

Golden

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

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Grevillea chrysophaea – Golden Grevillea

This Month

Event A visit to White Woman's Waterhole and Yarram township.

Location Won Wron and Yarram

Date Friday July 15

Time Meeting at Gormandale at 10:30

We will meet at Gormandale Football Ground and decide carpooling arrangements there (feel free to make your own arrangements earlier), before travelling on to White Woman's Waterhole where there are forest walking tracks. Yarram for lunch (BYO or buy locally) and a look at public gardens and local murals. If time permits, we may go on to Port Albert, but it is winter, and the days are short.

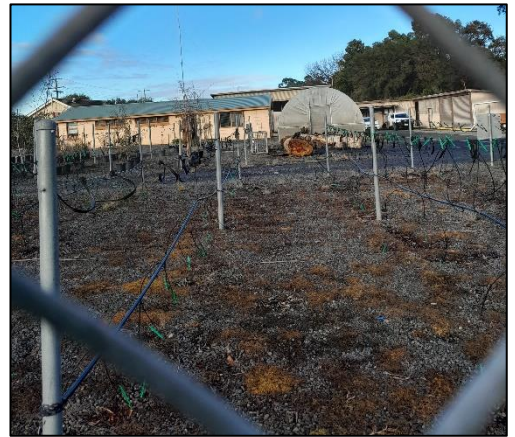
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Well, we've passed the shortest day so its countdown to SPRING now. I hope you haven't reached the stage which prompted a friend from Seymour to say she'd had enough rain. What are we doing with all the time saved while not watering?

Many of you will be familiar with the former Latrobe City Council nursery site in Airlie Bank Road Morwell next to U3A. It will soon be open again with a new purpose. GLaWAC (Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Latrobe City Council for the property to be developed to create employment opportunities for the local Aboriginal community and as a centre to continue the aim of caring for country. The territory covered by the Corporation runs from Warragul in the west, the Snowy River in the east, north to the Great Divide and south to the coast. Their stated responsibilities include revegetation, waterway restoration, pest management, bushfire fuel reduction, seed collection and plant propagation. The Airlie Bank site will be used for plant propagation using seed collected from plants indigenous to Gippsland. The plan is to work closely with Landcare and other interested groups to create a National Restoration Hub and eventually open to the public. When I called in yesterday, work had started, and a crew was out seed collecting.



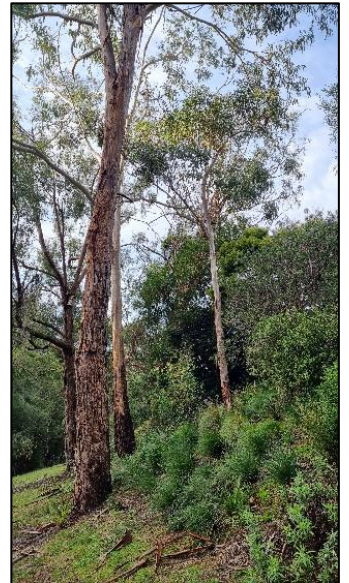
My nature-loving niece sent me a link to the Native Bee Society of British Columbia and, as with Bee societies worldwide, they are dedicated to the conservation of native bees and other pollinators. A google search will also lead to a gallery of spectacular images and a reference to "Bee Turf" (more about that next month). Here is a photo of a spectacular 'insect hotel' made up of all recycled materials. There are some ideas there for anyone



interested in creating their own insect hotel.

And don't forget about membership renewals. Mike will be sending out renewal reminders to those of you who are due; if you don't receive a reminder from Mike, consider yourself up to date.

It was April when I was preparing the garden for the Autumn planting to take advantage of the warm soils and moistening ground. Funny isn't it, how intentions and actions don't always line up. Here we are three months later, and I have only just got stuck into the planting. Apart from 20 or so Paper Daisy's that I put in the daisy patch, I have gone through my usual muddle of what goes where. Being an old garden, large patches of it are getting shaded out by mature shrubs and trees, making survival of many plants marginal if not impossible. So, I wander back and forth between my plant nursery and the garden, muttering to Google all the time in the search for a match between conditions and capabilities. To date, I have planted 170 new plants, although about 100 of those were forestry tubes of grasses and smaller 'grassland plants' that I have put in to thicken up and create more interest on a steep bank under gum trees. This is an area I have been working on for several years, having planted a variety of *Lomandras*, *Dianellas* and grasses in an effort to make an attractive natural-looking low-maintenance garden. I am pretty pleased with how it is progressing.



