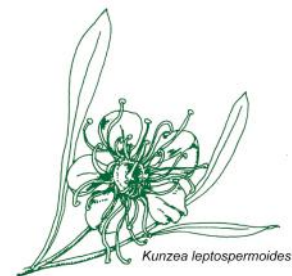




# KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah  
*Preservation by Cultivation*



**February 2022**

Well – we thought that we had skirted CoVid issues by planning an outdoor get-together for January – only to be thwarted by the weather. Fortunately the forecast extreme storms with thunder, lightning and hail skirted Blackburn, but the weather was still not conducive to socialising.

Onwards to February!

## February Member Meeting IN PERSON

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**Ringwood East Elderly Citizens Hall,  
2-8 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East**

Parking is available behind the hall (Melway map 50 B8) and can be accessed via Knaith Road.

### **Travelling the Gunbarrel Highway with Geoff Lay**

The Gunbarrel Highway runs through the deserts of central Western Australia and finishes in the ranges near Alice Springs. It was constructed by Len Beadell to allow instrumentation for the testing of atomic weapons in the 1960s. Despite the name it is a 1,500 km single lane dirt road that bypasses civilization.

Last year, between lockdowns, Jannie and Geoff were fortunate to travel this iconic route. Due to good rains over several years, the desert was transformed into a sea of green intersected by red sand dunes. The flowers were prolific, with many daisies, ptilotus, acacia and members of the Malvaceae family. They were constantly amazed at the brilliant colours. The flies were also plentiful, and they finally saw a camel.

Come along and see something radically different from Melbourne.

**To attend, you will need to be fully vaccinated,  
and please bring a mask.  
It is not necessary to book.  
Please enter via the front door  
from 7:30 pm.  
The meeting starts at 8 pm.**

## Supper

Alison Rogers

The Committee has agreed that we will have supper at the February meeting. This will be tea/coffee and biscuits provided by the Group. For safety reasons, all drinks will be distributed through the servery by two volunteers. We will need two volunteers at every meeting to help with this. Many hands make light work. I look forward to hearing from members who are happy to help out.

### **Setting up and clearing away**

We would love a few helpers to set up chairs and pack away at the end. If you find you are able to get to the hall by 7:30 pm, this help would be greatly appreciated.

## Garden Visit

**Maranoa Botanic Gardens  
2 pm Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Parring Road, Balwyn (Melway map 46 G78)

We will meet just inside the main gates next to the parking area accessed from Parring Road, and then stroll around the Gardens.

This time of year is a difficult one for our gardens. One of the issues some of us have is that we tend to buy plants when they are in flower, often in spring. Summer is not the best time for flowering of Australian plants but there are probably more that we could grow.

We should be able to learn from the beautiful public Maranoa Botanic Gardens. What do they have looking good in summer?

There is nowhere to set up afternoon tea with an urn. However, bring along a thermos and cup if you want to have a drink on the lawn after our walk around.

## Vale Max Kennedy

Sadly, Max Kennedy died in January. He had been in poor health in recent times and unable to attend APS events.

Max was never a great plant enthusiast, but his wife Helen is passionate about Australian plants and landscaping, and Max was a very passionate supporter of Helen.

He accompanied Helen to APS Maroondah member meetings and garden visits, to APS Victoria weekends and to national conferences. He often spent time with Brenda and Tony Moore (Tony is a fellow engineer and supporter of an Australian plant-loving wife.) Max was wonderful company – feisty, funny and very bright.

Our condolences to Helen and their family.

## Autumn Sales and Displays

It looks likely that the planned activities for autumn 2022 will go ahead. Great news for all of us! These activities include:

APS Victoria exhibit/promotion at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Australian plant sales run by:

- APS Yarra Yarra (Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March)
- Friends of RBG Cranbourne (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March)
- APS Geelong (9<sup>th</sup> April)
- APS Mornington Peninsula (7<sup>th</sup> May)
- APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh (14<sup>th</sup> May)

## Plant Sale

**The Briars, Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha.**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022. 10am to 3.30pm.**

*Come along and get professional advice direct from the growers.*



Australian Plants Society,  
 Mornington Peninsula.  
 For further details contact secretary  
 0428 284 974



Further details are shown on page 31 of December 2021 *Growing Australian* and on the APS Victoria website.

