



Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group Inc

(Incorporation No: A0039676Y)

Newsletter

Email: apsyarrayarra@gmail.com

June 2016

Thursday 2nd June, 8 pm

Why Australian gardens are changing and why it's relevant to us.

AB Bishop

While they were researching the book *The Australian Native Garden*, Angus Stewart and AB were both struck by what they saw as a real shift in design style away from traditional gardens towards a more naturalistic style using natives. They considered including this observation in the book but decided instead to turn it into a presentation. This is what we will hear about. In addition AB will also touch on some elements of how the book came together.

There will be copies of the book for sale. Angus will not be present as he will be in China.

This is one not to be missed, bring a friend who wants to know about native gardens.

New Holland honey eater on *Melaleuca*, Cranbourne Gardens



APS Yarra Yarra Diary Dates

All members please note we are at a new venue—details opposite.

General Meeting Speaker etiquette:

The committee requests the following please:

- Do not interrupt the speaker during the talk
- Questions, not comments, at the end when requested by speaker. ONE only per person.

2 June: General Meeting, Araluen. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of *The Australian Native Garden* it will be available for \$35 -, less than retail. Remember cash only sales.

7 June: Committee meeting, Joanne Cairn's house
Instead of our usual EXPO

10th September, Saturday : APS YY Spring Plant Sale, Senior Citizens Hall, Eltham.

Meetings

When: 8 pm 1st Thursday each month (except January). Doors open 7.30 pm. Come early for plant sales.

Venue: Orana building, Araluen Centre. 226 Old Eltham Rd, Lower Plenty.

Guest Speaker: learn more through talks and discussion by expert speakers

Flower Table Specimens: bring along your flowers, labelled if possible

Plant Sales: members may buy or sell their own plants, unusual varieties are often available

Chairs: could members please help set up chairs from 7.30 onwards and put away again after the meeting.

Visitors welcome

Leader	Mike Williams
Dep. Leader	Miriam Ford
Secretary	Joanne Cairns
Treasurer	Mike Ridley
Committee	Adrian Seckold
Committee	Rob Dunlop
Committee	Carmen Cooper
Newsletter editor	Miriam Ford

The Speakers List for 2016 :

- **7 July** Zac Lewis: *Australian Wildlife Conservancy*
- **4 Aug** AGM & Miriam Ford: *WA Part 2, The Wheatbelt*
- **1 Sept** APS YY Flower Table
- **6 Oct** APS YY ID night
- **3 Nov** APS YY Flower Table
- **1 Dec** APS YY Christmas Slide Show: members photos

APS YY May 1 Plant Sale

We were fortunate, given the recent stormy weather to have a fine although very windy morning to set up. Many APS members were there including Jill Lulham, Joanne Cairns, Mike Williams, Rob Dunlop, Noel Gaskett, Adrian Seckhold, Suzie Brock, Karen Giufre, Miriam Ford, Pat and Ewen Cameron, the Coopers, Bruce Grose amongst others. Throughout the day we had many other helpers who included Barry Ellis, Roy and Janet Gwyther-Jones, Sandra Robertson, Agatha Stavros, Colin & Susan Mackay. Everyone got to work placing the appropriate dots for price on the different plants, counting the stock in, setting up the gazebos, the cash desk and the tables to display plants. Tube stock was placed at one end and all others (6 – 10 inch pots) A-Z. The arrangement of tables to display plants and control traffic worked better this year.

We also had Neil Macumber and his partner, Alison from the Grampians region. They were promoting the Birdswing Tours of WA organised by both Neil Mac and Neil Marriott, who also resides in the region. Several YY people have been on tours in past years and some are going again this year they enjoyed them so much. Growers from APS YY were Mike, Bruce, Miriam, other plants were from SunValley, the Moores from Wallan, Keelbundoora (LaTrobe nursery), Grafted grevilleas (standards as well as large tubes) from Brian & Lorraine Weir's nursery, *Weiry*. Mike Williams had collected the plants from Brian in Wallan to bring to the sale. Sales went well with many people coming through in the morning. While the weather deteriorated in the afternoon we still had people through although in lesser numbers. Total Sales compared well with previous years.

