also saw *Grevillea nematophylla*, a large white flowered grevillea, also *Grevillea teretifolia* another prickly white flowered specimen, *Hakea recurva* ssp *recurva* also with white flowers a very prickly hakea.

We travelled in return about 350klms, a successful day in finding what we set out to do, the most inland *Dryandra* species. Barry and Elva Teague.

**The rocks where *Dryandra arborea* grows and this is its flowers.**

***Grevillea paradoxa***





## 2017 program

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2017** – Dinner and course walk, From 5pm  
Murray Downs, Swan Hill

**Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Committee meeting 12noon at Ann Halls

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb** – Meeting at Lions clubrooms, Kerang  
7:30pm. Blandowski bioscan presentation

Supper duty: Robyn Farnsworth and Linda Coote

**Easter 2017** – Combined Field Nats outing at Wandown.

**In 2017** the Loddon Murray APS Group will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, details to follow.

Find us at [www.facebook.com/APSLoddonMurray/](http://www.facebook.com/APSLoddonMurray/)

Some more photos from Teague's trip to Mt Manning

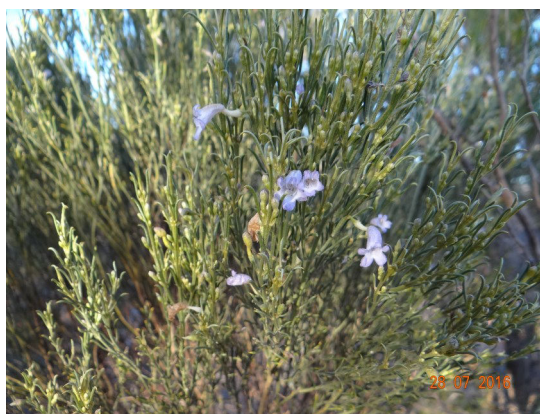
Acacia tetragonophylla



Barry finding Dryandra arborea



Eremophila scoparia



Eremophila oldfieldii



Road scene to Mt Manning



Dryandra arborea

Sender

APS Loddon– Murray

C/- P.O. Box 1620

Swan Hill 3585