

# Golden

Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society  
Latrobe Valley Group Inc.  
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Issue No. 307 – April 2022

*Grevillea chrysophaea* – Golden Grevillea

## This Month

Event	Visit to Lyrebird Walk near Mirboo North
Location	Meeting at Lyrebird Walk carpark. Head towards Mirboo Nth on Strzelecki Hwy. Cross Little Morwell River in the forest before Mirboo Nth. Lyrebird Walk carpark track is a couple of hundred metres further on the left.
Date	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> of April
Time	10:30 AM.

We will start walking at 10:30. There are easy flat walks to the creek, returning to the carpark or more uphill walks venturing further out that you can opt for. There are no toilets on site, but Mirboo North is only 5 minutes down the road where we will have lunch in Baromi Park in the town centre. Bring your picnic lunch or buy something in one of the local cafés in the town.

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Members who joined the trip to Jumbuk Park Mountain Getaway really enjoyed a treat, starting with the journey. Carpooling at Churchill, the steep climb set the mood for our mountain experience. The resort has been established on the site of an old school camp, dotted around with cabins set to face the magnificent views and boasting a full commercial kitchen and conference facilities. We were made very welcome and set up camp in an area complete with cosy chairs and kitchen. Next, a walk round the nearby gardens with recently installed swimming pool and landscaping. Surprise, no takers for a swim! After lunch, complimented by a delicious cake (thank you Mary) we set off on a walk to the small, secluded lake which is used for canoeing and rafting. This involved a steep track down through lush rainforest while trying to avoid the friendly local leeches. *[Allegedly, the walking group got 'geographically misplaced', walked all the way down to the wrong gully, then had to walk back to the cars and drive to the lake. The walk leader copped some flak for this! Ed].*



Canoeing is just one of the activities offered; others are archery, orienteering, low and high ropes courses to mention a few, and of course bush walking and star gazing. A day was certainly not enough time to do it all. For me, the prospect of just sitting for hours absorbing the peace and glorious views was a highlight.

The Editorial by Lachlan Garland in the March issue of Growing Australian struck a chord with me. It focuses on trees, and trees have dominated my recent activities. I had the pleasure of showcasing some of our local treasures to a friend, who, despite vast Australian travels had never been to Gippsland. We started at the Port of Sale and a trip down the canal. On the banks we saw several 'canoe trees': River Redgums bearing the scars formed by the practise of carving the bark from the trunk to make canoes by first nations people the Gunnai Kurnai who have lived in the area for thousands of years. Next, to Walhalla, where a trip on the restored railway took us into a different forest, a deep gorge on the Thomson River and surrounded us with tall Mountain Ash and tree ferns. Finally, a visit to the almost surreal world of Tarra Bulga and the Fern Walk; more tree ferns and the ancient Myrtle Beach, (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) which, with their gnarled trunks covered in moss and small ferns, leave you in no doubt of their Gondwana Heritage, some being at least 500 years old. Treasures on our doorstep indeed.

And as a footnote; the Eucalyptus of the year is Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), and don't miss Mike's article in Growing Australian on the Traralgon South Flora and Fauna Reserve and Callignee State Forest.

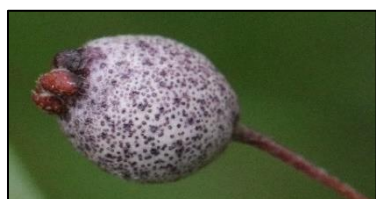




After the deadly dry of February, the heavens opened in March and dumped 40mm on us in not much more than an hour. Drains and gutters overflowed, thunder rumbled, and lightning flashed, some so close that the flash and the sharp crack came almost at the same time. The town of Yinnar, only nine kilometres away, got 170mm in that hour and suffered substantial street flooding! It's not the sort of watering my garden needs, as much of it rushes straight down the hill to the gully, but it's better than nothing. The garden is starting to respond with several Grevilleas budding up and just beginning to preview a few flowers in the promise of things to come. G. Peaches and Cream is, of course, at the top of the pops with its flamboyant showiness, easily followed by G. tenuiloba, with its prostrate, golden spiders crawling along the ground. G. Long John, so tall and regal in its stance, is offering only one flower, but is promising more. G. Pink Lady, shyly hiding down low, is hesitatingly offering just a glimpse of the future. G. Emma Charlotte is covered in rambunctious buds and just can't wait to let them loose with colour for all to see while G. pectinata is now starting to play hide and seek with its camouflaged buds peeking out of the foliage.