## NATIVE PLANT & BOOK SALE

19th March 10am - 4pm

Eltham Community & Reception Centre  
 801 Main Road, Eltham

Organised by Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group  
 Inc. No. A0039676Y

### Cranbourne Friends

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria



### Growing Friends - Autumn Plant Sale

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 March 2022  
 10am to 4pm

Australian Garden - Cranbourne near the kiosk

Come along and select from a range of small and large plants many of which you will find in the Australian Garden



Grasses, climbers, border-plants, ground-covers, small & large bushes and trees, plants for wildlife

Plant-list available one week before plant-sale

w: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au  
 f: friendsrbgcranbourne

### APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Inc.



## NATIVE PLANT SALE

at St Andrew's Uniting Church,  
 18 Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh, (MEL333 J6)

Saturday 14th May 2022  
 9am-1pm

FEATURING HAKEAS  
 and dwarf EUCALYPTS

Info: Barb / David 0417 289 369  
 or apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com

## \*\* Pea Seminar Registrations Now Open \*\*

We are very excited to announce that registrations are now open for the 14th FJC Rogers' Seminar on Fabulous Peas, to be held over the weekend of 15th and 16th October this year.

The Registration Form can be found in the "2022 - Fabulous Peas" section of the APS Victoria website (apsvic.org.au). Discounted, earlybird fees apply for the Seminar until the end of June. However, as places are limited, we encourage you to register sooner rather than later.

Also, if you have not already done so, contact us at fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com to register your interest and be kept up-to-date with our newsletters.



Swainsona procumbens



Dillwynia sericea

Ivan Margitta

Marilyn Bull



# Two that Got Away

Geoff Lay

As I have spent so much of my life hiking, I like my garden to bring home my memories of the bush. Throughout the mountains and the grasslands, it is usual not to see bare earth; the ground is covered in vegetation (or rocks). Hence I have experimented with ground covers for over thirty years.

Some have been very successful. Both *Myoporum parvifolium* and *Goodenia ovata* prostrate form, have localized roots and send out metres of ground-hugging

branches which are closely covered in leaves, and flower prolifically over summer when many taller shrubs do not.

On the other hand, I have just spent some very hot days digging out the roots of two that got away. I planted both *Calotis scapigera* and *Scutellaria humilis* in September, only 2 years ago. For the first year their growth was mild – they slowly spread. The former had neat white daisy flowers, the latter pretty in pink.



*Calotis scapigera* flowers.

But then came the second year. Just like CoVid, their growth was exponential, the roots moved quicker than the plants, and they had a competition to see which could strangle the most shrubs first. Just before Christmas I had to put up the white flag and pull them out.

For once the lack of rain helped me out. The garden was so parched that the dry soil just fell off the roots which were not deep – but so many! As you can see in



*Scutellaria humilis* flowers.

the pictures, be wary of any plant that “roots at the nodes”. They were making sure that, when the rains return, they would soak up all the moisture first, and any other shrub unfortunate enough to be in their path would die of thirst.

I can thoroughly recommend either of these plants – for anyone who has a barren paddock. For anyone else save your back and don't plant them in a confined suburban garden.



*Calotis scapigera* roots.



*Scutellaria humilis* roots.



# More Containers

Last month we talked about some interesting and beautiful plants in baskets which Andrea Dennis brought along to our November meeting.

Geoff Lay also has some beauties in baskets and in pots. He provided the following recent photos.



*Beaufortia purpurea* pot.



Pots hanging in the back garden.



*Ptilotus manglesii* pot.



*Eremaea hadra* pot.



*Verticordia mitchelliana* subsp. *implexior* flower.



*Blandfordia grandiflora* pot.



*Verticordia drummondii* pot.