There is nothing bleak or dismal about a native garden in winter. Here we are, just past the shortest day, it is cold and cloudy but the garden keeps producing good cheer. My *Eucalyptus caesia* 'Silver Princess' buds are just starting to open, and the nearby pink flowering form of Red Ironbark has been in flower for a couple of weeks now. This one has attracted all the usual honeyeaters, including small groups of Rainbow Lorikeets. Their happy chatter and



flashes of amazing colour as they feed are a real delight. As if to prove that they have visited, there is a carpet of nipped-off pink flowers on the ground below. Above the house site there is a *Correa*, a form of *glabra* I think, that is now full of soft pastel-coloured flowers. It is a neatly rounded, dense bush that provides food and cover for the small honeyeaters and pleasure for the human eye. There is also an unseasonal flowering in my nursery. My rather mature potted *Blandfordia grandiflora* (Christmas Bells) is putting up a single stem of flowers exactly six months out of normal flowering. Christmas in July, maybe?



Plants in my Garden 188

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Carex gaudichaudiana*.

Family: Cyperaceae.

Derivation:

Carex: A Latin word, meaning some kind of reed or rush, said to be derived from a Greek word, *ceiro*, meaning to cut, in reference to the sharp leaf margins of some species.

gaudichaudiana: Named after a French botanist, Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupre (1789-1854), who was the apothecary on, and author of the botanical report from, Freycinet's voyage around the world 1817-1820.

Common Name: Tufted Sedge or Fen Sedge.

Distribution: Common and widespread in cooler areas, particularly subalpine bogs, throughout the eastern states of Australia, Asia, PNG and NZ.

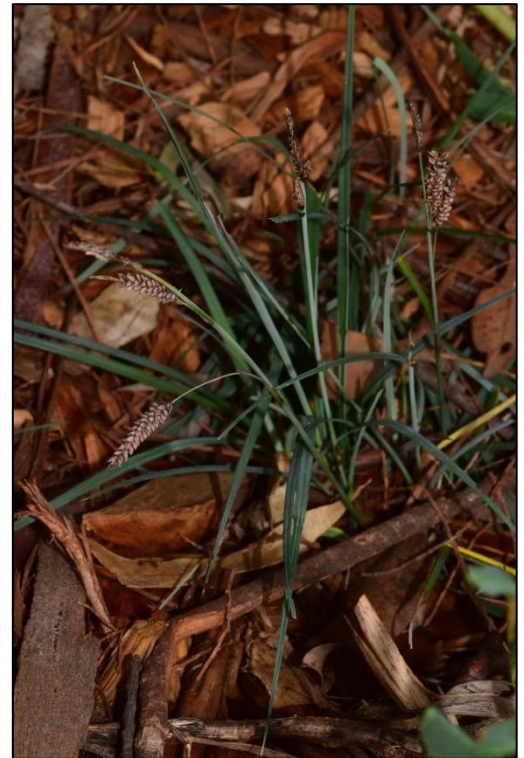
Description: A loosely-tufted, spreading tussock with dark, bluish-green leaves from 10-100cm long and 2-4mm wide, longer than the flowering stems (culms), which are 3-sided, up to 90cm long and carry flower spikes up to 18cm long that consist of 3-8 spikelets, solitary at the nodes. The upper spikelets are usually male, those at the base can be male or female and the spikelets in the middle are usually female. Confused? Yep, me too!

Opinion: The last time I saw this plant was when I took the photos back in mid-April 2020. It's probably still there, but in the last two years the Karkalla (pigface, *Carpobrotus rossii*) has gone nuts and is attempting to smother everything in its path. This is in the bed on the



nature strip on the western side of the block, where, in hindsight, I probably shouldn't have planted a sedge. It's the hottest bed in the garden, fully exposed to the afternoon sun in summer and the *Carex* is a lover of cool, wet places, like my underutilised frog/bog garden. If it's still alive, might be worth a transplant! The source of the plant was the raffle table in May 2018; I can't remember exactly when it went into the ground, but my guess would be autumn 2019. Not bad for me, only 12 months in the pot!