*Austromyrtus dulcis* or Midyim Berry seems to be doing well this year with lots of tiny white flowers and some berries now coming on. It is a hardy prostrate ground cover that I have tried in a few places in the garden and seems to do better in a mostly sunny position rather than heavy shade.

I have spent a lot of time labouring in the garden, mostly removing dead flower stems from my many strappy plants and pruning back some vigorous shrubs and disposing dead material as part of a general garden tidy up. My goal is to have the garden beaten roughly in submission when the Autumn break comes so that I can get my season's planting done early and take advantage of some warm, wet soil for my new plants. And here are two koalas resting in our garden after a long, hot day of hard work.



**Species:** *Correa lawrenceana* var. *latrobeana*.

**Family:** Rutaceae.

**Derivation:**

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

*lawrenceana*: Named after R.W. Lawrence (1807-33), an English botanical collector who was recruited by W. Hooker to collect in Tasmania in 1830.

*latrobeana*: Named after Charles Joseph La Trobe, Superintendent and later Lieutenant Governor (1851) of Port Phillip, Victoria.

**Common Name:** Mountain Correa.

**Distribution:** In remnant, wet, mountain forest along the Great Dividing Range in Victoria and southern NSW and in the Otway and Strzelecki Ranges.

**Description:** Usually a small tree to 5m tall, but some populations can be up to 16m tall. Leaves are elliptic to ovate and up to 120mm long, velvety hairy underneath



but becoming smooth and green with age on top. Flowers can occur in groups of three at the end of branchlets and are tubular to 30mm long, greenish-yellow, with a rusty-hairy, cup-shaped calyx to 7mm long that has either wavy margins or small linear lobes to 3mm long.

**Opinion:** Not commonly cultivated, 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 wall of the house (winter 2018). It has prospered reasonably well since then and is currently about a metre tall and broad. It flowered for the first time in early 2020 and though the flowers are not ►



particularly colourful, the birds like them and the plant itself is good for hiding the ugly brick wall behind a dense screen of green leaves. It's nearly time to consider taking some cuttings from my plant, to continue distributing plants around local gardens and to return the favour at the next Correa Study Group gathering.

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

## Book review – *Guide to Native Orchids of NSW and ACT*

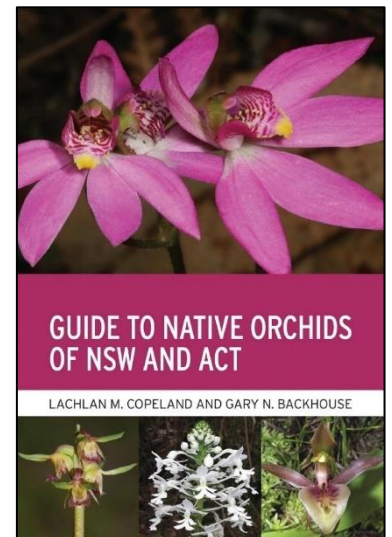
By Ian Fraser

From here in Canberra one might think “another orchid guide?”, but for anyone living in NSW outside the ACT and surrounds this really is a rare treasure. The blurb describes it as “the most comprehensive guide... for the region”. I think they could have gone further and mentioned that it's also the only one. I'm very aware of the late Tony Bishop's excellent 1996 guide to NSW and Victoria, but it's long out of print and of course the taxonomy has moved far on since then. The authors are very well qualified for the task. Copeland lives on the NSW north coast where he works as Senior Botanist for a major environmental consultancy and has an association with the University of New England. He is a stalwart of the indispensable NSW Plant Identification Facebook page and has described many new plant species, including six orchids. He even has a *Prasophyllum* (leek orchid) named for him! Backhouse is a Victorian and author of several orchid books, including the definitive guide to Victorian orchids and a recent one on all Australian *Caladenias*. Quite a team in fact. The guide covers all 582 known species in the state and territory, including 60 still undescribed (and there may be a minor logical wobble in that sentence, but you know what I mean). Each genus is introduced, and each species dealt with in a few well-chosen and well-written paragraphs, including the usual description, habitat, distribution (complemented by a good map) and, importantly, notes on the species including similar species. Photos (one or two per species, including a few not previously illustrated, we are told) are excellent, and seem to do the job admirably. I've not yet had the opportunity to field test the guide and would love to take it somewhere new – well, wouldn't we all like to travel somewhere new at the moment! This is an important addition to the already rich trove of Australian field guides, is a must for any NSW field naturalist, and would also be of practical interest to those in northern Victoria and south-eastern Queensland.

