

# Golden

Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society  
Latrobe Valley Group Inc.  
No. A0045337C

Issue No. 309 – June 2022

*Grevillea chrysophaea* – Golden Grevillea

## This Month

- Event** A walk at Blue Rock Dam and visit to Marg and Wayne's garden at Tanjil South.
- Location** Blue Rock Dam – Spillway Road, off Moe-Willow Grove Road.  
Marg and Wayne's – 42 Ashdowns Road, off Moe-Willow Grove Road.
- Date** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Time** .10:00 AM meeting at Blue Rock Dam.

We will walk around the plantings at the dam before travelling back to Marg and Wayne's property for a BYO lunch and a walk around their garden. Come prepared for the weather on the walks!

## In this issue:

### Page

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 2     | Leader's Report – Jill Fidler                         |
| 3     | Editor's Notes – Col Jackson                          |
| 4 – 5 | Plants in my Garden – Mike Beamish                    |
| 5     | 2022 Calendar Spot -June – Pamela Cox                 |
| 5     | A couple of reminders...- Col Jackson                 |
| 5     | APS Latrobe Valley Group Calendar                     |
| 6     | Our move to Drouin – Helen Appleby                    |
| 7     | Gymea Lily – AKA Doryanthes excelsor – Warren Simpson |
| 8 – 9 | Coming events of interest.                            |
| 9     | Rainfall registration charts                          |

**T**wenty-three members met at the Traralgon Bowling Club on May 5<sup>th</sup> where APS Victoria President Chris Clarke joined us. He presented awards (from last year; we finally got to meet with him after Covid issues) to Michael and Colin: Michael the Impresa Award for outstanding service to APS and Colin a Certificate of Commendation for notable service to APS. He followed this by sharing his pictorial collection of flora from our high country, relating stories from the many trips he has taken with APS groups to these areas. Those of us who haven't experienced these parts of Victoria are now full of enthusiasm to put them on our "To Do" list. We were also really pleased to welcome 2 new members to our group, Helen from Drouin, and Jan from Traralgon. They certainly chose an interesting occasion for their first meeting with us.

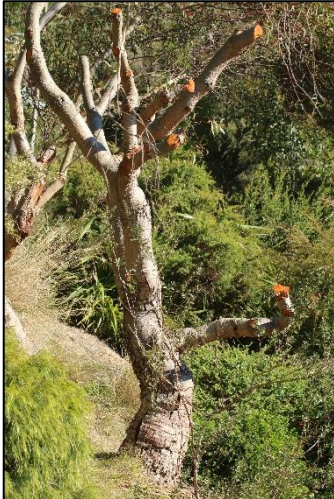
Do any of you know about the "City Nature Challenge"? If you do, you may want to skip the next bit. In 2016, a group of Scientists from the National History Museum of Los Angeles challenged their counterparts from San Francisco to document as many observations as they could of the natural world of their cities. Citizens were asked to contribute over four days. From this humble beginning, it is now an international event, the largest group of

naturalists in the world. In April 2022, millions of entries were received from 445 cities, including five from Australia. Twenty councils in Melbourne combined their efforts. The event for 2022 has just finished but in April 2023 it will be on again. More information at "citynaturechallenge2022". Entries are collected on the "iNaturalist" app which some of you may have already. Plenty of time to perhaps interest the City of Latrobe? .





It seems some strange things are happening with *Corymbia ficifolia*. I normally expect to see their colourful floral displays in mid to late summer but on a recent visit to my son at Mordialloc and my daughter at Geelong I discovered trees budding and flowering in both their gardens within days of winter. Our own orange flowering trees at home are showing no such wild tendencies and are just sticking with their normal seasonal habits.



We recently lost an old friend in our garden; a *Banksia spinulosa* that was among the very first plants put in some 34 years ago. It hadn't had an easy life, having been rudely jammed into the mudstone behind the house. Despite this, its gnarly trunk and orange flowers have been a feature of every walk to the clothesline or the shed and will be sorely missed. At this stage, I have trimmed back the dead foliage to

the larger branches to continue as a kind of monument to its life in our garden.

