

# Golden

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

Issue No. 303 – November 2021

*Grevillea chrysophaea* – Golden Grevillea

## This Month

**Event** Annual General Meeting & Cathy's 2022 calendar presentation.  
**Location** Morwell Bowling Club – 52 Hazelwood Road, Morwell.  
**Date** Sunday November 14  
**Time** Optional Bistro lunch at 12 noon, AGM at 2 PM in function room.  
It looks like we will be all go for the AGM. We will monitor venue number limits and notify you by email if there is going to be any issues that could impact us.

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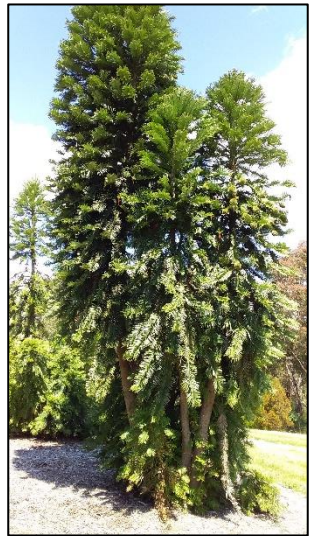
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**F**ingers crossed, we'll finally be able to meet for our AGM. I have contacted the Morwell Bowling Club and made a booking for Sunday November 14; 12 Noon for a meal in the Bistro and 2 PM for the AGM in the function room. Final details will be advised when the cap on numbers is clear.

On Friday last, Mike and Cathy invited us to a flash walk in the Crinigan Bushland Reserve, Fairway Drive, Morwell. I'm ashamed to say it was new to me, another of the reserves we are lucky to have in Latrobe with 100 acres of bushland regenerated since the formation of a Friends Group after years of neglect. The reserve offers over 2 kilometres of well signed walking tracks, plenty of seats, a picnic shelter, and toilets. Bird and plant lists are provided by the Latrobe Valley Field Nats., along with a map of walking options at the entrance next to the Morwell golf course. The plant list contains some 170 plant species from the original open forest flora and there is a list of 31 birds from a recent bird count (nesting boxes are provided throughout the reserve). On the subject of reserves, Mathison Park in Churchill featured in the Express recently. Of interest was the mention of a Conifer collection that was planned about 15 years ago to showcase Australian and New Zealand conifers. Currently undergoing a regeneration, it is still worth a visit to see the magnificent Wollemi pine. In fact, the committee are wary of too many visitors, especially the ones who cannot resist taking cuttings.

Last week I visited the Sale Regional Gallery to see The Archibald Portrait Prize entries.



Located next to the exhibit was a selection of works by Annamieke Mein. You may remember her from when we visited her wonderful work as a group last year. I was sitting with my coffee overlooking the park and thinking of the meeting we had there when we heard the now familiar news of a lockdown. The Prize exhibits are worth the trip as is a new work by Annamieke. It is an amazing sculpture/portrait of a silverfish. Difficult to do justice with a description and made partly with thousands of fabric labels contributed from around the country. I won't say more...just make the trip!

I mentioned last time a request for articles for Growing Australian magazine. Mike has responded with some of the articles we have enjoyed in our wonderful monthly newsletter. I'm glad others will now see them.

Hope to see many of you at our AGM, Jill Fidler.



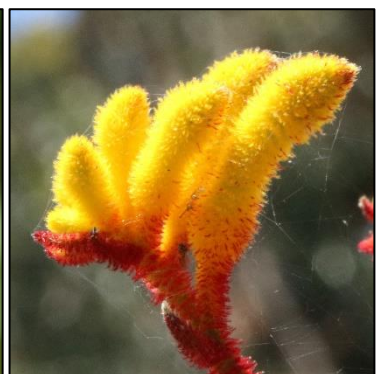
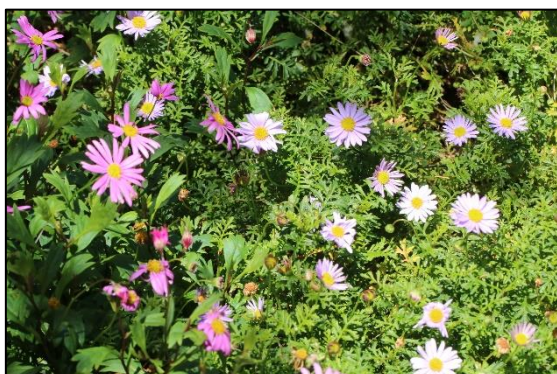
Finally, this month sees us with a little more certainty than we have had for a long time. Thanks to the excellent vaccination rates we have in Victoria, state-wide lockdowns have ended, and we are slowly gaining more of our freedoms to meet up. This should allow us to achieve our long waited for AGM and slideshow of Cathy's calendar photo winners. For our December finish up for the year, we plan to have the visit to the Traralgon South gardens of Yvonne and Pamela, and Sue and John. Details will come in the December newsletter, but it will be early in December and based around a BYO lunch.