The sales of the grafted grevilleas went so well that Brian Weir donated one to the group for a prize. All names of the helpers on the day went into the hat on the night of the general meeting Mike Williams name was drawn out by Graeme Woods. Mike then gifted the plant onto Suzie who had helped out all day at the sale. Three other grafted plants (see flower table) in tubes were also door prizes at the meeting.

Images: The morning crowd, Neil Macumber describing WA tour to Jenny, the stand of standards from Brian Weir, Adrian & Suzie discussing tube stock, Colin & Bruce helping customers & Noel and Robert.



Meeting Report 5 May : Grevilleas A-Z by Graeme Woods

The day his passion for grevilleas was ignited was when he went to Beaselly's nurseries and there was *Grevillea magnifica* waving its big beautiful arms. It cost \$140 then - some 20 years ago. This is when such grafted plants were first appearing in nurseries.

The genus now consists of up to 400 species and at least 100 subspecies. They are widespread and can be found all over Australia. They come in wide ranging sizes from the giant *G. robusta* to small ground covers such as *G. alpina*. There is a species for every letter of the alphabet.

There are essentially 3 types of flowers: Spider (also known as cluster type, erect and pendant), Cone shaped (terminal) flower and toothbrush. Leaves come in variety of shapes and sizes. When planting a grevillea dig a good hole, plant it for life, it is very important to ensure good drainage which is more important than pH as an issue for success. They do not survive transplanting very well so it is best to leave them where they are once established. They do enjoy some fertilizer, it is good for best flowering and is important if growing on sandy soil. If the plant is in pipes or pots then fertilize once a year.

Graeme has 100s of grevilleas, in raised beds. Many people come to get stock for propagation. He plants in summer in Gisborne, where temperatures are less harsh and they grow well in the warmth. He hand waters until established then only water if needed. He suggests just prune to keep the shape.

With regard to Propagation: **Grafting** is done in consistent warm weather and is quite an art. It is best to buy from an expert. Standards are usually on *G. robusta* rootstock (which can be demanding, water wise) and some grafters are using alternatives eg Bronze Rambler (see article on Brian Weir, p). **Cuttings** are best done in October to April, the warmer months. **Seeds** - to quote Graeme *do not trust a grevillea, they are sex mad!* You could get anything. The cross breeding started when *G. bipinnatifida* was introduced to Qld and many hybrids arose: eg Robyn Gordon, Coconut Ice, Moonlight.



Grevillea petrophiloides ; *G. amigera* close up & as large shrub embedded in masses of pink *Verticordia monodepha* at Reynoldson Reserve, Wongan Hills, WA; *G. eriostachya* & *G. bipinnatifida*, WA

Meeting Report, Grevilleas (continued)

Graeme showed us lovely images of the various grevilleas, all from his collection on his property. The images you see here were taken on the North of Perth Birdswing WA tour in 2015 (Ed).

Armigera *,(bearer of arms, very prickly), *bipinnatafida**, *cagiana* (toothbrush), *dielsiana*, *eriobotyria* (woolly, very beautiful), *eristachya**, *fastigiata*, *georgiana* (floristically speaking is considered the best), *globosa* (black & white), *hodgei*, *insignis* (wax grev, holly leaves foliage), *intricata* (intricate leaves), *juncifolia* (dripping with nectar, get honey), *kenneallyi*, *leucopteris** (white plumes), *maccutcheonii* (only got room for one this is it, flowers all year around), *nivea* (white stems), *oligomera*, *paradoxa* *(very prickly), *petrophiloides**, *plurijuga*, *quercifolia*, *rudis* (unusual, flowers can last a year), *shuttleworthiana*, *superba* (marvellous flowers, very long stamens), *treueriana*,(growing out of pure rock, Mt Finke in SA), *umbellulata*, *victoriae*, *wittweri*, *zygoloba*. X & Y? There was *xerophylla*, but it had a name change to *kerkalocha* (from the station where it was found). (* illustrated)

A story to gladden the heart and inspire us to keep growing natives: *G. scapigera*: the Corrigin grevillea, was endemic to the wheatbelt, WA. It became extinct in the wild due to land clearing. Kings Park undertook tissue culture of the species using stock from different growers who had obtained their source material from different locations in the wild. This allowed for improved genetic diversity. Now, there are heaps growing back in the wild. Thank you Graeme for yet another entertaining talk.