Otherwise, the garden is happily embracing the coming winter season with the beginning of a flush of Callistemons. The heritage of the pink and yellow I am not certain of, but White



Anzac is just a phenomenal low shrub that is bristling with those pure white brushes.

Thank you to recent contributors to the newsletter: Delma for her walk along Eel Hole Creek, Warren for his piece on Gynea Lily, and Helen on her move to Drouin. We all appreciate reading about others' experiences in the garden and in nature.





**Species:** *Correa glabra* var. *turnbullii*.

**Family:** Rutaceae.

**Derivation:**

**Correa:** Named after Jose Francisco Correa de Serra (1751-1823), permanent secretary, Royal Academy of Sciences, Lisbon, Portugal.

**glabra:** From Latin *glaber*, meaning without hair and the basis of the botanical term 'glabrous', meaning smooth-skinned without hair, referring to the leaves of this species becoming hairless on the upper surface with age.

**turnbullii:** Named after J.W. Turnbull, a South Australian botanist in the 1960's and 1970's.



**Common Name:** Rock Correa.

**Distribution:** Endemic to South Australia, where it occurs along the length of the Flinders and Mt Lofty Ranges, south to the Fleurieu Peninsula and the plains of the Murray Lands.

**Description:** A medium-sized dense shrub, with aromatic foliage. Two forms are recognised: the Ranges form has dark green glossy leaves and bright red tubular flowers with green tips and anthers strongly exserted; the Murray Lands form has small, duller, grey-green leaves and dull red tubular flowers with green tips, but the anthers are only moderately exserted.

**Opinion:** The glossy-leaved form is the most commonly cultivated and is the specimen I have. Just like the *C. lawrenceana* reported on a couple of months ago, my plant came from a Correa Study Group meeting a few years ago (June 2017), where cuttings were available for members to try. My efforts were successful and one of the successes was subsequently planted on the western nature strip (winter 2018). Another was planted in my mother's garden in Morwell, and both have prospered reasonably well since then. They are currently about a metre tall and broad, and the glossy leaves really stand out in the garden. They flowered for the first time in early 2020 and though the flowers are bright red and green, they tend to hide down amongst the dense foliage. This doesn't deter the birds however and the honeyeaters spend a lot of time doing the rounds. There is now plenty of growth available for taking cuttings from my plant, they are really easy to strike, even without any specialist equipment. Take a few centimetres of firm fresh growth, strip the leaves from the bottom half, dip the base in honey and plant into a well-draining seed or

cutting potting mix, keep moist, protect from extremes of weather and direct sunlight and finger's crossed, you'll have some new plants in a few weeks' time ready to plant out.

**Sources:** Elliot & Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 3.  
Hitchcock – Correas: Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens.

## 2022 Calendar Spot – June

By Pamela Cox

**T**he *Melaleuca nesophila* commonly known as Showy Honey-myrtle, is a large shrub at the top of our driveway. It has masses of purple pompom flowers and has a border of lavender bushes. Nesophila has Greek origins; neso meaning "island" and philein meaning "to love" which is most appropriate for this attractive bush. It is hard to believe that in some parts of Victoria it is classified as a noxious weed.



## A couple of reminders...

By Col Jackson

**D**on't forget to get your 2023 calendar photo submissions in to Cathy Beamish by the end of June. The rules are simple; composition of the photo is to contain something relative to Australian natives e.g., plant, animal, bird, insect, art, or scenery. Each person can submit up to ten photos.

And also, Mike has requested a reminder to you all to send him your wishes regarding Neutrog supplies.

## 2022 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
June	Sat	18	Blue Rock Dam walk and visit to Marg and Wayne's Garden at Tanjil South.	10:00
			Possible Spring Ballan Trip?	
Nov	Thursday	10	Bush tucker walk in Bunyip State Park with Julie and Anthony from Peppermint Ridge.	