At home, like everyone else, I have been spending a fair bit of time dealing with weeds. The vegie garden weeds are the worst and I refuse to use sprays there, so it entails lots of hand weeding. I had a good tip from John the other day though, he uses tough black poly sheeting to lay over the beds to rob the weeds of sunlight and attract heat, thereby cooking the weeds. He reports that it is a fairly successful method. Another tip I would like to pass on is the use of old pots as plant protectors. I have accumulated a lot of old 8-inch plastic pots that I do not use, so decided to cut the bottoms out of them and use them to protect small, newly planted gems. As you know, I have a plethora of wildlife all willing to eat, pull out, kick mulch over or just plain trample-on anything not established. Wire guards work but are problematic to store. It is easy to cut the bottoms out of the old pots (always remember the first rule of knives: *never cut towards yourself or your friends!*) and they are easy to remove after a few months and stack together for storage when no longer needed.



The flowering in the garden at this time of year is, of course, brilliant. A patch of Brachyscombes underneath a very mature Geraldton Wax have really filled in and are looking great with the varied colours. Kangaroo Paws are also budding out and are promising some crisp new colour to come.

Thank you to article contributors, you have made it easy to fill the pages. I hope I get to see you again at the AGM this month.





## Plants in my Garden 181

By Mike Beamish

**Species:** *Melaleuca lateritia*.

**Family:** Myrtaceae.

### Derivation:

*Melaleuca*: From Greek *melas*, meaning black, and *leucos*, meaning white, and referring to the black burnt patches seen on the white bark of some species or alternatively, to the black trunks and white branches of some Asian species.

*lateritia*: From the Latin word *lateritius*, which means made of bricks and used botanically to mean dark brick-red, referring to the flower colour.

**Common Name:** Robin Redbreast Bush.

**Distribution:** The south-west of Western Australia, from Kalbarri in the north, around the south-west coast and ranges, as far east as Albany.

**Description:** An erect shrub to 2.5m tall and 3m broad with coarse, fibrous bark. Leaves are alternate, thin and linear to 20mm long and 2mm wide. Bottlebrush-type flower spikes to 80mm long and 60mm in diameter occur over a long period covering the warmer months of the year and are a bright orange-red in colour. Fruits are cylindrical clusters of rounded capsules, each about 8mm in diameter, with sunken valves.



**Opinion:** This is another old plant, having been in its position on the eastern boundary fence in my backyard for more than twenty years. Despite its age it is still quite small, being about 1.5m tall and broad. For most of the time it blends into the garden, but when those flowers appear, they grab the attention of every nectar-feeding critter within cooee.

The literature says that propagation is easy from cuttings or seed; I have not tried the latter, though capsules are present, and wonder whether seed would be viable since I doubt there are any other specimens nearby for cross-pollination. I've tried cuttings a few times over the years and have had about a 50% strike rate and survival to potting up stage, but my records don't show whether the plants have survived once delivered to their new homes.

**Sources:** Elliot & Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 6.  
Sharr – WA Plant Names and their Meanings.  
Online – FloraBase: Flora of WA.  
Holliday – A Field Guide to Melaleucas.  
Wrigley & Fagg – Bottlebrushes, Paperbarks & Tea Trees, etc.



During our many lock downs, we got stuck into a couple of projects. Daryl made a terrific table for his BBQ pit above the dam. The pine slab came from a huge radiata pine growing in the bottom paddock. It blew over in a storm about 10 years ago. We hired a man with a Lucas mill to come in and cut some slabs for us. We thought it was about time we made something useful with them. Now we have one massive table, a smaller table, and a few bench seats.



My project is a 3 by 4 metre 'chook pen' for the vegies. After everything was eaten by the birds and animals last summer, I decided something permanent had to be done. I'm also in the process of finishing some wicking beds and no dig beds. On the floral side of things, the *Prostanthera* sp. (Mint Bush) and *Clematis aristata* (Old Man's Beard) are dazzling at the moment.



Also, I planted a tube stock *Melaleuca blaeriifolia* 10 years ago. The poor thing is still only 12 inches high, but this year it is covered in tiny lime green flowers. The wattles and correas put on a good show earlier, although 2 self-sown *Acacia* 'Scarlet Blaze' flowered then dropped dead. This year *Telopea* Shady Lady and the red *Telopea*, (bought as *T. speciosissima*, the New South Wales Waratah) are covered in flowers and look spectacular, although the Shady Lady does tend to get sunburn on the edges of the petals. Apart from that it is weeding, weeding and more weeding with no visits to our favourite nurseries for joy and inspiration.





**W**ith all the rainfall in recent weeks the garden is looking great. The prostrate grevillea is abuzz with bees, as are all the flowering natives such as Boronias, tea trees and the manuka honey tea tree are a special favourite for the bees. Pamela has taken some photos of teddy bear bees visiting also. They are a honey golden colour and quite lovely to see. With all this time on our hands due to lockdowns we have moved 16 cubic metres of Eucalyptus mulch onto the garden with help from the Little Weeders trio from Boolarra. A huge undertaking! Hopefully this mulch will drought proof the garden into the summer months. Whilst it has been a Godsend having our large garden to work in and enjoy, I'm sure it will be good to see family & friends once more so that we can all enjoy our gardens and home visits.