# Rutaceae Ruminations

Marilyn Bull and George Stolfo

This is the seventh in a series of articles on members of the Rutaceae family written by Marilyn and illustrated by George.

## *Boronia muelleri*

Forest Boronia

The tallest boronia, growing up to 6m high in the forests of Labertouche and in east Gippsland, this is a reasonably hardy shrub in the right conditions. There are many forms selected, from 'Sunset Serenade' at 0.5-1 m to the taller forms such as 'Snowy River'. A drive along Princes Hwy beyond Orbost reveals a pink and white spring display of Forest Boronia along the forest's edge.

*Boronia muelleri* is one of the many plants named after Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, the Government Botanist of Victoria from 1853-55, and subsequently the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne in 1857. He travelled and collected plants extensively throughout Victoria and also many other areas of Australia. One could imagine that he collected this boronia on his travels.

The Forest Boronia has open white to pale pink flowers to 15mm across, in terminal and axillary clusters. It is most floriferous – flowers covering the plant in some forms. The leaves are pinnate, 45-70 mm long, with 7-17 leaflets which are finely serrated. Leaves are aromatic when crushed, one of the sweet smelling species.

This boronia will do well in your garden provided it does not dry out and has limited sun. Shady-moist is its preference. Summer watering is helpful. It copes with clay loam but naturally occurs on coarse granitic sands. It responds to pruning. I have found that the form 'Sunset Serenade' does not need much attention, maintaining a shrubby appearance of 0.5-1 m x 1 m.



## The Donvale Blues

In November, Sue and Bill found blue to be a prominent flower colour in their Donvale garden. From the indigenous *Brachyscome multifida* and *Linum marginale*, to *Thelionema grande* and several *scaevola* species, they were much-appreciated.

Pictures by Sue Guymer.



*Linum marginale* flower.



*Scaevola nitida*



*Thelionema grande*

# A rose by any other name

Graeme Nicholls

No, this is not an article about roses – far from it. It is more about thorns. Let me explain.

Yellow flowers brighten up any garden. Some of the best yellow-flowered plants are the hibbertias. They can be ground covers or small shrubs. They are tough, need little attention and flower for months. We have several, and we love them. And they don't have thorns!

At least, not directly. But I read an item recently about the man whose name has been given to these lovely plants, and it inspired me to find out something more about him. A quick Google search, as you do about everything these days, quickly uncovered some facts about George Hibbert – merchant, politician, ship-owner, amateur botanist and book collector. He was born in 1757 to a wealthy family who owned sugar plantations in the West Indies. He joined the family company and quickly rose to be the manager because of his 'common sense, judgement and sagacity'.

George became interested in gardening and botany. He was a founder of the London Institution in 1805 and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was also a Fellow of the Linnean Society. He funded various botanical expeditions to South Africa and Botany Bay, and developed a special interest in Proteaceae. His private garden on his Clapham estate was extensive, and contained many plants propagated from material brought back from these expeditions.

But there was a dark side; the family company was extensively involved in the shipping and distribution of slave-produced goods, particularly sugar from Jamaica. George was a vigorous advocate of 'free labour' (read slaves), without which, he argued, British commercial interests would collapse. As an MP he fiercely opposed Wilberforce's moves to abolish slavery, arguing passionately that 'the Colonies would not exist without the African Trade. The Manchester & Sheffield Manufactories would instantly go to ruin and their people set a starving.' When eventually slavery was abolished, the Hibbert family was handsomely compensated financially.

One wonders whether we should continue to celebrate in our botanical nomenclature the names of people whose social values are so much out of step with those of today, just as there is a gathering movement to change some place names in Australia which commemorate early explorers and political leaders whose attitudes and conduct in regard to first Australians have become a great embarrassment.

I was interested to discover, after another quick consultation with the oracle of all knowledge, that these beautiful, yellow-flowered plants were originally given a different name. What we know as *Hibbertia empetrifolia* was initially named *Pleurandra empetrifolia*, and formally described in 1817 by Swiss botanist Augustin Pyramus de Candolle.