## Our move to Drouin

By Helen Appleby

**W**e have recently moved from the sandy soils of SE Melbourne (Caulfield) to the beautiful loamy soils of Drouin. We were able to experience the wet times we had last year and understand the importance of drainage!

We wanted to have a larger piece of land to build a garden in than we had before. When looking around, we were inspired by a visit to Gardivalia (<https://www.gardivalia.com.au/>) a few years ago and, after seeing a few magnificent gardens, knew that West Gippsland was the place for us. The rainfall was a key drawcard, the soil a bonus! These aspects remind me a little of where I grew up in an intensive farming area of Northern Ireland where the soil was magnificent and the rainfall constant.



The land was subdivided in 1990 and the house finished in 1991. Talking to some of the neighbours, the original owner was a keen gardener, but looking at what's left of it, she only looked after the area close to the house and wasn't much interested in native plants. We have around 6000 sq metres and the block is long, rather than wide, so we have scope for an open, native parkland garden in

the front and a more private area with a roomed garden at the back. We've done most of the clearing at the front: blackberries, thistles, ivy, and very weedy violets, in amongst overgrown and dead collapsed photinias.

We have *Eucalyptus ficifolia* in scarlet red along the front, a reference to the main road into Drouin. Behind them a couple of lines of she-oaks (*Allocasuarina torulosa*) and, in turn, amongst them *Banksia marginata*. An *Acacia pycnantha* is also near the front. I've had no success with them previously but am hopeful here. We have planted a hedge of *Acmena smithii* Red Tips and one of *Callistemon viminalis* 'Slim' on the south and north sides of the front respectively. We have also planted a mini grove of Ironbark gums (*E. sideroxylon*, shown below), inspired by Rick Ekersley's garden. We have some *Grevillea* 'Moonlight' and *Acacia baileyana* waiting to be planted. The rear of the block has a grove of huge, weedy pine trees and a couple of Cyprus trees still to be removed. We will keep two oak trees and the Californian redwood between them.

We are looking forward to meeting fellow native gardeners and growing our garden in Drouin and settling into maintenance, rather than clearance, activities.





## GyMEA Lily – AKA *Doryanthes excelsor*

By Warren Simpson

**T**his plant is one of two species within the genus *Doryanthes* and is found on the Sydney sandstone belt, home to a lot of DDG plants; in this case Drop Dead Gorgeous means exactly that, a stunning flower that is visible from miles away in the bush. It is normally planted in large community or botanical gardens because of its size and the length of time it takes to flower. As a plant they are large, growing up to 3 meters across at ground level and they live to a ripe old age. There are two on Phillip Island on the main road near the Chocolate Factory that would be pushing that size. These two plants produce four flower stems each year. Tales of GyMEA Lily taking 25 plus years to flower are not uncommon. Flower spikes are tall, often measuring 3.6 meters to the base of the flower head and the stem would be around 7 cm thick at shoulder level (see photo below). The flower head too is large; approximately 45 cm tall and the same wide, so no wonder the stem is thick and solid.

For those who are wanting one, remember to be patient for if I recall correctly, this would have been planted in 1989 most likely, and was flowering for the first time at Christmas last year, making it at least 32 years old from planting and 34 or 35 from seed!

I am aware that there used to be a plant or two of the other species

*Doryanthes palmeri* at

the old Burnley Agricultural collage, now a part of Melbourne Uni. I'm not sure if they are still growing there or not. If anything, they are bigger plants with longer leaves and weaker, shorter flower spikes that arch and have very similar flowers over the last 1/3 of their length. *D. palmeri* comes from the high country in SE Qld.



## Coming events of interest

**Note: Please check the Vic APS website for cancellations before attending.**

**4 June APS Vic COM** – North Shepparton Community & Learning Centre, 10/14 Parkside Drive, Shepparton 3630. Registrations from 9.30. Meeting 10 am to 12 noon. Garden visit to Drew Baglin's garden, Kialla. For more information call Jenny Polinelli – 03 5829 8416.