Sources: Elliot & Jones – Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 2.
Corrick & Fuhrer – Wildflowers of Victoria.
Sharr – WA Plant Names and their Meanings.
Flora of Victoria online.



Possible Spring Trip for our group

Mike has contacted Doris' granddaughter Nicola regarding a possible spring weekend trip to Blackwood, a small town on the edge of the Lerderberg State Park, positioned halfway between Bacchus Marsh and Daylesford. The following is her reply. Have a read, research it if you like and we will discuss it at the July meeting. We will need to lock in soon if we want to book accommodation.

Dates-wise, I'd recommend aiming for mid-late October. We are always a couple of weeks (at least) later than everywhere else in the season, but if you aim for around then you'll hopefully see the bush around here bursting with blooms!

The Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Camp would be a perfect option for accommodation. They have two dorm locations in town, both walking distance from the pub/post office if you want meals/coffees. Each dorm has around 25 beds I think, communal bathrooms, and a large communal rec. room and well-equipped kitchen. I would advise contacting them asap though, as they do get booked up. Here is a link to their website - <https://www.blackwoodssoe.vic.edu.au/>

Apart from that, there is a caravan park for campers, but I'm not sure what sort of onsite vans/cabins they have available.

In terms of activities for that time of year, there are a number of lovely walks close to Blackwood. The Whipstick Loop, which leaves from the Garden of St Erth car park, is fantastic, but it has been closed since the big storm in June last year, so I don't feel confident that it would be reopened by then.

Byres Back Track is a great walk that goes from Blackwood to O'Brien's Crossing - it is around 11kms all up, but my kids and I usually just walk a few k's along and then turn and go back the way we came. It is probably the best orchid hotspot close to town.

Another favourite of ours is Square Bottle Track which comes off Mt Blackwood Rd. It has some beautiful Xanthorrea and lots of Tetratheca, Drosera and many different native peas. Again, we have never walked the entire length of the track, but you don't have to go far along it to see great diversity.

Further afield I would definitely recommend making trips to Werribee Gorge (around a 30-minute drive) and Brisbane Ranges (35-45 minutes away depending on which part of the park you go to).

Also, Melton Botanic Gardens are only about a half hour drive away too, and definitely worth a visit.

2022 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
July	Fri	15	Meeting at Gormandale Recreation Reserve (footy ground) at 10:30 before travelling on to White Woman's Waterhole and Yarram. Lunch at Yarram, your choice to BYO or buy at one of the venues in town.	10:30
Oct?			Possible Spring Trip to Blackwood – See info above.	
Nov	Thursday	10	Bush tucker walk in Bunyip State Park with Julie and Anthony from Peppermint Ridge.	

A beginners try at growing gums from seed.

By Heather Waddell

It was a sad event to lose a number of mature Mountain Grey Gums on our farm south of Warragul in the storms of 2021. However, with the canopy of the gums now within reaching distance from the ground it provided an ideal opportunity to harvest their seeds. And what a lot of seeds!

I harvested bunches of flower bracts and dried them out in a large paper bag inside. The seeds were tiny – a millimetre in size at the most, and lots of them.

I mixed 50:50 potting mix and perlite. I intended to use a potting mix without any fertiliser but mistakenly started with a premium potting mix that did have fertiliser. Not expecting every seed to germinate I was generous with the number of seeds per tube. Much to my surprise, it would appear every seed was viable, and I ended up with 798 seedlings

Whether it was coincidence or not I don't know but the seeds that germinated in the premium potting mix outgrew their siblings by double the growth rate. Having said that even within the same potting mix cohort there was significant variation in the virility of the seeds. Some grew extremely quickly, and others just seemed to stall.



I transplanted the seedlings into their individual tubes and decided to give a helping hand with a small amount of native plant fertiliser (given that the premium potting mix seemed to have had a positive impact). Unfortunately, I managed to kill half of the seedlings with that act of kindness.

The seedlings that survived continued to grow well and a percentage of them eventually needed potting up to a larger pot size. A number of the larger seedlings have been planted back in the areas where the mature trees were lost. The kangaroos have had a nibble on them but hopefully that is part of 'growing up' in the bush in Australia. ►



The Mountain Grey Gum seeds needed no special treatment to get them to germinate, however I also harvested some Strzelecki Gum seeds at the same time, and they have been much more challenging to germinate. After some experimenting the most reliable method to get them to germinate is soaking them in smoky water. The seedlings are not nearly as vigorous as the Mountain Grey Gums so it is understandable that the Strzelecki Gum has been identified as a vulnerable species.