## Flowers and mossies – fun at Loch Sport.

By Daryl Radnell

Judy and I went to Loch Sport as soon as we could escape our local lockdown (No.8?) to check on the holiday house. While we were there, we went orchid hunting. Glad to say the orchid hunting was successful despite the squillion notorious Loch Sport mozzies. We only did an abbreviated walk. In fact, we only slightly back tracked from the surf beach car park a few hundred metres and were rewarded with quite a lot of orchids in flower just off the road. I don't think we have ever seen such an abundance. We braved our limbs and loss of blood to view and photograph them which was not exactly easy as there was just enough breeze to keep the orchids swaying but not enough to blow the mozzies away. So, we squatted and swatted and watched the orchids sway as we took photos of dubious quality. I am very poor at plant identification so we will leave final decisions up to the experts in our group. However, I think we have *Pterostylis* sp (Green Hood), *Caladenia tentaculata* (Large Green Comb), and *Leptospermum* sp. On the next page is *Caladenia carnea* (Pink Fingers white and pink forms?) Apart from orchids several other plants were in bloom including *Dianella*, a Daisy we have no name for, Pig face, and *Lomandra*, sp.. Any assistance with naming will be greatly appreciated. All these flowers were within a small area and there were several more that we did not photograph. ►









## 2021 Calendar Spot – November

By Pamela Cox

**F**or those who may remember *that* winter morning, it was minus 10 degrees in Traralgon South. After taking photos of our frozen plants at the front of our property I ventured around the back. I took this shot just as the ice was beginning to melt on the heath flowers. It is probably my most favourite picture as it demonstrates just how delicate and at the same time robust the flowers are.



## 2021 Calendar Spot – February

By Yvonne McInness

**I** got pretty excited when I saw this lovely combination of fungi, lichen and moss covering this wooden post. It reminded me that the post originally felled and taken from the forest now has a new role in nature; and although not still living as a tree, it provides a home for other forest plants. I particularly love how these opportunistic fungi are pushing up from the rotting wood. To me, it is a great composition of how life evolves in the woods.



## My Bee Motel



Jill sent me this photo she found on the internet. A very clever idea, it demonstrates how simple and easy it can be to provide not only a home for our native insects, but also a quirky artistic addition to your garden.



## Coming events of interest

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

**Date to be confirmed** – Open Garden for Helen and John van Riet, in Wangaratta, to raise money for Oxfam. Plants for sale.

**13 & 14 November 2021** Garden DesignFest, Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula

**20 & 21 November 2021** Garden DesignFest, Regional Victoria: Ballarat, Euroa, Geelong and Macedon Area.

**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)



This pigface has flowed down over a 1.5 metre rock retaining wall, top to bottom, in about the last 3 years. It is absolutely full of flowers now and will probably produce the same again in autumn. The bees just love it. However, I don't know exactly what it is and to be honest, suspect it may not be Australian native. Any clues? Editor.



## 2021 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
Nov	Sunday	14	Hopefully we have it nailed! Optional lunch at 12 and AGM at 2. Morwell Bowling Club.	2PM
Dec			Visit to Traralgon South gardens, BYO cut lunch. Date and time to be announced but it will be the first week or so in December.	

Rainfall for 2020 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	121	147	40	170	123	51	64	154	70	121	89	60	1207
Brian	Drouin (east)	124	136	46	163	125	47	53	158	80	100	69	47	1148
Carolyn	Yarragon	105	171	35	138	125	48	55	138	61	120	44	49	1087
Wayne	Tanjil South	136	108	66	163	134	72	91	107	57	123	55	86	1198
Judy	Moe South	99	95	33	159	137	53	55	128	71	138	37	40	1045
Mike	Boolarra	93	126	40	159	121	73	78	115	63	133	32	63	1093
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	86	134	39	152	93	73	97	98	53	110	37	48	1019
John	Traralgon South	76	55	15	134	105	55	46	115	53	108	51	32	842

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				805
Brian	Drouin (east)	83	58	80	64	68	134	87	44	174				792
Carolyn	Yarragon	79	30	60	65	75	117	73	102	151				750
Wayne	Tanjil South	108	37	89	77	175	195	90	95					866
Judy	Moe South	97	25	89	79	75	175	79	83	197				899
Mike	Boolarra	95	43	81	66	84	181	67	92	187				894
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	79	35	98	63	71	266	56	114	120				901
John	Traralgon South	83	16	135	35	26	229	58	68	91				739

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

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



**Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group Inc.**

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday, November 14, 2021, 2pm**

**Morwell Bowling Club, 52 Hazelwood Rd., Morwell VIC 3840**

**Agenda**

**Attendance:**

**Apologies:**

**Confirmation of previous AGM Minutes:**

**Business arising from previous AGM:**

**Correspondence:**

**Business arising from Correspondence:**

**Reports:**

**Election of Office Bearers:**

**General Business:**

All committee positions become vacant. Please consider whether you can provide assistance in any of the positions; Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Website Officer and Librarian. Nominations for the positions will be received immediately prior to the election for each position. If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to nominate for a position, please advise the Leader in writing or by email prior to the AGM.