Grevillea leucopteris, roadside extravangaza WA, close up of plume; *G. paradoxa*, flower and close up of barbed stems. Keep off!

The Art of Grafting Grevilleas: Brian Weir of Weiryi, Wallan. by Miriam Ford

Given the impressive selection of grafted grevilleas we had at our May Plant Sale I thought it would be great to hear from the fellow who does them: Brian Weir of Weiryi, Wallan. Those of you who attended the general meeting will also recall that Brian generously donated one of his standards to the group as a prize (won by Suzie Gordon via Mike W) and that we had 3 of his smaller grafts of rare grevilleas as door prizes (see Flower Table for detail)

Arriving at Weiryi one is greeted warmly by Brian and Lorraine and then by one after another of many stunning Grevillea standards lining the driveway all accompanied by a colourful understory of Correas. Lorraine & Brian are gradually replacing what was a exotic garden populated with roses, camelias & box hedges with native plants. It is a very gradual transition as the established plants afford some protection from the fierce prevailing winds. (Continued on pages 6 & 7)



Image: Pick of the Crop, front & Thorny Devil ,behind

May Flower Table (report by Jill Lulham)

Thanks to Mike, Miriam & Rob for presenting the specimens. Thanks to those who brought along labelled plants. It is great to see the diversity of Autumn flowering plants we have in our gardens and so good to see the flower table becoming more crowded. This is just a selection of those brought in.



Door prize plants:

3 grafted grevilleas (from B. Weir): *G. monslacana* (Lake Mountain Grevillea – won by Lee), *G. rara* (looks prickly but isn't – won by Rob), *G. guthrieana* (green flowers, large shrub, moist soil – won by Lyhn)



ORCHIDACEAE

Dendrobium 'Hilda Poxon' 1 (*speciosum x tetragonum* – Chris K. some orchid flower sequentially – bottom flowers fall off waters about every 4 days to once a week at this time of year, grow in bark and scoria mix, easy to grow, and forgiving, *D. tetragonum 2* (only a small spidery plant), *D. 'Angeline'*



RUTACEAE

Correa 'Carmen' (one of Phil Hempel's plants) (Lorraine Weir has many correas – will plan a visit to see later), *C. redex*, *C. alba* (pink form, split bells), *C. reflexa 'Enfield'* (from Brisbane Ranges, large bell) *Diplolaena grandiflora 3*

PROTEACEAE

Banksia baueri ('Possum banksia') 4
Grevillea drummondii ('Gold Fingers', Miriam prunes back each year, 2-3m), *G. thyrsoides*, *G. 'Billy Bonkers' 5*, *G. 'Wendy Sunshine'* (grafted standard, *bipinnatifida x thyrsoides*), *G. acuaria* (SW WA, small 1m x 1m), *G. thelemanniana*, *G. nudiflora* (prostrate, also good grafted on standard, red flowers in skirt), *G. hopkinsii* ? (from Qld)



FABACEAE

Templetonia retusa (orange, mass of flowers - Ray)
Oxylobium sp. 6 (Kahn Franke concurred—from Carmen)
Hardenbergia violacea ('Prince Regent' shrub, purple flower)



MYRTACEAE

Eucalyptus gregsoniana 7 (NSW, Mallee snow gum - Lyhn)

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Eremophila 'Kalbarri Carpet' (*glabra*), *E. georgei* (pink flower), *E. forrestiana* (Fuschia gum)

ASTERACEAE

Brachyscome sp. (*multifida x diversifolia*?) - very large impressive lilac flower, from Lyhn.

Notice to all members: The APS YY zilch service is open to all members each general meeting night. Bring items you are happy to pass on i.e. books, pots and please remember to take home with you if they are still there at evening's end.