With my next seed germinating project, I am going to be more rigorous with selecting the stronger growing seedlings as the pots take up too much space not to be pulling their weight.

[Heather was born and raised on the family dairy farm just south of Warragul. Heather and her husband Ian work with the Landcare Group to help restore and preserve the native vegetation on the farm. They removed the existing cypress trees and are creating native vegetation areas across the farm including new trees from their native trees. Heather asked for Brian Hetherington's advice, pots, assistance with her Eucalyptus seeds to set her on the right track. Ed.]



2022 Calendar Spot – June

By Col Jackson

This photo came from my collection taken while camping on the Wellington River. It is a Damselfly, which is generally distinguished from its cousin the Dragonfly by the shape of, and way it holds, its wings. The Dragonfly has a stockier body and spreads its wings out to the sides while at rest, whereas the Damselfly has more delicate body and wings and generally holds the wings parallel to the body while at rest. This specimen was happily at rest and did not move while I photographed. The literature says that they like to remain close to running water, and that held true as it was within metres of the river. I do love this photo, but, in the never-ending search for perfection I feel I should have tried to get more of the stick it was perched on in focus.



Blue Rock Lake and the Wilkinson garden.

By Col Jackson

Our most recent meeting to Blue Rock Lake had a slightly dismal beginning. We arrived at the dam wall under a cold, grey sky. Although there were some local indigenous plants scattered around the car parking area, there was not much worthy of a 'walk'. Wayne soon set us straight and we relocated to Willow Grove township then down to the lake edge from there. Ahh, much better, a pleasant car park with playground and a walk along the shore of the lake with (mostly) indigenous plantings alongside it. To top it off, the sky,



opened to a clear blue with some warming winter sun. Although the walk included a circuit up to and through the town before returning to the car park, we opted to return along the lake edge and review the plantings again.

From there it was on to Marg and Wayne's house for lunch before an inspection of their garden. With much of the garden well established, there are examples of 'prostrate' plants in a size you don't often see. *Banksia integrifolia*, *Acacia* 'Limelight' and what we think is a *Banksia* 'Birthday Candles' all over one metre high and spreading out proportionately and looking great. A group of many other established natives forms a solid copse of shrubs below the sheds, once again, established over many years and now a safe haven for small native birds.



Coming events of interest

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

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 - 7th 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 – 14th 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 ►

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	60								332
Brian	Drouin (east)	74	11	76	86	75								322
Carolyn	Yarragon	107	5	55	68	58								292
Wayne	Tanjil South	83	15	63	98	107								366
Peter	Mirboo North													0
Judy	Moe South	73	13	64	55	93								298
Mike	Boolarra	72	6	74	60	54								265
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	68	11	85	75	46								284
John	Traralgon South	88	10	31	56	28								213

<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

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY VICTORIA Inc.

Incorporation No.A0002023D

NEW/RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

For new members and for those renewing membership for 2022/2023.

Note: This is a combined membership form for both APS Victoria and the APS Latrobe Valley Group. If you complete this form, please disregard any APS Membership Form that may be automatically sent out to you with your APS Victoria newsletter. Your details and the appropriate payment will be forwarded to APS Victoria.

- ☐ I wish to join APS Victoria (for new Members only).
☐ I agree to be bound by the Rules and Bylaws of the Associations.

Please fill in all details

Title/s _____ First name/s _____

Surname/s _____

No. and Street or Road _____

Suburb/Town _____ Postcode _____

Telephone: Home _____ Mobile _____

Email _____ Signature _____

- ☒ Please indicate the membership type by ticking below – all membership types include one copy of the Growing Australian newsletter each quarter.

☐ Single membership. \$35

☐ Household membership. \$40

☐ Overseas membership. \$53

☐ Student membership. \$26

SUB TOTAL (APS Vic Inc.) \$

Please **ADD** membership of APS Latrobe Valley Group Inc. No. A0045337C

☐ Single. \$10

☐ Household. \$15

SUBTOTAL \$

If you wish to subscribe to Australian Plants magazine via APS Victoria, please **ADD**

☐ Australian Plants magazine. \$15

TOTAL \$

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