Pleurandra is such a nice-sounding name, rolling easily off the tongue, and seems to suggest lovely things to follow. It comes from two Greek words, *pleuron*, a side, and *ander* (andros), male – meaning that all the stamens are on one side of the flower. Labillardiere used this word in 1806. But then someone with a magnifying glass, and a certain kind of mindset, decided that the genus name should be changed to hibbertia. Maybe the stamens moved, or perhaps his mind was momentarily distracted when he was thinking of a suitable new name.

I have absolutely no training in taxonomy, and I have zero expectation that my somewhat idle thoughts will make the slightest impression on those whose lives are dedicated to constantly reclassifying plants and vindictively changing their names, any more than my views of the workings or otherwise of our system of government, such as it is, would make even the faintest ripple on the surface on an ocean. Although the rules of taxonomy are apparently as flexible as a wooden pole, surely, when we can analyse nanoparticles, and explore the far reaches of the universe, we could devise some way to reconsider the social and ethical aspects of some of our terminology, and set the record straight regarding our botanical history.

A rose, with thorns, by some other name – perhaps?



*Hibbertia empetrifolia*



*Hibbertia grossulariifolia*



# More from Ray and Eva's garden

Summer flowering has featured hibiscus in their garden in Cranbourne South.



*Hibiscus X Aussie Delight*



*Hibiscus heterophyllum* apricot form.



*Hibiscus heterophyllum* yellow form.



*Hibiscus geranioides*



*Dipodium roseum*



*Beaufortia aestiva*



*Blandfordia grandis*



*Grevillea beadleana* flower.



# Looking Forward to 2022 and Beyond

Our meetings will normally be held on the 4th Friday of the month,  
with the garden visit on the following Sunday.

Keep an eye on your Kunzea for any disruptions to the planned program due to CoVid.

## APS Maroondah Meetings

(4th Friday of the month)

25<sup>th</sup> February – Geoff Lay: *Travelling the Gunbarrel Highway*.

### *Philydrum lanuginosum*

Sue Guymer

We are always interested in unusual Australian plants, possibly to plant in our garden.

One day we happened to be at Kurunga Native Nursery – a very good place to search – and we saw *Philydrum lanuginosum* in the bog plant section. What is this strange, unusual, perhaps rare(?) aquatic lily? It turns out that it has actually been an indigenous plant in Melbourne's sandbelt, although now only known from one location. (Marilyn and George have it in "Flora of Melbourne".)

Further research reveals it to be very widely distributed across Australia, and a number of other countries in east and south Asia. It is a mono-typic genus – there is only one species within the genus *Philydrum*, which is in the family Philydraceae. It is a tufted herb which grows in water, with the leaves and single stem emerging to a height of about a metre. The leaves and buds are quite woolly and give it the common name of Woolly Waterlily. The flowers are lemon yellow pairs of petals occurring up the stem. Each flower lasts only about a day.

Our plant is still in bud but has already been visited by a Splendid Ochre butterfly which spent some hours resting on a leaf.



Philydrum bud.

Sue Guymer

## Seminars and Conferences

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

ANPSA Conference, hosted by APS NSW at Kiama.  
(NOTE: Deferred from 2021 due to CoVid19 restrictions)

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022

14th FJC Rogers Seminar on "Fabulous Peas",  
hosted by APS Maroondah at Mt Evelyn.

Please send expressions of interest to  
fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com.

**Registrations are NOW OPEN.**

You will find the form at  
<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022/>



*Philydrum lanuginosum*

Andre Messina



Splendid ochre.

Bill Aitchison

## Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

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Email: [maroondah@apsvic.org.au](mailto:maroondah@apsvic.org.au)

### Newsletter contributions:

Contributions for the February 2022 Newsletter should be sent  
to Sue Guymer at [aitchguy@gmail.com](mailto:aitchguy@gmail.com) no later than  
**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Maroondah Group website:

[australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah](http://australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah)

APS Vic website:

[www.apsvic.org.au](http://www.apsvic.org.au)

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