Visit to Weiryi, Brian & Lorraine Weir, May 12, 2016

They have been on their property for around 20 years now. I do believe the birds of the area have sent the word out, the walk around the garden was accompanied by many resident wattlebirds and honey eaters flitting from shrub to shrub and singing all the while. Quite, quite lovely.

There are also many small to large pots of young *Grevillea robusta* plants lining the sides of the house and at the back. These form the rootstock for all his grafts and Brian raises them from seed. The leaves are gradually removed after the graft is done, each alternate at first, one needs the leaves to work for the plant while the graft is taking. Lateral shoots are taken out and Brian cuts all the leaves in half when he grafts. Then as the graft callouses over he removes them more completely. The initial zig-zag nature of the *G. robusta* stem/stick straightens up and becomes quite smooth over time.

Brian began grafting around six years ago after he retired as a boiler-maker. He has a built in patio area for his grafting which he does from Sept to Jan. He uses a head lens for fine work and was initially helped a great deal with written instructions and photographs from Richard Tonkins who resides in Queensland, near Bundaberg (Changers Green Nursery) Richard was one of the early people to do a side saddle graft which is much stronger which Brian has also adopted. Most grafts are placed as a wedge at the top, with a side saddle you cut up the side and at the top and one's gets strength both ways as the graft establishes. Brian has access to material for grafting from both Graeme Wood's extensive collection and Neil Marriott who has the living collection from the *Grevillea* study group on his property.

Brian showed me how he set up the standards in his garden where he uses a length of solid steel rod (12 mm wide, 2.4 M long) to which he has attached a ring (very like a rose ring) which supports the crown. Brian creates the ring, being an ex-boiler maker helps. The long length of rod moves in the wind allowing good root development all the while supporting the trunk & the crown.

I thought that the Autumn flowering I was seeing was quite special however the Spring display is apparently truly spectacular.

Some of the Standards in the garden: *G. bipinnatifida*; Pick of the Crop (*G. bipinnatifida* X *thysoides*), Thorny Devil (*tenuiloba* X *Nana spp nana*), both from Neil Marriott; *G. aspera*, Gawler Ranges form, *repens*, Billy Bonkers, *calliantha* (Plum Crazy), *G. georgeana*, *plurijuga*, *quercifolia*, & *thysoides spp pustulata*.

Continued on next page.



Images: Brian with 16 year old *G. humifusa* standard, a side saddle graft, 1 year on; *G. robusta* ready for grafting; Ochre Pokers on ring & Pick of the Crop close up, both Neil Marriott originals, grafted by Brian.

The Library Team Report (Librarians: Pat Cameron & Susan Mackay)



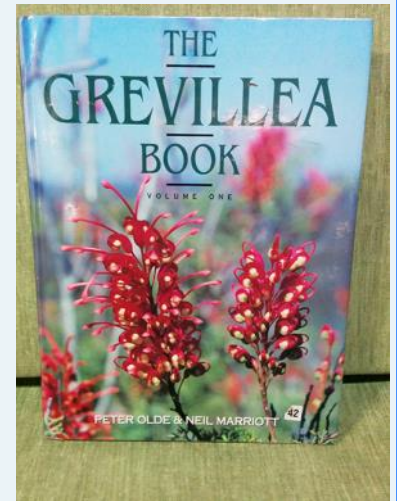
Book Mark – from your Library: Grevilleas

Were you inspired at last month's presentation about Grevilleas by Graeme Woods to know more? Luckily we have in our Library collection the Bible of Grevilleas. There are 3 volumes titled *The Grevillea Book* by Peter Olde & Neil Marriott.

In a response to **Volume 1**, Susan has written: Grevilleas are among the most horticulturally desirable plants of the Australian flora.

Whether for their wonderful diversity of leaf or their exquisite beauty of flower, most plant lovers will admit to unqualified admiration. A whole garden could be planted with members of this fascinating genus without fear of monotony or repetition. Other features of this volume include an illustrated key for identification and a comprehensive checklist of the major characteristics.

Volume 2 details Grevillea Species from A – L and **Volume 3*** continues with Species M – Z. Each entry has one or more colour photos and there is detailed botanical data, distribution notes as well as information about cultivation and propagation. In short - everything you might want to know!