Guide to Native Orchids of NSW and ACT by Lachlan Copeland and Gary Backhouse  
CSIRO Publishing. 456 pages. RRP \$50

[Ian Fraser is a Canberra-based professional naturalist and writer. In 2012 he launched the natural history blog 'Ian Fraser, Talking Naturally', at <http://ianfrasertalkingnaturally.blogspot.com.au/>

This contribution was submitted by Meg Byers, who knows Ian through previous environmental tours in Australia. Editor]





## The Eel Hole Creek Walk

By Delma Hodges

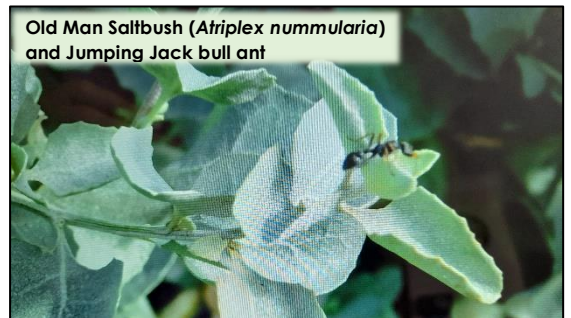
**M**y interest in Eel Hole Creek began some years ago, while having a long discussion with a delightful gentleman, great in years, but quite strong in memory. He told of his years as a dairy farmer living south of Glendonald Road in Churchill.

He told of the wet winters and the need to drain the farm for his dairy cattle, so he started to dig a drain. It commenced on the rise of his property and ran the full distance down to the lower northern end of his boundary. Whether fissures in the ground joined up to his drain in the wet winters, it is unknown, but his work allowed his land to be productive, and tolerable for the cattle.

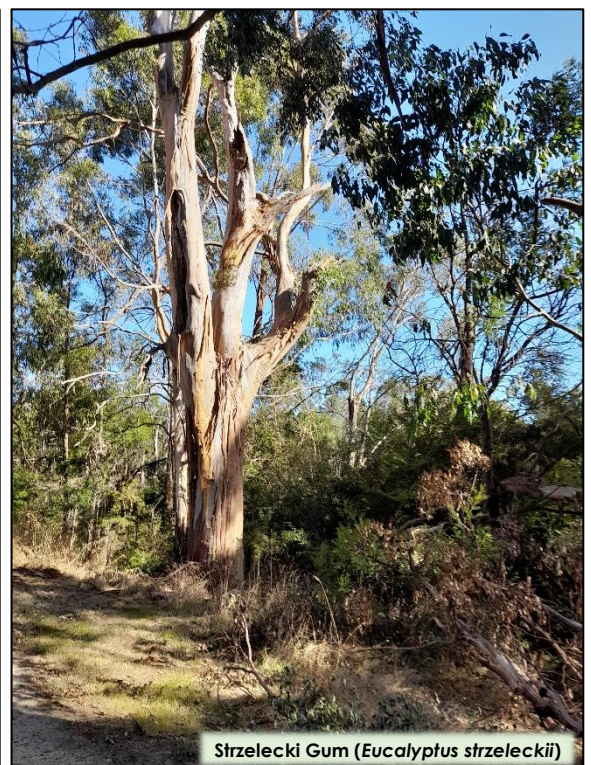
A smile and a chuckle could always be heard as he said they now call his drain Eel Hole Creek. There was no creek he said, till he made his drain.

I took a wander down the Eel Hole Creek recently, taking the pathway leading to the culvert at the end of Philip Parade opposite the entrance to the Glendonald subdivision. The path follows the water flow from the concrete culvert, past the Fed Uni Living Quarters and Tennis Courts and finishing at the pathway that links the Kurnai school and the Uni to the Churchill Shops. At a leisurely stroll it took an hour as I paused to enjoy the birds and photograph some of the plants, then return to our car parked near the commencement of the walk.