**25 & 26 June 2022** – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

**23 & 24 July 2022** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry. Advised 24/3/22

**27 & 28 August** - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days

**1 September 2022** – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar 2022, Pomonal. A one day in-person event but exploring options to make the seminar available to an online audience. Theme "Image of Biodiversity" which aims to explore how imagery is used to monitor, engage, and inspire people towards greater biodiversity conservation efforts. Follow on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wimmerabiodiversityseminar>.

**3 Sept 2022** – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo. Date to be confirmed.

**11 – 16 September 2022, ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022** – Kiama, New South Wales.

Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website. Registrations open now.

**24 & 25 September 2022** – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more.

**24 & 25 September 2022** – APS Loddon Murray host COM and Quarterly Gathering in Swan Hill.

**26 to 30 September 2022** - 7<sup>th</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. *Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change*. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

**1 & 2 October 2022** - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9:30 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday.

**8 October 2022** - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

**15 October 2022** - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo & Sale, 9am - 3pm. Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore. \$2 entry.



**15 & 16 October 2022 – 14<sup>th</sup> FJC Rogers Seminar.** Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae). York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com) ►

**22 & 23 October 2022 - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show.** Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

		Rainfall for 2021 (in mm)												
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	92	57	78	88	65	143	73	83	128	180	113	28	1125
Brian	Drouin (east)	83	58	80	64	68	134	87	44	174	130	106	26	1054
Carolyn	Yarragon	79	30	60	65	75	117	73	102	151	93	88	20	951
Wayne	Tanjil South	108	37	89	77	175	195	90	95	207	167	112	64	1416
Peter	Mirboo North	92	53	107	81	101	274	88	78	170	87	96	45	1272
Judy	Moe South	97	25	89	79	75	175	79	83	197	101	93	37	1130
Mike	Boolarra	95	43	81	66	84	181	67	92	186	88	83	35	1098
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	79	35	98	63	71	266	56	114	120	136	117	26	1178
John	Traralgon South	83	16	135	35	26	229	58	68	91	75	68	33	915

		Rainfall for 2022 (in mm)												
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	67	30	81	94									272
Brian	Drouin (east)	74	11	76	86									247
Carolyn	Yarragon	107	5	55	68	58								292
Wayne	Tanjil South	83	15	63	98									259
Peter	Mirboo North													0
Judy	Moe South	73	13	64	55									205
Mike	Boolarra	72	6	74	60									211
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	68	11	85	75									238
John	Traralgon South	88	10	31	56	28								213

<https://apsvic.org.au/aps-latrobe-valley/>

<b>Leader:</b>	Jill Fidler	0407871603	jillsgarden71@gmail.com
<b>Deputy-leader:</b>	Cathy Beamish	0447452755	cathy.beamish@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Judy Hetherington	0497000925	heth76933@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mike Beamish	0447452755	mcandcjb@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Col Jackson	0429095527	coljackson57@hotmail.com
<b>Website:</b>	John Stephens	0439755013	john.stephens9@bigpond.com
<b>Librarian:</b>	Pamela Cox	0429194733	theroseglen@yahoo.com.au
<b>Publicity</b>	Delma Hodges	0408398385	rj3dh2@aussiebb.com.au



Golden Grevillea  
*Grevillea chrysophaea*

**HOMEGROWN NATIVE PLANTS MAY BE SOLD AT EACH MEETING. COPYRIGHT: ARTICLES OR INFORMATION ARE NEEDED FOR EVERY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOURCE AND ORIGINAL AUTHOR. SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR; note SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH. MEMBERSHIP FEES; per ANNUM: TO BE PAID BY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE FOR BOTH LATROBE VALLEY GROUP Inc. AND AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP Victoria) Inc.**

**Title page photo: *Grevillea chrysophaea* at Holey Plains State Park by Mike Beamish**