We also have in the Library a copy of the 8th FJC Rogers Seminar held in August 2010. I expect some of our members were there? The title of the seminar was *Grevillea Hybrids, Cultivars and New Species*. Peter Olde contributed a short history of Hybrids and Cultivars which is fascinating to read. Neil Marriott defined a Hybrid or Cultivar and described some favourites such as G. 'Robyn Gordon'. It's interesting to learn the origin of the plants we've grown to love. There's more on Garden Design and Landscaping with Grevilleas from Ray Brown and several local gardens in East Gippsland are featured. It's a small publication but well worth a browse.

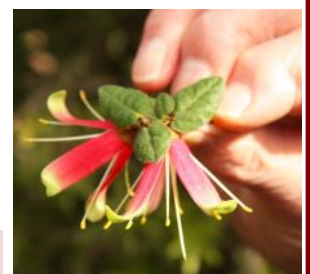
from Susan Mackay and Pat Cameron.

(Weiry continued)

Some of the Correas: Candy Pink, Jetty Red, Carmen, Big Bob, Fat Fred, Marion's Marvel & Portland Bell (a very large split bell, stunning plant).

Brian spoke very highly of Mike Williams and felt strongly about acknowledging Mike's role in the success of his endeavours and many of the other native plant enthusiasts in the area. *Mike is responsible for most of this, if he hadn't started the Mitchell group there wouldn't be such a great bunch of people working together and supporting each other's interests, myself included. He used to come back and forth to general meetings and committee meetings, every few weeks for months on end. They now have around 55 members with about half regularly attending meetings.*

Thank you Brian & Lorraine on behalf of Yarra Yarra for giving us this wonderful insight into your beautiful garden and the art of grafting. Thank you Mike for your ceaseless efforts and energy in supporting our and many other DGs.



Correas: Jetty Red & Portland Bells

Diary Dates:

Other APS District Group events

11-13 June Bookfest RBGV Cranbourne Gardens 10 am to 4 pm in the auditorium (Mel 133K10)

25& 26 June: APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show and plant sales. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre Ballarat Botanic Gardens, 10.30 am -3.30 pm. Entry fee includes cuppa.

23 & 24 July : Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale. RBGV Cranbourne Gardens. 10am to 4pm as above.

1& 2 October: APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show. Pomonal Hall. 9.30 am –5.00 pm.

8& 9 October: FJC Rogers Seminar, Hamilton *Native Terrestrial Orchids*

15 October: APS Mitchell Annual Spring Plant Expo and Sale. Memorial Hall, Sydney St. Kilmore. 9 am to 3 pm

A special event in November: *Kangaroo Paw Celebration November 2016 at Cranbourne Gardens*
There is to be month-long celebration of the iconic Kangaroo Paw at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne planned for November 2016 which will see the Australian Garden transformed into a riot of colour, with an abundance of displays featuring this most distinctive and iconic Australian plant.

A Special Three-Day Symposium will be held from 24th – 26th November.



Garden Visit Organisers:

We still need help with organising garden visit for the group. There are lots of ideas above for possibilities. We could go to some of the different district group events, those that are close enough for a day trip. It would help us get to know people in these DGs and their gardens. The idea is to have an organised lunch as part of the outing so it is an enjoyable social event for all.

One or two other members from the group would be helpful. You will be assisted by people who have experience in these matters i.e. Joanne Cairns, Jill Lulham & Carmen Cooper. Please let us know if you could help. It will be greatly appreciated by all of us here in the Committee as we are finding it difficult to cover everything required.



Image: Correa Carmen (grafted by Phil Hempel, Weiry Garden)

Contributions to the July 2016 Newsletter

to Miriam by **June 24 please.**

Email: miriam@miriamford.com

OR Post to Newsletter editor

APS Yarra Yarra
PO Box 298, Eltham 3095

Thank you

Miriam Ford, Joanne Cairns, Jill Lulham, Susan Mackay & Pat Cameron for contributions to the newsletter.

Images from Miriam Ford

Thanks also to Vicki Ward's office for printing.