The pathway provides an easy walk past native endemic trees and hardy shrubs. I saw a very cheeky red wattlebird at the start of the walk and of course as I walked along there were lots of sounds coming ►



Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*)



Strzelecki Gum (*Eucalyptus strzeleckii*)





Correa sp. and cobweb

from other small birds dancing in the trees. The ever-present magpie was also busy searching for anything edible.

The culvert and creek, that the pathway follows, does need a bit of maintenance as both blackberry and ivy have taken advantage of our lockdowns to make their presence obvious. I am sure this job will have been noted already by the relevant authorities.

An exciting find was a Gymea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*). Aborigines are reported to have cooked the young flower head and roots. It's lovely to have it in our park.

I hope you will take the time to wander along this section

of the walk that leads to Lake Hyland at Matheson Park. Churchill is rightly proud of this recreational gem.

In February's edition of Churchill and District News, Mike Beamish wrote about the Lyrebird Walk close to



Gymea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*)

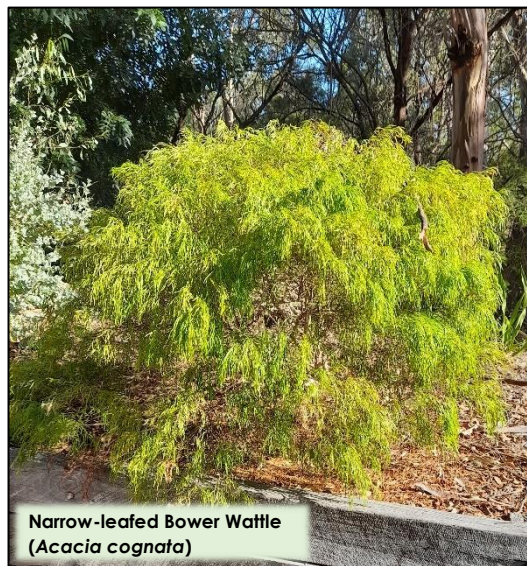
Mirboo North. I went there in early March, so I missed seeing the tongue orchids

unfortunately. But

I did keep an eye out for some of the birdlife he mentioned. There was a delightful stillness in the forest. It's a tonic for the soul no matter when or where we walk.

Sources: Wriggley & Fagg - Australian Native Plants 5<sup>th</sup> edition

Online – <https://www.alltrails.com>



Narrow-leaved Bower Wattle  
(*Acacia cognata*)



Westringia sp. (with tiny spider)



## 2022 Calendar Spot – April

By Col Jackson

This photo was taken in the spring of 2020. We were camping (some might say 'glamping') with Mike and Cathy in the National Parks campground on the Wellington River above Licola. There was much to see on the several walks we did along the river, with both flora and small fauna being the subject of my camera. I was carrying the camera with the macro lens so was concentrating on small things and close-ups. This Green Clerid Beetle was an obvious choice, with its shiny, iridescent, almost metallic-looking carapace against the soft whites and pinks of the Common Fringe Myrtle as it happily fed on the pollen. A day trip from our camp to the high plains yielded very little in either flowers or critters. Clearly, the higher country was still too cold for much to get going and this highlights the shorter summer season of the mountains.



## Coming events of interest

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

**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.

**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.

**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)

## 2022 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
April	Friday	8	Lyrebird Walk – Mirboo North	10:30
May	Thursday	5	Alpine Flora of Victoria – Chris Clarke Chris will also be presenting awards to certain members of our group. We have a booking at Traralgon Bowling Club for an optional lunch at 12:00 noon with the meeting starting at 2:00 PM. We will send out an email asking for firm attendance commitments by about April 18.	12:00
June		9	Moe Rail Trail?	
			Spring Ballan Trip?	



# 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											97
Brian	Drouin (east)	74	11											85
Carolyn	Yarragon	107	5											112
Wayne	Tanjil South	83	15											98
Peter	Mirboo North													0
Judy	Moe South	73	13											86
Mike	Boolarra	72	6											78
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	68	11	85										163
John	Traralgon South	88	10	31										129

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

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Golden Grevillea  
*Grevillea chrysophaea*

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